

FOREWORD

This student handbook was developed to answer many of the commonly asked questions that you and your parents may have during the school year and to provide specific information about certain Board policies and procedures. This handbook contains important information that you should know. Become familiar with the following information and keep the handbook available for frequent reference by you and your parents. If you have any questions that are not addressed in this handbook, you are encouraged to talk to your teachers or the building principal.

This handbook summarizes many of the official policies and administrative guidelines of the Board of Education and the District. To the extent that the handbook is ambiguous or conflicts with these policies and guidelines, the policies and guidelines shall control. This handbook is effective immediately and supersedes any prior handbook and other written material on the same subject.

This handbook does not equate to an irrevocable contractual commitment to the student, but only reflects the current status of the Board's policies and the School's rules as of August 18, 2023. If any of the policies or administrative guidelines referenced herein are revised after August 18, 2023, the language in the most current policy or administrative guideline prevails.

MISSION OF THE SCHOOL

It is the mission of Fennville Public Schools to provide academic excellence for a lifetime of success.

VISION OF THE SCHOOL

Educational Excellence, Community Atmosphere, Global Perspective

Student Rights and Responsibilities

The rules and procedures of the school are designed to allow each student to obtain a safe, orderly, and appropriate education. Students can expect their rights to freedom of expression and association and to fair treatment as long as they respect those rights for their fellow students and the staff. Students will be expected to follow teachers' directions and to obey all school rules. Disciplinary procedures are designed to ensure due process (a fair hearing) before a student is removed because of his/her behavior.

Parents have the right to know how their child is succeeding in school and will be provided with information on a regular basis and as needed, when concerns arise. Many times, it will be the student's responsibility to deliver that information. If necessary, mail, email, phone, or hand delivery may be used to ensure contact. We believe that open and timely communication between home and school is essential to the success of our students. Parents are encouraged to build a two-way link with their child's teachers and support staff by informing the staff of suggestions or concerns that may help their child better accomplish his/her educational goals.

Students will arrive at school on time, prepared to learn and participate in the educational program. If, for some reason, this is not possible, the student should seek help from the Principal or Assistant Principal.

Note to Parents and Guardians

We know that being a parent or guardian is not easy. We also know that it is important for all adults to work alongside young people in their development. The following handbook outlines the policies, rights, privileges, and expectations that we have for our young people as we work together on their social, emotional, and academic development during their adolescent years.

Additionally, we want to acknowledge that Guardians are the unsung heroes in families and education across America. Anytime the term "parent" is used in this handbook, please know that it refers to both parents and guardians.

I. Academics

Promotion, Placement, and Retention
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Promotion to the next grade is based on the following criteria:

- 1. Proficiency on academic standards
- 2. Potential for success at the next level
- 3. Emotional, physical, and/ or social maturity

School Day

Fennville Middle School is open between the hours of 7:00 and 3:30 p.m.

Classes begin at 7:50 a.m. and are dismissed at 2:50 p.m. Free breakfast is provided daily.

Early release days occur on Mondays. Classes begin at 7:50 and students are dismissed at 2:25.

Monday	6th Grade	7th Grade	8th Grade
7th (Advisory)	7:50-8:25	7:50-8:25	7:50-8:25
1st	8:30-9:20	8:30-9:20	8:30-9:20
2nd	9:25-10:10	9:25-10:10	9:25-10:10
3rd	10:45-11:40	10:15-11:10	10:15-11:10
LUNCH	10:10-10:40		11:10-11:40
4th	11:45- 12:35	11:15-12:05	11:45-12:35
LUNCH		12:05-12:35	
5th	12:40-1:30	12:40-1:30	12:40-1:30
6th	1:35-2:25	1:35-2:25	1:35-2:25

Tues - Fri	6th Grade	7th Grade	8th Grade
1st	7:50-8:45	7:50-8:45	7:50-8:45
2nd	8:50-9:45	8:50-9:45	8:50-9:45
3rd	9:50-10:45	9:50-10:45	9:50-10:45
4th	11:20-12:10	10:50-11:40	10:50-11:40
LUNCH	10:45-11:15		11:40 -12:10
5th	12:15 - 1:10	11:45-1:10	12:15-1:10
LUNCH		12:15 -12:45	
6th	1:15-2:10	1:15-2:10	1:15-2:10
7th (Advisory)	2:15-2:50	2:15-2:50	2:15-2:50

Grades

Fennville Middle School has a standard grading procedure, as well as additional notations that may indicate work in progress or incomplete work. The purpose of a grade is to indicate the extent to which the student has acquired the necessary learning. In general, students are assigned grades based upon test results, homework, projects, and classroom participation. Each teacher may place a different emphasis on these areas in determining a grade and will so inform the students at the beginning of the course work. If a student is not sure how his or her grade will be determined, the student should ask the teacher.

The school uses the following grading system:

97% or greater	A+	The student can demonstrate proficiency of course standards and apply to more complex problems or situations.
93-96	A	
90-92	A-	
87-89	B+	The student can demonstrate proficiency of the course standards.
83-86	B	
80-82	B-	
77-79	C+	The student can independently demonstrate proficiency of the simpler concepts of the course standards.
73-76	C	
70-72	C-	
67-69	D+	The student can demonstrate proficiency of simple concepts relating to the standard with support.
63-66	D	
60-62	D-	
59% or less	F	The student cannot demonstrate understanding of the standard at this time or insufficient data to support a higher grade.
Incomplete	I	<p>There are incomplete assignments that the student still can complete or demonstrate proficiency.</p> <p>An "I" will be assigned if a student has not completed the requirements for the semester. If an "I" is assigned, the work must be made up within two (2) weeks of the end of the semester. If this work is not made up, an "F" will be assigned. Any exceptions must be approved by the Principal.</p>
No Credit	NC	

Grade Point Average

A student's grade point average (GPA) is calculated on all subjects. One semester of any class is worth .5 credits; a full year of any class is worth 1.0 credits. To calculate a student's GPA, multiply the credit earned in each course by the points assigned to the letter grade earned in that course. Add all of these values together and divide by the total number of credits earned. The points assigned to each letter grade for the calculation of GPA are:

A+	4.3	B+	3.3	C+	2.3	D+	1.3	F	0.0
A	4.0	B	3.0	C	2.0	D	1.0	NC	0.0
A-	3.7	B-	2.7	C-	1.7	D-	0.7		

Recognition of Student Academic Achievement

Students who have displayed significant achievements during the year are recognized for their accomplishments. Areas that may merit recognition include, but are not limited to academics, athletics, performing arts, citizenship, and volunteerism. Recognition for such activities is initiated by the staff and coordinated by the Principal.

Honor Roll

In order for a student to be named to the Honor roll they will earn a minimum of a 3.25 G.P.A. on their report card. Honor roll celebrations will be held at the conclusion of each semester and will be coordinated by the principal. Students will be honored with the following criteria:

- ★ Honor: 3.25-3.49
- ★ With Great Honor: 3.50-3.89
- ★ With Highest Honor: 3.90-3.99
- ★ SOARing Scholar: 4.0+

Grading Policy

A student's final grade, which will be reported on their transcript, will be calculated using the following formula:

Semester 1*

Marking Period 1 – 50%

Marking Period 2 – 50%

Semester 2*

Marking Period 3 – 50%

Marking Period 4 – 50%

Grading Categories

Formative Assessment (40% of grade)

A formative assessment is a process that occurs during the teaching and learning and involves both teachers and students gathering information so they can take steps to keep learning moving forward to meet the learning goals. A formative assessment helps inform the teacher of what next steps to take with the student to maximize student growth.

Summative Assessment (60% of grade)

The goal of summative assessment is to evaluate student learning at the end of an instructional unit by comparing it against some standard or benchmark.

Late Work Policy	
Formative Assessments	
When is it late?	After established due date
When is it no longer accepted?	Becomes a zero at the completion of the unit once the Summative Assessment is given.
Penalty	Teachers can decide on penalty to late work, but not lower than 60%

Summative Assessments	
When is it late?	Students will be given the opportunity to make up any summative assessments from a marking period during the last 10 days of the marking period.
When is it no longer accepted?	Incomplete Assessments become a zero 10 days after the MP end date.
Penalty	No penalty

Homework

Homework is an extension of classroom learning. In the same way it is crucial for a musician to practice an instrument or an athlete to practice their sport, it is important for a student to practice the skills and master the content that they are learning in class.

Teachers and Advisors will give students the opportunity to work on homework in class. During these times, it is important for students to take advantage of this time to work diligently and be able to identify areas where they are struggling so that they can get support from the adult in the room.

At home, the best practice is to have routines to successfully complete homework. Having a clear space without distractions (e.g. television or cell phone) and dedicated start time each afternoon or evening is best practice.

If students struggle with homework, they should have the courage to communicate to their teacher either through e-mail or talking to them before, during, or after school. If a student is struggling with how to communicate with his or her teacher, the student should reach out to their Advisor, Assistant Principal, or Principal for support.

For parents, the best way for students to learn material is to teach the material. A best practice is to have a weekly routine where your son or daughter actually teaches you what they are learning. Let them teach you math, science, history, or have them show off their developing skills in writing.

For many struggling students, developing the ability and skill to do homework well is the lever that creates the academic growth to be an honor student.

Course Offerings

A list of courses offered is available in the Middle School Office.

Scheduling and Assignment

Schedules are provided to each student at the beginning of the school year or upon enrollment. Schedules are based on the student's needs and available class space. Any changes in a student's schedule should be handled through the Fennville Middle School Office. Students are expected to follow their schedules.

Grading Periods

Students shall receive a progress report at the end of each nine (9) week period indicating their grades for each course of study for that portion of the academic term.

Student Assessment

To measure student progress, students will be tested in accordance with State standards and District policy.

Unless exempted, each student will be expected to pass the appropriate MSTEP test. Additionally, 8th graders will participate in the state designated PSAT test.

Additional group tests, including the MAP test, which is given three (3) times a year (Fall, Winter, Spring), are given to students to monitor progress and determine educational mastery levels. These tests are used to help the staff determine instructional needs.

Classroom assessments will be used to monitor student progress and assign grades. These are selected or prepared by teachers to assess how well the students have achieved academic standards.

Vocational and interest surveys may be given to identify particular areas of student interest or talent. These are often given by the guidance staff.

If necessary, intelligence tests, speech and language evaluations, individually administered achievement tests, and other special testing services are available to students needing these services.

Students will not be required, as part of the school program or District curriculum, to submit to or participate in any survey, analysis, or evaluation that reveals information of a personal nature in accordance with Board policy and Federal guidelines.

Depending on the type of testing and specific information requested, parent (or student) consent may need to be obtained Fennville Middle School will not violate the rights of consent and privacy of a student participating in any form of evaluation.

Interventions

Throughout the school year various academic interventions are available to students. These include but are not limited to after school tutoring, lunch time academic supports (The NEST), and an academic support class for each grade level scheduled during elective times. These supports are fluid and are used to help students keep up on their weekly work.

