

SOARING TO SUCCESS!

Student/Parent Handbook 2024-2025

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MOUNT OLIVE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

2507 Maryville Pike Knoxville, Tennessee 37920 Telephone (865) 579-2170

Dear Students and Parents,

Welcome to the Mount Olive Elementary School family! We are thrilled to embark on another exciting and enriching academic year with you and your children. Our commitment to fostering a nurturing and stimulating environment remains steadfast, and we look forward to partnering with you to ensure the success and well-being of every student.

At Mount Olive Elementary, we believe that a strong home-school connection is crucial to a child's academic and social development. This Student Handbook serves as a comprehensive guide to our school's policies, procedures, and resources, designed to support your child's educational journey.

This handbook is meant to act as an informational guide that identifies expectations of you and your children this school year. We are hopeful that this handbook will answer many of your questions regarding policies, rules, and procedures. If something is unclear, feel free to reach out to us for further clarification.

We are excited to partner with you this year to continue providing the best education for your student(s).

Sincerely, Principal, Dr. Robert Angel, Ed.S, D.Th Assistant Principal, Kilie Pennington

The mission of Mount Olive Elementary is to nurture a culture of kindness that prepares independent, critical thinkers and inspires students to be life-long learners.



2024-2025 Knox County Schools Calendar

First Day for Teachers (School Based In-Service Day) Thursday, August 1

Systemwide In-Service Day (PreK-12) Friday, August 2 Monday, August 5 Administrative Day (Teacher Work Day)

Tuesday, August 6 Systemwide In-Service Day (1/2 Day School-based);

Administrative Day (1/2 Day Teacher Work Day);

6th and 9th Grade Orientation

Wednesday, August 7 Administrative Day (Teacher Work Day) Thursday, August 8 First Day for Students (1/2 Day) Wednesday, August 14 Early Release Day for Students

Monday, September 2 Labor Day Holiday (Knox County Schools Closed)

Monday, September 9 End 41/2-weeks Grading Period

Tuesday, September 17 Constitution Day (Knox County Schools Open)

Wednesday, September 18 Early Release Day for Students Friday, October 4 End First 9-weeks Grading Period

Monday, October 7 - Friday, October 11 Fall Break

Tuesday, November 5 Systemwide In-Service Day (PreK-12) (Student Holiday)

Wednesday, November 13 End 41/2-weeks Grading Period Wednesday, November 20 Early Release Day for Students

Wednesday, November 27 - Friday, November 29 Thanksgiving Holidays (Knox County Schools Closed)

1/2 Day for Students; End Second 9-weeks Grading Period; End First Semester Friday, December 20

Winter Break

Monday, December 23 - Thursday, January 2 Systemwide In-service Day (1/2 Day School-based; Friday, January 3

Administrative Day (1/2 Day Teacher Work Day) Monday, January 6 First Day for Students after Winter Break (Full Day)

Monday, January 20 Martin Luther King, Jr. Day (Knox County Schools Closed) Wednesday, January 22 Early Release Day for Students

Wednesday, February 5 End 41/2-weeks Grading Period Wednesday, February 12 Early Release Day for Students

Systemwide In-Service Day (PreK-12) (Student Holiday) Monday, February 17

End Third 9-weeks Grading Period Monday, March 10

Monday, March 17 - Friday, March 21 Spring Break

Wednesday, March 26 Early Release Day for Students Thursday, April 17 End 41/2-weeks Grading Period Friday, April 18 Holiday (Knox County Schools Closed) Monday, April 21 Systemwide In-Service Day (School-based)

Thursday, May 22 Last Day for Students (1/2 Day); End Fourth 9-weeks Grading Period;

End Second Semester

Friday, May 23 Administrative Day (Teacher Work Day) - Last Day for Teachers

Thursday, June 19 Juneteenth Holiday (Knox County Schools Closed)

Calendar Summary

180 Instructional Days*

- Administrative Days
- 2 Unscheduled In-Service Days
- Unscheduled Parent-Teacher Contact Hours Day
- 6 Scheduled In-Service Days
- 10 Vacation Days

Note: This calendar allows cancellation of up to 8 instructional days due to inclement weather or serious outbreaks of illness before any make up days will be required.

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^{*}In accordance with T.C.A. § 49-6-3004 – 177 student instructional days plus 3 days accumulated under daily 7-hour schedule.

Vision

Our vision is to be a leading school in the state that partners with our community to generate social, emotional and academic student growth, our compassionate staff will utilize innovative and reflective instruction to prepare our students for their future success.

Mission Statement

Mount Olive nurtures a culture of kindness that prepares independent, critical thinkers and inspires students to be life-long learners.

Student Mission Statement

I will be responsible for making good choices, learning all I can, and being a good citizen today.

Core Values

We are committed to:
 -Respecting each other
-Nurturing a family atmosphere of care and support
-Fostering an environment where everyone feels safe:
 physically, mentally, emotionally, and socially
-Inspiring our community to dream big, reach high,
 and embrace challenges

Motto

Mount Olive Eagles Soar!

Theme

Soaring to Success

Animals

No live animals may be brought to school without prior consent of the teacher and the principal.

<u>Alternate Dismissal Procedures</u>

Any time a student needs to go home in a different manner than what was originally communicated to the teacher at the beginning of the year, or what is on his/her emergency card, the student must have a <u>written note</u> from the parent/guardian. This note will be confirmed by the office staff (i.e. a student going home with another student or riding the bus to a different location). *No transportation changes will be accepted over the phone.

Arrangements should be made in advance. **Changes in transportation plans or early dismissal requests must be made before** <u>2:00 p.m.</u>.

Attendance Policy

Attendance is a major factor in determining the academic success of students. In fact, a student's attendance is one of the greatest predictors of future academic success. Arriving on time and remaining the entire school day, provides students with full academic instruction. Regular attendance for the full day school day (7:45 a.m. to 2:45 p.m.) is essential for a student to have a successful school year. Parents have both a legal obligation and a moral responsibility to see that their children are present every day that school is in session. On November 16, 2001 Knox County Juvenile Court Judge Carey E. Garrett issued a court order requiring parents to be notified when their child has been chronically absent. This is in conjunction with T.C.A. Section 49-6-3007 requiring school systems to notify parents of students absent 5 or more unexcused days from school. His order stated that parents will be held directly responsible for the unexcused absences of their children. His decision requires schools to report to Knox County Schools Central Office all absences as either excused or unexcused.

