Southern Alamance Middle School

Student/Parent Handbook

2026 - 2027



#tigerSTRONG

Southern Alamance Middle School
771 Southern High School Road
Graham, NC 27253

Office Phone – (336) 570-6500
Office Fax – (336) 570-6504
https://www.abss.k12.nc.us/o/sams

Southern Alamance Middle School
Student/Parent Handbook
2026-2027

ADMINISTRATIVE TEAM

Principal

Elizabeth Fogleman

Assistant Principals

Kara Davis

Melissa Ringwalt

Athletic Director

Jacob Redding

SOUTHERN ALAMANCE MIDDLE OFFICE STAFF

Finance Secretary	Stephanie Ray
Data Manager	Carly Bunn
Receptionist	Amy Somers
School Counselors	Rikki Deshaies, Amory Sparger
Social Worker	Carol Espique
School Nurse	Melissa Johnson

Office Hours: 7:30 - 4:30 pm (Monday through Friday)

Student Hours: Arrival begins 8:00 am
Breakfast/Homeroom begins 8:15 am
Classes begin 8:45 am
Dismissal begins 3:45 pm

SAMS Mission

Southern Alamance Middle School is an inclusive learning environment centered on meaningful learning opportunities, which challenge each student to become a productive citizen.

SAMS Vision

We are dedicated to helping each student maximize their academic and social-emotional potential through providing highly engaging work and developing supportive relationships, thereby, helping each student to become a productive citizen in a diverse society.

ABSS Vision

We envision a public school system that is a national model for its curriculum and community engagement to empower all of Alamance County students with equal opportunity for civic engagement, a meaningful quality of life and skills for economic success--for themselves and our community.

Non-Discrimination Policy

In compliance with federal laws, the Alamance-Burlington School System administers all educational programs, employment activities and admissions without discrimination because of race, religion, national or ethnic origin, color, age, military service, disability, or gender, except where exemption is appropriate and allowed by law. Inquiries or complaints should be directed to the Director of Student Support Services, Alamance-Burlington School System, 1712 Vaughn Road, Burlington, N.C., 27217, (336) 438-4140.

"En cumplimiento con las leyes federales, el Sistema Escolar Alamance-Burlington aplica todos los programas educativos, actividades de empleo y de admisión sin ningún tipo de discriminación basada en la raza, religión, nacionalidad o grupo étnico, color, edad, servicio militar, discapacidad o género, a excepción de aquellos casos donde la exención es apropiada o permitida por la ley." Preguntas o quejas al respecto deben ser dirigidas al Director de Servicios Estudiantiles del Sistema Escolar Alamance-Burlington, 1712 Vaughn Road, Burlington, NC 27215 (336) 438-4140.

This handbook provides both general information about our school and highlights the most often used policies and procedures. Please read it carefully. After reading and reviewing the handbook, please sign the last page and return with your child to school. Should you have a question about any aspect of the middle school, do not hesitate to contact us. Please note this handbook is available online and may be updated throughout the school year.

Communication

Effective communication between school and home is essential to student success. We are committed to sharing information to help keep families informed with upcoming events, academic reminders, athletics and school related topics.

Each Sunday, families can expect to receive a Tiger Weekly Message for the upcoming week. SAMS highlights will also be posted on our Southern Alamance Middle School website (abss.k12.nc.us/o/sams). Families are encouraged to download the Alamance-Burlington School System (ABSS) Mobile App to receive important district and school notifications, access school information, and stay connected to events and announcements throughout the year. School closing and delay information will be communicated through the ABSS website, ABSS mobile app, district phone/email notifications, and local media outlets.

In addition, teachers and staff will share information through Class Dojo. Teachers will have sign up information to share with families.

Southern Alamance Middle School is beginning to maintain social media accounts and we encourage all families to follow our accounts.

- School Facebook: Southern Alamance Middle School
- Athletic Facebook: Southern Alamance Middle Athletics
- Instagram: @sams.tigers

Master Schedule								
6th Grade	**Homeroom**	**B1**	**Tiger Time**	**E1**	**E2**	**B2 & Lunch**	**B3**	**B4**
	8:15-8:45	8:45-9:55	9:57-10:27	10:30-11:10	11:12-11:52	11:55-1:25	1:27-2:33	2:35-3:45
7th Grade	**Homeroom**	**B1**	**Tiger Time**	**B2 & Lunch**	**E1**	**E2**	**B3**	**B4**
	8:15-8:45	8:45-9:55	9:57-10:27	10:30-12:00	12:02-12:42	12:45-1:25	1:27-2:35	2:37-3:45
8th Grade	**Homeroom**	**B1**	**Tiger Time**	**B2**	**B3 & Lunch**	**B4**	**E1**	**E2**
	8:15-8:45	8:45-9:55	9:57-10:27	10:30-11:38	11:40-1:13	1:15-2:20	2:22-3:02	3:05-3:45

