

# **Marblehead Veterans Middle School**



## **Family Handbook**

**2025 - 2026**

## **MVMS MISSION STATEMENT**

The mission of Marblehead Veterans Middle School (MVMS) is to set high standards for scholastic excellence and to empower students to be self-motivated life-long learners. We strive to ensure that all students will develop a mastery of skills, the capacity for critical thinking and the adaptability to be successful in a changing world. We seek to create an environment that teaches respect for the community and responsibility for one's decisions, fosters recognition of self, and promotes an appreciation of people's differences.

## **MVMS CORE VALUES**

Marblehead Veterans Middle School is an academic community  
where respect, collaboration and excellence interconnect

This handbook references  
Marblehead Public Schools District policies, which were  
reviewed and voted upon by the Marblehead School Committee.  
*Please see MPS SC Policy CHCA*

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## **MARBLEHEAD VETERANS MIDDLE SCHOOL**

Duncan Sleigh Square  
217 Pleasant Street  
Marblehead, Massachusetts 01945  
781-639-3120 Fax: 781-639-3130

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### **To the Student:**

Welcome to Marblehead Veterans Middle School! This handbook is intended as a roadmap to success here at MVMS, and it includes the information necessary for you to become an active member of our school.

As you transition into middle school, your success will depend upon the degree of your academic and social involvement. We encourage you to be an active learner as well as an active member of the school community. The entire staff at MVMS is dedicated to assist you in any and every way that is necessary to ensure your two years here are productive, exciting, and prepare you for high school. It is our goal to provide you with the necessary knowledge and skills that will allow you to be successful in all future academic pursuits. It is our hope that you will invest in your education and development by being responsible school citizens, treating people with dignity and respect, and taking great pride in your school.

Entering a new school can be worrisome. To help ease that transition, we encourage you to get involved in one of the clubs, activities, or sports that are listed at the back of this handbook. These are great opportunities to make new friends.

### **To the Parents/Guardians:**

A successful school experience is truly a collaborative effort. It is our responsibility to provide the best possible educational experience we can for the students of MVMS. As partners, we must have parents and guardians work together with us to support and encourage our students. Strong and effective communication is an essential element of all great schools, and we work diligently to foster open communication between the school and home. To keep on top of your student's work and grades, we encourage everyone to develop a system at home to review grades in the Aspen portal once a week.

## Marblehead Public Schools 2025-2026 School Calendar

August/September 2025 (21)				
M	T	W	Th	F
25	26	27	28	29
1	2	3	4	5
8	9	10	11	12
15	16	17	18	19
22	23	24	25	26
29	30			

October 2025 (21)				
M	T	W	Th	F
		1	2	3
6	7	8	9	10
13	14	15	16	17
20	21	22	23	24
27	28	29	30	31

November 2025 (16)				
M	T	W	Th	F
3	4	5	6	7
10	11	12	13	14
17	18	19	20	21
24	25	26	27	28

December 2025 (17)				
M	T	W	Th	F
1	2	3	4	5
8	9	10	11	12
15	16	17	18	19
22	23	24	25	26
29	30	31		

January 2026 (19)				
M	T	W	Th	F
			1	2
5	6	7	8	9
12	13	14	15	16
19	20	21	22	23
26	27	28	29	30

<b>August</b>	
• 22	New Teacher Orientation
• 25-26	Teacher Prof. Dev.
• 27	<b>First Day of School</b>
	<b>Grades PreK - 12</b>
• 29	No School
<b>September</b>	
• 1	No School - Labor Day
• 23-24	No School - Rosh Hashanah
<b>October</b>	
• 2	No School - Yom Kippur
• 13	No School - Indigenous Peoples' Day
• 22	Early Release gr. PK-12 Prof. Dev.
<b>November</b>	
• 5	Early Release gr. PK-8 Conferences (full days gr. 9-12)
• 10	No School - Teacher Prof. Dev. gr. PK-12
• 11	No School - Veterans Day
• 12	Early Release gr. PK-8 Conferences (full days gr. 9-12)
• 26	Early Release gr. PK-12
• 27-28	No School - Thanksgiving Break
<b>December</b>	
• 23	Early Release gr. PK-12
• 24-31	No School - December Break
<b>January</b>	
• 1-2	No School - Dec/Jan Break
• 5	Students return to school
• 19	No School - Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day
• 28	Early Release gr. PK-12 Prof. Dev.
<b>February</b>	
• 16-20	No School - February Break
<b>March</b>	
• 13	No School - Teacher Prof. Dev. gr. PreK-12
<b>April</b>	
• 3	Early Release gr. PK-12 Good Friday
• 20-24	No School - Spring Break
<b>May</b>	
• 13	Early Release gr. PK-12 Prof. Dev.
• 25	No School - Memorial Day
<b>June</b>	
• 17	Last Day for Students and Staff Early Release for Students

February 2026 (15)				
M	T	W	Th	F
2	3	4	5	6
9	10	11	12	13
16	17	18	19	20
23	24	25	26	27

March 2026 (21)				
M	T	W	Th	F
2	3	4	5	6
9	10	11	12	13
16	17	18	19	20
23	24	25	26	27
30	31			

April 2026 (17)				
M	T	W	Th	F
		1	2	3
6	7	8	9	10
13	14	15	16	17
20	21	22	23	24
27	28	29	30	

May 2026 (20)				
M	T	W	Th	F
				1
4	5	6	7	8
11	12	13	14	15
18	19	20	21	22
25	26	27	28	29

June 2026 (13)				
M	T	W	Th	F
1	2	3	4	5
8	9	10	11	12
15	16	17	18	19
22	23	24	25	26
29	30			

	No School for Students – Professional Development or Conferences		No School for Students and Teachers/School Year Staff - holiday or vacation break
	First Day of School for all students		Early Release Days due to Prof. Dev., Conferences, or before a break
	Last Day of School for students - 180 days		185 <sup>th</sup> day of school for students if needed for cancellations

## **ABOUT MVMS & MPS**

### **MVMS at a Glance**

School Administration	Matthew LeVangie, Principal Catherine Koch, Assistant Principal Megan Aponte, Special Education Chairperson
School Contact Information	217 Pleasant Street, Marblehead, Massachusetts 01945 Phone: (781) 639-3120      Fax: (781) 639-3130
School Day	The academic school day runs from 7:55 a.m. - 2:30 p.m.
Report An Absence	<b>Call before 7:55 a.m. to report a student as absent or late.</b> 781-639-3120 ext.: 30002
Cancellation/Delayed Opening	Telephone call and/or email by 6:30 a.m. Radio: WBZ Boston - 1030; Television channels 4, 5 and 7. Website: <a href="https://www.marbleheadschoools.org/">https://www.marbleheadschoools.org/</a>
Web Address	<a href="https://www.marbleheadschoools.org/Domain/9">https://www.marbleheadschoools.org/Domain/9</a>

### **Visitors**

For safety and security reasons, all visitors must check in at the main office. All visitors must wear a visitor badge at all times during their visit. All visitors will be **required to have state-issued ID** in order to be scanned in and given a visitor pass to fully access the building and/or classrooms. Three visitor spots are located near the main entrance next to the island and additional parking is adjacent to the tennis courts. Please park in approved locations and do not leave vehicles running. The visitors' parking area is not to be used for drop-off and pick-up of students.

### **Idling of Motor Vehicles on School Grounds**

With limited exceptions, Massachusetts law prohibits the unnecessary idling of motor vehicles on school grounds. M.G.L. c. 90, § 16B. *See also MPS SC policy EEAJ*

### **Where to go if you have questions**

Occasionally, students and parents/guardians are not sure who should be contacted at the Marblehead Veterans Middle School in case of questions or concerns. A list of your student's teachers can be found in Aspen.

Classroom Issues	Contact the teacher first using the teacher's email or voicemail extension. If you have additional concerns, contact your student's guidance counselor. If you still have questions, contact the Assistant Principal or Principal.
Scheduling Issues	Contact the guidance counselor first using their email or voicemail extension listed in our web directory. If you have additional concerns, contact the Principal.
Curriculum Issues	Contact the Teacher. If you have additional concerns, contact the Assistant Principal or Principal.
Special Education Issues	Contact the appropriate teacher(s) first. If you have additional concerns, contact our Special Education Chairperson. If you still have questions, you can contact the Principal or the Assistant Superintendent of Student Services.
Behavioral Issues	Contact the teacher or school counselor first. If you are still concerned, contact the Assistant Principal.
Family Issues	Contact your student's school counselor for social, emotional, personal, or family issues.

## **Marblehead School Committee**

The Marblehead School Committee generally meets on the first and third Thursday of each month during the school year. The Committee sets policy for the school district, works with the Superintendent to develop, implement, and monitor a Strategic Plan, and develops a budget to present to Town Meeting in May. Meetings are held at 7:00 p.m. in the Marblehead High School Library unless otherwise noted. Agendas are available on the Monday prior to the meeting at the Administration Building, which is located at the Mary Alley Municipal Building at 9 Widger Road. The public is welcome and encouraged to attend and to participate during the public comment period.

## **Marblehead Public Schools Central Administrators/Directors**

<b>Superintendent of Schools</b>	781-639-3140 ext. 10114
<b>Assistant Superintendent Teaching and Learning</b>	781-639-3140 ext. 10117
<b>Assistant Superintendent for Finance and Operations</b>	781-639-3140 ext. 10108
<b>Assistant Superintendent of Student Services</b>	781-639-3140 ext. 10105
<b>Director of Educational Technology</b>	781-639-3140 ext. 10107
<b>Food Service Director</b>	781-639-3120 ext. 30136
<b>Facilities Director</b>	781-639-3140 ext. 10103
<b>Athletic Director</b>	781-639-3100 ext. 26105

## **METCO - Metropolitan Council for Educational Opportunities**

The Marblehead Public Schools has been a voluntary participant in the METCO program for over 40 years. The METCO staff includes a director, tutors, bus monitors, and a clerical aide. This program is completely funded through a State Department of Elementary and Secondary Education grant. The Marblehead METCO Parent Advisory Council acts as a support group for parents/guardians of METCO students. The METCO PAC meets in Boston once each month. Host families are a critical component of this program. If you are interested in hosting a METCO student, contact the program director at 781-639-3100.

## **Marblehead Special Education PAC (SEPAC)**

The Marblehead Special Education PAC (SEPAC) is an advisory council organization run by parents/guardians of students with special needs. The SEPAC's purpose is to develop better understanding and communication among parents/guardians, teachers, and administrators. Membership includes parents/guardians, teachers, and the special education administration. Please refer to the school calendar for days and dates. For more information, go to <https://www.mhdsepac.com/>

## **English Learner Parent Advisory Council (ELPAC)**

The Marblehead English Learner Parent Advisory Council meets regularly to help create a partnership between schools and families of students who are English Learners. All parents and guardians of current or former English Learners are invited to attend the meetings, and information is sent via email prior to each meeting.



## Teaming and Daily Schedules

Marblehead Veterans Middle School, in response to data-based research on middle schools, assigns students to teams that create communities for learning. In the 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grades, students are assigned to one of the two teams per grade; either Red Team or Black Team. The goal of teaming students in the middle school is two-fold. Our first goal is to create a smaller community of students. The second goal is to allow teachers common planning time to discuss students, their achievements, and to identify those needing additional assistance.

## The School Day

The academic school day runs from 8:00am - 2:30pm. Please note: Students are not allowed in the academic areas of the building prior to 7:50 a.m. unless they have an appointment to see a faculty member or are in the library. Breakfast is served in the cafeteria at 7:30 am each day. Students who stay after school for activities or extra help must be with a faculty member at all times. As all after-school activities and sports do not begin until 3:00 p.m., students are expected to be with a faculty member or studying and doing homework in the library until 3:00 p.m.

## Course Offerings

<b>On-Team Subjects</b>	<b>World Language Classes</b>	<b>Unified Arts Rotation</b>	<b>Physical Education/Health</b>	<b>Performing Arts Classes</b>	<b>Classes Providing Assistance</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• English</li><li>• Math</li><li>• Science</li><li>• Social Studies</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• French</li><li>• Spanish</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Art</li><li>• Music</li><li>• Technology</li><li>• Science/Engineering</li></ul> <p>Students rotate through these classes every quarter</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Physical Education</li><li>• Health</li></ul> <p>Students rotate through these classes every quarter</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Band</li><li>• Chorus</li><li>• Orchestra</li></ul> <p>These classes meet three times a week around lunch Students not taking a performing arts class will be assigned to a “Just Read” class</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Curriculum Support (CS)</li><li>• Academic Support (AS)</li></ul> <p>CS is a special education class, and placement is determined by the team. AS is a regular education class, and placement is a family decision</p>

## Advisory Program

*“Every student needs at least one thoughtful adult who has the time and takes the trouble to talk with the student about academic matters, personal problems, and the importance of performing well in middle grade school.”*

*-Carnegie Council on Adolescent Development*

Each student is assigned an advisor with whom he or she will meet two times per week on Wednesdays and Thursdays. Topics discussed by all grades during advisor meetings include social-emotional learning, goal setting, self-esteem, study skills, decision-making, peer relationships, stamping out social cruelty, leadership opportunities, and community service projects.

### Daily Bell Schedule

Our schedule is unique to Marblehead Veterans Middle School and has been recognized as a model by Carnegie Corporation's *Turning Points: Educating Adolescents in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century*. The schedule below demonstrates our 6-period day; including lunch and advisory/performing arts (band, orchestra, and chorus).

<b><u>PERIOD</u></b>	<b><u>DAY 1</u> Drop I Block</b>	<b><u>DAY 2</u> Drop H Block</b>	<b><u>DAY 3</u> Drop G Block</b>	<b><u>DAY 4</u> Drop D Block</b>	<b><u>DAY 5</u> Drop C Block</b>	<b><u>DAY 6</u> Drop B Block</b>	<b><u>DAY 7</u> Drop A Block</b>
<b>7:55 – 8:50</b>	<b>A</b>	<b>I</b>	<b>H</b>	<b>G</b>	<b>D</b>	<b>C</b>	<b>B</b>
<b>8:52 – 9:45</b>	<b>B</b>	<b>A</b>	<b>I</b>	<b>H</b>	<b>G</b>	<b>D</b>	<b>C</b>
<b>9:47 – 10:40</b>	<b>C</b>	<b>B</b>	<b>A</b>	<b>I</b>	<b>H</b>	<b>G</b>	<b>D</b>
<b>10:42 – 11:35</b>	<b>D</b>	<b>C</b>	<b>B</b>	<b>A</b>	<b>I</b>	<b>H</b>	<b>G</b>
<b>11:37 – 12:07</b>	<b>E</b>  <b>7<sup>th</sup> Grade – Performing Arts/Just Read (Monday, Tuesday, &amp; Friday)</b> <b>Advisory (Wednesday &amp; Thursday)</b>  <b>8<sup>th</sup> Grade Lunch</b>						
<b>12:09 – 12:39</b>	<b>F</b>  <b>8<sup>th</sup> Grade – Performing Arts/Just Read (Monday, Tuesday, &amp; Friday)</b> <b>Advisory (Wednesday &amp; Thursday)</b>  <b>7<sup>th</sup> Grade Lunch</b>						
<b>12:41 – 1:34</b>	<b>G</b>	<b>D</b>	<b>C</b>	<b>B</b>	<b>A</b>	<b>I</b>	<b>H</b>
<b>1:36 – 2:30</b>	<b>H</b>	<b>G</b>	<b>D</b>	<b>C</b>	<b>B</b>	<b>A</b>	<b>I</b>

# **ACADEMICS**

## **Classroom Expectations**

Teachers will give each student a written summary of academic and behavioral expectations at the beginning of each course and describe the relative weights to be assigned to different types of work and tests in determining the grade and the policy for make-up work.

## **Homework Guidelines**

At MVMS students will typically have 25 minutes of nightly homework in English, Math, Science, Social Studies and World Languages. While other subject areas within a student's schedule might not assign nightly work, homework assignments from those classes may sometimes be assigned to complete projects, prepare for assessments, or support in-class learning.

## **Assignment Notebooks**

Students are required to record all homework assignments in the assignment notebook provided by the school. Along with other forms of communication, parents/guardians are encouraged to review this notebook with their student.

## **Report Cards and Grading Scale**

Quarterly report cards are available via the grading portal - [Aspen](#).

