

# **Tate Elementary School**



## **2021-2022 Parent/Student Handbook**

**Stephanie Hall, Principal  
Dale Spencer, Assistant Principal  
Ronnelle Bradley, Counselor  
Ann Long, Academic Coach**

### **Mission Statement**

The mission of Tate Elementary School is **Teaching All To  
achieve Excellence (TATE)**.



## **Pickens County Schools**



*"Graduation and Beyond for All"*

100 D. B. Carroll St. Jasper, GA 30143  
Phone: 706-253-1700 Fax: 706-253-1705

**Superintendent of Schools**  
Tony Young

**Pickens County Schools Website**  
[www.pickenscountyschools.org](http://www.pickenscountyschools.org)

### **Pickens County Schools System Transportation**

Transportation Department Stacy Gilleland 706-253-1727



# Tate Elementary School

5630 Highway 53 East

Tate, Georgia 30177

Phone: 706-253-1860

Fax: 706-253-1865

Website: [www.tatele.pickens.k12.ga.us/](http://www.tatele.pickens.k12.ga.us/)

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/pages/Tate-Elementary-School/>

## Tate Elementary School Leadership Team

Stephanie Hall – Principal

Dale Spencer – Assistant Principal

Ann Long – Academic Coach

Jody Williams- Physical Education

Kaytie Dilbeck – Kindergarten Representative

Brittany Gaddis – 1<sup>st</sup> Grade Representative

Lacey Jones – 2<sup>nd</sup> Grade Representative

Karina Haney – 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade Representative

Holly Moranos – 4<sup>th</sup> Grade Representative

Elesha Frantz – Special Education Representative

Lori Carter – Classified Staff Representative



## Tate Elementary School

P. O. Box 268  
5630 Highway 53 East  
Tate, GA 30177

Phone 706-253-1860

Fax 706-253-1865

Stephanie Hall, Ed.S.  
Principal

Dale Spencer, Ed.S.  
Assistant Principal

Dear TES Families and Students,

Welcome to the 2021-2022 school year at Tate Elementary School. We are excited to begin a wonderful partnership between students, staff, and parents. As always, our first priority is to provide a safe and nurturing environment that will create the best possible learning experience for your child.

Our Student-Family Handbook is just one of the many ways we communicate with you. This handbook, along with the Pickens County *Student Parent Handbook and Code of Conduct for Students*, is designed to help students and their families become familiar with the school and system policies, procedures, and rules. To assist you in being an active participant in your child's education, a monthly calendar will be available on our school website with dates of important school related activities, including school wide assessments, school events, and school breaks. Also, look for a class newsletter from your child's teacher that will provide you with additional information about assessments, events, and activities at our school. The school also uses Infinite Campus Messaging calls and emails, and Facebook to keep parents informed of happenings at TES. The Student-Family Handbook also offers information on volunteering and/or mentoring at Tate Elementary and other important school related information.

The teachers and staff at Tate Elementary School are eager and excited about collaborating with you and your child to ensure your child experiences academic success. Please feel free to contact us. We are eager to hear your ideas, to address any questions or concerns, and to work collaboratively with your family throughout the school year. We believe that honest, open, and transparent communication between students, teachers, students' families, and administrators is the essential key to a positive school experience. You are always welcome to phone me or contact a staff member if you have any questions. We welcome and invite your participation at Tate.

Sincerely,

Stephanie Hall



# Tate Elementary School

## Our Mission Statement

**Teaching All To achieve Excellence**

## Our Beliefs

We believe our school's first priority is to promote a safe and positive learning environment.

We believe Tate's faculty, staff, families, and community share the responsibility of advancing the success of our students.

We believe that by committing to continuous improvement, our school will enable students to become confident, self-directed, and persistent learners.

We believe in educating our students while holding high expectations for their performance.



### **BEFORE SCHOOL PROGRAM**

TES will be offering a Before-School Program (BSP) for students enrolled in TES, in grades K-4, **at no cost to the parents.** The BSP will provide supervision for students from 7:30 a.m. until 7:55 a.m. each school day. To take advantage of the BSP, parents will be required to walk their student or students into the school gym and sign them in daily.

Parents dropping off students into the BSP, must park in the parking lot near the gym entrance. The school gym entrance is located at the lower end of the building leading from the lower parking lot.

### **AFTER SCHOOL PROGRAM**

TES offers an after-school program which provides supervision for students from 3:30 p.m. until 6:00 p.m. each school day. To take advantage of the ASP, parents will need to complete the necessary paperwork and pay fees. The program is open to children enrolled in TES in grades K-4. Students participating in the program are involved in daily homework time and physical recreation (both teacher directed and self-directed free play).

**The cost of the program is \$7.00 per day per child (includes snack) and is a prepaid program.** All fees are to be **prepaid** by the day, week, or month. "Drop-ins" are defined as students who had fees received at the school later than 10:00 a.m., students returned by the bus or students remaining in car riders after 4:00 p.m. The fee for "drop-ins" is \$9 per day, due at the time of pick up.