When a student is absent, it will be recorded into our computer as an unexcused absence. It is the parent's responsibility to provide appropriate documentation regarding these absences to the teacher within five days of returning to school. Remember, even if you call the school office to explain an absence for an illness, a written note is always required for an excused absence. Telephone calls will not substitute for a written note. After five unexcused absences, you will receive a letter from Knox County Schools. If the child reaches ten unexcused absences, you may be summoned to appear in court. Please understand that Knox County Schools Central Office will generate all letters from the computer absentee report that each school submits daily. The school does not "turn in" names at the school level. The purpose of the judge's decision is to emphasize the importance of compulsory school attendance and to assure that students and parents comply with the state law.

Knox County Board of Education policy allows student absences to be excused for such reasons as: **personal illness, illness in the family, death in the family, recognized**

religious holidays of the student's faith, and verifiable family emergencies. The Knox County Board of Education requires that written excuses indicating the date and reason for an absence, be signed by the parent or guardian of the child, and be given to the teacher within five (5) days of returning to school. Students who have been absent a total of five (5) days without an adequate excuse must be reported to the attendance and social services department. Any absences not complying with Knox County Schools policy will be considered unexcused.

Although illness is an excused absence, Knox County elementary school guidelines require a statement from a medical provider for illness beyond ten (10) days per school year. Parents can write a note for up to ten absences before requiring a medical statement.

In order for a student to be counted present, a student must be in attendance at least three (3) hours and fifteen (15) minutes per day. If a student is not present for these minimum times, he or she must be counted absent for the full school day.

For the full school year Perfect Attendance awards, students must have earned the perfect attendance award for all nine weeks grading periods (which allows a cumulative maximum of 8 tardies for the full school year).

<u>Authorization for News Media Contact and Release to Publish</u>

Occasionally we have the opportunity to highlight some of our programs and students through special coverage by news media. We would also like to include pictures of students on our website or school Twitter/Facebook/Instagram accounts. (Students' names will never be attached to the pictures on the website/social media). A release/authorization will be sent home the first week of school for your child to participate in any media coverage. Please check the appropriate space, sign the form, date it, and return it to school. Please call the school office if you have any questions. Thank you for your assistance.

Behavior Expectations & Discipline

The Mount Olive School faculty is committed to establishing and maintaining an atmosphere that supports and facilitates the learning process. One of the most important lessons education teaches is self-discipline. It underlies the entire educational structure and is the key to developing self-control, character, and consideration for the Mount Olive students.

MOES is continuing to implement PBIS (Positive Behavior Intervention Supports). PBIS is "...a framework or approach comprised of intervention practices and organizational systems for establishing the social culture, learning and teaching environment, and individual behavior supports needed to achieve academic and social success for all students." (Sugai, et al, 2010, p. 13)

Behavior expectations for students are outlined in the MOES Behavior Matrix below: Together We Can SOAR!

	Classroom	Hallways & Stairs	Cafeteria	Playground	Restroom	ASSEMBLY ASSEMBLY	Car/Bus Dismissal	Bus
I am Safe.	Keep hands, feet, and objects to yourself. Ask permission to leave the classroom. Use classroom materials and equipment properly.	Walk and stay to the right. Use handrails. Keep hands and objects close to you. Take one step at a time.	Walk at all times. Stay in a silent straight line. Sit on your bottom in your seat facing the table. Keep your feet on the floor.	Use equipment for its intended purpose. Keep hands, feet, and objects to yourself. Keep your body safe. Report accidents, injuries or dangerous situations to an adult.	Report dangerous situations to an adult. Keep hands, feet, and objects to yourself. Keep walls and floors clean and dry.	Sit on your bottom facing the stage. Keep hands, feet, and objects to yourself.	WALK to your bus or car. Sit quietly and still in your assigned area. Keep hands, feet, and objects to yourself.	Sit seat to seat, bed to back, floor to floor. Remain seated until the bus completely stops.
1 am Organized.	Keep school and classroom neat and orderly. Bring needed materials to class.	Keep objects close to your body.	Get all your lunch items the first time through the line. Line up and stay behind the red line to throw away trash.	Line up at the first signal. Enter and exit the building silently and peacefully.	One person in each stall. Use one pump of some and one paper towel to wash and dry your hands. Leave classroom materials outside the restroom.	Sit in your assigned line and keep it straight.	Leave your backpack closed and keep it with you. Save snacks and treats for home.	Keep items in backpack and keep backpack at your feet.
I am Accountable.	Be an active participant. Give your best effort and produce your best work. Be a team player and do your job. Make good choices.	Walk silently so others can learn. Return to class promptly.	Know or have your account number to buying extras. Clean up your own area.	Listen and follow directions. Be a problem solver. Bring inside what you take outside. Stay in approved area.	Return promptly to class. Follow restroom procedures.	Listen and follow adult directions. Ask permission to leave the area. Enter and exit quietly.	Listen and follow directions of adults and Safety Patrol. Watch for your ride.	Listen and follow adult directions. Follow bus rules. Watch for your stop.
I am Respectful.	Listen and follow directions. Use polite language. Treat others as you would like to be treated.	Look and walk straight ahead with your hands by your side. Listen and follow adult directions.	Leave a clean area. Use a peaceful voice. Stand and wait patiently in line.	Include everyone. Use polite language. Treat others as you would like to be treated. Be a team player and follow the rules.	Allow privacy for others. Put trash in the trash can.	Listen to those who are presenting or speaking.	Use polite language. Treat others as you would like to be treated.	Use quiet voices with your seatmate.

Students earn Eagle Bucks for following and exceeding behavior expectations. Eagle Bucks can be used to purchase incentives and a variety of reward experiences planned by school staff throughout the school year. *Staff reserves the right to prohibit students from participating in PBIS reward events if their behavior has not warranted the reward. NEW – We also will be focusing on our Essential 10: One will be cover each week with daily reminders during announcements:

MOUNT OLIVE ESSENTIAL 10

These are the essential 10 for Mount Olive Elementary. These will be part of our everyday expectations for all at Mount Olive Elementary.