Staff also uses data and observations to identify students who would benefit from more intensive support specifically in math or reading. These students will be strongly encouraged to participate in further interventions/labs that will support their reading and/or math skills. If students are offered this support it is because data is showing that they may be falling behind their grade level, and students will be strongly encouraged to take advantage of the opportunities for support that are offered.

II. Wellness

Advisory

Advisory is a class that will begin each school day at FMS. Activities during Advisory will include social and emotional learning, assemblies, Sustained Silent Reading, advisory with an assigned staff member, work catch up days, and WIN (What I Need) time. Students participate in weekly lessons that support social-emotional learning, as well spend time reviewing and learning behavior expectations and study skills.

Advisory provides all students with the opportunity to develop strong relationships with an adult Advisor and within a community of their peers. Through daily activities, students are able to support each other as they develop academic mindsets, success skills, and leadership habits that will allow them to pursue their dreams and succeed in life.

Educational Development Plan (EDP) An EDP is a living document that serves as a student's data dashboard and life map. All students have their own EDP and they work on it with a group of adults including their Advisor, parents, School Counselor, teachers, and administrators. The EDP is designed to assist students in their exploration of their strengths and areas for development in the pursuit of their academic and personal goals.

Parent-Teacher Conferences are a wonderful opportunity for parents, the student, and FMS adults to celebrate a student's accomplishments and plan strategies for success for areas of growth. FMS Parent-Teacher Conferences will be held from 4:00-7:00 p.m. on October 10th & 11th and February 8th and 9th.

Academic Mindsets are beliefs about learning and growth. A mindset is the way a person views the world and their relationship to the students with academic mindsets are more motivated to take on challenging work, persist in the face of setbacks, and achieve at higher levels.

Examples of Academic Mindsets are:

- ★ **Belonging** is the belief that a person is a valued member of the learning community. Students with this mindset actively engage with others, deepening relationships and expanding their networks. They understand that the pathway to success is not a solitary journey and it is worthy to support and be supported by others in order to reach their goals.
- ★ **Growth Mindset** is the belief that people can improve their abilities with willingness to learn, hard work, specific strategies, and supportive resources. People with this mindset work within their locus of control to develop the skills and knowledge required to meet their goals. They develop mastery of themselves, constantly seeking to positively cultivate their heart, mind, and will.
- ★ **Clear Purpose** is the belief that one is presently working towards a specific and valuable future. Students with this mindset identify a postsecondary pathway and align their daily activities to prepare for those pathways. A person with Clear Purpose sees the value in working hard today for a bright future tomorrow.

Success Skills are specific ways of thinking and doing which allow the effective pursuit of valued goals. Success Skills of the heart are respect, forgiveness, and gratitude. Success Skills of the will are courage, determination, and resiliency. Success skills of the mind are focus and organization.

Leadership Habits are the visible daily behaviors that demonstrate students are on the pathway to a successful future. Examples of Leadership Habits are being on time to class, being prepared for class, engaging in class, and seeking help when needed.

Recognition and Celebration

We ask all people to work diligently for positive growth and achievement. Teachers, administrators, support staff, and parents all need to work with resiliency to help lead and support students to develop. However, it is the individual student in the end that puts in the effort to grow and achieve. This positive progress is worth celebrating.

Growth

It doesn't matter where we start. It matters where we go and how we finish. All students can grow behaviorally and academically. It is the effort that people apply that determines their growth. We want all students to grow each year and we plan to celebrate these students.

Achievement

Achievement is the act of meeting goals as well as being the best. For some, achievement comes easy. For others, it can be more challenging. However, all students can achieve. As with growth, we want all students to achieve each year and we plan to celebrate these students.

Behavior and Academics

Behavior and academics are interrelated. Positive qualities of behavior such as being self-regulated, kind, resilient, or respectful help students grow and achieve academically. Both behavior and academics also work in the same way in that all people can improve in each of them with proper effort and guidance.

Student of the Month

Each month, the principal will select the Student of the Month. The Student of the Month will be a student who has grown and/or achieved in academics and/or behavior for that particular month.

Scholar of the Semester

Each semester, teachers will select the Scholar of the Semester. The Scholar of the Semester will be a student who has grown and/or achieved in academics and/or behavior for that particular semester.

Blackhawk Celebration

We will have at least one Blackhawk Celebration each semester. A Blackhawk Celebration is a celebration of student talent, work, and success where we enjoy the renaissance arts of music performance, athletic acknowledgement, and individual academic achievement.

Honor Roll(s)

In order for a student to be named to the Honor roll they will earn a minimum of a 3.25 GPA on their report card. Honor roll celebrations will be held at the conclusion of each semester and will be coordinated by the principal. Students will be honored with the following criteria:

- ★ Honor: 3.25-3.49
- ★ Great Honor: 3.50-3.89
- ★ Highest Honor: 3.90-3.99
- ★ SOARing Scholar: 4.0+

School Attendance Policy

It is imperative that students be in attendance each school day in order not to miss a significant portion of their education. Important learning results from active participation in the classroom and other school activities which cannot be replaced by individual study.

Attendance is important in the development of a high-quality work ethic, which will be a significant factor in a student's success with future employers. One of the most important work habits that employers look for in hiring and promoting a worker is his/her dependability in coming to work every day and on time. This is a habit the school wants to help students develop as early as possible in their school careers.

Truancy

Unexcused absence from school (truancy) is not acceptable. Students who are truant will receive no credit for schoolwork that is missed. After 10 days of truancy, a student will be considered a "habitual truant" and the truancy office of Allegan County will be notified. This could result in the following:

1. a hearing before a judge in a court of law;
2. a report to local authorities concerning the lack of parental responsibility in providing proper care for and supervision of a child.

Excused Absences

Students may be excused from school for one or more of the following reasons and will be provided an opportunity to make up missed schoolwork and/or tests:

1. illness
2. recovery from accident
3. required court attendance
4. professional appointments
5. death in the immediate family
6. observation or celebration of a bona fide religious holiday and/or
7. such other good cause as may be acceptable to the Superintendent

Suspension from School

Absence from school due to suspension shall be considered an authorized absence, neither excused nor unexcused.

A suspended student will be responsible for making up schoolwork lost due to suspension. It is recommended that a student completes missed assignments during the suspension and turn them in to the teacher upon his/her return from school. Assignments may be obtained from the school office beginning with the first day of a suspension. Make up of missed tests may be scheduled when the student returns to school. The student will be given credit for properly completed assignments and a grade on any made-up tests.

Unexcused Absences

Any student who is absent from school for all or any part of the day without a legitimate excuse shall be considered truant and the student and his/her parents shall be subject to the truancy laws of the State.

Notification of Absence

If a student is going to be absent, the parents must contact the school at (269) 722-3450 by 7:50 a.m. and provide an explanation. If prior contact is not possible, the parents should provide a written excuse as soon as possible or when the child returns to school. When no excuse is provided, the absence will be unexcused, and the student will

be considered truant. If the absence of a student appears to be questionable or excessive, the school staff will try to help parents improve their child's attendance.

If the absence can be foreseen and the reason approved by the principal's office, the parent should arrange to discuss the matter as many days as possible before the absence will occur so that arrangements can be made to assist the student in making up the missed schoolwork.

An excused absence allows the student to make up all possible work. The student is responsible for obtaining missed assignments. It is possible that certain kinds of schoolwork such as labs or skill-practice sessions cannot be made up and, as a result, may negatively impact a student's grade.

The skipping of classes or any part of the school day is considered an unexcused absence and no make-up of class work will be permitted. Disciplinary action will follow.

Tardiness

A student who is not in his/her assigned location by 7:50 a.m. shall be considered tardy. Any student arriving late to school is to report to the school office before proceeding to class. **After the first hour of the day (at 8:45 am), the student will be marked absent for ½ day.**

School-Related Absences

School-related absences are defined as field trips, student council meetings, student support area appointments, class meetings, religious holidays, athletic events, and other school functions as deemed appropriate by Middle School Administration. If there is a class or student council meeting, the advisors will have students sign in, and a list will be sent to the Middle School Office the next day requesting that the absences be excused as school related.

Absences and Make-up Work

Students who are excusably absent from school or who have been suspended shall be given the opportunity to make-up work that has been missed. The student will contact the school as soon as possible to obtain assignments. Make-up work due to suspension should be completed by the time the student returns to school. Students will be given the number of days of excused absence within which to make-up work. If a student misses a teacher's test due to an excused absence, s/he may make arrangements with the teacher to make-up the test.

Early Dismissal from Class

When the situation dictates that athletes are dismissed from school to travel to competition it is the responsibility of the athlete to procure all homework assignments prior to their absence. All work will be made up according to the Student Handbook.

Early Dismissal from School

No student will be allowed to leave school prior to dismissal time without a written request signed by the parent or a person whose signature is on file in the School office or the parent coming to the school office to request the release. No student will be released to a person other than a custodial parent(s) without written permission signed by the custodial parent(s) or guardian.

Student Attendance at School Events

The school encourages students to attend as many school events held after school as possible, without interfering with their school work and home activities. Enthusiastic spectators help to build school spirit and encourage those students who are participating in the event.

However, in order to ensure that students attending evening events as non-participants are properly safe-guarded, it is strongly advised that students be accompanied by a parent or adult chaperone when they attend the event. The School will not be able to supervise unaccompanied students nor will it be responsible for students who arrive without an adult chaperone.

The school will continue to provide adequate supervision for all students who are participants in a school activity. Students will comply with the Code of Conduct at school events, regardless of the location.

PowerSchool Internet Viewer (PIV)

Parents and students will receive a username and password enabling each to login to the PowerSchool Internet Viewer to see the assignments and grades recorded for each class up to that point. PIV can be an excellent tool for monitoring a student's progress in each class. Please contact the appropriate teacher with questions about a grade or progress report.

School-Sponsored Clubs and Activities

Fennville Middle School provides students the opportunity to broaden their learning through curricular-related activities. A curricular-related activity may be for credit, required for a particular course, and/or contain school subject matter.

The Board authorizes many student groups that are sponsored by a staff member. Authorized groups include: Art Club, Ski Club, Student Council, Drama Club, Quiz Bowl, Robotics, Mathlete, and others as determined by staff.

Extra-curricular activities do not reflect the school curriculum but are made available to students to allow them to pursue additional worthwhile activities such as recreational sports. All students are permitted to participate in the activities of their choosing, as long as they meet the eligibility requirements.

Non-School Sponsored Clubs and Activities

Non-school-sponsored student groups organized for religious, political, or philosophical reasons may meet during non-instructional hours. The applicant will seek permission from the principal to hold meetings on school grounds. The applicant will verify that the activity is being initiated by students, that attendance is voluntary, that no school staff person is actively involved in the event, that the event will not interfere with school activities and that non-school persons do not play a regular role in the event. All school rules will still apply regarding behavior and equal opportunity to participate.