Arrival/Dismissal

Morning Car Rider Drop-off

Students may be dropped off in the car rider line beginning at 8:00 am and proceed to the gym, so please make arrangements so that your child does not arrive at school prior to 8:00 am. At 8:15 am, students may go to their homeroom class until the bell rings at 8:45am. Students will have the opportunity during the time of 8:15-8:45 to grab breakfast from the cafeteria and take to their homeroom.

For car rider drop off, vehicles are to enter the driveway lanes as directed by the traffic guard. The traffic lanes will move forward in two lanes up to the student drop-off zone. The drop-off zone is the straight section of driveway that runs between the gym and office entrances. As vehicles approach the drop-off zone, a staff member will stop traffic on the driveway to allow two lanes of vehicles to enter the drop-off zone. Another staff member will be located near the office doors to stop and then advance traffic in the drop-off zone. When the drop-off zone is filled with stopped vehicles, students may exit their vehicles. Once all students have cleared the drop-off zone, the staff member in the front crosswalk (nearest the office) will allow vehicles within the zone to exit the driveway.

For safety purposes, students may not be dropped off in any parking lot unless checking into the office with a parent or guardian. Students should not get out of their vehicles unless in the drop-off zone.

After School Pick-up

Dismissal begins at 3:45pm on regular days and 12:45pm on Early Release days. Car riders are to be picked up by 4:15pm. Our school social worker will contact you if your child is left unattended after 4:30 pm.

Car riders will be dismissed from their classrooms to the front sidewalk when their name is displayed in the classroom. Students should **not have cell phones or personal electronic devices be out for ANY reason until he/she gets into the car; they are to remain turned off and in their backpack.**

Parents, you will give your child's name to a staff member as you enter the car rider line. Staff members will control traffic during after school pickup in the same manner as morning drop-off (see above morning drop-off description). Car riders will not be dismissed to the student pick-up area until their ride is present in the driveway.

If students do not report to their car in the pickup zone before cars are directed to exit, drivers will be directed by staff to pull into the parking lot. Staff will assist the student to the parking lot for pickup. Students should not be picked up in the staff parking lots or behind the school building.

School Bus Transportation

Bus numbers are assigned by ABSS transportation based on the address that is provided in Infinite Campus. Transfer students (students who reside outside of the SAMS school zone) may not ride yellow school buses to or from school per the ABSS transfer policy. First load bus riders are to go immediately to the buses as soon as they are dismissed from school in the afternoon. Second load bus riders will be called to the cafeteria to await their buses. Changes in bus scheduling will be communicated to students via announcements at school, and to parents via Thrillshare messages.

🚌 **Three-Day Absence Policy**

To maintain accurate ridership data and optimize bus routes, students who do not utilize their assigned bus service for three consecutive school days will be removed from the route. If your child requires transportation after being removed, a new transportation request must be submitted and processed before service can resume.

⏰ **Timeliness Expectations**

- **Arrival Time:** Students should be at their designated bus stop **10–15 minutes before the scheduled pickup time** to ensure timely boarding.
- **Parent Notification:** Parents will receive a call/text whenever there is a delay to the bus. If the bus has not arrived **20 minutes after the scheduled time & there was no notification**, please contact the Transportation Department at 336-570-6480. Do not contact the school directly until this time has passed.

🚫 **Assigned Bus Only**

Students are assigned to specific buses and bus stops. They are **not permitted to ride home with other students** or use a different bus to another address. This policy ensures safety and accountability for all students.

📌 **Additional Reminders**

- Parents/Guardians should sign up for **Here Comes the Bus** app or visit herecomesthebus.com to receive up to date information.
- **Assigned Stops:** Students must board and disembark at their assigned bus stops. Buses will not return to pick up students who were not at their stop when the bus arrived.
- **Behavior Expectations:** Students are expected to adhere to the district's code of conduct while riding the bus. Failure to comply may lead to disciplinary actions, including suspension of bus privileges.
- **Parent/Guardian Responsibilities:**
    - Ensure your child arrives at the bus stop on time.
    - Supervise your child while waiting for the bus.(K-5)
    - Communicate any changes in transportation needs promptly.

