

***Cousins Middle School
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Web Page Address:

www.newtoncountyschools.org/cousins



Mission Statement

The mission of Cousins Middle School is to exhibit a school culture where scholarship, friendliness, respect, and trust are the norm while promoting a school atmosphere so that all students are empowered to “Believe, Achieve, and Succeed” at their highest potential.



Administrative Staff

Mr. Scott Sauls, Principal

Mr. Kendrick Britford, Assistant Principal

Ms. Romonda Springs, Assistant Principal

My homeroom teacher: _____

My Language Arts / Literature teacher _____

My Math teacher: _____

My Social Studies teacher: _____

My Science teacher: _____

PROMOTION / RETENTION / PLACEMENT

Students whose yearly grade average in at least five out of six classes is 70% or higher will be promoted to the next grade. Students whose yearly grade average in two or more classes is below 70% will be retained, unless the reaches standards for promotion by attending and passing summer school. To qualify for summer school, the final failing average must be between 62% and 69% so that the final new average is at least a 70%. The summer school average is 1/5 of the final year-end grade. Students who fail two or more subjects, but who are deemed ineligible for retention by the school's Student Support Team, will be placed in the next grade. Parents will be notified of the school's concerns regarding a student's promotion status and asked to attend meetings and give input before final promotion, retention, placement decisions are made. **This year, all students in the 8th grade must pass the CRCT in BOTH Math and Reading to be promoted to the 9th grade.**

Cousins Middle School

Home of the Cardinals

Message from the Administration

Dear Students & Parents,

On behalf of the faculty and staff of Cousins Middle School, let us welcome you to the 2009 – 2010 school year. We are proud to present this edition of the student agenda book. Please look over the book carefully, and notice the many features that we hope will benefit students' ability to be more organized. In addition, you will notice that there is a daily section designed to enhance home-school communication, and we hope that you will use this feature as a means of communicating with your child's teacher.

This agenda also gives you a yearly calendar for reference to the most significant dates. It tells about the mission, goals, and curriculum that guide our actions throughout the year. It is used for passes so that we can account for student movement during the school day. It delineates the Board of Education policies, rules, and regulations governing student conduct, as well as the grading, promotion, and retention policies.

While the agenda book serves primarily as a homework organizer, we hope that it will also teach students such skills as organization, time management, and responsibility. Each student will be expected to keep up with the agenda book, and we further hope that you will ask to view it on a daily basis. The information provided in this book is designed to answer your questions about our school and general policies related to the school system. If the information you need is not provided, please do not hesitate to call the school office. We are proud of this agenda book, and hope that the benefits from its use will be great.

Lastly, we extend an invitation to you to become involved in our school, and ask that you read our mission statement on the first page of this book to find our commitment to the students of Cousins Middle School. In addition, notice that we firmly believe in the cooperative effort of teachers, parents, and community in leading our students. Plan now to become involved and rest assured that we are open to your suggestions and comments. Have a great year!

Cousins Middle School Administration





Important Policies



ATTENDANCE AND TARDIES

Please carefully read the attendance section found on selected pages in the Newton County School System portion of this agenda. It is extremely important that your child attend school in order to succeed academically. Five tardies or five checkouts will equal one absence. After the third absence the parent will receive a call, after the fifth absence a letter and the seventh absence will result in a referral to the social worker. The NCSS Social Worker will contact parents and/or submit a truancy complaint to juvenile court.

BAND AND CHORUS

Any student wishing to enter or withdraw from either band or chorus may do so only at the following times: at the beginning of the school year or at the beginning of the nine weeks. All drop/add proposals must be submitted to the band/chorus teacher one week prior to the end of the nine weeks.

CHAIN OF COMMAND

Constructive criticism of the schools is welcomed by the Board of Education whenever it is motivated by a sincere desire to improve the quality of the educational program or to equip the schools to complete their tasks more effectively.

Members of the Newton County Board of Education have confidence in the professional staff and desire to support their actions in order that they are free from unnecessary, spiteful, or negative criticism and complaints. These statements do not supersede any employee's or citizen's rights to contact Board members directly. However, whenever a complaint is made directly to the Board as a whole or to a Board member as an individual, it will be referred to the administration first for study and possible resolution.

