

Samson Middle School



Student Handbook 2016-2017

**SAMSON Middle SCHOOL
MISSION STATEMENT**

The mission of Samson Middle School is to inspire our students to aspire to the highest goals by providing them with the skills, abilities, and attitudes necessary to be successful in life. We pledge to accomplish this mission by providing a quality instructional program in a positive, safe environment that promotes respect for authority, self, others, and property.

BELIEFS:

We, the stakeholders of Samson Middle School, believe:

- Every student is a unique and valued individual with physical, social, emotional, and intellectual needs.
- Everyone can learn and should be challenged to reach his/her full potential.
- Learning is a lifelong process.
- Positive expectations increase student performance.
- Instructional approaches should take into account the different learning styles of students.
- Student learning is the chief priority of the school.
- The school needs to provide a safe, nurturing environment for learning.
- Teachers, administrators, parents, and the community share the responsibility for providing a quality education.

School Motto..... Inspire to Aspire

School Colors..... Royal & Gold

School Symbol..... Tiger

Contact Information

Samson Middle School	207 North Broad Street Samson, AL 36477
Samson School Website	samsonhs.genevacountyschools.com
Samson School Phone	334.898.2371
Samson School Fax	334.898.7576
Samson Agriscience	334.898.1300
Samson Band	334.360.2786
Samson Lunch Room	334.898.2674

**Samson Middle School
Faculty & Staff**

Administration

Sanders, Ashley.....	Principal
Ballard, Misty.....	Counselor

Faculty

Davis, Lucas.....	Science/P.E.
Deffinbaugh, Ashley.....	English
Dyess, Nikki.....	Career Coach
Gilmore, Lori.....	English
Gooden, Stan.....	Special Education
Hudson, Jackie.....	Media Specialist
Jenkins, Lisa.....	Science
Marsh, Andrea.....	Music
McKnight, Micki.....	Mathematics
Sanders, Matt.....	P.E./Social Science
Wright, Stephanie	Social Science
Tillman, Traci.....	Mathematics

Clubs & Organizations

Class Sponsor – 06 th Grade.....	Micki McKnight
Class Sponsor – 06 th Grade.....	*Lori Gilmore
Class Sponsor – 07 th Grade.....	Lisa Jenkins
Class Sponsor – 07 th Grade.....	*Stephanie Wright
Class Sponsor – 08 th Grade.....	Traci Tillman
Class Sponsor – 08 th Grade.....	Lucas Davis
Class Sponsor – 08 th Grade.....	*Ashley Deffinbaugh
Future Farmers of America (FFA).....	Morgan Murphy
Library Club.....	Jackie Hudson
National Junior Honor Society (NJHS).....	Ashley Deffinbaugh
Student Government Association (SGA).....	StephanieWright

Samson High/Middle School

Athletics

Athletic Director.....	Chris Littleton
Band Director.....	Andrea Marsh
Baseball Coach (Varsity).....	Lucas Davis
Baseball Coach (Junior Varsity).....	Phillip Quincy
Basketball Coach (Boys' Varsity).....	Bill Porter
Basketball Coach (Boys' Junior Varsity).....	Bill Porter
Basketball Coach (Boys' Junior High).....	Matt Sanders
Basketball Coach (Girls' Varsity).....	Chad McKnight
Basketball Coach (Girls' Junior High).....	David King
Cheerleader Sponsor (Varsity).....	Micki McKnight
Cheerleader Sponsor (Junior Varsity).....	Katie Gillis
Football Coach (Head Varsity).....	Chris Littleton
Football Coach (Head Junior High).....	Morgan Murphy
Football Coach (Assistant).....	Lucas Davis
Football Coach (Assistant).....	Mike Joreski
Football Coach (Assistant).....	Phillip Quincy
Football Coach (Assistant).....	Matt Sanders
Golf Coach (Varsity).....	Bill Porter
Softball Coach (Assistant).....	Matt Sanders
Softball Coach (Varsity).....	Vicki Miller
Volleyball Coach (Head Varsity).....	Vicki Miller

Samson Middle/High School
 Regular Bell Schedule
 2016-2017



Time	MS/HS Explanation
7:15	Teacher Duty Arrival
7:30	Student Entrance Bell
7:34	MS/HS Tardy to Homeroom/1 st Period
7:44	1 st Period Begins
8:34	MS/HS Leaves 1 st Period
8:38	MS/HS Tardy to 2 nd Period
9:28	MS/HS Leaves 2 nd Period/MS Report to Break
9:32	HS Tardy to 3 rd Period
9:38	MS Leaves Break/MS Reports to 3 rd Period
9:42	MS Tardy to 3 rd Period
10:22	HS Leaves 3 rd Period/HS Reports to Break
10:32	MS Leaves 3 rd Period/HS Leaves Break
10:36	MS/HS Tardy to 4 th Period
11:26	MS/HS Leaves 4 th Period
11:30	MS/HS Tardy to 5 th Period/Lunch Begins
1:03	MS/HS Leaves 5 th Period
1:07	MS/HS Tardy to 6 th Period
1:56	MS/HS Leaves 6 th Period
2:00	MS/HS Tardy to 7 th Period
2:50	Student Dismissal
3:30	Faculty/Staff Dismissal

Do You Have

Promoting
Responsibility &
Independence to
Develop
Excellence?

