



*“Success is the sum of small efforts repeated day
in and day out.” Robert Collier*

2026-2027

**STUDENT/FAMILY
HANDBOOK**

Respect
Responsibility



**Mountain View
Middle School**

Community
Pride

MISSION STATEMENT

Mountain View Middle School is a safe and encouraging learning environment where all students are engaged in a rigorous and inclusive learning experience designed to meet social, emotional, physical, and intellectual needs.

We...

- 🐾 P**ersevere when problem solving by employing multiple strategies, reasoning abstractly, and drawing and applying conclusions.
- 🐾 A**chieve purposeful, differentiated learning expectations in order to demonstrate effective communication, collaboration, creativity, and critical thinking skills.
- 🐾 W**ork cooperatively to provide a safe learning environment by treating all members of the school community with respect, dignity, and equity.
- 🐾 S**ucceed, acknowledge, and celebrate our achievements.
- 🐾 P**articipate in a variety of activities that promote physical, mental, emotional, and social well-being.
- 🐾 R**espond and communicate as effective learners through close reading, writing, speaking, viewing, and purposeful listening.
- 🐾 I**nspire, instill, and model respect, support, and cooperation in all instruction and activities.
- 🐾 D**evelop the characteristics of responsible and ethical community members, and global citizens.
- 🐾 E**ngage in the digital world purposefully, ethically, and safely.

May 2017

PRINCIPAL'S WELCOME

Mountain View Middle School

Office of the Principal

Dear Students and Families,

Welcome to the 2026–27 school year at Mountain View Middle School! I am excited to begin another year of learning and growth alongside our students, dedicated staff, and supportive families. We are pleased to welcome new staff members who join our experienced and committed team, all working together to support the success of every student.

At MVMS, our mission remains constant: to provide a safe, supportive, and engaging learning environment where students participate in rigorous and inclusive experiences that meet their social, emotional, physical, and intellectual needs. We are committed to helping each student develop as an independent thinker, problem solver, effective communicator, respectful individual, and engaged member of the community.

During the 2026–27 school year, we look forward to meaningful classroom instruction, enriching clubs and activities, school and MVP-sponsored events, and strong athletic and co-curricular programs. Research shows that students who are involved beyond the classroom are more connected and successful in school, and we encourage all students to explore opportunities that match their interests.

If at any point you have questions or concerns about your student, we encourage you to begin by contacting their classroom teacher. Our school counselors and administrators are also available to provide additional support as needed.

To stay informed throughout the year, please visit the MVMS website at <https://goffstown.k12.nh.us/index.php/schools-2/mountain-view-middle-school>, where you will find our school calendar, resources, and important updates. Families will also receive our bi-monthly *PAWS News* newsletter to stay connected to events and happenings at MVMS. We also have a Facebook page where we post important information and photos of our school community.

We ask that you carefully review the MVMS Student-Parent Handbook, which outlines important information regarding school policies, procedures, programs, and expectations. Familiarity with this handbook helps ensure a positive and successful school year for all.

I look forward to partnering with you throughout the year. Your communication, collaboration, and support are essential as we continue to build a strong and caring school community. Together, let's make the 2026–27 school year a great one.

Sincerely,

Jessica Milligan
Principal
Mountain View Middle School

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Please visit our website at www.goffstown.k12.nh.us, click schools drop down menu and select Mountain View Middle School for the link to our bi-weekly newsletter PAWS News.

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SCHOOL DISTRICT CALENDAR FOR NEW BOSTON AND GOFFSTOWN

The district calendar can be found on our website at www.goffstown.k12.nh.us. Click on calendar located on the home page.

GOFFSTOWN SCHOOL DISTRICT POLICIES

Goffstown School District Policies may be viewed online at www.goffstown.k12.nh.us. Policies are located on the home page.

PHILOSOPHY OF THE GOFFSTOWN SCHOOL DISTRICT

Education, if it is to move forward, must have a goal toward which to move, a basic philosophy that combines the best knowledge about learning, children, development, and human relations with the unique and general needs and desires of the community. Toward these ends, the following philosophy for the process of education in the Goffstown School District is presented.

The School Board believes that education should be shaped by purpose rather than by force.

Therefore, the education system of this district, while maintaining flexibility in adapting to an ever-changing society, will be dedicated to the total personal development of each student to the limits of his or her abilities and interests in a sequentially coordinated curriculum, which allows for individual differences.

To this end, staff members will strive to aid in each student's intellectual, physical, moral, and emotional, and social growth so that he or she may become a useful and responsible member of home, community and society while leading a personally rewarding life.

The School Board believes that the ultimate goal of an education in the district schools should be to prepare the student for a world of rapid change and unforeseeable demands.

GOFFSTOWN SCHOOL DISTRICT VISION AND MISSION

Vision

The **Goffstown School District** is an educational community where students, teachers, professional and support staff, parents, school board members, and the entire community value and support academic achievement and are proud of their schools.

Mission

The Mission of the **Goffstown School District** is to provide the opportunity for each student to obtain a substantive, challenging, and appropriate education consistent with the student's abilities, offered within a safe environment, and serves as a foundation for life-long learning.

Approved unanimously by the Goffstown School Board on April 18, 2022

GOFFSTOWN SCHOOL BOARD

The Goffstown School Board usually holds meetings on the first and third Mondays of each month at 7:00 pm in the Goffstown High School (GHS) Information Center. The general public is welcome to attend and listen to the proceedings. If you have a concern to bring to the Board's attention, submit the item for consideration two weeks prior to their meeting, through the SAU office at 497-4818 ext. 5758.

The opportunity for public comment exists at each Board Meeting. "Public Comment" is solicited at the beginning of each Board Meeting. Public comments will also be taken on items marked with an asterisk.

For more information about the Goffstown School Board please visit their website at www.goffstown.k12.nh.us and click on School Boards.

ARRIVAL TIME SCHEDULE

The school day is 8:25 am - 3:10 pm. Students may arrive on campus at 8:00 am when supervision is available. Students looking to complete homework or utilize the Information Center resources may do so as early as 7:45 am. Students should enter the school through the main entrance and report to designated waiting areas. The driveway behind the school is intended for bus traffic only. Bus students will be dropped off behind the school and will wait in designated waiting areas through 8:25 am.

DISMISSAL TIME SCHEDULE

Students are dismissed at 3:10 pm. Students being picked up must exit the front of the building and wait behind the white line on the sidewalk until their vehicle is in the designated loading area. Students taking a bus home will report to their loading designated area at 3:10 pm.

BEFORE AND AFTER SCHOOL PROGRAMS

For more information regarding before and after school programs contact the YMCA at (603) 497-4663.

WALKERS

The district provides bus transportation to all students. A parent/legal guardian who wishes for their child to walk to/from school may submit a signed note.

BICYCLES

Bicycles are strongly discouraged as there is not a safe sidewalk system at MVMS. If a student does ride their bicycle to MVMS, helmets are mandatory per NH State law. Students must park their bicycle in the rack at the back of the building and leave immediately after school out the back of the building, proceed down the sidewalk to the sidewalk on the main road. Students are prohibited from riding near the parent pick up line.

REPORTING ATTENDANCE

POWERSCHOOL PORTAL: HOW TO SUBMIT ATTENDANCE

1. Log into PowerSchool at sms.sau19.org (not available in the app)
2. **Select the student** that you want to report absent
3. Click on **Attendance Monitor** in left Navigation menu toward the bottom:



4. From the **Report Attendance** tab, click the blue button **Report New Attendance**:

Report New Attendance

5. Enter the **Absence Date** or start and end dates if applicable
 - If only reporting a single day absence, both dates should match
 - Absences can be reported 10 school days in advance
6. Select **Full Day** or **Partial Day**
 - If **Partial Day** is selected, you will be prompted to enter a **Time Range of Student Absence**
7. Select the **reason for the absence** from drop-down list
8. Provide an **Explanation** in the text box
 - Be brief to support your reason above
 - You do not need to provide your name as it is logged by the system
9. Click **Submit**

NOTE: Your submission will be logged for your reference in the portal, and you should also receive an email confirming we have received your student's attendance notification (*check your junk mail if you don't receive it*). Your portal submissions will be reviewed by office staff to process the record with the appropriate attendance code. Please refer to the below policies for more information:

Goffstown: [Policy JH - Attendance, Absenteeism and Truancy](#)

New Boston: [Policy JH - Attendance, Absenteeism and Truancy](#)

EXCUSED ABSENCE AND TRUANCY

The Goffstown School Board recognizes two kinds of excused absences and truancy. Excused absences are absences due to illness, absences for participation in school activities, medical and dental appointments, family emergencies, recovery from an accident, required court attendance, death in the immediate family, observation or celebration of a bona fide religious holiday, and such other good cause as may be acceptable to the principal or permitted by law.

Any absence that has not been excused for any of these reasons will be considered an unexcused absence.

EXCESSIVE ABSENCES

The "Excessive Absence" from school indicator is eight days in a trimester, twelve days in a half year and twenty-four days in a year.

FAMILY VACATIONS/EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

Generally, absences other than for illness during the school year are strongly discouraged. When an absence due to vacation is necessary parents/legal guardians are asked to write a note to the student's teacher at least two weeks in advance regarding work completion. Students should access academic materials and assignments through Schoology. Students will be granted the number of days equal to their absence to complete make-up work.

DISMISSALS INCLUDING ILLNESS

If your student is to be dismissed from school before the end of the school day, please send a dated note to the MVMS front office stating the reason for dismissal, who will be picking up your student, and dismissal time. In case of an emergency, a verbal request may be honored. Students will not be dismissed from school until the person picking up the student signs them out in the office and presents a photo ID. Adults will not be permitted to go to the classrooms to pick up their students.

If a student is dismissed from school by the nurse because of illness, the parent/legal guardian will be asked to report to the main office to pick up the student. For your students' safety it is imperative that emergency contact and medical information be kept current in the school office files.

TARDINESS

Students are considered on time to school if they are in their 1st period class at 8:30 am. Students who arrive after 8:30 am will receive a pass in the main office before going to their class. In the event a student's school bus is late, their tardiness is excused. The administration will contact the parents/legal guardians of students who are excessively tardy, which is eight days in a trimester, twelve days in a half year, and twenty-four days in a year.

ACADEMIC PROGRAM

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

We expect all our students to take pride in their work. Tests, quizzes, and/or projects should represent a student's individual efforts. Students need to understand that plagiarism, using another person's words or ideas without giving credit to the other person, will result in an academic penalty. Students should refer to the MVMS Information Center website for more detailed instructions on how to avoid plagiarism and cite sources. The website address is www.goffstown.k12.nh.us, click on Schools, Mountain View Middle School and select Information Center.