Opengate Weapon Detection System

Student safety is always a top priority. As part of our continued commitment to maintaining a safe and secure learning environment, ABSS has implemented the OpenGate® Weapons Detection System.

Beginning August 17, 2026, all students will pass through the OpenGate system as they enter the school building each morning. These advanced walk-through systems rapidly screen for dangerous and prohibited items while providing a quick and unobtrusive entry process.

Student Entry Locations

OpenGate systems will be located at:

- Main Entrance on front sidewalk by the gym and amphitheater
- Front office doors after 8:45

All students must enter the school building through one of these two designated locations when arriving on campus.

Preparing for Morning Entry

To help students move through the screening process as quickly and efficiently as possible, families are encouraged to regularly clean out student book bags and remove unnecessary items.

Before walking through the OpenGate system, students will be required to remove certain items from their book bags. Staff members will be available each morning to guide and assist students through the process.

Students should be prepared to remove the following items:

- Laptops
- Tablets
- 3-ring binders
- Metal spiral notebooks
- Metal lunchboxes

Additional items may require further screening if they trigger an alert. Students should follow all directions provided by staff during the screening process.

Attendance

Attendance and active participation in school are essential components of academic success. Regular attendance supports student achievement, promotes positive habits, and helps students develop the responsibility and work ethic necessary for future success. The State of North Carolina requires that every child between the ages of 7 and 16 attend school. Parents and guardians are responsible for ensuring that students attend school regularly and remain in school for the entire instructional day.

Accurate contact information is critical to effective communication regarding student attendance. Parents and guardians should ensure that phone numbers, addresses, and emergency contact information are current in

Infinite Campus. To update contact information, please contact Carly Bunn, Southern Alamance Middle School Data Manager.

Attendance Records

School officials maintain accurate attendance records for each student and each class period. Attendance records are used to enforce North Carolina's Compulsory Attendance Law and monitor student participation in the educational program.

Excused Absences

When a student is absent from school, a written note from a parent, guardian, or healthcare provider should be submitted to the attendance office upon the student's return. Extended illnesses may require documentation from a physician. 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 2 school days of the student's return to school.

In accordance with North Carolina law and ABSS policy, absences may be excused for the following reasons:

- Personal illness or injury that prevents the student from attending school
- Isolation ordered by the State Board of Health
- Death in the immediate family
- Medical or dental appointments
- Participation as a witness in a court proceeding under subpoena
- Religious observances as required or suggested by the faith of the student or parent/guardian (up to two days per academic year)
- Participation in an approved educational opportunity with prior principal approval
- Pregnancy and related medical conditions or parenting responsibilities when medically necessary
- Visitation with a parent or legal guardian who is an active-duty member of the uniformed services and is deploying, on leave from deployment, or returning from deployment
- Educational opportunity with a two week prior approval by the principal (form on SAMS School Website)

Students with excused absences and students serving short-term suspensions will be provided opportunities to make up missed work.

Make-up Work for Excused Absences

Students in grades 6-8 are responsible for obtaining and completing make-up work following an absence in accordance with ABSS policy.

- Students are encouraged to utilize Canvas, school email, and other digital resources to stay current with assignments whenever possible.
- Students are entitled to twice the number of days absent to complete assignments missed during an absence, not to exceed five (5) school days unless approved by the principal.
- In exceptional circumstances, additional time may be granted by school administration.
- Work not completed within the allotted time may receive no credit.
- Students are responsible for communicating with their teachers regarding missed assignments, assessments, and deadlines.

Southern Alamance Middle School monitors attendance closely and works proactively with students and families to address attendance concerns.

In accordance with North Carolina law and ABSS procedures:

- Parents/guardians will receive notification after a student accumulates **three (3) unexcused absences**. A referral may be made to the school's attendance support team for intervention and support.
- After **six (6) unexcused absences**, parents/guardians will be notified that continued absences may constitute a violation of North Carolina's Compulsory Attendance Law. School personnel may schedule a conference with the student and parent/guardian to develop an attendance improvement plan.
- After **ten (10) unexcused absences**, school administration will conduct a formal attendance review with the student and parent/guardian to determine compliance with attendance requirements and identify additional interventions and supports.

Southern Alamance Middle School is committed to partnering with families to promote regular attendance and ensure that every student has the opportunity to succeed academically.

Tardy Policy to School

The following policy refers to students who arrive late for the school day (8:45 am). Students who arrive tardy to individual classes will have classroom consequences assigned by the teacher.* **Tardy counts will restart at the beginning of each 9 week period.

