

MEYERSDALE AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT

1349 Shaw Mines Road, Meyersdale, PA 15552

An Equal Opportunity Employer

TRACEY A. KARLIE

Superintendent
(814) 634-5123

Rebecca Grube

Business Manager/Board Secretary
(814) 634-8311

JOHN WILTROUT

High School Principal
(814) 634-0617

WAYNE L. MILLER

Middle School Principal
(814) 634-1437

DEVIN PRITTS

Elementary Principal
(814) 634-8313

Dear Student and Parent/Guardian:

Please read and review the 2018—2019 Student Handbook and the ACCEPTABLE USE OF INTERNET, COMPUTERS, AND NETWORK RESOURCES POLICY. These documents, as well as all referenced policies, can be accessed on the MASD webpage. Paper copies of any of the above documents are available upon request. Please sign below to acknowledge you have reviewed this information and return this page to your homeroom teacher. Feel free to contact the office with any questions or concerns.

IDENTIFICATION

Signature: _____

Parent Signature: _____

Date: _____

STUDENT'S HANDBOOK
Of
MEYERSDALE
AREA MIDDLE SCHOOL

Volume 20
2018—2019

ALMA MATER

For the Glory of Our School
We sing to Thee in praise.
For the future that we wait
May God guide us each day.

Alma Mater Alma Mater.

Hail to Thee our Alma Mater,
Hail, Oh, hail to Thee.

Meyersdale Area School District website: www.masd.net

IDENTIFICATION

Name _____

Home Address _____

Home Room Number _____

Class _____

INDEX

Absences, Excuses, Permits.....	32
Alcohol – Underage Drinking Penalties	49
Anabolic Steroid Violation	24
Assemblies	17
Attendance	32
Bell Schedules – High School/Middle School	5
Book Bags.....	17
Bullying	42
Bus Evacuation Rules	20
Bus Transportation Guidelines & Procedures	18
Cafeteria Information	12
Canine Search	46
Character Education – Raider Pride	11
Cheerleading.....	13
Clubs	13
Code Of Conduct – Athletic/Extracurricular	22
Copyright Material Policy	12
Detention Procedures & Guidelines	41
Disability Services	6
Dress Code - Students.....	49
Drug & Alcohol Testing	25
Drug & Alcohol Guidelines & Procedures – Student Athletes	24
Early Dismissal/Closings/Delays	51
Educational Trips Guidelines & Procedures	32
Electronic Devices	42
Emergency Preparedness	50
Energy Drinks.....	13
Extracurricular Eligibility and Tutorial Program	7
Failure of a Subject.....	10
Field Trips/School Trips	33
Fire Emergency.....	51
Flowers	16
Fundraising	16
Grading Procedures	9
Guidance Office.....	7
Gym Lockers	17
Hall Lockers	17
Harassment	43
Hazing Policy	43
Health Services	14
Homework Policy	9
Insurance.....	21
Insurance - Athletic	21
Irregular Dismissal	16
Lice (Head Lice Notice & Instructions)	15
Lost Books and Payment of School Bills Procedures	17

Musical Organizations	12
Nondiscrimination.....	6
Open Containers	13
P.M. Building Regulations	16
Parent Rights - Exceptional Students	36
Passes / Permits	33
Payment of Funds	12
Permission to Leave School	33
Personal Property.....	18
Physical Education Regulations & Exemptions	11
Plagiarism	11
Promotion & Retention Policy	9
Property – School and Student Property.....	17
Relations with Parents/Guardians Policy	6
Resource Materials Policy	11
Searches - Locker Inspection and Inspection of School Grounds	45
Sexual Harassment Information	43
Shop Safety & Discipline	11
Student Assistance Program Policy	7
Student Records	36
Student Rights and Responsibilities	34
Student Wellness	13
Suspension from School	34
Tardiness.....	33
Tardy/Absence Times.....	32
Telephone – Use by Students	16
Tobacco	46
Visitors.....	6
Weapons	44

**HIGH SCHOOL/MIDDLE SCHOOL
BELL SCHEDULE**

7:40 – Students enter schools
 7:50 – Students Due in Homeroom
 7:54 to 8:34 - PLT
 8:36 to 9:21 – **2nd period** (45 minutes)
 9:23 to 10:08 – **3rd period** (45 minutes)
 10:10 to 10:55 – **4th period** (45 minutes)
 10:57 to 11:42 – ***5th period** (45 minutes)
 11:44 to 12:29 – **6th period** (45 minutes)
 12:31 to 1:16 – **7th period** (45 minutes)
 1:18 to 2:03 – **8th period** (45 minutes)
 2:05 to 2:50 – **9th period** (45 minutes)

***5th Period—High School Lunch**

**10:55 - Sophomores/Freshman report to
homerooms**

**10:55 - 11:25 Band (M/W/F), Juniors and
Seniors report to lunch**

**11:00 – 11:30 Sophomores/Freshman report
to lunch**

11:15 – 11:40 Vo-Tech report to lunch

****Middle School Lunch**

10:55 – All Students report to homerooms

10:57 - 11:27 8th grade report to lunch

11:05 – 11:35 7th grade report to lunch

11:12 – 11:42 6th grade report to lunch

**HIGH SCHOOL/MIDDLE SCHOOL
ONE HOUR DELAY BELL SCHEDULE**

8:40 - Students Enter Schools
 8:50 – Students Due in Homeroom
 8:52 to 9:21 – **2nd period** (29 minutes)
 9:23 to 10:08 – **3rd period** (45 minutes)
 10:10 to 10:55 – **4th period** (45 minutes)
 10:57 to 11:42 – ***5th period** (45 minutes)
 11:44 to 12:29 – **6th period** (45 minutes)
 12:31 to 1:16 – **7th period** (45 minutes)
 1:18 to 2:03 – **8th period** (45 minutes)
 2:05 to 2:50 – **9th period** (45 minutes)
 2:50 – **Student Dismissal**

**HIGH SCHOOL/MIDDLE SCHOOL
TWO HOUR DELAY BELL SCHEDULE**

No Breakfast Served

9:40 - Students enter schools
 9:50 – Students Due in Homeroom
 9:52 to 10:23 }
 10:25 to 10:55 }

Rotate 2, 3 and 4

 10:57 to 11:42 – ***5th period** (45 minutes)
 11:44 to 12:29 – **6th period** (45 minutes)
 12:31 to 1:16 – **7th period** (45 minutes)
 1:18 to 2:03 – **8th period** (45 minutes)
 2:05 to 2:50 – **9th period** (45 minutes)
 2:50 – **Student Dismissal**

RELATIONS WITH PARENTS/GUARDIANS

Refer to **RELATIONS WITH PARENTS/GUARDIANS POLICY**

SCHOOL VISITORS

Refer to **SCHOOL VISITORS POLICY**

NONDISCRIMINATION

Refer to **NONDISCRIMINATION IN SCHOOL AND CLASSROOM PRACTICES POLICY**

DISABILITY SERVICES

MEYERSDALE AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT ANNUAL PUBLIC NOTICE

It is the responsibility of the Pennsylvania Department of Education to ensure that all children with disabilities residing in the Commonwealth, including children with disabilities attending private schools, regardless of the severity of their disabilities, and who are in need of special education and related services, are identified, located, and evaluated. This responsibility is required by a federal law called the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act Amendments of 2004 (IDEA '04). The IDEA '04 requires each state educational agency to publish a notice to parents, in newspapers or other media, before any major identification, location, or evaluation activity. The IDEA '04 requires this notice to contain certain information. Another federal law, the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act of 1974 (FERPA), which protects confidentiality, requires educational agencies to notify parents annually of the confidentiality rights (FERPA regulations have been amended 9 times). Pennsylvania special education regulations require each school district to fulfill the IDEA '04 notice requirement by providing an annual public notice.

Meyersdale Area School District is required by the IDEA '04 to provide a free appropriate public education to children with disabilities who need special education and related services. (Note: The duty to identify, locate, evaluate and provide special education services to school-age individuals incarcerated in local correctional institutions rests with the school district within whose boundaries such an institution is located.) School age children who need special education and related services are identified as children with disabilities. These students have been identified as being in need of specially designed instruction and have one or more of the following physical or intellectual disabilities:

- *Autism
- *Emotional disturbance
- *Deafness
- *Hearing impairment
- *Specific learning disability
- *Intellectual disability
- *Multiple Disabilities
- *Other health impairment
- *Orthopedic Impairment due to chronic or acute health problems
- *Speech and language impairment
- *Visual impairment including blindness
- *Deaf-blindness
- *Traumatic Brain Injury
- *Developmental Delay

The entirety of this Annual Public Notice can be found on the Meyersdale Area School District website by first selecting the "Services" tab and then the "Special Education" tab. Also, more information is available by contacting the Director of Special Education.

GUIDANCE OFFICE

Refer to STUDENT ASSISTANCE PROGRAM POLICY

Pupils will find that the classroom teacher, the guidance counselor, and the administration assume a cooperative responsibility of advising and guiding them in their educational, social, vocational, and ethical problems throughout the school year.

The guidance office, in cooperation with the library, has available much valuable information concerning vocations, college entrance, personal growth, social and academic problems.

While pupils may consult freely with the guidance counselor, we suggest that they make appointments. All information submitted by pupils is considered confidential and will be used in the spirit with which it is given to assist the pupil to solve the problem at hand.

MEYERSDALE AREA MIDDLE SCHOOL EXTRACURRICULAR ELIGIBILITY AND TUTORIAL PROGRAM

Participation in extracurricular activities is a privilege and therefore the following standards of academic eligibility have been adopted by the Meyersdale Area School District.

To be eligible for extracurricular activities a pupil must pursue a curriculum defined and approved by the principal as a full-time curriculum. Where required, this curriculum or its equivalent must be approved by, and conform to, the regulations of the State Board of Education and the Pennsylvania School Code, PIAA, as well as any local policies established by the local school board. The pupil must be passing the core academic areas. Eligibility shall be cumulative from the fifteenth day of school and reported on a weekly basis. In cases where a student's cumulative work for those areas does not as of any Friday meet the standards provided for in this section, he/she shall be ineligible from the immediately following Sunday through the next following Saturday unless the tutorial program policies are followed.

In all cases a student's work must meet PIAA standards for eligibility.

New students must comply with the requirements of the curriculum rules. The standing required for the preceding year shall be obtained from the records of the last school which the pupil has attended. Students declared ineligible have the right to appeal before the middle school principal and the faculty member awarding the failing grade. The final decision in regards to the ineligibility rests with the school principal.

