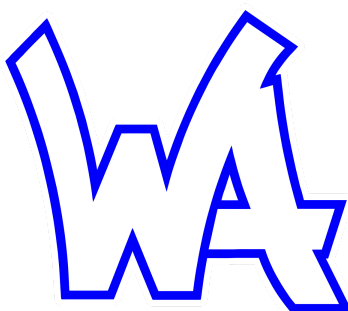


WA



Western Alamance Middle School

2025-2026 Student/Parent Handbook



2100 Eldon Drive

Elon, NC 27244

336.538.6010 (Phone)

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<http://wam.abss.k12.nc.us>

Aaron Acome- Principal & 8th Grade Administrator

Debra Sparks- 7th Grade Assistant Principal

Jenise Best- 6th Grade Assistant Principal

School Nickname – Braves

School Colors – Blue, White & Gray



WELCOME

On behalf of the administration and staff, welcome to Western Alamance Middle School and the 2025–2026 school year! We are excited about the year ahead and look forward to partnering with you to create a successful and enriching experience for every student. At Western, it is both our responsibility and our privilege to help each child grow academically, socially, emotionally, and physically—and we recognize that this is a shared effort.

Student success is most achievable when families, educators, and students work together. We thank you for your continued support in promoting consistent attendance, daily preparation, strong effort, and active involvement in both academic and extracurricular opportunities.

In return, we are committed to fostering a safe, supportive learning environment built on strong relationships, high expectations, and open communication. We will work to ensure that every student experiences academic growth, feels connected to our school community, and is equipped for success.

Together, we can help our students thrive and continue to make Western Middle School a place where excellence is the standard.

Aaron Acome, Principal



Master Schedule

Regular Schedule

6th Grade		7th Grade		8th Grade	
Homeroom	8:10-8:27	Homeroom	8:10-8:27	Homeroom	8:10-8:27
Brave	8:30-9:10	Brave	8:30-9:10	Brave	8:30-9:10
Core 1	9:12-10:36	Core 1	9:12-10:36	Core 1	9:12-10:15
Core 2/Lunch	10:38-12:32	Core 2/Lunch	10:38-12:32	Encore 1	10:17-10:58
Encore 1	12:34-1:16	Core 3	12:34-1:58	Encore 2	11:00-11:41
Encore 2	1:18-2:00	Encore 1	2:02-2:42	Core 2/Lunch	11:43-1:17
Core 3	2:02-3:30	Encore 2	2:44-3:30	Core 3	1:19-2:22
				Core 4	2:24-3:30

2 Hour Delay Schedule

6th Grade		7th Grade		8th Grade	
Homeroom	10:10-10:27	Homeroom	10:10-10:27	Homeroom	10:10-10:27
Core 1/Lunch	10:30-12:02	Core 1	10:30-11:35	Encore 1	10:30-11:08
Encore 1	12:04-12:42	Core 2/Lunch	11:37-1:12	Encore 2	11:10-11:48
Encore 2	12:44-1:22	Core 3	1:14-2:19	Core 1/Lunch	11:50-1:05
Core 2	1:24-2:26	Encore 1	2:21-2:54	Core 2	1:07-1:52
Core 3	2:28-3:30	Encore 2	2:56-3:30	Core 3	1:54-2:39
				Core 4	2:41-3:30



3 Hour Delay Schedule

6th Grade		7th Grade		8th Grade	
Homeroom	11:10-11:27	Homeroom	11:10-11:27	Homeroom	11:10-11:27
Core 1/Lunch	11:30-12:45	Core 1	11:30-12:25	Encore 1	11:30-12:08
Encore 1	12:47-1:35	Core 2/Lunch	12:27-1:42	Core 1	12:10-12:50
Core 2	1:37-2:33	Core 3	1:45-2:40	Core 2/Lunch	12:52-2:02
Core 3	2:35-3:30	Encore 1	2:42-3:30	Core 3	2:05-2:45
				Core 4	2:47-3:30

3 Hour Early Release Schedule

6th Grade		7th Grade		8th Grade	
Homeroom	8:10-8:27	Homeroom	8:10-8:27	Homeroom	8:10-8:27
Core 1	8:30-9:25	Core 1	8:30-9:25	Encore 1	8:30-9:08
Core 2	9:27-10:22	Core 2	9:27-10:22	Core 1	9:10-9:52
Encore 1	10:26-11:04	Core 3/Lunch	10:24-11:47	Core 2	9:54-10:36
Core 3/Lunch	11:06-12:30	Encore 1	11:50-12:30	Core 3	10:38-11:20
				Core 4/Lunch	11:22-12:30

- **6th and 7th Graders have 3 Core Courses.**
- **8th Graders have 4 Core Courses.**



THE SCHOOL DAY

- Students may not arrive at school prior to 7:55 AM.
- Students arriving 7:55 to 8:10 will be supervised in the gym until homerooms open.
- Breakfast is served in the cafeteria beginning at 7:55.
- Homerooms open at 8:10.
- Students should arrive by 8:25 AM.
- Homerooms operate from 8:10AM to 8:30AM
- The instructional day begins at 8:30 AM and ends at 3:30 PM.
- Students arriving after 8:30 AM will be considered tardy and must report to the office to sign in and to pick up a late admit slip before going to class.
- Should a student need to leave school for any reason during the school day, a parent/guardian must present identification to sign the student out of school.