- Students who arrive after the 8:45 bell has rung should report to the main office (all other exterior doors will be closed and locked).
- Support staff at the front desk will have a sign in sheet and tardy passes.
- Teachers should not allow students into class if they arrive without a pass after 8:45.
- Students who are late due to appointments should have a doctor's note with them upon arrival.

Consequences for repeated tardiness:

- Tardy 1 & 2: Warning in front office
- Tardy 3 & 4: Parent Contact; documentation in Educator's Handbook (minor)
- Tardy 5+: Parent Conference; documentation in Educator's Handbook (referral)

Daily Class Attendance

Teachers will take daily class attendance in Infinite Campus for each block, including Tiger Time, our schoolwide intervention.

Tardy to Class Consequences: (Cumulative Unexcused Tardies)
Arriving less than five (5) minutes after the scheduled start of class or Tiger Time.

Number of Unexcused Tardies	Consequence
1-2	Teacher Redirection
3	Administrative Conference
4+	Lunch Detention assigned by teacher and Parent Contact

- Students who fail to report for an assigned lunch detention may receive additional disciplinary consequences.

Skipping Tiger Time: (5 or More Minutes Late or Failure to Report)

Offense	Consequence
1st	½ Day ISS
2nd	½ Day ISS
3rd	Full Day ISS
Additional Offenses	Progressive disciplinary consequences as determined by administration

Skipping a Class Period: (5 or More Minutes Late, Failure to Report, or Being in an Unauthorized Area)

Offense	Consequence
1st	1 Day ISS
2nd	2 Days ISS
3rd	Additional disciplinary consequences

Early Dismissal

Any time a student needs to leave school early for a doctor's appointment, funeral, etc., he/she must be signed out in the office by an approved person before leaving. If a student leaves and returns on the same day, he/she should sign back in at the front office upon arrival. Early sign-out will be allowed until 3:15pm each day. After 3:15pm, parents/guardians will be required to receive their children in the car rider line. Please schedule any appointments, etc. as necessary. **Photo identification and name listed in Infinite Campus under student account is REQUIRED in order to check out a student through the Ident-A-Kid kiosk in the front office.**

Southern High School Campus

Southern Alamance Middle School students are not to enter Southern Alamance High School or enter the High School campus unless they have prior approval of SAMS and SHS Administration (no exceptions). This includes parents dropping off/picking up car riders at one school and a sibling walking to the other school. Parents will be required to drop and pick up students at individual schools.

SAMS Student 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 school.

Headwear: No hats, bandanas, head wraps, scarfs, hoodies 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. Attire with guns or weapons will not be allowed except for the NC Wildlife Hunter Safety team shirt. Students are prohibited from wearing articles of clothing that are meant to intimidate other students on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, gender identity, sexual orientation, disability, age or religious affiliation.

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, per ABSS policy and District wide Code of Conduct. 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.
<u>The final decision concerning the appropriateness of clothing will be made by the school administration.</u>

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	• 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. • Parents or guardians are notified by administration. • Incidents will be documented through the Behavior Management System.
2 & 3	• Immediate confiscation of the device and turned into 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 required to pick up the device. • Incidents will be documented through the Behavior Management System. • Additional consequences may be assigned, ranging from in-school disciplinary action up to 2 days of OSS.
4	• Immediate confiscation of the device and turned over to administration. The device is securely stored **until pick-up by a parent or guardian**. • Parents or guardians are notified by a school administrator and required to pick up the device. • Check-in/check-out process for the remainder of the school year. • Incidents will be documented through the Behavior Management System. • Additional consequences may be assigned, ranging from in-school disciplinary action up to 2 days of OSS.
Refusal to Surrender Device	• 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 a secure location
- 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:** Any time during the school day when students are engaged in scheduled academic learning activities, including but not limited to, classroom instruction, labs, small group work, and standardized testing. This extends from homeroom (first bell of the day) until dismissal.

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

Student Use of School Telephone

The office telephone, (336) 570-6500, 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 or ask parental permission for any matter must do so before arriving at school.

Changes in transportation procedures should be made in writing by submitting the Same-Day Transportation change request on our school website by a parent or guardian. Transportation changes will not be accepted over the phone. If your child knows how they will be getting home from school, a transportation request does not need to be submitted in the Same-Day Transportation form.

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 Class Dojo. Each teacher's email address is listed on our website (https://www.abss.k12.nc.us/o/sams).