RESPONSIBILITY	INDEPENDENCE	EXCELLENCE
Prepared	Listening in class	Set goals
Respectful	Note taking	Make good grades
Materials	On task	Do your best
Communicate	Asking Questions	Making Progress
On Time	Effort	Passing Grades
Completing Assignments	Self-control	Meeting Standards
NOT		
Unprepared	Making an effort	No Goals
No assignments, homework,	Being disruptive	Not meeting standards
Disrespectful	Sleeping in class	Not demonstrating progress
Unruly in halls	Not Asking questions	Making bad grades
Irresponsible		
Yelling in class		

SMS Policies and Procedures

ANNOUNCEMENTS

School announcements should be submitted to the office, in writing, no later than 7:30 A.M. the morning of the announcement. All announcements must be approved by the principal.

ATTENDANCE

Upon their return to school, students are required to bring a note indicating the reason for any absence. All absences will be marked as unexcused until the proper documentation is provided excusing the absence. All incomplete assignments should be marked as a zero on the day the assignment is due and remain a zero until the work is completed. All documentation regarding attendance will be turned into the attendance officer. Teachers are to report any student missing from his/her class and not on the absentee to the office. **Students must submit written excuses for each absence within three (3) school days.**

PERFECT ATTENDANCE

To qualify for a perfect attendance award, a student must be present to every class every day and have no unexcused tardies to class. Further, students with checkouts will not be considered for perfect attendance.

TARDIES

Students are expected to be in class sitting in their desk before the tardy bell rings. If a student is not in his/her assigned area before the tardy bell rings; the student will be counted as tardy.

1 st Tardy.....	Teacher Warning
2 nd Tardy.....	1 day break detention
3 rd Tardy.....	ASD & Parent Notification
5 th Tardy.....	Office Referral = three (3) days ISS
7 th Tardy or more	Office Referral, Truancy Referral, five (5) days ISS

HONOR ROLL

At the end of each grading period an honor roll will be released. The honor roll will consist of two lists; a list for students that earned all “A’s” and a list of students that earned “A’s” and “B’s” on their report card.

GRADE RECOVERY

Grade recovery is designed to help struggling students master course objectives and to help students reach expected academic outcomes. Students will be allowed the opportunity to recover failing grades on individual assignments and test. No grade at or above a 70 will be eligible for recovery and no grade higher than a 70 can be earned through grade recovery. All grade recovery assignments must be made up outside of regular instructional time. All students must request grade recovery and arrange a time with his/her teacher to recover grades. Only assignments for the current nine weeks can be recovered. Whenever possible, grade recovery should be done immediately following a failing grade. Honor courses are not included in grade recovery.

FIELD TRIPS

Students with out-of-school suspensions, excessive absences, or excessive tardies, may **NOT** be allowed to attend academic/athletic/club field trips. Any student with excessive discipline referrals in the same month as a field trip will not be allowed to attend. Students will be required to fill out a clearance to attend form as well as the GCSB Field Trip Form. Students must meet the deadline for the forms. No student will be allowed to attend on the day of the field trip by calling guardians from the school phone. Deadlines will be posted on the daily news as well as on the school website.

FOOD AND DRINKS

No food, drinks, or eating of any kind allowed in halls or classrooms. Drinks packed for lunch must remain in a lunchbox until lunch or break.

LIBRARY POLICY

In order that the library may serve as a functional, workable part of the academic program, and that students and teachers may receive maximum use of it, the following policies are offered:

1. Books may be checked out for a period of 10 days.
2. There is a fine of \$.10 for each day the student keeps the books past the due date.
3. Any student who loses or damages a book must pay the price to have the book replaced.
4. Students who have library fines will be placed on the Owes List.

LOCKERS

Lockers will be issued to students paying a maintenance fee of \$7.00. The lock provided by the school will be used at all times. Locks brought from home are not allowed and will be removed with or without the permission of the student. Students are responsible for the damages to locks and lockers in which they are assigned. If you are assigned a damaged locker or lock, you must notify administration immediately. The school cannot be responsible for items brought to school or placed in lockers. Lockers are subject to search by administration.