Tutorial Program

Students attend school primarily to become educated, productive and well adjusted young adults to the fullest of their individual abilities and talents. The successful pursuit of academic studies is the most important key to success as an adult. Everything possible must be done to prepare our young people for adult life.

It is proposed that a tutoring program shall be established through which help in any of the four core academic areas shall be available to students who desire it. (English – Math – Science – Social Studies)

The only prerequisite for tutorial assistance shall be that the student actively participate in classroom activity and not rely solely on the tutoring experience.

Tutoring assistance shall be provided by teachers (retired or active). Any other capable tutor could be used only upon the recommendation of the administration and the school board.

The tutoring program shall be of special significance for students who participate in extracurricular activities. If a student's cumulative average during a nine-week grading period in any of the four core

academic areas is an (F), compulsory attendance in the tutorial program will be necessary for continued participation.

For students not involved in an extracurricular activity, participation in the tutorial program will be recommended through the guidance office, a classroom teacher, parental request, or student request.

For students receiving an “F” in a core academic subject during a nine week grading period, a conference will be scheduled with the parents. The parents will accept tutoring or sign a statement that it is not desired.

In all tutoring instances, cooperation and strict attendance patterns shall be expected on the part of the student involved.

Guidelines – Tutoring Program

1. The responsibility for basic instruction lies with the classroom teacher. Under no circumstances will the tutoring process be a substitute for regular and conscientious attendance in the classroom. At no time is the tutor to become responsible for primary teaching.
2. Student tutoring rosters will be submitted electronically by the close of school Thursday. The Athletic Director will inform students that their name has been submitted for after school tutoring, the subject they are failing, and what evening (s) they are scheduled for after school tutoring.
3. Students involved in extracurricular activities who are failing a subject must spend a minimum of two hours per week in a tutoring situation after school.
4. Students who continue to fail on either three separate or continuous occasions during a nine-week grading period will be evaluated to determine participation.
5. Coaches and advisors should check with the Athletic Director in regard to students who may be excluded from a practice, game or event because of non-attendance at an evening tutorial session.
6. Recommendations for student failures must be based on a cumulative average, that is, from the first grade of each nine-week period.
7. Tutoring will occur on the day assigned from 3:00 p.m. until 5:30 p.m. in rooms designated by the administration.
8. Tutoring will be scheduled according to need in specific subject area from Monday through Thursday. Tutoring sessions are established by the Athletic Director.
9. Tutors must fill out attendance sheets after each tutoring session. These attendance sheets will be checked to ensure eligibility of participants.

***Solid Subjects** – Solid subjects are all subjects not elected by students attending Meyersdale Area Middle School. All mainstreamed classes assigned to Special Education will be considered elective classes with the exception of Physical Education, Art, Music, Home Economics and Shop.

***Extracurricular Activities include:**

1. All Athletics
2. Marching Band (fall season)
3. Drama (musicals)
4. Cheerleading
5. Competitive Squads (majorettes, silks)

HOMEWORK

Refer to HOMEWORK POLICY

GRADING PROCEDURES

RE: MEYERSDALE AREA MIDDLE SCHOOL

Faculty members determine the best grading system suitable to the individual classes taught, students' ability level, and curriculum. All teachers will explain to classes their methods of grading and individual class grading policies. All courses will adhere to the following grading scale:

Percent	Grade
100 & Above	A+
94-99	A
90-93	A-
87-89	B+
84-86	B
80-83	B-
77-79	C+
74-76	C
70-73	C-
67-69	D+
64-66	D
60-63	D-
0-59	F

Report to Parents

The school year is divided into four report periods of nine weeks each. At the close of a nine-week period, each pupil's marks are recorded on a report card. This report card is to be taken home and given to the parents. Report card envelopes must be signed and returned within a five-day period, unless prior arrangements are made with the principal. Failure to return report card in specified timeframe may result in assignment of detention.

PROMOTION AND RETENTION

Refer to PROMOTION AND RETENTION POLICY

Guidelines

In all cases of retention, the parents/guardians shall be fully involved and informed throughout the process. Parents/Guardians and students shall be informed of the possibility of retention of a student well in advance. Academic achievement, attitude, effort, work habits, behavior, attendance and other factors related to learning shall be evaluated regularly and communicated to students and parents/guardians. The district shall utilize multiple measures of academic performance as determinants in promotion and retention decisions. Progress toward high school graduation shall be based on the student's ability to achieve the established academic standards and pass the required subjects and electives necessary to earn the number of credits mandated by the Board for graduation.

FAILURE OF A SUBJECT

***PLEASE NOTE**

Students who earn an average below 60% will be considered as having failed that particular subject. Each class has course requirements. Additionally, passing a course is a compilation of grades and meeting course requirements.

In addition, if a student does not complete a major project during a nine-week period, he/she will receive an incomplete grade (I) for those nine weeks. During the first three nine-weeks grading periods, any incomplete grade (I) will become an "F" for the grading period when the project is not completed to the satisfaction of the classroom teacher within two weeks of the official end of the grading period. Parents will be contacted by the teacher to notify them of the reason for the incomplete grade. During the last nine-weeks grading period, all major projects assigned during the fourth nine weeks must be completed. Any student not completing a major project during the last nine weeks will receive an incomplete grade (I) which must be made up by the last day of school to the satisfaction of the classroom teacher, the principal or the building administrator. Failure to make up this work during the last nine weeks will result in failure (F) of the class for the year. The major project must be approved and designated as such by administration.

In an effort to keep parents informed and involved in their child's academic progress, the teachers will contact the parents when a student receives an incomplete (I) for a nine-week grading period in any subject. Parents must be contacted within one week of the end of that grading period.

At anytime during the school year when a student receives a failing grade for two nine-week grading periods, the teacher will contact the parents.

Incomplete grades marked on report cards must be changed to regular grades within a two-week period for the issuance of report cards. Exception on prolonged illness or exceptional circumstances will be determined by the principal.

Senior high students in grades 9 through 12 failing a subject can attend an approved summer school in order to advance with the class for graduation. Twenty-four (24) credits are required for a diploma effective in 1999.

HONOR ROLL OR HONORABLE MENTION DETERMINATION

HONOR ROLL

The range for honor roll is 3.600 to 4.4

HONORABLE MENTION

The range for Honorable Mention is 3.100 to 3.599

ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT LETTER/PIN AWARDS

The letter and pin awards for any combination of Honor Roll or Honorable Mention GPA for three of the four 9-weeks is as follows:

First time award winners receive a letter and a pin.

Subsequent years receive a pin.

Maximum awards—1 letter and 6 pins.

If the criteria are met by the end of the third nine weeks, the award will be given at the May assembly. If the criteria are met by the end of the fourth nine weeks, the award will be given in September of the year.

Award winners will be eligible to purchase an award's jacket (similar to the Meyersdale jacket that bears athletic awards if earned) on which to display the letter and/or pins.

RAIDER PRIDE – Character Education

Raider Pride will be reinforced through a K-12 character education program with emphasis placed on a different character trait each month. The goal of this program is to promote a safe school environment where all students are treated fairly and with dignity, are respectful to others and will take responsibility for their actions. This program will stress the importance of community involvement. The following is a sample listing of character traits that will be reinforced: sportsmanship, respect, honesty/integrity, responsibility, citizenship, courage.

Physical Education Regulations & Exemptions

1. Student dress:
All students must dress appropriately for class. Clothing worn must allow for freedom of movement and full participation in the physical education program.
2. A student shall be excused from class only upon the presentation of a medical excuse or by recommendation of the school nurse.
3. A student shall be excused only from the course upon the presentation of a request signed by a physician.

SHOP SAFETY & DISCIPLINE

Industrial Arts and Agriculture Departments

The industrial arts area is unique in that student discipline in the shop, more than in any other area of the school, sets the tone for the shop safety program.

1. In addition to tool, machine, and general safety rules, the student will be made aware of safe conduct.
2. A student may act up, thinking only that he is cute or funny, but may in fact be jeopardizing the safety, or the very lives, of himself or classmates.
3. The first offense in violation of discipline or safety rules will be treated through a teacher-pupil conference, by the teacher in normal discipline channels.
4. The second offense will require the student to complete an assignment on safety – probably in the form of a written report.
5. On the third offense in violation of these rules, at the discretion of the teacher and middle school principal, he may be removed from the class with a drop-fail recorded on office records.

Plagiarism / Cheating

Meyersdale Area Middle School defines plagiarism as follows: to steal or pass off the ideas or words of another as one's own. Copying another student's work, including homework, constitutes plagiarism and is therefore considered cheating.

If a student submits a written assignment that has been plagiarized, the following actions will occur:

- a. Student will receive a zero for the assignment.
- b. Student will be required to redo the assignment and submit to teacher.
- c. Further disciplinary actions will be on a graduated scale as listed in the *Discipline Procedure Guidelines* section of this handbook.

RESOURCES

Refer to RESOURCE MATERIALS POLICY

COPYRIGHT

Refer to COPYRIGHT MATERIAL POLICY

INTERNET, COMPUTERS, AND NETWORK RESOURCES

Refer to ACCEPTABLE USE OF INTERNET, COMPUTERS AND NETWORK RESOURCES

PAYMENT OF FUNDS

Payment of funds for the benefit of a student (i.e. cafeteria account, field trip costs, club activities, athletic costs and equipment, etc.) may be made by cash, check, money order or certified check. **If such payment made on three distinct occasions results in a check returned to the Meyersdale Area School District, its agents or assigns for the reason of insufficient funds, the school district, its agents or assigns exercises the right to refuse to accept payment by method of personal check for the remainder of the school year.** Under these circumstances payment by cash, money order or certified check will be required.

CAFETERIA INFORMATION

Refer to FOOD SERVICES POLICY with Attachment and STUDENT WELLNESS POLICY

ADDITIONAL CAFETERIA ITEMS:

1. The prior school year applications are carried over for the first 31 days of school, any student without a new application or determination will be set to full price as of this this date. Milk and separate food items may be purchased with cash.
2. Students may check their individual account balance on a daily basis by checking the account balance on the computer monitor. Please check your balance on a regular basis.
3. Students should remain in line. Do not break line to purchase separate food items.
4. Double lunches may be purchased only after all students have had the opportunity to purchase their lunch. This should assist in eliminating the possibility of running out of main menu items.
5. Students who do not wish to purchase a school lunch are permitted to bring a pack lunch from home. Students bringing a lunch will store them in their lockers prior to homeroom and take them to the cafeteria during their lunch period. Students are not permitted to store lunches in cafeteria refrigerator.