ARRIVAL PROCEDURES

All students shall arrive on campus by 8:30 a.m. Car rider drop-off begins at 7:55 a.m., and parents will be released into the car rider circle at that time. Upon arrival, all students must enter through the B Wing doors and report directly to the gym.

Students who wish to eat breakfast should report to the cafeteria immediately upon arrival. Breakfast is available only before 8:10 a.m., when students are dismissed from the cafeteria and gym to their homerooms. Students will not be permitted to leave homeroom to get breakfast.

Dismissal

The school day ends at 3:30 p.m.

Car Riders

We know and understand that sitting in the car rider line can be a task. However, it is the parents responsibility to pick up car riders on time. Students must be picked up by 4:00 or when the car rider line is complete. If car riders are left after the car rider line is complete, we will follow these steps per semester (the steps start over at the beginning of the new semester):

Step 1: Verbal reminder to the parent

Step 2: Written reminder to the parent

Step 3: You will be charged **\$10.35 (daily rate)** that day.

Walkers

Students are allowed to walk to their home i.e. to the domicile address listed in Infinite Campus, within a mile of WAMS, at dismissal with parent permission on file in the office. **However,**



students are not allowed to be picked up off school grounds. Students are not allowed to walk to nearby businesses in order to be picked up.

Students walking to and from school must have a parent [permission slip](#) on file prior to leaving campus. Students without a signed permission slip on file will be a car or bus rider.

BUS INFORMATION

Students who ride the bus to school are expected to return home on the same bus. Bus riders report directly to their assigned bus as soon as it is called during afternoon dismissal.

Riding the school bus is a privilege—not a right. Students are expected to follow all bus dismissal procedures and adhere to the rules outlined in the bus contract. **Failure to comply with these expectations may result in disciplinary consequences, including In-School Suspension (ISS), Out-of-School Suspension (OSS), and/or suspension from bus transportation.**

If your child needs to go home using a different mode of transportation, a written request must be submitted to an administrator for approval at least one hour prior to dismissal. **Students are not permitted to ride home on a bus with other students.**

TRANSPORTATION: School Bus

The ABSS transportation office works hard to assure that a safe and efficient transportation service is provided. It is important that students:

- 1) Ride only their own bus.
- 2) Refrain from talking loudly, eating, drinking, or moving about the bus while it is in motion.
- 3) Report immediately to the bus once dismissal has occurred.
- 4) Be courteous to the bus driver and obey all rules.

Students are expected to observe the following rules for safety and courtesy on the bus.	
1. At the Bus Stop	2. When the Bus Arrives
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Exercise safe pedestrian practices while on the way to the bus stop.• Arrive at the bus stop ten minutes before bus pick up.• Wait in a quiet and orderly manner.• Be aware, cautious, and respectful of traffic.• Respect private property.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Remain at the waiting area until the bus comes to a complete stop.• Check traffic from all directions.• When safe to board, do so promptly.• Upon entering the bus proceed directly to your assigned seat.
3. On the Bus	4. Exiting the Bus
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Follow instructions of bus personnel.• Be respectful of all people, including all bus personnel.• Use language appropriate for school setting.• Follow bus personnel rules regarding electronic devices.• Keep the bus neat and clean.• Do not eat or drink.• Talk quietly and politely.• Sit in their assigned seat.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Remain seated until the bus comes to a complete stop.• Exit the bus and the bus stop area in an orderly manner.• Exit at your assigned bus stop.• Check traffic from all directions.• When safe to exit, do so promptly.• Cross in front of the bus only.• Exercise safe pedestrian practices while on the way from stop to your home.



- | | |
|--|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Stay in your seat; keep aisles and exits clear.• Be respectful of the rights and safety of others.• Do not extend your head, arms, or objects out of bus windows.• Remember that school rules extend to the bus and bus stop. | |
|--|--|

Riding the bus is a privilege, not a right. Improper conduct or failure to comply with established bus guidelines can result in that privilege being denied. Discipline referral forms will be used by the bus driver to record any rule infractions or problems. Parents will be notified of further disciplinary action.

Students may be suspended from the bus for:

- Delaying the bus schedule.
- Fighting, tobacco use, using profanity, consuming food/beverages, or refusing to obey instructions of school authorities or a school bus driver while riding on a school bus.
- Tampering with or doing damage to a bus.
- Unauthorized leaving the bus when en route to the home or school.
- Playing, throwing objects, excessive noise, standing, or otherwise distracting the driver's attention while the bus is in operation.
- Failing to observe established safety rules and regulations required by law or adopted by the Board of Education.

