

Elvin Hill Elementary School

Family & Student Handbook

2021-2022



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Columbiana, Alabama 35051

Phone: 205-682-6620

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www.shelbyed.k12.al.us/schools/ehes

Courtney Madison, Principal
Jane Smith, Assistant Principal

Our Vision

*To be a model for excellence in
education*



Our Mission

Courage • **A**chievement • **T**eamwork • **S**ervice

Our Beliefs

- Each individual should be valued and celebrated—everyone matters!
 - Every child deserves to learn in a caring environment.
- Working as a team is vital—we need each other!
 - We are all learning, continually improving.

About Elvin Hill Elementary

Stay informed—join ListServ and follow us on social media!

Facebook: Elvin Hill Elementary School

Instagram: @ElvinHillElementary

What is Listserv? EHES uses an email system called a ListServ to keep parents informed about school events and important information. Emails are sent weekly to keep families informed. You must be the parent or legal guardian of a student at the school in order to sign up for this service. NOTE: If you have 2 children at one school, you only have to complete that school's survey form once. You may list up to two parent/guardian email accounts.

Visit EHES' website, scroll to the bottom of the page, and click "Join the Listserv today":

www.shelbyed.k12.al.us/schools/ehes

Accreditation Elvin Hill Elementary is accredited by the North Central Association Commission on Accreditation and School Improvement (NCA CASI), Northwest Accreditation Commission (NWAC), and the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Council on Accreditation and School Improvement (SACS CASI). In order to maintain this accreditation, strict standards must be maintained especially in the areas of curriculum, instruction, and assessment.

Teacher Certification 100% of the teachers at EHES are Highly Qualified educators.

Title I EHES is a Title I school, which means that we receive federal Title I funds because 40% or more of our students are on free or reduced lunch. We have a Title I committee that develops a budget for these funds. We need parent input, so contact Dr. Stamps if you would like to serve on this committee.

21st Century Our goal at EHES is to meet the needs of the 21st century learner. Our work is guided by the Framework for 21st Century Learning as outlined by the Partnership for 21st Century Learning Skills. 21st century student outcomes are the skills, knowledge and expertise students should master to succeed in work and life in the 21st century. Find out more about 21st Century Skills by visiting this link: www.p21.org

Elvin Hill Elementary is proud to be able to offer instruction to enhance 21st century learning. With the help of Title I funds, each homeroom class is equipped with at least 5 networked computers, a digital projector, and an interactive whiteboard. Students at EHES are exposed to a wide-array of technology through teachers promoting technological integration during instruction and class visits to the technology lab.

AMSTI The Alabama Math, Science, and Technology Initiative, commonly referred to as AMSTI, is the Alabama Department of Education's initiative to improve math and science teaching statewide. AMSTI was designed by a Blue-Ribbon committee comprised of K-12 educators, higher education representatives, and business leaders. The committee pursued every step possible to design the most effective statewide initiative for improving math and science teaching. AMSTI is research-based and incorporates the best practices for math and science teaching. It provides students with well-trained

teachers and the equipment, materials, and resources needed for hands-on, activity-based math and science education. After completing our second week of AMSTI science training this summer, EHES is proud to be a fully-implemented AMSTI site this year! Additional AMSTI math information can be found for parents at the following link: <http://investigations.terc.edu/families/about-investigations>

ARI The Alabama Reading Initiative is a statewide K-12 initiative managed by the Department of Education. The goal of ARI is to significantly improve reading instruction and ultimately achieve 100% literacy among public school students. The Alabama Reading Initiative training for teachers helps them teach reading in proven and effective ways. Elvin Hill is proud to be an Alabama Reading Initiative school.

Healthier US Gold EHES is proud to be a Gold school when it comes to our nutrition program. All twenty Shelby County elementary and intermediate schools were the first schools in the nation to earn the coveted Healthier US School Challenge Gold Award with Distinction on a system wide basis. Sponsored by the USDA Food and Nutrition Service, the initiative encourages all schools to take a leadership role in helping students to make healthier eating and physical activity choices that will last a lifetime. More information can be found at the following link: www.fns.usda.gov/tn/healthierus/index.html

USDA Fresh Fruit & Vegetable Program EHES is a yearly recipient of the USDA Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Grant (FFVP). This FFVP grant provides our students with a daily free snack of either a fruit or a vegetable, usually starting in Mid-August and running throughout the school year until about Mid-May. The program has been successful in introducing our students to a variety of produce and will help support us on our WAY to healthy lifestyles. Find out more about our child nutrition program through this link:

www.shelbyed.k12.al.us/cnp.htm

EHES will not run the Fresh Fruit & Vegetable Program during the 2021-2022.

Policies and Procedures

After School Care Program (ASCP)

The "After-School Care Program" at Elvin Hill Elementary offers supervision of students from 3:00 until 6:00 p.m. each day. Students are received by the After School Care workers at the end of the regular academic day. This program is managed by the Community Education Department of the Shelby County Board of Education, not EHES. For more information regarding the After-School Program, contact Community Education at 205-682-5958 or visit www.shelbyed.k12.al.us/community/ascp.html to register your child.

