

STEM PROGRAM As a STEM-Certified school, we are seeking to enhance student's classroom learning by having them apply what they've learned to solve an authentic problem. One morning each week, we set aside 40 minutes for the purpose of extension activities and problem-based learning to enhance our academic standards. In this time, students will explore and research a variety of concepts such as flight, water scarcity, hurricane preparedness, etc. This is led by teachers but grows progressively student-directed as students narrow down their ideas. They will explore a problem and come up with solutions to solve the problem and work on projects around a theme. We'll also host guest speakers in this time, connect to career possibilities, and explore some projects that our students drive. It's a valuable time to apply the classroom learning across all disciplines. We are excited to offer STEM learning to ALL of the students at Dodgen! The kids have some incredible ideas, and it's exciting to see what they can come up with!

Welcome to Dodgen Middle School!

Our students' positive behavior and excellence in academics, along with our very strong parent and community support make Dodgen a truly wonderful school! Middle school can get a bad "rap," and it is the goal of every staff member at Dodgen that your children enjoy their three years here, that they feel connected, and they receive the foundation to be successful in high school and beyond!

Mission Statement

One Team, One Goal: Student Success

Vision Statement

Dodgen is a school of excellence where all students succeed.



We look forward to working together over the next three years! If you ever need assistance, please do not hesitate to reach out to either your grade level counselor or administrator. We are here to assist, and we know your middle school experience at Dodgen will be a positive one!

Visit our school website at www.cobbk12.org/Dodgen

Follow our school on Twitter @Dodgen_MS_Cobb

Like our Dodgen PTSA and Foundation page on Facebook



Parent Information Guide

1725 Bill Murdock Road

Marietta, GA 30062

Dr. Patricia Alford, Principal

**DODGEN MIDDLE SCHOOL
6th GRADE DAILY SCHEDULE
Monday—Friday**

8:50-9:13	Homeroom
9:15-10:07	1 Academics
10:10-11:02	2 Academics
11:05-12:35	3 Academics (Lunch)
12:38-1:30	4 Academics
1:33-2:25	5 Academics
2:30-3:22	6 Connections
3:25-4:15	7 Connections

SCHOOL HOURS Morning Tardy Bell – 9:05 AM Afternoon Dismissal – 4:15 PM
Morning Announcements begin at 9:05 AM

The school day is 8:45 am to 4:15 pm. The front office hours are 8:15 am to 4:45 pm. If students enter the building before 8:45 am, they must report to study hall. Students should not arrive before 8:15 am. Students may only leave campus before school dismissal when signed out by an authorized adult whose name appears on the registration form. All students should leave campus at dismissal unless they are attending a staff supervised activity after school. Supervision is not available after 4:15 PM for students not involved in an activity.

ARRIVAL When students arrive, they report to their homeroom class, which begins at 8:45 am. Students should be in homeroom by 9:05 AM. Attendance is taken and announcements are made at this time. If they are tardy, they must sign in the front office with either a parent present or a note.

EARLY DISMISSAL To check out early, send a note explaining the reason and stating the time for pick up. Students should bring this note to the front office upon arrival to receive a dismissal pass. Parents or guardians should be prepared to show proper ID at check-out. Only those individuals listed on the student’s registration form will be allowed to check out a student. Changes can not be made over the phone. For safety reasons and to minimize disruption to our academic time, there are no checkouts after 3:45 PM each day. You will need to check out either before 3:45 PM or wait until the regular 4:15 PM dismissal.

CARPPOOL We encourage students to ride the bus. It is the safest, most efficient way for your students to arrive to school and back home each day. However, when this is not possible, please utilize the carpool lane along the sidewalk in the front of the building only. Cars should not enter the bus drop-off area. The full carpool procedures are on our website. Please do not idle along the curb. If you arrive before you are ready to drop off your student, please park in a visitor’s space until you are ready. The carpool line gets backed up and cars cannot get out of the parking lot if the carpool line does not stay moving. Also be aware that staff have assigned parking, so please do not park in a numbered space.

PARENT-TEACHER CONFERENCES Cobb County School District holds one conference week each school year, during the month of October. The exact dates may be found on the Cobb County School District calendar at www.cobbk12.org Parents who desire additional conferences during the year should contact their child’s individual teachers or their grade level counselor. Parents are encouraged to contact teachers with questions or concerns about their student’s progress, grades, etc.