Only district-sponsored organizations may use the name of the school or school mascot.

Athletics

Fennville Middle School provides a variety of athletic activities in which students may participate providing they meet any eligibility requirements that may apply. The following is a list of activities currently being offered: 6th grade rocket football; 6th grade cheerleading; 6th grade Saturday basketball; 6th grade wrestling; 6th grade cross country; 7th and 8th boys' and girls' basketball, girls' cheerleading, girls' volleyball, boys' football, girls' and boys' wrestling, girls' and boys' track, girls' and boys' cross-country and girls' and boys' soccer. For further information, contact the Athletic Director at 269 722-3440.

Athletic eligibility is based on middle school citizenship scores. Students are expected to SOAR throughout the school day. This carries over into sports as the student athlete represents Fennville Schools and should display these traits in competition as well. Students not exhibiting the aspects of SOARing at FMS may be held out of athletic contests. Any student who is under a suspension is not allowed to participate in athletics while suspended.

Student Rights of Expression

The School recognizes the right of students to express themselves. With the right of expression comes the responsibility to do it appropriately. Students may distribute or display, at appropriate times, non-sponsored, noncommercial written material and petitions; buttons, badges, or other insignia; clothing, insignia, and banners; and audio and video materials. All items must meet the following school guidelines:

- A. Material cannot be displayed if it:
 - 1) is obscene to minors, libelous, indecent, or vulgar,
 - 2) advertises any product or service not permitted to minors by law,
 - 3) intends to be insulting or harassing,
 - 4) intends to incite fighting or presents a likelihood of disrupting school or a school event, or
 - 5) presents a clear and present likelihood that, either because of its content or manner of distribution or display, it causes or is likely to cause a material and substantial disruption of school or school activities, a violation of school regulations, or the commission of an unlawful act.
- B. Permission may be granted for display or distribution during lunch periods and after school in designated locations, as long as exits are not blocked and there is proper access and egress to the building. Materials may not be displayed or distributed during class periods, or during passing times between classes.

Students who are unsure whether or not materials they wish to display meet school guidelines may present them to the Principal twenty-four (24) hours prior to display.

Individuals with Disabilities

The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act provide that no individual will be discriminated against on the basis of a disability. This protection applies not just to the student, but to all individuals who have access to the District's programs and facilities.

A student may be considered for access to special education services through the proper evaluation procedures. Parent involvement in this procedure is important and required by Federal (IDEA) and State law. Contact the District's Director of Specialized Instruction to inquire about evaluation procedures and available programs and services.

Limited English Proficiency

Limited proficiency in the English language should not be a barrier to equal participation in the instructional or extra-curricular programs of the District. It is, therefore, the policy of this District that those students identified as having limited English proficiency will be provided additional support and instruction to assist them in gaining English proficiency and in accessing the educational and extra-curricular program offered by the District. The District follows U.S. federal requirements around evaluating students' English language proficiency. Parents should contact the building Principal to inquire about evaluation procedures and programs offered by the District.

Student Well-Being

Student safety is a responsibility of the staff. All staff members are familiar with emergency procedures such as fire and tornado drills and accident reporting procedures. Should a student be aware of any dangerous situation or accident, she/he will notify any staff person immediately.

State law requires that all students must have an emergency medical card completed, signed by a parent or guardian, and filed in the School office. A student may be excluded from school until this requirement has been fulfilled. Students with specific health care needs should deliver written notice about such needs along with proper documentation by a physician to the School Office.

Immunizations

Students must be current with all immunizations required by law or have an authorized waiver from State immunization requirements. If a student does not have the necessary shots or waivers, the principal may remove the student or require compliance with a set deadline. This is for the safety of all students and in accordance with State law. Any questions about immunizations or waivers should be directed to the school nurse.

Injury and Illness

All injuries will be reported to a teacher or the office. If minor, the student will be treated and may return to class. If medical attention is required, the office will follow the School's emergency procedures. A student who becomes ill during the school day should request permission to go to the office. An appropriate adult in the office will determine whether or not the student should remain in school or go home. No student will be released from school without proper parental permission.

Emergency Medical Authorization

The board has established a policy that every student must have an Emergency Medical Authorization Form completed and signed by his/her parent in order to participate in any activity off school grounds. This includes field trips, spectator trips, athletic and other extra-curricular activities, and co-curricular activities. The Emergency Medical Authorization Form is provided at the time of enrollment and at the beginning of each year. Failure to return the completed form to the school will jeopardize a student's educational program.

Medication

The term medication shall include all medicines including those prescribed by a physician and any non-prescribed (over-the-counter) drugs, preparations, and/or remedies.

In those circumstances where a student must take prescribed medication during the school day, the following guidelines are to be observed:

- A Medication Administration Form (available in any school office, from the school nurse, or online) must be filed with the respective building principal and/or the school nurse before the student will be allowed to begin taking any medication during school hours.
- The medication must be in the original container appropriately labeled by the pharmacy.
- The administration of medication and/or medically-prescribed treatment to a student during school hours will be permitted at school by authorized and trained school staff when necessary for school attendance.
- Medication that is brought to the office and/or school nurse will be properly secured.
- Medication, and special equipment if needed, may be conveyed to school directly by the parent or transported by transportation personnel (bus driver) at parental request. This should be arranged in advance.
- Medication MAY NOT be sent to school in a student's lunch box, pocket, or other means on or about his/her person.
- The parent/guardian must provide the school with a completed medication administration form every year as changes in medication occur.

- Any unused medication unclaimed by the parent will be destroyed by school personnel when a prescription is no longer to be administered or at the end of a school year.
- The parents shall have sole responsibility to instruct their child to take the medication at the scheduled time, and the child has the responsibility for both presenting himself/herself on time and for taking the prescribed medication.
- A log for each prescribed medication shall be maintained which will note the personnel giving the medication, the date, and the time of day. This log will be maintained along with the medication administration form.

Asthma Inhalers and Epi-pens

Students, with appropriate written permission from the physician and parent, may possess and use a metered dose inhaler or epi-pen to alleviate asthmatic symptoms or an allergic reaction.

Non-prescribed (Over-the-Counter) Medications

Parents may authorize the school to administer a non-prescribed medication using a form which is available at the school office.

If a student is found using or possessing a non-prescribed medication without parent authorization, s/he will be brought to the school office and the parents will be contacted for authorization. The medication will be confiscated until written authorization is received.

Any student who distributes a medication of any kind to another student or is found to possess a medication other than the one authorized is in violation of the school's Code of Conduct and will be disciplined in accordance with the drug-use provision of the code.

Before any prescribed medication or treatment may be administered to any student during school hours, the Board shall require the written prescription and instructions from the child’s physician accompanied by the written authorization of the parent. Both must also authorize any self-medication by the student. Before any non-prescribed medication or treatment may be administered, the Board shall require the prior written consent of the parent along with a waiver of any liability of the District for the administration of the medication. The school nurse will receive a copy of the written approval from the physician and the parent/guardian.

Head Lice

Fennville Public Schools staff recognize that head lice are a common concern in school communities. Lice are not dangerous and do not transmit disease. The school nurse or trained school staff will notify parents of the student with identified lice or nits and recommend treatment that evening. Students will be sent home for treatment and will not be readmitted until a parent/guardian confirms with documentation using form 8450A that the child is free of any nits.

Health Services

In compliance with law, the Board of Education may require students to submit to periodic health examinations to protect the school community from the spread of communicable disease; determine that each student’s participation in health, safety, and physical education courses meets his/her individual needs; and/or determine that the learning potential of each child is not lessened by a remediable, physical disability. The District shall specify the need for services which may include, but not be limited to student physical examinations; athlete physical examinations; dental examinations; tests for communicable disease; vision screening; audiometric screening; scoliosis test.

III. Behavior

Code of Conduct

It is the responsibility of Fennville Public Schools to provide a safe and orderly environment for students and staff that is conducive to the learning process.

Student behaviors disruptive to the learning environment may require disciplinary action. This discipline policy is intended to deal with those behaviors that cause disruption to the educational process, or which pose a threat to the safety and security of students, staff, parents, school, and property. Discipline is within the sound discretion of the School's staff and administration. Due process ensures that disciplinary action is imposed only after review of the facts and/or special circumstances of the situation.

This Discipline Code is applicable as follows:

- during the school day- this includes the bus ride to and from school,
- at all school-sponsored activities and trips,
- at all athletic contests and practices,
- at student dances and activities, and
- to all district property.

Teachers are authorized to immediately remove and suspend a student from a class, subject, or activity when the student engages in conduct prohibited by law, Board of Education policy, or the school's code of conduct. The student will not return to class on the day of suspension except by mutual agreement of the teacher and administrator. It should also be noted that some offenses may warrant immediate referral to the Board of Education for expulsion. This handbook does not claim to contain every rule or policy of the school. Rules, policies, procedures, and/or activities are subject to change during this school year, with sufficient notification to students.

Expected Behaviors

Each student shall be expected to:

- abide by national, state, and local laws as well as the rules of the school,
- respect the civil rights of others,
- act courteously to adults and fellow students,
- be prompt to school and attentive in class,
- work cooperatively with others when involved in accomplishing a common goal, regardless of the others ability, gender, race, religion, height, weight, disability, or ethnic background,
- complete assigned tasks on time and as directed,
- help maintain a school environment that is safe, friendly, and productive, and
- act at all times in a manner that reflects pride in self, family and in the school.

PBIS/SOAR

To align behavioral expectations and bridge the gap between the elementary, middle, and high school buildings, FMS has adopted the Positive Behavioral Interventions and Systems (P.B.I.S.). PBIS is an evidence-based framework for improving and integrating data, systems, and practices to improve the overall student behavior.

FMS has adopted the acronym **S.O.A.R. (Supportive, Outstanding, Accountable and Respectful)**. Everyone in the school should aim to exhibit these traits in all areas of the school. When students exhibit a positive desired behavior, staff will reward students with a SOAR ticket. Tickets should be turned in to the office for monthly popcorn and the chance for a bigger prize.

Together as a school community we look forward to continuing to make Fennville Middle School a great place for students to learn and for teachers to teach. Thank you for your continued support and for your help in making FMS SOAR to new heights.

Working towards full implementation of PBIS in the building consists of creating a safe learning environment for students in which expectations for their behavior are both clear and consistent.

Behavior Terms	
SWIS Write Up	Students who act with disrespect, disengagement, disruption, or defiance earn a written SWIS referral that is either a "Major" or "Minor."
Minor referral	A minor referral is when a student disrupts the learning environment but corrects and resets behavior. A student who accumulates three minor write-ups within a three-week period will earn an "Accountability Measure."
Major referral	A major referral is when a student disruption causes a large or sustained disruption to the learning environment. Every major referral earns an "Accountability Measure" (example: a Restorative Conference or Hawk Time.

