

AKRON MIDDLE SCHOOL  
STUDENT HANDBOOK  
2023 - 2024



JAC  
Jamie Jacobs  
"2000"

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## **BOARD OF EDUCATION**

Mr. Ryan Allen  
Mrs. Heather Cayea  
Mr. Joseph Cena  
Mrs. Stephanie Coffta  
Mr. Phillip Kenline  
Mrs. Kristy Pingitore  
Mr. Erik Polkowski

## **ADMINISTRATION**

Mrs. Andrea Kersten  
Mr. Joseph Caprio III  
Mrs. Mary Fial  
Mr. Kevin Wartinger  
Mr. Mark Alexander

Interim Superintendent  
Middle School Principal  
Middle/High School Principal  
Athletic Director  
Transportation Director

## MIDDLE SCHOOL FACULTY & STAFF

Ms. Baker	Math	M142
Mr. Bardo	Band	C102
Mrs. Bergman	English	M128
Mrs. Blackley	Special Education	M219
Mrs. Borden	Teacher Assistant	C119
Mr. Brege	Social Studies	M125
Mrs. Brown	Learning Center	C203
<b>Mr. Caprio</b>	<b>MS Principal</b>	<b>MS Office</b>
Mrs. Chunco	Science	M222
Mrs. Class	Science	M225
Mrs. Cochrane	Social Studies	M220
Ms. Cramer	Spec. Ed/Learning Cntr.	C203
Miss Dembrow	Math	M108
Mrs. Demmin	Spanish	M143
Mr. Dobrick	Computer Science	M205
Mrs. Downs	MS/HS LPN	E106
<b>Mrs. Mary Fial</b>	<b>Assist. MS Principal</b>	<b>MS Office</b>
Miss Fix	MS/HS Nurse	E106
Mrs. Frens	Study Hall Monitor	MS Café
Mr. Gerstung	Social Studies	M126
Mrs. Guyton	Math	M221
Mrs. Hooper	Math	M202
Mrs. Kenline	MS Secretary	MS Office
Mrs. Kenyon	Special Education	M218
Mrs. Kieffer	English	M216
Miss Komosinski	Music	C103

Mr. Logan	Seneca	H159
Miss Lucarelli	Physical Education	Gym 1
Mrs. Madore	English	M124
Mrs. Magera	English	M217
<b>Ms. Mann</b>	<b>Student Support Svs.</b>	<b>H132</b>
Mrs. Matusek	Special Education	M219
Mr. Merlo	Math	M127
Mrs. Moeller	Math	H215
Mrs. Mongiovi	Special Education	M218
Mrs. Muscarella	Science	M134
Mrs. Nowak	Reading	C207
Mrs. O'Malley	(CDE)	M201
Mrs. Papia	Health	C204
Mr. Parks	English	M129
Mrs. Pazderski	MS/Athletic Secretary	MS Office
Mrs. Penn	Librarian	LMC
Mrs. Pitts	Music	H130
Mrs. Sanville	Music	C103/H117
Mrs. Schreck	Reading	C118
Mrs. Smith	Art	M204
Mrs. Smoke	NA Student Services	M226
Mr. Stellrecht	Physical Education	Gym 1
Ms. Thompson	Library Media Aide	LMC
<b>Mr. Wartinger</b>	<b>Athletic Director</b>	<b>MS Office</b>
<b>MS Office Phone</b>	<b>716-542-5040</b>	
<b>MS Attendance</b>	<b>716-542-5008</b>	

### AKRON CENTRAL SCHOOLS MISSION STATEMENT:

The mission of the Akron Central School District, a learning centered community dedicated to our students, is to ensure that each student realizes his or her unique potential and contributes positively to society, through a system characterized by:

- Valuing the unique gifts and dreams of each person
- Developing all dimensions of each human being
- Advancing the knowledge, skills and wisdom of each human being
- Cooperatively working to continuously create new realities

### LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT:

Akron Central School District acknowledges that we gather on the traditional lands of the Tonawanda Seneca Nation and honor the sovereignty of all of the members of the Haudenosaunee. We honor the contributions of the Indigenous peoples and will make a commitment to honor the land of those who have walked before us.

**The Akron Central School District Strategic Plan** represents a commitment to our educational community to take action and make a change for the benefit of all. The plan fully aligns with the mission of the school district and is intended to give voice and direction to the vision, values, and goals we seek to attain. Through this plan we hope to capture the hearts and minds of everyone in our community and allow them to be part of something bigger, providing a purpose and process while enhancing a sense of belonging and happiness.

1. Plan Development: The plan was developed with input from stakeholders in our District including school professional support staff, parents, students, teachers, administrators, and our Board of Education. Through surveys and numerous focus group meetings, thousands of comments and ideas were collected,

reviewed, and synthesized to form the aspirational goals that have been identified in the plan. We are grateful to everyone that contributed to this process and appreciate the time and thoughtful input from the 40 members of the Strategic Planning Committee.

