



2015-2016

**Inverness Elementary School
Student Handbook**

Welcome to Inverness Elementary School!



Dear Parents,

Welcome to Inverness Elementary School! We are proud to be known as a student-centered, data-driven, warm and welcoming place to learn. We embrace our diverse culture and are dedicated to the success of every child who enters our doors.

Our teachers have high expectations and provide the necessary tools and quality differentiated instruction to help our students meet their goals. IES teachers utilize best practices, including Math Investigations and the Alabama Reading Initiative, which promote hands-on learning and higher level thinking. Most importantly, our teachers care about their students and want to make a difference.

Another strength of IES is the high level of parent involvement. From sponsoring school wide activities to helping out during the school day, our PTO is very important to the success of our school. Our goal is to foster the parent-school partnership through increased communication and participation in school events.

Feel free to contact us at 682-5240 or visit our school's website at <http://www.shelbyed.k12.al.us/schools/ies/index.htm>

We are excited to have you as part of our IES family!

Christine Hoffman
Principal
choffman@shelbyed.k12.al.us

Jeff Norris
Assistant Principal
j2norris@shelbyed.k12.al.us

Inverness Elementary School

Parent/Student Guide 2015-2016

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Calendar of Events

2015-2016 School Year

August

6	Kindergarten Parent Night (6:00 p.m.)
7	Kindergarten Meet the Teacher (1:00 p.m.)
10	First Grade Meet the Teacher/Parent Session (11:30 a.m.) Second Grade Meet the Teacher/Parent Session (1:15 p.m.) Third Grade Meet the Teacher/Parent Session (3:00 p.m.)
12	First Day of School for Students
14	Coffee with IES Administrators (7:30 a.m. - 9:00 a.m.)
17-21	PTO Ghost Auction

September

7	Labor Day (Schools & Offices Closed)
11	IES Tailgate at OMHS Football Game
15	Fall Pictures
21-25	Fall Book Fair

October

8	Boosterthon Fun Run
12	Teacher Workday (No Students)
13-14	Parenting Days 1 & 2
16	Report Cards Go Home
20-21	Parenting Days 3 & 4

November

6	Veterans Day Program for Parents (Third Grade)
11	Veterans Day (Schools & Offices Closed)
23-27	Thanksgiving Break (Schools & Offices Closed)
30-Dec 4	Holiday Craft Workshop

December

5	Gingerbread Making Day
11	Christmas Program for Parents (Second Grade)
11	Sweet & Savory Snack for Teachers
18	First Semester Ends; Students dismissed at 1:00 p.m.
21-January 4	Christmas Holidays

January

4	Teacher Workday (No Students)
5	Students Return from Christmas Holidays
8	Report Cards Go Home
14	ESL Parent Night
18	MLK, Jr. Day (Schools & Offices Closed)
20	Western Day (2 nd and 3 rd Grade)

February

8-12	Teacher Appreciation Week
11-12	Grandparents Days 1 & 2
15	Presidents Day (Schools & Offices Closed)
18-19	Grandparents Days 3 & 4
24	Spring Pictures

March

4	IES Showcase
11	Teacher Workday (No Students)
18	Spring Program for Parents (First Grade)
18	Report Cards Go Home
28-April 1	Spring Break (Schools & Offices Closed)

April

6	Class Pictures
6-7	Kindergarten Registration
11-15	Spring Book Fair
29	Barnyard Program for Parents (Kindergarten)

May

TBD	ASPIRE Testing (3 rd Grade only)
16-20	Family Culture Week
19	IES Field Day
26	Second Semester Ends; Students dismissed at 1:00 p.m.
26	Report Cards Go Home
27	Teacher Workday (No Students)

Vision Statement

To be a school that prepares all students to be fully participating citizens, leaders,
and life-long learners

Mission Statement

To guide every student to reach his or her full potential

Beliefs

All students can learn and achieve in a safe, disciplined environment in which they
feel supported and have a sense of belonging.

Students learn best when they are actively engaged and when teachers provide
challenging and meaningful learning experiences.

Students rise to the level of expectations of the school and classroom.