Accountability Measures

For students who have a single major referral or three or more minor referrals in a three-week period, an Accountability Measure may be assigned. Students need to be on time for any Accountability Measure and positively engage in the activity until its conclusion. Accountability Measures run from 6:30-7:05 a.m. in the morning (e.g. Morning Warrior), during lunch, and from 3:00-3:50 p.m. in the afternoon (e.g. Hawk Time).

SOARing Lunch: Student will be required to eat lunch in a separate room under supervision. Students may bring books and/or school work to complete during this time. There is to be no socializing during SOARing lunch. This time will be spent completing restorative practices by reflecting on reoccurring minor behaviors and/or working to restore strained relationships. This is step 4 intervention on the FMS Minor Behavior Plan. Prior to this staff will have made other attempts to reteach and address the behavior including parent contact.

HAWK Time: Students may be required to serve HAWK Time after school for violation of the established rules. Students serving HAWK time will be allowed to ride the after-school tutoring bus home or a parent or guardian may pick them up at the middle school at 3:50. This is an extended time to reflect on minor behaviors and to work on restoring strained relationships. If a student is assigned a HAWK time this takes precedence over any other after school activities. Prior to this staff will have made other attempts to reteach and address the behavior including parent contact

Good Standing Students who break school rules or fail to serve the penalty for breaking them may lose their good standing status at school. For those who are not in good standing, this could result in not eating lunch with classmates, not being eligible for enrichment activities such as sports or arts programming, losing the privilege to use hall passes, and/or not being able to attend extracurricular activities such as dances or field trips.

Loss of Privilege: As student behaviors (minor and major) are reviewed it may be determined that in order to help a student succeed it may be best to have a temporary loss of privilege. Examples of this could include being asked to eat in an area outside of the cafeteria, alternate passing time, or a more structured school day.

Extra-Curricular Activities and Accountability Measures

It is the expectation that students who earn accountability measures serve them the week that they are assigned. Students are not allowed to skip an Accountability Measure to attend a sports practice or other extra-curricular events.

Student-Athletes who skip an assigned Accountability will be suspended for the next athletic contest. Additionally, student-athletes who earn multiple major write-ups within one week may be subject to game suspensions.

Restorative Practices

When a relationship or community is harmed, we need to acknowledge the acts so we can work together to heal individuals and the community. All the following tools exist to help restore relationships within our school community:

A **Restorative Circle** is a community process for supporting those in conflict. It brings together the parties in conflict to solve problems through communication and action.

A **Restorative Conference** is a structured meeting between the offender and the person that was harmed in which they deal with the consequences of the wrongdoing and decide how best to repair the harm.

Harm Reparation is when a student completes a task or assignment to make up for a previous offence.

Restitution is an action that permits the student to help to restore or improve the school environment either by directly addressing the problems caused by the student's behavior (e.g., in cases of vandalism students can work to repair things they damaged), or by having the student improve the school environment more broadly (e.g., picking up trash, washing lockers).

Mini-courses or Skill Modules: Short courses or self-study modules can be assigned as a restorative consequence. These courses would be on topics related to the student's inappropriate behavior and would be designed to teach the student to have increased awareness or knowledge about the topic, thus facilitating behavior change.

Parent involvement and Supervision: Along with the school and student, parents/guardians will develop ways that they can provide closer supervision or be more involved in their student's development. Together the adults and student will work towards better communication and more frequent contact between teachers and parents, as well as coordinated behavior-change approaches.

Student Conference: A meeting where the student, teacher, Advisor, or administrator develop behavior and academic goals with plans, action items, and communication methods. A **Parent Conference** is when the parent or guardian attends.

Problem-solving/contracting: Negotiation and problem-solving approaches can be used to assist students in identifying alternative behavior choices. The student will develop a contract that reminds him or her to engage in a problem-solving process that includes positive reinforcement for success and consequences for continuing problem behaviors.

Suspensions*

In-School Suspension (ISS)

1. The student reports to the ISS room for the day of their assigned ISS.
2. Should school be cancelled on the day of assigned ISS, the student will serve it the following scheduled school day.
3. The student will follow the expectations of the ISS room.
4. After school, the student will leave campus as they are not allowed to participate in any extracurricular activity.
5. The student may not participate in any athletic practice or game/contest. The student may not travel with the team to any away contest.

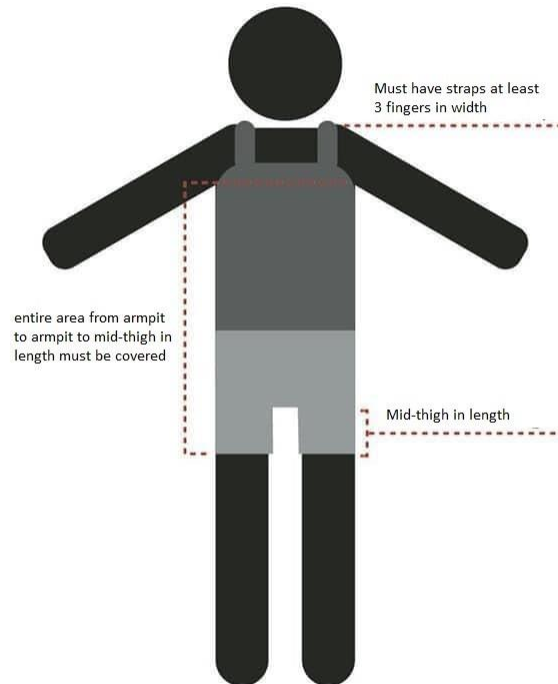
Out-of-School Suspension (OSS)

1. The student should stay home on the day of their assigned OSS and they are not allowed on campus.
2. Should school be cancelled on the day of assigned OSS, the student will serve the OSS on the following scheduled school day.
3. The student shall not be on the Fennville campus, and they are not allowed to participate in any extracurricular activity.
4. The student may not participate in any athletic practice or game/contest. The student may not travel with the team to any away contest.

*A student earns a suspension. FMS reserves the right to assign an In-School Suspension (ISS) or Out-of-School Suspension (OSS) depending on situation and circumstance.

Dress Code

Fennville Public Schools respects students' rights to express themselves in the attire that they choose. All students who attend Fennville Public Schools are expected to respect the school community by dressing appropriately for the educational environment. The following policy is intended to provide guidance for students, parents/guardians, and staff.



Minimum Requirements:

1. Clothing must cover areas from one armpit across to the other armpit, down to mid thighs (see image above). Tops must have shoulder straps at least 3 fingers in width. Rips or tears in clothing must be lower than the mid-thigh.
2. Shoes must be worn at all times and should be safe for the school environment (bedroom shoes or slippers shall not be worn, except for school activities approved by school administration).
3. See-through or mesh garments must not be worn without appropriate coverage underneath that meet the minimum requirements (see image above).
4. Headgear including hats, hoodies, and caps are not allowed unless permitted for religious, medical, or other reasons by school administration.

Additional Requirements:

1. Clothing may not depict, imply, advertise, or advocate illegal, violent, or led conduct, weapons, or the use of alcohol, tobacco, marijuana or other controlled substances.
2. Clothing may not depict or imply pornography, nudity, or sexual acts.
3. Clothing may not display or imply vulgar, discriminatory, or obscene language or images.
4. Clothing may not state, imply, or depict hate speech/imagery targeting groups based on race, ethnicity, gender, sexual orientation, gender identity, religious affiliation, or any other protected classification.
5. Clothing and accessories that endanger student or staff safety may not be worn.
6. Apparel, jewelry, accessories, tattoos, or manner of grooming that, by virtue of its color, arrangement, trademark, or any other attribute, denotes membership in a gang that advocates illegal behavior is prohibited.
7. Specialized courses or activities may require specialized requirements to their uniforms.

The administration and school personnel reserve the right to determine what constitutes appropriate dress. Students who do not adhere to these guidelines will be requested to change, and their parents will be contacted if appropriate clothing is not available or the student refuses dress-code appropriate clothing.

Students who violate the Dress Code are subject to a minor referral.

Personal Technology Policy

It is the mission of Fennville Public Schools to provide academic excellence for a lifetime of success. The usage of personal electronic devices (cell phones, earphones/buds, smart watches *etc.*) can interfere with learning from taking place in the classroom and limit academic success.

Fennville Middle School is a NO CELL PHONE ZONE from 7:45 AM – 2:50 PM (2:25 PM on Mondays) Phones should be off/silenced and put away in lockers. Students should not be seen using phones at any point during the school day at FMS. This is true for any area of the building there are no exceptions. In case of an emergency situation a student may check in with office to check messages or to use the office phone.

Students may use a smartwatch for the purposes of telling time; however, any other use of a smartwatch during unsanctioned time is a violation of the Personal Technology Policy.

Students who are observed recording a discipline infraction (a fight, illegal activity, *etc.*) will be subject to discipline as well. The phone will be confiscated, and parent will be notified.

The school prohibits the use of any photography or video device from any restroom, locker room or other location where students and staff “have a reasonable expectation of privacy.” A student improperly using any device to take or transmit images will face disciplinary action up to and including suspension, loss of privileges, and may be recommended for expulsion.

“Sexting” is prohibited at any time on school property or at school functions. Sexting is the electronic transmission of sexual messages or pictures, usually through cell phone text messaging. Such conduct not only is potentially dangerous for the involved students but can lead to unwanted exposure of the messages and images to others and could result in criminal violations related to the transmission or possession of child pornography. Such conduct will be subject to discipline and possible confiscation of the device.

Taking or transmitting images or messages during testing is also prohibited. If a student is caught transmitting images or messages during testing, s/he will fail the exam and may be suspended.

Students observed texting, using social media, or making phone calls during the school are in violation of the cell phone policy. The student will be asked to turn their phone in to the office. If the student refuses to turn in their cell phone they will be required to report to the office, a parent will be contacted, and the student may receive up to one day of OSS.

School personnel will follow the guidelines below:

1st Offense – If a student is found to be in violation of the personal technology policy, the student will be asked by school personnel to surrender the device. If the student does so, the student will get their device returned at the end of the school day in the main office. Contact will be made with the student’s parent/guardian.

2nd Offense – If a student is found to be in violation of the personal technology policy for a 2nd time, the student will be asked by school personnel to surrender the device. If the student does so, a parent/guardian will need to pick up the device at the end of the school day in the main office. The student will be assigned a before or after school Accountability Measure.

3rd Offense – If a student is found to be in violation of the personal technology policy for a 3rd time, the student will be asked by school personnel to surrender the device. If the student does so, a parent/guardian will need to pick up the device at the end of the school day in the main office. One day ISS or OSS will be assigned by school administration and the student will be placed on a technology plan.

Any Subsequent Offenses – Any further infractions will result in OSS starting with the amount to be determined by school administration in accordance with the Student Code of Conduct.

Parents/Guardians: If you need to contact your child during the school day, please call the office at (269) 722-3550.