REQUEST FOR BUS TRANSPORTATION CHANGE:

Students must bring a written note from their parent/guardian to get off at a different stop. The note must have a contact number where the parent can be reached. All notes must be approved by an administrator **one week prior** to the day in order for the request to be processed and assure that there is space on the requested bus. **Notes handed in after this deadline will not be approved.**

SCHOOL ATTENDANCE, TARDY POLICIES, & MAKE-UP WORK

EXCUSED ABSENCES

A child may be temporarily excused from attendance at school on account of sickness or other unavoidable cause which does not constitute unlawful absence as defined by the State Board of Education. The authority to excuse a student for a lawful absence shall rest with the principal or designee. The principal shall exercise their authority to excuse absences in a reasonable manner, keeping the best interest of the student in mind. Any absence not approved by the principal or their designee is an unexcused absence. It is the state attendance policy that a student must be present at school at least half of the instructional day in order to be counted as present. If a student signs in for the day after 11:55am, they will be marked absent, as will students who sign out prior to 11:55am and do not return for the remainder of the school day. A student must be present at school to attend extracurricular activities.

Permissible reasons for excused absences include:

1. Illness or injury which prevents the student from being physically able to attend school.
2. Quarantine, defined as isolation of the student as ordered by the Alamance County Health Department or by the State Board of Health.



3. Death in the Immediate Family. The immediate family generally includes grandparents, parents, brothers and sisters.
4. Medical, Dental, or Other Health Care Provider Appointments when accompanied by a written excuse with the health care provider's signature or stamp. Whenever possible, such appointments should be scheduled during non-school hours.
5. Court or Administrative Proceedings at which the attendance of the student is required. Verification of required court attendance must be submitted to the appropriate school official.
6. Religious Observances, if the tenets of a religion to which a student or their parents adhere require or suggest the observance of a religious event. The parent/guardian or custodian must seek prior approval of the principal for such absences, and the approval should be granted unless the religious observance or the cumulative effect of religious observances is of such duration as to interfere with the education of the student.
7. Educational Opportunity, such as travel with a valid educational component. Prior approval from the principal or designee must be obtained by completing the [Request for Educational Opportunity Form](#).
8. Local School Board Policy: The principal or designee may excuse temporary or occasional absences for other reasons in accordance with local school board policies, provided that the student has been in attendance for at least one-half of a school day during the current school year.
9. Absence Related to Deployment Activities: Additional excused absences may be granted for a student whose parent or legal guardian is an active duty member of the military services and has been called to duty for, is on leave from, or immediately returned from deployment to a combat zone or combat support posting for the purpose of visiting said parent or legal guardian.

All absences not classified as excused (1- 9 above) are deemed unexcused. An absence also will be deemed unexcused unless the student's parent/guardian or custodian provides written documentation of the reason(s) for the absence to the principal or designee within two (2) school days of the student's return to school.

A student who is suspended for misconduct will not be considered absent without excuse for the purpose of this policy, although such absences will be considered unexcused for the purpose of make-up work and extracurricular activities. However, students suspended for ten (10) days or less will have the opportunity to take any quarterly, semester or grading period examinations missed during the suspension period.

A student who is out of class as a result of participation in field trips, athletics, or other school-sponsored activities approved by the principal will not be considered absent without excuse for purposes of this policy.

EXCESSIVE ABSENCES

In compliance with the compulsory attendance law (G.S. 115C-378), attendance letters are generated upon three (3), six (6), and ten (10) cumulative unexcused absences in a year. The



Superintendent shall establish consistent procedures at each grade level for referring students who receive attendance letters to the Student Support Services Team (SSST). The SSST will attempt to conduct student/parent conferences after six and ten cumulative unexcused absences, and will develop intervention plans designed to improve student attendance. The SSST will review the circumstances of excessive absences and may award course credit if appropriate. Excessive absences may be considered in promotion decisions for students in grades K-8 as determined under Policy 3000, Student Promotion and Accountability.

TARDIES

After 8:30 am, students arriving late to school will need to check in at the front office. Students will need to present a note in order for the tardy to be excused. All students are expected to report promptly to all classes and activities. Students who are late due to bus transportation are not counted as tardy.

- 2 unexcused tardies - administrative conference
- 4 unexcused tardies - lunch detention and parent phone call
- 6 unexcused tardies - after school detention (student will not be allowed to participate in extracurricular activities)
- More than 6 unexcused tardies - 1 day of ISS (student will not be allowed to participate in extracurricular activities)

CHECK-OUT POLICY

If it becomes necessary to check your student out of school after 8:30 am, the parent/guardian must come into the front office to sign the student out of school. Individuals must be authorized in Infinite Campus as a “School Pickup” to check out a student from school. Any individual authorized to pick up a student is required to present a photo ID to the front office staff. Please understand that this is for the protection of our students. No students will be allowed to sign out after 3:00 pm unless there is an extreme emergency.