ABSS Inclement Weather Procedures

If predictions of bad weather are being forecast, an automated phone message will be sent to all ABSS families from the Public Relations office at Central Office. The message will provide details if school will be delayed or canceled. Please be sure to have up to date contact information in Infinite Campus to ensure communication.

Tobacco Products

The ABSS 100% Tobacco-Free Schools Policy prohibits all tobacco use by everyone at all times on all school grounds and at all sporting events. Students, staff, parents, and other visitors may not use any kind of tobacco products, including cigarettes, vape devices, pipes, cigars, and smokeless tobacco. Tobacco may not be used on any school grounds or at school events, including athletics, buses, parking lots and off-campus events.

This policy was adopted in June 2008 and went into effect on August 1, 2008 to protect the health of all ABSS students and staff, promote positive role models in schools and promote a healthy learning and working environment. The policy was adopted following state legislation mandating tobacco-free policies in all North Carolina public schools. The complete tobacco products policy can be read on the ABSS Website under "Board of Education" and then "Board Policies".

ABSS Wellness Policy & Procedures

Federal and state laws require the ABSS to enact a local "Wellness Policy" for its public schools. This Wellness Policy discusses laws regarding physical activity, nutritional education and nutritional guidelines for school nutrition programs. The Wellness Policy also states that ABSS will issue other recommendations regarding food and beverages which are not specifically covered by federal and state law.
The Wellness Policy requirements and recommendations are stated in the ABSS "Wellness Procedures". The Wellness Procedures describe (i) mandates and suggestions for disease control with respect to foods from commercial and non-commercial sources, (ii) recommendations for eating environments, (iii) goals and mandates for school lunches, (iv) laws and recommendations with respect to vending machines, (v) mandates regarding competition with federal school nutrition programs, (vi) laws and recommendations regarding fundraisers, concessions policies and student stores, (vii) laws and recommendations regarding school parties, celebrations and rewards, and (viii) goals and mandates regarding nutrition education and physical education.

The Wellness Policy can be read in full on the ABSS Website under "Board of Education" and then "Board Policies."

Medication at School

Any medication to be taken during the school day must be accompanied by a Medication Authorization Form that has been filled out by the health care provider and signed by a parent/guardian. The medication must be brought to the school office in a pharmacy labeled bottle or original over the counter bottle. Parents are responsible for bringing their child's medication to the administrative office. The school system nurse will monitor the administration of the medication. Self-administration of emergency medication is allowed per policy with a properly documented Medication Authorization Form and approval of the school nurse and administration.

School Nurse: Melissa Johnson (336) 570-6500 or MelissaS_Johnson@abss.k12.nc.us

Participation in Extracurricular Activities

Extra-curricular activities are a privilege, not a right, and are regarded as such. ABSS Student Code of Conduct will be enforced to support misbehavior at any event on school property.

Southern Middle Athletics

Fall, Winter and Spring sports will include football, softball, cheerleading, cross country, basketball, volleyball, soccer, track, baseball, wrestling, and dance. A student must maintain passing grades, good behavior, and good attendance to remain on a team. Students must have all required paperwork and meet eligibility requirements in order to try out and participate on a team. Sixth graders are allowed by board policy to play on middle school athletic teams, except football. Students are reminded that participating in athletics is a privilege not a right, and that all athletes must sign the SAMS Athletic Code of Ethics.

Athletics and Other School Functions

- Admission to all athletic events at Southern Alamance Middle is $6.00
- GoFan will be available for online ticket sells
- Pick-up from an athletic event is no later than 6pm
- Pick-up for non athletic after school functions needs to be within 15 minutes of the event ending time
- Students cannot go back and forth between home athletic events without paying the gate at the other event
- Students are not allowed to stay for, or participate in, after school functions if they have missed more than half of the school day, have been suspended or administration has notified both student and family.
- Weapons Detection Systems: Everyone entering an athletic event will be required to pass through the system before entering.

Safety Measures

For safety purposes, ABSS has adopted a **clear bag policy** for sporting events.

Permitted bags include:

- Clear plastic or vinyl bags that are no larger than 12” x 6” x 12”
- One gallon-sized clear plastic storage bag
- Medical Bags (subject to inspection)
- Diaper Bags (with an infant/toddler present)

The following bags will NOT be permitted:

- Purses
- Briefcases
- Backpacks
- Fanny Packs
- Cinch/Drawstring bags
- Luggage
- Computer/Camera Bags

Fans carrying bags that do not meet the criteria will be turned away from the venue at or near the gates and will have the opportunity to return prohibited items to their vehicle. Additionally, cameras will be permitted into a venue if they are not in their own bags. Credentialed members of the media will be allowed to bring bags into a venue but must consent to search and inspection of all bags.

