

Fort Payne High School Parent/Student Handbook



**2025-2026
Fort Payne High School
201 45th Street NE
Fort Payne, Alabama 35967**

**Phone: 256-845-0535
Fax: 256-845-7868**

MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of the Fort Payne High School Community is to prepare and empower students for both college and career in a 21st century learning environment and to ensure students will become responsible and successful citizens, workers, and leaders in our community, city, state, and nation.

VISION STATEMENT

Because today's schools shape tomorrow's workforce, our vision is to create a community of life-long learners focused on continuous improvement.

BELIEF STATEMENT

- We believe students, parents, faculty, staff, and community members are accountable and responsible for advancing the school's mission.
- We believe it is important for students to develop positive character traits which promote personal responsibility and accountability.
- We believe all students can learn and must take an active and responsible role in the learning process.
- We believe it is essential for students to attend school every day in a safe, secure, and supportive learning environment.
- We believe it is essential for students to attend school every day in a safe, secure, and supportive learning environment where teachers have high expectations for all students and where students have an active role in their education through both extra-curricular and academic activities.

Fort Payne High School Contact Information

High School Office: 256-845-0535

FPHS Cafeteria: 256-845-4539

<u>Position</u>	<u>School Staff</u>	<u>E-Mail Address</u>
Principal	Scott Timmons	stimmons@fpcsk12.com
Assistant Principal	Nick Owens	nowens@fpcsk12.com
Assistant Principal	Steve Sparks	ssparks@fpcsk12.com
Bookkeeper	Carol Hazell	chazell@fpcsk12.com
School Secretary	Rachel Todd	rtodd@fpcsk12.com
Guidance Counselor	Regina Boatwright	mcoker@fpcsk12.com
Guidance Counselor	Amanda Varnadore	avarnadore@fpcsk12.com
Guidance Secretary	Jeri Weatherly	jweatherly@fpcsk12.com
School SRO	Brian Folsom	bfolsom@fpcsk12.com
Librarian	Amy Fischer	afischer@fpcsk12.com
School Nurse	Kelly Ellis	kellis@fpcsk12.com

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STUDENT GRIEVANCE PROCEDURE

A student or parent who feels the need to discuss a problem with a teacher is encouraged to do so. If the problem is not resolved, an appointment with the principal may be requested.

AFFIRMATIVE ENROLLMENT IN VOCATIONAL CLASSES

Student enrollment in vocational courses will be determined based on student interest and career plans without regard to race, religion, sex or disability.

NON-DISCRIMINATION

It is the policy of the Fort Payne City Board of Education not to discriminate on the basis of sex, handicap, religion, creed, national origin, race, color or age in its educational programs, activities, or employment policies as required by Federal Regulation.

SCHOOLWIDE EXPECTATIONS

As part of contributing to a positive school climate and the conditions needed for academic success Fort Payne High School has adopted these schoolwide expectations of behavior.



ACADEMIC AWARDS

Awards and Honors involving academic averages will be based on academic courses only. These awards include valedictorian, salutatorian, Junior Marshals, and National Honor Society. To be considered for these awards, juniors must have taken or be taking twelve (12) academic courses; seniors must have taken or be taking sixteen (16) academic courses. The Presidential Academic Fitness award is given to seniors having a 90 or above numeric with core GPA.

Valedictorian, salutatorian, and academic top ten seniors are determined at the end of the first term of the senior year. **Beginning with the graduating class of 2028 this will be determined at the end of the second term of the senior year.** If the average is within one thousandth to fifty thousandth of a point, consideration may be given to the number of academic courses completed and the time when the courses are completed. The end result may be that a tie will be declared.

Academic courses are defined as follows: English, Social Studies, Mathematics, Science, and Foreign Language (**refer to the change listed under the "Honors Endorsement" section that will affect the 2023-24 graduating cohort and beyond as it relates to the foreign language class**). Class standings will be computed only for the determination of

awards, for admission to college, etc. Cumulative GPA will be determined at the end of each term and printed on report cards. In order to be eligible for Valedictorian or Salutatorian a student must have been enrolled at Fort Payne High School for three consecutive terms beginning their junior year. The student must have earned a minimum of 12 credits or 10 credits if enrolled in dual enrollment classes from Fort Payne High School by the end of the first term of their Senior Year. Grades earned in a Home School or school not accredited by the State Department of Education will not be considered in determining Valedictorian, Salutatorian or other academic awards.

PROVIDING INDIVIDUAL ASSESSMENT RESULTS IN A LANGUAGE THAT PARENTS CAN UNDERSTAND

Fort Payne High School will provide individual academic achievement results and interpretation of the results in a language that the parent can understand at the parent's request. For additional information regarding this subject please contact your school Guidance Counselor.

TRANSFER OF CREDIT

The Fort Payne City Board of Education wishes to provide a fair and equal method of transferring credits to the schools in the Fort Payne City System. The following procedures will be used in determining the transfer of credits from State Department accredited, non-accredited and Homeschool settings.

TRANSFER FROM ACCREDITED SCHOOLS

A student transferring to a school in the Fort Payne City system from a public or non-public school accredited by an accrediting agency recognized by the Alabama State Board of Education will have all credits and current class/grade placement accepted without validation upon the receipt of an official transcript(s) from the sending school.

TRANSFERS FROM NON-ACCREDITED SCHOOLS/SCHOOL SETTING(S)

Any school/school setting not accredited by an accrediting agency recognized by the Alabama State Department of Education shall be considered a non-accredited school for the purpose of transfer of class/grade credit.

