

**Mt. Blue Middle School**  
**Student and Parent Handbook**  
**2020-2021**



Mt. Blue Middle School  
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Handbook Disclaimer:

*Please note this handbook is subject to change based on policy decisions.*

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Welcome to Mt. Blue Middle School:

On behalf of the wonderful staff at MBMS, I would like to welcome you to our school community. At Mt. Blue Middle School, we strive to create a learning environment that supports our students' growth: academically, socially, and emotionally during a unique and often challenging time in the lives of children. To maximize our efforts, it is important to create a school culture rooted in our Cougar Code: Be Kind, Be Respectful, Be Responsible, Be Safe. Therefore, it is important that everyone in our school community treat one another with kindness and respect at all times and within every interaction. Working together, we can utilize our relationships as a foundation to create meaningful educational experiences.

At Mt. Blue Middle School, we understand that middle level education can be a time of excitement and uneasiness for both students and parents alike. Students at this age are beginning to develop their own sense of identity. They are also experiencing a time of rapid developmental change. As a school, we are ready to assist our students through this period of learning and growing. Relationships and fostering an environment where students feel comfortable and connected to our school is vitally important.

The Mt. Blue Middle School Handbook is prepared for our students and families so they may become familiar with our school's operation, activities, expectations, and policies. This student and parent handbook is issued to each student and it is requested that every student and family become familiar with the expectations and policies found within it.

Working together, I know the 2020-2021 school year will be a great success. My door is always open to students and parents and I welcome your questions, concerns, and input at any time. Please take some time to review the handbook as a few changes have occurred.

Respectfully,

James Black  
Principal

*"Education then, beyond all other devices of human origin, is the great equalizer of the conditions of men, the balance-wheel of the social machinery."*

Horace Mann

## **Mt. Blue Middle School Mission**

Mt. Blue Middle School strives to meet the unique academic, physical, social, and emotional needs of students who are in a special and critical period of their lives. We are committed to creating a trusting, caring environment where teaching and learning are exciting and students develop responsibility along with a passion for learning. Our school is adolescent-centered and designed to accommodate individual learning styles so that all may experience success.

## **Mt. Blue Middle School Vision**

The Mt. Blue Middle School vision is to provide adolescent students with an emotionally healthy and nurturing academic environment. The staff will facilitate learning opportunities to help these unique individuals become clear communicators, problem solvers and responsible citizens of the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

## **Mt. Blue Middle School Belief Statements**

In regards to students and learning we believe that...

- All students can learn to their full potential, but not always at the same rate or in the same way.
- Learning something well is more important than the amount of time needed to learn it.
- Students experiencing success build character and self-respect, and this success contributes to further success.
- Every student has worth and deserves respect.
- All students are entitled to have a safe learning environment.

In regard to school staff and teaching we believe that...

- Staff members are reflective, life long learners.
- The positive and healthy self-image of staff enhances their ability to help students.
- Everyone has worth and deserves respect.
- Staff plans and promotes a safe, nurturing, and motivational environment that allows for expanded learning opportunities.
- Looping provides for the staff to know the individual learning styles of their students to a higher level.

In regard to school and community we believe that...

- It is the responsibility of the entire community in and out of school to educate the child.
- We must base our daily school activities around our school's vision and mission.
- Our control of the building must be supported by the community and the parents.
- Our school and community share the responsibility for the conditions that ensure success.
- Open and accurate community-wide communication is critical to effective education.
- Growth can only come from risk.
- Our schools make use of the diverse human resources that emerge within the school and community.

\*Adapted from: This We Believe, by National Middle School Association (1995).

# **What is a Middle School?**

As you settle into MBMS, you will see that our school's philosophy has been especially designed for students your age. It will not be elementary or high school. This is middle school, a special time for you to explore new interests and skills. We offer a great deal of new opportunities for you to try, so please do.

A goal of the school is to help you learn how to learn. Your teachers will guide you, but ultimately the responsibility is yours. The teachers will put emphasis on the following:

1. How to organize materials, time and information
2. How and when to ask for help
3. How to listen and follow directions
4. How to solve complex problems
5. How to work cooperatively with others
6. How to make appropriate choices when it comes to their learning

We are happy to be here to guide you, teach you and learn from you. Along with your parents, we will do all we can to help you explore your potential and become a lifelong learner.

## **Communication Between Home & School**

### **The School Shall:**

- Invite all parents and guardians to attend at least one meeting per year to discuss their child's progress. and other school programs and activities.
- Provide parents with the necessary resources to better assist their child's learning.
- Inform parents of important events, via notices sent home, e-mails, and responsibility of their child relaying the information.

### **The Parent/Guardian Shall:**

- Establish study habits that include a regular time and place for homework.
- Talk with their child concerning school events and show support for their activities.
- Be responsible for their child's attendance, general health, nutrition, and understanding of school rules and policies.
- Reinforce reading by their child.

### **The Student Shall:**

- Be responsible for his/her own learning.
- Complete assigned tasks on time and to the best of their ability.
- Share information with their parents concerning school.
- Practice good study habits.
- Arrive at school with a positive attitude and take responsibility for his/her own actions.

### **Parents and Teachers Shall:**

- Think the best of each child; encourage reading, active learning, and school involvement.
- Open lines of communication between home and school.
- Participate in school activities, such as open houses and conferences.
- Be active in the child's education.

**Family and Community Partnerships:**

Families and community members are important stakeholders in developmentally responsive middle level schools. Schools recognize and support families and community members as participants in school programs by encouraging their roles in supporting learning and honoring them as essential volunteers. Parents, families, and community members can enrich the curriculum and facilitate learning. The school takes the initiative in providing a wide variety of opportunities for parent and community involvement.

**Home—School Connection:**

We recognize that a child's education is a responsibility shared by school and family. Our goal is to educate all of our students effectively and to their highest potential with a partnership between home and school. We encourage parents and guardians to make regular visits to the school and to contact the school when any questions arise concerning the child and the school.

**Procedures for Comments, Concerns, or Questions**

If you ever find yourself with a question or concern, please call the school. We like to think that we are doing everything perfectly, and sometimes, in spite of our best efforts, things do not go as planned. Please contact the person most closely involved with the situation. For example, in case there is a classroom question, talk with the teacher. You will find that we all have the same goal--we want the best educational experience for everyone.

## **Mt. Blue Middle School Staff**

**Administration:** James Black, Principal

Katherine Duchesne, Asst. Principal and Athletic Director

**Secretarial:** Patty Flagg, Amy Hanrahan, Samantha Nadeau **School Nurse:** Suzanne Abbott

**School Counselor:** Merrily Welch

**Social Worker:** Angela Ostiguy

**Resource Officer:** Bridgette Gilbert

**Library Media Specialist:** Sherry Wyman

**Music:** Nancy Beachman, OPEN, Scott Dunbar, Ethan Edmondson, Kenneth Labrecque, Steve Muise

**Custodial/Cafeteria Staff:** Amanda Barry, Jodi Frost, Lorraine Durrell, Cindy Fortier, Kevin Lord, Joyce Smiley, Theresa True

## **Academic Communities**

**Kineo Community (Grade 6):**

Leigh Welch - ELA  
 Ashley Kilgannon – Math  
 Rose Lake – Science  
 Mary Ellen Blodgett – Social Studies  
 Janet Morris - Special Education

**Redington Community (Grade 6):**

Amy Ryan – ELA  
 Reilly Romanoski – Math  
 Tracy Knapp – Science  
 Valerie Spiller – Social Studies  
 Hilary Gibson - Special Education

**Katahdin Community (Grade 7):**

Denise Mochamer – ELA  
 Ben Toribio – Math  
 Zachary Mayo – Science  
 Kirsten Brann – Social Studies  
 Nicole Fulton-Greenlaw - Special Education

**Sugarloaf Community (Grade 8):**

Griffin Conlogue – ELA  
 Courtney Fish – Math  
 Carl Backman – Science  
 Danita Gilbert – Social Studies  
 Cheryl Webster - Special Education

**Bigelow Community (Grade 8):**

Heather Ingraham-Quimby – ELA  
 Kayla Girardin – Math  
 Greg Veayo – Science  
 Catherine Zachary - Social Studies  
 Tammy Conlogue - Special Education  
 Amy Da Costa - Special Education

**Saddleback Community (Grade 7):**

Frank Giampietro – ELA  
 Fred Conlogue - Math  
 Sarita Crandall - Science  
 Rebecca Roy - Social Studies

**Exploratory:**

Art: Danielle Guerrette  
 Physical Education: Peter Franchetti  
 Health and Wellness: Jaycee Jenckes  
 Spanish: Natasha Allison  
 Woodshop: Peter Thompson

**Gifted & Talented:** Debbie Hiltz**Alternative Learning:** Patty Veayo**Adaptive Skills:** Kim Gurney

## Course Descriptions

**Ad/Ad** - Advisor - Advisee - Attendance and student relationship building period.

**MAC / LAC** - Math Across the Curriculum and Literacy Across the Curriculum - This is the foundation of our RTI programming at MBMS. These two courses have a main focus on meeting standards based on students' needs as well as some required focus standards. These are our intervention blocks with a math and literacy focus. These courses are also leveled by assessment scores. These class periods are 40 minutes long and meet on a rotating basis.

G.A.T.E (Gifted and Talented Education) services occur during this time period as well.

**Exploratory** - Classes that fall within this category are: Art, Digital Citizenship (grade 6), Health, Music (grade 6), Physical Education, Spanish, and Woodshop. These class periods are 40 minutes long and meet on a rotating basis.

**Community** - Classes that fall within this category are the community based classes. These class periods are 40 minutes long and meet daily.

English Language Arts - 6th grade ELA, 7th grade ELA, 8th grade ELA

Mathematics - 6th grade Math, 7th grade Math, 8th grade Math, Honors Algebra 1\* (prerequisites required), Honors Algebra II\* (taught @ HS, prerequisites required)  
 Science - 6th grade Science, 7th grade Science, 8th grade Science  
 Social Studies - 6th grade SS, 7th grade SS, 8th grade SS

**Learning Lab** - Learning Lab is an intervention block offered depending on the students' schedule that gives students an opportunity to connect with teachers during a common time regarding specific needs in their classes. The Performance Arts of Band, Chorus, and Orchestra may also during this period for small group instruction, either on a blue or gold day for grades 7/8 or set days of the week for grade 6. This period of the day will be very structured with specific goals set for work needing to be accomplished. This period is 30 minutes long.