- 1. Congratulate each other.
- 2. Respect others' comments, opinions, and ideas.
- 3. Surprise others with random acts of kindness.
- 4. Always say thank you.
- 5. Complete all our work daily.
- 6. Follow school and classroom rules.

- 7. Greet visitors and make everyone feel welcome.
- 8. Stand up for what you believe.
- 9. Be honest and positive.

10. BE THE BEST PERSON YOU CAN BE!

Restorative Practices

Mount Olive is a school that embraces Restorative Practices techniques. Restorative Practices consist of strategies that seek to repair relationships that have been damaged, including those damaged through bullying. It does this by bringing about a sense of remorse and restorative action on the part of the offender and forgiveness by the victim. Once an incident has occurred the staff asks some of the following questions to help learn more about the incident, the person that was harmed and the person that caused harm:

To respond to challenging behavior:

- What happened?
- What were you thinking about at the time?
- What have your thoughts been since?
- Who has been affected by what you did?
- In what way have they been affected?
- What do you think you need to do to make things right?

To help those harmed by others actions:

- What did you think when you realized what had happened?
- What have your thoughts been since?
- How has this affected you and others?
- What has been the hardest thing for you?
- What do you think needs to happen to make things right?

All students deserve an equal right and opportunity to receive a quality education in a safe and secure environment. Therefore, we expect a school atmosphere that supports teaching and learning. Any behavior that interferes with the teaching and learning of students is not acceptable. Students are expected to conduct themselves in an orderly and courteous manner.

Failure to maintain appropriate conduct may result in a referral to the office and/or exclusion from an activity or privileged event. Any time a student is seen in the office, the parent/guardian will be notified. Mount Olive is a school that practices the pillars of Character Counts, therefore we expect all children to practice good citizenship and good manners. We believe it is the role of everyone in our community to model respectful behavior, the following of rules, and empathy for others. Each classroom displays behavior expectations, and each teacher discusses appropriate behaviors to promote a positive classroom environment. A copy of these rules, expectations, and consequences

will be sent home within the first weeks of school. Students who behave in a commendable manner, beyond expectations, will receive special recognition from his/her teacher, administration, or other staff member.

Consequences

All students make mistakes and need to be redirected from time to time. Teachers will handle initial violations of classroom or school rules. However, it is sometimes necessary for the principal/assistant principal to provide extra support. If a child is sent to the office, the principal/assistant principal will decide on the appropriate consequence for the misbehavior. A parent/guardian will be notified by phone, in writing, e-mail, or personal conference.

Consideration will be given to:

- Nature of the misconduct
- Unusual circumstances
- Number of times the child has been sent to the office
- Repetition of the misconduct

Consequences may be any, or a combination of the following:

- Special assignments
- Restricted activities
- PAC (Personal Accountability Class)
- In-school counseling and/or firm reprimand by the principal/assistant principal
- Lowering of conduct grade
- Loss of privileges, including field trips, PBIS reward celebrations, assemblies, special school-wide evening events, etc.
- Parent conference with principal/assistant principal
- Time out or isolation
- In-school restriction
- Parent required to take child home for the rest of the day
- Suspension from school (If a child is suspended more than one time during the year, the period of suspension may be increased by one or more days.)

In the event a child has difficulty maintaining appropriate behavior, every effort will be made to develop a program to help the child experience success. The principal/assistant principal, parents and other specialists (such as the PAC teacher, behavior interventionists, etc.) will meet to discuss possible options.

Breakfast, Lunch, Snacks, & Gum

Breakfast and lunch are served daily. (Only breakfast is served on days in which students are dismissed at 11:15). Menus with breakfast and lunch choices are sent home monthly. Students must arrive no later than 7:35 in order to receive breakfast. Students need to be in their classrooms by 7:45.

All students will receive free breakfast and lunch for 24-25 school year. www.lunchapplication.com

In the upcoming school year, the cost ice cream will be as follows:

Ice cream \$1.00

On occasion, special holiday lunches are served. Please make sure you R.S.V.P in advance if you are planning to join your child for lunch. Water bottles are permitted, but may only contain water.

Chewing gum is prohibited.

Bullying Definition, Reporting and Response

Acts of harassment, intimidation, bullying and cyber-bullying are prohibited at Mount Olive Elementary and are taken very seriously. Mount Olive follows Board Policy <u>J-211</u>. Please read the following excerpts from the board policy:

Knox County Schools prohibits acts of harassment, intimidation, bullying and cyberbullying. A safe and courteous environment in school is necessary for students to learn and achieve. Harassment, intimidation or bullying, like other disruptive or violent behaviors, is conduct that disrupts both a student's ability to learn and a school's ability to educate students in a safe and orderly environment; and since students learn by example, administrators, faculty, staff and volunteers should be positive role models in demonstrating appropriate behavior, treating others with civility and respect, and refusing to tolerate harassment, intimidation or bullying. All Knox County Schools teachers and administrative personnel are responsible for ensuring this policy is faithfully implemented in all areas under their purview or direct supervision.

"Cyber-bullying" means bullying undertaken through the use of electronic devices;

"Electronic devices" include, but are not limited to, telephones, cellular phones or other wireless telecommunication devices, personal digital assistants (PDAs), computers, electronic mail, instant messaging, text messaging, and web sites;

Bullying Definition

- 1. Per the Board Policy J-211, "Harassment, intimidation or bullying" means any act that substantially interferes with a student's educational benefits, opportunities or performance; and:
 - a. If the act takes place on school grounds, at any school-sponsored activity, on school-provided equipment or transportation or at any official school bus stop, the act has the effect of:
 - i. Physically harming a student or damaging a student's property:
 - ii. Knowingly placing a student or students in reasonable fear of physical harm to the student or damage to the student's property;
 - iii. Causing emotional distress to a student or students; or
 - iv. Creating a hostile educational environment; or

- b. If the act takes place off school property or outside of a school-sponsored activity, it is directed specifically at a student or students and has the effect of creating a hostile educational environment or otherwise creating a substantial disruption to the education environment or learning process.
- 2. All students are expected to refrain from acts of harassment, intimidation and bullying or cyber-bullying in any form and to be aware that such disciplinary measures as are appropriately assigned in Board policy J-191 will be utilized for the unacceptable behavior described above.

