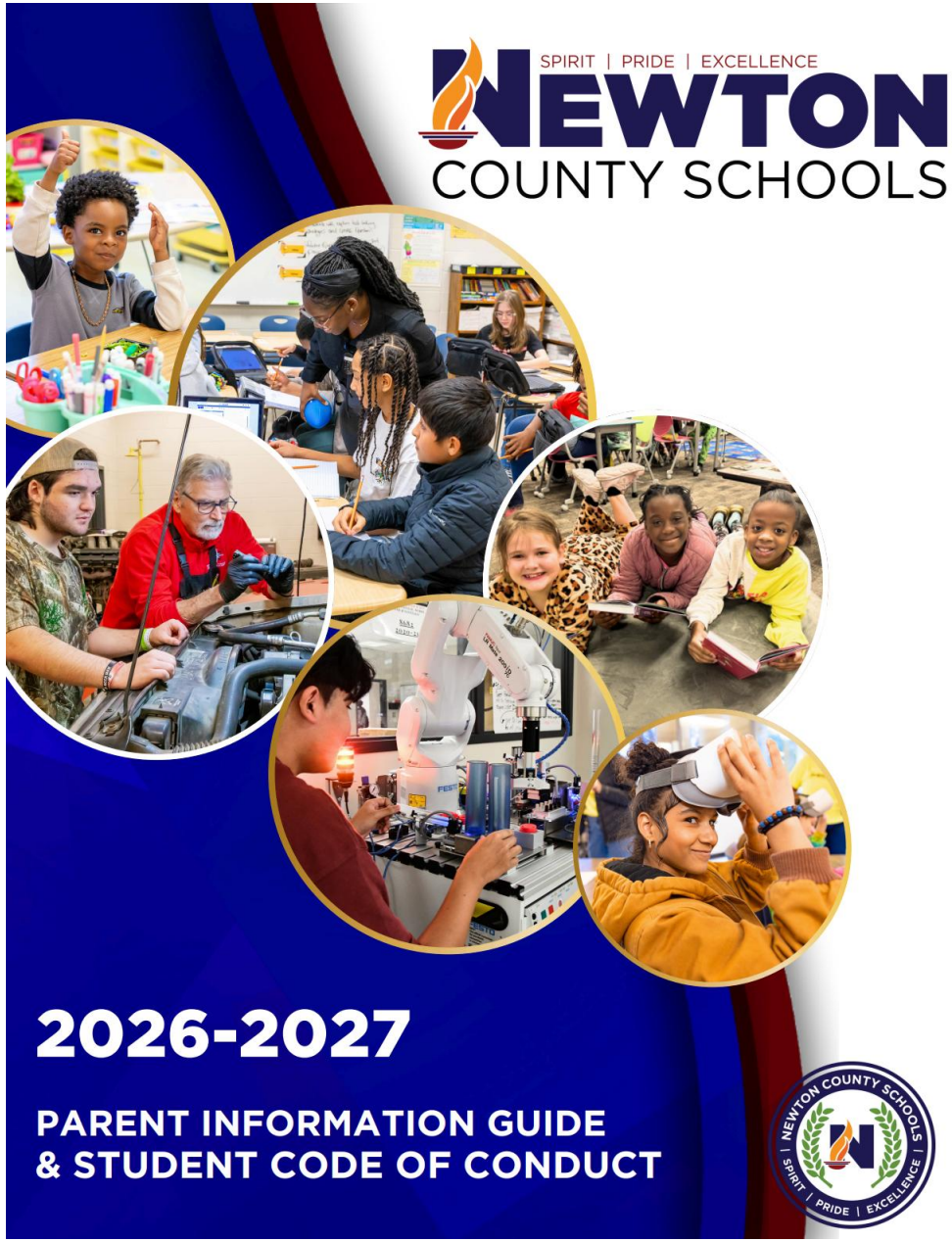
NEWTON COUNTY SCHOOLS
SPIRIT | PRIDE | EXCELLENCE
Achieves

Parent Information Guide & Student Code of Conduct



April 21, 2026

Andrea Kinney
Executive Director of Student Services



- Provides clear, accessible information on district processes, expectations, and resources
- Equips families to effectively navigate and support their child's educational experience
- Promotes a safe, orderly, and supportive learning environment