Any student having a question regarding their account should speak with the Cafeteria Manager or your building principal. Do not become involved in a verbal confrontation with any cafeteria staff member. If you behave in an inappropriate manner toward cafeteria staff, you may be referred for disciplinary action.

MUSICAL ORGANIZATIONS

Band

The Band is composed of advanced instrumental students. Admittance is based on the ability to play a band instrument well. This organization is active the entire year, playing for all home football games, assemblies, and it presents several concerts for the public. Students who are interested in instrumental music should contact the band director.

Chorus

The Chorus consists of students in grades nine through twelve who have qualified for the group. Selection is based on interest in singing, knowledge of music, and vocal ability. The Chorus performs

throughout the year, giving programs for assemblies and concerts for the public. Those interested should contact the director.

CHEERLEADING

Members must be freshmen, sophomores, juniors, and seniors who have been chosen by a panel of judges to represent the school as varsity and junior-varsity cheerleaders. A “C” average must be maintained in order to participate. All members are expected to attend weekly practice sessions, all games, and to be of help in the operation of the refreshment stand during home basketball games.

CLUBS

Important—Read Carefully

The following regulations concerning club membership and offices to be held by the members are to be observed by all students and advisors.

1. A student may hold only one major office. The following are to be considered major offices: president of any organization or class, and editor of the school paper and of the yearbook.
2. The club sponsors have the right to regulate the other officers if they so desire.
3. A student is eligible for an elected position only if he or she has a grade average of C or better, has no discipline record and no more than three detentions in the previous year and/or in the year of nomination to office.
4. It shall be the responsibility of club officers and the advisors of all school sponsored clubs to provide the school office with a copy of a program of activities for the year. Failure to provide such evidence of constructive such educational program should be sufficient reason for removing the club from the list of school-sponsored activities.

A justifiable program is one that provides an educational opportunity and experience for its members not provided for in the formal school program. The sponsorship of recreational or fund-raising activities for the benefit of its members cannot be interpreted as an educational function worthy of school time. Clubs will meet monthly or at the discretion of the principal and/or advisor.

ENERGY DRINKS

Energy drinks of any variety are not permitted in the school. Teachers will confiscate the drink and it will not be returned to the students.

2nd Offense results in detention

3rd Offense results in In-School Suspension

OPEN CONTAINERS

Open containers of any variety will not be permitted outside of the cafeteria.

Teachers will confiscate the container and it will not be returned to the students.

2nd Offense results in detention

3rd Offense results in In-School Suspension

STUDENT WELLNESS

Refer to STUDENT WELLNESS POLICY

The Meyersdale Area School District recognizes that student wellness and proper nutrition are related to students' physical well-being, growth and development, and readiness to learn. The Board is committed to providing a school environment that promotes student wellness, proper nutrition, nutrition education, and regular physical activity as part of the total learning experience. In a healthy school environment, students will learn about and participate in positive dietary and lifestyle practices that can improve student achievement.

HEALTH SERVICES

Refer to USE OF MEDICATIONS POLICY, HEALTH EXAMINATIONS/SCREENINGS POLICY, Immunization and Communicable Diseases Policy, and FOOD ALLERGY MANAGEMENT POLICY

The school health program is an integrated part of the total school program and should be fundamentally educational in its nature and scope. While the promotion of health is one of the cardinal objectives of the school health program, no service should be performed in such a manner that it takes away fundamental privileges and responsibilities of the home in relation to its children. This health program is not set up as a diagnostic procedure since nurses cannot diagnose disease. Instead, the school nurse acts as a coordinator between the school and home in the best interest of the child.

Health examinations/screenings are offered in the school according to the School Health Code. Parents are urged to take advantage of these services. First aid will be administered for minor illnesses and injuries occurring during the school day. In the event that a serious injury occurs during school hours the parent will be contacted immediately by the school nurse. If the parent or closest relative cannot be located, the school nurse will act in the best interest of the child and see that emergency care is provided. The following is a guide for exclusion of children with communicable diseases: measles, six days from onset of rash; whooping cough, four weeks from onset; respiratory streptococcal infections (including scarlet fever) if no physician in attendance of the patient, no less than seven days from onset; ~~head lice~~, scabies, or contagious conjunctivitis of the eyes (pink eye), children may return to school 24 hours after initial treatment with an antibiotic; chickenpox, 5 to 7 days after eruption of rash or until scabs are completely dry.

The school is committed to providing a safe and healthy environment for students with severe or life-threatening allergies and seeks to address allergy management in the school. At the request of a parent or legal guardian, a student shall be exempt from use of Epi auto-injector. In order to request this exemption, contact the school nurse to make an appointment to discuss this decision, review and sign the opt-out form.

Fluoride tablets are given to kindergarten thru fifth grades, one tablet daily, with permission from parents.

If you are sending medication to school with your child, please be sure to follow district procedures which are in place to protect the health and wellbeing of your child.

- If your child requires medication during school hours, a parent permission form **must** be completed
- The doctor whom prescribed the medication **must** sign the permission form
- Medication must be brought to school in the **original** pharmaceutically-dispensed container
- The medication container **must** be properly labeled
- If sending over-the-counter medication, a parent permission form **must** be completed by the parent **and** your child's physician
- Over-the-counter medication must be brought to the school in its **original** package
- Medications brought in baggies or unmarked bottles will **not** be accepted – “Parents must bring the medication into the nurse’s office – the medication cannot be sent on the bus.”

Please direct questions or concerns to the school nurse.

NOTICE AND INSTRUCTIONS FOR PARENTS REGARDING HEAD LICE

Head lice affect more people than all other childhood communicable diseases including the common cold, but like a cold, when children come in close contact with each other, it is easy to pass along head lice. Shared hats, clothing, brushes, pillows, and other personal articles are perfect vehicles to transfer lice from one person to another. It is important to act immediately to prevent their spread to other classmates and to other members of the family.

Head lice are small, only about 1/16" long. They are grayish-white with dark edges. While they cannot fly and do not jump, they do move quickly, that's why it's difficult to find them in a child's hair.

Diagnosis of head lice is generally made when lice eggs (called nits), which are fastened to the hair shaft are clearly evident. Nits are teardrop in shape and also very small, only about 1/32" in size. They are "glued" to the hair and cannot be washed or brushed out like dandruff.

Clusters of nits may be found in any section of the hair, but they are more apt to be found behind the ears and at the nape of the neck.

Getting rid of head lice is a matter of washing the hair with a lice-killing product and then very carefully removing all the nits. A special nit-loosening rinse is also available which makes the job easier. **REMOVAL OF NITS IS IMPORTANT TO AVOID RE-INFESTATION.** After having the head lice, all students must first be checked by the school nurse prior to reporting to homerooms on the morning they return to school.

When your child comes home with head lice...

1. Don't panic! Anyone can get head lice. It has nothing to do with cleanliness, nor does it reflect on you as a parent. The problem can be eliminated.
2. Examine your child's head to be sure you know what the nits look like. They are tiny grayish-white eggs attached to the hair, near the scalp, especially behind the ears and at the nape of the neck.
3. Check all other family members to see if they are infected. Any family member with evidence of head lice must also be treated.
4. Use an effective head lice treatment. Your pharmacist can recommend an effective pediculicide product. When used as directed, it will be effective in killing head lice.
5. Remove the nits (lice eggs). Because no pediculicide product kills all eggs, it is very important to remove all traces of the nits to prevent re-infestation. A special comb for this task is usually provided with the lice treatment product; however our fingernails are excellent tools for this purpose. Simply slide the nit out along the hair shaft until you have pulled it off.
6. Wash all clothes, bed linens and towels in hot water and dry on hot cycle for at least 20 minutes. Items that cannot be safely washed, such as stuffed animals, unwashable clothes etc. should be dry cleaned or stored outside the home for a minimum of two weeks.
7. Clean combs and brushes in hot, soapy water. Water should be at least 130 ° F, and it is advisable to let combs and brushes soak in the hot water for 10 minutes.
8. Vacuum everywhere to make sure your home is free of lice. Vacuum carpets, pillows, mattresses, upholstered furniture--anything that might hold lice. Do a thorough job and discard the vacuum bag promptly.

Head lice survive only on humans and do not affect family pets. To eliminate head lice and nits from your home, follow the directions above. Doing a thorough job will prevent their spread in the school and community.

Irregular Dismissal

No pupil will be excused before the regular time of dismissal without a request from the parent or guardian, except for serious illness. Requests for early dismissal, which are granted only for extraordinary reasons, must be presented at the office for approval.

Appointments with physicians and dentists should be made at a time when the student's schedule shows a study period.

A.M. Hall Regulations

The doors to the school will not open until 7:40 AM. Students will not be allowed to enter the building until that time. We ask that you please refrain from dropping students off prior to this time.

P.M. Building Regulations

Students are not permitted in the building without supervision of a faculty member
3:00—6:00 p.m.

Class Dismissal

All classes are to be dismissed only on the dismissal bell. This pertains to all classes as well as study halls, physical education classes, home economics, shop and music classes.

All classes as well as study halls are to be dismissed by the teacher on a given word by the said teacher.

Authority of Faculty

THERE IS NO DIVISION OF AUTHORITY AMONG THE FACULTY OF MEYERSDALE AREA MIDDLE SCHOOL. Teachers are authorized to reprimand or correct misbehaving pupils at any time or at any place during the school day. The Pennsylvania School Code gives teachers the same authority over pupils on their way to and from school as that possessed by the parent. Pupil conduct should be such that correction is unnecessary.

Concerning the Purchase of Flowers

In order to prevent misunderstanding and possible embarrassment, a review of the policy concerning the purchase of flowers by homerooms or classes as an expression of sympathy for bereaved members follows:

Homerooms, classes and clubs are asked not to buy flowers or make other contributions except suitable written expressions of sympathy to the families of members.

To avoid discrimination, it is important that this policy be observed.

Contributions may be taken for flowers in the case of death of a class member on a voluntary basis.

Members of the class wishing to buy flowers honoring deceased non-members should do so as friends of the family rather than as classmates, and contributions should be made out of school.