MAKE-UP WORK

When any absence occurs, whether excused or unexcused, the student is expected to obtain and make up missed work. Students shall be allowed to make up work from an absence without penalty within reasonable limitations. A WAMS student is responsible for obtaining any and all work missed due to these absences from his/her teachers. Assigned work or tests missed during an absence or a school sponsored activity must be made up within five school days after the absence or within a time frame that is agreed to by the teacher and the student.

ACADEMICS

Report cards are sent home via e-mail at the end of each nine week grading period. These reports should be carefully reviewed by parents and students. Teachers will update online grades no less than weekly. Parents may view their child’s real-time grades in [Infinite Campus](#). Parents and students are encouraged to use the [Infinite Campus App](#) and to set email alerts so that they will receive emails as grades are updated.

Grading System

A 90 – 100



- B 80 – 89
- C 70 – 79
- D 60 – 69
- F Below 60

CURRICULUM, TESTING & CONFERENCE INQUIRIES

At Western Alamance Middle School, we value open communication between parents, students, and teachers. If you have questions regarding your child's curriculum, testing, or would like to set up a conference to review academic achievement, please follow the process below:

1. Curriculum Questions

- Step 1: Start by contacting your child's teacher directly via email or phone. Teachers can provide details on lesson plans, learning objectives, and materials being used in the classroom.
- Step 2: If further clarification is needed, or if you would like to discuss broader curriculum topics, you can contact the grade-level assistant principal or the school's principal.

2. Testing & Assessment Inquiries

- Step 1: For questions about standardized tests, classroom assessments, or grading policies, please contact your student's teacher.
- Step 2: If you have questions related to district or state testing procedures, reach out to the school's testing coordinator or administration.

3. Setting Up a Parent-Teacher Conference

- Step 1: Conferences can be requested at any time throughout the year. Simply email or call your student's teacher to request a meeting to discuss academic progress or any concerns.
- Step 2: If needed, a team conference with multiple teachers can be arranged to provide a comprehensive review of your student's performance. Contact the school office for scheduling assistance if multiple teachers are involved..

We encourage regular communication and are committed to working with you to support your child's academic success. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact the school office for guidance.

CHEATING

Cheating, plagiarism, and the use of unauthorized Artificial Intelligence (AI) are viewed by Western Alamance Middle School as a violation of our behavioral expectations. Every student's work should be their own, unless cited as replicated work. Procedures and consequences for cheating or plagiarizing are as follows:

- **1st Consequence:** The student will receive a zero with an opportunity to take an alternate assignment that must be completed within three days. The student can earn 75% credit for the alternate assignment.
- **2nd Consequence:** The student will receive a zero with an opportunity to take an alternate assignment that must be completed within three days. The student can earn 60% credit for the alternate assignment and will receive one day of ISS.



- **3rd Consequence:** The student will receive a zero for the assignment and receive two days of ISS.

BEHAVIOR EXPECTATIONS & DRESS CODE

DISCIPLINE

Western Alamance Middle School follows the ABSS Code of Conduct to regulate and address student discipline. Administrators and teachers will utilize the suggested range of consequences listed for each ABSS Rule when inappropriate behaviors occur. Parents and students are responsible for reviewing and becoming familiar with the expectations outlined in the ABSS Code of Conduct.

TEACHER AUTHORITY

Each staff member at Western Alamance Middle School has the authority and the obligation to approach any student who violates a school rule or regulation (or is reasonably suspected of engaging in a violation). Students shall cooperate with the teacher or staff member by supplying their name and truthfully and respectfully complying with the directives or questions.

IN-SCHOOL SUSPENSION (ISS)

ISS temporarily places students in an alternative environment, isolating them from peers and other socializing aspects of school. Students assigned to ISS will work on their regular school assignments in a closely supervised situation. Any student that is removed from ISS for misbehavior and is suspended from school for such behavior must serve the remaining ISS time upon returning to school. Any student assigned to in-school suspension may not participate in any extracurricular events after school on the day(s) that the suspensions are in effect.

OUT OF SCHOOL SUSPENSION (OSS)

Frequent disciplinary referrals for violations of behavior rules hinder the educational process. WAMS has a progressive discipline system. Recurring violations can result in lengthy out of school suspensions and/or recommendation for long-term suspension. Out of School Suspension prohibits students from entering school grounds, attending any day/night/after school activity, or riding a school vehicle during the period of suspension. Any student assigned to out-of-school suspension may not participate in any extracurricular events after school on the day(s) that the suspensions are in effect and may be excluded from participation for an extended period of time.

