

MMS DISCIPLINE

All students are expected to be a good citizen of our school community. Students who consistently break school rules will be subject to a loss of school privileges and assigned consequences.

To insure all students a safe and pleasant learning community, Marlboro Middle School has developed this DISCIPLINE CODE:

Serious infractions of school rules, for which immediate discipline and or suspension with parental contact will result include: defiance of staff, disrespect, threatening, profanity or vulgarity, cutting class or truancy, fighting, assault, cheating, forgery, vandalism and use or possession of tobacco, drugs, alcohol or a weapon.

DISCIPLINE CODE:

All students are expected to conduct themselves in an appropriate fashion at all times, as citizens of the Marlboro Middle School community. A student whose behavior is inappropriate or has multiple offenses will be denied access to extra-curricular activities as defined by the Building Administrators.

LEVEL 1 MISCONDUCT:

- Minor misbehavior on the part of the student, which impedes orderly classroom or school procedures.

EXAMPLES:

Classroom disturbance, chronic tardiness, improper language, failure to carry out directions, disrespect, electronic: possession or use of cell phone (text messaging, receiving or making calls, or using the internet), food: eating or drinking outside of cafeteria, (including energy drinks, such as Red Bull etc..) inappropriate attire/violation dress code, public display of affection, etc..

DISCIPLINARY RESPONSE:

The staff member supervising the student shall immediately intervene. Repeated misbehavior requires parental conference with teacher, counselor, or principal. The staff member keeps a written record of the offense with a copy submitted to building principal. Due process is followed.

DISCIPLINARY OPTIONS:

Verbal reprimand, parental contact, removal of student by teacher from class, counseling, withdrawal of privileges, detention, in-school restriction (less than full day), in-school suspension, referral to Student Support Team, out-of-school suspension (5 days or less).

LEVEL 2 MISCONDUCT:

- Misbehavior whose frequency or seriousness tends to disrupt the learning climate of the school; misbehavior which may require administrative intervention, as previous disciplinary actions were not effective.

EXAMPLES:

Repeated disruptive classroom behavior, cutting class, forgery, cheating, disrespect, defiance, harassment of other students, fighting, leaving school without permission, failure to serve detention, truancy, altercation (physical or verbal), bullying or cyber bullying, computer policy violations, disrespectful language or action toward staff or student, throwing food, instigation or intimidation or coercion, insubordination or failure to follow school rules, lewd behavior, plagiarism, possessing or sharing obscene materials, profanity or gestures, etc.

DISCIPLINARY RESPONSE:

Staff member should contact home. Student may be referred to the administration. If so, administration will meet with the student and/or teacher and effect the most appropriate disciplinary action. The teacher will be informed of the disciplinary action taken and the administrator shall maintain a proper and accurate record of same. A parental conference may be held. Due process is followed.

DISCIPLINARY OPTIONS:

Parental/staff conference, counseling referral, removal of student by teacher from class, detention, extra-curricular ineligibility, in-school restriction (less than a full day), in-school suspension, referral to Student Support Team, out-of-school suspension, Superintendent's hearing (possible suspension: 5 days plus)

LEVEL 3 MISCONDUCT:

- Acts directed against persons or property but whose consequences do not seriously endanger the health or safety of others in the school. Some infractions may be considered criminal but most frequently can be handled by the disciplinary mechanism within the school.

EXAMPLES:

Vandalism, threats to others, escalation of cyber bullying, stealing, flagrant disrespect to school employees, serious fighting, harassment sexual or racial, hazing, threatening staff (physical, verbal) etc.

DISCIPLINARY RESPONSE:

The administration initiates disciplinary action by investigating the infraction and conferring with staff on the extent of consequences. The administration meets with the student and confers with the parent concerning the student's misconduct and resulting disciplinary action. The principal maintains a proper and accurate record of offenses and disciplinary actions taken. Due process is followed.

DISCIPLINARY OPTIONS:

Parent/staff conference, in-school restriction (less than a full day) in-school suspension, referral to Student Support Team, out-of-school suspension (5 days or less), Superintendent's hearing (possible suspension: 5 days plus)

LEVEL 4 MISCONDUCT:

- Acts which result in violence to another person or property or which poses direct threat to the safety of others in the school. These acts are clearly criminal and are so serious that they always require administrative action resulting in the immediate removal of the student from the school and the intervention of law enforcement authorities and/or action by the Board of Education.