Student Telephone Calls

Friends and parents are not to call you by telephone, except on matters of extreme importance or emergencies, and students will not be called from classes to answer telephone calls unless they fall in the above category. Students will not be granted excuses from classes to make telephone calls.

FUNDRAISING

Refer to STUDENT FUNDRAISING POLICY and STUDENT WELLNESS POLICY

ASSEMBLIES

Assemblies

Assemblies held in the auditorium may be called at any time by the principal. *All students are required to attend and to sit in regularly assigned seats.* Students are to refrain from talking during the programs. It is important that good manners always be in evidence. Booing and whistling at an assembly program are not behavior patterns for a well-mannered school. All persons appearing before the student body are guests and should be treated with courtesy and respect.

SCHOOL PROPERTY

Refer to CARE OF SCHOOL PROPERTY POLICY

Lost and Found

Any article which is found is to be turned into the office. Inquire in the office for lost articles.

Lost Books and School Property/Payment of School Bills - Procedures

All textbooks and library books, which are lost by students during the course of the school year, must be paid for by the close of the school term. If payment is not made, report cards and diplomas will be withheld. This rule also applies to the reimbursement of lost and/or damaged school property and payment of any other school bill.

Materials used in the construction of shop projects must be paid for before the project is removed from the school.

Gym Lockers

Refer to SEARCHES PUPILS POLICY

Every student will be given the opportunity to use or be assigned a locker in the gym room. The use of a padlock is required on these lockers. The lock may be obtained from the school office at cost; any change in ownership or lock must be recorded in the office.

Hall Lockers

Refer to SEARCHES PUPILS POLICY

Lockers are assigned to students for storage space for books, coats, and other belongings. At the beginning of the year, each homeroom teacher will assign each student the number and location of a locker selected from a block of lockers assigned to the homeroom by the office. Students will be provided with a combination for their lockers and this information should be kept confidential; care should be taken so that the combination is not lost or stolen.

Locker doors are to be kept closed at all times. No books, clothing, or other belongings are permitted to remain on top of lockers. Stickers on the outside of lockers are prohibited. Students' cooperation is requested in helping to keep the lockers and hallways presentable. Articles left on the lockers or gym bags left in homerooms will be confiscated. Periodic locker inspection may be conducted throughout the year. Prolonged storage of food and unclean gym garments in the locker is not permitted.

Book Bags

Book bags should be stored in student lockers. Large student purses are not permitted to be carried for the day. They are to be placed in the locker. Book bags may be banned at the discretion of the administration and school board. In addition, see-through bags may be required as necessary.

Personal Property

The school cannot assume responsibility for lost or stolen property. Never leave money or other valuables in or on your desk, in the pockets of a coat or sweater, or in your locker. In doing so, you are only tempting someone to take them.

Be careful of your property in locker rooms. Always deposit watches, money and other articles with your gym teacher when you enter the locker room.

Students are not to carry large amounts of money or valuables to school. All lockers in the locker rooms should be locked. If students need to bring large amounts of money to school, please take it to the office in the morning and pick it up before dismissal.

BUS TRANSPORTATION GUIDELINES AND PROCEDURES

Refer to Transportation – Video/Audio Recording Policy

Student Discipline on School Bus

Buses can and do have recording devices to allow for video and audio recording of students. The video and audio recordings will be used to assist administration in the handling of student misconduct on the bus.

The students are the first and prime responsibility of the driver, with safety as the main concern.

- a. Order, discipline, and good citizenship are greatly dependent on the driver just as is attained by a good teacher in a classroom.
- b. Students are to be instructed in their classroom of the needs for observance of all safety rules and bus regulations.

Responsibility of the pupils.

- a. To occupy the seat assigned by the driver and to refrain at all times from moving around while the bus is in motion.
- b. To practice classroom conduct (except ordinary conversation) while using the school bus.
- c. To obey the driver respectfully and to report promptly to the school official when instructed to do so by the driver.
- d. To be in the place assigned both morning and evening—ready to board the bus at the same time shown on the schedule. The driver is responsible for the maintenance of this schedule and cannot wait for tardy pupils.
- e. Anytime that a student returns home on a bus other than his/her assigned bus, a signed permission form from the parent or guardian needs to be in the office for approval by the principal as long as the bus is not overcrowded.

Personal student safety

- a. To stay off the traveled roadway at all times while waiting for a bus.
- b. Remain seated until the bus has come to a stop before attempting to get off. Wait until the bus stops moving before attempting to board.
- c. To leave the bus only at the consent of the driver.
- d. To enter or leave the bus only at the front door after the bus had come to a stop except in case of an emergency.
- e. To cross the traveled highway if necessary after leaving the bus in the following manner.
 1. Make certain the bus is stationary.
 2. When unloading, go to the front of the bus within sight of the driver, stop, look both ways and cross with care.
 3. Walk, not run in front of the bus when crossing the highway.
- f. Keep hands and head inside the bus at all times.

- g. Report to the driver at once any damage to the bus that is observed.
- h. Help keep the bus clean, sanitary, and orderly.

Cases of misconduct shall be reported to the driver or the contractor to the appropriate principal.

- a. Every school bus driver has been supplied with a School Bus Incident Report Form which reflects the rules of student conduct. Students will be cited for the following activities:
 - 1. Failure to remain seated
 - 2. Refusing to obey the driver.
 - 3. Fighting
 - 4. Profanity
 - 5. Lighting of matches
 - 6. Smoking on the bus
 - 7. Throwing objects out of the bus
 - 8. Throwing objects on the bus
 - 9. Hanging out of the window
 - 10. Spitting
 - 11. Bothering others
 - 12. Vandalism
 - 13. Any use of Tobacco/Illegal Drugs/Alcohol
- b. If a student is reported for misbehavior, after investigating, a school official will take appropriate disciplinary action which may include, but not be limited to, reprimand, loss of classroom privileges, parents(s)/guardian(s) contact, parents(s)/guardian(s) conference, detention, suspension of transportation privileges, involvement of law enforcement.
 - 1. First Offense – warning to the student with a report to the parents.
 - 2. Second Offense – Automatic suspension of riding privileges the length of time to depend on the seriousness of the infraction – a report to the parents.
 - 3. In the event an offense warrants immediate and severe discipline, the first step above can and shall be waived.
 - 4. It may be necessary for a student or the student’s parents(s)/guardian(s) to have a conference with a school official before bus riding privileges are returned.
- c. Reports of misconduct shall be reported as soon as possible after the occurrence.
- d. Drivers have the right to refuse boarding privileges, in consultation with the administration, at the school stop as well as the home stop if a clear and present danger occurs or is created by a student while boarding and/or exiting the bus or while the bus is in transit. Students creating a clear and present danger will be put off the bus when a problem occurs – the spot of removal will be either the home or the school, depending upon whichever is nearest.

Responsibility of the Parents

The responsibility of parents whose children are transported at public expense:

- 1. To ascertain and insure that their children arrive at the bus stop on time in the morning.
- 2. To provide necessary protection of their children when going to and from bus stops.
- 3. To accept joint responsibility with the school authorities for proper conduct of their children.
- 4. To make reasonable effort to understand and cooperate with those responsible for pupil transportation.

If a student’s bus riding privilege is suspended, it is the parent’s responsibility to see that the child gets to school. Otherwise, any days of school missed must be considered **illegal.

SCHOOL BUS EVACUATION RULES

1. Remain calm and quiet.
2. Wait for directions from the driver (older student).
3. Leave everything in your seat.
4. Go out through the safest exit (front and/or back).
5. Use the push-out windows if other exits are blocked.
6. Help each other for a safe & orderly evacuation
7. Move to a safe place away from the bus (100 giant steps).
8. Evacuate if there is:
 - Smoke
 - Fire
 - Danger of drowning
 - Danger of collision with other traffic
9. Know the location of emergency equipment:
 - Ignition key or engine switch
 - Emergency brake
 - First aid kit
 - Two way radio
 - Horn

INSURANCE

Refer to Student Accident Insurance Policy

MEYERSDALE AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT Athletic Insurance Policy

MEYERSDALE, PENNSYLVANIA 15552

Dear Parent:

The Board of Education passed a resolution requiring all participants in Interscholastic Athletics be required to have medical insurance coverage. As the parent/guardian of a young person participating in such activities there are two (2) alternatives:

- 1) Purchase the school insurance option, for which an application is online (as of July, 2011) and can be downloaded. You then print the form as your certificate of proof and mail the form in with payment. Keep a copy of the form for the school to receive as proof of coverage. This should be turned in to the school nurse with your physical paper. Explanatory is available at the High School Athletic Office.
- 2) Sign the form below indicating you will cover the cost of any needed medical services arising because of your son/daughter/s participation in Interscholastic Athletics by providing, at your own expense, personal medical insurance covering any such cost.

Complete and return to the school:

A. (Check one)

1. _____ am forwarding, with acknowledgement, the completed application/form for school accident insurance coverage. An additional copy was sent to the insurance provider with payment. I will be utilizing

(Name of "your" insurance company)

as the primary insurance carrier with which benefits will be coordinated on bills over \$100.00 along with the school insurance.

NOTE: SCHOOL INSURANCE IS NOT VALID FOR SENIOR HIGH FOOTBALL COVERAGE. (GRADES 9 - 12 at Meyersdale)

2. _____ am forwarding, with acknowledgement, the completed application/form for school accident insurance coverage. An additional copy was sent to the insurance provider with payment. Our family does "not" have other medical insurance with which benefits will be coordinated on bills over \$100.00 and up to \$1,000,000.00.

NOTE: SCHOOL INSURANCE IS NOT VALID FOR SENIOR HIGH FOOTBALL COVERAGE. (GRADES 9 - 12 at Meyersdale)

1. _____ will be responsible for any needed medical service arising because of my son/daughter/s participation in Interscholastic Athletics by covering such through my personal medical insurance and will provide evidence of such coverage to the school district with the physical papers. The name of my insurance company is: _____
-

Student's Name _____ Grade in School _____

Address _____ Phone _____

SIGNATURE OF PARENT/GUARDIAN _____

MEYERSDALE AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT'S ATHLETIC CODE OF CONDUCT

The Meyersdale School District views its extracurricular athletic, cheerleading, marching band (fall season) drama (musical) programs as extensions of the classroom. While these programs are also recreational, we hope students will learn worthwhile lessons of teamwork, discipline, hard work, cooperation and physical fitness. The coach/advisor is considered first as a teacher, teaching skills and reinforcing the other qualities that we hope to see in participants. He/ she has authority similar to that of a teacher in the classroom. Likewise, students and their parents also have an obligation to conduct themselves appropriately.

