Williamstown Middle School
2020-2021

MONROE TOWNSHIP PUBLIC SCHOOLS
WILLIAMSTOWN, NEW JERSEY 08094
www.monroetwp.k12.nj.us

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BYLAWS AND POLICIES OF THE MONROE TOWNSHIP BOARD OF EDUCATION

The Monroe Township Board of Education shall exercise its rule-making powers by adopting bylaws, policies and administrative regulations for the organization and operation of the school district.

The Board desires to make this manual of bylaws and policies a useful guide for all members of the Board, administration of this district, all personnel employed by the Board, and the pupils of the district. Therefore, a copy of this manual is located in each district school and in the central administration office building. It is highly recommended that each individual be familiar with this manual, since it will have a direct effect upon the operation of the schools in this district.
Dear Students:

As principal of Williamstown Middle School, it gives me great pleasure to welcome you to the 2020-2021 school year. We are happy that you are part of our school community, which has a proud tradition of providing an outstanding education for its students. The WMS staff is eager to work with you for the four years of your middle school experience and is devoted to helping you reach you academic and personal goals. Our middle school has a great deal to offer you academically, and there are plenty of opportunities to participate in co-curricular activities. I urge you to get involved, set your goals high, and take advantage of our excellent staff and many exciting programs.

This handbook is prepared for you, the Williamstown Middle School student. Read it thoroughly and carefully. The information will help you understand how the school operates and the school’s expectations of its students. Please remember, however, that this handbook offers guidelines only, and no attempts have been made to include every aspect of the school’s procedures. Situations will arise from time to time that will be addressed on an individual basis.

As your principal, I can assure you that offering our students the latest in curriculum enhancements in a safe, state-of-the-art learning environment will serve as our primary focus throughout this new school year. I look forward to personally meeting each of you.

Welcome and best wishes for a successful and memorable year!

Sincerely,

Dana R. Mericle
Principal
FORMAL ACKNOWLEDGEMENT
OF 2020-2021 STUDENT HANDBOOK
RECEIPT AND REVIEW

We, the undersigned, understand that this handbook contains important information for parents, guardians and students. We acknowledge that we have received a copy of the 2020-2021 Williamstown Middle School Student Handbook. We are aware that this handbook contains information and policies for our review. We have reviewed the information and policies contained in this handbook, including the behavior expectations upon which consequences will be dispensed in an effort to change behavior and to help students make better decisions. We understand that all students will be held accountable for their behavior and that failure to abide by the guidelines for student behavior can result in the discipline outlined in this handbook. We understand further that failure to return this acknowledgment form does not excuse any individual from complying with the Student Handbook, Monroe Township policies, regulations, and guidelines. We are aware that the Monroe Township District reserves the right at any time to amend or to add to the policies, regulations, and behavioral expectations contained or referred to in this handbook. The policies, procedures, and practices contained in this handbook are the result of a concerted effort on the part of the faculty and the administration. The items contained in this handbook are a small part of the many policies and regulations that the Board of Education has mandated for the Monroe Township Public Schools. This is not meant to be an exhaustive policy book, but it is a snapshot of the procedures, policies, and practices that most often affect the students of Williamstown Middle School. All Board of Education Policies and Regulations may be found on the district’s website. The information contained in this book has been carefully prepared and presented so that it will be of great value in helping you to adjust to our school and to become an integral part of it. The ultimate purpose of education is to help each student become an effective citizen in democracy. To develop and accept the responsibilities and obligations of good citizenship will help us to participate successfully in the world of tomorrow.

Directions for return of this form throughout the 2020-2021 school year:
1.) Student and Parent/Guardian review handbook.
2.) Student and Parent/Guardian sign handbook acknowledgement below.
3.) Tear out this page from handbook
4.) Student returns this page to homeroom teacher by September 24, 2020.

New and transfer students registering after the start of the 2020-2021 school year must return this acknowledgement page within one week after receipt.

DATE_____________________________________________________________________________
PRINT NAME OF STUDENT______________________________________________ ______________
STUDENT HOMEROOM_______________________________________________________________
SIGNATURE OF STUDENT______________________________________________________________
PRINT NAME OF PARENT/LEGAL GUARDIAN_______________________________________________
SIGNATURE OF PARENT/LEGAL GUARDIAN_____________________________________________
Student Handbook 2020-2021

Mission Statement

Williamstown Middle School provides an atmosphere where our students become responsible, productive citizens and life-long learners.

Beliefs

- Students are responsible for their education and are accountable for their actions and decisions.
- Students respect all people regardless of race, color, creed, religion, gender and sexual orientation.
- Students, regardless of learning styles and abilities, need to be challenged and inspired in order to achieve their full potential.
- Students are provided a safe and supportive environment in which they can pursue their educational goals.
- High expectations are communicated to the students from all of the various members of the school’s community.
- Effective education is a student, staff, and community partnership, which prepare students for the future in a technologically changing society.
- Middle school personnel serve as catalysts for academic and personal success for all students.

www.monroetwp.k12.nj.us/MiddleSchool/

WILLIAMSTOWN MIDDLE SCHOOL EDUCATION – LIFE’S PREPARATION
WILLIAMSTOWN MIDDLE SCHOOL
561 CLAYTON ROAD
WILLIAMSTOWN, NEW JERSEY 08094
(856) 629-7444
www.monroetwp.k12.nj.us

Dana Mericle, Principal
Donald Whirlow, 8th Grade Assistant Principal
David Babich, 7th Grade Assistant Principal
Sally Fox, 5th/6th Grade Assistant Principal
Jeremiah Long, 6th Grade Head Teacher

COUNSELORS:
Colleen Pearl – 5th  Leslie Borkowski - 6th  Andrea Davis - 7th  Chelsea Nelson - 8th
Francesca Contino-Jackson - S.A.C. Counselor

Student Name: ____________________________
Address: ____________________________
Phone: ____________________________
Homeroom: ____________________________

PERIOD    ROOM    SUBJECT    TEACHER

AM HR 8:10-8:22
1 -  8:25-9:05
2 -  9:08-9:48
3 -  9:51-10:31
4 -  10:34-11:14
5 -  11:17-11:57
6 -  12:00-12:40
7 -  12:43-1:23
8 -  1:26-2:06
9 -  2:09-2:49
DISMISSAL  2:50
MONROE B.O.E. SUBSTANCE ABUSE POLICY

All staff members shall be alert to signs of substance abuse by students and shall respond to those signs in accordance with administrative regulations. Any staff member to whom it appears that a student may be under the influence of a substance other than anabolic steroids on school property or at a school function, shall report the matter as soon as possible to:

1. The Principal (or, in the Principal’s absence, the designee appointed by the principal) and
2. The school nurse or the school physician.
3. If neither the school nurse or school physician is available, the staff member responsible for the function shall be notified.

The Principal or his/her designee shall immediately notify the student’s parent(s) or legal guardian(s) and the Superintendent.

The Principal must arrange for an immediate medical examination of the student:

1. By a doctor selected by the parent(s) or legal guardian(s) or,
2. If the parent(s) or legal guardian(s) doctor is not immediately available, by the school physician.
3. If neither the parent(s) or legal guardian(s) doctor nor the school physician is immediately available, the student shall be taken to the emergency room of the nearest hospital for examination and diagnosis. The student may be accompanied by the student’s parent(s) or legal guardian(s) if possible and will be accompanied by a member of the school staff appointed by the Principal.
4. An examination conducted by a physician other than the school physician or the emergency room of the nearest hospital shall not be a district expense. Treatment will not be at Board expense.