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\*Prerequisites for Honors Algebra I and Honors Algebra II (students must meet 3 out of 4 criteria)

**Honors Algebra I** - Minimum Star360 score of 800, Minimum score of 80 on Placement Exam, GT Assessments (Orleans-Hanna - min. 50/60 and Iowa min. 51/63)

**Honors Algebra II** - Minimum Star360 score of 900, Minimum Honors Algebra I Course average of 85, Minimum Honors Algebra I Final Exam of 85, Teacher recommendation

School Administration has the final determination regarding enrollment for these courses

## Academic Calendar and Reporting Dates

### Quarter Calendar

Quarter 1: September 8--November 6  
 Quarter 2: November 9--January 15  
 Quarter 3: January 19 --March 26  
 Quarter 4: March 29 --June 4

### Trimester Calendar

Trimester 1: September 8 --November 29  
 Trimester 2: November 30 --March 7  
 Trimester 3: March 8--June 9

### Academic Reports

#### Reporting Periods

Week of:	Nov. 9	Quarter 1 Report Card
	Jan. 19	Quarter 2 Report Card
	Mar. 29	Quarter 3 Report Card
	Jun. 7	Quarter 4 Report Card

### Grade 6 Exploratory Rotations

E1: September 8 -- October 25  
 E2: October 26 -- December 20  
 E3: December 21 -- February 28  
 E4: March 3 -- April 18  
 E5: April 26 -- June 9

## Honor Roll

**Academic Honor Roll** - Mt. Blue Middle School appreciates the effort that students put into their academic achievements. With that in mind, our honor system is as follows:

**High Honors** - All A's, no more than one B; and no C's, D's or F's



**Honors** - All A's and B's; no C's, D's or F's

## **Attendance**

A day lost from school can never be replaced regardless of a student's capabilities and no amount of make-up work can ever duplicate the original instruction or interaction that takes place within the classroom setting. Attendance is an essential component to a student's academic success.

Absences as described in this policy are to be used for the following reasons:

1. Personal illness with notification to the school or an extended illness reported in writing by a physician
2. An appointment with a health professional
3. The observance of a religious holiday
4. A family emergency
5. Bereavement
6. An approved educational or personal purpose reason where the student has obtained permission from the principal or assistant principal

Parents/guardians should make every effort to call and provide a valid excuse when their student is absent. A written excuse may be provided, however it is only excused when it meets the above criteria. Students are to report directly to the office following an absence.

### **Hybrid and Remote attendance Update**

#### **Hybrid Procedure**

##### **1. Attendance Procedures**

- a. Typical attendance expectations in PS for on site; for remote students, see full remote attendance expectations below

#### **Remote Procedure**

1. **Attendance Procedures - From MDOE: "wholly remote attendance shall mean regular contact and engagement between teachers and students each school day." MBMS will require attendance for each class demonstrated in the following ways.**
2. Attendance may be demonstrated in one of the following ways on remote day(s) for each class period:
  - a. Participation in a synchronous (at the same time) meeting (ie: class meeting, etc.)
  - b. Back up plan: Evidence of time spent working in digital classroom
  - c. Back up plan: Completion / submission of assigned work \*Default to present unless work is not submitted then change to absent
  - d. Fun attendance question. To check in for attendance.

**Truancy** - As outlined in Maine State Law; Title 20-A, 5051-A, a student is legally truant when a student has "completed grade 6 and has the equivalent of 10 full days of unexcused absences or 7 consecutive school days of unexcused absences during a school year; or is at least 7 years of age and has not completed grade 6 and has the

equivalent of 7 full days of unexcused absences or 5 consecutive school days of unexcused absences during a school year.”

**Planned Absences** – Planned absences of five (5) days or less for other reasons may be excused with the approval of the principal. Planned absences for more than five (5) days must be approved by the superintendent. Absences that are approved by the parent but not by the school will be classified as unexcused. All other absences will be excused at the discretion of the principal or assistant principal.

Students seeking permission for planned absence are to fill out the Planned Greenslip Absence Form, have parents and teachers sign the form, and return it to the office at least three (3) days in advance for approval by the principal. This is if the student is going to be out for **more** than one day.

**Excused Absences** – Make up work is allowed. Students have one day to make up work for each day of absence.  
**Regular, consistent attendance is a key to academic and social success in school.**

**Unexcused Absences** – When a student has an unexcused absence or suspension s/he may appeal to the principal in writing by the end of the second day after returning to school to be allowed to make up the work missed. The principal will review the circumstances and will decide whether the student shall have the option of making up the work. Tests, quizzes and assignments will be made up at the convenience of the teacher and at an assigned time. Failure to make up the work at the times assigned shall be noted in your child’s Habits of Work grade.

**Arrival - No earlier than 7:30am.**

A. Students should attend to the following:

Lunch accounts

Eat breakfast

B. By **8:05** A.M. students must head to in their respective homerooms and attendance will be taken at **8:10**.

**Flag Salute: 8:10am** -- It is the policy of RSU #9 that each school day should begin with appropriate activities that should include, but not be limited to, a salute to the United States flag. (Footnote: RSU #9 recognizes that individual students may not participate in a flag salute, and it is the District’s policy to recognize the individual rights of these students. The complete student body should be respectful and quiet out of respect for others.)

**Tardy** – Tardiness is defined as an unexcused appearance of a student beyond the scheduled start time for the school day, **8:10**. When a student is late for school s/he is to report directly to the school and sign in. Three (3) incidents tardiness to school without **acceptable** excuses will result in a warning. Five (5) incidents of tardiness to school (starting fresh each quarter) will result in disciplinary action. Tardiness to class will be handled in a similar manner as the Ad/Ad teacher. Students and parents are requested to make every effort to schedule appointments outside of school hours. No notes accepted to excuse all tardies.

**Early Dismissal** – Once a student is on the school grounds they cannot leave without permission from the principal, assistant principal, or designee. *Failure to follow this procedure will result in an unexcused absence and disciplinary action.*

To be excused for appointments, the student should bring a note from the parents to the office before **8:10** a.m. The student will be given an early dismissal slip that should be submitted to the teacher whose class s/he will be leaving.

If a student is ill or does not feel well, they should report to the nurse’s office with a pass from the sending teacher. *Students found communicating with parents/guardians without reporting their illness to the nurse or a member of the office staff will be subject to disciplinary action.*

A student who misses any part of the school day due to illness will not be allowed to participate in any extracurricular activity that day except on an appeal granted by the principal or assistant principal. The above participation applies to all regularly scheduled activities, curricular and extracurricular.

**Withdrawal From School** – Students who are moving and plan to transfer to another school should meet with a member of the office staff in order to obtain an outline of the proper withdrawal/transfer procedures.

## **PBIS - Positive Behavior Interventions & Supports**

### **Cougar Code: Be Safe, Be Respectful, Be Responsible, Be Kind!**

It is the intent at Mt. Blue Middle School to encourage and support positive behavior in all students. Within this framework, we have a tiered system that supports students at different levels: Tier 1, Tier II, and Tier III.

Tier I: Composed of 80-90% of our student population, core practice / rules, applied to all students school-wide.

Tier II: Smaller group of students targeted (5-10%) for social / emotional interventions, more attention and direction to Tier 1 practices.

Tier III: Most intense social / emotional interventions applied to very small population of students requiring more than Tier I / II practices.

Data driven decision making is at the root of PBIS and measures outcomes and achievable goals supported by that data. ODR (Office discipline referrals) will be used for this process, which may be either digital or paper-based depending on the severity of the behavior. It is important to note that best practice is to always communicate effectively between school and home whenever possible.

# Mt. Blue Middle School Expectations and Setting Matrix

		Classroom voice level 0-1	AM Bus Room voice level 1	Hallway voice level 1	Bathroom voice level 1	Recess Area voice level 2	Cafeteria voice level 1	Library
<b>Be Kind</b>	<b>Be Safe</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>*Remain seated or in assigned work area</li> <li>*Keep desks where they are</li> <li>*Keep hands, feet and body to yourself</li> <li>*Communicate before you leave the room</li> <li>*Use classroom tools appropriately</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>*Go directly to cafeteria</li> <li>*Walk when entering/exiting</li> <li>*Remain seated</li> <li>*Keep laptops put away</li> <li>*Keep hands, feet and body to yourself</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>*Walking at all times</li> <li>*Keep hands, feet and body to yourself</li> <li>*Pay attention to your surroundings</li> <li>*Keep moving to next class</li> <li>*Maintain food and drink-free hallways</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>*Use good hygiene (wash your hands)</li> <li>*Keep hands, feet and body to yourself</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>*Stay in designated area</li> <li>*Be aware of your surroundings</li> <li>*Play games safely and appropriately</li> <li>*Keep hands, feet and body to yourself</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>*Ask before leaving the cafeteria</li> <li>*Stay seated at your table while eating</li> <li>*Keep hands, feet and body to yourself</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>*Keep hands, feet and body to yourself</li> </ul>
	<b>Be Responsible</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>*Raise hand and wait to be called on</li> <li>*Be on time</li> <li>*Be prepared for class with all materials</li> <li>*Be engaged, follow directions and use time wisely</li> <li>*Use laptop as directed</li> <li>*Have all assignments completed on time</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>*Listen attentively to staff and follow directions</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>*Use appropriate volume</li> <li>*Follow adult directions</li> <li>*Respect other's personal space and our school building</li> <li>*Have hall pass during non-transitional times</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>*Clean up after yourself</li> <li>*Report any concerns to an adult</li> <li>*Be timely during non-transitional times</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>*Follow directions the first time</li> <li>*Be on time or come with a pass</li> <li>*Wear appropriate attire for the weather</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>*Respect other's space and belongings</li> <li>*Wait in line patiently and stay in your spot in line</li> <li>*Clean up after yourself</li> <li>*Have lunch and recess materials prior to start of lunch or recess</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>*Follow library procedures</li> <li>*Maintain a food and drink-free environment</li> <li>*Care for library materials and equipment</li> <li>*Arrive at the library with a specific academic purpose and a pass</li> <li>*Be engaged, follow directions and use time wisely</li> <li>*Only print with teacher permission</li> </ul>
	<b>Be Respectful</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>*Clean up your space before you leave</li> <li>*Work quietly</li> <li>*Respect the learning of others</li> <li>*Respect other's personal space, property and opinions</li> <li>*Listen silently while others are speaking</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>*Be polite and use your manners</li> <li>*Clean up after yourself</li> <li>*Use appropriate language</li> <li>*Treat one another with kindness and respect</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>*Go directly to your destination</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>*Respect people's privacy</li> <li>*Maintain a clean, graffiti and damage free environment</li> <li>*Use appropriate language</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>*Use appropriate language</li> <li>*Keep area clean and damage free</li> <li>*Be mindful of others</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>*Use your table manners</li> <li>*Appropriate language and volume</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>*Appropriate language and volume</li> </ul>

