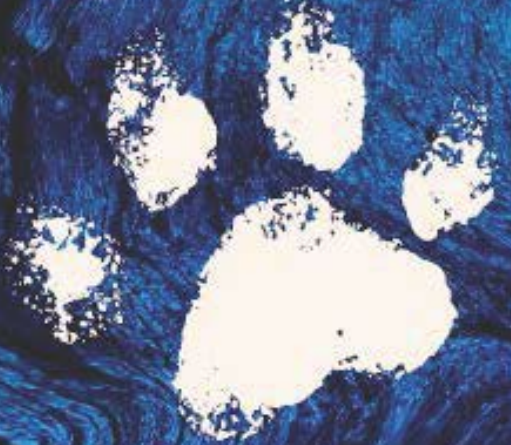




CAMDEN
MIDDLE SCHOOL
2026-2027



Camden County Schools



Camden Middle School

Student Handbook

Important Notice:

**Please check the school website for the most current
version of the student handbook.**

Dr. Christy Roberts, Principal

CAMDEN MIDDLE SCHOOL MISSION STATEMENT

We will ensure a safe and caring environment where all students develop skills and gain knowledge necessary to be successful in life.

OUR STAFF BELIEVES

Everyone can learn.

Education is a major building block for success.

Education is the shared responsibility of the school, students, parents, and community.

Everyone deserves a safe learning environment.

Strength comes from diversity of people, resources, and programs.

Efficient and effective operations ensure a quality environment.

Students deserve highly qualified, motivated, and talented teachers with high expectations.

Educators deserve to teach in a classroom free of disruptions and distractions.

Student success and independence are significantly impacted by effort and attitude.

Progress comes from the willingness to change.

CAMDEN MIDDLE SCHOOL-WIDE P.A.W.S. EXPECTATIONS

	<u>Practice Safety</u>	<u>Act Responsible</u>	<u>Work Towards Success</u>	<u>Show Respect</u>
Classroom	Place all personal items in designated area	Complete and turn in all assignments	Continue working on challenging assignments	Follow directions the first time they are given
Transitions/ Hallway	Walk on the right side of the hallway	Pick up any debris and report spills and other problems to staff members	Keep hallways clean and clear	Speak quietly so that only the person next to you can hear you
Bathrooms	Keep floor, walls, and sinks clean and clear	Do your business and get out	Report any problems to staff members	Give everyone their privacy
Cafeteria	Walk when returning trays	Keep tables and floor clean and clear	Stay seated	Use appropriate tone and topic of conversation
Bus Port and Buses	Walk to your bus	Find your bus and get on it	Follow directions given by the driver or staff	Use polite words and appropriate language/tone
Digital Space Footprint	Avoid posting personal information on any site	Visit Teacher approved sites only	Complete and turn in all digitally- assigned tasks; check platforms to ensure completion and submission	Utilize proper etiquette when communicating with others on any digital platform (Includes Videos and Images)

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DAILY SCHEDULE

	Class	Teacher	Room
1st Block			
2nd Block			
3rd Block			
4th Block			
5th Block			

CAMDEN MIDDLE SCHOOL BELL SCHEDULE

7:00 Students May Enter the Building 7:00

7:30 Homeroom/Announcements 7:37 Tardy Bell					
6th Grade		7th		8th	
7:40- 9:10	6th Grade Connections A&B	7:40-8:55	Academic Block 1	7:40-8:55	Academic Block 1
		8:55-10:10	Academic Block 2	8:55-10:10	Academic Block 2
9:10 - 10:25	Academic Block 2			10:10 – 11:25	Academic Block 3
10:25-12:10	Academic Block 3/Lunch	10:10-11:40	7th Grade Connections		
12:10-1:25	Academic Block 4	11:40-1:25	Academic Block 4/Lunch	11:25 - 1:10	Academic Block 4/Lunch
1:25-2:40	Academic Block 5	1:25-2:40	Academic Block 5	1:10 - 2:40	8 th Grade Connections A&B
2:40	Dismissal	2:40	Dismissal	2:40	Dismissal

PARENTAL RESPONSIBILITIES

The Board of Education believes that the ultimate responsibility for a student's behavior rests with his/her parents. Students are to respect constituted authority, which includes obedience to school rules, regulations, and procedures. The board anticipates that parents will be concerned and cooperative in dealing with behavioral problems. It expects that this cooperation will be made apparent to the child.

