

# Harmony Elementary Student Handbook 2008 – 2009

## School Entrance Requirements

Please visit Harmony's website (<http://www.harmonywildcats.org>) for detailed information required when registering a student.

### *Proof of Residency*

School officials must require the parent or guardian to provide proof of residency in the district and attendance zone at the time a student is initially enrolled in a school.

### *Birth Certificates*

All students entering school for the first time should present an official copy of their birth certificate at the time of registration. Children must be five years old on or before September 1st to enroll in the Kindergarten program. Students must be six years old on or before September 1st to participate in the First Grade Program.

### *Immunization Certificates*

Before official enrollment, all students enrolling in a Georgia School must have on file an official Georgia Department of Human Resource Certificate of Immunization. These certificates may be secured from local physicians or the County Health Department.

### *Hearing, Vision, and Dental Certificate*

All students entering school for the first time must present a certificate for ear, eye, and dental examination by the Health Department, a physician/or a dentist licensed by the State of Georgia.

## Attendance Policies and Procedures

School Attendance is important because it underscores the significance of learning and the importance of obtaining an education in our society in addition to helping students develop good work habits that will carry over in life.

Good attendance also correlates strongly with improved grades. A minimum level of attendance is required for attainment of the Academic Knowledge and Skills (AKS) curriculum. The responsibility of school attendance is that of both parents and students. The Superintendent has designated the minimum levels of attendance in procedure consistent with state standards.

## Definitions

**Truant** – Any child subject to compulsory attendance who during the school calendar year has more than five days of unexcused absences.

**Compulsory Attendance** – Official Code of Georgia (O.C.G.A.) 20-2-690.1(a): *Every parent, guardian, or other person residing within this state having control or charge of any child or children between their sixth and sixteenth birthdays shall enroll and send such child or children to a public school, a private school, or a home study program that meets the requirements for a public school, a private school, or home study program; and such child shall be responsible for enrolling in and attending a public school, a private school, or a home study program that meets the requirements for a public school, a private school, or a home study program.*

**Tardy** – Students are considered tardy to school or class if the student arrives after 8:50 a.m.

**8:20 am** First Bell Rings-Building is open for students.

**8:50 am** Second Bell Rings-Students need to be in classroom preparing for instruction. Students entering classroom after this bell must be signed in by a parent in the front office to receive a tardy slip to be granted entrance to the classroom.

Instruction is continuous from 8:50 a.m. until 3:20 p.m. With the "School Administration Student Information System" (SASI) now in place, teachers will report attendance electronically at 8:50 a.m. Students arriving after 8:50 a.m. must be brought into the front office for check-in by a parent/guardian. Otherwise, the student will be marked "absent" for the day. Students arriving after 8:35 a.m. will not be served breakfast.

A student with more than three "tardies" cannot receive a "Perfect Attendance" award during a Nine Week Grading Period. Check-ins after 12:00 p.m. will count as a school absence.

### **Early Checkouts**

This is defined as when a parent, guardian, or other person having charge or control of a student authorizes a student to leave the facility before the end of the school day. (3:20 p.m.)

**Only previously authorized people will be able to check out a student--a photo ID is required.**

Early checkouts disrupt not only the learning of the child being checked out, but also that of all the other students in the classroom. **We request that early checkouts be kept to a minimum to avoid disruption of the instructional day.** We do keep track of early check-outs and if this becomes habitual, you may receive a call from an administrator.

**No child may be checked out after 3:00 p.m.**  
**When checking your child out early, please DO NOT park in the front (use the side parking lot) Once buses are on the curb, you are not able to pass the buses and will be detained from leaving.**

Thank you for your cooperation.