## Voice Levels:

0 - Silence

1 - Inside Voice

2 - Outside Voice

3 - Unacceptable

## General School Rules

1. Masks are to be worn at all times within the school building and on the school bus.
2. Bus notes will not be accepted at this time due to COVID-19.
3. Fire extinguishers and pull boxes are an important safety device and could save lives and prevent property damage. Anyone caught tampering, discharging or abusing them will be subject to disciplinary action.
4. All exits and walkways must be kept clear to permit the easy flow of traffic and ensure the safety of all.
5. Proper foot apparel must be worn at all times.
6. Lollipops (safety) are not allowed in school during the school day.
7. No hats or headgear such as bandanas or hoods will be permitted.
8. Students should plan to use the restrooms between class periods and other non-class times unless issued a pass. **Please keep the restrooms neat and clean and do not use them as a group-gathering place.**
9. Throwing snowballs is particularly dangerous and is not allowed on school grounds at any time. The throwing of any other objects that are possibly dangerous to others will also not be allowed, and will result in disciplinary action.
10. School is not a place to sell any personal items.
11. In the event of loss due to theft, fire, etc., any items lost in school, on the bus, on school grounds are the responsibility of the student.
12. Duffel bags, knapsacks and other book bags should be secured in student lockers upon arrival to school. Such containers should not be used to transport material to class. Students should organize their material to meet the requirements of all classes during breaks and between classes. The only exception will be physical education class when students will be expected to follow community rules covering this exception. The rationale for this rule is based on health and safety concerns. Several area doctors have mentioned the potential effects of a student carrying a heavy bag all day while their bodies are undergoing the physical development of the adolescent years. Secondly, in the past student book bags in the classrooms have caused tripping accidents and have impeded evacuation of rooms during emergency drills.
13. **No food or drink being consumed in the hallways.**
14. Attendance at a school or district function after consumption of alcohol or drugs is not allowed and is subject to RSU9 policies.
15. Body piercing, spitting, cutting and biting are not allowed in school. They are health hazards and could result in suspension.
16. Heelies (shoes w/rolling wheels) are not allowed in school due to safety concerns.
17. Laser pointers or anything of this nature due to safety concerns are not allowed in school.
18. ~~Visitors are not permitted at school unless having prior approval by the principal and/or community leader for the specified activity or event.~~ **At this time, no visitors are permitted within the school without an appointment.**

## School Procedures

**Hall Passes** - Students need to have a pass during non-transition times in order to move from their assigned area to other places in the building. Improper use of the pass system will result in disciplinary action. Students are required to sign their name to the sign-out sheet before leaving with a pass. Students should sign in upon returning.

**Lockers** - **Students will be assigned a locker. They will be permitted to use their locker at the beginning and end of day. When winter comes, students will be permitted to get their jacket / proper winter gear for recess.**

**Textbooks** - Any books issued to students should be properly **covered** at all times and any loss or damage to these books should be reported to the office at once. It is the responsibility of the student to cover books issued to him or her with either book covers or heavy paper. Students will have to pay replacement costs for lost or damaged books that have been issued to them.

**Lost and Found** - There are lost and found collection boxes in the cafeteria and gym areas.

## Discipline

In any school there is a need for a set of rules in order to provide an atmosphere conducive to quality education. While it is not possible to list every conceivable situation that might arise, high standards of socially acceptable behavior are expected at all times. Any behavior that is considered unreasonable or jeopardizing the safety of individuals will not be permitted. The following are guidelines only and more serious discipline, up to and including expulsion may be imposed for any offense when the administration determines that the offense warrants such action. It is expected that all members of our MBMS School Community live by our Cougar Code: Be Kind, Be Respectful, Be Responsible, and Be Safe.

1. **Fighting** – Fighting on school grounds is never acceptable behavior. Appropriate disciplinary action including a three to ten-day (3-10) suspension will follow an investigation by the office. Full Policy: [JICIA](#)
2. **Physical Contact**--Any physical contact that could result in harm to a student, staff, or visitor will not be tolerated. This may include hoe-downs, or other safety concerns that could result in harm of self or others. Disciplinary action will take place, which could result in suspension of at least one day. Full Policy: [JICIA](#)
3. **Prohibited Substances: Drugs, Tobacco, Alcohol, Paraphernalia and Incendiaries** - Lighters, matches and flammable fluids/items are not allowed in school. Possession or use of any tobacco product (including E-cigarettes and vaping), alcohol, drugs, look alike drugs, or other prohibited substances including lighters and matches by students (unless administered by the nurse) in **any form** either in the school building or on the school grounds is strictly forbidden at all times. The penalty for the possession or use of these substances is a suspension from school for up to 10 days. Students will also be referred to the police. Full policy: [JICH-R](#)
4. **Weapons** - Possession or use of a weapon on school grounds, in school building or on school buses is prohibited. A pupil found to be in possession of a weapon on school premises before, during, or after school or at any school-sponsored activity is subject to administrative and/or legal action. Full Policy: [JICIA](#)
5. **Bomb Threats** - Making a threat that a bomb or other explosive device has been placed in a school seriously disrupts or threatens to disrupt the educational process. Any student involved in making such a threat will be suspended and will be referred to both the Superintendent's Office and the Police Department. Full policy: [EBCC](#)
6. **Cheating** – Cheating is inexcusable. Cheating includes copying someone else's work, looking at someone else's paper during a test, or plagiarizing the work of others. Student consequences for cheating will begin with the classroom teacher, and may include school administration and impact their Habits of Work grade. Continued cheating will result in more severe consequences.
7. **Profanity** – Profanity directed at a staff member will result in suspension from school. Other uses of profanity will result in a detention from a staff member. Continued usage of general profanity will result in suspension.
8. **Public Display of Affection** – Public displays of affection are not permitted in school. Consequences will begin at the community or teacher level and progress to office disciplinary action for continued public displays of affection.
9. **Rudeness** – Showing lack of courtesy and respect to students or any member of our school community or at school functions will not be tolerated; consequences range from detention to suspension.
10. **Vandalism and Theft** – Students found damaging or stealing school, staff, or other student's property will replace the stolen or damaged item(s), pay for any repairs necessary, and will be issued a suspension. Our school buildings and equipment cost the taxpayers to construct, purchase, and maintain. State law holds students (or parents) financially liable for damage to school property. Chapter 513,3772 of the Maine State Statutes states: "If a minor injures or aids in injuring any schoolhouse, out buildings, utensils, or appurtenances belonging thereto; defaces the walls, benches, seats or other parts of school property belonging to an administrative unit, such administrative unit may recover of his parent or guardian in a civil action **double damage** occasioned thereby." Students and/or parents will be billed for damages to school property.
11. **Skipping Class** – Students found skipping class will be issued consequences from the teacher whose class was skipped. Students who have more than one infraction for skipping class may be issued an in-school suspension.
12. **Skipping School** – Students found skipping school will be issued a day of in-school suspension for each day missed.
13. **Threatening** - Threats made to another person to cause physical or mental anxiety will result in disciplinary action, which could result in suspension, or more serious action.
14. **Cell Phones** - Cell phones are not to be seen or heard between **morning announcements and the end of day announcements** unless permission is given by a staff member. First offense will be a warning to put the phone away, second offense is to have the phone placed in the office, (the phone will be returned at the end of the day) and third offense could result in further disciplinary action. Students refusing to give a staff member their phone upon request will be subject to disciplinary action. Policy [JFCK-R](#)



## Disciplinary Consequences

**Restorative Dialogue or Circle:** Conversation typically facilitated by an administrator or teacher regarding a behavioral or student issue that has arisen to the level of needing an intervention, but perhaps not a major consequence. The intent behind this is for students to hear and understand all perspectives of those involved or affected and be able to help repair or resolve the harm that was caused.

**Detention:** There are three types of detention:

1. **Disciplinary** detention – given by the classroom teacher at the discretion of the teacher.
2. **Office** detention – given by office staff
3. **Academic** detention– Due to standards and local assessments, this is mandatory. When a student falls behind in his or her work or needs extra help, the teacher will send home a Progress Report asking that the student stay after school for that help. This is a notice to the student and parent that there is a problem and the teacher is willing to spend extra time to help.

Students and/or parents may wish to have a detailed discussion concerning any detention. The student and/or parent will be referred to the person who issued the detention. These discussions should be conducted at a mutually convenient time and in a polite manner.

All students assigned to detention are expected to stay for detention and will follow the guidelines listed in the School Board Policy. Failure to stay for detention or failure to behave during that time will result in an office detention or additional disciplinary action, which may include suspension from school. If there is a serious conflict with the date assigned, **the parent should contact, by phone, or in writing, the staff member assigning the detention, to arrange for an alternative date.** All detentions must be served after school hours. Also, detentions must be brought in **signed by a parent/guardian** prior to or on the day of detention or it will be viewed as a “no show.” Forged parental signatures will result in additional discipline.

**Transportation** after detention: We fully realize the transportation problems involved when students are asked to remain after school. With this in mind we have adopted the policy that the bus students who are asked to remain after school be issued a detention slip one day prior to the day they are to stay. This should give sufficient time to provide appropriate transportation. **No bus transportation** will be provided for students who receive disciplinary action.

**Suspension:** Suspension is given in serious disciplinary cases. It should not be treated lightly. Suspension from school will result in an excused absence for the days missed. Parent cooperation is extremely important in order to make suspension an appropriate learning experience. Principals have the authority to suspend students for definite periods of time to maintain good order in the schools. Suspension may be given for something done off as well as on school property if it is established that it is reasonably necessary for the physical or emotional safety and well being of the school community or members thereof.

**Procedures** – Suspension for ten days or less:

- A. **Prior to suspension**, the administrator must:
  1. Inform the student either orally or in writing of the charge against him/her
  2. Inform the student of the basis of the charge (names of witnesses or informants need **not** be revealed at this time); and
  3. Give the student the opportunity to tell his/her side of the story.
- B. If the presence of the student in the school poses a continuing danger to persons or an ongoing threat of disrupting the academic process, the administrator may:
  1. Suspend the student immediately for ten days or less; and

2. Comply with A. 1, 2 and 3 in the immediate future (within 1 or 2 days).

C. After Suspension:

1. The principal must notify the parents or guardians immediately by phone or by mail.
2. The principal must notify the suspension to the superintendent immediately.
3. Either the Board or the superintendent may reinstate the student after suspension.
4. If a student has been suspended four (4) times in a year he/she and parent could be asked to meet with the Superintendent. A student may be asked to meet with the Superintendent for a serious infraction.

For any expulsion or suspension for greater than ten days:

- A. A hearing must be held within a reasonable period of time after suspension.
- B. Students may be represented by a lawyer.
- C. The Board of Directors shall hold the hearing.
- D. Students are entitled to the rudiments of adversary proceeding. These may include:
  1. The right to be presented with the names of witnesses;
  2. The right to see copies of statements and affidavits of those witnesses;
  3. The right to demand that any such witnesses appear in person to answer questions; and
  4. The right to testify and produce witnesses on the student's own behalf.
- E. A record should be kept of hearing procedures. Students are entitled to a copy of the transcript at their own expense. The proceeding must be held with all reasonable speed.
- F. If the School Directors find the student innocent of the alleged act or acts, the student may request that any written entry referring to the incident be expunged from his/her records.