SCHOOL RESOURCE OFFICER (SRO)

Western Alamance Middle School students are subject to the North Carolina General Statutes. The school resource officer will review incidents that occur on campus and make the determination of whether to proceed with criminal action.

CHILL-OUT



Chill-OUT is a behavior intervention program designed to provide students with silent reflective time for a class period. This is used to remove a student from class who is continually disruptive to the demise of the class.

WESTERN ALAMANCE BEHAVIOR MANAGEMENT SYSTEM

The WAMS staff practices a tiered behavior model to address student behaviors at school. The system is based on providing varying levels of support and recording infractions (warnings) for inappropriate behavior. Teachers will record behavior information in EDUCATOR HANDBOOK. Parents will be contacted after students receive three infractions and after five infractions. On the 6th infraction during a 9 week grading period, the student will serve 1 day of ISS. On the 10th infraction parents are required to attend a Child Family Team meeting (CFT). On the 12th infraction students will serve 2 days of ISS.

Together with your child, please review the behavior expectations located below. These sections identify appropriate student behaviors for all areas of the school.



	CLASSROOMS	HALLWAY	BATHROOM	CAFETERIA	MEDIA CENTER	FIELDS & GYM
Tenacity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prepare for success • Respect others • Demonstrate self-control • Support classmates in their learning efforts 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Proceed with purpose - walk directly to your destination without loitering • Exhibit patience 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Practice good hygiene - wash your hands • Take care of your needs quickly and return to class • Give others their space and privacy • Avoid horseplay and keep the area clean 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clean up your area after eating • Keep your area tidy and respect others' eating space • Only take/eat items you purchased or brought from home • Stay seated until it is time to leave 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Speak softly to maintain a conducive learning environment • Put books and materials back in their proper places • Follow Media Center rules and guidelines 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Follow directions • Follow game rules • Play fair • Be a good sport, win or lose • Control your actions and reactions during activities
Integrity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Calm body • Be in class on time • Come with all materials (fully charged laptop) • Answer questions when prompted and actively participate in class • Complete your work to the best of your ability in a timely manner • Know and follow the daily procedures • Ask questions • Accept outcomes 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Calm body • Go directly to your assigned destination • Walk on the right side - no running • Accept outcomes 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Calm body • Request permission • Use the restroom and return to class promptly • Wash your hands • Report concerns to a staff member • Keep hands and feet to yourself • Accept outcomes 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Calm body • Memorize your lunch # • Keep lunch account up to date and free of fees • Follow all direction from teachers • Keep hands and feet to yourself • Accept Outcomes 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Calm Body • Come with needed materials • Remain quiet • Accept Outcomes 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Calm body • Use equipment for intended purposes only • Accept outcomes
Responsibility	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Be in dress code • Use appropriate words/tones when talking to teachers, staff, and other students • Listen to teachers and classmates without interrupting • Take care of your property and that of others • Follow all classroom expectations • Keep cell phones/electronic devices off and in your book bag. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Be in dress code • Transition quietly - do not disrupt other classes from learning • Keep hands and feet to yourself • Put trash in cans • Keep cell phones/electronic devices off and in your book bag. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Be in dress code • Be respectful of the privacy of others • Keep quiet so that you do not disrupt other classes from learning • Clean up your area • Put trash in cans • Flush • Use 1 or 2 paper towels • Keep cell phones/electronic devices off and in your book bag. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Be in dress code • Wait your turn in line • Keep volume at an appropriate level • Stay seated once you have sat down • Put trash in cans • Clean up your area • Request permission to get up from your seat • Keep cell phones/electronic devices off and in your book bag. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Be in dress code • Wait your turn • Clean up your area • Use materials as instructed • Chairs and Desks remain flat on floor • Food and Drink remain outside the library. • Keep cell phones/electronic devices off and in your book bag. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Be in dress code • Enter & exit building quietly • Listen when someone else is speaking • Put trash in cans • Use equipment as instructed • Keep cell phones/electronic devices off and in your book bag.
Growth	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use kind words • Greet others with a smile • Keep hands & feet to self • Accept differences • Include everyone • Be helpful to others 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use kind words • Greet others with a smile • Keep hands & feet to self • Accept differences • Include everyone • Be helpful 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use kind words • Greet others with a smile • Keep hands & feet to self • Accept differences • Be helpful 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use kind words • Greet others with a smile • Keep hands & feet to self • Accept differences • Include everyone • Be helpful 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use kind words • Greet others with a smile • Keep Hands/ Feet to Self • Accept differences • Include everyone • Be helpful 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use kind words • Greet others with a smile • Keep hands & feet to self • Accept differences • Include everyone • Be helpful



STUDENT DRESS CODE

Each student is expected to maintain an appearance that is neither distracting to other students nor disruptive to the educational environment and healthy climate of the schools. Western Alamance Middle School students are held accountable to the ABSS Student Code of Conduct Rule #2 for Dress Code:

The appearance of any young person is primarily the responsibility of that individual and his/her parents. Each student is expected to maintain an appearance that is neither distracting to other students nor disruptive to the educational environment and healthy climate of the schools.

