

Helena Middle School

2017-2018

Student Handbook



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Helena, AL 35080

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<http://www.shelbyed.k12.al.us/schools/hlms/index.htm>

Welcome to Helena Middle School

Home of the Huskies!

We encourage each student to participate in our academic, athletic, and extracurricular activities.

HMS has a lot to offer and we hope that each student will get involved.

MISSION STATEMENT

We at Helena Middle School aspire to create a rigorous and differentiated curriculum to prepare all students as they become College and Career ready in a global and diverse world.

VISITORS

All visitors must enter through the front doors at the main office upon arrival, sign in, state the reason for the visit, and get a visitor's pass. Office business can be taken care of between 7:30 and 3:15 on school days.

SCHOOL OPENING

The school doors will be unlocked at **7:05 am** each morning. Shelby County Board of Education and Helena Middle School are not responsible for students dropped off prior to 7:05 a.m. unless they are under the supervision of a coach or sponsor. Upon arrival to school, 6th graders will report to the cafeteria, and 7th and 8th graders will report to the gym. Students are **not** allowed to go to their lockers or upstairs prior to the 7:35 a.m. bell. The media center will open on Tuesday and Thursday mornings at 7:05. No students are allowed in the locker rooms prior to 7:35.

MORNING BELL SCHEDULE

First Bell	7:35 a.m.
Tardy Bell	7:45 a.m.

IMPORTANT: The tardy bell rings at 7:45 a.m. **Students need to be in their first period class at 7:45 and NOT walking in the building. If a student can't get to class by 7:45, they need to report to the front office to sign in. If students receive 3 tardies to school in a 9 week period they will be issued a detention.**

AFTERNOON DISMISSAL SCHEDULE

2:58	Chime	Pack up
2:59	First Bell	Bus Riders, Walkers
3:05	Second Bell	Car Riders, YMCA van, Late Bus Riders