Therefore, one of the most significant objectives of discipline must be to develop the desire to exercise rights judiciously with the individual student. To realize this objective, the school

reserves the right to hold parental conferences, guidance conferences with the court, and the right to request schedule changes or psychological examinations and/or treatment.

PARENT-TEACHER CONFERENCES

All conferences must be arranged through the Counseling Office and scheduled during teachers' planning or after school. Please call the counseling office at 729-3113 to arrange a conference. Because instructional time is most important, parents may not deliver items to classrooms, visit with children, or otherwise interrupt the class. Parents are always welcome to observe classrooms with prior notification, volunteer, and eat lunch in the cafeteria with their children.

PARENT DROP-OFF OF ITEMS

The staff at CMS recognizes that parents may occasionally need to bring items for students. All items should be taken to the attendance window, where staff members will take them to the classroom. Parents who need to meet with their children should do so off campus and by signing their child out using routine procedures.

LEAVING SCHOOL DURING SCHOOL HOURS

Early dismissals are discouraged, but if it becomes necessary for a student to leave school during the day, arrangements should be made before leaving home, and the procedure outlined below should be followed:

The student is to bring to the attendance window before 7:50 a.m. a note signed by his/her parents stating:

The time of early dismissal

The reason for early dismissal

The mode of transportation

The person providing transportation

No student can leave school early without signing out and being properly dismissed through the school office.

When a student returns to school the same day after checking out, he is to report to the attendance window with a note from a doctor or dentist, sign in, and get a pass to class.

To relieve the school of liability, no student will be allowed to leave the school grounds during school hours unless he has received prior written permission from his parents as set out in No. 1 above or unless a parent comes to the school office and signs written permission.

In case of illness, the student should report to the nurses' station. If the student's illness requires that he/she leave school, the parents will be called, and the secretary may dismiss the student after the parents come and sign out the student.

No student will be allowed to leave campus with a person not designated by the parent/guardian.

Students leaving campus **MUST** properly "sign out" at the attendance window.

Students leaving campus will not be permitted to return that day unless accompanied by a parent, parent note, or a doctor/dentist appointment verification slip.

Parents should arrive before 2:15 pm if planning to check students out early.

STUDENTS STAYING ON SCHOOL GROUNDS AFTER SCHOOL HOURS

Students are not allowed to remain on school grounds after school hours unless they are under the direct supervision of a teacher/coach. Students whose parents pick them up must be picked up by 3:00 p.m. Parents who do not get off work until after this time must make other transportation arrangements for their children. Repeated violators will be assigned to ride a bus. Students suspended from the bus must be picked up before 3:00 p.m. Students who stay for after-school detention must be picked up at the designated time. Unauthorized students will not be under school supervision after 3:00 p.m. and must leave the school grounds. Emergencies would need to be approved by the school administration.

GRADING SCALE

Revised May 16, 2024

[Board Policy Code - IHA](#)

The following grading system shall be used in the Camden County Schools. No alterations of any nature may be made to the system. Grading System for Grades 3-8

A – 90-100 B – 80-89 C – 70-79 F – Below 70 I – Not enough evidence to assign grade

CHEATING

Any time a student is caught cheating on graded schoolwork, the student will receive a zero for that work, and the parent will be contacted. After the incident is reviewed, the administration may assign additional punishment.

PROMOTION STANDARDS AND CRITERIA

Administrative Placement of Students

Any student who does not achieve the prescribed criteria above in each grade (K-8) may be referred to an administrative placement team to consider the student's potential for success and recommend placement in non-routine promotion-retention cases. Parents are invited to participate in this process. It is in the student's best interest to be placed at the beginning of the school year; however, in some cases, the decision is made during the semester to place students from an elementary school to a middle school. This decision must be made with the agreement of both the receiving and sending principals and with parental involvement. The principal's decision shall override if the school and home cannot reach a consensus.

[Requirements for Grades 1-8 Board Policy Code - IHE](#)

This policy is undergoing revisions at the state level. The complete description is available at the link above.

STUDENT DROP OFF AND PICK UP

Students must not be dropped off at school before 7:00 a.m. Vehicles dropping off students should remain in a single file in the drop-off lane closest to the sidewalk. Students should exit their vehicles on the side closest to the sidewalk to avoid entering traffic lanes.