Parent partnerships enhance student motivation and achievement

Motto

Inverness Elementary School: A Great Place to Grow

2015-2016 Faculty and Staff

Kindergarten Teachers	Special Area Teachers
Holly Browder	Karen Caldwell, Counselor
Lindsay Gornto	Megan Cobb, Nurse
Brittany Heard	Mike Daniel, Physical Education
Amy Kleback	Porshia Franklin, Gifted Education
Jan Renfro	Amanda Hamm, Literacy Coach
Debbie Slawinski	Catherine Hart, Special Education
Bridget Spackman	Janice Lamb, Media Specialist
	Susan Lee, Special Education
First Grade Teachers	Kourtney Lund, Special Education
Inga Clum	Joan Ray, Speech
Jamie Cox	Caroline Rose, Physical Education
Kelly Failla	Kiffany Rueda, ELL
Emily Haynes	Abby Weaver, Art
Betsy Hefner	Leigh Welch, ELL
Loye McMillan	Kim Youngblood, Music
Shannon Williamson	
	Paraeducators
Second Grade Teachers	Jan Boykin
Barbara Anderson	Missy Bush
Sheila Borie	Andrea Del Castillo
Wren Greene	Kristin Emerson
Erin Pearson	John Hughes
Anna Frances Walker	Jennifer Newhouse
Meredith Washburn	Glenda Powell
Nicole Whitfield	Julia Thomason
	Sharon Wall
Third Grade Teachers	
Ashley Beavers	Maintenance Staff
Niki Burke	Eric Daniels, Custodian
Carri Flanagan	Vickie Hardin, Custodian
LeKindra Mitchell	Elizabeth Powell, Custodian
Mera Price	Walter Rowser, Maintenance Technician
Michelle Price	
Pam Taylor	Cafeteria Staff
	Rhonda Adams, Assistant Manager
Bus Drivers	Darline Keeton
Tommy Anderson (09-42)	Ann McGreer
Vickie Hardin (09-53)	Brenda Reynolds, Manager
Patti Henderson (09-03)	
Windy Kelley (10-08)	Office Staff
Glenda Kennedy (01-14)	Christine Hoffman, Principal
David Norby (01-01)	Jeff Norris, Assistant Principal
Laura Pastor (09-29)	Janice Moody, Bookkeeper
Alice Pifer (06-03)	Toni Rodell, Registrar
Joel Pifer (06-03)	Stephanie Philpott, Secretary

PTO

The IES PTO is composed of parents, grandparents, and friends who volunteer their time at IES. Some areas in which IES volunteers work are coordinating fundraisers, shelving library books, assisting teachers, and making and participating in special projects. We want you as a volunteer at IES! Please view the PTO link on the school website to find out more information.

Guidance Program

IES provides elementary guidance services for all students. Mrs. Caldwell works with parents, teachers, school administrators and other professionals to provide students with needed resources and services. Please contact Karen Caldwell at (205) 682-5285 for more information.

School Day Schedule

The school day is 7:50 a.m. – 2:50 p.m. Because school begins promptly at 7:50 a.m., it is essential that all students report to school no later than 7:30 a.m. if they plan to eat breakfast. Instruction starts at 7:50 a.m. If students report to school after 7:45 a.m., parents **must** accompany them in the school before they can be admitted to class. Students who arrive after 11:20 a.m. or who check out prior to 11:20 a.m. will be counted absent.

Attendance

Children must be in school every day that they are physically able to achieve academic success. The following are the Shelby County School System Attendance Policy Regulations:

- Students who are absent must bring a written explanation of the absence from the parent or guardian within **three** days of returning to school, regardless of the absence reason.
- Absences for reasons other than illness may be considered excused at the principal's discretion. A "Parent Request for Planned Absence" form will be available in the Shelby County Code of Conduct and must be submitted before the absence. This form is also located in the IES office, on the IES website, and at the end of this handbook.
- IES will comply with the Shelby County Attendance Policy Regulations by sending letters to students having multiple unexcused absences. A pattern of tardies or absences may result in a referral to Early Warning Court. If you have any questions about the SCBOE Attendance Policy after reading the SCBOE Code of Conduct, please contact Mr. Norris or Mrs. Rodell.

Arrival Procedures

The school building does not open until 7:15 a.m. Please do not drop off students before this time. Car riders dropped off between 7:15 and 7:30 will go directly to the cafeteria and be dismissed to their classrooms at 7:30 a.m. Car riders dropped off after 7:30 a.m. will go directly to their classrooms.

Students are **not allowed** to wait outside of the building if they arrive before 7:15 a.m.

Dismissal of Children

Parents desiring to check out students during the school day for doctor/dentist or other valid reasons are to come to the office and sign the child out of school. Parents are asked not to check students out of school after 2:30 p.m. See the principal if you have questions regarding the above request. Should a parent send another person to pick up his/her child(ren), written authorization from the parent is required, and those persons **must** be listed on the child's enrollment card.