<b>Letter Grade</b>	<b>Grade Equivalency</b>
<b>A+</b>	100 – 97
<b>A</b>	96 – 94
<b>A-</b>	93 – 90
<b>B+</b>	89 – 87
<b>B</b>	86 – 84
<b>B-</b>	83 – 80
<b>C+</b>	79 – 77
<b>C</b>	76 – 74
<b>C-</b>	73 – 70
<b>D+</b>	69 – 67
<b>D</b>	66 – 64
<b>D-</b>	63 – 60
<b>F</b>	59 and Below

A student may also receive an "I" for incomplete work, or a "P" for passing work, if individual and/or extenuating circumstances arise.

**I** - Incomplete work must be made up within ten (10) school days after the report card is issued and is the responsibility of the student. Otherwise, the course grade will revert to an "F."

## **Make-up Work Due to Student Absence**

Students who are absent are responsible for meeting with their teachers on the day they return to school to create a plan for any work they missed. If a student has been absent for multiple days, they are also encouraged to seek assistance from their guidance counselor. Students will have the same amount of days as their absence to make-up assignments after their return to school. For example, if a student is absent on Tuesday and returns to school on Wednesday, make-up work is due on Thursday. Parents/guardians may request teacher-prepared homework for students on the second day of absence if they know their student will be absent three or more days.

## **Academic Recognition**

**High Honors:** Students earning at least all A's and one B each quarter

**Honors:** Students earning all A's and B's each quarter

## **Requirements for Promotion**

Students are expected to successfully complete 75% of their major courses and four (4) of the following areas: art, music, wellness/family and consumer sciences, technology education, media literacy, and physical education. Failure to do so will require the student to attend summer school, or, in some cases, be retained. Passing a yearlong course requires earning a minimum grade of "D" each quarter or its equivalent of four points during the year (A = 4 points, B = 3 points, C = 2 points, D = 1 point). Promotion may also occur at the discretion of the principal, in consultation with the teacher(s) and parents/guardians. The principal shall, however, exercise final decision-making authority with regard to a student's promotion or retention.

## **Academic Integrity Expectations**

Within Marblehead Public Schools, a student should be able to say, "The work presented is my own unless otherwise indicated."

Plagiarism is the act of taking and using another's published or unpublished work or ideas and passing them off as one's own. This definition includes, but is not limited to: written work, drawings, artwork, projects, and all other types of uncited work that are not one's own. Each student is responsible for identifying and citing the sources of words, ideas, and facts presented in a paper or similar project and for following the rules of citation. The mechanics for citing sources will vary from course to course and teacher to teacher.

Any and all giving or receiving of inappropriate assistance that significantly alters or replaces a student's own work is considered an Academic Integrity Violation. Any student contributing to cheating by another student will be deemed guilty of violating the Academic Integrity Expectations and the same consequences for such will apply. *These expectations apply over the course of a student's middle school career. It is not based on offenses per class or year. For example, if the first offense occurred in 7th grade and the next offense occurred in 8th grade the penalty for a second offense would apply.*

If a teacher suspects a student of plagiarism, submitting dishonest work or any other form of cheating, the teacher has the right to withhold the student's grades until it can be demonstrated the student did not violate the Academic Integrity Expectations.

### **Category I**

If a student is found to have violated the Academic Integrity Expectations, the student may receive reduced credit or a zero for the entire assignment and may not qualify for make-up of the assignment (subject to the teacher's discretion). Second violation of a Category I offense, will result in the incident being reported to the Administration and will move to a Category II violation. Examples of Academic Integrity Violations may include, but are not limited to the following:

### **Category I -**

- Copying (or allowing a student to copy) one's assignment for class work or homework.
- Using unauthorized notes, programs, or devices for class work or homework.
- Changing answers and seeking credit on a classwork or homework assignment after the work has been graded and returned.

## **Category II -**

- Unauthorized electronic devices may not be used during any assessment and may be held by the teacher during the class period to prevent cheating and plagiarism. Use of unauthorized electronic devices for any reason during an assessment will be considered cheating.
- Obtaining, removing, accepting, or sharing a copy of and/or information about an examination or quiz without the knowledge and consent of the teacher.
- Copying (or allowing a student to copy) one's assignment for examination or quiz.
- Marblehead World Languages does not permit the use of Google Translate or other digital translators to translate full sentences or paragraphs.
- Communicating with another student during an examination or quiz.
- Unauthorized sharing or supplying a student with a paper, project, notes, or assignment that assists them in obtaining credit for that work.
- Using unauthorized notes or devices during an examination or quiz.
- Altering a teacher's grading system.
- Changing answers and seeking credit on a quiz, test, paper or project after the work has been graded and returned.
- Second violation of Category I offense

## **ATTENDANCE REQUIREMENTS & PROCEDURES**

Numerous research studies have identified that one of the most important factors in the success of a student is daily, on-time attendance. Please see the following information about what do to when your student will be absent or dismissed from school, or late to school. Per established attendance practices at MVMS, a letter will be sent home following the fifth unexcused absence.

### **Student Absence Procedures**

#### **When should I call my student in absent, and who do I call?**

Please call the school before 8:15am on the day that they will be absent. Please call **781-639-3120 ext. 30002**.

#### **What should I say on the absence message?**

When you call your student in absent, please clearly state their name, grade, reason for absence, and if you know, your student's expected date of return. If you do not contact the school to confirm your student's absence, you will be contacted by telephone or electronic mail as to the basis for your student's absence within three (3) school days of the absence.

#### **Does the school need any more information?**

Yes, in addition to contacting the school by no later than 8:15 a.m. on the day of your student's absence, please send an absence note with your student when they return to school. Make sure you include the dates of absence. Per School Committee policy, the school may ask for a doctor's note certifying that the absence.

#### **Will my student's absence be excused?**

Per school committee policy, absences will be excused for illness, religious holidays, serious illness in the family, or funerals. Family vacations are NOT excused absences. If a student is absent from school due to a family vacation, students will make-up the work after their return to school at the convenience of their teachers. Students are required to see each of their teachers upon returning and develop a list of missing work and specific dates for test and quiz make-ups.

**Will I be contacted if my student is absent repeatedly?**

In the event that your student accumulates five (5) or more days of unexcused absences during the school year, you will be contacted and invited to participate in a meeting with the school administration to develop a plan to address the student's attendance.

In the event that your student is absent without excuse in excess of ten consecutive school days, you will be contacted relative to the convening of an Exit Interview meeting in accordance with Massachusetts law. Please see M.G.L. c. 76, § 18 in Appendix B.

**Student Dismissal Procedures****How do I arrange for the early dismissal of my student from school?**

Students who need to be dismissed prior to the conclusion of the standard school day must bring a written note from a parent/guardian to the main office before 8:00am. The note must state the time, date, and reason for the dismissal.

**Can my student come outside to meet me at that dismissal time?**

No. Students must be signed out of school by a parent/guardian.

**Student Tardy Procedures****When will my student be considered tardy?**

The first class at MVMS begins at 8:00am. Students not in their first class at that time will be considered tardy.

**Should I send a note in with my student if (s)he will be late?**

Yes. However, a tardy will only be excused if it arises from a(n):

Religious Observation, Medical appointment, Court appointment, Late school bus, Extenuating family emergency (determined by school administrator)

**Since running late or bad traffic is not a reason for an excused tardy, what will happen to my student who is late to school?**

As we understand that there are those days when families are running late or traffic backs up, each student will be allowed four tardies per quarter (excused or unexcused), with no consequences.

**What happens after those four "free" unexcused tardies?**

Students will be required to serve a tardy detention upon their fifth, and each subsequent, tardy.

# **COMMUNICATION**

## **School/Home Communication**

The Marblehead Public Schools subscribes to a “school to home” communication service. This communication system will enable the building principal or the superintendent to contact parents in a timely manner in the event of an emergency situation, or to pass on general information regarding weekly schedules or other school updates.

## **Change of Residential Address/Email Address/Phone Number**

It is important to notify the school promptly of changes in residential address, electronic mail address, and/or telephone number(s) so that parents or guardians can be reached in the event of an emergency.

## **Notification of Field Trips**

Parents/guardians will be informed of all field trips, no later than one (1) week before they occur (except in unexpected circumstances). **Students may not participate in field trips without parent/guardian consent signed and returned to school.** The required consent forms submitted with alterations or revisions are not valid. Staff members supervise students during out-of-school activities.

*Please see MPS SC field trip policy IJOA*

## **Office Telephone Use**

Students are allowed to use the telephone in the main office during lunch or before or after school. In special circumstances, students may obtain permission from a classroom teacher to use the phone in the main office during the school day.

## **Health Education**

As part of our Health curriculum, students are presented with a unit on human development that includes reproductive health and human sexuality. In accordance with M.G.L. c. 71, § 33, school committee policy shall afford parents or guardians the flexibility to exempt their student from any portion of said curriculum through written notification to the school principal.

*Please see MPS SC Health Education policies IHAM and IHAM-R*

## **Services and Accommodations for Students with Disabilities**

Some students with disabilities require individualized accommodations, specialized instruction and/or supportive services to ensure their free appropriate public education. These services can include, but are not limited to, speech therapy, physical therapy, occupational therapy, specialized instruction, or placement in a specialized classroom. Parents/guardians or teachers may refer students they are concerned about to the Student Services Office. We take special education referrals seriously and want to be sure to respond within required timelines. **Therefore, all special education referrals shall be made via hard copy, delivered either to the building principal, special education chairperson or Director of Student Services.** Within five (5) school days of a student’s referral for an evaluation of eligibility for special education services in accordance with the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act and/or M.G.L. c. 71B, a consent form authorizing an evaluation of the student will be forwarded to the student’s parent(s)/guardian(s). Within forty-five (45) school days of receipt of the parent/guardians(s)’ consent, an evaluation will be conducted and a TEAM meeting will be held to determine if the student is eligible for special education services. If the student is found eligible for special education services, the Team will develop an Individualized Education Program (IEP) identifying the necessary services.

In some cases, the evaluation Team determines that a student with a disability may require only individual accommodations as opposed to specialized instruction and/or related services. Such students are then referred for an evaluation of their eligibility for accommodations and/or services in accordance with Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973. The District will respond promptly to any such Section 504 evaluation request and shall conduct an evaluation of the student. For more information regarding the services available to students with disabilities please contact the building principal at 781-639-3113 or the Marblehead Public Schools Director of Student Services at 781-639-3140.

### **Lost & Found**

There are two “Lost and Found” areas at MVMS. They are located in the gym and the Cafeteria. Any clothing or items that go unclaimed will be sent to a local charity periodically throughout the year.

Textbooks and other school materials are the responsibility of the student and **must be paid for if lost or damaged**.

## **MEDICAL/FOOD/FAMILY SERVICES**

### **Food Services**

**Breakfast:** Students should eat a healthy breakfast before arriving at school. The breakfast program at MVMS runs from 7:30 a.m. to 7:50 a.m.

#### **Breakfast Rules**

1. Students are not permitted into the Cafeteria until 7:30 a.m.
2. Once a student is in the Cafeteria, they must stay until the bell rings at 7:50 a.m.
3. Students are to be respectful and courteous to all.
4. Students are to remain seated during breakfast.
5. Students are not to take open containers of drinks or food from the Cafeteria.
6. Students are responsible for cleaning their immediate area before 7:50 a.m.

**Lunch:** Grades 7 & 8 will have a thirty-minute lunch break. Well-balanced meals are available. Milk and/or snack may be purchased separately. Free and reduced-price lunches are available to those who qualify. For current lunch menu information, go to <https://www.marbleheadschoools.org/district/food-services>.

#### **LUNCH SCHEDULE**

<b>Grade</b>	<b>Time</b>
<b>8</b>	<b>11:37 a.m. - 12:07 p.m.</b>
<b>7</b>	<b>12:09 p.m. - 12:39 p.m.</b>

The Principal, Assistant Principal, School Counselor, and teachers supervise lunch. The following rules are to be observed:

1. Students are to be respectful and courteous to all.
2. Students are to remain seated during lunch.
3. Students must obtain permission from an adult in order to leave the cafeteria.
4. Students are not to take open containers of drinks or food from the cafeteria.
5. Glass bottles should not be brought onto school grounds without permission.
6. Students are responsible for cleaning their immediate area before being dismissed.

### **School Nurse Information**

**MVMS School Nurse Contact Number - 781-639-3120 ext. 30128**

Assessment and treatment are provided for minor injuries or illnesses during the school day. If a student becomes ill or is seriously injured their parent or guardian is notified immediately. If an adult cannot be reached in an emergency, the



student will be transported to the appropriate medical facility. The nurse will dismiss any student who is too ill to be in school, requires further assessment or treatment for an illness or injury, or is considered to be contagious or susceptible to disease. Timely health bulletins will be sent home to inform parents/guardians of any public health issues. ***Students should not text/call parents/guardians during the school day to ask for a medical dismissal. All medical dismissals must go through the nurse's office.***

### **Absence due to Illness**

If your student is absent due to illness, please notify the school daily. We need to be kept informed so that we can alert other families of infectious conditions. If your student is contagious, please keep him/her at home until your doctor has cleared him/her for return to school. Additionally, the school nurse asks that you follow these guidelines for sending students to school:

- Students being treated for strep throat must be kept home a minimum of 24 hours after treatment begins.
- Students who vomit in the night or in the morning before school should not be sent to school that day.
- Students with a febrile illness should be free of fever without the use of fever reducing medication for 24 hours before returning to school.
- For up-to-date health information, please check the district website: <https://www.marbleheadschoools.org>. Select Departments from the pull down menu, Health Services, Health Fact Sheet.  
For personal safety reasons, please call the school to report absences or anticipated tardiness due to illness early in the morning at 781-639-3120 ext.: 30002.

### **Food Allergies**

It is our goal to keep all students safe in school. Please notify the school nurse and your student's teacher of any allergies that your student may have. Where appropriate, an Individualized Health Care Plan and/or Section 504 Plan will, with your participation, be developed for your student. To ensure the safety and wellbeing of students with life threatening food allergies, any food consumed outside of the cafeteria must be peanut and tree nut free. No sharing or swapping of any food is permitted. A parent/guardian information letter describing school policy and expectations for all types of food consumption at MVMS will be sent home before school starts and posted online.

### **Concussions**

Per state law and school committee policy, any student who suffers a head injury or concussion, whether such injury occurs in or out of school, must be medically cleared to return to school as well as to participate in school athletic activities. Responsible staff will follow the guidelines for graduated return to academics and activities tailored appropriately to the student's age and condition.

*Please see **Appendix D** for the entire School Committee Policy, JJIF, on Athletic Concussions*

### **Immunizations**

The Massachusetts Department of Public Health requires that all students be properly immunized against varicella, measles, mumps, rubella (MMR), polio, diphtheria, tetanus, pertussis (DPT), and hepatitis B before entrance into school. Exemptions from immunizations are allowed under Massachusetts Law for either religious or medical reasons, both of which require documentation. Non-immunized/susceptible individuals will be excluded from school in the event of an outbreak of any vaccine preventable disease.

### **Department of Public Health Division of Epidemiology and Immunization**

To bring Massachusetts' school immunization requirements up to date with several recent recommendations made by the Center for Disease Control and Prevention's (CDC) Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP), the Department of Public Health (DPH) made the following changes to the school immunization requirements. Massachusetts School immunization requirements applicable to the 2024-2025 school year are as follows:

- 2 doses measles, mumps and rubella (MMR) vaccine for entry to kindergarten, 7th grade, full-time college freshmen and health science students (currently 2 doses of measles and 1 dose of mumps and 1 dose of rubella vaccine are required for these groups)
- 2 doses varicella vaccine for entry to kindergarten, 7th grade, full-time college freshmen and health science students (currently 1 dose of varicella vaccine is required for entry to kindergarten and 7th grade and there is no varicella requirement for college)
- 1 dose Tdap for entry to 7th grade, full-time college freshmen and health science students (currently 1 dose of Td is required for these groups)

#### Definitions:

The definition of 'Certificate of Immunization' has been revised to also allow nurse practitioners and physician assistants, in addition to physicians, to sign and date the form or letter. The definition was also clarified to require the month and year of administration as well as the type/name of the vaccine administered in both electronic and hard copy documentation.

The current Massachusetts school immunization requirements can be found on their website: [www.mass.gov/dph/imm](http://www.mass.gov/dph/imm). If you have any questions about current or future school immunization requirements, please contact the Division of Epidemiology and Immunization at 617-983-6800.

Reminder: state-supplied vaccines are available for catch-up of all students through 18 years of age, regardless of insurance status:

- Tdap vaccine\* -MCV4 vaccine
- Varicella vaccine\* -Hepatitis A vaccine\*
- MMR vaccine\*

Please order and have these vaccines available for your patients.