ADVANCED MATH CRITERIA

At Mountain View Middle School (MVMS), we believe that all students should be placed into classes that are rigorous and enriching. In the area of mathematics, Grade 7 and Grade 8 students, who meet eligibility requirements, are able to enroll into advanced math courses such as Algebra I and Geometry classes. These fast-paced classes are aligned with the Goffstown High School (GHS) Honors Algebra I and Honors Geometry courses and adhere to the same curriculum and have common course expectations. Students are eligible for an elective credit who successfully meet the high school course competencies in Algebra I and Geometry at MVMS. Not all students are able to enroll into the elective credit option.

The following criteria will be considered when determining eligibility:

- Students who are enrolled in Algebra I and/or Geometry and do not successfully meet the requirements (final average of 65% or above and meeting all course competencies) will not earn an elective credit.
- Students who have earned the elective credit may repeat the course as an audit only.
- Students who do not successfully meet the requirements and who do not earn an elective credit

will be eligible to repeat the class at MVMS or the course at GHS.

- Elective credit(s) will be posted on the GHS transcripts. This elective credit does not fulfill the high school Algebra requirement.
- The elective credit will be recorded as a “P” for pass with no percent value.
- The elective credit will not be factored into a student’s GHS grade point average (GPA).
- The elective credit(s) will be awarded upon entry to GHS. Other high schools will assign the elective credit in accordance with policy and the individual school’s Program of Studies.
- The MVMS Principal and/or designee will have final approval of the awarding of credit(s) earned.

SPANISH – GRADE 7 & 8

This course is designed to develop the four basic skills of language acquisition sequentially: listening comprehension, speaking, reading comprehension, and writing. Students will develop an understanding of the culture and civilization of Spanish speaking countries. Vocabulary and grammatical patterns are introduced and reinforced through listening and speaking exercises. Reading comprehension and writing skills are developed progressively through short, guided dialogues and written exercises. Instruction is interwoven with varied enrichment materials and audio-visual aids. A yearly grade average of “C” or better is strongly recommended for any student who plans to continue study at the next level of Spanish. Students must successfully complete Grade 7 Spanish as a prerequisite for enrollment in Grade 8 Spanish. The next recommended level of study for students who complete 7th and 8th grade Spanish is Spanish 2 at GHS.

RESOURCE ROOM – GRADE 7 & 8

This support is designed for students receiving special education services who require academic and/or executive functioning skill support across the curriculum. The specifics of this service will be outlined in a student’s Individualized Education Plan (IEP) as determined by their educational team. Instruction will focus on pre-teaching and re-teaching of concepts, vocabulary, and organization/prioritization of assignments. Resource Room is not a graded class.

LITERACY – GRADE 7 & 8

The Literacy class is designed to support students who are not yet proficient in reading. Students enrolled in Literacy will be actively engaged in a wide spectrum of literacy strategies that enhance fluency, decoding, vocabulary, phonics, and comprehension. This class is aligned with the 7th & 8th grade ELA program. Literacy is a graded class.

CONTENT LITERACY – GRADE 7 & 8

This class is designed to develop academic literacy through reading and writing across the subject areas (Math, Science, Social Studies, and Language Arts). Classroom instruction will address the critical elements in literacy instruction: vocabulary development and comprehension within the subject area. Students will have an opportunity to practice individual critical thinking skills and enrich their content knowledge. Content literacy is a pass/fail class.

SOCIAL SKILLS AND WORK HABITS/SECOND STEP

SAU 19 uses a nationally recognized school-wide behavior curriculum called Second Step. Second Step is a program that helps enhance learning achievement and promotes a positive learning environment. The program utilizes modeling, practice, and reinforcement in order for children to witness and repeat positive social behavior and work habits.

SAU 19 has developed a pro-active, comprehensive anti-bullying prevention and educational program into our existing Second Step Program. More information may be viewed online at www.goffstown.k12.nh.us hover over SAU info and click on Special Projects then Anti-bullying Project.

CLASSROOM INSTRUCTION IN SUICIDE PREVENTION

Classroom instruction in suicide prevention will take place in grades 7-12 using a program called SOS (*Signs of Suicide*). This program teaches students about mental health and how to seek help if they are worried about themselves or a friend.

SOS has been used by thousands of schools for over 20 years. Studies have shown that it effectively teaches students about depression and suicide while reducing the number of students' self-reported suicide attempts.

Through age-appropriate video clips and guided discussions, students learn:

- that depression is treatable, so they are encouraged to seek help
- how to identify depression and potential suicide risk in themselves or a friend
- to ACT (Acknowledge, Care and Tell a trusted adult) if concerned about themselves or a friend
- who they can turn to at school for help if they need it

Following implementation of this program, counselors will be available to conduct brief meetings with any student asking to talk or debrief. District suicide prevention policies, plans, and resources can be found through the district website.

SCHEDULE CHANGES

Schedule changes are made only in limited circumstances, such as a documented academic need, health or safety concerns; like a founded bullying investigation or staffing adjustments. Requests based on teacher preference, social reasons, or convenience cannot be accommodated. All schedule change requests must be submitted in writing and are carefully reviewed by school administration. While we do our best to support each student's success, schedule changes may not always be possible. Class assignments are carefully created to balance individual learning needs and appropriate class sizes. Because these decisions affect the overall balance of the grade level, class changes are made thoughtfully and only when they are educationally necessary.

MAKE-UP WORK AND EXTRA HELP

During an absence from school, students should utilize Schoology to remain current with assignments. It may be necessary to schedule a make-up session before or after school. Students will be granted the number of days equal to their absence to complete make-up work. In the case of extenuating circumstances, parents/legal guardians should contact their student's school counselor. Students should access academic materials and assignments through Schoology. Paper copies may be available upon request.

Teachers are available before or after school to help any student who may be experiencing difficulty in class or may be in need of extra help. After-school sessions should be arranged with the individual teacher in advance.

NETWORK AND INTERNET PROCEDURE

Parents/Legal Guardians of students new to the district and students re-enrolling in the district will be asked to review the Goffstown School District Policy regulation JICL-R: Student Use of Computers, Devices, and the Internet, outlining the Student Technology Responsible Use Rules. For your student to use the Goffstown School District's Network and set up an internet account, you will need to give your consent electronically using our PowerSchool Forms submission. This electronic consent form stays in the student's PowerSchool account through grade 12. Starting in Grade 3 parents/legal guardians will need to review and sign the Office 365 and Google workplace for Education permission form until the students graduate.

TEAMS ~ INCLUDING UNIFIED ARTS AND ELECTIVES

The core content areas including English language arts, math, science, and social studies are taught on grade level teams in grades 5 and 6. In grades 7 and 8, core content areas including English language arts, science, and social studies are taught on grade level teams. Math, including Algebra I in grades 7 and 8, accelerated math in grade 7 and Geometry in grade 8, may require cross teaming. All students are enrolled in unified arts classes as follows: Grade 5/6: music, art, physical education; Grades 7/8: art, music, wellness, physical education, digital integration, and technical education. Students may enroll in the following electives: Grades 5- 8: band, chorus, and orchestra; Grades 7/8: Spanish.

GRADING SYSTEM FOR GRADES 7 & 8

The interpretation of numerical grades is as follows:

A = 100-90

B = 89-80

C = 79-70

D = 69-65

F = 64-55

In order to give a student the opportunity to be successful for the academic year, the numerical equivalent for an F in a trimester will not be less than 55. Work habits and conduct will also be reflected on the report card.

CONTENT LITERACY (Team Based)

P=PASS (Meets expectations)

F=FAIL (Does not meet expectations)

Students earn the Principal's Honor Roll recognition when they achieve A's in all subjects (including a grade of P in content literacy). Honor Roll recognition is earned when a student achieves B's or higher in all of their subjects (including a grade of P in content literacy).

Citizenship ~ Consistent with our philosophy, mission, and goals, we expect our students will aspire to demonstrate the following as assessed by our school-wide citizenship rubric:

- Respect
- Responsibility
- Community

STANDARDS BASED REPORT CARDS – GRADES 5 & 6

Standards-based report cards (SBRC) are designed to provide clear and accurate student progress toward specific content standards. Standards-based report cards emphasize mastery of academic content rather than an accumulation of points. Student progress is measured using performance indicators, including:

- 4 (Consistently) meaning a student consistently shows independent mastery of the standard
- 3 (Usually) meaning a student meets the standard with occasional support
- 2 (Sometimes) meaning the student partially meets the standard with the performance emerging and requires teacher support
- 1 (Not Yet) meaning the student does not yet meet the standard and needs significant teacher support
- N/A (Not yet assessed) meaning the standard was not accessed during this marking period.

Formative assessments, such as homework and practice activities, provide feedback but are not factored into academic scores. Instead, scores are primarily based on summative assessments, which may include tests, quizzes, and projects. Summative assessments evaluate a student's demonstrated understanding of standards at a particular point in time.

Parents can monitor their student's academic progress through PowerSchool, where scores for summative assignments are updated regularly throughout the trimester. This allows families to stay informed about what their student has mastered and where improvement may be needed.

More information can be found in the SBRC Family Guides on the MVMS website.

PARENT/LEGAL GUARDIAN ACCESS TO POWERSCHOOL AND SCHOOLOGY

Our student information system called PowerSchool and “our learning management system,” Schoology are web-based applications. PowerSchool for parents gives you access to your student’s daily attendance, assignments, grades, as well as school announcements. The parent/legal guardian portal for Schoology gives you access to posted curriculum materials. If this is your first time accessing PowerSchool or Schoology you need a username and password, please contact the office at (603) 497-8288.

PROGRESS REPORTS/REPORT CARDS

We believe that regular communication with parents/legal guardians about a student’s academic progress is beneficial to the student, parents/legal guardians, and teachers. Student report cards are issued three times a year at the end of each trimester. Progress reports/curriculum updates are issued once per trimester. All reports will be sent electronically. Throughout the trimester, teachers will notify parents/legal guardians of students not making adequate progress or who are at risk of failing. PowerSchool is available to parents/legal guardians at any time to review your student’s academic progress.

HOMEWORK AND STUDY HABITS

Teachers will convey homework expectations to students and parents/legal guardians. Students will receive an agenda book to record daily assignments. The agenda book and Schoology give parents/legal guardians the opportunity to check and monitor assignments on a daily basis.

Consistent with homework (Policy Regulation IKB-R) ~ “... the amount of time it takes a student to complete their homework should not be excessive. A general rule of thumb is 10 minutes total time per grade level.”

For example: Grade 5 ~ 50 minutes, Grade 6 ~ 60 minutes, Grade 7 ~ 70 minutes, Grade 8 ~ 80 minutes, High School level courses (Algebra I, Geometry, Spanish, etc.) may result in additional homework time.