Visitors

County policy and school safety require that ALL VISITORS to the school report to the front office, show a valid ID, SIGN IN, to receive a visitor's badge. PLEASE DO NOT VIOLATE THIS POLICY. This policy is intended to protect your child from physical harm and to ensure that the academic program is not interrupted.

Arrival to School

Upon arrival, students will go to assigned areas for supervision. Students will report to classrooms at 7:30. **The tardy bell rings at 7:45 a.m. All students are expected to be in their classrooms by 7:45 a.m.** Students arriving later than 7:45 **MUST** be signed in by a parent or guardian. **Students are not allowed to check themselves in or out.** Students that arrive after 11:30 will be counted absent the entire day.

Attendance

Regular daily attendance of your child is essential if academic progress is to be made. Alabama State Law, Section 16-28-3, Code of Alabama, 1975, requires all children between the ages of 6 and 17 to attend school regularly. Please read Shelby County Schools Student Code of Conduct and Attendance for more information regarding truancy.

Parents must send a written note within 3 days of the absence for it to be excused. However, all notes from parents will not automatically be excused. The registrar and the administration will review the reason for the absence to determine whether or not it will be considered excused. Please send written excuses to your child's teacher, or our registrar, Pam Oliver. You may also e-mail your excuse to your child's teacher or to poliver@shelbyed.org

Arrangements for missed work must be made with the teacher within 3 days of the child's return to school. It is the parent/child's responsibility for getting the work, seeking help, and returning the work in a timely manner for grading.

The following are the consequences from the Shelby County Board of Education for unexcused absences:

- After **two** (2) unexcused absences, the parent will receive a letter from the school.
- After **three** (3) unexcused absences, the local school will schedule an Early Warning Court Pre-referral parent meeting to review the student's attendance records.
- After the **fifth** (5th) unexcused absence, the parent is referred to Early Warning Court.
- Upon the **seventh** (7th) unexcused absence, the local school will make a subsequent Early Warning referral for the purpose of filing a truancy petition.

Absences beyond 10 days must be documented with a doctor's or court excuse, or permission from the principal. Parent notes will no longer be accepted after the 10th absence. A meeting with the assistant principal will be scheduled after the 10th absence to establish an attendance contract.
Any student who accumulates 12 total absences during a school year is **subject to retention**.

Notes will be accepted via email to scboe-ehes@shelbyed.org, but **MUST** be handwritten with a date and signature (scan or take a picture).

Check-In Procedures/Tardies

Students should arrive by 7:40 a.m. in order to be in his/her classroom when the tardy bell rings at 7:45 a.m. Students arriving at the tardy bell or later must be signed in by a parent/guardian in through the front office. **Check-ins later than 11:30 and will count as a full day absence.**

Tardies will be closely monitored in accordance with the Shelby County Schools Code of Conduct. Check ins will be considered unexcused unless a valid reason (doctor's excuse, mechanical breakdown, sickness) for tardiness is provided.

A letter will be sent home after **five (5)** unexcused tardies. While it is understood that the parent/guardian may be responsible for the child's tardies, instructional time has been missed. After **ten (10)** unexcused tardies, parents/guardians will be required to meet with an administrator. Excessive tardies (**15+**) may result in the parent being referred to the Early Warning Program (a cooperative effort of Shelby County Schools, the District Attorney's office, and the Juvenile Court Services).

Check-Out Procedures

Checkouts should be made prior to 2:15 due to bus lines and safety concerns. Any checkout that involves more than one-half of an instructional day (before 11:30) is counted as an absence.

Students who must leave school during the day must be checked out in the office by a parent or person designated by the parent in S.C.O.R.E. Only authorized adults whose names are listed on the Student Check-Out Authorization Form may checkout a student. **Anyone, including the child's parent, must present a valid driver's license or ID to checkout a student.** Please restrict checkouts and make them only for valid reasons (sick, doctor/dentist appointment, etc.) Parents are not permitted to go to the classroom when checking in or out without permission from the office.

Birthdays

Typically, unhealthy items are not allowed in the classroom for students to eat. However, since part of a healthy life-style is learning moderation, you are welcome to provide a special snack to celebrate your child's birthday if you bring a healthy treat as well. Please be mindful of common items that certain student's may be allergic to, such as peanut butter, and always check with your child's teacher for special instructions due to allergies. *Special snacks must come to school with the child at the start of the school day; parents/guardians will not be allowed to visit the classroom during this time.* **Please send pre-packaged snacks or goodies only; no homemade treats, please.**

- Please only pass out invitations at school if there is an invite for every child in the class.
- Students are not allowed to receive balloons/flowers, etc. at school due to safety rules for bus and car riders.

Child Nutrition Program/Free and Reduced Meals

Menus are provided on a monthly basis to each student to take home in their folder. Menus are also online at www.shelbyed.k12.al.us/cnp/menu.htm. For students, breakfast is \$1.50 and the reduced price is \$0.30. Lunch is \$2.25 and the reduced price is \$.40. You can pay daily, weekly, or monthly, and checks can be made out to Elvin Hill Elementary. *Please write your child's lunch account number on the check.* You may also pay on-line by going to www.MySchoolBucks.com.