To transfer credits and/or determine the appropriate class/grade placement of a student transferring to a school in the Fort Payne City School System from a non-accredited school/school setting, the following procedures shall be implemented by the receiving school:

1. Credit for all elective courses shall be transferred without validation.
2. Credit for core courses (i.e., English, mathematics, science, and social studies) shall be transferred as follows:
 - a. Using all records (i.e., official transcripts notarized statements of credits) and any nationally standardized test available, the principal or his designee shall determine the student's appropriate placement and notify the student and his parent(s)/guardians).
 - b. If the parent(s)/guardian(s) agree with the placement decision, the student shall be assigned to the classes and/or grade agreed upon.
3. Contested credit for core courses (i.e., English, mathematics, science, and social studies) shall be transferred as follows:
 - a. If the parent(s)/guardian(s) disagree with the placement decision, the principal or his/her designee shall supervise the administration of the school's most recent semester or term exam for each prerequisite core course in which the parent/guardian is requesting enrollment starting with the 9th grade exams. For each test the student passes as determined by the school grading scale, the student shall be placed in the next level core course and credit shall be transferred for prerequisite courses.
 - b. For any test the student fails, his/her placement shall be as originally recommended by school officials and no credit is transferred for the pre-requisite course in that subject.
4. In the event of controversial records/transcripts and/or the absence of any official or notarized records/transcripts, the student shall take placement tests consisting of the school's previous semester/term exams for core courses starting with 9th grade courses if in high school. If below the ninth grade, the test may start two grade levels below the "age appropriate" grade for the child.
5. All students will be given the opportunity to take the ACT during the spring semester of their junior year.

6. Except in case of a bona fide change of residence or other circumstances equally valid for making an exception, a student is not eligible to graduate from Fort Payne High School unless he/she has been in continuous attendance therein during the entire high school year immediately preceding the date of graduation. If enrollment is approved by the Superintendent of Education or Board of Education of a twelfth-grade student who wishes to become a candidate for graduation at the end of the year, Fort Payne High School will require approval in writing of the transfer and the student's candidacy for graduation from the principal of the school from which the student has withdrawn. The letter of approval together with any necessary memoranda should be filed with the transcript of the student's record from the discharging school. A student meeting the requirements for graduation and in good standing in the school he/she left will not be required to take additional credit(s) at Fort Payne High School but must meet the remaining requirement for Graduation at Fort Payne High School. In case of doubt as to procedure or appropriate action in such cases, either or both of the principals of the schools concerned should discuss the matter with the SDE.
7. Grades earned in a Home School or school not accredited by the State Department of Education will not be considered in determining Valedictorian, Salutatorian or other academic awards.

ATHLETIC ELIGIBILITY

All traditional and non-traditional students at Fort Payne High School will follow the rules and regulations set forth by the Alabama High School Athletic Association, the National Federation of High Schools, local board policy and athletic handbook policies. You may refer to the following website for policies from the AHSAA: <http://www.ahsaa.com/>

HIGH SCHOOL INSTRUCTIONAL PROGRAM

Fort Payne High School provides approximately 1,100 students with the opportunities to develop academic, personal, social, and career awareness through a comprehensive curriculum. The goal of the Fort Payne City School System is to prepare each student to be college and career ready as he/she graduates from high school.

Students entering high school have the opportunity to select a course of study based on their career interests. Some restrictions may apply to the selection of a curriculum based on the academic performance and ability of a student as well as the availability of particular courses.

The College Preparatory curriculum provides students the opportunity to take advanced courses in language arts, mathematics, science, social studies, and foreign languages. This curriculum consists of Honors Classes, Advanced Placement (AP), Dual Enrollment (DE) courses, and Early College. The Early College, Dual Enrollment and AP courses allow students to complete college level studies while in high school. These students have excelled in high school, have a high interest in the subject area, and are college bound. Students are encouraged to request the academic requirements for admission from the colleges they wish to attend. This will help to provide a guide for students when choosing Dual Enrollment, Advanced Placement and Early College courses.

The Career Tech Preparatory curriculum prepares students for advanced courses required by two-year technical, community colleges, and four-year colleges through a blending of traditional academics and technical courses. This program is designed to be as academically challenging as College Prep while ensuring that students are properly prepared to meet the demands of technical schools, two or four-year colleges/universities, and/or the technical job market. Articulated college credit may be issued in many career technical classes if a student makes a grade of 85 or higher. (Students may apply for articulated credit upon enrollment at a junior college.) Courses listed in our Course Catalog are included in a comprehensive list of all courses taught in the Fort Payne City School System. Additional courses may be offered through ACCESS (Alabama Connecting Classrooms, Educators, and Students Statewide), Northeast Alabama Community College or other virtual learning providers. Information about virtual learning opportunities can be obtained at the school. If a student opts to take a virtual course for which an equivalent course is available at the school, he/she will be responsible for any textbook or other fees that may be involved in the course.