COMMUNICATION Cobb County School District uses a variety of methods to communicate with our parents: email, text messages, Twitter, website, etc.. Dodgen’s Administrative school-wide e-blasts and text messages are sent out by the Principal. We make every effort to keep these administrative emails limited to once per week, generally on Wednesday afternoons. Look for these important updates for information about events at Dodgen. In addition, our Dodgen’s PTSA sends out a weekly e-blast for parents. In order to receive this, parents must opt in by visiting the PTSA website at dodgenptsa.membershiptoolkit.com.

STUDENT DRESS CODE We want our students to be at school and in class, and we appreciate your support and cooperation with our student dress code. In accordance with Cobb County Dress Code Policy JCDB-R, students should observe a standard of grooming and dress consistent with the formality of the school situation. We believe students who maintain a high standard in appearance are more likely to achieve success. Required standard of dress for students:

- Wear appropriate shoes at all times.
- Shorts/skirts/dresses, regardless of gender, should be longer than mid-thigh.
- Leggings/jeggings/yoga pants may be worn with a shirt, dress, skirt, or shorts that are longer than mid-thigh.
- Tank tops and spaghetti strap tops are not permitted unless a jacket/sweater is worn at all times.
- Sheer (see-through) garments may not be worn, and low-cut or revealing necklines are not permitted. Cleavage must not show.
- Midriff shirt or crop tops are not permitted. When raised arms expose the student’s midriff, the top is not appropriate for school.
- All undergarments must be covered at all times.
- Clothing may not contain holes or fringes above mid-thigh or expose undergarments.
- All pants, shorts, and trousers must be at waist level, not sagging below the waistline.
- Bandanas, headwear/hats, hoods covering the head, sleepwear, slippers, and sunglasses are not permitted unless specified for a special activity or day.
- Clothing that displays, advertises, or promotes obscene slogans or signs, profanity, nudity, or any substance that is illegal for minors, such as alcohol, tobacco, etc., and any clothing or ornamentation that advocates, promotes or suggests illegal activity (including gang activity) is prohibited.

The administrative team is the final judge as to the appropriateness of the apparel and whether or not the apparel is in violation. If in doubt, students are encouraged to wear a different outfit.

LUNCH The students go to lunch with their class and sit together as a class at an assigned table. The cost of lunch is available at <https://www.cobbk12.org/foodservices>. Students may pay with cash or via an electronic account. Please note that any funds remaining in the elementary school accounts in Cobb County do carry over to middle school. If you would like to register for an online payment account, go to www.mypaymentsplus.com.

Restaurant food or drink is not allowed in the cafeteria. If you would like for your child to have this, you will need to check them out. For additional information about the nutrition standards or menus, please visit this website: www.cobbk12.org/centraloffice/foodservices. PLEASE NOTE: In middle school, parents and visitors are not able to eat lunch in the cafeteria with students. We simply do not have space to accommodate lunch guests.

HOMEWORK At the middle school level, homework does count toward a student's grades in each class. This is a difference between elementary and middle school. Homework is an extension of the skills introduced during the school day. The amount of homework will vary from class to class, but Math is generally assigned every night. Parents should expect to see homework. Homework can count no more than 15% of a student's total grade in a class.

LITERACY APPLICATIONS All students in 6th and 7th grades will take a "Lit Apps" class as part of their academic day. The administrative team determines the most appropriate class for each student based on each child's individual academic history. Lit Apps is offered in Writing, Reading, or Math and is designed to strengthen critical skills to promote success.

WORLD LANGUAGES In 8th Grade, students may have the opportunity to participate in a high school credit world language class. In order to qualify, students must demonstrate reading skills above grade level on the Iowa test in 7th grade.

BUS ROUTES For your child's bus number and route, go to the following website:
<http://www.cobbk12.org/centraloffice/transportation/busroutes.aspx>

If a student needs to ride another bus or to get on or off the bus at a different stop, he/she must have a parent note on the district's bus pass form giving them permission. The note must be turned in to the front office by 9:30 am, and it must include with whom your child is riding home, their bus number, and the bus stop. A permission slip signed by the principal's designee will be given to the student. This privilege depends on the amount of space on a bus. Notes can only be approved for one day, not for multiple days.