2. Focus: Attaining goals, individually and as an organization, requires focus. In a world of information overload and one distraction after another, it takes focus to achieve anything valuable. Each member of our school community experiences the challenge of addressing complex and occasionally competing priorities. However, to truly be effective, we must have a clear sense of directions and purpose. This means we must know:
  - WHAT is to be achieved (goals)
  - WHY it is important
  - HOW it will be achieved (strategic plan)

**Goals: the 2022-2025 Akron Central School District**

1. To increase effective communication practices district-wide.
  2. To utilize district-wide practices that teach and reinforce prosocial behaviors so that the District is an affirming and inclusive school community.
  3. To create engaging and challenging learning opportunities that reflect all of Akron's students' cultural and developmental interests.
3. Implementation and Monitoring: Our future-focused Strategic Plan is intended to lift vision from the present and keep our focus on the things that truly matter most. The plan is also a working document intended to drive our school district so that we are able to provide optimal learning experiences and educational opportunities for all students in Akron. The plan will be monitored annually so that improvements can be made along the way. This process will guide us in our efforts to effectively integrate existing programs with new ones, make informed financial decisions, and focus the necessary resources and energy on the identified priorities. For more information, please see <https://www.akronschools.org/Page/6559>

***THE FOLLOWING HELPFUL PAGES REPRESENT ONLY A PORTION OF THE SCHOOL POLICIES AND PROCEDURES THAT APPLY TO ALL STUDENTS.***

**AKRON CENTRAL SCHOOLS DISTRICT CODE OF CONDUCT SUMMARY:**

The Akron Central School District is committed to providing a safe, orderly, predictable educational environment that promotes teaching and advances learning without disruption or interference. Accordingly, the District has developed a comprehensive Code of Conduct in collaboration with students, teachers, administrators, parents, and school safety personnel. The Code of Conduct was approved by the Akron Board of Education on July 1, 2011. The Code of Conduct was then revised according to the Dignity for All Students Act and these revisions were approved by the Akron Board of Education on July 2, 2012. A complete version of the Code of Conduct is available on the district website. Below constitutes only a summary of the Code of Conduct.

**Purpose**

The Akron School District Code of Conduct is intended to:

- encourage appropriate behavior;
- insure the safety and security of all members of the school community;
- promote a safe and effective learning environment

The Code governs the conduct of students, school personnel, parents, and other visitors while on school property or attending school functions. It includes the range of penalties that may be imposed for code violations and defines the roles of essential partners (teachers, administrators, other school personnel, the Board of Education, and parents) in maintaining safe, orderly schools.

### **Students Rights and Responsibilities**

The District is committed to safeguarding the rights given to all students under state and federal law. In addition, to promote a safe, healthy, orderly, and civil school environment, all District students have certain rights and responsibilities.

### **Role of Essential Partners**

The Code of Conduct sets forth certain specific roles related to maintaining safe, orderly schools for parents, teachers, guidance counselors, principals, the superintendent, and the Board of Education.

### **Student Dress Code**

All students are expected to give proper attention to personal cleanliness and to dress appropriately for school and school functions. Students who violate the dress code shall be required to modify their appearance by covering, changing, or removing the offending item.

### **Student Use of Electronic Communication Devices**

Students are prohibited from using or having on or in an operational mode any paging device, mobile telephone, cellular telephone, laser pointer or pen or any other type of telecommunications or imaging device during instructional time, except as expressly permitted in connection with authorized use in classrooms.

### **Prohibited Student Conduct**

Behavior that is disorderly, insubordinate, disruptive, violent, or endangers others is prohibited. Plagiarism, cheating, copying, altering records, or assisting students in such actions is considered academic misconduct and, therefore, prohibited.

### **Reporting Violations**

All students are expected to report violations of the Code of Conduct to those in authority. District staff not authorized to impose disciplinary actions are expected to report violations to their supervisor. Any weapon, alcohol, or other illegal substance will be confiscated immediately. Code violations that constitute a crime may be reported to the appropriate law enforcement agency.

### **Disciplinary Penalties and Procedures**

Disciplinary action, when necessary, will be firm, fair, and consistent. As a general rule, discipline will be progressive. That is, a student's first offense will usually merit a lesser penalty than subsequent violations. The Code of Conduct contains levels of discipline ranging from oral warning to permanent suspension from school. Regardless of the penalty imposed, school personnel authorized to impose a disciplinary procedure must inform the student of the alleged misconduct. Students subject to more severe penalties have additional rights as spelled out in the Code of Conduct.

## **STUDENT CONDUCT CODE:**

### **Class One Offenses**

- a. Violation of classroom, hall or lavatory rules set forth by the principal or teacher
- b. Disruptive behavior
- c. Tardiness
- d. Using profanity or abusive language
- e. Pushing, wrestling or general horseplay in a building, on a vehicle or at a supervised activity

### **Consequences of Class One Offenses**

The staff member supervising the student will either:

- a. Withdraw certain privileges
- b. Assign extra work
- c. Assign detention

Parents will be notified of serious breaches of these rules. Repeated violations of these rules will be considered a class two offense and be referred to the principal or assistant principal.

