

Parent/Student Handbook



2022-2023

Rainbow Elementary School

50 Nance Road Madison, AL 35758

Phone: (256) 824-8106 Fax: (256) 824-8110

Facebook: **Rainbow's Facebook**

Twitter: @RES_Rockets1

Karl Fernandez, Principal
Nedjra M. Russell, Assistant Principal
Tammy Brunton, Assistant Principal (MAAP)

Welcome to Rainbow Elementary!

Home of the Rockets!

Built in 2001, our school is named after Rainbow Mountain, which is adjacent to our school. Rainbow Elementary School offers a variety of opportunities for students to participate in their education, develop leadership skills and take ownership of developing and impacting the culture of their school community!

Mission: Our mission at Rainbow Elementary School is to establish an environment that promotes, guides, and challenges each individual student to achieve their maximum potential. Our dedicated staff, parents, and community will strive to make learning meaningful, enabling students to become confident, self-directed, lifelong learners.

Motto: We Launch Tomorrow's Dreams

Mascot: Rockets

Colors: Blue and Red

Rainbow Elementary House System

Our school is a house system inspired by *The Ron Clark Academy*. There are six houses based on the Six Pillars of Character Education used in our school. Every student, faculty member, and staff member are a part of a house. Each house is named after a space station!

Why did we implement a House system?

- To promote a small school feel in our large school
- To promote positive relationships between all grades (Houses will consist of adults and students from all grades.)
- To promote a sense of belonging for all students, that goes beyond the classroom walls
- To promote positive connections between students and teachers (Students will get to know other adults besides their teacher.)
- To promote character education

House Apollo

Character Trait: Trustworthiness

House Color: Blue

House Cassini

Character Trait: Fairness

House Color: Orange

House Gemini

Character Trait: Responsibility

House Color: Green

House Mercury

Character Trait: Respect

House Color: Yellow

House Skylab

Character Pillar: Caring

House Color: Red

House Voyager

Character Trait: Citizenship

Color: Purple

Clubs and Organizations:

Rocketeers
Kindergarten Chess
Recreational Chess
Competition Chess (Beginner and Intermediate/Advanced)
Drama Club
Math Teams (3rd-5th)
Gardening
Girls 4 Girls

Parents Help Students to Succeed

Positive parental support is encouraged and is an integral part of the success of your child. The following will help your child succeed daily:

- Take an active interest in school activities.
- Arrive promptly for school
- Monitor planners and assignment
- Establish regular routine
- Support and engage in reading activities
- Update any contact information upon change.

Rainbow Staff Members

- Principal: Karl Fernandez
- Assistant Principal: Nedjra Russell
- Assistant Principal (MAAP): Tammy Brunton
- Counselor: Alicia Smith
- Secretary/Bookkeeper: Tabitha Sadler
- Nurse: Stacey Humphress
- Reading Coach: Ginger Hardy
- Receptionist: Erica Ogle
- ISS Instructor: Lisa Morten
- Permanent Substitute: Ebony Blair
- Media Center Specialist: Tina Allen

School Hours

Students may enter the building at 7:10 A.M. Instructional time begins promptly at 7:40 A.M. and ends at 2:40 P.M. Check-out prior to 11:10 A.M. will be marked as an absence.

Transportation Information

Madison City Schools provide bus transportation for all students. This is a separate department from the local school and is led by Dr. Schrimsher at 256-774-4613.

