

Please sign and return this form To your HOMEROOM teacher

I/we have read and reviewed the RMS Handbook

Print Student's name

Parent/Guardian signature

Student signature

Date

Lunch Charges

According to ECBOE regulations, students are not allowed to charge their lunch in the lunchroom. No exceptions. Parents are responsible for maintaining student meal accounts.

Parents will be called daily about lunch money. Three days of lunch charges will result in disciplinary action. Please let the front office know if there are special circumstances.

I have read and understand Rainbow Middle School's policy on lunch charges.

Parent Signature

Date

Rainbow Middle School

454 Lumbley Road
Rainbow City, AL 35906
Phone: 256-442-1095
Fax: 256-442-1028
Website: www.rms.ecboe.org
Principal: Matt Brooks
Assistant Principal: Allison Lee

The mission of Rainbow Middle School is to assure the development of successful, caring, responsible students by providing a nurturing learning environment.

School Colors: Crimson and Black
Mascot: Panther



Faculty and Staff

Matt Brooks, Principal	Allison Lee, Assistant Principal
Brittany Haynie, Guidance Counselor	Dixie Phillips, Bookkeeper
Grace Brown, Librarian	Leslie Barksdale, School Nurse
Joy Blankenship, Receptionist	Eric Brooks, 8 th World History, PE
Lisa Rease, 6 th /7 th /8 th Reading	Cory Nickels, 8 th Language
Natalie Phillips, 8 th Science	Sherry Johnson, 8 th World History
Ray Cargill, 8 th Language	Crystal Varnon, 8 th Math
Jeff Helms, 7 th Social Studies	Amy Barron, 8 th Alg. I, IA
Staci Edmondson, 7 th Language	Josh Fowler, 7 th Social Studies
Katie Bowers, 7 th Math	Jordan Leonhardt, 7 th Language
Ben Simmons, 7 th Science	Leah Dennis, 7 th Math
LeAnn Stewart, 8 th Science	Jeff Ashley, 7 th Science
TaTanisa Sayles, 6 th Math	Beverly Neal, 6 th Language
Jennifer Kilgo, 6 th Science	John Mark Mintz, 6 th Social Studies
Cindy Swann, 6 th Language	Brett Bowers, 6 th Social Studies
Joy Russell, 6 th Science	Kristi Smith, 6 th Math
Kathy Hiland, 7 th Resource	Sherie Newton, 6 th Resource
Sharon Brannon, 8 th Resource	Jill DeGaetano, Band
Amy Hassell, Self-Contained Special Education	Christian Tucker, PE
Scott Barksdale, Paraprofessional	Gina Burns, PE
Cindy Minton, Paraprofessional	Desmond Turner, Paraprofessional
Darlene Cecil, Custodian	Angie Scott, Custodian
	Juana Benefield, CNP Manager

Rainbow Middle School

Regular Bell Schedule

Time	Period
7:15	Students Enter Building
7:42-7:45	3 Minute Warning Bell
7:45-8:42	1
8:42-8:52	Morning Break
8:56-9:48	2
9:52-10:22	Panther Period
10:26-11:18	3
11:22-12:38	4 (Lunch)
12:42-1:34	5
1:34-1:44	Afternoon Break
1:48-2:40	6

Activity

Time	Period
7:45-8:30	1
8:30-8:40	Break
8:44-9:22	2
9:26-9:56	Panther Period
10:00-10:38	3
10:42-11:22	5
11:22-12:38	4 (Lunch)
12:42-1:20	6
1:20-2:30	Activity
2:40	Dismissal

SCHOOL ADMISSION

Students are admitted to Rainbow Middle School based upon zoning guidelines. Any other special request should be referred to the Etowah County Board of Education.

LEGAL CUSTODY DEFINITIONS

Only the parent of record, legal guardian or parent with court approved custody shall be recognized and considered to be the legally authorized person in all school-related matters pertaining to an individual student. The school system will afford a natural parent(s) of record the rights that the Family Education Rights and Privacy Act of 1974 § 99.3 affords him/her unless the court or a responsible party has provided the school system with a legally binding document that specifically revokes or extinguishes the parent(s)' of record right to have knowledge of and participate in the child's schooling.