The After-School Program is self-supporting and relies entirely on the funds generated from student participation to pay salaries and purchase supplies. The funds may also be used for improvements to the school. Failure to prepay, to keep your balance in good standing or having three incidents of late pick-up could result in your child being dismissed from staying in ASP.

**For student safety, a photo I.D. is required when signing students out of the After-School Program.** Parents picking up students from the After School Program must park in the parking lot near the gym entrance. Students who are not picked up on time may be turned over to law enforcement officials.

**ASP Fees for Late Pick-Up**-\$10 per 15-minute increment per child

6:01 p.m. – 6:15 p.m. = \$10

6:16 p.m. – 6:30 p.m. = \$20

6:31 p.m. – 6:45 p.m. = \$30

6:46 p.m. – 7:00 p.m. = \$40

**Every parent is encouraged to register his/her child for the After-School Program. In the event that an emergency arises and your child has the need for the services, all**



**important emergency contacts will have already been signed and documented. In order to register your child and/or obtain additional information/guidelines concerning the program, contact the school office at (706) 253-1860 or ASP directly through the school's phone number after 4:00 p.m.**

### **ARRIVAL**

Parents may **not** drop off students before 7:55 a.m. unless the student is participating in the Before School Program then drop off is 7:30 a.m. at the gym located in the lower parking area. Parents are strongly encouraged **not** to walk students to classrooms after the first day of school. To ensure maximum use of instructional time, all parents should exit the building no later than 8:25 a.m. **Parents must drop-off at the front entrance, using the lane furthest from the school. The inside lane is reserved for school bus use only.** School personnel will be waiting for your child and will secure your child's care from the vehicle. The school doors open at **7:55 a.m. for bus riders and car riders.** No staff members are available to ensure your child's safety before 7:55 a.m. All students entering the building before 8:30 a.m. must go to their classroom unless planning to eat breakfast. Breakfast will be available in the cafeteria beginning at 7:55 a.m. until 8:15, after which students will have the opportunity for a "grab and go" meal to take to their classroom. Students who arrive before 8:15 are to report to the designated table after obtaining a breakfast tray. All students will be dismissed to the classrooms at 8:15 a.m. Students arriving at school after 8:30 a.m. should not expect to eat breakfast from the TES cafeteria.

### **ATTENDANCE**

**Tardy:** Children should arrive at school between 7:55 a.m. and 8:30 a.m. At 8:30 a.m. the academic day begins and students not in the classroom are counted tardy. For the purpose of determining Daily Attendance, any student leaving **school BEFORE 12:00 p.m. or arriving at school AFTER 12:00 p.m. will be marked absent** for the entire day.

**Checkouts:** **Students who leave before 12:00 p.m.** will be counted absent for the entire day. If students must be picked up prior to the end of the school day, parents are required to go to the office, present a photo ID and sign their child out of school. Students will then be called to the office to leave with their parents. **DUE TO DISMISSAL PREPARATIONS, THERE WILL BE NO CHECK-OUTS AFTER 2:45p.m.**

**Absences (Excused and Unexcused):** **A written excuse MUST be given to the teacher after any absence or it can be faxed or emailed.**

**Make Up Work:** Students are expected to make up all work missed while absent, regardless of the reason for the absence. When a student is absent for **more than one day**, parents should



call for make-up work. Parents should call before 9:00 a.m. to allow 24-hours for work to be gathered and available for pick up in the office.

***Withdrawals: The classroom teacher and school office should be notified at least one day in advance when a student is going to move or be withdrawn from school. A transfer/withdrawal form will be completed for you to take to the new school if prior notice is given. All charges (lunch, picture, ASP, etc.) should be paid and library books and textbooks should be returned before the student transfers/withdraws.***

**\*\*\*See the Pickens County Student Parent Handbook and Code of Conduct for Students for more details.**

### **AWARDS/HONORS**

Awards will be given out at the end of the year. Awards will be given based on academics, citizenship, attendance, and specialty areas. Parents must go to the office to check out siblings if they wish them to attend the awards ceremony of a sibling.

- Honor Roll - In grades 3-4, Honor Roll is achieved each semester by earning report card grades which reflect all A's and B's.
- Principal List – In grades 3-4, Principal's List is achieved each semester by earning report card grades which reflect all A's.
- Perfect Attendance – Perfect Attendance awards will be distributed each semester for grade K-4. To receive a Perfect Attendance award, students must not have any absences. It should be noted that students who accrue tardies or early checkouts may not receive the Perfect Attendance award.

### **COMPUTER AND ACCEPTABLE USE GUIDELINES**

**\*\*\*See the Pickens County School Student Code of Conduct for more details.**

### **DISCIPLINE**

Appropriate behavior is an important aspect of our school. We strive to teach every student, by work and example, the importance of developing a sense of personal responsibility for his/her actions. As part of the TES positive behavior program, students will be asked to show what their behavior should look and sound like in various areas of the school. As quality education involves effort in both home and school environments, the best results are accomplished when we all work together for the good of the children. School-wide expectations include behaviors that show respect, responsibility, honesty, and safety. As we continue to stress positive behavior this year, expectations for the following school areas will be taught and enforced: cafeteria, hallways, restrooms, playground, and classroom. TES values good behaviors and uses an incentive system developed by the TES Behavior Committee to recognize and reward appropriate behavior.