FAILURE TO TEST IF SUSPECTED OF BEING UNDER THE INFLUENCE.
If a parent of a student refuses to give consent to be seen by a physician and screened for suspected under the influence of controlled or dangerous substance, or if a student refuses to be seen or screened, then the student is considered positive for being under the influence, and the student will be given 10 days of 3-7 for refusal to test, authorities will be contacted for endangering the safety of a minor, and the student will not be unable to attend student activities for the current school year, and the class trips the following school year. Furthermore, A parent(s) or legal guardian(s) whose refusal to comply with N.J.S.A. 18A:40A-12 frustrates the operation of these regulations and the return of the student to school shall be deemed to have violated the compulsory statute, N.J.S.A. 18A:38-25 and 18A:38-31, and/or the child abuse and neglect statutes, N.J.S.A. 9:6-1 et seq., and may be subject to prosecution.

If there is a positive determination from the medical examination of the student indicating the alcohol or drug use interferes with the student’s physical or mental ability to perform in school:
1. The student will be returned to the care of the parent(s) or legal guardian(s) as soon as possible; and
2. Attendance at school will not resume until a medical report verifies the student’s alcohol or drug use no longer interferes with the student’s physical or mental ability to attend school.
MONROE B.O.E. OUTSTANDING FOOD SERVICES CHARGES POLICY #8550

The Board of Education understands a student may forget to bring breakfast or lunch, as applicable, or money to purchase breakfast or lunch to school on a school day. When this happens, the food service program will provide the student with breakfast or lunch with an expectation payment will be made the next school day or shortly thereafter. However, there may be circumstances when payment is not made and a student’s school breakfast/lunch bill is in arrears. The school district will manage a student’s breakfast or lunch bill that is in arrears in accordance with the provisions of N.J.S.A. 18A:33-21 and this Policy.

In the event a student’s school lunch or breakfast bill is in arrears, the Principal or designee shall contact the student’s parent to provide notice of the amount in arrears and shall provide the parent a period of ten school days to pay the full amount due. If the student’s parent does not make full payment to the Principal or designee by the end of the ten school days, the Principal or designee shall again contact the student’s parent to provide a second notice that their child’s lunch or breakfast bill is in arrears. If payment in full is not made within one week from the date of the second notice, the student will become ineligible for extracurricular activities until the bill is paid in full and will be provided a basic lunch that will contain the essentials in balanced nutritional selections as prescribed by the Bureau of Child Nutrition Programs, New Jersey Department of Agriculture beginning the eighth calendar day from the date of the second notice.

A parent who has received a second notice their child’s lunch or breakfast bill is in arrears and who has not made payment in full within one week from the date of the second notice will be requested to meet with the Principal or designee to discuss and resolve the matter.

A parent’s refusal to meet or take other steps to resolve the matter may be indicative of more serious issues in the family or household. In these situations, the Principal or designee shall consult with and seek necessary services from both the County Board of Social Services and the Department of Children and Families, Division of Child Protection and Permanency, as appropriate.

When a parent’s routine failure to provide breakfast or lunch is reasonably suspected to be indicative of child abuse or neglect, the Principal or designee shall immediately report such suspicion to the Department of Children and Families, Division of Child Protection and Permanency as required in N.J.S.A. 9:6-8.10. Such reporting shall not be delayed to accommodate a parent’s meeting with the Principal or designee.

The provisions of N.J.S.A. 18A:33-21 and this Policy will be made available to parents of all children in the school district in a manner as determined by the Superintendent. Adopted: 15 October 2015
Revised: 23 June 2016

**Student Debit System**  An account will be established for every student. For the purpose of tracking food service transactions and student access to the debit account system, all students will be issued a Personal Identification Number (PIN). Parents may deposit funds by either mailing a check to the food service department or by crediting it to their credit card via the internet.

**Meal/Debit System Policy**  In the event that a student forgets his/her money or that the debit account is depleted, or carries a negative balance from one school year to another, the student will be provided a basic lunch that will contain the essentials in balanced nutritional selections as prescribed by the Bureau of Child Nutrition Programs, New Jersey Department of Agriculture (peanut butter and jelly sandwich or cheese sandwich, fruit and milk component) and the cost of the meal will be added to the student’s food service debit account.

- Snacks and a la carte items will not be purchased while account is in arrears.
- At the end of the day, all transactions will be reported to the Principal's office.
- The Principal shall send correspondence to the home of the parent(s) reminding them to make payment in full.
- Parents/guardians will be charged a bounced check fee in accordance with bank charges.

N.J.A.C. 6A:23-2.6 et seq.
N.J.A.C. 8:24-2.1 through 7.5
MISSION:
All Monroe Township Public Schools students will be provided with meaningful technology enabled environments, including assistive technologies and virtual learning opportunities, which develop their proficiencies in the full range of 21st Century Skills to become lifelong learners.

MONROE TOWNSHIP PUBLIC SCHOOLS 1:1 HANDBOOK
This handbook has been developed for students and families involved in the Monroe Township Public Schools 1:1 initiative, which will assign laptop Chromebook computing devices. The district will loan a Chromebook to each student in participating grades for the duration of each school year. Grades Six through Twelve students will begin their school year in a “Take-Home” program. Grade 5 students will be assigned a Chromebook to be used during the school day. In return the student will be expected to maintain the device and use it as requested and required by teachers to improve learning opportunities and experiences.

CHROMEBOOK DEVICE USE AND POLICIES FOR STUDENTS

STUDENT CHROMEBOOK RESPONSIBILITIES
● Use their Chromebook for educational purposes.
● Follow the procedures and policies outlined in the MTPS Chromebook Handbook and the MTPS Acceptable Use Policy both at school and at home.
● Protect their Chromebook by carrying it securely in their district-issued carrying case and prevent careless or malicious damage.
● Never leave their Chromebook unattended in an unsecure or unsupervised location.
● Charge their Chromebook’s battery to full capacity each night.
● Report all damages to or issues with their Chromebook to the Technology Department.
● Not alter or attempt to change, disable, or circumvent the management settings, content filters, or virus protection software on their Chromebook.
● Never share their Chromebook with other students or individuals.

TERMS OF AGREEMENT
A user’s right to use and possess the borrowed property terminates no later than the last day of the school year unless earlier terminated by the MTPS for noncompliance, terminated upon withdrawal from active enrollment in the MTPS, or terminated due to a change in schedule/attendance arrangement that no longer results in the user physically attending at least one class regularly in a participating grade at MTPS. The 1:1 project is expected to continue for participating students through the 12th grade, and students will be issued the same Chromebook each year for the duration of their attendance at Williamstown Middle School. Upon promotion to Williamstown High School, students will be issued a different Chromebook device for the duration of their attendance at that school.

PROPERTY RIGHTS
Users must respect the intellectual property of others by crediting sources and following all copyright laws. Users may not download or install software without administrative permission. All software loaded on any MTPS hardware is the property of MTPS. No student may copy, download from the Internet or install onto a District Chromebook or otherwise use any software in violation of applicable copyrights and license agreements.

OWNERSHIP
The Chromebook is the property of the Monroe Township Public School District (MTPS). MTPS retains sole right of possession of the Chromebook and grants permission to the student to use the Chromebook according to the guidelines set forth in this document. Moreover, MTPS administrative staff retains the rights to collect and/or inspect the Chromebook at any time, including via electronic remote access; and to alter, add or delete installed software or hardware. In order to possess and use the borrowed device, the student must comply at all times with the expectations of the Chromebook Agreement and the district’s Acceptable Usage Policy (AUP), which is contained in Board Policy. The legal title to the borrowed device belongs to the MTPS and shall at all times remain as such. Your right of possession and use of the borrowed device is limited to, and conditioned upon, your full and complete compliance with the expectations detailed in the Chromebook Agreement, the MTPS Handbook and the district’s AUP. Because the borrowed device is the property of the MTPS, it is subject to monitoring of use and search of contents at any time. There is no expectation of privacy in use or data stored on a district-owned device.