Since this is a federally funded program, meals cannot be charged, so please make sure your child has adequate money in his/her lunch account each day. If your child wishes to purchase a la carte items, i.e. ice cream, he/she should bring extra money for these purchases. Please notify your child's teacher and

the lunchroom manager if you do not want your child to purchase a la carte items.

Meal Benefits Application for Free and Reduced lunch forms can be found on our website:

<https://www.myschoolapps.com/Application> (English) or <https://www.myschoolapps.com/Application> (Spanish).

A new form MUST be completed and submitted annually to be eligible for free or reduced meals. Any meals purchased before benefit approval are the responsibility of the parent at regular price.

Please note: Restaurant food is only permitted in the lunchroom if it is packaged in plain containers/wrappers; we would like to encourage students to make healthy choices and eat often in our cafeteria.

Snack

If you still choose to send a snack from home, please note the following information. In accordance with the Alabama State Board of Education and Shelby County Schools, any snack brought from home must meet nutritional guidelines. Therefore, certain food items like carbonated beverages and candy are not allowed in the classrooms as a daily snack. Students are encouraged to bring water to drink for snack, however individual juice pouches/boxes are permitted. Sodas, teas, and other beverages are not allowed. If you are unsure if an item is allowed, please contact your child's teacher or the administration.

Bus Transportation

Bus transportation is available for all students in Shelby County Schools. To inquire about bus stops, please call the front office at the school. Students transported at public expense are subject to the Shelby County Schools Code of Conduct. School rules will apply on all school buses while traveling to and from school, on field trips, and at bus stops. Should a student misbehave on the bus during a regular bus route, the following actions will be taken:

- The first offense, the bus driver will discuss the behavior with the child. (If the offense is physical or fighting, it will result in bus suspension.)
- The second offense, the bus driver will discuss the behavior with the child and contact the parent via phone, email or note.
- The third offense, the assistant principal will discuss the behavior with the child and contact the parent via phone or note.
- The fourth offense, the child will be suspended from the bus for at least one day.
- Subsequent offenses will result in a longer suspension period and/or possible removal from the bus.

Regular classroom consequences will be followed when behavior occurs on the bus during a field trip.

Any carry-on equipment (i.e. book bags, science projects, school fundraiser items) must be held by the student owner and must not interfere with either the seating or safety of the students on the school bus. Distracting devices (Such as toys, paper airplanes, etc.) must be kept in a backpack while on the bus. Glass items (ex: flower vase) are not permitted on the buses.

Car Rider Safety and Procedure

Car riders may be unloaded starting at 7:10 a.m. The car rider line ends at 7:40 am. **Please refer to the map on page 17.**

For the safety of our students, we ask the cooperation of all parents and drivers in following our guidelines:

Guidelines for Morning Drop-off:

1. **Morning drop off begins at 7:10 a.m.**
2. Cars enter the road where the car-rider sign is posted, left of the school. This is one lane until it forms two lanes near the beginning of the awning at the back of the school.
3. DO NOT drive into the front circle of the school between 7:10-7:50. This is the bus lane.
4. Please drive slowly when entering and leaving the loading area.
5. Have your children's lunches, books, backpacks and other items ready before you enter the unloading area. Say your good-byes early and be ready to unload.
6. Cars in each line will pull up as directed by faculty supervising car-riders. Only the first few cars behind the line will be unloaded.
7. Please place your car in park while students are loading or unloading.
8. Unload on the right side of your vehicle only.
9. **Parents, please remain in your cars. If you are having difficulty getting your child out of the car, please drive around front, park in the parking lot, and escort your child into the building.**

Guidelines for Afternoon Pick-up:

1. DO NOT park or drive into the front drive of the school between 2:10-3:15. This is the bus lane.
2. Cars enter the road where the car-rider sign is posted, left of the school. This is one lane until it forms two lanes near the beginning of the awning at the back of the school.
3. Wait until you are directed to move as you approach the loading area.
4. **All car riders should be picked up prior to 3:10. At that time all students who are not picked up will be escorted to After School Care. Parents/Guardians will be responsible for any fees incurred for drop ins.**
5. If you are not able to pick up your child before 3:00 on a daily basis, please consider changing their transportation to bus rider or enrolling them in the After School Care Program.

Transportation Changes

If arrangements for normal afternoon pickup change, please notify your child's teacher **by note**. We must have your written and signed transportation change, and students will have this change checked and signed by the office personnel. Teachers cannot take the word of children that pick-up plans have changed. Without a written note of transportation change, children will be directed to follow their regular way of transportation. For the safety of our students, we will not be able to accept phone calls, faxes, or e-mails for transportation changes. Please note that transportation changes cannot be made without a written note from the parent/guardian. Your child must leave school as usual, if you do not send a note stating otherwise. Please do not call the front office to change the mode of transportation for your child unless you're in an emergency situation. This policy is to protect the safety of our students. Emails and faxes will not be accepted for the safety of our students.