**Behavior Consequences:** Our staff believes all students can choose to behave appropriately. Any student choosing to interfere with a teacher's instruction, other student's learning, or the safety of other students or staff will not be tolerated. Students are required to follow the school wide behavioral and educational expectations as addressed in the Pickens County Student Parent Handbook and Code of Conduct for Students and the Elementary Behavior Handbook. In life, everyone experiences positive and negative consequences based upon the choices that we make. The same applies to behavior choices during the school day. Students who abide by the rules and procedures set forth by the school and teachers will receive positive feedback and acknowledgement for their accomplishments. Students being respectful, responsible and/or safe may be given Bulldog Bucks in recognition of their efforts. If a student does choose to misbehave, he/she will receive a negative consequence based upon the severity and frequency of the behavior. The classroom teacher will monitor student behavior and address student misbehavior. Notification is made to the parent if the teacher deems it necessary. Habitual misbehavior or major infractions will result in the student having more severe consequences.

**Bus Discipline:** All discipline issues on buses will follow the Pickens County Student Parent Handbook and Code of Conduct for Students. Repeated offenses on the bus could result in total suspension from the bus.

In accordance with Pickens County Schools transportation policy bus riders will be allowed one (1) pick up spot in the morning and one (1) drop off spot in the afternoon.

### **CLINIC AND HEALTH SERVICES**

The health and well-being of your child is very important to us. TES has the services of a school nurse from 8:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. daily. The office staff handles student health needs at other times. A medical form will be sent home at the beginning of each school year to obtain medical information and update our records for medical care. The school nurse cannot verify if a student with a rash, sores, or red eyes has a communicable disease. Only a physician can certify that a child is free from such disease. If the school nurse suspects your child to be contagious, you will need to **acquire a note from a physician** before s/he is allowed to return.

**Head Lice:** The Pickens County Board of Education maintains a **no nit** policy. Head lice and nits (eggs) are not uncommon in Georgia elementary schools. Students are checked for possible infestation on an as-need basis. Parents/guardians will be contacted to pick up the child if nits or lice are found. Students may not ride the bus or return to school until all nits and lice are removed. Our school nurse will provide cleaning and removal information for parents. The child must be checked by the school nurse before returning to class.



**Health guidelines for our school are as follows:**

1. To prevent the spreading of illness, please do not send a child to school that is sick and/or has a fever. **A child who is sick with fever, nausea or illness should not be sent to school. The student must be fever-free, without medication, for 24 hours before returning to school.**
2. When a child becomes ill at school, the school nurse will evaluate the seriousness of the symptoms and **if necessary** contact parent or guardian. **If the student develops a temperature at school of 100.0 or higher, they will be sent home.** Students who are too sick to function in class, regardless of fever, are sent home.
3. If a serious illness or injury occurs, the school nurse will contact the parent or guardian immediately and, in some cases, contact the Emergency Medical Services. **It is imperative parents keep updated phone numbers on file with the office.**
4. Please send a note if you wish to be contacted on a day you suspect your child may be ill, yet may not fall under the above two reasons for going home.
5. Students having accidents involving bodily fluids will be sent home for clean-up per the policy of the enforcement of Universal Precautions.
6. **Medication Guidelines:** When at all possible, we encourage you to schedule your child's medication so that it may be given at home. Medication, whether prescription or over the counter, should not be sent to school with a child. **Adults are to hand-deliver all medications.**
7. Medication must be kept in and dispensed from the clinic and in the original container with the student's name, prescription, pharmacy, doctor and dosages clearly printed on the bottle.
8. A medication form **MUST** be completed by parents/ guardians requesting the administration of ANY medications at school.
9. Over-the-Counter medications can be administered to your child **ONLY** if it has been sent from home in the original container, along with a completed school medication form. Over the counter medications, such as Tylenol and Tums, may be given to your child if you fill out the section on the nurse's form giving the school permission. The medication must be in the **original container** with the child's name and instructions printed clearly.
10. Permission from the parent/guardian must be signed allowing school personnel to administer the medications. Specific information and instructions will be requested by the school nurse, from parents of students requiring intensive medical care.

**CODE OF CONDUCT**

Pickens County Student Parent Handbook and Code of Conduct for Students is located on the Pickens County website at [www.pickenscountyschools.org](http://www.pickenscountyschools.org) A hardcopy can also be obtained by requesting it. Parents and students should carefully review this document. All parents must sign that they are aware of the contents.



## **COMMUNICATION/NEWSLETTERS**

Teachers at TES will communicate with parents through email, websites, Class Dojo, notes home, personal phone calls and conferences. Each grade level will send home a weekly or monthly grade level newsletters, graded papers and reports in the communication folder.