## **Appeals**

Students may appeal a decision made by the principal to the Superintendent and Board of Directors. If this is unsuccessful, they may appeal to the courts.

Legal Reference: TITLE 20A MRSA SEC. 100

## **Student Drug, Alcohol and Tobacco Administrative Procedure**

### **1. Disciplinary Action - Alcohol and Drug Violations**

- a. **Consuming, possessing, receiving or being under the influence of a prohibited substance.**

FIRST OFFENSE - The administrator will:

1. Confiscate the prohibited substance and verify offense;
2. Meet with the student;
3. Notify and meet with parents/guardians;
4. Student will complete the school sanctioned intervention program at the next available session;
5. Notify the Superintendent and School Resource Officer; and
6. Suspend the student from school up to five (5) days.

SECOND OFFENSE - The administrator will:

1. Confiscate the prohibited substance and verify offense;
2. Meet with the student, parents/guardians to discuss a follow-up plan;
3. Recommend to parents/guardians that the student be referred for a clinical chemical health evaluation.
4. Notify the Superintendent and School Resource Officer;
5. Suspend the student from school up to seven (7) days.

THIRD OFFENSE - The administrator will:

1. Confiscate the prohibited substance and verify offense;
2. Meet with the student and parents/guardians;



3. Recommend to parents/guardians that the student participate in a drug and alcohol support program;
4. Notify the Superintendent and School Resource Officer;
5. Suspend the student from school for ten (10) days and refer to the board.

**b. Furnishing, selling, buying or manufacturing a prohibited substance.**

The administrator will:

1. Confiscate the prohibited substance and verify offense;
2. Meet with the student and parents/guardians;
3. Notify the Superintendent and School Resource Officer
4. Suspend the student for ten (10) days and may recommend expulsion.

**2. Disciplinary Action - All Tobacco Violations** (to include but not limited to cigarettes, cigars, spit and smokeless tobacco, chew, snuff, snus, electronic cigarettes, vaporizers, vape products and other electronic nicotine delivery systems)

FIRST OFFENSE - The administrator will:

1. Confiscate the tobacco product and verify offense;
2. Meet with the student;
3. Notify parents/guardians;
4. Notify the Superintendent and School Resource Officer
5. The student will complete the school sanctioned intervention program at the next available session.
6. Suspend the student up to five (5) days.

SECOND OFFENSE- The administrator will:

1. Confiscate the tobacco product and verify offense;
2. Meet with the student and parents/guardians;
3. Notify the Superintendent and School Resource Officer;
4. Recommend to parents/guardian that the student participate in a tobacco cessation program.
5. Suspend the student up to seven (7) days.

Refer to: Policy JICH B. Intervention File JICH-R

THIRD AND SUBSEQUENT OFFENSES - The administrator will:

1. Confiscate the tobacco product and verify offense;
2. Meet with the student and parents/guardians;
3. Notify the Superintendent and School Resource Officer;
4. Recommend to parents/guardian that the student participate in a tobacco cessation program;
5. Suspend the student for ten (10) days.

**\*\*It is important to note that these procedures will be followed if there is a violation at any school function.**

Policies to reference: JICH - Student Drug, Alcohol and Tobacco Use  
JICI - Extracurricular Code of Conduct

# **Mt. Blue Regional School District Meals Charging Policy**

## **Charging of School Lunches**

To ensure that all students have access to healthy school lunches and to maintain compliance with federal regulations, The Mount Blue Regional School District has instituted a district meals charging policy. We strongly believe that nutritious meals are a vital component to a healthy school environment and that they may enhance learning while helping to minimize illness, absences and disciplinary problems.

It shall be the policy in our schools that when a meal is desired, payment for that meal is expected in advance or on that day unless the student has been approved for free meal benefits. No student who is believed to be improperly nourished shall be denied a meal. The full version of the meals charging policy is attached and can also be found on the district website at [www.mtbluersd.org/district-information/school-board/policy-manual](http://www.mtbluersd.org/district-information/school-board/policy-manual).

Free/reduced meal applications must be completed every year and are part of the annual paperwork completed in PowerSchool. Paper applications are also available at each school and can be mailed home by request by calling your child's school or the district central office. Applications are accepted at any time throughout the school year.

The district understands that many families may be experiencing financial difficulties, and we would urge those families to call the Nutrition Services Director at 207-778-6571 with any questions or concerns.

## **School Breakfast & Lunch Payment**

MBMS uses an automated lunch ID system. Students need to memorize their lunch number in order to make payments to their lunch account and purchase their food.

### **2020-2021 Breakfast & Lunch Prices**

Breakfast:	\$1.50	Reduced Breakfast:	free	Milk:	\$.45	Adult Breakfast:	\$2.25
Lunch:	\$2.55	Reduced Lunch:	free			Adult Lunch:	\$4.15

## **Dress and Personal Grooming**

Students are encouraged to wear clothing that is suitable to the occasion. Students should not wear clothing or hairstyles that can be hazardous to them in their school activities; in shop, lab work, physical education and art. This includes hats and sunglasses. Grooming and dress, which prevent the student from doing his best work because of blocked vision or restricted movement should be discouraged as should dress styles that create, or are likely to create, a disruption of classroom order. Articles of clothing that cause excessive maintenance problems – for example, cleats, shoes that scratch floors, and trousers with metal rivets that scratch furniture are ruled unacceptable.

### **Clothing Expectations**

**PURPOSE:** This document is designed to clarify expectations for students regarding appropriate dress while at Mt. Blue Middle School. Clothing is expected to fit our educational mission. Students are expected to wear clothing suitable to the learning environment. Students are encouraged to use sound judgment and reflect respect for themselves and others in their choice of clothing. In keeping with the goals of the school unit to provide a safe, healthy and non-discriminatory environment for educating students for maximum academic and social development, we ask that the following expectations be met. Individual teacher enforcement of expectations is to be respected by students.

1. Students must wear clothing including both a top and a bottom (shirt with pants or skirt, or the equivalent-- for example dresses, leggings, or shorts) and shoes.
2. Tops must have fabric in the front and on the sides (under the arms) and cover the back below the shoulder blades and the midriff.
3. Clothing must cover undergarments.
4. Fabric covering breasts, genitals, and buttocks must not be see through.
5. Clothing and footwear must be suitable for all schedule classrooms activities including physical education, science labs, wood shop, and other activities where unique hazards exist.

The following types of clothing and dress are inappropriate for school attire, and may not be worn:

1. Articles of clothing that are sexually suggestive in writing and design or that promote drugs, alcohol or tobacco products (includes but is not limited to mushroom or marijuana jewelry);
2. Clothing, footwear, insignia or accessories that are intended to identify the wearer as a member of a particular gang (ex: bandanas tied on leg); does not include bandanas worn as headbands that do not cover the entire head
3. Articles of clothing with displays or that are themselves of a sexual, vulgar, lewd or indecent nature or including insulting words (e.g., racial/ethnic slurs);
4. Clothing that is destructive of school property (e. g., cleats, pants with metal inserts that scratch furniture);
5. Pajamas except on special spirit days;
6. Clothing that presents a clear and present likelihood that it will cause a material and substantial disruption of the proper and orderly operation and discipline of the school, including hate speech or symbols that violate the Maine Civil Rights Act;
7. Beach wear or halters.

Hats, hoods, and other types of head coverings are not permitted unless a special event is planned. Recognized religious headwear is permitted.

School administrators and teachers may require special clothing for health and safety reasons for students participating in physical education, extra curricular activities, work with or around machines or other activities. However, no particular brand can be required.

In addition, there may be articles of clothing that are deemed inappropriate that are not included above. Administrators will use their judgment in these situations.

## **Physical Education**

Physical education is a basic part of the student's curriculum designed to promote positive lifetime physical fitness attitudes, to develop physical skills in team and individual sports, to provide group experiences for social development, and to impart knowledge of health. Because of our firm convictions of the program benefits, it is essential that the student participate in physical education.

### **Permanent Excuses**

A student may be excused permanently from physical education upon the written recommendation of the student's physician. The principal, physical education teacher, and the school nurse as appropriate must review all written recommendations.

### **Temporary Excuses**

A written excuse by a physician will be the customary method of excusing students from physical education classes. Duration of the excuse should be indicated. Students will attend physical education classes during this designated time but may be excused from physical participation.

There will be occasions when students can be excused from strenuous activities on a temporary basis without an excuse from a physician. A student's parent may request the student be excused from physical education for a period of time not to exceed five (5) consecutive school days. The request must be in writing and state the reason. A parent conference with the teacher and the principal may be required after the third such request.

Students who are unable to participate in physical education activities may be given alternative assignments to enable them to secure credit for physical education. When possible, students will be expected to suit up for classes.

### **Clothing**

To provide for flexibility in movement and the safety of students, the following clothing is required: shorts, sweatpants, or wind pants (no jeans), hip-length T-shirts with sleeves, and tied sneakers. On cold days outside jackets and/or hats are appropriate.

### **General Rules**

1. Students' clothing and equipment should be marked so it can be identified.
2. All injuries are to be reported to the instructor at once.
3. All lost and found articles are to be reported to the instructor.
4. Appropriate hygiene practices such as wearing deodorant and changing clothes are encouraged.

## **Transportation / Bussing**

We have four dismissals: 1. Walkers Only, 2. 1<sup>st</sup> bus; 3. Parent Pick-Up; 4. 2<sup>nd</sup> bus

We are not allowing bus notes to alternate locations due to COVID and physical distancing requirements.

The school will follow RSU #9 transportation policies with regard to general bussing procedures.

Students should be on time at the designated school bus stops and should wait until the bus comes to a complete stop before attempting to enter.

Bus riders should never tamper with the bus.

Students should not leave books, lunches, laptops, or other articles on the bus.

Students should not throw anything out of the window.

Students are responsible for their own property while using district busses.

Bus riders are not permitted to leave their seats while the bus is in motion.

Bus riders are expected to be courteous to fellow pupils and to the bus driver.  
Bus riders should be **absolutely quiet** when approaching a railroad crossing.

### **Video Cameras on Transportation Vehicles:**

The Superintendent will be responsible for the development of regulations regarding review of video recordings made on school transportation vehicles. Such regulations will provide for procedures for review when significant violations of the student conduct code occur. Regulations will also address the retention of video tapes, the security of video cameras and recordings, specifying the school official(s) to be responsible for purchase, installation, maintenance, and replacement of equipment, scheduling and placement of cameras on transportation vehicles, requests for viewing and any necessary follow up.

## **Facilities**

It is extremely important that all students should undertake the responsibility of keeping the facilities neat, clean, and in good condition. Some general points are:

1. Notices or posters are not to be attached to painted surfaces with scotch tape.
2. Footwear should be such that it will not mar the floors.
3. Lack of respect for school property will be dealt with sternly.
4. Students are not to operate thermostats, open and close windows, draw the drapes or shades, or use fire extinguishers (except in cases of emergencies).
5. Defacing property or writing vulgar language in public is considered as vandalism.