EXAMPLES:

Extortion, vandalism, very serious fighting, assault or battery, misuse of fire alarm or equipment, bomb threat, arson, possession or use or transfer of illegal substance (e.g. tobacco, alcohol, drugs), possession of a weapon, felony, fireworks, gambling, misdemeanors, smoking or other tobacco use, truancy, threat to cause bodily harm (written, verbal, or electronic).etc.

DISCIPLINARY RESPONSE:

The administrator verifies the offense, confers with staff involved and meets with student. The student is immediately removed from the school environment and parents are notified. School officially contacts law enforcement agency and assists in prosecuting offender. A complete and accurate report is submitted to the Superintendent for appropriate action. The student is given full due process hearing before the Superintendent, his designee, or the Board of Education. Due process is followed.

DISCIPLINARY OPTIONS:

Referral to outside agency, social probation, out- of-school suspension (5 days), Superintendent/Board of Education hearing (possible suspension: 5 days plus), alternative educational program.

***A student may be referred to the Superintendent of Schools for any off-campus conduct that is considered dangerous to the safety and well-being of the students or staff of the Marlboro Middle School. Such action may result in an alternative educational program.

SCHOOL SUSPENSION:

A school administrator may assign suspension. There are two basic forms of suspension: in-school and out-of-school.

- Out-of-school suspension: the student is excluded from all classes and school activities and must stay home for the days assigned. The student is responsible for finding out what work was missed and to make up that work in a reasonable length of time; not to exceed the number of days he/she was suspended.
- In-school suspension: the student reports to school but is excluded from classes and school activities for the days assigned. In-school suspension provides students with the opportunity to keep up with their class work or make up past due work.
- Please understand that repeated serious infractions that result in suspension may prevent your child from participating in any extracurricular activities, including, but not limited to, grade-level field trips.

In all cases where there is disciplinary action, parents will be contacted. While this document is comprehensive there may be situations not addressed here that will be managed by school administration in concert with district administration.

STUDENT CONDUCT

CONDUCT AND ATTITUDE

The Middle School years are critical for proper academic, social and emotional growth. In order to facilitate the learning process, an appropriate and secure atmosphere must be created. This is only possible when consistent guidelines are established which foster the development of mutual respect for all those who work together in the educational process.

HOW TO HANDLE PROBLEMS WITH OTHER STUDENTS

There are appropriate ways of handling a problem with another student so that conflict may be avoided:

- Speak to the other student.
- Speak to a teacher, aide or monitor.
- See a member of our counseling staff.
- If the first three are not satisfactory, see the assistant principal or the principal.

CARE OF PROPERTY:

Students who damage or lose textbooks or other school property must pay for the replacement or repair of said property. Payment may be made through the Middle School Main Office before the end of the school year.

STUDENT DRESS:

Students are expected to attend school in appropriate clothing. In general the dress is casual (pants, skirts, T-shirts, jeans, sweaters/shirts). The following is the dress code adopted by the Marlboro Board of Education Section 7312:

Students may not wear:

- Any dress or appearance which constitutes a threat or danger to the health and safety of students (e.g., heavy jewelry, jewelry with spikes or oversized belt buckles which can injure the student or others);
- Any dress or appearance which is vulgar, lewd, obscene or indecent or profane or which exposes to sight the private parts of the body (e.g., t-shirts, with a phallic symbol and messages consisting of sexual metaphors; t-shirts which promote drugs or alcoholic products; see-through garments, extremely plunging necklines or waistlines);
- Any dress or appearance which advocates or encourages other illegal or violent activities; including the wearing or displaying of bandanas and/or beads which reflect gang affiliations.
- Any dress or appearance which advocates discrimination or denigrates others based upon race, color, creed, religion, religious practice, national origin, ethnic group, weight, sex, gender (identity and expression), sexual orientation or disability;
- The wearing of head gear in the building as they are a sign of disrespect (unless worn for religious or medical reasons) including the wearing of sunglasses;
- Any dress or appearance which constitutes a disruption to the education process*

*Specific examples of “any dress or appearance which constitutes a disruption to the education process, includes; but is not limited to...

- Wearing leggings alone as pants
- Pajama pants, or pajamas
- Midriff or short shirts which expose the torso
- Shorts with a leg length of less than mid-thigh
- Skirts which are too short and cause a disruption
- Shirts or blouses which are “low cut” or plunging
- Very loose pants which expose underwear,
- Gloves of any type
- Exposed undergarments (including personal athletic undershirts)
- Spandex shorts, sleeveless tank tops, tube tops, garments with excessive holes, bathing suits, etc. are prohibited.
- Pants that are oversized and falling below the hips thus exposing underwear is unacceptable.