The Board advises the public that the proper channeling of and most effective way to resolve complaints involving instruction, discipline, transportation, or learning materials is as follows:

Discipline	Curriculum	Transportation
Teacher	Teacher	Appropriate Assistant Principal
Appropriate Assistant Principal	Appropriate Assistant Principal	Principal
Principal	Principal	Transportation Director
Appropriate Director	Appropriate Director	Associate Superintendent
Associate Superintendent	Associate Superintendent	Superintendent
Superintendent	Superintendent	School Board Member
School Board Member	School Board Member	State Dept. of Education
State Dept. of Education	State Dept. of Education	

ANY ISSUE OUTSIDE OF THIS CHART SHOULD BE ADDRESSED TO THE PRINCIPAL.

The Board will consider hearing citizen complaints when they cannot be resolved by the administration. Matters referred to the Board must be in writing, must include address, contact phone numbers, signatures of the complainant, and should be specific in terms of the action desired.

After reading such complaints, and if more information which might challenge or question the good name or character of an individual is needed, the Board shall consider such matters in Executive Session. The Board will not consider or act on complaints that have not been explored at the appropriate administrative level first or if the appropriate chain of command has not been followed.

CHECK-IN, CHECK-OUT PROCEDURE

When a student checks in or out of school, they must first report to the front office. During the school day, a student will be released from school only to a parent, legal guardian or other authorized person. **Such persons should be properly identified with a picture I.D.** The parent or authorized people who will pick up the student must come inside the school and sign the check-out record. Students may not be checked out after 3:00 PM.

CLUBS

Our school 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 pertinent club information. State law requires 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. For your convenience a form is included on a selected page of this student handbook for your completion for this purpose. If, in the future a club is added, you will be sent information on the club and will be required to complete a form giving your permission for your student's participation in the new club.

→Name of Club: Student Council

Purpose: The Middle School Student Council is composed of interested sixth, seventh, and eighth graders who volunteer for membership. The Student Council offers spirit, social, leadership, and service activities for Middle School students and staff.

Sponsor: Debbie Allen

Description of Past/ Planned Activities: The CMS Student Council has volunteered for the Newton County Special Olympics for a number of years.

→Name of Club: Academic Team

Purpose: Composed of students in the sixth, seventh, and eighth grade who excel in academics and compete monthly against other schools in the district. Questions are derived from all subject areas: Math, English, Literature, History, Mythology, Geography, Music, Art, Science, and Philosophy.

Sponsor: Jesi Braswell

Description of Past/ Planned Activities: The CMS Academic Team has competed throughout the district for multiple years.

→Name of Club: Peer Mediators

Purpose: Peer Mediators are a group of students in sixth, seventh, and eighth grader who have been recommended by their teachers. Peer Mediators go through extensive training each year to learn how to successfully resolve conflicts between their peers. Peer Mediators are also involved in several school and community projects.

Sponsor: Royce Lawson-Woods, Michelle Bailey

Description of Past/ Planned Activities: The CMS Peer Mediators participated in a Peer Helper Conference in Milledgeville, GA. The Peer Mediators also were involved in a Holiday Gift Drive to benefit CMS families in need.

→Name of Club: Yearbook

Purpose: To develop a life-time habit of living and laughing while creating memories that will last forever. The yearbook staff takes on the responsibilities of photographing events, group and individuals. Other tasks include: proofing captions for grammar, spelling, and accurateness of subjects pictured.

Sponsor: Melissa Jackson

Description of Past/ Planned Activities: The CMS Yearbook Staff handles promotion, sales, creation, and distribution of the yearbook.

→Name of Club: Band

Purpose: This group is open to 6th, 7th, and 8th grade band students by audition and/or invitation. These students rehearse and perform in concerts, community events, and other school events.

Sponsor: Christine Kraemer

Description of Past/ Planned Activities: After school performances

→Name of Club: Chorus

Purpose: This group is open to 6th, 7th, and 8th grade chorus students by audition and/or invitation. These students rehearse and perform in concerts, community events, and other school events.

Sponsor: Leila Elkins

Description of Past/ Planned Activities: Christmas at Callaway Gardens, Chorus Festival at Carowinds in South Carolina in the spring.

→Name of Club: 4-H

Purpose: 4-H is a community of volunteer membership of Cousins Middle School students learning about leadership, citizenship and life skills

Sponsor: Leila Elkins

Description of Past/ Planned Activities: CMS 4-H Club was awarded the "4-H Middle School Club of the Year" for 2005-2006 school term.