### **Class Two Offenses**

- a. Repeated Class One offenses

- b. \*Truancy
- c. Cutting class
- d. Leaving the building without permission
- e. Loitering in school buildings or on school grounds while school is in session
- f. Parking in school lots without a student permit
- g. Possession of lighter, matches or any flame generated mechanism
- h. Violation of student driving and parking rules
- i. Lying
- j. Computer/electronic communications misuse, including any unauthorized use of computers, software, or Internet/Intranet account; accessing inappropriate website; and any other violation of the District's Acceptable Use Policy
- k. Cheating/academic dishonesty/plagiarism
- l. Public Displays of Affection (PDA)

\*Violation of State or Federal Laws

### **Consequences of Class Two Offenses**

The principal or assistant principal shall assign the offending student to:

- a. Supervised study, or
- b. Detention or parent contact
- c. Suspension until parental conference is arranged
- d. Parent conference
- e. Loss of credit on work in question (cheating)
- f. Suspension or revocation of driving privileges
- g. Suspension of computer privileges
- h. In-house Detention
- i. Repeated violations of these rules will be considered a class three offense and will result in suspension of a period of one to five days.

### **Class Three Offenses**

- a. Repeated class two offenses
- b. Smoking/possession and or use of tobacco of any kind
- c. Fighting
- d. \*Tampering and misuse of an emergency system (911)
- e. \*Vandalism/graffiti
- f. Defiance of a staff member's request; insubordination
- g. Stealing and/or possession of stolen property
- h. Discrimination, which includes the use of race, color, creed, national origin, religion, gender sexual orientation or disability as a basis for treating another in a negative manner
- i. Harassment
- j. Bullying
- k. Threatening another student
- l. Hazing, which includes any intentional or reckless act directed against another for the purpose of initiation into, affiliating with or maintaining membership in any school sponsored activity, organization, club or team
- m. Any act that endangers the safety, health or welfare of self and/or another person(s)
- n. Disrespectful behavior to any other individual

\*Violation of State or Federal Laws

### **Consequences of Class Three Offenses**

The principal shall suspend for a period of between one and five days; in addition, the principal may remove bus riding privileges, initiate claims seeking restitution for damages and may notify legal authorities of violations of penal law. Some class three offenses may also be serious enough to warrant a hearing before the Superintendent of Schools under Education Law 3214. Repeated violations of these rules will be considered a class four offense and may result in a hearing before the Superintendent of Schools.

### **Class Four Offense**

- a. Repeated class three offenses
- b. \*The consumption, sharing, selling and/or buying, use and/or possession of alcoholic beverage, illegal drugs, controlled substances, counterfeit and designer drugs, or paraphernalia for the use of such drugs, or any attempts to do so at any school sponsored event or on school property at all times
- c. Possession of or under the influence of alcohol/drugs
- d. \*Assault on a staff member
- e. Any act that seriously endangers the safety, health or welfare of another person(s)
- f. \*Possession of weapons
- g. \*Threatening a staff member or student
- h. Sexual and/or racial harassment
- i. Inappropriate use of prescription drugs and/or over the counter drugs

\*Violation of State or Federal Laws

### **Consequences of Class Four Offenses**

The principal shall suspend offending students for a period of five days and may notify legal authorities of violations of penal codes. In addition, the principal may, at his discretion, suspend students from participating in any or all-extracurricular or social activities for a given period.

In addition to the above consequences, the principal may bring formal charges against a student requesting that the student be removed from school for a period greater than five days or be expelled. The Superintendent of Schools shall hear these charges in accordance with Education Law 3214 and decide on the matter.

### **Alternative Instruction**

When a student of any age is removed from class by a teacher or a student of compulsory attendance age is suspended from school pursuant to Education Law 3214, the District will take immediate steps to provide alternative means of instruction for the student.

### **Discipline of Students with Disabilities**

While all students are subject to the same Code of Conduct, the Board of Education recognizes that students with disabilities are entitled to additional procedural protections. The Code of Conduct affords students with disabilities subject to disciplinary action no greater or lesser rights than those expressly afforded by applicable federal and state laws and regulations.

### **Corporal Punishment**

Corporal punishment is defined as an act of physical force upon a student and is forbidden.

### **Student Searches and Interrogations**

Authorized school officials may question a student about an alleged violation of law or the District Code of Conduct. Students are not entitled to a "Miranda" type warning, nor are school officials obligated to contact a student's parent(s) before questioning. School officials, however, will tell students why they are being questioned.

In addition, the Board authorizes certain school officials to conduct searches of students and their belongings if there is reasonable suspicion that such a search will result in evidence that the student violated a law or the District Code of Conduct. Searches will be limited to the extent necessary to locate the evidence sought. Students should have no reasonable expectation of privacy with respect to areas considered school property. This means the student lockers, desks, and other school storage places may be subject to search at any time by school officials without prior notice to students and without their consent.

### **Visitors to the Schools**

All visitors to a school must report to the main office of the appropriate building. Any unauthorized person on school property will be reported to the principal or designee. Unauthorized persons will be asked to leave. All visitors are expected to abide by the rules of public conduct on school property as contained in the Code of Conduct.

### **Public Conduct on School Property**

All persons on school property or attending a school function, including athletic events, shall conduct themselves in a respectful and orderly manner. In addition, all persons on school property or attending a school function are expected to be properly attired. The District may rescind authorization to be on school property or attend school functions for any visitor who violates the rules of public conduct.