Reporting and Response

- Students who feel they are being harassed, bullied or intimidated may report
 this concern to any teacher or school administrator or the office of the
 Superintendent using any means of communication with which they feel
 comfortable. Students may report anonymously, and anonymous reports will be
 treated with the same level of urgency as all other reports.
- All school employees are required to report alleged violations of this policy to the principal or the principal's designee for investigation and appropriate action. Submission of a written incident report to the principal is required by all district employees. Oral reports will also be considered official reports. Reports may be made anonymously, but formal disciplinary action may not be based solely on the basis of an anonymous report.
- Once a report is received, the principal or his or her designee must initiate an investigation within forty-eight (48) hours for student well-being unless the need for additional time is appropriately documented. An appropriate intervention must be initiated within twenty (20) calendar days from the receipt of the report unless the need for more time is appropriately documented. Parents of all students must be immediately informed if their student is involved in an act of harassment, intimidation, bullying or cyber-bullying. Restorative practices will be used to the extent practicable in those schools where training has been completed.
- This is only an excerpt from the district Bullying Policy with pertinent information. To see the full Board Policy J-211. please visit https://www.knoxschools.org/ and go to the Board of Education page and click Board Policies on the left-hand side.

Bus Transportation

Bus transportation is provided to children who reside in the Mount Olive zone and live at least one (1) mile from school. Bus riders are expected to follow the rules and regulations regarding safety and behavior on the bus and at bus stop locations. Riding a bus is a privilege that can be revoked if a student chooses to break any bus rules or regulations.

In order to ensure the safety of all students, those students being transported by bus are under the authority of their bus driver and must obey his/her requests. Knox County Board of Education policy states that the school bus is an extension of school

activity; therefore, students must understand that the bus is an extension of the school and they must conduct themselves on the bus in a manner consistent with the established standards for safety and classroom behavior. More specifically, students must follow the official Knox County bus rules as listed below:

Bus Rules:

- 1. Obey the bus driver.
- 2. Follow the bus driver's first request.
- 3. The bus driver is authorized to assign seats.
- 4. No loud, rude, abusive, or profane language.
- 5. No eating or drinking allowed.
- 6. Keep the bus clean.
- 7. Keep hands and head inside the bus.
- 8. Never throw objects inside or out of the bus windows.
- 9. Possession and/or use of tobacco, alcohol, or drugs are prohibited in any form.
- 10. Parents will be financially responsible for any act of vandalism.

The principal of the student transported shall be informed by the bus driver of any serious discipline problem and may be called upon to assist if necessary.

A student may be denied the privilege of riding the bus if the principal determines that his/her behavior is such as to cause a disruption on the bus, or if he/she disobeys state or local rules and regulations pertaining to student transportation. The suspension of a student from riding the school bus shall follow the same procedures as for any other school suspension.

Permission to ride a bus other than the one that your child is assigned can only be granted by the principal and approved by the bus driver. The parent must make the request in the form of a written note. The request must be signed by the principal and presented to the bus driver before the student can ride a different bus.

Any time a child goes home in a manner that is different from his/her regular way, a written note is required. A note must be given to the teacher when the child first arrives. The teacher will send the note to the office and the office staff will verify the note by calling the parent. This will help to alleviate any confusion at the end of the day.

Care of School Property

It is the students' responsibility to take care of Mount Olive's facility and equipment. Any student who misuses, damages or destroys school property will be required to replace or repair, if possible, the item. This includes, but is not limited to, textbooks, furniture, computer equipment, school building and grounds. Students not replacing or paying for missing textbooks or library books will not be issued additional books or receive report cards until missing books have been returned or paid for. With the recent issue of Chromebooks to individual students, it is imperative that students take

good care of the devices. Below is a list of expectations when using the KCS issued Chromebooks:

- No eating or drinking while using the Chromebook
- Keep the Chromebook wiped clean
- Check the device before closing the lid to make sure there are no items that can get caught between the keyboard and screen
- Carry your Chromebook in a backpack or padded computer bag.
- At night, store the Chromebooks away from students' bedrooms to avoid student use late at night
- Use school and district approved Web sites only; History can and will be checked by KCS employees

Student Internet Safety / Chromebook Use

Students will receive instruction in the safe and responsible use of the internet as part of any instruction using devices that provide access to the Internet. Internet Safety instruction for students will include but not limited to appropriate online behavior, interaction with others while using social networking websites or chat rooms, and awareness of the impact and consequences of cyber-bullying. Students must abide by all laws, the Acceptable Use Policy, and all district security policies when using the district network.

Car Riders and Traffic

For the safety of our children, all car riders will be issued **two car tags per family**. The car tag will need to be displayed on the rear-view mirror only, in order for the name to be easily visible during dismissal. If you or your designee forget the car tag, you will need to park and come into the office with picture identification in order to sign your child out. Once the office staff or SRO have verified you or your designee as someone on the approved pick up list, your child will be released. If you need more than two car tags, please write a note to your child's teacher and we will provide the number requested. If you ever share a car tag with someone, please make sure they are listed on the student's emergency/profile sheet.

During dismissal, help us keep our students safe by keeping traffic in one single lane. Our car rider name caller will look for your car tag and call your child's name and direct you to the proper numbered cone. It is extremely important that you pull all the way up to the correct numbered cone in front of the school so that we can load multiple cars at one time. Students will dismiss from inside and will be directed to the cone that was called on the walkie talkie. Do not park in front of the building as this creates a backup in the traffic and is a safety concern for the students.

During morning and afternoon loading and unloading, you must exit the campus on to Maryville Pike. Do not cut back into the flow of traffic in the parking lot to go to

Maloney Road. Remember that the drive on to Maloney Road is one-way and is an exit for the campus during non-peak traffic times and it is not an entrance to the campus.

Civility

According to the <u>Board Policy B-230</u>, it is the intent of Mount Olive Elementary to promote mutual respect, civility and orderly conduct among employees, parents and the general public. This policy provides rules of conduct that both permit and encourage participation in school activities and communication between parents, community members and school employees. This policy also identifies those behaviors that are considered inappropriate and disruptive to the operation of a school or other school district facility.