Cell Phones and Electronic Devices

If students have a cell phone for after school emergencies, it must remain off and left in backpacks all day. Wearable technology (i.e. smart watches) are not allowed to be visible or audible during the school day.

Check Acceptance Policy

All checks written to Elvin Hill Elementary School must have the following items:

- Name
- Current Date- *Post-dated checks will not be accepted.*
- Current Address
- Phone Number
- Signature
- Memo line- Please designate what the check is paying (Lunch, Field Trip, Book Fair, etc.) Lunch account # must be on child's check for lunch money.

Checks must be written for the **exact amount**—no change will be given from a check written for more than the amount due.

Always send checks (or cash) in a sealed envelope with your child's name and the teacher's name on the envelope. Please send any payments with your child each morning.

All checks returned NSF or Account Closed will go directly to CheckMate (our collection agency). CheckMate will electronically withdraw the funds to cover the check, as well as a \$30.00 fee. If attempts to recover the funds electronically are not successful, CheckMate will return the check to the school and it will be turned over to Shelby County's Worthless Check Unit for collection. After we have received two (2) returned checks, we can no longer accept your checks, and further transactions with the school must be by cash or money order.

Special Snacks and Class Parties

Room Parents will be in charge of party arrangements and will plan parties in keeping with school policy at the discretion of the classroom teacher. Each grade level has certain procedures for classroom celebrations. Please check with your child's teacher before sending foods for these events (Winter Holiday Party and End of the Year).

Code of Conduct

One of our goals is to assist parents in preparing students to be productive and contributing citizens. This goal includes learning how to behave appropriately, cooperate with others, and follow rules. The Shelby County Code of Conduct and Attendance provides the schools with behavioral expectations of general rules of conduct and the consequences for not following those rules. Click [here](#) for English COC and [here](#) for Spanish COC.

Our school-wide leadership model, P.A.W.S.—Purpose, Accountability, Work Together, Serve with Kindness, allows students to monitor their choices, while providing behavior goals for which each child should strive! All rules and regulations are developed and implemented with one thought in mind: to provide each student with the maximum opportunity to acquire an education in an environment that is safe and conducive to learning.

The Code of Conduct also addresses appropriate clothing and grooming for students in our system. Students with questionable or inappropriate attire that is disruptive to the educational process will not be allowed to attend class until said clothing is changed with appropriate attire. Please familiarize yourself and discuss with your child the expectations listed in the Code of Conduct. If you need a clarification of any statement, please feel free to ask your child's teacher or an administrator. Parents are urged to supervise their child's dress on a daily basis. We expect parents to take an active role in supporting the dress code.

Conferences

We encourage our parents and teachers to communicate often about students. It is requested that each child have at least one parent attend a conference with their teacher by December of each year. Items discussed typically include academic progress and behavior. You are welcome to contact your child's teacher to schedule a conference as you feel it is needed. You may schedule a conference directly contacting your child's teacher through note or e-mail, or by calling the front office at 682-6620 and leaving a message. Please help us protect instructional time by not interrupting class with an unscheduled conference. Although teachers may list times available for conferences, please do not drop in, as they may already have a scheduled conference or other business to attend to during those times. We believe

that this system will be a positive way for students to monitor their choices and will give them behavior goals to strive for! As always, if you have any questions, please feel free to call or email your child's homeroom teacher or administrators.

Emergency School Closings

In the case of inclement weather or other school emergencies, please listen to the local radio and television stations for school closing information. The county website will be updated frequently with current school status. Blackboard Connect system to contact parents via phone/text/email for school closings, as well as other announcements. See the county's information document online for information on how to sign up: http://www.shelbyed.k12.al.us/doclibrary/Parent_BbConnect.pdf

If school must be dismissed early due to inclement weather or other emergencies, regular bus routes will be followed unless other information is given by the media. When under a tornado warning, our policy is to keep students, teachers, visitors, and parents in the school until an all clear signal is given. Our attention is to focus on the safety of all. However, you may check-out your child using standard check-out procedures, including showing your driver's license. Again, this procedure is for the safety of our children.

Field Trips

Field trips will be arranged to supplement the instructional program of the school. Parents will be informed of the time, place, purpose, cost, and any special arrangements for such trips. Students must have a permission form signed by a parent or guardian to go on field trips. Students will not be allowed to go on the field trip without the proper permission. All school rules of behavior are in effect at all times during the field trip. **Students must leave the school and return to the school with the group on the bus.** Only students of the classes involved and approved chaperones may attend. Chaperones must be listed on the child's Student Check-out Authorization Form to attend any field trip. The chaperone must also sign in at the front office and obtain a Visitor's sticker prior to leaving for the trip. **Board policy does not allow other students, siblings or preschool children to go on school trips.** Also, if your child will need medication while on the field trip, make sure you inform the teacher and check with the school nurse several days before the trip to make sure the proper forms have been completed.

Teachers depend on chaperones to help during the entire field trip. It is important that the chaperones stay with the group the entire time. Chaperones should sign in at the front office and pick up a visitor's badge before leaving for the trip.