PTSA The Dodgen PTSA is a volunteer group of parents working to bring enrichment programs to our students and provide assistance to teachers and staff throughout the year. You will have several opportunities to become a member during Panther Day or other opening of school events. You may also go to dodgenptsa.membershiptoolkit.com to join. The PTSA sends weekly blasts each Sunday to keep you up-to-date about school events. Sign up for the E-News at dodgenptsa.membershiptoolkit.com.

DODGEN FOUNDATION The Dodgen Foundation is a volunteer group of parents who work to raise and utilize funds that positively support instruction and innovation at Dodgen. You will have several opportunities to donate to the Foundation and be recognized on our donor wall. Company matching is also encouraged for your donations. For more information, please visit dodgenfoundation.com.

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES Your middle school student still needs you to be involved! We have MANY ways for you to be involved. PTSA, Committees, School Socials, field trips, Front Office volunteers, Copy Lab, etc. Ask us how—and we'll get you involved!!!

THE MIDDLE SCHOOL STUDENT All children develop differently, but you may notice this following traits as your child attends sixth grade

- Wants to be together in groups or teams
- Has the patience to work toward short term goals
- Forms cliques and friendships with same-gender and age group
- Seeks status by excelling in skills and knowledge of "grown up" topics
- Is competitive in team and individual activities
- Has a growing concern with physical size and appearance
- Likes to make, do, and collect things
- Boys and girls can work and socialize in programs together where they share responsibilities
- Enjoy being mischievous and daring
- Begins to share less information with parents and demonstrate increased independence

WHAT TO EXPECT AT THE BEGINNING OF SIXTH GRADE

- During the first few weeks of school, it's our goal to help your child make the adjustment from elementary to middle school. Your students will encounter many new experiences including class changes, locker rooms, gym clothes, and schedule rotations. We will be there to help them with these changes.
- There will be multiple academic teachers assigned to your student. The classroom areas are designated by grade. All grade levels have a specific zone in the building so that students are with their same-age peers. The determination of which teachers are assigned to students is a random process completed by our computer scheduling program.
- Students are not able to switch teachers, or classes once the school year is in progress. As professional educators, we are confident any conflict between a student, parent, or teacher can be satisfactorily resolved without the need for a schedule change. Part of our task of educating students is to teach them resilience and the ability to deal with their concerns in a spirit of cooperation to resolve the matter in a positive way.
- Your student will have a schedule to follow which will be given to them by their homeroom teacher on the first day of school. It can also be viewed in ParentVUE/StudentVUE a few days prior to the first day. Students will receive their schedule on Panther Day.
- Students are assigned lockers in the music classrooms for their instruments if they choose to participate in band or orchestra. All students who participate in Physical Education will be assigned a PE locker to secure belongings during PE. Students are expected to "dress out" for PE daily. PE teachers provide expectations for PE clothing.
- Students are no longer assigned lockers in the academic hallways. All textbooks are online and physical copies are stored in the classrooms. Therefore, students may carry backpacks to all classes. We have found this has truly enhanced student organization and preparation.

CLUBS AND ORGANIZATIONS Various clubs and activities are offered each year. See the Dodgen website for a list of current clubs, sponsors, and meeting times. Some of the clubs that have been offered are Math Team, Science Olympiad, FCA, Academic Bowl, Awareness Club, etc. These vary from year to year.

INTRAMURALS This is a morning physical activity offered on Monday—Thursday mornings from 8:15 AM—8:50 AM. In order to participate, students must arrive by 8:20AM. Look for information about intramurals in the hallway near the gym and on the morning and scrolling announcements. It typically starts soon after the school year begins.

SCHOOL COUNSELORS The counseling department provides support to help students have a positive school day. While they are not therapists, they can offer support in the following areas: social, academic, and career. Contact info is available on the Dodgen website.

FULL-DAY ATTENDANCE Students must be present for 4 full academic class periods each day to be considered present for the day. Homeroom does not count as a class. A student may not participate in extra-curricular activities (music concerts, school dances, etc.) unless he/she is present for a full day. There is a daily time schedule in the front of your student's agenda. While it is subject to change at times to accommodate special school events or activities, please refer to this when scheduling appointments to minimize disruption to your students' class time as much as possible.