### **Dissemination and Review**

A summary of the Code will be provided to all students and parents at the start of each school year. In addition, the complete version of the Code will be available to both the staff and the community on the district website.

The Board of Education will review the Code of Conduct every year and update it as necessary. Before adopting any revisions, the Board will hold at least one public hearing.

### **BUS TRANSPORTATION**

Many of the children who attend Akron Central School ride the buses. The bus drivers do their best to maintain a time schedule so that all the students will arrive on time for school. The buses cannot wait for each student in the morning and so the cooperation of all the parents and children is needed if the buses are to arrive on time. Buses are expected to arrive no later than 8:00 A.M. Students should be assembled and seated in homerooms for attendance at 8:06 A.M. Students reporting after 8:06 A.M. are tardy.

The regular buses leave the Akron School at 2:40 P.M.; the activity and detention buses leave at 3:23 and 4:30. Only those students who have detention assignments or who have remained for an activity are to take the 3:23 and 4:30 buses.

Safety on the buses is everyone's responsibility. The bus driver is in complete charge of the bus, and may take whatever action is deemed necessary at the time to insure the safe conduct of pupils to and from the school.

Careful observance of the following rules will help to make transportation to and from school as safe and pleasant as possible:

1. Be on time; the bus must keep on a schedule.
2. Enter and leave the bus in an orderly manner. Avoid crowding.
3. Upon leaving the bus at 8:00 A.M. students are to come directly into school.
4. Students who ride morning buses must take the bus home in the afternoon unless a parental note is brought to the Principal.
5. Stay away from the bus until it has stopped. No food or drink is to be consumed on the buses.
6. Help to keep your bus clean and sanitary.
7. Obey the driver's suggestions courteously and promptly.
8. Loud talking or laughing and unnecessary confusion can momentarily distract the bus driver's attention and may result in a serious accident.
9. Keep your head and arms inside the bus. Do not yell out of the windows.
10. Student smoking is not allowed on the bus at any time and will result in immediate revoking of bus riding privilege.
11. Profane or indecent language is out of order on a school bus (or anywhere else).
12. Students are to avoid moving about on the bus at any time it is in motion. Sudden stops or bumps could cause serious pupil injury.
13. Students who miss outgoing buses are to report to the Secondary office immediately.
14. Fighting, throwing objects or other forms of rowdiness are not permitted on buses.

Riding privileges may be suspended for students who misbehave on the bus. Older bus students are expected to set a good example for the younger bus students. Good safety practices on the buses require the constant cooperation of all students.

### **ACADEMICS**

#### **Honor and Merit Roll**

Four (4) Honor and Merit Rolls a year are determined for students in grades 6-8. These rolls are compiled as follows:

1. Merit Roll: Comprised of those students having an average of 84.5 to 89.4 for all unit courses.  
Honor Roll: Comprised of those students having an average of 89.5 to 94.4 for all unit courses.



High Honor Roll: Comprised of those students having an average of 94.5 or above for all unit courses.

2. **Another factor, which can affect qualification for “Merit,” “Honor,” or “High Honor” Roll, is an incomplete and/or a failing grade.** If a student received an incomplete grade in any subject, including **Physical Education**, he or she becomes ineligible for the “Merit,” “Honor,” or “High Honor” Rolls. Upon completion of the requirements, the student’s name is then placed on the correct Roll.

#### **Academic Award Policy**

1. Certificates: Students who make the Merit, Honor, and High Honor Rolls for the first three marking periods of each year will receive a certificate in June.
2. Students in grade 8 who have maintained a 94.5 average or higher from grade 6 through the 3<sup>rd</sup> marking period of grade 8 will receive the Gold Presidential Academic Award.
3. Students in grade 8 who have maintained an 89.5 - 94.4 average from grade 6 through the 3<sup>rd</sup> marking period of grade 8 will receive the Gold Presidential Academic Award.

#### **RETENTION**

**Any student who fails two (2) or more courses may be required to successfully complete Summer School. Retentions will be made on an individual basis considering District Policy.**

#### **MARKING SYSTEM AND REPORT CARD**

The passing grade for Akron Central School students is 65%. In grades 6-8 report cards are generated in Parent Portal for four marking periods, approximately ten weeks apart. Final examinations are given in most subjects in June. Numerical grades are entered on the report card.

The final average for a full year is the average of the four ten-week grades and the final exam. For one-half year courses, the final average is the average of the final exam and each of the ten-week grades.

#### **ATTENDANCE: RESPONSIBILITY OF STUDENT**

A student who is absent from school must provide a valid written explanation, signed by a parent/guardian, to the attendance secretary when he/she returns. If the student fails to bring in a note, the student will be marked with an illegal absence.

A student who has been absent from school is required to make-up missed work in assigned classes. The responsibility lies with the student to contact the teacher and/or a fellow classmate to ascertain the assignments that have been missed. It is not the teacher’s responsibility to seek out the student. This is normally done during 9<sup>th</sup> period unless other arrangements are made with the teacher. Failure to make-up missed work may result in the student receiving a grade of “0” for work not done.