All abused or destroyed property will be replaced or repaired at the expense of the student. Disciplinary action will also result.

### **Social / Fun Activities - At this time all social events are on hold due to COVID**

These nights or afternoons are sponsored by the 6<sup>th</sup> grade communities and may be required to have 3 staff members present and attempt to have 2 parent volunteers for a total of 5 adults. The staff sponsoring the event will be responsible for all organizing and clean up of event.

Admission will be \$4.00.

**Time:** Hours of event will be announced but the two options will be 2:30 – 4:30 or 6:00 – 8:00.

**Attendance:** All 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> grade students who are not under disciplinary issues and have no outstanding bills.

### **Behavior:**

1. Students in possession of, or under the influence of alcohol or another drug, will be subject to disciplinary action according to the established school procedures outlined in the student handbook. Local police will be contacted as well.
2. There will be no “horseplay” (pushing, shoving, etc.). This type of behavior may mean restriction from future dances.
3. Students who leave the dance may not return without staff permission.
4. Students are not to use profanity or vandalize school or personal property.
5. Students are expected to refrain from any activity that is unsafe or in poor taste, and shall comply with the requests of the chaperones.
6. Students are to refrain from any public display of affection (chaperones have last say).
7. Students should remain in the cafeteria area only.
8. Students who are absent during the day may not attend unless cleared by administration.

9. Students from other schools may attend the 8<sup>th</sup> grade semi-formal, only with Administrative permission.

Discipline for infractions of these rules will range from being asked to leave the dance to restriction from future dances or suspension from school, depending upon the seriousness of the offense. When students are asked to leave the dance, parents will immediately be notified by phone.

### **Dance Guidelines - At this time all dances are on hold due to COVID**

**Chaperones:** Four staff members will be present. Sponsoring school groups will make a conscientious effort to have two parents chaperone as well, and will be responsible for all the organizing of the event.

**Admission: \$5.00**

**Time:** Hours will be announced. Students may enter the social activity no later than one half hour after starting time and must leave with a parent/guardian if they need to leave early, or we must have permission to have them leave early. Options are: 2:30-5:00 or 6:00-8:30

**Attendance:** Students who are not on suspension from school, who do not have an outstanding bill, or who have not been told by the administration not to attend, may attend. The semi-formal dance is for 8<sup>th</sup> graders only; however, a guest, one grade level higher whom has been approved by an administrator may attend. 7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> attend dances and 6<sup>th</sup> & 7<sup>th</sup> may attend socials.

#### **Behavior:**

1. Students in possession of, or under the influence of alcohol or another drug, will be subject to disciplinary action according to the established school procedures outlined in the student handbook. Local police will be contacted as well.
2. There will be no “horseplay” (pushing, shoving, etc.). This type of behavior may mean restriction from future dances.
3. Students who leave the dance may not return without staff permission.
4. Students are not to use profanity or vandalize school or personal property.
5. Students are expected to refrain from any activity that is unsafe or in poor taste, and shall comply with the requests of the chaperones.
6. Students are to refrain from any public display of affection (chaperones have last say).
7. Students should remain in the cafeteria area only.
8. Students who are absent during the day may not attend unless cleared by administration.
9. Students from other schools may attend the 8<sup>th</sup> grade semi-formal, only with Administrative permission.

Discipline for infractions of these rules will range from being asked to leave the dance to restriction from future dances or suspension from school, depending upon the seriousness of the offense. When students are asked to leave the dance, parents will immediately be notified by phone.

#### **General Guidelines**

1. Sponsoring group will be responsible for any set-up work, ticket sales, and will assist custodial staff with clean up after the dance, and/or social fun activity.
2. Except for special, approved occasions, dances and/or social fun activities will be held on Fridays only.
3. Dances/Socials will normally be limited to one per month.
4. Lighting and sound will be regulated by the chaperones in order to provide for adequate safety and supervision.

## **Emergency Drill Procedure**

From time to time it is imperative for public buildings, such as schools, to be evacuated in a matter of seconds. Exit information is posted on the bulletin board in each classroom. In case of emergency drill the fire alarm will be sounded and all students, teachers, guests, and other personnel will proceed according to the following pattern:

1. The first person out of each classroom will push the door back as far as it will go and proceed on his/her way.
2. The first person to exit through the outer doors will secure the door by pushing it back and proceeding on his/her way.
3. Upon reaching the driveway, students will group together with the members of the class (with which they were meeting) and the teacher.
4. Teachers will follow the last student to leave their class and meet with their class out of doors a safe distance away from the building.
5. Emergency evacuation is extremely serious; pushing, shouting, running, and/or other patterns of inappropriate behavior are not allowed. Conversation once outdoors should be quiet and reserved.

## **Library**

The library is open from 8:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. for student use. There are reference materials, vertical files, magazines, newspapers, books, and online resources available. Students are expected to work quietly and to treat all library materials with respect. The library is here to help students, so please ask for assistance if needed.

### **Library Rules and Expectations**

1. All students must have a library pass signed by a teacher to come to the library unless they come as a class. Passes must be given to the library media specialist on entering the library. Students must sign the Sign In / Out Sheet when they enter the library. They must record the time they enter the library and the time when they leave the library. A hall pass must be obtained from the library media specialist to go to lockers, the bathroom, or the office when a student is signed into the library.
2. The library is not a place to socialize and meet with friends. One warning will be issued and then a student may be asked to leave the library for inappropriate behavior or excessive noise.
3. No food, drinks, candy or gum are allowed in the library at any time. Violations may result in the student being asked to leave the library.
4. Computers are to be used only for academic purposes.
5. Students are responsible for any materials they sign out from the library. Students may check out three items at a time for a period of two weeks. Students are responsible for returning materials on time. If they need the materials for a longer period, they may come in and renew those materials for an additional two weeks. Overdue notices are distributed on a regular basis to remind students to return or renew materials.
6. All materials must be returned before the end of the school year. Failure to return items may result in the student not being able to participate in the end of the year field trips.

## Required Handbook Policies

### **Hazing** (File: ACAD)

Maine statute defines injurious hazing as “any action or situation, including harassing behavior that recklessly or intentionally endangers the mental or physical health of any school personnel or a student enrolled in a public school.”

It is the policy of the board that injurious hazing activities of any type, either on or off school property, by any student, staff member, group or organization affiliated with this school unit, are inconsistent with the educational process and shall be prohibited at all times.

“Harassing behavior” includes acts of intimidation and any other conduct that recklessly or intentionally endangers the mental or physical health of a student or staff member. The behavior may be physical (e.g., hitting), verbal (e.g., threats), or psychological (e.g., intimidation).

“Acts of intimidation” include extortion; menacing; direct or indirect threats of violence; incidents of violence; bullying; statements of taunting of a malicious and/or derogatory nature that recklessly or intentionally endanger the mental or physical health of another person; and property damage or theft.

No administrator, faculty member, or other employee of the school unit shall encourage, permit, condone, or tolerate injurious hazing activities. No student, including leaders of student organizations, shall plan, encourage, or engage in injurious hazing activities.

Persons not associated with this school unit who fail to abide by this policy may be subject to ejection from school property and/or other measures as may be available under the law.

Administrators, faculty members, students, and all other employees who fail to abide by this policy may be subject to disciplinary action that may include suspension, expulsion, or other appropriate measures.

In the case of an organization affiliated with this school unit that authorizes hazing, penalties may include rescission of permission for that organization to operate on school property or to receive any other benefit of affiliation with the school unit.

These penalties shall be in addition to any civil or criminal penalties to which the violator or organization may be subject.

The superintendent shall assume responsibility for administering this policy. In the event that an individual or organization disagrees with an action—or lack of action—on the part of the superintendent as he/she carries out the provisions of this policy, that individual or organization may appeal to the full Board of Directors. The ruling of the Board of Directors, with respect to the provisions of this policy, shall be final. This right to appeal does not apply to student suspensions of 10 days or less or to matters submitted to grievance procedures under applicable collective bargaining agreements.

The right to appeal does not apply to student suspension of 10 days or less or to matters submitted to grievance procedures under applicable collective bargaining agreements.

A copy of this policy shall be included in all school, parent, and faculty handbooks or otherwise distributed to all school employees and students.



Legal Reference: TITLE 20-A MRSA SEC. 6553 (2)

Cross Reference: ACAA - Student/Employee Harassment Policy

JICI - Weapons in School

Adopted: March 14, 1995 Revised: December 14, 1999, December 11, 2001 Reviewed: November 5, 2001

Reviewed: January 29, 2009

### **Anti-Bullying (File: JICK)**

The Board believes that bullying, including cyberbullying, is detrimental to student wellbeing and to student learning and achievement. It interferes with the mission of the schools to educate their students and disrupts the operations of the schools. Bullying affects not only students who are targets but also those who participate in and witness such behavior.

### **Bullying Prohibited**

Bullying, including “cyberbullying,” is not acceptable conduct in Mt. Blue Regional School District (RSU #9) and is prohibited.

Retaliation for the reporting of incidents of such behavior is also prohibited.

In adopting this policy, it is not the Board’s intent to prohibit students from expressing their ideas, including religious, political and philosophical views that may offend the sensibilities of others, or from engaging in civil debate. However, the Board does not condone and will take action in response to conduct that directly interferes with students’ rights at school under applicable laws or with the educational mission, operations, discipline or general welfare of the schools.

**Definition of Bullying** “Bullying” and “cyberbullying” have the same meaning in this policy as in Maine law:

**Bullying** “Bullying” includes, but is not limited to a written, oral or electronic expression or a physical act or gesture or any combination thereof directed at a student or students that:

- A. Has, or a reasonable person would expect it to have, the effect of:
  - 1. Physically harming a student or damaging a student’s property; or
  - 2. Placing a student in reasonable fear of physical harm or damage to his/her property;
- B. Interferes with the rights of a student by:
  - 1. Creating an intimidating or hostile educational environment for the student;
  - 2. Interfering with the student’s academic performance or ability to participate in or benefit from the services, activities or privileges provided by the school; or
- C. Is based on:
  - a. A student’s actual or perceived characteristics identified in 5 MRSA § 4602 or 4684-A (including race; color; ancestry; national origin; sex; sexual orientation; gender identity or expression; religion; physical or mental disability) or other distinguishing personal characteristics (such as socioeconomic status; age; physical appearance; weight; or family status); or
  - b. A student’s association with a person with one or more of these actual or perceived characteristics or any other distinguishing characteristics; and that has the effect described in subparagraph A. or B. above.

