

MIDDLE SCHOOL HANDBOOK

2019-2020

MIDDLE SCHOOL EXPECTATIONS

All students are expected to	A	im high and strive to reach his/her personal best
The way you	D	ress reflects the seriousness and purpose of our school
We all have a stake to create	A	n atmosphere that is safe and supportive to learning
Weymouth	M	aintains high expectations for each student
Practice	S	afety at all times
	&	
Take responsibility for our s	C	hool community by using common sense
	H	ave a positive attitude each day
	A	ct appropriately in the buidling and on its grounds
Being	P	repared is your responsibility (pens, notebooks, etc.)
Move about in an orderly	M	anner both inside and outside of school
You have a duty to be	A	responsible and honest member of our school community
Your good	N	ame is influenced by what you do each day
Be courteous and	R	espectful to teachers, staff and each other
Good st	U	dy habits will strengthen your academic performance
Think before you speak. Your	L	anguage or use of words reflects on you
You are	E	xpected to complete all work on time
	S	uccess can be yours

MIDDLE GRADES COURSE OF STUDY

SUBJECT	GRADE 5	GRADE 6	GRADE 7	GRADE 8
English	Oral language	Oral language	Oral language	Oral language
	Literature	Literature	Literature	Literature
	Composition	Composition	Composition	Composition
	Media	Media	Media	Media
	Reading	Reading		
Mathematics	Number sense	Number sense	Number sense	
	Patterns/relations	Patterns/relations	Patterns/relations	Pre-Algebra or
	Geometry	Geometry	Geometry	Algebra I
	Measurement	Measurement	Measurement	
	Data/statistics	Data/statistics	Data/statistics	
Social Studies	U.S. History	World History	Ancient History	World History
	Geography	Geography	Geography	Geography
	Physical Science	Physical Science	Physical Science	Physical Science
Science	Life Science	Life Science	Life Science	Life Science
	Earth/Space	Earth/Space	Earth/Space	Earth/Space
Reading/Math Strategies	Reading Strategies	Reading Strategies	Reading Strategies	Reading Strategies
	By Recommendation	By Recommendation	Math Strategies	Math Strategies
			French I, Spanish I	French III, Spanish III
World Language			By Recommendation	By Recommendation
Arts	Art, Music, Band	Art, Music, Band	Art, Band, Chorus	Art, Band, Chorus
	Theater Arts	Chorus		
		Theater Arts		
Physical Education	Physical Education	Physical Education	Physical Education	Physical Education
Health	Physical health	Physical health	Physical health	Physical health
	Social/emotional	Social/emotional	Social/emotional	Social/emotional
	Safety/prevention	Safety/prevention	Safety/prevention	Safety/prevention
	Personal	Personal	Personal	Personal
				Ecological
Technology	Computer	Integrated	Integrated	Integrated
		Computer Lab	Computer Lab	Computer Lab
Academic Support	Flexible Support	Flexible Support	Flexible Support	Flexible Support
		Band/Chorus	Band/Chorus	Band/Chorus

MIDDLE SCHOOL EXPECTATIONS

MISSION STATEMENT

The Abigail Adams and Maria Weston Chapman Middle Schools are committed to providing an academically excellent, developmentally responsive, socially equitable and respectful environment which is supportive for all students' learning and growth.

VISION STATEMENT

The purpose of the middle school is to ensure a child-centered approach to continuous learning, social development, emotional growth and physical well-being of preadolescents and adolescents. We share the vision of the National Forum to Accelerate Middle-Grades Reform.

High performing schools with middle grades are academically excellent. They challenge all students to use their minds well, providing them with the curriculum, instruction, assessment, support and time they need to meet rigorous academic standards. They recognize that early adolescence is characterized by dramatic cognitive growth, which enables students to think in more abstract and complex ways. The curriculum and extra-curricular programs in such schools are challenging and engaging, tapping young adolescents' boundless energy, interests and curiosity. Students learn to understand important concepts, develop essential skills, and apply what they learn to real-world problems. Adults in these schools maintain a rich academic environment by working with colleagues in their schools and communities to deepen their own knowledge and improve their practice.