\*These vaccines are also available for adults seen in public sector settings 3/1/2010

### **MVMS Health Office Prescription Drop Off**

All prescription medication must be brought to the Health Office or School Office by a parent or guardian in a container with the official prescription label on it. If necessary, ask your pharmacist to give you a duplicate container for safe storage of the medication at home and school. The school cannot dispense medication that does not have the prescription label on the package. Inhalers will be stored in the health office unless the school nurse and parent/guardian mutually agree to alternate storage. The nurse will notify parents/guardians or others identified on a student's emergency card prior to administering any over-the-counter medication covered in the MPS medication policy and protocol.

Under no circumstances shall a student be sent to school with medication without prior notification of the school nurse. Students found in possession of unauthorized medications on school grounds or at school sponsored events may be subject to discipline for violation of the District's controlled substances policies.

### **Physical Examinations**

Physical exams are required prior to entry into kindergarten, 4th grade, 7th grade and 10th grade and for all students new to our schools. Vision screening for distance visual acuity and ocular alignment/stereopsis within 12 months prior to kindergarten entry or within thirty (30) days of the start of the school year.

State mandated screenings are conducted annually for vision, hearing, height and weight. If your student does not meet state standards on these screenings, you will be notified by the school nurse. Your student should then be evaluated by your student's physician for diagnosis, treatment, or referral.

### **Special Medical Considerations**

Parents/guardians of a student with any medical condition that may require special attention or planning should contact

the school nurse as soon as possible. This includes conditions such as asthma, severe allergies, seizure disorders or diabetes. An Individualized Health Care Plan and/or a Section 504 Plan is developed collaboratively with the school, the family and health care providers. Parents/guardians should also notify the school nurse of any changes in their student's daily medications or medical conditions. The Massachusetts Asthma Action Plan is to be completed by your health care provider for students with asthma.

*Please see MPS SC Health/Nursing policies JLC, JLCB, JLCD, JLCA, and JLCCB*

### **Home/Hospital Educational Services**

A public school student who, due to documented medical reasons, is confined to his/her home or a hospital for not less than fourteen (14) school days during the school year, is entitled to receive home/hospital educational instruction as described under 603 CMR 28.03(3)(c). Parents/guardians must present a completed Physician's Affirmation (DESE Form 28R/3) or equivalent written statement signed by the student's physician to the building principal stating a diagnosis, the length of time student is expected to be out of school, and the expected return date. This form can be digitally downloaded by following the link above or by going to the following address: <http://www.doe.mass.edu/sped/28MR/28r3.pdf>

The Physician's Affirmation or equivalent document must be fully completed and signed by the student's attending physician and returned to the building principal, who will then authorize and/or arrange necessary home/hospital educational services for the student. The principal shall coordinate with the Director of Student Services relative to the provision of home/hospital educational services to an eligible student with a disability.

### **Homeless Students**

Per School Committee policy and Federal law, the Superintendent shall designate an appropriate staff person to be the district's liaison for homeless students and their families in accordance with the McKinney-Vento Act. Please contact the building principal if you have any need for assistance, and they can connect your family with the district's homeless liaison.

*Please see MPS SC Homeless policy JFABD*

### **Physical Restraint**

The Marblehead Public Schools complies with the requirements of Massachusetts statutes and regulations governing the use and reporting of physical restraint in schools. M.G.L. c. 71, § 37G; 603 CMR 46.00. Physical restraint is defined as direct physical contact that prevents or significantly restricts a student's freedom of movement. Physical restraint does not include: brief physical contact to promote student safety, providing physical guidance or prompting when teaching a skill, redirecting attention, providing comfort, or a physical escort.

Physical restraint is considered an emergency procedure of last resort and may be used only when: (a) the student's behavior poses a threat of assault, or imminent, serious, physical harm to self and/or others; and (b) less intrusive interventions are ineffective or deemed to be inappropriate under the circumstances. Physical restraint in a public education program shall be limited to the use of such reasonable force as is necessary to protect a student or another member of the school community from assault or imminent, serious, physical harm. Physical restraint is prohibited in the following circumstances: (a) as a means of punishment; or (b) as a response to property destruction, disruption of school order, a student's refusal to comply with a school rule or staff directive, or verbal threats that do not constitute a threat of imminent, serious, physical harm.

In the event that a physical restraint is administered, the parents/guardians will be notified orally within twenty-four (24) hours of the restraint and shall be provided with a written Restraint Report within three (3) school days of the restraint. 603 CMR 46.06.

*Please see MPS SC Policy JKAA*

## Student Records

### Notification of Rights under the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act

The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) affords parents/guardians and students over 18 years of age (“eligible students”) certain rights with respect to the student’s education records. These rights are:

- (1) The right to inspect and review the student’s education records within forty-five (45) calendar days of the day the School receives a request for access.
- (2) The right to request the amendment of the student’s education records that the parent/guardian or eligible student believes are inaccurate, misleading, or otherwise in violation of the student’s privacy rights under FERPA.
- (3) The right to consent to disclosures of personally identifiable information contained in the student’s education records, except to the extent that FERPA authorizes disclosure without consent.
- (4) The right to file a complaint with the U.S. Department of Education concerning alleged failures by the School District to comply with the requirements of FERPA. The name and address of the Office that administers FERPA are:

Student Privacy Policy Office  
U.S. Department of Education  
400 Maryland Avenue, SW  
Washington, DC 20202-5920

### Summary of Massachusetts Student Records Regulations 603 CMR 23.00

#### **(1) Definitions**

**Student Record:** The student record consists of the transcript and the temporary record, including all information recording and computer tapes, microfilm, microfiche, or any other materials regardless of physical form or characteristics concerning a student that are maintained by the school district and are organized on the basis of the student’s name or in a way that such student may be individually identified, and that is kept by the public schools of the Commonwealth as defined under state law. Electronic communications (e.g., emails, text messages, etc.) shall not be considered to be student records maintained by the school district unless printed and placed in the student’s temporary record.

**Parent:** A student's father or mother, or guardian, or person or agency legally authorized to act on behalf of the student in place of or in conjunction with the father, mother, or guardian. Any parent who by court order does not have physical custody of the student, is considered a non-custodial parent for purposes of M.G.L. c. 71, § 34H and 603 CMR 23.00. This includes parents who by court order do not reside with or supervise the student, even for short periods of time.

**Eligible Student:** A student who has reached fourteen (14) years of age or who has entered 9<sup>th</sup> grade. Upon reaching 18 years of age, the adult student may submit a written request to the principal or to the Superintendent of Schools to limit the rights of the parent(s) to request the amendment or release of the student record. Under Massachusetts law, however, a student cannot limit the right of the parent(s) to inspect the student record regardless of the Student’s age. M.G.L. c. 71, § 34E.

**Authorized School Personnel:**

- (a) School administrators, teachers, counselors, and other professionals who are employed by the school committee or who are providing services to the student under an agreement between the school committee and a service provider, and who are working directly with the student in an administrative, teaching counseling, and/or diagnostic capacity. Any such personnel who are not employed directly by the school committee shall have access only to the student record information that is required for them to perform their duties.
- (b) Administrative office staff and clerical personnel, including operators of data processing equipment or equipment that produces microfilm/microfiche, who are either employed by the school committee or are employed under a school committee service contract, and whose duties require them to have access to student records for purposes of processing information for the student record. Such personnel shall have access only to the student record information that is required for them to perform their duties.
- (c) The Evaluation Team which evaluates a student.

**(2) Inspection of the Student Record**

A parent, or a student who has entered the ninth grade or is at least 14 years old (eligible student), has the right to inspect all portions of the student record upon request. The parent and/or eligible student have the right to receive copies of any part of the record, although a reasonable fee may be charged for the cost of duplicating materials. The record must be made available to the parent or eligible student no later than ten (10) calendar days after the request, unless the parent or student consents to a delay. The parent and/or eligible student may request to have parts of the record interpreted by a qualified professional of the school or may invite anyone else of their choosing to inspect or interpret the record with them.

**II. Rights of Non-Custodial Parents**

M.G.L. c. 71, § 34H and 603 CMR 23.07 specify detailed procedures that govern access to student records by parents who, by order of a court, do not have physical custody of their children. For more information, please see “Access for Non-Custodial Parents” below.

**III. Confidentiality of Student Records**

With a few exceptions, no individual or organization but the parent(s), the eligible student, and authorized school personnel are eligible to access information in or from a student record without the specific, informed written consent of the parent or an eligible student. One such exception is the authority of the District to forward, without consent, the complete student record to schools or school districts to which a student transfer or enrolls.

**IV. Amendment of the Student Record**

Eligible students and/or parents have the right to add additional information, comments, data, and/or other relevant material to the student record. Eligible students and/or parents also have the right to request in writing that the student record be amended. Any such request should be directed to the principal. The principal will render a written decision on any such amendment request. A denial of a request to amend a student record may be appealed to the superintendent.

**V. Destruction of Student Records**

Massachusetts regulations require that certain parts of the student record, such as the temporary record, be destroyed within seven (7) years of a student’s transfer or graduation. School authorities are also allowed to destroy misleading, outdated, or irrelevant information in the record from time to time while the student is enrolled in the school system. Before any such information may be destroyed, the parent and eligible student will be notified in writing and provided with the opportunity to obtain a copy of any records to be destroyed. Electronic communications (emails) that are not printed and placed in a student’s temporary record are not “maintained” by the District as student records for purposes of state and/or federal laws and regulations.

## VI. Directory Information

Federal and state regulations authorize school districts to disclose appropriately designated “directory information” without written consent, unless you have advised the District to the contrary in accordance with applicable procedures. The primary purpose of directory information is to allow the Marblehead Public Schools to include this type of information from your student’s education records in certain school publications. Examples include but are not limited to:

- A playbill, showing your student’s role in a drama production;
- The annual yearbook;
- Honor roll or other recognition lists;
- Graduation programs; and
- Sports activity sheets, such as for wrestling, showing weight and height of team members

Directory information, which is information that is generally not considered harmful or an invasion of privacy, if released, can also be disclosed to outside organizations without prior written consent.

**If you do not want directory information pertaining to your student disclosed without your prior written consent, please notify the principal in writing by no later than September 15th. The Marblehead Public Schools has designated the following information as directory information:**

- Student’s name
- Participation in officially recognized activities and sports
- Address
- Telephone listing
- Weight and height of members of athletic teams
- Email address
- Photograph
- Degrees, honors, and awards received
- Date and place of birth
- Dates of attendance
- Grade level

The above is only a summary of some of the more significant provisions of the laws and regulations pertaining to student records. If more detailed information is desired, a copy of the Massachusetts Student Record regulations may be obtained from the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education. These state regulations are designed to insure parent and student rights of confidentiality, inspection, amendment, and destruction of student records, and to assist school authorities in their responsibilities for the maintenance of student records. The regulations apply to all information kept by a school committee on a student in a manner such that the student may be individually identified. The applicable regulations may be found at 603 CMR 23.00.

### **Non-Custodial Parent Access to Student Records**

M.G.L. c. 71, § 34H - Noncustodial Parents: Receipt of Information for Child Enrolled in Public Elementary or Secondary Schools; Notice to Custodial Parent

*Each public elementary and secondary school shall provide student records, including, but not limited to, the following information, in a timely and appropriate manner to the parents of a child enrolled in the school if the parents are eligible for information under this section and request the information in the manner set forth in this section: report cards and progress reports; the results of intelligence and achievement tests; notification of a referral for a special needs assessment; notification of enrollment in an English language learners program established under chapter 71A; notification of absences; notification of illnesses; notification of any detentions, suspensions or expulsion; and notification of permanent withdrawal from school. Each school shall also make reasonable efforts to ensure that other written information that is provided to the custodial parent but not specified in the preceding sentence be provided to the requesting parent if that parent is eligible*

*for information under this section. All electronic and postal address and telephone number information relating to either the work or home locations of the custodial parent shall be removed from information provided under this section. Receipt of this information shall not mandate participation in any proceeding to which notification pertains, nor shall it authorize participation in proceedings and decisions regarding the child's welfare which are not granted through the award of custody. For purposes of this section, any parent who does not have physical custody of a child shall be eligible for the receipt of information unless: (1) the parent's access to the child is currently prohibited by a temporary or permanent protective order, except where the protective order, or any subsequent order which modifies the protective order, specifically allows access to the information described in this section; or (2) the parent is denied visitation or, based on a threat to the safety of the child, is currently denied legal custody of the child or is currently ordered to supervised visitation, and the threat is specifically noted in the order pertaining to custody or supervised visitation. All such documents limiting or restricting parental access to a student's records or information which have been provided to the school or school district shall be placed in the student's record.*

- A. A parent requesting information under this section shall submit a written request to the school principal.*
- B. Upon receipt of a request for information under this section, the school shall review the student record for any documents limiting or restricting parental access to a student's records or information which have been provided to the school or school district and shall immediately notify the custodial parent of the receipt of the request. Notification must be made by certified mail and by first class mail in both the primary language of the custodial parent and in English. The notification shall also inform the custodial parent that information requested under this section shall be provided to the requesting parent after 21 days unless the custodial parent provides to the principal of the school documentation of any court order which prohibits contact with the child, or prohibits the distribution of the information referred to in this section or which is a temporary or permanent order issued to provide protection to the child in the custodial parent's custody from abuse by the requesting parent unless the protective order or any subsequent order which modifies the protective order, specifically allows access to the information described in this section.*
- C. If at any time, the principal of a school is presented with an order of a probate and family court judge which prohibits the distribution of information pursuant to this section, the school shall immediately cease to provide said information and shall notify the requesting parent that the distribution of information shall cease.*
- D. The principal of each public elementary and secondary school shall designate a staff member whose duties shall include the proper implementation of this section.*
- E. The Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education shall promulgate regulations to implement the provisions of this section. Said regulations shall include provisions which assure that the information referred to in this section is properly marked to indicate that said information may not be used to support admission of the child to another school.*

# Student Expectations

## Computer/Internet Usage

The school's computers are provided as learning tools. Students who abuse the schools/personal computers or internet access on school grounds may be excluded from their use and may also face school discipline. Sites prohibited may include, but are not limited to, instant message/email, pornographic sites, games, shopping, or translation sites. Use of electronic translators (on or offline) is also prohibited at the discretion of the classroom teacher. The use of school provided electronic devices or networks to harass or bully others is strictly prohibited and may result in loss of access to the school's network and equipment and other disciplinary consequences. **Please see Appendix C for the MPS Acceptable Usage policy and Student Email policy.**

## MVMS Dress Code

The Marblehead Veterans Middle School dress code is based on the premise that all students attending the Marblehead Veterans Middle School are young adults who wish to dress and groom themselves appropriately with due consideration to popular convention. The dress code applies to all school-sponsored activities.

1. Dress or grooming must not disrupt the educational process or threaten the health or safety of any individual. For example, clothing or jewelry that displays obscene, sexually suggestive, illegal, intentionally harassing, bigoted remarks or symbols, or that encourages drinking, violence, drug use, sex, or tobacco will not be worn at ANY time during the school day (including physical education).
2. The torso must be fully covered.
3. Underwear that is visible is not allowed.
4. No hats or any other type of head covering, i.e. hoods, bandanas, etc., may be worn unless for religious purposes or documented medical reasons. Hats must be removed upon entering the building and, not be put on again until they have exited the building.
5. Footwear laces will be tied.
6. Clothing will be neat and appropriately buttoned or zipped at all times. Dress and grooming will be clean.
7. Pajamas are not allowed.
8. Chain wallets and other clothing with chains are not allowed as chains may constitute dangerous weapons.
9. Students will not wear clothing, hairstyles, or footwear that can be hazardous to them or others in their educational activities.
10. Students may not bring hairspray, nail polish remover, perfume, or cologne to school. These products could be dangerous, damage school property and may cause allergic reactions among students, staff, and faculty.
11. Coats/jackets cannot be worn from 8:00am to 2:30pm. Faculty members may, however, allow students to wear coats/jackets if they feels that the room temperature is too cold.

The Assistant Principal or Guidance Counselors will resolve all questions or conflicts regarding dress.

If a student comes to school inappropriately attired, the following may occur:

1. The student will be asked to call home for appropriate clothing to be brought in
2. The student may be given something from school to wear for the day
3. The student may be suspended in or out of school.

