

Latta Middle School Student Handbook

2018-2019

Welcome to Latta Middle School

Latta Middle School is a public middle school in Dillon County School District Three accredited by the South Carolina State Department of Education.

Latta Middle School is committed to excellence in providing the opportunity for each student to reach the highest levels of academic, social, intellectual, and physical development.

Latta Middle School is an Equal Opportunity Employer. Educational programs and activities at the school are equally accessible to all students regardless of race, color, national origin, sex, or handicapping condition.

At Latta Middle School, we emphasize academic achievement as the most important purpose of the school. We believe that academic achievement must be at the forefront of our efforts to excel and must take first place in what we emphasize as important.

Accreditation

- South Carolina Department of Education

Parents

The administration, faculty, and staff of LMS encourage your support and involvement in your child's education. You have a significant impact on the education your child receives and your participation will encourage a feeling of partnership among your child, the school, and you. Communication between the home and school is vital.

Please read and discuss this handbook with your child as we will do at school. If you have questions or concerns, please feel free to contact a teacher or administrator. Be sure to read our mission, beliefs, and vision statement. Working together, we can provide a safe, comfortable, and challenging education for your child.

Mission Statement

The mission of Latta Middle School is to provide educational experiences for the development of the total child, and to provide each student with the greatest opportunity to develop intellectually, emotionally, physically, socially, and culturally.

School Beliefs

We believe...

- Learning is a life-long process.
- Every individual can learn.
- Planning and collaboration are necessary to produce an effective learning environment.
- Every individual deserves a safe place to learn and work.
- Everyone has self-worth and deserves to be respected, valued, and accepted.
- All cultures deserve to be treated with dignity and respect.
- Change is necessary for growth and development.
- Support and cooperation of the community and its resources are vital to the success of education.
- Every individual should have varied opportunities for career education, exploration, and planning.

LMS Vision

We envision a school...

- Where students develop higher level critical thinking skills that will allow them to reach their highest potential.
- That promotes positive values and attitudes so that learning can be effective.
- That promotes interest and success in learning through diversified methods and materials.
- Where the curriculum is integrated among the subjects and relevant to real life experiences.
- Where alternative assessment augments standardized or mandated testing.
- Where it is more important to teach students to use information than to acquire it.
- Where all students can enjoy success.

Agendas

Each student will be issued an agenda on the first day of the school year. Students must have agendas in their possession at all times while on campus. **If a student loses his or her agenda, he or she must buy a replacement agenda at the cost of \$5.00.**

Arrival and Departure

The school day for students is 7:50-3:33. Students may not be dropped off at school before 7:40 as there are no adults on campus to supervise before that time. Students may not enter the building before 7:50. Breakfast is served in the classroom. Please have your child here by 7:50 in order for them to have time for breakfast before instruction begins.

Attendance

Students who are under seventeen (17) years of age are required by state law to attend school. The staff of LMS believes that attendance is a key factor in student achievement; therefore, students are expected to attend school everyday and to follow their schedules. Violations of the attendance policy can result in retention and/or referral to Family Court.

Unlawful Absences

1. Students who are willfully absent from school without the knowledge of their parents
2. Students who are absent from school without acceptable cause with the knowledge of their parents
3. Leaving the school grounds without the permission of a parent and a school official
4. Any day beyond five (5) days without a medical or legal excuse

Lawful Absences

1. Illness that would endanger the health of the student and others
2. Death or serious illness in the family
3. A recognized religious holiday of a student's faith
4. Suspensions
5. Medical or dental examinations
6. Required court appearance
7. Extenuating circumstances approved by the principal

Latta Middle School, in accordance with Dillon District Three policy, will use the following procedure in dealing with unlawful absences:

1. After three (3) unlawful absences-Letter to parent
2. After five (5) unlawful absences-Attendance Intervention Meeting
3. After seven (7) unlawful absences-Referral to Family Court
4. **After five (5) unlawful absences, no absences based on parent excuses will be accepted. Excuses from doctors, dentists, courts, or as such will only be accepted.**

Students must bring a valid excuse on the day they are to return to school. A valid excuse must list the dates of absences, the reason for the absence, and the telephone number and signature of the parent/guardian. **Parents/guardians must present an excuse no later than one week after a student's absence.**

Parents will be notified at regular intervals as to the status of their child's attendance. Notes for early dismissal, bus changes, or excuses for absences should be turned in to the homeroom teacher on the student's return to school.

All violations of the attendance policy will be handled at the discretion of the administration.

Make-Up Work

School Board Policy

Code **IKEA** *Issued* **4/05**

Purpose: To establish the basic structure for providing opportunities for students to make up work.

Students who have lawful absences will be allowed to make up work missed. The student must make arrangements to make up the work **during the first week after their return to school.** Teachers must assist students with the make-up work as needed either before school, after school, or at a mutually convenient time during the day.

