Dear Parents/Guardians and Students:

It is my pleasure to welcome you to Arlington Elementary. The faculty and staff join me in saying we are happy to have you as part of the Arlington family. We hope this will be a successful and satisfying year for you.

The pages of this handbook are filled with important information regarding school policies and procedures. I suggest that parents and students review the contents together. If you have questions that remain unanswered after reading the handbook, please call the school office at (731) 265-9784. We feel that open and clear communication between school and home is important to the success of our students.

We welcome your participation and support during the school year. By working together, we will be able to reach our collective and individual goals. We look forward to celebrating with you the achievements of our students.

Sincerely,

Dr. Josie Currie, Principal

Our Mission

The mission of Arlington Elementary School is to provide a safe, orderly environment where students master their academic skills, demonstrate citizenship skills and develop the attributes of lifelong learners in a highperforming learning culture.

Our Vision

The vision of Arlington Elementary School is for our students to become: critical thinkers, effective communicators, independent learners, computer literates, problem solvers, and culturally diverse citizens.

Our Motto

"We Believe, Therefore We Lead"

Absences

When a student is unable to attend school, a note explaining the reason for the absence must be presented to the classroom teacher or attendance secretary upon the student's return to school in order for the absence to be excused. Any time that a student enters school after 8:30 a.m. or is picked up prior to 3:30 p.m., it will affect the student's attendance record and the student will not be eligible to receive a "Perfect Attendance" award (this includes doctor's appointments). If a student enters late or leaves early for a doctor's appointment, the student must present a doctor's statement upon return in order for the absence to be excused. The excuse must be returned within 3 school days.

Admissions

New Kindergarten students must be 5 years old on or before August 15th of the school year in which they are enrolling. A physical examination is required when a student enters school for the first time. Ages must be verified with a birth certificate and immunization records must be complete. The student's social security number must also be presented. Any student must provide 3 current proofs for address. The school will request academic records from the student's previous school.

Allergies

Many of our students have severe food allergies, in particular, peanut and gluten. The results of coming in contact with these products, whether ingested or breathed, can be life threatening. In order to ensure their safety, please contact your child's teacher before sending items to school. For your child's protection include all health information (i.e. epi pens, allergies) on the health history form.

Arrival and Dismissal

Because no one is available to supervise your child before 7:50 a.m., students are not allowed to enter before this time. No student should be left at school or on school property prior to 7:50 a.m. No early dismissals after 2:45pm (**No Exceptions**). If your child needs to leave school early, please pick him/her up prior to 2:45pm because teachers will not be interrupted after 2:45pm.

<u>Car Riders</u>

If your student does not ride a JMCSS bus, it is your responsibility to arrange transportation. Students who are car riders will arrive and

dismiss at the cafeteria entrance. School personnel will supervise students as they exit and enter their cars. Arrival time begins at 7:50 a.m. and dismissal at 3:30. Car Riders(K-5) should plan to be in the morning drop-off line by 8:25am to ensure students are not late to class. Parents should wait in the car loading line for their child to be dismissed. **Anyone designated to pick a child up in our car rider line must have a car rider tag.** If you do not have a car rider tag, you must pull aside and await confirmation from the front office for guardian identification to ensure student safety.

PreK students (and their siblings) will arrive and dismiss at the gym entrance. Arrival time begins at 8:00am and dismissal is at 3:05pm. Parents should wait in the car loading line and a teacher, administrator, or teacher assistant will bring the sign-in/sign-out sheet to you.

Late Pick-Up Policy:

Students who are not picked up by 3:45pm will be in violation of our dismissal procedures. Please use bus services if you cannot pick up your student by 3:45pm.

- First Occurrence: Parents who are late will receive a verbal warning and must sign off for the student's dismissal as a safety measure and for school documentation.
- Second Occurrence: Parents will receive a second warning notice and must sign the students out in the front office.
- Third Occurrence: Parents will receive a final violation notice resulting in enrollment in Y-Care or immediate reporting to the Department of Children Services and Jackson Police Department.

<u>Walkers</u>

A walker is identified as a student who walks to and from school to home. Students will walk the duration of the distance. Students may not be picked up by car at any point during their trip. Walkers will enter and dismiss from the gym foyer.