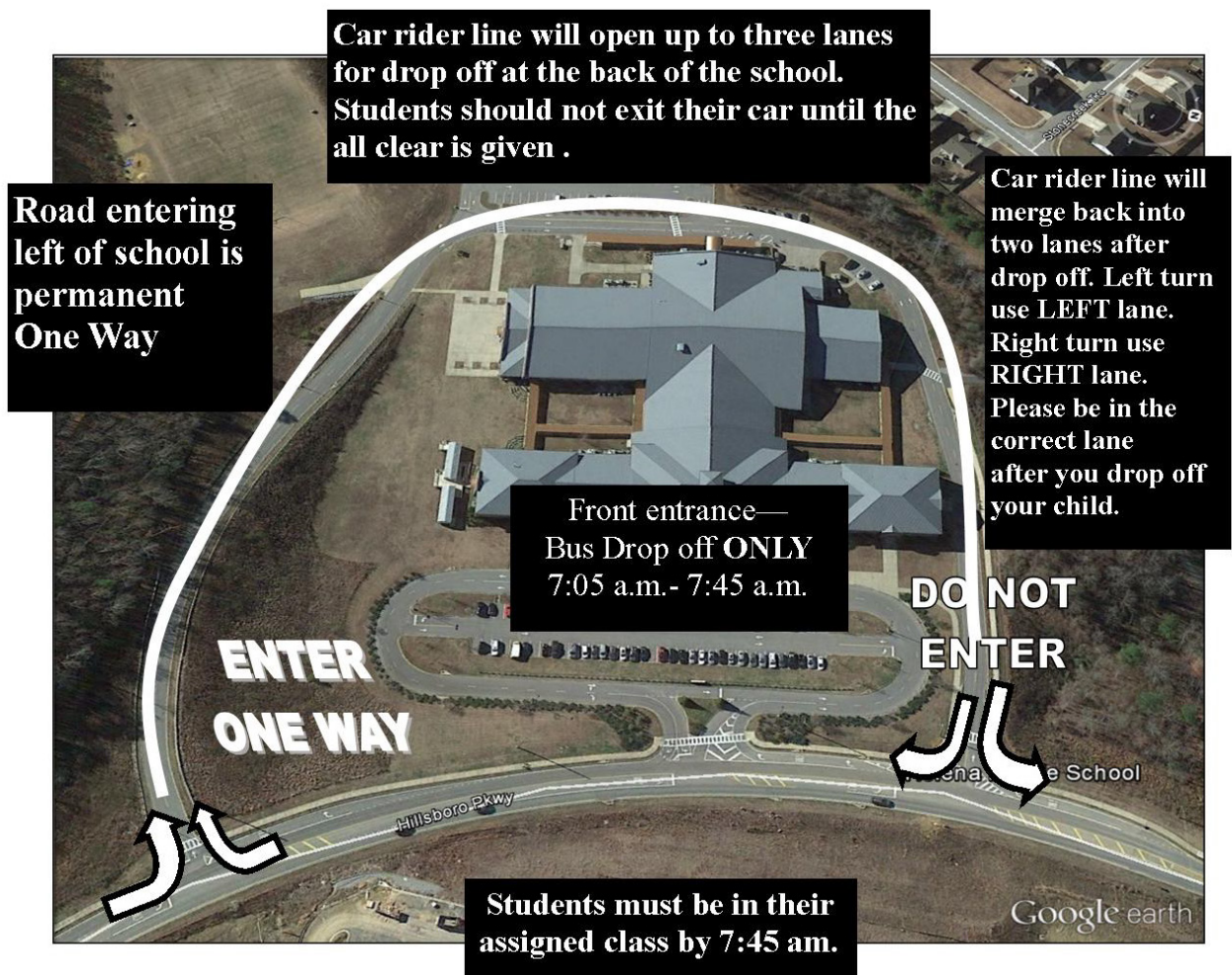
ATTENDANCE

It is vital that your child be in school on a regular basis. A student who accumulates more than 12 absences during a school year is subject to retention. Attendance letters will be mailed to

parents after the 2nd, 5th, and 10th unexcused absence. Students who are absent should bring a written explanation of their absence from the parent or guardian within **3 days** of the student returning from an absence. **The school will not accept an excuse after 3 school days of the absence.** All absences over 12 must be accompanied by a doctor's excuse or court excuse or by permission of the principal.

TRANSPORTATION

- Please note all traffic is **ONE WAY** starting to the left of the school at the top of the hill. This is a permanent change and will be in effect at all times.



IMPORTANT: Any changes in a student's transportation for the day must be submitted to the office **NO LATER** than 2:00 p.m. so that we can ensure there is plenty of time to communicate the change to the student.

· **Car Riders** load and unload in the **back** of the building. Students should not be dropped off prior to 7:05 am and should be picked up by 3:15 pm.

· **Walkers and Bike Riders** must use the designated CROSSWALK in front of the school. Also, walkers and bike riders should enter and exit the building through the **front** of the school.

- **Bus Service** is available for all students. We encourage parents to take advantage of the Shelby County Bus service in order to cut down on traffic at the Middle School and the High School. Some buses run a double route. Students **must** ride the bus they are assigned. If a student is to ride home a different way or on a different bus, a note from the student's parent/guardian must be sent to the main office that morning. The note will be signed by an administrator and returned to the student. See above regarding changes in transportation.

- **Bus Discipline**

The sole purpose of a school bus is to transport students safely to and from school. The school bus is an extension of the classroom and all SCBOE rules apply. Our goal is to ensure that all students who ride the school bus exhibit good behavior while on the bus. In the event the bus driver deems it necessary to issue a disciplinary notice, an administrator will take appropriate action.

- **Inclement Weather which requires dismissal**

Parents should begin to listen to the local news for announcements of school closings in case of inclement weather. Parents should also check their e-mail and the Shelby County website for the announcement of school closing early. Buses will run their routes unless a tornado warning is in effect. Parents may also sign up for **Blackboard Connect** to receive timely notifications by phone, e-mail and text message. You can register at <https://shelbyed.bbcportal.com/>.