Students who have unlawful absences will not be permitted to make up work missed. The student will receive a zero for all missed assignments.

Tardiness

Students not in homeroom by 8:05 AM or in any scheduled class on time are considered tardy. Students who arrive after 8:05 must report to the Main Office and will be admitted to school with an unexcused tardy pending the reason for being tardy. Students who arrive after the 8:05 must be signed in by a parent/adult designee. Three unexcused tardies equal an absence.

Unexcused tardiness will include oversleeping, riding with another student who comes in late, or other invalid causes. Student tardiness between classes will not be tolerated. Those students with excessive unexcused tardies will be penalized.

School Board Policy JHA-K-8th grade students (tardy to school)

Students who are chronically late to school often suffer academically from lost instructional time. For this reason, a record should be kept of all tardies to school. When tardies become excessive in the opinion of the principal, he/she, in consultation with appropriate staff, will counsel the parent/legal guardian. If after this counseling the student is persistently tardy, the principal will notify the parent/legal guardian and an intervention plan to correct the problem will be written. If the parent/legal guardian fails to comply with the intervention plan, the principal at his/her discretion may refer the case to proper authorities for educational neglect.

For purposes of this policy, three unexcused tardies to school will constitute one unexcused absence. Additionally, three unexcused early dismissal sign-outs will constitute one unexcused absence. Unexcused tardies or early sign-outs are those that would not qualify as “lawful absences” under board policy.

Class Interruptions/Early Dismissals

1. Schedule doctor and dentist appointments as late as possible and after school.
2. Plan at home so that messages, delivered by school personnel to children, do not become necessary. In an emergency only, we shall always deliver a message. For other types of messages, they will be delivered only **between classes** or when they do not interfere with class.
3. If early dismissal becomes necessary, send a note indicating the reason and time for the dismissal. Only parents and adults designated by the parents and listed on the student’s emergency card may sign a child out of school. **Arrange to pick up the child during break, lunch, or between classes.**

Students may be checked out of school between classes, at break, or during lunch periods. The principal or assistant principal must approve any exceptions.

Please do not check out students during the times below.

5th	6th	7th	8th
2:10-3:30	12:50-2:10	10:05-11:55	8:05-9:50

Athletics - Attendance

LMS follows the standards stated by the SC High School League. **If an athlete is absent from school on the day of a game, he or she will not participate in that game.**

Grading

Report Card	Numerical Grades
A	90 – 100 (Excellent)
B	80 – 89 (Above Average)
C	70 – 79 (Average)
D	60 – 69 (Below Average)
F	Below 60

I	<i>Incomplete*</i>
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An incomplete will result in a failing grade for the work that is not made up according to the make-up work policy.

Report Cards and Interim Reports

An interim report is issued at the mid-point of each nine weeks grading period, and a report card is issued at the end of each nine-week grading period. Students should take the reports home and return them, signed by parent or guardians, to school the following day.

Promotion and Retention

Students are required to earn a combined overall average of 60 percent or higher for the academic areas of math, language arts, science and social studies in order to be promoted to the next grade.

Homebound Instruction

Students who are victims of a long-term illness are eligible for homebound or hospitalized instruction. A physician must certify that the student is unable to attend school but may profit from instruction given in the home or hospital. The principal must approve all applications for homebound instruction.

Homework Policy

Students *may* be assigned homework on a regular basis to reflect the following purposes:

- Reinforce and supplement classroom learning experiences
- Encourage accountability and responsibility
- Foster student initiative and independence
- Enable the successful completion of more curricular material
- Reinforce home-school interaction
- Extend the learning environment into the reality of the outside world

Study Suggestions

Students who spend time studying regularly at home are in the best position to do well at school. Latta Middle School suggests that students who follow the study habits below are those who will be most successful at school.

1. **Attend every class possible.** No one benefits from your absence. Regular attendance makes learning much easier and we have noticed a strong correlation between attendance and success.
2. **Take appropriate books home with you each day.**
3. **Go over what occurred in each of your classes, including reviewing your notes.**
4. **Read your assignment. If you want to be highly successful, read it again.**
5. **Complete all homework. Review it** before class the next day.
6. **Strive to understand**, not just to do. All work is for a purpose. Try to grasp the concept your teacher is helping you to understand.
7. **Set a definite study time each day**, and spend at least one hour outside of school per day studying. On days leading up to major tests, spend much more time studying.
8. **Study each day for upcoming tests.** Do not wait until the night before to do all of your studying.
9. **Limit activities that interfere with your studies.** Commonly, school students confuse the less important as being more important than the most important. Clearly, what is most important academically is the learning that takes place indicated by your grade point average.

Honor Roll

- A Honor Roll – A student must have an “A” average in all subjects.
- A/B Honor Roll – A student must have a “B” average or above in all subjects.

