



## NICKAJACK ELEMENTARY | FAMILY HANDBOOK 2023-2024

**BE RESPECTFUL. BE RESPONSIBLE. BE A ROLE MODEL.**

# PRINCIPAL WELCOME

Nickajack Family,

Welcome to the 2023-2024 school year! We are excited to welcome you and your family to Nickajack where our **mission** is to support our scholars to be Respectful, Responsible, Role Models in their academics and character. Our theme this year is "Out of this World" because our staff is dedicated to providing our students with an experience that is star-tacular!

This handbook will guide you through many of the practices and procedures in place to create a safe and caring learning environment for all Nickajack students. Our website will also serve as a great resource to find the most current information. ([www.cobbk12.org/Nickajack](http://www.cobbk12.org/Nickajack))

Your involvement and encouragement are essential to promoting a successful school year for your child. Your child's academic success relies on the collaboration of your child, you, and our school. We encourage you to consult with your child's teacher, attend school events and activities, participate in our Parent Teacher Association and support our Foundation. Your enthusiasm and interest in school can be contagious to your child and foster a positive attitude toward school.

Our education program is designed to help each child reach their academic potential, while at the same time, develop the skills they need to be Respectful, Responsible, Role Models. Every student is valued for the person they are and the contributions they bring to our school.

Dr. Timeka L. Cline  
Proud PrincipAL





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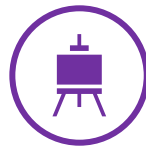
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**CCSD Transportation**  
(678) 594-8000

**School Website**  
[www.cobbk12.org/Nickajack](http://www.cobbk12.org/Nickajack)



## COMMUNICATION

**Parent/Teacher Conferences** are held October 17-20. *DLI Confernces will begin a week early.* Teachers and Families meet to discuss student progress, areas of growth and the instructional program.

**CTLS Parent** - Weekly communication will be sent from your child's teacher which will include the school newsletter (Braves Bulletin) from Dr. Cline, to streamline communication efforts. The Braves Bulletin will include information regarding school events, District information, parent resources and any special announcements from our PTA or Foundation.

CTLS will also use this as the primary form of communication between school and home, so please check it regularly for any class announcements or messages specific to your child. You may also receive text messages or voice dial outs from this system. Parent messages will be responded to within 48 hours and not during the instructional day when our teachers are providing instruction.

**Email** is a secondary form of contact for teachers. Primary contact will be through CTLS.

**Thursday folders** will be sent home each Thursday with students which may include homework, graded work, monthly school calendar, special announcements from the school or sponsors, progress reports or important information from your child's teacher. Please check for this folder each week.

**Cobb edTV** is an educational access cable channel featuring local programming and Board of Education meetings. Cobb edTV is available on Comcast Channel 24 in Smyrna or Charter cable channel 97.

"Coming together is the beginning. Keeping together is progress. Working together is success."

– Henry Ford

## SCHOOL HOURS

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The school day is from 7:50am-2:10pm each day.

Students may enter the building at 7:00am each day and the **Tardy bell** rings at 7:50am. (If there is inclement weather or delays beyond a student's control, the principal may hold tardies).

**Early Checkout** ends at 1:30pm daily.

Instructional time is critical to academic success. Parents are discouraged from late arrivals and checking students out early as students will miss instruction and it is a disruption to the school day. Appointments should be scheduled outside of school hours when possible. More than 10 occurrences may result in a letter from administration and the social worker may be consulted.

## VISITORS

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When visitors arrive, they must show their ID at the gray box located outside the front entrance. Once entry allowed, visitors should go directly to the front office and keep ID readily available. Please do not hold the door for additional visitors as we need to verify each guest. **No ID = No Entry (no exceptions).**

All visitors **MUST** sign in with a front office staff member and if there for a scheduled appointment, must wear the badge and wait for a school representative to escort him/her to their designated meeting location.

You may walk your child to class the **first two days of school**. All guests must exit the building by 8:00am so we can begin our routines.

Our instructional day begins at 7:50am with our morning announcements and teacher instruction beginning at 7:55am. If your child is tardy, he/she will miss part of their instructional day. Also, daily instruction ends at 2:00pm to prepare for dismissal.

