

Ford Elementary School Handbook 2018-19

Policies and Procedures

Arrival

School Starts promptly at 7:50 a.m. Students who are not ***in their classroom*** at 7:50 will be marked ABSENT. Once a child is marked ABSENT, this goes into the district's automated system which sends phone calls out to the parents notifying of the absence. The Ford office will change the ABSENCE to a TARDY once the parent has signed in the child as TARDY.

Tardiness

Students who are not in their classroom at 7:50 AM are officially TARDY. Parents/guardians must accompany the child to the office to sign them in as tardy. If a habit of tardiness develops, school personnel will work with parents to help plan a solution to change the habit.

3 unexcused tardies – contact from teacher

7 unexcused tardies – contact from social worker

Dismissal is at 2:15 p.m.

Students are dismissed in the following order:

1. ASP / Day Care / Bus Riders / After School Clubs
2. Car Riders: PLEASE DO NOT PARK YOUR CAR AND WALK ACROSS THE TRAFFIC TO PICK UP YOUR CHILD. If everyone stays in the traffic lane, dismissal will be quick, orderly and safe. If your child is not picked up by 2:45 PM from car dismissal, he/she will be sent to the After School Program at a cost of \$7.00 per day.
3. Please be mindful of our 2:15 dismissal time. We are very busy during this time of day ensuring that each and every one of our students is safely on his/her way home or to his/her after school destination. IF your child must leave before the end of the school day, ***please arrive before 1:45 as we will not call students for dismissal after that time.***

Change of Dismissal

If you need to change your child's way of getting home after school, please send a note to the teacher with your child. **Please be mindful that we are not able to change students to ride the bus home over the phone.** Parents will need to come into the school to request this change. We will only take verbal changes if the student is going to ASP. This is to ensure the safety of your child. To see the complete policy please go to:

<http://www.cobbk12.org/centraloffice/adminrules/JJGFC-R.pdf>

Students should only ride a different bus home for child care purposes only. Our buses have limited space on their vehicles and many of them are at full capacity.

All changes of dismissal need to be made before 1:45 each day.

Do NOT email your child's teacher with transportation changes. Teachers are busy with instruction during the day and may not see your email until after school.

Attendance

School attendance and instructional time is a top priority at Ford Elementary. We need your child here each school day.

Dental and doctor appointments after the school day is over have the least impact on the disruption of instructional time. We realize that emergencies come up where appointments must happen during the school day. However, please be respectful of our instructional time and schedule ahead for those “well” checkups outside of the school day. Each time we need to call a student out of class is an interruption to that class’s educational process. Thank you for your help with this.

If your child is absent from school, please send a note within 3 days explaining why your child was absent. Extended absences may require a doctor’s excuse.

Excused Absences allow for: illness, death in the family and religious holidays recognized by the child’s faith. This procedure is established by Georgia State Law. If a student will be out for an extended period of time or acquires a contagious disease, please notify the school. Cobb County has an established policy for students with excessive unexcused absences. This policy will be initiated on the 3rd unexcused absence.

Unexcused Absences include but are not limited to: Vacation/Out of Town, no note received explaining absence, note that does not explain the reason for absence

3 unexcused absences – contact from teacher

5 unexcused absences – contact from Principal

7 unexcused absences – contact from School Social Worker

To view the attendance policy in its entirety, please go to: <http://www.cobbk12.org/centraloffice/adminrules/J/JB-R.pdf>

Students who need to leave during the school day will be released from class once the parent has officially signed them out in the front office

To attain **PERFECT ATTENDANCE**, students must be present in school all day for each day of school. Tardies, checking in late or checking out early will not allow for a Perfect Attendance award.

Make-Up work when Absent

If a student is out of school for only one day, he/she may make up the work the next day at school. If a student is absent more than one day, parents must contact the teacher to request make up work.

School work will not be given ahead of time for planned absences (other than illness). This work will be made up after the student returns to school.

Custody of Children

School personnel are bound by law to release children only to adults whose names are on the registration card. We greatly appreciate your cooperating with the ex-spouse/non-custodial parent to ensure that anyone with custodial rights is included on the registration card. We cannot enter into cases of court litigation unless subpoenaed by a court to appear as a witness. If you are divorced or separated and the court has awarded the custody of your child or children to you, a copy of the court order is requested.

