



SIMPSON[®]

MIDDLE SCHOOL

Student and Family Handbook
2026-2027

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Marietta, Georgia 30066

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Our Mission:
Simpson Eagles
Encouraging Achievement, Growth, Leadership, & Enduring Success

Our Vision:
Educational Excellence for All Simpson

Academic Honesty /AI

At our school, we value honesty, responsibility, respect, and integrity. We expect every student to do their own work and make honest choices. Academic honesty is expected on all assignments, projects, homework, and tests.

What Counts as Cheating?

- Cheating includes, but is not limited to:
 - Copying someone else's work or letting someone copy yours.
 - Looking at another student's test, quiz, or assignment.
 - Giving or receiving answers during a test or quiz.
 - Having someone else complete your work (including family members, friends, tutors, or others).
 - Using AI or other technology to complete work when your teacher has not explicitly instructed you to do so.
 - Using notes, phones, websites, apps, or other resources without permission.
 - Sharing test questions or answers before, during, or after an assessment.
 - Taking, copying, or sharing teacher materials, answer keys, or assessments.
 - Changing or making up data, results, or information for an assignment.
 - Interfering with another student's work.

What Is Plagiarism?

Plagiarism means using someone else's words, ideas, images, or work without giving credit.

- Examples include, but are not limited to:
 - Copying from the internet without citing the source.
 - Copying another student's work.
 - Rewriting someone else's ideas without giving credit.
 - Using AI to write or complete an assignment.
 - Turning in work created by someone (or something) else as your own.

AI Expectations

Unless a teacher gives permission, students should complete their own work without AI assistance.

Consequences for Academic Dishonesty

Academic dishonesty and refusal to comply with teacher directions regarding academic work are violations of school expectations. These behaviors prevent students from demonstrating their own learning and undermine the integrity of the educational process. Consequences are cumulative throughout the school year.

- First Offense
 - Parent/guardian is notified.
 - Student serves detention.
 - Student must complete or redo the assignment independently for full credit.
 - Teacher reviews expectations for academic honesty with the student.
- Second Offense
 - Parent/guardian is notified.
 - Administrative referral is submitted.
 - Student must complete or redo the assignment independently for full credit.
 - Student meets with an administrator to review expectations and future consequences.
- Third Offense
 - Parent/guardian is notified.
 - Administrative referral is submitted.
 - Student receives a maximum grade of 70% on the assignment after completing or redoing it independently.
 - Additional disciplinary consequences may be assigned by administration.
- Fourth and Subsequent Offenses
 - Parent/guardian is notified.
 - Administrative referral is submitted.
 - Student receives a zero on the assignment or assessment.
 - Additional disciplinary consequences, including ISS or OSS, may be assigned by school administration.
- Repeated incidents of academic dishonesty may also affect eligibility for honors, leadership positions, extracurricular activities, or other school recognitions, as outlined by school and district policies.

Advanced Learning Program and Gifted Services

Simpson Middle School offers a variety of advanced learning opportunities to challenge students and support academic growth.

Students identified for the Cobb County Gifted Program receive specialized instruction designed to extend critical thinking, creativity, communication, research, and problem-solving skills beyond the regular curriculum. Gifted eligibility and services are determined according to Georgia Department of Education guidelines.

In addition, Advanced Content (AC), Honors, and high school credit courses are available in core academic subjects. Students who demonstrate exceptional academic ability and meet district or school placement criteria may be eligible to enroll, even if they are not formally identified as gifted.

For more information about gifted eligibility or advanced learning opportunities, please contact your child's school counselor or visit the Cobb County School District website.

Attendance

Regular attendance is essential to student success. Georgia law requires students to attend school daily unless an absence qualifies as excused under state law.

Excused Absences

Absences may be excused for reasons including:

- Personal illness
- Death or serious illness of an immediate family member
- Religious holidays
- Court appearances or government-mandated proceedings
- Military-related family obligations as permitted by Georgia law

Reporting an Absence

When a student returns to school, a written parent note, doctor's note, or other appropriate documentation must be submitted to the Attendance Office within three school days. Parents may also submit attendance notes by replying to the automated attendance message through CTLS/ParentVUE.

Students who are absent are responsible for making up missed assignments and assessments in accordance with teacher and district guidelines.

Attendance Expectations

- Students must be present for at least one-half of the instructional day (excluding lunch) to be counted present.
- Students who arrive after the tardy bell must report to the front office to sign in.
- Parents or authorized adults must sign students out through the front office for early dismissal.
- Students may not leave campus after arriving unless checked out by an authorized adult.