High performing schools with middle grades are developmentally responsive. Such schools create small learning communities of adults and students in which stable, close and mutually respectful relationships support all students' intellectual, ethical and social growth. They provide comprehensive services to foster healthy physical and emotional development. Students have opportunity for both independent inquiry and learning in cooperation with others. They have time to be reflective and numerous opportunities to make decisions about their learning. Developmentally responsive schools involve families as partners in the education of their children. They welcome families, keep them well informed, help them develop their expectation and skills to support learning, and assure their participation in decision-making. These schools are deeply rooted in their communities. Students have opportunities for active citizenship. They use the community as a classroom, and community members provide resources, connections and active support.

High performing schools with middle grades are socially equitable. They seek to keep their students' future options open. They have high expectations for all of their students, and are committed to helping each child produce work of high quality. These schools make sure that all students are in academically rigorous classes staffed by experienced and expertly prepared teachers. These teachers acknowledge and honor their students' histories and cultures. They work to educate every child well and to overcome systematic variation in resources and outcomes related to race, class, gender and ability. They engage their communities in supporting all students' learning and growth.

High performing schools with middle grades are respectful environments. These schools are communities of learning in which all members, both staff and students alike, share a mutual respect and consideration of each other, the materials and supplies that are used, as well as the physical plant and grounds. Students and staff treat each other fairly and kindly.

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

The Media Center

The Media Center, the information hub of the school, welcomes all students and faculty. The Center circulates print and non-print materials, including books, videotapes, and recordings, that support the curriculum. Many fiction titles are available in hardcover and paperback. The Media Center is staffed by a media specialist and parent volunteers committed to seeing its services used to the fullest. They seek to provide increasingly interactive multimedia opportunities for researchers.

Cable TV

Information relative to school activities and upcoming events are usually posted on the local cable channel, channel 22.

Computer Labs

The middle schools have computer labs for student instruction and use. Students gain skills through specific technology classes, and then apply and increase those skills with applications in specific content assignments. Students may have access to additional computer time through AC Support Blocks, as well as in the Media Centers.

AFTER SCHOOL OFFERINGS

WeyCare Program

The Weymouth Public Schools Extended Day Program (Wey Care) is available to children attending ~~kindergarten~~ **Preschool** through grade 6. The program **operates in the Johnson School and all primary and middle schools Adams Middle School**. The before school session begins at 7:00 A.M. until school starts and the after school session begins at dismissal until 6:00 P.M. There is a vacation program (February, April, and ~~8~~ **6** weeks during the summer) for children in kindergarten through grade 4. Activities include homework time, board games, Legos, art, crafts, and sports. For applications and further information, please call 781-337-0086 or refer to the Weymouth Public Schools website.

Dept. of Early Education and Care (EEC) policy states that excessive unexplained absences occur when a child fails to attend their subsidized care program (voucher) for more than three consecutive days without parent contacting the provider. After the first occurrence of excessive absences with a 12 month authorization period the program will issue the parent an EEC unexplained absence warning notice. Upon the second occurrence of excessive absences with a 12 month authorization period the program will issue a notice of termination of the child's ability to attend the program using the subsidized care program (voucher).

After-school and Evening Activities

Many after-school and evening activities take place during the year. Notices will be sent home with descriptions and meeting dates for the individual activities. A student must be present for at least 1/2 of the school day in order to participate in any after-school or evening activity. Exceptions must be approved by the Principal.

Field Trips

Field trips are an extension of the instructional program and provide enrichment for primary school children. ~~These trips may include visits to museums, historical sites, natural science centers, performing arts theaters, and other locations that are appropriate extensions of the school program.~~

FIELD TRIPS

Field trips by student groups must have the approval of Building Principals and the Superintendent on a form provided for this purpose. ~~There will be at least one chaperone per 15 students on all field trips. In accordance with state law, all prospective chaperones and volunteers shall sign a request form authorizing receipt by the district of all available C.O.R.I. data from the criminal history systems board.~~ Supervision of students is the ongoing responsibility of those chaperoning the trip and will be maintained in a manner consistent with building policy. Overnight trips must have the approval of the School Committee. Students who participate in a school-sponsored field trip must have written approval from the parent or guardian. The Building Principal will be responsible for informing parents in writing the details of any school-sponsored field trip, including the fact that students are providing transportation with their own vehicles.