### **Absences**

Per state guidelines, all absences will be considered "unexcused" except for the following reasons:

1. Personal illness or attendance in school endangers a student's health or the health of others.
2. A serious illness or death in the student's immediate family.
3. Observing religious holidays, necessitating absence from school.
4. Absences mandated by court order or by governmental agencies.
5. Conditions rendering attendance impossible or hazardous to student health or safety.
6. Students serving as pages for Georgia General Assembly
7. Students whose parent or guardian is in military service and who is being sent overseas for active duty or returning from active duty (5 days per school year)

At anytime school is closed due to inclement weather, an announcement will be made on WSB radio 750 AM

### **Documenting absences**

Parents or guardians are encouraged to call the school on the day of the student absence to indicate the reason for the absence. Parents or guardians must send a signed, written note when the student returns to school explaining the reason for the absence, the date(s) of the absence(s), and a daytime phone number.

If the student fails to bring a note, the absence will be regarded as unexcused until such time as the parent provides a written explanation for the absence. If a student has 5 unexcused absences, the school will make contact with the parent, guardian, or person having charge or control of the student to notify them of these absences and possible consequences. After two reasonable attempts to contact the parent or guardian of the student's 5 unexcused absences without response, the school shall send a written notice via certified mail with return receipt requested.

Work missed because of an excused absence must be made up within the length of time the student was absent. For unexcused absences, teachers are not expected to give make-up work assignments. **Make up work will not be assigned until the student returns from the absence.**

### **Transportation**

State Law provides two ways students can be brought to and from school. One is by school bus, which we most highly recommend. The other is for parents to bring their children to and from school by car. In doing so, parents must follow the car rider plan that is established by the school. That plan is outlined in the following paragraphs. Parents cannot drop students off in any other location. Parents cannot come into the building and wait for their children to be dismissed. They must wait in the car rider line. Parents who do not follow these procedures will be reported to the School Resource Officer for prosecution.

**No changes will be made in any child's transportation arrangements without a written, signed note from his/her parent or guardian.** Please DO NOT call the school to make changes in transportation!

## Car Riders

Parents who provide transportation for their children will enter and exit using the driveway north of the building on East Maddox Road. No cars will be permitted in the bus driveway.

### Students transported by parents:

**Arrival Time - 8:20 -8:50 am** (Tardy at 8:50)

**Dismissal Time - 3:20 pm**

Car riders should simply line up and wait their turn as cars come by the designated area. Each car rider will be issued a number to display on the rear view mirror of their car when picking up children. Students will not be released to enter a vehicle unless the Harmony issued car rider number is displayed on the rearview mirror. Numbers may be requested on Orientation Day or later by checking with the office. **Parents must cooperate with the school and not drop their children off or pick them up anywhere but the car rider lane for safety reasons during the designated car rider times. The bus lane in the front of the building is for buses and bus students only. State Law prevents passenger cars in this area. Parents should not walk their children to their classroom by parking in the front of the school. Please use lower parking lot (north side of school) if you need to park and help your child carry materials in to school.**

Car Rider students that enter the building after the tardy bell (8:50 a.m.) must go to front office for a tardy pass. At 8:50 a.m. car rider doors will be closed to allow students to get to class on time. After that time, you must park in the lower lot and walk your child to the front office and check them in so they will not be marked absent.

## School Bus

To prevent congestion in the parking lot and car rider line, parents are strongly encouraged to have their children ride the bus to and from school on the first day and every day of the school year.

RIDING A SCHOOL BUS IS A PRIVILEGE. Improper conduct on the bus will result in that privilege being denied by suspension from the bus.

Students riding a bus will be expected to ride their designated bus. We cannot accept changes from one bus to another.

## Bus Manager Interventions

Bus managers may use the interventions listed below for students who do not follow bus rules. A minor offense is considered inappropriate or unsafe student behavior that may be improved with minor assistance from the driver.

**Mandatory Seat Assignment:** Every student will be assigned a seat and those seat assignments will be maintained by the bus driver on a seating chart.

(The assignment of seats at the beginning of the school is part of the prevention step and considered the first step of the “Student Behavior Management” process.)

**Verbal Reminder:** Bus managers will remind the student of bus rule(s) not being followed.

**Talk privately with student:** Bus managers will let the student know inappropriate behavior and what is expected from them.