**LUNCH with your child:** You may join only your child during his/her lunch schedule. Your child may not bring a friend from his/her class to join you. The adult **MUST** be on the school list to visit the school and eat with the child. If you are not on the list, you will not be allowed to stay. The enrolling adult **MUST** ensure ParentVUE is updated with the necessary contacts and allowed guests on campus. You may bring outside food with you. All guests will eat at the blue tables outside the cafeteria regardless of weather.

## DELIVERIES

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The school will not accept deliveries of food or items (i.e. – Grub Hub, UberEats, balloons, flowers, gifts) for students. You may schedule a special treat for your child to celebrate a birthday with the teacher. Parents or allowed designee may drop off items your child needs. There will be a sticky note pad provided for you to place your child's name and homeroom teacher on the item and a staff member or volunteer will make sure your child receives that item. You will not be allowed to walk treats down to the classroom.

## NON-CUSTODIAL PARENTS

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Non-Custodial parents are covered by Cobb County Board of Education policy. **It is the responsibility of the parents to provide Nickajack with any custody information. If a parent fails to provide such information, the school is not responsible if the child is released to the non-custodial parent. All information shared is confidential.** Joint cooperation is needed to make certain that effects of divorce or change in families on children are minimized by sensitivity and understanding. By law, no change of custody can take place at school to include their luggage/belongings.

## ELECTRONIC DEVICES

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It is recommended that students only bring electronic/smart devices for instructional purposes. We do understand that students may have a cell phone with them for emergency purposes, which is allowed. Please know that cell phones must not be visible during the school day (i.e. – stored in backpack). If the cell phone becomes problematic or a distraction to the learning environment, the parent will be notified to pick up the phone. Other devices such as Apple or smart watches may not be used during the day for texting, accessing the internet or videotaping and will not be permitted during testing. (Part of the District Code of Conduct). These rules also apply to the bus as the bus is considered school property.

## GRADING

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Student grades are reported each nine weeks on the following schedule.

**Progress Reports** will be sent home or uploaded into CTLS at the 4 ½ week mark on: September 6, November 15, February 9 and April 26

**Report Cards** will be visible in ParentVUE each nine weeks on: Conference Week (October 17-20 at your child's conference), January 5, March 20 and May 31.

**Grade recovery** will be provided if the child scores below a 70 on a local school assessment. A day will be provided by the teacher when the makeup assessment will occur (only one opportunity will be provided). The child will get a makeup assessment on the same standards, but not the same questions. The child's grade will then reflect the highest grade of the two assessments.

Teachers will update grades once per week. Homework will not be used for a grade. If you have a question about your child's grade, please reach out to the homeroom teacher first. If you have a question about your child's grade in specials/enrichment, please reach out to that teacher. Students will receive a grade for PE/Health, Art and Music. Teachers will discuss grading procedures at Meet and Greet. It is also important to check ParentVUE regularly, if your child is in 4<sup>th</sup> or 5<sup>th</sup> grade as their grades will be updated in the system weekly.

**District and State Assessments** (i.e.- Reading Inventory, Math Inventory, IOWA/CogAT, Georgia Milestones, etc.) will be administered according to the District Calendar and makeups only provided if the child misses their assessment day.

## LUNCH

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Breakfast and Lunch Fees are listed below for the 2023-2024 school year.

BREAKFAST		LUNCH	
Student All Levels - Reduced Price	\$0.30	Student All Levels - Reduced Price	\$0.40
Student All Levels - Full Pay	\$1.75	Elementary Student - Full Pay	\$3.25
CCSD Staff & Guests	\$2.25	Middle and High Student - Full Pay	\$3.50
		CCSD Staff	\$4.00
		Guests	\$5.00

You can add funds to your cafeteria account with a major credit card by telephone (1-866-535-1707), through the internet on [MyPaymentsPlus.com](https://www.mypaymentsplus.com) or via the MyPaymentsPlus app.

If you feel you qualify for free or reduced-price meals please complete the Online Family Meal Application as soon as possible. The application can be found on our [Family Meal Application Information](#) webpage.