**In order to be eligible for an extracurricular activity, a student must have attended school for the entire day. A student who signs in or out and misses more than 50% of a class period is ineligible for participation, unless Administrative (Principal) approval is granted. This includes absence from class, when in the Nurse’s office, even if it is for one class.**

If a student is absent because of an appointment which must be scheduled during the school day, (example-dental or medical appointment) the student may participate if they receive permission from the Principal. In such cases, the student must provide permission from the Principal or Assistant Principal. Also, the student must provide documentation from the medical office detailing the date, time and duration of the appointment.

#### **SIGNING IN – SIGNING OUT**

A written note by a parent/guardian, including their signature, the student’s name, date, time, and reason for sign-in/sign-out is required. The student must take the note to the Middle School Office during homeroom, with prior permission of the homeroom teacher, the morning of which the student is to sign-out. Special passes are granted at the Middle School Office to sign in or out.

Upon arrival the parent/guardian who signs-in/signs-out their child should report to the Main Entrance and be buzzed in by the greeter. The parent/guardian should then wait for their child (ren) in the Main foyer.

**Please note: Students may only be released with contacts that are listed on their emergency forms.**

## **STUDENT SUPPORT SERVICES**

The Student Support Services Team at Akron Central School District is a collaboration of our school counselors, school psychologists, school social workers and Native American counselor/liaison. Together they provide an atmosphere to ensure the well-being of all students. The program addresses the academic, career, and social/emotional needs of the students. Our ultimate goal is to enable all students to achieve success in school and to be responsible and productive members of society. Parents/Guardians are also welcomed and encouraged to telephone or visit the counselor at school. Appointments can be made by calling the school counselor at 716-542-5044.

## **MIDDLE SCHOOL GOVERNMENT**

**Advisor:** Mrs. Cochrane

### **2023 - 2024 Middle School Government Officers:**

**President** – Samuel Reagan

**Vice President** – Adelaide Mandell

**Secretary** – Isis Whitmarsh

**Treasurer** – Evan Iversen

### **Native American Delegates:**

Samantha Crooks

Lexie Ground

Ryder Jonathan

Lucy Felski

### **7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Council Members-At-Large 2023 - 2024:**

Evan Winter

Ashley Koziej

Gabrielle Dispenza

Avery Haak

Brooke Wood

Hannah Liss

Kennedy Kozlowski

Mackenzie Tomporowski

Delaina Blair

Morgan Sidell

Emmie Chase

Hunter Haist

Cassie Judge

Reagan Luck

Evan Yang

Madelyn Odachowski

Quinn O'Malley

Stephanie Amirian

Lilyana Dean

The Middle School Government is an elected body of officers who serve as the Student Council of the Middle School. Elections for Class Officers and Council members are held in May. We meet monthly and organize activities throughout the year for the Middle School students. Some of the activities include dances, charity drives, fundraisers, dress-up days, sponsoring the school store, attending leadership conferences, and much more! We will sponsor fundraisers throughout the year to raise money for Tiger Ticket rewards, fun nights, and those in need. All students are always welcome to participate in our activities and apply for government at the end of each school year!

## **DETENTION**

Regular detention and 4:30pm detention will be held in the Middle School Cafeteria. Detention may only be assigned by administration. The following infractions on the part of students are among those deemed punishable by detention:

- Insubordination
- Chronic disturbances within the classroom
- Defacing or destruction of school property
- Skipping detention
- Absence from school grounds without permission
- In hallways without corridor pass
- Misconduct on school grounds, in the corridors, cafeteria, or in an assembly
- Loitering
- Misconduct as determined by an administrator

Students absent on the day assigned for detention will take detention at the earliest possible date following their return to school. Failure to report to detention when assigned will result in doubling the punishment.

Detention assignments take precedence over any other activity, such as work, stage work, sports, clubs, detention in teacher rooms, etc. It is to be taken on the day assigned. Excuses for missing detention are not acceptable on the day

following the missed detention. **Detention is expected to be served daily, unless excused by the Principal before the detention date assigned.**

### **OUT-OF-SCHOOL SUSPENSION**

**When serving Out-of-School-Suspension (OSS) students are NOT allowed to be on school property without written Administrative approval.**

### **DRESS CODE**

All student interaction and communication among themselves, teachers, District administrators, other District personnel and visitors on District property will be appropriate, civil and respectful. Students are expected to behave with dignity and treat others with respect and courtesy. Students should respect their peers, teachers, and school staff. Individual behavior should not interfere with the rights of others. Profanity, vulgar language including, but not limited to, negative comments based on race or ethnicity and obscene comments or gestures towards others will not be tolerated.