On the first occasion a student appears at school with clothing in violation of the policy, he/she will be asked to immediately change or cover up. If he/she does not have access to any other clothing at school, the parent will be called and asked to bring appropriate clothing to school. Additional offenses will result in escalating disciplinary actions.

DIGNITY FOR ALL STUDENTS ACT (D.A.S.A.) COORDINATOR

Ms. Lisa Filocco, 845-236-5840 ext. 1912, is the Dignity Act Coordinator for the Middle School who oversees bullying prevention measures and addresses issues surrounding bullying in their building.

Effective July 1, 2013: “No student shall be subjected to harassment or bullying by employees or students on school property or at a school function; nor shall any student be subjected to discrimination based on a person’s actual or perceived race, color, weight, national origin, ethnic group, religion, religious practice, disability, sexual orientation, gender identity, or sex by school employees or students on school property or at a school function.” (Education Law §12(1)).

OLWEUS CODE OF CONDUCT FOR MARLBORO MIDDLE SCHOOL:

Olweus is a “Bullying Prevention Program that was adopted by the Marlboro Middle School starting on September, 2011. The purpose is to change the norms around bullying behavior and to restructure the school setting itself so that bullying is less likely to occur. Mrs. Melissa Carbone and Mrs. Andrea Garitta are the co-chair coordinators for the Olweus Program.

Negative Consequences – Bully and Active Bystanders

*Repeat offenses in any level listed below will result in escalating disciplinary measures

Level 1 Bullying

Examples:

Teasing, name calling, insulting remarks, verbal harassment, includes cyber-bullying, pushing, shoving, hitting, purposeful exclusion, telling others not to be someone’s friend, gossiping, spreading or starting rumors.

Possible Consequences:

Teacher contacts parent, lunch detention – student completes student reflection form, after-school detention – student completes self-reflection form and watches bullying video, then responds (in writing) to video, Friday after-school detention - student completes self-reflection form and watches bullying video,

then responds (in writing) to video, in-school restriction (less than full day), in-school suspension, out-of-school suspension, referral to Student Support Team, loss of privileges, meeting with student, parent, and administrators and/or teacher who witnessed incident

Level 2 Bullying

Examples:

Purposely embarrassing or humiliating another student, profanity, slander, insulting comments about intelligence, size, ability, race, color, religion, ethnicity, gender, biting, scratching, tripping, causing a fall, threatening gestures, threatening physical harm, damaging property, stealing/hiding or purposefully taking, purposefully embarrassing or humiliating another student, teasing publically about clothing, looks, relationships, socio-economic status, actions or comments based on a person's sexual orientation.

Possible Consequences:

Teacher contacts parent, lunch detention – student completes student reflection form, after-school detention – student complete self-reflection form and watches bullying video, then responds (in writing) to video, Friday after-school detention - student completes self-reflection form and watches bullying video, then responds (in writing) to video, in-school restriction (less than full day), in-school suspension, out-of-school suspension, referral to Student Support Team, loss of privileges, meeting with student, parent, and administrators and/or teacher who witnessed incident

Level 3 Bullying

Examples:

Threats, physical, verbal or forced silence, verbal cruelty, battery, physical fighting, assault, intentional destruction of property, purposefully destroying property of others, extortion, sexual comments, sexual harassment, verbal and teasing in nature.

Possible Consequences:

Teacher contacts parent, in-school restriction (less than full day), in-school suspension, out-of-school suspension, Superintendent's hearing, referral to Student Support Team, loss of privileges, meeting with student, parent, and administrators and/or teacher who witnessed incident

Level 4 Bullying

Examples:

Displaying sexually explicit pictures or objects, harassing racial or religious slurs or insults, sexual harassment, verbal insults with intent to emotionally harm, physical fighting, assault, battery, any type of physical harassment.

Possible Consequences:

Teacher contacts parent in-school restriction (less than full day), in-school suspension, out-of-school suspension, Superintendent's hearing, referral to Student Support Team, loss of privileges, meeting with student, parent, and administrators and/or teacher who witnessed incident

Positive Consequences for Active Bystanders

Examples:

Provide support or comfort to bullied student, getting adult assistance, including the student who was being left out, intervening on own or with other students.

Possible Rewards:

Adult praise, certificate of recognition, positive phone call home, token item – such as pencil or anti-bullying rubber bracelet, certificate for free ice cream from cafeteria, free admission to a school dance, certificate for free soda, hot dog, or pizza (or other food item) from a local business, recognition as a Student with Admirable Traits.