Excessive unexcused absences are addressed in accordance with Cobb County School District policy and may result in intervention by the school's attendance team or social worker. Additional attendance information is available in CCSD Board Policy JE.

Behavior and Consequences

At Simpson Middle School, we believe students learn best in a safe, respectful, and supportive environment. Most behavior concerns are addressed by the classroom teacher. More serious or repeated behaviors may result in an administrative referral.

Teacher-Managed Behaviors

Teachers use classroom interventions to address behaviors that disrupt learning but do not require immediate administrative involvement. Examples may include:

- Off-task behavior
- Excessive talking or classroom disruptions
- Failure to follow classroom expectations
- Inappropriate language (non-profane)
- Minor disrespect
- Incomplete classwork
- Tardiness to class
- Dress code reminders
- Unauthorized use of personal electronic devices

Teachers may use strategies such as verbal reminders, parent communication, documented infractions, seat changes, restorative conversations, detention, reflection activities, or other appropriate classroom interventions.

Administrator-Managed Behaviors

Repeated minor behaviors or more serious infractions may result in an office referral. Examples include:

- Repeated classroom disruption after interventions
- Defiance or insubordination
- Fighting or physical aggression
- Bullying, harassment, or threats
- Vaping, tobacco, alcohol, or drug-related offenses
- Theft or vandalism
- Academic dishonesty
- Possession of prohibited or dangerous items
- Behavior that significantly disrupts the safety or learning environment

Administrative consequences may include parent conferences, behavior contracts, detention, in-school suspension (ISS), out-of-school suspension (OSS), restitution, loss of privileges, or other consequences consistent with the Cobb County School District Student Code of Conduct (JCDA-R).

When student behavior does not meet school expectations, consequences are assigned based on the severity, frequency, and circumstances of the behavior. Whenever possible, the goal is to teach appropriate behavior while maintaining a safe and productive learning environment.

After-School Detention

Students may be assigned after-school detention for minor or repeated behavioral infractions. Parents will be notified in advance and are responsible for providing transportation at the conclusion of detention. Detention is on Thursday afternoons.

In-School Suspension (ISS)

ISS is assigned for more serious or repeated behavior violations. Students remain at school but are removed from the regular classroom setting. While in ISS, students are expected to complete assigned classwork and follow all ISS expectations.

Out-of-School Suspension (OSS)

OSS is assigned for serious violations of the Cobb County School District Student Code of Conduct. Students are prohibited from attending school or participating in school-sponsored activities during the suspension. Students are responsible for completing missed assignments in accordance with district policy.

Consequences are assigned in accordance with the Cobb County School District Student Code of Conduct (JCDA-R) and may vary depending on the nature of the offense.

Bullying

Simpson Middle School is committed to providing a safe and respectful learning environment for all students. Bullying, harassment, intimidation, and threats will not be tolerated.

Students who experience or witness bullying should report it immediately to a teacher, counselor, administrator, or other trusted adult. All reports will be taken seriously, investigated promptly, and addressed in accordance with Cobb County School District policies.

Together, we all share the responsibility of creating a school community where everyone feels safe, respected, and valued.

Buying and Selling

Students may not buy, sell, trade, or exchange items at school unless the activity is part of an approved school-sponsored fundraiser or event. This includes, but is not limited to, food, candy, drinks, electronics, clothing, collectibles, or other personal items.

The school is not responsible for lost, stolen, or damaged items involved in unauthorized exchanges.

Clinic/nurse

The school clinic is available to provide basic first aid, assist students who become ill during the school day, and administer medications in accordance with Cobb County School District policies.

Students who become ill or are injured at school should notify their teacher and report to the clinic. If a student is too ill to remain at school, a parent or authorized emergency contact will be notified. In the event of a medical emergency, 911 will be called.

Prescription and over-the-counter medications may only be administered with the required authorization forms and must be provided in their original, properly labeled containers. Certain emergency medications, such as inhalers, EpiPens, and insulin, may be self-carried with the appropriate medical documentation on file.

Parents are encouraged to keep all emergency contact and medical information current throughout the school year.

For complete medication guidelines, please refer to CCSD Board Policy JGCD.

Clubs and Activities

Simpson Middle School offers a variety of clubs, organizations, and extracurricular activities designed to encourage student involvement, leadership, creativity, and service. Club offerings may vary from year to year based on student interest and staff sponsorship.

Students are encouraged to participate in activities that match their interests and help them connect with the school community. Information about club meetings, eligibility requirements, and schedules will be shared throughout the school year.

For the most current list of clubs and activities, please visit the Simpson Middle School website.

