



# PINE MOUNTAIN

## MIDDLE SCHOOL

### MUSTANG SURVIVAL GUIDE

At Pine Mountain Middle School (PMMS), our core values are represented with the acronym CLIMB. Pine Mountain students show Commitment, exercise Leadership, demonstrate Integrity, practice Mindfulness, and maintain Balance. These expectations are taught to our students at the beginning of the school year and reviewed throughout the year. By acknowledging positive student behavior through our core values, our faculty and staff strive to create and maintain a learning environment that maximizes instructional time, increases student achievement, and fosters a productive and safe learning environment. We never stop CLIMBing!



#### PINE MOUNTAIN ADMINISTRATION

Principal  
David Nelson

Assistant Principal  
Caroline O'Connor  
A-L All Grades

Assistant Principal  
Allison Paulk  
M-Z All Grades

Counselor  
Greonna Brooks  
A-I All Grades

Counselor  
Candice Grella  
M-Z All Grades



#### CHANGING CLASSES

One thing that makes middle school different from elementary school is that you will change classes.

You will have five academic classes, including math, language arts, science, social studies, and reading, as well as two connections classes.



## CONNECTION CLASSES

Students attend two periods of Connections each day. Chorus, band, and orchestra are year-long, and students will not be moved from these classes without director permission.

Other connection classes change each quarter to give students the opportunity to be exposed to different disciplines.

### **Chorus (6<sup>th</sup> - 8<sup>th</sup> year-long)**

Chorus is a year-long, performance-based class. All course objectives pertain to the experience of performing choral music. Students will learn to read music at sight (sight-reading), notate music, use proper breath support, use appropriate posture for singing, use good diction, sing in a head voice with appropriate tone, and light choreography. They will experience music of all genres and many different cultures.

### **Band (6<sup>th</sup> - 8<sup>th</sup> year-long)**

The purpose of the band program is to give students a solid foundation in the basics of music and to provide the opportunity to enhance this knowledge through performance. The following topics will be covered as our skills develop throughout the year: proper posture, breathing techniques, characteristic tone quality, rhythmic studies, articulation, major scales, musical terms, music theory, music history and band literature.

### **Orchestra (6<sup>th</sup> - 8<sup>th</sup> year-long)**

The following topics will be covered as our skills develop through the year: characteristic tone quality of string instruments, rhythmic studies, bowing technique development, left-hand finger patterns, scales and arpeggios, ear training, music reading, music vocabulary, shifting, vibrato, music theory, music history, composer study, orchestral literature, and musical creativity.

### **Physical Education (6<sup>th</sup> year-long - 7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> one semester)**

Students who are not enrolled in a music class may have a year-long PE class. The goal is for all students to be introduced to and learn about a variety of physical activities, team and individual sports, as well as to increase overall fitness and health.

### **Project Lead the Way (6<sup>th</sup> nine-weeks) ; Foundations of Computer Programming (7<sup>th</sup> one semester) ; Technological Systems (8<sup>th</sup> one semester )**

The purpose of Project Lead the Way is to develop technological literacy as part of all students' fundamental education through an activity-based study of past, present, and future technological systems and their resources, processes, and impact on society.

### **Art (6<sup>th</sup> year-long - 7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> one semester)**

Students will participate in both written and studio production activities which include; art history, art criticism, aesthetics, and art production. Through looking at, talking about, and making art, students can develop a positive appreciation for the arts as well as an informed understanding of the art process. We also offer a high school art class to eighth graders that is based on submitted portfolio in 7<sup>th</sup> grade.

### **Spanish (6<sup>th</sup> year-long - 7<sup>th</sup> one semester); Spanish 1 High School (8<sup>th</sup> grade year-long)**

This class is designed for the novice Spanish speaker. Students will build skills in listening, speaking, reading, and writing during instructional lessons. Gradually students will begin using Spanish to respond to questions, ask questions, make requests, and navigate through basic introductory conversations. Additionally, the culture, perspectives, practices, and products of various Spanish-speaking countries will be explored. We also offer a high school Spanish 1 class in 8<sup>th</sup> grade. This class is an advanced content class based on established criteria.

### **Health Education (6<sup>th</sup> year-long - 7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> one semester)**

In the health education class, students will learn about factors that affect health and how the choices they make can impact their health.



