

Farmersville Junior High School



Supplemental Student Handbook 2024-2025

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Farmersville Junior High

Bell Schedule

| Period | Time | | Minutes |
|----------------------|-------|-------|---------|
| 1st | 7:45 | 8:34 | 49 |
| FFT | 8:38 | 9:08 | 30 |
| 2nd | 9:12 | 10:01 | 49 |
| 3rd | 10:05 | 10:54 | 49 |
| 4th | 10:58 | 12:23 | 85 |
| Announcements: 11:00 | | | |
| A Lunch | 11:05 | 11:35 | 30 |
| B Lunch | 11:53 | 12:23 | 30 |
| 5th | 12:27 | 1:16 | 49 |
| 6th | 1:20 | 2:09 | 49 |
| 7th | 2:13 | 3:02 | 49 |
| 8th | 3:06 | 3:55 | 49 |

Absences/Attendance

Regular school attendance is essential for student success. Absences from class may result in serious disruption of a student's education. The student and parent should avoid unnecessary absences.

Two important state laws—one dealing with compulsory attendance and the other with how attendance affects the award of a student's final grade or course credit—are discussed below.

Compulsory Attendance

Ages 6–18

State law requires that a student who is at least six years of age, or who is younger than six years of age and has previously been enrolled in first grade, and who has not yet reached their 19th birthday, shall attend school, as well as any applicable accelerated instruction program, extended-year program, or tutorial session, unless the student is otherwise excused from attendance or legally exempt.

State law requires a student in kindergarten–grade 2 to attend any assigned accelerated reading instruction program. Parents will be notified in writing if their child is assigned to an accelerated reading instruction program based on a diagnostic reading instrument.

A student will be required to attend any assigned accelerated instruction program before or after school or during the summer if the student does not meet the passing standards on the state assessment for his or her grade level and/or applicable subject area.

Exemptions to Compulsory Attendance

All Grade Levels

State law allows exemptions to the compulsory attendance requirements for the following activities and events, as long as the student makes up all work:

- Religious holy days;
- Required court appearances;
- Activities related to obtaining U.S. citizenship;
- Documented health-care appointments for the student or a child of the student, including absences related to autism services, if the student returns to school on the same day of the appointment and brings a note from the health-care provider;
- For students in the conservatorship of the state,
 - An activity required under a court-ordered service plan; or
 - Any other court-ordered activity, provided it is not practicable to schedule the student's participation in the activity outside of school hours.

For children of military families, absences of up to five days will be excused for a student to visit a parent, stepparent, or legal guardian going to, on leave from, or returning from certain deployments [See Farmersville ISD Student Handbook page 23 for more information].

Documentation After and Absence

All Grade Levels

A parent must provide explanation for any absence upon the student's arrival or return to school. The student must submit a note signed by the parent. The campus may accept a phone call from the parent but reserves the right to require a written note. A note signed by the student will not be accepted unless the student age 18 or older is an emancipated minor under state law.

The campus will document in its attendance records whether the absence is excused or unexcused.

Note: The district is not required to excuse any absence, even if the parent provides a note explaining the absence, unless the absence is an exemption under compulsory attendance laws.

Advanced Courses

Honors classes are offered in grades 7-8 for Reading/English, Math, Science, and Social Studies. Placement in these classes is according to the previous year's STAAR results, teacher recommendation, parent/student request, and/or administration approval.

Curriculum in these classes is taught at a higher level and faster pace. The Reading/English, Science, and Social Studies classes are taught on grade level but with numerous enrichment activities and extension opportunities. The math classes are taught at a full grade level above the student's placement. Seventh grade students take eighth grade math, and eighth grade students take Algebra 1 (for high school credit).

Students in honors classes will receive a five-point bonus added to their average at the end of the six weeks grading period. This bonus is given in order to maintain integrity in averaging GPA scores.

Students who average less than an 85 (after the additional 5 points are added) in an honors class at the end of a grading period will be placed on probation. Students on probation must raise their grades to 85 (after the additional 5 points are added) or higher the next six weeks or they may be removed from the class. Students may only go on probation once during the year for each honors class. Once a student is removed from the honors course the removal will be in effect for at least the rest of the school year, and the student will have to apply for readmission to the program. The principal and honors teachers will make the decision on readmission. The following courses are available for high school credit:

- **Algebra 1**
- **Spanish 1**
- **Business Information Management**
- **Computer Data Entry**
- **Robotics**

- **Rocketry**
- **Career Investigations**
- **JH Yearbook**

Schedule Changes

Students will not be able to change class schedules after the first week of the semester. All student requests for a change of schedule will be denied for the remainder of the semester. Where extenuating circumstances exist, each case will be reviewed on an individual basis. The request must be made to the counselor, Mrs. Bennett, who will work with the principals to make the decision.