Vaping Policy

Bathroom Privileges

If a student is in the bathroom when the vape sensor is activated, the student’s parents will be informed. If the student continues to be in the bathroom when the vape sensor is activated, the student will lose the privilege to use the group bathrooms and will need to check-in with the office and use a single-stall bathroom. Students who use the group bathroom without the proper privilege will earn a major write-up. On the first offence, if a student can go two weeks without activating the vape sensor, the privilege of using the group bathroom will be returned to the student. Each time a student furthermore activates the vape sensor, the number of days without group bathroom privilege will double (e.g. second offense is one month, third offense is two months).

Additional Consequences

Possessing a tobacco vape pen is a Class Two Offense. Possessing a marijuana vape pen is a Class One Offense. A vape pen that is not clearly identifiable will be turned over to law enforcement for identification.

	Tobacco	THC*
1st Offense	3 Day Out-of-School Suspension	Up to 10 Day Out-of-School Suspension and may include Recommendation for Expulsion
2nd Offense	5 Day Out-of-School Suspension	Long-term Suspension and Recommendation for Expulsion
3rd Offense	10 Day Out-of-School Suspension and Recommendation for Expulsion	

*The Allegan County Sheriff will be contacted any time a student is found with THC. If a student is younger than 18 years old, the Sheriff’s Department will be making a home visit to meet with the student’s parents.

Completion of a Vape Course can decrease the total number of suspension days for one suspension.

Tardy to Class Policy

In order for classes to begin on time and benefit from the full period of instruction, all students are expected to be in their classes on time. Arriving to class on time is important for the academic success of students. It is also an important life skill to be present on time. A tardy is when the student is not present in the room when the tone sounds to start class. A student will not be marked tardy if he or she is excused by a staff member.

If a student is less than ten (10) minutes late for class, the teacher will record the student as tardy. If a student is more than ten (10) minutes late for class, the teacher will record the student as absent.

Students who report to school late must report to the office to receive a tardy pass before reporting to class. They are also required to sign in on the sign in sheet at this time.

Students who report late to school and sign in at the main office will still be counted as tardy.

At the end of each week, a tardy report will be run.

- Students with 3-5 tardies from the previous week will earn one SOARing Lunch.
- Students with 6-8 tardies from the previous week will earn one SOARing Lunch and one Accountability Measure.
- Students will eat a boxed lunch during SOARing lunch. Any dietary restrictions must be requested by the student or parent at least 48 hours prior to serving a SOARing lunch.

Within a marking period,

- Students with 10 accumulated tardies will have a parent meeting with an administrator.
- Students with 20 accumulated tardies will earn a .5 day of In-School Suspension.
- Students with 30 accumulated tardies will earn 1 day of Out-of-School Suspension with a corresponding parent meeting.

Discipline Related to Specific Misbehaviors/Infractions

The items listed below are the most common major violations of school discipline. This list is not intended, nor is it possible for any list, to be all inclusive. Additional violations may result in disciplinary action and violations of a more serious nature will result in more severe action. Consequences will be administered as deemed appropriate to the specific offense. Repeated violations will also result in more severe disciplinary actions. Due process ensures that disciplinary action is imposed only after review of the facts and/or special circumstances of the situation.

Major Offenses: Class One

Class One offenses are the most serious infractions. These infractions will result in an Out-of-School Suspension for up to ten (10) days and/or a recommendation for expulsion.

Disciplinary action regarding Class One offenses includes the notification of law enforcement as required by law and/or as appropriate. In addition, certain behaviors could lead to the district conducting a threat assessment to determine risk level before the student is allowed to return to campus. Action may also include placement on probation for a minimum of sixty days and loss of the privilege to be involved in or attend extra-curricular activities during the probationary period.

State law requires expulsion for the use or possession of weapons.

These infractions include, but are not limited to:

- Assault or threats made to students or staff including comments of a violent or threatening nature directed towards individuals or the school community.
- Creation of depictions of violence or threats
- Being under the influence of, use, possession, or sale of alcohol, controlled substances, inhalants, substances purported to be illegal drugs or purported to have the effects of illegal drugs, or drug paraphernalia
- Extortion
- Fighting
- Gross disruption
- Harassment (verbal, physical, or sexual)
- Gang activities
- Participating in a sexual act on campus grounds
- Possession, use, or sale of weapons or explosive devices (including firecrackers and smoke bombs)
- Vandalism, defacing, or destruction of school property or of a staff member's personal property, on or off school premises (Disciplinary action taken will also include restitution in the form of reconditioning or replacing as the situation may warrant.)
- Violation of civil or criminal legal codes including rape, sexual misconduct, arson, or abuse of fire alarms and safety equipment
- Violation of the district Technology Code of Ethics

Major Offenses: Class Two

Class Two offenses are serious infractions that will result in a suspension as follows:

1st Offense: Up to three (3) days Out-of-School Suspension

2nd Offense: Up to five (5) days Out-of-School Suspension

Additional Offenses: To be treated as Class One offenses

These infractions include, but are not limited to:

- Accumulating more than 7 major referrals within one week
- Filming a fight or any other violation of the Student Code of Conduct
- Insubordination
- Possession or use of Electronic Nicotine Delivery Systems (ENDS) such as electronic cigarettes, vaping products such as vaping liquids
- Possession or use of tobacco products (including chewing tobacco)
- Severe Bullying- Please refer to Board Policy 5517.01 for further information
- Theft or possession of stolen goods (Disciplinary action taken will also include restitution or replacement as the situation warrants)
- Unacceptable behavior for a teacher
- Violation of closed campus policy (Skipping Off Campus)

Major Offenses: Class Three

Class Three offenses include disruption to the proper functioning of school activities and will result in sanctions as follows:

1st Offense: Up to two (2) days of In-School or Out-of-School Suspension

2nd Offense: Up to three (3) days of In-School or Out-of-School Suspension

3rd Offense: Up to three (5) days Out-of-School Suspension

4th Offense: Suspended up to ten (10) days, possible recommendation to the school board for expulsion.

These infractions include, but are not limited to:

- Accumulating 3 to 6 major referrals within one week
- Aiding and abetting a violation of school rules
- Being in an unauthorized or restricted area
- Bullying- Please refer to Board Policy 5517.01 for further information
- Cell Phone/Technology Misuse
- Cheating/Plagiarism
- Chronic tardiness (six (6) tardies in the same class period in a marking period, each additional tardy beyond six tardies will result in additional sanctions)
- Classroom/hallway disruption or in possession of a disruptive article
- Driving in restricted areas
- Failure to serve assigned Accountability Measure
- Forgery
- Gambling
- Improper sign-in or sign-out
- Inappropriate attire
- Inappropriate hallway conduct
- Inappropriate display of affection

- Inappropriate language or gestures
- Inappropriate symbols, drawings, and writings
- Leaving class without permission
- Littering
- Loitering
- Lying to a staff member that hinders the operation of the school
- Parking violations
- Physical Altercation
- Profanity
- Profanity directed at another person
- Refusing to accept discipline
- Skipping (In building)
- Violation of driving regulations

Reservation of Rights

The school reserves the right to set forth, as part of the Code of Conduct, those rules and regulations necessary and proper for carrying into execution the educational program of the school which are not specifically stated herein as the need arises. When in the judgment of the administration, the student's behavior reaches such proportion or is of a nature that it tends to influence others adversely and/or interferes with the educational process or infringes on the rights of others, this behavior is grounds for suspension.

Definition and Explanation of Terms

Assault A physical attack on another person.

Bullying Any gesture or written, verbal, graphic, or physical act (including electronically transmitted acts- e.g., internet, telephone or cell phone, personal digital assistant, or wireless handheld device) that, without regard to its subject matter or motivating animus, is intended or that a reasonable person would know is likely to harm one (1) or more students either directly or indirectly.

Closed Campus Policy Because of our commitment to student safety, Fennville Middle School operates a "closed campus". This means that students are to remain in the school building or in designated outside areas after their arrival on school grounds until the end of the normal school day.

Controlled Substance Alcohol, intoxicants, drugs, look-a-like drugs, nonalcoholic beer, steroids, inhalants, and the distribution/sale or misuse of drugs prescribed by a physician.

Extortion The use of threats in an attempt to take or borrow money from another student.

Fighting An act of physical violence between two or more students.

Forgery The fraudulent use of the name of another person, or falsifying times, dates, grades, addresses, signatures, or school data and information.

Gross Disruption The act of deliberate or willful conduct detrimental to the function and normal operation of school activities or programs.

Harassment Harassing behavior is disruptive to the educational process and infringes on the rights of students to a safe and orderly learning environment. Harassing behavior may be racial, cultural, verbal, or physical.

Hazing Any act coercing another, including the victim, to perform any act of initiation into any class, group, or organization that causes or creates a risk of causing mental, emotional, or physical harm.

Inappropriate Attire Student dress or clothing determined to be indecent, disruptive, obscene, or not in accordance with the school dress code.

Inappropriate Display of Affection Students demonstrating affection between each other is personal and not meant for public display. This includes touching, petting, and any other contact that may be considered sexual in nature. Such behavior may result in disciplinary action.

Inappropriate Language or Gestures The use of offensive language or gestures in verbal, written, picture, or caricature form (including student attire).

Insubordination The failure to respond to, or carry out, a reasonable request from a staff member, or the act of verbal or physical opposition to a staff member. This also is intended to include students who are willfully dishonest with a staff member.

Physical Altercation – An act of minor physical contact toward another student, not rising to the level of a fight or assault.

Sexual Harassment Sexual harassment includes unwelcome sexual advances, requests for sexual favors, making improper sexual comments, or verbal or physical contact of a sexual nature where:

- a. Submission to such conduct is made either explicitly or implicitly a term or condition of a person's employment or educational development.
- b. Submission to or rejection of such conduct by an individual is used as the basis for employment or educational decisions affecting such individuals.
- c. Such conduct has the express purpose or effect of unreasonably interfering with an individual's work or educational performance or creating an intimidating, hostile, or offensive working or educational environment.

Any student who believes that he/she has been subjected to discriminatory and/or sexual harassment, insults or intimidation shall report the incident to the building principal or guidance counselor. Any student who engages in discriminatory and/or sexual insults, intimidation or harassment shall be disciplined and counseled to refrain from such conduct.

Skipping – Student is not in their designated area during the school day.

- a. **Off Campus** – Students are required to be in their designated area during the school day. Leaving the school building and/or school grounds without permission is considered skipping and a student will be marked unexcused, and the code of conduct policy will be followed.
- b. **In Building** - Students are required to be at their designated area during the school day. Leaving the designated area without permission is considered skipping and a student will be marked unexcused for the hour and code of conduct policy will be followed.

Tardy Arriving, less than 10 minutes late to class without a signed pass from a teacher, office, or staff member.

Theft The act of acquiring the property of another by stealing, fraud, coercion, or knowingly possessing stolen goods.

Threat The expression of the intention to hurt another or damage property.

