ALCOVY HIGH SCHOOL
Student Handbook

2011-2012

Principal
LaQuanda Carpenter, Ed. D.

Assistant Principals
Renee Burgdorf
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ALCOVY HIGH SCHOOL

Principal's Message

Welcome to Alcovy High School (AHS) and Welcome to the 2011-2012 school year. On behalf of the Administrators, Teachers, and Staff we welcome you to a great year of upcoming accomplishments for all of our students. As I enter my 3rd year as the Principal of AHS it is clear that we are growing closer and closer to our academic and athletic goals. During the 2010-2011 school year AHS achieved the following accomplishments:

- AHS was named a Georgia 2011 AP Honor School in the AP Stem Category
- Girls' Basketball Team made it to the 2nd Round of the State Tournament
- Boys' Basketball Team made it to the 1st Round of the State Tournament
- Boys'Track Team won the Region Tournament
- AHS Wrestler made it to the State Tournament
- AHS selected as a High Five School by Fox Five News
- AHS Technology Student Association won 2nd place in the Manufacturing Prototype Competition at the Georgia Technology Student Conference
- Increased number of students taking Advanced Placement Exams
- Increased number of students graduating from High School

As you can see, there is an increased focus at AHS on academic achievement and an increased number of students competing in local, state, and national competitions for both academic and athletic purposes.

As we prepare to begin a new school year, with a new school calendar, and a new school schedule, I encourage all parents to be involved in the education of their high school students. High School Students need parents to be involved and to ask questions, and to make suggestions for improvement on their behalf.

A community that works together is a community that stays together, as Alcovy Tigers, we are striving to work collaboratively in making sound decisions for our students.

Sincerely,
LaQuanda Carpenter, Ed.D.
AHS Principal

ALCOVY SCHOOL BELL SCHEDULE

The school day will begin promptly at 8:15 a.m. A warning bell will ring at 8:05 a.m. each morning. Students not in class at 8:15 a.m will be considered tardy for their 1st period. Students will receive a copy of the bell schedule on the first day of school. Students are expected to be on time to each class. Failure to be on time will result in a tardy, unless the student has a pass from a staff member. The school day will end at 3:15 p.m. Students are expected to exit the building at dismissal. Students must turn in transportation change notes to the front office prior to 8:15 a.m. The office will verify the note by contacting a parent or guardian. Students will not be permitted to ride an alternate bus without a verified note. ***The office will not authorize transportation changes after 2:00 p.m.***

All students must clear the building at dismissal, with the exception of students under the direct supervision of a faculty member. This includes early dismissal days.

ATHLETIC TEAMS

SOFTBALL	**CROSS COUNTRY**	**TRACK**
FOOTBALL	**WRESTLING**	**CHEERLEADING**
SOCCER	**VOLLEYBALL**	**BASKETBALL**
BASEBALL	**GOLF**	**TENNIS**

CLINIC

Alcovy High School will provide clinic services for students according to the policy approved by the Newton County Board of Education. Each student is **required** to complete a clinic card, which will be placed on file in the school clinic.

No internal medicines will be given to students without parental permission. All prescription drugs must be properly labeled with instructions for use and contained in the original container. Students who must take medication during school hours are encouraged to do so during class change at the clinic. When this is not possible, the student must obtain a medical pass from the clinic nurse. **Teachers are not permitted to dispense medicine to students. All medicine must be dispensed by the school nurse or nurse designee.**

It is the parent's responsibility to notify the school nurse of any changes in a child's emergency contact information and medicine information.

CLUBS AND ORGANIZATIONS

AHS has clubs (excluding clubs involved in competitive interscholastic activities) under the direction and control of the school which are organized and meet based on common goals, objectives and activities. The school sponsored clubs that are or have been in operation at our school are listed below and provide you with pertinent club information. State law mandates that the parent/guardian has the right to withhold permission for their student to join or participate in any school sponsored club or organization with which they object.

If a new club is added to this list in the future, information will be sent to you on the new club and you will be required to complete a form giving permission for your student's participation in the new club.

Clubs meet before school or after school. At the beginning of the school year on designated days, clubs set up tables with information and students may sign up for clubs.

Anchor Club: Anchor Club allows young people to make a dynamic difference in their world through volunteer service and to have FUN while helping others. Anchor is the youth organization of Pilot International.
Broadcasting: The Broadcast team consists of both on-air anchors and a backstage technical crew. The members produce the telecast announcements every morning. Open to 10-12 grades.
Colorguard: Colorguard is the visual ensemble that enhances the performances and presence of The Alcovy High Marching Band. Try-outs are held in the winter. There are other opportunities to get involved throughout the year.
Debate Team: This club is designed to provide students with the opportunity to debate and discuss issues on a local, state, national and global scale.
DECA: DECA is an association of marketing students that prepares emerging leaders and entrepreneurs in marketing, finance, hospitality and management in high schools and colleges around the globe.
FBLA: Future Business Leaders of America is a non-profit, educational association of students preparing for careers in business and business-related fields. Members are encouraged to participate in regional, state, and national award programs.
FCA: Future Christian Athletes
FCCLA: The Family, Career, and Community Leaders of America explore various topics and participate in various community projects. Members must be previously or presently enrolled in FCC courses.
FFA: The Future Farmers of America participates in numerous activities including fishing tournaments, bonfire socials, Sunbelt Expos, and State and National Conventions. Even for non-farmers, the FFA builds self-esteem and provides opportunities for leadership enthusiasts in all career interests.
Future Teacher's Club: The future teacher's club is for those students who have an interest in becoming a teacher.
Health Occupations Students of America: HOSA promotes career opportunities in the health care industry and enhances the delivery of quality health care to all people.
Interact Club: Interact club sponsored service club that gives young people an opportunity to participate in fun, meaningful service projects while developing leadership skills. This club is open to students in grades 10-12.