~~School field trips are an enjoyable and useful extension of our school program and all eligible students are expected to participate. All school rules and regulations are in effect during a school trip. The faculty and administration reserve the right to exclude from field trips students who have not met academic and/or behavioral requirements this school year. If you are not allowed to participate in a school trip, you must attend school that day and will be assigned necessary work. Any adult wishing to serve as a chaperone must have an approved CORI application on file with the district.~~

While on a school trip you are reminded that you must:

- ~~1. Obey and follow all bus transportation rules~~
- ~~2. Stay with your assigned group and chaperones~~
- ~~3. Pay attention to the program presented and the instructions/information given by the tour guides~~
- ~~4. Be on your best behavior~~

EMERGENCY PLANS

The superintendent may close school or dismiss students early in the event of hazardous weather or other emergencies that threaten the health or safety of students. In September, parents/guardians must establish a contingency plan for their children in the event of an emergency. Parents/guardians must submit 2 contact cards for each child. It is the responsibility of the parents/guardians to update contact cards with any changes. Parents/guardians seeking information should consult local cable channels, the traditional media outlets and School Messenger messages.

BUILDING SECURITY

In order to insure and maintain a safe and orderly learning environment for all, the only doors accessible to the public will be the main entrance. At no time will a student open an outside door for visitors or other students. All guests must sign in at the front desk upon entrance. Guests will be issued a visitor's pass that must be visible when in the building. Persons not adhering to the aforementioned procedure will be considered trespassers and the police will be notified.

FLOW OF COMMUNICATION

Parents' first level of communication should be with the teacher, or guidance counselor, or the assistant principals. Levels of courteous communication then sequence to the principal, the assistant superintendent and finally the superintendent.

The administrative and educational staff seeks to maintain an open and current flow of information from the school to your home. The telephone notification system, School Messenger, is used to update parents with regard to important information. Parents are also encouraged to contact any staff member through the email system of the district. Each school also maintains a website where information is updated on a regular basis.

MIDDLE SCHOOL PRACTICES **ATTENDANCE POLICY**

The Weymouth School Committee, under the power vested in it by Chapter 74-76, Section 37-1 of the Massachusetts General Laws, will determine the number of weeks and the hours during which schools will be in session and make regulations as to attendance therein.

Massachusetts law requires compulsory attendance for all students. Chapter 76, section 1 of the Massachusetts General Laws requires all children between the ages of six and sixteen to attend school. The school must uphold state laws relative to student attendance.

We strongly discourage family vacations or trips abroad when school is in session. In addition to violating the attendance law, family vacations and/or trips abroad interrupt the educational process of each course in ways that make-up work cannot reverse. As such, Weymouth may need to file in the juvenile court or un-enroll the student from the Weymouth Public Schools for extended trips. Please note that teachers are not required to provide work in advance; teachers are not required to make up credit for missed/late work; and that it is the students' responsibility to ask each teacher for any make-up assignments upon return.

Absences

- On the ~~fourth~~ **fourth** day of **unexcused** absence, **in a marking period** parents/guardians of students will be notified by letter of the expectations for students to come to school.

- On the ~~seventh~~ **sixth** unexcused absence, **a pre-CRA meeting may take place with school administration and necessary staff members** ~~referral will be made to the CRA (Child Requiring Assistance) petition may be filed.~~
- On the tenth day of unexcused absence, a CRA petition ~~will~~ may be filed on behalf of the student and a violation of Chapter 76, Section 2– Duties of Parents will be filed against the parent/guardian.