## LOST AND FOUND

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All items should be properly labeled with your child's name. Items commonly misplaced are water bottles, jackets, sweaters, lunch boxes, and glasses. The school is not responsible for any items lost or damaged your child brings to school. At the end of each quarter, items not retrieved from Lost and Found will be donated by our PTSA.

## TRANSPORTATION

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Please make sure your child's homeroom teacher is aware of how your child will go home each day prior to the school day. A consistent schedule is best as switching transportation day-to-day causes confusion and can result in errors if not handled appropriately or in advance.

If you have an emergency and need to change transportation, the **Enrolling Adult** must make that change in ParentVUE by 1:30pm. **DO NOT** message or email the teacher with transportation changes as they are teaching and may not see your message.

Parents/Guardians are encouraged to download the ParentVUE app, so those changes can be made immediately as no transportation changes are made over the phone.

Remember, only the **Enrolling Adult** can make transportation changes, even if an additional parent has educational rights.

**Carpool** - Nickajack uses the CurbSmart system for carpool. Each child in the family will have the same number and each family will receive two plastic placards. New parents can get their carpool numbers at Meet and Greet in the Cafeteria. **Parents are not permitted to park in the side Staff parking lot near portables.**

**Arrival** – The carpool line works best when parents stay in their cars, follow the carpool path and have the child ready to go when you pull up to the front of the school. Delays occur when the child is not ready (i.e. – asleep, on a device, still grooming or backpack is not packed). Please be mindful of child safety locks which can also cause a delay. Students should exit the car from the right (sidewalk) near a staff member. Do not drop off students in the parking lot to cross traffic by themselves or on Mavell Road.

Students who arrive after the 7:50am tardy bell must be signed in at the front office. Failure to do so (dropping off the child and leaving) may result in a social worker referral as this poses as a safety concern for your child. Supervision of your child does not begin until they enter the building.

\*Please be courteous to our Staff who volunteer their time to support our carpool line. Parents interested in volunteering with carpool should contact PTA.

**Dismissal** – Families should stay in their car until their child(ren) are dismissed. All students not picked up by 2:40pm will be placed in the After School Program (ASP) for a fee. There is a one-time registration fee of \$20.00. and a daily fee of \$10.00 per day to stay in ASP. Emergencies do happen, so it is recommended that all families have a backup and pay for ASP in case of emergency.

**\*All late arrivals and early check-outs must take place in our front office. No exceptions.**

**Playdates** should be scheduled in advance between families and a transportation change should be completed or send a note to the school so we can link it with CurbSmart. Playdates may only occur through CarPool, **not bus**. If the students ride the same bus, but need to get off at a different stop, that will be permitted with a note.

## PARENTVUE

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ParentVUE is the system we use for student records, files and grades. **Only the Enrolling Adult can make changes to this platform.** Please make sure all information is kept up-to-date including your phone number, email address and list of authorized contacts current.

If a family member is not listed in your contacts, he/she will NOT be able to pick up your child or visit campus. No exceptions.

## BUSES

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**\*Questions regarding bus routes, drivers and pick up/drop off times should be directed to the Cobb County School District's Transportation Department at (678) 594-8000.**

**\*If the school is made aware of a change by the transportation**

### PICK-UP

Students should arrive at the bus stop no later than 5 minutes prior to the pick-up time and are to wait in an orderly manner. Parents should provide supervision at the bus stop. Buses are not considered late until 5 minutes after the scheduled pick-up time has elapsed. Please keep up to date on possible bus route changes (especially at the beginning of the school year) by visiting <http://bit.ly/ccsdtransportation> or checking the Here Comes the Bus App.

### DROP-OFF

Students 8 years old and younger may be brought back to their school in the afternoon if a parent, guardian or their designee is not present at the bus stop to receive them or if they otherwise appear to have no appropriate supervision. This is in accordance with the Department of Family and Children Services Guidelines for safety and supervision of children. Families are responsible for ensuring arrangements have been made for students once they are off the bus. All parents should complete the Safe Rider form. Parents can give authorization for a child to get off the bus if younger than 8 years of age. In doing so, the student will have a yellow tag marked appropriately to show the child can exit the bus. *This is only recommended if getting off the bus with an older sibling.*