### **Examples of Bullying:**

Examples of conduct that may constitute bullying include, but are not limited to:

- 1. Repeated or pervasive taunting, name-calling, belittling, mocking, putdowns, or demeaning humor;
- 2. Behavior that is intended to harm someone by damaging or manipulating his or her relationships with others, including but not limited to gossip, spreading rumors, and social exclusion;

3. Non-verbal threats and/or intimidations such as use of aggressive, menacing, or disrespectful gestures;
4. Threats of harm to a student, to his/her possessions, or to other individuals, whether transmitted verbally or in writing;
5. Blackmail, extortion, demands for protection money, or involuntary loans or donations;
6. Blocking access to school property or facilities;
7. Stealing or hiding books, backpacks, or other possessions;
8. Stalking; and
9. Physical contact or injury to another person or his/her property.

### **Cyberbullying**

“Cyberbullying” means bullying through the use of technology or any electronic communication, including but not limited to, a transfer of signs, signals, writing, images, sounds, data or intelligence of any nature transmitted by the use of any electronic device including, but not limited to, a computer, telephone, cellular telephone, text messaging device or personal digital assistant.

### **Examples of Cyberbullying**

Examples of conduct that may constitute cyberbullying include, but are not limited to:

1. Posting slurs or rumors or displaying any defamatory, inaccurate, disparaging, violent, abusive, profane, or sexually oriented material about a student on a website or other online application;
2. Posting misleading or fake photographs or digital video footage of a student on websites or creating fake websites or social networking profiles in the guise of posing as the target;
3. Impersonating or representing another student through use of that other student’s electronic device or account to send e-mail, text messages, instant messages (IM), or phone calls;
4. Sending e-mail, text messages, IM, or leaving voice mail messages that are mean or threatening, or so numerous as to bombard the target’s e-mail account, IM account, or cell phone; and
5. Using a camera phone or digital video camera to take and/or send embarrassing or “sexting” photographs of other students.

**Retaliation** “Retaliation” means an act or gesture against a student for asserting or alleging an act of bullying. “Retaliation” also includes reporting an act of bullying when it is not made in good faith.

### **Application of Policy**

This policy applies to bullying that:

- A. Takes place at school or on school grounds, at any school-sponsored or school-related activity or event or while students are being transported to or from school or school-sponsored activities or events; or
- B. Takes place elsewhere or through the use of technology, but only if the bullying also infringes on the rights of the student at school as set forth in the definition of “bullying.”

### **Consequences for Policy Violations**

#### **Students**

Students who violate this policy may be subject to disciplinary action, which may include suspension, expulsion or a series of graduated consequences including alternative discipline or other behavioral interventions.

The Board retains the right to impose disciplinary consequences for bullying and other conduct that occurs at any time or place that substantially disrupts the instructional program, operations of the schools or welfare of students.

Any student violating this policy may also be subject to civil or criminal penalties.

**School Employees and Others**

Administrators, professional staff and all other employees who violate this policy may be subject to disciplinary action up to and including dismissal, and in accordance with any applicable collective bargaining agreements.

Volunteers, contractors and visitors who violate this policy will be barred from school property until the Superintendent is satisfied that the person will comply with Maine's bullying law and this policy.

Any person violating this policy may also be subject to civil or criminal penalties.

Any school-affiliated organization that authorizes or engages in bullying or retaliation is subject to forfeiture of Board approval/sanctioning and/or suspension or revocation of its permission to operate on school grounds.

**Staff Training**

Mt. Blue Regional School District (RSU #9) will provide professional development and staff training in bullying prevention and response.

**Delegation of Responsibility** The Superintendent will designate the school principal and/or other school personnel to be responsible for implementation/enforcement of this policy and associated procedures on the school level. The Superintendent/designee will be responsible for developing and implementing procedures in accordance with applicable law to implement this policy.

**Dissemination of Policy** This policy, any associated administrative procedures and the names of the person(s) responsible for implementing the policy/procedure at the school level will be provided, in writing to students, parents, school employees and volunteers in handbooks, and on the school unit's website and by such other means (if any) as may be determined by the Superintendent.

Legal Reference: 20-A M.R.S.A. § 1001(15), 6554

Cross Reference: AC - Nondiscrimination, Equal Opportunity ACAA-R - Harassment and Sexual Harassment of Students ACAD - Hazing ADF - School District Commitment to Learning Results JI - Student Rights and Responsibilities JIC - Student Code of Conduct JICC - Student Conduct on Buses JICIA - Weapons, Violence and School Safety JK - Student Discipline JKD - Suspension of Students Adopted: July 18, 2006 Reviewed: November 17, 2009

## **Staff Conduct with Students (File: GBEBB)**

The Board expects all staff members, including teachers, coaches, counselors, administrators and others, to maintain the highest professional, moral and ethical standards in their conduct with students. For the purposes of this policy, staff members also include school volunteers.

The intent of this policy is to ensure that the interactions and relationships between staff members and students are based upon mutual respect and trust; that staff members understand the importance of maintaining appropriate professional boundaries between adults and students in an educational setting; and that staff members conduct themselves in a manner consistent with the educational mission of the schools. It is understood that staff members may interact with and have friendships with students' families outside of school. This policy is not intended to prohibit such interactions and friendships, provided that professional boundaries are maintained at all times.

### **A. Prohibited Conduct**

Examples of unacceptable conduct by staff members that are expressly prohibited include but are not limited to the following:

- Any type of sexual or inappropriate physical contact with students or any other conduct that might be considered harassment under the Board's policy on Harassment and Sexual Harassment of Students;
- Singling out a particular student or students for personal attention and friendship beyond the normal teacher-student relationship;
- For non-guidance/counseling staff, encouraging students to confide their personal or family problems and/or relationships. If a student initiates such discussions, staff members are expected to be supportive but to refer the student to appropriate guidance/counseling staff for assistance.
- Sexual banter, allusions, jokes or innuendos with students;
- Asking a student to keep a secret;
- Disclosing personal, sexual, family, employment concerns, or other private matters to one or more students;
- Addressing students with terms of endearment, pet names or otherwise in an overly familiar manner;
- Permitting students to address you by your first name, nickname or otherwise in an overly familiar manner;
- "Friending" students on social networking sites (outside of any school-approved activity); and
- Communicating with students on non-school matters via computer, text message, phone calls, letters, notes or any other means. Before engaging in the following activities, staff members are expected to review the activity with their building principal or supervisor, as appropriate:
  - Being alone with individual students out of public view;
  - Driving students home or to other locations;
  - Inviting or allowing students to visit the staff member's home (unless the student's parent approves of the activity, such as when a student babysits or performs chores for a staff member);
  - Visiting a student at home or in another location, unless on official school business known to the parent;
  - Exchanging personal gifts (beyond the customary student-teacher gifts); and/or
  - Socializing or spending time with students (including but not limited to activities such as going out for meals or movies, shopping, traveling, and recreational activities) outside of school-sponsored events or organized community activities.

Staff members are expected to be sensitive to the appearance of impropriety in their conduct with students. Staff members are encouraged to discuss issues with their building administrator or supervisor whenever they are unsure whether particular conduct may constitute a violation of this policy.

### **B. Reporting Violations**

Students and/or their parents/guardians are strongly encouraged to notify the Principal [or other appropriate administrator] if they believe a teacher or other staff member may be engaging in conduct that violates this policy.

Staff members are required to promptly notify the Principal or Superintendent if they become aware of a situation that may constitute a violation of this policy.

### **C. Disciplinary Action**

Staff violations of this policy shall result in disciplinary action up to and including dismissal. Violations involving sexual or other abuse will also result in referral to the Department of Health and Human Services, the District Attorney and/or law enforcement.

**D. Policy to be Included in Handbooks** [or disseminated by other means] This policy shall be included in all employee, student and volunteer handbooks.

Cross Reference: ACAA Student/Employee Harassment Policy

JLF Reporting Child Abuse and Neglect

Adopted: June 10, 2003 Reviewed: May 4, 2009 Revised: February 9, 2010

## **Tobacco-Free School Policy (File: GBED)**

Research has shown that students addicted to tobacco products do not learn as well because they are focused on the need for more tobacco versus learning. In order to promote the health and safety of all students and school employees, optimal learning conditions, and the cleanliness of all facilities, the Mt Blue Regional School District School Board, hereinafter referred to as the “Board,” prohibits the use of all tobacco products in school buildings, facilities, and on school buses during school-sponsored events. The policy will reflect and emphasize the hazards of tobacco use; assure compliance with state and federal laws; protect the health and safety of all students, employees and the general public; and role model a non-tobacco use environment by adults.

### **Use of Tobacco Products on School Property**

Tobacco is a leading killer and leading cause of preventable deaths in Maine. To support and model a healthy lifestyle for our students the Board adopts the following tobacco-free policy;

- The Mt Blue Regional School District buildings and property shall be tobacco-free 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. This includes all days when school is not in session and all functions taking place on school grounds, such as athletic functions and other activities not associated with, or sponsored by, the school.
- Maine law prohibits possession or use of tobacco products by anyone less than 18 years of age.
- Possession or use of tobacco products by students on district property or in school owned vehicles and at school-sponsored functions is prohibited.
- Sale or distribution of tobacco products by anyone is prohibited at all times on the school campus.
- The use of tobacco products by all school employees on school property or in school vehicles, bus stops and at school-sponsored functions is prohibited.
- The use of tobacco products by all visitors on school property is prohibited. This includes non-school hours and all functions sponsored by the school or by others, including any lessees or invitees, and athletics, on or off school property.
- Advertising of tobacco products is prohibited in school buildings, on school property, at school functions, and in all school publications. This includes clothing that advertises tobacco products

**Communication of Policy** This policy will be printed in both employee and student handbooks and adult education booklets on a yearly basis. Tobacco-free school signs will be posted in highly visible places both inside and outside all school buildings including the Central Office. Signs will be posted at all entrances of school buildings, school playgrounds and athletic fields. The maintenance staff will be responsible for maintaining signage. Parents and guardians shall be sent notification in writing, and the local media will be asked to communicate this tobacco-free policy community-wide. An announcement of the tobacco-free school policy will be made at all school events,

including but not limited to athletics and drama. Age-appropriate tobacco prevention education will be incorporated into the Mt Blue Regional School District's K–12 comprehensive health education curriculum in alignment with the Maine Learning Results' Health Education Standards and will include awareness of the school policy.

Adopted: August 13, 1985 Revised: October 23, 1990 Revised: January 8, 1991 Revised: July 23, 1991 Revised: April 1995 Revised: June 8, 1999 Reviewed: January 22, 2002 Revised: February 10, 2004 Revised: June 10, 2008 Revised: April 6, 2010 Replaces: JICG, GBED, GBED-R, ADC

## **Other Informative Policies for Reference**

**EBCC: Bomb Threats**

**JICBA: Student Debts and Obligations**

**JIH: Questioning and Searches of Students**

**ADAA: School System Commitment to Standards for Ethical and Responsible Behavior**

**JRA-R: Student Educational Records Administrative Procedures**

**IJNDB: Student Computer and Internet Use and Internet Safety**

## **Off-Site Learning Experiences / Field Trips**

Instruction may and does occur in many places other than the classroom: the cafeteria, the media center, the computer lab and off school grounds. Students go into the community to use resources found there, to learn responsible citizenship and to provide meaningful service to all involved.