Tardies/Dismissals

- ~~Students are allowed three excused tardies/dismissals per term.~~
 - ~~Once a student has reached three tardies/dismissals in a term, parents/guardians receive a letter outlining consequences for any additional tardies/dismissals in that term.~~
 - ~~Students who are tardy/dismissed 4 through 6 times in a term receive a lunch detention for each of those instances, a pre-CRA meeting with may take place with school administration and necessary staff members~~
 - ~~Students who are tardy 6 times may receive a morning wakeup call one hour prior to the opening of school.~~
 - ~~Students who have six to nine tardies/dismissals in a term may receive two lunch detentions or one after school detention for each of those instances.~~
 - ~~Any additional unexcused tardies/dismissals after 9 in term, the student is subject to in-school suspension and a CRA petition may be filed.~~
 - ~~Under Chapter 76, Section 1, unexcused tardies/dismissals in a term are considered partial days and also are calculated when filing CRA or a violation of Duties to Parents.~~
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- ~~Documented medical illnesses or medical appointments~~ **Excused Absence: validated by a doctor's note provided documentation is submitted (the student must have a note or appointment card from the doctor)**
 - ~~Legal obligations or court appearances~~ **obligations with documentation**
 - ~~Bereavement with parental letter~~ due to the death of an immediate family member (For the purpose of this section, the “immediate family” shall be the student’s parents, grandparents, siblings, or any member of the child’s household).
 - ~~College or private school visits~~
 - ~~Observance of religious holiday.~~

Parents or guardians of school age children are required to have them attend school. Failure to do so can result in court fines and actions. Students who fail to attend school in accordance with the above descriptions will be referred to the district attendance officer for possible court involvement. Additionally, school-based consequences may be assigned.

Dept. of Early Education and Care (EEC) policy states that excessive unexplained absences occur when a child fails to attend their subsidized care program (voucher) for more than three consecutive days without parent contacting the provider. After the first occurrence of excessive absences with a 12 month authorization period the program will issue the parent an EEC unexplained absence warning notice. Upon the second occurrence of excessive absences with a 12 month authorization period the program will issue a notice of termination of the child’s ability to attend the program using the subsidized care program (voucher). Please not the “program” refers to Weycare and tuition-based WPS options.

TARDINESS

Students not seated in their assigned homeroom seats at the tardy bell are considered late. Students who exceed three unexcused* tardies per quarter will receive disciplinary consequences for any additional unexcused* tardies. **Parents will be notified by email if students receive after school detention.**

*Tardiness may be excused for one of the following reasons:

- ~~Documented medical illnesses or medical appointments~~ **Excused Absence: validated by a doctor's note provided documentation is submitted (the student must have a note or appointment card from the doctor)**
- Legal obligations ~~or court appearances~~ **obligations with documentation**
- Bereavement **with parental letter** ~~due to the death of an immediate family member (For the purpose of this section, the "immediate family" shall be the student's parents, grandparents, siblings, or any member of the child's household).~~
- ~~College or private school visits~~
- Observance of religious holiday.

APPEAL PROCESS

Your parent/guardian has the right to appeal to the principal. A formal letter with appropriate supporting documentation must be forwarded to the administration ~~as soon as possible~~ **within five (5) school days** after notification has been received.

PROMOTION POLICY

Students who fail any of the four major academic subjects (English, Language Arts, Mathematics, history/social studies and science), students who have not met grade level standards, and/or whose attendance does not meet state guidelines may be considered for retention. At risk students will be reviewed by a retention review committee which may be composed of a school administrator, teachers, counselor, students and his/her parents/guardians.

MAKE-UP WORK

It is your responsibility to ask your teacher for make-up work upon return to school from an absence. You shall return for make-up sessions whenever requested to do so by the teacher. ~~Failure to keep an appointment is a very serious matter which may result in receiving no credit for the assignments missed. For an absence of one or two days, you should contact your friends in the class for assignments.~~

After two (2) days of absence, your parents/ guardians may call the school office to arrange for homework assignments. In order for you to receive all the necessary assignments, there should be twenty-four (24) hours notice for the teachers to prepare these materials.

HOMEROOM

Upon entering school, you are to go directly to your assigned areas. You may not loiter in the corridors. Students should plan to arrive on the school grounds no sooner than 10 minutes before the school bell unless participating in a supervised activity.

ATTENDANCE IN CLASS

You are expected to be in class on time. Continued disregard of the timeliness of class beginnings will result in office referral. Going to lockers or using lavatories will not be accepted as an excuse for tardiness. If you are tardy to class you may be assigned ~~detention~~ **disciplinary action** by your teacher. If you are in school but not in class, you will be referred to the office for disciplinary action.