Bus Procedures Students are expected to show respect to other students and to the bus drivers at all times. Repeated or at risk misbehaviors may result in the loss of the privilege to ride the bus.

| Bus Number | Animal | Bus Driver | Subdivisions/Locations |
|------------|----------|------------|---|
| 15-40 | Dolphin | Heidi | Roema Circle, Rainbow Glen Circle, Bradford Farms, Rainbow Drive, Yancey Road, Nale Drive, Carter Road, Roy Drive |
| 19-65 | Lion | Rodger | Highland Lakes, Kannon Drive |
| 19-66 | Flamingo | Rae | Cliffs Cove, Dublin Circle, Victoria Drive, Waterford Circle, Scenic Drive, Eastview |
| 15-39 | Fox | Tonja | Whitehall, Gatehouse, Stoneridge, Oakland Trace, Mandolin, Hughes Road |
| 13-31 | Kangaroo | Dave | Limestone |
| 21-77 | Giraffe | Al | Palladian, Stallions Run, Pebblebrook |
| 17-58 | Octopus | Lisette | Ashley Green, Gooch |
| 17-59 | Penguin | Oliver | Angela Drive, Madison Pine Apts, Carmine Circle |

Bus Safety Expectations

1. Remain seated while the bus is in motion.
2. Keep all body parts inside the bus at all times.
3. No throwing objects inside or outside the bus.
4. No disruptive or inappropriate behavior.
5. Only daily class materials may be carried on the bus. Other items must have prior permission. No glass may be carried on the bus.

Bus Behavioral Expectations

1. Sit in assigned seats if given.
2. Keep voices at an appropriate volume.
3. No abusive language or profanity.
4. No eating, drinking, or gum chewing on the bus.
5. Follow directives from the bus driver.
6. Keep the bus clean.
7. Do not damage the bus or equipment.
8. Keep hands, feet, and all body parts to yourself.

Bus Stop Expectations

1. Be at your stop on time. The bus cannot wait on you.
2. Stay back from the road.
3. Cross the street only if necessary and the bus driver signals.
4. Be sure the bus has come to a complete stop before entering or exiting.
5. Board the bus in an orderly manner.

The City of Madison Board of Education provides bus transportation to students who are eligible to ride the bus according to State and BOE provisions. Safety is paramount in the transportation of students. The BOE requires strict compliance by students in following the Madison City Code of Conduct and rules and regulations regarding school buses. Suspension from the bus may be assigned if necessary.

Car Rider Procedures

Vehicles will enter the campus at the entrance located on the north side of the school off Nance Rd. The carline loops around the track at the back of the school. Cars will exit onto Nance Rd.. **Carline will open at 7:10 A.M. and close at 7:35 A.M.**

- Please help us by dropping off your child through the carline as early as possible.
- Parents are not allowed to park in the back lot and walk their child/children to the door. Everyone entering the carline must go through the car line.
- Please drive your car down to the last person standing on the sidewalk (the more cars we can unload at one time the faster it will move).
- Teachers and Staff will signal for students to exit the car. This signal will come after all cars dropping off have stopped. When all students are safely on the sidewalk, cars will again be signaled to proceed.
- It is imperative that cars remain in the carline and **never** pass another car while in the carline area.
- Due to safety concerns, NO students are to be dropped off in the front of the building in the morning between 7:10 and 7:35. If you have a conference or meeting, you are welcome to park in the front of the building and enter the front

door and sign in.

- In order for the carline to move more efficiently, we are asking students to be ready to exit their car as soon as you stop and to open the doors themselves (especially 1st – 5th graders). It will also be helpful if book bags and lunch boxes are in hand, kisses have been given, and pets are in another seat.
- If you arrive on campus after 7:35, you will be asked to park in the front parking lot and sign your student(s) in through the front office.
- You must have the school issued car line tag in order to pick up your child through the car line. If you do not have the proper tag, you will be asked to come to the front office and provide proper identification to pick up your child.
- The car line ends at 3:00 P.M. Students not picked up by 3:00 will be sent to our Extended Day program and will be charged the daily rate.

Early Beginnings PreK Car Line

- The PreK morning car line begins at 7:25 and ends at 7:40 A.M. Cars may not be in line until 7:25 due to bus line drop off. If you are not on campus by 7:40, you will be directed to check your child in through the front office.
- The PreK afternoon car line begins at 2:10 and ends at 2:25 P.M. If your child is not loaded in your car by 2:25 P.M. you will be directed to park and get your child from the front office. The afternoon buses must begin lining up at 2:25. P.M. for afternoon dismissal.
- You must have the school issued car line tag in order to pick up your child through the car line. If you do not have the proper tag, you will be asked to come to the front office and provide proper identification to pick up your child.
- More detailed information of drop-off/pick-up procedures are provided by the PreK teachers in the PreK Parent Handbook.