Students, faculty, staff, parents, guardians and all other members of the community shall:

- 1. Treat one another with courtesy and respect at all times.
- 2. Take responsibility for one's actions.
- 3. Be cooperative, to the greatest extent possible, toward one another and in solving problems based on what is in the best interest of students.
- 4. Refrain from behavior that threatens or attempts to disrupt school or school district operations; physically harms someone; intentionally causes damage; employs loud or offensive language, gestures, or profanity; or inappropriately shows a display of temper.

Any individual who: (1) disrupts, threatens, attempts to do, or does physical harm to school personnel, students, others lawfully on school premises; (2) intentionally causes damage to school property; (3) uses loud, vulgar, obscene, or offensive language, or enters a part of the school not open to the public, may be directed to leave the school property by the school administration or designee. If the person refuses to leave the premises as directed, the administration or designee shall seek the assistance of the school security officer and request that he/she take action as necessary. If the offender threatens personal harm, the administration or designee shall contact law enforcement officers. If any school employee receives written communication, an email, or voice message which is abusive, threatening, or obscene, the employee is not obligated to respond to the written communication, email, or return the telephone call.

Classroom Concerns

If you have a concern about your child's grade or a situation that has occurred in the classroom, please contact the teacher before going to the principal or assistant principal. The teacher will be the most informed about the situation and be able to inform you to a greater extent. The principals welcome the opportunity to hear your concern, but in order to facilitate great teacher/parent partnerships, it is only fair that the teacher has an opportunity to listen to and address your concern before bringing the concern to the principal.

Dress Code

The standards for elementary school dress reflect common sense and a concern for each child's comfort, safety, cleanliness, and a sense of modesty. There is a strong relationship between neat, appropriate attire and a positive learning environment. To help create the best learning environment for elementary students, the following standards for student dress must be observed in all Knox County Elementary Schools:

- 1. Pants must not sag below the waist and must be at a safe length.
- 2. Head apparel, except for religious or medical reasons, must not be worn inside the school building. Hoodies may not be worn over a student's head. Hats and caps are not permitted unless there has been a designated privilege or reward given to individuals or classrooms (Ex. "hat day").
- 3. Footwear is required and must be safe and appropriate for indoor and outdoor physical activity. (Since the students go outside to play each day, it would be helpful if the students wore tennis shoes every day to school.) We respectfully request that all students wear tennis shoes to school every day. They have physical education class every fourth day and generally go outside to play for a short time every day. Tennis shoes are the safest shoes for all school functions.
- 4. Clothing or accessories may not display offensive, vulgar language or images and must not advertise products, which students may not legally purchase.
- 5. "Short shorts", miniskirts, and skin-tight outer materials such as spandex are inappropriate attire.
- 6. Shirts, blouses, and dresses must completely cover the abdomen, back, and shoulders, and shirts or tops must cover the waistband of pants, shorts, or skirts with no midriff visible.

Per board policy, the school administration reserves the right to determine whether the student's attire and appearance are within acceptable limits. In matters of opinion, the judgment of the principal/designee shall prevail.

The principal may allow exceptions for school-wide programs or special classroom activities.

The teachers and the principal will administer appropriate consequences for policy infractions.

Emergency Drills

The safety of your child is our greatest concern. The school holds regular safety drills to teach students to respond calmly in the event of an emergency. An emergency drill is a sequence of actions that the staff practices several times throughout the year with students so that everyone will know what to do in the event of a real emergency at our school. Detailed evacuation plans are posted inside the door of each classroom. Each classroom has an escape route to an outside area and away from the building. Please know if you are visiting our school during any of these drills, you are responsible for

following protocol for that particular drill. You will not be allowed to leave the building until the drill is over.

Enrollment Requirements

Every student who enters the Knox County School System for the first time or who is reentering after being in another school system must provide the school with the following information before being enrolled:

- **1.** An up-to-date immunization record completed by a physician on a Tennessee Child Health Record
- **2.** A completed physical examination completed by a physician on a Tennessee Child Health Record
- 3. Birth Certificate
- **4.** Social Security Card
- 5. <u>Proof of Residency.</u> (Must Be accurate and is subject to confirmation by Social Worker)

Students will not be enrolled without these items.

Field Trips

Educational field trips are planned to provide experiences correlated with subjects studied in the classroom. Students must demonstrate appropriate behavior while away from the school building during these learning experiences. They must demonstrate self-discipline, good character and act in a safe manner while away from school. If a student's behavior indicates that he/she is unable to follow the teacher's directions and act in a safe manner during the nine-week period that the field trip occurs, the student may not be allowed to take part in the field trip opportunity. It is our desire that all students be a part of these learning opportunities, so please encourage your child to demonstrate appropriate behavior at school.

When an out-of-school field trip is taken, your child will bring home a permission form with the destination and date of the field trip. The form will require your signature and must be returned to school. Failure to return the permission slip will prohibit your child from attending the scheduled trip. No verbal permissions will be granted by phone calls to allow attendance at a field trip. For special circumstances, the admin may allow an email to be sent directly to the admin from the parent/guardian giving permission to attend a field trip to be accepted as a permission form. This will be done on a case-bycase basis.

Chaperoning Field Trips or School Events

Field trips are great opportunities for parents to be involved in their child's classroom education. If a field trip requires parent chaperones, please remember it will be your responsibility to help supervise a small group of students, help supervise all students, and/or to assist the teacher in any way he/she needs. For this reason, siblings are not allowed to attend field trips, or any other school function that requires a chaperone.

We require all field trip chaperones to undergo a KCS background check. Per <u>district policy I-260</u>, chaperones that will have direct contact with students under limited supervision by school staff or will have unsupervised contact with students on or off campus <u>will need to complete a background check through Knox County</u>. Please call the Mount Olive office in order to obtain information re: the link to the background check form.

NEW! Please be aware that, as a parent or guardian who has not undergone a background check, you are not permitted to chaperone groups of kids or help with other students if, as a parent or guardian you choose to attend a school-sponsored event in a public setting to which you arrive to without school personal's prior knowledge. While on the trip, you are free to help your own child, but you are not permitted to help in any way with any other children.