Students are expected to perform their own work in all classes. Honor rolls will be forwarded to the local newspapers.

National Junior Honor Society

2018-2019 Advisors: Leann Barber, Jenny Melton, Cristin Richards

- I. Membership in the LMS NJHS will include eligible students in the second semester of their 6th grade year through the end of the 8th grade year.
- II. Student eligibility will be reviewed each semester, exclusive.
- III. Eligibility requirements will include the following:
 - A. Scholarship: Eligible students must meet and maintain at least a 3.5 GPA for all courses each semester, exclusive.
 - B. Character and Leadership: Eligible students cannot have more than 3 unexcused absences. Teachers must evaluate character and leadership traits denoted by the Faculty Council. Any students receiving ratings averaging less than 3.0 will be referred to the Faculty Council for consideration and final ruling.
 - C. Behavior: Discipline records which denote any days of suspension or excessive/repeated offenses will not be considered for membership in the Latta Middle School Chapter of NJHS. Any suspension occurring after induction will result in immediate removal from NJHS.
 - D. Membership Dues: All inductees and current members must pay \$10.00 each school year to be considered an active member.
 - E. Only active members (dues paid) and members in good standing (GPA of 3.5) will be allowed to participate in any fundraisers, service projects, or field trips.
- IV. Faculty Council Selection Alternatives
 - A. **Full Acceptance:** Student meets all criteria without any concerns.
 - B. **Full Acceptance with Conference:** Student meets all criteria, with concerns regarding academic or behavioral issues. An advisor will conference with student.
 - C. **Probationary Acceptance with Conference:** Student did not meet one or more of the criteria, but Council offers acceptance with one semester probation as described in sections V and VI below. An advisor will conference with the student.
 - D. **Not Accepted with Conference:** Student did not meet one or more of the criteria, and Council believes student does not exhibit NJHS ideals. An advisor will conference with the student. Student will be eligible to apply the next year.
- V. **Students who fail to maintain eligibility requirements will be placed on a one semester probation during which they may still participate in club activities.**
- VI. **After completion of a probation semester, if the student still does not maintain eligibility requirements, the student will be removed from the NJHS.**

Gifted and Talented Program

Gifted and talented students are those who are identified in grades 3-12 as demonstrating high performance ability or potential in academic and/or artistic areas and therefore require an educational program beyond that normally provided by the general school program in order to achieve their potential. Gifted and talented abilities for these regulations include:

- Academic and Intellectual Ability: Students who have the academic and/or intellectual potential to function at a high level in one or more academic areas.

District Program Model

Dillon School District 3 uses a pull out model for grades 3-6 for 40 minutes a day. Special gifted and talented curriculum will be used for this class. For students in grades 7-8, gifted and talented students

are served in Honors classes through the Language Arts department. In grades 9-12, gifted and talented students are served in Honors and AP classes.

Screening Process

All second grade students are screened for the gifted and talented program through the use of a nationally norm-referenced test and an aptitude test. All students are tested in a group setting in the spring. Students who are referred to the gifted and talented program will be tested at the time of referral if appropriate tests scores are unavailable.

Identification Process and Eligibility Criteria

There are three dimensions used in the identification process:

1. Dimension A: Reasoning abilities are those higher level cognitive processes that reflect general aptitude for thought. Nationally normed individual or group aptitude tests must be employed. Students must demonstrate high aptitude at a 93RD national age percentile or above.
2. Dimension B: High Achievement in reading and/or mathematics must be demonstrated with a 94th national percentile score or above on a nationally normed achievement test or by South Carolina statewide assessment instruments such as SC *PASS* with an advanced score.
3. Dimension C: Students must demonstrate a high degree of interest in and commitment to academic and/intellectual pursuits. This dimension will be tested with Performance Dimension Tasks provided by the State Department of Education. Grade point average may be used with rising 7th through 8th graders. The grade point average must be 3.75 on a 4.0 scale.

Students must meet the requirements in 2 of the 3 dimensions unless the score in Dimension A is 96% or higher. If that condition is met, the student qualifies with Dimension A alone.

Referral Process

Teachers, administrators, and/or parents may refer students for screening for the gifted and talented program. The referral should be made to the school administrator who will give this information to the District Gifted and Talented Coordinator.

Appeals Process

Parents who want more information about their child's status regarding the gifted and talented program may contact their school principal.

Source for Additional Information

If further information is needed regarding identification procedures and program services, please contact George Liebenrood at the District Office.

Dillon School District 3 does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, or handicap in admission to, treatment in, or employment in its programs and activities. Inquiries regarding the nondiscrimination policies should be made to Dr. John Kirby, Superintendent, 205 King Street, Latta, SC 29565.