<u>Bus riders</u>

Students riding buses are supervised from the time they board the bus until the time they leave the bus at their designated stop. If, for any reason, your child is not to ride his/her designated bus or needs to change any aspect of his/her dismissal procedure, the office must be notified in writing by the parent/guardian(s) authorizing the desired change. This note must be received by NOON. Verbal requests by students will not be honored. If we do not receive written instructions from the parent, the child will follow his/her normal daily routine. Dismissal changes are not allowed to be taken over the phone, including text messages.

BUS CONDUCT:

The following rules have been established in order to ensure the safety of all students who ride buses:

- 1. Use only the bus and bus stop to which you are assigned.
- 2. Orderly behavior is required at the bus stop.
- 3. Remain seated, facing front, when bus is in motion.
- 4. Talk quietly and make no unnecessary noise.
- 5. Do not talk to the driver unless it is necessary.
- 6. Keep head and arms inside the bus.
- 7. Do not litter the inside of the bus or throw anything out the window.
- 8. Be quiet when the bus is crossing railroad tracks.
- 9. No aggressive behavior or inappropriate language is allowed.
- 10. No eating or drinking on the bus.
- 11. Students may be assigned seats. If a student is assigned a seat, it is the student's responsibility to sit in the assigned seat.

Infractions of the above rules will be brought to the attention of parents. **Continual abuse of bus privileges will result in the denial of**

transportation. Non-compliance with any bus procedure or rule may result in a bus suspension. If your child is suspended from the bus, they will not be allowed to ride any JMCSS bus during their suspended dates. It is your responsibility to provide transportation during these dates, and notify their classroom teacher in writing of the alternate method of transportation. Riding the bus is a privilege to JMCSS students not a right. Therefore this privilege may be removed based on bus conduct. The district bus Policy 6.308 can be viewed at www.jmcss.org.

Arlington Bus Policy

Infraction Level 1

*Disrespectful interaction with fellow student

*Out of Seat

*Eating food and/or candy

Consequences

1st offense -- warning 2nd offense -- assigned seat 3rd offense -- loss of bus privilege for 1 day 4th offense -- loss of privilege for 3 days 5th offense -- loss of bus privilege for 5 days 6th offense -- loss of privilege for 10 days 7th offense -- loss of privilege for 1 month 8th offense -- loss of privilege for semester (4 ½ months) 9th offense -- loss of privilege for remainder of school year

Infraction Level 2

*Disrespectful interaction with bus driver *Profanity *Horseplaying

Consequences

1st offense -- loss of privilege for 1 day 2nd offense -- loss of privilege for 3 days 3rd offense -- loss of privilege for 5 days 4th offense -- loss of privilege for 10 days 5th offense -- loss of privilege for semester (considered 4 ½ months) 6th offense -- loss of privilege for remainder of school year

Infraction Level 3

*Physical altercation, fighting, pushing, shoving *Jumping out of window *Throwing objects on the bus

Consequences

1st offense – loss of privilege for 5 days
2nd offense – loss of privilege for 10 days
3rd offense – loss of privilege for 1 month
4th offense – loss of privilege for semester (considered 4 ½ months)
5th offense – loss of privilege for remainder of school year

Infraction Level 4

*Physical altercation with bus driver *Throwing object out the window *Jumping out of the window

Consequences

1st offense – loss of privilege for remainder of school year

Classroom Parties and Celebrations

<u>Classroom</u>

Some teachers choose to celebrate events/holidays with their class. This is not a requirement but at the discretion of the teacher. Snacks brought for parties must meet the School Coordinated Health Guidelines. Be sure to check with your child's teacher with regard to food allergies before sending treats to school. Thank you for your understanding and cooperation regarding this issue.

Balloons and Flowers

Balloons and flowers delivered to students at school will be held in the office until dismissal time. Bus regulations prohibit helium balloons or glass containers on school buses; they will not be allowed on the bus.