Junior Classical League: The National Junior Classical League is a student organization founded for the preservation of the Classics by introducing students to aspects of Greco-Roman life beyond the normal scope of the classroom. Activities include primarily weekend museum visits and archaeological lectures, with bimonthly meetings for organization.

Key Club: A service leadership organization sponsored by the Kiwanis Club and encourages the development of initiative, leadership, and good citizenship practices.

Marching Band: The Alcovy Marching Band is the most visible facet of Alcovy's music programs. The marching band is a key vehicle for promoting school spirit. The band is open to band members. Sign-ups begin in April.

Mock Trial: Mock Trial is an extracurricular club that is designed to give students a perspective of the legal system. Through their involvement in the club as well as involvement in a regional competition, students gain the following skills: critical thinking, communication skills, preparation and teamwork.

National Honors: Members need a GPA of 90 or better. This club encourages academic achievement and community service.

Naturalist Club: Sponsors Mrs. Booth and Mrs. Stokes-The Naturalist club is a club for those interested in exploring the natural world beyond the classroom and textbook. Members of the Alcovy Naturalist club will not only gain an appreciation for the unique environmental sights our state has to offer, but the club also strives to return and maintain the natural beauty of the Alcovy campus.

Paw Print: This organization produces the school newspaper and requires an application and approval from the sponsor. Students involved in this organization take journalism as a course. Students write articles, take photographs, learn layout and design, create advertisements and determine ways to finance publication.

Photography Club: Our purpose is to expose students to the art and skill of film and digital photography, to instruct in modern and dated methods of taking photographs, developing film, and printing photos, and to explore the world around us with our cameras via parent and community led weekend field trips.

Rosetta Society: The mission of The Rosetta Society is to provide educational enrichment opportunities for students to learn more about and discuss history and culture. We do this by watching movies, visiting different historical locations, and going to eat at different ethnic restaurants.

SkillsUSA- SkillsUSA is a national nonprofit organization serving teachers and high school and college students who are preparing for careers in trade, technical and skilled service occupations, including health occupations. It was formerly known as VICA (Vocational Industrial Clubs of America).

Student Council: Students are elected by the student body. Activities such as Homecoming, Spirit Week, Powder Puff, and many others are planned and organized through this club.

TSA – Manufacturing- The Technology Student Association fosters personal growth, leadership, and opportunities in technology, innovation, design, and engineering. Members apply and integrate science, technology, engineering and mathematics concepts through co-curricular activities, competitive events and related programs.

Over Dramatics: Alcovy Theatre produces several productions throughout the year including a full length musical. We also participate in one-act competition, literary meet, International Thespian Society, and the Georgia Theatre Conference. The members receive a positive outlet for their abundant creative talents and energy.

Yearbook: This organization produces the school yearbook and requires an application and approval from the sponsor. Students involved in this organization take yearbook as a course. Students are responsible for planning and organizing the production, design and copywriting, researching, funding, and advertising and distribution. Students have the opportunity to learn to develop leadership skills.

COURSE SYLLABI

At the start of each semester, teachers will distribute a course syllabus to their students. Students are asked to take the syllabus home and review it with their parents. Since the syllabus will include an outline of the course content, grading procedure, tardy policy, expectations for behavior, and other pertinent information, it is important that students and parents carefully read all syllabi.

PROGRESS REPORTS

In order to communicate the progress of students to parents, the following reports are available:

Parents/Students may access current grades, attendance, and discipline reports online through the NCSS parent portal.
https://campus.newton.k12.ga.s/campus/portal/newton.jsp

Progress Reports – Progress Reports will be issued according to the Newton County School System grading calendar.
Report Cards – Report Cards will be issued according to the Newton County School System grading calendar.
Weekly Progress Reports - Weekly Progress Reports are available upon request. The parent/student should make this arrangement the Guidance Office.

SCHEDULES

Students may not take more than one course in an academic area with the approval of the department chairperson and the Principal or his designee.
In all cases, final approval rests with the principal pending consideration of class sizes, staffing, etc.