Honor Code

1. Students are not permitted to obtain answers from other students or sources while taking a test or completing assignments.
2. Students will not attempt to secure, copy, or distribute tests in any fashion. Specific examples include but are not limited to the following:
 - A. Keeping a test beyond the allotted test time
 - B. Obtaining a test without teacher permission
 - C. Any covert attempt to secure test materials
 - D. Possession of a teacher's edition textbook
 - E. Plagiarism

- F. Violating any classroom policy regarding testing
- G. Copying another student's classroom report or homework

Any attempt to violate the honor code will be taken seriously and dealt with accordingly by the administration.

Jewelry/Valuables

Students are encouraged to leave jewelry and other valuables such as phones, iPods, etc. at home. This is especially true for those taking classes such as physical education. Students are likewise encouraged not to bring large sums of money to school. The school will try to help locate lost items but it is not the school's responsibility.

S. C. Education Accountability Act of 1998

Purpose of this act is to establish a performance based accountability system, which focuses on improving teaching and learning to equip students with a strong academic foundation. LMS administration and faculty will strive to incorporate standards set by the state that address the curriculum to ensure student performance. In considering the necessity for new policies, we will continue to follow the guidelines set by the state.

Parent's Right to Know

Parents may request, and the school will provide the parents on request, information regarding the professional qualifications of the student's classroom teachers including, at a minimum, the following:

- Whether the teacher has met state qualification and licensing criteria for the grade levels and subject areas in which the teacher provides instruction.
- Whether the teacher is teaching under emergency or other provisional status through which State qualification or licensing criteria have been waived.
- The baccalaureate degree major of the teacher and any other graduate certification or degree held by the teacher, and the field of discipline of the certification or degree.
- Whether the child is provided services by paraprofessionals and, if so, their qualifications.

Closed Campus

We operate a closed campus. **Students must stay on the school grounds from the time they arrive, even if the first bell has not rung, until dismissal or until they are picked up by bus/car.**

Medicine at School

Students who need regular medication at school must leave that medication, prescription or non-prescription, in the nurse's station. Parents must bring any medication to the school for their child to take and fill out the appropriate paperwork. All medicines including pain medication should be labeled and in its original container. **Written permission must be given by the parent to administer any non-prescription medication.** This permission must include the amount of dosage and the frequency of dosage. The school nurse has the necessary paperwork to be completed.

Any unused medication not reclaimed within one week of the termination of treatment or the last day of school will be destroyed.

Parents should inform the school nurse at the beginning of the year if a student has a special physical/mental condition such as allergies, poor vision/hearing, diabetes, etc. The school is not responsible for any adverse reactions when the medication has been given in the prescribed way.

The school retains the authority to reject any requests for the administration of medicine. If medication is a long-term prescription, the doctor's orders must be delivered to the school.

Immunizations

All students need the required immunization booster shots and/or new shots to protect them from various diseases. **It is the law.**

Lunch

The Policy of the Latta School District Food Service is students are not allowed to charge their meals. When a student's account has reached a balance of \$5.00 the student will be given an alternative meal until the balance is cleared. The fee for the alternative meal will also be added to the student's account. The cost of student lunch is \$2.60 for full pay and \$0.40 for reduced.

Cell Phones/Electronic Paging Devices

Students may have cell phones in their possession at school. However, cell phones **MAY NOT** be turned on or in use for any reason during the school day. These devices **are not to be visible during regular school hours**. They must be kept in a student's purse or book bag.

Any infraction of this policy will result in the following:

1st offense – Student will receive a warning/cell violation from the main office and the device will be confiscated. Parents will be required to pick up device from the main office.

2nd offense – Student will receive a minor referral and the device will be confiscated to be picked up in the main office by a parent.

3rd offense – Student will receive a major referral. Student may not bring phone back to school for the remainder of the year.

Offenses thereafter can result in days of suspension. The school office phone is available for student use when emergencies arise.

Smoking/Tobacco Products/Vaping

Latta Middle School is a smoke free/tobacco free campus. It is unlawful for anyone to smoke inside a government building. Smoking is prohibited by law and policy. In addition, it is against school policy to have smoking paraphernalia or vaping paraphernalia on school property. We offer a smoke-free workplace to both adults and students. Discipline of those who violate the expected standard will be determined by administration.

Beginning August 21, 2006 minors under age 18 caught with cigarettes or other tobacco products can be fined \$25, required to complete an approved anti-smoking program or ordered to perform five hours of community service. Minors who don't follow court orders can have driving privileges restricted for 90 days.