Students must be escorted or given permission by supervisors before crossing the drive when loading into vehicles parked across the drive in the visitor parking spaces. Students should only be dropped off in front of the school. **They should not be picked up or dropped off in any other campus areas.**

DRESS CODE

A student shall not dress or groom himself/herself or wear or use emblems, insignias, badges, or other symbols where the effect thereof is to distract the attention of other students unreasonably or otherwise to cause disruption or interference with the operation of the school. The principal or other duly authorized school official shall determine whether any mode of dress, apparel, grooming, or use of emblems, insignias, badges, or other symbols results in such interference or disruption. If this is the case, all students will be informed by announcements or postings at the school.

Students should always dress in a manner that does not disrupt the learning environment. Tank tops (including those worn under jackets), mesh tops, unbuttoned shirts, and bare backs or **midriffs** are **NOT** allowed. Appropriate footwear must always be worn. Bedroom slippers may not be worn. Shoes must be tied and/or fastened. Sleeveless clothing is allowed if the shoulders are covered and no undergarments, including crisscross bras, are visible. Pants of appropriate size will be worn at the waist and zipped. Leggings worn as pants should be paired with a top or dress that covers at least the tops of the thighs. Belts are buckled, and

undergarments must not be visible. The standard for shortness (shorts, skirts, dresses, chubbies shorts) is as follows: the shortest part of the student's shorts or skirt (including slits) must not exceed 5" from the crease in the back of the knee when standing. Plunging necklines or excessively tight-fitting clothing are prohibited. Unusual or clownish dress is prohibited (i.e., capes, blankets, furry tails, or costumes). No spiked bracelets, belts, or gloves will be brought to school. No sizeable bulky finger rings or chains may be worn. This includes any chain that the principal/designee feels could be used as a weapon. No hats, caps, sweatbands, bandannas, hair picks, sunglasses, hoods, or other head coverings may be worn at school. Students may not wear clothes depicting or promoting violence, other anti-social behavior, sexual content, including virginity rocks, or alcohol/drug-related words or images. Rips in jeans and pants are allowed, provided no gaping holes expose skin or underwear. **The final determination concerning this policy will rest with the principal/designee of the middle school.** Students who are out of the dress code may be placed in ISS for the remainder of the school day.

MORNING WORK PASSES

Students must have hall passes to attend morning sessions with teachers before homeroom. Students must obtain passes the day before attending the morning session with teachers.

ITEMS NOT ALLOWED AT SCHOOL

Since our purpose of coming to school is to study, the following items are to be left at home:

**Cell phones and any other electronic devices	Any type of handheld games
Cameras	Water guns
Balloons	Skateboards or skates
Rubber Bands	Gum or candy
E-Cigarettes/Vapes	Trading cards /Playing cards
Any type of tobacco product	Fireworks*
Hats or caps	Stink bombs*
Toy guns*	Chains
Aerosol cans or Glass containers	Pepper spray, mace, tear gas, chemical sprays
Toys of any description	Knives, razor blades, or any other sharp objects
Scissors	Lighters, matches, or other flammable objects
Firearms, including starter pistols	Fidget Cubes
Fidget Spinners	Lasers
Pornographic material	Large sums of money
Any other items that cause a disruption of the learning environment	

**No earbuds, headphones, or AirPods should be worn around students' necks or in their ears while in the hallways, media center, or cafeteria. For educational purposes, these items may only be connected to your Chromebooks in the classroom when specified by the teacher.

Cell phones are not permitted during school hours. They must be turned off and kept out of sight, such as inside a purse or backpack. Students caught using their phones during school will face disciplinary action. Students whose phones ring, beep, or make other sounds will also face consequences. **Confiscated phones will be returned to parents or**

guardians. The school is not responsible for lost, damaged, or stolen devices, nor is the administration responsible for investigating such incidents.

Note: Cell phones should not be kept in back pockets (out of sight). Smart watches and smart glasses are treated the same as cell phones.

****ELECTRONIC DEVICES**

Students may not use personal electronic devices during the instructional day without the consent of the teacher and the administrator. Students found in violation of this prohibition will be subject to disciplinary action.

Cameras include, but are not limited to, digital cameras, video cameras, cell phones, iPods, iPads, tablets, laptops, earphones/wireless earphones, smartwatches, and smart glasses.

Without permission, students may not use cameras to capture images or videos of teachers, staff, or students.