→Name of Club: Boys Soccer Club

Purpose: The Soccer Club is composed of interested 6th, 7th, and 8th grade boys who volunteer for membership.

Sponsor: Terry Badertscher

Description of Past/ Planned Activities: The CMS Soccer Club will work on skills, play games, and reinforce sportsmanship and volunteering to assist the soccer event for the Newton County Special Olympics.

→Name of Club: Beta Club

Purpose: Cousins Middle School Junior Beta Club is comprised of 6th, 7th, and 8th grade students who have exhibited academic excellence during their middle school career. The Jr. Beta Club offers academic coaching and tutoring, as well as performing volunteer work throughout the community.

Sponsor: Rebecca Madsen

Description of Past/ Planned Activities: CMS Jr. Beta Club plans to attend the state convention in Macon, GA. In addition, the club will also participate in the Adopt-A-Highway program, as well as other service activities, in conjunction with Keep Covington/Newton Beautiful.

→Name of Club: Future Georgia Educators Club

Purpose: The FGE program is open to any middle school student who has an interest becoming a teacher. FGE members will develop leadership, organization, and communication skills. Students will examine career opportunities in the field of education and develop a realistic understanding of the nature of education and the role of the teacher.

Sponsor: Lee Jourdan, Melissa Jackson

Description of Past/Planned Activities: Students will meet periodically and participate in activities that meet the FGE purpose. The FGE club will look toward attending regional and state conferences.

→Name of Club: Science Club

Purpose: To support the Science program and Science Fair Program for 6th, 7th, and 8th graders.

Sponsor : Terry Badertscher

Description of Past/Planned Activities: The Science Club will support the students needs for academic coaching and tutoring, to process science fair projects, and to assist with the care and maintenance of the school's outdoor classroom. The students will have the opportunity to attend the Newton County Science Fair, and the District Science Fair.

→Name of Club: Fellowship of Christian Athletes

Purpose: To focus on serving local communities by equipping, empowering, and encouraging students to make a difference for Christ.

Sponsor : Michelle Ozburn, Mike Johnston

Description of Past/Planned Activities: The FCA, within the context of the guidelines identified with this program, will conduct huddle meetings and support the overall athletic program of the school through community service and attendance at games.

COUNSELING DEPARTMENT

The Counseling Department at Cousins Middle School provides a large number of services which include classroom guidance, group and individual counseling. Counselors are ready to assist students in any way that will make their school experience more rewarding. Counselors are always available to consult with parents regarding special concerns they may have about their child. Teachers are also encouraged to use the services of counselors regarding the special needs of their students.

COURSE SYLLABUS

At the beginning of the year 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 procedures, expectations for behavior, and other pertinent information, it is important that students and parents read all syllabi carefully.

DRESS CODE

The dress code at Cousins Middle School is to promote a safe and positive learning environment for our students. It is our expectation that students are dressed appropriately for school. Excessive grooming of hair (different colors, designs cut into the hair, mohawks, etc.) is considered inappropriate for the school environment. Administrator discretion will be used to make judgments about questionable dress code violations. Students are required to **tuck in their shirts at all times**. The following are permitted for females: layered shirts, long fitted tees, and shirts with decorative hems (lace, bands, ties, etc.) can be worn untucked. No low-cut shirts are allowed. Bulky and long sweatshirts or sweaters cannot be worn below the waistline.

FALSIFYING REPORTS

Falsifying reports regarding instances of alleged inappropriate behavior by a teacher or other school personnel is prohibited (08 House Bill 1321). An investigation will be held with the penalty at the discretion of the administrator which may include ISS, suspension or suspension to a formal hearing.

FIRE DRILLS

Fire drills are to be held regularly throughout the year. The signal will be one continuous sound on the horn until the building is cleared. All students will move in a quiet and orderly fashion with their teachers to a designated area and remain there until the clearance signal has been given by the office. All driveway areas must be kept clear during fire drills.