Communication

Simpson Middle School values strong communication between home and school. Families are encouraged to stay connected through the following communication tools:

- The Eagle Update – Our principal's weekly newsletter is the primary source of school-wide information, including upcoming events, important reminders, celebrations, and announcements.
- Email & CTLS – Teachers and staff regularly communicate with students and families through email and CTLS. Parents are encouraged to monitor these platforms for classroom updates, assignments, and important information.
- Student Communication – Students are encouraged to communicate directly with their teachers by speaking with them before or after class, during designated help times, or by sending a respectful email or CTLS message when appropriate.

Open communication between students, families, and school staff is essential to student success. We encourage families to reach out whenever questions or concerns arise.

Conferences

Simpson Middle School values strong partnerships between home and school. Parents and guardians are encouraged to communicate with teachers, counselors, and administrators throughout the year regarding their student's academic progress, behavior, or well-being.

The Cobb County School District also hosts a district-wide Conference Week each October, providing families with an opportunity to meet individually with their student's teachers. Additional information, including scheduling details, will be shared as Conference Week approaches.

Parents may also request a conference at any time during the school year by contacting the appropriate teacher, counselor, or administrator to arrange an appointment.

Counselors

The Simpson Middle School Counseling Department is committed to supporting the academic, social, emotional, and personal growth of every student. School counselors partner with students, families, teachers, and administrators to help students navigate challenges, set goals, and achieve success.

Students may meet with a counselor for academic planning, social-emotional support, conflict resolution, or other school-related concerns. Parents are encouraged to contact their child's counselor whenever questions or concerns arise.

Students may request to meet with a counselor by speaking with their counselor, completing a counseling request form, or asking a teacher or administrator for assistance.

Dismissal

The school day ends at 4:15 p.m. Students are expected to leave campus promptly using their assigned method of transportation.

Car Riders

Car riders are dismissed first to help maintain an efficient traffic flow. Students should report directly to the designated car rider pick-up area and wait for their vehicle. Parents are asked to follow all traffic patterns and staff directions to ensure a safe and efficient dismissal.

Walkers

Walkers are dismissed with car riders and should use designated crosswalks and follow the directions of school staff or crossing guards when crossing streets.

Bus Riders

Bus riders are dismissed after car riders and walkers. Students should report directly to their assigned bus upon dismissal to help buses depart on time.

Any changes to a student's dismissal plan should be communicated to the front office before 3:30 p.m. whenever possible.

Dress Code

All students shall maintain the following minimum standard of dress:

- Appropriate shoes shall be worn.
- Midriffs shall be covered.
- Appropriate undergarments shall be worn and may not be visible.
- Strapless garments should not be worn.
- Tank-tops shall be worn with a jacket.
- Shorts must be visible below the shirt hem.
- Skirts and shorts must fully cover the backside.
- Caps, hats, bandanas, hoods covering the head are not to be worn in the school building during the school day unless there is a special activity during which they are deemed appropriate by the school administration.
- Clothing or ornamentation that does any of the following is prohibited:

- Displays or advertises substances illegal for minors.
- Displays suggestive phrases, designs, markings, or profanities or advocates, promotes, or suggests illegal activity.
- Addresses potentially divisive concepts such as politics.

The 6 “B’s” should be always covered:

1. Backs
2. Bellies
3. Boxers
4. Bras
5. Butts
6. Breasts

Eagle Time

Eagle Time is a dedicated period built into the school day to provide students with additional academic support, enrichment, and opportunities to build strong connections with staff and peers. During Eagle Time, students may participate in interventions, enrichment activities, academic check-ins, makeup work, or other school-directed learning experiences based on individual needs.

Students are expected to report promptly to their assigned Eagle Time location, participate actively, and follow all school expectations.

Early Check Out

Whenever possible, appointments should be scheduled outside of school hours. If a student must leave school early, a parent or guardian should send a written note or notify the school in advance.

Students may only be checked out by a parent, guardian, or other individual authorized in the student's emergency contact information. A valid photo ID is required for all early check-outs.

To minimize disruptions to classroom instruction and ensure a safe dismissal process, students will not be checked out after 3:45 p.m. except in emergency situations.

Students must be present for at least one-half of the instructional day (excluding lunch) to be counted present for the school day. Students are responsible for making up any work missed due to an early dismissal.

Electronic devices

In 2025, the Georgia General Assembly passed the [Distraction-Free Education Act](#). By prohibiting the use of personal electronic devices during the school day for grades K-8, the purpose of the law is to promote a positive learning environment free from electronic distractions. Studies have shown that the presence of a cellphone reduces available cognitive capacity, and that smartphone bans result in a reduction of bullying by 43-46%.