Unauthorized Areas The following areas are off limits to Middle School students during the school day without staff permission: elementary and middle school hallways and classrooms, outside entrances and exits, and all parking lots and other outdoor areas.

Weapon Firearm, dagger, stiletto, knife (including pocketknives), or any other object used for the purpose of inflicting injury.

State law requires expulsion for the use or possession of weapons. This includes any knife with a blade of over three inches in length and a pocketknife opened by a mechanical device.

Bullying and Other Aggressive Behavior Toward Students
(From Board Policy 5517.01)

It is the policy of the District to provide a safe and nurturing educational environment for all its students. This policy protects all students from bullying/aggressive behavior regardless of the subject matter or motivation for such impermissible behavior.

Bullying or other aggressive behavior toward a student, whether by other students, staff, or third parties, including Board members, parents, guests, contractors, vendors, and volunteers, is prohibited. This prohibition includes written, physical, verbal, and psychological abuse, including hazing, gestures, comments, threats, or actions to a student, which cause or threaten to cause bodily harm, reasonable fear for personal safety or personal degradation.

Demonstration of appropriate behavior, treating others with civility and respect, and refusing to tolerate harassment or bullying is expected of administrators, faculty, staff, and volunteers to provide positive examples for student behavior.

This policy applies to all "at school" activities in the District, including activities on school property, in a school vehicle, and those occurring off school property, if the student or employee is at any school-sponsored, school-approved, or school-related activity or function, such as field trips or athletic events where students are under the school's control, or where an employee is engaged in school business. Misconduct occurring outside of school may also be disciplined if it interferes with the school environment. This may include actions that are done online via social media.

Notification

Parents or legal guardians of the alleged victim(s), as well as of the alleged aggressor(s), shall be promptly notified of any complaint or investigation as well as the results of the investigation to the extent consistent with student confidentiality requirements. A record of the time and form of notice or attempts at notice shall be kept in the investigation file.

To the extent appropriate and/or legally permitted, confidentiality will be maintained during the investigation process. However, a proper investigation will, in some circumstances, require the disclosure of names and allegations. Further, the appropriate authorities may be notified, depending on the nature of the complaint and/or the results of the investigation.

Procedure

Any student who believes s/he has been or is the victim of bullying, hazing, or other aggressive behavior should immediately report the situation to the Principal or Assistant Principal. The student may also report concerns to a teacher or counselor who will be responsible for notifying the appropriate administrator or Board official. Complaints

against the building principal should be filed with the Superintendent. Complaints against the Superintendent should be filed with the Board President.

Every student is encouraged, and every staff member is required, to report any situation that they believe to be aggressive behavior directed toward a student. Reports shall be made to those identified above. Reports may be made anonymously, but formal disciplinary action may not be taken solely on the basis of an anonymous report.

The principal (or other administrator as designated) shall promptly investigate and document all complaints about bullying, aggressive or other behavior that may violate this policy. The investigation must be completed as promptly as the circumstances permit after a report or complaint is made.

If the investigation finds an instance of bullying or aggressive behavior has occurred, it will result in prompt and appropriate remedial action. This may include up to expulsion for students, up to discharge for employees, exclusion for parents, guests, volunteers and contractors, and removal from any official position and/or a request to resign for Board members. Individuals may also be referred to law enforcement or other appropriate officials.

If, during an investigation of a reported act of harassment, intimidation and/or bullying/cyberbullying, the Principal or appropriate administrator believes that the reported misconduct may have created a hostile learning environment and may have constituted unlawful discriminatory harassment based on a Protected Class, the Principal will report the act of bullying and/or harassment to one of the Anti-Harassment Compliance Officers so that it may be investigated in accordance with the procedures set forth in Policy 2266.

The individual responsible for conducting the investigation shall document all reported incidents and report all verified incidents of bullying, aggressive or other prohibited behavior, as well as any remedial action taken, including disciplinary actions and referrals, to the Superintendent. The Superintendent shall submit a compiled report to the Board on an annual basis.

Non-Retaliation/False Reports

Retaliation or false allegations against any person who reports, is thought to have reported, files a complaint, participates in an investigation or inquiry concerning allegations of bullying or aggressive behavior (as a witness or otherwise), or is the target of the bullying or aggressive behavior being investigated, is prohibited and will not be tolerated. Such retaliation shall be considered a serious violation of Board policy, independent of whether a complaint of bullying is substantiated. Suspected retaliation should be reported in the same manner as bullying/aggressive behavior.

Making intentionally false reports about bullying/aggressive behavior for the purpose of getting someone in trouble is similarly prohibited and will not be tolerated. Retaliation and intentionally false reports may result in disciplinary action as indicated above.

DEFINITIONS

The following definitions are provided for guidance only. If a student or other individual believes there has been bullying, hazing, harassment, or other aggressive behavior, regardless of whether it fits a particular definition, s/he should report it immediately and allow the administration to determine the appropriate course of action.

"Aggressive behavior" is defined as inappropriate conduct that is repeated enough, or serious enough, to negatively impact a student's educational, physical, or emotional well-being. Such behavior includes, for example, bullying, hazing, stalking, intimidation, menacing, coercion, name-calling, taunting, making threats, and hitting/pushing/shoving.

"At School" is defined as in a classroom, elsewhere on school premises, on a school bus or other school-related vehicle, or at a school-sponsored activity or event whether or not it is held on school premises. It also includes conduct using a telecommunications access device or telecommunications service provider that occurs off school premises if either owned by or under the control of the District.

"Bullying" is defined as any gesture or written, verbal, graphic, or physical act (including electronically transmitted acts – i.e., internet, telephone or cell phone, personal digital assistant (PDA), or wireless handheld device) that, without regard to its subject matter or motivating animus, is intended or that a reasonable person would know is likely to harm one (1) or more students either directly or indirectly by doing any of the following:

- A. substantially interfering with educational opportunities, benefits, or programs of one (1) or more students;
- B. adversely affecting the ability of a student to participate in or benefit from the school district's educational programs or activities by placing the student in reasonable fear of physical harm or by causing substantial emotional distress;
- C. having an actual and substantial detrimental effect on a student's physical or mental health; and/or
- D. causing substantial disruption in, or substantial interference with, the orderly operation of the school.

Bullying can be physical, verbal, psychological, or a combination of all three. Some examples of bullying are:

- A. Physical – hitting, kicking, spitting, pushing, pulling; taking and/or damaging personal belongings or extorting money, blocking, or impeding student movement, unwelcome physical contact.
- B. Verbal – taunting, malicious teasing, insulting, name calling, making threats.
- C. Psychological – spreading rumors, manipulating social relationships, coercion, or engaging in social exclusion/shunning, extortion, or intimidation. This may occur in a number of different ways, including but not limited to notes, emails, social media postings, and graffiti.

"Harassment" includes, but is not limited to, any act which subjects an individual or group to unwanted, abusive behavior of a nonverbal, verbal, written or physical nature, often on the basis of age, race, religion, color, national origin, marital status or disability, but may also include sexual orientation, physical characteristics (e.g., height, weight, complexion), cultural background, socioeconomic status, or geographic location (e.g., from rival school, different state, rural area, city, etc.).

"Hazing" shall be defined for purposes of this policy as performing any act or coercing another, including the victim, to perform any act of initiation into any class, group, or organization that causes or creates a risk of causing mental, emotional, or physical harm. Permission, consent, or assumption of risk by an individual subjected to hazing shall not lessen the prohibitions contained in this policy.

"Intimidation/Menacing" includes, but is not limited to, any threat or act intended to: place a person in fear of physical injury or offensive physical contact; to substantially damage or interfere with person's property; or to intentionally interfere with or block a person's movement without good reason.

"Staff" includes all school employees and Board members.

"Third parties" include, but are not limited to, coaches, school volunteers, parents, school visitors, service contractors, vendors, or others engaged in District business, and others not directly subject to school control at inter-district or intra-district athletic competitions or other school events.

Formal Discipline

Formal discipline removes the student from the school setting. It includes emergency removal for up to seventy-two (72) hours, in-school suspension, suspension for up to ten (10) school days, and expulsion from school. Suspensions and expulsions may carry over into the next school year. Removal for less than one (1) school day without the possibility of suspension or expulsion may not be appealed. Suspension and expulsion can be appealed.

Students involved in co-curricular and extra-curricular activities such as band and athletics can lose their eligibility for violation of the school rules.

If a student commits a crime while at school or a school-related event, s/he may be subject to school disciplinary action as well as to action by the community's legal system. These are separate jurisdictions and do not constitute double jeopardy (being tried twice for the same crime).

Discipline of Students with Disabilities

Students with disabilities are entitled to the rights and procedures afforded by the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) and the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). Please contact the director of specialized instruction or your child's case manager for documents with details about discipline for students with disabilities.

Due Process Rights

Before a student may be suspended or expelled from school, there are specific procedures that must be followed.

Short-Term Suspension from School

When a student is being considered for a suspension of ten (10) days or less, the administrator in charge will notify the student of the charges. The student will then be given an opportunity to explain his/her side and the administrator will then provide the student the evidence supporting the charges. After that informal hearing, the administrator will decide whether to suspend. If a student is suspended, s/he and his/her parents will be notified, in writing within one (1) day of the reason for and the length of the suspension. The suspension may be appealed within two (2) school days after receipt of the suspension notice, to the Principal. The request for an appeal must be in writing.

Suspension from co-curricular and extra-curricular activities may not be appealed.

During the appeal process, the student shall not be allowed to remain in school.

The principal will reach a decision within two (2) school days after the receipt of the written request. The principal's review may include a meeting with the parents if, in the principal's opinion, this is appropriate.

The decision of the principal may be appealed in writing to the Superintendent within two (2) school days of the parents' receipt of the principal's decision. The Superintendent will review the circumstances and render a decision in writing within two (2) school days after receipt of the written appeal.

The Superintendent's decision shall be considered final. A parent may appeal to the Board only in cases of alleged violation of due process by the Superintendent. In such cases, the appeal shall be made in writing to the Board President within two (2) school days after the parents' receipt of the Superintendent's decision and shall include a statement of the alleged violation of due process. The Board shall notify the parents of its decision within ten (10)

school days of receipt of the written request. If the appeal is heard by the Board of Education, the hearing is governed by the Open Meetings Act. Under the Open Meetings Act, the hearing must be public unless the parents request that the meeting be conducted in a closed session.

When a student is suspended, s/he may make-up work missed. Any learning that cannot be made up such as labs, field trips, skill-practices, or any learning that the student chooses not to make up may be reflected in the grades earned.

A student being considered for suspension of more than ten (10) days will be given due process as described in the expulsion section below.

Long-term suspension or expulsion from school

If, in the principal's opinion or as required by statute, an alleged infraction warrants a long-term suspension (more than ten (10) days) or expulsion, the principal shall make a recommendation to the Superintendent. Upon receipt of the recommendation, the Superintendent will schedule a hearing with the student's parents.