**Reassign bus seat:** Bus managers will separate the students involved in the inappropriate behavior.

**Parent/Guardian Courtesy Call:** Bus managers will call the parent/guardian to notify them of students’ inappropriate behavior, with a request for help to achieve appropriate behavior. This may be followed up in writing on a Parent Notification Form to alert parents of inappropriate behavior.

**All of the above steps may be bypassed depending on the severity of the inappropriate behavior.**

### Bus Discipline Form sent to Administrator:

Reasons:

- a. Behavior escalates beyond a driver’s control or has not improved after using the appropriate intervention steps.
- b. Major offense.

Violations that should be considered major offenses include, but are not limited to the following:

- a. drugs (including alcohol, cigarettes, lighters)
- b. throwing objects off the bus

- c. fighting (trying to intentionally hurt someone, not pushing or shoving)
- d. weapons, dangerous instruments, and explosive/implosive devices
- e. threats (verbal and physical threats)
- f. electronic communication devices or pocket pagers (Students found in violation shall be subject to placement in an alternative education program.)

Such violations should be reported immediately to a School Administrator.

**Documentation:** Bus manager will maintain a daily written documentation of all occurrences in the Transportation Logbook.

## Consequences

When student behavior on the bus escalates beyond a driver's control or is not improved after using the appropriate intervention steps, the bus manager will submit a Bus Discipline Form to the school office. Consequences including parent conferences and/or bus suspension may be enforced at the discretion of the local school administrators according to the severity of the offense. Safely transporting children to and from school will not be compromised.

## Elementary Student Conduct Behavior Code

The following rules apply when a student is:

- a. on school grounds;
- b. at a school activity, function or event that is held off school grounds, or any place where the student is under the jurisdiction of school authorities; or
- c. on the way to and from school.

We want all students and classrooms to be the best possible places for students to learn. That means everyone must show respect for self and others, and for the school itself. The Gwinnett County **Discipline Information for the Parents of Elementary School Students** will be distributed to parents at the beginning of the school year. Please read it thoroughly as it will give you specific information regarding discipline policies in the Gwinnett County Public Schools.

## A student who makes poor choices may receive one or more of the following consequences:

- \*Verbal Reprimand
- \*Parent/Teacher Conference
- \*Counseling
- \*Parent/Teacher/Administrator Conference
- \*Time-Out within the Classroom
- \*In-School Suspension
- \*Out-of-School Suspension
- \*Disciplinary Panel Hearing
- \*Expulsion from School

Students are not allowed to bring toys or other specified items to school unless their teacher has directed them to do so. (Example: Show and Tell or special incentive days such as Game Day, etc.)

## Electronic battery operated games, collector's cards, discs, or cartridges are not allowed.

These items are distracting for your child and others. **Cell phones must be kept in the student's bookbag at all times.** Teachers or administrators may ask the child to leave a confiscated item at school until the end of the school year or until a parent can come to school and pick the item up.

Student Council Officers and Classroom Representatives are role models and leaders in our school. If a Bus Discipline Form or Administrative Referral Form is made, the child may be removed from his/her office.

## Dress Appropriately

Clothing should set the tone for learning. If children wear play clothes, they are ready for play. If they are dressed for work, they are ready for work. Clothing can also give a child a sense of pride and self worth. All clothing must be appropriate for the school setting and activities.

### Jeans or Slacks

Jeans or Slacks must be of appropriate size and fit. For safety reasons, pants must be worn at the waist cannot extend beyond the shoe sole.

### Shirts

No "spaghetti straps" or exposed midriffs. If your child raises his/her hand and their stomach shows, the shirt is too short.