Headwear: *No hats, bandanas or other types of headgear or sunglasses may be worn in the building. Students are permitted to wear a face covering as a medical precaution, but bandanas, neck gaiters, or head wraps are not to be used as a face covering.*

Clothing: *Student dress and grooming should meet minimum standards of hygiene and be presentable for the educational environment. No clothing may be worn which is provocative, revealing, profane, vulgar or obscene; which endangers the health or safety of the student or others; or which might reasonably be expected to cause substantial disruption or material interference with school activities.*

Examples of prohibited dress or appearance include, but are not limited to, exposed undergarments; sagging pants; excessively short or tight garments; bare midriff shirts; strapless shirts; attire with messages or illustrations that are lewd, indecent or vulgar or that advertise any kind of product or service not permitted by law to minors; see through clothing; attire that exposes cleavage; any adornment such as chains or spikes that could reasonably be perceived as a weapon; and any symbols, styles or attire associated with intimidation, violence, or violent groups about which students at a particular school have been notified. Individual schools may adopt more specific dress codes, consistent with this policy. Reasonable accommodations shall be made on the basis of religious beliefs or medical conditions.

For a first offense, students will be given a warning and required to change clothes.

Consequences:

Ranging from in-school disciplinary action up to 3 days OSS.

BLANKETS

Students must store blankets in their backpack during school hours. Students are not permitted to use blankets, including in the classroom, or during any outdoor time, such as PE. Blankets that are visible during the school day will be confiscated.

ELECTRONIC DEVICES

Alamance-Burlington School System Cell Phone and Wireless Device Guidelines



These guidelines outline the procedure for student use of cell phones and other wireless communication devices during school hours, in accordance with North Carolina House Bill 959 (Session Law 2025-38), Alamance-Burlington School System Code of Conduct, and Board of Education Policy 4318. Our goal is to create a focused learning environment free from distractions while ensuring student safety and well-being.

Cell phones and other personal electronic devices shall not be used during the instructional day unless permitted below:

- (1) If authorized by a teacher for educational purposes or use in the event of an emergency.
- (2) As required by the student's individualized education program or section 504 (29 U.S.C. § 794) plan.
- (3) As required to manage a student's health care, in accordance with a documented medical condition.

Consequences for Violations

Violations of this policy will result in disciplinary action, which may include, but is not limited to, the following:

Offense	Consequence
1	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Immediate confiscation of the device and turned into the front office. The device is securely stored until the student's school day ends and can be picked up in the main office at the end of the student's day.• Parent or guardian is notified by the administration.• Incident will be documented through the Behavior Management System.
2 & 3	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Immediate confiscation of the device and turned in to the front office. The device is securely stored until picked up by a parent or guardian.• Parents or guardians are notified by a school administrator and may be required to pick up the device.• Incident will be documented through the Behavior Management System.• Additional Consequences may be assigned, ranging from in-school disciplinary action up to 2 Days OSS.
4	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Immediate confiscation of the device and turned over to the administration. The device is securely stored until pick-up by a parent or guardian.• Parent or guardian is notified by a school administrator and required to pick up the device.



	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Check-in/check-out process for the remainder of the school year.• Incident will be documented through the Behavior Management System.• Additional Consequences may be assigned ranging from in-school disciplinary action up to 2 Days OSS.
Refusal to Surrender Device	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Refusal to surrender a device when requested by school staff will be considered insubordination and will result in a two-day out-of-school suspension.

Device Responsibility and Liability

- Students are solely responsible for the security and care of their personal wireless communication devices. The school is not responsible for lost, stolen, or damaged devices.
- Students should keep their devices in secure locations when not in use.
- Any unauthorized or illegal use of a wireless communication device on school property, including but not limited to cyberbullying, cheating, accessing inappropriate content, or recording without consent, will result in severe disciplinary action and may involve law enforcement.

Definitions

Wireless Communication Device: Any portable wireless device that has the capability to provide voice, messaging, or other data communication between two or more parties. This includes, but is not limited to, cell phones, smartphones, tablets, laptops, gaming devices, wireless headphones, wearable technology (e.g., smartwatches, google glasses, meta ray glasses), and two-way radios. Smartwatches and other wearable devices that also function as phones may be worn, but all wireless features must be turned off (set to airplane mode) during class.

Instructional Time: This typically extends from the first bell of the school day until the final dismissal bell, excluding designated non-instructional times (e.g., lunch, passing periods, and before/after school).

By enrolling in an ABSS school, students and their parents or guardians agree to comply with the Cell Phone and Wireless Communication Device Guidelines.

PARENT/TEACHER CONFERENCES



We are fully committed to ensuring parents and students constantly communicate to talk about students successes and struggles when necessary. As needed, parents can request parent/teacher conferences.