GRADING

If a student fails two or more academic classes, he/she will be considered for retention. This is based upon the Newton County promotion policy. Summer school is available for students who are retained. Students can earn only two academic credits during summer school. Grades are based on class participation, class work, homework, examinations, and any special project that the classroom teacher may assign. It is the responsibility of each student to be aware of his/her academic standing and confer with the teacher before difficulties arise. When work is missed because of excused absences, it is the students' responsibility to make it up. The student will have an equal amount of time as the number of absences to complete missed assignments. For example, if a student misses 2 days the student will have 2 days to complete assignments.

Teachers are strongly encouraged to notify parents in the event a student is in danger of not passing a course.

The grading scale is as follows:

90-100 A

80-89 B

70-79 C

Below 70 F (no credit)

HALLWAYS

A student must have a signed agenda or hall pass form a teacher in order to move in the hall during class. It is the students' responsibility to get a pass. Running in the hall is not allowed. Students should move quietly in the building.

HEALTH RECORDS

Georgia law requires that every student enrolled in a Georgia public school have an up-to-date Certificate of Immunization on file. Students who do not provide the school with an approved certificate will not be allowed to remain in school. Students entering middle school must have completed their 2nd MMR immunization and the chicken pox immunization. Students entering the 6th grade from a Newton County school will not be placed on a homeroom roster until documentation of the 2nd MMR and Varicella has been received.

Transfer students have 30 days to furnish the school with the appropriate Certificate of Immunization, although the school prefers this information at the time of registration. Vaccinations and vaccination records may be obtained from the Newton County Health Department or from a private physician. Please note that the vaccination record must be on an official form provided by the Georgia Department of Human Resources.

A waiver may be granted by the responsible official of the school or facility for up to 90 calendar days if the student is a transfer student who moves from an out-of-state school system to a Georgia school system or is a student entering kindergarten or first grade from out-of-state. However, documentation must be on file from the health department or a physician stating that an immunization sequence has been started and can be completed within the 90-day waiver period. The waiver may not be extended, and the child shall not be permitted to attend any school or facility unless the child submits a completed Certificate of Immunization. In addition, those students entering Georgia public schools for the first time must provide an eye, ear, and dental certificate at the time of registration.

HEALTH SERVICES

The Newton County School Nurse may make contact with parents regarding any health issues. The nurse will not take responsibility for evaluating signs of illness or injury that have occurred at home. These should be referred to your family doctor or an emergency room.

CLINIC SERVICES FOR ILLNESS AND ACCIDENTS

Parents will be contacted immediately, should a situation warrant, if their child becomes ill or has an accident at school. In serious situations when a parent cannot be contacted, the principal or principal's designee will request the assistance of local emergency medical personnel. Services will be provided if a medical release has been signed. Judgment in such cases is at the discretion of school authorities, and parents assume financial responsibility.

Please keep your current telephone number, the name of a contact person for emergencies and their current number on file in the office. Please be sure to return to the teacher the emergency authorization form at the beginning of the year. Also, make sure that your student has the phone numbers of all authorized contacts written in their agenda. This will expedite the process of contacting someone when necessary.

COMMUNICABLE DISEASE

Children having any contagious or infectious disease should not return to school unless cleared by the family physician or Health Department. The following conditions should be considered communicable. Parents should notify the school if their child has been affected by any of these for advice on readmission to school.

Lice (pediculosis)	Meningitis	Chicken Pox (Varicella)
Poliomyelitis	Scarlet Fever	Pink Eye (Conjunctivitis)
Strep Throat	Hepatitis	Ringworm
Mononucleosis	Scabies	Worms or Parasites
Measles (Rubella)	German Measles	Impetigo/Staph Infection
T.B. (Tuberculosis)	Mumps	Whooping cough (Pertussis)

HEAD LICE

Students who have head lice (pediculosis) are to be sent home from school. Before re-entering school, it will be necessary for parents to obtain a statement from a physician or the Newton County Health Department stating that the student is free of ALL infestation and any remnants, including dead nits.

If the student's head is still suspect, he/she will not be allowed to re-enter school. However, if your child has not been cleared to re-enter on or before the third (3rd) school day from the date he/she was sent home, the matter will be referred to the School Social Work Department. Referrals will be made to the School Social Work Department for repeated cases of head lice.

HOSPITAL/HOMEBOUND STUDENTS

A student who has a medically diagnosed, non-communicable condition which restricts him or her to home or a hospital for five or more school days may be eligible for hospital/homebound instruction. Please contact the school principal or assistant principal for further information regarding this program.