Offense #	Response	Result
1 st Offense	Teacher contact front office to notify them the student is bringing said device to be stored in the front office for safe keeping.	• Front office personnel will contact parent that phone had to be stored in the front for safe keeping. • Student may retrieve the phone at the end of the day.
2 nd Offense	Teacher contact front office to notify them the student is bringing said device to be stored in the front office for safe keeping.	• Front office personnel will contact parent that the phone was turned in for the 2nd time. • Parent must retrieve the item from the front office.
3 rd Offense	Teacher contact front office to notify them the student is bringing said device to be stored in the front office for safe keeping.	• Front office personnel will notify admin. • Student receives a disciplinary referral. • Parent must retrieve the device from the front office.

*Cell phone violations reset at the beginning of each quarter.

Field Trips

Field trips are designed to enhance classroom learning through educational experiences beyond the school campus. Participation in field trips is a privilege, and students are expected to demonstrate appropriate behavior before, during, and after the trip.

Students must have a completed parent/guardian permission form on file by the stated deadline in order to participate. School rules and the CCSD Student Code of Conduct remain in effect during all field trips. Students who do not meet behavioral or academic expectations may be ineligible to participate.

Transportation is provided by the school unless otherwise communicated. Students are expected to ride school-provided transportation to and from the field trip unless prior arrangements have been approved by the administration.

Foundation

The Simpson Foundation is a nonprofit organization dedicated to enhancing educational opportunities for Simpson Middle School students and staff. Through family donations, community partnerships, and fundraising events, the Foundation provides financial support for initiatives beyond the district budget, including classroom grants, technology, school improvements, tutoring, and other programs that enrich the student experience.

Families are encouraged to support the Foundation through volunteering, attending Foundation-sponsored events, and making tax-deductible contributions. Every gift directly benefits Simpson Middle School and helps provide additional opportunities for students and staff.

For more information or to get involved, visit [Simpson Foundation](#)

Grades

Student grades are intended to reflect each student's mastery of the Georgia Standards of Excellence and course expectations. Families are encouraged to regularly monitor academic progress through ParentVUE.

Grading Scale

Simpson Middle School follows the Cobb County School District grading scale:

Grade	Percentage
A	90–100
B	80–89
C	74–79
D	70–73
F	Below 70

Report Cards and Progress Reports

Progress reports and report cards are issued each grading period according to the CCSD academic calendar. Families may also view grades, assignments, attendance, and other student information at any time through ParentVUE.

Students and parents with questions about grades should contact the classroom teacher. If additional assistance is needed, families may contact the student's school counselor or grade-level administrator.

Hall Passes

Students are expected to remain in their assigned classroom during instructional time unless they have permission from a staff member to leave.

When leaving the classroom, students must:

- Sign out using the school's PBIS digital hall pass system.
- Carry the official Simpson Middle School hall pass at all times.
- Report directly to their approved destination and return promptly to class.

Students who are in the hall without both a valid digital hall pass and the official school pass may be considered out of their assigned area and may be subject to disciplinary consequences.

Hall passes are intended for legitimate school business only. Excessive or inappropriate use of hall passes may result in restrictions or additional consequences.

Homeroom

Students may begin reporting to their homeroom classrooms at 8:50 a.m. Homeroom officially begins at 9:10 a.m., and students are expected to be in their assigned homeroom by that time.

Homeroom provides students with a consistent start to the school day and serves as a time to build community, receive important school announcements, and prepare for learning.

During homeroom, students are expected to:

- Arrive on time and be prepared for the school day.
- Listen attentively to announcements and follow teacher directions.
- Complete assigned activities or tasks.
- Demonstrate respectful and responsible behavior.
- Remain in their assigned homeroom unless directed otherwise by a staff member.

Students should use homeroom to organize materials, prepare for first period, and begin the day ready to learn. A positive start to the school day helps create a successful learning environment for everyone.

Homework

Homework is assigned to reinforce classroom learning, provide opportunities for practice, and help students develop responsibility and time management skills. The amount and frequency of homework may vary by course and teacher.

Students are expected to:

- Complete assignments on time and to the best of their ability.
- Submit their own original work.
- Communicate with their teacher if they have questions or need assistance.

Families can support student success by encouraging positive study habits at home, such as:

- Establishing a consistent homework routine.
- Providing a quiet, distraction-free workspace.
- Encouraging students to read regularly and review class notes.
- Helping students stay organized and manage their time effectively.
- Monitoring assignments and grades through ParentVUE and CTLS while encouraging students to take ownership of their learning.