## **CONFERENCES**

Communication is encouraged between school and home. Conferences should be arranged in advance at a time when the teacher does not have other commitments. We ask that you not “drop-in” for a conference as this should be a scheduled appointment time. Please communicate with the teacher via note, email, Class Dojo, or phone call to arrange a conference. Teachers usually have time to return email and phone calls or make appointments to speak to parents during their daily planning time. **Teachers will not conduct parent/teacher conferences or accept conference calls during instructional time.**

## **COUNSELOR/GUIDANCE SERVICES**

Each class will meet monthly with the school counselor to learn about good character. At TES, counseling services are available to all students. The counselor works with parents and teachers to meet the academic, personal, and social needs of our students. Individual and group sessions are offered to support students in particular need of assistance. The counselor may also serve as a liaison between parents, teachers, administrators, and community referral services. Other services available to students include crisis intervention.

## **CUSTODIAL/LEGAL INFORMATION**

Parents/legal guardians are responsible for providing Central Registration at 706-253-1770 with **a copy of any legal documents involving the custodial care of his/her child.** The lack of legal documentation and any resulting conflicts may require local law enforcement involvement. Parents are asked to refrain from engaging in non-constructive custodial discussions or conflicts on school grounds.

## **DISMISSAL**

All students are dismissed at 3:30 p.m. each day. Parents/guardians/designees picking up children should enter the main entrance. Only the lane closest to the school can be used prior to 3:30. To ensure the safety of all students, always pay attention to the school personnel directing traffic. Parents/guardians/designees picking up students **MUST** have a **car rider name card.** If the car rider name card is not available, then the designee must come to the office to secure the child. Parents must remain in the car line to pick up students.

Any parent wishing to enter the school building before 3:30 p.m. for any purpose, including student pickup, must obtain a visitor’s pass. No student will be released before 3:30 p.m. without being signed out in the office. **Due to safety issues, no student can be taken directly**  
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**from the bus when buses are being loaded at the school.** If car riders are not picked up by **4:00 p.m.**, they will be sent to the After School Program at a cost of \$9.00 per day.

Students will follow “going home” instructions as given by parents or guardians. Any changes made in these plans are to be made in writing or via a phone call to the office. These calls will be forwarded to the teacher’s voice mail. **Staff members will not honor a child’s verbal change to establish “going home” plans without verification from a parent or guardian.**

### **DRESS CODE**

Since school is an educational environment it is necessary to provide as few distractions as possible for the students. Appropriate dress and appearance for school includes shoes, clothing, jewelry, accessories, etc., which do not draw attention to the student. Please refer to the Pickens County [Student Parent Handbook and Code of Conduct for Students](#) for specific dress code guidelines. Chaperones for field trips, lunch visitors and room volunteers are asked to follow these same procedures.

### **DRILLS**

Safety drills will be conducted each month. These drills allow students to practice fire, tornado and lockdown drill procedures.

Parents or guardians are required to provide the school with any changes in address, phone numbers, and/or emergency contact information. It is essential that our office staff be able to reach you should an emergency occur.

“Fire Drills” will be held each month. Students will be instructed in fire drill procedures prior to the first drill:

1. At the sound of the fire alarm signal, all instruction will cease and students/staff will exit the building to assigned areas on campus. The assigned areas are posted on the emergency evacuation map located in each classroom.
2. Teachers and staff members will care for and monitor the students during the drill. At the sound of a re-entry signal, teachers and staff members will lead the students back into the building and instruction will resume.
3. Parents will be notified if an actual fire emergency exists.

“Lockdown Drills” will be conducted several times throughout the year. Students will be instructed in the lockdown procedures prior to the first drill.

“Tornado Drills” will be conducted throughout the year, as recommended by the Civil Defense procedures. Instructions for the tornado drill will be provided prior to the first drill.



Severe Weather Procedures – During the school year, if it is necessary to either dismiss or cancel school due to severe weather, the following radio and television stations will inform parents and students:

WYYZ 1490 AM	WSB Channel 2	WSB 98.5 FM	Fetch Your News
Atlanta Tv Media	Know Pickens	Social Media	Tate School Website

Board of Education (BOE) Information Line 706-253-1710

**Parents will also receive a phone call from our school system’s communication system informing them if school is to be cancelled.**

### **EARLY INTERVENTION PROGRAM (EIP)**

EIP is a state funded regular education program available to eligible kindergarten through fourth grade students. This program focuses on building skills that are necessary for academic success.

### **EDUCATIONAL ITEMS:**

The Pickens County Board of Education furnishes chromebooks (K-4th) and library books to students. The care of these items are the responsibility of each student. The student will be expected to pay for any damages to school property such as lost or damaged textbooks.

### **ELECTRONIC MEDIA DEVICES**

Student use of an electronic communication device is prohibited while on school campus. These items will be confiscated and a parent will be required to pick up the item from the office. Other consequences may be assigned as outlined in the Pickens County Student Parent Handbook and Code of Conduct for Students.

### **EVENTS/PARTIES/BIRTHDAYS**

Students are permitted to participate in two celebrations during the school year, Winter Holiday and End of the Year. Teachers may wish to have seasonal snacks to supplement a unit of study. Parents will be contacted for assistance. During on campus events, **parents are not permitted to park in the bus or fire zones**. Parents will not be allowed in the classroom until time for the celebration.



Student birthdays will be recognized during announcements. Classrooms will not celebrate student birthdays or any other holidays not specified above. Flowers/balloons/gifts may **not** be delivered to school for any occasion.