DISMISSAL FROM SCHOOL

You may be dismissed from school if you bring a note to the office before school containing:

1. Student's name (first and last)
2. Time for dismissal
3. Reason for dismissal
4. Signature of parent/guardian
5. Telephone number where parent/guardian may be reached during the day to verify the dismissal.

END OF DAY DISMISSAL

You are expected to leave the building at dismissal unless you are staying for a teacher, detention, or an activity. You may not loiter in the building or on the school grounds. Once a student has left the building or school grounds, they may not return unless accompanied by an adult.

FAMILY VACATIONS

When you are absent from class you “lose ground” by missing out on the teachers’ lessons and class discussions. It is important that you maintain good attendance, therefore, it is **strongly recommended** that your parents/guardians schedule family vacations at the same time as school vacations. If this is not possible, the following procedures must be followed:

- Your parent/guardian must submit a letter prior to the planned vacation to the homeroom teacher.
- Teachers will give missing work only once and are not be required to give work in advance. All tests, quizzes and other work must be made up within a reasonable amount of time to be determined by the teacher, generally two weeks. It is your responsibility to obtain the assigned work from your teachers.
- Students are strongly encouraged to use the Academic Support Blocks to clarify

instruction and to complete assessments and labs.

- Tutorial help may be given at the teacher's discretion.

ATTENDANCE AND AFTER-SCHOOL ACTIVITIES

You may not practice, compete, or participate in any after-school activity on a day you are suspended from school or if you are not present for at least 1/2 of the school day. Extraordinary events may be excused by the principal.

GUIDANCE AND COUNSELING PROGRAMS

The guidance and counseling program provides direct services in educational planning, as well as personal development and adjustment. A primary function is to assist all students in assessing their abilities, interests and needs so they can make intelligent decisions concerning their education and future plans.

HEALTH OFFICE POLICY

If you wish to visit the health office you must obtain a written pass from your teacher. ~~During school hours, you do not have permission to use the pay telephone to call home if you are ill.~~ You must be sent to the nurse. If the nurse decides to send you home he/she will provide you with a dismissal slip to be turned in at the main office and contact your parent or guardian.

Students should not communicate with their parent or guardian to be dismissed from school without consent from health office staff. Only the nurse or an administrator can officially dismiss a child related to an illness.

Immunization Requirements/Grade 7

**** State Law Mandates** - No child shall enter Grade 7 without proof that the child has received the immunizations listed below:

Polio 3 or more doses of Polio vaccine

Varicella

1 dose if child receives the dose before turning 13

2 doses if child receives the dose after turning 13 or a physician-certified history of chicken pox

Hepatitis B 3 doses of Hepatitis B vaccine

Tetanus Diphtheria(td) a TD booster will be required if it has been 5 or more years since the last dose

Measles Mumps Rubella(MMR) 2 doses of MMR vaccine after the age of 1 year

Physical Examinations Mandatory for Grade 7

Regulations for school children in Massachusetts require a physical examination in Grade 7 (Mass.

General Laws, Chap. 71, Sect.57).

Any 7th grade student who has not had a recent physical examination will be subject to exclusion from school until proof of a physical is presented to the principal or your school nurse. Students are urged to go to their family physician for this examination preferably prior to September 1st.

LUNCH PROGRAM

The school lunch program provides every student with a choice of a traditional lunch menu and some a la carte options. All are provided at a nominal fee. Free and reduced lunch applications are available in the school office for income eligible families. Any student wishing to purchase an a la carte item from the menu needs to purchase a school lunch or bring a lunch from home.

HOMEWORK

The Educational Partnership of the Home and School

Homework is an important component of a child's total educational program and provides a necessary link between the school and the home. It provides an opportunity for children to extend skills developed in the classroom, helps children to become self-reliant and responsible, and affirms the importance of the parents' roles as cooperative partners in the education of their children.

The purposes of homework are to improve the learning processes, to aid in the mastery of skills, and to create and stimulate interest in the content on the part of the student. Homework is a learning activity that should increase in complexity with the maturity of the student. This should be established through assignments that encourage students to investigate for themselves and to work independently and collaborate with other students on group assignments.