ABSS Student Code of Conduct

The Alamance Burlington Board of Education has adopted a Student Code of Conduct pertaining to all students in the school system. Additional copies of this code may be obtained by parents upon request at the school office as well as located on the ABSS website. At SAMS, we believe all students can behave appropriately while at school. We will allow no student to stop the teacher from teaching or prevent other students from learning. Acts of disrespect, dishonesty, abusive conduct, abusive language, threats, fighting, vandalism, etc., are not acceptable and may result in school consequences. Proper conduct is expected and required of all students while on buses, while on the school grounds, in the hallways, and at school-sponsored activities.

The aforementioned rules prohibit certain behaviors by our students and subject those who violate them to disciplinary actions, including the possibility of in-school and/or out-of-school suspension. In addition, behaviors which are against the law will be turned over to the School Resource Officer with the Alamance County Sheriff's Department.

Student Behavior Expectations

- Students are expected to demonstrate respect for themselves and others, as reflected in interactions with staff and peers.
- Students are expected to demonstrate responsible citizenship by working cooperatively with the staff and peers to promote a positive climate in the school.
- During a drill or other emergency situation, all students will follow the teacher's directions without talking to ensure the safety of all.
- Students are not permitted to buy from or sell anything to each other at any time on the school grounds or school buses.
- SAMS students are subject to all North Carolina General Statutes, Alamance-Burlington School Board Policies, and the classroom teacher's rules.

Consequences

Frequent disciplinary referrals for violations of behavior rules hinder the educational process. SAMS has a progressive discipline system. All appropriate steps will be exhausted to work with a child in making good choices or avoiding issues, but the choice is still that of the student, and we hope that our parents understand this and will support our efforts.

Students who exhibit disruptive/inappropriate behaviors may be assigned to CUBS (Correcting Undesirable Behaviors of Students), ISS (In-School Suspension), OSS (Out of School Suspension) or Restoration Station.

- CUBS is an intervention program designed to provide students with silent reflective time for a class period. Students relocated to CUBS will be given a time-out for that class period to think about behaviors. Parents can be notified by both the classroom teacher and the ISS teacher by telephone or written notice.
- ISS serves as a consequence for a behavior that warrants removal from the classroom, but not a removal from the school. Students can only be assigned to this program by an administrator. Students will work on their regular school assignments in a closely supervised isolated situation during their assigned days.
- OSS is the removal from campus based on student behavior and ABSS Student Code of Conduct. OSS for the same offense twice will result in a Long-term Recommendation to Ray Street Academy.
- Restoration Station is a restorative practice program in which students are placed in the ISS room for at least five days and attend class virtually.
- Students assigned to ISS, OSS, or Restoration Station may not participate in any extracurricular events or athletics after school on the day(s) that the suspensions are in effect.

- Students assigned to ISS must fulfill their scheduled time. If a student is assigned ISS but arrives late, leaves early or is absent from school on the assigned ISS day, the student will be required to make up the missed assigned time in ISS.

NC GENERAL STATUTE 14-269

North Carolina State Law makes it a felony for any person to possess concealed weapons; violations of this law carry a $500.00 fine or six months jail. This law states that no student shall knowingly possess, or transmit any knife, razor, ice pick, explosive, loaded cane, machete, pistol, rifle, shotgun, pellet gun, metal knuckles, extraordinarily large and heavy belt buckle, or other objects that can reasonably be considered a weapon or dangerous instrument:

- In any school building or on any school premises before, during, or after school hours; or
- In any school building or on any school premise at any other time when the school is being used by a school group; or
- On any bus on which the student is being transported for regular school attendance or for any school activity; or
- Off the school premises at any school activity, function, or event.

NC General Statute 14-269.2 Weapons on Campus

This law does not apply to normal school supplies such as pencils or compasses however, if such items (or any other objects) are used as weapons, the person found guilty of such will be liable to penalty.

Positive Behavior Intervention & Supports (PBIS)

The SAMS staff practices Positive Behavior Intervention and Support (PBIS) to address student behaviors at school. The system is based on giving positive praise and feedback for good behaviors. Teachers will use a points monitoring system to determine a student's participation in a quarterly PBIS Incentive. Students who have missing assignments, received ISS and/or OSS during the period between incentives, will not be able to participate.