ACADEMIC SCHEDULE

FPHS BELL SCHEDULE



Block Schedule

1st Block 7:45 - 9:15

2nd Block 9:20 - 10:50

3rd Block 10:55 - 12:50
(LUNCH 25 minutes)

4th Block 12:55 - 1:40

5th Block 1:45 – 3:15

Graduation Requirements

Class of 2026 and 2027

ALABAMA HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS		
(Alabama Administrative Code 290-3-1-02(8) and (8)(a))		
GRADUATING CLASS OF 2026 GRADUATING CLASS OF 2027		
COURSE REQUIREMENTS		
English Language Arts	Four credits to include:	Credits
	English 9	1
	English 10	1
	English 11	1
	English 12	1
	English Language Arts-credit eligible options may include: Advanced Placement/International Baccalaureate/postsecondary courses/SDE-approved courses.	
English Language Arts Total Credits		4
Mathematics	Three credits to include:	Credits
	Algebra I or its equivalent/substitute	1
	Geometry or its equivalent/substitute	1
	Algebra II w/Trigonometry or Algebra II, or its equivalent/substitute	1
	One credit from:	
	Alabama Course of Study: Mathematics or mathematics-credit eligible courses from Career and Technical Education/Advanced Placement/International Baccalaureate/postsecondary courses/SDE-approved courses.	1
Mathematics Total Credits		4
Science	Two credits to include:	Credits
	Biology	1
	A physical science (Chemistry, Physics, Physical Science)	1
	Two credits from:	
	Alabama Course of Study: Science or science-credit eligible courses from Career and Technical Education/Advanced Placement/International Baccalaureate/postsecondary courses/SDE-approved courses.	2
	Science Total Credits	4
Social Studies	Four credits to include:	Credits
	World History	1
	United States History I	1
	United States History II	1
	United States Government	0.5
	Economics	0.5
	Social Studies-credit eligible options may include: Advanced Placement/International Baccalaureate/postsecondary courses/SDE-approved courses.	
Civics Exam Requirement	Students are required to earn a passing score on the Civics Exam	
Social Studies Total Credits		4
Physical Education	Beginning Kinesiology or Junior Reserve Officers' Training Corps (JROTC)	1
Career Preparedness		1
Health Education		0.5
Arts Education and/or Career and Technical Education (CTE) and/or World Languages		3
Electives		2.5
Total Credits		24
<p>* Distance Learning: Effective for students entering the ninth grade in the 2009-2010 school year, Alabama students will be required to complete one online/technology enhanced course or experience prior to graduation. Exceptions through Individualized Education Plans will be allowed.</p> <p>** Effective with the graduating Class of 2022, the following requirements shall be fulfilled on behalf of the graduating senior as part of the graduating senior's transition into postsecondary education, training, or the workforce: Submit to the United States Department of Education a Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) or Certify a non-participation waiver, in writing, to the superintendent of the local education agency if the graduating senior chooses not to complete and submit FAFSA.</p> <p>***Effective with the graduating Class of 2026, the Alabama High School Diploma: General Education Pathway shall be issued to students who earn the required credits and earn one or more of the college and career readiness indicators approved by the Alabama State Board of Education.</p>		
March 1, 2024		

Class of 2028 and Beyond

ALABAMA HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

(Alabama Administrative Code 290-3-1-02(8) and (8)(a))

GRADUATING CLASS OF 2028 AND BEYOND

COURSE REQUIREMENTS		
English Language Arts	Four credits to include:	Credits
	English 9	1
	English 10	1
	English 11	1
	English 12	1
	English Language Arts credit-eligible options may include: Advanced Placement/International Baccalaureate/postsecondary courses/SDE-approved courses.	
English Language Arts Total Credits		4
Mathematics	Three credits to include:	Credits
	Algebra I or its equivalent/substitute	1
	Geometry or its equivalent/substitute	1
	Algebra II w/Trigonometry or Algebra II, or its equivalent/substitute	1
	One credit from:	
	Alabama Course of Study: Mathematics or mathematics credit-eligible courses from Career and Technical Education/Advanced Placement/International Baccalaureate/postsecondary courses/SDE-approved courses.	1
Mathematics Total Credits		4
Science	Two credits to include:	Credits
	Biology	1
	A physical science (Chemistry, Physics, Physical Science)	1
	Two credits from:	
	Alabama Course of Study: Science or science credit-eligible courses from Career and Technical Education/Advanced Placement/International Baccalaureate/postsecondary courses/SDE-approved courses.	2
	Science Total Credits	4
Social Studies	Four credits to include:	Credits
	World History	1
	United States History I	1
	United States History II	1
	United States Government	0.5
	Economics	0.5
	Social Studies credit-eligible options may include: Advanced Placement/International Baccalaureate/postsecondary courses/SDE-approved courses.	
Civics Exam Requirement	Students are required to earn a passing score on the Civics Exam	
Social Studies Total Credits		4
Physical Education	Beginning Kinesiology <u>or</u> Junior Reserve Officers' Training Corps (JROTC)	1
Career Preparedness	Students are required to complete an accompanying financial literacy examination as part of this course.	
Health Education		0.5
Arts Education and/or Career and Technical Education (CTE) and/or World Languages		3
Electives		2.5
Total Credits		24

* Distance Learning: Effective for students entering the ninth grade in the 2009-2010 school year, Alabama students will be required to complete one online/technology enhanced course or experience prior to graduation. Exceptions through Individualized Education Plans will be allowed.

** Effective with the graduating Class of 2022, the following requirements shall be fulfilled on behalf of the graduating senior as part of the graduating senior's transition into postsecondary education, training, or the workforce: Submit to the United States Department of Education a Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) or Certify a non-participation waiver, in writing, to the superintendent of the local education agency if the graduating senior chooses not to complete and submit FAFSA.

***Effective with the graduating Class of 2026, the Alabama High School Diploma: General Education Pathway shall be issued to students who earn the required credits and earn one or more of the college and career readiness indicators approved by the Alabama State Board of Education.

March 1, 2024

GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS **(Continued)**

1) ALABAMA CIVICS EXAM (All graduating classes)

The ALSDE requires that all students take and pass a Civics test prior to graduating. The test consists of 100 multiple choice questions and is given during the time the student is taking the required U.S. Government class or after completion of the course. The student must score 60 or above. A student may take the Alabama Civics Exam multiple times to receive a passing score.