BOOK BAGS/BACKPACKS

Book bags or personal items may not be placed in the hallway at any time, this includes in between and during class time. Students must adhere to each teacher's classroom rules/procedures regarding book bags. Students are responsible for any items brought on campus. The school will not be responsible for any stolen or missing items. It is recommended that students use a locker to store personal and school items during the school day.

TELEPHONE

The office telephones are for school business purposes only. Students are not to use the office phones for personal calls. Personal business must be taken care of before or after school hours. Teachers who have telephones in their area should not allow students to use them. A student will not be allowed to leave class to use the phone; if an emergency arises, the school nurse, secretary or administrator will call students' parents.

OWES LIST

Students who incur debt at school will be placed on the Owes List. Students can incur debt by not paying, in a timely manner, for lost or damaged textbooks, course fees, school fines and other school related expenses. Teachers that are responsible for collecting expenses from students should report the names of students who fail to pay for such expenses. Teachers only report student debt at the end of every nine weeks. An updated owes list will be generated every nine weeks. Once you report a student, to the office, do not collect money from the student for that specific expense. The student will have to clear his debt with the office.

TEXTBOOKS

Textbooks are issued without cost to students. A fine will be assessed for lost books or damage to books. Grades and/or records will be withheld until fines are paid in full. It is the students' responsibility to take good care of the textbooks assigned to them. Book covers are recommended for textbooks.

SMS STUDENT CODE OF CONDUCT

CONDUCT

Any time a student's behavior is disruptive, illegal, or inconsiderate of others the student is subject to disciplinary action. The specific consequences will be assigned by an administrator or designee in accordance with policies outlined in this guidebook.

Please recognize that the Geneva County School Board (GCSB) code of conduct rules apply at all times while a students are on campus and/or in proximity to the school campus, on school-sponsored field trips, on school busses, at school bus stops, and while students are traveling to or from school, while students are at school-sponsored events and activities, and at any other time or place that student conduct may affect the safety and/or well-being of other students and/or staff. Students may be subject to discipline for any conduct that takes place off-campus and/or outside of school where there is a reasonable belief by school administration that a student's behavior has caused or will cause disruption to SMS' educational process or environment, or has interfered or will interfere with the safety and/or well-being of students/staff. Students are responsible for following all rules and regulations contained in the Geneva County Board of Education's policies and this student handbook. Repeated violations of any portion of the student code of conduct may be considered gross disobedience or misconduct.

CLASSROOM CONDUCT

Teachers will establish their own classroom management plan. Students are expected to follow all school wide expectations and are subject to disciplinary action in the event that expectations are not met. Food and beverages, as well as, eating candy and chewing gum during class are strictly prohibited. Students are not allowed to "visit" teacher's classrooms unless prior administrative approval is granted.

HALL CONDUCT

Students are not allowed in the halls during instructional time unless they have a hall pass from their assigned teacher. The teacher that a student is assigned to for any specific time is the only person, other than an administrator, that can excuse a student from his/her class. A teacher cannot excuse a student from class unless that student is on his/her roll for the time in question. It is the student's responsibility to make contact with his/her assigned teacher and to be granted permission to be absent from class. A student found in the hall without a pass will be subject to discipline action.

1. Walk - do not run inside the building
2. Use a conversational tone of voice in the halls.
3. Avoid blocking the halls and doorways.
4. Pick up papers in the hall and use the wastebaskets when throwing things away.
5. Horseplay is prohibited at all times and in all places.
6. Keep to the right in the hallways.
7. No food or drink allowed in the halls at any time.

BULLYING

Bullying is defined as aggressive behavior, repeated over time that is intentionally harmful and occurs with no provocation. Bullying can be direct—for example, teasing, taunting, calling names, hitting, kicking, stealing, threatening, or using a weapon. Bullying can also be indirect, such as spreading rumors about someone, ignoring or excluding others intentionally, or influencing others to do these things. Two additional forms of bullying that can be added to the list are sexual and racial bullying. Sexual bullying is exhibited by sexual comments, jokes, looks, gestures, unwelcome sexual advances, touching or grabbing in a sexual way, and accusations of homosexuality and lesbianism. Racial bullying includes name-calling, ostracism and all of the bullying behaviors mentioned above. Sexual and racial bullying is damaging in that it is applied not only to the victim but refers to victims' families and to an entire race or gender.

Any student who alleges bullying should report the incident to a teacher, principal, assistant principal or guidance counselor. One can also refer to additional information in this handbook under "harassment." Students found to be in violation of the Board's policy on bullying will be subject to disciplinary action up to and including expulsion and may also be subject to criminal penalties.