BOOK BAGS

Book bags can be brought to school but **must** be placed in the locker before 1st period. Book bags should not be brought into class unless an administrator allows special permission. Book bags, purses, etc. are not allowed in the serving area of the cafeteria.

SCHOOL DANCES

School dances are for HMS students only. The school dress code will be enforced at all dances. Most school dances will be held after school from 3:15 until 5:00.

DRESS CODE

HMS follows the Shelby County Code of Conduct Dress Code. Students who violate the HMS dress code policy consistently will be disciplined. Students who come to school out of dress code will be placed in In School Suspension until a change of clothes is brought to the school.

Please refer to the Dress Code Policy in the *Code of Conduct* for a more inclusive list of acceptable standards.

LOCKERS

Every HMS student will be issued a locker at the beginning of the year. The locker rental fee is \$20. Students MAY NOT change lockers without approval from their science teacher or administration.

LOST & FOUND

The school cannot assume responsibility for the loss of personal items. Lost and found will be located behind the computer lab. Students may also check in the gym or on the stage in the cafeteria. Unclaimed items will be donated to charity every two weeks. Personal devices need to be labeled with the student's name.

BYOD (Bring Your Own Device)

HMS allows students to bring their own technological devices to enhance their instruction. BYOD policies are outlined in the Shelby County Schools Code of Conduct. Students who bring devices must have a Code of Conduct Acknowledgment form on file with the school, and agree to the terms of the SCBOE BYOD policy. The use of any personally owned technology at school is a privilege, not a right. **All personally owned devices should be labeled on the outside of the device with the student's name in case it is lost.** Approved personally owned computing devices, at this time, include laptops and netbooks, Chromebooks, tablets (iPad, Android tablets, etc.), iPods (touch), and e-readers (Kindle, Nook, etc.). In some cases, teachers allow students to use smartphones in class. **Wearable Devices are NOT ALLOWED.**

DETENTION

Detention is held every Tuesday and Thursday. Morning detentions are from 6:45 AM - 7:40AM. Afternoon detentions are from 3:05PM - 4:00 PM. Attendance is mandatory.

IN SCHOOL SUSPENSION (ISS)

ISS is offered Monday through Friday, 7:45-2:58 pm. Students must report to the ISS room by 7:45 AM.

EXTRACURRICULAR OPPORTUNITIES

Helena Middle School offers a wide variety of extracurricular activities for our students. Students may participate in athletics, band, choir, dance team, majorettes, cheerleading, and yearbook. They also can involve themselves with service clubs and academic teams. We encourage all of our students to get involved.

MEDICATION POLICY

Information about medications is included in the SCBOE Code of Conduct. For questions please contact the HMS nurse at 682-5300.

STUDENT OFFICE PHONE USE

Students may use the office phone for EMERGENCY USE ONLY. They may not call home for forgotten items. Parents may call and leave a message for their child, but students will not be allowed to leave class to return parent phone calls unless there is an emergency.

Every time a forgotten item is delivered to a classroom,
instructional time is interrupted.

Thank you for your understanding.

MEDIA CENTER

The media center is open each day from 7:05 until 3:15 p.m. Students may visit the media center with a pass from a teacher to check out books, study, and complete research. All books, with the exception of certain reference and reserve books, may be checked out. Lost books cost \$20.00 to replace. Visit the HMS Media Center blog for more information.

podcasts.shelbyed.k12.al.us/pdodson/

CAFETERIA

Please make sure your child's lunch account is up to date. If you have questions regarding your child's lunch account, please call the cafeteria manager at 205-682-5306.

CATEGORICAL GRADING

Grades in all Helena Middle School classes will be assigned in the following format:

<u>Categorical Grading</u>
<u>Gold 60%</u> Min 3 assignments
<u>Silver 30%</u> Min 6 assignments
<u>Bronze 10%</u> Min 10 assignments