GENERAL CARE/HANDLING/USE
Treat this equipment with as much care as if it were your own property. Do not remove or interfere with the serial number or any identification placed on the Chromebook. Keep the equipment clean. Shut off and close the lid of the Chromebook when it is not in use, in order to save battery life and protect the screen. NEVER walk from one location to another with an open computer. This is applicable at school and at home. You are responsible for all media, Internet usage, downloads, file creations, file deletion, file sharing, file storage, and other actions that involve all software or applications accessed via your assigned Chromebook. Do not allow other individuals to use the Chromebook assigned to you.
STUDENT USE IN CLASSROOM
Students will be required to take their Chromebook to each class each day. It is imperative that students bring their fully charged Chromebook to school each day. Teachers will be designing their lessons and classroom activities based on students having access to their Chromebook. The Chromebook must be kept in the carrying bag at all times.

CHARGING OF CHROMEBOOKS
It is the student’s responsibility to charge the Chromebook each night at home and bring the device to school fully charged. During a normal school day, a fully charged Chromebook can be used the entire day. Students should establish a routine at home for the charging of the Chromebook so that it can charge overnight. It is the student’s responsibility to maintain the power adapter and cable.

STUDENT ACCESS TO INTERNET AND MONITORING
At school, students will have access to the Internet through the school network. When not at school, students can access the Internet using the district Chromebook if they have Internet access available to them in their home or other locations. MTPS will not provide students with Internet access outside of school. Students may access the Internet on their Chromebook at any time outside of school. As with any other Internet enabled device, MTPS recommends that parents/legal guardians monitor their student’s time and activities on the internet. Student Chromebooks will be monitored on-site and off-site using an Internet filtering system. Students should understand that their parent/’s guardian’s rules about internet usage outside of school are applicable even when the student is using their Chromebook. There is no expectation of privacy while using Chromebook, networks, or technology. The Chromebook is the property of MTPS, and MTPS may search the Chromebook at any time. The District’s Acceptable Usage Policy defines appropriate use of District technology, including the Chromebook, and defines “inappropriate matter.” Students who access inappropriate sites, or are accessing sites during the school day that are not related to a class they are attending, will be subject to disciplinary action. If prohibited or inappropriate web sites or content are accessed by accident, the student should immediately leave the site and report the incident to an adult. Students will not use the camera or video recording capabilities of the laptop, Chromebook, or iPad unless given permission to do so.

DOWNLOADING PROGRAMS AND PERSONALIZING THE CHROMEBOOK
Only Technology Department staff can download, install, and remove extensions, apps, and programs to the student issued Chromebook. Stickers and other permanent markings on the outside of the Chromebook and Chromebook case will not be allowed. Students are to keep the Chromebook in its protective case at all times.

Half day schedules

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ALL SCHOOLS ON HALF DAY (SCHEDULE A)</th>
<th>ONLY WMS ON HALF DAY (SCHEDULE B)</th>
<th>2 HOUR DELAY SCHEDULE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>AM HR 8:10-8:22</td>
<td>AM HR 8:10-8:22</td>
<td>AM HR 10:10-10:20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 - 8:25-8:51</td>
<td>1 - 8:25-8:49</td>
<td>1 - 10:23-10:50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4 - 9:52-10:18</td>
<td>4 - 9:46-10:10</td>
<td>4 - 11:53-12:20</td>
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<tr>
<td>5 - 10:21-10:47</td>
<td>5 - 10:13-10:37</td>
<td>5 - 12:23-12:50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6 - 10:50-11:16</td>
<td>6 - 10:40-11:04</td>
<td>6 - 12:53-1:20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7 - 11:19-11:45</td>
<td>7 - 11:07-11:31</td>
<td>7 - 1:23-1:50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DISMISSAL 12:44</td>
<td>DISMISSAL 12:26</td>
<td>DISMISSAL 2:50</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Students will be responsible for the full cost of repair if it is determined that damage has been caused by intentional abuse and/or misuse. In the event of theft, a police report will need to be filed and presented for replacement. All fees or costs will carry over from year to year until fully paid. There are limited loaners available for use, on a “first-come, first-serve” basis.

LOSS, THEFT OR DAMAGE
By taking possession of a borrowed device, the borrower agrees to assume full responsibility for the safety, security, and care of the borrowed property. In case of accident, fire, flood, or careless handling of the property or complete loss, the student agrees to pay the required amount to repair or replace the device. In the case of loss or theft occurring at school, the student must report the incident to a building administrator within one school day of the occurrence. In the case of loss or theft occurring away from school, the student must report the incident to the law enforcement officials of jurisdiction within 24 hours of occurrence and then provide documentation of the aforementioned law enforcement report to a building administrator. Failing to report loss or theft in the manner described here will result in the missing property being categorized as lost rather than stolen and the parent/guardian will assume full responsibility for the loss of the device and the corresponding financial obligation for the replacement costs of the lost property.
**ANTI-BULLYING RULES (BE THE “G”)**

Rule #1 - We will not bully others  
Rule #2 - We will help students who are bullied  
Rule #3 - We will include students who are left out  
Rule #4 - If we know that somebody is being bullied, we will tell an adult at school and an adult at home  

**STUDENT RESPONSIBILITIES/DISCIPLINE ISSUED:**  
Students are expected at all times to display reasonable socially accepted behavior with their peers. Students who do not display accepted behaviors relating to harassment, intimidation and bullying of others will receive disciplinary actions. Parents will be notified if their student has been involved in a possible incident of bullying. The policy requires all students to adhere to the rules established by the school district and submit to the remedial and consequential measures that are appropriately assigned for infractions relating to the Anti-Bullying rules.  

Parent contact will be made by a school official if/when disciplinary action is given to a student with regards to harassment, intimidating, and bullying. Every bullying concern will be investigated by the schools’ Anti-Bullying Committee, S.A.C. Counselor or School Administration. In order to remain harassment, intimidation, and bullying free, if you see something, SPEAK UP! Just think to yourself, how would you feel if someone was being purposely mean to you? Would you want a classmate or teacher to help you? We want all of our students to **“Be the GI”** Those who stand by and do nothing but watch are as much at fault as the bully because they are allowing it to happen. If you don’t confront it, you are condoning it.

Monthly BRAVES lessons occur throughout the school year which provides the students with coping mechanisms and other techniques that will assist them in diminishing HIBs. If a student needs to report any type of HIB, please go into the Guidance Office and ask for Mrs. Contino-Jackson. You can write on a pink slip as to what is going on and she will assist you!
ARRIVAL AND DISMISSAL  Students who walk to school must walk within the parameters of the designated walkways and arrive no earlier than 7:55 a.m. on the 5/6 side. **All student drop-off before 8:00 a.m. is on the 5/6 side.** After 8:00 a.m., students can be dropped off on both sides of the building. At 7:58 a.m., all students will be directed to enter the building in a safe and orderly manner. Students must follow these rules:

1. Get and/or place possessions and books in their lockers.
2. Walk to the right of the hallway.
3. Report directly to homeroom.

All students will remain in their ninth period class until dismissed by PA announcement. For safety reasons, students are not permitted to walk near the buses or in the bus-loading zone when the buses are moving. All walkers will leave the building through the 5/6 entrance. All Commuters must leave the building at their respective grade level offices.

ATTENDANCE  Please adhere to the district’s attendance policy which will be distributed at the beginning of the school year.

BACKPACKS OR BOOK BAGS  Backpacks or book bags must be placed in the lockers prior to morning homeroom. No backpacks or book bags are permitted in the halls or classroom between morning homeroom and 9th period class. Gym bags should be used to transport athletic attire only to and from the gymnasium.

BAGS—CHROMEBOOK  Chromebook work-in bags must be carried with the student to all academic and cycle classes. Chromebook work-in bags must NOT be placed in hall lockers or gym lockers.

BICYCLES  Bicycles should be placed in the designated parking area in the bicycle racks and should not be removed until the student leaves school. No pupil is permitted to ride a bicycle on school property. Bicycles should be chained and are the responsibility of the student. Bicycles should not be borrowed. Only those students who ride their bicycles to school should be near the designated parking areas for bicycles.