School Debts

Lunch Debt

Parents must complete a free/reduced lunch form each year to be eligible. Students who owe over \$50 will be unable to participate in afterschool, paid extracurricular activities. Students will also be unable to try out for sports. To find or pay your child's lunch balance, please visit:

<https://www.k12paymentcenter.com/>.

Electronic Debt

Students who owe over \$50 will be unable to participate in afterschool, paid extracurricular activities. Students will also be unable to try out for sports. To find or pay your child's balance contact Mrs. Ysteboe at paige_ysteboe@abss.k12.nc.us.

ATHLETICS

The athletic program at Western Middle School offers a variety of team sports for both boys and girls. In order to participate in the athletic program, a student must complete a DragonFly waiver and have a current, up-to-date physical on file. Students must upload the physical and all paperwork to be cleared to try out for an athletic team. You can find the link to DragonFly and all of the paperwork in the Athletics section of the Western Alamance Middle School website.

Student athletes must pass all four (4) core courses each semester and one (1) elective, demonstrate satisfactory conduct and attendance, and owe no outstanding debt to the school in order to participate.

AFTER SCHOOL/EXTRA CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES, & FIELD TRIPS (Including Athletics)

Students at WAMS are encouraged to participate in extracurricular activities. School personnel will supervise extracurricular events. All school rules apply to extracurricular events. Students who misbehave risk not participating in extracurricular activities for an extended period of time.

Students will lose the privilege of participating in and attending extracurricular activities (e.g. clubs, dances, sports, etc.) for the following reasons:

- The accumulation of six (6) strikes in one semester. Strikes will be accumulated at the following rate:
 - In-School-Suspension (ISS): = 2 strikes
 - Out-of-School Suspension (OSS): = 3 strikes

If a student accumulates six (6) strikes in any given semester they will be ineligible to participate in extracurricular activities for the remainder of that semester/season.



Students must have a class average of 60%, or higher, to participate in extracurricular activities or field trips. If a student falls below a 60% in any class, they will be ineligible until their grade is above a 60%.

Students who are serving ISS or OSS cannot participate in any extracurricular activities the day(s) the suspension is served.

INJURIES/MEDICAL INFORMATION

If a student is injured at school, they must report the incident immediately to the nearest adult. Office staff must complete an accident/injury report, and a parent/guardian will be notified. If a student becomes ill at school, they will be allowed to report to the office to contact a parent/guardian.

In order for students to take medication of any kind during the school day (prescription or over-the-counter), an *AUTHORIZATION OF MEDICATION FOR STUDENTS* form (available in the office) must be **completed AND signed by a doctor**. For a student to be excused from Physical Education or a student with physical restrictions, there must be a doctor's note on file. All completed authorization forms must be turned in to the main office along with the medication.

MEDICATION

State law and system policies forbid school staff to give **any** medicine to students. Students requiring the use or possible use of medication (prescription or nonprescription) during the school day must provide all information on an ABSS Medication Form which must include the following:

- a. name of medication
- b. purpose of medication
- c. allowable dosage
- d. time and procedures for administering
- e. any other appropriate information
- f. physician's signature

All prescription medication must be brought to the main office by a parent/guardian in a container labeled by a pharmacist and must include the prescribing doctor's name and telephone number. Medication shall be kept and administered under the supervision of the nurse or designee. The unauthorized possession and use by students of non-prescription drugs or medication during the school day may result in disciplinary action against the students. The Alamance-Burlington School System assumes no responsibility for students who self-medicate.

MEDIA CENTER

Books may be checked out from the media center. A due date is assigned upon checkout. Materials held past their due date are considered overdue and fines will be charged.



LAPTOPS AND BOOKS

Computers, textbooks, and supplementary materials are the property of Western Alamance Middle School or Alamance Burlington School System and are provided free of charge for student use. Students will be charged a damage/replacement fee for school property under their care which are not properly maintained or damaged.

Cracked Screen- \$52

Destroyed Computer- \$320.25

Charger Replacement- \$26.63

Lost/New Device- \$320.25

Missing Keys: Varies depending on whether the entire keyboard must be replaced

Mother/daughter boards: varies depending on the damage

- **Students that lose their device will be unable to receive a loaner device until the fee is paid.**
- **Students who crack their screen and do not pay the fee of \$52 will receive a loaner that must be turned in by the end of each school day.**
- **If students do not consistently turn in their loaner or destroy (accidentally or purposefully) a device will not receive a loaner or new laptop.**

CHANGE OF ADDRESS/TELEPHONE

It is extremely important that every student maintain up-to-date address and working telephone number records at the school office. Please notify the school immediately by emailing our Data Manager, Mrs. Roberts (miranda_roberts@abss.k12.nc.us) if you have a change of address or telephone number during the school year.