<u>Birthdays</u>

Student birthdays are recognized over the intercom during morning announcements and students receive a birthday surprise from the office. Please adhere to allergy regulations as well as School Coordinated Health Guidelines and notify your child's teacher ahead of time if you plan to send a snack for your child's birthday. **School Coordinated Health Guidelines require only 100 calorie snacks. Therefore, only mini cupcakes would meet the requirement. These snacks must be store bought.** These celebrations will take place at the end of the day. Snacks sent to school will not be returned home after the party but may be saved for snacks in the future. We realize that birthday parties are a special time in a child's life. We also know that a child's feelings may be hurt if they are not invited to a classmate's party. In order to protect everyone's feelings, please do not distribute birthday invitations at school. Thank you for your understanding and cooperation regarding this issue.

Cafeteria Rules

The same general rules for behavior in the classroom apply in the cafeteria as well. Students are to remain quiet and keep their hands and feet to themselves. Students are not allowed to save places in line or at the tables. Classes will sit together, filling the next available seat. Students may leave their table only when excused. State guidelines

prohibit parents from bringing food/soft drinks from fast food restaurants. Carbonated drinks are not allowed (e.g. coke) for your child to drink during lunch. Lunch from home must be nutritious and in a lunch box/container.

Menus: The cafeteria manager, working in cooperation with a registered dietician, determines the daily menu for our school lunch program. A copy of the menu will be sent home monthly and copies will be available in the school office.

Cancellation of School

If for any reason school is cancelled or dismissed early, the local TV stations, radio, JMCSS website, and WBBJ TV website will serve as notification. Also, if school is to be dismissed early or cancelled, you will receive a phone message and/or text message. Therefore, keep your phone number current with your child's teacher and the school office.

Cell Phones

Our staff realizes that many parents provide cell phones/Smart watches for their children in case of emergency situations. Students who bring cell phones or Smart watches to school must keep them on silent and in their backpacks. Infractions of this rule will result in the phone being taken up and only released to the parent. We are not responsible for lost, stolen, or damaged cell phones.

Change of Address/Telephone

It is very important that every student maintain an up-to-date address and telephone number in the school office. Notify the school immediately if you have a change of address or telephone number during the school year.

Clubs

Students may participate in a variety of clubs and/or activities that are sponsored by the school.

Communication Folders (red)

Arlington Elementary provides every child with a red communication folder. This serves as an essential tool for communication between home and school. Students record homework assignments and teachers record behavior for each day. This is to be signed each night by the parent/guardian. Students are responsible for keeping up with their folders. If your child transfers from our school, the folder must be returned to his/her teacher.

Computers

A computer lab is available to all students. These computers are in addition to the existing computers in each classroom. We also have five mobile laptop labs. Great emphasis is placed on technology throughout our academic programs. Academic computer programs are available to assist students in researching and building upon the basic skills that are taught in the classroom. Students are only allowed to be on approved teacher websites. They are not to use cameras. Students who do not follow computer rules may be referred to an administrator.

Conferences

Parent-teacher conferences are scheduled for September 19th and February 13th; these are half days for students. Parents are asked to make an appointment with their child's teacher regardless of the progress of the child. These conference times are very valuable to the overall education program. Some parents are hesitant about participating in conferences, but our teachers can do a much better job with students if they can share their experiences with the student directly to the parent. It is not necessary to wait for the regular conference time if a parent has a special concern. Parent conferences are encouraged and can be arranged during the school year. You must contact the teacher and schedule a meeting time prior to coming to school.

Counselor

There is a full-time and part-time Guidance Counselor, a Behavior Specialist, and a Pathways Counselor on staff at our school. These counselors are available to assist students regarding social problems, crisis situations, and classroom issues. Our school counselors provide small group and individual counseling sessions as well as teach character education and bullying prevention through bi-weekly guidance instruction. Our counselors work closely with school staff to develop behavior plans and truancy action plans for students who are struggling in these areas. Our counselors can make referrals to outside agencies to assist with individual student needs.

Directory Information Notice to Parents (Policy 6.601)

The Jackson-Madison County School System may disclose certain information, known as directory information, at its discretion without consent. Parents or eligible students may refuse to let the school system release any or all of this information. If you do not want this information released, you must send written notice annually to the school principal within two weeks of this notification. The following information regarding students is considered directory information: 1) Name 2) Address 3) Telephone 4) Electronic mail address 5) Date and place of birth 6) Major field of study 7) Participation in sports 8) Weight and height of members of athletic teams 9) Dates of attendance 10) Grade level 11) Degrees, honors and awards received 12) Most recent previous educational agency or institution attended 13) Photographs, interviews and videography of student at school events.

