

Durham Middle School



Cobb County School District *"One Team, One Goal: Student Success"*

Shannon M. Thorpe
Principal

January 14, 2026

Dear Parents and Guardians,

As we welcome the arrival of the spring semester, we are excited to announce a series of engaging and educational activities planned for our 8th grade students. These activities are designed to enrich their learning experience, foster teamwork, and create lasting memories as they prepare to transition to high school.

Spring Semester Activities Schedule:

1. **8th Grade Dance – February 27, 2026, 6:30 – 7:00 PM Parents pictures; 7:00 – 9:00 PM students only**
 - a. An evening of music, dancing, and socializing. This event is a wonderful opportunity for students to celebrate their achievements and enjoy time with friends.
 - b. Parents will be allowed to enter the building and cafeteria to take pictures. All parents, except for PTSA chaperones, will be asked to leave at 7:00 PM.
 - c. No limousines or party buses please.
 - d. Students are expected to attend the entire dance. The doors to the building will be locked and students will not be allowed to leave until being dismissed at 9:00 PM.
 - e. **Attendance:** All students planning to attend the dance should be considered present for the day. Anyone checking out before 12:45 PM will not be allowed to attend the dance. This includes late check ins i.e. – you may not check in at 10:00 and check out at 12:45. Students must be present for a minimum of 4 class periods.
 - f. **Behavior:** Administration will determine eligibility to attend the dance on a case-by-case basis for those 8th graders who do have disciplinary consequences between January 14th and February 27th.
 - g. **Dress code:** Students are encouraged to wear “church clothes,” or clothing typical for a nice dinner. Dress code will be monitored upon entering the dance and students not adhering to the dress code will not be allowed to attend.
 1. Dress pants and a collared shirt are expected. Athletic wear, shorts, and jeans are prohibited.
 2. Evening gowns are discouraged. As communicated in the school dress code, spaghetti strap or strapless dresses may only be worn with an appropriate shrug, shawl, or sweater. Dresses with cutouts and backless dresses are prohibited. The length of the dress should meet the 4-inch inseam requirement.
 3. Should a student have questions about clothing for the dance, they are encouraged to provide a picture ahead of time to ensure everyone can attend.

2. **Olympics – April 13th– 17th during Connections**

- a. Students will take part in various sports and games, promoting physical fitness, teamwork, and good sportsmanship. Like in years past, each homeroom will take part in daily events during connections, earning points in the three areas previously mentioned.
- b. **Dress code:** Students are encouraged to wear school-appropriate athletic wear and athletic shoes. Students should refrain from using permanent markers or temporary paint on their face and body.
- c. **Behavior:** Administration will determine eligibility to attend the dance on a case-by-case basis for those 8th graders who do have disciplinary consequences between January 14th and the dates of the Olympics.

3. **8th Grade Honors – May 12th 9:30 AM**

- a. Honors Ceremony reflecting the achievements of superlative 8th grade students. Invitations for those included will be sent in early May.

4. **8th Grade Celebration – May 19th 11:00 AM – 1:00 PM**

- a. PTSA sponsored celebration during the school day. Though not an event parents can attend, this is an event that parents can volunteer to support.
- b. Yearbook distribution

5. **8th Grade Walk – May 20th**

- a. As 8th grade students are dismissed, they walk the halls of Durham one last time, saying good-bye to friends, teachers, and staff. This is a student only event.

We encourage all students to behave appropriately to participate in these activities and make the most of their 8th grade year. Thank you for your continued support and involvement in your child's education. If you have any questions or need more information, please contact us.

Sincerely,

The Durham Administrative Team