No t-shirts with cut off sleeves or with inappropriate messages (to be determined by an administrator on individual basis)

### **Shorts, Dresses, Jumpers, and Skirts**

Must be of appropriate length (end of child's fingertips)

### **Shoes**

Must be tied if they have laces

No stacked soles or high heels

Must be appropriate to the activity—tennis shoes for PE at all times

No shoes with wheels (roller skate type)

No rubber or plastic flip-flops (Crocks are okay)

### **Dress Items Not Allowed**

"Baggies"

Holes, cuts, frays, intentional or otherwise

Hats or caps except on special days

Gang related symbolism or clothing with references to alcohol/drugs

If students do not follow the school dress code, they will be sent to clinic for a change of clothing OR a parent will be called to bring a change of clothes.

### **Physical Education**

Any student not able to participate in PE should bring a statement from the doctor stating the reason for not participating. Make sure your child is dressed appropriately and wears the appropriate shoes. Safe play and sportsmanship are encouraged during Teacher-Directed PE.

No contact sports are allowed. Students must wear appropriate tennis shoes outside (no flip flops, high-heeled shoes, or open sandals).

### **Personals**

No personal gifts or party invitations will be exchanged at school. This should be handled outside of school to avoid hurt feelings.

Birthdays will be recognized at Harmony on the morning television program, and students may stop by the office for their birthday pencil. A parent may bring a ready-to-serve treat to the cafeteria during lunch.

### **Cafeteria**

We will continue to use the computerized micro cash register system. Each child will be assigned a student ID number. This number is available at registration or by calling the cafeteria office at 770-932-7460. A student may purchase lunches and breakfasts in advance by bringing in cash or

checks to be credited to their account or they may pay on a daily basis. Also payments can be made to your child's account quickly and securely by logging on to [www.mealpayplus.com](http://www.mealpayplus.com). The student ID number is good for breakfast and/or lunch.

Student lunches are \$1.75, breakfast \$1.00. Extra entrees may be purchased for \$1.50, extra side dishes and water for \$.40 each, or extra milk for \$.35. Adult lunches are \$2.50

Students receiving reduced price lunches and breakfasts are required to purchase a meal ticket to protect their identity. Reduced breakfast is \$.30 and lunch is \$.40 each. Only the cash register can tell if the ticket is full-price, reduced, or free.

All checks should be made payable to Harmony Elementary Lunchroom for the amount desired. We are prohibited by county policy to give change back from a check. You may pay for all your children's lunches with one check. Be sure to place the check in an envelope with the student's name and teacher on the envelope and the check. Students should deposit their envelopes in the wall mounted mailboxes located in the halls – one outside the cafeteria and one in the car rider hall. If it is for more than one student, please give information for all students.

### **Guests for Lunch**

We encourage our parents to join their children for lunch. **Please notify the teacher** by note or email if you are planning on eating with your child in the event there is a schedule change. It's also helpful for the cafeteria staff to know ahead of time so they can plan accordingly.

Please enter the building at the front office, sign in and receive a visitor badge. You may wait in the bench area by the side cafeteria door. Due to space restrictions, we ask that parents sit with their child at the special table. Please allow only your child to sit with you at the special table and observe the 10 minutes of quiet time.

The Federal School Lunch Program prohibits the bringing of fast foods from such restaurants as McDonalds, Wendy's, etc. Carbonated drinks are likewise prohibited.

### **Lunch Charges**

Charge Slips are given to your child at the time a charge occurs. It is your child's responsibility to bring the slip home the day of the charge. Please send payment the following day. Students will also receive a charge letter in Friday Folders.

### **Snacks/Ice Cream**

Students will have an opportunity for a daily snack break. Please send in a nutritious snack. Some examples are cheese and crackers, fruit, granola bar, etc. Candy is not considered a nutritious snack. Please do not send snacks in containers with a sharp edge. Water is the only beverage allowed in the classrooms (no colored drinks!)

In accordance with the Gwinnett County Board Policy, only ice cream may be sold to elementary students. Ice cream is \$1.00 and may be purchased in the cafeteria during your child's lunch time.