Participation in extracurricular activities is a privilege provided by the District, there is no such thing as a "right" to participate in interscholastic athletics. As such, the school has the authority to establish the parameters for the expectations for ALL those involved in the activities. The school holds these expectations for their athletic programs, and other extracurricular activities, in the interest of maximizing the programs' benefits to students and for their smooth operation.

The "Tutoring and Rules/consequences" section of the code of conduct below, is a set of principles and standards designed to guide the ATHLETE/PUPIL in taking acceptable and approved actions. In all cases, a student must pursue a curriculum defined and approved by the principal which meets the PIAA standards for eligibility in extracurricular activities.

TUTORING:

- Students declared ineligible have the right to appeal before the high school principal and the faculty member assigning the failing grade. The final decision regarding eligibility rests with the high school principal.
- Students involved in extracurricular activities who are failing a subject must spend a minimum of two hours per week in a tutoring session.
- Students who continue to fail on either three separate or continuous occasions during a nine week grading period will be evaluated to determine participation.
- Under NO circumstances will the tutoring process be a substitute for regular attendance in the classroom.
- A conference with parents could be scheduled for students receiving an "F" in a core subject for a nine week grading period.
- Tutoring will occur from 3:00pm to 5:30pm in rooms designated by the administration.
- Students declared ineligible may continue to practice and participate in their activity if all tutorial sessions are attended within that week. Administration will monitor these requirements.

RULES/CONSEQUENCES:

- 1) The use of snuff or tobacco, in any form, could result in the following:
 - a) shall not practice or participate during the suspension determined by the coach/administration.
 - b) cut from the team.
- 2) Any use of drugs and/or alcohol will result in the following:
 - a) refer to Athletic Drug / Alcohol Policy in Student Handbook.
 - b) refer to Voluntary Drug Test Policy in Student Handbook.
- 3) Any infraction of school policy while representing the school in any extracurricular activity will result in disciplinary action by the advisor, coach and/or administration.

We expect participants to:

- Respect the position and requests of the coach.
- Always exemplify the very best courtesy, manners and sportsmanship when representing your school and community.
- Adhere to and willingly follow the rules imposed by the coach.
- Be faithful in attending practices, contests and/or performances. Arrange your schedule to prevent conflicts with athletic schedules. Being excused from practice should be at the discretion of the coach.
- Cooperate fully with the coach and teammates in striving to achieve the TEAM'S goals.
- Give the very best effort and performance possible, both in practice and in contests.
- Be a student first, grades and behavior MUST be maintained both on and off the field, court, mat, etc.

- Be well groomed and neat at all times.
- Support TEAM functions.
- Follow the school's attendance policy. In order to participate in any after-school contest, a student must be at school by 11:30am. of that day.
- Refrain from using alcohol, tobacco and drugs (unless prescribed by a physician). Use of alcohol, tobacco and /or drugs shall result in the student being expelled or suspended from the team. The above include admittance of use ON and/or OFF school property to a coach, school personnel, faculty or administration.
- To understand that administration reserves the right to revoke the privilege of participation at any time for disciplinary reasons. Flagrant misconduct, poor sportsmanship, excessive absenteeism or failure to meet scholastic standards are some examples.
- Be responsible for the care and upkeep of issued equipment.
- Be aware that students are not permitted to drive to the field house for practice for any reason.

We expect parents to:

- Support the position and authority of the coach/advisor as the person in charge of the activity.
- Realize that the coach/advisor has the authority with the team similar to that of the teacher in the classroom.
- Help their child fulfill the expectations stated above.
- Realize that participants may be disciplined or removed from the team for such acts as missing practices, unacceptable behavior and failure to follow team or school rules.
- **Arrange a private meeting with the coach/advisor apart from the time prior to, during or after practices or contests. This allows discussions to be less confrontational in a non-public forum.**
- Realize that participants may be expected to involve themselves in fund-raising projects in support of the activity.
- Expect and encourage their son/daughter to ALWAYS exemplify the best effort and performance possible.
- Respect the coach's decisions regarding their son's/daughter's playing time and game time strategies.
- Conduct themselves in a courteous manner when dealing with a coach, opposing players or fans.
- Realize that parents and others are not permitted in the locker rooms before, during or following a contest/practice except by the invitation of a coach/administrator.
- Remember that a ticket to a school event is a privilege to observe that event.
- Be a positive role model through behavior while attending events.

Complaint Policy

The Meyersdale Area School District has taken great steps to hire quality individuals to direct our extracurricular programs of the district. The Board feels that these individuals are extremely competent and should perform their duties with limited distractions.

However, the Board recognizes that concerns do arise between parents and coaches/advisors. The Board, therefore, has created an organized, sequential complaint process to address these concerns. The Board feels that strict adherence to this policy will bring proper and immediate closure to any such concerns.

The procedure for processing complaints will be as follows:

1. Parent(s) will request a face to face meeting with the coach/advisor.
2. In the event that the parent(s) are not satisfied with the results of step 1, the parent(s) may arrange a meeting with the athletic director (for athletic programs) or the principal (for other extracurricular activities) and the coach/advisor.
3. In the event that the issue is not resolved in the above steps, the parent(s) shall schedule a meeting with the principal, athletic director and coach/advisor to discuss the concerns.
4. If the issues are still not resolved, the superintendent may meet with the parent(s) to discuss these concerns.

Issues of game strategy, lineup and playing time will NOT be addressed by a parent to a coach or advisor; nor may they be addressed through the complaint procedures.

MEYERSDALE AREA'S ATHLETIC CODE OF CONDUCT SIGNATURE FORM

So that ALL persons might be aware of these expectations, participants and their parents MUST sign this document prior to the student participating in the first athletic activity of the season. The signatures of the participant and the parent(s) indicate acknowledgement of the terms of the Athletic Code of Conduct.

Students who violate these expectations are subject to discipline. Parents who are not able to meet these expectations may be banned from attending future Meyersdale Area School District athletic events . As applicable, both parents are to sign below.

Participant	Date
Parent	Date
Parent	Date

**** Sign and return this form to your head coach.**

ANABOLIC STEROID VIOLATION

Refer to Controlled Substances/Paraphernalia Policy

Violations: No physician, or other person regulated by the act of December 10, 1985 (P.L. 457, No. 112), known as the Medical Practice Act of 1985, or any other school employee, shall dispense, inject or prescribe an anabolic steroid for the purpose of hormonal manipulation intended to increase muscle mass, strength, weight without a medical necessity to do so, for the intended purpose of improving performance in any form of exercises, sport or game. To do so will mean immediate termination of employment from the school district.

DRUG & ALCOHOL GUIDELINES & PROCEDURES – STUDENT ATHLETES

If a student-athlete is CAUGHT using drugs and/or alcohol, he/she will be dismissed from the team immediately.

If a student-athlete SELF-REPORTS himself/herself as having used drugs and/or alcohol to a coach, athletic director, or school administration, he/she will be placed on an immediate two-week suspension from the team, which includes all scheduled contests. If no contests are scheduled during that time, the student-athlete will be suspended from participation in the next regularly scheduled game or competition that follows the initial two-week suspension.

In addition to the suspension, the student-athlete will be referred to the district's Student Assistance Team through which he/she must submit to an evaluation and follow through according to the recommendation of the appropriate agency and two week suspension from athletic activities.

If a student-athlete is guilty of a second offense he/she shall be suspended from participation for the remainder for the school year.

RANDOM DRUG & ALCOHOL TESTING

1. PURPOSE

The Meyersdale Area School considers extra-curricular activity participation to be a privilege and to be voluntary to every student. Students volunteering to participate are expected to accept the responsibilities associated with this privilege.

As a representative of the school district, students involved in extra-curricular activities are examined by the public, become role models for young children, as well as peers, and are special representatives of the community. They have chosen to accept this role and, with it, the responsibility of a drug and alcohol-free lifestyle.

All students have a responsibility to themselves and others to set a good example and to conduct themselves in a way that will not cause harm to themselves or others through the use of drugs or alcohol.

Administrators, teachers and coaches recognize that drugs and alcohol have a deleterious effect on motivation, memory, judgment, reaction time, coordination, and performance. These effects, in conjunction with other health and safety factors have led to the development of this policy. This policy is viewed as a viable drug and alcohol-free school prevention program.

2. PROCEDURES

Every member of a Meyersdale Area School District extra-curricular program (as designated by the Principal and/or the Middle School Principal) whose parents consent to drug and alcohol testing shall be a participant in this drug and alcohol testing program. For students involved in extra-curricular programs, testing will be done during the activity season/school year in which the student is participating. Other students whose parents consent shall also be participants in the program. Each year a parent(s) or guardian(s) consent ("permission to test") form may be signed authorizing the school district to request, at any time and without prior warning during the season or school year, that the students submit a urine sample for drug and alcohol screening. The sample will be evaluated by an independent laboratory of the School District's choosing, and the laboratory shall follow strict chain of custody procedures.

The Administration of the Meyersdale Area School District shall designate a member of the Student Assistance Team (SAT) to be the Student Assistance Team Drug Testing Coordinator (SATDTC).

All costs associated with the drug and alcohol testing shall be paid by the district. Prescription medications that the student is taking must be identified by the student and verified by a copy of the prescription or a written doctor's statement.

All test results will be provided to the district within a timely manner of the test administration time. The SATDTC will receive a confidential report of the test results in writing from the chosen laboratory.

If the sample tests positive, a second test will be done within forty-eight (48) hours to confirm the results. The second test will be done utilizing the original sample. If the second test is negative, no further action is taken. The building principal and/or the middle school principal will provide written notice to the parents/guardians of those students who successfully test negative.

If the student's second test is also positive, a medical review physician designated by the school district or testing facility as they may determine will confirm all positive test results, as provided in paragraph 4.g. The medical review physician will investigate any medication taken by the student who has tested positive and will decide on any affect the medication taken or other legitimate circumstances had on the student's test result, as provided in paragraph 4.g.

If the medical review physician confirms the positive results, the principal/middle school principal or his/her designee and the SATDTC will hold a parent conference to make the parent/ guardian or student provide additional information relevant to interpretations of the test result, the principal or his/her designee may contact the medical review physician for further confirmation of the results. Should the parent/guardian or student provide additional information relevant to interpretations of the test result, the principal or his/her designee may contact the medical review physician for further confirmation of the results.