Dress and Grooming

The district's dress code teaches grooming and hygiene, prevents disruption, and minimizes safety hazards. Students and parents may determine a student's personal dress and grooming standards, provided they comply with the following:

1. Items with provocative or drug-related pictures or slogans will not be permitted. Items advertising alcoholic beverages or tobacco products will not be permitted. Racist or obscene slogans or emblems will not be permitted.
2. Any clothes (including but not limited to tube tops, bare midriff or half shirts, halter-type and see-through blouses, visible sports bras, muscle shirts or mesh shirts) that expose skin on the torso will not be permitted.
3. All clothing should cover undergarments (including straps).
4. Shoes must be worn at all times. No bare feet or house shoes will be permitted.
5. Students are not permitted to wear hats, hoodies, bandanas, or other similar headwear while in the school building.
6. Dark glasses, other than prescription glasses, may not be worn in the building.
7. Nose rings, tongue rings, or any visible body piercing jewelry may not be worn. Male students may wear ear studs. Students may wear a clear "spacer" in order to keep a piercing from closing.
8. Inappropriate tattoos are not permitted and must be covered.
9. Any dress, clothing, or jewelry that represent a gang or is a recognized gang symbol will not be allowed.
10. Belts are to be worn with pants that fit loosely. All pants are to be worn at the waist. No "sagging" garments allowed. Undergarments should never be visible.
11. Pants, shorts, skirts, must cover undergarments at all times. Any tears, rips, ragged edges, and/or holes must be below the buttocks and pelvic region at all times.
12. Shorts, including athletic shorts, and dresses must cover the buttocks and pelvic region at all times. Shorts must be visible when wearing longer shirts.

13. If leggings, spandex, bike shorts, or any other form-fitting pants are worn, the buttocks and pelvic region must be covered at all times by a dress, shirt, shorts, or skirt.

14. The following items of clothing are not permitted;

- a. Pajama type clothes of any kind.
- b. Costumes, including decorative masks and face paint. Special “dress-up” days as scheduled by the campus principal may be permitted.
- c. Blankets are not permitted in the classroom or hallways.

15. Hair Guidelines

- Hair must be clean, well-groomed, and non-distracting.
- Facial hair is allowed if it is well-groomed and not a distraction.
- No extreme or disruptive hair styles and/or colors permitted.

If the principal determines that a student’s grooming or clothing violates the school’s dress code, the student will be given an opportunity to correct the problem at school and return to the classroom. If not corrected, the student may be assigned to in-school suspension for the remainder of the day, until the problem is corrected, or until a parent or designee brings an acceptable change of clothing to the school.

On the first offense for items such as nose rings, tongue rings, any body piercing item, hats, caps, bandanas, and sun glasses the item may be confiscated by school personnel and given back at the end of the school day.

Any student that refuses to turn over the above said items when asked by the Principal, Assistant Principal, or teacher will be subject to disciplinary action in accordance with the Student Code of Conduct including but not limited to school suspension.

The second offense will result in the parent or guardian having to stop by the school office in order to retrieve the items. Repeated offenses may result in more serious disciplinary action in accordance with the Student Code of Conduct.

Electronic Devices and Technology Resources (All Grade Levels)

Possession and Use of Personal Telecommunications Devices, Including Cell Phones, and Other Electronic Devices

The district permits students to possess personal cell phones for safety purposes; however, these devices must remain turned off and put away during the instructional day, including during all testing, lunch, and passing period. A student must have approval to possess other personal telecommunications devices on campus such as laptops, tablets, or other portable computers.

Without such permission, teachers will collect the items and turn them in to the principal’s office. The principal will determine whether to return items to students at the end of the day or to contact parents to pick up the items.

The use of cell phones or any device capable of capturing images is strictly prohibited in locker rooms or restroom areas while at school or at a school-related or school-sponsored event.

If a student uses a telecommunications device without authorization during the school day, the device will be confiscated.

1st offense – Student must come to the school office and pick up the phone after school.

2nd offense – Parents must speak with the Principal or Designee in order to pick up the phone.

3rd offense – Parents must meet with the Principal or Designee in order to pick up the phone, an administrative fee of \$15 is due (and hereafter). Page 53 of 99 Farmersville ISD Student Handbook

4th offense – Parents must meet with the Principal or Designee in order to pick up the phone, and the student will receive a Saturday School assignment or equivalent punishment decided by the Principal or Designee.

5th offense and subsequent offenses – Parents must meet with the Principal or Designee in order to pick up the phone, and the student will receive a minimum of 3 days in ISS or equivalent punishment decided by the Principal or Designee.

Confiscated telecommunications devices that are not retrieved by the student or the student’s parent will be disposed of after the notice required by law. [See policy FNCE for more information.] The district is not responsible for damaged, lost, or stolen telecommunications devices.