HOMEBOUND INSTRUCTION (Policy Regulation IHBF)

“Home or hospital instruction may be authorized by the Superintendent/designee: To any child with a health or physical impairment which in the opinion of a licensed medical examiner, will cause them to be absent from school for more than two consecutive weeks and who school personnel determine can educationally benefit from such a program.”

Students should understand that work will need to be completed beyond the time spent directly with the tutor.

PROMOTION AND RETENTION OF STUDENTS (Policy IKE-R)

Based on extensive research and current data, retention has been shown to have adverse effects on the social, emotional, and intellectual development of children. It may place the child at risk for dropping out of school and adversely affects the child’s level of confidence. A decision to retain a student must be weighed carefully and thoroughly.

The following rules are intended to guide educators and parents/legal guardians in identifying those children who are most likely to benefit from retention and those who may not:

1. Retention must be the result of an extended conversation between the student’s family and the school that defines an academic plan that will remediate learning issues.
2. Retention should never be used as a punishment.
3. Retention is never used to supplant other educational services (e.g., remedial instruction or special education).
4. Retention decisions will be formed by team discussion (including the parent/legal guardian) guided

by an objective process that considers a variety of relevant factors.

5. Parents or legal guardians must be notified and included, as early as possible, (no later than January) in the discussion about retention.

ASSESSMENT PROCESS

Assessment of student learning is important for monitoring student progress and designing differentiated instruction. Formal and informal assessment methods are used to address a range of skills. These assessments may include curriculum-based measures, quizzes, tests, projects, presentations, reports, demonstrations, and various written and oral activities. Screening takes place throughout the school year for students in the areas of literacy and math. The purpose of the screenings is to uncover potential indicators, or risk factors your student may demonstrate that might benefit from additional targeted support. Screenings and assessments are administered in accordance with local and state requirements.

MULTI-TIERED SYSTEM OF SUPPORTS (MTSS)

The MTSS process is a multi-tiered approach to providing supports and interventions at increasing levels of intensity to students who struggle with academic or behavioral expectations. The progress students make at each stage of intervention is closely monitored. Results of this monitoring are used to make decisions about the need for further research-based instruction and/or intervention.

EMERGENCIES

An Emergency Information Form is sent home in the first week of school and must be submitted to your student's homeroom teacher by the end of the week. It is very important that you list a minimum of two (2) people that the school can release your student to in the event we cannot reach a parent/legal guardian if your student is ill, or an emergency arises. The parents, legal guardians, and the people listed will be the only individuals the school will release your student to unless you specify otherwise via a note, telephone call, or legal order. ***It is imperative that the school office be notified immediately of a change in address, home or work telephone number, or emergency information during the school year.***

Please note that unless the office is in possession of court issued documents defining access rights to the student, they will be released to either parent/legal guardian or any adult that you have given written permission.

If there is a court issued document limiting an individual access to a student, it is the responsibility of the custodial parent/legal guardian to supply a copy to the office. This may include documentation such as a parenting plan, guardianship, restraining order, etc. If this situation should change, please notify the office with updated court documents.

ATHLETIC PROGRAM

It is the philosophy of the Mountain View Middle School athletic program to encourage participation by all students in the various programs offered by the school district and community. The goal of our interscholastic program is to provide a variety of athletics to encourage the participation of students with a range of ability levels. Athletics offered at MVMS:

Grade/Fall:

- *5 – 8 Cross Country
- 5 – 8 Boys Soccer
- 5 – 8 Girls Soccer
- 5 – 8 Field Hockey
- 5 – 8 Girls Volleyball

Grade/Winter:

- *5 – 8 Wrestling
- 5 – 8 Cheering
- 5 – 8 Girls Basketball
- 5 – 8 Boys Basketball
- *7 – 8 Football

Grade/Spring:

- *5 -8 Track
- 5 – 8 Baseball
- 5 – 8 Softball
- 5 – 8 Girls Lacrosse
- 5 – 8 Boys Lacrosse

* Designated no cut sports.

Each co-curricular sport has a three-day minimum tryout period, with no cuts taking place prior to the third day.

School uniforms will be issued at the beginning of each athletic season and returned at the completion of the season. Families may be billed for uniforms that are not returned.

ELIGIBILITY

A. Each prospective player trying out for a team must submit the following completed forms on or before the first day of tryouts:

1. Parent/Legal Guardian Permission Form
2. Physical on file with the school nurse – Within one year of the sports program.
3. Proof of insurance coverage
4. MVMS Grade form (completed within 5 days before tryouts)
 - This form requires teacher signature to verify passing grades and the nurse's signature to confirm receipt of physical form
 - All students must have passing grades (D or above) in all subjects by the first day that the try-out period begins.
 - When a progress report or report card is issued, and a student athlete is not passing one or more classes, they may be suspended from participation in practices and games until the student's grades meet the minimum requirements.

B. It is important that coaches, families and athletes practice good sportsmanship. Athletes who fail to abide by the rules of good sportsmanship may be suspended from the team. Athletes who fail to abide by the MVMS disciplinary code are also subject to consequences that may impact participation in athletics.

C. Student athletes must be enrolled at Mountain View Middle School to participate in athletics unless a waiver is granted to either a home-schooled student or a non-public school resident.

D. All school rules apply at home and away games.

E. To be an athlete in good standing, students must comply with all school, team, and coach's rules.

FIELD TRIPS AND OVERNIGHT EXCURSIONS

Field trips and excursions are a valuable part of a student's educational experience. In selecting venues for trips, teachers consider the following factors: value of the activity to the particular class, relationship of the trip to a particular aspect of instruction, suitability and distance traveled in terms of the age level, and cost. A parent's/legal guardian's signature is required for students to participate in MVMS field trips.

The School Board is the approval agent for out-of-state or overnight trips.

Students are required to have evidence of health insurance on file through the field trip permission form. Families may subscribe to the school insurance program at a nominal fee (see Insurance).

For additional details see School Board Policy Regulation IJOA.

INSURANCE

School insurance is made available, at a reasonable cost, to each student in September of each school year. It provides accident/injury insurance in several plan options. This insurance is not required but does provide coverage for the student who may not have other kinds of family insurance coverage. ALL students who participate in athletics MUST provide proof of insurance protection. Insurance purchased through the school will meet this requirement. Students who are injured and have the school insurance must report to the school nurse who will assist in the completion of the claim forms.

SCHOOL COUNSELOR

The school counselor program focuses on the developmental needs of middle level students. The counselors strive to help students overcome obstacles related to their personal growth. School counselors meet with students to focus on skill development for accessing the school day and are available to assist students in navigating crisis situations. Individual guidance, group guidance, seminars, and classroom experiences are available to all grade levels.

The counselors provide academic support by exploring issues that may be interfering with the learning process, discussing future goals, and facilitating parent/teacher/student conferences.

INFORMATION CENTER SERVICES (LIBRARY, MEDIA, TECHNOLOGY)

The mission of the Information Center is to provide students and staff with opportunities to become discerning users of information. The Information Center teaches students, both formally and informally, to be efficient and effective users of a wide variety of information resources. The Information Center also supports staff in regard to curriculum, instruction, and professional development.

The Information Center provides students with books, periodicals, and eBooks for circulation. Students who choose to check out materials from the Information Center will be held responsible for those materials and may be asked to replace those materials if they become damaged or lost. To support the research process, the Information Center has multiple computers with access to the internet, various software programs, and subscriptions to online databases. There is also a Makerspace area that provides opportunities for students to create, build, and design. Students using the Information Center are expected to exhibit appropriate behavior. The hours for the Information Center can be found on the school website; [Information Center](#)

HEALTH SERVICES

The Health Office is staffed by Registered Nurses who are available for students during regular school hours. The Health Office will assist all students in maintaining good health practices, managing chronic conditions, treating minor ailments and injuries, and working to prevent the spread of communicable diseases. Screenings for vision and hearing may be performed routinely depending on the age of students or by special request.

NH state law requires that all new students entering SAU 19 provide documentation of a physical examination and immunization record dated within one year of enrollment. Any information made available regarding allergies, physical disabilities, or other health conditions or concerns will become part of the student's health record. Parents/legal guardians should complete the yearly Health Information Form at the start of each school year and parents/legal guardians whose students have specific health concerns should contact the school nurse directly. Documentation of medical exemption is required to exempt a student from participation in the academic physical education program.

(MVMS/GHS ONLY) Physical exams are required to participate in school sports programs; parents/legal guardians are responsible for arranging physical exams with their student's health care provider. Parents/legal guardians are then responsible for providing the school with documented evidence of the required physical.

IMMUNIZATIONS

Proof of immunizations are required by the New Hampshire Department of Education before your student is enrolled in our schools and at recommended intervals as determined by NH Department of Health and Human Services (NH DHHS). Please visit the NH DHHS website at www.dhhs.nh.gov/sites/g/files/ehbemt476/files/documents2/imm-req-schools22-23.pdf for a full list of required immunizations. Please contact your student's school nurse with any questions.

Requirements for immunizations may be waived for medical reasons if documentation is provided from your student's health care provider that immunizations will be detrimental to the student's health. A waiver may also be granted for religious reasons. Completion and submission of a Religious Exemption Form is required to waive immunizations for religious reasons. Please visit the NH DHHS website at <https://www.dhhs.nh.gov/programs-services/disease-prevention/immunizations/immunization-exemptions-children> for more information regarding exemptions. Please contact your student's school nurse with any questions.

ILLNESS

In the interest of the general health and well-being of all students and staff, no student who is ill should attend school. A student having a fever, sore throat, cough, severe congestion, vomiting or diarrhea, rash of unknown origin, untreated impetigo, should not attend school. Students must be fever free for 24 hours off medication and have no episodes of vomiting/diarrhea for 24 hours prior to returning to school. Students who are deemed too ill to attend classes/activities may be dismissed from school. If you are unsure if/when your student should return to school, please contact the school nurse for assistance prior to sending your student to school. Parents/legal guardians must ensure all emergency contact phone information is up to date in the event that the school must dismiss your student due to an emergency or illness.

MEDICATION

Medications can be dispensed by the school nurse, principal, or the principal's designee. The Health Office stocks certain over-the-counter medication which may be dispensed, with parental/legal guardian permission. The Over-the-Counter Medication Form must be completed and signed by parents/legal guardians yearly, verbal permission is not allowable for medication administration per NH Department of Education. Any additional medication that needs to be given during the school day must be brought to the Health Office by an adult. Outside medication must be in its original container, over the counter medication requires written consent from parents/legal guardians to dispense, prescription medication requires the written consent of both the parent/legal guardian and the physician. Students with asthma and/or life-threatening allergies may self-carry their inhalers and/or Epi-Pens with written permission from their parents/legal guardians and the physician. All students who have asthma and/ or a life-threatening allergy must have a completed asthma action plan and/or allergic reaction plan on file with the school nurse. This form must be updated yearly.