HOMEWORK

All students will receive homework from their different teachers. Homework is a part of course requirements and the student is expected to have the assignments completed on time. Homework is a way to review and reinforce what has been taught. Failure to complete assignments will be detrimental to grades. Teachers must be given 24 hours notice to gather missed assignments for absent students.

INJURIES

Anytime a student is hurt at school he/she should report the injury immediately to the teacher or person in charge of supervision. The teacher will then notify the nurse/main office and fill out an accident report. Attempts to contact parent/guardian to notify them of the injury will be made.

INSURANCE

Accident insurance may be purchased on an optional basis. The insurance covers the student en route to and from school and while attending school. Insurance is mandatory for each student participating in athletics, certain trades and industry courses, and work study courses. Information about insurance will be provided by the homeroom teacher.

JACKETS AND COATS

Bulky jackets and coats / outerwear garments are prohibited from being worn in the school building. These items are unnecessary since the building is climate controlled. Furthermore, this provides additional measures for assuring school safety. Students may wear these items to school but must leave them in their lockers until the end of the day.

LOCKERS/BACKPACKS

All students are provided locker space in their homeroom class for storing books and belongings. In some circumstances, it is necessary for two students to share a locker. Every effort is made, in those cases, to assign "locker buddies" who are friendly with one another and who do not mind sharing. Due to limited classroom space, students are not permitted to carry backpacks from class to class during the school day. Small (draw string or similar) gym bags are permitted for carrying gym clothes to and from the gym.

LOST AND FOUND

There will be a designated lost and found area in the building. Clothing not claimed after one week will be removed and donated to charity.

LUNCHROOM PROCEDURES

Breakfast and lunch are expected to be pleasant times for everyone. All students are expected to conduct themselves properly, practice good table manners and take no food from the cafeteria. Due to lunchroom regulations, non-standard meals, such as fast food sandwiches, (i.e., Burger King, McDonald's, etc.) and canned or bottled drinks are not allowed in the cafeteria. Beverages in plastic containers or juice boxes are permitted.

Breakfast Prices

Reduced	.30
Student	1.25
Adult	1.50

Lunch Prices

Reduced	.40
Student	1.75
Adult	2.50

MEDIA CENTER

The media center is open Monday-Friday from 7:55 a.m. until 3:55 p.m. Students are required to have a signed agenda or pass from their teacher in order to come to the media center. Students are also required to have passes during lunch. All school rules apply in the media center. Students are responsible for all materials checked out to them and must pay for replacement of all lost or damaged items. In addition, \$.05 per day is charged for overdue materials. All media center fines must be cleared before report cards are issued.

MEDICATION

Newton County Board of Education policy does NOT permit middle school students to be in possession of medication of any kind. Medication will be maintained by school personnel ONLY in special long-term situations. Parents will be required to administer any short-term medications. Parents are requested to contact the nurse/front office concerning special medical situations. Cousins Middle School employees will NOT dispense aspirin or Tylenol.

MESSAGES AND GIFTS

Only EMERGENCY messages will be delivered. An emergency is an accident, illness or serious family problem. Parents should provide written or faxed notification to the school concerning transportation changes for that day prior to 2:00 p.m.

We cannot accept deliveries for students. Items such as flowers, balloons, stuffed animals, cookie bouquets, etc. should be sent to the student's home, not the school. The main office staff will not sign for or accept these items.

PARENT CONFERENCES

Parents are encouraged to stay in close communication with the school. Please check your son's/daughter's agenda daily. With this form of open communication difficulties may be avoided. Conferences with teachers are scheduled through the main office and in some situations the counseling office. If an administrative conference is needed, it is suggested that you call to schedule an appointment so that you do not have to wait for an available time. Administrators are unavailable for conferences during morning and afternoon supervisory duties.

PARTICIPATION REQUIREMENTS FOR EXTRA CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

Students must be present for one-half of the school day in order to participate in any extra-curricular activities that day. Students suspended from school will not participate in any school-sponsored activity during the suspension. Suspension does not end until the student physically returns to school. Students cannot participate in any extra-curricular activities while in in-school suspension (ISS). Please refer to county policy. Students can only fail one class the previous semester prior to participation.

The administration of Cousins Middle School may withhold a student's participation from any activity based on the students' placement in academic or behavior probation.