2) FINANCIAL LITERACY REQUIREMENT (Beginning with graduation class of 2028)

Alabama students entering Grade 9 in the 2024-2025 academic year must complete a course in personal financial literacy along with an accompanying financial literacy examination. The Financial Literacy Examination consists of fifty (50) multiple-choice questions that assesses each of the required instructional topics. To earn a passing score on the Financial Literacy Examination, students must answer a minimum of thirty (30) items correctly; however, a passing score is NOT required for graduation. These required topics and the exam will be completed during the required course of Career Preparedness (also Career Preparedness B).

3) FAFSA – Alabama Free Application for Federal Student Aid (All graduating classes)

The state of Alabama requires high school seniors to complete FAFSA or satisfy an opt-out waiver option as part of the graduating senior's transition into postsecondary education, training, or the workforce. FPHS will provide support to students and parents to complete this process.

4) COLLEGE AND CAREER READINESS (Beginning with graduating class of 2026)

Effective for students of the graduating Class of 2026, who entered Grade 9 for the first time during the 2022-2023 school year, the Alabama High School Diploma: General Education Pathway shall be issued to students who earn the required credits and earn one or more of the following college and career readiness indicators:

- Earning a benchmark score in any subject area on the ACT® college entrance exam.
- Earning a qualifying score of three or higher on an Advanced Placement® exam.
- Earning a qualifying score of four or higher on an International Baccalaureate® exam.
- Earning college credit while in high school.
- Earning a silver or gold level on the ACT® WorkKeys® Exam.
- Completing an in-school youth apprenticeship program.
- Earning a career technical industry credential listed on the compendium of valuable credentials of the Alabama Committee on Credentialing and Career Pathways.
- Being accepted into the military before graduation.
- Attaining Career and Technical Education (CTE) completer status.
- Any additional College and Career Readiness (CCR) indicator approved by the Alabama State Board of Education.

LOCAL DIPLOMA ENDORSEMENTS (Not a requirement for graduation)

Students have the opportunity to add on a local diploma endorsement (not a requirement for graduation). Those local endorsements are listed below:

1. HONORS ENDORSEMENT

- Pass all required coursework for The Alabama High School Diploma
- Complete two credits of honors, AP or Dual Enrollment in all four core subjects
- Complete four credits of math or equivalent to include Algebra II w/Trig
- Complete two credits of foreign language in the same Foreign Language will no longer be required for an Honors Endorsement Diploma or considered an academic course with the 2027 graduating cohort and beyond. It will still remain an Honors Endorsement Diploma requirement for the graduation classes of 2024, 2025, and 2026.

2. CAREER TECHNOLOGICAL ENDORSEMENT

- Pass all required coursework for The Alabama High School Diploma.
- Complete three CTE courses within the same career path and earn at least a 70 average in each course.

ONLINE EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES AT FPHS

FPHS offers eligible students the option of enrolling into online (virtual) classes on a part-time or full-time basis. Students enrolling into the full-time virtual option will be able to complete coursework from home while part-time online students will complete coursework on campus. All online classes are delivered by certified teachers through a learning management system (LMS) utilizing synchronous and asynchronous environments. Reach out to the counselors for more information about online class options.

DEKALB COUNTY TECHNICAL SCHOOL

Fort Payne High School students may also attend the DeKalb County Technical School in Rainsville. Students attend the Technical School for two semesters and will obtain two career tech credits per year. The following courses are offered:

- Automobile Body Repair
- Automobile Mechanics
- Clothing Production/Services
- Cosmetology
- Drafting
- Healthcare Technology
- Masonry
- Refrigeration and Air Conditioning
- Welding

PROMOTION STANDARDS - REQUIREMENTS FOR GRADE PLACEMENT (HOMEROOMS)

In order for a student to be classified as a member of a particular class (i.e., Freshmen, Sophomore, Junior, or Senior) they must have earned the required number and type of units as specified below:

- SOPHOMORE CLASSIFICATION- 6
- JUNIOR CLASSIFICATION- 13
- SENIOR CLASSIFICATION- 20

This includes passing the four (4) required courses each year. (English, History, Math and Science)

DRESS CODE FOR GRADUATION EXERCISES

Graduation from high school is the culmination of many years of study and hard work. It is a time that deserves the dignity of a formal ceremony. In order to make our appearance as uniform and neat as possible, all seniors will wear the following attire to the graduation ceremony.

- **Females-** Black skirt and white blouse or black dress with black **dress** shoes.
- **Males-** White collared shirt, necktie, black dress pants, and black **dress** shoes.

FEE SCHEDULE

A fee is required for certain courses to assist with the cost of equipment, maintenance, and to purchase materials. Students who are not financially able to pay fees may apply for a fee waiver. Fee waiver applications are available at the high school. (A copy of the fee schedule is located in the student handbook.)

Per Term

Class	Amount
Anatomy or Genetics	\$20.00
Agri-science Education	\$30.00
Advanced Placement Course	\$20.00
Chemistry Lab	\$15.00
Cooperative Education and Seminar	\$15.00
Driver Education	\$30.00
Health Science	\$30.00
Hospitality & Tourism, Culinary I and Culinary II	\$30.00
Law, Public Safety, Corrections and Security	\$20.00
Coordinated Studies	\$20.00
Physics Lab	\$10.00
Commerce and Information Technology	\$25.00
Career Preparedness	\$15.00
Art Lab	\$30.00
Teaching Careers	\$15.00
Senior Fee - diploma, class night, cap and gown	\$100.00

GRADING PROCEDURES

There are four grading sessions per school year (1st, 2nd, 3rd, and 4th nine weeks). A mid-session grade is reported in the middle of each grading period. At the end of the course, all 9 weeks averages for that course are averaged together to provide a final class average. If a 15% weighted final exam is required for the course that will also be calculated into the final grade. Grade Reports are viewable through your Parent PowerSchool Portal and printed copies are sent home when requested.