*Please see MPS SC dress code policy JICA*

*\* In accordance with the Massachusetts CROWN Act, the Administration will not adopt or implement any policy that prohibits or impairs any hairstyle historically associated with race, including, but not limited to, protective hairstyles (braids, hair coverings, Bantu knots, locks, twists, and other formations), hair length, hair type, and hair textures. See M. G. L. c. 71, §1D; See M. G. L. c. 4, §7.*



## **Cell Phone/Electronics Usage**

Students are to turn off cell phones and handheld electronic devices before they enter MVMS in the morning and keep all personal electronics off throughout the day.

Students may not turn on cell phones until they have left the school building after school. Teachers may ask a student to call their parent in the teacher's presence to relay an important message. Students may also use the telephone in the main office with the authorization of a teacher or administrator.

Violations of the cell phone/electronics usage will result in the following:

<b>First Offense</b>	Item may be picked up after school in the main office
<b>Second Offense</b>	Item must be turned in at the main office every morning for two weeks
<b>Third and Subsequent Offenses</b>	Item must be turned in at the main office for a greater length of time (quarter, semester, rest of the year)

Student use of personal electronic devices to take pictures or to make audio or video recordings at school or on school grounds without authorization from a teacher or administrator is strictly prohibited and may result in disciplinary consequences.

## **Student Participation on Field Trips**

Students may not be allowed to participate in a field trip based upon the following reasons:

1. The student's statements or past history demonstrating a pattern of insubordination.
2. The student's unacceptable behavior during the time directly preceding the trip indicating unwillingness to prepare for the trip to make it a productive experience.
3. The student's inappropriate behavior on a previous trip.

Any student not attending a field trip will remain in school. Teachers will provide relevant curriculum based lessons and activities for all students not attending the off-site activity and students during that school day will complete such lessons. All school rules apply on field trips.

## **Student Conduct**

### **Behavioral Provisions**

- All school personnel are expected to enforce the school's disciplinary code at all times.
  - Please note that the school's teachers reserve the right to invoke additional penalties if so stated in their written course guidelines.
  - Depending on the severity and/or frequency of an offense, the school's assistant principal or principal may use their discretion in determining the appropriate length for each disciplinary step.
  - Students will be given notice for teacher detentions or office detentions. Parents may request 24-hour notice.
- All students will be provided with due process prior to the imposition of an in-school suspension, out-of-school suspension, or expulsion.

### **Definitions of Typical Behavioral Consequences**

#### **Teacher Detention**

Assigned to students prior to being referred to/or disciplined by the Principal.

#### **Office Detention**

These are also assigned to students for inappropriate behavior inside/outside the classroom. Students are expected to complete work and/or academic reading during office detentions. Failure to use this time productively will result in the assigning of additional detentions. Office detentions may also be enforced during lunch.

#### **In-School Suspension**

The removal of a student from regular classroom activities, but not from the school premises, for no more than ten consecutive school days, or no more than ten (10) school days cumulatively for multiple infractions during the school year. Removal solely from participation in extracurricular activities or school-sponsored events, or both, shall not count as

removal in calculating school days. If a student is placed in in-school suspension for more than ten (10) school days, consecutively or cumulatively during a school year, such suspension shall be considered a long-term suspension for due process, appeal, and reporting purposes.

In-school suspensions may be assigned for Type 2 and 3 offenses. While suspended in-school, the student must work productively on outstanding work, assignments provided, and any additional academic work assigned by the administration.

#### Out-of-School Suspension

- (a) **Short-Term Out-of-School Suspension:** The removal of a student from the school premises and regular classroom activities for ten (10) cumulative school days or less in the school year. A principal may, in his or her discretion, allow a student to serve a short-term suspension in school. Removal solely from participation in extracurricular activities or school-sponsored events, or both, shall not count as removal in calculating school days.
- (b) **Long-Term Out-of-School Suspension:** The removal of a student from the school premises and regular classroom activities for more than ten (10) consecutive school days, or for more than ten school days cumulatively for multiple disciplinary offenses in any school year. A principal may, in his or her discretion, allow a student to serve a long-term suspension in school. Removal solely from participation in extracurricular activities or school-sponsored events, or both, shall not count as removal in calculating school days. Except for students who are charged with a disciplinary offense set forth in M.G.L. c. 71, § 37H(a) or (b), or M.G.L. c. 71, § 37H ½ no student may be placed on long-term suspension for one or more disciplinary offenses for more than ninety (90) school days in a school year beginning with the first day that the student is removed from school. No long-term suspension shall extend beyond the end of the school year in which such suspension is imposed.

Out-of-school suspensions may be assigned for Type 2 and 3 offenses. Students are not allowed on the school campus or at school activities until the date they return to school. In accordance with M.G.L. c. 76, § 21, students are allowed to make-up assignments, tests and quizzes missed due to a suspension.

#### Social Probation

Students may be excluded from attending school functions that are extra-curricular in nature, due to poor behavior during school. Such exclusions are not subject to the due process requirements of the Massachusetts regulations at 603 CMR 53.00.

#### Expulsion

The removal of a student from the school premises, regular classroom activities, and school activities for more than ninety (90) school days in the school year, indefinitely, or, as permitted under M.G.L. c. 71, § 37H or 37H½, permanently for:

- (a) possession of a dangerous weapon;
- (b) possession of a controlled substance;
- (c) assault on a member of the educational staff; or
- (d) a felony charge or felony delinquency complaint or conviction, or adjudication or admission of guilt with respect to such felony, if a principal determines that the student's continued presence in school would have a substantial detrimental effect on the general welfare of the school, as provided in M.G.L. c. 71, § 37H or 37H½.

#### Police Notification

Because all members of the school community are subject to both the laws of the Commonwealth and town ordinances, the school cooperates with the police in investigation of possible violations of laws and ordinances pertaining to, and including but not limited to: possession and use of controlled substances, illegal use of alcohol, theft, assault, harassment, improper use of motor vehicles, vandalism, illegal parking, possession or use of weapons/firearms/explosives, possession of stolen property, and bullying.

#### **Type 1 Prohibited Actions include, but are not limited to:**

- Skateboarding, roller skating, rollerblading, scooter, bike, or any other type of wheeled device, riding anywhere in the building or on school grounds *unless* ridden to school and parked at a bike rack for the school day.
- Using/wearing radios, iPods, MP3 players, CD players, cell phones, or any other communication or music related devices during school hours. NOTE: Cell phones and all other telecommunication devices **must be shut off** at all times and placed in a locked locker.

- Possession/use of “playthings” (i.e., Gameboys, cards, toys, water balloons, spinners etc.)
- Gambling or betting
- Chewing gum or candy (cough drops are allowed with permission from the nurse or parent/guardian)
- Eating or drinking outside the cafeteria without permission (students may carry water)
- Littering anywhere in school or on school grounds
- Tardiness to school
- Tardiness to class without a pass
- Using a locker or being in a corridor at any time other than passing between classes except with a valid pass
- Being in building before or after school, unsupervised
- Behavior not conducive to an effective/safe learning environment
- Inappropriate language, swearing, etc.
- Instigating, or being involved in inappropriate/disruptive behavior and/or activity, including “playful altercations,” in hallways, stairwells, classrooms, common spaces (theater, gym, cafeteria), entering/leaving school, on school property, or on a school bus
- Inappropriate displays of affection
- Inappropriate school attire
- Wearing hats, hoods, bandanas or other types of headwear (unless for religious or medical purposes)
- Failing to serve a detention

**Consequences for Type 1 Behaviors include, but are not limited to:**

- Verbal warning
- Parental notification
- Conference
- Written apology
- Teacher detention
- Office detention, or in-school suspension, including re-entry meeting with the student and parent(s)
- Confiscation (possibly until conclusion of school year)
- Restricted lunch privileges/cafeteria clean-up
- Social Probation
- Filing of a 51A (Department of Social Services) or CRA (Juvenile District Court)

*NOTE: A first offense for a Type 1 Prohibited Action which is deemed by the principal or the principal’s designee to be severe or egregious may result in a Type 2 consequence. A second offense for a Type 1 Prohibited Action may also result in a Type 2 consequence.*

**Type 2 Prohibited Actions include, but are not limited to:**

- Threats, teasing, harassment, verbal abuse, bullying, retaliation or intimidating behavior of any kind. This includes verbal, visual symbols, cyber bullying or any electronic communication.
- Dishonesty, lying, cheating/plagiarism
- Forgery of signatures, or dishonesty in notes or passes
- Throwing of any objects including, but not limited to, snowballs, water, or food
- Leaving any group without authorization, or exhibiting inappropriate behavior, while under the supervision of a faculty member or authorized chaperone on a field trip or other event
- Possession of a chain, including chain wallets
- Theft of any personal, private, or school property
- Disrespectful gestures, profanity, or injurious behavior directed at another person, including misbehavior towards/insubordination of any staff member, including substitute teachers
- Any action, including vandalism and graffiti, which results in injury or damage to property, whether intended or not (full restitution is required)
- Truancy or class cutting
- Fighting, in which a person makes physical contact with another person
- Bringing to school any animals or live organisms without prior permission from the main office
- Unauthorized use or entry of any school building or property (trespassing)

- Violation of the school internet policy
- Failing to serve a detention
- Inappropriate behavior at any athletic or other event or rally (whether at home or at another site) including, but not limited to, profanity, taunting, threats, and/or fighting

**Consequences for Type 2 Behaviors include, but are not limited to:**

- Parental notification
- Conference
- Written apology
- Office detention, or in-school suspension, including re-entry meeting with the student and parent(s)
- Confiscation (possibly until conclusion of school year)
- Restricted lunch privileges/cafeteria clean-up
- Exclusion from school-sponsored activities and field trips
- Notification sent to any extracurricular “coach or sponsor” – Possible loss of leadership role/playing time/participation
- Out-of-school suspension, including re-entry meeting with the student and parent(s) on the day that the student is scheduled to return to school
- Police notification
- Social Probation
- Filing of a 51A (Department of Social Services) or CRA (Juvenile District Court)

*NOTE: Type 2 Prohibited Actions that are determined by the principal or the principal’s designee to be egregious may also result in a Type 3 consequence. A second offense for a Type 2 Prohibited Action may also result in a Type 3 consequence.*

**Type 3 Prohibited Actions include, but are not limited to:**

- Pulling a fire alarm
- Posing a threat to, jeopardizing the safety of the school community (threatening actions or letters)
- Possession, use, or providing of tobacco, e-cigarette devices (tobacco filled or not), alcohol, drugs and/or controlled substances, or drug paraphernalia as defined by M.G.L. Chapter 94C and other statutes
- Possessing or displaying sexually explicit material
- Harassment/Bullying/Cyber bullying/Retaliation (severe, egregious, or repeat offenses)
- Assault and/or battery of any staff member or student on school premises or at a school sponsored or school related event or athletic game
- Possession of dangerous weapons including, but not limited to, a gun or a knife (this includes the use of any device that could be construed as a weapon, i.e., fake guns and knives etc.) knife or other implement or device capable of, or used for, causing bodily injury
- Possession or use of lighter, matches fireworks, smoke bombs, stink bombs, propellants, or any other explosive or flammable devices or materials
- Felony charge / Felony delinquency complaint

**Consequences for Type 3 Behaviors include, but are not limited to:**

- Parental notification
- Exclusion from school-sponsored activities and field trips
- Out-of-school suspension, including re-entry meeting with the student and parent(s) on the day that the student is scheduled to return to school
- Social Probation
- Police notification
- Notification sent to any extracurricular “coach or sponsor” – Loss of leadership role/playing time/participation
- Filing of a 51A (Department of Social Services) or CRA (Juvenile District Court)
- Expulsion as permitted under M.G.L. c. 71, §§ 37H and/or 37H1/2

*Please see MPS SC policies relating to:*

### **Disciplinary Due Process**

In administering discipline, school staff and administrators will be careful to observe the right to due process under the law for each student.

1. **DUE-PROCESS RIGHTS FOR STUDENTS CHARGED WITH POSSESSION OF A DANGEROUS WEAPON, POSSESSION OF A CONTROLLED SUBSTANCE, OR ASSAULT ON SCHOOL STAFF AND/OR FOR STUDENTS WHO HAVE BEEN CHARGED WITH OR CONVICTED OF A FELONY (M.G.L. c. 71, § 37H, M.G.L. c. 71, § 37H ½ - “statutory offenses”).**

- *Interim Short Term Disciplinary Removal:* In limited situations where a student is charged with a violation of M.G.L. c. 71, § 37H or is subject to suspension in accordance with M.G.L. c. 71, § 37H1/2, and is determined by the principal to present an immediate threat to persons, property, or the orderly educational environment of the school, the student may be suspended from school by the principal on an interim short term basis of ten (10) school days or less pending a formal hearing to consider the student’s long-term suspension or expulsion. Prior to the imposition of any disciplinary sanction that might result in a student’s interim suspension from school for ten (10) consecutive school days or less pending a long-term suspension/expulsion hearing, the student will be given oral notice of the offense with which he/she is charged and an opportunity to respond. In the event that the principal determines that the student will be suspended from school on an interim, short-term basis pending a formal hearing to consider the student’s possible long-term suspension or expulsion, the student and the student’s parent(s)/guardian(s) will be notified by telephone and in writing. Such interim, short-term removals shall not be subject to appeal.
- *Disciplinary Sanctions and Appeals:* Prior to the imposition of any disciplinary sanction that might result in the student’s suspension or expulsion from school for possession of a dangerous weapon, possession of a controlled substance, or assault on school staff and/or due to a felony charge for more than ten (10) consecutive school days or expulsion, the student and the parents/guardians will be given written notice in English and in the primary language of the student’s home of a principal’s hearing at which the student and parent/guardian have the right to be represented by an attorney (at private expense), to examine the evidence against the student, and to present witnesses and documentary evidence in the student’s defense. Following this hearing, a written decision will be issued. The student and the parent(s)/guardian(s) will have the right to appeal any decision imposing a long-term suspension or expulsion from school to the superintendent. Where the student is suspended on a long-term basis or expelled in accordance with M.G.L. c. 71, § 37H, the student shall have ten (10) calendar days from the effective date of the exclusion to file a written appeal with the Superintendent. For exclusions imposed pursuant to M.G.L. c. 71, § 37H ½, the student shall have five (5) calendar days from the effective date of the exclusion to file a written appeal with the superintendent. Pending the outcome of any such appeal, the disciplinary sanction imposed by the principal shall remain in effect. M.G.L. c. 71, § 37H, M.G.L. c. 71, § 37H ½.

NOTE: All proceedings conducted in accordance with M.G.L. c. 71, §§ 37H and 37H ½ shall be conducted by the principal and may not be delegated to a designee. All appeals of suspensions or expulsions imposed by the principal in accordance with M.G.L. c. 71, §§ 37H and 37H ½ shall be conducted by the superintendent and may not be delegated to a designee.

2. **DUE-PROCESS RIGHTS FOR STUDENTS CHARGED WITH OTHER VIOLATIONS (M.G.L. c. 71, § 37H ¾ and 603 CMR 53.00)**

Applicable Definitions:

**Parent:** A student's father, mother, or legal guardian, or person or agency legally authorized to act on behalf of the student in place of or in conjunction with the father, mother, or legal guardian.

**Principal:** The instructional administrative leader of a public school **or his or her designee for purposes of school disciplinary matters.**

**School-wide Education Service Plan:** The document developed by a principal, in accordance with M.G.L. c. 76, §21, that includes a list of education services available to students who are expelled or suspended from school for more than ten consecutive days.

**Superintendent:** The chief executive officer of the District employed by the School Committee or his/ her designee appointed for purposes of conducting a student a student appeal.

a. In-School Suspension

A principal may use in-school suspension as an alternative to short-term suspension for disciplinary offenses. Prior to imposing an in-school suspension in accordance with 603 CMR 53.10, the principal shall inform the student of the disciplinary offense charged and the basis for the charge and provide the student an opportunity to dispute the charges and explain the circumstances surrounding the alleged incident. If the principal determines that the student committed the disciplinary offense, the principal shall inform the student of the length of the student's in-school suspension, which shall not exceed ten (10) school days, cumulatively or consecutively, in the school year.

On the same day as the in-school suspension decision, the principal shall make reasonable efforts to notify the parent orally as soon as possible of the disciplinary offense, the reasons for concluding that the student committed the infraction, and the length of the in-school suspension. The principal shall also invite the parent to a meeting to discuss the student's academic performance and behavior, strategies for student engagement, and possible responses to the behavior. Such meeting shall be scheduled on the day of the suspension if possible, and if not, as soon thereafter as possible. If the principal is unable to reach the parent after making and documenting at least two attempts to do so, such attempts shall constitute reasonable efforts for purposes of orally informing the parent of the in-school suspension.