### **Media Center**

The media center has books, magazines, software, and pamphlets for assigned study and recreational reading. It is open for use the entire school day, and a short time before and after school.

Students are responsible for returning the books they check out within two weeks. Students who lose or damage a library book are required to pay for the replacement of that book.

Students in grades K-2 are allowed to checkout one book at a time and students in grades 3-5 are allowed to check out two books at a time.

Students who have an overdue book or need to pay for a damaged/ lost book will not be able to checkout another book until the previous book is returned or paid for in full.

Students are encouraged to use the media center for research. Reference books and magazines are to be used only in the media center. Also, tapes and compact discs are available to students while at school. If you need help finding them – please ask!

A current **Acceptable Use Policy (AUP)** must be signed by both guardian and student in order for the students to have access to the Internet. Please sign and return this form to your child's teacher. When students come to the media center

to do research they must first sign in at the circulation desk.

### **Technology**

Students have many opportunities to use technology to enhance the curriculum. Students have access to computer software and the Internet connectivity in their classrooms, media center, and technology labs. The software that is available is educational and supports the curriculum. Adult supervision is required for students to access the Internet.

All students who have access to the Internet will be required to have on file an updated (yearly) AUP (Acceptable Use Policy) with a parent signature. Safeguards are in place to prevent access to inappropriate information and pictures on the Internet.

### **Guidance and Counseling**

The purpose of the Guidance and Counseling Program is to help each student to grow socially, emotionally, and academically throughout the school year in the following ways:

1. Conducting individual counseling sessions with students when requested by teachers, parents, or students. The counselor may also conference with a student when he/she feels it is necessary.
2. Teaching classroom guidance lessons (approximately 10 -12 per year) to each classroom covering Gwinnett County's Office of Guidance and Counseling's Standards and Competencies for each grade level.
3. Conducting small group guidance and counseling sessions for students who are referred by teachers, parents, or the counselor (pending parent permission). Groups focus on social, personal, and academic topics.
4. Consulting with teachers, parents, and administrators about social, emotional, or academic concerns about students in order to better help them to help struggling students.
5. Monitoring student attendance and meeting with students and/or parents regarding attendance issues when necessary.
6. Facilitating and supporting the state of Georgia's mandated Character Education program.

## Clinic and Medication

The clinic is operated and maintained partly from your contributions at the beginning of the year.

First aid and medications will be administered in the clinic. The classrooms are also provided with band aids for minor first aid. Medications are not provided by the clinic. **No medications should be in the possession of a child at any time. All medications must be brought by a parent to the clinic in their original container. A Gwinnett County Medication Form must be completed and on file for all prescriptions and over the counter medications of any kind.**

If a child becomes sick at school, we will attempt to contact the parents immediately. It is in your child's best interest to have an alternate plan in place in the event we are unable to reach you or you are unable to pick up your child.

**It is imperative that we have current contact numbers at all times for parents, and also for emergency contacts in the event we are unable to reach you.** Students will be sent home for a fever of 100.4 or greater, and more than one episode of diarrhea or vomiting. Students must be symptom free for 24 hours before returning to school.

**In the event of an emergency situation involving your child, and you or the emergency contact person cannot be reached, 911 will be called and the parents will be responsible for the medical payments.**

## Grading/Progress Reports

Elementary report cards describing a student's progress are given to parents and/or guardians via Friday folders at the end of each nine-week period.

Two parent-teacher conferences are scheduled with parents and/or guardians in November and February. Parents will be notified by the teacher regarding the time for these conferences. Parents and/or teachers may request additional conferences as needed.