NUTRITION

Mountain View Middle School aligns nutrition practices with the SAU 19 Wellness Policy JLCF. Achievement at school, especially during the morning hours, has been shown to be directly associated with a well-balanced breakfast. Recently we have seen an increase in the consumption of high-energy drinks. These often contain high amounts of caffeine and the unregulated herbal supplement Guarana. Guarana may contain up to 3 times the amount of caffeine than coffee. Because these drinks are not typically recommended for children, please discourage your child from bringing them to school. Additionally, we recommend carbonated beverages not be brought to school.

FOOD SERVICES

Welcome back to school! The Culinary Creators are thrilled to be serving students breakfast and lunch this year. We offer a wide variety of choices within five food groups: fruits, vegetables, breads/grains, lean meats and low fat or skim milk. Students choose 3 to 5 of the food groups including a fruit or a vegetable to make a complete meal. Menus are planned following the US Department of Agriculture's (USDA) meal patterns. We also offer a variety of healthy snacks for students to purchase with their meal.

Menus and current pricing are located on each school's website.

The Food Service program uses the prepay Titan computer program to track purchases and payments. All students are issued an identification number that is used to access his/her account when making any purchase. Payments can be made by sending cash or checks to the school cafeteria or online at the Titan Family portal www.linqconnect.com. Checks are to be made payable to Goffstown Food Service. Please send payments in an envelope clearly marked with the student's first and last name.

If a paper check or online check is returned to the district, the amount of the payment plus any fees will be deducted directly from your student's account.

Please refer to the school board regulation (EF-R) at the school board website for information on account management.

The Food Service program also provides parents/legal guardians access to the free and reduced-price meal program. Applications can be found on the food service website, school offices, school kitchens and the food service office. Families can also apply online at the Titan Family portal www.linqconnect.com. All information is kept confidential in accordance with USDA regulations. Families can apply for this program at any time during the school year. Please note that only breakfast and lunch qualify for the reduced and free pricing.

If your child has an allergy or other food needs, please contact the Food Service Office at (603) 660-5311 for assistance. Please do not have your child purchase lunch or breakfast until you have discussed your child's needs with the food service director.

Additionally, the school district has a Wellness Policy which is School Board Policy regulation JLCF District Wellness. This policy provides guidance on nutrition and physical activity goals throughout the district.

As always, we welcome any concerns or ideas you or your student may have to improve our services to you. We look forward to serving your student this year!

GOFFSTOWN ADULT EDUCATION PROGRAM/HISET

SAU 19 is committed to lifelong learning. The primary goal for the Goffstown Adult Education Program (GAP) is to facilitate adult students' completion of their high school education by providing a flexible and supportive environment where the foundation is laid for success in either post-secondary education or the job market. HISET exam preparation, as well as courses for credit toward a GHS or an Adult Diploma, is offered each semester. The GAP also offers non-credit courses in areas of interest to community members. For more information, contact the Adult Education Office at GHS (497-4841 ext. 5302).

LOST AND FOUND

The school provides a lost and found area for items turned into the office. Large items and clothing are typically left in a bin in the Hilltop Café. Parents/legal guardians should label items of clothing with the student's name so that it may be returned as soon as possible. Unclaimed items will be donated to charity at the end of each trimester.

LOCKERS

Students in Grade 8 will be assigned hallway lockers. Student lockers are used for storage of schoolbooks and personal items such as coats, jackets, and boots. Lockers are the property of the Goffstown School District and therefore are subject to inspection. Lockers should be securely locked at all times with the built-in lock and sharing lockers is not acceptable. We recommend students do not bring valuables to school. Personal locks will be removed. Teams will establish times when students will be allowed access

to lockers. Students should keep their assigned lockers neat and clean. Writing or posting material on the interior and exterior of lockers is also not allowed.

PARENT/LEGAL GUARDIAN/STAFF COMMUNICATION

MVMS Staff utilize telephone calls, conferences, and email when communicating with parents/legal guardians. Should you need information or have questions about your student, please contact the appropriate teacher, counselor, or administrator. A list of teachers email addresses is available on our website. Staff may be contacted during the school day via voicemail and email. Please leave your name, number, and the name of your student in your message. Please note: Our staff are with students throughout the school day and will do their best to respond promptly. As always, in an emergency situation please contact our main office.

VISITORS

Any visitors to MVMS will be required to report to the Main Office before gaining access to the main building. Upon checking in with the Main Office, visitors will be asked to show a photo identification and utilize our check-in system to receive a visitor's pass. All visitors must have a visitor's pass to enter the building. If a visitor is unable to produce a valid photo identification, they will not be permitted to travel alone in the main building and will be escorted by a staff member.

MOUNTAIN VIEW PARTNERSHIP – MVP (Parent/Staff Organization)

The "Mountain View Partnership" is our parent/legal guardian/staff organization, which meets periodically throughout the year to support a variety of programs and initiatives. We encourage all parents/legal guardians to join MVP. Meeting information is advertised in the bi-weekly Paws News. For detailed information regarding the MVP leadership, please visit the MVP website, or like them on Facebook.

VOLUNTEERS

Throughout the year, volunteers are maybe needed to support a variety of activities, and events highly valued by students, staff, and the community.

DESIGNATED VOLUNTEERS

"Designated volunteers shall include but not be limited to any volunteer who has assigned unsupervised contact with students or one-to-one contact with students and/or have unsupervised access to the building as a whole. Designated volunteers, or any other volunteer that the Superintendent, or his designee determines, will be required to undergo a background investigation and a criminal records check." Refer to School Board Policy regulation IJOC. Please call SAU 19 for fingerprinting information.

ANTI-BULLYING TRAINING

As part of the bullying prevention focus in schools, there is a NH Law (RSA 193F) that requires all school volunteers be trained annually on bullying prevention. The district is requiring that school volunteers read School Board Policy regulation JICK (Pupil Safety and Violence Prevention – Bullying) and view an online anti- bullying training video. The policy and video can be found on the SAU 19 website. A Volunteer Verification of Bullying Training form must be completed and turned in to building administration.

RESIDENCY REQUIREMENTS

Parents/Legal Guardians registering students must provide proof of residency supported with at least two documents (e.g., driver's license, utility bill, purchase and sales agreement) as defined in RSA 193:12. Students who register after the beginning of the school year will be allowed to register and be given a ten-day grace period to produce proof of residency documents. Students who do not reside in Goffstown

cannot attend Goffstown Schools unless the School Board has made an exception. Proof of residency, supported with at least two documents, is also required for students who move to a new residency within Goffstown or New Boston.

CANCELLATIONS/DELAYS/CLOSINGS

The Goffstown School District uses a district-wide alert notification system. This system allows more effective communication with parents/legal guardians should an emergency issue or need to communicate arise. Notifications may include school cancellations, school delays, or early dismissals due to inclement weather or building emergencies such as loss of heat, water pressure, or electricity. Every means of communication will be used to notify parents and legal guardians. In addition to the alert notification system, any school closing or delay because of weather conditions will continue to be announced on WMUR- TV. Please refrain from calling the school. Please note that breakfast will not be served when there is a delayed opening.

Each student should know what to do in the event of any change in the regular school schedule. All parents/legal guardians should develop an emergency plan with their child before school begins so that a child will know where to go in the event of an emergency closing of school. Please note in the event of an emergency closing we will make every attempt to have students contact a parent/legal guardian prior to the dismissal as the situation and resources permit. Cell phone use restrictions will be waived during an emergency. Under direct supervision of a staff member, students will be allowed to use their cell phones to contact parents/legal guardians.

The Superintendent may make the determination on whether the emergency closing is a remote learning day or a traditional closure. See Remote Learning information below for more details. A “remote learning day” will take place when in-person school is not feasible due to an emergency closing.

DISTANCE LEARNING DAY INFORMATION

The Superintendent will determine if a distance learning day takes place when in-person school is not feasible due to emergency closing. On a remote learning day, materials will be posted in Schoology for student to work asynchronously by 8:30 am. Staff will utilize Microsoft Teams for office hours during the day to support students in their learning. Through the use of a PBIS rollout, all staff review the procedures and expectations with the students for a distance learning day. A reminder of the procedures for a remote learning day will also be posted on the MVMS website for families to access.

STUDENT GOVERNMENT

Throughout the year the MVMS Student Government schedules numerous activities that promote social and civic expectations. Typically, activities include Student Government elections, Veterans Day and Memorial Day Assemblies, Community Food Drive, Teacher Appreciation Activity, Turkey Trot, student/faculty games, grade level activities, and the 8th Grade Recognition Dance. Please watch for these events in the bi-weekly PAWS News.

STUDENT BILL OF RIGHTS

In order to promote a safe and positive learning environment at our school, teachers, staff, and students expect:

- Courteous and respectful acceptance of people’s differences at all times
- Promptness to all classes and activities with necessary materials
- A pleasant lunchroom atmosphere that is orderly with appropriate table manners
- Everyone to take pride in our school by keeping it free from litter and vandalism
- All members of our community and guests to show responsible behavior and good sportsmanship at all assemblies and after school activities

- Everyone to respect emergency equipment and to follow emergency procedures to create a safe environment

Thank you for contributing to an enjoyable educational experience.

Adopted/Approved
Student Council 1992-93
Revised 2001

PAWS PRIDE/PBIS

Paws Pride is a behavioral model based on the philosophy and core beliefs of Positive Behavior Intervention and Supports. Mountain View Middle School continues to make strides in building community, supporting social and emotional well-being, and character development to encourage a consistent positive climate and culture across all classroom and non-classroom settings. PBIS focuses on the components of Paws Pride: Respect, Responsibility, Community, and Pride. Second Step resources and executive functioning lessons are embedded to support Paws Pride and social and emotional learning.

Other activities include but are not limited to grade level community meetings, monthly positive traits, guest speakers, and Paws Pride Assemblies.

STUDENT BEHAVIOR EXPECTATIONS

We believe the most effective discipline involves proactive strategies designed to prevent discipline problems. We are committed to exhausting proactive disciplinary strategies to sustain a safe, effective, and efficient learning environment for all members of our school community. We are prepared to address the small percentage of our students who occasionally behave in a manner that requires more significant consequences.

We believe all students and staff benefit when inappropriate behaviors and potential consequences are clearly defined and understood. The following rules and guidelines include both local and state policies. Students are expected to:

- treat people and property with respect
- remain on school grounds at all times during the school day
- report to classes on time with required materials
- move about the building and grounds in a safe and appropriate manner
- follow classroom rules and expectations in person and online
- arrive to school within the posted arrival times
- use teacher-issued hall passes when passing during class time
- refrain from inappropriate verbal and written language
- obey all laws including those described in this handbook pertaining to:
 - weapons
 - bullying
 - harassment
 - contraband/controlled substances
 - theft/vandalism
 - assaults/fighting
 - false fire and police alarms/building evacuations
- respect building guidelines regarding gum chewing, snowballs, throwing objects/food, spitting, cell phones, inappropriate displays of affection, in-line sneakers, in-line skates, skateboards, and dress code
- return all materials, i.e., textbooks/instructional resources in the same condition as issued. Students are responsible for restitution for damaged or lost items.