PARENT INFORMATION GUIDE

- Chronic Absenteeism and Attendance Supports
- Electronic Devices
- Academic Integrity and Responsible Use of AI

CHRONIC ABSENTEEISM AND ATTENDANCE SUPPORTS

Senate Bill 123 (SB 123)

- **Chronic absenteeism:** Missing **10%+ of school days**; impacts achievement and engagement
- **District Focus:** Early identification and proactive, **MTSS-aligned tiered supports**
- **School Actions:** Ongoing monitoring with parent communication, conferences, attendance plans, and targeted interventions
- **Attendance Review Teams:** Analyze data, identify root causes, and implement plans focused on **prevention and student success**

ELECTRONIC DEVICES

Inclusion of guidance aligned to Board Policy JCDAF and the Distraction-Free Education Act



- **Expectation:** Students in **Pre-K–8 may not use personal electronic devices** during the instructional school day
- **Definition:** Personal electronic devices include smartphones, smartwatches, smart glasses, tablets, headphones, and similar communication/media data transmission devices
- **Implementation & Accountability:** Devices must be **off/silenced and out of sight**; violations may result in disciplinary action, with exceptions for documented student needs (IEP/504/medical plans)

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY AND RESPONSIBLE USE OF AI

GUIDELINES FOR RESPONSIBLE AI USE IN SCHOOLS

Own Your Work.

Assignments should reflect your own thinking and understanding. AI should be used as a tool for learning and creativity; submitting AI-generated work as your own is not permitted.

Evaluate and Cite All Sources.

Critically evaluate AI-generated information for bias, accuracy, and credibility. Any AI tools, programs, or platforms used must be properly cited, just as you would cite books, websites, or articles.

Be Transparent.

Clearly identify where and how AI was used in your work. Whether AI is used to assist with brainstorming, editing, or content generation, its role must be disclosed.

Use Ethically.

Do not use AI to bypass learning or gain an unfair academic advantage. If you are unsure whether a particular use of AI is appropriate, consult your teacher before submitting the work.

STUDENT CODE OF CONDUCT

- Rule and Disposition Updates for the following areas:
  - Drugs
  - Electronic and Other Communication Devices

DRUGS

Additional Language: …and/or or any substance or chemical that is mood altering when taken that has not been prescribed. Mood altering substances or chemicals may include but not limited to hemp products, cannabis or cannabidiol (CBD) oil, Delta variants, THC variants, synthetics and substances represented as drugs

ELECTRONIC AND OTHER COMMUNICATION DEVICES

Additional Language: For students in grades Pre-K through 8 in accordance with Board Policy JCDAF and the Distraction-Free Education Act (O.C.G.A. § 20-2-324.8), this includes any instance in which a personal electronic communication device is visible, powered on, or used without authorization, as devices must remain off and out of sight for the entire school day.

DISPOSITION (ELEMENTARY & MIDDLE SCHOOL

1ST OFFENSE

Penalty at the discretion of the administrator, which may include but is not limited to conference, detention, Saturday work detail, or after school detention. The device will be confiscated and will be returned to the parent/guardian, if possible, at the parent's request.