Dress Code

Dress for Success at LMS! Appropriate dress is essential to success in school and in the workplace. Students are encouraged to show pride in themselves and their school by maintaining an appropriate standard of dress. Generally, student dress is considered appropriate as long as it does not distract others, interfere with the instructional programs, or otherwise cause disruption. **Any type of clothing or grooming considered to be disruptive or inappropriate will be handled at the discretion of the administration.**

- Hats, hoods, and sunglasses may not be worn in the building.
- Bandanas and sweatbands are prohibited.
- Proper shoes must be worn at all times.
- Skirts, shorts, and dresses should fit and be in good taste and not shorter than 4" above the knee on the front and back when standing. Leggings, jeggings, tights, and all form-fitting pants must be worn with a top/dress/skirt/shorts that come within 4" above the top of the knee (front and back). Students who violate rules about the length of shorts/skirts/dress repeatedly will be required to wear long pants.
- Sleeveless attire cannot reveal undergarments and must have straps at least 3 inches wide.
- See-through clothing is not permitted. If sheer fabrics are worn, the visible clothing underneath must meet dress code standards.
- Shirts cannot be tight, low cut or show cleavage. Shirts should be loose-fitting and fully cover the upper body. Tank tops, halter tops, strapless shirts/dresses, and shirts/dresses with spaghetti straps are not allowed.
- At no time should a student's midriff be visible while standing, sitting, or participating in normal school activities.
- Pants/shorts/skirts must be worn at the waist and undergarments are not to be visible. Clothing should not sag or hang below the waist. Students who disobey the rule repeatedly about wearing their pants at the waist will be required to wear their clothing with shirttails tucked in.
- Excessively tight clothing or clothing in an excessive state of disrepair may not be worn at school.
- Jeans/pants should not have any holes above the knee.
- Hair curlers, combs, etc. may not be worn in the hair during the school day. Students should also take care of any grooming between classes and in the restroom. Students grooming during class may have items confiscated from them to be picked up by a parent.
- Students may not wear clothing that displays profane language, drugs, tobacco, or alcohol advertisements, sexual innuendoes or anything else deemed to be offensive. Gang paraphernalia is also prohibited at school.

Note: Students should also adhere to this dress code for awards ceremonies, 8th grade graduation, National Junior Honor Society induction ceremony, etc. If a student violates the dress code for one of these activities, he/she may be asked to change or will not be permitted to participate.

Those students violating the rules will be required to call parents for a change of clothing. Those who purposely violate or are repeat offenders of the dress code will follow the discipline procedures below:

- **1st & 2nd offense**-Student will sign the dress code violation sheet in the main office and call for a change of clothing.
- **3rd offense**-Student will sign the dress code violation sheet in the main office, receive a major office referral, and call for a change of clothing.
- Students who continue to violate dress code may be suspended from school.

The administration will make the final judgment on the appropriateness of clothing and/or appearance and reserves the right to prohibit students from wearing any articles of clothing or other items which lead to or may foreseeably result in the disruption of or interference with the school environment.

Transportation

In order to ensure the safety of everyone, it is important that certain procedures are followed at all times. Please cooperate with LMS on the following:

Cars

Car riders should load and unload on Academy Street only. Under no circumstances is an LMS student to drive and/or park a vehicle on school property. Also, students are expected to load their cars as soon as it arrives and not loiter on school property after dismissal. Dismissal is not a time for socializing. Staff members are trying to ensure everyone's safety during this time. Students who do not adhere to this will receive disciplinary action.

Buses

All buses are expected to arrive at each designated stop within the same ten minutes of the set hour each day unless there is an uncontrollable factor. **Students should arrive at the bus stop five minutes ahead of the bus.** Drivers will not wait on latecomers. Bus stops are within 0.2 mile from a student's home. The bus will NOT pick students up at their home if there is a designated bus stop. Students should ride only the bus to which they are assigned. Students may have a pick up and a drop off stop; however, the stop may not be changed unless it is a permanent change. According to State law, students who live within a mile and a half radius of the school are not permitted to ride the bus.

Riding the bus is a privilege rather than a right. Misbehavior on the buses will result in the student's being denied the privilege to ride the bus for a certain period of time and may result in suspension from school. **Students are expected to be respectful to the drivers and follow directions given by the drivers. Throwing things out of the windows, yelling, pushing, or any type of rowdiness will not be tolerated while on the bus.**

Disciplinary actions for these offenses may include the following:

- Conference w/ parent notification **and/or**
- Bus suspension w/ parent notification

When the administrator's initial actions are not effective and the problem becomes habitual or if the student has been referred to the office for three or more offenses in relation to his or her behavior on the bus, the administrator may suspend the student from the bus for the remainder of the school year.