Withdrawals

The office and classroom teacher should be notified at least one day in advance when a student is going to move. A transfer/withdrawal form will be completed to take to the new school for enrollment at that school. We DO NOT release student cumulative records to parents. The new school will have to request the records or a parent may fill out a form to have the records mailed to the new school. All fees owed to the present school MUST be paid in full prior to a withdrawal being completed and issued.

Early Release Days

Cobb County allows students to be dismissed early during the year. On these days, dismissal will begin at 12:15 PM or 12:30 if middle school or high school have early release also. Please see the calendar for early release days.

School Closings / Inclement Weather

When the Cobb County School System is going to be closed because of inclement weather, the decision for closing schools is usually announced on the radio and television stations by 6:00 AM. If a decision to close schools occurs during the day, the statement will be given to the media. We will then follow parent's written information and our local school plans for such early dismissal situations. Please discuss with your child what you expect to do if school is closed during the day. **PARENTS WILL NOT BE CALLED. Announcements will be on the CCDS Website and CCSD Twitter as well. Text messages are also sent.**

TRANSPORTATION

Buses

Bus transportation is provided for all students. Routes and schedules are available in the school office. The bus port is reserved for buses and school use so parents are asked not to use this area at any time.

Students may ride other buses if a note is provided by a parent / guardian with the bus # and the person they are going home with listed in the letter. However, due to limited space, some bus routes may prohibit this.

When students 8 and under are dropped off, a parent or guardian must be visible. If not, the student will be returned to school and the parent will be responsible for picking the child up from school. **If the child is not picked up by 3:00 p.m. the student will be sent to ASP. The cost per day is \$7.00 after an initial \$10 registration fee has been paid.**

Bus drivers have a tremendous responsibility in transporting our children every day and need our cooperation. Parents, not the school, have jurisdiction at bus stops. Please refer to the Safe Rider Program information and/or the Student Code of Conduct for specific details regarding expectation for behavior on the school bus.

[http://www.cobbk12.org/centraloffice/adminrules/J/JCDA-R_\(Elementary\).pdf](http://www.cobbk12.org/centraloffice/adminrules/J/JCDA-R_(Elementary).pdf)

County bus transportation is a privilege that may be withdrawn for inappropriate behavior.

Parent Provided Transportation

Parents who transport their children to and/or from Ford are to use the one-way traffic driveway. **DO NOT LEAVE YOUR CAR UNATTENDED.** If you must get out, park in a parking space. Handicapped spaces are to be used only by drivers legally permitted to do so and are not to be used for dropping off children. Drive safely and follow these procedures:

1. 7:15 is our start time to allow students to be dropped off in car line. PM car line starts after 2:20.
2. Pull forward to the yellow sign
3. Teachers will not open car doors
4. Please have child safety locks off
5. Children should exit the car on the **right** side only
6. If your child has trouble getting out of the car, please park and walk your child to the door
7. **Never** drive around another car in the line
8. Please wait until your child is safely on the sidewalk before driving away
9. **NO CELL PHONE USE WHILE IN THE CAR LINE PLEASE**

Thank you for keeping our children safe as they arrive and leave Ford.

INSTRUCTIONAL PROGRAM

Ford Elementary School endorses an instructional plan that strives to offer each student the optimum opportunity to develop academically, socially, emotionally and physically. Staff, students and parents will work together in an educational environment characterized by competence, confidence, understanding, respect, and mutual trust.

CCGPS (Common Core Georgia Performance Standards)

The state of Georgia has adopted the Common Core Georgia Performance Standards to be used as the curriculum guide for instruction. For additional information, please go to the Georgia Department of Education website (www.gadoe.org)

Subject Areas

Our instructional program consists of Reading, Writing, Math, Social Studies and Science.

Specials

In addition to the Subject Areas, students participate each day in one of the followed scheduled enrichment opportunities offered at Ford:

Art, Music, Physical Education and our State Certified STEM Lab

Specials classes are on a 6 Day Rotation. The Specials schedule is on the school website.