Appropriate disciplinary action will be taken. All students are expected to give proper attention to personal cleanliness and to dress appropriately for school and school functions. Students and their parents have the primary responsibility for acceptable student dress and appearance. Teachers and all other District personnel should exemplify and reinforce acceptable student dress and help students develop and understand appropriate appearance in the school setting. For specific information on the district's dress code, please visit: <https://www.akronschools.org/codeofconduct>

### **POSITIVE BEHAVIORS IN SCHOOL**

All schools are expected to promote a positive school climate and culture that provides students with a supportive environment in which to grow both academically and socially. Schools are expected to take a proactive role in nurturing students' pro-social behavior by providing them with a range of positive behavioral supports as well as meaningful opportunities for social-emotional learning. Effective social-emotional learning helps students develop fundamental skills for life effectiveness, including: recognizing and managing emotions developing caring and concern for others; establishing positive relationships; making responsible decisions; and handling challenging situations constructively and ethically. Such skills help prevent negative behaviors and the disciplinary consequences that result when students do not live up to behavioral standards. Student engagement is also integral to creating a positive school climate and culture that effectively fosters students' academic achievement and social/emotional growth. Providing students with multiple opportunities to participate in a wide range of pro-social activities and, at the same time, bond with caring, supportive adults reduces negative behavior. Examples can include: providing students with meaningful opportunities to share ideas and concerns and participate in school-wide initiatives; student leadership development; periodic recognition of students' achievements in a range of academic and co-curricular areas; using corrective feedback; and developing school-wide positive behavior systems such as Tiger Tickets and Character COUNTS! Ice cream socials. Such opportunities, coupled with a comprehensive guidance program of prevention and intervention, provide students with the experiences, strategies, skills and support they need to thrive Akron Middle School is proud to offer several extracurricular activities for students including but not limited to interscholastic sports, musical programming, theater, and a multitude of clubs which align with student interests. We encourage all students to get involved in programs they enjoy.

### **CHARACTER COUNTS!**

CHARACTER COUNTS! Provides a meaningful, measurable, and sustainable framework that focuses on character skills and shaping a positive culture. CHARACTER COUNTS! Is centered around Six Pillars of Character (trustworthiness, respect, responsibility, fairness, caring, and good citizenship). By combining core values like the Six Pillars with our TEAM approach, research-based strategies, and best practices in character education, CHARACTER COUNTS! Can prepare students for life, school, work, and beyond. Each month the Middle School will focus on one CHARACTER COUNTS! Trait.

### **ACADEMIC ELIGIBILITY POLICY**

#### **Extracurricular Academic Policy for Middle School**

##### **Philosophy**

The main objective of the Akron Middle School is to provide the best possible education for each student commensurate with the student's abilities. In addition, we recognize that a varied and comprehensive extracurricular program plays a vital role in the total development of the student. Through these activities, the student learns self-discipline, leadership, and a spirit of cooperation; at the same time, such activities allow the student to participate in and develop activities of interest. We cannot forget, however, that the attainment of academic skills is of primary

importance. It is our belief that a student must maintain a satisfactory academic performance in order to be eligible for participation in extracurricular activities.

### **MIDDLE SCHOOL PROCEDURE**

This policy includes all students in grades 6-8.

Any person failing two (2) or more subjects is declared ineligible to participate in athletic and extracurricular activities. A grade of incomplete (INC) is to be counted as a failing grade for the purpose of determining ineligibility. Ineligible students may obtain a form, in the Middle School Office on **Monday mornings (Tuesday mornings when there is a Monday holiday)**. This will enable them to participate with weekly teacher approval in athletic and/or extracurricular activities. This "Temporary Return to Eligibility" form must be returned each week to the Middle School Office by 3:00pm on Monday.

#### **The Principal may prevent ineligible students from attending extracurricular activities.**

**Ineligible** students will not be permitted to participate in the activity (contest or competitions, clubs, performance and meetings) without teacher approval. They are limited to practice and/or rehearsal participation. Also, students who are ineligible are placed on ineligibility probation for a five-week period. 6<sup>th</sup> grade starts this procedure at the close of the 20-week marking period. **\*Please note: Any student who is participating on a JV/Varsity athletic team will follow the High School Ineligible Policy while they are participating in the respective sport.**

### **DIGNITY FOR ALL STUDENTS**

The Board of Education is committed to providing a safe and productive learning environment within its schools. Discrimination and harassment of a student by another student is strictly prohibited on school property, in school buildings, on school buses, and at school sponsored events and/or activities whether occurring on or off campus. The Board of Education shall require the prohibition of discrimination and harassment – along with the range of possible intervention activities in accordance with The Dignity for All Students Act.

For the purpose of this policy, the term "harassment" means the creation of a hostile environment by conduct or by verbal threats, intimidation or abuse that has or would have the effect of unreasonably and substantially interfering with a student's educational performance, opportunities or benefits, or mental, emotional or physical well-being; or conduct, verbal threats, intimidation or abuse that reasonably causes or would reasonably be expected to cause a student to fear for his or her physical safety; such conduct, verbal threats, intimidation or abuse includes but is not limited to conduct, verbal threats, intimidation or abuse based on a person's actual or perceived race, color, weight, national origin, ethnic group, religion, religious practice, disability, sexual orientation, gender or sex.

Harassment may also occur in various forms such as "hazing." "Hazing" will be understood to be any activity undertaken or a situation created, by any individual, group of individuals or organization, in which individuals are voluntarily subjected to activities that have the potential to harass, intimidate, impart pain, humiliate, invite ridicule or cause undue mental or physical fatigue or distress, or to cause mutilation, laceration, or bodily injury. The express consent of the victim will not be a defense.