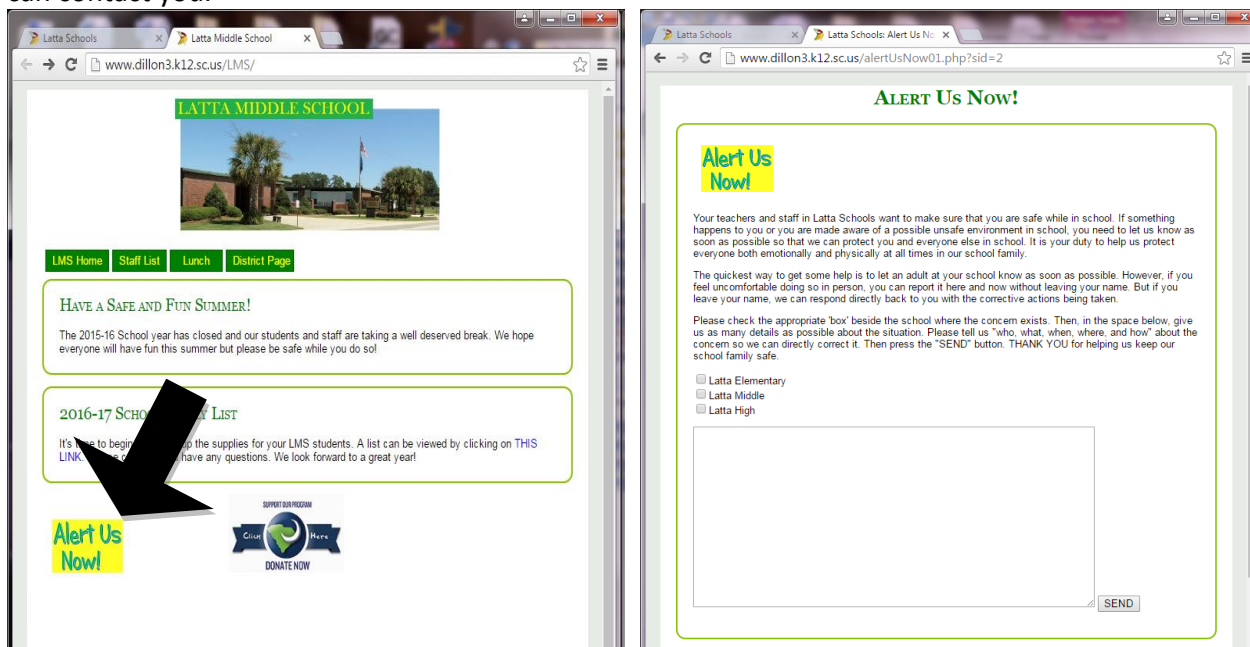
Students missing the bus are obligated to get to school and home through some other means of transportation.

59-67-45 OF THE SOUTH CAROLINA LAWS AND REGULATIONS STATES:

NO PERSON SHALL WILLFULLY AND WRONGFULLY INTERFERE WITH THE OPERATION OF A SCHOOL BUS, EITHER PUBLIC OR PRIVATE, BY BOARDING, RESTRICTING MOVEMENT OR USING THREATS, EITHER PHYSICAL OR VERBAL, TO THE DRIVER OR ANY PASSENGER WHILE THE BUS IS ENGAGED IN THE TRANSPORTATION OF PUPILS TO AND FROM SCHOOL OR ANY LAWFUL SCHOOL ACTIVITY OR WHILE PASSENGERS ARE ENTERING OR LEAVING THE BUS NOR SHALL ANY PERSON WILLFULLY FAIL OR REFUSE TO OBEY A LAWFUL ORDER OF A SCHOOL BUS DRIVER RELATING TO THE OCCUPANCY OF A SCHOOL BUS. THE USE OF THREATENING, OBSCENE OR PROFANE LANGUAGE ADDRESSED TO THE DRIVER OR ANY PASSENGER ENTERING, LEAVING, OR WAITING FOR A SCHOOL BUS IS DISORDERLY CONDUCT AND ANY PERSON CONVICTED FOR THE USE OF SUCH LANGUAGE SHALL BE PUNISHED AS PROVIDED IN 16-17-530. NOTHING CONTAINED HEREIN SHALL BE INTERPRETED TO INFRINGE UPON THE POWERS AND DUTIES OF DULY CONSTITUTED AUTHORITIES.

ALERT US NOW!

Our district now has an alert system on our website for parents and/or students to report anything that may be unsafe for the school environment. Alerts may be anonymous if the reporter does not want to leave a name; however, name and number can be included so that the proper authorities can contact you.



Grievance Procedures

School board policy provides a procedure for resolving student complaints and grievances in an orderly manner. The first step in the procedure is to address the problem to the person with whom the grievance exists. For example, if a student has a concern about a rule set by his/her teacher, then the student's first responsibility is to discuss the matter with the teacher.

Most grievances can be settled at this level. In instances where resolutions are not achieved, the second step is to address the concern to the principal.

If these efforts fail, the student may then request to register the complaint with the superintendent.

Students who have unresolved complaints concerning matters such as harassment, sexual harassment, intimidation, or discrimination are encouraged to report such matters to the principal who will direct them to the appropriate board policies and instruct them on how to proceed with their grievance.

Sexual harassment of students by district employees or other students is prohibited. All students and employees must avoid any action or conduct which could be viewed as sexual harassment.