Any changes in dismissal procedures for children must be in writing and must be submitted before 2:00 p.m. Telephone calls and emails will not be accepted. Please use the Change in Transportation Form available on the IES website or in the office. Please be prepared to show photo identification when picking up a child from school.

Parent Guidelines

- All students will walk to their classrooms without parent assistance after the first week.
- Please refrain from unannounced classroom visits. If you need to talk to your child's teacher, please schedule a conference 2 days in advance.
- All visitors must sign in at the front office window and receive a visitor's sticker and permission before going anywhere in the building.
- Please pick up and drop off your child at the appropriate designated area.
- Parent volunteers are asked to follow the school dress code.
- Preschoolers and students not enrolled in IES are not allowed to attend field trips and/or volunteer activities.
- If your child is absent for two or more days, please notify the school to make arrangements for picking up make-up work prior to 9:00 a.m. Remember to allow adequate time for the classroom teacher to gather the work. Make-up work will not be faxed but may be picked up between 3:00 p.m. and 3:30 p.m.
- If you have a problem or concern: first, discuss the issue with the teacher, and second, if necessary, schedule a conference with administration.
- Students must ride and return to school with the entire class on field trips. Exceptions must be approved by the principal prior to the field trip. No siblings or guests (regardless of age) will be allowed to accompany classes on field trips.

Transportation

Bus Overview

- Students may only ride the bus to which they are assigned.
- Emergency situations should be directed to the principal/ assistant principal.
- Students should arrive 5-10 minutes before estimated pick-up time. Times may vary 5-10 minutes depending upon traffic and weather conditions. Parents need to be at the bus stop!
- During the first two weeks of school, the bus is establishing the route. Please be patient if the bus is not on time.
- Students should remain on the grass while waiting and approach the bus only after it has stopped.
- Students should wait for the bus on the side of the road on which they live unless accompanied by an adult.
- When the bus comes to complete stop, the driver will motion students to walk across the street.
- Students should stay at least ten feet in front of the bus in order for the bus driver to keep them in his/her line of vision.

Bus Behavior

- Sit at all times.
- Speak in a low voice.
- Food and drinks are not allowed.
- Only items that fit in a backpack are allowed.
- Keep the bus clean.
- Follow the driver's directions and rules.
- Keep hands and head inside the bus at all times.
- Treat others and others' property as if it were yours.
- No glass items.

Car Rider Overview

Car rider transportation must follow the arrows directing traffic flow. Do **not** exit against the flow.

- Morning and afternoon carpool is in **front** of the school.
- Cars will form TWO lines as they enter our parking lot and pull up to the person directing cars.
- All students must wear seat belts.
- Please do not pass cars while in carpool line.
- We ask that all parents in carpool line refrain from using cell phones while in the car rider line. This is an obvious danger as attention is diverted from the many young children who are loading/unloading their cars. For the safety of our students, we ask the cooperation of all parents and drivers. Thank you for your patience and understanding.

Morning Carpool

1. Car riders should be dropped off at the school after 7:15 a.m. and in time to be in their classrooms before 7:50 a.m. If they reach their class after the 7:50 a.m. bell rings, they are counted tardy. If your child is tardy and there is not someone on duty outside, please park and escort your child inside and sign them in at the office.
2. The traffic is much lighter between 7:15 a.m. and 7:30 a.m. than it is from 7:30 a.m. to 7:50 a.m. For that reason, parents are encouraged to arrive at the school between 7:15 a.m. and 7:30 a.m.
3. Please drive slowly when entering and exiting the loading area.
4. When unloading, please pull your vehicle up as far as possible so other vehicles may unload at the same time and put your car in park.
5. Have your children's lunch, books, backpacks and other items ready before you enter the unloading area. Say your good-byes early and be ready to unload.
6. Do not open car doors until the whistle has sounded.
7. Please pay attention to the crossing guard who is directing traffic and follow his or her directions.
8. When possible, unload on the right side of your vehicle to expedite the car rider line.
9. Parents, please remain in your cars. If you are having difficulty getting your child out of the car, please summon a teacher on duty for assistance. Do not escort your child into the building from car rider line.