SCHEDULE CHANGES

Schedule changes will be made for the following reasons:

1. **A student is not in the appropriate course level.**
2. **A student does not have the prerequisite for the course.**
3. **A student has already passed the course.**

Teacher preference is not a reason for requesting a schedule change. If a student perceives that there is a problem with a teacher, the parent must call the child's counselor to set up a meeting with the teacher in an effort to solve the conflict. Following this meeting, a schedule change may be considered. The Principal or his designee must approve all such changes. Requests for changes will not be made past the fifth workday of the semester.

STUDENT COUNCIL OFFICERS

1. President of the Student Body: To be eligible, a student must be on track for graduation, must have been enrolled at AHS at least two semesters before election, and must have a satisfactory academic average.
2. Class Officers: There will be a President, Vice-President, and Secretary-Treasurer of each class. Elections will be held at the end of the school year prior to serving. Satisfactory grades are required. All class officers will be Student Council members.
3. Student Council Members: Members must have maintained at least a "C" average the semester prior to their election. Election of Student Council members will be held during second semester. A student may be a candidate for both the Student Council and his/her class simultaneously. A member may be taken off the Student Council for unsatisfactory grades or unsatisfactory participation.
4. Student Council Officers: There will be a Secretary-Treasurer, Reporter, and a Parliamentarian of the Student Council elected by the Student Council at the first meeting.
5. Candidates for any office or representative to the Student Council must have a satisfactory discipline record at AHS. Any questions regarding whether a student's record is satisfactory shall be determined by a joint meeting of the Student Council advisors and the Principal or his designee.

AHS / NHS /OMBUDSMAN PROGRAM SEVEN-PERIOD SCHEDULE TRANSITION

Tiered diploma options are no longer included in the graduation requirements for students entering ninth grade in 2008-2009. All students are expected to complete a common set of requirements to earn a regular diploma.

HOPE Note: Beginning with the class of 2007, grades from **ALL** coursework in the academic core attempted in high school will be calculated in the GPA. Final GPA will be calculated by the Georgia Finance Commission using a 4.0 scale. Any grade earned in high school courses taken in the middle school will not be included in the HOPE calculation.

Units marked by * are required under the new graduation rule.

SUBJECT AREAS	Units Required to Graduate in 2011-2012 Entered 08-09	Units Required to Graduate in 2012-2013 Entered 09-10	Units Required to Graduate in 2013-2014 Entered 10-11	Units Required to Graduate in 2014-2015 Entered 11-12
English/Language Arts *	4	4	4	4
Mathematics *	4	4	4	4
Science *	4	4	4	4
Social Studies *	4	4	4	4
CTAE and/or Modern Language/Latin and/or Fine Arts	3	3	3	3
Health and Physical Education * or 3 units of ROTC	1	1	1	1
Electives	6	6	4	3
TOTAL	**26**	**26**	**24**	**23**
UNITS TO GRADUATE WITH DISTINCTION	**28**	**28**	**26**	**N/A**

EMPLOYMENT FOUNDATIONS OR LIFE SKILLS DIPLOMA AT AHS/NHS/OMBUDSMAN

REQUIRED COURSES	Units Required to Graduate in 2011-2012 Entered 08-09	Units Required to Graduate in 2012-2013 Entered 09-10	Units Required to Graduate in 2013-2014 Entered 10-11	Units Required to Graduate in 2014-2015 Entered 11-12
Lang Arts/Lit I	1	1	1	1
Lang Arts/Lit II	1	1	1	1
Lang Arts/Lit III	1	1	1	1
Lang Arts/Lit IV	1	1	1	1
Math I	1	1	1	1
Math II	1	1	1	1
Math III	1	1	1	1
4th Math	1	1	1	1
Physical Science	1	1	1	1
Health	1	1	1	1
Biology	1	1	1	1
Family & Medical Management	1	1	1	1
Government	1	1	1	1
Job Skills	1	1	1	1
US History	1	1	1	1
Economics	1	1	1	1
Electives	10	10	8	7
TOTAL REQUIRED UNITS	**26**	**26**	**24**	**23**

ACCESS REGULAR DIPLOMA
AHS/NHS/OMBUDSMAN

REQUIRED COURSES	Units Required to Graduate in 2011-2012 Entered 08-09	Units Required to Graduate in 2012-2013 Entered 09-10	Units Required to Graduate in 2013-2014 Entered 10-11	Units Required to Graduate in 2014-2015 Entered 11-12
Access to Lit/Comp	1	1	1	1
Access to American Lit	1	1	1	1
Access to World Lit	1	1	1	1
Access to British Lit	1	1	1	1
Access to Math I	1	1	1	1
Access to Math II	1	1	1	1
Access to Math III	1	1	1	1
Access to Math IV	1	1	1	1
Access to Biology	1	1	1	1
Access to Environmental Science	1	1	1	1
Access to Physical Science	1	1	1	1
Access to Earth Systems	1	1	1	1
Access to American Govt/Civics	1	1	1	1
Access to World History	1	1	1	1
Access to US History	1	1	1	1
Access to Economics/Personal Finance	1	1	1	1
Electives	10	10	8	7
TOTAL UNITS TO GRADUATE Students will receive the Access Regular Diploma and MUST pass the GAA	26	26	24	23