The Weymouth Primary Schools recognize the fundamental importance of developing literacy in young children and the need for these children to engage in literacy-based activities at home. Reading is one of the primary literacy activities through which children learn. Success in reading is essential for children today and for their participation in the technological world of tomorrow.

All children in the primary schools (pre-school through grade four) are ~~expected to~~ shall engage in reading/language arts activities daily.

TIME FRAME of HOMEWORK ASSIGNMENTS

While it is understood that the time it takes to complete homework assignments may vary with each child, the times below are the general guidelines for each grade level. If your child is having difficulty on a consistent basis completing assignments within the time frames established, please contact your child's teacher for assistance. The amount of work brought home may be impacted by any opportunities to complete assignments in school. Teachers will be aware of grade specific or school-wide evening commitments for students and adjust homework accordingly. Studying for quizzes/tests and work on long-term projects will be figured into the time guidelines.

Homework Time Frame	
Grade 5	15-20 minutes of homework per course, per night, not to exceed one and one-half hours* Monday through Thursday
Grade 6	15-20 minutes of homework per course, per night, not to exceed one and one-half hours* Monday through Thursday
Grade 7	20-25 minutes of homework per course, per night, not to exceed one and one-half hours* Monday through Thursday
Grade 8	20-30 minutes of homework per course, per night, not to exceed two and one-half hours* Monday through Thursday
<p align="center">Students should be encouraged to read for pleasure on weekend and vacations.</p> <p>*If a student experiences difficulty, parents/guardians have the option of signing off at the upper time limit for completing homework, if the student has worked studiously and has produced quality work.</p>	

Homework Guidelines for Students

- Always do your best work
- Record directions for homework in an assignment notebook
- Understand assignments clearly before leaving class
- Bring home the proper materials to complete assignments
- Hand in completed assignments on time
- Budget time properly for long-term assignments and studying for test and quizzes
- Complete any work missed due to absence from class
- Talk to your parents/guardians and teacher if you are having difficulty with homework
- Homework will not be assigned during school vacation or weekends except for the completion of previously assigned long-term projects

Homework Guidelines for Parents

- Be familiar with the philosophy and guidelines of the homework policy
- Check your child's assignment notebook
- Provide a time and place to do homework assignments with limited interruptions
- Actively supervise homework completion, assisting, but not doing the work
- Oversee completion of long-term assignments and test preparation to assist in understanding time management
- Contact the teacher with questions or concerns especially if your child exceeds the allotted time frame

- Homework will not be assigned during school vacation or weekends except for the completion of previously assigned long-term projects

Homework Guidelines for Teachers

- Assign homework on a regular basis in keeping with the homework policy and handbook language
- Students are to understand clearly all homework assignments
- Homework may take the form of class, group, or individual assignments
- Group projects should not be assigned for homework, unless students can work on their individual parts independently
- Teachers should coordinate assignments, tests, and projects with other teachers, as appropriate, to avoid overburdening students
- Specific policies/practices of teachers are to be submitted to the principal/designee and clearly communicated to students and parents
- Teachers have the responsibility to communicate with parents/guardians who are falling behind in completing homework assignments
- Homework will not be assigned during school vacation or weekends except for the completion of previously assigned long-term projects

GOOD STUDY HABITS WILL STRENGTHEN YOUR ACADEMIC PERFORMANCE

Standardized Testing

The Weymouth Public Schools implements standardized tests to measure student achievement against state and national norms. Currently, the schools comply with state mandated testing in specific grades. Students and parents are notified in advance of testing dates and procedures.

School Supplies Are Needed Tools

Being prepared is one of your responsibilities. Your teacher will advise you in regard to class specific supplies. Suggested items might include but are not limited to:

- notebook
- flexible binder
- 2 pens (erasable)
- 2 pencils/eraser
- 1 package of colored pencils
- 1 pencil case
- 1 or more composition books (spiral)
- 1 ruler

In addition you will need to have these materials ready to use at home:

- scissors
- glue
- ruler
- crayons
- markers or colored pencils
- pens
- dictionary
- paper

Textbooks and Supplies

All books and personal materials should be kept in locked lockers. Combinations should not be shared with anyone. Textbooks are the responsibility of individual students. The school cannot assume the responsibility for books that are lost or stolen. Students should not leave books and materials

Books are to be kept free of student marking and handled carefully. All books must be covered and kept that way throughout the school year. A pupil shall be required to pay the replacement cost of any book, whether classroom or library, lost or damaged beyond ordinary wear while in his or her possession.