BREAKFAST  Breakfast will be served before homeroom from 7:58 AM – 8:10 AM at various locations throughout the school for students wishing to purchase it. Purchasing breakfast is not an excused lateness to homeroom. Studies have shown that breakfast is the most important meal of the day and that a child who eats a healthy breakfast does better in school.

BUS RULES & REGULATIONS  Riding the school bus is a privilege. Pupils who don’t respect the rights of others in riding the school bus may be suspended from the school bus until they follow the fundamentals of good behavior and agree to abide by them. This includes misbehavior at the bus stop as well. Students must ride in their assigned seat on their assigned bus to and from school. VIOLATIONS OF BUS RULES WILL RESULT IN BUS SUSPENSIONS OF AN INCREASING NUMBER OF DAYS FOR EACH INCIDENT, BUS PRIVILEGES DENIED PERMANENTLY, OR SCHOOL DISCIPLINE.

Please note that walking to the bus stop, from the bus stop, waiting at the bus stop, and the school bus ride are considered activities under the school’s jurisdiction and all school rules/consequences apply. An individual’s privilege to ride the bus will be revoked if he/she does not follow the bus rules and regulations. During this suspension of bus privileges, the student is required to attend school. Transportation to and from school is to be arranged by the child and his/her parents.

The following rules must be followed:

1. Wait on the sidewalk, grass, dirt, or pavement in an orderly manner.
2. Remain in the assigned seat throughout the ride. Do not stand while bus is in motion.
3. Be courteous, obey and respect the driver. Do not talk loudly or distract the driver.
4. The use of aerosol sprays is prohibited.
5. Do not eat or drink on the bus; keep the bus clean.
6. Do not throw or shoot objects in or out of the bus.
7. Do not use inappropriate language, profanity, or gestures.
8. Do not place objects, heads, or arms outside of the windows.
9. Do not fight on the bus. Students who fight on the bus will be disciplined.
10. Do not smoke on the bus or at the bus stop.
11. Do not damage or deface the school bus. If you see that your bus seat has been damaged, please report this to your bus driver immediately. Students and their parents will be held responsible for all damages the student causes.
12. Bus students or walkers who are going to a destination other than their assigned location must have written permission from parent or guardian turned in to their grade-level office.

As per Board of Education Policy #8600, school bus drivers and all school bus passengers shall be required to wear seat belts when transported in school buses so equipped. Seat belts shall be fastened when the driver and passengers board the vehicle and they shall be kept fastened at all time while on board the vehicle. Seat belts may be unfastened only when the individual is departing the vehicle. The Board further requires that drivers and passengers using private vehicle to transport pupils wear seat belts in the same manner. **PLEASE BUCKLE YOUR SEATBELT!**

If students walk to a friend’s house, or want to ride another bus, they must obtain a pass from the office after the following requirements have been met:

1. **TWO NOTES MUST BE OBTAINED** - a letter from the parents of both students who are walking home and riding the bus together.
2. Notes must be presented for administrative approval to the office personnel before A.M. homeroom begins. Requests presented at the end of the day will be denied.
3. A student who is assigned to ride a school bus, and at dismissal walks from the school premises without permission of an administrator, will be referred to an administrator for disciplinary action.
Williamstown Middle School is not responsible for any lost or stolen items.

CHEATING Whenever a student is guilty of cheating, the teacher will collect the student’s work, mark a zero for the work, and notify the parents immediately.

CLASS TRIPS/PROMOTION DANCE Class trips are very special events in the lives of our students. Special pride is taken in providing these activities to students who exemplify hard work, dedication, courtesy, and politeness. It is fully realized that when students take part in these activities, they are representatives of Williamstown Middle School. With this in mind, we would like to continue offering these activities as special privileges to those students who exhibit acceptable behavioral standards throughout the school year. In order to achieve the aforementioned goal, the following procedures are in effect:

A. Student Discipline - Any student who is issued a total of 10 or more days of 3/7 school or suspension will not be eligible for his/her class trip and/or field trips and cannot attend any school dance including the Promotion Dance.

B. Attendance - Any student who is absent more than 12 (unexcused) days will not be eligible for his/her class trip and any dance including the Promotion Dance.

C. Academic – Any student failing two or more full-year courses will not be permitted to attend their class trip and any dance including the Promotion Dance.

D. Obligations – All school obligations must be addressed by Friday, June 4th, 2021, in order to participate in their class trip and any dance including the Promotion Dance.

E. School Lateness – Student must have no more than 16 unexcused school lateness to participate in their class trips and any dances. If a student is denied the privilege of attending the class trip or chooses not to attend, he or she will not receive a refund within 30 days prior to the date of the trips. Restaurants, bus companies, and reservations cannot be canceled within 30 days of the trip. Only school staff, parents or guardians of the students are permitted to chaperone the students.

DISCIPLINE EACH STUDENT IS HELD RESPONSIBLE FOR HIS/HER BEHAVIOR. Each student must be respectful, well behaved, and quiet, and must follow the rules of the school. Discipline must be maintained and the school and bus rules must be obeyed so that teaching, driving a bus, eating in the cafeteria, and moving large numbers of youngsters from one place to another can occur without disruption. All adults such as teachers, aides, bus drivers, office and cafeteria personnel, parents, and administrators must be respected; students should also respect each other. Disobeying the rules will result in disciplinary action that is progressively stern and commensurate to the severity of the offense. Parents will be notified when their son or daughter is sent to the office for misbehaving.

Lunch Detention: Any student who disregards school rules and regulations or who is disobedient to school personnel may be issued a lunch detention at the discretion of a teacher, aide, or administrator. Students are reminded of the lunch detention and asked to initial their acknowledgement prior to it being served. Students are expected to report directly to the lunch detention. Failure to report to lunch detention is a serious offense, which will be handled by an administrator. Students may be assigned to a maximum of ten (10) lunch detentions during a school year. Any student who has served 10 lunch detentions will receive a more serious consequence for behavior infractions.
General After-School Detentions: Any student who is referred to an administrator for disregarding school rules may be issued a general after school detention (GASD). An administrator will attempt to contact parents/guardians by phone regarding the incident. At least 24 hours prior to the detention, a student is issued a detention slip which is to be signed by his/her parent/guardian. A student will be issued a more severe consequence for failing to attend the detention. It is imperative that the school and parents/guardians work as a team to ensure that students who are issued a detention attend it.

5th Grade In-School Suspension: 5th grade students committing more severe violations may be assigned an in-school suspension. Students will complete their assignments in a designated area in the 5/6 office.

3-7 School Suspension: 6th, 7th and 8th grade students committing more severe violation may be assigned a 3-7 school suspension. Students assigned a 3-7 school suspension are not permitted to attend school during regular school hours and must report to Williamstown High School before 3:00 p.m. Students will complete assignments from their classes during the hours of 3:00 and 7:00 p.m. Pick-up is at 7:00 p.m.

Out of School Suspensions: This discipline is issued at the Principal’s recommendation.

If school is closed due to inclement weather, the 3-7 School/Out of School Suspension(s) will be served on the day school resumes and any days thereafter.