Discipline

Arlington Elementary School will follow the disciplinary policy established by the Jackson-Madison County School System. Copies of all Jackson-Madison County School board policies are on file in the school library, the principal's office, and the JMCSS website (http://www.jmcss.org) for public viewing. In order to have a safe, happy, and productive school year, we must have a school environment that will allow each child to work and learn to his or her potential. Teachers have the authority and responsibility to maintain discipline in the classroom. When a student is having a problem, the teacher may conference with the student, the parent, or refer the situation to an administrator in order to maintain a positive learning environment. If discipline action is needed, the parent will be contacted by telephone or in writing. Teachers will communicate with parents on a regular basis regarding students' conduct. If a student has a major infraction, consequences might include timeout, in-school suspension, out-of-school suspension, etc. When this occurs, a parent will be contacted, and a discipline infraction form will be sent home for a parent's signature.

Doctor and Dentist Appointments

Parents are expected to make every effort to schedule doctor and dentist appointments outside of school hours. When this is not possible, students will be excused for these appointments. However, the absence will be counted against their perfect attendance record. Be sure to provide the office with a written excuse from the doctor/dentist within 3 school days.

Dress Code

All students Pre K-5th are required to adhere to the JMCSS dress code policy. Students are required to wear <u>red</u>, <u>black or white</u> polo style shirts with collars and khaki, navy blue or black bottoms. A black or brown belt is required for all garments with belt loops for students in grades 1st-5th. For more specifics, please visit <u>imcss.org</u> to view Policy 6.310 in its entirety.

Students generally conduct themselves in a manner similar to the way in which they dress and groom. Students are required to be fully dressed according to the district dress code. Midriff, halter tops, or tops with spaghetti straps are not allowed. Shorts/jumpers/skirts/skorts must be knee length when standing. Also, all students are required to wear tennis shoes for all physical education activities. Sagaing, ripped, frayed pants or pants with holes in them are not allowed. If a child is inappropriately dressed, he/she will be sent to (ISS) In School Suspension. The parent will be notified and given the opportunity to bring appropriate clothing or grant permission for their child to receive (clean) uniform clothing from our clothes closet. If corrected, the students will be allowed to return to class. If not corrected, the child will remain in ISS. This is not a punishment and does not count against excellent behavior efforts. Coats/Jackets/sweaters worn inside the building must be black, blue, red, or white. There are no guidelines for coats worn outside the building. Be sure to write your child's name in a permanent marker inside the coat.

The last Friday of each month will be school spirit day. There will also be perfect attendance days when students receive a jeans pass. Students may wear jeans and an Arlington shirt or a uniform shirt on these days. Clothing should be appropriately fitted.

Pre-K, Kindergarten, and 1st grade students need to have an extra pair of clothes, including undergarments, in their book bags to be left at school in case of an emergency.

Emergency Drills

Fire Drills occur monthly and tornado drills are conducted twice each semester. Intruder, Active Shooter (lockdown) and evacuation procedures are practiced at least once a year. Emergency plans are posted inside the door of each classroom. A detailed emergency preparedness plan is available in the school office.

Emergency Information

In case of emergency, each student is required to have the following information on file in the school office:

- 1. Parent/guardian(s) name(s).
- 2. Complete and current address.
- 3. Current parent/guardian(s) home phone, work phone, and cell phone.
- 4. Emergency phone number of friend or relative.

Should a school emergency occur, notification will be sent out through an all call message and/or text.

Field Trips

Field trips within our city and to nearby points of interest are scheduled by various classroom teachers throughout the school year. These trips are designed to supplement different aspects of the classroom curriculum and to introduce students to the resources of the community. Parents will receive notices of field trips well in advance of the scheduled trip date and will be asked to sign field trip permission forms. Sometimes a small amount of money may be requested from each student to help defray transportation or facility use costs. This money is non-refundable because money is deposited the day it is collected. This applies to a student who is absent from school the day of the event. Also, parents must give written permission for their child to attend. Verbal permission will not be accepted. Please speak with your child's teacher if you are interested in attending a field trip to help supervise students. Please do not bring other siblings.