### GRADING - KINDERGARTEN

E = Excellent

S = Satisfactory

N = Needs Improvement

U = Unsatisfactory

✓ = Area of Needed Improvement

### GRADE 1

E = Surpasses Standards (Excellent)

S = Satisfactory

N = Needs to Improve

U = Unsatisfactory

### GRADES 2-5/ ACADEMIC GRADING SCALE

A = 90 - 100 Excellent Progress

B = 80 - 89 Above Average Progress

C = 74 - 79 Average Progress

D = 70 - 73 Below Average Progress

U = 0 - 69 Unsatisfactory Progress

### EFFORT GRADING SCALE

E = Surpasses Standards

S = Satisfactory

N = Needs to Improve

U = Unsatisfactory

## Student Recognition

Students on the A Honor Roll, AB Honor Roll, Wildcat Award List, and Perfect Attendance will be recognized at the end of each nine weeks. The students will receive ribbons and/or certificates with their report cards. There will also be a Ribbon Display in the front hall recognizing the accomplishments of our students.

**PRINCIPAL'S HONOR ROLL** denotes All A's, and an E or S in Conduct, Effort, and Specials.

**AB HONOR ROLL** denotes All A's and B's and an E or S in Conduct, Effort, and Specials.

**Note:** A student will not be placed on the Honor Roll unless he/she has received a conduct grade of at least an S in all special area classes.

The WILDCAT award is given to students who exhibit the following qualities:

**W** - good work habits

**I** - improvement

**L** - learning

**D** - diligence

**C** - conduct

**A** - attitude

**T** - trustworthy

In addition, each teacher will choose a weekly **Student of the Week**. A student from each class will be recognized in his/her classroom on Friday mornings. The Student of the Week will receive a special pencil and a Student of the Week sticker.

Students will receive end of the year recognition for academic honors and perfect attendance.

## **Visitor/Volunteer Check-In**

Any visitor who enters our school must report to the front office to register their visit in the official logbook. **That means all parents and visitors may not walk in any area of the school (including the gym and playground) without first signing in and obtaining a visitor's badge. The visitor's badge must be worn at all times while on school property.**

Parents are not permitted to visit classrooms during instructional time except in the case of a special event, previously arranged volunteering, or by appointment only. Appointments should be made in advance with teachers for individual conferences. Upon completion of the visit, visitors must sign out. It is the responsibility of all staff members of our school to challenge persons who are on school property during school hours without proper identification. This is done in every Gwinnett County Public School for the safety of our students.

This sign in-sign out procedure will also help us keep up with the number of hours that volunteers work in our building. This is information that is needed for a number of reports at the end of the year. Your cooperation is greatly appreciated.

## **Parent/Teacher Communication**

Good communication between home and school is extremely important in providing the best education for our children.

As a courtesy to the teacher and the other students, please notify the teacher in advance to arrange a mutually convenient time for individual conferences to avoid disrupting the instructional day. All parents must check-in with the office before going to the classroom.

Parents may write, email, or call the school to request a teacher conference. Parents may email school employees by using the teacher's name and the Gwinnett suffix.

(Ex: First Name\_LastNames@gwinnett.k12.ga.us)

The Georgia State Board of Education requires a minimum of two parent teacher conferences per year. These are scheduled for the fall and spring of each year. However, any time you feel the need for a conference with your child's teacher, please do not hesitate to schedule one.

## **Homework**

Homework is a necessary part of each pupil's educational program. Students may be expected to spend time in addition to scheduled class instruction to achieve satisfactory work.

Homework provides the student the opportunity to practice newly introduced concepts, as well as the enrichment, extension, and remediation of the Academic Knowledge and Skills. Homework assignments/projects are communicated via the Agenda Book in grades 2-5.

The amount of time students spend on homework varies by grade level. Please check with your child's teacher regarding the grade level's homework policy. Every child should spend time reading nightly.

## **Textbooks**

The school district provides textbooks for all students in the district at no cost. Every student is obligated to give his/her books the best of care. They are to be used and not abused. Textbooks are now scanned to individual students through a county-wide tracking system, holding students accountable for any lost or damaged textbooks.

## **Students with Disabilities**

"It is the practice of the Gwinnett County Public Schools to provide instructional and related services appropriate to a free appropriate public education to individuals with documented disabilities. Individuals may contact their local school for information regarding such services."