Bicycle Procedures

Cyclists are to walk their bikes on school grounds and lock bikes at the rack provided on the east side of the building. They will enter through the car rider entrance only. The crosswalk must be used as access to and from the school. Helmets are required on school grounds. Skateboards and rollerblades are not permitted on campus. Please provide written notification to the office if your child uses a bicycle for transportation anytime during the school year.

Walker Procedures

All walkers must be escorted to and from the school campus by an adult. Students are expected to stay on the sidewalk, respect the property of neighbors, cross at crosswalk and follow the directions of the crossing guard. Please provide written notification to the office if your child will be a walker anytime during the school year.

Leaving School Early Procedures

For the welfare and protection of your child, your cooperation is appreciated in the following procedures:

- All early dismissals and absence notes are to be submitted through the **School Dismissal Manager**. Contact the front office with any questions or help needed in setting up or using the School Dismissal Manager.
- It is important to let your child know his/her arrival and/or dismissal procedures from school each day.
- An adult who requests a child for check-out must show a valid picture ID.
- Verification will be made by office personnel. In order to check a student out, the person must be listed as an emergency contact.

If you need to check your student out early, we request that it be done before 1:30.

Transportation Changes

If you wish to change your child's normal transportation, the following methods will be accepted:

- Notifications sent through the **School Dismissal Manager** app.
- **In cases of emergency**, the front office will accept a phone call. However, information must be verified.
- Please make all transportation changes before **1:30 P.M.** of that day.

Attendance

Absences Alabama state law requires that students are present during school hours. Parents will be notified of student absences by an automated telephone system and by written notification according to the following guidelines:

- An automated telephone call will be made after each absence.
- A letter will be sent home after a student has accumulated five **unexcused** absences.
- After the seventh **unexcused** absence, a petition will be filed by the system's attendance officer to the District Attorney's office.
- **A written note must be provided within three days of the absence** to be accepted and coded excused. Please refer to the attendance section in the Student Code of Conduct and Parental Reference for any other concerns you may have about the attendance policies.

Tardies

Rainbow will monitor tardies and schedule conferences as needed. It is very important that your child be present at the beginning of the school day.

Information given over the phone

Student information will not be given by our office staff over the phone. This includes inquiries about attendance. If you wish to inquire about your child, you will need to come to the front office and provide proper identification before student information will be given.

Delivering items to students

Forgotten items will not be delivered to students. When a classroom is called to deliver an item, instruction stops for the entire class. Make sure that your child has all the items needed for the day prior to leaving home. Deliveries for food and gifts to students will not be accepted nor delivered.

Breakfast and Lunch Information

Parents are welcome to come and eat lunch with their child. All visitors must sign in through the front office. Parents/Families eating lunch with their students will be provided a separate location in the cafeteria to enjoy their meals together.

Due to limited seating in the cafeteria, a SignUpGenius will be sent out to parents to sign up for a date and time to eat lunch with their child(ren).

Breakfast is served Monday through Friday from 7:15-7:35 A.M. A hot lunch is also served daily. Menus are available via the school website. This year, all students are able to receive free lunches. Information about free and reduced lunches will be provided should we return to that protocol.

Response to Instruction (RTI)

RTI is a school-based committee designed to meet the needs of general education students at-risk of failure due to academics, behavior or potentially at-risk of drop-out. RTI plans are for regular education students only. RTI is not for students with an active IEP or 504 Plan. For more information please contact our school counselor, Alicia Sullivan-Smith.

Cell Phones and Electronic Devices

Cell phones and other electronic devices may be brought to school and used for instructional purposes only. The school will not be liable for cell phones/electronic devices if lost or stolen.