## LOCKERS & PHONES

Students will be assigned lockers. Specific locker access times will be provided. Lockers are school property. Students should not share a locker nor share the combination to their locker. Cell phones and electronic devices should be kept in a student's assigned locker, along with their backpack, lunch box, etc.

Cell phones/electronic devices should always be kept in a student's locker. The school is not responsible for lost, stolen, or damaged devices.

Students will be allowed to use the telephone in the front office for emergency purposes only. If a parent needs to contact a student (emergency only), the parent can call and leave a message, and the front office will relay it to the student.



### WEATHER & CALENDAR



**Weather:** If you have a student in the Cobb County School District, your information is ALREADY in our Automated Contact System and you will receive notifications by every means you have provided to your local school (landline, cell phone, text, email, etc.). However, it is critical that you make sure we have your most up-to-date numbers and addresses.

**Calendar:** You can access up-to-date school calendars at [CCSD School Calendar](#).



### BUS TRANSPORTATION

Students must ride their assigned bus, and appropriate behavior is expected at all times. Riding the bus is a privilege, and we want everyone to enjoy a safe and respectful ride. Please follow all bus rules—students who do not may lose the privilege to ride. Always listen carefully to bus announcements for updates and instructions.

In the afternoons, students often have questions about where their buses are located. You can verify your bus number and pick-up/drop-off times by [\[clicking here\]](#).

We're excited to introduce [Here Comes the Bus](#), a new app that allows you to track your child's bus in real time. The app is available for download in the iTunes App Store and Google Play Store

### EARLY CHECK OUTS

Your student will be called to the front office upon your arrival. Parents/guardians will sign out their students at the front office. If someone other than the enrolling parent/guardian is to check the student out, this person must be listed by the enrolling adult on enrollment forms. The enrolling adult may update the names of individuals allowed to check out students using the ParentVUE system. Anyone checking out a student must provide a picture ID. No students will be allowed to check out after 3:45 pm.



## GRADES

Your grades will be taken from your daily class work, homework, quizzes, tests, and any special projects. Numerical grades are used on the report card. The current grading scale is:

A = 90 – 100

B = 80 – 89

C = 74 – 79

D = 70 – 73

F = below 70

If a student is having difficulty in a class, it is important for the student to seek help from the classroom teacher

Teachers have help sessions before tests and at other times when a student indicates that help is needed. These sessions are before or after school. Check with your teacher.

Pine Mountain Middle School breaks the school year into four, nine-week grading periods. Report cards are issued electronically at the end of each quarter. Progress reports are available between report cards. ParentVUE is available for parents/guardians and students to access grades and attendance 24/7.

Weekly updated grades will be available each Thursday. As a result, progress reports and report cards are not printed and distributed to families.

## INTRAMURALS & CLUBS

Although the Intramural Program is an extension of the Physical Education class, any student can participate—you do not need to be enrolled in PE to join. Intramurals offer extra time for competitive games, individual practice, and skill-building instruction.

Activities are varied to give students a wide range of fun and engaging experiences. Since this program is connected to our PE curriculum, students must demonstrate good behavior to participate.

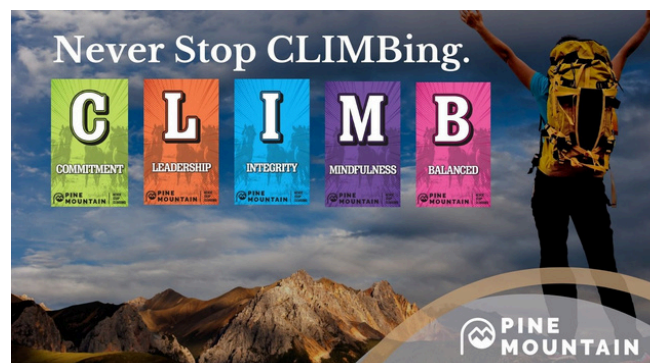
Intramurals are held Monday through Thursday at 8:15 a.m. Come join the fun and stay active!

A wide range of student clubs and organizations is available for students, including Chess, CREW, FLY, International Culture and Cuisine, Journalism, Jr. Beta, Menders & Makers, and the PTSA Club. Club meetings are held before or after school. A full list of available clubs and meeting times can be found on our website



### PARENT TEACHER STUDENT ASSOCIATION

Our school's activities and programs could not exist without the PTSA volunteers. Being a member of this organization provides you a way to stay informed about school events, offers a variety of programs designed for parents and students, and provides parental support through sharing ideas, concerns, and experiences with other parents and educators in the community. Plan to join and volunteer for this valuable organization as soon as possible.