DISCIPLINARY CONSEQUENCES

MVMS Disciplinary Code Level 1

Level one offenses usually involve minor misbehavior on the part of the student which impedes orderly classroom procedures or interferes with the orderly operation of the school. These minor infractions can usually be handled by an individual staff member but sometimes require the intervention of other school support personnel.

<u>Student Offense</u>	<u>Possible Consequences</u>
Classroom Disturbance	Verbal Reprimand or
Improper behavior in the hallways, playground or cafeteria	Redirection Special Assignment
Class Tardiness	Withdrawal of Privileges
Violation of the dress code	Teacher Detention
Disrespectful language/behavior	Parent Contact
Out of assigned area	Behavior Contract
Lying	Apology
	Student Support Room
	In-School Suspension
	Conference with Student
	Changing of Clothes
	Bus Suspension

Level II

Level II offenses are behaviors whose frequency or seriousness tends to disrupt the learning climate of the school community. The infractions generally require intervention on the administrative level. Also, included in this level are misbehaviors which do not represent a direct threat to the health and safety of others but whose educational consequences are serious enough to require corrective action on the part of an administrator.

<u>Student Offense</u>	<u>Possible Consequences</u>
Continuation of Level I misbehaviors	Administrative Detention
Classroom Disruption	Special Assignment
Cheating/Plagiarism	Student Support Room
Forgery	Community Service
Truancy or absence from one's assigned area (cutting class)	Guidance Consultation
Improper/misuse of electronic devices (cellphone, camera, etc.)	Schedule Change
Inappropriate display of affection	In-School Suspension
Technology Violation (violation of acceptable use policy)	Suspension (1-10 days)
Verbal or symbolic harassment that infringes on students' rights to non-threatening environment	In addition to the above stated consequences, consequences listed in Level I may also be applied
Insubordination	Bus Suspension
Gambling	
Intentional pushing/shoving of others	

Level III

Level III offenses are acts that are directed against persons or property that warrant immediate intervention. These acts might be considered criminal but more frequently can be handled by the disciplinary mechanism in the school. Corrective measures which the school should undertake, however, depend on the extent of the school's resources for remediating the situation in the best interests of all students. In some cases, police or other outside agency assistance is utilized.

<u>Student Offense</u>	<u>Possible Consequences</u>
Continuation of Level II behaviors	Temporary removal from class
Bullying/Cyberbullying	Guidance Consultation
Harassment/Sexual Harassment	In-School Suspension
Theft	Suspension (1-10 days)
Vandalism	Long term SAU suspension (at the discretion of the Superintendent)
Fighting	Contact of law enforcement officials (as deemed necessary by school personnel)
Knowingly in the presence of drugs/alcohol or tobacco	Restoration/restitution made by student
Repeated cutting of class or absence from one's assigned area	Any of the preceding disciplinary options under prior levels
Threat to others	Bus Suspension
Repeated truancy	
Gross Misconduct	
Possession or use of pornographic or violent material	

Level IV

Level IV offenses are acts which result in violence to another's person or property or which pose a direct threat to the safety of others in the school (or at any school approved activity). These acts are usually criminal and are so serious that they may require administrative actions which result in the immediate removal of the student from school, the intervention of law enforcement authorities and/or action by the Goffstown School Board. New Hampshire school authorities are obligated to report clearly established criminal offenses to law enforcement authorities.

<u>Student Offense</u>	<u>Possible Consequences</u>
Continuation of Level III behaviors	Suspension (1-10 days)
Threat to the building	Long-term SAU suspension (greater than 10 days at the discretion of the Superintendent)
Assault/battery (on a peer or staff member)	Long term suspension (in excess of 20 days at the discretion of the School Board)
Sale of stolen property	Suspension from co-curricular activities
Arson	Expulsion
Extortion	Other School Board action which may result in appropriate placement
Bullying/Cyberbullying	Imposition of conditions for readmission
Harassment/Sexual Harassment	Any of the preceding disciplinary options under prior levels
Possession of alcohol, drugs, E-cigarettes, tobacco, or drug paraphernalia	Bus Suspension
Under the influence of drugs or alcoholic beverages on school property or at a school sponsored event	
Possession of a gun, knife, or other weapon	

LARGE GROUP/LUNCHROOM BEHAVIOR EXPECTATIONS

Large group assemblies including academic competitions require appropriate respectful behavior. Students who do not demonstrate appropriate respectful behavior during assemblies will be subject to possible disciplinary consequences.

Inappropriate lunchroom behavior will result in consequences as noted previously including potential reassignment to a quiet lunch detention.

PERSONAL PROPERTY

Students are responsible for all their personal property. The following are examples of items that should not be brought to school: Cameras, electronic equipment, squirt guns, toys, laser pens, pungent perfumes/deodorants, expensive jewelry, significant amounts of money, and other high value items. In the event that such an item is brought to school, parents/legal guardians may be notified to pick up the item in the main office.

CELL PHONES/PERSONAL DEVICES

Student cell phones/Smartwatches, tablets and personal devices may not be used during school hours. First offense: The student brings the phone to the office. The phone is returned at the end of the day to the student.

Second offense: The student brings the phone to the office. Their parents/legal guardians will be called to pick up the phone.

Third offense: Students will need to turn the phone into the office each morning and will retrieve it at the end of the day at a set period. Subsequent offenses can result in not being allowed to bring the phone back to school.

GOFFSTOWN SCHOOL DISTRICT

JICJ

UNAUTHORIZED COMMUNICATION DEVICES

Purpose:

NH RSA 189:1-a, authorizes school boards to provide education and enforce reasonable rules within schools. The statute further aims to support instructional integrity and student engagement by regulating the use of personal communication devices during the academic day.

Policy Statement:

The Superintendent of Schools is hereby authorized to implement and enforce the provisions of **NH RSA 189:1-a** by prohibiting the use of all personal communication devices (including phones, smart watches, iPads, laptops, and any other applicable devices) by students from the time the first bell rings to begin instructional time until the dismissal bell rings to end the academic day.

Exceptions:

The Superintendent (or designee) is further authorized to approve exceptions for students who require the use of communication devices due to:

- **Medical needs**, such as insulin pumps, glucose sensors, or other health-related devices.
- **Disabilities**, as identified in the student's Individualized Education Program (IEP) or a plan developed under Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (29 U.S.C. § 794).
- **Language proficiency needs**, where devices are required to support emergent multilingual students through appropriate language access programs and services pursuant to Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964.

Duration of this Policy:

This policy will be reviewed annually.

Legal References:

NH RSA189:1-a – Prohibiting Use of all Personal Communication Devices

29 U.S.C. § 794 – Section 504 Rehabilitation Act of 1973 – Civil Rights Act of 1964

Proposed: 08/25/2025

Adopted: 08/25/2025 (temporary adoption)

Adopted: 12/15/2025

DRESS CODE

As a community, we take pride in personal appearance. We expect students to dress neatly, cleanly, and appropriately, including footwear, while attending classes or school activities. The following are among the items considered inappropriate: sunglasses, very short athletic wear, or skirts; cropped tops, pajamas, costumes, muscle/tank, or other revealing clothing. Clothing with writing, pictures, or symbols that depict drugs, alcohol, or vulgarity are not allowed. Hats and hoods may be worn at designated times. Bandanas are restricted at all times. If a student's dress or grooming disrupts the education process or climate, is unclean or unsafe, the student will be asked to leave class and change into appropriate attire or address the concern.

The administration retains the ultimate responsibility to be the arbiter of appropriateness.

PLAYGROUND

The playground is available for students during recess. Students are expected to use all equipment safely and not to endanger any other students with improper conduct on the playground. At times, weather permitting, 7th and 8th grade students may go outside for a movement break.

Please note: We expect students to go outside whenever the temperature is 20 degrees or higher, including wind chill. Students should come to school dressed adequately for daily outside activities. The school will provide playground equipment. Students should not bring playground equipment from home.

TOYS

Families are asked to see that students do not bring balls, trading cards, stuffed animals and other toys from home.

TOBACCO / E-CIGARETTES BAN

Possession and use of cigarettes, E-cigarettes (vapes) and other tobacco products are not allowed on school grounds, in the school, on school buses, or at any school function. Violation of this rule will result in out-of-school suspension and a referral to police for those students under the age of 18.

LEGAL DRUGS

Legal drugs, prescribed by a medical doctor or dentist, are to be held and dispensed by the school nurse and/or as directed by the principal as required by NH State law. Students are forbidden from possessing, using, being under the influence, transferring or selling controlled drugs, prescription drugs/medications or over the counter medicines unless as dispensed and supervised by the appropriate school official while in attendance at school, at activities sponsored by the school, or on school property.

ILLEGAL DRUGS/ALCOHOL

Controlled drugs are those drugs and chemicals which contain any quantity of a substance which has been designated as a depressant or stimulant drug pursuant to federal drug and food laws, or which has been by regulation, after investigation and hearing designated by the division of Public Health Services as having a potential for abuse, or physiological and psychological dependence or both.

Alcohol and other drugs (legal, illegal, controlled, prescription or over the counter) are not to be possessed or used on school grounds, on school buses or at any school function. For the purposes of determining appropriate consequences, prescription and over the counter medications (legal drugs) will be regarded as the equivalent of controlled drugs (illegal drugs), unless all procedures relative to their use and/or possession are followed. Medical use forms are distributed to families through PowerSchool.

In instances where parents/legal guardians cannot be reached and there is a need for immediate medical attention for students under the influence of alcohol and/or other drugs, the school will make arrangements

to transport the student to the nearest hospital emergency facility. The Goffstown School District will not be responsible for any costs incurred by such action.

COMMUNITY SERVICE

School community service can be assigned for malicious damage or vandalism and other infractions. Students will assist in school clean up, under supervision before or after school. Restitution to the community will be made for any act of vandalism and other infractions according to the disciplinary code.

OUT-OF-SCHOOL SUSPENSION AND IN-SCHOOL SUSPENSION

If disciplinary action towards a student involves suspension, the student involved is entitled to due process. At the disciplinary hearing, the student is given notice of the violation(s) with which that student is charged and will be given the opportunity to answer the charges. Evidence used in the consideration for suspension must be given. Suspensions at the school level may range from one to ten days. The appeals process for students suspended will be detailed in writing at the time of the suspension to the parent/legal guardian. With the exception of behaviors associated with assault and/or behaviors that represent a significant threat to peers, self and staff, students may be assigned to In-School Suspension. Additional information on this consequence will be given at the time of the suspension. Students assigned a suspension will not be permitted to go on field trips.