Grades for each grading period shall be based on five or more evaluations. These grades are divided into the categories of major and minor which reflect their weight on the average. All core classes are weighted as follows:

- Honors core classes = Major categories 70% and minor categories 30% total weight of the semester average.
- Core Classes (non-honors) = Major categories 60% and minor categories 40% total weight of the semester average.

In grades 9 - 12, a final(end-of-course) examination will be given in each core subject. This examination will be weighted 15% of the final course grade. Only term numerical grades will be recorded on a student's permanent record. All grades will be recorded numerically and will correspond to the following scale:

- A = 90 - 100
- B = 80 - 89
- C = 70 - 79
- D = 60 - 69
- F = 59 or below
- INC = Incomplete
- WF = Withdrawal Failing

END-OF-COURSE EXAMINATION POLICY

The policy of the Fort Payne City Board of Education shall be as follows concerning the End-of-Course Exams.

1. Students in grades nine through twelve will be required to take a comprehensive end-of-course exam in all English Language Arts, Math, Science, Social Studies and Foreign Language courses.
 - AP courses will be exempt from end-of-course comprehensive exams.
2. Comprehensive End-of-course exams will only be administered in those courses listed above.
3. Comprehensive **End-of-course exams will count as 15% of the total grade** in the course.
4. All students in grades 9-12 have the opportunity to exempt the end-of-course exam in their courses if all of the following criteria has been met by the end of the course:
 - Holding a 90 average or above for the course and 3 or less excused absences.
 - Holding an 80 average or above for the course and 2 or less excused absences.
 - Holding a 70 average or above for the course and 1 or less excused absences.
 - Holding any unexcused absences will disqualify the student from exemption.
 - Tardy codes (TE - tardy excused and TU - tardy unexcused) will be counted as an absence in the class regarding the semester test exemption policy. (College courses and virtual classes are an exception to the exemption policy and may require final exams).

GUIDANCE OFFICE

The Guidance Office is open to all students. You are encouraged to come by for information concerning courses to take in high school that will prepare you for college, technical school, or work. Vocational information is available and you are invited to study any fields related to your interests.

Each student is responsible for knowing how many credits he/she has earned and for clearing any deficiencies required for graduation. The guidance counselors are available to help students with these responsibilities.

The counselors are available to help students interpret test results, apply for admission to college, register for college admission tests (ACT and SAT), and register for financial aid. The Guidance Office is also the place to go when you have problems that you want to talk over. Making an appointment is helpful, but not necessary.

HONORS/DUAL ENROLLMENT/ADVANCED PLACEMENT PROGRAMS

Because of the difficult curriculum of the honors/dual enrollment/advanced placement programs it is more equitable for the honors students' grades to be weighted when computing class rank, determining eligibility for National Honor Society membership, computing Grade Point Average (GPA) and determining the Honor Roll. All dual enrollment core classes will be considered honors classes. The following system will be used: (1) Numerical Average: Before computing the total numerical average, ten (10) points will be added to each term honors/advanced placement grade, except for grades below 60. (2) GPA: For computing the students' GPA and honor roll for each grade period, the following scale will be used:

Earned Grade	Regular Classes	AP/Honors/ Dual Enrollment
A (90-100)	4	5
B (80-89)	3	4
C (70-79)	2	3
D (60-69)	1	2
F (59 or below)	0	0

The grades recorded on mid-term reports, grade sheets, grade reports and permanent records will be those **ACTUALLY EARNED** in the honors/advanced placement courses. They are to be noted as "Honors" or "AP" courses on all records. This system will reward the students who accept the challenge of advanced courses while preventing the appearance of inflated grades on mid-term reports or grade reports. The grade will be given the proper weight and recorded in the PowerSchool grade reporting section.

Before computing scholastic averages add 10 points for each semester honors/advanced placement grade to the numerical average. The GPA will be computed as: A=5, B=4, C=3, D=2, F=0."

ACCESS DISTANCE LEARNING AND WEB-BASED COURSES

ACCESS Distance Learning (Alabama Connecting Classrooms, Educators, and Students Statewide) an education initiative of the Alabama State Department of Education, provides opportunities and options for Alabama high school students to engage in Advanced Placement (AP), elective, and other courses to which they may not otherwise have access. Fort Payne High School will offer both the Distance Learning and the Web Based component of Access Learning. Students must be at least a freshman and be independent learners, possess good computer skills, and have at least a 3.0 GPA. Credit restrictions apply.

ADVANCED PLACEMENT (AP)

AP courses are accelerated in rigor and pace and expose students to a college-level introductory course. AP exams are administered in May of each school year. Some colleges accept a qualifying score of a 3, 4, or 5 on the AP exam as credit earned for that course. AP exams do have a fee (talk to your counselor for more information on the cost).

DUAL ENROLLMENT

Fort Payne High School and Northeast State Community College are in a partnership to offer FPHS sophomore, junior and senior courses for college credit. Select courses are taught on the high school campus. Information is provided to all qualifying students at the time of the high school's course registration.