### WHAT ARE CLIMB DAYS?

The CLIMB Behavior System aims to teach the Pine Mountain core values to students while combining acknowledgment of positive student behavior, maximizing instructional time, increasing student achievement, and fostering a productive and safe learning environment. The core values represented in CLIMB include exercising Commitment, showing Leadership, demonstrating Integrity, being Mindful, and maintaining Balance. These expectations are explicitly taught to our students at the beginning of the school year and reviewed as needed.

Each Friday, our PMMS students participate in instructional and behavior periods called CLIMB Academic Period and CLIMB Behavior Period. This means that on Fridays students will have nine periods of classes (students have 7 periods of classes on Monday – Thursday). CLIMB is approximately 40 minutes and is part of our school's RTI process. CLIMB is also a part of our PBIS program. The CLIMB Period allows our PMMS staff members the opportunity to provide support to our students in one of the following areas:

#### 1. CLIMB Instructional Period (every Friday morning)

- CLIMB Instructional Period provides students enrichment or remediation opportunities for the standards being taught based on summative assessments (like chapter tests).

#### 2. CLIMB Behavior Period (every Friday afternoon)

- CLIMB Behavior Expectation provides students enrichment or remediation opportunities based on our core values and the behaviors that reflect within those values.

We want to reward students who consistently demonstrate Pine Mountain Middle School's CLIMB values: Commitment, Leadership, Integrity, Mindfulness, Balance. One way we do this is through Fresh Air Fridays and other special activities that students earn by meeting our behavior expectations. Keep CLIMBing and make it a great day.



## DRESS CODE

The Cobb County School District recognizes that the dress and grooming of students, individually and collectively, are significant factors in the successful operations of our educational program. One of the educational responsibilities of the school is to help make students aware that appropriate appearances and hygiene are conducive to the well-being of themselves and others.

Each student will be expected to maintain a standard of dress and grooming consistent with the level of formality of the school situation. We seek the assistance of parents in monitoring their child(ren)'s clothing to ensure that it is appropriate for the classroom.

Clothing that is distracting, disruptive, or creates an unsafe situation may not be worn to school. If a child is not appropriately dressed, a parent may be contacted. The dress code applies to all school functions. These minimum standards should help define appropriate school dress:

Rule of "thumb": Look in the mirror just before leaving your home. If you doubt what you are wearing, you should consider wearing something else. Don't forget: Clothing must be modest and not revealing or provocative.

- Clothing must be modest and not revealing or provocative. Tank tops and halters are not permitted. However, tank tops may be worn under a jacket or sweater. Cleavage must not show.
- Clothing must be worn as it was intended - overalls secured over both shoulders, pants with both legs down etc.
- Clothing must not reveal underwear. Clothing must not be see-through or reveal the midriff or buttocks.
- No sagging pants: all pants will be worn at the waist.
- No pajama pants or house slippers.
- Bike shorts (like spandex type of shorts) can be worn if the buttocks are covered.
- No hats, stocking caps, do-rags, bandanas, sweat headbands, forehead bands, hoods, etc., can be worn inside the building.
- Students may not wear clothing that displays or advertises obscene slogans or signs, profanity, gang symbols, gang-related materials, or any substance illegal for minors, such as beer, tobacco, etc.
- Clothing or ornamentation advocating, promoting, or suggesting illegal activity is prohibited.

## HELPFUL RESOURCES



[ParentVue](#) - Allows you access your child's attendance, grade book, daily assignments, and schedule. You can also email teachers from the website/app. Your username and password will be what you created to register your student. You will be able to update your contacts and information through ParentVue. More information is available [here](#).



[StudentVue](#) is for students to see their assignments and grades. The app is available in iTunes and Google Play Store.



Students are more successful in the classroom when parents are actively engaged in their student's learning. Thanks to the [CTLS Parent Portal](#), parents will have access to some of the same information that teachers use in CTLS to determine what students know. The app is available in iTunes and Google Play Store.



[MyPaymentsPlus](#) is a convenient app that allows parents and guardians to make secure payments for school-related expenses, such as field trips and other school functions.