Students who have received a suspension may not participate in any school activities after school or in the evening for the duration of the suspension.

Subsequent to a suspension, follow-up monitoring may be provided by counselors, police and/or juvenile services as appropriate.

Incidences of violence, theft, vandalism, drugs, alcohol and tobacco products or other infractions as outlined in the Safe School Zones Act (RSA 193-D), Smoking and Tobacco (RSA 126-K and 152:66), RSA 126 - K and 152:66 will be reported to local police authorities, as required by the Safe School Zones Act.

SAFE SCHOOLS ACT

MVMS is in compliance with the state law referred to as the Safe Schools Act. This legislation requires that any public or private school employee report in writing any act of theft, destruction, or violence in a safe school zone to the school principal or his/her designee. Administration must inform parents/legal guardians and file a report with the local law enforcement agency within forty-eight hours. The local law enforcement agency shall then determine the need for further investigation and/or take further action. Such information, including any expulsions or suspensions, must become part of a student's permanent record and be forwarded to another school should the student transfer. Illegal sale or possession of a controlled drug shall also be reported to the local law enforcement agencies. The current law requires expulsion of any student bringing a firearm to school.

TRANSPORTATION

AM STUDENT DROP-OFF

Students looking to complete homework or utilize the information center resources may do so as early as 7:45 am. All students not using the Information Center may arrive starting at 8:00 am when supervision is available.

2-Hour Delayed Opening: Supervision of students is available at 10:00 am. The delay allows time for our maintenance crews to clear and treat surfaces before student and bus arrival. Please do not drop off students prior to 10:00 am.

PM/AM STUDENT DISMISSAL/PRIVATE VEHICLE STUDENT PICK-UP GUIDELINES

Ensuring the safety of our students is our utmost priority. With this objective in mind, we have established the following traffic patterns and expectations at MVMS from 2:45 pm to 3:45 pm.

For families picking up their student(s) at the end of the school day, we kindly request the use of the right side of the driveway, accessed from Lauren Lane, leading to the front of the building. We ask families to exercise patience and utilize only one lane-the right lane-while approaching the driveway. Vehicles are not permitted to use the left-hand lane or pass vehicles waiting in line.

Upon dismissal, students have been asked to wait behind the white line on the sidewalk, near the front door of the building, until their ride arrives at the student loading area. To ensure traffic safety, students may not walk down to the bottom of the hill towards Lauren Lane to meet their families.

Important note: Cars are prohibited from entering the back of the building between 2:45 pm and 3:45 pm during bus arrival/loading. Additionally, parking at the baseball field, on the left side of the driveway is not permitted during dismissal time.

SPORTS/ACTIVITY PROCEDURE

Students dismissed for sports/activities prior to 2:45 pm should meet their ride at the side of the building, near the bus turnaround (next to the softball field). All cars must vacate the bus turnaround area by 2:45 pm. Students will exit through the front door of the building and use the sidewalk to meet their ride for game/activity pick up. After 2:45 pm, parking is only available in the main parking lot.

Parking for sports games and practices is restricted to the main lot ONLY prior to 3:45 pm. Families are welcome to utilize the back lot beginning at 3:45 pm.

THE LATE BUS

The Late Bus is available to all students who take part in supervised after school activities. Students needing to use the late bus must sign up in the office by 1:00 pm. The late bus departs MVMS at 5:00 pm. Students are permitted to stay after school as long as they are participating in a school or town organization supervised activity or to watch an MVMS home sports game. The bus boards in the front of the building.

Please be advised that the Goffstown School District's late bus route will be posted on the district website.

Please note that the late bus routes do not travel the same path as regular school routes. They were developed with the intent of having stops at major roads/intersections. Please refer to the school website for route details.

Please call STA at (603)-497-3111 if you have any further questions.

STUDENT CONDUCT ON SCHOOL BUSES

Riding the bus is a privilege. Students are expected to understand and adhere to the established bus regulations. "STA, the district(s) student transporter hires certified drivers (commercial licensure) to transport our students. STA provides annual staff training on topics such as hazardous driving conditions, simple first aid procedures, methods to deal with intruders, and methods to deal with a variety of student behaviors." School administration will have the authority delegated by the Superintendent to suspend riding privileges of students who are disciplinary problems on the bus by failing to conform to the rules and regulations set forth by School Board policy JICC-R.

Parents/Legal Guardians of students whose pattern of behavior and conduct on school buses endangers

the health, safety and welfare of other riders will be notified that their students face the loss of school bus riding privileges in accordance with the student discipline code. Video and/or audio monitoring of bus behavior may be conducted. Suspensions in excess of twenty consecutive days must be ratified by the Board (RSA 189:9a). Contact the STA manager at 497-3111 with any transportation issues.

AUDIO AND VISUAL SURVEILLANCE ON SCHOOL BUSES (SEE POLICY REGULATION ECAF)

Video cameras may be used in buses to monitor student behavior. Audio recordings in conjunction with video recordings may also be captured on school buses in accordance with the provisions of RSA 570-A:2.

BUS REGULATIONS & STUDENT EXPECTATIONS

Students in grades K through 12 who use school bus transportation should follow these regulations:

1. Profane language, obscene gestures, excessive noise, fighting, wrestling, or other acts of physical or verbal aggression are unacceptable behaviors.
2. Throwing things on, out of, or at a school bus are unacceptable behaviors. Students are expected to keep their head, hands, feet, etc., inside the bus at all times.
3. Anything that would create a safety hazard for the passengers or vehicle is unacceptable behavior.
4. Students are expected to seat themselves promptly when getting on the bus. Students are to remain in their seats until they reach their designated stop, and the bus has stopped. Emergency doors are for emergency use only.
5. Once a student has boarded the bus, they may not get off except at their destination.
6. Students may ride only the bus to which they have been assigned. In extenuating circumstances, parents/guardians may contact the executive assistant at the SAU for a short-term bus change. The law allows, and students are expected, to sit three passengers per seat if necessary.
7. Students are expected to be at their bus stop 5 minutes before the bus is scheduled to arrive; bus drivers do not have to wait.
8. Students are expected to properly identify themselves to the driver upon request.
9. Students are required to cross the street in front of the bus after a full stop, at the direction of the driver.
10. Vandalism, including marking or defacing the bus is not acceptable and will be reported to the appropriate authorities including the police.
11. Eating or drinking on school buses is not allowed.
12. No smoking or use of smokeless tobacco products is allowed on any bus, including charter and athletic trips.
13. Drivers will keep seating charts on each bus. Drivers are allowed to assign seating.
14. Bus drivers are responsible for safe bus operation and their decisions and requests are expected to be followed.
15. Only authorized riders will be permitted on the bus.
16. Video surveillance may be utilized on any bus to monitor student activity and behavior.
17. Inappropriate student behavior in pick up/drop off area is subject to corrective action noted below.
18. Students are responsible to be alert when the bus arrives at their stop.

CORRECTIVE ACTIONS

Bus drivers will report rule infractions to the terminal manager, with a copy to the appropriate school administrator, as soon as possible. School administration will address the consequences with the student/parent/legal guardian/bus driver.

Disciplinary actions shall be as follows:

- 1st discipline referral results in a warning

- 2nd discipline referral results in 1-3 days off the bus
- 3rd discipline referral results in 3-5 days off the bus
- 4th discipline referral results in 14 days off the bus
- 5th discipline referral results in one month off the bus
- 6th discipline referral results in a meeting with the school board to discuss the discipline that should be taken

Questions should be directed to school administration.

GUIDELINES FOR SAFETY INTERVENTION PROCEDURES

The safety of all students is of primary importance to the School District. The following guidelines address the assessment and crisis intervention procedures for students with safety concerns.

SAFETY ASSESSMENT

All threats to harm or kill oneself or others shall be taken seriously and reported immediately to the principal and/or designee.

Identification of Safety Concerns

Safety concerns are addressed by these guidelines and may include:

- Any threats to harm or kill oneself or others
- Actions or behaviors that threaten self or others with harm
- Any expressed desire to die, whether verbally, written or in art
- Behaviors that indicate self-harm and/or harm to others

Purposes of Safety Assessment:

1. To determine if a student is a danger to them/themselves or others. Does a safety issue exist?
2. To determine if the student should remain in the educational environment or do they need to be transported home/other?
3. To determine the immediate safety needs of the student and the school.

Safety Assessment will include:

4. Consultation with administrators and school staff (*e.g.*, teachers, nurse, school counselor) as needed.
5. Interview with the student.
6. Consultation with the parents/legal guardians.
7. Consultation with other professionals (*e.g.*, therapists, health provider), with signed authorization from the child's parent or legal guardian.

Expectations of Safety Assessment:

8. Provide information regarding safety issues. It should be noted that this information is ascertained from conversations and an interview with the student. A formal psychological assessment will not be conducted. As such, the safety assessment represents the safety of a student at the moment in time. A determination of future psychological and/or behavioral functioning cannot be made.
9. Provide parent/legal guardian with written information, which may include:
 - a. Facts about suicide, depression, violence, etc.
 - b. Warning signals
 - c. Website links for further research
 - d. Recommended actions to be taken by parent/legal guardian
 - e. Hotline telephone numbers and/or resources

CRISIS INTERVENTION PROCEDURE FOR STUDENTS WITH SAFETY CONCERNS

A confidential record-keeping procedure shall be established and located in a secure central location within each school. The record keeping procedure shall include the nature of the incident, the student's name, and the action taken. Maintenance of this record will provide additional information as the procedures for

assessment are followed by school staff.

- Annually, as part of the transition process between schools, school counselors will confer regarding student safety issues.
- At the beginning of each school year, school staff will be oriented to the safety issues and concerns students may demonstrate.
- Annually, crisis team members will be provided with a comprehensive overview of the initial assessment process. The school psychologist assigned to the school will provide the training.

The following guidelines provide a general sequence of steps to be taken with students who are demonstrating safety concerns.