Students who are absent are responsible for completing missed assignments in accordance with school attendance and make-up work procedures.

Honor Roll

Simpson Middle School recognizes students for outstanding academic achievement each grading period through the Honor Roll program.

Students may earn one of the following honors:

- Principal's Honor Roll: All A's
- A/B Honor Roll: A's and B's only

Honor Roll is based on grades earned during each grading period. Students are encouraged to strive for academic excellence while demonstrating responsibility, integrity, and a commitment to learning.

Students who qualify will be recognized by the school throughout the year for their academic accomplishments.

Hours

Simpson Middle School is open Monday through Friday during the regular school year.

- Front Office Hours: 8:30 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.
- Morning Study Hall: 8:00–8:50 a.m. (Cafeteria)
- Students can go to homeroom: 8:50am
- Tardy Bell Rings/ Homeroom Begins: 9:10 a.m.
- School Day Ends: 4:15 p.m.

Students who arrive on campus before 8:50 a.m. should report directly to Morning Study Hall in the theater, which is supervised and begins at 8:00 a.m. Students may also arrive before 8:50 a.m. for school-sponsored activities or other pre-approved reasons under the supervision of a staff member.

Students must be in their homeroom class at 9:10am to be marked present. All students arriving at 9:10 or after will sign in at the front office and will be marked tardy.

Parents who need to check out a student early should do so before 3:45 p.m. to avoid disrupting the dismissal process.

Please note that office hours and school schedules may be adjusted on early release days, teacher workdays, or other district-approved calendar events.

Immunization

Georgia law requires all students attending public school to have a current Georgia Certificate of Immunization (Form 3231) or a valid medical or religious exemption on file with the school.

Students who do not have the required documentation may be excluded from school until all immunization requirements have been met in accordance with state law.

Parents and guardians are responsible for keeping their child's immunization records current and notifying the school of any updates. Questions regarding immunization requirements or student health records may be directed to the school clinic or registrar.

Students entering 7th grade must have an updated Georgia Form 3231 showing proof of one Tdap vaccine and one meningococcal (MenACWY) vaccine before the start of school.

Intramurals

Simpson Middle School offers a before-school intramural program designed to promote physical activity, teamwork, sportsmanship, and school involvement. Intramurals provide students with opportunities to participate in organized recreational activities in a fun, safe, and inclusive environment.

Intramurals are held before school on designated mornings throughout the year. Students participating in intramurals should arrive during the designated check-in window and report directly to the gym entrance. Students who arrive after the designated entry time should report to Morning Study Hall through the front of the building.

Offerings vary throughout the school year and may include a variety of sports, games, and fitness activities. Registration information, schedules, and participation requirements will be shared with students and families as opportunities become available.

Students are expected to demonstrate good sportsmanship, follow all school rules, and respect coaches, staff, and fellow participants. Participation is a privilege and may be limited for students who do not meet behavioral or academic expectations.

Late Arrival

Students arriving after the start of the school day (**9:10 a.m.**) are considered tardy and must report to the Front Office to check in before going to class.

Students arriving late must be accompanied by a parent or guardian or provide appropriate documentation explaining the reason for the tardy. Parents or guardians should accompany students into the building to sign them in when possible.

Students who arrive late due to a medical appointment or other excused reason should provide documentation upon arrival. Excessive tardies, whether excused or unexcused, may result in school interventions or disciplinary consequences in accordance with CCSD attendance policies.

Checking in through the Front Office ensures that attendance records are accurate and that students enter the school safely.

Library

The Simpson Middle School Library is a welcoming space that supports reading, research, creativity, and academic success. Students are encouraged to use the Library to check out books, conduct research, collaborate on projects, explore digital resources, and develop lifelong learning skills.

Students may visit the Library with a teacher, during designated times, or with an approved hall pass, as determined by school procedures.

Students are expected to:

- Treat library materials and equipment with care.
- Return borrowed materials on time.
- Use technology and digital resources responsibly in accordance with the CCSD Acceptable Use Policy.
- Maintain a quiet, respectful environment that supports learning for all.

The Library also sponsors reading initiatives, special events, and other opportunities that encourage a love of reading and learning throughout the school year.

Lost and Found

Items found on campus should be turned into the Lost and Found, located in the grade level commons and the Front Office. Students who have misplaced personal belongings are encouraged to check the Lost and Found as soon as possible.

Items that are clearly labeled with a student's name are more likely to be returned promptly. Simpson Middle School is not responsible for lost, stolen, or damaged personal items brought to school.

Unclaimed items are periodically donated to a local charitable organization. Families are encouraged to check the Lost and Found before school breaks and at the end of the school year, as items not claimed by the posted deadline will not be retained.