Physical Education

PE instruction is required by Georgia law and is mandatory except for health reasons. A written note from a physician or parent explaining the nature of the illness or injury should be presented to the PE teacher. The note should specifically state the length of restricted time before normal participation can be resumed.

Everyday school dress is acceptable for participation in PE activities. Flat rubber-soled shoes are required and strictly enforced for safety reasons and the prevention of possible injury.

Progress Reports

Progress Reports will be sent home as needed. However, please feel free to contact your child's teacher at any time.

Report Cards

Effective communication with parents regarding their child's progress in school is essential in fostering a successful home-school partnership. Academic progress as well as social development is communicated in a quarterly report card.

Grades K-3 uses a standard based grading system. Grades will be reported using the following:

- 3+ Exceeds Standards
- 3 Meets Standards
- 2 Progressing toward Meeting Standards
- 1 Limited Progress or Does Not Meet Standards

Grades 4-5 use a letter based grading system. Grades will be reported using the following:

A	90 – 100
B	80 – 89
C	74 – 79
D	70 – 73
F	69 and below

Parent Teacher Conferences

Communication is an essential part of our educational program. It is very important for parents to keep in close contact with their child's teacher. A Parent-Teacher conference week occurs once during the year to review a child's academic progress and personal / social growth. During that week, the school will follow the Early Release procedures. To schedule conferences at other times, parents and teachers may contact one another to request a convenient time.

Please respect every child's learning time by not going to the classroom to engage the teacher in a conversation about your child. The teacher must be attending to and instructing all of the students in his or her class.

Standardized Testing

The overall-program for standardized testing is designed and planned by a system-wide committee of educators. The information provided through the testing program is used to:

1. Identify strengths and weaknesses in student achievement
2. Support the planning of instructional programs
3. Serve as a basis for decision making regarding placement of students
4. Determine the overall achievement of Cobb County students compared to other counties and states
5. Determine the effectiveness of the educational program for Cobb County Schools

A schedule for tests and dates per grade level is published on the Cobb County website www.cobbk12.org

ALP (Advanced Learning Program)

Cobb County provides services for identified gifted students. The gifted program is designed to meet the very specific needs of these students and provide enrichment in the areas of cognition, research, communication and learning. Cobb's gifted program is part of the School Improvement Division and is funded by the state of Georgia. The procedures for identifying and placing students in the gifted program are governed by the Georgia Department of Education. For further information, contact the gifted education specialist at Ford.

Special Education Program

Services are provided for students with special learning needs who qualify for the program. They include Interrelated Resource for students diagnosed with learning disabilities or behavior disorders, Speech/Language, Self-Contained Learning Disabilities, Mildly Intellectually Disabled and Itinerant Services such as physical therapy, occupational therapy, adapted PE and orthopedic impairments. For further information, contact the Student Support Administrator for Ford Elementary School.

Learning Commons

The Learning Commons is operated during school hours. Students may come individually, in small groups or as a whole to class to check out books, work on reports, complete research, to hear stories or to participate in lessons to develop media skills. A student must have their teacher's permission to go to the Learning Commons.

Students are expected to responsibly care for books and Learning Commons materials that are checked out to them. In case of loss or damage, students and his/her parents will be charged and are expected to pay the replacement or damage cost. If a lost book is found, money paid will be refunded.

SUPPORT SYSTEMS

Parent Information Center

Our Parent Information Center is located on the wall to the left of the computer sign in. The Center contains extra flyers that have gone home as well as school club, PTSA and Foundation information.

Counselors

The counselor's role is to develop students' self-understanding, self-esteem and awareness of potential. Our counselors conduct individual, group and classroom guidance activities focused on helping students know, understand and accept themselves to become responsible for their own choices and actions.

RTI (Response to Intervention)

The RTI Team provides support for children experiencing academic or behavioral difficulties in the classroom. The process functions by developing strategies (adjustments in instruction) that will increase the child's success. Should strategies prove ineffective over time, further action is taken to clarify the child's needs through screening tests, observations and evaluations. The team consists of the School Psychologist, Principal, Counselor, the Classroom teacher making the referral, other teachers and/or parents. Our ultimate goal in the use of strategies is to help children function with the regular classroom among their peers.