Monies collected for the field trips are calculated on the number of students and parents who plan to attend. Therefore, monies collected for field trips are non-refundable.

Gifted Program

We have an excellent Gifted Ed Program at Elvin Hill Elementary for 3rd-5th graders taught by Mrs. Martha Bentley. This is a special education service provided to students that qualify. All second grade students will be observed as potential gifted referrals. Criteria for qualifications for the program are outlined in the Student Code of Conduct & Attendance.

Grading

Grading standards in all subject areas are established by the Shelby County Board of Education. Nine weeks grades will be assigned from such materials as classwork, tests, reports, projects, and other sources identified by the teacher. Report cards will be sent home at the end of each nine weeks and include a legend to explain the grading. Report cards should be signed and returned to your child's teacher promptly. In addition, parents may expect to receive graded papers and tests from the teacher on a regular basis.

Guidance Program

The guidance and counseling program is comprised of whole classes and small groups to provide a planned, purposeful, and sequential program of activities. These activities address issues such as: bullying, drug awareness, decision making, goal setting, career awareness, respect for self and others, and changes. Small group sessions are designed for students identified to need counseling in particular areas. Unfortunately, the counselor is not able to provide repeated counseling sessions for just one particular child. If your child is facing a situation that warrants consistent visits to a counselor, you may want to contact a certified counselor or counseling service outside of the school. If consistent services are needed, parents may contact school administrators or counselor or additional information.

Gymnasium Rules

Every child will participate in Physical Education activities each day for 30 minutes, according to the Alabama State Course of Study. A child may be excused from participation in P.E. class by a written note from his/her parents that includes the reason the child needs to be excused and length of time the child needs to be excused. A doctor's note may also excuse your child from P.E. A doctor's note is needed when a child needs to be excused from P.E. for five (5) class days in succession. The excuse must state the reason why the child needs to be excused from physical activity, as well as when the student will be able to return to normal activity. The following guidelines are required:

- Tennis shoes should be worn to school, or brought to change into for participation in sports activities. This is for the comfort and safety of your child as well as others.
- NO flip flops or croc-type shoes should be worn.
- Girls wearing dresses to school should wear shorts under their dresses during P.E.
- Equipment is to be used with proper supervision and when the teacher in charge has given permission.
- Students should show good sportsmanship and follow all school rules at all times.

Health Issues

STUDENTS MAY NOT BRING MEDICINE TO SCHOOL. An adult must take ANY medication to the nurse, and a form must be completed giving the nurse permission to administer the medication. See **Medication Policy** for more detailed information on procedures. If a child becomes ill at school, a parent will be contacted and will be responsible for taking the child home. (We ask that all students have updated emergency contact numbers on file in case a parent cannot be contacted.) After a child has been sick, use the 24-hour rule to determine if they are still contagious:

- 24 hours without a fever
- 24 hours without vomiting
- 24 hours without diarrhea
- 24 hours of using eye drops for "pink eye"
- 24 hours of taking an antibiotic for strep throat

The nurse and teacher should be made aware of any serious medical conditions at the start of school or as issues arise.

- Students having a serious health condition should alert the teacher immediately.
- Students with head lice must follow procedure; See information on **Head Lice** in the following section.
- All students attending Elvin Hill Elementary are required to have a proper documentation of immunizations (usually referred to as a blue card) in their cumulative folder. See Immunizations for more information.

Head Lice

Whenever a case of head lice is discovered, the child is immediately removed from the classroom in a way that does not embarrass the child. Parents of the infected child are contacted and a notice is sent home with the other students in that class. The name of the child infected with lice will be kept confidential.

A child may return to school only after being treated with special shampoos from the Health Department or local pharmacy. To return to the school, your child must be lice free, and a thorough effort been made to remove nits, and must be accompanied by a parent to the school nurse's office to be cleared for re-entry to the classroom. No more than two consecutive absences should be considered excused due to head lice.

Immunizations

All students attending Elvin Hill Elementary are required to have a proper documentation of immunizations (usually referred to as a blue card) in the nurse's office. The proper immunizations include a second MMR immunization, or a medical exemption form (IMM 51), or a religious exemption form (IMM 52), or a temporary medical exemption form (IMM 49). Students entering Kindergarten MUST have all of their 5-year old immunizations prior to the first day of school, even if the child is still 4 years of age. For more information, go to www.adph.org/immunizations.

Library Media Center

Library books may be checked out and taken home on a weekly basis. Students are expected to return books before they check out other books. Due to COVID-19, students will check out one book at a time.

Please remind your child to return library books when they are due. **Parents/Guardians assume responsibility for any lost or damaged books and must pay for them.** Most library books are at a cost of \$15.00-\$20.00 each. Please help to remind children to keep our books neat, clean, and unharmed.