SCHOOL EXPECTATIONS FOR STUDENT BEHAVIOR **CODE OF CONDUCT**

PBIS at AAMS emphasizes a school-wide system of supports that include strategies for defining, teaching, and supporting appropriate behavior. The ROAR Team strives to design the most effective learning community possible with the best outcomes for all students. Attention is focused on creating and sustaining school-wide, classroom, and individual systems of support. Positive behavior in our school is acknowledge in a variety of ways and in all areas of learning. The goal is to establish a climate in which appropriate behavior is the norm. #ThisIsHowWeROAR! It is important that you understand what is expected in terms of proper school behavior and the consequences that result when the school rules are broken. Try to understand why these rules are necessary and why the school must enforce them. The Weymouth Public Schools realize that learning takes place only in an environment that promotes a sense of order, safety, and security for children. Parents, teachers and administrators have worked cooperatively to establish the following guidelines in the Weymouth Middle Schools. Weymouth Middle School will provide an atmosphere that promotes socially appropriate behavior. Effective behavior will be achieved with the cooperative effort of the child, the parents and the school.

- All school personnel will treat students in a manner which will have a positive effect on

~~their sense of dignity and self-esteem.~~

~~Self-control will be stressed so that each child will achieve his/her academic and human potential.~~

- ~~● Consequences for inappropriate actions will be consistent, fair and appropriate.~~
- ~~● Students will have a right to come and go from school without being harassed.~~
- ~~● All parents, children and school personnel will be informed of school discipline policies and procedures early in September of each year, and their support will be expected.~~
- ~~● Special needs students will be disciplined by the rules and regulations as set forth by the Department of Education.~~

Attitude, Behavior and Language

You are expected to be respectful and courteous at all times while you are on school grounds, on the buses, walking on the way to and from school, and during school related activities. Parents and students should be aware that when students travel to and from school they are accountable for their actions under this Code of Conduct.

You are expected to be courteous and respectful to all members of the school community when you have any contact with them in school or outside of school. ~~Inappropriate~~ Public displays of affection will not be permitted.

You have the duty to be a responsible and honest person. Your honesty about any situation is a most important factor in any decision. ~~Dishonesty deprives you of your most prized possession:~~

~~YOUR GOOD NAME.~~

Physical Contact/Threat

As a member of a democratic society, you have the right to attend school without the fear of physical harm or threats. This includes the right to travel to and from school safely.

School Property

You have the responsibility to respect and take care of all school property. This includes the grounds, the buildings and furnishings, and the books and equipment used throughout the day.

Personal Property

You must respect the personal property of others. You will be assigned a locker in which to keep personal property and materials related to school life. Your locker must have a school-issued combination lock on it. Items not necessary for school or that are illegal to possess are not allowed in school. The school retains joint custody of lockers. Lockers may be searched by school officials. **If a school official has reasonable suspicion a school rule is being violated and/or there**

may be a crime, school officials may search the person's, their belongings and electronic communications.

Auditorium

Students gather in the auditorium to participate in many types of activities and presentations. Because there are many students in attendance, it is important that you follow the Code of Conduct.

Cafeteria

Because there are so many students in the cafeteria at one time, it can become noisy and confusing. Students are expected to follow the Code of Conduct during all cafeteria assemblies.

Student Expectations

Students are expected to act with proper behavior at all times. This includes traveling to and from school, on school premises, on school buses, at bus stops, at school sponsored or school related events, and at athletic events.

Violations or disregard for school rules and regulations will lead to disciplinary action by school administrators; (Principal and Assistant Principal) which could result in emergency removal from school, parental conference, detention, internal or external suspension from school for one to ten days, or exclusion from school and restitution for any damages to private or school property.