If students are returned, the school will make every effort to contact a parent/guardian. If no contact can be made before the office closes, the student will be placed in ASP, resulting in a \$10 charge, and an additional \$20 one-time charge if the student has not been registered. **Once the bus leaves the stop, it is no longer considered school property. Matters that occur after the bus leaves are not handled by the school.**

### CONDUCT

Use of CCSD transportation is a privilege for families living more than half a mile from school. A student may be suspended from CCSD transportation as a result of inappropriate or dangerous behavior. Students must demonstrate proper respect to the driver and obey driver instructions at all times. Objectionable or dangerous objects are not permitted on the bus (including, but not limited to tobacco, drugs, alcohol, weapon imitations and weapons). Students will keep their arms, head, and belongings inside the bus. The use of obscene gestures or language, willful destruction or defacing of school property is prohibited. Fighting or physical play is not allowed on the bus or school grounds.

Parents should also maintain respectful interactions with bus drivers. Many bus drivers drive multiple routes and sub when bus drivers are absent. **No parent/guardian should step on a school bus for any reason.** If a parent violates this rule, they will be reported by Transportation to the Police Department.

## SCHOOL COUNSELORS

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The counselors at Nickajack provide classroom lessons, facilitate small groups, work with individual students and meet with parents and teachers as needed. Please inform our counselors if your family or child is experiencing difficulties or needs support. Our counselors can provide referrals to outside agencies and provide parent workshops to promote your child's success.

## SAFETY

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Safety is the most important factor in our school's success. Throughout the year, we will have practice drills to make sure students know what to do in various situations. The school will hold two Safety Weeks during the school year. Each day, students will learn safety measures for what to do if any of these situations occur: Medical Emergency, Severe Weather, Fire and Lockdown. This week is a great time to speak with your children about safety measures. Our goal is not to alarm children, but provide them with the necessary tools to prepare for various situations. **The District will also do an unannounced lockdown safety drill during the school year. The principal will message families after this drill takes place.**

*A Safety Plan is developed each year and provided to our Cobb County School District Police Department. This plan is not shared with parents as providing the plan to everyone is not safe and makes our school vulnerable because we do not know the intent of each individual with this information.*

It is also important that parents adhere to the following safety expectations:

- Showing your ID upon arrival for **each** visit (at the gray box outside the front office and again in the front office)
- Do not hold the door for someone who is not with you. We need to verify each individual.
- Immediately report to the front office or front office clerk when you arrive in the building (including volunteers) to check in using our computer system
- Keeping your visitor sticker on at all times (above the waist) the entire time you are in the building
- Staying in your designated area (not wandering in the building to other locations)
- **Interactions should always be respectful.** Parents/family members who yell, use profanity or use physical means to handle affairs or record teachers for confrontation purposes will be issued a "No Trespass" by Cobb County Police.
- Parents should only be on campus for the purpose of handling business regarding their child. Speaking to/confronting other students, especially regarding matters with your own child are prohibited and will result in a "No Trespass" by Cobb County Police.
- Parents do not have permission to walk down to the classroom for an impromptu meeting.
- Only family members on the approved list can visit in our building. No exceptions.
- Parents should not get out of their cars to speak to their child or try to retrieve them for dismissal while they are on the playground. In addition, parents should not try to have an impromptu meeting with the teacher at recess. Teachers cannot provide supervision for children if distracted.
- Parents/visitors should only use the front entrance for access to the building. Do not use side gates as an entrance.

**These guidelines are established to keep students and staff and help protect instructional time.**

## **Child Abuse/Neglect**

State laws designate educators as mandated reporters in the event of suspected child abuse or neglect. CCSD staff are protected against legal consequences for reporting abuse. If abuse or neglect is suspected, a formal report will be made to the Department of Family and Children's Services. It is not required for parents to be informed prior to a referral being made or the student being questioned. **The school will not answer questions about any reports made or what was shared by a student.**

## **STUDENT CODE OF CONDUCT**

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The school will follow District guidelines concerning the student code of conduct.

Be mindful of items your child brings to school or wears that would violate the Cobb County School District Code of Conduct. For example: Sharp objects such as pocketknives will be collected by CCSD Police and will result in disciplinary action according to Cobb Policy. Likewise, toys that resemble weapons are not permitted. Pets are also not permitted on campus.