### **EMERGENCY NOTIFICATION TO PARENTS**

Parents or guardians are required to provide the school in writing with any changes in address, phone numbers, and emergency contact information. An automated phone system will be used periodically during the year for dismissal due to inclement weather, announcements, schedule changes, or school-wide emergencies. **It is imperative that the phone numbers given are correct and updated as numbers change. Be sure these updated numbers are given to both the teacher and the front office.**

**Early Dismissal, School Cancellation or Delayed Opening:** During the school year, if it is necessary to either dismiss school early, delay the start of school or not have school because of severe weather, you may listen to local radio or television stations--Atlanta TV Media channels, WYYZ, Pickens programs, Know Pickens, Fetch Your News, WSB Channel 2 and WSB 98.5 and social media. Furthermore, the Pickens County School District (PCSD) website will post the information at [www.pickenscountyschools.org](http://www.pickenscountyschools.org). If weather becomes severe during the school day and school is to be dismissed early, an announcement will be made to that effect. Parents are asked to allow their child to ride the Pickens County school bus or daycare bus if such an event occurs. We will not be able to call individual parents if school is dismissed early.

### **FIELD TRIPS**

Field trips are curriculum based and have an academic focus. Students who participate must have a permission slip signed and returned to school. All classes will be allowed one field trip a year. The cost will be divided among the students in the class; however, field trips in each grade level must have 95% of the paid participation rate **or the field trip may be subject to cancellation.** Field trips are considered an extension to the instructional day and no student will be denied the opportunity to participate in a field trip due to the inability to pay. However, students may be unable to participate in any school related activities due to discipline. Siblings may not attend field trips. **Parents attending field trips will not be allowed to ride the school bus. Also, parents chaperoning children, other than their own, must be an approved volunteer through the Personnel Department.**

### **FOOD SERVICE PROGRAM**

The school cafeteria provides nutritious meals each day. Menus will be published in the Pickens County Progress and may be obtained on the school's website. Menus can be emailed to you



monthly, so sign-up on the School Nutrition Section of the Pickens County Schools website. Please encourage your child to eat the school lunch.

**Cafeteria Expectations:** Good table manners and respect for others in the cafeteria are expected at all times.

- Trays are to be returned to the proper area one at a time.
- No canned or bottled carbonated drinks are permitted in the cafeteria or classroom.
- Opened containers of drink may not be taken from the lunchroom.
- Cafeteria monitors should be respected and their directions followed.

**Food Allergies:** Please contact the school nurse and the cafeteria manager if your child has a food allergy. A written statement from a medical professional **must** be submitted to the school nurse and the lunchroom manager for food substitutions to be considered. This statement should be submitted at the beginning of each school year or as soon as the condition develops.

**Free and Reduced Lunch Forms:** Applications for Free or Reduced priced meals are sent home during the first week of school and as requested anytime during the year. These forms are available on the School Nutrition Section of the Pickens website and in the school office at any time. If a student qualified for free or reduced meals last year, a NEW application must be submitted and approved within the first 30 days of each school year to continue to qualify for services. You only need to fill out one form per family. This information is kept confidential.

**Payments:** We operate a computerized system for meal payments. Each student is issued an ID number to enter in purchasing a meal. Please send your student's meal payments in an envelope with the following information written on the outside: student name, ID, date, teacher, grade and total amount enclosed. Please separate snack, ice cream, ASP, picture money, field trip money, etc., from lunch money. **All monies** contained in the envelope will be credited to the meal account. Meals may be purchased weekly, monthly, or longer. This amount is entered into the student's account and withdrawn for food purchase. The parent is responsible for keeping money in the student's lunch account. Checks should be made out to Tate Elementary School Cafeteria. Change will not be returned for cash or checks. All money received by the School Nutrition Program will be entered into your child's account. Parents are encouraged to pay by the week or month. When money is used up, meals will be charged.

#### **Meal Charges- Customary Procedure** School Nutrition Program (SNP)

- Students may charge up to \$10.00
- Adults (district employees) may charge for up to 1 month, with the stipulation that charge balances are paid on or before the 5<sup>th</sup> of the following month.
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- Visitors may not charge.
- Charges will not be allowed during the last two weeks of school.
- School Nutrition staff will inform students that their meal balance is low or delinquent as they come through the serving line.
- Student meal account notices for all students with a delinquent meal balance will be generated weekly and sent to households via students, telephone calls or emails.
- Students who owe for charges are not allowed to purchase supplemental sale items.
- Students may not charge supplemental sales.
- When a child exceeds the charge limit, a phone call will be made to the household by school nutrition staff. If a successful resolution has not been reached, a referral will be made to the principal or his/her designee who will contact the parent.
- Elementary students will continue to be served a complete reimbursable meal while the school nutrition staff works to collect delinquent debt that exceeds the charge limit.
- It is the goal of the SNP to eliminate unpaid charges at the end of each academic year, however unpaid meal charges will be carried over at the end of the school year as a delinquent debt and SNP will continue collection efforts into the next school year.
- SNP may seek reimbursement for excessive funds owed through all legal means.