ASP (After School Program)

ASP is available for students from 2:30 PM until 6:00 PM on days school is in session. Registration for the program is available through the office any time during the school year and must be completed BEFORE a child can attend. **The cost per day is \$7.00 after an initial \$10 registration fee has been paid. ASP is a PRE-PAY program.** Payments must be made BEFORE a child can attend so please plan ahead! A snack, homework, art activities, playtime/games and enrichment activities are part of the program.

To contact the ASP office during the program hours, please call 678-594-8092 x 233.

Food Service

Our school food service program is an established part of the school day. Its purpose is to provide a nutritionally balanced breakfast and lunch to all children at a reasonable rate. All meals served are planned to meet 1/3 of a student's food needs each day. The school's lunch menu is published monthly. If your child has a food allergy, parents may discuss his/her needs with the Food Service Manager.

More information may be found on the district website or <http://www.cobbk12.org/centraloffice/FoodServices/indexMenus.htm>

CCSD Charge Policy—Cobb has a LIMITED charge policy. If a student arrives at school without money, he/she is allowed up to \$7.05 in charges at elementary school and \$5.20 at middle school. Charges are not allowed for a la carte, adults, or at high school. For elementary and middle schools only, if your child arrives at school without money for lunch and has reached the charge limit, he/she will be provided with an alternate meal (such as a peanut butter sandwich and milk or a cheese sandwich and milk). No alternate meal will be provided at breakfast.

Cafeteria Behavior Expectations

Classroom lunch times are located on the school website. Follow the tab on the left side “Lunch Schedule”.

In order for meal time to be a comfortable and enjoyable experience, it is necessary that all students conduct themselves in an acceptable manner. While in the lunchroom, students are under the supervision of adult lunchroom monitors employed by the Cobb County School system.

Home Lunches

We ask that students who bring lunch from home also meet the same lunch requirements as a school-prepared lunch. **No candy, carbonated beverages or food in bags/containers from fast food restaurants.** Glass bottles ARE NOT permitted.

VISITOR'S GUIDE TO CAFETERIA SAFETY

1. Students are NOT allowed to bring friends to the parent table due to limited seating
2. All strollers MUST be parked against the wall by the cafeteria entrance to ensure safety and prevent fire hazards per CCSD policy
3. If more than 2 guests will be dining, please notify your child's teacher in advance to alert the cafeteria manager to ensure adequate seating
4. Our monitors are here to assist with implementing lunchroom safety procedures. We appreciate you working with them to ensure that the lunchroom is a safe place for your child

BIRTHDAY CELEBRATIONS

A child's birthday is a special time for him/her. If you would like to bring birthday treats for your child to share with his/her class, please follow the procedure below.

1. Birthday treats will be distributed during your child's designated lunch time in the cafeteria
2. Please limit birthday treats to cookies, cupcakes or an individual treat. It is much more time effective in distributing to students. Please do NOT send a cake. Please do NOT send knives with your students.
3. Birthday treats are for the students in your child's class ONLY. Permission is given for siblings to receive a treat, but only at their scheduled lunch time.
4. Keep in mind that you will be responsible for distributing treats to the students. Please provide plates and napkins if needed. The lunchroom staff needs to focus on monitoring student behavior and maintaining safety. Thank you for your help with this!
5. Please do not send gifts, balloons or flowers for the child. They will not be sent to the child's classroom and these items are not allowed on the bus.
6. Invitations may be passed out at school ONLY if all of the students of the same sex are receiving an invitation or the whole class is receiving an invitation. Thank you for helping us protect our instructional time.

GENERAL SCHOOL GUIDELINES

Cell Phones

Per Cobb County policy regarding cell phone usage, “Students shall not use, display, or turn on communication beepers, cellular phones, video phones or electronic devices during instructional time, class change time, breakfast or lunch. The Principal shall determine specified times on campus when electronic devices may be used for instructional purposes. No such devices may be used at any time on school-operated vehicles, including buses.”

Clinic and Medication

The school clinic is staffed by a nurse from 7:30 – 2:30 each day. Children who become ill or injured at school are given health care in the clinic. Minor injuries are treated. Parents are contacted when the injury or illness is more of a serious nature so that they may pick up their child.