Class Dojo

All teachers will send home a sheet at the beginning of the year for parents/guardians to sign up for Class Dojo. Through this app, parents/guardians will be able to communicate with teachers and see class and school highlights.

ABSS Grievance Procedures

Any student feeling he/she has been subjected to discrimination in any of the activities under the jurisdiction of the Board of Education that is based on race, color, religion, sex, national origin, or handicapping condition has the right to seek clarity of his/her grievance. A student, parent, or guardian may initiate the grievance procedure to appeal any final decision of school personnel within the school system by following the two steps provided.

- ***Step I*** Principal Conference – A student, parent, or guardian wishing to invoke the grievance procedure shall make a written request for a conference with the principal to discuss the grievance and seek resolution. The request shall state in detail the basis for the grievance, name the specific policy, rule or law believed to have been violated, and specify the relief being sought. The following additional guidelines shall be observed in Step I:
    - No grievance will be heard unless it has been filed in writing within thirty (30) calendar days after the act or condition giving rise to the grievance and states with particularity the basis for the grievance, the policy, regulation and procedure, rule or law believed to have been violated, and the remedy being sought.

- The principal shall grant the conference within five (5) school days following receipt of the request. The principal will state in writing his/her position on the question to the student or parent within five (5) school days following the conference.
- Only the parent, guardian, or someone acting in loco parentis shall be permitted to join or represent the student in the conference with the principal.

- ***Step II*** Appeal to Superintendent or Designee – If the grievance is not resolved at Step I, the student, parent, or guardian may appeal the principal's decision in writing to the Superintendent. The appeal must be made within five (5) school days following receipt of the principal's written response. The Superintendent or designee shall review the grievance within five (5) school days following receipt of the appeal. If the Superintendent or designee determines that additional time is needed to develop the factual record, the grievance may be put on hold for fifteen (15) additional days (or longer if by mutual agreement) to allow time for investigation. A written response shall be made to the student, parent, guardian, and principal from the Superintendent or designee within ten (10) school days following the review.

Infinite Campus, Grading and Report Cards

It is extremely important that every student maintain up-to-date address and working telephone number records in Infinite Campus accounts. Report cards will be posted electronically to the email address provided in Infinite Campus by a parent/guardian. Report cards are posted at the end of every 9 week term.

Grading Scale
A 90-100
B 80-89
C 70-79
D 60-69
F below 60

Report Cards: November 4, January 27, April 7 and June 4
Grades Online: updated weekly, please email teachers with grading questions and/or concerns

Conferences
We encourage parents to make appointments for conferences with teachers, coaches, counselors, or an administrator by calling the school office at (336) 570-6500 or contacting them by email.

Retention Policy
The principal has the authority to promote and to retain students in accordance with state law and based upon the standards set by the board and the State Board of Education. Promotion and accountability standards for students in the Alamance-Burlington Schools consist of the following:
- classroom performance of the student in relationship to his/her academic ability and/or exceptionality;
- chronological age and physical size;
- attendance;
- performance on state and local tests; and
- potential success at the next grade level.

Students who are identified as at-risk of retention will be tracked by their teachers, and parents/guardians will be contacted following the first report card being issued. Parents/guardians will be invited into a retention conference to discuss their child's performance and academic needs. A plan will be created in this retention conference so each student will be more successful as the school year continues. Parents/guardians will receive subsequent communication from teachers, after progress reports and report cards, throughout the year if their

child is still at-risk for retention based upon academic performance. Reference ABSS Policy #3000 if you would like further details of the promotion and retention process used by SAMS and our principal.

Student Supports

School Counselors: Rikki Deshaies & Amory Sparger
School Social Worker: Carol Espique
School Nurse: Melissa Johnson

Student Services

Southern Alamance Middle School's Student Services Department helps students with their academic , social-emotional, mental and physical needs. A school nurse, school social worker and school counselors are available to all students. Many services are provided to students at the student's request; however, if you feel a student has a specific need, or you have a concern about a student, please contact the main office.

School Visitors

Parents are welcome to visit the school for the purpose of communication with the principal or teachers or serving as volunteers. All school visitors must sign in on the Ident-A-Kid kiosk in the front office. Parents will be required to scan their driver's license at the Ident-A-Kid kiosk as a part of the school safety protocol. Parents are not permitted to eat lunch with their child in the cafeteria. A parent may check their child out of school for lunch to eat at the front picnic table or in the car.