Lunch/Cafeteria

Lunch is an important part of the school day and provides students with an opportunity to eat, socialize, and prepare for afternoon learning. Students are expected to demonstrate the Simpson SOAR expectations while in the cafeteria.

Students are expected to:

- Be Successful by going through the serving line one time.
- Be Observant by remaining at their assigned table until dismissed by a staff member.
- Be Accountable by cleaning up after themselves and helping keep the cafeteria clean.
- Be Respectful by using appropriate language and maintaining a Voice Level 2.
- Follow directions from cafeteria staff and school personnel at all times.

Students may bring a lunch from home or purchase breakfast and lunch through the Cobb County School District Nutrition Program. Information about meal prices, menus, account payments, and free or reduced-price meal applications is available through CCSD Food and Nutrition Services.

Food deliveries from restaurants or delivery services (such as DoorDash, Uber Eats, Grubhub, etc.) are not permitted. Students may not share or sell food brought from home.

Parents and guardians who wish to eat lunch with their child should contact the school in advance to review visitor procedures.

Make-up Work

Students are responsible for completing all assignments missed due to an absence. It is the student's responsibility to communicate with teachers regarding missed work and to make arrangements for completing assignments and assessments.

Students should:

- Check CTLS and communicate with their teachers for missed assignments.
- Complete make-up work within the timeline established by the teacher.
- Contact each teacher to arrange a time to complete missed quizzes, tests, and other assessments.

Teachers will provide students with a reasonable opportunity to complete missed work following an excused absence. Long-term assignments that were assigned before an absence are generally due on the original due date unless other arrangements have been made with the teacher.

Students have one more school day than the number of days they were absent to complete make-up work. For example, if a student is absent for 3 school days, they have 4 school days after returning to submit their make-up work.

Students who are absent for extended periods due to illness or other approved circumstances should work with their teachers, school counselor, and administration to develop a plan for completing missed coursework.

PBIS

Simpson Middle School is a PBIS (Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports) school. PBIS promotes a positive, safe, and respectful learning environment by teaching, recognizing, and reinforcing appropriate behaviors throughout the school.

At Simpson, students are expected to SOAR every day by being:

- Successful – Follow directions, be prepared, and make choices that support learning.
- Observant – Be aware of your surroundings, listen to adults, and report concerns when appropriate.
- Accountable – Take responsibility for your actions, complete tasks, and care for school property.
- Respectful – Treat others with kindness, use appropriate language, and contribute to a positive school environment.

These expectations apply in all areas of the school, including classrooms, hallways, restrooms, the cafeteria, shared spaces, and digital learning environments. Students are explicitly taught what SOAR looks like in each setting and are expected to demonstrate these behaviors throughout the school day.

Students who consistently demonstrate SOAR expectations may be recognized through the school's PBIS recognition program. Students who do not meet behavioral expectations will receive reteaching, interventions, and disciplinary consequences as appropriate.

Performing Arts

Throughout the school year, students may have opportunities to attend educational performances or participate in cultural arts experiences that support classroom learning.

Students are expected to demonstrate appropriate behavior, follow school expectations, and represent Simpson Middle School positively during all performances and related activities.

Personal Deliveries

To promote student responsibility and minimize classroom disruptions, personal deliveries to students should be limited.

- Deliveries from restaurants or third-party delivery services (such as DoorDash, Uber Eats, Grubhub, etc.) are not permitted.
- Parents and guardians are encouraged to limit the delivery of forgotten items to rare or emergency situations. Students are expected to come to school prepared each day with the materials they need.
- Items dropped off by a parent or guardian will be left in the Front Office for student pickup. To minimize interruptions to instruction, classroom deliveries will not be made except in emergency situations.

PTSA

The Simpson Middle School PTSA is a volunteer organization that partners with families, staff, and the community to support students and enhance the school experience. Through memberships, volunteers, fundraising, and special events, the PTSA provides programs and resources that benefit students, teachers, and the entire Simpson community.

The PTSA supports initiatives such as student recognition, teacher and staff appreciation, cultural and educational programs, family events, school spirit activities, and volunteer opportunities throughout the school year. Families are encouraged to become PTSA members, attend meetings, volunteer their time, and participate in school events.

For membership information, volunteer opportunities, upcoming events, and additional resources, visit the [Simpson PTSA website](#).

Retention and Promotion

Student promotion and retention decisions are made in accordance with Cobb County School District and Georgia Department of Education requirements. Throughout the school year, the school monitors each student's academic progress and provides interventions and supports for students experiencing difficulty.