INSTRUCTIONAL MEDIA CENTER--LIBRARY

Fort Payne High School Library has an excellent collection of books, e-books, and magazines. Please follow these rules when using the library:

1. Students are free to come to the library before school and at break.
2. A student **MUST** have a key card from a teacher in order to use the library during class time.
3. Any library material must be signed for in order to be taken from the library.
4. Books may be checked out for 14 days and may be renewed for an additional 14 days if needed. It is the student's responsibility to renew books before they are late. The maximum book limit is 2 books per student.
5. A fine of .10 cents per school day per book will be charged for overdue books.
6. E-books may be checked out for 7 days and may be renewed for an additional 7 days if needed.
7. Students must pay for lost or damaged books and materials for which they are responsible.
8. The library software program, *Destiny Quest*, allows students to have their own personal accounts. To access FPHS Library's website, type destiny.fpcsk12.com in the address bar on your screen. At the "Welcome to Fort Payne City School District" page, select the Fort Payne High School Link to open up the card catalog. In order to access your personal account and to recommend and review books, check out e-books, and renew the books that you have on loan, you will be required to enter your username and password:
Username: First and Last name initial with student #
Password: School-assigned Google password
9. The library will be closed the last week of school for the annual inventory.

SUMMER SCHOOL/CREDIT RECOVERY

Summer school credit recovery is based upon the board approved high school credit recovery plan. Summer Credit Recovery consists of 20 instructional days in which any student may recover as many as two core instructional credits.

Excessive absences will result in dismissal from the credit recovery program. The student must meet all requirements based on the Alabama Course of Study and any requirement(s) designated by the teacher that assigned the failing grade.

TRANSCRIPTS

Transcripts given to students will be stamped UNOFFICIAL. Fort Payne High School is careful to abide by the requirements of the Buckley Amendment, concerning confidentiality. Transcripts will be sent electronically through Parchment or can be mailed upon request.

BELL SCHEDULE

The bells signify the beginning and end of a block. Students are expected to be in class at the beginning of the block. The door to each teacher's room will be closed when the bell rings to begin class. Any student still in the hall when the bell rings without a permissible excuse is to be considered tardy and will be sent to the Assistant Principal's office.

BLOCK	TIME
1st	7:45-9:15
2nd	9:20-10:50
3rd	10:55-12:50 (Lunch Block)
4th	12:55-1:40
5th	1:45-3:15

CAFETERIA

The cafeteria staff works hard to provide you with good lunches. The cafeteria is full self-serve. The following rules make lunch more enjoyable for everyone.

1. All students are required to report to the cafeteria during their assigned lunch period and to remain in the cafeteria until the end of the lunch period.
2. Do not cut line (there are two serving lines).
3. Do not take more than one serving of each item (extra servings=extra charges).
4. Sit one person per seat.
5. Do not eat or drink from another student's tray.
6. Return trays to designated area.
7. Do not take any food or drinks outside the cafeteria.
8. Keep the cafeteria as clean as possible.
9. No throwing of food.
10. Visit restroom and lockers promptly on the way to the cafeteria or on the way back to class in order not to be tardy for lunch or class.

The price of lunch is determined by the Board of Education. Students may purchase extra items anytime during lunch at the posted prices.

Our cafeteria supports the concept of Offer vs. Serve. A "Type A" lunch includes a bread item, milk, a meat and two different vegetables and/or fruits. Students are to choose a minimum of three items from the offering. Normally, the cafeteria staff tries to offer two meat items and several vegetables and fruit items in addition to a salad bar and a potato bar.

Ft. Payne City Schools participates in the National Child Nutrition Program. Students interested in applying for free or reduced lunches will receive an application the first day of school.

CHECK OUT PROCEDURES

Students will not be permitted to leave school before the dismissal of school without permission of the Principal or Assistant Principal. Parents, guardians or a member of the immediate family must come into the office and sign the student out. Students are to come to the office before homeroom in the morning with a note from their parent or guardian stating the time and the specific reason for checking out. Students will report to the office at the checkout time and sign the Checkout Book (blue). A listing of all students checking out will be published in the morning Wildcat Report. **The Administration reserves the right to require parent/legal guardian to come to campus for student check-out.**

Students who drive will have their parents call the school office between 7:30 am and 8:30 am to verify checkouts for that day. We require a doctor's appointment card or note from the doctor's office for all medical and dental appointments. The Principal or Assistant Principal shall determine whether the absence from that part of the school day shall be "excused" or "unexcused." It is important to remember that make-up work will only be permitted for "excused" checkouts, and the student will still be considered absent from the classes missed. Students scheduled for participation in school activities or events (athletics, band, cheerleading, prom, beauty pageants, club trips or any other school event) **CANNOT CHECK OUT THE DAY OF THE EVENT AND STILL PARTICIPATE.**

EMERGENCY CHECK OUT

We realize that it is sometimes necessary for students to check out of school because of illness. Any disease or condition that a student has should be noted on the student's registration form. If a student becomes too ill to go to class, a parent or guardian will be called to come for the student. A student that is feeling ill should report to the nurse or contact the office immediately. **STUDENTS ARE NOT TO STAY IN THE RESTROOM WHEN ILL (this will be considered skipping).** **Students are not to call home and tell parents to pick them up. The Principal or Assistant Principal will contact the parent or guardian. Any student who leaves without permission of the Principal or Assistant Principal will be considered as "skipping" class.** The emergency checkouts will be published 4th block each day. It will be the responsibility of the student to make up missed assignments when they return to school.

TEMPORARY CLOSING AND EARLY DISMISSAL OF SCHOOLS

The superintendent of schools has the authority to temporarily close schools or dismiss early in the event of severe weather, inadequate heat or other conditions which threaten the safety and well-being of the children.

When the decision is made to close schools, an announcement will be made on the local radio stations and TV stations as early as possible. If early dismissal of school is necessary, the local radio and TV stations will be notified. The superintendent will also use the School Notification System (SNS) to notify parents. The School Notification System (SNS) will contact all guardians by phone to notify them of an early dismissal. It is imperative that you keep your SNS accounts up-to-date with current phone numbers at all times. Parents should have an alternate plan in the event schools do close early.