We do not accept custody papers that have only been notarized.

When the parent of record enrolls a student in school, the principal should be notified of any completed or pending legal action affecting the family and of any previous placement or expulsion at any school. **The principal should be given a copy of the most recent court order creating or limiting the rights of the non-custodial parent(s) of record.** Should neither parent(s) of record file a court order with the school, the school presumes that the person who enrolls the child in school is the custodial parent and that there are no restrictions on the other parent's rights.

AGENCY ENROLLMENT/TRANSFER REQUESTS

Students requesting to enroll in the Etowah County School System through the Department of Human Resources and Juvenile and/or Family Court will be referred to the superintendent's office or designee for enrollment validation. The appropriate officials from the agencies listed above will accompany the student to the office and must have the following:

- academic records, including special education records
- transfer or withdrawal forms
- immunization record
- any other record deemed appropriate for enrollment

STEPS TO TAKE WHEN ABSENT

Alabama Law requires that every child between the ages of seven and seventeen years of age attend school (*16-28-3, Code of Alabama, 1975*). The law also states that a parent, guardian, or other person having control or charge of any school-age child is responsible for that child's regular attendance and proper conduct (*16-28-2, Code of Alabama, 1975*). School administrators are required, under the state of law, to enforce compulsory school attendance laws. All students are expected to attend school regularly and to be on time for a

class in order to receive the greatest benefits from our instructional program at RMS.

1. ACCORDING TO THE ETOWAH COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION (ECBOE) POLICY, A written excuse will be required of all students within three (3) days of return to school, otherwise the absence will be coded as unexcused. Only three (3) written excuse will be accepted per semester. Any other absences must be documents with a written doctor excuse. Exceptions may be made by the school Principal for extenuating circumstances. Students who have three (3) unexcused tardies will be counted absent one day.
2. It is the student's responsibility to ask teachers for the assignments or tests that have been missed. Students have three (3) days, from their return to school to complete daily and homework make up work.
3. Tests and long term assignments will be made up at the discretion of the teacher.
4. A check in after 11:30 a.m. will be counted as one (1) day of absence and will require a written excuse. A check out before 11:30 a.m. will be counted as one (1) day of absence and will require a written excuse.
5. Students must present an excuse to their 1st period teacher.

TARDIES

It is very important for students to arrive at school on time. School begins each day at 7:45 a.m. and all students should be in their assigned 1st period class at that time. When tardy, a student must sign in with the front office and receive a pass to class. Per ECBOE Policy, students who accumulate three (3) unexcused tardies will be counted absent one day. Students who are continually tardy will be subject to disciplinary action.

CHECK-IN/OUT POLICY

1. All check-ins and check-outs will be done through the MAIN OFFICE.
2. A student checking in school will be required to have a parental note (which is subject to verification) and/or a valid doctor's excuse. **After the 3rd tardy to school, the parent must accompany the student to the school office to check the student in (for excused or unexcused tardies).**
3. All check-outs must meet the requirements of the Alabama Absentee Code in order to be termed EXCUSED.
4. Only persons listed on the student's approved check out list will be allowed to check out the student. This person will be asked to show proof of identification.
5. **Telephone requests will NOT be accepted under any circumstances, unless authorized by the PRINCIPAL for emergency reasons only. Any change to the check-out list must be made in writing.**
6. ECBOE urges all school personnel to discourage the practice of taking students away from school and classes before the end of the day.
7. Students MUST leave campus immediately after being cleared through the MAIN office.

8. When checking in, the student should go immediately to the MAIN office. Once the student has been checked into school, the student is required to report directly to the appropriate class.
9. No student listed as ABSENT will be allowed in the classroom without a check-in slip issued from the MAIN office.

UNEXCUSED ABSENCES/TRUANCY

Unexcused absences are those for which no acceptable written explanation is provided by the parent/guardian. Schoolwork missed due to unexcused absences may not be made up.