To be promoted to the next grade level in grades 6–8, students must meet all of the following requirements:

- Pass Mathematics, English/Language Arts, and one additional core academic course for the year or demonstrate minimum proficiency on the appropriate state assessment in those subjects.
- Earn an overall passing average for all scheduled courses for the school year.
- Demonstrate an appropriate level of reading comprehension, as measured by the student's Lexile score.

Promotion and retention decisions may also consider classroom performance, attendance, assessment data, and other factors in accordance with district policy. Parents and guardians are encouraged to monitor academic progress through ParentVUE and maintain regular communication with teachers.

Questions regarding promotion or retention should be directed to the student's teacher, school counselor, or grade-level administrator.

Safety Plans and Drills

The safety and security of our students and staff are a top priority at Simpson Middle School. The school maintains comprehensive emergency response plans and conducts regular safety drills throughout the school year in accordance with Cobb County School District and Georgia requirements.

Students and staff participate in a variety of safety drills, including fire, severe weather, lockdown, shelter-in-place, and evacuation drills. Students are expected to take all drills seriously, follow staff directions promptly, remain calm, and help maintain a safe environment.

Parents and guardians are encouraged to discuss the importance of school safety procedures with their children. To ensure the security of our campus, specific details of school safety plans and emergency procedures are not published.

Schedule Changes

Student schedules are developed carefully to balance class sizes, meet academic requirements, and provide the best possible learning experience. For this reason, schedule changes are limited.

Requests for schedule changes will be considered only for appropriate educational reasons, such as:

- Placement in an incorrect course.
- Missing a required course.
- Scheduling errors or conflicts.
- Other administrative reasons approved by school administration.

Requests based on teacher preference, lunch period preference, or requests to be placed with friends will not be considered.

Students and parents who believe a schedule change is necessary should contact Dr. Vickie Kogan (Vickie.Kogan@cobbk12.org) as soon as possible after schedules are released. All schedule changes are subject to administrative approval.

School Closing

School closings, delayed openings, early dismissals, and other schedule changes due to inclement weather or emergency situations are determined by the Cobb County School District.

When changes to the school schedule occur, families will be notified through the district's communication systems, including phone calls, emails, text messages, the CCSD website, social media, and local media outlets. Parents and guardians are encouraged to ensure that their contact information is current in the school's student information system to receive timely notifications.

When schools are closed or operating on a modified schedule, students and families should follow the instructions provided by the district regarding attendance, transportation, and any expectations for learning.

Snacks and beverages

Students are encouraged to bring a refillable water bottle to school. Water is the only beverage permitted in classrooms unless otherwise approved by school staff.

Snacks may be allowed only during designated class periods or with teacher permission. Students are expected to clean up after themselves and dispose of all trash appropriately.

- 6th Grade – Last 10 minutes of 5th Period
- 7th Grade – First 10 minutes of 3rd Period
- 8th Grade – First 10 minutes of 6th Period

Exceptions to these guidelines will be made for students with documented medical or dietary needs. Families should communicate any necessary accommodations with the school nurse and appropriate staff.

Sources of Strength

Simpson Middle School is proud to implement Sources of Strength, a nationally recognized, evidence-based program that promotes student well-being, resilience, and positive connections. Through peer leadership and schoolwide activities, Sources of Strength helps students build healthy relationships, identify trusted adults, develop coping skills, and recognize the many sources of support available to them.

The program encourages students to seek help when needed, support one another, and contribute to a positive, inclusive school culture. Students and families are encouraged to partner with the school in promoting kindness, connectedness, and mental wellness.

Standardized Testing

Throughout the school year, students participate in state and district assessments that measure academic progress, identify academic strengths and needs, and help guide instruction. Assessment results may also be used to inform course placement, gifted identification, and school improvement efforts.

Assessment	Students	Typical Administration
BEACON Assessments	Grades 6–8	Fall, Winter, and Spring
Iowa Assessment	Grade 7	Fall
Cognitive Abilities Test (CogAT)	Grade 7	Fall
PSAT 8/9	Grade 8	Fall
ACCESS for ELLs	Eligible multilingual learners	Winter
Georgia Milestones End-of-Grade (EOG)	Grades 6–8	Spring
Georgia Milestones End-of-Course (EOC)	Students enrolled in high school credit courses requiring an EOC (Algebra)	Spring

Testing dates are established by the Cobb County School District and the Georgia Department of Education and may vary slightly each year. Families will receive additional information prior to each testing window. Students are encouraged to arrive on time, get plenty of rest, eat a healthy breakfast, and do their best on every assessment.