## **Withdrawal Procedures**

1. Please notify the teacher at least one week before your child is to withdraw, if at all possible.
2. Parent/Guardian must fill out A Record of Pupil Withdrawal. You are responsible for the return of textbooks, library books, and any outstanding charges (cafeteria, lost books, etc.) at this time. You will be given a copy of the withdrawal form to take to the new school.
3. Upon receiving a signed release of record form from the transferring school, the student's records will be released to the new school.

## **Student Records**

“Under the Family and Educational Rights and Privacy Act of 1974, parents have several rights. These include: the right to inspect and review educational records of their child, the right to control the release of the educational records of their child, the right to complain to the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Office about the school’s failure to comply with the law, and the right to be informed of the rights just listed. To obtain a copy of the Gwinnett County’s policies on their compliance with the law, or to request the opportunity to inspect and review your child’s records, contact the school.

## **Change of Address or Phone**

For emergency purposes, we must have updated information on each student. Please notify the school *in writing* of any changes of address or phone numbers immediately so we have current information in our computer/clinic at all times.

## **Before/After School Activities**

Harmony offers a variety of before/after school activities. In this past this has included Student Council, Broadcast TV Team, Fitness Club, Book Club, Chorus productions, and remedial tutoring.

Clubs begin and end at different times throughout the year and may involve specific grade levels. Please be on the lookout for important memos inviting your child to participate.

## **School Contributions**

The school requests instructional funds as approved by the Gwinnett County Board of Education. These funds are over and above any funds provided under the Quality Basic Education Act of 1985. No student will be denied access to or participation in any courses funded by the Gwinnett County Board of Education or by the State of Georgia.

## **Parent-Teacher Association**

The Harmony Elementary PTA encourages all parents, teachers, school officials, grandparents, community leaders, and other interested individuals to join the PTA. Our PTA is strengthened by active participation and we encourage all not only to belong to the PTA, but

also to participate in all PTA sponsored activities. Your support is essential, and our goal this year is to reach 100% membership. To become a member, visit the PTA website at [www.harmonywildcats.org/PTA](http://www.harmonywildcats.org/PTA) or go to the school office for information.

### **Objectives of the PTA**

- To promote the welfare of children and youth in home, school, and community.
- To raise the standard of home life.
- To secure adequate laws for the care and protection of children and youth.
- To bring into closer relation the home and the school, that parents and teachers may cooperate intelligently in the education of children and youth.

To develop between educators and the general public such united efforts as will secure for all children and youth the highest advantage in physical, mental, and social education.

### **PTA Meetings**

The PTA general meetings will begin at 6:30 p.m. A short business meeting will be held before the program. We invite and encourage you to attend. The schedule for the meeting dates and special events is posted on the website <http://www.harmonywildcats.org/PTA>

Look for a monthly PTA newsletter to come home with your child. This newsletter will keep you informed of upcoming PTA activities as well as other important events going on at Harmony Elementary.

### **PTA Volunteer Opportunities**

PTA volunteers are always needed and welcomed at Harmony.

Please consider volunteering for one of the following PTA committees:

Outdoor Classroom  
Yearbook  
Health and Safety  
Fundraising  
Hospitality  
Spirit Wear  
Cultural Arts  
And More!

*The school would also like volunteers to man the sign-in desk and help provide security in other areas of the building as well.*

## **The Harmony Georgia School Council**

The Harmony Georgia School Council provides assistance to the principal in bringing about cooperation and coordination of resources for the students of Gwinnett County Public Schools. We believe this shared decision-making council can arouse citizen interest in education affairs, involve citizens in making decisions confronting their schools, and develop better understanding

among school, home, and staff which will ultimately result in the improvement of education.

This council is made up of the principal, two teachers, two parents, and two business partners. All meetings are open and will be posted. Everyone is invited to attend and offer their comments and concerns. Check Harmony's website for School Council meeting dates/times.

Special School Events

Newsletters

Calendars

<http://www.harmonywildcats.org>