In limited circumstances and in accordance with law, a student’s personal telecommunications device may be searched by authorized personnel. [See Searches and policy FNF for more information.]

Any student that refuses to turn over their electronic device when asked by the Principal, Assistant Principal, or teacher will be subject to disciplinary action in accordance with the Student Code of Conduct including but not limited to school suspension.

Instructional Use of Personal Telecommunications and Other Electronic Devices

Students must obtain prior approval to use personal telecommunications or other personal electronic devices for instructional purposes while on campus. Students must also sign a user agreement that contains applicable rules for use (separate from this handbook). All personal devices must be turned off during the instructional day when not in use for approved instructional purposes. Violations of the user agreement may result in withdrawal of privileges and other disciplinary action.

Grading Guidelines

Student grades will be weighted follows:

| | |
|------------|-----|
| Tests | 50% |
| Quizzes | 30% |
| Daily Work | 20% |

Test Retake Policy

Students have one week from the time the test grade is given to retake a test with a grade below a 70. Within that one week period the student must attend at least two tutorials with that teacher, prior to the re-take. The retake will be on the same material but may be in a different format. The highest grade a student can receive on a re-take test is a 70.

To be promoted to the next grade, a student must attain an overall average of 70 and must pass 3 of the 4 core curriculum classes (English/Reading, math, science, and history). If a student fails English or Reading, then English and Reading can be averaged to determine a language arts grade, and if 70 or higher, will count as a passing language arts grade. Any class with modified content disqualifies a student from all class rank considerations. A student who attends an extended-year program (such as Summer School) must attend at least 90 percent of the program days and meet the academic proficiency standards of the course or grade level in order to be promoted.

Late Work Policy

Student assignments not turned in on the date due are considered late. Students will be given the opportunity to turn the assignment the next day for a grade up to 70. All assignments turned in after the one-day exception will be given a zero. The teacher may assign discipline as he or she sees fit depending on the late or missing assignment. Teachers have the options to extend the policy depending on the assignment and/or circumstances with administrator approval.

National Junior Honor Society

1. Candidates eligible for election to this chapter must be members of the 7th grade.
2. Candidates must have been in attendance at the school the equivalent of one semester.
3. Candidates eligible for election to this chapter must have a minimum cumulative average in core classes of 90.0 percent. This scholastic level of achievement shall remain fixed and shall be the required minimum scholastic level of achievement for admission to candidacy. Students shall then be evaluated on the basis of character, service, leadership, and citizenship.
4. The selection of members to this chapter is as follows:
All students who are eligible scholastically (i.e., candidates) shall be notified and asked to complete and submit the NJHS Application for further consideration. Membership is granted only to those students selected by a majority vote of the faculty council. The faculty council consists of five members of the faculty, other than the advisor(s), who are chosen by the principal. The term of the faculty council shall be one year. Members may be appointed to consecutive terms.

National Junior Honor Society Responsibilities

1. Membership in the National Junior Honor Society is an honor and a commitment. All members are expected to continue to demonstrate the qualities of scholarship, service, leadership, and character by which they were selected.

2. Students who fall below a grading period average of 90.0 will be placed on probation for six weeks. Students will then be removed from the active NJHS roster unless a 90.0 grade average is achieved.
3. All members are expected to attend the induction ceremony for new members.
4. Members who fail to meet membership requirements will be placed on probation and could possibly be removed from the organization.

School Nutrition

The district participates in the School Breakfast Program and National School Lunch Program and offers students nutritionally balanced meals daily in accordance with standards set forth in state and federal law.

Some students are eligible for free and reduced-price meals based on financial need. Information about a student's participation is confidential. The district may share information such as a student's name and eligibility status to help enroll eligible children in Medicaid or the state children's health insurance program (CHIP) unless the student's parent requests the student's information not be disclosed.

Participating students will be offered the same meal options as their peers and will not be treated differently from their peers.

Visit FISD [Meal App Now](https://www.mealappnow.com/manfrm/splash.php) (<https://www.mealappnow.com/manfrm/splash.php>) to apply for free or reduced-price meal services.

Tardy Policy

Students are expected to be on time, in their seats, and prepared for every class when the tardy bell rings. We suggest for parents to continually check their parent portal account to observe tardies and absences. Please keep in mind we take attendance 8 times a day because we operate on an 8 period schedule. If tardy to class, then the following consequences will be imposed:

- 1st Tardy: Student Warning; parents contacted
- 2nd Tardy: Silent Lunch Detention; parents contacted
- 3rd Tardy: After School Detention; parents contacted
- 4th Tardy: Office referral; parents contacted; decision by administration to assign Monday School; ISS; or any other means approved by administration.

Any student tardy more than 15 minutes to any class will be counted absent for that class unless they have a written excuse from school staff. Students that are more than 15 minutes late to class without a valid excuse will receive both an unexcused absence and possible further discipline consequences.