Whenever it is necessary for your child to receive medication at school, the guidelines below **MUST BE FOLLOWED**:

1. Medication must be in the original labeled container. Pharmacists may provide two labeled bottles for this purpose. Medications sent in baggies or unlabeled **WILL NOT BE GIVEN**. If your child takes daily medication, please send an extra bottle to use for field trips and ASP.
2. Written permission of the parent/guardian is required for the administration of all medications.
3. The parent/guardian must inform the school of any medication changes. New medications or new doses **WILL NOT** be given unless a new form is completed.
4. Medications must be brought to the clinic by the parent.
5. Unused medication will be disposed of unless picked up within one week after the medication is discontinued. If medication is given throughout the school year, it will be disposed of according to the medication regulations.

Discipline

Student discipline is the responsibility of both the home and the school. At Ford, we expect and insist on proper behavior and conduct to ensure the optimal learning environment is maintained. Behavior that is distracting and disruptive is unacceptable. We will work closely with parents to assist all students in maintaining appropriate behavior. Please refer to the Student Code of Conduct: [http://www.cobbk12.org/centraloffice/adminrules/J/JCDA-R_\(Elementary\).pdf](http://www.cobbk12.org/centraloffice/adminrules/J/JCDA-R_(Elementary).pdf)

Dress Code

CCSD Board Policies and Administrative Rules

C. MINIMUM STANDARD OF DRESS:

All students shall maintain the following minimum standard of dress:

1. Appropriate shoes shall be worn.
2. Midriffs shall be covered.
3. Appropriate under-garments shall be worn and may not be visible.
4. Strapless garments shall be worn with a jacket.
5. Tank-tops shall be worn with a jacket.
6. Appropriate shorts, as determined by the school administration, may be worn.
7. No caps, hats, bandanas nor hoods covering the head are to be worn in the school buildings during the school day unless there is a special activity during which they are deemed appropriate by the school administration.
8. Clothing or ornamentation that does any of the following is prohibited:
 - a. Displays or advertises substances illegal for minors.
 - b. Displays suggestive phrases, designs, markings, or profanities.
 - c. Advocates, promotes, or suggests illegal activity.

To see the complete policy, please go to <http://www.cobbk12.org/centraloffice/adminrules/J/JCDB-R.pdf>

Field Trips

Field trips are an extension of the classroom curriculum. A student must have written permission from the parent/guardian to participate. Prior to a field trip, the teacher will send home information about the trip. The cost of transportation and admission must be paid by the school. A donation is requested from each student to cover the cost. No individual student will be excluded from a field trip for financial reasons. **At the same time, if sufficient funds are not collected, a trip will be cancelled.**

Volunteers on field trips are important. We appreciate your willingness to help! We do ask that you not bring along another child or anything that would distract you from your chaperone responsibilities. Chaperones are asked to honor all Cobb County and school policies and procedures.

Lost and Found

Please write in permanent ink or sew your child's name into coats, jackets, sweaters, lunch boxes and book bags so that they can be returned when misplaced. Check the lost and found by the gym if you are searching for missing items. Clothing that is left at each break (Winter, Spring and Summer) will be donated to a charitable organization.

Interruptions During the School Day

Please make necessary arrangements with your children regarding after-school activities prior to their coming to school. Phone calls and messages to students (unless for a true emergency) tie up valuable office time and interrupt your child's instructional program. You can write your student's after school plan in the agenda daily as a helpful tool.

If you need to bring something to school for your child, it should be left in the front office. The teacher will be emailed for the child to come to the office at a convenient time. We cannot disrupt the classroom for non-emergency issues. Thank you for your help with this.

Forgotten lunches should be taken to the cafeteria and placed on the designated table for the child to retrieve at his/her lunch time. Please have your child's lunchbox clearly labeled with his/her name, teacher's name and lunch time.

Please email your teacher to leave him or her a message. Teachers are asked to check their email daily. Teachers' email addresses are located on our school website under the Faculty/Staff Tab.

Visitors

We encourage parents to visit and participate in their child's learning at Ford Elementary School. When visiting our school, please sign in on the computer at the desk outside of the front office. You will need your driver's license the first time you sign in. You will print a nametag to wear while you are on school property.

After the second week of school, parents may not accompany children to their classrooms.

We thank you for understanding how important this policy is for the safety and learning of ALL students.