PEER MEDIATION

Mediation is an approach to resolve conflicts. People who disagree have the chance to sit face to face and talk uninterrupted so each side of the dispute is heard. After the problem is defined, solutions are created and then evaluated. When an agreement is reached, it is written and signed. Trained peer mediators are neutral third and fourth persons who lead the mediation process. They help the students communicate and come to a solution. Mediators keep all information confidential. Peer mediators are the peacemakers at Cousins. They have been trained to listen objectively and respect all points of view. Students may request peer mediation through the Counseling Department.

REPORT CARDS

Report cards are issued on the fourth day after the nine week ends. See the school calendar for exact dates. Students are expected to take their report cards home. Parents need to sign and return the report card to school the next day. At the end of the school year, students will be required to provide money to purchase stamp and envelope to mail the report cards.

SCHOOL HOURS

School begins at 8:30 a.m. and ends at 3:30 p.m. Supervision will be provided from 7:45 a.m. until 3:55 p.m. This is forty minutes before and twenty-five minutes after school. Parents, please make the necessary arrangements to adhere to this schedule. *Students should not be dropped off prior to 7:45 a.m. by car or bus, and must be picked up by 3:50 p.m.*

SEXUALITY EDUCATION

The Science/Health curriculum follows the objectives of the Georgia Quality Core Curriculum and local objective approved by the Board of Education. Parents who do not wish to have their child participate in class while these objectives are being covered should notify the teacher in writing at the beginning of the semester.

TELEPHONE USAGE

The school does not provide pay phones for student use. Students who need to use the telephone due to illness or an emergency will be allowed to have office personnel make calls for them in the front office. It is up to the classroom teacher to determine when a real emergency exists. If your child has a special health problem or other situation that causes you to be concerned about communication, please notify all of your child's teachers in writing. All special arrangements, including alternative transportation arrangements, should be communicated to students before they arrive at school except in emergency situations.

TEXTBOOKS

Textbooks are the property of the State of Georgia and the local school system. They are issued to each student and are the students' responsibility. The student has the responsibility to take care of these books at all times. If a book is lost or damaged beyond the usual wear, the student is required to pay for the book. Lost texts will not be replaced until payment has been received.

TRANSPORTATION

Students may ride assigned buses or walk to and from school. Any student who wishes to ride a different bus to or from school must have a permission note from home that has been approved by an administrator. All students transported to or from school by parent/guardian should be dropped off or picked up at the front of the school only. Students will not be allowed to ride another bus home without Transportation Directors approval.

VIDEO SURVEILLANCE CAMERAS

All students, parents and staff are advised that as a public school facility, students, staff, parents and building visitors do not have a right to expect privacy in connection with their actions and activities while in, on or about the school facilities. In an effort to increase school district security, provide greater safety for student, staff and building visitors, and to reduce vandalism and theft, many areas of the middle school campus, both internal and external, shall be subject to observation and monitoring by video cameras. The tapes of such observations shall be available for use by the school district and its administrative staff, if necessary, to enforce the law and the provisions of school district policy. Any questions should be addressed directly to the building administration.

VISITORS

All visitors upon entering the building must first come to the front office to sign the Guest Register and obtain a visitor pass. Students are not allowed to bring visitors to school unless prior written permission has been granted. All visitors on campus must have written permission to visit. Parents wishing to visit a class must have prior written permission from the teacher with notification of the impending visit.

PROMOTION POLICY

In accordance with State Board of Education Policy the Newton County Board of Education enacted Policy IHE-Promotion-Retention effective for the 2003-2004 school year. The policy states that the promotion, placement or retention of a student will be based on standards and criteria outlined in the policy and the regulations designed for its implementation. Statewide standards, criteria, and appeal process specific to grade three were implemented beginning with the 2003-2004 school year. For grade five the statewide standards, criteria and appeal process were implemented beginning in the 2004-2005 school year. For grade eight the statewide standards, criteria and appeal process will be implemented beginning in the 2005-2006 school year. Each eighth grade student must meet or exceed the minimum score on the Curriculum Referenced Competency Test in Reading and Mathematics in order to be promoted to the ninth grade. The school principal or designee will notify parents/guardians of the specifics of the policy and its regulations for individual student promotion, placement, or retention.