Friday Folders

School-wide information will be sent home in weekly Friday folders. However, a lot of teachers send home daily folders as a means of communication (behavior, student work, etc.)

Please check your child's backpack each day for newsletters, homework, etc.

**Please contact the teacher if you need to send any documentation back to school with your child in their folders or backpacks to confirm that the teacher received it.

Elementary students are young and still learning responsibility, so they may not always remember to give documents to their teacher. Teachers have several students and cannot check every student's backpack or folder daily.

Grading Scale

The elementary grading period consists of a nine-weeks format. There are four nine week grading periods in a school year. Report cards are to be sent home no later than ten days after a grading period ends. Each elementary school will also send home a comprehensive interim report for each child at the halfway point of each grading period, ensuring that parents can monitor their child's performance on a monthly basis.

The Report Card

The report card in Grades K-5 will be issued by the school for each of the four nine-week grading periods. These grading periods are defined by the Knox County Schools annual system-wide school calendar.

Kindergarten Proficiency Levels

ME = Meets Expectations

DE = Developing Understanding of Expectations

LE = Limited Understanding of Expectations

Grades 1-2 Academics

The grade scale for Reading, Writing, Art, Mathematics, Music, Social Studies, ELL, Physical Education, Science:

E (Excellent) = 93-100

S (Satisfactory) = 92-75

N (Needs Improvement) = 74 and below

Work Habits (1-5)

E (Excellent) = 93-100

S (Satisfactory) = 92-75

N (Needs Improvement) = 74 and below

Behavior/Conduct (1-5)

A, B, C, D, and U

A = Excellent = 93-100

B = Good = 85-92

 \mathbf{C} = Average = 75-84

D = Below Average = 70-74

U = Unsatisfactory = Below 70

Grades 3-5 Academics

The Grade Scale for Reading, Language/Writing, Art, Mathematics, Music, Social Studies, ELL, Physical Education, Science, and Behavior.

A, B, C, D, and U

A = Excellent = 93-100

B = Good = 85-92

C = Average = 75-84

D = Below Average = 70-74

U = Unsatisfactory = Below 70

Hours

The school day begins promptly at 7:45 a.m. and ends at 2:45 p.m. for all students in grades kindergarten through five. The school building will be open each morning at 7:10 a.m. for students to enter the building. Supervision of students is not possible before 7:10 a.m. so please make sure that students are never dropped off before this time. Breakfast will be served from 7:10 a.m. to 7:35 a.m. Students who are not eating breakfast will wait in their designated areas until 7:35 a.m. and excepted to read quietly. All students should be in their homerooms by no later than 7:45 a.m.

- Scheduled Early Release Day hours will be 7:45-12:30 p.m.
- ½ day hours will be 7:45-11:15 a.m.

Invitations

We respectfully ask that when planning a birthday party outside of school, students do NOT distribute birthday invitations at school unless every child in the classroom is invited. Passing invitations out to only a few students in the class can create hurt feelings that may become a class issue. It also creates a disruption to teaching. The school is also not allowed to give students' or parents' addresses in order to mail invitations to certain students. Thank you for cooperating with these procedures.

Knox County School's Home Page

The home page address for Knox County Schools is: http://knoxschools.org. Mount Olive Elementary School's home page address is: https://www.knoxschools.org/mountolivees

Medication Policy

If it becomes necessary for a student to take any form of medication at school, the medicine and a medical form signed by a doctor must be presented to the office by an adult. The parent or guardian must fill out the form along with the physician that is prescribing the medication. All medication will be kept in and dispensed through the main office. Medical forms are available in the school office. Medication may not be transported by students at any given time.

Prescriptions or over-the-counter medicines should never be sent to school with a student. Knox County Schools forbids students to be in possession of any form of medication. All medication must be brought to school by a parent in the container and/or box received from the pharmacy. We are not allowed to dispense any medication unless the guidelines are followed correctly. See board policies J350 and J352 re: the administration of medications.

Money at School

When making checks out to the school, cafeteria, PTO, etc., please include your child's name somewhere on the check. Please do not combine fees, lunch money or other items when writing a check. This makes it difficult for the teacher and also for bookkeeping purposes.

Sometimes students wish to bring cash to school for specific purposes. All students should place their money in an envelope with their name, teacher's name, the amount enclosed and its purpose. Neither the teacher nor the school can be responsible for lost or misplaced money.

<u>Nurse</u>

A school nurse will be at our school on a full-time basis. If you need to contact her, please call the school office at 865-579-2170.

Parent Portal

Students and parents can access students' grades, schedules and other information through the parent portal, an online student information system at knoxschools.org. Parents that do not have a Parent Portal account should have received an email in the past with a security code for access to this service. Parent accounts for newly enrolled students will have a Parent Portal security code emailed within one week of registration.

Once you have received your security code, you should be able to follow the simple instructions attached to the email to create your Parent Portal account.

After your account is created:

- Visit knoxschools.org, and click on "Popular Links."
- Click on "Family Portal"
- Log in using your username and the password that you created.

Helpful hints if you have forgotten or misplaced you Parent/Family Portal login:

- If you have forgotten your PASSWORD, you may click on the Link for "I forgot my password".
- You will need your LOGIN ID and the email address that you have given the school in your contact information.
- Both the LOGIN ID and PASSWORD field are case sensitive. Most email addresses were originally entered in UPPERCASE.

Once you have logged in successfully, click on the PAGES top tab and look for the "PUBLISHED REPORTS" section. There will be a .pdf report with a schedule for each student in your family.

If you *cannot find* your LOGIN ID that was issued to you by the school (in previous years), you may do one of the following.

- Email helpdesk@knoxschools.org. Please be patient and do not email more than once. Emails are being answered in the order received and sending the same request multiple times is only making the wait time longer.
- You may also contact your child's school to obtain your LOGIN ID.

You will need to provide the following to verify your identity when calling the school:

Student Name

Student Date of Birth

Parent email address

- Parent name
- Names and birthdates of students to be joined together

Parking

There are reserved visitor, handicap, and staff parking places in the upper parking lot. Additional parking is also available in the lower lot. There are steps leading up the hill to the front of the school. On rare occasions when the parking lots are full, Mount Olive Baptist Church (across Maryville Pike) will allow us to use their parking lot. Please do not park in the fire lanes along the right side of the hill, in front of the building, and beside the dumpsters.