The Etowah County School System participates in cooperation with the Etowah County District Attorney and the Etowah County Juvenile Court in the Early Warning Program for Attendance Intervention.

When a student accumulates 5 or more unexcused absences per semester, it is considered a truancy issue and will be referred to Early Warning. Please refer to the ECBOE Code of Conduct for further explanation.

GRADING

Rainbow Middle School and all ECBOE schools operate on a 9 weeks grading period. Progress reports are issued to students during the 4th/5th week of the grading period. Grades are issued using the following grading scale:

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

PROMOTION/RETENTION STANDARDS

Students enrolled in grades six (6) through eight (8) must pass reading and math plus one additional core course each year in order to be promoted to the next higher grade. Students who do not pass required core courses each year will be retained at their current grade level for the next school year unless they successfully meet the requirements in an approved summer school program.

SEMESTER/FINAL EXAMS

All middle school and high school students with an average of 75 or above may exempt final exams if they meet all of the following criteria.

1. No more than 3 absences during a semester, including both excused and unexcused absences. 4 absences if they have an (A) average in a class.
2. No more than 4 tardies during a semester, including both excused and unexcused tardies.
3. No more than 4 tardies to each class during the semester, including both excused and unexcused tardies.

(Students must attend a class for a minimum of 30 minutes to be counted present.)

****Principal Excuses will only be given in the case of an extreme emergency or a school sponsored function****

Students that are eligible to exempt, but choose to take the exam will not have their grade lowered in the event they do not perform well on the exam.

Note: Students will not be able to exempt any state mandated final exams including, but not limited to Quality Core End of Course Tests.

ATHLETICS AND CHEERLEADING

All athletic and cheerleader programs of the Etowah County School System are conducted in accordance with the Alabama High School Athletic Association. Students must show written proof of adequate insurance coverage prior to engaging in practice or participation in any athletic program sponsored by the school. Students must submit to and pass a physical examination prior to engaging in practice or participation in any athletic program sponsored by the school.

STUDENT DRUG TESTING

It is the objective of the Etowah County Board of Education to assure that all students be given the opportunity to learn in a safe, drug-free environment and that all students, while under the supervision of the school system, be completely free from the effects of alcohol and/or the presence of illegal or controlled substances. In an effort to meet this objective, the Board reserves the right to require any student desiring to participate in extracurricular programs or drive on school grounds to submit to drug/alcohol tests at any time prior to, during, or following an athletic event, practice, competition, or at any other time while under the supervision of the school system.

Any student who refuses to participate in a drug/alcohol screening loses the right of participation in any Etowah County Board of Education extracurricular activity and/or drive on school grounds in accordance with Board policies. The Board has the right to conduct random, unannounced drug screenings of students participating in extracurricular activities or driving on school campus as well as the right to conduct specific drug screenings of students whenever a school official observes circumstances which provide reasonable suspicion to believe that a student has used alcohol, illegal drugs, or otherwise violated the substances abuse policy.

SCHOOL OPENING, CLOSING

Schools post official opening and closing times for school facilities. School personnel are on duty during school arrivals and dismissals and at school-sponsored activities to supervise students. Notifications of early dismissals, emergency closings, delayed openings or other emergency changes to school hours are provided through the media and school communication plans.

School doors will open at 7:15 am and will close at 3:05 pm. Between these times and throughout the school day, school personnel will be on duty and available to supervise care for students. However, school system personnel are not expected to assume responsibility for students whose parents permit their child(ren) to arrive at school before the time noted above and/or to remain at school after the time noted above except during school sponsored activities.

Parents/guardians are encouraged to cooperate with school officials to ensure that students do not arrive at school too early and are picked up promptly and safely after school and after school-sponsored events. In situations where parents/guardians repeatedly fail to pick up their child(ren) promptly following after-school, extra-curricular activities within the specified time frame, the school principal and appropriate personnel will take measures to notify the appropriate authorities.