CLASSROOM BEHAVIOR-CLASSROOM COURTESIES

Students are to practice good behavior in the classroom, keep noise down, not sit on top of furniture and refrain from defacing or abusing classroom furniture. Continual violations of classroom courtesies will result in strong disciplinary action (ISS, A-School, and suspension).

ELECTIONS

The student council will conduct student elections for class officer, homecoming and student council. Each club will hold club elections. Senior Who's Who will be conducted by the senior class officers. This election is different from others in that a student is only allowed to choose one position (if they win more than one). Also, this election is determined by plurality.

CLUBS

A student is only permitted to be president of one club. A student is only permitted to be an officer of two clubs (presidency counting as one of these offices). A club sponsor has the authority to remove any officer from their position if they do not fulfill their duties.

GYMNASIUM

Students are not to use the gym unless a teacher is present to supervise the activity. Students found in the gym during activity period will be considered "skipping class" as there is not a teacher assigned to the gym during activity period. All students are encouraged to keep all areas of the gym neat and clean. As the gym must be used for functions other than PE and athletics, the following rules apply:

1. Students are to be respectful in assembly programs, failure to do so will result in disciplinary action.

2. Students are required to attend all assembly programs for which there is no charge.

HALL AND SIDEWALK BEHAVIOR

Behavior in the halls and on the sidewalks should always be in good taste. Students are not to block passage in the halls or on the sidewalks. Students are not to be in the halls during class periods unless they have a proper pass. Students are not to run in the halls or on the sidewalks. Students are also reminded to watch what they say in the halls and on the sidewalks.

LOCKERS

Students are not required to rent an individual locker. Lockers are available to students for a charge of \$5.00 per year and can be rented when students pick up their schedules or enroll. All books and personal articles should be placed in the lockers when not in use. **IT IS UNWISE TO TELL ANYONE YOUR LOCKER COMBINATION.** Mechanical problems with any locker are to be reported to the Assistant Principal immediately. Students are to visit lockers before school, during break, between class (if necessary) and after school. **VISITING A LOCKER IS NOT AN EXCUSE FOR BEING TARDY TO CLASS. UNDER NO CIRCUMSTANCE SHOULD STUDENTS LEAVE VALUABLE ITEMS IN THEIR LOCKER.**

School officials may inspect or search desks and/or lockers when there is reasonable cause to believe that articles kept there may endanger other individuals in the school or those articles are in violation of the law or regulations of the Board of Education or school.

It is not necessary to visit lockers between every class change. Plan ahead; get books for your first two classes, at break get books for periods three and four, etc. Students who "jam" their locks are subject to disciplinary action. All combinations are changed each summer, repairs made, and all lockers are inspected by the Principal or Assistant Principal before school begins in the fall.

ON CAMPUS STUDENT PARKING

1. Only licensed drivers are permitted to drive a vehicle on campus. Students must have a Fort Payne City Schools Drug Testing Consent and Release form signed by parents and the student on file before a parking decal will be issued.
2. Drivers must present a valid driver's license and information about their vehicle to obtain a parking permit. All vehicles a student may drive need to be listed.
3. Each student is required to purchase a parking decal if a vehicle is to be parked on campus. The price of the parking decal is \$5.00. The decal must be placed on the designated area of the vehicle.
4. Decals will be issued to licensed drivers only. If a licensed driver buys a permit for another student, both students shall be subject to disciplinary action. Students driving in violation of the law may be reported to the police.
5. **Immediately on entering the campus, students are to park, lock and leave their vehicles. The parking lot is off limits to students during the school day, including break, lunch and activity period. Students leaving for work should do so promptly at the end of their last class.**
6. If a student must go to his/her car during the school day, he/she must receive a pass from the Principal, not a teacher.
7. A student may drive a motorcycle on campus providing he is a licensed operator. Motorcycles must be registered but are not required to have a parking decal.
8. Students must park in the numbered space that corresponds with the decal number issued through the office. (Student vehicles must be parked in the assigned parking space and remain there the entire school day) Any exceptions to this must be approved by the principal. Parking will be restricted behind the gym. There is to be no parking behind the lunchroom, third building, between the cafeteria and the gym or double parking behind the gym.
9. Students may not park in one lot for part of the school day then move to another lot.
10. Vehicles without decals will be fined \$5.00.
11. Parking in unspecified spaces is a violation and subject to a \$5.00 fine.
12. Speeding or reckless driving will result in disciplinary action. A student will be denied campus driving privileges.
13. All fines are to be paid within one week of the violation or the driver faces suspension of campus driving privileges.
14. All drivers must obey the **STOP** sign behind the gym. Failure to do so will result in disciplinary action, including a \$5.00 fine and/or suspension of campus driving privileges.
15. The Principal or his designee may search student vehicles while on school property when there is

reasonable cause to believe that a specific vehicle(s) contains articles that may endanger other individuals or are contrary to law or regulations of the school or Board.

REVOKING CAMPUS DRIVING AND PARKING PRIVILEGE

Student parking for students who drive to campus is considered a privilege. This privilege can be revoked if students have excessive "Unexcused Absences." Any student who has 5 unexcused absences will be considered to have their parking privileges revoked.

If a student's parking privileges are revoked and the student continues to park on campus, their vehicle will be subject to be towed at the recommendation of the school resource officer or designated school administrator.