The following types of behavior will result in disciplinary action:

1. Fighting, disruption, or interference with curricular or extra-curricular activities.
2. Damage or destruction of school property or private property.
3. Assault on student or other person while in custody and control of the school, or in the course of a school-related activity.
4. Possession of dangerous weapons.
5. Possession or use of narcotics, alcoholic beverages, and other dangerous drugs while on school premises, or while in the custody and control of the school, or in the course of a school-related activity.
6. Violation of rules of conduct for school buses.
7. Use or possession of tobacco products, pipes, lighters or matches while on school premises, or while in the custody and control of the school or in the course of a school-related activity.
8. Stealing of school or private property while on school premises, or while in the custody and control of the school, or in the course of a school-related activity, or possession or sale of said stolen property.
9. Violation of attendance rules and regulations and/or truancy policy.
10. Violation of Board of Education adopted dress code.
11. Being insubordinate or showing disrespect toward a school employee, student, or guest of our school.
12. Disregard of reasonable directions or commands by school personnel.
13. Inappropriate displays of affection while on school premises, or while in the custody and control of the school, or in the course of a school-related activity.
14. A student shall not use any form of profanity, written or verbal, included in this prohibition would be the use of obscene gestures, signs, pictures, or publications.
15. A student shall not engage in any act, which intimidates, threatens, degrades, or disgraces a fellow student, visitor, administrator, or member of the school staff, by written, verbal, or gestural means.
16. Students will not sell or attempt to sell or distribute any object or substance, which has not been authorized for sale or distribution by the administration.
17. Skipping or cutting class, this is defined as not being in the assigned classroom, library, assembly, lunch, or homeroom.
18. Leaving school grounds during school hours without proper permission.
19. Repeated violations—any series of behavior violations that create a pattern of misconduct may result in suspension and/or expulsion.
20. Possession of open beverage containers in the building, except in the cafeteria, is prohibited.

DRESS CODE There is a close relationship between the way a student dresses and his/her behavior and attitude toward learning. Students and parents are required to select appropriate clothing for the school atmosphere. Any mode of dress that is a disruption to the function of the learning process is prohibited. It is the teacher’s responsibility to refer students on questionable dress to an administrator who will readmit the student to class at his/her discretion. The Board authorizes the building administrators to enforce school regulations prohibiting student dress or grooming practices which adversely affect the educational program of the schools. The following dress code has been developed in accordance with Policy No. 5511 and in consultation with staff members, parents, and pupils of this district.

General Rules:

1. Pupils are expected to be clean and well-groomed in their appearance.
2. Pupils are expected to avoid extremes in appearance that are so disruptive or distracting that the reaction of other pupils is beyond normal control.
3. Dress or grooming that jeopardizes the health or safety of the pupil or of other pupils or is injurious to school property will not be tolerated.
4. Hair must be kept clean.

Prohibited clothing and articles:
The following clothing and accessories regulations pertain to school and/or school-sponsored indoor events:

1. Clothing must be clean and non-offensive. It should not interfere with the educational process. Trends in clothing styles will be addressed as they emerge. However, styles that interfere with the educational process or the safety or modesty of students will...
be prohibited.

2. Shirts/blouses/tops must: entirely cover the shoulders (sleeveless tops must be 3 fingers wide); reach or extend below the top of the student's skirt or pants; be free of any offensive pictures, messages or logos of a sexual, alcoholic, drug, tobacco or gang related nature; not be transparent, sexually suggestive or open beyond the midpoint of the chest; not be of a midriff, halter, tube, tank or underwear nature as an outer garment.

3. Skirts/dresses/shorts must reach to a length that is equal to or lower than fingertip length of the fabric worn. If yoga pants, spandex material, or tight-fitting leggings material are worn, then a shirt must be worn equal to or lower than fingertip length.

4. Students are not permitted to wear pajamas or any kind of attire similar in nature to sleepwear, including flannel loungewear.

5. Headwear:
   a) of a hat/cap nature may not be worn inside the school except when entering or leaving, or for medical/religious purposes. A note to the Principal is required for these exceptions.
   b) of a hair adornment nature is prohibited except those with utilitarian purposes such as barrettes or hair bands
   c) of a bandanna nature is prohibited as are do-rags, stocking caps, curlers, hairnets, wave caps, and similar items. This is for all students, both male and female.

6. Outer garments are:
   a) Defined as those jackets, coats, vests and hats that are normally associated with outdoor wear.
   b) Not permitted to be worn in the school building (exception: when entering or leaving the building; or when there is a defect in the heating system).

7. Footwear must:
   a) be worn at all times.
   b) sufficiently cover the feet to ensure personal safety and the safety of others.
   c) not have cleats, spikes, skates or any other devices that endanger the safety of others.
   d) not be athletic slides or bedroom slippers.
   e) not be any footwear deemed unsafe by School Administration.

8. Patches and decorations that are offensive or obscene are prohibited.

9. Glasses:
   a) glasses and contact lenses prescribed by a physician are permissible.
   b) sunglasses, glazed and tinted glasses/lenses that obstruct the view of the student's pupils are prohibited, except as prescribed by a physician.

10. Jewelry:
    a) jewelry that may be used as a weapon is prohibited.

Students who fail to follow the dress code are subject to disciplinary action.

EARLY PICK-UP If a student needs to be picked up early for any reason during the school day:
1. You must be a parent or legal guardian of record as recorded in PowerSchool.
2. A valid driver’s license/picture I.D. is required to enter the building.
3. The student will not be called out of class until you arrive and your I.D. has been verified.
4. If you are designating someone else to pick up your child you must:
   a. Send a note with your child’s name, homeroom#, date and time of pick-up, along with information on the adult you are designating to pick up your student.
   b. Please make sure the person you delegated to pick up your student has proper I.D.

Your Emergency Contacts are in fact for emergency use only. Your student will not be released for any early dismissal, unless you follow the procedures above. (The emergency contacts are used for pick-up of your child from the Nurse’s office only and also require a proper I.D.)

ELEVATOR POLICY No student is permitted to use the elevator unless he/she has permission from an administrator/school nurse.

ELIGIBILITY – ATHLETIC
1. Any middle school student in grades 6, 7 and 8 are eligible for interscholastic middle school sports, providing they will not turn 16 years of age prior to entering high school. In this case, the student must participate in high school sports as an 8th grader.
2. To be eligible for athletic competition for interscholastic middle school sports, the student must not have failed 2 or more subjects during the immediately preceding academic marking period.
3. To remain eligible for athletic competition for interscholastic middle school sports during the season, the student must not have his/her grades in two or more subjects fall below a failing level (64 or below).

ELIGIBILITY – EXTRA-CURRICULAR
1. If a student is late to school, he/she must report prior to the end of the third period in order to be eligible to participate in any extra-curricular activity for that day.
2. Students become ineligible for any extra-curricular activity, such as school field trips, class trips, 8th grade dance, 5th grade Spring Fling, clubs, student council, stage crew, musicals, and core activities if they accumulate 10 or more 3-7 school suspensions, out-of-school suspensions, and/or in-school suspensions (5th grade).

3. Students can become ineligible for any extra-curricular activity if they do not adhere to the district’s attendance policy.

EMERGENCY CLOSING OF SCHOOL “811” During the year there are days when school may be closed for an emergency such as snow. All of the major radio stations will announce emergency school closings. Our district number is 811. Our school phone number (856) 629-7444, option #1 will relay to parents school closing information. Additional information may be obtained at www.monroetwp.k12.nj.us. Global Connect, our phone messaging system, will contact parents at the telephone number provided to the school in case of an emergency.

EMERGENCY NOTIFICATION FOR STUDENT Each student will be requested to submit to the office personnel the telephone number of his/her family doctor and the name and telephone number of a neighbor or relative who may be contacted in an emergency, should we be unable to reach his/her parents/guardians at home or work. Please keep the school informed of any changes in the aforementioned information, as well as any changes in the home address or phone number. Please notify our central office (629-6400) of any change of address.

EVACUATION DRILLS / EMERGENCY DRILLS The FIRE BELL is a pulsing-sounding bell. At this signal, all teachers, students, and school personnel are to immediately leave the building. Everyone will remain outside until an administrator indicates the signal to go back into the building. The students should exit and enter the building in single file.

STUDENTS ARE TO REMAIN QUIET DURING EVACUATION DRILLS.

ALL WINDOWS AND DOORS ARE TO BE CLOSED.