INCLEMENT WEATHER

Each year, we face inclement weather that may cause a delay in the start of the school day, in early release/dismissal, or in school closing. Please plan ahead with students so they know what to do in the event that we do have an early release from school. You can easily register to receive weather alerts, information concerning school closure, early release, or delayed arrival by subscribing to Remind and view important weather alerts on our schools website: www.rms.ecboe.org and on local radio so there should not be any need for a student to call home to make this announcement. Please understand that we must limit phone calls to keep lines open for incoming calls and for emergency information. Local media such as **WAAX AM 570** will carry school closing announcements due to inclement weather or other emergencies. You may also monitor our system's website: www.ecboe.org for dismissal/early release announcements. Buses will run regular routes unless we are notified otherwise.

There are certain things parents or guardians can do to assist in emergency situations:

1. When the weather conditions appear threatening, monitor our website or turn on your radio or television for instructions. PLEASE do not call the school or the radio stations.
2. Please review with your child what to do if we have early release. Will your child ride the bus home or wait to be picked up?
3. If your child rides a bus and no one is home, where will your child go? Will he/she go to a neighbor's home or wait at home alone?
4. If your child is a car rider, arrangements should be made to have him/her picked up immediately if there is an early dismissal. Designate family members or a neighbor to check out your child/children. Remember, these individuals must be on your child's check out list. Please remind this individual of our "Proof of Identification Policy".
5. During a tornado warning, the school is the safest place for your child to be. We will not allow students to leave while we are under a severe thunderstorm warning, or a tornado warning.
6. **DO NOT DEPEND ON A TELEPHONE CALL TO OR FROM THE CHILD'S SCHOOL WHEN SCHOOLS ARE CONDUCTING EARLY RELEASE.** The school is flooded with telephone calls during emergency situations to meet the safety needs of the students and staff. The Principal and a sufficient number of school employees will remain on duty until all children are safely dismissed. We assure you that we will do everything possible to protect your child. Your cooperation in carrying out the above suggestions will benefit everyone involved.

VISITORS

For the protection of our students, employees and guests, all visitors, including parents, are required to go to the school office immediately and obtain an office badge upon entering the building and to report their presence and business.

SEARCHES AND SEIZURE/INTERROGATIONS

The Etowah County Board of Education recognizes the applications of constitutional law to the area of student property. Therefore, all school administrators will follow the Alabama Code and the Etowah County Policy.

School officials may make reasonable searches of a student if there is reasonable suspicion to believe that the student is carrying articles that may endanger him/her or other individuals in the school, or that such articles possessed are contrary to law or the regulations of Etowah County Board of Education policy. If a student is searched, a school official of the same sex shall conduct the search in a private setting with a third party of the same sex present. The principal or his/her designee(s) shall make every attempt to notify the student's parents/guardians of an impending search.

School officials will make every reasonable effort in all cases to notify the parents/guardians when officials ask to interview students at school. In those instances when a parent/guardian cannot be present within a reasonable period of time, school officials must allow interviews by law enforcement officials to proceed in the absence of the parents/guardians. Other non-school persons, with the exception of DHR and/or parents/guardians(s), shall not interview students during school hours. No student shall be removed from the school without a warrant or pick-up order being officially served.

Rainbow Middle School Discipline Plan

The students, teachers, principal and assistant principal, counselor, and parents share the responsibility for administering the Rainbow Middle Discipline Plan and for working together on a daily basis to review and understand Rainbow Middle's goals for responsibility and behavior. In order for every student to have the opportunity to reach his or her potential, each student at Rainbow Middle shall:

- Attend school faithfully, complete his or her assignments on time, and work to his or her full potential.
- Behave in a manner that does not disrupt classroom learning or the operation of the school.
- Obey teachers, the principal or assistant principal, and others in authority.

- Refrain from aggressive or threatening behavior towards fellow students, teachers, or other school staff.
- Refrain from the possession or use of any weapons, illegal drugs, alcohol, or tobacco products.

Rainbow Middle School's Discipline Goals

- To help students develop self-respect.
- To help students develop respect for others and their property.
- To help students see the need for self-discipline.
- To guide students toward choices which lead to improved behavior.