To stay informed of library news, be sure to watch the listserv for the library newsletter or visit the **EHES LMC Site** at <https://sites.google.com/shelbyed.org/ehes-library/home>

Lost and Found

Please label all garments, book bags, and lunch boxes in order to reduce the possibility of lost items. It may be wise to put not only your child's first and last name on the items, but also your child's teacher's name. Students are urged to check the lunchroom for lost items. Any unclaimed items will be given to a charitable organization at the end of the first semester and again at the end of the second semester.

Parent Teacher Organization (PTO)

The PTO is as strong as the parents and teachers make it. Therefore, we urge every family to participate in our parent/teacher organization. By working together, we can optimize learning for all students. Schools depend on their PTO to help raise money to fill in the gaps financially for needed expenses to help school operate and insure the best learning environment for students. PTO also helps to purchase materials for classrooms, the workroom, custodial needs, or other areas as needed. PTO members are charged with the mission to help faculty create a happy, healthy school climate where students know they are cared for and respected.

Cost of membership for the PTO is \$10.00 per family. More information can be found through our ListServ or EHES PTO Facebook page as it becomes available.

Parent Involvement and Volunteer Opportunities

We welcome and value parent involvement and encourage every child's parents to be as involved as they can be. Our school strives every year to improve our parent involvement program. We understand that not all parents have the time to come help during school hours, but there are many ways that you can still be a help to your child's school!

Ways Parents Can Get Involved at EHES:

- Annual Meeting of Title I Parents—Learn more about what Title I means for our school!
- Parent/teacher conference(s)
- Volunteering (See the next section titled **Parent Volunteers**)
- Open House/Parenting Day/Family Night(s)/Special Meal Events
- Field Trips
- Title I Program Planning/Evaluation
- Development of Parent Involvement Plan
- Development of School-Parent Compact
- Meeting on School Improvement
- Parent Advisory Committees/Councils
- Meeting on State Standards/Curriculum

Parent volunteers offer an invaluable contribution to the learning process and we encourage the participation of parents as volunteers in our school. Initially, all parent volunteers need to be approved through the office for safety purposes. Afterward, parents please arrange volunteer schedules with the classroom teacher, librarian, secretary, or other faculty. Remember that we must not interfere with the children's instruction during these times. If you have a special talent that you would like to make the faculty aware of (crafting, sewing, woodworking, musical, etc.) then please let us know! Remember that you must always sign in at the office and wear a visitor's badge.

The following are a few areas that we often need volunteers:

- PTO (Email: ElvinHillPTO@gmail.com)
- Library & Book Fair Helpers
- Room Parents for Parties
- Field Trip Chaperones
- Special Readers
- Various School Committees
- School Fundraisers
- Special Family Nights
- Career Day Presenters
- Field Day Volunteers
- Many other opportunities that may arise during the school year!

Parking

Parents and visitors should park in the front of the school in available parking spots in the parking lot. **Please do not park in the front circle before 8:00 or after 2:00 p.m. due to buses.** Please be mindful of handicapped parking and do not use these unless you have a handicapped sticker. Because the safety of our children is our primary focus, we ask that you enter the school through the main lobby doors and sign in at the front office.

Promotion Guidelines

Promotion means that one has successfully completed the grade's work and is ready to move to the next grade. In determining promotion, the following serve as guidelines:

- Attendance: Students who have 12 or more daily absences are in danger of being retained.

- Knowledge of skills: Students will show sufficient progress in the basic skills.
- Readiness

Retaining a student is a serious decision. A comprehensive process is used to provide effective intervention in order to avoid retention. If a teacher has concerns about possibly retaining a student, the parents/guardians are informed no later than the close of the first semester and a plan for intervention is developed with them. This plan is continually reviewed and modified to best meet the child's needs. Parents are frequently updated about their child's progress. If the plan of interventions does not result in satisfactory success, the child is referred to the Problem Solving Team (PST). If possible retention continues to be considered, a Notice of Possible Retention is sent home with the third 9-weeks report card. The final decision to retain a student will be made in May. Parent input is considered. Ultimately, however, it is the school's responsibility to make that decision.

PST (Problem Solving Team)

The State of Alabama defines PST as "a model to guide general education intervention services for all students who have academic and/or behavioral difficulties. The PST is central to the school's successful implementation of the Response to Instruction (RTI) framework."

Team members discuss concerns related to specific needs of students and teachers and offer teachers assistance in resolving concerns. The PST is composed of regular education teachers, Guidance Counselor, the Reading Interventionist and/or math coach, administrators, and others, as needed. The Assistant Principal chairs this team. Occasionally, Special Education teachers attend these meetings.

Working as a team, the PST shares information about the child, reviews work samples, assessment data. Once a specific area of concern has been identified, the team develops an intervention plan of appropriate strategies to help the child. The classroom teacher implements the plan for 6 weeks, documenting performance weekly. The child's progress is regularly monitored to determine if adequate progress is being made, if the plan of interventions needs to be revised or if the plan can be discontinued. This is a team of educators who meet monthly to provide assistance for students who are exhibiting difficulties academically or behaviorally. Parents will receive progress reports after each of the monthly meetings following the referral.