Pickens County School Food Service offers payments online for parents. Your portal to convenient, secure, meal account management is **[www.mypaymentsplus.com](http://www.mypaymentsplus.com)**. It is easy to apply funds to your child's account, check the account balance and schedule future meal account prepayments. It is easy to apply funds to your child's account, check the account balance and schedule future meal account prepayments. Payments may be made by using your checking account, debit card or credit card. You can also view your child's activity online. Parents who do not wish for their child to purchase extra food items should return the form in the first day packet and return it to the teacher. For free, parents/guardians may view balances and purchases made for student's meals on-line at [www.mypaymentsplus.com](http://www.mypaymentsplus.com). Parents may deposit funds directly into their child's meal account using credit, debit or check. However, to pay on-line there will be a transaction fee of 4.75% of the on-line payment.

**PRICES:**

**Lunch**

ES full price student lunch \$2.15

Reduced price meal all levels \$0.40

Faculty & staff lunch \$3.60

Visitor Lunch \$4.00



### **Breakfast**

Full price student breakfast at all schools \$1.50  
Reduced price student breakfast at all schools \$0.30  
Adults \$2.00

Breakfast is served from 7:55-8:25 each morning. Students who are going to eat breakfast must go to the lunchroom immediately upon arriving at school.  
If you have any questions, please feel free to contact the cafeteria manager or assistant manager at 706-253-1861.

**Lunches from home:** Students may elect to bring a packed lunch from home. Milk may be purchased in the school cafeteria. It is encouraged that the lunches be nutritious and in **containers easily opened by your child. NO glass containers are allowed in the cafeteria.** Be sure that your child's name is clearly printed on his/her lunchbox or sack. **No microwave will be available to students & no carbonated beverages may be sent to school for lunches.**

### **FRAUD AND WASTE POLICY**

This policy is located at the following website: <http://www.lexisnexis.com/hottopics/gacode/>

### **GIFTED PROGRAM**

Services will be provided to students who qualify upon special testing for this program. Students may be recommended for testing by test score indicators, teachers, administrators, or parents.

### **GIFTS**

Gifts, flowers and balloons for individual students will not be accepted for delivery at school. The transportation department also does not allow such items on the bus.

### **GRADING**

All grades will be numeric, on progress reports and report cards, with the exception of Kindergarten, Art, Music, Physical Education, and first and second grade: Science, and Social Studies

- Students **earn** the grades that are issued. The grades are not given.
- Daily work must be completed and turned in on time. Work not completed within a reasonable amount of time will be averaged in as a zero.
- Refer to the Pickens Code of Conduct for further details.



- Grading Policy for Computers, Art, Music, PE
  - P: Pass
  - F: Fail
- Grading Policy for Kindergarten: GKIDS
- Grading Policy for grades 1-4:
  - A: 90-100
  - B: 80-89
  - C: 70-79
  - F: Below 70

**Progress Reports:** Progress Reports are sent home at the midpoint (9 weeks) of each grading period as a communication tool for students and parents

**Report Cards:** Report cards are issued each eighteen (18 ) week period. Parent/teacher conferences are encouraged at any time but are especially important for parents of students earning failing grades.

### **INVITATIONS**

Written invitations to social events outside of school should be mailed. The school cannot distribute invitations or provide student information.

### **LOST AND FOUND**

Items found around the campus are placed in Lost and Found. Unclaimed items will be sent to various community centers. Valuables such as watches, eyeglasses, money, etc., will be held in the office. Please assist with this by putting your child's name on clothing, lunchboxes, and supplies.

### **MEDIA CENTER**

The media center is open for students from 8:30 a.m. until 3:30 p.m. each day. Students in K –1<sup>st</sup> grade may check out one book at a time. Students in grades 2 – 4 may check out two books at a time. Books may be checked out for three weeks and be renewed or returned at any time. Students who have an overdue book may not check out another book until the overdue book is returned. While no late fees are charged, students who lose books will be required to reimburse the school for payment of purchasing a new book for reissuing.

### **School Coordinator**

Title IX Coordinator for TES— Dale Spencer —706-253-1860



### PARENT PORTAL

Parents of students in grades 1–4 may access the parent portal website to view their child’s attendance, grades, and missing assignments for their classes. Parents must register through the Infinite Campus website to obtain a password to view the secure information for their child. Email [parentportal@pickenscountyschools.org](mailto:parentportal@pickenscountyschools.org)

### PARENT PARKING

Parent parking is in the front of the building. If additional parking is needed parents may park by the cafeteria. The front drive is only for buses. Please do not block bus lanes.

### PARENT TEACHER ORGANIZATION (PTO)

TES has a parent/teacher group. Activities are planned and many opportunities await your participation. All parents and school staff members are invited to become members and be actively involved in the PTO sponsored activities. Many of the great projects that we are able to do and resources that enhance the quality of education at TES would not be possible without our PTO.

Contact the PTO at [tatepto@gmail.com](mailto:tatepto@gmail.com). PTO information may be found on the PTO website at [www.tatepto.org](http://www.tatepto.org) and on Facebook [www.facebook.com/tatepto](https://www.facebook.com/tatepto) .