General Mills Box Tops for Education

Arlington participates in the General Mills Box Tops for Education Program. By collecting these box tops, we can earn money for our school. The labels on any General Mills products may be used. If you have questions, please contact the school.

Grading

Students' academic progress will be reported every 4 ½ weeks in the form of a progress report and every nine weeks on each student's report card. Teachers will follow the grade scale below with the exception of kindergarten. Kindergarten does a 1, 2, 3, 4 scale based on mastery levels. First and second grade students receive 'S' or 'N' in science and social studies.

Grading Scale: A 90-100 B 80-89 C 70-79 D 60-69 F Below 60

(See Policy Manual 1.802 and Policy 6.305 for Grievance Procedure)

lce cream

Ice cream is sold every Friday at a cost of \$1.00. Ice cream money and orders must be turned in to the office by 9:00 a.m. Friday morning in order to receive ice cream. Due to auditing guidelines, there are no exceptions to this rule.

Illness or Injury

In case of illness or injury, a parent/guardian will be contacted. If on duty, the school nurse may care for students; otherwise, a member of the school staff will provide aid. School personnel will render basic first-aid treatment only. If emergency medical treatment is necessary, the parent/guardian(s) will be contacted and should transport their child to the nearest medical facility. However, if a parent/guardian is not available, our staff will contact the Jackson-Madison County General Hospital and follow their medical instructions. <u>Remember, a current</u> emergency contact number must be on file in the school office.

Immunizations

State law requires that every student who is enrolled in a Tennessee public school must have evidence of a successful vaccination for diphtheria, tetanus, whooping cough, polio, measles, and mumps. A Hepatitis B shot is also required for entrance into kindergarten.

Leaving Campus

Students are not allowed to leave the school campus during school hours for any reason without the knowledge and consent of their parent/guardian. Permission to leave the school grounds will only be granted upon written or verbal request from the student's parent or guardian. **Due to afternoon announcements and dismissal preparation**, **students will not be allowed to check out after 2:45pm, NO EXCEPTIONS.**

Library

The library is open on a regularly scheduled basis and is supervised by the librarian. Library classes are held for all students. If a child loses or damages a library book, she/he will be required to pay for the book. Report cards will not be released until the book has been paid for in the main office.

Lost and Found

All clothing found on campus is placed in the lost and found. Money, jewelry, and any other articles of value are stored in the office. Students may claim lost items after proper identification. The lost and found is located by the gym entrance.

Medications

For students bringing medication to school, certain requirements must be met. Medication must be hand delivered to the school office by a parent/guardian. Medical authorization will be required for a child to keep asthma medication on his/her person; otherwise, all asthma medications, including inhalers and nebulizers, will be kept in the office.

Prescription medications:

- 1. Must be clearly identified as to the name and type of medication.
- 2. Must be in the original container.
- 3. Must carry a prescription label with the child's name, drug identity, dosage instructions, doctor's name, and prescription date.
- 4. The prescription must be current.
- 5. A note, dated and signed by the parent, must accompany the medication, giving the child's name, dosage amounts, specific dosage times, and other instructions, if necessary.

Refrigeration is available. Medication will be given by school personnel.

Non-prescription medications:

- 1. Must be in original container (e.g. aspirin bottle.).
- 2. Must be clearly identified as to the name and type of medicine and dosage instructions.
- 3. A note signed and dated by the parent, giving the child's name, medication name, dosage instructions, specific dosage times, and other necessary instructions must accompany the medication.

Nurse

The school nurse's office is located in the main office. The nurse is responsible for the maintenance of health records, routine health checks, parental contact concerning health problems, care of minor injuries, and assistance in health teaching and visual screening. Please be sure to contact the nurse if your child has any unusual health problems. Call the school nurse if your child is absent from school due to a communicable disease (i.e. pink eye) so that precautions may be taken to protect other children. School health personnel are on call if any emergency should occur. **Students must be free of diarrhea**, **vomiting, and fever without the aid of medication for 24 hours before returning to school.** Make sure that you complete your child's health history form in detail and a current phone number.