Students who test positive for drugs or alcohol will complete the following:

- a. The student must participate in the student assistance program. The student will be required to participate in a drug and alcohol assessment with a certified drug and alcohol evaluator's recommendation will result in the student being prohibited from further participation in the competitive extra-curricular activities.
- b. The student with a first confirmed positive test will be suspended from participation in competitive extra-curricular activities (does not include practice) for a period of two weeks, including all competitions during the two week period. If there are not two weeks remaining of that activity for which the student was tested, the remainder of the suspension will be recalculated and applied toward the next season or activity in which the student participates. (If no competitions in a competitive activity for which the student was tested are scheduled during the two weeks the student will not be permitted to participate in the next scheduled competition.) The student must be re-tested and test negative prior to his/her return to extra-curricular activities. For students who do not participate in extra-curricular activities, parents, with cooperation of school officials, will be responsible for initiating appropriate follow-up action.
- c. The student will be required to be re-tested before the start of another activity in which they will participate. (Students will be subjected to future testing at any time at the discretion of the district.)
- d. The student who retests and is found to have a positive test, qualifying as a second offense (a second confirmed positive test), will be suspended from participation, practice and competition in all extra-curricular activities for the remainder of the school year. The student must be re-tested and must test negative prior to his/her return to extra-curricular participation.
- e. A student who accumulates three confirmed positive tests will be barred from all extra-curricular activities for the remainder of the school year and the next two school years.

Students will be randomly selected to participate in the screening from each extra-curricular activity and from a pool of those not involved in extra-curricular activities. Selection will be done by a designated school employee not involved in the particular activity to be tested. The percentage of students to be selected from each activity or pool will be from 10% to 100% depending on the activity and circumstances. Should any student, at any time, refuse to submit a sample for testing, this shall result in the student's disqualification from participation and the student will not be permitted to participate on any athletic team or any other extra-curricular activity until he/she submits to a drug and alcohol test and tests negative. The student will comply with the extra-curricular suspension guidelines as described in this policy. For example, a first refusal will result in non-participation for the remainder of the current year and the next two school years. For purposes of the scale of suspension, if a student refuses to submit a sample for testing, this action will be considered a confirmed positive test and will be counted as such.

If a student fails to follow the directions for testing or violates any requirement thereof, the student will be deemed to have refused testing and the provisions above will apply. School Board Policy on Drugs and Alcohol concerning the use, possession, or distribution of illegal substances on school premises and possessing, using or distributing on non-school time shall remain unaffected by this policy

3. CONFIDENTIALITY

- a. All test results will be confidential and access to results shall be limited to the medical review physician, the student, parents or guardians, persons authorized by the student or parents or guardians, or as directed by any subpoena or court order, the principal of his or her designee, the superintendent, and to the extent necessary for them to perform their duties, the coach or activity advisor, the guidance counselor, school nurse, Student Assistance Program personnel, certified drug and alcohol evaluators or drug and alcohol counselors, and others approved by the superintendent as needing the information to implement and enforce this policy and otherwise carry out their duties.
- b. This policy is directed toward prevention and treatment and shall not result in suspension from school, expulsion, or referral to police. However, this policy

does not limit the scope and extent of other laws, regulations or school policy dealing with drugs and alcohol.

4. TESTING PROTOCOL

- a. A list of eligible students will be prepared by the advisors/coaches of each activity and by the middle school principal and/or the SATDTC with respect to the pool of students not involved in an activity. This list will be forwarded to the SATDTC with respect to the pool of students not involved in an activity. This list will be forwarded to the SATDTC for the random selection of students who will be asked to submit urine specimens for testing.
- e. The principal will use a system to assure that students are selected in a random fashion. Student ID numbers will be used in the selection.
- f. Urine testing is unannounced. The day and date are selected by the building principal and confirmed with the Windber Medical Center. Random testing may be done weekly.
- g. Competitive Season begins the date of the official practice/organizational meeting for that activity and continues until that competitive season concludes. For other activities, the beginning and ending of the season will be fixed by the principal.
- h. Form Completion-the Windber Medical Center is responsible for seeing that proper drug testing custody and control forms are used that satisfy the needs of the Policy for Random Urine Drug and Alcohol testing for the Meyersdale Area School District. A student number will be used for identification with the student's number only appearing on the copies that go to the donor, Medical Review Physician, and school official. Students will complete a form that will list their ID number and their name, with that form remaining with the SATDTC. The purpose of this form is for the students to verify, by their signature, that this is the ID number they are using.
- i. Collection Process-Selected students report from class to the collection site. A specimen of urine is collected following this process:
 - g. Student is brought to the collection site.
 - h. No purses, bags or containers may be taken into the collection area with the students. All extra coats, vests, jackets, sweaters, etc. are to be removed before entering the collection area.
 - i. The drug testing custody and control form is completed by the student and collector.
 - j. Students are first asked to wash their hands with soap and water and dry them. (If water is unavailable, a non-alcoholic wipe may be used instead.)
 - k. The collector adds a bluing agent to the water in the urinal or toilet.
 - l. The student is told to urinate directly into the provided container and should provide a sufficient amount of urine (45 ml) in one attempt. The student is also told they are to hand the container of urine to the collector.
 - m. The student enters the stall to collect the specimen and then hands the container to the collector. The student may rewash their hands after watching their specimen being sealed.
 - n. The collector checks the volume, reads and records the temperature within four minutes of collection, and looks for evidence of tampering. If tampering is suspected, a second specimen will be requested. A second suspected tampered specimen will be considered refusal to test and the principal will be notified.
 - o. With the student watching, the collector will pour the specimen into the two bottles and recap the specimen bottles tightly.
 - p. The collector takes the properly signed and initialed bottle seals and places them over the caps and sides of the bottles.
 - q. The sealed bottles are placed inside the transport bag and the top sealed as directed.
 - r. The top lab copies of the drug testing custody and control form are folded with the top portion visible to the outside and placed in the Requisition Pouch. This pouch is then sealed as indicated. The student is given the donor copy of the form.
 - s. The student may now rewash their hands and then be sent back to class.
 - t. The collector distributed the remaining copies of the form as required, being responsible for getting the appropriate copy of the form to the MRP in a timely manner.

- u. The principal will be notified immediately of any student who refuses to give a urine sample.

MEDICAL REVIEW PHYSICIAN (MRP) RESPONSIBILITIES

The MRP will review all results of urine drug testing. Any urine specimen testing positive for illicit or banned substances after a second test on a portion of the original sample will be handled in the following manner:

- a. The MRP determines if any discrepancies have occurred in the Chain of Custody.
- b. Depending on the substances found in the urine, if necessary, the MRP will contact the designated school official for information needed to contact the parent/guardian/custodian to determine if the student is on any prescribed medication from a physician or if there are any other legitimate circumstances that might have affected the test result.
- c. If the student is on prescription medication, the parent/guardian/custodian will be asked to obtain a letter from the prescribing physician, within five working days, to document what medications the student is currently taking. If there are any other circumstances presented, the parent shall also finish appropriate documentation within five (5) working days. Failure to provide such requested information will be considered a positive result.
- d. The MRP will then determine if any of the prescribed medications or other legitimate circumstances presented resulted in the positive drug screen.
- e. Finally, the MRP based on the information given, will certify the drug test results as positive or negative and report this to the building principal, initially reporting positive results by phone. The MRP will also notify the Prevention Coordinator of the testing facility that a drug test returned positive giving only the dates of the collection and reporting.
 - For example, a drug screen positive for codeine may be ruled negative by the MRP when he receives a letter from the treating physician that the student has been prescribed Tylenol with codeine as a pain medication following tooth extraction.
 - Or, if the student has a positive drug screen for codeine and has no documented physician order for the medication (maybe a parent gave the student one of their pills), this would likely be ruled a positive drug test by the MRP
 - Drug screens positive for illicit drugs (amphetamines, cocaine metabolite, marijuana metabolite, opiates-heroin, phencyclidine, barbiturates, benzodiazepines, methadone, methaqualone, propoxyphene and alcohol) and not explained by the taking of prescribed medicines or other legitimate circumstances would automatically be considered positive by the MRP.
- f. The MRP may use quantitative results to determine if positive results on repeat tests indicate recent use of illicit or banned substances or the natural decline of levels of the illicit or banned substances from the body. If the MRP feels the quantitative levels determined to be above the established cutoffs do not reflect current use by natural decay, then a negative result may be reported.
- g. The MRP will complete the final review on the drug testing custody and control form and return the appropriate copy to the building Principal in a confidential manner.
- h. Pickup Process: Meyersdale Medical Center is responsible for seeing that specimens are delivered to or picked up by the testing laboratory and the Chain of Custody form properly annotated.
- i. Procedures in the Event of a Positive Result: (See above – 2. Policies and Procedures.)

5. EXCEPTIONS

If a student participates in more than one extra-curricular activity and if the student is randomly selected for drug testing in more than one activity at or about the

same time, the appropriate principal shall have the right to excuse a student from repetitive testing if he or she deems an excuse warranted.

6. REQUESTED TESTING

In addition to random testing, students may be tested, at the principal's discretion, upon parent request. Such testing will not be part of or reduce the random pool and student consent is not required unless the student is 18 years of age or older.

7. OTHER TESTING

In addition to testing on a random basis as described above, the principal or his or her designee may require testing on a non-random basis when there is a specific reason or reasonable basis to suspect that there may be a problem.

8. PARENTAL CONSENT

Participation in the drug and alcohol testing program requires parental consent. Once consent is given, it shall be valid for the balance of the school year. School years begin July 1 and end the following June 30.

DIRECTIONS TO STUDENTS

DRUG AND ALCOHOL TESTING FOR STUDENTS

You have been randomly selected to participate in a drug and alcohol screening:

- a. of students involved in extra-curricular activities under the District Random Testing Policy or who are part of the pool of students not participating in extra-curricular activities but whose parents consent, or
- b. have been designated for testing by parental request, or
- c. because of a specific reason or reasonable basis to suspect that there may be a problem (in such a case, you will be told what the reason is.)