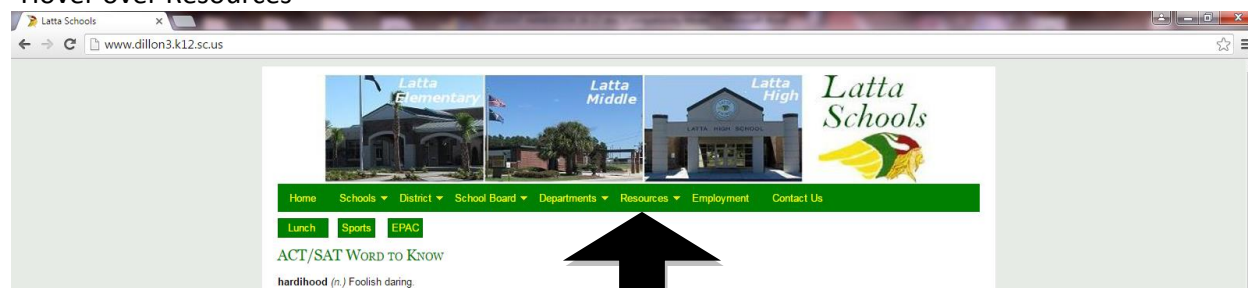
Parent Portal

Join the Powerschool Parent Portal if you would like to have access to your child's grades. Parent Portal allows you to view your child's grades as soon as they are posted in the online gradebook.

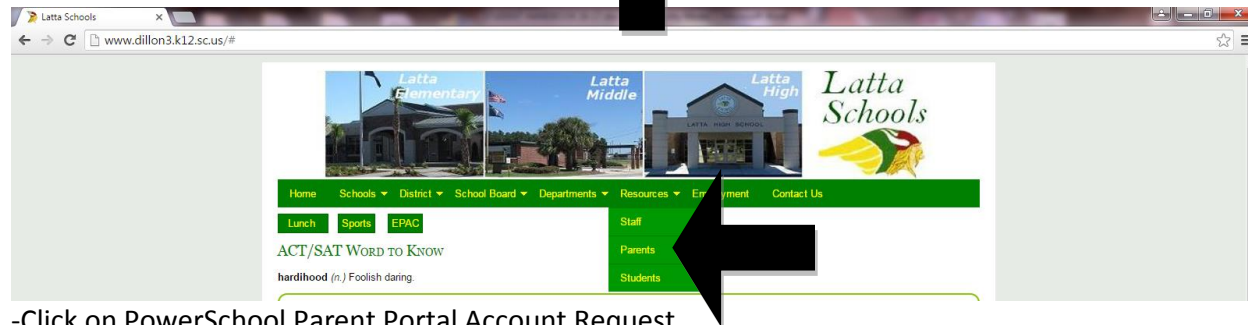
Follow the steps below to sign up:

-Go to the district website www.dillon3.k12.sc.us

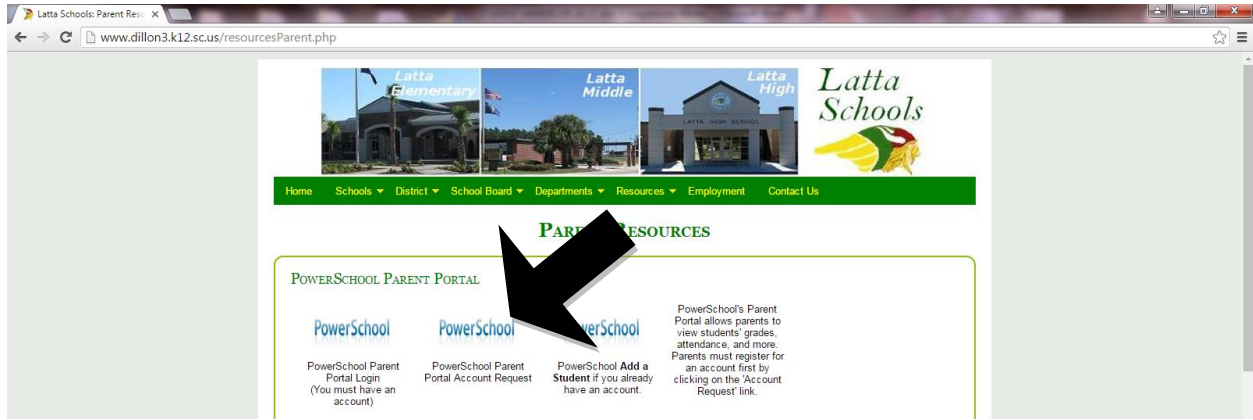
-Hover over Resources



-Click on Parents



-Click on PowerSchool Parent Portal Account Request



Once you click here, you will fill out and submit the form. When your account information is ready, it will be delivered to the school of your choice. You will be contacted for pickup.