Special Education Information

For more information please visit:

www.shelbyed.k12.al.us/instruction/specialeducation/sp_serv_prereferral.htm

Referral Process

A Special Education referral can be made from a parent of a child, state education agency, other state agency, or local education agency to determine if the child is a child with a disability. As a part of the referral process, information is gathered from the PST plan, classroom environmental observation, a parent interview and the Environmental, Cultural and/or Economic Concerns checklist. The REM/IEP Team makes the decision to accept or reject the Special Education referral.

Facts related to a Special Education Referral are:

- A Special Education referral can be made for a student during the school year as well as the summer.
- A formal invitation called the Notice of Proposed Meeting is provided to parents or guardians inviting them to attend this meeting. Two documented attempts have to be gathered before the REM/IEP Team

can meet without a parent or guardian.

- Data from PST must be gathered and reviewed during the referral meeting.
- If the REM/IEP Team agrees to accept the Special Education referral, written consent for the initial evaluation must be gathered before any testing can take place.
- Once the Permission for Initial Evaluation is signed by the parent or guardian, the REM/IEP Team has a total of 60 calendar days to complete the assessment.
- The Team then has 30 days to meet a second time to discuss the testing results and determine if a student does or does not qualify for special education services.

Eligibility

An eligibility meeting will be held once the testing is completed as agreed upon from the referral meeting. The purpose of the meeting is to review and discuss the assessment results and any other pertinent information, and to determine whether or not the child has a disability and is eligible for special education services. If the REM/IEP team has determined the child eligible for Special Education services, another meeting is scheduled within 30 days to develop an Individualized Educational Program (IEP) to address the needs of the child.

Some facts related to Eligibility are:

- The REM/IEP Team must develop and IEP within 30 calendar days of determining that the child is a child with a disability and needs Special Education and related services.
- A formal invitation called the Notice of Proposed Meeting is provided to parents or guardians inviting them to attend this meeting. Two documented attempts have to be gathered before the REM/IEP Team can meet without a parent or guardian.

Teacher Qualification

As a parent/guardian of a student in a Shelby county school, you have the right to know the professional qualification of the teachers who instruct your child. Specifically, you have the right to ask for the following information about each of your child's classroom teachers:

- Whether the Alabama State Department of Education has licensed or qualified teachers for the grades and subjects he/she teaches.
- Whether the Alabama State Department of Education decided that the teacher can teach in a classroom without being licensed or qualified under state regulations because of special circumstances.
- The teacher's college major; whether the teacher has any advanced degrees and, if so, the subject of the degrees.
- Whether any teachers' aides or similar paraprofessionals provide services to your child and, if they do, their qualifications. Please call the school office if you wish to request this information.

Textbooks

"The parent, guardian, or other person having custody of a child to whom textbooks are issued shall be liable for any loss, abuse, or damage in excess of that which would result from normal use of such textbooks." (Excerpt from State Textbook Law)

Title I

Title I is the largest federal aid program for elementary and secondary schools. Title I provides money to school districts around the country based on the number of low-income families in the district. Each school district uses Title I funds to pay for extra educational services for children. The purpose of Title I is to ensure

that all children have a fair, equal and significant opportunity to obtain a high-quality education and reach, at a minimum, proficiency on challenging state academic achievement standards and state academic assessments.

Originally known as Title I of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965, it was renamed Chapter I in 1981. Chapter I was amended later by the Hawkins-Tafford Elementary and Secondary School Improvement Amendments of 1988. During the reauthorization of the law in 1994, Congress reverted back to the program's original name of Title I. In 2001, Title I was reauthorized under the No Child Left Behind Act. The key themes of No Child Left Behind (NCLB) are testing and accountability, teacher quality, scientifically-based research programs, and flexibility.

Part A embraces fundamental strategies to address the needs of the children served: A school wide focus on improving teaching and learning, flexibility at the local level in tandem with clear accountability for results, more focused targeting of resources on schools with the greatest needs, and stronger partnerships between schools and communities to support the achievement of children served.

What are parent rights in a Title I school?

Documents that you will receive during the year that are important to be aware of and read:

- Shelby County Parental Involvement Plan--This is a Title I Information Booklet.
- Elvin Hill Elementary Parental Involvement Plan
- Elvin Hill Elementary School-Parent Compact--This is signed and returned to school.

Tobacco-Free Environment

The use of all tobacco products is prohibited in all school buildings and on any property owned or controlled by the Shelby County Board of Education. This includes car-rider lines and parents chaperoning on field trips.

Welfare and Safety

Students must not bring chewing gum, knives, rubber bands, liquid paper, paper clips, and other items that could be hazardous to themselves or others. Electronic games, toys, animals, money not needed for the day's use, etc. should not be brought to school except by special permission from the teacher or principal. Please refer to the Shelby County Student Code of Conduct and Attendance. Any student found to be in possession of any type of article that could be considered a weapon (including pocket knives of any description), is subject to disciplinary action.