Clinic

Rainbow has minimal nursing services available on campus. The nurse is able to treat minor injuries, monitor symptoms and administer approved medication. The parent(s) are notified when a child's temperature is 100 degrees (or above) or when deemed necessary by our school nurse. For this reason, it is vital to always have a current home, work and emergency number on file for your child. Please refer to the Madison City Schools' Student Code of Conduct for information on system medical policies and procedures. At this time, masks are required for all students, faculty, and staff until the District and/or the Alabama Department of Health determines otherwise.

Food Allergies

This year we welcome several students to our classrooms with food allergies. For them, strict avoidance of allergens is the only way to prevent a life-threatening allergic reaction. We invite our help and cooperation to manage this serious responsibility!

Peanut and tree nut allergies comprise the bulk of the food allergies which are known to be life-threatening in our school population. There are several practices that will be in place to help prevent allergic reactions:

1. Students will wash their hands with soap and water after snack, then again after lunch.
2. All classrooms will be designated as (peanut/tree nut) allergy aware spaces. There will be no classroom projects involving the use of these items. Please do not send any snack items containing peanut/ tree nut products into the classroom with your child.
3. Parents who will send a lunch from home for their child are free to pack the foods of their choice. It is our hope that families CHOOSE not to send foods containing peanuts or tree nuts. The lunchroom tables will be wiped down with soap and water by an adult after each class leaves their designated area. Teachers will have students with food allergies sit at the opposite end of the table from those who might bring peanut/ tree nut products.
4. There will be special days and occasions that food may be shared in class. The teacher and room parent will coordinate to ensure "allergy safe" suggestions. Per Madison City Board Policy, only foods brought in their original container with the ingredient label intact will not be allowed.
5. Field trips often involve a meal or snack. Due to the unknown factors such as whether there is access to running water, we ask that no peanut/ tree nut products are packed for trips off school property.
6. Students will be instructed not to share any food item or utensil.
7. If your student eats breakfast at home, please have them wash their hands with

soap and water before entering the school.

8. If your child carries ANY emergency medications for food allergies, please contact our school nurse, Stacy Humphress (slhumphress@madisoncity.k12.al.us), so we can set up the proper paperwork in case your child has an anaphylactic reaction

COVID Protocols

At this time, masks are optional for all students, faculty, and staff until determined otherwise by the District. Regular cleaning and sanitation, to include encouraging hand washing, will still take place. ****This is all subject to change at any time during the school year.****

Clubs and Extracurricular Activities

Each year there are a variety of extracurricular activities offered at our school. These opportunities will be announced as they occur. Students must be picked up on time. We expect all students to represent Rainbow in a positive manner at all after school events.

Guidance Counseling

Guidance services are available to meet the needs of students. Our counselor meets with every class once a month to provide lessons on study skills, bullying prevention, making healthy choices, understanding feelings, etc. Individual or small group counseling sessions are available for children with specific concerns. You may contact Alicia Smith at amsmith@madisoncity.k12.al.us with any questions concerning counseling services.

Enrichment Counseling

We offer Enrichment Counseling services provided by licensed staff from the Enrichment Center when necessary. Please note that the Mental Health Opt-In form must indicate your permission for mental health services, which can be updated at any time.

Student Attire

Please send your child to school in appropriate clothing that follows the guidelines of the Madison City Student Code of Conduct. Students must wear a belt with loose-fitting pants, jeans or shorts. Please make certain students have appropriate footwear for PE, which will be defined by the PE staff at the beginning of each year. Shorts/skirts/dresses should be no shorter than finger length when the arms are at the side. **Print names on all clothing your child might take off at school such as sweaters, coats, caps, and gloves.** Lost items will be housed in the lost and found. Unclaimed items will be donated to charity at the end of each month.

Student Conduct

It is the goal of Rainbow Elementary to initiate a school-wide effort to encourage our students to demonstrate effective and positive problem solving skills as well as appropriate social behaviors. This school-wide plan offers consistent systematic guidelines that provide for a safe educational environment. Our school-wide expectations are as follows: be respectful; be responsible; be cooperative; be caring. Rainbow fosters respect for self, others, property, and learning environment. Grade level plans will be sent home with each student.