Students must never post unauthorized images or videos of teachers, staff, or students online. Students will not use cameras in restrooms or locker rooms at any time.

Students will not take photos or videos that are obscene.

Students will not take photos or videos with any device while in the school building, on school grounds, on the bus, at the bus stop, or in any other school-sponsored activity.

Any student violating this rule may be suspended from school (OSS) for up to 5 days.

CAFETERIA BEHAVIOR AND PROCEDURE

Students who wish to purchase meals by the week will pay on Monday during their lunch session. A student must first have a meal to buy an ice cream or a slushy. It may be a school lunch or a sack lunch from home. Students are not to share food. No glass containers are permitted at school. Students are not to move from seat to seat and sit in their designated section after passing the register. Students who do not receive a school lunch are to go directly to their designated area without going through the lunch line. The throwing of food or any other objects will not be tolerated. Students are to enter the lunchroom through the doors nearest to the stage and exit through the doors near the gym. Single-file lines are used when waiting to be served and putting food trays away. Student misbehavior during lunch period will result in placement in lunch isolation or other disciplinary action. Parents, grandparents, and guardians are always welcome to eat with their children. Parents eating with their children must sit in the cafeteria's designated parent/family seating area. Parents may **not** invite other students to eat in the parent seating area, and we ask that visitors limit their interactions with other students. If parents bring outside food for lunch, they may **not** provide food for any student other than the child they have come to eat with. Parents may bring underage children to the cafeteria for lunch, space permitting. **No DoorDash orders will be accepted for students.**

Cougar Nation – Reminders!

If you fight on Campus:

*You will be assigned Lunch Detention for the remainder of the school year.

*You will not be allowed to attend or participate in extracurricular activities for the remainder of the school year.

*You may be unable to participate in extracurricular activities - dances, movies, or sporting events - if you miss more than eight school days during the school year. (2 days per quarter)

*You must have a signed Hall Pass when in the hallway and not being escorted by a teacher.

EXTRA CURRICULAR ACTIVATES & CLUBS

[CLICK HERE FOR MORE INFORMATION](#)

Interscholastic Athletics

The purpose of the CMS athletic program is to provide qualified students an opportunity to participate in an extracurricular athletic activity that will foster physical skills, a sense of work and competence, a knowledge and understanding of the pleasure of sports, and the principles of fair play. However, we must remember that the athletic program is always secondary to our primary task: academic instruction. Anytime there is a conflict between the academic and athletic programs, the educational program always takes precedence.

Competitive Interscholastic Activities, Grades 6-12

Descriptor Code IDEA (3) The board of education ("the board") hereby adopts this policy regulating competitive interscholastic activities.

Each middle and high school principal shall regulate competitive interscholastic activities in her or her school and ensure that all staff members adhere to the school system's athletic guidelines, this policy, and related rules of the State Board of Education. The principal may delegate responsibility for supervising one or more student activities and clubs to a member or members of the professional staff, provided such individuals must act under the principal's direction.

A student wishing to participate in interscholastic activities must be enrolled full-time in the school system during the semester of participation.

Retention of students for athletic purposes is prohibited.

Each school principal covered by this policy shall maintain documentation of adherence to the policy's requirements. The board is responsible for regulating competitive interscholastic activities in grades 6-8 and, therefore, adopts the middle-grade requirements outlined in State Board Rule 160-5-1-.18 (Competitive Interscholastic Activities in Grades 6-12) regarding student eligibility, physical examinations, and special provisions.

Physical Examinations

All students in grades 6-8 who participate in competitive interscholastic athletics and cheerleading shall have an annual physical examination before participation in any tryout, practice, or conditioning, whichever comes first. The physical examination form shall indicate approval of the involvement and be signed by a Doctor of Medicine or a Doctor of Osteopathy. The physical examination form shall include the exam date (month, day, and year), the student's name, and the physician's signature.

CMS Clubs

Junior BETA

Sponsors' Name: Dr. Ivy Dawson

Purpose or Mission of Club: To promote the ideals of honesty, service, morality, ethical conduct, and leadership among CMS students, to reward meritorious achievement, and to encourage and assist students in continuing their education after high school.

Activities Planned for the school year: Include an induction ceremony, participation in the Academic Achievement Celebration, individual community service, Teacher Appreciation Week, facility improvements at CMS, state and national competitions, assistance with elementary field day activities, various fundraising efforts, and monthly meetings.