Please follow these steps:

1. If you have questions regarding the screening, ask the technician prior to the testing.
2. Do not eat, drink, or alter your body chemistry after you have been notified of your selection.
3. Follow the procedure as described by the medical technician or person in charge.
4. Do not, in any way, try to dilute, discolor, alter, or mask the specimen.
5. Please sign off on all paper work following the testing.
6. If you are taking any specific medication at this time, please notify the technician before screening.
7. Get a note and return to your classroom.
8. If you test positive, you will be notified and a parent/guardian conference will be scheduled with the building principal.
9. If you refuse the drug and alcohol screening after being selected or if you fail to follow the above directions or instruction from the technician or person in charge, you will be disqualified from participating in extra-curricular activities as outlined in the Board Policy on Drug and Alcohol Testing for Students. You will be required to follow the policy provisions with respect to any future participation in extra-curricular activities.

Thank you for your cooperation

TO: Parents and Students Involved in Extra-Curricular Activities at Meyersdale Area School District

The Meyersdale Area School District has adopted a policy for random (except where a specific reason or reasonable basis for non-random testing exists) drug and alcohol testing for students in grades 9—12 whose parents consent.

We request that you help us to maintain a drug and alcohol free school by consenting to have your child participate.

Students who are selected will provide a sample that will test for amphetamines, cocaine metabolite, marijuana metabolite, opiates-heroin, phencyclidine, barbiturates, benzodiazepines, methadone, methaqualone, propoxyhene and alcohol. The screening will be co-supervised by Windber Medical Center personnel and Meyersdale Area School District personnel. We will observe all legal rules for chain of custody at both the collection and analysis sites. (Chain of custody refers to the security of handling the obtained sample from the point of collection to the final destination for the laboratory including identification, labeling, sealing, and testing.)

The SATDTC will receive a confidential report of the test results. The principal and the SATDTC will promptly notify the parents of the students upon receipt of test results. If the sample tests positive, a second verification test is done on the original sample within forty-eight (48) hours to confirm the results. If the second test is negative, no further action is taken. The principal will provide written notice to the parents of those students who successfully test negative.

The test is to be used as a deterrent rather than as a disciplinary tool. However, those who test positive will be notified by the principal and the SATDTC and will be:

1. Required to meet with the principal/middle school had teacher, the SATDTC and his/her parents/guardians.
2. Required to participate in the District's Student Assistance Program and complete a drug and alcohol evaluation.
3. Required to comply with the drug and alcohol evaluator's recommendations as failure to comply will result in exclusion from participation in the activity. For students not involved in an activity, the school will cooperate with parents to determine appropriate follow-up action.
4. Disqualification from further participation in the activity as outlined in Board Policy regarding Drug and Alcohol Testing for Students.
5. Required to be re-tested before the start of another extra-curricular activity in which they will be a participant and to test negative prior to his/her return to the activity.

Involved students will be randomly selected by an individual not associated with the particular extra-curricular program. A student may also be called for testing if there is a specific reason to suspect that there may be a problem. Should any student refuse to submit a sampling for testing, he/she will be disqualified from participation in the activity as specified in the policy.

We will select a percentage of students from each extra-curricular activity during each activity season and periodically from the pool of students not involved in extra-curricular activities. The percentage may vary from 10% to 100% depending on the activity and circumstances. The test will not be announced prior to the actual date of screening. Testing results will be held in strict confidence as provided in the policy. We will continue to follow our School District Board Policy on Drugs and Alcohol concerning the use, possession, or distribution of illegal substances on school premises and possessing, using or distributing on non-school time.

Parents may request, through the building principal or the SATDT that their child be tested. (Such a test will not affect the random sampling percentage for an activity or testing pool.) These students will still be subject to the drug testing provision of the policy. Cost of this testing will be paid for by the school district.

We thank you for your support and assistance in keeping drugs and alcohol out of our school. This letter summarizes our policy, but you are encouraged to read the policy itself.

We urge you to consent to having your child participate in this program. Please complete the Consent/Referral Form (whether you consent or are refusing) and return to your child's teacher through your child or, if you prefer, mail to:

**High School Principal
Meyersdale Area High School,
1349 Shaw Mines Road
Meyersdale, PA 15552**

or

**Middle School Principal
Meyersdale Middle School
1345 Shaw Mines Road
Meyersdale, PA 15552**

CONSENT/REFUSAL FORM
DRUG AND ALCOHOL TESTING FOR STUDENTS PERMISSION TO TEST
(If you are refusing, please complete the bottom of this form)

The Meyersdale Area School district is committed to providing a safe, drug and alcohol free school district. The district appreciates your support, encouragement, and cooperation. The cost of the test, and if necessary, the drug and alcohol evaluation, will be covered by the Meyersdale Area School District. The selection process will be done by a random sampling process as provided in the policy. In some cases, 100% of participants in a particular activity may be tested. Testing may also be done if a parent or guardian requests it. The district may also require a test if there is a specific reason or reasonable basis to suspect that there may be a problem.

Please fill out the bottom of this page and return it to your son/daughter's teacher/coach advisor. If you prefer, you may mail to the school district. Please print your name, address and your son/daughter's name. Results may be mailed to the address below.

I hereby give permission for the Meyersdale Area School District and the Windber Medical Center to perform drug and alcohol tests on my son/daughter. I realize the purpose and ramifications of the testing and will follow the guidelines set forth in board policy for positive tests.

I understand that my son/daughter will not be punished by suspension or expulsion for a positive test result; however, they will be disqualified from participation in the activity as outlined in board policy on drug and alcohol testing for students. I also understand that my son/daughter will be required to comply with specific requirements of the board policy for further athletic/extra-curricular participation as set forth in the policy. I acknowledge that I have reviewed a copy of the policy.

You are () You are not () authorized to contact the family doctor listed below for further information if needed.

Please Print: Date: _____ (consent valid until following June 20.)

Student's Name _____

Parent/Guardian Name _____

Parent/Guardian Signature _____

Address _____ Phone _____

Family Doctor _____ Pharmacy _____

Current Medications _____

REFUSAL TO PARTICIPATE

I received the information of the District's Random Drug and Alcohol Testing Policy and I **DO NOT** want my child to participate in the program.

Please Print: Date: _____

Student's Name _____

Parent/Guardian Name _____ Grade _____

Parent/Guardian Signature _____

ATTENDANCE

REGULATIONS GOVERNING ABSENCES, EXCUSES, PERMITS

Refer to ATTENDANCE POLICY

PARENTAL REQUEST FOR EDUCATIONAL TRIP GUIDELINES & PROCEDURES

Refer to ATTENDANCE POLICY

- A. The State Board of Education, in its regulation Chapter XI, Section 11:26 provides that upon receipt of a written request from the parents of a pupil involved in an educational tour or trip, the pupil may be excused from school attendance to participate in an educational tour provided during the school term at the expense of the parents when such a tour or trip is evaluated by the district's superintendent as educational, and that the pupil will be under the direction and supervision of an adult acceptable to both the superintendent and the pupil's parents.
- B. Further consideration to this type of an excuse shall also include an assignment arranged for by school personnel and submitted within three days after the return trip. If the agreed upon work is not completed, the excused absence will become unexcused. The student is responsible to make arrangements to make up all work missed in scheduled classes.
- C. The following will be taken into consideration in granting permission for the trip:
 - a. Will the trip broaden the student's understanding of social, cultural or geographical values and concepts?
 - b. The student's academic standing
 - c. The effect the absence will have on the student's educational welfare

TARDY/ABSENCE TIMES:

7:40	Student arrival	
7:50	Students due in homeroom	
7:54-8:34	PLT (40 min)	
7:50	A. M. Homeroom Ends	
8:36 to 9:21	2nd Period (45 min)	9:00 a.m. tardy - end of 2nd
9:23 – 10:08	3rd Period (45 min)	
10:10 – 10:55	4th Period (45 min)	
10:57 – 11:42	5th Period (45 min) hs/ms lunch	11:30 - 1/2 day absence end of 5th
11:44 – 12:29	6th Period (45 min) elem lunch	
12:31 – 1:16	7th Period (45 min)	
1:18 - 2:03	8th Period (45 min)	2:00 p.m. tardy - after 8th
2:05 - 2:50	9th Period (47 min)	
2:58	Buses Out	

A student is considered tardy at 7:50 a.m.

If a student is late to school and arrives before 9:00 a.m., that student is a.m. tardy.

If a student is absent, arrives after 9:00 a.m., but before 11:30 a.m., the student is considered absent ½ day.

If a student is absent, but arrives after 11:30 p.m., the student is marked absent for a full day.

If a student leaves early from school prior to 2:00 p.m., the student is considered absent ½ day.

If a student leaves early from school after 2:00 p.m., the student is not counted absent, but the student is considered p.m. tardy.

If a student is present at school, leaves during the school day for an approved reason, and then comes back to school, the student is marked present for the school day.

Special attendance circumstances apply to S.C.T.C. students.

TARDINESS:

Tardy to School

Tardy students are required to report to the middle school office for a tardy slip prior to reporting to homeroom. Students are due in homeroom at 7:50 a.m. .

Habitual tardiness will not be tolerated. After a student has been tardy to school on five (5) occasions, detention will be assigned. Repeated offenses will result in the following actions: Three additional days, two days lunchtime detention; another three additional days, one day of in-school suspension; an additional three days will result in an out-of-school suspension.

Tardy to Class/Homeroom

Students are considered late to class if they are not in the assigned room when the bell rings. After students are late to class on three (3) occasions, a detention will be assigned. Repeated offenses will result in the following actions: Three additional tardy offenses (6 total), two days lunch-time detention, three additional tardy offenses, (9 total), one day of in-school suspension. Further disciplinary assignments will be made in a progressive manner and may include out-of-school suspension.

Permission to Leave School

Students are required to attend all classes and are not to be excused for reasons such as to go home for gym clothes, etc.

No permit to leave school will be issued to any student unless it is accompanied by a written statement by the parents and provided that the parents call at the school for the student. The only exception to this may be in the event students have a permit to bring their cars to school. They may then be issued permits only with their parents' permission.

Students who are excused to go to the dentist or doctor are required to return to the office, the dismissal slip signed by the dentist or doctor, otherwise the time missed will be considered illegal.

School Trips

Students are not permitted to make school trips unless they present a permit signed by their parents. The student will be permitted to participate in the field trip only at the discretion of the faculty advisor and with the approval of the Principal. Student participation in field trips can be restricted or prohibited based on (but not limited to) grades, attendance and discipline.

Permits/Hall Passes

Students are required to have in their possession a permit slip signed by the teacher before being permitted to go from one room or class to another. The time the student leaves the room should be placed on the permit.