The following offenses will lead to disciplinary action:

- Physical assault, fighting or other acts of violence on any member of the school community
- Threats of violence directed toward any member of the school community
- Use of obscene, abusive or profane language or gestures
- Hazing
- Committing acts of vandalism
- Harassment, which is defined as discriminatory remarks or actions regarding, but not limited to the following: race/color, sex, religion, disability, national origin, sexual orientation and gender identity.
- The sale, distribution, use or unauthorized possession of drugs (including synthetic substance or materials that simulate drugs), alcoholic beverages or any other devices or materials of any sort injurious to the well-being of the school community
- Possession of weapons of any kind including knives of any length or shape, firearms, firecrackers, or any other explosive materials
- Possession of weapons of any kind including knives of any length or shape, firearms, firecrackers, or any other explosive materials and/or any component thereof or the use of any facsimile or any object used as a weapon to harm or threaten an individual, group of people or assembly.

- Theft of school or personal property or receiving such stolen items
- Obtaining money, material goods or favors by threat of physical harm
- Destruction of or damage to school or personal property. Restitution will be required
- Sounding false alarm for fire/police, tampering with the call box covers, calling a bomb threat, or disrupting the normal school procedure in any way
- Starting a fire
- Truancy
- Leaving the school building or school property during school hours without permission
- Failure to meet detention obligations
- Loitering within the school building or on the school grounds after the normal school day
- Using any of the school facilities without supervision of a teacher or coach on school grounds
- Forgery of school related documents
- Open and continued defiant behavior toward school personnel
- The use of personal listening devices/video devices, telephones, pagers, still or video cameras (unless used for approved school activities), or other electronic devices is prohibited during the school day. If a student chooses to bring an electronic device to school (i.e. cell phone, iPod or texting device), it is to be silenced during the school day, unless used for specific instructional purposes as designated by the supervising teacher. Failure to follow this policy will result in the confiscation of the electronic devices and possible further disciplinary actions.
- Public displays of affection are not ~~in good taste and are unacceptable~~ in a public school
- Committing any illegal act on school property or at school sponsored events off school property
- Intimidating behavior directed towards faculty, staff, or peers, including any behavior involving physical contact, emotional manipulation, verbal abuse, and purposeful embarrassment (behavior may include but is not limited to, inappropriate epithets, derogatory comments, slurs, and lewd propositions, impeding or blocking movement, violations of personal space, offensive touching or any physical interference with normal work or movement, and visual insults involving drawing or postings)

Any act, not herein specified, which is unfavorable to the interest of the school and community as determined by the Principal/Associate principal, and/or Dean, ~~or designee.~~

If a school official has reasonable suspicion a school rule is being violated and/or there may have be a crime committed, school officials may search the person and their belongings (including electronic devices) in order to ensure safety to the school setting.

Education Service Plan

In accordance with Massachusetts General Law 37 H ¾, when a student has been suspended or expelled, he/she will continue to be provided with education services during the period of suspension or expulsion from the district. Weymouth Public Schools may offer student the services including, but not limited to:

- Independent Work Station
- Home Tutoring

Wey Care

The Weymouth Public Schools Extended Day Program (Wey Care) is available to children attending ~~kindergarten~~ **Preschool** through grade 6. The program operates in the Johnson School and all primary and ~~middle schools~~ **Adams Middle School**. The before school session begins at 7:00 A.M. until school starts and the after school session begins at dismissal until 6:00 P.M. There is a vacation program (February, April, and ~~8~~ **6** weeks during the summer) for children in kindergarten through grade 4. Activities include homework time, board games, Legos, art, crafts, and sports. For applications and further information, please call 781-337-0086 or refer to the Weymouth Public Schools website.

Dept. of Early Education and Care (EEC) policy states that excessive unexplained absences occur when a child fails to attend their subsidized care program (voucher) for more than three consecutive days without parent contacting the provider. After the first occurrence of excessive absences with a 12 month authorization period the program will issue the parent an EEC unexplained absence warning notice. Upon the second occurrence of excessive absences with a 12 month authorization period the program will issue a notice of termination of the child's ability to attend the program using the subsidized care program (voucher).

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