[Lunch Menus](#) are available monthly for breakfast and lunch. The cost of breakfast is \$2.50 and lunch is \$3.50. The application to apply for free or reduced lunch is available [here](#). [MySchoolBucks](#) is an app used to add money to your child's account as well as establish balance alerts.



Pine Mountain Middle School has a great website with lots of great information. [Faculty & Staff](#) - Here is where you can find the email addresses for all teachers and staff.

Mr. Nelson sends out our weekly newsletter "This Week at the Mountain" every Sunday through CTLS. Please be sure your contact information is current.

## IMPORTANT DATES

- **Meet & Greet** August 1st
- **First day of school** August 4th
- **Digital Learning Day** August 18th
- **Holiday - School Closed** September 1st
- **Picture day** September 4th
- **Holiday - School Closed** September 22-26
- **Digital Learning Day** October 13th
- **Early Release - School Conference Week** October 14<sup>th</sup> - 17<sup>th</sup>
- **Holiday - School Closed** November 4<sup>th</sup>
- **Holiday - School Closed** November 24-28
- **Digital Learning Day** December 2<sup>nd</sup>
- **Early Release** December 18<sup>th</sup>
- **Early Release** December 19<sup>th</sup>
- **Holiday - School Closed** December 22 - January 5

## Follow Us on Social Media



Let's Get Connected for Our Latest News & Updates



@pinemountainms



Pine Mountain Middle School  
Pine Mountain Middle School PTSA



[www.cobbk12.org/PineMountain](http://www.cobbk12.org/PineMountain)



David.Nelson @cobbk12.org  
Principal



Caroline.OConnor @cobbk12.org  
Assistant Principal



Allison.Paulk @cobbk12.org  
Assistant Principal



**PINE MOUNTAIN MIDDLE SCHOOL**  
**2025 – 2026**

Edited 6-5-25

**Monday – Thursday**

6 <sup>th</sup> Grade		7 <sup>th</sup> Grade		8 <sup>th</sup> Grade	
HR	9:15-9:20	HR	9:15-9:20	HR	9:15-9:20
1st	9:23-10:13	1st	9:23-10:13	1st	9:23-10:13 <i>Connections</i>
2nd	10:16-11:06	2nd	10:16-11:06	2nd	10:16-11:06 <i>Connections</i>
3rd	11:09-12:39 <b>Lunch</b>	3rd	11:09-12:00	3rd	11:09-12:39 <b>Lunch</b>
4th	12:42-1:32 <i>Connections</i>	4th	12:03-1:32 <b>Lunch</b>	4th	12:42-1:32
5th	1:35-2:26 <i>Connections</i>	5th	1:35-2:26	5th	1:35-2:26
6th	2:29-3:19	6th	2:29-3:19 <i>Connections</i>	6th	2:29-3:19
7 <sup>th</sup>	3:22-4:15	7 <sup>th</sup>	3:22-4:13 <i>Connections</i> <i>*Return to Lockers</i>	7 <sup>th</sup>	3:22-4:15

**Friday**

6 <sup>th</sup> GRADE		7 <sup>th</sup> GRADE		8 <sup>th</sup> GRADE	
HR	9:15-9:20	HR	9:15-9:20	HR	9:15-9:20
1st	9:23-9:56	1st	9:23-9:56	1st	9:23-9:56 <i>Connections</i>
2nd	9:59-10:32	2nd	9:59-10:32	2nd	9:59-10:32 <i>Connections</i>
Academic CLIMB	10:35-11:15	Academic CLIMB	10:35-11:15	Academic CLIMB	10:35-11:15
3rd	11:18-12:48 <b>Lunch</b>	3rd	11:18-11:58	3rd	11:18-12:48 <b>Lunch</b>
4th	12:51-1:28 <i>Connections</i>	4th	12:01-1:28 <b>Lunch</b>	4th	12:51-1:28
5th	1:31-2:07 <i>Connections</i>	5th	1:31-2:07	5th	1:31-2:07
Behavior CLIMB	2:10-2:50	Behavior CLIMB	2:10-2:50	Behavior CLIMB	2:10-2:50
6th	2:53-3:31	6th	2:53-3:31 <i>Connections</i>	6th	2:53-3:31
7 <sup>th</sup>	3:34-4:15	7 <sup>th</sup>	3:34-4:13 <i>Connections</i> <i>*Return to Lockers</i>	7 <sup>th</sup>	3:34-4:15