Parties

School parties are planned for pupils by parents, with the approval of the teacher and principal. Classrooms are allowed **ONE** party per semester. **Birthday parties are not permitted, nor are birthday treats allowed to be distributed in the cafeteria.** Current nutrition guidelines approved by the Knox County School Board must be followed. For a complete list of approved snacks for school parties please use the following link https://goo.gl/BoHNge. Due to potential food allergies of students in classrooms, home-made items are NOT acceptable for parties or distribution. Parents may only send in **pre-packaged items with a visible ingredient list**, which will be checked by school personnel before being distributed to students. All food items sent in must be sent in at least one day prior to the party for screening.

Peanut Allergies

We have several children in our building who are allergic to various foods. Those with allergic reactions to peanut/nut products seem to have the highest levels of sensitivity. We ask for your help in providing a safe environment for these children. Please do NOT send snacks containing peanuts or peanut products for your child's class. If you do send a product in your child's lunch containing a peanut product, please send a note to your child's teacher so that we can take the necessary precautions. The Mount Olive Cafeteria does NOT currently serve peanut products. We appreciate your cooperation for the safety and care of all children.

Personal Property

Personal belongings should be clearly marked with the student's name. Lost and found items may be brought to the office by students and we will make every effort to find the owner. If parents will call and let us know when items are lost, we will try to find the items. Anything not needed for class should be left at home. Cameras, radios, candy, gum, electronic games, angel watches, and toys of any kind should not be brought to school unless the teacher gives permission for these to be brought to class. Fireworks, firearms, knives, tobacco of all types, alcohol and illegal drugs are illegal on school property and possession will result in serious consequences. Cell phones and SMART watches may be brought and kept in backpacks only. Students are NOT permitted to use cell phones or SMART watches at any time during the school day. Phone calls home may occur with staff permission from the school office. Unauthorized use of personal cell phones or watches during the school day without permission may result in immediate consequences.

KCS Board Policy: PERSONAL COMMUNICATION DEVICES (PCDs) Use by students in grades Pre-K-5

Students may possess PCDs while on school property. (Example: cell phone) However, the PCD must be in the off mode and must be kept in a backpack, purse, or similar personal carry-all and may not be used unless the principal or the principal's designee grants a student permission to do so. The principal or the principal's designee may specifically grant permission for a student to use a PCD during class time for a specific academic purpose or at other times for other purposes that the principal deems appropriate.

PTO

The Mount Olive School Parent Teacher Organization is a very important part of our school program. Our PTO has worked very hard to provide computer equipment, playground structures, and much more for our students. We encourage all parents to become members and to actively participate in **our PTO**. It is crucial that teachers and parents work together for all students to have a successful educational experience.

Public Notice

The Knox County School System affirms that it will comply with Title IX of the Educational Amendment of 1972, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, Title II of the Genetic Information Nondiscrimination Act of 2008, Title IV and Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, and Age Discrimination Act in Employment Act of 1967.

No person shall, on the ground of race, color, national origin, sex, genetics, religion, age, disability or veteran status, be excluded from participation in, be denied, the benefits of, or subjected to discrimination under any program or activity receiving Federal financial assistance or be subjected to discrimination in employment opportunities or benefits.

Anyone who believes that Knox County School System has discriminated against them or another individual may file a complaint. Knox County Schools has designated the following people to handle such grievances to comply with the law. Student complaints of discrimination on the basis of disability under the IDEIA should be directed to the Director of Special Education, Room 909 of the Andrew Johnson Building, telephone number (865) 594-1540. All other complaints of discrimination on the basis of disability, sex, race, color, religion, national origin, age, genetics or veteran status should call Title VI, Title IX and ADA and OCR Coordinator, Room 1612B of the Andrew Johnson Building, telephone (865)-594-1686 and/or

Title VI Coordinator Tennessee Department of Education and/or The Office for Civil Rights, U.S. Department of Education, P.O. Box 2048, 04-3010, Atlanta, Georgia, 30301-2048.

Report Cards Distribution & Home/School Communication

Report cards are sent home every nine weeks within two weeks of the end of the grading period. Interim reports will be sent out within one week of the end of the 4-½ week point in the grading period. Interim reports and report cards should be signed by the parent/guardian and returned to school promptly.

Parent conferences are scheduled during the first nine weeks of school and at any other time the teacher or parent deems necessary. Parent conferences are encouraged and can be arranged at any time during the school year by sending a note to the teacher or calling the school office.

Please look for information (school-wide notices, graded papers, report cards, etc.) that will be sent home with your child. Teachers will regularly communicate with parents to keep them informed of the curriculum and various activities in the classroom.

*For a more detailed description of report card grades, please visit the section titled KCS GRADING SCALE above.

School Closing Due to Inclement Weather

Decisions to close school because of inclement weather or a disaster are made by the Knox County School System. Please do not call the school to find out if school is to be closed or dismissed early due to snow, ice, or other disasters. Local television and radio stations will broadcast school closings or early dismissal information as soon as the decisions are made. If school is delayed one hour, we will not have a teacher on duty at the regular time. The school will open one hour later and we will have someone at that time to monitor the students.

School Messages / District messages

Parent Square is the communication system that is being used by Knox County Schools. We will use the same system as a means of sharing pertinent information from Mount Olive. Mount Olive will use Parent Square to communicate and give reminders of important events and deadlines. This system is critical in providing information to parents both quickly and efficiently. It also serves as an effective tool for you to communicate & interact with us when you have comments or follow up questions about announcements. All families should opt in to this system in order to receive timely school messages. You can go to the Knox County Schools Parent Square page for additional information. https://www.knoxschools.org/parentsquare
You can download the free Parent Square mobile app for iOS, Android, or use the desktop version at parentsquare.com. You can even set your Parent Square preferences to suit how and when you are notified. We hope that this form of communication will be an effective tool to help keep you informed of events and important information throughout the school year.

Special Education Services

Knox County Schools offer Special Education Services to students upon qualification. We encourage you to contact the school about any special needs your child might have.