### PAYMENTS

Since all accounts are separate, when money is sent, please specify the purpose. Please note that change cannot be given nor can one check be divided for multiple purposes (for example, lunch and pictures).

### PHYSICAL EDUCATION

All students will have physical education class each week. **Students who cannot participate in physical education should bring a note from their parents or doctor.** Students who need to be excused on a long-term basis **MUST** bring a note from their doctor. Students should dress appropriately for active participation. Only shoes which offer support and reduce the chance of injury will be allowed on the gym floor. **Tennis shoes are preferred.** Shoes with slippery soles (dress shoes or boots), heels, or sandals will not be allowed. Students can change shoes for PE if dress shoes are worn to school.

### PICTURES

Individual student pictures will be taken two times each year in the fall and spring. The fall pictures are used in the yearbook. Class pictures will also be made in the spring. Prepayment for individual pictures is required and payment is required for class pictures. All questions regarding school pictures should be directed to the bookkeeper.



### **PLACEMENT & PROMOTION**

Grade placement is determined by the overall academic and social progress of the student, with emphasis placed on the mastery of reading and math skills. Students entering Pickens County Schools from private or home study schools may be evaluated to determine appropriate placement. Initial placement is temporary until such assessment is completed. Placement of kindergarten students will be done according to state and county guidelines.

Conferences are held in late spring to discuss placement of students who are not meeting minimum promotion requirements. Local and state requirements for promotion are followed in deciding appropriate grade placement. Parent input is valuable, but the final responsibility for the decision rests with school officials.

### **SAFETY**

**All school visitors are required to enter the school at the front entrance and register in the main office.** Students are not permitted to bring visitors to school. No one is allowed to enter any classroom without a visitor's pass. For the safety of all students, all exterior doors will be locked during school hours. Parents/guardians/designees are encouraged to volunteer.

### **SCHOOL ADVISORY COUNCILS (SAC)**

This council is composed of teachers, parents, community members and a school administrator. This council is charged with assisting the development and monitoring of the School Improvement Plan as well as providing input to all the academic and non-academic programs of the school. The council meets four times a year at 8:45 a.m. All parents are encouraged and welcomed to attend. (September 23, November 18, February 10, May 12)

### **SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT PLAN (SIP)**

A school improvement plan is a road map that sets out the plan for students to improve student achievement. Copies of Tate's SIP are available at the school upon request and also located on the Pickens County website at [www.pickenscountyschools.org](http://www.pickenscountyschools.org) or on the Tate Elementary website at <http://tatele.pickens.k12.ga.us>.

### **SNACKS**

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### **STUDENT INSURANCE**

Student accident insurance is available for purchase at the beginning of each school year. Two plans are available: school coverage only and 24 hour coverage.



### **TELEPHONES/PHONE CALLS**

Students may not use the phone except in an emergency. Permission **MUST** be granted by the classroom teacher to do so. Students will not be allowed to call for forgotten homework, after school arrangements, books, papers, etc. Office personnel will not interrupt your child's class for you to speak to your child. We will be glad to give any message to your child or his/her teacher. **Students are not permitted to have cell phones during regular school hours.** Please refer to the Student Parent Handbook and Code of Conduct for Students.

We must have all current contact telephone numbers on the registration form so that we can contact you in case of an emergency. If you do not have a telephone, please list the number of a close friend, relative, or neighbor. Please notify the teacher and the school office of any change in home or work telephone numbers as soon as these occur.

### **TESTING**

Students are periodically tested during the school year on standardized and criterion tests. Students in grades 3–4 will take the Georgia Milestones Assessment System (GMAS) in the spring of each year and for those students that are qualified there is also for ESOL, Access 2.0 and the Georgia Alternative Assessment 2.0 (GAA). During all testing sessions, it is important students be in attendance each day of testing unless they are ill. Questions regarding tested material or test results should be directed to your child's teacher, school counselor, or any of the administrators.

### **TOYS and GAMES**

Students **may not** bring toys to school without prior approval of the teacher. This includes, but is not limited to, footballs, dolls, toy cars, electronic devices or games, etc. These items will be taken to the office where a parent will be asked to pick it up.

If a child is staying in the After School Program they may bring toys from home, but these must be kept in the backpack at all times during school hours. Failure to follow these guidelines will result in the items being taken to the office for parents to pick up.

**The school is not responsible for lost, stolen or damaged toys, electronic devices, games or cell phones.**

### **TOBACCO USE PROHIBITED**

No student, staff member or school visitor is permitted to use any tobacco product, including e-cigarettes, at any time, including non-school hours 24 hours per day, 7 days per week while:

- In any building, facility, or vehicle owned, leased, rented or chartered by the Pickens County School System;



- On any school grounds and property – including athletic fields and parking lots – owned, leased, rented or chartered by the Pickens County School System; or
- At any school-sponsored or school-related event on-campus or off-campus.
  - Volunteers and visitors on school property will be reminded of this policy in a tactful and courteous manner and will be asked to adhere to this policy.

Any employee who violates or permits a student to use tobacco products will be subject to appropriate disciplinary action, including reprimand, suspension with or without pay or termination.