2ND OFFENSE

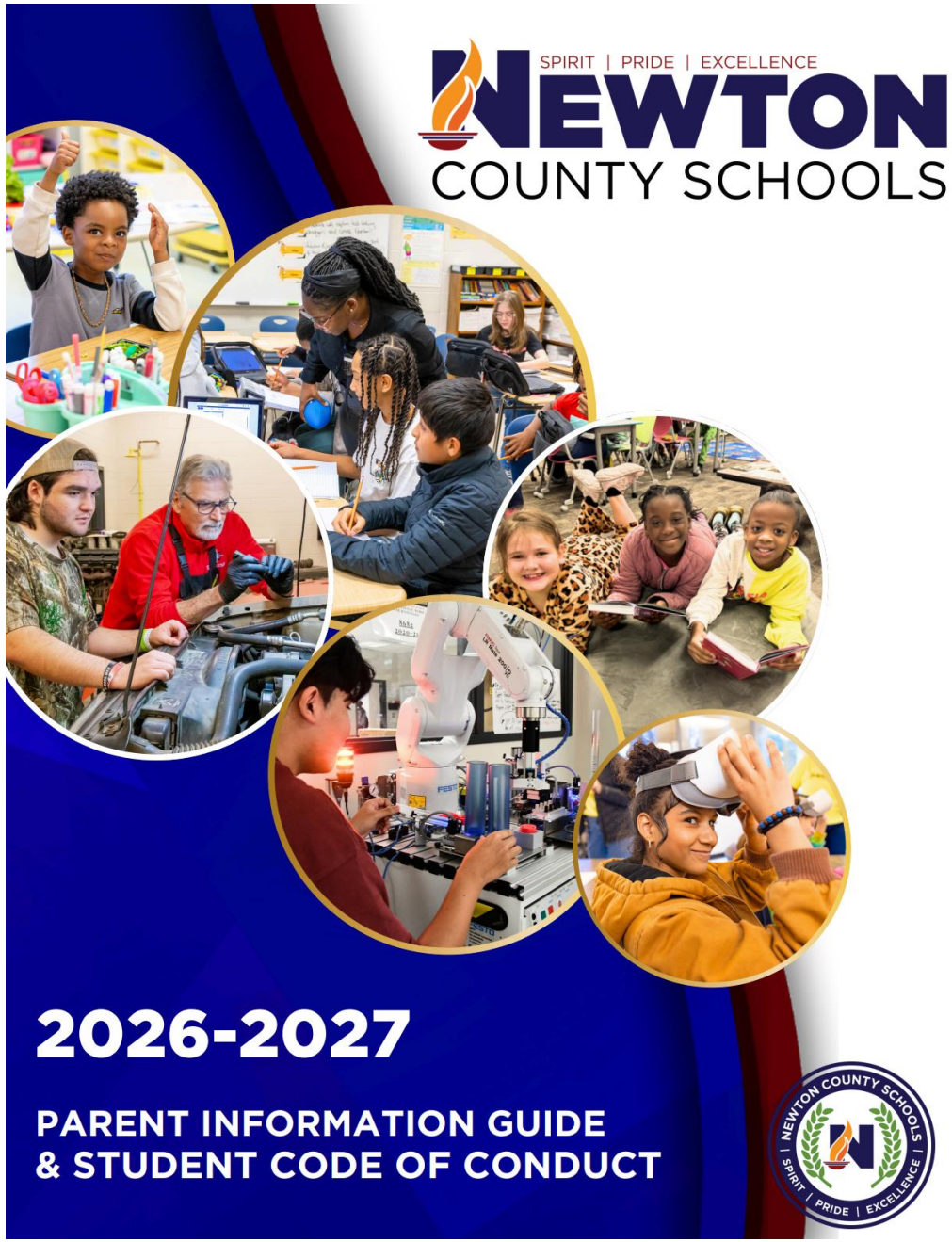
Penalty at the discretion of the administrator, which may include a conference with the student and/or parent and/or ISS. The device will be confiscated and returned to the parent, if possible, at the parent's request.

3RD OFFENSE

Penalty at the discretion of the administrator, which may include a one-day suspension or two days ISS. The device will be confiscated, and the parent must come to the school to regain possession of the device.

4TH OFFENSE

Denial of possession of such devices and out of school suspension at the discretion of the administrator. The device will be confiscated, and the parent must come to the school to regain possession of the device.



- **Aligned to Law & District Priorities**
  - Reflects current legislation and Board direction
- **Strengthened Clarity & Consistency**
  - Clear expectations and consistent implementation
- **Focus on Safe & Supportive Schools**
  - Promotes accountability, positive behavior, and student success

We are on a relentless pursuit to become the

FASTEST IMPROVING

school district in the state of Georgia – organized and led by a

HIGHLY SKILLED TEACHER & LEADER WORKFORCE

working tirelessly

on behalf of children for the benefit of our community

and **PRODUCING BREAKTHROUGH RESULTS**

NEWTON COUNTY SCHOOLS