Emergency Dismissal

In the event of an emergency, it may be necessary for school to dismiss early. School closing information will be communicated via BlackBoard Messenger (email and/or text messages), social media, Madison City School website, local media outlets and teacher email distribution lists. When the school is dismissed early, after school activities, including **extended day services will be canceled.**

Extended Day

Extended day services are available to all students in grades pre-K-5. If you are interested, please contact Niyiere Joseph (njoseph@madisoncity.k12.al.us) or Omri Davis (odavis@madisoncity.k12.al.us) or check our website for details.

Gifted Services

Rainbow provides gifted services for 3rd – 5th grade students. For more information, parents may contact the Gifted Specialists, Kerri Scroggins (kdschroggins@madisoncity.k12.al.us) or Jessica Schmauch (jaschmauch@madisoncity.k12.al.us) at the school.

Homework and Missed Assignments

Homework is part of the total learning experience. Please encourage your child to complete his/her daily homework assignments. Reading may be assigned as a part of the homework. If your child is sick and needs the homework or missed daily assignments after the second day's absence, please email the teacher to retrieve the missed school work. We will not deliver homework to your child if he/she forgot to bring it from home.

PowerSchool

Madison City Schools offer a resource called "PowerSchool". You can access this resource through your internet browser to view your child's grades, attendance, homework assignments, etc., as posted directly from the teacher's online gradebook and lesson planner. Parents/Guardians can log in at

<https://madisoncs.powerschool.com/public/>.

Items from Home

Toys and playground equipment are not to be brought to school without permission from the child's classroom teacher. Items brought from home may be taken and held until the parents can make arrangements to retrieve. These items may include, but are not limited to, yo-yo's, trading cards, electronic games, baseball bats, all types of playground balls, electronic devices or other items that may be deemed unsafe or disruptive by supervising adults. Toys resembling weapons are not allowed.

BlackBoard Messenger

BlackBoard Messenger is an email service that is used by Rainbow Elementary to communicate important information to parents. Messages from the Principal, PTA, and Superintendent of Madison City Schools are often sent via BlackBoard Messenger. BlackBoard Messenger pulls from the contact information in PowerSchools Enrollment. If you need to update any information during the school year, please do so in writing to Erica Ogle at enogle@madisoncity.k12.al.us

Field Trips

The following are field trip protocols for Madison City Schools:

The child attending the field trip as a student should be in attendance at school on the day of the field trip and be transported by the school bus to and from the field trip location unless special circumstances exist and are approved by the school administration. Student check-ins at the location of the field trip will not be allowed.

- Student behavior is expected to meet the expectations set forth for a regular school day.
- Approved chaperones will aid in the supervision of the students during the field trip. Parents visiting the location of the field trip on the day of the school field trip with a completed a background check and prior approval from administration will be considered a school chaperone. Otherwise, the parent will be considered a visitor of the location and will not be able to join the school group.
- Chaperones are charged with the supervision of the school-aged students attending the field trip and are requested to provide these children their undivided attention. For this reason, siblings will not be allowed to attend field trips.
- Reasons for checking a student out from a field trip must be approved by the school administration before a student can be checked out from the location of a field trip. The person checking the student out must be on the approved check-out listing for the student.

Parent Teacher Association (PTA) PTA membership and support is vital to the success of Rainbow Elementary School. The Rainbow Parent Teacher Association is here to help create the best learning environment for our entire Rainbow Family. The National PTA's mission is to make every child's potential a reality by engaging and empowering families and communities to advocate for all children. The PTA Board is made up of volunteers who work hard to support our students and families.