Students should follow the District policy for dress code. Holes in jeans/pants should be avoided and not expose underwear. Pants/shorts should cover underwear completely. Please make sure shirts are long enough to cover the stomach and shorts/skirts should extend past the fingertips at the side. Strapless tops/spaghetti straps are not permitted. Repeat dress code violations will be reported to administration.

**Confidential information**, which is part of a child's school record will only be shared with the enrolling adult. **We cannot and will not share discipline consequences given to another child** or medical information such as positive Flu results, etc. Sharing this information is a violation of privacy laws.

The school will handle matters on school property only. We will not address matters that happen in the neighborhood or between adults. The school will not setup meetings between families or share your information to help you set up a meeting.

**Bullying** is not tolerated on school property, on school vehicles, bus stops or at school related functions or activities. This includes cyber bullying. Students should report bullying to a trusted adult immediately.

Bullying is an ongoing and deliberate misuse of power in relationships through repeated verbal, physical and/or social behavior that intends to cause physical, social and/or psychological harm. It can involve an individual or a group misusing their power, or perceived power, over one or more persons who feel unable to stop it from happening. Single incidents and conflict or fights between equals, whether in person or online, are not defined as bullying.

The administrator at each CCSD school or authorized representative may, with probable cause to suspect student involvement, conduct reasonable investigations and/or searches to properly address student misconduct or safety issues. Refer to Policy JCAB.

**Students should also respect each other's space and personal belongings. Touching another student on the bottom, private areas or peeking through restroom stalls and/or recording is not allowed and will result in a consequence as it is considered a sexual offense, even for children or elementary age.**

**Students should also be mindful of their language as profanity and/or threats, even when playing, are taken seriously. A student that expresses verbally or in writing wanting to hurt someone will be issued a consequence according to CCSD policy.**

**Drugs and alcohol** are not permitted on school ground or at school events. Under no circumstances should a student possess medical marijuana. These offenses are punishable by the student code of conduct.

All school policies regarding student code of conduct may be found on the CCSD website.



## EMERGENCY NUMBERS

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**It is imperative that accurate and current emergency contact information be on file** in the office, the school clinic, and with the classroom teacher. Notify the school if you move, change jobs, phone numbers, or e-mail addresses. You **must** be reachable in case the need arises. If you need to change individuals designated as emergency contacts, the person who registered the child must make those changes in ParentVUE. **It is also important to fill out the Inclement Weather forms in their entirety.**

## MEDICAL MATTERS

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### Medical Conditions

Parents must notify the school of diagnosed medical conditions. Information and requirements for the school should be put in writing by the physician. Medication is administered at school only under specific conditions and requires written permission on the "Authorization to Give Medication at School" form. The dosage and time to be given must be noted. All medication (prescription or non-prescription) brought from home must be in the original, properly labelled container. The date of the bottle must be current within the past twelve months. **Students may not transport any prescription medication containing a controlled substance.** Medications will be stored and dispensed in the clinic. The only exception is if a student needs an inhaler or epi pen. Students may have inhalers with them during the school day with special approval. *If your child forgot to take their medication at home, the parent may bring the medication to school, but medication must be administered in the clinic for privacy and documentation purposes.*

Our School Nurse is there to provide medical assistance for minor issues such as scrapes, minor cuts and triage concerns such as headaches, cold/flu symptoms, etc. We are not a medical facility.

**Masks** will remain optional. Each family will be allowed to make the appropriate decision for their child. If you want your child to wear a mask, please provide it. The school will not provide masks.

Please monitor your child at home for cold/flu systems. Students should not be at school with a fever or diarrhea and should not return to school unless fever or diarrhea free without the support of medication for 24 hours.

If an accident or medical emergency occurs during school requiring medical attention, the school will contact the parent. If contact cannot be made, the child may be taken to a local emergency room. Judgement is at the discretion of school authorities and parents/guardians assume financial responsibility. It is important that emergency information is kept up-to-date.