Please no re-entry to classrooms after school is over at 2:15. Our teachers are busy planning or in meetings.

Volunteers

Volunteers are an integral part of Ford Elementary School. Volunteers give of their time, interests, talents and knowledge to enrich our school as a learning community. Parents and other community residents are welcome to support their school through:

1. Serving on PTSA and Foundation committees
2. Assisting in the classrooms
3. Reading stories
4. Chaperoning on Field Trips
5. Serving as a Resource person
6. Making teaching materials
7. Assisting in the Learning Commons – Shirley.trammell@cobbk12.org
8. Assisting in the Art Room – Claire.dunaway@cobbk12.org

Anyone interested in volunteering should contact the PTSA, the Ford Foundation or the front office. For the safety of all of the students, volunteers may be expected to submit to a Criminal Background Check and maintain confidentiality in respect to each child. Any concerns a volunteer may have are to be communicated with a school administrator.

Additional Ford Tidbits

MOST answers to questions you have can be found on the district or school websites.

The School DISTRICT website is www.cobbk12.org
Here you can find district holidays, breaks, testing days, etc.

Ford Elementary's website is www.cobbk12.org/ford
This is a wealth of information about our school. Get into the habit of checking the school website on a regular basis to keep up with what's going on at Ford!

The Ford PTSA's website is www.fordptsa.org

The Ford Foundation's website is <http://www.fordesf.org/>

School Clubs/Organizations and Student Organizations

Kid Chess (After School Club)

In Kid Chess, students in all grades are taught chess in a fun and educational environment. Chess is like a gymnasium for the brain and builds confidence and develops cognitive skills. Chess empowers children to feel accomplished and we maintain low student-teacher ratio allowing individual attention. Classes are open to all grades, but Kindergarteners may only enroll in the 2nd hour. Prices vary depending on class time. Please visit www.kidchess.com for more information. Name of the Instructor/Owner - Justin Morrison

FORD TUMBLING CLUB by Heather Haley, Inc. (After School Club)

Mission/Purpose: Tumbling Club is an after school program offering students K-5 an opportunity to learn beginner through advanced tumbling skills. Our professional staff provides students with qualified instruction, teaching handstands, cartwheels, back bends, as well as more advanced skills such as back handsprings, aerial cartwheels and back tucks! We provide a fun, educational and overall excellent after school experience! Each session culminates with a Parent Watch and Awards Presentation Day!

Owner/Director: Heather Haley

Kids-Tech (After School Club)

Owner - Ray Marker

Who we are: It is never too early to foster a love and understanding for learning. Our philosophy is: The stronger the Foundation, the taller the Building. The faster children can become acquainted with technology in a structured and directed manner, the more they will be able to flourish with it. Kids-Tech is a group of child instruction/tech professionals whose mission is introduce young children to today's cutting edge-technology that will frame tomorrow's world

Art a la Carte & Terrific Scientific www.artalacartekidz.com (After School Club)

Mission or purpose of your club: *Art a la Carte & Terrific Scientific aims to SPARK the excitement of young people, ages K-8, for ART, SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY in a setting that allows them to explore, question, and experiment with fascinating facts, projects and activities. Through discovery based learning, students carry out experiments, engage in team activities, create artistic masterpieces, build and program robots, learn new technologies, and see how art & science work in the real world. Our programs are full **STEAM** ahead...Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, and Math designed to inspire future innovators!*

Name of the Instructor/Owner: Owner, Jaime Collins

Manners and Money Matter (After School Club)

Evelyn Matthews - Owner/Instructor

Manners and Money Matter program will cover social skills, leadership skills, dining skills and money management. After completion of this class there will be an optional graduation luncheon at a nearby restaurant. This is a fun way for the students to practice their social and dining skills. It is never too early to start developing a child's social education. This class also includes teaching your child about handling money. Lessons will cover working, giving, spending and saving money using material by Dave Ramsey. Each student will take home his or her own etiquette notebook and a Financial Peace Jr. Kit. For grades 2nd - 5th.

Chatty Chicos Spanish (After School Club)

A fun Spanish language learning class for Elementary age students that includes active language learning, geography lessons, and learning about other cultures.