The District also prohibits "internet bullying" (also referred to as "cyber-bullying"). Students are prohibited from using or having on or in an operational mode any video camera or electronic devices, including but not limited to, paging devices, mobile telephones, cellular telephones, laser pointers or pens or any other type of telecommunication device during instructional time, except as expressly permitted in connection with authorized use in the classrooms. While students are permitted to possess such devices on school property, they are prohibited from using them in any manner which invades the privacy of students, employees, volunteers or visitors. Students are not permitted to use any form of information technology, including their own personal electronic devices, to intimidate, harass or threaten others.

However, it is important to note that a single negative act as enumerated above may also constitute "bullying" (if not more serious misconduct) based upon the particular circumstances such as the seriousness of the act and/or the intent of the actor.

Any student who believes that he/she is being subjected to bullying/harassing behavior, as well as any other person who has knowledge of or witnesses any possible occurrence of bullying/harassment, shall report the bullying/harassment to any staff member or the building Principal. The staff member/building Principal to whom the report is made (or the staff member/building Principal who witnesses bullying/harassing behavior) shall investigate the complaint and take

appropriate action to include, as necessary, referral to the next level of supervisory authority and/or other official designated by the District to investigate allegations of bullying/harassment. Investigation of allegations of bullying/harassment shall follow the procedures utilized for complaints of harassment within the school District. Allegations of bullying/harassment shall be promptly investigated and will be treated as confidential and private to the extent possible within legal constraints.

The Board prohibits any retaliatory behavior directed against complainants, victims, witnesses, and/or any other individuals who participate in the investigation of allegations of bullying/harassment. Follow-up inquiries and/or appropriate monitoring of the alleged bully/harasser and victim shall be made to ensure that bullying/harassing behavior has not resumed and that all those involved in the investigation of allegations of bullying/harassment have not suffered retaliation.

Personnel at all levels are responsible for taking corrective action to prevent bullying /harassing behavior of which they have been made aware at School District sites or activities and/or reporting such behavior to their immediate supervisor. Further, staff training shall be provided to raise awareness of the problem of bullying/harassment within the schools and to facilitate staff identification of and response to such bullying/harassing behavior among students.

Prevention and intervention techniques within the District to prevent against bullying/harassing behavior and to support and protect victims shall include building-level and classroom-level strategies and activities as determined by administration. Appropriate staff members will provide individual intervention to bullies/harassers, victims, and their parents/guardians to help ensure that the bullying/harassment stops.

**Rules against bullying/harassing shall be publicized District-wide and shall be disseminated as appropriate to staff, students, and parents/guardians. Disciplinary sanctions for violation of this policy shall be outlined in the *District Code of Conduct* as enumerated above.**

#### **LIBRARY MEDIA CENTER & COMPUTER LAB**

The LMC offers a wide variety of print and digital reading materials, database access, research instruction, special events, games and a makerspace. Items can also be requested via interlibrary loan if students are unable to find what they need in our collection. Most materials may be borrowed for two weeks, and may be renewed if desired.

Students may request a pass to visit the LMC by utilizing the pass request form on the library website. The email approval from library faculty/staff functions as your pass. This **MUST** be shown to your teacher **PRIOR** to leaving for the LMC. Students on the ineligible list must have clearance from administration to use the LMC.

Students who borrow materials are responsible for their return, and must pay for damage to or loss of those materials. Appropriate behavior toward people and property is expected of all students using the school library.

Students may request to stay 9th period in the LMC by utilizing the form on the library website, as long as it is submitted prior to 2PM. Please note: If you have afternoon detention or are on the ineligible list, you must stay with a teacher.

Students removed from the library because of disciplinary issues may expect the following consequences:

1<sup>st</sup> offense – no library privileges for a week.

2<sup>nd</sup> offense – no library privileges until further notice.

Administrative approval must be obtained for re-admittance to the library.

#### **PASSES**

Every student is required to be in a regularly assigned place each period of the day, including the homeroom period. Pupils are to be absent from their regularly assigned places only with the knowledge and consent of the person in charge and shall carry a Corridor Pass/Hallway Passport signed by the teacher giving the student's intended destination and the time at which he/she was permitted to leave the room. The student should go directly to his/her destination. Any passes other than lavatory passes are to originate with the teacher to whose room you are going. Three minutes are allowed for passing between classes. Experience has shown that this is ample time and provides for students to stop at lockers and the lavatory.

## HEALTH OFFICE

Joanne M. Fix, R.N.  
Nicole Downs, LPN

Phone-716-542-5036

Fax (716)542-5057

The Health Office is open and the nurse is available for students daily from 8:00am– 2:34pm. Upon entering the Health Office, The nurse's will make every effort to meet the students' individual needs. Our goal is to provide comfort measures and maintain the student's presence in school. The health office staff does work under the guidelines provided to them by the school physician. Parents with children who have special needs should contact the health office for assistance.

## IMMUNIZATIONS

New York State requirements regarding immunizations for students entering Pre K.