RETURNING TO SCHOOL AFTER AN ABSENCE A letter written by a parent/guardian or licensed physician must be presented to the Attendance Clerk on the day a student returns to school from an absence. There is also an option to provide a reason for the absence via CTLS parent. The statement should indicate the reason for the absence, the number of days absent, and the parent's signature. **Attendance records can be updated only within 3 days of the student's return to school after the absence.** Also, please note that it is the responsibility of the student to obtain any assignments missed during an absence. Assignments should be listed on CTLS for each class.

EXTENDED ABSENCES/REQUESTING MISSED WORK Work can be requested after a student has missed three (3) or more days of school. If a student misses less than three days, the work can be gathered upon his/her return or accessed from CTLS. A student has the same number of days to make up the missed assignments as they were absent. Work will not be gathered in advance for absences due to family trips, vacations, etc.

TRANSPORTATION ARRANGEMENTS For your child's safety, please make every effort to make arrangements for how your child is to leave school (car rider, bus rider, etc.) each day BEFORE your child arrives at school for the day. Last-minute changes are not always able to be communicated. If a change must be made mid-day, please call the front office for assistance and we can advise you.

HONOR ROLL Dodgen recognizes students with strong academic performance and satisfactory behavior. The Principal's Honor Roll recognizes those students with straight A's and all S's in conduct in a grading term. The Dodgen Honor Roll recognizes students with all A's and B's and all S's in conduct in a grading term.

BOOKBAGS Students are permitted to carry their bookbags to each class in all grade levels.

COBB TEACHING AND LEARNING SYSTEM – CTLS All teachers at Dodgen utilize CTLS to post assignments and class updates and to communicate with parents. This is updated regularly with class work and homework assignments. Parents are also provided CTLS Parent access and are encouraged to utilize these resources to monitor progress.

ACADEMIC DAY Students have seven (7) class periods during the school day. Five are academic, which are each approximately 55 minutes long. The other two classes are connections classes, which are a combination of the following: Band, Orchestra, Chorus, Physical Education, Art, Health, Project Lead the Way, and Theater/Broadcasting.

MUSIC PROGRAMS At the start of the sixth grade year, all 6th grade students have the opportunity to experience band, orchestra, and chorus to determine if these programs are of interest to them. Students are not expected to know what program or instrument they may select before school starts in August. They will make their decision after trying all options. Parents will receive information from the music departments after school starts, but you can visit the program websites for information over the summer. Parent permission and consent is required for students to participate in music programs. We hope that all of our sixth graders will participate in one of our outstanding programs. If a student does not start in the 6th grade, it may not be possible later.

CONNECTIONS Middle school students do not have electives, which means they do not select connections courses. The purpose of middle school connections is to expose students to a range of varied experiences (art, music, health, computer science, etc.) Students are scheduled into their connection courses each term, and we make an effort to allow students to experience each different program. A student who chooses to be a part of our music program will be scheduled into their chosen music class and one other connection course. It is our goal to provide PE and Health to all students as one of their connections courses.

STUDENT AGENDAS All students are expected to have an agenda at all times. An agenda is provided to all students.

- Assignment Book
- Student handbook and policy manual

One agenda is provided. Lost agendas will require parents to pay the replacement cost. Only a limited number are available in the office.

STUDENT LAPTOPS All Cobb County students, grades 6 – 12 have the option to be provided with a Dell laptop. We encourage ALL students to take advantage of this. Teachers utilize laptops throughout the day for learning activities. Students should bring the laptop to school every day and charge it at home each night. Laptops are issued in a canvas bag. Students should keep and use the laptop in the bag for safety and protection of the device. There is a helpdesk kiosk located in the learning commons for technical support.

CELL PHONES/DEVICES Cell phones and electronic devices may not be used and should be turned off during school hours, unless they are being used for an approved classroom activity. Students who violate this rule will have their device confiscated and brought to the front office. Multiple offenses will result in administrative consequences. Retrieval of the cell phone from the front office must be made by a parent/guardian.

CLINIC The clinic is open 8:45 am – 4:15 pm and is closed for lunch for 30 minutes.

MEDICATION An official clinic form must be signed by the parent/guardian or physician before any medications, either prescription or over-the-counter, may be administered by the nurse. All medications must be brought in their original containers with the student's name on it. No medications, even over-the-counter items such as Tylenol, Advil, etc., can be shared with other students. The forms are available on the school health website.