1. When an individual receives information indicating that a student is demonstrating a safety risk to them/themselves or others, them/they shall immediately inform the Principal, Principal's designee, or school counselor.
 - The principal and/or designee shall coordinate the crisis procedures. The appropriate crisis management team shall be alerted, and one person shall be identified to coordinate the activities. An "appropriate crisis team" shall be defined as consisting of a building administrator, guidance counselor and person(s) with knowledge of the student and the current situation.
2. The counselor and/or building administrator shall talk to the student and other team members to discuss the following:
 - a. If the crisis management team feels the student needs an immediate assessment, the assessment process will be pursued with school district personnel.
 - b. The parent and/or legal guardian will be notified immediately.
 - c. If the crisis management team determines the student to be in need of an immediate assessment, a referral will be made to the school district's school psychologist. If a school district psychologist is not available, referral for an emergency medical assessment of mental health will be made to an individual or agency designated by the school district (*e.g.*, Mental Health Center of Greater Manchester (603) 668-4111; Catholic Medical Center (603) 668- 3545; Elliot Hospital (603) 669-5300.
 - d. The parent or legal guardian may choose to use his/her own counselor or health provider. If the parent/legal guardian designates his/her own provider, for which the parent/legal guardian accepts financial responsibility, the school district will ask the parent/legal guardian to sign a release form so that necessary information can be shared with the appropriate school personnel. The purpose for this is to provide support for the child as them/they return to the school environment.
 - e. If a parent/legal guardian refuses to comply with the school's request to seek a safety assessment, the principal and/or designee will take further action based on authority conferred by the local school board.

Those actions may include:

 - Contacting the local police department; and
 - Contacting the NH Division for Children, Youth and Families
 - f. The student will not be allowed to return to school until the safety assessment has been conducted and wherein written documentation is presented stating that the child is determined "safe" to return to school.
 - g. After an assessment has been conducted and the child is determined "safe" to return to school, the parent/legal guardian will provide the school with relevant information so that the school

can support the child. The child then returns to school.

If documentation has not been submitted to the school within three days of an event giving rise to a referral for a safety assessment, the appropriate school psychologist will be designated to contact the family and conduct such assessment.

PUPIL SAFETY AND VIOLENCE PREVENTION – BULLYING (SEE POLICY REGULATION JICK)

DEFINITIONS (RSA 193-F:3)

1. **Bullying.** Bullying is hereby defined as a single significant incident or a pattern of incidents involving a written, verbal, or electronic communication, or a physical act or gesture, or any combination thereof, directed at another pupil which:
 - (1) Physically harms a pupil or damages the pupil's property;
 - (2) Causes emotional distress to a pupil;
 - (3) Interferes with a pupil's educational opportunities;
 - (4) Creates a hostile educational environment; or
 - (5) Substantially disrupts the orderly operation of the school.
- Bullying shall also include actions motivated by an imbalance of power based on a pupil's actual or perceived personal characteristics, behaviors, or beliefs, or motivated by the pupil's association with another person and based on the other person's characteristics, behaviors, or beliefs.
2. **Cyberbullying.** Cyberbullying is defined as any conduct defined as "bullying" in this policy that is undertaken through the use of electronic devices. For purposes of this policy, any references to the term bullying shall include cyberbullying.
3. **Electronic devices.** Electronic devices include, but are not limited to, telephones, cellular phones, computers, pagers, electronic mail, instant messaging, text messaging, and websites.
4. **School property.** School property means all real property and all physical plant and equipment used for school purposes, including public or private school buses or vans.
5. **Perpetrator.** Perpetrator means a pupil who engages in bullying or cyberbullying.
6. **Victim.** Victim means a pupil against whom bullying or cyberbullying has been perpetrated.

REPORTING COMPLAINTS OF BULLYING INVESTIGATION AND SCHOOL DISTRICT ACTION

Any school employee, or employee of a company under contract with a school in the district, or the district itself, who has witnessed or has reliable information that a student has been subject to "bullying", shall report the incident to the principal or designee, who shall in turn report the incident to the superintendent.

Any person that believes he or she has been the target or victim of bullying shall report the alleged act(s) immediately to an administrator. If you believe the Administrator was involved in the bullying or has condoned it in any way, you may contact the Superintendent or Chair of the School Board.

If the District receives a complaint or report of bullying, the Superintendent (or designee) shall authorize an investigation by school district officials, or a third party designated by the district. An investigation may consist of personal interviews with the person that filed the complaint, the accused harasser(s), and any other individuals that might have knowledge about what is alleged to have taken place or the facts and circumstances leading to the complaint. It may also include a review of other information, such as documents, depending on the circumstances. It is a fact-finding process and is not meant to be an interrogation or an intimidating process. Rather, it is simply designed to gather the facts.

In determining whether the alleged conduct that is the subject of the report or complaint or that is learned as a result of the investigation constitutes bullying in violation of this policy, School District officials will consider the nature of the conduct at issue, the relationship between the people involved and the context in which the claimed conduct occurred.

The School District will issue a final report of the incident, the ensuing investigation, and recommended actions within ten (10) school days of the initial report, or longer if reasonably necessary.

In addition, the School District may take immediate steps, at its discretion, to protect the complaining student, other students or employees pending completion of an investigation of alleged bullying.

At the conclusion of the investigation, the School District will report in writing the results of the investigation to the person(s) who made the complaint, and the person(s) accused of bullying.

In the course of handling complaints, SAU 19 will try to maintain confidentiality to the extent possible in carrying out its investigation and taking subsequent steps, where necessary, to correct acts of unlawful bullying. The information will be shared on a need-to-know basis only.

DISCIPLINE FOR CONDUCT IN VIOLATION OF THIS POLICY

Upon completion of the investigation and upon receipt of a recommendation that the complaint is valid, SAU 19 will take such action as it considers in its discretion to be necessary and appropriate to address violations of this bullying policy. Discipline may include, but is not necessarily limited to, verbal or written warnings, suspension or expulsion or termination of an employee.

DEEPPFAKE IMAGES AND OTHER MEDIA POLICY

The complete Deepfake Policy is included on the next three pages. Please also see the policy regulation JICN-R at <https://www.goffstwon.k12.nh.us>.

GOFFSTOWN SCHOOL DISTRICT**JICN****PROHIBITION OF DEEFAKE IMAGES AND OTHER MEDIA****Policy Statement:**

The Goffstown School District is dedicated to maintaining a safe, respectful, and responsible digital environment for every student. Acknowledging the potential harm and legal consequences associated with deepfake media, the district will enforce a tiered system of disciplinary measures for students who create, share, or display deepfakes that conflict with district policies or state law (RSA 638:26-a). The intent of this policy aims to educate students about responsible digital citizenship, deter harmful behavior, and ensure accountability.

Definitions:

- **Deepfake:** Any synthetic media file (video, audio, or image) created or altered using artificial intelligence (AI) to falsely depict an identifiable individual engaging in speech or conduct they did not perform.
- **Identifiable Person:** Any individual who can be recognized from the deepfake, including but not limited to students or staff members.
- **Intent to Harm:** Intentionally creating or distributing deepfakes with the purpose of embarrassing, harassing, entrapping, defaming, extorting, or otherwise causing financial or reputational harm.

Prohibited Conduct:

Students are prohibited from creating, distributing, or presenting deepfakes of an identifiable person with the intent to harm, including but not limited to:

- Creating deepfakes that depict students or staff in a false or misleading manner.
- Creating deepfakes that include nudity or sexually explicit content—whether realistic or otherwise.
- Distributing deepfakes through school networks, personal devices, or social media platforms. For the purposes of this policy, showing others the deepfakes is the same as transmitting them electronically.
- Presenting or otherwise displaying to others deepfakes during school activities or events.
- Any deepfakes that violate RSA 638:26-a.

Additional Considerations:

- **Legal Ramifications:** Students and parents/guardians should be aware that creating and distributing deepfakes may have legal consequences under RSA 638:26-a, even for minors. Law enforcement may choose to file charges.
- **Documentation:** All incidents of deepfake creation or distribution will be thoroughly documented, including evidence, witness statements, and disciplinary actions taken.
- **Collaboration with Law Enforcement:** The district will collaborate with law enforcement agencies when necessary to investigate and address incidents of deepfake creation or distribution that violate state law.
- **Reporting:** Students and staff are required to report any suspected incidents of deepfake creation or distribution to a school administrator. Reports should include as much detail as possible, including the names of

GOFFSTOWN SCHOOL DISTRICT

JICN

PROHIBITION OF DEEPFAKE IMAGES AND OTHER MEDIA

the individuals involved, the nature of the incident, any supporting evidence, and the date and time of the incident.

- **Dissemination:** This policy will be included in Student Handbooks annually.

Parental Involvement

Parents/guardians are expected to:

- Have open and honest conversations with their student(s) about the dangers and consequences of deepfakes.
- Monitor their students' online activity and technology use.
- Support the school district's efforts to educate students about responsible digital citizenship.
- Cooperate with school officials in addressing any incidents of deepfake creation or distribution.

Education and Prevention

The Goffstown School District will provide educational resources to students, staff, and parents on:

- Understanding the risks and ethical implications of deepfakes.
- Protecting personal information online and offline.
- Safe and responsible use of technology.

Review and Revision

This policy will be reviewed and revised annually to ensure its effectiveness and compliance with evolving laws and technologies.

Proposed: 12/01/2025

Adopted: 12/01/2025

GOFFSTOWN SCHOOL DISTRICT

JICN-R

**PROHIBITION OF DEEFAKE IMAGES AND OTHER MEDIA
REGULATION**

Consequences will be assigned based on the seriousness of the offense, the student's intent, and their prior disciplinary history. School administrators will use their judgment to determine the appropriate response. Severe infractions include, but are not limited to, deepfakes involving nudity, sexually explicit content, or any media that causes significant reputational, emotional, or physical harm to an individual. These consequences apply to the time, place, and circumstances of the incident, and extend to all school activities, including athletics and co-curricular programs. The purpose of these measures is to educate students and guide them toward positive behavior, rather than to serve solely as punishment.

- Consult with the School Resource Officer (SRO) to determine criminal activity.
- Parent/guardian notification.
- Referral to school counselor or Psychologist
- Removal of the deepfake from all platforms.
- Possible temporary suspension of technology privileges.
- Extended suspension from school activities, co-curriculars, athletics, and/or technology privileges.
- Formal disciplinary action, including in-school or out-of-school suspension.
- Other disciplinary measures, as identified by administration, that align with the school code of conduct.
- Referral to law enforcement, especially if the deepfake violates RSA 638:26-a or causes significant harm.
- Mandatory participation in restorative practices, which include digital citizenship training, and a behavioral intervention program.
- Discipline hearing with the Superintendent of Schools, as needed.

Proposed: 12/01/2025

Adopted: 12/01/2025

PROHIBITION AGAINST RETALIATION

Retaliation is against SAU 19 policy and the School District will make every effort to see that no student will be shunned, called names, scared, intimidated, punished, threatened, or disciplined for making a complaint or helping in the investigation of a report or complaint of bullying – this is called retaliation. It could mean unfair grading or assignments, ridicule, or name-calling. Retaliation is wrong regardless of whether it is done by a person accused of unlawful bullying, a friend, sibling or relative of the accused bully, or other person(s) and will be punished. The School District will take any action that may be needed to protect a person that files a complaint, any person who is part of an investigation or other persons from further bullying or retaliation.