Parent Volunteers

Arlington Elementary considers its parent volunteers a very special resource. Parents are encouraged to support classrooms, programs,

and extra-curricular activities. Please call the school office if you have time or skills you can share to make our school a better place for students to learn and to grow.

Pictures

The dates for school seasonal pictures will be announced throughout the year. Students will need to be in dress code for pictures unless otherwise notified.

Qualifications of Professionals

In accordance with federal law and Title I guidelines, the district shall release to parent(s) information regarding the professional qualifications and degrees of teachers and the paraprofessionals.

Records

School records are maintained for each student. By law, these records are accessible only to a child's legal guardian. Information included in these records may not be released without written parental consent. When a student transfers to another school, a copy of the student's record is sent.

Restroom

Classes have several scheduled restroom breaks throughout the day. Students should make every effort to use the restroom at this time. If students have a medical condition, please notify the school via the health history form. Students will not be allowed to go to the restroom unsupervised. If an emergency occurs, an adult will escort them to the restroom.

Restrooms are used as a safe shelter during severe weather. It is important that students help maintain the cleanliness of the restroom.

School Breakfast and Lunch

Professional cooks working in cooperation with a registered dietician prepare school breakfast and lunch. Students are encouraged to take advantage of this service. Breakfast and lunch will be provided free of charge. State guidelines prohibit parents from bringing food/soft drinks from fast food restaurants. Also, please do not send carbonated drinks (e.g. coke) for your child to drink at lunch. Lunch from home must be nutritious and in a lunch box/container.

Breakfast

| Student Breakfast | Free |
|-------------------|------|
| | |

Lunch

| Student Lunch | Free |
|---------------|--------|
| | 1100 |
| Visitor | \$4.00 |

School Colors and School Mascot

Arlington's school colors are red and white. The mascot is the Cardinal. We encourage our students to identify with these symbols as a representation of our school pride and spirit. School spirit day will be the last Friday of every month.

School Supplies

Each teacher will furnish a list of supplies needed for the school year to each student. Throughout the year, students will be asked to replenish supplies. Students are expected to use all instructional supplies and resources responsibly. Teachers have a limited number of copies; therefore, they are unable to make multiple copies for your child.

Security Provisions

Extensive measures are taken daily to provide our students with a safe and secure environment. At times, random searches will occur as part of our security procedures.

Tardiness

Prompt arrival at school is expected of all students. Late arrival disrupts class and causes loss of instruction time. Any student who arrives at school after 8:30 a.m. is considered tardy. Car Riders(K-5) should plan to be in the morning drop off line by 8:25am to ensure students are not late to class. <u>A parent/guardian must come to the office and sign in their student if they are tardy.</u>

Unsafe School Choice Policy

Under the State Board of Education's Unsafe School Choice Policy, a public school student who is the victim of a violent crime or the victim of an attempted violent crime shall be provided an opportunity to transfer to another grade-level appropriate school within the district.

Visitors

All parents and other visitors need to report to the office upon entering

the building and receive a visitor's badge. Never go directly to a classroom. Visitors must wear a school nametag while on campus. If you have a court document stating that a specific individual cannot have contact with your child, provide proof to the school office. If you would like to meet with your child's teacher, please schedule this before your arrival because instructional time will not be interrupted.

Weapons

The possession of a weapon or dangerous instrument on school property, school bus, or school-sponsored event is strictly forbidden by a student or adult. This includes toy guns and knives. Violation of this rule by students will result in referral to the disciplinary board. If it is determined that a student has violated this policy, the principal will notify the parent/guardian and law enforcement as required by law. The possession of toy weapons, although not a zero-tolerance offense, is totally unacceptable behavior at school and will result in out-of-school suspension. Adults in violation of this rule will be reported to our SRO (School Resource Officer).

Website

If you have any questions about this handbook or the policies and procedures contained in it, please call Arlington Elementary School at (731) 265-9784.

See JMCSS Policy Handbook for District School Procedures and Policy. Also, all JMCSS Board Policies are available on-line at <u>http://www.jmcss.org.</u>