## **TRANSPORTATION**

**Buses:** Riding the school bus is a privilege. This privilege can be taken away at any time for disruptive or unsatisfactory behavior. The administration will give drivers their full support. Students must report to the bus stop on time (at least five minutes prior to pick up) and get on/off the bus at the same stop each day. Changes in bus stops are only approved by the Transportation Department of the Pickens County Board of Education (706-253-1727).

**Car Riders:** Parents choosing to bring their student(s) by vehicle must obey the car rider rules, be respectful to the personnel on duty and follow given directions. Once on campus and in the car rider line, **all cell phone use is prohibited.** Car riders may be dropped off in the mornings from 7:55-8:30 a.m. **Car rider line WILL NOT OPEN until personnel are on duty at 7:55 a.m. school time and students are not to be dropped off before 7:55 a.m. as the building will not open until this time, unless the student is enrolled in the Before School Program which is located in the gym at the lower building.** The morning car rider line is a continuous flow line and students should exit their vehicles quickly wherever their vehicle gets stopped in the line. Vehicles form a single lane, are not allowed to pass, and should proceed in a very slow and cautious manner remembering that pedestrians have the right of way at all times. Adults should stay in the vehicle and students should exit the vehicle curbside. If students exit away from the curb, they should be prepared to cross in front of their driver's car. **NOTES: Parents are discouraged from parking and walking students in after the first week of school.**

**For the safety of our students, parents must display the required car rider pass in the window of the vehicle in order to pick up a student in the afternoons.** (Each family will receive one free car rider pass. Additional car rider passes will be available for purchase in the office.) Parents who do not display the car rider pass will be required to report to the office and show ID for student pick up. In the afternoons, car rider dismissal will begin at 3:30 p.m. and end by 3:45 p.m. Once the car rider line has ended at 4:00 p.m., students will be escorted to the After School Program and charged a late fee upon pickup.

**Changes:** If your child is to be transported in a way other than he/she is normally transported, he/she must have a note from home stating the changes or call the front office. **Transportation changes should be made no later than 2:45 p.m. After 2:45 can be a difficult task due to**



**dismissal procedures. If a request is made for a student to stay in ASP after 10:00 a.m., the student will be considered a drop-in and the fee for the day will be \$9.00.**

### **VISITORS**

Visitors are required to come in through the front doors of the building and stop by the school office to sign in and obtain a Visitor's Pass. To minimize disruptions, volunteers should not bring preschool age children when visiting or volunteering in a classroom. Visitors are not allowed to park in the spots marked for handicapped without display of the appropriate tags.

### **VOLUNTEERS**

Volunteers are welcome at TES! Volunteers will be contacted based on need or set up to come at a regularly scheduled time. The recorded (signed in) volunteer hours are used to secure Title I funds provided by the federal government to support student academic achievement. All volunteers/visitors must attend the training and are required to have a background check every five years as required by county policy. Fees for background checks are the responsibility of the volunteer candidate. This training will be offered at the beginning of the school year. Volunteers are used in many ways to supplement and enrich the school programs. They assist in the media center and classrooms. They may work with small groups of students and teach mini-lessons as guest speakers. Volunteers are very valuable to us at TES. If you are interested in being a volunteer, please contact Mrs. Bradley, your child's homeroom teacher, or the school's office.



# Tate Elementary School COVID-19

## Steps for Safety

### Classrooms

- Physical distancing as practicable
- Hand sanitizer located in each room
- Student takes hand sanitizer when entering and leaving classroom
- Students are issued their own Chromebook and supplies
- Masks will be optional
- Additional instruction on proper hygiene such as hand washing, covering coughs, sneezes, etc.

### Hallways/Transitions

- Students and staff will be encouraged to wear masks in hallways
- Physical distancing as practicable
- Class changes will be staggered to limit the number of students in hallways
- Students and staff will be encouraged to walk on right side of hallways
- Hand sanitizer will be used when transitioning to and from class, recess, and lunch

### Cafeteria

- One doorway will be utilized for entry
- Hand sanitizing stations will be located at each serving line
- Students and staff will exit through assigned doors
- Masks will be optional
- Car riders arriving after 8:15 will take breakfast to the classroom



<b><u>Recess</u></b>	<b><u>Transitions</u></b>	<b><u>Restrooms</u></b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• One grade level at a time on the playground</li><li>• Masks will be optional when transitioning to and from recess</li><li>• Physical distancing as practicable</li><li>• No toys, cards, or electronics from home are allowed</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Masks will be optional for students and staff during transitions</li><li>• Class change times will be staggered to limit the number of people in the hallways</li><li>• Students and staff will walk on right side of hallways</li><li>• Teachers will monitor students during class changes</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Masks will be encouraged for students and staff during restroom visits</li><li>• Numbers of students in restrooms will be limited when possible</li><li>• Physical distancing as practicable</li><li>• Custodial staff will check cleanliness of restrooms and supply stock periodically throughout the day with high touch areas sanitized frequently</li></ul>

**Procedures and Protocols for All**

- Masks are optional in classrooms
- Physical distancing throughout the school day as practicable
- Teachers and staff will provide extra disinfectant when appropriate on commonly used surfaces