Eligibility: Upcoming 6th, 7th, and 8th graders who maintain a 90% in all academic subjects (see Y1 column of report card for the qualifying year) with continuous exceptional behavior records.

Fellowship of Christian Athletes:

Sponsors' Name: Ms. Tiana Simmons/Mr. Jonathan Puckett /Ms. Jocelyn Gonzales

Purpose or Mission of Club: To see the world impacted by Jesus Christ through the influence of athletes and coaches and to present to athletes and coaches and all whom they influence the challenge and adventure of receiving Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord, serving Him in their relationships and the fellowship of the church.

Activities Planned for the school year: **Weekly Thursday morning huddles and guest speakers.**

Eligibility: **Students** in grades 6th, 7th, and 8th.

Connections Club:

Sponsors' Name: Ms. Kassie Taylor

Purpose or Mission of the Club: The Connections Club raises awareness of issues facing military students and enables students whose families are military-affiliated or on active duty to interact with one another.

Activities Planned for the School Year: **Bi-weekly meetings on Wednesdays before school, holidays for Heroes toiletry drive. November is Military Recognition Month, and April is the Month of the Military Child.**

Eligibility: It is based on the student having a parent who was in any military branch or retired within the last six months.

Camden Middle FFA:

Sponsors' Name: Mr. Brian Crum

Purpose or Mission of the Club: To enable students interested in Agriculture to meet and explore their options to make better choices when planning courses in Camden County High School's Agricultural Education Program.

Activities Planned for the School Year: **Meetings will be held on the third Wednesday of each month after school. Community Service opportunities and competitions occur quarterly throughout the school year.**

Eligibility: Students in grades 6th, 7th, and 8th who are interested in agriculture and maintaining passing grades.

Yearbook Club:

Sponsors' Name: Mrs. Katherine Morris

Purpose or Mission of the Club: To allow students to record, highlight, and commemorate the school year.

Activities Planned for School Year: Photographing and documenting school-wide events during and after school, creating and designing yearbook pages using website software, and helping sell and distribute yearbooks. Meetings will be held on Tuesday and Thursday mornings from 6:55 am – 7:25 am in the media center. Additional times may be required to photograph after-school events and to meet yearbook deadlines.

Eligibility: 7th and 8th-grade students with 2 teacher recommendations.

Builders Club:

Sponsors' Name: Ms. Ashley Smith/ Ms. Loretta Clubb

Purpose or Mission of the Club: To provide members with opportunities to perform service, build character, and develop leadership.

Activities Planned for School Year: **Focusing on beautifying our school community through projects on our school grounds.**

Eligibility: Students in 6th, 7th, and 8th grades.

LEGO Robotics:

Sponsors' Name: Mr. Mason Sheffield / Mr. Zack Millan

Purpose or Mission of the Club: Plan and participate in a 3-part competition: Robot design and missions, Teamwork, gracious professionalism, and Projects.

Activities Planned for the school year: competition and fundraising.

Eligibility: Students in 6th, 7th, and 8th grades.

CMS Fabrication Lab:

Sponsors' Name: Mr. Mason Sheffield / Mr. Zack Millan

Purpose or Mission: Students can pursue research and design projects while learning to use a range of computer programs and hardware, from hammers and nails to 3D printers and laser cutters. Through this, they will acquire multiple STEM skills that will open doors in the future.

Activities planned for the year: The Fabrication Lab will meet as a club throughout the year to work on student-designed projects. We will also participate in several fundraising activities.

Eligibility: Students in 6th, 7th, and 8th grades.

Constellations Literary and Art Magazine:

Sponsors' Name: Mrs. Carla Farmer

Purpose or Mission Club: To inspire and celebrate the creative expression of CMS students by giving them a positive outlet to publish their writing, art, and photography formally. Our editorial board members collaborate to integrate literary and visual arts submissions into high-quality, bi-annual publications.

Activities planned for the school year: The Constellations Literary and Art Magazine club will meet bi-weekly on Wednesdays from 3 to 4 p.m.

Eligibility: Students in 6th, 7th, and 8th grades.

All students are considered eligible for voluntary club participation. Please notify the grade-level administrator if you wish to exclude your child from voluntary participation

IMPORTANT NOTICE:

Please check the school website for the most current version of the student handbook.