Parent First Name	Parent Last Name	Username that you would like to use to login to this account. *
Parent Email Address		
Parent Phone Number		
Please enter the name(s) of the student(s) that you are the parent of or have guardianship over in the following blanks. Enter one student per line. **		Select the student's school.
Student #1		
Student #2		
Student #3		
Student #4		
Student #5		
Student #6		
Please select the school where you would prefer to pick up your account information sheet:		
<input type="radio"/> Latta High School <input type="radio"/> Latta Middle School <input type="radio"/> Latta Elementary School <input type="radio"/> Latta Early Childhood Center		
Submit Application		

Amendments to the Handbook

The LMS administration reserves the right to add or adjust rules, standards, and regulations as necessary.

Handbook Statement for FERPA

The release of school records is governed by school board policy based on the Family Education and Privacy Act of 1974. The school policy manual is available at your school and the town library.

Students with Special Health Care Needs

Many health care services can be provided for students to keep them at school where they can learn and participate with other students. Our goal is to provide information to parents and legal guardians about some of the services and programs available for addressing the health care needs of students during the school day to help students succeed in school. It is important that the necessary health care information is shared with the appropriate people—such as teachers on duty during recess, bus drivers, and cafeteria employees—to make sure that the students' needs are met throughout the school day.

Individual Health Care Plans or Individual Health Plans (IHPs)

Individual health care plans are also called individual health plans or IHPs. School nurses who are registered nurses write IHPs to guide how a student's health care needs will be met while at school. The nurse works with the student, the student's parents or legal guardians, the student's health care provider, and other school staff to write the plan. IHPs are written for students who have special health care needs that must be met by school staff during the school day. IHPs are also written for students who have been approved by the school district to self-medicate or self-monitor. To learn more about IHPs, talk with your child's school nurse.

Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (Section 504)

Section 504 is a federal law that requires public schools to make adjustments so that students with certain disabilities can learn and participate in settings like other students who do not have disabilities. To be eligible for services under Section 504, a student must have a condition that substantially limits one or more major life activities. A team decides if a student is eligible. The team should include the student's parent or legal guardian, the student (if able), and others who know the student or know about the student's disability, such as a teacher, a guidance counselor, a school nurse, and other school staff. If the student is eligible, the team develops an individual accommodation plan. The individual accommodation plan explains how the student's needs will be met while at school and may include health services for the student during the school day if needed. To learn more about Section 504, contact your child's principal or Sandra Jones, Director of Exceptional Children, at the District Office.

Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA)

Students, ages 3 through 21 years, may receive services under the IDEA if the student needs special education and related services to benefit from his or her educational program. A team decides if a student qualifies for services under the IDEA. The team includes the student's parent or legal guardian, teachers, and other school staff. The team develops an individualized education program (IEP) if the student meets federal and state requirements. The IEP outlines a plan for helping the student receive a free appropriate public education and meet goals set by the team. The IEP may include health services for the student during the school day if needed. Contact your child's principal or Sandra Jones, Director of Exceptional Children, at the District Office to learn more about the IDEA.

Notice of Destruction of Special Education Records

Special education records for students with disabilities are maintained by the LEA (school district) until no longer needed to provide educational services for a student. This notice is to inform you that special education records will be destroyed after five years following a student's program completion or graduation from high school, unless the student (or the student's legal guardian) has taken possession of the records prior to that time.

For more information related to the destruction or acquisition of special education records, contact Sandra Jones, Director of Exceptional Children for Dillon School District 3 at 843-752-7101.

Comprehensive Health Education Act

Pursuant to South Carolina law, Title 59, Chapter 32, Section 59-32-50, Comprehensive Health Education Act of 1988, public schools are obligated to notify parents of students in the relevant grades of the content of the instructional materials concerning reproductive health, family life, pregnancy prevention, and of their option to exempt their child from this instruction. Notice will be provided sufficiently in advance of a student's participation in a lesson using these instructional materials to allow parents and legal guardians the opportunity to preview the materials and exempt their children.

Dillon 3 Nondiscrimination Notice

Dillon District 3 does not discriminate on the basis of race, religion, color, national origin, sex, disability, age, immigrant status, English-speaking status, and therefore commits itself to nondiscrimination in all its educational and employment activities.

The following people have been designated to handle questions, concerns, complaints and requests for additional information regarding the nondiscrimination policies: Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973; Sandra Jones, Director of Exceptional Children. For all other inquiries including sexual harassment, and Title IX concerns or complaints contact George Liebenrood, Assistant Superintendent

for Instruction. You may call 843-752-7101 or contact Dillon School District 3 at 205 King Street, Latta, SC 29565.

I have read and discussed this handbook with my child. I agree to encourage my child to use these resources in order to help him/her succeed at Latta Middle School.

Parent/Guardian Signature

Student Signature

Date

This page is to be returned to the student's homeroom teacher by the end of the first week of school.