RESTROOMS

Students may use restrooms between class changes if they can do so without being late to class. Otherwise, they should be used at break, before and after school. During class, students may go to the restroom only if they have the proper emergency pass. ***STUDENTS ARE NOT TO STAY IN THE RESTROOM WHEN SICK, BUT ARE TO REPORT TO THE OFFICE IMMEDIATELY.***

SCHOOL RELATED TRIPS

All school related trips must be cleared by the Principal at least one week in advance. Students are subject to all school rules and regulations and the code of conduct while on school related trips and will not be allowed to check out until the proper time approved by the Principal. Permission forms must be signed by a parent/guardian and returned to the teacher prior to the trip.

SELLING ITEMS ON CAMPUS/BUSES

Students are not permitted to sell unapproved items on campus or school buses. All items are subject to confiscation and the student is subject to disciplinary action.

TELEPHONE

Students are to use the phone only for emergencies. It is not to be used during class, study hall, lunch and activity periods. Those students who violate this privilege will be subject to disciplinary action.

YEARBOOK PICTURES

The yearbook staff will be responsible for planning club pictures with each club responsible for the behavior of its members. The club sponsor should be present at the time of taking the picture to assist in supervision. Students are reminded to conduct themselves in an honorable manner. No obscene gestures or intentionally distracting movements by a student will be allowed. Proper attire is to be worn. Students are expected to cooperate with the yearbook photographer by being attentive and facing the camera.

Violations of this policy will lead to disciplinary action for the individual student. If no acceptable copy of the group picture is available because of a student's violation of this policy, that club will forfeit its picture position in the yearbook.

The yearbook staff is not obligated to remake any club or group photograph. If a remake is taken, the offending student will not be included in the photograph and will be required to pay any charges incurred.

SCHOOL INSURANCE

A school accident insurance policy is available for all students. Students can sign up for the policy at the beginning of the school year. Students have an option of two forms of school insurance. They are as follows:

1. School-time coverage
2. Round the clock coverage

If you wish to purchase the insurance, checks should be made payable to the insurance company. Please read the policy benefits carefully. If you do not have family health coverage, you may want to consider this service.

TORNADO, FIRE and INTRUDER DRILLS

Tornado and fire drills are held regularly to develop safety practices that will help students move quickly and in an orderly manner to pre-designated safety areas during an emergency. The procedure for tornado and fire drills will be posted in each classroom. Teachers will review these procedures with the students during the year. Intruder drills will also be held at least once a year.

Acknowledgment Forms

You can view any of the acknowledgement forms signed during the online enrollment process by going to the FPCS Code of Conduct found on the school website.

School Compact 25-26

Fort Payne High School
This School-Parent Compact is in effect during the school year: 2025-2026
School Responsibilities:

**SCHOOL-PARENT
COMPACT**

Fort Payne High School, and the parents of the students participating in activities, services, and programs funded by Title I, Part A of the Every Student Succeeds Act of 2015 (ESSA), agree that this compact outlines how the parents, the entire school staff, and the students will share the responsibility for improved student academic achievement and the means by which the school and parents will build and develop a partnership that will help children achieve the state's high standards.

Fort Payne High School will:

1. **Provide high-quality curriculum and instruction in a supportive and effective learning environment that enables the participating children to meet the state's student academic achievement standards as follows:**
 - Follow the Alabama Course of Study accordingly with all content standards
 - Daily Math and Reading Intervention
 - School-Wide Advisory Program
 - Provide additional support in the classroom through Title 1 Instructional Coach
 - One-on-one technology initiative
2. **Hold parent-teacher conferences during which this compact will be discussed as it relates to the individual child's achievement.**
 - Parent Orientation/ Open House
 - Parent Involvement/Title 1 Program Meeting
 - Fall and Spring Parent/Teacher Conference Days
 - Conferences are scheduled throughout the year as requested by parent and/or teacher
3. **Provide parents with frequent reports on their child's progress.**
 - Learning Management Systems (LMS): Schoology communication systems for student/parent/teacher
 - PowerSchool provides current grades, attendance data, school schedule and report cards
4. **Provide parents reasonable access to staff.**
 - Fort Payne High School Website/ Email exchange
 - Phone calls- Interpreters available
 - School conferences that are scheduled by appointment
 - Parental Engagement/Title 1 Meetings
 - Communicate with staff through Remind
5. **Provide parents opportunities to volunteer and participate in their child's class and to observe classroom activities, as follows:**
 - Volunteer to assist with special events and activities such as: PTA, chaperoning field trips and special school/classroom events
6. **Ensure regular two-way, meaningful communication between family members and school staff and, to the extent practicable, in a language that family members can understand.**
 - Interpret communication in native languages and provide translators at each school

Parent Responsibilities:

We, as parents, will support our child's learning in the following ways:

- Monitor and encourage daily attendance with minimal to zero tardies and check-outs
- Provide positive reinforcement for academic achievement
- Ensure that homework is complete
- Monitor the amount of time my child spends involved in television viewing, social media usage, cell phone usage, computer usage and electronic games
- Participate and attend parent meetings, parent-teacher conferences and school sponsored events
- Check PowerSchool regularly to monitor my child's progress and stay informed
- Promptly read all notices and communications from the school or school district
- Serve to the extent possible as a parent leader, School Advisory Council member, Federal Programs Advisory committee member, and any other school advisory or policy group

Student Responsibilities:

I, as a student will share the responsibility to improve my academic achievement and achieve the state's high standards. Specifically, I will:

- Read twenty to thirty minutes daily outside of school
- Behave in a manner that exhibits good citizenship and character
- Take responsibility for completing all classroom and homework assignments
- Give my parents all notices and communications from school each day
- Attend school regularly and promptly
- Charge my school digital device each night
- Check school email/messages daily