Emergency Drills, such as lock downs and active shooter drills, are required by the State of NJ. These drills are considered serious and student behavior is expected to be appropriate. In a case of a true emergency, quiet and orderly behavior is required so that all school community members will be able to receive all necessary directions.

PULLING A FIRE ALARM IS A FEDERAL OFFENSE AND WILL BE REPORTED TO THE POLICE

STRICT DISCIPLINARY ACTION WILL FOLLOW

EXAMS Final assessments may be administered in Language Arts Literacy, Mathematics, Science, Social Studies, Foreign Language and Related Arts in grades 5-8 and will be considered as two test grades in the final marking period.

WMS GRADING POLICY

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>COURSE</th>
<th>CATEGORY</th>
<th>MINIMUM # OF ASSIGNMENTS Per Marking Period</th>
<th>PERCENTAGES</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Language Arts Literacy</td>
<td>Classwork / Participation</td>
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<td>20</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Homework</td>
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<td>10</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Quizzes</td>
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<td>Tests / Projects</td>
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<td>Mathematics</td>
<td>Classwork Daily</td>
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<td>Homework-per week</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Assessments</td>
<td>2 tests/2 quizzes</td>
<td>75</td>
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<td>Classwork / Quizzes</td>
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<td>Subject to change with new science program</td>
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<td>Assessments</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Homework</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Social Studies</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Quizzes</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Homework / Classwork</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Participation</td>
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<td>Quizzes</td>
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<td>Tests / Projects</td>
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<td>Course</td>
<td>Projects/Units</td>
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<tr>
<td>5th grade – Music</td>
<td>Projects/Assessments Participation</td>
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<td></td>
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<td>5th grade - Library</td>
<td>Projects/Classwork/Quiz/Test</td>
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<tr>
<td>6th grade – Discovery Art</td>
<td>Projects Participation</td>
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<tr>
<td>6th grade – Music Studio</td>
<td>Projects/Assessments Participation</td>
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<td>2</td>
<td>50</td>
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<td>6th grade – Explorations in Applied Technology</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Classwork/Participation</td>
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<tr>
<td>7th grade – My Future</td>
<td>Project/Lab. Assignments/Participation</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>60</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>5</td>
<td>40</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7th grade – My Hit Single</td>
<td>Projects/Assessments Participation</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>50</td>
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<td></td>
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<td>2</td>
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<tr>
<td>7th grade – Hands-On Art</td>
<td>Projects Participation</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>5</td>
<td>40</td>
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<tr>
<td>7th grade – Think! Design! Make!</td>
<td>Projects Participation Quiz</td>
<td>2</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Classwork/Participation</td>
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<td>20</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Quiz</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7th grade - Robots</td>
<td>Project/Lab Assignments/Participation</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>60</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>5</td>
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<td>8th grade – Financial Literacy and Entrepreneurship</td>
<td>Project Participation</td>
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<td>8th grade – Through the artists’ eyes</td>
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<td>1</td>
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<td>8th grade – The Total Musician</td>
<td>Projects/Assessments Participation</td>
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<td>8th grade - Animatronics</td>
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<tr>
<td>8th grade – Digital Media and Film Technology</td>
<td>Project Participation</td>
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<td>8th grade – Graphic Design</td>
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<td>5th grade Physical Education</td>
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5th Grade Grading Policy for Science and Social Studies

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assessments</th>
<th>Minimums</th>
<th>Weight</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Notebook checks, Tests, Quizzes, and the Common Assessment</td>
<td>Science- subject to change due to new science program 4 Social Studies</td>
<td>60% of the Quarter Average</td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Non-Assessments</th>
<th>Minimums</th>
<th>Weight</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>40% of the Quarter Average</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>40% of Quarter Average</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- All assignments are to be out of 100 percent
- Any assignments that are not completed by a student should receive a zero.
- Homework that is one day late will receive a fifty. Homework that is two days late will receive a zero.
- Students will be permitted to retrieve homework that has been left in the locker. Students will receive a reduction on the preparation grade.
- The preparation grade is to be calculated by the following standards. Students receive reductions for having to go to their locker, failure to bring their textbook/binder, et cetera.
  1st marking period: 1 point (Amnesty the first two weeks of switching).
  2nd marking period: 2 points
  3rd marking period: 4 points
  4th marking period: 5 points

5th Grade Grading Policy ELA

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assessments</th>
<th>Minimums</th>
<th>Weight</th>
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<td>60% of the Quarter Average</td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Classwork</th>
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<tbody>
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<td>Homework Assignments</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**GRADING PROCEDURE**
The following is the report card evaluation scale.
The grading system is based upon a numerical average. All subject areas will report student progress in this manner:

- 90 - 100 = A
- 80 - 89 = B
- 70 - 79 = C
- 65 - 69 = D
- Below 65 = F Fail
- INC. = Incomplete
- NE = New Entrant

Incomplete: Any student who receives an incomplete (INC) on his/her report card will have two (2) weeks to submit all the incomplete marking period assignments. If the assignments are not completed within that time, the incomplete grade will be changed to an “F”.

---

1 Preparation: Students will be graded if they are prepared. Each marking period students will start off with a 100. If they need to go back to their locker, do not have their textbook, a pencil/pen, binder, etc. First marking period students will lose 2 points each time, 3 points each time during the second marking period, 4 points each time during the third marking period and 5 points during the fourth marking period.
GUIDANCE SERVICES

It is the responsibility of the guidance counselors to meet the educational, personal, social, and/or vocational needs of the student. Four counselors will assist students with their concerns. There is a designated counselor assigned to each grade level. To confer with a counselor, a teacher, or a teaching core, an appointment can be made in the guidance office. The guidance counselors serve each student in many ways by providing individual counseling so that each student can solve his/her educational, vocational, and personal problems.

HALLS

Students should move quickly through the halls. Students in the halls during class time must have passes. The following courtesies are expected:

1. Keep to the right when moving.
2. Go directly to the next class.
3. Do not hit or slap students while passing.
4. Do not run or shout.
5. No hugging or other displays of affection.
6. No pulling, hitting or grabbing Chromebook bags.

Violations of hall procedures and continual lateness to class will result in discipline at the teacher’s discretion. Repeated offenses will be referred to an administrator.

HOME STUDY GUIDELINES-ASSIGNMENT BOOKS

Good study habits and efficient use of time will help a student achieve academic success. The following suggestions will help students improve their study habits:

1. Do some work for each subject each day. This approach will prevent assignments from accumulating at the end of each marking period.
2. Be certain that you understand the assignment. The assignments must be written in your student assignment book. Each student will be given one assignment book in September.

   If it is lost, the student must purchase a replacement book from the guidance office.

3. Plan a regular place and time for studying.
4. Provide yourself with an environment conducive to study: good lighting, a quiet room, a chair and a table, books, and necessary materials.
5. Work by yourself.
6. Do not expect to be studying at peak efficiency immediately. It usually takes a few minutes to concentrate and focus your thoughts on the subject matter you are studying.

HONOR ROLL REQUIREMENTS

The qualifications for the three categories of the Honor Roll are as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Requirement</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Principal’s List</td>
<td>93 and above in all subjects</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Scholar’s List</td>
<td>90-92 in Algebra I (high-school level mathematics course) and 93 or higher in all 8th grade courses.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Honor Roll</td>
<td>85 and above in all subjects</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Honorable Mention</td>
<td>80 and above in all subjects</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

LATE BUS ARRIVALS

Students who arrive late to school due to the late arrival of their school bus MUST report directly to their appropriate grade-level office to obtain a pass for admittance into homeroom or class.

LATENESS TO CLASS

The student will receive two verbal warnings for unexcused lateness to class per semester. On the third, fourth, and fifth lateness to the same class, he/she will receive a lunch detention for each lateness. On the sixth and subsequent lateness to the class the student will be referred to an administrator.