Shared Responsibility

Students: Throughout the year you will be expected to assume the following responsibilities:

1. Be present and on time for school and classes each day.
2. Treat all school personnel and fellow students with dignity and respect.
3. Demonstrate respect for the school by taking care of facilities, property and equipment, and the property of others.
4. Be a positive representative of your school at all times. Comply fully with all school and classroom policies and procedures.

- **Students who are suspended from school will not be permitted to attend school functions, including but not limited to dances and athletic events.**

Teachers: A preventative approach to discipline communicates to students that the focus of the school discipline is to promote success and not to inflict punishment. Infractions where prevention is a must include, but are not limited to, behaviors observed in the classroom such as talking, extraneous noises, inappropriate comments, name calling, not following teacher directions, and breaking classroom rules.

Principal, Assistant Principal, Counselor: The principal, assistant principal, and counselor have a shared responsibility for contributing to the maintenance of an educational environment conducive to teaching and learning. This orderly learning environment with high expectations provide for the total growth, development, and maturation of all students physically, mentally, emotionally, and socially.

Parents: Administrators, faculty, staff members and parents have a shared responsibility for assisting in the total growth, development and maturation of all students. Parents are expected to be involved in the educational and social experiences of their children. Parents who are informed of school goals and are knowledgeable about school policies and procedures can assist their students in making good decisions. Parents who attend parent/teacher conferences and extra-curricular activities form a partnership with the school and the students. This partnership enhances the quality of a child's learning experiences.

The parent must assume responsibility for the student's regular attendance in school. Regular, consistent school attendance is vital to a student's academic program. Students must attend school regularly and be on time to classes in order to maximize instructional benefits. Parents are encouraged to visit the school any time during the year. Parents may call the school to schedule a conference with the student's teachers during their planning period. The counselors, principal, and assistant principals are available as their daily schedules permit. Parents should take advantage of these opportunities to strengthen the parent/teacher relationship so that our students can be successful.

School Wide Minor Offenses

These offenses can be handled by a student's team of teachers using the Eight Step Discipline Procedures. These offenses may also result in assignment to ISS.

Refer to the Etowah County Schools Code of Student Conduct book. The following are intended as further guidelines for student conduct at Rainbow Middle School. The following offenses are subject to disciplinary action:

- Being in off-limit areas of being in the halls without a pass.
- Dress code violations.
- Chewing gum.
- Horseplay, pranks on fellow students, running in the halls, or being in the wrong hallway.
- Profanity.
- Tardiness (either to school or to class).
- Littering on school property, including the cafeteria, buildings, and grounds.
- Showing affection – examples include kissing, holding hands, or hugging.
- Disruptive behavior during school activities.
- Arguing with other students.
- Throwing objects.
- Skipping class or leaving class without permission.
- **Any other offense that school personnel deems appropriate.**

School-Wide Major Offenses

Committing one of the following offenses may result in suspension out of school or Alternative School placement and possibly charges filed with the Sheriff's Department.

Refer to the Etowah County Schools Code of Student Conduct book. The following are intended as further guidelines for student conduct at Rainbow Middle School. The following offenses are subject to disciplinary action:

- Fighting or physically assaulting another student.
- Noncompliance with directives from principals, teachers, and other personnel.
- Disorderly conduct / Creating a disturbance.
- Bullying, hazing, extortion, intimidation, harassment, of fellow students, or threats which cause students to fear for their safety.
- Possession of, distribution of, or possession of drugs/alcohol or any substance represented to be drugs or alcohol.
- Student disrespect towards anyone in this school related to race.
- Sexual harassment.
- Disrespect to school personnel, including obscene or abusive language, threats, gestures, or intimidation.
- Use of possession of tobacco
- Continuous horseplay.
- Possession, distribution, use of, or threatened use of firearms, weapons, explosives, and incendiary devices (this includes "look alike" firearms, explosives, and incendiary devices).

- Destruction or defacing of school property, including intentional damage to school buses.
- False emergency calls or setting off false fire alarms.
- Verbal, physical, or sexual assault or battery.
- Engagement in any inappropriate sexual touching or indecent behavior.
- **Any other offense that school personnel deems appropriate.**

Discipline Procedures

These are consequences for violation of school rules (unless the violation is serious enough to automatically result in suspension out of school).