Owner and instructor- Vickie Ferguson

Guitar Club (After School Club) www.fineartsmatter.com

After School Rocks in Guitar Club! Guitar Club gives students in 3rd-6th grade the chance to get their hands on a 'real' guitar! We provide the instruments for every child each week in class. Our experienced and encouraging teachers do a great job with both beginning and advanced students (no experience is necessary). Each session includes a brand new set of fun songs to learn from a variety of styles ending with a Final Performance for family and friends!

KidzKeys (After School Club) www.fineartsmatter.com

Give your students a Colorful start on the Piano in KidzKeys! KidzKeys uses color and tons of FUN to introduce students in K-2nd grade to the joy of playing the piano. Using the colorful Chroma-Notes™ system and Kodaly rhythm syllables, students quickly learn to read musical notation while they play familiar songs they will love to practice in class and at home. Each session ends with a Class Recital for family and friends that will leave everyone smiling!

Drama Kids International (After School Club)

Our after school drama program is designed to develop student's speaking skills, presentation abilities, confidence, and acting skills. Drama Kids International is the most popular after school drama program in the world. Drama Kids has a long history of teaching children the basic fundamentals that most successful people possess such as leadership, listening, social skills, teamwork, verbal expression and active participation.

For more information please check out our website at: <http://www.dramakids.com/ga1>.

Owner and Director: Tiffany Talsky can be reached at 678-493-7775 or dramakidsga1@gamil.com

Ford Drama Kids Teacher for 2016-2017 is Jessica Williams

Ford Chorus, Tone-Chime Ensemble & Orff Ensemble

Mission/Purpose of the Club Dedicated to excellence, the Ford Music Ensembles has a two-fold purpose: high quality music instruction and helping students develop qualities of self-reliance, personal integrity, responsibility, & compassion

Faculty Advisor: Craig Hurley

Students rehearse before or after school and perform at various community events throughout the year.

Science Olympiad

Science Olympiad is a competition team for students in grades 3-5 who are interested in representing Ford Elementary at local and state sponsored Science Olympiad Tournaments. Try-outs are held in October. Required practices are held for one hour on Wednesday afternoon. Team Coaches are Colleen Cauffiel, Todd Plunkert and Amy Soto.

Mustang Math Mentors

Mission: To reinforce math skills while building a relationship with a positive role model.

Faculty Advisors: Linda Charrette, Alicia Hayworth, Mandy Ruddell

Description: Teachers select 4th and 5th grade students who demonstrates responsibility, patience, and kindness to work with 2nd and 3rd grade students who would benefit from additional reinforcement of math skills. These students are paired together and meet Tuesday and Thursday mornings from 7:30 AM-7:50 AM to review math concepts.

Mathematical Olympiads for Elementary

Schools (**MOEMS**[®]). **MOEMS**[®] is a nonprofit corporation [501(c)(3)] which provides opportunities for children to engage in creative problem solving activities while developing a child's ability to reason, to be logical, to be resourceful, and occasionally to be ingenious.

Ford's Math Olympiad Team is a group of students who are given invitations based on metrics/data from previous standardized test score and by classroom teacher nomination. Selected students (4) will compete in a competition in April of each year.

Green Team

Teachers select 3rd, 4th and 5th graders to help with our recycling initiative twice a week. Students also help to educate their fellow classmates on recycling and green stewardship.

Faculty Advisors – Harry Shuler

Ford After School Program (ASP)

Mission/Purpose of the Club - Providing a safe & fun after school childcare environment. Open until 6:00 each school day. Activities include Homework (grades 2-5) Computer Enrichment, Arts & Crafts, Outside & free play.

Faculty Advisors - Nicole Smith crystal.smith@cobbk12.org

Relay for Life

Raise money for the American Cancer Society

Team Captains: Cynthia Edwards and Nancy Justen

Our RFL team works every Bingo Night, School Dance, Fall Festival, and Spring Fling (if we have one) to sell baked goods, pizza meals, and coke floats and donates 100% of ALL funds to the American Cancer Society. All consumable items are donated from the Ford Staff to be sold at the different events. As a school we have Penny Wars which grade level teams collect coins. All coins are then turned in for monetary donations given to the American Cancer Society at the Relay for Life event night.