Afternoon Carpool

1. Cars will form TWO lines as they enter our parking lot and pull up to the person with the stop sign.
2. Please display car rider signs in the window. Cars without signs will be asked to pull forward and parents must check out student(s) from the office.
3. Afternoon car rider dismissal will begin at 2:50 p.m.
4. Please drive slowly when entering and exiting the loading area.
5. When loading, please pull your vehicle up as far as possible so other vehicles may load at the same time and put your car in park. Students will load when the whistle sounds.
6. Please pay attention to the crossing guard who is directing traffic and follow his or her directions.
7. Parents, please remain in your cars. If your child is having difficulty getting into the car (or they did not hear his or her name), please summon a teacher on duty for assistance.
8. Once all students are loaded, the whistle will sound and the crossing guard will pull one lane of cars at a time. When you exit car rider line in front of the school, you will merge into the school exit and can turn left or right
9. All car riders should be picked up prior to 3:15 p.m.

After School Care Program

ASCP operates from 3:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m. each day. Please contact Cindy Warner at 682-7084 or the IES after school program after 2:30 p.m. at 682-5249 for more information.

Breakfast, Lunch, and Snack Program

IES has an outstanding breakfast and lunch program. Meals are of high quality and meet strict federal and state guidelines.

School lunches are \$2.00 per day. Children will be given notice when their balance is \$3.00. The cafeteria does not offer loans for lunch and breakfast. We request payment on meal accounts be made at the beginning of each month, but payments can be made anytime. If paying by check, please issue a check made payable to IES/CNP for the meal account with your child's name/account number on the check.

Breakfast is \$1.25 per day and served from 7:15 a.m.–7:35 a.m. A child who desires to eat breakfast must arrive at the cafeteria before 7:30 a.m. Free/reduced lunch applications are available to all students. Parents are encouraged to participate in the free/reduced lunch and breakfast program by completing a lunch application and returning it to the school (this is a confidential program). Please apply!

Parents are welcome to eat breakfast and/or lunch with their children. Please remember to sign in at the office and wait on the bench at the cafeteria door until your child's assigned lunch time. Restaurant food and carbonated drinks are not allowed by students or parents.

Your child's teacher has a daily snack time. Please send healthy snacks such as fruit, crackers, cheese, or raw vegetables.

Students Withdrawing from School

Parents withdrawing students from IES are to formally inform the school of the withdrawal and receive a Notice of Transfer Form from the office at least one day prior to withdrawal. This form contains important information that assists the new school in facilitating proper grade placement. Before withdrawing from school, students must return all textbooks and library books and pay any cafeteria balance.

Emergency School Closing

When inclement weather occurs **before** regular school opening, county administrators will decide if the school will open on time, close, or have a delayed start, and announce the decision on area radio and television stations and will send a message via Listserv and Blackboard Connect. If inclement weather or other emergencies occur **during** the school day, county administrators will decide if schools will remain open for the remainder of the school day. If schools close early, area radio and television stations will air the decision. IES will send a message via ListServ and Blackboard Connect regarding school closing. Only those individuals listed on the enrollment cards will be allowed to pick up children. For this reason, it is very important to keep the emergency card updated with any changes in phone numbers, addresses, or designees. (The enrolling custodial parent must come to the school office to update the card.)
Ways in which you can help during an emergency:

- Please **do not** call the school. We must have the lines open for emergency calls.
- As soon as possible, come to the school to pick up your child and any other children for whom you are the emergency card designee.

- Leave the driveway in front of the school clear for emergency vehicles.
- If, at the direction of public officials (fire, police, etc) the students have been relocated to another site for safety, announcements will be made on local radio stations and TV stations.
- Please remind your child to follow the directions of school personnel.
- **Sign-up for IES ListServ Message Service and Blackboard Connect.**

Health Room Services/Medication Procedures

IES faculty and staff consider the health and safety of students to be a vital concern. The IES nurse coordinates the health program. Parents are encouraged to keep children at home if they are not feeling well. If they have a fever, they are to remain at home and must be fever-free for 24 hours before returning to school. If a child becomes ill at school, a parent will be contacted to pick up his or her child. For this reason, it is extremely important that the school has the home and business telephone numbers of both parents and an emergency name and phone number in the event parents cannot be reached. All medicine to be administered at school should be given to the nurse by the parent with specific instructions. Classroom teachers will not dispense any medicine. Students are not permitted to carry prescription or over-the-counter medication either on the bus or on school property.

Appropriate forms must also be completed before medication will be administered.

***Please refer to the Shelby County Code of Conduct for specific medication procedures.**

Lost and Found

Please label your child's supplies, personal items, and clothing. The lost and found is located in the red hall near the cafeteria. Unclaimed items will be donated to charity at the end of each grading period.

Insurance

Insurance is available to cover children while at school and while traveling to and from school. 24-hour/year-round coverage is limited in its benefits, but does help defray medical expenses in case of an accident.