## FIELD TRIPS

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Field trips are planned to enrich learning and written permission is required for students to attend. **Parent/Guardians will receive notification with a permission slip in ParentVUE for approval.** The school will no longer send a paper permission slip. The cost is shared voluntarily by participating students. Trips may be cancelled if adequate funds are not collected. If your family cannot afford the cost of a field trip, contact your child's teacher. Families may choose to donate extra money to pay for another student. Siblings may not participate. Parent permission is required for in-house field trips as well. Students demonstrating ongoing behavior issues which could threaten safety may not be able to participate.

When needed, parents may be requested to attend a field trip to provide support and supervision for students. Parents attending field trips will need to go through volunteer training.

Parents who desire to check out their child from a field trip location must complete a release form at the site. Teachers will have forms on hand at the field trip site.

## AFTER SCHOOL PROGRAM (ASP)

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ASP is a pre-pay school-age care program, serving students in Kindergarten through Grade 5, designed to meet the needs of working families by providing high-quality care after school from 2:45 p.m. - 6:00 p.m. ASP only operates on school days and does not operate on teacher workdays or when school is cancelled due to inclement weather or other emergencies.

A variety of activities in a youth-friendly atmosphere is the hallmark of this daily program. Time will be provided for physical, instructional and social activities. Payments may be made online using the Eleyo system. Cash/check payments may be submitted using the ASP payment envelopes provided.

**YOU MAY NOT PARTICIPATE IN ASP with a balance of \$50 (a full-week payment) or more.**

**Rates and Registration:** Registration is a one-time \$20.00 fee for the year. The daily rate is \$10.00 per day. \$1.00 per minute late fee is charged past the 6:00pm end to ASP. ASP is supported by ASP fees; therefore, any student who is not picked up on time results in the need to pay ASP staff overtime.

### Attendance

Children marked present for ASP and picked up after 2:45 will be charged the full daily rate.

### Pick-up procedures

Staff are required to ask for identification for anyone attempting to pick up a child. Staff will not release a child to anyone not listed on your child's registration, which is a separate system from school registration. If an unauthorized person attempts to pick up your child, you will be contacted. If you cannot be reached, your child will be held until you or your emergency contact person arrives.

### ASP closes at 6:00 pm

If you cannot pick up your child by 6:00 p.m., make plans for your emergency contact to pick up your child. ASP is supported by ASP fees; therefore, any student who is not picked up on time results in the need to pay ASP staff overtime. A late fee of \$1.00 per minute after 6:00pm is charged automatically in Eleyo.

### Expectations

Students are expected to maintain good behavior and demonstrate B3 expectations while attending all school functions, including ASP. Discipline issues will be addressed promptly. Negative balances and discipline issues may result in dismissal from the program. Students with a negative balance may not be allowed to participate in school-sponsored events.

## EARLY RELEASE AND ASYNCHRONOUS DAYS

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The District Calendar designates days for Early Release where students are dismissed two hours earlier than the normal school day. These days are used for Parent-Teacher conferences in October for Elementary and Middle School and teacher planning. **Nickajack students are dismissed at 12:10pm.**

**District Early Release days are as follows:** October 17-20, December 18-19 (last two days prior to Winter holidays), May 20-22 (last three days of school).

Asynchronous days are considered instructional days where students will work independently outside of school. Teachers will be in District trainings on these days, so they will prepare packets and/or place assignments in CTLs for students to complete. School will be closed on these days.

**District Asynchronous days are:** August 21, 2023, October 16, 2023 and March 4, 2024

## STUDENT SUPPORT

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The **Gifted Program** at Nickajack is called Target. Student participation is based on certain criteria. Goals for students include fostering creative/productive thinking, improving research and discussion skills, promoting higher levels of thinking, and extending the academic program. An informational meeting will be held in the Fall to discuss the criteria for this program.

**Special Education:** Specialized programs are available for students with exceptionalities or disabilities who have an Individualized Education Plan (IEP). Please contact the school Support and Services Administrator (SSA) with any questions.

**Early Intervention Program (EIP)**, *often confused with an IEP* is a support designed to provide interventions for students who are at risk of not reaching or maintaining their academic grade level based on their performance on state or national assessments or performance measures in English Language Arts/Reading, Mathematics, or both in order to help them meet grade-level expectations within the shortest possible time. These students may also receive support through Response to Intervention.