CRIMINAL VIOLATION POLICY

Any student charged with any criminal violation or juvenile delinquency may be prohibited from participating in any school sponsored event or activity until reinstated by the superintendent or the Geneva County Board of Education.

DEFIANCE

Defiance means that a student did not follow a reasonable request from an adult at school or going to and from school or at a school sponsored event. Repeatedly breaking a school/county rule is considered defiance. "Talking back" to school personnel, disrespect, or walking away from school personnel during discussion is also considered defiance and will have disciplinary consequences.

DRESS CODE

See Geneva County School Board Code of Conduct pages 27-28.

Discipline

See Geneva County School Board Code of Conduct pages 29-39.

OUT OF SCHOOL SUSPENSION

Out of school suspension is the temporary removal of a student(s) from the school campus. The principal has the authority to suspend a student from school. Absences due to suspension will not count toward truancy. During an out of school suspension, the student(s) will not be allowed to participate in **any** school related event or activity.

CORPORAL PUNISHMENT

To maintain discipline and to enforce the Geneva County School System policies and procedures, the principal or his/her designee may administer corporal punishment. A parent or guardian may make a written request that a student be exempted from corporal punishment and that an alternative punishment be made available. Prior to corporal punishment, initial efforts and/or alternative methods will be taken in an attempt to modify the student's behavior.

IN-SCHOOL SUSPENSION

If, for any reason, a student is assigned in-school suspension (ISS), the following rules will apply:

1. ISS will start promptly at 7:34 A.M. and will dismiss at 2:40 P.M.
2. Any lost time in ISS will have to be made up.
4. Students will sit in assigned seat.
5. There will be no talking or sleeping.
6. Students will get water and use the restroom at the discretion of the ISS teacher. As a rule, one bathroom break in the morning and one in the afternoon will be allowed.
7. No visitors.
8. Students must complete and pass all assignments while assigned to ISS.
9. The ISS teacher has the authority to assign additional time in ISS if the student fails to comply with school or ISS rules.
10. An ISS student will not be allowed to participate in any events during the school day. The student will be allowed to participate in after-school events.
11. Once the student entrance bell sounds, students assigned to ISS shall report directly to the ISS room.

CELL PHONE POLICY

Student Cell Phone/Electronic Device Policy (Updated for 2015-2016)

Understanding that the use of technology, including cell phone/electronic device usage has become an integral part of today's society, possession of these devices shall be permitted at school, including school buses. However, students shall be held accountable for and taught appropriate cell phone use. INAPPROPRIATE cell phone/device use shall include but not be limited to:

- using the device to cheat on tests
- “sexting”- defined as the act of sending sexually explicit messages or photos electronically, primarily between cell phones.
- using the device to invoke student/parent unrest
- (i.e., harassment/bullying/threats/intimidation)
- using the device to take or transmit photos/videos
- using the device to take any picture without a person's permission
- using the device for personal reasons during class
- using the device to record a conversation without the participants permission
- other situations deemed reasonable by the local school principal

Students may only use phones/devices (ipods, blackberries, etc.) under the direct supervision of the teacher or during approved times throughout the day. Exceptions may be made by the teacher who opts to utilize the device as a teaching tool/class activity. The use of electronic devices is prohibited in the classroom without the request and permission of the classroom teacher. Students shall place devices in the OFF position before entering classroom unless otherwise directed by the teacher.

Student Consequences for Violations:

1st offense

- The teacher will confiscate the device and give it to school administrator.
- The student may pick up the device at the conclusion of the following school day (day after phone was taken up).
- The student may receive ISS for 1 day, corporal punishment, or before/after school detention.

2nd offense

- The teacher will confiscate the device and give it to school administrator to keep for 5 school days.
- The parent or legal guardian may pick up the device at the end of the 5 school days.
- The student may receive ISS for 1-3 days or out-of-school suspension.

3rd offense

- The teacher will confiscate the device and give it to school administrator to keep for 5 school days.

- The parent or legal guardian may pick up the device at the end of the 5 school days.
 - The student may receive ISS for 5-10 days or out-of-school suspension.
- 4th offense
- The student will be referred to the school disciplinary committee who may assign not less than 10 days or no more than 45 days Alternative School.
- 5th offense
- The student will be referred to the Superintendent and Board of Education.
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- Students whose actions violate State and/or Federal laws (threats, harassments, sexting, pornography, etc.) shall be turned over to law enforcement agencies and shall be prosecuted to the fullest extent of the law in addition to school punishment.
 - Students who are caught using a device to cheat will also receive a zero on the test and shall not be given an opportunity for make-up.
 - Absolutely no cell phones/electronic devices (student or teacher) will be allowed in testing rooms where state assessments are being administered. Violators will enter consequences at the 4th offense level.