Instructional materials and resources are most worthwhile when they reflect multiple viewpoints and encourage young adolescents to explore new ideas. The state is a major resource, providing materials and places for our student to participate in off- site learning experiences.

We at Mt. Blue Middle School offer the best possible educational experience that is available to us, and we strive for the full middle school experience. Students and staff are empowered to share in the decision making process at the school, and this contributes to a well-rounded education in a safe climate. This is what middle schools are all about.

### **Reasons for off-site learning experiences:**

- They reinforce classroom teaching
- They provide exposure to places students haven't been
- They provide new experiences for some children
- They assist in community building
- They provide real life experiences to go with class presentations
- They provide alternative classroom experiences that enhance learning

## Field Experience Criteria for Students

1. Students should be passing all classes prior to the field trip experience
2. No more than two detentions per quarter prior to field trip experience.
3. In cases where students have been suspended for at least three days, the community teachers and administration will determine the student's eligibility. Suspensions during the quarter in which the field experience takes place, student eligibility will be reviewed, also.
4. Special services and alternative education will set their own criteria for their specific field experiences. Those students must meet school wide criteria for individual community field experiences.
5. No student shall have outstanding bills.
6. Students who do not attend a field experience shall be expected to attend school.
7. Parents and students shall be notified at least one week prior to the field trip experience.
8. Teachers and administrators will meet and discuss all students who do not meet the field trip criteria prior to the event.
9. Community teachers with administration reserve the option to modify this policy in recognizing the specific individual needs/circumstances of each child. Appropriate action rests solely on the administration acting in the best interest of the child and/or community members.

## Fundraisers at the Middle School

1. Each community is responsible for their own fundraising activities.
2. There will be community dances and socials throughout the year, which gives the groups an opportunity to raise money for their community or subject area.
3. We realize fundraising is not something anyone enjoys doing but is a necessity to keep many of our programs up and running for our students.

## School Services

### School Counseling

A school counselor is available at Mt. Blue Middle School to assist both students and staff in a variety of ways. The counselor can help students think through personal problems. Students who are thinking about their future plans and are trying to make decisions about courses should get a pass to see the guidance counselor to discuss it. A visit to the counselor may help students to better understand themselves and their relationships with other people. The counselor is also available as a resource person for all staff members at the middle school.

### Community Design

Gives each student a sense of belonging and teachers that they will grow to know and trust.

### Student Assistance Team

MBMS has a Student Assistance Team with representatives from administration, guidance, nursing, as well as additional teachers as needed.

Mission statement:

*The purpose of the Mt. Blue Middle School Assistance Team is to provide a support system, which would encourage greater success for individual students in our school community. We will facilitate communication amongst and act as a resource for teaching communities, administration, teachers, support staff, and families.*

## **Communication**

Please be assured that our staff here at the middle school strives for open lines of communication with parents/guardians. The only thing we request is your patience in our response time. We ask this due to the extremely busy schedule and requirements each day in their teaching duties as well as unforeseen issues. Please give the staff member at least 24 hours to respond. If you are not satisfied with the time of the response, please give the school administration a call. We communicate via Email, regular mail, phone, student notes, websites, etc.

## **I.E.P. Process**

Some students require a special academic program because of certain handicapping conditions. The determination of such a need and the development of a special program is the role of the Individual Evaluation Team. The I.E.P team is comprised of teachers, parents, school administrators, students and others who are involved with the student. Any person feeling that a need exists may initiate the I.E.P. process by contacting the community leader and/or the principal.

## **Gifted and Talented Education**

The Differentiated Curriculum Program is a component of the RSU #9 Educational Program. It serves students who excel, or have the potential to excel, beyond their age peers, in the traditional school program. Some direct services to students are provided in small group instruction. However, the goal of the program is to meet the needs of gifted and talented students within the regular class environment, whenever possible, through independent study, advanced skills, compacting, or other curricular adjustments.

Criteria for inclusion in a small group depend on a number of things. Bound by state guidelines to work with 2%-5% of the population, records are reviewed for students who receive above a certain score on the most recent standardized test. Classroom teacher recommendations for inclusion in the program are also considered. If a program staff person has worked with a student, she also gives input. Following this process, each student is considered every year.

## **Student Interventions at MBMS**

1. Tutoring support (college and high school students)
2. Mentoring support (volunteers, college and high school students)
3. Progress reports, report cards
4. Learning Lab
5. S.A.T.
6. Guidance services for all students
7. Community PLC time including teacher student meetings as needed
8. Parent/teacher meetings and conferences
9. Middle School best practices
10. Extended year program (summer school)
11. Program of After School Study (after school homework help)
12. Gifted and talented program
13. Alternative education program
14. PowerSchool parent access
15. Special education programs
16. Response to Intervention Programs:
  - Literacy Across the Curriculum (LAC)  
Resources – Word Wisdom, Novels, Corrective Reading, MobyMax, Read 180, and System 44
  - Math Across the Curriculum (MAC)  
Resources – Khan Academy, MobyMax, McGraw Hill Math, other supplemental materials
  - SWPBIS / Restorative Practices– School Wide Positive Behavior Intervention and Supports



## Nurse's Office Information

### **RSU 9 COVID-19** - [Return to School Guidelines](#)

#### **Administering Medication to Students**

Medications should be given at home whenever possible. If prescription or over-the-counter medication is needed at school, it must be given according to the district policy [JLCD](#).

- All medications must be in their original, properly labeled container. For prescription medications, a parent/guardian can ask the pharmacy to provide a duplicate prescription bottle for school use.
- The parent/legal guardian must complete a Medication Request/Permission Form. These forms are available from the school nurse, school office, or on the MBRSD Website.
- Medications can only be given with valid prescription label, standing orders from a physician, or written order from a health care provider.
- In certain cases a school nurse may be requested by a physician or a parent by phone or a note to give a one-time dose of medication. A standard written authorization is needed for continued doses.
- The school nurse shall review the Medication Request/Permission Form for completeness and clarity. If the nurse has any questions or concerns about the form or medication, he/she may decline to administer the medication and will contact the parent/legal guardian and/or health care provider, as appropriate, for more information.
- With the exception of those medications authorized for self-administration or according to an Individualized Health Plan, all medications shall be stored in the school nurse's office.
- The student's parent/guardian shall deliver any medication to the school. In the event that this is not practical, the parent/guardian should contact the school to make alternate arrangements. All controlled medication will be counted when it is received and/or returned to the parent/guardian.
- Medications may be administered by the school nurse and/or by authorized unlicensed school personnel who have received appropriate training by the school nurse.
- Contact the school nurse with any questions or concerns about student's medications.

Inhalers and Epinephrine Auto-injectors (EpiPens)- Students are allowed to carry and self-administer emergency medication such as an asthma inhaler-or epinephrine auto-injector (EpiPen) if the following requirements are met.

- The student must have written approval from the student's health care provider that details the use of the medication and confirming that the student has the knowledge and the skills to safely possess and use the medication in school.
  - An Asthma Action Plan and/or Allergy Action Plan is recommended.
- A completed parent Medication Request/Permission form is on file at the school.
- The school nurse shall evaluate the student's technique to ensure proper, safe, and effective use of the medication.
- Contact the school nurse with any questions or concerns.

#### **Mandated Health Screenings**

Each year our district school nurses perform state mandated health screens. For any reason you do NOT want your child to be screened, please contact your school nurse. Students will be screened in 7th grade for distance vision.

## Co-Curricular Activities

**At this time, there are no After School Activities, including Athletics.**

A wide range of activities and sports is offered for our students. The students are encouraged to join and be active participants during their years at Mt. Blue Middle School. Activities include, but are not limited to:

Geography Bee	PBIS Events
Spelling Bee	Field experiences through fundraising
John Hopkins Talent Search	Athletics/Co-Curricular
Robotics Club	Anti Bullying Pledge Poster
Drama	Impact (Teen Rotary)
Destination Imagination	Community service units
Numerous other activities as interest dictates through intramurals	

### Music

Franklin County Fiddlers' "Middlers", Middle School Jazz Band, and a small choral group are usually offered as extra-curricular music activities. Music classes that will be held during the school day and are graded courses are Concert Band, Orchestra and Chorus. The 2019-2020 concert calendar is located at the end of this handbook.

## Athletic Information

Mt. Blue Middle School is proud to have a variety of athletic opportunities available for students to participate in. In order to participate in athletics, **students need to have a sports physical on file with the school**. These typically are valid for 15-24 months depending on your primary care provider. If your student plans to participate in sports at Mt. Blue Middle School during their sixth grade year, they need to get a physical before they can participate. Once your child's physical is complete, please bring a copy to the office or request to have it faxed to the school, 778-5810 (fax #). **We have a [new form](#) we are requesting be completed by the provider, those are available at school for students as well as on our website.**

### Fall Athletics

Field Hockey (G, 6th-8th)  
Soccer (B&G, 6th-8th)\*  
X-Country (B&G, 6th-8th)

### Winter Athletics

Basketball (B&G, 7th-8th)  
Wrestling (B&G, 5th-8th)

### Spring Athletics

Baseball (B, 7th-8th)  
Softball (G, 7th-8th)  
Track & Field (B&G, 6th-8th)

\*if space allows to safely field a team including 6th graders (based on numbers of participants grades 7/8 first)

### **Please Note:**

Basketball, baseball & softball are cut-sports, and there is a limit to the number of participants. Coaches are to carry no more than 15 athletes on these teams. The list of athletes that are chosen for these teams will be based on academic and co-curricular eligibility, try-out performance, and attitude.

### **Non-School Sponsored Athletics:**

Football - Contact Franklin Area Youth League - Tommy Farmer, President  
Skiing (alpine & nordic) - F.A.S.T. - Monica Clark & Nate Yeaton, Coaches  
Cheering - Contact Mt. Blue Rec Competition & Football Cheerleading - Sandra Farmer

**Required Documents for Participation:**

- [MBRSD Athletic Consent / Participation Form](#) - to be completed annually
- Updated [Sports Physical from Primary Care Provider](#) - to be completed per PCP's recommendations (15-24 months)
- [Concussion Information Sheet](#) - to be completed annually

**Eligibility:**

The [Policy JJJ-R](#) outlines the complete details regarding Athletic and Co-curricular eligibility and code of conduct. Here are some major points from that policy:

- Student's eligibility to participate in sports and co-curriculars are based from the previous quarter's grades for the fall season. A student will be eligible if they maintain the following at the end of each quarter:
  - All students must have a minimum course score of 60 and a meets-partially meets on Habits of Work at the end of each **quarter**.
  - All students must have a minimum cumulative course score of 60 and a meets-partially meets on Habits of Work at the end of the **year** in order to be eligible for the subsequent fall season.
- If a student fails to maintain eligibility status in any subject he/she will be declared ineligible to participate or compete in extra and co-curricular activities for the following quarter. Students who are placed on academic probation will be allowed an opportunity to participate, depending on their eligibility status.