Step I – Warning/ISS referral for one class period – assigned by teacher or team- teacher discretion- there can be classroom modification, teacher supervised detention. The teacher will notify the parent of the offense.

Step II –Break Detention. The teacher will notify the parent of the offense.

Step III -Team meeting with student and phone call home. Parental calls are informational in nature (description of the behavior).
Referral to guidance – student will meet with guidance counselor to help the team determine any non-punitive interventions the support staff or an outside agency may be able to provide to help the student be successful.
(Special Education teachers will be notified if student is on caseload)
Campus Beautification Duty—during break, PE, or Exploratory period.

Step IV- Office Referral and In-school suspension (ISS).

Step V – An administrative initiated parent meeting will occur- out of school suspension.

Step VI –Zero tolerance letter will be sent to the parent—out of school suspension or placement in BAM program.

Step VII Last Straw – Recommendation for alternative education or recommendation for long term suspension.

This discipline procedure gives the students several chances to change behavior, and we have included all the necessary steps of modification and documentation in case we have to suspend or make a recommendation for an alternative educational placement.

The administration reserves the right to assign and alter consequences at Rainbow Middle School whenever necessary.

Field Trips

**If a student is suspended for any reason during a semester, they will forfeit their rights to participate in any field trip during that semester. **

**Any student receiving an office referral during the week prior to a planned field trip will also forfeit the right to go on the field trip. **

Rainbow Middle School Bus Discipline

Riding the school bus is a privilege. The following guidelines are necessary to provide the safest and most comfortable conditions possible for students.

1. The driver is in charge of the bus, and students must obey the driver.
2. Students shall sit in assigned seats at all times with arms and head inside the bus.
3. Eating, drinking, or chewing gum will not be allowed on buses. (In cases of extreme heat, water will be permitted on school buses)
4. Anything that compromises student safety will not be permitted on the bus, including, but not limited to, perfumes, body sprays, horseplay, wrestling, fighting, spitballs, and throwing things.
5. Students should maintain a reasonable noise level.
6. Students must ride their assigned bus and may only get on or off the bus at their designated bus stop.
7. Any inappropriate use of a cell phone or any other device.
8. For more information please reference the student handbook.

Consequences for Bus Misbehavior

- 1st Referral - Conference/warning.
- 2nd Referral - Bus Suspension for 1-3 days.
- 3rd Referral - Bus Suspension for 3-5 days.
- 4th Referral - Bus Suspension for 7-10 days.
- 5th Referral - Bus Suspension for one semester or more.

Again, the administration at Rainbow Middle School reserves the right to alter consequences if deemed necessary.

Rainbow Middle School's principal, assistant principals, teachers, counselors, and support personnel join the parents and members of the community in providing a positive and encouraging environment for our students. We realize that it takes home, school, and community working together to ensure responsibility, academic success, and character for our students. We know that consistent, school-wide application of this program will reap great rewards in helping students achieve their goals.

LUNCHROOM

Our school lunchroom is operated in accordance with the Federal Child Nutrition Program (CNP). It is required that students who wish to bring their lunch from home eat in the lunchroom where they may buy milk or drink. Teachers will escort students from the classroom to the lunchroom and will remain in the lunchroom for their assigned lunch period. Teachers will also escort students

back to their classrooms when their lunch period is over. Students are expected to conduct themselves properly while in the lunchroom by following the Discipline Code and remembering these additional cautions:

1. **Soft drinks, bottles (glass or plastic), water bottles, thermos type containers, etc. are not to be brought to school.**
2. **No drinks or snacks may be purchased from the vending machines and carried to the lunchroom.**
3. Loud talking and moving from table to table is prohibited.
4. Areas around the tables are to be kept clean and the student must clean any food spilled.
5. **According to ECBOE regulations, students are not allowed to charge their lunch in the lunchroom. No exceptions.** Parents are responsible for maintaining student meal accounts.
6. If a student has a special dietary requirement, please notify the school immediately by submitting a doctor's note that describes the necessary dietary modification in detail.
7. Students will walk to and from lunch with their third block teacher.
8. **No talking in the hallways on the way to and from the lunchroom. Remember, classes are in session.**
9. Follow your teacher's rules regarding restroom rules before and after lunch.
10. Choosing to stay in the classroom and not go to lunch is NOT an option for any student.
11. **Meals purchased from outside sources (restaurants) are not allowed in our school lunchroom.**
12. Students are not to leave the lunchroom during their lunch period.
13. Food is not to be taken out of the lunchroom. This applies to breakfast and lunch.

HEALTH SERVICES

A registered nurse is employed as a school nurse by the ECBOE to coordinate health services for students in grades K-12. Health screenings including vision, hearing, and scoliosis are done regularly as required by State regulations. These will also be provided for any student on an individual basis as requested by a parent, student or by a teacher. The school nurse serves as a liaison between the school and the community to provide agency referrals, health education, and medical information.

Head Lice: Students may not attend school with nits or lice in their hair. A student will be sent home with instructions as to proper treatment when nits or lice are found. The student may return at any time on the same day to be re-checked, but will not be allowed to return to class until he/she is lice and nit free.

To be readmitted, a parent/guardian must accompany the student to the school office to be examined for the presence of lice or nits. Students are excused the first two (2) days for treatment of nits or lice for the first incident only. All subsequent absences due to lice are unexcused.

NON DISCRIMINATION POLICY

The ECBOE has adopted a policy which prohibits discrimination in all educational programs and activities and in employment and promotion practices within the Etowah County School System.

The Board policy applies specifically to non-discrimination on the basis of sex, race, color, age, religious belief, national origin or ethnic group and provides that no otherwise qualified handicapped individual shall, solely by reason of the handicapping constitution, be subject to discrimination.

Non-Discrimination Statement

“In accordance with Federal Law and U.S. Department of Agriculture policy, this institution is prohibited from discriminating on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, age, or disability. To file a complaint of discrimination, write USDA, Director, Office of Adjudication, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, D.C. 20250-9410 or call toll free (866) 632-9992 (Voice). Individuals who are hearing impaired or have speech disabilities may contact USDA through the Federal Relay Service at (800) 877-8339; or (800) 845-6136 (Spanish). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.”

DRESS CODE

The dress code is developed with the best interests of the school community in mind. Although certain styles may be in “vogue” and worn in other public places, they may not be appropriate for an educational setting. If a student is in doubt about a particular article of clothing, he/she should not wear the clothing in question. **Students will not be allowed to attend class until clothing is appropriate. Any class time that is missed will result in grades of ZERO for the work missed.** If any question as to the appropriateness of any attire arises, **the ADMINISTRATION of the school has the final authority.**

SCHOOL DRESS CODE-GRADES 4-12

The parents/guardians should supervise the manner of a student's dress.

- 1) Headgear including, but not limited to hats, caps, headbands, sweatbands, bandanas, visors, do rags, hoods, and sunglasses, must be removed upon entering the school building and shall be properly stored.
- 2) Hair must be clean, combed, and well-groomed. No distracting hairstyles. Hair color must be worn in “natural colors” only No “bright un-natural” hair dye. Hair must be worn out of your eyes. Safety precautions must be observed in all classes. If long hair is a safety hazard, students will receive directions from the teacher/instructor. Eye protection may be required in some classes. Whenever a student's hairstyle becomes a disruptive issue, the principal will address the problem on an individual basis. Etchings in the hair are unacceptable.
- 3) Facial hair must be well-groomed.
- 4) Insignias, buttons, and clothing that are suggestive (alcoholic beverages, tobacco, vulgarity, nudity, drug-related, etc.) are not permitted.