LATUREY TO SCHOOL

All students should arrive at school prior to the time classes are to begin. Most tardiness can be avoided if students make a conscientious effort to be punctual. Students who arrive late to school must first report to their respective grade level office. Students who are not in their homeroom when the bell rings will be considered late to school. Students will receive four verbal warnings each semester for tardiness to school. On a student’s fifth, sixth, and seventh lateness to school in a semester, a lunch detention will be assigned for each lateness. On the student’s eighth and subsequent lateness to school the student will be referred to an administrator and a general after-school detention will be issued. On the 16th lateness, he/she will become ineligible for dances and class trips.

LAVATORY AND HALL PASS

Each student is issued a student assignment book at the beginning of the year. Students must bring this book with them every day to every period. When a student needs to leave the classroom or cafeteria for any reason he or she must present the student assignment book for the teacher to initial on the bottom of the current day’s date. The person who is monitoring the lavatory, nurse’s office, or other destination will write the time on the page in the student’s assignment book. The student will sign a designation sheet with the time he/she arrived at the destination. When the student returns to the classroom the teacher will initial the student assignment book again noting the time the student was out of the classroom.

The teacher may notify an administrator if a student has abused the privilege by leaving classes throughout the day. If any student has a medical condition that requires special concerns, parents must contact the nurse who will document the information and inform the necessary personnel concerning the situation. If a student loses his/her assignment book, additional books can be purchased from the Guidance office for $5.00.

All students must have a lavatory pass to use the bathroom facilities. Students are not permitted in the lavatories between classes or if an adult is not monitoring the lavatory. If a student needs to use these facilities while at school he/she is required to do the following:

1. Write in the student assignment book his/her name and time leaving on the bottom of the page with the current day’s date.
2. Have the teacher write his/her initials on the bottom of the page next to the student’s name.
3. Present the assignment book to the lavatory monitor before entering the lavatory. If a student misuses this privilege, disciplinary action will result.
Gym Lockers—money or any personal items that are important are not safe in gym lockers. It is highly recommended that students not bring their valuable items to school, for the school cannot safeguard valuables. Students are encouraged to bring a lock to school to secure their gym locker during gym class. When the period is over, all belongings and locks must be removed so that students in the next class can utilize these lockers. It is virtually impossible for the middle school administration to recover lost items stolen from gym lockers, for there are no security cameras permitted in school locker rooms. Students should not store valuables in unlocked gym lockers.

Hall Lockers—Each pupil will be assigned a locker when he/she enters school. It is required that each student keep a school-issued combination lock on his/her locker. This lock is the property of the middle school and must be returned at the end of the academic school year. Each student who does not return his/her assigned lock will receive an obligation of $5.00 on his/her student account. It is the responsibility of each student to secure the school-issued lock on his/her assigned locker. A record of the combination and serial number will be kept on file in the assistant principals’ office. Any locker which does not have a lock on it will be permanently sealed until the school-issued lock is presented to the assistant principal or the lock obligation is paid.

First Offense for having an unlocked locker will result in a warning.

Second Offense for having an unlocked locker will result in a lunch detention.

Third Offense for having an unlocked locker will result in a general after-school detention.

Fourth Offense and all subsequent offenses will result in a 3-7 school suspension.

Valuable items are not safe in school. It is highly recommended that students leave valuables at home. The school cannot assume responsibility for lost or stolen items.

Library passes are available in the library before school or during the homeroom period. These passes are to be used during a student’s lunch period. The students who have a library pass will be the first to eat in the cafeteria and will then proceed to the library to use reference materials and/or computers.

Library Passes

The school nurse assesses students who are injured or become ill during the school day and provides assistance according to the directives from the school physician. The nurse administers medications according to school board policy number 5330. All students are required to meet school board requirements to receive any type of medication in school. Prescriptions, medical products sold over the counter, allergy treatments, vitamins, and dietary supplements are all classified as medications. Water bottles are not considered medication required to meet school board requirements to receive any type of medication in school. Prescriptions, medical products sold over the counter, allergy treatments, vitamins, and dietary supplements are all classified as medications. Water bottles are not considered medication.

To meet school board policy concerning medications taken during school hours, the pupil must return his/her medication to the school nurse at the beginning of the school year. The card is to be completed and signed by the parent or guardian. The student is to return it to the school nurse within five school days of the first day of school. If the information on the card changes during the school year, please notify the nurse. The information is very important in case of an accident or sudden illness of the student.

The New Jersey State Law requires the school nurse provide scoliosis screening for each child ages 10 to 18 (5th & 7th grade). The screenings are provided for the 6th and 8th grade students. Hearing screenings are given to the 7th grade students. Any exclusion from the scoliosis screenings must be requested by a parent or guardian in writing. Other services provided by the nurse include child advocacy, health counseling, and referrals to appropriate agencies.

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counseling, crisis intervention, child study team resource person, individual health teaching, maintenance of permanent health records which include heights, weights, results of physical examinations, screening and immunization updates. Students who require the services of the nurse must obtain a pass from the teacher or aide, except in the case of a serious emergency.

**PARENT ACCESS/PowerSchool** Parent access to students' assignments, grades, attendance, and discipline is available online through PowerSchool. To access PowerSchool, a parent must obtain a user name and password through the guidance office. PowerSchool is also capable of providing a direct e-mail to a teacher and will post current school announcements, via the Internet. If a parent has a concern about a grade on any assignment after checking PowerSchool, they are encouraged to contact the teacher directly.

**PARENT INVOLVEMENT** Parent involvement policy is available on our district website.

**PARENT-TEACHER CONFERENCES** The purpose of parent-teacher conferences is to allow the teachers and parents/guardians the opportunity to discuss the student’s progress in class. This will open the lines of communication between them. Fall conferences will be held during the week of November 30th – December 4th and spring conferences will be held on February 17 - 19, 2021. However, both parties are encouraged to discuss a child’s progress as often as they would like.

**PARTIES** An administrator must be notified of the desire of a teacher or group of students to have a party. Permission must be granted by an administrator before the party is held.

**PHYSICALS** In compliance with New Jersey State Law N.J.A.C.6A:16-22 & 18A:40-4, each student must now obtain a physical examination upon entry into the school district. The district Board of Education must also notify parents/guardians of the importance of obtaining subsequent examinations at least once during each of the student’s developmental stages:

- **Early childhood** (pre-school through 3rd grade)
- **Pre-adolescence** (4th through 6th grade)
- **Adolescence** (7th through 12th grade)

The purpose of these physicals is to ensure that the learning potential of each student is not diminished by a remediable physical disability, which the student is able to participate is the school program and that the school community is protected from the spread of communicable disease.

**PHYSICALS - ATHLETIC COMPETITION HEALTH SCREENINGS & PHYSICAL EXAMINATIONS (Grades 6-12)**

Each candidate for a school athletic squad or team is to be examined within 365 days prior to the first practice session. A healthcare provider or advanced practice nurse chosen by the student’s parent/guardian must conduct the medical examination at the student’s medical home. A full report of the examination, documented on an approved school district form, dated and signed by the medical provider must be presented to the school. A medical home is described as a healthcare provider (Physician or advanced practice nurse) practice site chosen by the student’s parent/guardian for the provision of healthcare. If the student does not have a “medical home”, the district may provide the examination at the school physician’s office or other appropriately equipped facility. Each candidate whose medical examination was completed more than 90 days prior to the first practice session must provide an updated HEALTH HISTORY of medical problems experienced since the last medical examination. This district form must be completed and signed by the parent/guardian. Each candidate’s parent/guardian will receive written notification stating approval of the student’s participation in athletics based upon the medical examination or the reasons for the disapproval of the student’s participation. Both of these forms may be secured from the nurse’s office or from the office of the athletic director. It may be downloaded from the school web site [http://www.monroetwp.k12.nj.us/MiddleSchool/Sports/](http://www.monroetwp.k12.nj.us/MiddleSchool/Sports/) Pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:40-41(d), each student-athlete and the student’s parent or guardian must review the Sudden Cardiac Death In Young Athletes pamphlet, as part of the student’s pre-participation physical examination and completion of the athletic permission forms. This information can be accessed at [http://www.monroetwp.k12.nj.us/MiddleSchool/Sports/index.shtml](http://www.monroetwp.k12.nj.us/MiddleSchool/Sports/index.shtml) under the Sports link.