Prior to the hearing, the parents will receive a formal letter of notification which will contain:

- the rule(s) alleged to have been violated;
- the charges against the student;
- the approximate date of the violation;
- the time and place of the hearing with the Superintendent;
- a statement of the student's and parents' prehearing rights:
 - a. to review written statements about the alleged misconduct,
 - b. to review the student's records, and
 - c. to request a delay in the hearing of up to ten (10) school days;
 - the length of the recommended suspension or expulsion;
 - a statement of the student's hearing rights:
 1. to counsel;
 2. to a translator;
 3. to appear in his/her own behalf and for parents or guardians to appear;
 4. to produce witnesses and present evidence on his/her behalf.

The Superintendent shall decide within two (2) days of the hearing.

The parents may appeal the expulsion to the Board, in writing, within ten (10) days of receipt of the notice. The parents shall state in the appeal the reasons they think the Superintendent's decision is not justified and provide any extenuating circumstances they wish the Board to consider. The Board will conduct a hearing within thirty (30) days after it receives the appeal. The Board of Education must conduct the hearing in compliance with the Open Meetings Act. Under the Open Meetings Act, the hearing must be public unless the parents request that the meeting be conducted in a closed session.

Fennville Middle School makes a sincere effort to have disciplinary actions take place that will allow the student to remain in school. If a disciplinary action does not result in removal from school, it cannot be appealed. Should a student or parent have questions regarding the propriety of an in-school disciplinary action, they should contact the building principal.

Criminal Acts

Any student engaging in criminal acts at or related to the school will be reported to law enforcement officials as well as disciplined by the school. It is not considered double jeopardy (being tried twice for the same crime) when school rules and the law are violated.

Students should be aware that state law requires that school officials, teachers and appropriate law enforcement officials be notified when a student of this District is involved in crimes related to physical violence, gang related acts, illegal possession of a controlled substance, analogue or other intoxicants, trespassing, property crimes, including but not limited to theft and vandalism, occurring in the school as well as in the community.

Safety Concerns

Students will walk or use their approved alternative method of mobility in school hallways or district pedestrian traffic areas. Students should not use roller blades, bicycles, skateboards, scooters, or any other form of personal transportation device in these areas. Exceptions may be made to reasonably accommodate students with mobility impairments. Use of any means of travel within buildings and on grounds by other than generally accepted practices where appropriate is prohibited. Students violating this expectation will be subject to disciplinary action. Students will leave personal bags, purses, and backpacks in their lockers. Bags are not permitted in the classroom. There is limited classroom space and backpacks have potential to block walkways and be safety concerns within the classroom. Each student is assigned their own locker upon enrollment at Fennville Middle School and will remain in that same locker for their entire Middle school career.

Memorandum to Parents Regarding School Board Policy on Drug-Free Schools

In accordance with Federal Law, the Board of Education prohibits the use, possession, concealment, or distribution of drugs by students on school grounds, in school or school-approved vehicles, or at any school-related event. Drugs includes any alcoholic beverage, anabolic steroid, dangerous controlled substance as defined by State statute, or substance that could be considered a "look-a-like" controlled substance. Compliance with this policy is mandatory for all students. Any student who violates this policy will be subject to disciplinary action, in accordance with due process and as specified in the student handbooks, up to and including expulsion from school. When required by State law, the District will also notify law enforcement officials.

The District is concerned about any student who is a victim of alcohol or drug abuse and will facilitate the process by which s/he receives help through programs and services available in the community. Students and their parents should contact the school principal or counseling office whenever such help is needed.

Search and Seizure

Search of a student and his/her possessions, including vehicles, may be conducted at any time the student is under the jurisdiction of the Board of Education, if there is reasonable suspicion that the student is in violation of law or school rules. A search may also be conducted to protect the health and safety of others. All searches may be conducted with or without a student's consent.

Students are provided lockers, desks, and other equipment in which to store materials. It should be clearly understood that this equipment is the property of the school and may be searched at any time if there is reasonable suspicion that a student has violated the law or school rules. Locks are to prevent theft, not to prevent searches. If student lockers require student-provided locks, each student will provide the lock's combination or key to the principal.

Anything that is found in the course of a search that may be evidence of a violation of school rules or the law may be taken and held or turned over to the police. The school reserves the right not to return items which have been confiscated. During any search, students' privacy rights will be respected regarding any items that are not illegal or against school policy.

All computers located in classrooms, labs and offices of the District are the District's property and are to be used by students, where appropriate, solely for educational purposes. The District retains the right to access and review all electronic, computer files, databases, and any other electronic transmissions contained in or used in conjunction with the District's computer system, and electronic mail. Students should have no expectation that any information contained on such systems is confidential or private.

Review of such information may be done by the District with or without the student's knowledge or permission. The use of passwords does not guarantee confidentiality, and the District retains the right to access information in spite of a password. All passwords or security codes must be registered with the instructor. A student's refusal to permit such access may be grounds for disciplinary action.

Bus Transportation

Students may only ride assigned school buses and will board and depart from the bus at assigned bus stops. Students will not be permitted to ride unassigned buses for any reason other than an emergency, except as approved by the principal. The transportation schedule and routes are available by contacting the Director of Transportation.

BUS CONDUCT

Students who are riding to and from school on transportation provided by the school are required to follow all basic safety rules. This applies to school-owned buses as well as any contracted transportation.

The driver may assign seating or direct students in any reasonable manner to maintain transportation safety.

Students will comply with the following basic safety rules:

Previous to loading (on the road and at school), each student shall:

- be on time at the designated loading zone (5 minutes prior to scheduled stop);
- stay off the road at all times while walking to and waiting for the school transportation;
- line up single file off the roadway to enter;
- wait until the school transportation is completely stopped before moving forward to enter;
- refrain from crossing a highway until the driver signals it is safe to cross;
- go immediately to a seat and be seated.

It is the parents' responsibility to inform the bus driver when their child will not be aboard school transportation. The bus will not wait. Drivers will not wait for students who are not at their designated stops on time.

During the trip, each student shall:

- remain seated while the school transportation is in motion;
- keep head, hands, arms, and legs inside the school vehicle at all times;
- not litter in the school vehicle or throw anything from the vehicle;
- keep books, packages, coats, and all other objects out of the aisle;
- be courteous to the driver and to other riders;
- not tamper with the school vehicle or any of its equipment.

Leaving the bus, each student shall:

- remain seated until the vehicle has stopped;
- cross the road, when necessary, at least ten (10) feet in front of the vehicle, but only after the driver signals that it is safe;
- be alert to a possible danger signal from the driver.

The driver will not discharge students at places other than their regular stop at home or at school unless s/he has proper authorization from school officials.

The Board of Education has installed video cameras on school buses to monitor student behavior. If a student misbehaves on a bus and his/her actions are recorded on a videotape, the tape will be submitted to the principal and may be used as evidence of the misbehavior. Since these tapes are considered part of a student's record, they can be viewed only in accordance with Federal law.

Penalties for Infractions

A student who misbehaves on the bus shall be disciplined in accordance with the Student Discipline Code and may lose the privilege of riding on the bus.

IV. Whole School Policies

Equal Education Opportunity

It is the policy of this District to provide an equal education opportunity for all students.

Any person who believes that she/he has been discriminated against on the basis of his/her race, color, disability, religion, sex, gender, or national origin, while at school or a school activity should immediately contact one of the School District's Compliance Officers listed below:

Jessie Gierucki
Curriculum Director
(269) 722-3350
4 Memorial Drive
Fennville, MI 49408

Mr. Brent Potts
Middle School Principal
(269) 722-3550
5 Memorial Drive
Fennville, MI 49408

Complaints will be investigated in accordance with the procedures as described in Board Policy 2260 and 2266. Any student making a complaint or participating in a school investigation will be protected from any threat or retaliation. The Compliance Officer can provide additional information concerning equal access to educational opportunity.

School Records

The School District maintains many student records including both directory information and confidential information.

Directory information can be provided upon request to any individual, other than a for-profit organization, even without the written consent of a parent. Parents may refuse to allow the Board to disclose any or all of such "directory information" upon written notification to the Board. For further information about the items included within the category of directory information and instructions on how to prohibit its release you may wish to consult the Board's annual *Family Education Rights and Privacy Act* (FERPA) notice which can be found at the Superintendent's Office.

Other than directory information, access to all other student records is protected by (FERPA) and Michigan law. Except in limited circumstances as specifically defined in State and Federal law, the School District is prohibited from releasing confidential education records to any outside individual or organization without the prior written consent of the parents, or the adult student, as well as those individuals who have matriculated and entered a postsecondary educational institution at any age.

Confidential records include test scores, psychological reports, behavioral data, disciplinary records, and communications with family and outside service providers.

Students and parents have the right to review and receive copies of all educational records. Costs for copies of records may be charged to the parent. To review student records please provide a written notice identifying the requested student records to Middle School Principal. You will be given an appointment with the appropriate person to answer any questions and to review the requested student records.

Parents and adult students have the right to amend a student record when they believe that any of the information contained in the record is inaccurate, misleading, or violates the student's privacy. A parent or adult student must request the amendment of a student record in writing, and if the request is denied, the parent or adult student will be informed of their right to a hearing on the matter.

Individuals have a right to file a complaint with the United States Department of Education if they believe that the District has violated FERPA.

Consistent with the Protection of Pupil Rights Amendment (PPRA), no student shall be required, as a part of the school program or the District's curriculum, without prior written consent of the student (if an adult, or an emancipated minor) or, if an un-emancipated minor, his/her parents, to submit to or participate in any survey, analysis, or evaluation that reveals information concerning:

- A. political affiliations or beliefs of the student or his/her parents;
- B. mental or psychological problems of the student or his/her family;
- C. Sexual behavior or attitudes;
- D. illegal, anti-social, self-incriminating or demeaning behavior;
- E. critical appraisals of other individuals with whom respondents have close family relationships;
- F. legally recognized privileged and analogous relationships, such as those of lawyers, physicians, and ministers;
- G. religious practices, affiliations, or beliefs of the student or his/her parents; or
- H. Income (other than that required by law to determine eligibility for participation in a program or for receiving financial assistance under such a program).

Consistent with the PPRA and Board policy, the Superintendent shall ensure that procedures are established whereby parents may inspect any materials used in conjunction with any such survey, analysis, or evaluation. Further, parents have the right to inspect, upon request, a survey or evaluation created by a third party before the survey/evaluation is administered or distributed by the school to the student. The parent will have access to the survey/evaluation within a reasonable period of time after the request is received by the building principal.

The Superintendent will provide notice directly to parents of students enrolled in the District of the substantive content of this policy at least annually at the beginning of the school year, and within a reasonable period of time after any substantive change in this policy. In addition, the Superintendent is directed to notify parents of students in the District, at least annually at the beginning of the school year, of the specific or approximate dates during the school year when the following activities are scheduled or expected to be scheduled:

- A. activities involving the collection, disclosure, or use of personal information collected from students for the purpose of marketing or for selling that information for otherwise providing that information to others for that purpose);
- B. the administration of any survey by a third party that contains one or more of the items described in A through H above.