Disabled or Handicapped Students

Federal legislation and the Alamance-Burlington Schools Board of Education policies mandate that every student will receive a free and appropriate education. Some students may have physical or mental handicapping conditions that can substantially limit their ability to learn and participate in school activities. If a student or parent believes the student has such a handicapping condition, the student's principal should be contacted. Further assistance can be obtained from the Director of Student Services or the Director of Exceptional Children on Vaughn Road at (336) 570-6060.

Child Nutrition

The cafeteria is an extension of the classroom and appropriate behavior is expected at all times. Our school provides breakfast and a hot lunch program each day. Free and reduced-price lunch is available to those who qualify. Free/Reduced lunch applications can be completed online at lunchapplication.com or you may pick up a paper application in the front office of the school. You will be responsible for your child's lunch fines if the application is denied or not submitted by deadline. Applications for free and reduced lunch can be found at www.lunchapplication.com.

The computerized Cafeteria Management System now makes it possible for students to place unlimited amounts of money in their meal account. Cash or checks for prepayment (made out to Southern Middle School Cafeteria) should be sent in an envelope to school. Please note that a $25.00 processing fee will be charged for any returned check. Deposits to your child's cafeteria account may also be made using the electronic system at www.lunchprepay.com. You can also monitor what your child is purchasing at the aforementioned website.

Student meal prices are as follows:

Lunch (regular): $3.10 per day Breakfast (regular): $2.00 per day

Cafeteria prices are subject to change. If a child forgets or runs out of lunch money, he/she will be asked to call home. Any child with an existing negative balance will be asked to call home after eating lunch. Students with outstanding meal balances will not be able to participate in or attend extracurricular activities.

ABSS Statement on Discrimination and Harassment

The Alamance-Burlington School System prohibits discrimination on the basis of race, sex, color, national origin, religion, disability, or age (40 or older), and will provide equal access to the Boy Scouts and other designated youth groups as required by law. ABSS will not tolerate any form of unlawful discrimination or harassment in any of its education activities or programs. All forms of prohibited discrimination and harassment are subject to Board Policy 1710, except the following, for which the board has established more specific Policies:

- Discrimination and harassment on the basis of sex is addressed in policy 1720/4030/7235, Title IX Nondiscrimination on the Basis of Sex.
- Discrimination and harassment in employment is addressed in policy 7232, Discrimination and Harassment in the Workplace.
- Discrimination and harassment on the basis of disabilities is addressed in policy 1730, Nondiscrimination on the Basis of Disabilities.

ABSS encourages students, visitors, and other non-employee individuals who believe that they may have been discriminated against or harassed in violation of board policy to report such conduct as soon as possible. ABSS takes all reports of unlawful discrimination and harassment seriously, and encourages students, parents, and staff to work together to prevent harassment. School officials are directed to take prompt action to investigate and remedy violations of the discrimination and harassment policy. Supportive measures are available to those affected by harassment. Appropriate steps to end discrimination and harassment may include, but are not limited to, separating the parties, providing counseling for the parties, and/or taking disciplinary action against a perpetrator determined to have violated board policy. For students, potential disciplinary outcomes are outlined in the Code of Conduct.

A formal written complaint of unlawful discrimination or harassment may be made to the following individuals:

- The principal or assistant principal of the school at which either the alleged victim or alleged perpetrator attends or is employed;
- The supervisor or senior human resources official when the alleged victim is an applicant or employee;
- The Section 504 Coordinator or the ADA coordinator for claims of discrimination on the basis of a disability; or
- For claims of other forms of prohibited discrimination, the applicable civil rights coordinator.

Contact information:
Section 504 Coordinator: Dr. Abby Liberstein--abby_liberstein@abss.k12.nc.us
Title IX Coordinator: Tore Foster--latore_foster@abss.k12.nc.us
ADA Coordinator: Dr. Christina Armfield--christina_armfield@abss.k12.nc.us
Age Discrimination Coordinator, Coordinator for OtherNon-discrimination Laws, and senior human resources official: Dr. Yolanda Anderson--yolanda_anderson@abss.k12.nc.us

ABSS Policy 7325

To maintain a safe and secure environment for our students, staff, and visitors, Alamance-Burlington School System utilizes video security cameras in common public areas on school grounds and school buses. These cameras operate without audio recording and are installed strictly in places like entrances, hallways, gymnasiums, and parking lots. In accordance with Board Policy 7325, cameras are never placed in areas where individuals have a reasonable expectation of privacy, such as restrooms, locker rooms, or health offices, and all recordings are managed and stored under strict district security protocols.