**Academic Probation:**

Academic Probation is defined as follows: The student will be able to practice, but unable to compete or lead such activities until each course score and Habits of Work score for the current reporting period reaches an eligible level on the bi-weekly progress report. The student will be responsible for taking the progress report sheet to his/her teachers every two weeks, to monitor his/her progress. This sheet is to be returned to the Main Office and a copy brought to the coach or advisor. If the student is eligible at the end of two weeks, he/she may return to full participation in the extra or co-curricular activity, with continuing review every two weeks. Otherwise he/she will remain eligible to practice only. This policy applies to all sports, sports managers, jazz band, drama, class officers, student council, clubs, etc. It does not include any curriculum offering where credit is granted such as performing arts classes (e.g. chorus, concert band, orchestra, library aides, etc.)

If a student receives a failing or incomplete grade, he/she shall become ineligible when official academic reports are issued. Students with incomplete scores will have two weeks to make up incompletes and will remain ineligible until work is made up and assessed.

## PURCHASE/USE/POSSESSION OF TOBACCO BY A JUVENILE

This includes cigarettes, chewing tobacco, cigars, and also vapor cigarettes.

A violation of this law is a civil offense. First time offenders are offered an educational component. \$100 fine.

## OTHER PROHIBITED ACTS BY MINORS

A minor may not:

**Furnish** liquor or imitation liquor. A person who violates this law commits a Class D crime for which a fine of not less than \$500 may be imposed, none of which may be suspended, if the violation involves a minor who is less than 18 years of age.

A person who violates this law is a Class C crime if the consumption of liquor by the minor causes serious bodily injury to or death of the minor or any other individual.

**Purchase/Consume/Possess** liquor or imitation liquor. A person who violates this law commits a civil violation for which a fine of not less than \$200 and not more than \$400 may be imposed. Second offense is \$300 and not more than \$600. The third offense is \$600.

## HARASSMENT

- A course of conduct with the intent to harass, torment, or threaten another person.
- A warning must be given before summons issued.
- A violation of this law is a Class E crime.

## HARASSMENT BY TELEPHONE OR ELECTRONIC COMMUNICATION DEVICE (Ex. telephone, text, computer, social media sites, etc.)

- A course of conduct with the intent to harass, torment, or threaten another person.
- No warning is necessary.
- A violation of this law is a Class E crime.
- If there is a violation of ones civil rights, the report will go directly to the Attorney General's Office for further consequences.

## ASSAULT

- To inflict bodily injury or offensive physical contact on another person.
  - A violation of this law is a Class D crime.
- TERRORIZING (Any threat to harm students, staff, and/or the school Ex. bomb threat)**
- Violation of this law is a Class C crime.

## A SNAPSHOT OF ANNUAL HIGH-RISK DRINKING CONSEQUENCES

The consequences of excessive and underage drinking affect virtually all campuses, communities, and students, whether they choose to drink or not.

**Death:** 1,825 college students between the ages of 18 and 24 die from alcohol-related unintentional injuries, including motor vehicle crashes ([Hingson et al., 2009](#)).

**Injury:** 599,000 students between the ages of 18 and 24 are unintentionally injured under the influence of alcohol ([Hingson et al., 2009](#)).

**Assault:** 696,000 students between the ages of 18 and 24 are assaulted by another student who has been drinking ([Hingson et al., 2009](#)).

**Sexual Abuse:** 97,000 students between the ages of 18 and 24 are victims of alcohol-related sexual assault or date rape ([Hingson et al., 2009](#)).

**Unsafe Sex:** 400,000 students between the ages of 18 and 24 had unprotected sex and more than 100,000 students between the ages of 18 and 24 report having been too intoxicated to know if they consented to having sex ([Hingson et al., 2002](#)).

**Academic Problems:** About 25 percent of college students report academic consequences of their drinking including missing class, falling behind, doing poorly on exams or papers, and receiving lower grades overall ([Engs et al., 1996](#); [Presley et al., 1998a, 1998b](#); [Wechsler et al., 2002](#)).

**Health Problems/Suicide Attempts:** More than 150,000 students develop an alcohol-related health problem ([Hingson et al., 2002](#)), and between 1.2 and 1.5 percent of students indicate that they tried to commit suicide within the past year due to drinking or drug use ([Presley et al., 1998](#)).

**Drunk Driving:** 3,360,000 students between the ages of 18 and 24 drive under the influence of alcohol ([Hingson et al., 2009](#)).

**Alcohol Abuse and Dependence:** 31 percent of college students met criteria for a diagnosis of alcohol abuse and 6 percent for a diagnosis of alcohol dependence in the past 12 months, according to questionnaire-based self-reports about their drinking ([Knight et al., 2002](#)).

To report underage drinking or any other crime: Text "FrankTip" with your tip to 274637 or online at [www.franklincounty-me.org](http://www.franklincounty-me.org)

Revised 1/15/15

MT. BLUE RSD  
&  
FARMINGTON POLICE

CARE ABOUT YOUR  
SAFETY.



MT. BLUE MIDDLE SCHOOL 778-3511  
MT. BLUE CAMPUS 778-3561  
FARMINGTON POLICE 778-6311

911



This is just a sample of some of the laws and school consequences related to underage drinking and drug law violations.

### STUDENT SUSPENSION-REGULATION (Administrative Guidelines)

The following guidelines will govern suspension of students and police involvement.

#### POSSESSION OF

#### DRUGS/ALCOHOL/TOBACCO/DRUG

PARAPHERNALIA (Ex. Pipes, bongs, rolling papers, roach clips, other devices used for drug consumption, and matches or lighters), smoking/drinking or in possession on school grounds, or at school sponsored activities.

- 1st offense (drugs/alcohol) - Minimum of 5 days, referral to police.
- 2nd offense (drugs/alcohol) - Up to 10 days, referral to Board and police
- 1st offense (drug paraphernalia) - 5 days, referral to police. (Examples, but not limited to: pipes, rolling papers, and devices designed to use drugs)
- 1st offense (tobacco) - 1-5 days, referral to police
- 2nd offense (tobacco) - 5-10 days, referral to police
- 3rd offense (tobacco) - Up to 10 days, referral to board, notify police

#### Fighting - Up to 10 days

**Stealing** - Up to 5 days, could result in charges being filed with the police

**Weapons** - Possession of any item that may be used as a weapon which include, but not limited to the following: firearms, ammunition, explosives, cross-bows, metal knuckles, switchblade, knives, chains, clubs, kung fu stars, pellet guns, and nunchucks, -Up to 10 days, and possible referral to the Board for a disciplinary hearing, referral to the police

**Harassment** (verbal, physical, sexual, etc) -Sent home for the remainder of the day, meeting with parents/guardians before readmission, up to a 10-day suspension and possible referral to the police.

**FURNISHING DRUGS/ALCOHOL** - Up to a 10 day suspension, referral to the School Board & Police.

Refer to the school handbook for more information.

### MAINE LAW:

**Class A:** Imprisonment up to 30 years, and a \$50,000 fine.

**Class B:** Imprisonment up to 10 years, and a \$20,000 fine.

**Class C:** Imprisonment up to 5 years, and a \$5,000 fine.

**Class D:** Imprisonment up to 364 days, and a \$2,000 fine.

**Class E:** Imprisonment up to 6 months, and a \$1,000 fine.

**Civil:** No imprisonment penalty - FINE

### UNLAWFUL POSSESSION/AGGRAVATED FURNISHING OF SCHEDULED DRUGS

**Schedule W** drug are drugs such as: Cocaine, Heroin, Oxycodone, Hydrocodone (Vicodin), Methamphetamine.

Violation of this law is a Class C crime. **Furnishing** is a class B crime.

**Schedule X** drugs are drugs such as: Hashish, Kefamine, Hallucinogenic drugs, and Psilocybin mushrooms.

Violation of this law is a Class D crime. **Furnishing** is a class C crime.

**Schedule Y** drugs are drugs such as: Bath Salts, Codeine, Diazepam, and Flurazepam.

Violation of this law is a Class E crime. **Furnishing** is a class C crime.

**Schedule Z** drugs are drugs such as Marijuana and Synthetic cannabinoids including: K-2, Spice, Cloud.

Violation of this law is a Class E crime. **Furnishing** is a class C crime.

### POSSESSION OF A USABLE AMOUNT OF MARIJUANA

A minor who violates this law commits a civil violation for which a fine of not less than \$350 is imposed.

### DRUG PARAPHERNALIA

- All equipment, products and materials of any kind that are used or intended for use of growing, packaging, containing, ingesting, concealing or consuming marijuana.
- A person who violates this law commits a civil violation

### POSSESSION OF INHALANTS

- A person may not inhale, ingest, apply or smell the gasses, vapors or fumes of any gas, hazardous inhalant, or substance containing a volatile chemical or substance containing a chemical material capable of releasing toxic vapors or fumes for the purpose of causing intoxication, euphoria, inebriation, excitement, stupefaction or the dulling of that persons brain or nervous system.

- A person who violates this law commits a civil violation for which a fine of not less than \$100 or more than \$300 for the first offense. The second offense is a fine of not less than \$200 or more than \$500 and for the third offense the fine is not less than \$500.

### FURNISHING A PLACE FOR MINORS TO CONSUME ALCOHOL

- Allowing a minor, in a place under that person's control, to consume, or possess liquor. (Ex. home, camp, vehicle)
- A person who violates this law commits a Class D crime for which a fine of not less than \$1,000 may be imposed, none of which may be suspended, if the violation involves a minor who is less than 18 years of age.
- Second offense is a Class D crime and the fine is \$2,000.
- If there is death or serious bodily injury that occurs, it is a Class C crime.

### ILLEGAL TRANSPORTATION OF LIQUOR BY A MINOR

- A minor may not transport liquor in a motor vehicle unless at the request of the minors guardian or for employment.
- First offense, is a fine of not more than \$500 and a 30 day license suspension.
- Second offense, fine not less than \$200 and not more than \$500 and a 90 day license suspension
- Third offense, fine of not less than \$400 and not more than \$500 and a one year license suspension.

*If a crime is committed while on school property, that person will be charged with a crime as well as receive a consequence from the school. Also, Certain laws, when committed on or within 1000 feet of school property become aggravated. Which means that the consequence is greater.*

Dear Parent/Guardian & Student:

By signing below you and your student are verifying that you have both read and reviewed the Mt. Blue Middle School Handbook. Return this form to your Ad/Ad teacher by Friday, September 18, 2020.

Thank you for taking the time to review the following:

- Handbook
- Issues of Confidentiality (separate document)
- Consent/Denial to Release Information (separate document)
- Agreement to Publish Information (separate document)
- Concussion Information Form (separate document)

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Student Name

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Student Signature

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Community

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Parent Signature