DEBTS TO THE SCHOOL

All returned checks written to the school are referred to a collection agency and incur a fee. Students who owe money to cafeteria accounts, technology fees, or have other outstanding obligations to Western Alamance Middle School will not be allowed to attend school functions which charge a fee, to purchase items sold by the school or any school related group, and will not be allowed to try out and/or participate in extracurricular activities, including athletics.

FIRE & TORNADO DRILLS

State regulations require drills throughout the school year to prevent accidents that could result in injury. Adherence to rules is vital for safety. An exit plan is posted in each room. When the alarm is sounded, students need to move swiftly without talking to the designated exit. A signal will be given to indicate the completion of the drill and a direct return to class.

FOOD SERVICES

Breakfast (and lunch) are not universally free for all students. If you would like your child to eat meals at school, you will either need to put money on their online account, or you will need to secure a free/reduced lunch status by filling out the required form. The form is available in the office or you can fill it out online: <https://www.lunchapplication.com/>



- Breakfast cost for students is \$1.50
- Lunch cost is for students is \$2.60

OFF CAMPUS LUNCHES

Students or parents are not allowed to have any food service company deliver food (ex: Doordash, Uber Eats, Chick-fil-a, Grubhub, Dunkin Donut, etc.) at any time during the school day, or for any after school activities or events.

SUPPORT SERVICES

The Western Alamance Middle School Support Services Department strives to assist all students with educational, personal, social, and career development goals and to promote student success. Student support services personnel work in conjunction with teachers, parents, and community agencies to provide a range of services to address the diverse needs of all students. There is one counselor, one nurse, and a part-time social worker at WAMS.

INCLEMENT WEATHER

If predictions of bad weather are forecast, please visit the website at <http://www.abss.k12.nc.us> and listen to one of the local TV or radio stations to find out about delays or cancellation. In addition, the school system's automated calling system will be used to alert students and parents of delays or cancellation.

LOST AND FOUND

Articles found in the building and on the campus are to be turned in to the office. Please do not tempt others by leaving coats, pocketbooks, wallets, etc., where someone else might pick them up. Always label your belongings so we may return them to you when found.

ILLNESS AT SCHOOL

Parents will be notified by school staff of a student illness or injury so pick-up arrangements might be made. **It is important that emergency contact phone numbers are current in Infinite Campus to ensure that someone can be reached.** If a serious illness or injury occurs, EMS will be called to take your student to the emergency room. Parent permission is necessary for medical treatment to be administered.

ACCIDENTS

Students must report any accident that they have at school to their teacher or event sponsor. The teacher will fill out an Accident Report Form. Staff members will report all accidents to the principal.

OFFICE TELEPHONE

The office telephone, 336-538-6010, is for school business and may be used by students only in cases of emergency with the permission of the secretary, principal, or assistant principal. Students who need to make arrangements to stay after school must do so before arriving at school. Changes in transportation procedures should be made in writing rather than using the office telephone, except in the case of an emergency.



Classroom activities cannot be interrupted for phone calls to students and/or teachers. Essential messages will be taken and delivered to the room by the office staff. Communication with teachers may be done via email or by calling during teacher planning time or after school. Each teacher's email address is listed on our website.

PARENT OBSERVATION IN THE CLASSROOM

In order to observe your student in the classroom, you must first complete the [Volunteer Background Check](#) through ABSS. Once approved, you must contact the teacher and school office prior to visiting a classroom for the purpose of observing your child. We ask that the observation be limited to 20-30 minutes. Any concerns you may have after the observation are to be addressed to the teacher and/or the principal by making an appointment, not during the time of the visit. This will prevent any interruptions of the remaining instructional day for both the teacher and children. If not approved through the office before proceeding to the classroom, you will be asked to return to the office and schedule an appointment for a later time. To schedule a visit, please call the teacher and schedule a time.

Upon arriving at school, report immediately to the office, sign in, and obtain a badge through our Ident-a-Kid System. The main office will then call into the classroom confirming the scheduled visit. The parent will then be escorted to the classroom for the observation. Once the observation is complete, the parent will return to the main office, check out and leave the building. For safety purposes, we ask that parents only visit the scheduled classroom, not other rooms or areas in the building.

VISITORS

Parents are welcome at Western Alamance Middle School for the purpose of communicating with the principal or teachers, serving as volunteers to the school in the interest of improving the instructional program with an approved volunteer background check, and for other legitimate business within the scope of the home-school relationship

For the protection of the students and security in the school, all visitors must report directly to the main office upon arrival on school grounds. All ABSS schools use the ident-a-kid Visitor Management System to ensure safe admittance of all visitors.

- Each visitor must describe the nature of their visit to obtain a visitor pass.
- Each visitor will login on the ident-a-kid screen with name and valid driver's license to print a visitor badge.
- The visitor badge must be visible while on school property.
- Visitors must sign out prior to leaving campus.