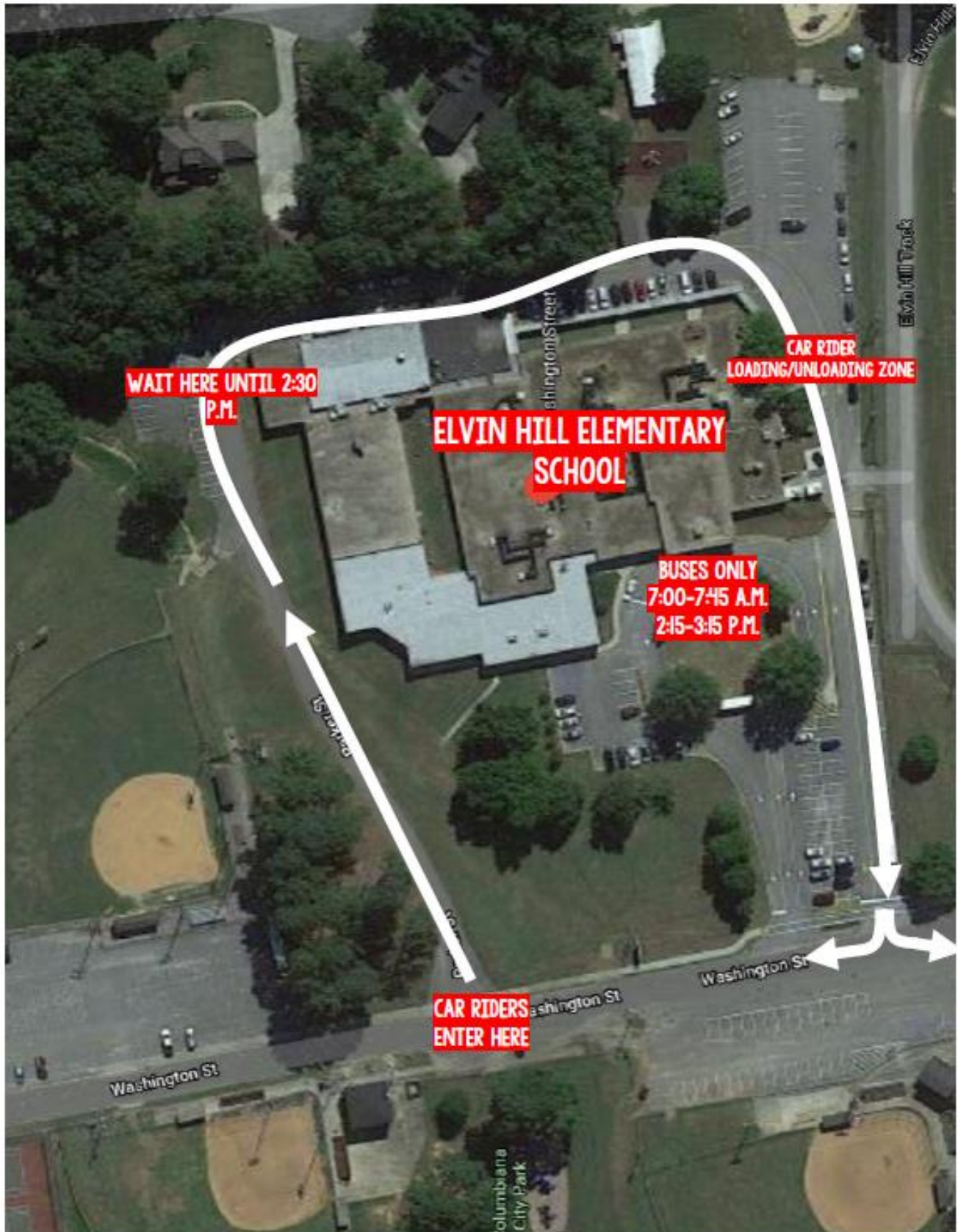
Enrollment

A valid Alabama immunization form (blue card) is required to be on file for each student. Also, a copy of each child's social security card, a certified birth certificate, and two proofs of current residency must be presented before a child can enroll.

Withdrawals

When transferring or withdrawing a student, please notify the office one day in advance in order for the proper papers to be processed. Transfer and immunization forms may be picked up the last day your child attends the current school. Cumulative records will be sent to the receiving school upon written request from that school. All books, including library books, must be returned to the school. Lost books or other debts must be paid before documentation can be sent to the new school. Withdrawal forms may be completed online: https://www.shelbyed.k12.al.us/student_serv/withdraw.htm

EHES Car Rider Map



ACKNOWLEDGEMENT FORM

2021-2022

Elvin Hill Elementary

Parent & Student Handbook

I have read the 2021-2022 Elvin Hill Elementary Family & Student Handbook. I realize that I am responsible for reading, knowing, and understanding all content and procedures included in this handbook. I understand that my failure to read and understand the policies and procedures will not excuse me or my child/children from following all rules, policies, and procedures of Elvin Hill Elementary School.

Student Name _____

Teacher Name _____

Printed Parent/Guardian Name _____

Parent/Guardian's Signature _____

Date _____

Please send this signed form to your child's teacher.

If you have any questions regarding the content of this handbook, please do not hesitate call 205-682-6620 for clarification. We want only the best for our students; parent/guardian communication is the key to student success!