**PHYSICAL EDUCATION** To participate in physical education classes, all students in grades 6-8 must wear approved physical education attire. This is the WMS physical education uniform and athletic sneakers. To be excused from physical education, a note from a physician is necessary. If a student does not participate in physical education for any other reason, the student will lose points. Parental notes are not accepted for non-participation. Four days a month, students will be given the opportunity to earn back 5 additional points by attending an after-school Physical Education class. Students may earn a maximum of 15 points per marking period.

**The rules for physical education classes are as follows:**

1. Students in grades 6-8 must be dressed to participate.
2. To be dressed for physical education, the student will wear the Williamstown Middle School physical education uniform and athletic type sneakers.
3. Sneakers must be tied on the outside of the shoe at all times.
4. No jewelry may be worn during physical education classes.
   
   **If a student has his/her ears or any other body part pierced,** he/she must remove the earring and/or post/studs to participate.

   This also includes recently pierced ears or body parts and any starter type of piercing.
5. No gum chewing is permitted in the gym.
6. No food or drinks are permitted in the gym.
7. Students will have a locker to use during physical education classes. **Locks must be used at all times. Teachers and/or administrators are not responsible nor will they investigate the theft of items due to the negligence of a student to properly use a lock.**
8. Each student will bring a combination lock for his/her locker. Key locks are not permitted.
9. Sunglasses, hats or bandannas are not permitted.
The grade a student receives in physical education and health will be included in the requirements for eligibility for the Principal’s List, Honor Roll, Renaissance and National Junior Honor Society. **The physical education grade will count towards promotion to the next grade level.**

**PROMOTION** Any student who receives passing grades in the majority of his/her major subjects and has met the requirements of the attendance policy is eligible to be promoted to the next grade. Any student who receives two (2) F’s in his/her final grades in full year courses including physical education and exploratory arts classes and/or has accumulated nineteen (19) or more unexcused absences will be retained. If a student fails the same subject two years in a row, remediation is required for promotion. Eighth grade students who are promoted are eligible to attend the Promotion Promenade during the last week of school in June. Eighth grade students who are retained and/or do not attend school the required number of days cannot participate in the Promotion Promenade.

**RENAISSANCE** Williamstown Middle School is participating in the nationally recognized Renaissance program. Students, staff, and community members are recognized by Renaissance for academic excellence, attendance, citizenship, and participation in school and community activities. Students may apply for Renaissance cards towards the end of each marking period. These cards entitle the bearer to local discounts, school privileges and celebrations. **It is important that students pay close attention to the application deadlines, as no late forms will be accepted.**

**SEXUAL HARASSMENT POLICY**

Board of Education - Monroe Township - No 5751

The Board of Education will not tolerate sexual harassment of pupils by school employees, other pupils, or third parties. Sexual harassment of pupils is a form of prohibited sex discrimination. School district staff will investigate and resolve allegations of sexual harassment of pupils engaged in by school employees, other pupils (peers), or third parties.

Definitions:

Quid pro quo harassment occurs when a school employee explicitly or implicitly conditions a pupil’s participation in an educational program or activity or bases an educational decision on the pupil’s submission to unwelcomed sexual advances, requests for sexual favors, or other favors, or other verbal, nonverbal, or physical conduct of a sexual nature. Quid Pro Quo Harassment is equally unlawful whether the pupil resists and suffers the threatened harm or submits and thus avoids the threatened harm.

Hostile environment sexual harassment is sexually harassing conduct (which can include unwelcomed sexual advances, requests for sexual favors, or other favors, or other verbal, nonverbal, or physical conduct of a sexual nature) by an employee, by another pupil, or by a third party that is sufficiently severe, persistent, or pervasive to limit a pupil’s ability to participate in or benefit from an educational program or activity, or to create a hostile or abusive educational environment.

This Policy protects any “person” from sex discrimination; accordingly both male and female pupils are protected from sexual harassment engaged in by school district employees, other pupils, or third parties. Sexual harassment, regardless of the gender of the harasser, even if the harasser and the pupil being harassed are members of the same gender is prohibited. Harassing conduct of a sexual nature directed toward any pupil, regardless of the pupil’s sexual orientation, may create a sexually hostile environment and therefore constitute sexual harassment. Nonsexual touching or other nonsexual conduct does not constitute sexual harassment.

The regulation and grievance procedure shall provide a mechanism for discovering sexual harassment as early as possible and for effectively correcting problems.

The Superintendent, or designee, will take steps to avoid any further sexual harassment and to prevent any retaliation against the pupil, who made the complaint, was the subject of the harassment, or against those who provided the information or were witnesses. The school district staff can learn of sexual harassment through notice and any other means such as from a witness to an incident, an anonymous letter or telephone call.

This policy and regulation on sexual harassment of pupils shall be published and distributed to pupils and employees to ensure all pupils and employees understand the nature of sexual harassment and that the Board will not tolerate it. The Board shall provide training for all staff and age-appropriate classroom information for pupils to ensure the staff and the pupils understand what type of conduct can cause sexual harassment and that the staff know the school district policy and regulation on how to respond.

In cases of alleged harassment, the protections of the First Amendment must be considered if issues of speech or expression are involved. Free speech rights apply in the classroom and in all other programs in the public schools. The Superintendent, or designee, will formulate, interpret, and apply the policy so as to protect free speech rights of staff, pupils and third parties.

In addition, if the Board accepts federal funds, the Board shall be bound by Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1992 prohibiting sexual harassment of pupils. Title IX applies to all public school districts that receive federal funds and protects pupils in connection with all the academic, educational, extra-curricular, athletic, and other programs of the school district, whether they take place in the school facilities, on the school bus, at a class or training program sponsored by the school in a school building or at another location. United States Department of Education – Office of Civil Rights Sexual Harassment Guidance: Harassment of Students by School employees, Other Students, or Third Parties (1997)

**SCHOOL PASSES** Students must have a pass at all times to travel to any location in the building. Students are encouraged to use their agenda book as their pass.

**STUDENT IDENTIFICATION CARDS** Students will be issued school student identification cards, which will be barcoded with the student I.D. number. Students are encouraged to use this card to check out materials, including items in the media center, and loaner devices, if necessary.

**STUDENT OBLIGATIONS** Students who have obligations (library fines, lost books, Chromebooks/chargers, repairs, etc.) to the school may not attend class trips or participate in extracurricular activities.

**TEXTBOOKS/CALCULATORS** All textbooks must be covered at all times. The students have the use of textbooks and calculators for the school year at no cost and are reminded that future students will be using the very same items. Students will be responsible for any unreasonable damage to or loss of textbooks and calculators. Violations will result in fines to pay for the damages. Students and their parents are
responsible for the fines. When a student loses the textbook, he/she must purchase another textbook (average price of $55.00). If the first textbook is located, the second textbook can be returned for a refund. For current textbook prices, please contact the Principal’s office.

**VANDALISM AND PROPERTY DAMAGE** Every pupil should be proud of the appearance of our building and the grounds surrounding it. It is his/her responsibility to keep it neat and clean. Paper and recyclables are to be placed in the receptacles provided. Markings of any kind on walls, furniture, or floors are prohibited. Students who willfully damage or destroy school property will receive severe disciplinary action, and the students and their parents will be responsible for the costs of replacement or repair of school property. If you should happen to damage something by accident, you should report it to a teacher or office immediately. Damaging and defacing school property includes and is not limited to the following:

1. Writing on books, desks, lockers, doors, or walls.
2. Defacing or damaging lavatories.