The Family Policy Compliance Office in the U.S. Department of Education administers both FERPA and PPRA. Parents and/or eligible students who believe their rights have been violated may file a complaint with:

Family Policy Compliance Office
U.S. Department of Education
400 Maryland Avenue, SW
Washington, D.C. 20202-4605
www.ed.gov/offices/OM/fpco

Informal inquiries may be sent to the Family Policy Compliance Office via the following email addresses: FERPA@ED.GOV: or PPRA@ED.Gov.

Student Valuables

Students are encouraged not to bring items of value to school. Items such as jewelry, expensive clothing, electronic equipment and the like, are tempting targets for theft and extortion. The School cannot be responsible for their safe-keeping and will not be liable for loss or damage to personal valuables.

Care of Property

Students are responsible for the care of their own personal property. The school will not be responsible for personal property. Valuables such as jewelry, cell phones or irreplaceable items should not be brought to school. The school may confiscate such items and return them to the student's parent.

Damage to or loss of school equipment and facilities wastes taxpayers' money and undermines the school program. Therefore, if a student does damage to or loses school property, the student or his/her parents will be required to pay for the replacement or damage. If the damage or loss was intentional, the student will also be subject to discipline according to the discipline code.

Computer Technology and Networks

Before any student may take advantage of the School's computer network and the internet, s/he and his/her parents will sign an agreement which defines the conditions under which the student may participate. Failure to abide by all of the terms of the agreement may lead to termination of the student's computer account and possible disciplinary action as outlined in the Student Code of Conduct or referral to law enforcement authorities.

Copies of the School District's Student Network and Internet Acceptable Use and Safety Policy and the requisite student and parent agreement will be distributed at school during the first week of classes. **(See *Student Network and Internet Acceptable Use and Safety Policy*)**

Use of the Library

The library is available to students throughout the school day. Passes may be obtained from a student's teacher. Books on the shelves may be checked out for a period of two weeks.

Bathroom Usage and Privilege

Although a school bathroom is a public space, the individual stalls are for private usage and there should never be more than one student in any one stall. Additionally, the bathroom is a space to take care of one's personal needs and should not be used as an area for socializing or congregating. Cell phones and all other electronic devices should never be used in the restrooms. Lastly, public bathrooms are a shared space that we need to use in a civil and professional manner. Violations of bathroom usage can result in a SWIS referral or suspension depending on the severity of the incident.

Students who abuse their usage of the public bathroom can lose their privilege of using group bathrooms and be assigned to a single-stall bathroom where they will need to sign-in and out.

Use of School Equipment and Facilities

Students will receive permission from the teacher before using any equipment or materials in the classroom and the permission of the Principal to use any other school equipment or facility. Students will be held responsible for the proper use and protection of any equipment or facility they are permitted to use.

Use of Telephones

There is a telephone in the office that may be used for personal calls. Students will be allowed to use the office telephone when needed during an appropriate time during the school day if the reason is deemed appropriate by office personnel.

Lost and Found

The lost and found area is in the Middle School Office. Students who have lost items should check there and may retrieve their items if they give a proper description. Unclaimed items will be given to charity at the close of the school year.

Fire, Tornado, Emergency Response, and Lockdown Drills

The school complies with all fire safety laws and will conduct fire drills in accordance with State law. Specific instructions on how to proceed will be provided to students by their teachers who will be responsible for safe, prompt, and orderly evacuation of the building.

Tornado drills will be conducted during the tornado season using the procedures provided by the state. Emergency Response drills will be conducted according to State of Michigan requirements. Two lockdown drills will be conducted annually.

Emergency Closings and Delays

If the school will be closed or the opening delayed because of inclement weather or other conditions, the school will notify the following radio and television stations:

WMMT-TV CH. 3	WZZM-TV CH. 13	WHTC	WQXC
WOOD-TV CH. 8	WXMI-TV CH. 17	WKZO	WKMI/WKFR

In addition, parents will be notified by the School Messenger Alert System. It is the responsibility of the parent to make sure the school has the most current phone number for this alert. Parents and students are responsible for knowing about emergency closings and delays.

Advertising Outside Activities

Students may not post announcements or advertisements for outside activities without receiving prior approval from the principal. The principal will try to respond to requests for approval within twenty-four (24) hours of their receipt.

The school has bulletin boards located in the halls which may be used for posting notices after receiving permission from the principal.

Student Fundraising

Students participating in school-sponsored groups and activities will be allowed to solicit funds from other students, staff members, and members of the community in accordance with school guidelines. The following general rules will apply to all fundraisers:

1. Students involved in the fundraiser will not interfere with students participating in other activities when soliciting funds.
2. Students will not participate in a fundraising activity for a group in which they are not members without the approval of the student's counselor.
3. Students may not participate in fund-raising activities off school property without proper supervision by approved staff or other adults.
4. Students who engage in fund raisers that require them to exert themselves physically beyond their normal pattern of activity, such as "runs for...", will be monitored by a staff member in order to prevent a student from over-extending himself/herself to the point of potential harm.
5. Students will not participate in a fund-raising activity conducted by a parent group, booster club, or community organization on school property without the approval of the Principal.

Student Sales

No student is permitted to sell any item or service in school without the approval of the Principal. Violation of this may lead to disciplinary action.

Field Trips

Field trips are academic activities that are held off school grounds. There are also other trips that are part of the school's co-curricular and extra-curricular program. No student may participate in any school-sponsored trip without parental consent.

School rules apply to all field trips.

Meal Service

The school participates in the National School Lunch Program. All students at Fennville Public Schools qualify for free breakfast and lunch for the 2021-2022 school year. Students may also bring their own lunch to school to be eaten in the school's cafeteria. No student shall be allowed to leave the school premises during the lunch period without specific written permission granted by the principal. In order to keep the building clean, food served for breakfast and lunch will be eaten in the cafeteria. Each student is expected to throw away his/her trash and return trays to the cafeteria window.

Applications for the school's Free and Reduced-Priced Meal program are distributed to all students. If a student does not receive one and believes that she/he is eligible, please contact the middle school office.

Review of Instructional Materials and Activities

Parents have the right to review any instructional materials being used in the school. They also may observe instruction in any class, particularly those dealing with instruction in health and sex education. Any parent who wishes to review materials or observe instruction must contact the principal prior to coming to the School. Parents' rights to review teaching materials and instructional activities are subject to reasonable restrictions and limits.

Control of Casual-Contact Communicable Diseases and Pests

A school has a Middle concentration of people; therefore, it is necessary to take specific measures when the health or safety of the group is at risk. The school's professional staff has the authority to remove or isolate a student who has been ill or has been exposed to a communicable disease or highly transient pest, such as lice.

Specific diseases include diphtheria, scarlet fever, strep infections, whooping cough, mumps, measles, rubella, and other conditions indicated by the Local and State Health Departments.

Any removal will only be for the contagious period as specified in the school's administrative guidelines.

Control of Non-Casual Contact Communicable Diseases

In the case of non-casual contact communicable diseases, the school still has the obligation to protect the safety of the students and staff. In these cases, the person in question will have his/her status reviewed by a panel of resource people, including the County Health Department, to ensure that the rights of the person affected and those in contact with that person are respected. The school will seek to keep students and staff persons in school unless there is definitive evidence to warrant exclusion.

Non-casual contact communicable diseases include sexually transmitted diseases, AIDS (Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome), ARC-AIDS Related Complex (condition), HIV (Human immunodeficiency), HAV, HBV, HCV (Hepatitis A, B, C); and other diseases that may be specified by the State Board of Health.

As required by Federal law, parents will be requested to have their child's blood checked for HIV, HBV, and other blood-borne pathogens when the child has bled at school and students, or staff members have been exposed to the blood. Any testing is subject to laws protecting confidentiality.

Preparedness for Toxic and Asbestos Hazards

The School is concerned for the safety of students and attempts to comply with all Federal and State Laws and Regulations to protect students from hazards that may result from industrial accidents beyond the control of school officials or from the presence of asbestos materials used in previous construction. A copy of the School District's Preparedness for *Toxic Hazard* and *Asbestos Hazard Policy* and asbestos management plan will be made available for inspection at the Board offices upon request.

Visitors

Parents are welcome to visit the school. Student visitors will not be allowed. In order to properly monitor the safety of students and staff, each visitor must report to the office upon entering the school to obtain a pass. Any visitor found in the building without a pass shall be reported to the principal. If a person wishes to confer with a member of the staff, she/he should call for an appointment prior to coming to the school in order to schedule a mutually convenient time.

Enrolling in School

In general, State law requires students to enroll in the school district in which their parent or legal guardian resides, unless enrolling under the District's open enrollment policy.

New students under the age of eighteen (18) will be enrolled by their parent or legal guardian. When enrolling, parents must provide copies of the following:

- A. A birth certificate or similar document.
- B. Court papers allocating parental rights and responsibilities, or custody (if appropriate).

- C. Proof of residency.
- D. Proof of immunizations.

Under certain circumstances, temporary enrollment may be permitted. In such cases, parents will be notified about documentation required to establish permanent enrollment.

Students enrolling from another school will have an official transcript from their previous school in order to have credits transferred. The office will assist in obtaining the transcript if not presented at the time of enrollment.

Homeless students who meet the Federal definition of homeless may enroll and will be under the direction of the District Liaison for Homeless Children with regard to enrollment procedures.

New students eighteen (18) years of age or older are not required to be accompanied by a parent when enrolling.

When residing with a parent, these students are encouraged to include the parents in the enrollment process. When conducting themselves in school, adult students have the responsibilities of both student and parent.

A student who has been suspended or expelled by another public school in Michigan may be temporarily denied admission to the District's schools during the period of suspension or expulsion even if that student would otherwise be entitled to attend school in the District. Likewise, a student who has been expelled or otherwise removed for disciplinary purposes from a public school in another state and the period of expulsion or removal has not expired, may be temporarily denied admission to the District's school during the period of expulsion or removal or until the expiration of the period of expulsion or removal which the student would have received in the District had the student committed the offense while enrolled in the District. Prior to denying admission, however, the Superintendent shall offer the student an opportunity for a hearing to review the circumstances of the suspension or expulsion and any other factors the Superintendent determines to be relevant.

Transfer Out of the District

If a student plans to transfer from Fennville Middle School, the parent will notify the principal. Transfer will be authorized only after the student has completed the necessary paperwork, returned all school materials, and paid any fees or fines that are due. School records may not be released if the transfer is not properly completed. Parents are encouraged to contact the principal for specific details.

School officials, when transferring student records, are required to transmit disciplinary records including suspension and expulsion actions against the student.

Withdrawal from School

No student under the age of eighteen (18) will be allowed to withdraw from school without the written consent of his/her parents.