**Response to Intervention** is a flexible model to provide assistance that matches learners' needs. Strategies at each Tier support academic and/or behavioral needs.

Tier 1: Performance Based Instruction for All Students

Tier 2: Targeted Interventions provided by classroom teacher

Tier 3: Intensive Interventions provided by support staff

Tier 4: Specially Designed Instruction provided through an IEP under Special Education

**Class Placement** occurs over the summer. Each Spring, parents will be offered a survey to share information about their child to aid in placing them with their teacher for the next school year. Parents may not request specific teachers or specific students to be placed with. Parents may share students they prefer their child to be separated from, but this may not always be feasible if the child's needs dictate specific placement (i.e. – based on IEP, DLI, Gifted, EIP, etc.)

**Accelerated Content (AC)** classes will be available in 5<sup>th</sup> grade for students. These students are grouped on the basis of academic performance/achievement in a specific content area. Classes include gifted and highly-able students who have demonstrated exceptional ability and motivation in a particular content area as determined by criteria.

## VOLUNTEERS

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There are many different ways to volunteer. Please reach out to our PTA and/or School Foundation for these different opportunities. Volunteers should only be on campus for school business for PTA, School Foundation or Principal Advisory Council and should not disrupt the instructional day while on campus. Please make alternative care arrangements for younger children to ensure the safety of all children, as well as the integrity of the instructional program.

Parent volunteers are essential to our school's success. Participation as a volunteer does not provide special privileges such as class placement, open visits to classrooms, or student exemption from disciplinary action per Cobb County Code of Conduct. The school will continue to operate in a manner that protects the integrity of our school program.

## SCHOOL ORGANIZATIONS

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Nickajack has an active PTA and School Foundation. For more information on how you can be involved at Nickajack, please use the information below to reach out.

PTA – [Questions@NickajackPTA.com](mailto:Questions@NickajackPTA.com)

Foundation – [www.nesfoundation.com](http://www.nesfoundation.com)

# PBIS

Nickajack's schoolwide expectations are B3, which stands for Be a Better Brave. Our students can show B3 behavior by being Respectful, Responsible and Role Models.



PBIS stands for Positive Behavior Intervention and Support. This is a national program adopted by certain schools to promote positive interactions and behavior throughout the school building.

The school will host B3 classroom celebrations throughout the school year to highlight student success and growth.

Nickajack uses the PBIS Rewards to document behavior throughout the day by awarding points for positive behavior and notes to families when a minor infraction occurs.

Parents/families will have access to the app to help support communication between school and home.



## 2023-2024 SCHOOL CALENDAR EVENTS (Year at a glance):

*\*Some dates may change due to scheduling conflicts or weather*

July 31: Meet and Greet  
August 1: First Day of School  
August 7-11: Safety Week  
August 31: Math Night  
September 14: Picture Day  
September 22: STEAM Day  
September 25-29: Fall Break  
October 15: Hispanic Heritage Month begins  
October 17-20: Conference Week  
October 23-27: Red Ribbon Week  
November 10: Veterans Day Program  
November 14-16: Family Luncheons  
November 20-24: Thanksgiving Break  
December 7: DLI Night  
December 8: Spelling Bee  
December 12-14: Class Parties  
December 20-January 3: Winter Holiday Break  
January 15: Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day  
January 19: 100<sup>th</sup> Day of School  
January 26: Science Night/Fair  
February 9: Black History Program

February 16: STEAM Day  
February 19-23: Winter Break  
February 26-March 1:  
Read Across America Week  
March 5: Science Fair  
March 14: Family Math Night  
March 21: Spring Picture Day  
March 28: Talent Show  
March 29: STEM Day  
April 1-5: Spring Break  
April 12: Career Day  
April 26: Math Bee  
May 6-10: Teacher Appreciation  
May 3: 5<sup>th</sup> Grade Trip  
May 13: K-1 Field Day/Class Parties  
May 14: 2-3 Field Day/Class Parties  
May 15: 4-5 Field Day/Class Parties  
May 16: 5<sup>th</sup> Grade Ceremony and Walk  
May 17: 5<sup>th</sup> Grade Cookout/HS Senior Walk  
May 22: Last Day of School