The principal shall send written notice to the student and parent about the in-school suspension, including the reason and the length of the in-school suspension, and inviting the parent to a meeting with the principal for the purpose set forth in 603 CMR 53.10 (4), if such meeting has not already occurred. The principal shall deliver such notice on the day of the suspension by hand-delivery, certified mail, first-class mail, email to an address provided by the parent for school communications, or other method of delivery agreed to by the principal and the parent.

b. Out-of-School Suspension

(i) Notice and Principal's Hearing (603 CMR 53.08):

Prior to the imposition of a short-term out-of-school suspension or a long-term suspension under this section, the principal shall provide oral and written notice of the charges and potential disciplinary sanction and of the student's and parent's/guardian's right to participate in a hearing with the principal, to contest the charges against the student and to provide evidence, including mitigating facts, and witnesses in the student's defense.

The hearing may take place without the student's parent(s)/guardian(s) only if the principal has sent written notice and has documented at least two (2) attempts to contact the parent/guardian in the manner specified by the parent for emergency notification.

The purpose of the principal's hearing is to hear and consider information regarding the alleged incident for which the student may be suspended, to provide the student an opportunity to dispute the charges and explain the

circumstances surrounding the alleged incident, to determine if the student committed the disciplinary offense, and if so, the consequences for the infraction.

In every case of student misconduct for which suspension may be imposed under this section, the principal will exercise discretion in deciding the consequence for the offense and, where appropriate, shall avoid using long-term suspension from school as a consequence until alternatives have been tried. Alternatives may include, but are not limited to, the use of evidence-based strategies and programs such as mediation, conflict resolution, restorative justice, and/or positive interventions and supports.

The principal shall determine the extent of the rights to be afforded the student at a disciplinary hearing based on the anticipated consequences for the disciplinary offense and in accordance with the requirements of 603 CMR 53.00.

(ii) Short-term Suspension Hearing

The principal shall discuss the disciplinary offense, the basis for the charge, and any other pertinent information. The student and the parents/guardians shall have an opportunity to present information, including mitigating facts, that the principal or the principal's designee should consider in determining whether other remedies and consequences may be appropriate. The principal designee shall provide the parent, if present, an opportunity to discuss the student's conduct and offer information, including mitigating circumstances, that the principal should consider in determining consequences for the student. Students and parents do not have the right under applicable policies and regulations to be represented by legal counsel at a short-term suspension hearing.

Based on the available information, including mitigating circumstances, the principal shall determine whether there is a preponderance of evidence to support a determination that the student committed the disciplinary offense, and, if so, the remedy or consequence to be imposed.

In accordance with the requirements of M.G.L. c. 71, § 37H3/4, as amended through Chapter 177 of the Acts of 2022, the principal or principal's designee, when acting as the decision-maker at a disciplinary hearing to consider a student's possible short-term or long-term out-of-school suspension for violations of school rules other than offenses involving drugs, weapons, assaults on school staff, and/or felony offenses, shall, when deciding the consequences for the student, first consider ways to re-engage the student in the learning process. The principal or designee shall not suspend the student from school on a short-term or long-term basis under such circumstances until alternative remedies have been employed and their use and results documented unless specific reasons are documented as to why such alternative remedies would be unsuitable or counter-productive, or unless the student's continued presence in school would, in the opinion of the principal or designee, pose a specific, documentable concern about the infliction of serious bodily injury or other serious harm (physical and/or psychological) upon another person while in school. M.G.L. c. 71, § 37H3/4(b). Alternative remedies for purposes of these requirements may include, but shall not be limited to: (i) mediation; (ii) conflict resolution; (iii) restorative justice; and (iv) collaborative problem solving.

The principal shall provide written notice to the student and parent/guardian of the principal's findings and determination and the reasons for it, and, if the student is suspended, the type and duration of suspension and the opportunity to make up assignments and such other schoolwork as needed to make academic progress during the period of removal. The determination shall be in writing and may be in the form of an update to the original written notice of hearing.

(iii) Long-term Suspension Hearing

In addition to the rights afforded a student in a short-term suspension hearing, the student and parent/guardian shall also have the opportunity to review the student's record and the documents upon which the school may rely

in making a determination to suspend the student or not; the right to be represented by counsel or a lay person of the student's choice (at the student's/parent's/guardian's expense); the right to produce witnesses on the student's behalf and to present the student's explanation of the alleged incident (although the student may not be compelled to do so); the right to cross-examine witnesses presented by the school; and the right to request that the hearing be recorded and to receive a copy of the audio recording upon request. If the student or parent requests an audio recording, the principal shall inform all participants before the hearing that an audio record will be made and a copy will be provided to the student and parent upon request.

If present, the parent/guardian shall, in addition to the student, have an opportunity to discuss the student's conduct and offer information, including mitigating circumstances, that the principal should consider in determining consequences for the student.

Based on the preponderance of evidence presented at the hearing, the principal shall determine whether the student committed the disciplinary offense, and, if so, after considering mitigating circumstances and alternatives to suspension, the remedy or consequence to be imposed. The principal shall send the written determination in English and the primary language spoken in the student's home to the student and parent/guardian by, certified first-class mail and by email to an address provided by the parent for school communications, or by any other method of delivery agreed to by the principal and the parent/guardian.

If the student is suspended for more than ten (10) school days for a single infraction or for more than ten (10) school days cumulatively for multiple infractions in any school year, the notice will include written notification of the right to appeal to the superintendent and the process for appealing. Except as provided for under M.G.L. c. 71, §§ 37H and/or 37H1/2, no student may be suspended for more than ninety (90) school days for one or more violations of school rules ("non-statutory offenses") within a school year.

c. Emergency Removal (603 CMR 53.07)

The principal may remove a student from school temporarily when a student is charged with a violation of school rules in accordance with M.G.L. c. 71, § 37H3/4 and the continued presence of the student poses a danger to persons or property, or materially and substantially disrupts the order of the school, and, in the principal's judgment, there is no alternative available to alleviate the danger or disruption presented. The principal shall immediately notify the superintendent in writing of the emergency removal and the reason for it, and describe the danger or disruption presented by the student. The emergency removal shall not exceed two (2) school days following the day of the emergency removal.

In the event of an emergency removal, the principal shall make immediate and reasonable efforts to orally notify the student and the student's parent/guardian of the emergency removal and the reason(s) therefor. The principal or designee shall provide written notice to the student and parent/guardian and provide the student an opportunity for a disciplinary hearing with the principal, and the parent/guardian an opportunity to attend the hearing, to be conducted before the expiration of the two (2) school days following the Student's emergency removal, unless an extension of time for hearing is otherwise agreed to by the principal, student, and parent/guardian.

The principal shall render a decision orally on the same day as the disciplinary hearing, and in writing no later than the following school day, which meets the requirements of 603 CMR 53.08.

In the event of an emergency removal from school, the principal will not release the student until adequate provisions have been made for the student's safety and transportation.

d. Appeals (M.G.L. c. 71, § 37H3/4)

Students do not have the right to appeal an in-school or short-term out-of-school suspension imposed pursuant to M.G.L. c. 71, § 37H3/4. Students and parents/guardians do, however, have the right to appeal a long-term suspension imposed by the principal to the superintendent. The student and/or the parent/guardian shall have five



(5) calendar days following the effective date of the suspension to submit a written request for an appeal to the superintendent but may be granted an extension of time of up to seven (7) calendar days upon written request. If the appeal is not timely filed, the superintendent may deny the appeal.,

The superintendent will hold a hearing with the student and the parent(s)/guardian(s) within three (3) school days of the student's request for an appeal. The time may be extended by up to seven (7) calendar days if requested by the parent(s)/guardian(s). The superintendent's hearing may proceed without the parent(s)/guardian(s) only if a good faith effort was made to include parent(s)/ guardian(s). The superintendent shall be presumed to have made a good faith effort if the superintendent has made efforts to find a day and time for the hearing that would allow the parent and superintendent to participate. The superintendent shall send written notice to the parent/guardian of the date, time, and location of the hearing in both English and in the primary language of the student's home.

At the appeal hearing, the superintendent shall determine whether the student committed the disciplinary offense of which the student is accused, and if so, the appropriate consequence therefor. The student shall have all of the rights afforded to students at the Principal's hearing for long-term suspension. The superintendent will issue a written decision within five (5) calendar days of the hearing. If the superintendent determines that the student committed the disciplinary offense, the superintendent may impose the same or a lesser consequence than the principal but may not impose a suspension greater than that imposed by the principal's decision.

In considering said the student's appeal and the sanctions for the violation(s) of school rules found to have occurred, the superintendent/designee shall not impose/uphold a suspension from school as a consequence until alternative remedies have been tried, except:

- (1) where the Superintendent or designee documents specific reasons why alternative remedies are unsuitable or counterproductive; or
- (2) where the Superintendent or designee determines that the student's continued presence in school would pose a specific, documented concern about the infliction of serious bodily injury or other serious harm to another person while in school.

*\* Alternative remedies may include, but are not limited to, the use of evidence-based strategies and programs such as mediation, conflict resolution, restorative justice, and collaborative problem solving.*

The Superintendent's appeal decision shall constitute the final decision of the Marblehead Public Schools

e. Opportunity For Academic Progress During Suspension/Expulsion

Principals shall ensure that students who are suspended from school for ten (10) or fewer consecutive school days, whether in or out of school, shall have an opportunity to make academic progress during the period of suspension, to make up assignments, homework, quizzes, exams, papers, and projects missed while suspended, and to earn credits toward the student's graduation.

Principals shall develop a school-wide Education Services Plan detailing the alternative educational services available to all students who are expelled or suspended from school for more than ten (10) consecutive school days, whether in or out of school, to ensure the student's continued academic progress and earning of credits toward the student's graduation. Upon the selection of an alternative educational service identified in the school's Education Services Plan by the student and the student's parent/guardian, the school shall facilitate and verify the student's enrollment in the selected alternative education service. M.G.L. c. 76, § 21

### **Discipline and Students with Disabilities**

All students are expected to meet the requirements for behavior as set forth in this handbook. In addition to those due process protections afforded to all students, the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act and related regulations require that additional provisions be made for students who have been found eligible for special education services or who the school district knows or has reason to know might be eligible for such services. Students who have been found to have a disability that impacts upon a major life activity, as defined under §504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, are, generally,

also entitled to increased procedural protections upon the imposition of a discipline sanction that will result in the student's removal for more than ten (10) consecutive school days or which will result in a pattern of short term removals exceeding ten (10) school days in a given year. The following additional requirements apply to the discipline of students with disabilities:

- (1) Students with disabilities may be excluded from their programs for ten (10) school days or less to the extent that such sanctions would be applied to all students. Before a student with a disability can be excluded from his/her program for more than ten (10) consecutive school days in a given school year or subjected to a pattern of removal constituting a "change of placement," building administrators, the parent(s)/guardian(s) and relevant members of the student's IEP or 504 Team will meet to determine the relationship between the student's disability and the conduct for which the student is subject to discipline. (Manifestation Determination). In most instances, during disciplinary exclusions exceeding ten (10) school days in a single school year, the student shall have the right to receive services identified as necessary by the Team to provide him/her with a free appropriate public education during the period of exclusion.
- (2) If building administrators, the parent(s)/guardian(s) and relevant members of the student's IEP or 504 Team determine that the student's conduct was not a manifestation of the student's disability, the school may discipline the student in accordance with the procedures and penalties applicable to all students but will continue to provide a free appropriate public education to eligible students with disabilities. The student's Team will identify the services necessary to provide a free appropriate public education during the period of exclusion, review any existing behavior intervention plan or, where appropriate, conduct a functional behavioral assessment.
- (3) If building administrators, the parent(s)/guardian(s) and relevant members of the student's IEP or 504 Team determine that the misconduct giving rise to disciplinary action was a manifestation of the student's disability, the student will not be subjected to further disciplinary removal or exclusion from the student's current educational program based on that incident of misconduct (except for conduct involving weapons, drugs, or resulting in serious bodily injury to others) until the IEP or Section 504 Team develops, and the parent(s)/guardian(s) consent to, a new placement or until the District obtains an order from a court or from the Bureau of Special Education Appeals (BSEA) authorizing a change in the student's placement. The student's Team shall also review, and modify as appropriate, any existing behavior intervention plan or arrange for a functional behavioral assessment.
- (4) If a student with a disability possesses or uses illegal drugs, sells or solicits a controlled substance, possesses a weapon, or causes serious bodily injury to another on school grounds or at a school function, the District may, with or without parent/guardian consent, place the student in an interim alternative educational setting (IAES) for up to forty-five (45) school days. A court or BSEA Hearing Officer may also order the placement of a student who presents a substantial likelihood of injury to self or others in an appropriate interim setting for up to forty-five (45) school days.

Note: If a request is made for an evaluation of a student's eligibility for special education services under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act during the time period in which the student is subjected to disciplinary measures, the evaluation must be conducted in an expedited manner. Until the evaluation is completed, the student will remain in the educational placement determined by school authorities, which may include suspension or expulsion from school. If the suspension imposed terminates prior to the completion of said expedited evaluation, the student shall be allowed to return to school immediately upon the conclusion of the disciplinary exclusion.

### **Investigative Procedure**

When the school receives a report of inappropriate conduct by a student, the principal or other designated staff member may conduct an investigation. During the course of the investigation, school personnel may talk to witnesses, may search students, students' lockers, internet sites, or possessions and take other appropriate investigative steps. The student(s) being investigated may be removed from class for all or part of the school day during the investigation. The removal of any student from class for such purposes in excess of ½ of the standard school day shall constitute an in-school suspension.

### **Student Searches**

A student's person, personal possessions, desk, internet sites, and student locker may be searched whenever school administrators have reasonable suspicion that the student is in possession of illegal, prohibited, or contraband items/materials or of evidence of violations of school rules, District policies, and/or applicable state or federal laws. Any and all illegal, prohibited, or contraband materials discovered as a result of such a search will be confiscated. Students found in possession of such items or materials will be subject to disciplinary action and criminal prosecution.

### **Lockers**

If lockers are issued to students, lockers are school property and the school reserves the right to search lockers at any time. **Students have no expectation of privacy in the contents of their lockers.**

### **Appeals of Disciplinary action not Resulting in Suspension or Expulsion**

A student is entitled to appeal disciplinary action by a staff member. Appeals of disciplinary actions resulting in suspension or expulsion from school shall be appealed in accordance with the "Disciplinary Due Process Procedures" set forth above. If a student wishes to appeal disciplinary action that does not result in suspension or exclusion from school, the matter must first be discussed with the person who took the disciplinary action. If it cannot be settled at that level, it may be appealed next to the Principal. In cases where the Principal makes the original decision, the Principal's decision may be appealed to the Superintendent.

## **Non-Discrimination Notice**

The Marblehead Public Schools provides equal education and employment opportunity without regard to race, color, national origin, veteran status, religion, sex, disability, gender identity or sexual orientation.

The Marblehead Public Schools complies with all applicable State and Federal Laws, including but not limited to, Title VI and , Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, Title IX of the Education Amendments Act of 1972, the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, and Massachusetts General Laws, c.151B, c.151C, c.76, §5, and c.71B.

The Marblehead Public Schools does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, religion, sex, age, disability, gender identity, sexual orientation, disabled veteran status or pregnancy in its employment, in the administration of, operation of, or access to its academic and non-academic programs and policies. It does not discriminate on the basis of disability in violation of Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and/or the Americans with Disabilities Act. Inquiries by students, employees and/or prospective employees regarding disabilities and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act and/or the ADA may be directed to the appropriate coordinators at each school building. The building principal, Matthew Fox, is the local Sec. 504 Coordinator and can be reached at (781) 639-3130. Dr. Paula Donnelly is the District-wide Section. 504/ADA and Title IX Coordinator and Harassment Officer and can be reached at (781) 639-3140.

The Marblehead Public Schools has duly appointed individuals responsible for the overall monitoring, auditing, and ensuring compliance with this non-discrimination policy. For compliance issues regarding employment activities, employees should contact: Marblehead Schools Business Manager, 781-639-3140 at 9 Widger Road, Marblehead, Massachusetts 01945 . For compliance issues regarding educational activities, contact: Dr. Paula Donnelly, Director of Student Services and Program Accountability, Marblehead Public Schools, 9 Widger Road, Marblehead, Massachusetts 01945. Individuals who believe they have been discriminated against or subject to discriminatory harassment in any of the District's educational or employment programs or activities can file a written grievance with the appropriate officer. Complaints of discrimination and/or harassment will be addressed through the applicable District grievance procedure.

The Marblehead Public Schools is an equal opportunity/affirmative action employer.