IES will provide insurance application forms but money for insurance is mailed directly to the insurance company by the parent. Please request forms in the school's main office or by calling Mrs. Philpott at 682-5240.

Shelby County Dress Code

Students are required to be neat, clean, and fully clothed at all times at school. Students who have questionable or inappropriate dress will call their parents to bring appropriate clothing and will not be allowed to attend class until they change. Students must wear appropriate footwear for daily physical education. All students' shoes need to have backs on them.

***Please refer to the Shelby County Code of Conduct for a minimum guide to acceptable dress for students.**

School Safety

The faculty and staff of IES believe that every child should feel safe and secure during the school day. Children will be supervised during every aspect of their day, including the classroom, lunchroom, early arrival, dismissal, in the halls, and in the restrooms.

Our physical education staff is committed to helping each child develop to their full potential based on developmental levels. Safety is stressed at all times and equipment is well maintained.

IES developed a Crisis Plan to assist in dealing with any emergency situation. We have standard operating procedures to address inclement weather, fire, intruders, and bomb threats as well as other emergencies that may occur. If a student is injured, the nurse and staff members who have Red Cross and CPR certification are available to assist until emergency personnel arrive.

In the interest of school safety, play weapons of any sort (guns, swords, knives, etc.) are not allowed. Verbal threats of any sort are not allowed and will be referred to the office.

Discipline

When a student fails to follow school rules and parents have been contacted by the classroom teacher or bus driver, the student will be referred to the office. Fighting will result in automatic referral to the office. Discipline procedures will provide appropriate due process.

***Please refer to the Shelby County Code of Conduct for a minimum guide to appropriate discipline.**

Nuisance Items

Any item that disrupts the school program is not allowed. Nuisance items will be confiscated and turned in to the office. IES is not responsible for nuisance items (lost, stolen, or confiscated). A parent or guardian must pick up the item from the school office. Nuisance items may include radios, MP3 players, video games, trading cards, toys, etc.

Class Celebrations

Christmas, Valentine's Day, and End-of-the-Year celebrations are allowed. Student gifts (flowers, balloons, etc.) are not to be sent to the school. A special, healthy birthday snack may be sent to school for the entire class. Please leave the snack in the office; office personnel or a volunteer will deliver it for you. Invitations to parties may be sent to school when the entire class or either all the girls or all the boys are being invited.

Textbooks

Your child may receive textbooks to be used with his or her schoolwork this year. Your child is responsible for the care and maintenance of any textbooks that are checked out to him or her and taken home. The parent, guardian, or other person having custody of a child to whom textbooks are issued shall be held liable for any loss, abuse, or damage in excess of that which would result from the normal use of textbooks.

Check Policy and Returned Check Policy

- All checks should be written on a commercially printed check with your name, address, and contact telephone number. No counter checks will be accepted.
- Separate checks should be sent for payment of different activities (i.e. field trips, fundraisers, meal accounts, etc.)
- A separate check should be sent for each student.
- Money should be brought to school in a sealed envelope with the **student's name and teacher's name on the outside**.
- Please indicate the purpose of the money (meal account, field trips, etc.). Please include child's name, ID # and purpose on check in the blank labeled "For".
- All returned checks are automatically turned over to a collection agency. When a person writes a check to a school or school system, he or she agrees that, if the check is returned for any reason, it may be represented electronically on the same account, and that the Service Fee for returned checks established by law may be debited from the same account. If they are unable to collect, the checks will be taken to the district attorney for prosecution.
- If the check and fee are not collected electronically, the collection agency will contact the check writer by mail and/or by telephone to make payment arrangements.
- Cash will be required after a second check is turned over to the collection system.

***Any procedures not covered in this plan are included in the Shelby County Code of Conduct and Attendance Handbook developed by the Shelby County Board of Education. The information in this handbook is not intended to conflict with Shelby County Board of Education's policies and procedures. Those policies supersede the information in this booklet.**

Parent Request Form for Planned Absence

Date(s) of planned absence: _____

Number of school days to be missed: _____

Name of student(s)	School	Grade	Absences to Date
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____

If you have other children at other Oak Mountain schools also included in this request, please list them below.

Name of student(s)	School	Grade	Absences to Date
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____

Briefly explain the purpose/reason for this request:

Note: This request should be submitted to the school's administrator. Submitting the request does not automatically mean that the absence will be excused. The registrar will notify parents whether the request has been approved or denied.

Parent Signature

Date

For School Office Use Only:

Decision regarding this parent request:

Approved _____

Denied _____ (but allowed to make up assignments)

Administrator Signature

Date