Our volunteers are:

President: Candice Cooper ptarainbowelementary@gmail.com

Fundraising Email: rainbowptafundraising@gmail.com

Secretary: Mallory Clemmons

Treasurer: Danielle Langiewicz

VP of Membership: Kim Newberry

VP of Volunteers: Katie Pacheco

VP of Programs: Emma Jones

VP of Fundraising: Lisa Solvason

The PTA board believes that there are many great ideas and talents hiding in all of you. There are many areas where your time and talents can be utilized to help make Rainbow Elementary a great place for our community. Please feel free to contact any member of the board if you are interested in getting involved or have questions.

Student Safety is of great importance to all of us at Rainbow. All volunteers are required to have a background check before working in the classrooms. Please go to the following website to get started: <https://bib.com/secureVolunteer/Madison-City-Schools/>

You can also find us on Facebook at Rainbow Elementary School PTA , and Remind at www.remind.com. Remind allows you to sign up for text and email communications directly from PTA.

Parent/Teacher Communication

Rainbow teachers offer conferences bi-yearly for every child to discuss his/her progress. Parents are welcome to contact the teacher for an additional conferences if needed.

Email Parents are encouraged to contact their child's teacher by email. However, email is not a recommended form of communication regarding confidential information.

If teachers are absent, substitutes cannot access a teachers' email.

In the event of an emergency, please contact the school office via telephone as email is not a reliable form of communication.

Phone Calls The school phone is for school related communications. Students will be allowed to use the phone in an emergency only. Parents will be notified by school personnel of any emergency situation involving their child, as well as behavioral issues that may result in a disciplinary action.

Parents or Visitors to the Campus

Parents and visitors are always welcome. However, all guests should report to the office, sign in with a driver's license or proper identification, and receive a visitor's badge. Instruction is valued and protected; therefore, the policy at Rainbow is to limit ALL classroom interruptions. Due to privacy reasons, parent observation of classes is not allowed. Please refrain from parking along the curbs as these are fire lanes and should be open for emergency vehicles.

Media Center

Students must sign and return a Library Student Use form at the beginning of each school year stating that he/she will treat books with respect as well as attend an orientation discussing library procedures with our media specialist, Tina Allen.

Textbooks/Library Books

All classroom textbooks are loaned to the students for their use during the school year. Textbooks are to be kept clean and should be handled appropriately. Parents are required to pay for any lost or damaged textbooks and library books.

Chromebooks

Every student K-12 in Madison City Schools will be assigned a Chromebook, as MCS is a 1:1 device district. The student is expected to keep the device throughout their tenure as a student in Madison City and will follow their teacher's protocols in their use and when they will take them home for use. Chromebooks are a tool to help supplement the learning in the classroom, so students are not expected to be using them all the time in the classroom.

Computers are expected to be utilized for instructional purposes only. The district utilizes Gaggle, Bark, and GoGuardian as methods to monitor and enforce the appropriate use of the device. Students will be expected to take the device and charger home during the summer and bring them to school the following school year. The devices should be returned to school if a student withdraws from the district.

Progress Reports and Report Cards

Progress reports indicate your child's progress in academic areas. Progress reports are

provided every three weeks beginning the sixth week of school. Reference the Madison City website for progress reports and report cards dates.

- Grades K-2 are standards-based report cards
- Grade 3 are hybrid report cards, both standards-based and traditional numerical/letter grades.
- Grades 4-5 report cards are traditional numerical/letter grades
- PE, Spanish, Art, and Music grades are participation grades and are not based on skill.

Supply List Grade-level specific supply lists are available on the Rainbow Elementary School website.

It is the official policy of the City of Madison Board of Education that no person shall on the grounds of race, color, disability, sex, religion, national origin or age be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any program, activity or employment.

Rainbow Elementary

Parent/Student Handbook 2022-23

I have read and understand the Rainbow Elementary procedures and expectations discussed in the Parent/Student Handbook. Where appropriate, I have discussed these

expectations with my child(ren). Please complete the section below and return this page to your child's teacher or to the front office. Only one needs to be completed per family.

Parent/Guardian Name (please print)

Student Name(s) (please print)

Parent
Signature: _____ Date: _____