## **After School Activities**

### **After School Clubs**

Clubs typically meet one designated afternoon per week from 3:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Art Club	MVMS Musical	Math Team
After School Chorus	Green Team	Encore
Engineering Club	Cornerstones	Jazz Band
Yearbook Club	Newspaper Club	Pickleball

Homework Club (Meets Monday, Tuesday, and Thursday 2:30pm – 3:00pm)

### **Intramural and Interscholastic Sports**

For additional information, please refer to the complete MVMS Sports Booklet.

#### **Fall Sports**

Field Hockey	Interscholastic
Cross Country	Interscholastic
Volleyball	Intramural

#### **Winter Sports**

Basketball	Interscholastic
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#### **Spring Sports**

Track and Field	Interscholastic
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#### **Student User Fee**

The educational philosophy of the Marblehead Public Schools is to foster and support the participation of all students in a wide variety of student activities beyond the regular school day program such as clubs, organizations, plays, intramural and interscholastic sports programs. Marblehead Public Schools financially support student activities through local appropriation and students' user fees.

User Fees are a onetime fee which covers all extracurricular activities throughout the school year.

Interscholastic sports 1st Season \$260.00  
Interscholastic sports 2nd Season \$210.00  
Interscholastic sports 3rd Season \$160.00  
Intramural sports and school clubs (unlimited) \$290.00  
**Family maximum payment is \$2060.00**

\* Please let us know if you have students at different schools and if you have reached the maximum family fee.

Provisions for financial hardship will be made using the Federal Lunch Program criteria.

Inquiries may be made in the main office at the Marblehead Veterans Middle School, 781-639-3120.

*Please see MPS SC user fee policy JQ*

### **Academic Eligibility for Student Activities**

Per School Committee policy JJIC, to be eligible to participate in student activities, a middle school student “(i) must have passed three (3) of the four (4) major subjects of English, mathematics, social studies, science, and (ii) must not have failed more than one (1) subject (including any major subject).”

*Please see MPS SC policy JJIB*

## **Appendix A – Bullying, Harassment, Sexual Harassment, and Hazing**

### **BULLYING IN SCHOOLS**

#### **MPS SC Policy: JICFB**

*The Marblehead Public Schools is committed to creating a working and learning environment free of bullying, along with an environment that fosters student's social and emotional health and wellbeing. Bullying and harassment are major distractions from learning. Fear can lead to chronic absenteeism, truancy, or even dropping out of school. Bullying of any type has no place in a school setting.*

#### **Definitions:**

*“Bullying” is the repeated use by one or more students or by a member of a school staff of a written, verbal or electronic expression or a physical act or gesture or any combination thereof, directed at a victim that: (i) causes physical or emotional harm to the victim or damage to the victim's property; (ii) places the victim in reasonable fear of harm to himself/herself or of damage to his/her property; (iii) creates a hostile environment at school for the victim; (iv) infringes on the rights of the victim at school; or (v) materially and substantially disrupts the education process or the orderly operation of a school. For the purposes of this section, bullying shall include cyber-bullying.*

*“Cyber-bullying” is bullying through the use of technology or any electronic communication, which shall include, but shall not be limited to, any transfer of signs, signals, writing, images, sounds, data or intelligence of any nature transmitted in whole or in part by a wire, radio, electromagnetic, photo electronic or photo optical system, including, but not limited to, electronic mail, internet communications, instant messages or facsimile communications. Cyber-bullying shall also include (i) the creation of a web page or blog in which the creator assumes the identity of another person or (ii) the knowing impersonation of another person as the author of posted content or messages, if the creation or impersonation creates any of the conditions enumerated in clauses (i) to (v), inclusive, of the definition of bullying. Cyber-bullying shall also include the distribution by electronic means of a communication to more than one person or the posting of material on an electronic medium that may be accessed by one or more persons, if the distribution or posting creates any of the conditions enumerated in clauses (i) to (v), inclusive, of the definition of bullying.*

*Where the term “bullying” is used in this document, it is intended to encompass both “bullying” and “cyber-bullying” as defined above.*

#### **Policy:**

*Bullying shall be prohibited: (i) on school grounds, property immediately adjacent to school grounds, at a school-sponsored or school-related activity, function or program whether on or off school grounds, at a school bus stop, on a school bus or other vehicle owned, leased or used by a school district or school, or through the use of technology or an electronic device owned, leased or used by a school district or school and (ii) at a location, activity, function or program that is not school-related, or through the use of technology or an electronic device that is not owned, leased or used by a school district or school, if the bullying creates a hostile environment at school for the victim, infringes on the rights of the victim at school or materially and substantially disrupts the education process or the orderly operation of a school. Nothing contained herein shall require schools to staff any non-school related activities, functions, or programs.*

*Retaliation against a person who reports bullying, provides information during an investigation of bullying, or witnesses or has reliable information about bullying shall be prohibited.*

*The school district shall provide age-appropriate instruction on bullying prevention in each grade that is incorporated into the curriculum of the school district or school. The curriculum shall be evidence based.*

*The school district shall develop, adhere to and update a plan to address bullying prevention and intervention in consultation with teachers, school staff, professional support personnel, school volunteers, administrators, community representatives, local law enforcement agencies, students, parents and guardians. The consultation shall include, but not be limited to, notice and a public comment period. The plan shall be updated at least biennially.*

*The plan shall include, but not be limited to: (i) descriptions of and statements prohibiting bullying, cyber-bullying and retaliation; (ii) clear procedures for students, staff, parents, guardians and others to report bullying or retaliation; (iii) a provision that reports of bullying or retaliation may be made anonymously; provided, however, that no disciplinary action shall be taken against a student solely on the basis of an anonymous report; (iv) clear procedures for promptly responding to and investigating reports of bullying or retaliation; (v) the range of disciplinary actions that may be taken against a perpetrator for bullying or retaliation; provided, however, that the disciplinary actions shall balance the need for accountability with the need to teach appropriate behavior; (vi) clear procedures for restoring a sense of safety for a victim and assessing that victim's needs for protection; (vii) strategies for protecting from bullying or retaliation a person who reports bullying, provides information during an investigation of bullying or witnesses or has reliable information about an act of bullying; (viii) procedures consistent with state and federal law for promptly notifying the parents or guardians of a victim and a perpetrator; provided, further, that the parents or guardians of a victim shall also be notified of the action taken to prevent any further acts of bullying or retaliation; and provided, further, that the procedures shall provide for immediate notification pursuant to regulations promulgated under this subsection by the principal or person who holds a comparable role to the local law enforcement agency when criminal charges may be pursued against the perpetrator; (ix) a provision that a student who knowingly makes a false accusation of bullying or retaliation shall be subject to disciplinary action; and (x) a strategy for providing counseling or referral to appropriate services for perpetrators and victims and for appropriate family members of said students. The plan shall afford all students the same protection regardless of their status under the law.*

*The plan shall include a provision for ongoing professional development to build the skills of all staff members, including, but not limited to, educators, administrators, school nurses, cafeteria workers, custodians, bus drivers, athletic coaches, advisors to extracurricular activities and paraprofessionals, to prevent, identify, and respond to bullying. The content of such professional development shall include, but not be limited to: (i) developmentally appropriate strategies to prevent bullying incidents, (ii) developmentally appropriate strategies for immediate, effective interventions to stop bullying incidents; (iii) information regarding the complex interaction and power differential that can take place between and among a perpetrator, victim, and witness to the bullying; (iv) research findings on bullying, including information about specific categories of students who have been shown to be particularly at risk for bullying in the school environment; (v) information on the incidence and nature of cyber-bullying; and (vi) internet safety issues as they relate to cyber-bullying.*

*The plan shall include provisions for informing parents and guardians about the bullying prevention curriculum of the school district or school and shall include, but not be limited to: (i) how parents and guardians can reinforce the curriculum at home and support the school district or school plan; (ii) the dynamics of bullying; and (iii) online safety and cyber-bullying.*

*The school district shall provide to students and parents or guardians, in age-appropriate terms and in the languages which are most prevalent among the students, parents or guardians, annual written notice of the relevant student-related sections of the plan.*

*The school district shall provide to all school staff annual written notice of the plan. The faculty and staff at each school shall be trained annually on the plan applicable to the school. Relevant sections of the plan relating to the duties of faculty and staff shall be included in employee handbooks. The plan shall be posted on the district's website.*

*Each school principal or the person who holds a comparable position shall be responsible for the implementation and oversight of the plan at his/her school. A member of a school staff, including, but not limited to, an educator, administrator, school nurse, secretary, cafeteria worker, custodian, bus driver, athletic coach, advisor to an extracurricular activity or paraprofessional, shall immediately report any instance of bullying or retaliation the staff member has witnessed or become aware of to the principal or to the school official identified in the plan as responsible for receiving such reports or both. Upon receipt of such a report, the school principal or a designee shall promptly conduct an investigation. If the school principal or a designee determines that bullying or retaliation has occurred, the school principal or designee shall (i) notify the local law enforcement agency if the school principal or designee believes that criminal charges may be pursued against a perpetrator; (ii) take appropriate disciplinary action; (iii) notify the parents or guardians of a perpetrator; and (iv) notify the parents or guardians of the victim, and to the extent consistent with state and federal law, notify them of the action taken to prevent any further acts of bullying or retaliation.*

*If an incident of bullying or retaliation involves students from more than one school district, the school district or school first informed of the bullying or retaliation shall, consistent with the state and federal law, promptly notify the appropriate administrator of the other school district or school so that both take age-appropriate action. If an incident of bullying or retaliation occurs on school grounds and involves a former student under the age of 21 who is no longer enrolled in the local school district, the school district informed of the bullying or retaliation shall contact law enforcement.*

**REFERENCES:**

*Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education's Model Bullying Prevention and Intervention Plan*

**LEGAL REFS.:**

*603 CMR 26.00*

*MGL 71:370*

*MGL 265:43, 43A*

*MGL 268:13B*

*MGL 269:14A*

**CROSS REFS.:**

*AC, Nondiscrimination*

*JICFA, Prohibition of Hazing*

*JIC, Student Discipline Regulations*

*For more detailed information on the bullying prevention process, resources and form to file a bullying complaint, please view the MPS Bullying Prevention Plan:*

*([https://www.marbleheadschoools.org/sites/marbleheadmaps/files/uploads/mps\\_bullying\\_prevention\\_plan\\_july\\_2018.pdf](https://www.marbleheadschoools.org/sites/marbleheadmaps/files/uploads/mps_bullying_prevention_plan_july_2018.pdf)). Copies of our Bullying Prevention Plan are also available in the middle school office or by emailing Principal Matthew Fox ([fox.matthew@marbleheadschoools.org](mailto:fox.matthew@marbleheadschoools.org)) or calling (781) 639-3120 x3113.*

**Reporting Bullying**

***(Excerpts from the Marblehead Public Schools' Bullying Prevention and Intervention Plan)***

**Reporting by Staff:** A staff member will report immediately (without unnecessary delay) to the principal when he/she witnesses or becomes aware of conduct that may be bullying or retaliation. The requirement to report to the principal or designee does not limit the authority of the staff member to respond to behavioral or disciplinary incidents consistent with school or district policies and procedures for behavior management and discipline. 2.

**Reporting by Students, Parents or Guardians, and Others:** Marblehead Public Schools expects students, parents or guardians, and others who witness or become aware of an instance of bullying or retaliation involving a student to report it to the principal of the school. Reports may be made anonymously, but no disciplinary action will be taken against an alleged aggressor solely on the basis of an anonymous report. Students, parents or guardians, and others may request assistance from a staff member to complete a written report. Students will be provided practical, safe, private, and age-appropriate ways to report and discuss an incident of bullying with a staff member, or with the principal or designee.

**Responding to Reports of Bullying or Retaliation**

**1. Assessing Safety:** Before fully investigating the allegations of bullying or retaliation, the principal or designee will assess the need to restore a sense of safety to the alleged target and/or to protect the alleged target from possible further incidents. There may be circumstances in which the principal or designee, at their discretion and in accordance with applicable law, contacts parents or guardians prior to any investigation. Notice will be consistent with state regulations at 603 CMR 49.00. Responses to promote safety may include, but not be limited to, creating a personal safety plan; pre-determining seating arrangements for the target and/or the aggressor in the classroom, at lunch, or on the bus; identifying a staff member who will act as a "safe person" for the target; and altering the aggressor's schedule and access to the



target. The principal or designee will take additional steps to promote safety during the course of and after the investigation, as necessary. The principal or designee will implement appropriate strategies for protecting from bullying or retaliation a student who has reported bullying or retaliation, a student who has witnessed bullying or retaliation, a student who provides information during an investigation, or a student who has reliable information about a reported act of bullying or retaliation. The confidentiality of students and witnesses reporting alleged acts of bullying and/or retaliation will be maintained to the extent possible given the school's obligation to investigate the matter. All relevant district policy will be adhered to.

## **2. Obligations to Notify Others:**

- a. **Notice to Parents/Guardians:** Upon determining that bullying or retaliation has occurred, the principal or designee will promptly notify the parents or guardians of the target and of the aggressor of this, and of the procedures for responding to it. There may be circumstances in which the principal or designee contacts parents or guardians prior to any investigation. Notice will be consistent with state regulations at 603 CMR 49.00.
- b. **Notice to Another School or District:** If the reported incident involves students from more than one school district, charter school, non-public school, approved private special education day or residential school, or collaborative school, the principal or designee first informed of the incident will promptly notify, by telephone, the principal or designee of the other school(s) of the incident so that each school may take appropriate action. All communications will be in accordance with state and federal privacy laws and regulations, and 603 CMR 49.00.
- c. **Notice to Law Enforcement:** At any point after receiving a report of bullying or retaliation, including after an investigation, if the principal or designee has a reasonable basis to believe that criminal charges may be pursued against the aggressor, the principal will notify the local law enforcement agency. Notice will be consistent with the requirements of 603 CMR 49.00 and locally established agreements with the local law enforcement agency. Also, if an incident occurs on school grounds and involves a former student under the age of 21 who is no longer enrolled in school, the principal or designee shall contact the local law enforcement agency if he or she has a reasonable basis to believe that criminal charges may be pursued against the aggressor. In making this determination, the principal will, consistent with the Plan and with applicable school or district policies and procedures, consult with the school resource officer, if any, and other individuals the principal or designee deems appropriate.

**3. Investigation:** The principal or designee will investigate promptly all reports of bullying or retaliation and, in doing so, will consider all available information known, including the nature of the allegation(s) and the ages of the students involved. During the investigation the principal or designee will, among other things, interview students, staff, witnesses, parents or guardians, and others as necessary. The principal or designee will remind the alleged aggressor, target, and witnesses that retaliation is strictly prohibited and will result in disciplinary action. Interviews may be conducted by the principal or designee, or other staff members as determined by the principal or designee, and in consultation with the school counselor, as appropriate. To the extent practicable and given his/her obligation to investigate and address the matter, the principal or designee will maintain confidentiality during the investigative process. The principal or designee will maintain a written record of the investigation, using the MPS Marblehead Public Schools Intervention Incident Reporting Form to summarize the incident(s), steps taken and result(s) of the investigation. Procedures for investigating reports of bullying and retaliation will be consistent with school or district policies and procedures for investigations. If necessary, the principal or designee will consult with legal counsel about the investigation as necessary.

**5. Determinations:** The principal or designee will make a determination based upon all of the facts and circumstances. If, after investigation, bullying or retaliation is substantiated, the principal or designee will take steps reasonably calculated to prevent recurrence and to ensure that the target is not restricted in participating in school or in benefiting from school activities. The principal or designee will: 1) determine what remedial action is required, if any, and 2) determine what responsive actions and/or disciplinary action is necessary. Depending upon the circumstances, the principal or designee may choose to consult with the students' teacher(s) and/or school counselor, and the target's or aggressor's parents or guardians, to identify any underlying social or emotional issue(s) that may have contributed to the bullying behavior and to assess the level of need for additional social skills development. The principal or designee will promptly notify the

parents or guardians of the target and the aggressor about the results of the investigation and, if bullying or retaliation is found, what action is being taken to prevent further acts of bullying or retaliation. All notice to parents must comply with applicable state and federal privacy laws and regulations. Because of the legal requirements regarding the confidentiality of student records, the principal or designee cannot report specific information to the target's parent or guardian about the disciplinary action taken unless it involves a "stay away" order or other directive that the target must be aware of in order to report violations. The principal or designee shall inform the parent or guardian of the target about the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education's problem resolution system and the process for accessing that system, regardless of the outcome of the bullying determination.