Study Hall

Morning Study Hall is available for students who arrive on campus before the building opens at 8:50 a.m. Study Hall is held in the Cafeteria from 8:15–8:50 a.m. and is supervised by school staff.

Students attending Study Hall are expected to:

- Work quietly on homework, reading, or other school-related activities.
- Use school-issued devices only for educational purposes.
- Follow all school expectations and staff directions.
- Remain in the cafeteria until dismissed.

Personal electronic devices, including cell phones, smart watches, earbuds, and gaming devices, may not be used during Study Hall.

Students who arrive before 8:50 a.m. and are not participating in a supervised school activity (such as intramurals, club meetings, or tutoring) should report directly to Morning Study Hall.

Tardy Policy

Students are expected to arrive to each class **on time and prepared to learn**. Passing periods provide sufficient time to travel between classes, use the restroom if needed, and gather necessary materials.

Students who arrive after the tardy bell without an approved pass will be marked tardy. Repeated tardiness disrupts instruction and may result in disciplinary consequences in accordance with school procedures.

To avoid tardies, students should:

- Travel directly to their next class.
- Limit stops during passing periods.
- Have all necessary materials before the tardy bell rings.
- Follow all hallway expectations.

Students who are delayed due to a teacher, school business, or another approved reason should obtain a pass before reporting to class.

Textbooks

Students enrolled in English Language Arts and Mathematics courses will receive a consumable workbook to support classroom instruction. These workbooks are intended for student use throughout the school year and should be brought to class as directed by the teacher.

Most instructional materials, assignments, and digital resources are provided through CTLS. Students are expected to bring their fully charged, school-issued laptop to school each day and access course materials through CTLS as directed by their teachers.

Transportation

Students may travel to and from school by school bus, parent transportation, walking, or other district-approved transportation. Families should establish a consistent transportation plan and communicate any changes to the school before 3:30 p.m.

Students are expected to follow all school rules and staff directions while arriving at and departing from campus. Safe and respectful behavior is expected on school buses, in the car rider line, while walking on campus, and at designated arrival and dismissal locations.

For the safety of all students:

- Students should use their assigned mode of transportation unless an approved change has been made.
- Transportation changes should be communicated to the Front Office before 3:30 p.m.
- Students should remain in designated areas and follow staff instructions during arrival and dismissal.

Additional information about buses, car riders, walkers, and early check-outs can be found in the corresponding sections of this handbook.

Riding the school bus is a privilege. Students are expected to follow the Cobb County Safe Rider Program, obey the directions of the bus driver, remain seated, keep hands and objects inside the bus, and demonstrate respectful behavior at all times.

Student behavior at the bus stop and on the bus is considered an extension of the school day. School rules and the CCSD Student Code of Conduct apply during transportation to and from school.

Students who fail to follow bus expectations may receive school disciplinary consequences, including temporary or permanent suspension of bus riding privileges.

Bus Changes

Bus changes are approved only for emergencies and must be requested in writing by a parent or guardian. Requests must be submitted to the front office before the beginning of the school day and are subject to administrative approval and bus capacity.

Track My Bus

Parents and guardians are encouraged to use the Track My Bus app to view their student's assigned bus information and receive real-time updates on bus locations, arrival times, and transportation alerts. This free service helps families stay informed about daily transportation. Additional information and registration instructions are available on the [CCSD Track My Bus webpage](#)

Tutoring

Tutoring may be available throughout the school year in various subjects. Opportunities vary by teacher, grade level, and student need.

Information about tutoring will be shared by teachers or the school as it becomes available. Students are responsible for arranging transportation unless otherwise communicated.

Visitors

All visitors must enter the building through the Front Office, present a valid photo ID, and check in using the district's visitor management system before entering the school. Visitors must wear their visitor badge at all times while on campus and return it before leaving.

To minimize disruptions to instruction and ensure student safety, classroom visits must be approved in advance by school administration. Unauthorized visitors are not permitted on campus.

Website

The Simpson Middle School website is the primary source for school information and updates. Families can find announcements, calendars, staff contact information, academic resources, athletic and club information, and other important news throughout the school year. Parents and guardians are encouraged to visit the website regularly and bookmark it for easy access: www.cobbk12.org/simpson

Withdrawal from school

If a student will be withdrawing from Simpson Middle School, *the enrolling adult* should notify the school's *Attendance Clerk* or Front Office as soon as possible.

Before withdrawal can be completed, all school-issued materials, including the student's Chromebook, charger, textbooks or workbooks, library books, and any other school property, must be returned. Any outstanding fees or obligations should also be resolved.

Records will be forwarded to the student's new school upon receipt of an official records request.