Student Information

It is imperative that the school office be notified immediately of a change of address, cell phone, home or office telephone number, or emergency information. In order to change information on an emergency card, such as who is able to pick up your child, you must come into the office. We cannot change any information on the card over the phone.

Tardiness and Early Dismissal

A student arriving later than 7:45 a.m. is considered tardy and must sign in at the office to receive a tardy note. A parent must accompany the child to sign in when arriving later than 7:45 a.m. If no reason is given for the late arrival, the tardy will automatically be designated unexcused. Upon late arrival, a student will receive a tardy slip, which he/she must have when entering the classroom. **Students will not be admitted to class late without the tardy note**. Tardiness and "early check-outs," before 11:15 AM, will also affect students' eligibility for Perfect Attendance awards, given out each nine weeks with the report cards. Students eating breakfast must arrive no later than 7:35 in order to eat and arrive in their classrooms by 7:45.

- No more than two tardies are allowed per nine-week period to be considered for perfect attendance.

No Early Dismissals After 2:15

Children should be in school every day until dismissal time. When a child leaves class early, this disruption affects both the student and classroom. Due to safety concerns and the potential for mistakes to occur with dismissal protocol, parents will NOT be permitted to check out their child after 2:15 p.m. This is a common rule across Knox County elementary schools and will be enforced. If there is a family emergency that requires your child to be checked out that close to dismissal, it must be approved by an administrator.

Before 2:15 Dismissals: If your child has to be checked out before 2:15 p.m., the parent or legal guardian must come to the school to document the time and the reason the child is leaving. Parents/legal guardians must present a picture ID. If someone other than the parent or legal guardian is picking your child up, there must be a note to document such. *Text messages on apps such as Remind or Class Dojo are NOT acceptable means of communication re: transportation changes. The office must receive hard copy notes. Make sure that other adults who may pick up your child are on the emergency cards and have a picture ID. **We will not allow anyone not listed on the emergency card to pick up your child without parental permission and a picture ID**. This is for your child's safety.

Try to schedule medical or personal appointments after school hours. Late arrivals and early dismissal times are recorded and reported to the state.

Tobacco Policy

Public Law 103-227 states that there can no longer be designated smoking areas in any public school building. Smoking is not allowed on campus. This includes the car rider line. There is a fine of up to \$1,000 for each violation. Likewise, vaping is not allowed on school campus. Adults are role models for children, and all of us need to set a good example for them.

Telephone

The office telephone should not be used for personal calls. Please try to make arrangements with your child regarding any dismissal or transportation changes before he/she leaves home. School office telephone number is 865-579-2170. Our FAX number is 865-579-2175.

Unsafe School Choice Policy

Under the Tennessee State board of Education's Unsafe School Choice Policy, any public school student who is the victim of a violent crime as defined under Tennessee Code Annotated 40-38-11(g), or the attempt to commit one of these offenses as defined under Tennessee Code Annotated 39-12-101, shall be provided an opportunity to transfer to another grade-level appropriate school within the district. Additional information regarding this option may be obtained by contacting Brian Hartsell at 594-1502.

Visitors

Parents and visitors are always welcome at Mount Olive. For the safety and welfare of the students, all visitors **must sign in** at the school office with photo ID and receive a visitor badge. Conferences should be scheduled in advance with the teacher. Classroom instructional time is important and interruptions diminish the quality of the lesson. You may contact your child's teacher to check on volunteer opportunities. We welcome your presence and support. While on school grounds, taking photos of students, other than your child, is prohibited.

Volunteers

We need your help! There are many opportunities for parents to volunteer at Mount Olive Elementary School. Please watch for information in school and PTO newsletters throughout the year for ways to become involved. **Depending on the type of volunteer activity proposed, volunteers may be required to submit to a background check.** These are managed by the Knox County Schools Public Affairs Office at no cost. If you have additional questions, please consult the office staff or ask for a background check request information link. Once approved, the background check is valid for 6 years.

*In order to volunteer in the Knox County Schools, an individual must:

 Sign a confidentiality agreement to protect the rights of students and parents

- Sign in and out each time they visit a school
- Appear clean, neat, and appropriately attired
- Wear an identification tag at all times while on school grounds
- Work with students in areas designated by school staff
- Only provide food or drink to a student if authorized by the student's teacher or principal

All volunteers <u>MUST</u> undergo a KCS background check. Per <u>district policy I-260</u>, any volunteer that will have direct contact with students under limited supervision by school staff or will have unsupervised contact with students on or off campus <u>will need to complete a background check through Knox County</u>. Please call the Mount Olive office in order to obtain the KCS background check information.

Withdrawing a Student

When withdrawing a student from school, please notify the school office several days in advance. This will enable teachers to complete all records prior to the student's last day in school. A student's records will only be forwarded to the new school when all textbooks and library books are returned and all outstanding fees are paid. Please contact the cafeteria manager to close out your child's lunch account. If the student is transferring to another Knox County school, the account can be transferred to that particular school.

Mount Olive Elementary School

2507 Maryville Pike Knoxville, Tennessee 37920 Telephone: 865-579-2170 Fax: 865-579-2175

Dr. Robert Angel,	Ed.S,	D.Th
Principal		

Kilie Pennington Assistant Principal

Dear	Parents
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Thank you for taking the time to read the Mount Olive Parent and Student Handbook. I ask that you and your student please sign below to let us know that you have read and reviewed the handbook together. We are extremely excited about the 2024-25 school year and encourage you to let us know if you have any questions. We look forward to partnering with you this school year!

Sincerely,

Dr. Robert Angel Ed.S. D.Th

A completed form is due to each student's teacher by the last day in August. Kindergarten students or later registering students: the form is due five days after your child's first full day of school.

We have reviewed the Mount Olive Parent-Student Handbook for 2023-24.

Please check, sign, and return. Thank you!

We have read the handbook and are familiar with the school's expectations and procedures.			
Student's Name	Teacher		
Parent/quardian signature	 Date		

The mission of Mount Olive Elementary School is to prepare each student to be a knowledgeable, responsible, and contributing citizen. Students' Mission: I will be responsible for making good choices, learning all I can, and being a good citizen today.