**6. Responses to Bullying:** Marblehead Public Schools has incorporated a range of individualized strategies and interventions that may be used in response to remediate a student's skills and or to prevent further incidences of bullying and/or retaliation.

*For more detailed information on the bullying prevention process, resources and form to file a bullying complaint, please view the MPS Bullying Prevention Plan ([linked here](#)). Copies of our Bullying Prevention Plan are also available in the middle school office or by emailing Principal Matthew LeVangie ([levangie.matthew@marbleheadschoools.org](mailto:levangie.matthew@marbleheadschoools.org)) or calling (781) 639-3120.*

## **DISCRIMINATORY HARASSMENT**

*Discriminatory Harassment will not be tolerated in the Marblehead Public Schools. This policy is in effect while students are on school grounds, School District property or property within the jurisdiction of the School District, school buses, or attending or engaging in school activities.*

*Harassment prohibited by the District includes, but is not limited to, harassment on the basis of race, sex, creed, color, national origin, sexual orientation, gender identity, religion, marital status or disability. Students whose behavior is found to be in violation of this policy will be subject to disciplinary action up to and including suspension.*

*The District will promptly and reasonably investigate allegations of discriminatory harassment in accordance with applicable laws and District grievance procedures. Retaliation against any individual for reporting harassment, filing a complaint of harassment, or for participating in the investigation thereof, is also strictly prohibited. A student or staff member who is found to have retaliated against another in violation of this policy will be subject to disciplinary action up to and including suspension and, in the case of an employee, termination of employment.. The Superintendent will develop administrative guidelines and grievance procedures for the implementation of this policy.*

*Reports and complaints of sexual harassment as defined under Title IX of the Education Amendments Act of 1972 will be addressed in accordance with the District's Title IX Sexual Harassment Grievance Procedure. All complaints of sexual harassment shall be directed to the District's designated Title IX Coordinator, Dr. Paula Donnelly, Director of Student Services.*

*LEGAL REF.: M.G.L. c.76, § 5, M.G.L. c. 151B, M.G.L. c. 151C:Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964; Title IX of the Education Amendments Act of 1972; 34 CFR Part 106.*

## **HAZING, PROHIBITION OF**

### ***Policy JICFA***

### ***From the Marblehead Public Schools Policy Manual***

In accordance with Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 536 of the Acts of 1985, the School Committee hereby deems that no student, employee or school organization under the control of the School Committee shall engage in the activity of

hazing a student while on or off school property, or at a school sponsored event regardless of the location. No organization that uses the facilities or grounds under the control of the School Committee shall engage in the activity of hazing any person while on school property.

*Any student who observes what appears to them to be the activity of hazing another student or person should report such information to the Principal including the time, date, location, names of identifiable participants and the types of behavior exhibited. Students and employees of the District are obligated by law to report incidents of hazing to the police department.*

*Any student who is present at a hazing has the obligation to report such an incident. Failure to do so may result in disciplinary action by the school against that student and could involve suspension from school for up to three days. Any student who participates in the hazing of another student or other person may, upon the approval of the Superintendent of Schools, be suspended from school.. Any student determined by the Principal to be the organizer of a hazing activity may be recommended for expulsion from school but will receive no less disciplinary action than that of a participant.*

*In all cases relating to hazing, students will receive procedural due process.*

LEGAL REF.: M.G.L. c. 269, §§17, 18, 19

CROSS REF: JIC, Student Conduct

### **Hazing**

M.G.L. c..269, §17

*Whoever is a principal organizer or participant in the crime of hazing as defined herein shall be punished by a fine of not more than three thousand dollars or by imprisonment in a house of correction for not more than one year, or by both such fine and imprisonment.*

*The term “hazing” as used in this section and in sections eighteen and nineteen, shall mean any conduct or method of initiation into any student organization, whether on public or private property, which willfully or recklessly endangers the physical or mental health of any student or other person. Such conduct shall include whipping, beating, branding, forced calisthenics, exposure to the weather, forced consumption of any food, liquor, beverage, drug or other substance, or any other brutal treatment or forced physical activity which is likely to adversely affect the physical health or safety of any such student or other person, or which subjects such student or other person to extreme mental stress, including extended deprivation of sleep or rest or extended isolation. Notwithstanding any other provisions of this section to be contrary, consent shall not be available as a defense to any prosecution under this action.*

M.G.L. c..269, §18

*Whoever knows that another person is the victim of hazing as defined in section seventeen and is at the scene of such crime shall, to the extent that such person can do so without danger or peril to himself or others, report such crime to an appropriate law enforcement official as soon as reasonably practicable. A fine of not more than one thousand dollars shall punish whoever fails to report such crime.*

M.G.L. c. 269, §19

*Each secondary school shall issue to every group or organization under its authority or operating on or in conjunction with its campus or school, and to every member, plebe, pledge or applicant for membership in such group or organization, a copy of Chapter 269 of the General Laws. An officer of each such group or organization, and each individual receiving a copy of said sections seventeen and eighteen shall sign an acknowledgement stating that such group, organization or individual has received said copy.*

Legal Reference: M.G.L. c. 269

## **Appendix B – Selected Laws/Policies Related to Student Conduct and Discipline**

### ***STUDENT RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES – School Committee Policy JI***

*The School Committee has the responsibility to afford students the rights that are theirs by virtue of guarantees offered under the federal and state constitutions and statutes. In connection with rights, there are responsibilities that must be assumed by students.*

*Among these rights and responsibilities are the following:*

- 1. Civil rights--including the rights to equal educational opportunity and freedom from discrimination; the responsibility not to discriminate against others.*
- 2. The right to attend free public schools; the responsibility to attend school regularly and to observe school rules essential for permitting others to learn at school.*
- 3. The right to due process of law with respect to suspension, expulsion, and decisions the student believes injure his rights.*
- 4. The right to free inquiry and expression; responsibility to observe reasonable rules regarding these rights.*
- 5. The right to privacy, which includes privacy with respect to the student's school records.*

*It is the School Committee's belief that as part of the educational process students should be made aware of their legal rights, and of the legal authority of the School Committee to make and delegate authority to its staff to make rules regarding the orderly operation of the schools.*

*Students have the right to know the standards of behavior that are expected of them, and the consequences of misbehavior.*

*The rights and responsibilities of students, including standards of conduct, will be made available to students and their parents through handbooks distributed annually.*

*LEGAL REFS.: M.G.L. 71:37H; 71:82 through 71:86*

#### ***M.G.L. c.269, §10 - Possession of Weapons***

*It is illegal to have a weapon in school or on school property. Students who are in possession of a weapon risk expulsion from school. In all cases, authorities will be notified, the student may be immediately suspended from school, and an expulsion hearing will be held.*

*Section 10(j): "Whoever, not being a law enforcement officer, and notwithstanding any license obtained by him under the provisions of chapter one hundred and forty, carries on his person a firearm as hereinafter defined, loaded or unloaded or other dangerous weapon in any building or on the grounds of any elementary or secondary school, college or university without the written authorization of the board or officer in charge of such elementary or secondary school, college or university shall be punished by a fine of not more than one thousand dollars or by imprisonment for not more than one year, or both. For the purpose of this paragraph, "'firearm" shall mean any pistol, revolver, rifle or smoothbore arm from which a shot, bullet or pellet can be discharged by whatever means.*

*Any officer in charge of an elementary or secondary school, college or university or any faculty member or administrative officer of an elementary or secondary school, college or university failing to report violations of this paragraph shall be guilty of a misdemeanor and punished by a fine of not more than five hundred dollars."*

*Students who are in possession of a weapon or a look alike weapon risk expulsion from school. In all cases, authorities will be notified, the student will be immediately suspended from school, and an expulsion hearing will be held. Weapons are defined as guns, knives, bows, arrows, darts, or any other objects, which in the opinion of the administration may cause harm to you or others.*

***M.G.L. c.71, §37L - Notification to school personnel of reporting requirements for child abuse and neglect and fires; reports of students possessing or using dangerous weapons on school premises; transferred students' school records***

The school committee of each city, town or regional school district shall inform teachers, administrators, and other professional staff of reporting requirements for child abuse and neglect under section 51A of chapter 119 and the reporting requirements for fires under section 2A of chapter 148.

In addition, any school department personnel shall report in writing to their immediate supervisor an incident involving a student's possession or use of a dangerous weapon on school premises at any time. Supervisors who receive such a weapon report shall file it with the superintendent of said school, who shall file copies of said weapon report with the local chief of police, the department of children and families, the office of student services or its equivalent in any school district, and the local school committee. Said superintendent, police chief, and representative from the department of children and families, together with a representative from the office of student services or its equivalent, shall arrange an assessment of the student involved in said weapon report. Said student shall be referred to a counseling program; provided, however, that said counseling shall be in accordance with acceptable standards as set forth by the board of education. Upon completion of a counseling session, a follow-up assessment shall be made of said student by those involved in the initial assessment.

A student transferring into a local system must provide the new school system with a complete school record of the entering student. Said record shall include, but not be limited to, any incidents involving suspension or violation of criminal acts or any incident reports in which such student was charged with any suspended act.

**M.G.L. ch. 71, §37H- Policies relative to conduct of teachers or students; student handbooks**

*Massachusetts General Law ch.71, §37H mandates that all student handbooks contain the following provisions relative to student behavior and conduct.*

*(a) Any student who is found on school premises or at school-sponsored or school-related events, including athletic games, in possession of a dangerous weapon, including, but not limited to, a gun or knife, a controlled substance as defined in Chapter 94C, including, but not limited to, marijuana, cocaine, and heroin, may be subject to expulsion from the school or school district by the Principal.*

*(b) Any student who assaults a principal, an assistant principal, a teacher, teacher's aide or other educational staff on school premises or at school-sponsored events, including athletic games, may be subject to expulsion from the school by the principal.*

*(c) Any student who is charged with a violation of either paragraph (A or B above) shall be notified in writing of an opportunity for a hearing, provided, however, that the student may have representation [at their own expense], along with the opportunity to present evidence and witnesses at said hearing before the principal After said hearing, a principal may, in his discretion, decide to suspend rather than expel a student who has been determined by the principal to have violated either paragraph (a) or (b).*

*(d) Any student who has been expelled from a school district pursuant to these provisions shall have the right to appeal to the superintendent. The expelled student shall have ten days from the date of the expulsion in which to notify the superintendent of his appeal. The student has the right to counsel [at their own expense] at a hearing before the superintendent. The subject matter of the appeal shall not be limited solely to a factual determination of whether the student has violated any provisions of this section.*

*(e) Any school district that suspends or expels a student under this section shall continue to provide educational services to the student during the period of suspension or expulsion, under section 21 of chapter 76. If the student moves to another district during the period of suspension or expulsion, the new district of residence shall either admit the student to its schools or provide educational services to the student in an education service plan, under section 21 of chapter 76.*

*(f) Districts shall report to the department of elementary and secondary education the specific reasons for all suspensions and expulsions, regardless of duration or type, in a manner and form established by the commissioner. The department of elementary and secondary education shall use its existing data collection tools to obtain this information from districts and shall modify those tools, as necessary, to obtain the information. On an annual basis, the department of elementary and secondary education shall make district level de-identified data and analysis, including the total number of days each student is excluded during the school year, available to the public online in a machine readable format. This report shall include district level data disaggregated by student status and categories established by the commissioner.*

*(g) Under the regulations promulgated by the department, for each school that suspends or expels a significant number of students for more than 10 cumulative days in a school year, the commissioner shall investigate and, as appropriate, shall recommend models that incorporate intermediary steps prior to the use of suspension or expulsion. The results of the analysis shall be publicly reported at the school district level.*

***M.G.L. ch. 71, §37H1/2 - Felony complaint or conviction of student; suspension; expulsion; right to appeal***

*(1) Upon the issuance of a criminal complaint charging a student with a felony or upon the issuance of a felony delinquency complaint against a student, the principal or headmaster of a school in which the student is enrolled may suspend such student for a period of time determined appropriate by said principal or headmaster if said principal or headmaster determines that the student's continued presence in school would have a substantial detrimental effect on the general welfare of the school. The student shall receive written notification of the charges and the reasons for such suspension prior to such suspension taking effect. The student shall also receive written notification of his/her right to appeal and the process for appealing such suspension; provided, however, that such suspension shall remain in effect prior to any appeal hearing conducted by the superintendent.*

*The student shall have the right to appeal the suspension to the superintendent. The student shall notify the superintendent in writing of his/her request for an appeal no later than five calendar days following the effective date of the suspension. The superintendent shall hold a hearing with the student and the student's parent or guardian within three calendar days of the student's request for an appeal. At the hearing, the student shall have the right to present oral and written testimony on his/her behalf, and shall have the right to counsel [at their own expense]. The superintendent shall have the authority to overturn or alter the decision of the principal or headmaster, including recommending an alternate educational program for the student. The superintendent shall render a decision on the appeal within five calendar days of the hearing. Such decision shall be the final decision of the city, town or regional school district with regard to the suspension.*

*(2) Upon a student being convicted of a felony or upon an adjudication or admission in court of guilt with respect to such a felony or felony delinquency, the principal or headmaster of a school in which the student is enrolled may expel said student if such principal or headmaster determines that the student's continued presence in school would have a substantial detrimental effect on the general welfare of the school. The student shall receive written notification of the charges and reasons for such expulsion prior to such expulsion taking effect. The student shall also receive written notification of his/her right to appeal and the process for appealing such expulsion; provided, however, that the expulsion shall remain in effect prior to any appeal hearing conducted by the superintendent.*

*The student shall have the right to appeal the expulsion to the superintendent. The student shall notify the superintendent, in writing, of his/her request for an appeal no later than five calendar days following the effective date of the expulsion. The superintendent shall hold a hearing with the student and the student's parent or guardian within three calendar days of the expulsion. At the hearing, the student shall have the right to present oral and written testimony on his/her behalf, and shall have the right to counsel [at their own expense]. The superintendent shall have the authority to overturn or alter the decision of the principal or headmaster, including recommending an alternate educational program for the student. The superintendent shall render a decision on the appeal within five calendar days of the hearing. Such decision shall be*

*the final decision of the city, town or regional school district with regard to the expulsion. Upon expulsion of such student, no school or school district shall be required to provide educational services to such student.*

**M.G.L. c. 71, § 37H3/4 - Suspension or expulsion on grounds other than those set forth in Secs. 37H or 37H1/2**

*(a) This section shall govern the suspension and expulsion of students enrolled in a public school in the commonwealth who are not charged with a violation of subsections (a) or (b) of section 37H or with a felony under section 37H.5.*

*(b) Any principal, headmaster, superintendent, or other person acting as a decision-maker at a student meeting or hearing, when deciding the consequences for the student, shall exercise discretion; consider ways to re-engage the student in the learning process; and shall not suspend or expel a student until alternative remedies have been employed and their use and results documented, following and in direct response to a specific incident or incidents, unless specific reasons are documented as to why such alternative remedies are unsuitable or counter-productive, and in cases where the student's continued presence in school would pose a specific, documentable concern about the infliction of serious bodily injury or other serious harm upon another person while in school.*

*(c) For any suspension or expulsion under this section, the principal or headmaster of a school in which the student is enrolled, or a designee, shall provide, to the student and to the parent or guardian of the student, notice of the charges and the reason for the suspension or expulsion in English and in the primary language spoken in the home of the student. The student shall receive the written notification and shall have the opportunity to meet with the principal or headmaster, or a designee, to discuss the charges and reasons for the suspension or expulsion prior to the suspension or expulsion taking effect. The principal or headmaster, or a designee, shall ensure that the parent or guardian of the student is included in the meeting, provided that such meeting may take place without the parent or guardian only if the principal or headmaster, or a designee, can document reasonable efforts to include the parent or guardian in that meeting. The department shall promulgate rules and regulations that address a principal's duties under this subsection and procedures for including parents in student exclusion meetings, hearings, or interviews under this subsection.*

*(d) If a decision is made to suspend or expel the student after the meeting, the principal or headmaster, or a designee, shall update the notification for the suspension or expulsion to reflect the meeting with the student. If a student has been suspended or expelled for more than 10 school days for a single infraction or for more than 10 school days cumulatively for multiple infractions in any school year, the student and the parent or guardian of the student shall also receive, at the time of the suspension or expulsion decision, written notification of a right to appeal and the process for appealing the suspension or expulsion in English and in the primary language spoken in the home of the student; provided, however, that the suspension or expulsion shall remain in effect prior to any appeal hearing. The principal or headmaster or a designee shall notify the superintendent in writing, including, but not limited to, by electronic means, of any out-of-school suspension imposed on a student enrolled in kindergarten through grade 3 prior to such suspension taking effect. That notification shall describe the student's alleged misconduct and the reasons for suspending the student out-of-school. For the purposes of this section, the term "out-of-school suspension" shall mean a disciplinary action imposed by school officials to remove a student from participation in school activities for 1 day or more.*

*(e) A student who has been suspended or expelled from school for more than 10 school days for a single infraction or for more than 10 school days cumulatively for multiple infractions in any school year shall have the right to appeal the suspension or expulsion to the superintendent. The student or a parent or guardian of the student shall notify the superintendent in writing of a request for an appeal not later than 5 calendar days following the effective date of the suspension or expulsion; provided, that a student and a parent or guardian of the student may request, and if so requested, shall be granted an extension of up to 7 calendar days. The superintendent or a designee shall hold a hearing with the student and the parent or guardian of the student within 3 school days of the student's request for an appeal; provided that a student or a parent or guardian of the student may request and, if so requested, shall be granted an extension of up to 7 calendar days; provided further, that the superintendent, or a designee, may proceed with a hearing without a parent or guardian of the student if the superintendent, or a designee, makes a good faith effort to include the parent or guardian. At the hearing, the student shall have the right to present oral and written testimony, cross-examine*

witnesses and shall have the right to counsel. The superintendent shall render a decision on the appeal in writing within 5 calendar days of the hearing. That decision shall be the final decision of the school district with regard to the suspension or expulsion.