- Polio – 3 doses
- D.T.P. (diphtheria, tetanus, pertussis ) 4 doses
- M.M.R. (measles, mumps, rubella ) 1 doses
- Hepatitis B – 3 doses
- Varicella – (chickenpox) I dose
- HIB (Haemophilus Influenza B) 1-4 doses
- PCV 9 (Pneumococcal) 1-4 doses

New York State requirements regarding immunizations for students entering K -12.

- Polio - 3 - 4 doses
- D.T.P. (Diphtheria, Tetanus, Pertussis) 3 - 4 doses
- M.M.R. (Measles, Mumps, Rubella) 2 doses
- Hepatitis B - 3 doses
- Varicella (chicken pox) 2 doses

\*\*\*Tetanus - Tdap- 1 dose **for ALL students entering the 6<sup>th</sup> grade**

\*\*\* Meningococcal – 1 dose **for ALL students entering the 7<sup>th</sup> grade and a 2<sup>nd</sup> dose is required for ALL students entering 12<sup>th</sup> grade.**

\*\*\*Please send in all documented COVID 19 immunizations for your child so they can be documented on their health care record,

## Mandated Immunizations

New York State does not accept religious exemptions for immunizations, but if your child requires a medical exemption, please contact the health office.

If you or a family member has no health insurance, you may be eligible for low cost or free health insurance / immunizations. Please contact:

**Erie County Department of Health**  
**95 Franklin Street**  
**Buffalo, New York 14202**  
**716-868-7690**

**Genesee County Health Department**  
**3837 West Main Street**  
**Batavia, New York 14020**  
**585-344-2580 x 2555**

## PHYSICALS

New York State mandates physicals on all new students entering school, and all students entering Pre-K, Kindergarten, 1st, 3rd, 5th, 7th, 9th, and 11th grade. All physicals are due by September at the beginning of each school year; Physicals must be completed and submitted on the New York State physical form by a licensed physician, in which a B.M.I is included, an optional dental form is encouraged.

## SPORTS PHYSICALS

In order to participate in sports students are required to have a sports physical. Students are required to participate in gym/swim classes in order to participate in sports. A sports physical is good for one (1) calendar year, which includes all three ACS sports seasons: fall, winter and spring. Please turn in all completed sports physical forms in to the health office. For further questions, feel free to contact the athletic director Mr. Kevin Wartinger. He can be reached at 542-6126, or Mrs. Wendy Pazderski at 716-542-5140 during school hours.

**PHYSICAL EDUCATION EXCUSES**

Students may be excused from gym/swim only if they present the health office with a

- Physician’s note.
- The student will need to make-up the gym/swim class.
- Health office - only if deemed necessary at student’s request.

**FOR HYGIENE PURPOSES, ALL STUDENTS ARE ENCOURAGED TO SHOWER AFTER GYM / SWIM.**

**Students are encouraged to wear goggles and water shoes in the pool area.**

**MEDICATIONS IN SCHOOL**

Students may need to take medication during school hours to attend school. This applies to medications **medically** necessary for the student to take while in school or school sponsored events. In order for medication at school, to be distributed, the following must occur annually:

- A written and signed order from a New York State licensed physician. The order should include the right name, right drug, right dose, right time, and right route.
- A written signed consent from parent and/or guardian.
- A properly labeled container or bottle from the pharmacy in which the medication came in. (Includes prescription and over the counter medication) All medication must be delivered to the health office by a parent or guardian.
- All unused medication must be picked up by the student’s last class day of the school year. If not the medication will be disposed of by the health office.

Parents and/or guardians are responsible for obtaining all orders and supplies.

**SELF-ADMINISTERED MEDICATIONS**

**(Students who can self-administer their own medications without assistance)**

There are a significant number of students on maintenance medication for acute / chronic diseases or with diagnoses that require emergency / rescue medication. In order for a student to be considered self-administered the following must occur annually:

- A written and signed order from a New York State licensed physician. The order should include the right name, right drug, right dose, right time, and right route.
- A written signed consent from a parent and / or guardian.

**If the physician and parent sign the self-administered form for a student, they attest that the student is knowledgeable and responsible to be self-administered. A parent and/or guardian is responsible for the periotic check to see how the student is doing with the use of their medication.**

- A properly labeled container or bottle from the pharmacy in which the medication came in.

**The health office will provide an emergency care plan coordinated with the student’s diagnosis and emergency medication.**

<b>Erie County Department of Health</b> <b>Rath Building</b> <b>957 Franklin Street</b> <b>Buffalo, New York 14202</b> <b>(716) 858-7690</b>	<b>Immunization Action Plan</b> <b>Erie County Department of Health</b> <b>608 William Street</b> <b>Buffalo, New York 14206</b> <b>(716) 858-2373</b>	<b>Dental Clinic</b> <b>Erie County Medical Center</b> <b>462 Grider Street</b> <b>Buffalo, NY 14215</b> <b>(716) 898-3189</b>
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Please contact the health office if you have any questions or concerns. You may down load any medical form from the Akron Schools website. Go to [www.akronschools.org](http://www.akronschools.org)., click on the Departments tab and open the Health Office link.