HARASSMENT

UNLAWFUL HARASSMENT POLICY

SAU 19 is committed to providing all students with a school environment that is free of sexual and other forms of unlawful harassment. Actions, writings, or comments based upon a person's gender, race, color, religion, sexual orientation, marital status, national origin, pregnancy, age, mental or physical disability, economic status or any other personal characteristic protected under the law will not be tolerated. Harassment (both open and hidden) is a form of misconduct that is unkind and demeaning to others and is strictly prohibited by state and federal law. It is intimidating, offensive, and rude conduct that interrupts a healthy academic environment. It can have a negative impact on class performance and make people feel angry, powerless, and fearful.

The policy applies during school, at school-sponsored activities, programs, and sporting activities, including on school buses.

SEXUAL HARASSMENT

Sexual harassment is defined as unwelcome sexual or gender-based conduct that creates a hostile, intimidating, or offensive school environment. Sexual harassment includes unwelcome sexual advances, requests for sexual favors, and other verbal, physical or visual conduct of a sexual nature. Sexual harassment can take many forms. Examples include obscene gestures, excessive flirting, staring, unnecessary physical contact or touching, repeated requests for dates, stalking, comments about a person's body or physical appearance, crude jokes, dirty notes, gossip, sexual pictures, and graffiti.

Whether or not conduct is sexual harassment depends upon how the person to whom the conduct is directed and/or the people standing nearby feel about what was said or done, and not upon whether the harasser intended to hurt or bother anyone. People can harass others of the same sex or the opposite sex. That means boys can be harassed by boys and girls can be harassed by girls. Also, boys can harass girls and girls can harass boys.

OTHER FORMS OF UNLAWFUL HARASSMENT

While it is not always easy to identify precisely what conduct is unlawful harassment, prohibited conduct certainly includes slurs, derogatory comments, unwelcome jokes, teasing, and other similar verbal or physical conduct concerning someone's gender, race, color, religion, sexual orientation, marital status, national origin, pregnancy, age, mental or physical disability, economic status or any other personal characteristic protected under the law.

Any student with questions or concerns about any type of harassment in school is encouraged to bring these issues to the attention of the SAU 19 officials listed in this policy. SAU 19 encourages but does not require that reports and complaints be submitted in writing. Harassment report forms are available from any School District Administrator, the School Nurse, or the School's Counselor. Under the law, SAU 19 must take action if it learns of a report or complaint of harassment, even if a student does not wish to file a formal complaint. The action taken will be determined on a case-by-case basis, considering all the circumstances.

REPORTING COMPLAINTS OF UNLAWFUL SEXUAL HARASSMENT

Any school district administrator, the school nurse, and the school counselors are responsible for receiving oral or written reports or complaints of harassment in school. Contact information is as follows:

Assistant Superintendent	497-4818
Administrator/Nurse/School Counselor	497-8288

Sometimes a student feels more comfortable speaking with one of his or her teachers. However, students must realize that teachers have a duty to inform a school administrator, the school nurse, or the school counselor of the nature of the complaints. The Assistant Superintendent will then be contacted immediately, before the complaints are looked into or investigated. If a written complaint has been submitted, that will be forwarded immediately to the Assistant Superintendent. If an oral complaint has been submitted, the administrator, the school nurse, or the school counselor will put the complaint in written form within a twenty-four (24) hour period and forward the written summary to the Assistant Superintendent. Any adult/staff person receiving a complaint may determine that the facts of the complaint demonstrate an emergency situation. At this point immediate action will be taken to protect the safety and welfare of the person filing the complaint, staff members, or other students.

The filing of a complaint or report of unlawful harassment will not affect a student's grades or access to educational resources and support. This means that students/staff/parents/legal guardians, etc., should treat the student the way they did before the complaint was filed. No nasty comments or name calling or "shunning" should happen to anyone who has complained about harassment.

In the course of handling complaints, the school district will try to maintain confidentiality to the extent possible in carrying out its duty under state and federal law to investigate and correct acts of unlawful harassment. The information will be shared on a need-to-know basis only.

INVESTIGATION OF COMPLAINTS OF UNLAWFUL SEXUAL HARASSMENT

By authority of SAU 19, the Assistant Superintendent will immediately authorize an investigation after receiving a complaint of harassment. An investigation consists of interviews with a limited number of people who have or may have knowledge about what is alleged to have taken place. The investigation may also include a review of other information, such as documents, depending on the circumstances. It is a fact-finding process and is not meant to be an interrogation or an intimidating process. Rather, it is simply designed to gather the facts.

School District officials or a third party designated by the Assistant Superintendent or School Board may conduct this investigation. The investigator shall interview the student to determine the facts, including but not limited to, the following:

- The exact nature of the complaint (i.e., why the student believes he or she may have been harassed, the offensive behavior, and any person(s) he or she believes may be responsible);
- The date, time, and place of the incident(s);
- The number of times the harassment occurred;
- The target's feelings at the time the harassment occurred;
- The target's response to the harassment (e.g., said something to the harasser, said nothing, walked away, started crying, looked or went for help, etc.);
- The names of witnesses or persons who have knowledge about the incident (e.g., who did the target tell, when did he or she tell, what did the target tell that person, and what was that person's response); and
- Any available written documentation or other evidence that is relevant to the incident.

The investigator will provide a written report of the investigation to the Assistant Superintendent within five (5) school days of the school district's first receipt of the report or complaint, or longer, if reasonably necessary. The Assistant Superintendent will then report the status of the investigation to the School Board and, if deemed appropriate, to the person that filed the complaint, the accused harasser, or other people. If the Assistant Superintendent is the subject of the report or complaint of harassment, the report will be submitted directly to the Superintendent. If the Superintendent is the subject of the

harassment complaint, the report will be submitted directly to the Chair of the School Board.

In determining whether the alleged conduct that is the subject of the report or complaint or that is learned as a result of the investigation constitutes unlawful harassment in violation of this policy, school district officials will consider the nature of the conduct at issue, the relationship between the people involved and the context in which the claimed conduct occurred. The investigation may consist of personal interviews with the person that filed the complaint, the accused harasser(s), and any other individuals that might have knowledge of the conduct at issue or the facts and circumstances leading to the complaint. The investigator may also review certain documents or take other steps to gather the information needed to prepare a thorough report.

PROHIBITION AGAINST RETALIATION

SAU 19 will make every effort to guarantee that no student will be subject to any form of retaliation or discipline for making a complaint or assisting in the investigation of a good-faith report or complaint of harassment. Retaliation includes, but is not limited to, threats, acts of intimidation, and harassment intended to scare or punish a person for filing a complaint or cooperating in an investigation. It could mean unfair grading or assignments, ridicule, or name-calling. Retaliation is wrong regardless of whether it is done by a person accused of unlawful harassment, a friend, sibling or relative of the accused harasser, or other person(s) and will be punished. Retaliation is a form of unlawful harassment that is against this policy and will be treated in the same manner as other forms of harassment. The School District reserves the right to take any action that may be needed, in their discretion, to protect a person that files a complaint, an investigation witness or other person from further harassment or retaliation.

SCHOOL DISTRICT ACTION

- A. After receiving the investigator's report, the Assistant Superintendent will review the report and determine whether the claimed conduct, together with any additional conduct that may have been discovered during the course of the investigation, is a violation of this policy and what disciplinary or corrective action should be taken as a result. In certain circumstances, the School Board may be involved in making these determinations. If the Assistant Superintendent is the subject of the investigation, the Superintendent will be responsible for making these determinations.
- B. After the Assistant Superintendent or Superintendent has made the required determination as to whether a violation of this policy has occurred and what disciplinary or corrective action should be taken as a result, the person that filed the complaint and the accused harasser(s) will be notified in writing of the outcome of the investigation and of any disciplinary action.
- C. The person making the complaint may appeal the investigator's recommendations to the Superintendent. If the Superintendent is the subject of the investigation, then the School Board can hear the appeal.

RIGHT TO SEEK ALTERNATE COMPLAINT PROCEDURES

The procedures set forth in this policy do not prevent a student that has been the target of unlawful harassment from filing a report or complaint directly with the United States Department of Education's Office of Civil Rights, US Department of Health and Human Services or the New Hampshire Department of Education:

Office of Civil Rights, Regional Office

US Department of Health and Human Services, Government Center, JF Kennedy Federal Building, room 1875, Boston, MA 02203. (800)537-7697

New Hampshire Department of Education 25 Hall Street, Concord, NH 03301-3860. (603) 271-3494

In addition, students that have been the target of unlawful harassment may pursue civil proceedings through the courts or seek remedies under federal and state criminal laws.

DISCIPLINE FOR CONDUCT IN VIOLATION OF THIS POLICY

SAU 19 will take such action as it considers in its discretion to be necessary and appropriate to address violations of this policy. Discipline may include, but is not necessarily limited to, verbal or written warnings, suspension or expulsion or termination of employment.

FALSE REPORTS OR COMPLAINTS OF HARASSMENT

Raising issues of unlawful harassment or complaining of unlawful harassment known to be false or untrue is strictly prohibited and SAU 19 will take such action as it deems in its sole discretion to be necessary and appropriate to address such conduct. Discipline may include, but is not necessarily limited to, verbal or written warnings, suspension, or expulsion.

STUDENT EDUCATIONAL RECORDS

Parents/legal guardians of students, or eligible students, may inspect and review the student's educational records upon request.

Parents/legal guardians or eligible students should submit to the student's school principal a written request which identifies as precisely as possible the record or records he or she wishes to inspect.

The principal (or other appropriate school official) will make the needed arrangements for access as promptly as possible and notify the parent/legal guardian or eligible student of the time and place where the records may be inspected. Access must be given in 14 days or less from the receipt of the request. Goffstown School District Policy Regulation JRA-R provides detailed information on student records and access.

If the student record involves answers to a standardized test, the district will not provide a parent/legal guardian with a copy of standardized test questions.

The fee for copies will be \$.25 per page. Postage is not included in the fee.

NOTICE OF NONDISCRIMINATION

SAU 19 does not discriminate on the basis of age, gender, race, creed, color, marital status, physical or mental disability, national origin, economic status or sexual orientation in its educational programs, activities, and employment practices. The following people have been designated to handle inquiries regarding the nondiscrimination policies: For 504, please contact the 504 Coordinator; for Special Education, or ESOL issues, please contact the Special Education Director, SAU 19, 11 School Street, Goffstown, NH 03045-1908, (603) 497-4818; For Title IX issues, please contact the Assistant Superintendent, SAU 19, 11 School Street, Goffstown, NH 03045-1908; (603) 497-4818. Inquiries concerning the application of the nondiscrimination policies may also be referred to the Regional Director, Office for Civil Rights, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Government Center, J.F. Kennedy Federal Building – Room 1875, Boston, MA 02203.

PLEASE NOTE: Any School Board Policies referenced in this handbook are subject to change during the school year.