(f) No student shall be suspended or expelled from a school or school district for a time period that exceeds 90 school days, beginning the first day the student is removed from an assigned school building

***M.G.L. c. 76, § 18: Notice to parent or guardian and meeting with school committee prerequisite to student permanently leaving school; annual report; application of section***

*No student who has not graduated from high school shall be considered to have permanently left public school unless an administrator of the school which the student last attended has sent notice within a period of 5 days from the student's tenth consecutive absence to the student and the parent or guardian of that student in both the primary language of the parent or guardian, to the extent practicable, and English. The notice shall initially offer at least 2 dates and times for an exit interview between the superintendent, or a designee, and the student and the parent or guardian of the student to occur prior to the student permanently leaving school and shall include contact information for scheduling the exit interview. The notice shall indicate that the parties shall agree upon a date and time for the exit interview, and that interview shall occur within 10 days after the sending of the notice. The time for the exit interview may be extended at the request of the parent or guardian and no extension shall be for longer than 14 days. The superintendent, or a designee, may proceed with any such interview without a parent or guardian if the superintendent, or a designee, makes a good faith effort to include the parent or guardian. The exit interview shall be for the purpose of discussing the reasons for the student permanently leaving school and to consider alternative education or other placements.*

*The superintendent or a designee shall convene a team of school personnel, such as the principal, guidance counselor, teachers, attendance officer and other relevant school staff, to participate in the exit interview with the student and the parent or guardian of the student. During the exit interview, the student shall be given information about the detrimental effects of early withdrawal from school, the benefits of earning a high school diploma and the alternative education programs and services available to the student.*

*The department of elementary and secondary education shall: (i) publish a model protocol for conducting exit interviews with students; and (ii) compile and maintain a list of research and information relative to the consequences of dropping out, the benefits of earning a high school diploma and a list of alternative education resources and programs available to the student, in addition to those that the district may provide, that schools shall present at the exit interview.*

*The superintendent of every city, town or regional school district shall annually report to the department of education the number of students sixteen years of age or older who have permanently left school, the reasons for such leaving and any alternative educational or other placement which each such student has taken.*

*The provisions of this section shall not apply to a student who has completed the regular course of education, or apply to a student whose absences have been excused, nor shall this section be construed to permanently exclude a student who wishes to resume his education.*



## **Appendix C – MPS Student Acceptable Usage Policy and Student Email Policy**

File: IJNDB

### **Responsibility**

Access to Marblehead Public Schools' ("MPS") network systems, email, Internet, intranet, student records, and other computer or technological resources (collectively, the "MPS Network Systems") is provided for educational and MPS administrative use exclusively. This Acceptable Usage Policy (AUP) governs all use of network systems by students and includes Internet and network access: social networks/media, blogs, vlogs, wikis, live and online chats, newsgroups, and other Internet utilities. This includes the use of personal equipment and accounts on all MPS networks. Parents/guardians and students are expected to abide by the provisions of this policy.

#### **Students must comply with the following rules:**

- Identify themselves accurately in all communications using the MPS Network Systems
- Use MPS Network Systems only for their specified educational purpose
- Post/send only appropriate information in light of the educational purpose of the MPS Network Systems
- Access only their own account and keep their passwords private from any other users
- Refuse permission to others to use the student's account
- Only alter their own work
- Remove their old files when they are no longer needed
- Adhere to all other MPS codes of conduct when using the MPS Network Systems

#### **Students are prohibited from the following activities:**

- Engaging in harassment, libel, slander, or bullying of any kind
- Using the MPS Network Systems for commercial or political purposes
- Using another person's account
- Using the MPS Network Systems to advocate or facilitate the illegal use of drugs or alcohol
- Using the MPS Network Systems to access or transmit/post material which is profane, obscene, fraudulent, offensive, discriminatory, threatening, demeaning, intimidating, sexually explicit or pornographic
- Using the MPS Network Systems for illegal activities including, but not limited to, copyright violations (such as copying music, videos or software)
- Giving out another individual's personal or private information, including but not limited to that person's address or phone number or educational information
- Recording or posting audio, video or any material of or created by another student or faculty member without that individual's permission
- Engaging in spamming (sending massive, inappropriate and unsolicited information) or flooding (transferring data without intent of meaningful communication)
- Using equipment without permission
- Altering the configuration of school technology (changing system settings) or engaging in any misuse, disruption, or degradation of the MPS Network Systems, including intentional physical misuse or damage to equipment, materials, data or programs
- Downloading or installing software of any kind
- Illegally copying software
- Bypassing system security or filters
- Engaging in any other conduct while using the MPS Network Systems that is deemed by the Building Principal or the Superintendent to be detrimental to MPS or any school learning environment

### **Sanctions**

Network access is a privilege, not a right. Violations of this policy may result in the following at the discretion of MPS:

- Loss of access privileges

- Disciplinary action at the building level in accordance with the discipline code in the student handbooks.
- Referral to appropriate law enforcement agencies

## Privacy

### **Users do not have any expectation of privacy or confidentiality in the content, electronic communications or of other files sent, received and/or stored within the MPS**

**Network Systems.** The use of a password is solely to protect the user's information from access by fellow users, but creates no expectation of privacy with regard to access to that information by authorized MPS employees. MPS also reserves the right to examine/monitor all data sent, received and/or stored within the MPS network or online systems, whether such records, communications, folders, and information are password-protected or not. All communications including text and images may be disclosed to law enforcement or other appropriate third parties without the prior consent or knowledge of the sender or receiver.

*Revised June 2025*

File: IJNDB-R

## **Student Email and Internet Posting Guidelines**

Marblehead Public Schools (MPS) student use of email and posting material on the Internet must follow these guidelines. Adherence to the Acceptable Use Policy for Students (IJNDB) is the basis for use of email and posting on the Internet and it must be complied with at all times. The Acceptable Use Policy for Students (IJNDB) will also be included in the Student Handbook.

### **Grades 9-12**

- May be provided with a school email account by the District.
- Students may post their own work on the Internet including their full name and picture provided that their parent or guardian has given permission\* by agreeing to the Consent to Release Student Directory Information for Students, as referenced in the Parent/Guardian Consent Form (IJNDB-E). Students are responsible for knowing what their parent permission is and abiding by that permission.

### **Grades 7-8**

- May be provided with a school email account by the District with limits on messages sent and received internally to MPS. Authorized internal addresses include (@marbleheadschoools.org and @student.marbleheadschoools.org). Only approved MPS services and domains will be allowed to communicate for classroom teaching purposes.
- With permission and guidance from a faculty member, students may post their own work on the Internet, including their full name and picture provided that their parent or guardian has given permission by agreeing to the Consent to Release Student Directory Information for Students, as referenced in the Parent/Guardian Consent Form (IJNDB-E) during the initial Online Student Registration or Annual Information Update.

### **Grades 4-6**

- May be provided with a school email account by the District with limits on messages sent and received internally to MPS. Authorized internal addresses include (@marbleheadschoools.org and @student.marbleheadschoools.org). Only approved MPS services and domains will be allowed to communicate for classroom teaching purposes.
- With permission and guidance from a faculty member, students may post their own work on the Internet, including their full name and picture provided that their parent or guardian has given permission by agreeing to the Consent to Release Student Directory Information for Students, as referenced in the Parent/Guardian Consent Form (IJNDB-E).

### **Grades PK-3**

- Students may not use any individual email account. Messages may be sent through teacher-monitored accounts.

*\* Students who have reached age of majority (18) do not need parental permission.*

*Revised June 2025*

## **Appendix D – School Committee Policy JJIF** **Athletic Concussion Policy**

### ***Purpose***

*This policy provides guidance and standardized procedure for the prevention, training, management and return to activity decisions regarding students who incur head injuries or concussion as defined by M.G.L. 111:222; 105 CMR 201.000 while involved in extracurricular athletic activities (1), in order to protect their health and safety as required by Massachusetts law and regulation. The requirements of the policy apply to all Marblehead Public School students, however configured, grades 4-12 who participate in any school sponsored extracurricular athletic activity. In order to further protect all Marblehead Public School students, it shall be required that any student K-12 who suffers a head injury or concussion, whether such injury occurs in or out of school, be medically cleared to return to school as well as participate in school athletic activities. Responsible staff will follow the guidelines for graduated return to academics and activities tailored appropriately to the student's age and condition.*

### ***Scope of Responsibility***

*The Superintendent shall, through the Athletic Director, Principals, and Lead Nurse maintain complete and accurate records of the district's compliance of the Concussion Law, and shall maintain the following records for three years at a minimum, or until the student graduates unless state or federal law requires a longer retention period:*

- 1. Verifications of completion of annual training and receipt of materials;*
- 2. DPH Pre-participation forms or school based equivalents and receipt of materials;*
- 3. DPH Report of Head Injury Forms or school based equivalents;*
- 4. DPH Medical Clearance and Authorization Forms, or school based equivalents;*
- 5. Graduated reentry plans for return to full academic and extracurricular athletic activities.*

*The following persons: coaches; certified athletic trainers; trainers; volunteers; school and team physicians; school nurses; athletic directors; directors responsible for a school marching band; activity coordinators; employees or volunteers; and students who participate in any extracurricular athletic activity and their parents are responsible to comply and follow through with all aspects of this policy including: annual training, record keeping, communication, reporting, assessment, evaluation, treatment, and referral. Guidance counselors and teachers may be involved in facilitating academic accommodations with a student who suffers a concussion.*

*(1) Extracurricular Athletic Activity means an organized school sponsored athletic activity generally occurring outside of school instructional hours under the direction of a coach, athletic director or marching band leader including, but not limited to, Alpine and Nordic skiing and snowboarding, baseball, basketball, , fencing, field hockey, football, flag football, golf, gymnastics, horseback riding, ice hockey, lacrosse, marching band, rifle, rugby, soccer, skating, softball, squash, swimming and diving, sailing, tennis, track (indoor and outdoor), ultimate Frisbee, volleyball, water polo, dance, cheerleading and wrestling. All interscholastic athletics are deemed to be extracurricular athletic activities.*

### ***Definition***

*A concussion is caused by a bump, blow or jolt to the head or body. Any force that causes the brain to bounce around or twist within the skull can cause a concussion. A bump, blow or jolt to the head or body can be caused by either indirect or direct trauma. Most frequently concussions are not diagnosed by loss of consciousness.*

*A concussion is defined as a transient alteration in brain function without structural damage, but with other potentially serious long-term ramifications. In the event of a concussion, the brain sustains damage at a microscopic level in which cells and cell membranes are torn and stretched. The damage to these cells also disrupts the brain at a chemical level, as well as causing restricted blood flow to the damaged areas of the brain, thereby disrupting brain function. A concussion, therefore, is a disruption in how the brain works; it is not a structural injury. Concussions are difficult to diagnose because the damage cannot be seen. An MRI or CT scan cannot diagnose a concussion, but they can help rule out a more serious brain injury to a student athlete. Because concussions are difficult to detect, student athletes must obtain medical approval before returning to athletics following a concussion.*

### **Review**

*This policy and attached protocol and procedure (JJIF-R) shall be reviewed annually by the Marblehead Public Schools' Athletic Department Personnel and The Marblehead Public Schools' Health Services School Nurses. Any recommendation for revision shall be submitted to the Superintendent. All School Committee approved policy changes will be provided to appropriate staff in writing.*

*Upon the adoption of this policy by the School Committee, the Superintendent shall ensure that DPH receives an affirmation on school district letterhead that the district has developed policies and the School Committee has adopted a final policy in accordance with law. This affirmation shall be updated by September 30, 2013 and every two years thereafter upon review or revision of its' policies.*

*An accurate synopsis of this policy shall be placed in the student and faculty handbooks.*

*LEGAL REFS: M.G.L. 111:222; 105 CMR 201.000*

## Appendix E

### NOTIFICATION OF RIGHTS UNDER THE PROTECTION OF PUPIL RIGHTS AMENDMENT (PPRA)

(approved by Marblehead School Committee on August 21, 2025)

The Protection of Pupil Rights Amendment (PPRA) affords parents/guardians certain rights regarding the District's conducting of surveys, collection, and the use of information for marketing purposes, and certain physical exams. These include the right to:

- Consent before students are required to submit to a survey that concerns one or more of the following protected areas ("protected information survey"), if the survey is funded in whole or in part by a program of the U.S. Department of Education (DOE): political affiliations or beliefs of the student or student's parent; mental or psychological problems of the student or student's family; sex behavior or attitudes; illegal, anti-social, self-incriminating, or demeaning behavior; critical appraisals of others with whom respondents have close family relationships; legally recognized privileged relationships, such as with lawyers, doctors, or ministers; religious practices, affiliations, or beliefs of the student or parents; and/or income, other than as required by law to determine program eligibility.
- Notice and an opportunity to opt a student out of the following: any other protected information survey, regardless of funding; any non-emergency, invasive physical exam or screening required as a condition of attendance, administered by the school or its agent, and not necessary to protect the immediate health and safety of a student, except for hearing, vision, or scoliosis screenings, or any physical exam or screening permitted or required under State law; and activities involving collection, disclosure, or use of personal information obtained from students for marketing or to sell or otherwise distribute the information to others.
- Inspect, upon request and before administration or use: protected information surveys of students; instruments used to collect personal information from students for any of the above marketing, sales, or other distribution purposes; and instructional material used as part of the educational curriculum.

The above rights transfer from the parents to a student who is eighteen (18) years old or an emancipated minor under State law.

Marblehead Public Schools utilizes the student/family handbook to obtain consent from parents/guardians at the start of each school year in accordance with Marblehead School Committee policy ILD and outlines any substantive changes that may have been made to that policy. The Marblehead School Committee [policy ILD](#) outlines parent/guardian rights regarding student submission to educational surveys and research.

Marblehead Public Schools utilizes a variety of surveys and activities to gather feedback and information from students.

The District will directly notify parents/guardians via email when students are scheduled to participate in specific activities or surveys that concern any of the following:

1. Political affiliations or beliefs of the student or student's parent/guardian;
2. Mental or psychological problems of the student or student's family;
3. Sex behavior or attitudes;
4. Illegal, anti-social, self-incriminating, or demeaning behavior;
5. Critical appraisals of others with whom respondents have close family relationships;
6. Legally recognized privileged relationships, such as with lawyers, doctors, or ministers;
7. Religious practices, affiliations, or beliefs of the student or parents/guardian; or
8. Income, other than as required by law to determine eligibility for school programs or for receiving financial assistance under such program.

Parents/guardians will be provided reasonable notification of the planned activities and surveys listed above, and will be provided an opportunity to opt their child out of such activities and surveys.

Parents will also be provided an opportunity to review any pertinent, specific activities and surveys covered under this requirement, which include: the collection, disclosure, or use of personal information for marketing, sales or other distribution; the administration of any protected information survey not funded in whole or in part by Department of Education, and any non-emergency, invasive physical examination or screening as described above.

Parents who believe their rights under PPRA have been violated may file a complaint with:

Student Privacy Policy Office  
U.S. Department of Education  
400 Maryland Avenue, SW  
Washington, D.C. 20202-5901