- 5) Clothing or other items that may inflame racial tension, incite a significant group of students in the student body, and/or depict any form of hatred/disrespect of others shall not be worn.
- 6) Any hairstyle, clothing or pattern of dress or other items that identify a student as being a member of a gang, or could be perceived as a threat or represent a hate or subversive organization are prohibited.
- 7) Bracelets or belts with spikes or studs are not allowed. Chains not exceeding 6" in length will be allowed to connect wallets to clothing.
- 8) **No piercing, other than the ear, is acceptable.** Jewelry may not be worn by any student when safety factors are an issue. Facial piercings to the nose, eyebrows, tongue or any other part of the body will not be allowed. Band-aids cannot be worn to conceal unauthorized jewelry, and spacers, plugs, etc. used to keep pierced holes open also are not allowed.
- 9) Pants/jeans and other articles of clothing must be clean with no holes, cuts, rips anywhere on the article of clothing. Pants/jeans must be worn at the natural waistline.
- 10) **Revealing garments may not be worn at any time. This type of garment shall include, but not be limited to, short-shorts or cut-off shorts (see # 14), halters, racer back tops, midriffs (tops that show the midriff), tank tops (tops with less than 1 ½" straps), spaghetti straps, string straps, one shoulder strap, outfits with no back, see-through clothing, or tops with low necklines.**
- 11) Students must wear clothing in the manner for which it is designed. Pants/jeans must fit properly and be worn to fit at the waistline with the length no longer than mid-shoe level.
- 12) Over-sized, baggy clothing is prohibited (including shirts).
- 13) Students must wear proper undergarments.
- 14) **The length of all articles of clothing, as well as slits in articles of clothing, must be appropriate for school wear and in no instance shorter than 3" above the top of the knee. This includes, but is not limited to, tops, sweaters and dresses worn with leggings, jeggings or tights. No sweat shirts or t-shirts with leggings or tights regardless of the 3-inch rule. The principal/designee will determine compliance.**
- 15) Shoes must be worn at all times, and shoes designed to be laced must be laced and tied.
- 16) Baggy coats may not be worn inside any school building.
- 17) Shoes may not contain any type of wheel or roller blades.
- 18) No sleepwear/pajamas or house shoes.
- 19) **Sweatpants and/or gym shorts may only be worn during PE or on designated days.**

*****The Administration reserves the right to determine whether any clothing is appropriate or inappropriate.*****

Evaluation of dress not covered by the above specific regulations will be conducted on an individual basis through referral to the school's administration.

PROOF OF IDENTITY POLICY

ALL PERSONS ENTERING RMS WILL BE REQUIRED TO SHOW PROOF OF IDENTIFICATION. A valid driver's license or other government issued photo ID is acceptable.

WEBSITE

Rainbow Middle School maintains an accurate and up to date website. You may access information concerning all areas of our school, and you may subscribe to our website so that updated information can be sent directly to your email or to you by text message. Our website address is:

www.rms.ecboe.org

TELEPHONE

There is a telephone in the Main office for students to use only in an emergency or other extenuating situation.

PLEASE READ THE Etowah County Board of Education CELL PHONE POLICY.

TEXTBOOKS

All basic textbooks are loaned to students for their use during each semester. Textbooks are to be kept clean and in the possession of the student to whom they are issued.

Students and/or parents are required to pay for lost or damaged books.

LOCKERS

Lockers are available for student use for a nominal donation. Each locker is equipped with a built in combination lock. Combinations for these locks are kept on file in the school office, and are issued to the student using the locker. Combinations are changed after each academic year. Students may not share lockers with other students. Items stolen from a locker that is not locked are not the responsibility of the school or its officials. No writing or suggestive photos are to be placed in/on the lockers.

Student lockers can be searched at any time, without their knowledge or permission.

Student lockers are property of Rainbow Middle School

ANTI-HARASSMENT/ANTI-BULLYING POLICY

In compliance with Alabama Department of Education requirements, the Etowah County Board of Education has established an anti-bullying and anti-harassment policy. This policy is printed in the ECBOE Code of Student Conduct

*****In addition to the information in this handbook, Rainbow Middle School follows all procedures in the Etowah County Student/Parent Information Guide and Student Code of Conduct as well as the Etowah County School Board Policy Manual.*****