STUDENT RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES

The State Board of Education adopted a document which is referred to as a STUDENT RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES. Officially this document is PENNSYLVANIA CODE TITLE 22-EDUCATION CHAPTER 12. STUDENTS; REGULATIONS AND GUIDELINES ON STUDENT RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES.

Two of the requirements of the document are that Boards of School Directors define their policy on corporal punishment and list those offenses for which a student may be suspended or expelled.

The Meyersdale Area School Board at its regular meeting February 12, 1975 adopted the entire document with the proper explanations relative to corporal punishment and suspension and expulsion.

On December 3, 2005, the State Board of Education amended the Corporal Punishment provision to read:

- a) Corporal punishment is defined as physically punishing a student for an infraction of the discipline policy. **USE OF CORPORAL PUNISHMENT IS PROHIBITED.**
- b) Teachers and school authorities may use reasonable force under the following circumstances:
 1. to quell a disturbance; or
 2. to obtain possession of weapons or other dangerous objects; or
 3. for the purpose of self-defense; or
 4. for the protection of persons or property

If you have any questions concerning this matter, please contact the elementary principal (634-8313); the high school principal (634-8311) or the school superintendent (634-5123).

The law requires the school to show guardians its Student Rights and Responsibilities Policy. If you have a special request, please submit it in writing to the proper school person.

In accordance with Section 12.6, **Exclusions from School** (Suspension and Expulsion) the board lists as required in part (a) that following offenses which could lead to suspension and/ or expulsion.

1. Violation contained within the Crime Code of Pennsylvania.
2. Vandalism and destruction of school property and contracted property used in the operation and maintenance of the school.
3. Fighting or assault in any form.
4. Use of tobacco, alcohol, and other dangerous drugs.
5. The use of obscene language or gestures.
6. Threatening or intimidating school personnel, school guests or fellow students.
7. Persistent violation of school rules and regulations.

Expulsion would be used only when the offense is severe in its initial enactment or when lesser offences are repeated with such persistence that they are detrimental to the learning climate or threatening to property, employees, or other students.

The Board reserves the right to add to or delete any of the above offenses to allow for the better and more efficient operation of the schools so long as they are within the limits of State and Federal Statutes.

REGULATIONS CONCERNING SUSPENSION/EXCLUSION

Refer to SUSPENSION AND EXPULSION POLICY

State Board of Education and Pennsylvania Department of Education requirements for suspension and exclusion of exceptional students:

Title 22 Pennsylvania Code:

Chapter 12: Student Rights and Responsibilities – Applies to all students.

Chapter 13: (State Board Regulations) 13.62, Requirements for PARC v. Commonwealth – Applies to mentally retarded students.

Chapter 351: (Special Education Standards) 341.9, Requirements of Kenneth J. v. Kline – Applies to learning disabled, socially and emotionally disturbed students.

SUSPENSION/EXCLUSION PROCEDURES

Refer to SUSPENSION AND EXPULSION POLICY

These procedures supersede procedures outlined in "Student Rights and Responsibilities".

Suspension of Mentally Retarded Students

- The SCHOOL determines whether to suspend considering:
 - Student's behavior
 - Threat of student to self and others
 - School discipline policy
 - Other options
 - Student's handicap
 - Student's Individualized Education Program (IEP) and placement
 - Relation of handicap to student's behavior
- When suspension is recommended, the SCHOOL must:
 - Issue the Notice of Recommended Assignment* (NORA) and
 - Obtain written approval, and then implement the suspension
- When parent approval cannot be obtained, i.e., parent is not available, and an emergency exists, the SCHOOL may request approval from the Director of the Bureau of Special Education.
 - The request may be by telephone
 - Must include the reason for suspension
- The BUREAU OF SPECIAL EDUCATION
 - Reviews the request, and
 - May approve the suspension if criteria are met
- The SCHOOL
 - May suspend student, if approved by Bureau, but still issue NORA and conduct hearing if requested.

SUSPENSION OF OTHER EXCEPTIONAL STUDENTS

- Requirements of "Student rights and Responsibilities" apply; no other requirements applicable.

EXCLUSION FOR MORE THAN 10 DAYS OF MENTALLY RETARDED, SOCIALLY AND EMOTIONALLY DISTURBED, AND LEARNING DISABLED STUDENTS

- The SCHOOL determines whether to exclude, considering:
 - Student behavior
 - Threat of student to self and others
 - School discipline policy
 - Other options
 - Student's handicap
 - Student's IEP and placement
 - Relation of handicap to student's behavior
 - Priority order of placement
- When exclusion is recommended, the SCHOOL must:
 - Issue the Notice of Recommended Assignment (NORA)

* NOTICE OF RECOMMENDED ASSIGNMENT informs parent of the school recommendation and outlines the parent's right to a special education hearing.

FROM: Richard H. Frazer, Director of Special Education – Intermediate Unit 08.

SUBJECT: ANNUAL NOTIFICATION OF RIGHTS OF PARENTS OF EXCEPTIONAL STUDENTS TO REVIEW THEIR CHILD'S SCHOOL RECORDS.

OUT OF SCHOOL SUSPENSION AND CUTTING CLASS
Refer to SUSPENSION AND EXPULSION POLICY

**ANNUAL NOTIFICATION OF RIGHTS OF PARENTS OF EXCEPTIONAL STUDENTS TO
REVIEW THEIR CHILD'S RECORDS**

LOCATION OF STUDENT RECORDS—(TO PARENTS)

As part of the Intermediate Unit 8 Guidelines for Collection, Maintenance, Dissemination and Purging of Student Records, parents are notified annually of your right to inspect these records. If you wish to review your child's educational record and/or a copy of the Records Policy, please call the Intermediate Unit 8 office listed below:

313 West High Street
Ebensburg, PA 15931
Phone: (814) 472-9821 Fax: (814) 472-8466

A record of parties who have obtained access to these records is available for you to inspect, and have the opportunity to amend the records and to request a hearing as a part of that procedure.

If you have any questions, please feel free to call the Intermediate Unit 8 Office, your child's program supervisor, or you child's teacher.

GUIDELINES FOR STUDENT RECORDS

The Meyersdale Area School District shall adhere to sound practices in the compilation, maintenance, and dissemination of student records and the protection of the right of privacy of the students and parents.

DEFINITIONS

“Act” – The General Education Provisions Act, Title IV of Pub. L 90-247, amended.

“Directory Information” – Student’s name, address, telephone number, date and place of birth, major field of study, participation in officially recognized activities and sports, weight and heights of members of athletic teams, dates of attendance, degrees and awards received, the most recent previous educational agency or institution attended by the student and other similar information.

This information may be released without parental or student consent. This includes students eighteen years old and older and/or emancipated students. Parents have the right to review all directory information and delete any such information they feel is detrimental to their child. Parents have ten (10) days to inform the Meyersdale Area School District if they do not wish to have “Directory Information” released.

“Disclosure” – Permit access or the release, transfer, or to her communication of education records of the student or the personally identifiable information contained therein, **orally or in writing**, or by elective means, or by any other means to any party.

“Education Records” – Those records which:

1. Are directly related to a student and
2. Are maintained by the Meyersdale Area Schools or by a party acting of the school district serving as the students “home” district. This term does not include records of instructional, supervisory and administrative an educational personnel or records of eligible students which are created or maintained by a physician, psychiatrist, psychologist, or other recognized professional or paraprofessional acting in his or her professional or paraprofessional capacity, or assisting in that capacity. Records of the Meyersdale Area School district which contain only information relating to a person after that person is no longer a student at the Meyersdale Area School District are not classified as “Education Records”.

“Eligible Student” – A student who attained eighteen years of age, is attending an institution of post secondary education or, has been classified emancipated. The rights accorded to and the consent required of the parent of the student shall therefore only be accorded to and required of the eligible student. Students who are dependent on their parents, regardless of age, are not to be considered “Eligible Students”.

A student eighteen years of age will have the right to inspect his or her education records. Release of records to students eighteen years of age or older will still require parental signature while the student is in attendance at Meyersdale Area School District.

“Parent” – Includes a parent, a guardian, or an individual acting as a parent of a student in the absence of a parent or guardian. Meyersdale Area School may presume the parent has the authority to exercise the rights inherent in the Act unless the Meyersdale Area Schools had been provided with evidence that there is a state law or court order governing such matters as divorce, separation or custody, or a legally binding instrument which provided to the contrary.

“Personally Identifiable” – That data or information which includes:

- a. the name of a student, the student’s parent, or other family members,
- b. the address of the student,
- c. a personal identifier, such as the student’s social security number or student number.
- d. A list of personal characteristics which would make the student’s identity easily traceable.

“Record” – Any information or data recorded in any medium, including, but not limited to: handwriting, print, tapes, film, microfilm, microfiche, and digital documents.

A. Collection of Student Information

Meyersdale Area Schools shall not collect information from students without prior informed consent of the child and his parents, be it individual or representational. In all situations where individual consent is to be obtained, it shall be in writing. In situations where representational consent is sufficient, students and their parents shall be informed in advance at the beginning of each school year.

Student information collected by the Meyersdale Area School District for record purposes will be classified according to the type of information collected into the following three categories:

Category A (Liberal Access)

Category B (Limited Access)

Category C (Restricted Access)

For further definition and information, call the school guidance counselor at 634-8311.

DISCIPLINE

MASD DISCIPLINARY PROCEDURE GUIDELINES

(Refer to Student Discipline Policy No. 218, Suspension and Expulsion Policy No. 233, Controlled Substances/Paraphernalia Policy No. 227, Searches Policy No. 226, Tobacco Use Policy No. 222, Weapons Policy No. 218.1 and Terroristic Threats/Acts Policy No. 218.2, Electronic Devices Policy No. 237)

****Lists provided are not all inclusive, but meant to serve as a guide.**

LEVEL A

Misbehaviors classified in this level represent relatively minor infractions of established procedures which regulate the orderly operation of the school and its education process. The seriousness and frequency of their occurrence shall determine the appropriate disciplinary response and possible reclassification at a higher level.

Infractions

- | | |
|--|--|
| 1. Abuse of Privileges
(hall/locker/restroom) | 18. Infraction of the Acceptable Use of
Internet, Computers, and Network
Resources Policy* |
| 2. Academic Dishonesty | Minor Altercation |
| 3. Bus referral | 19. Misbehavior at a School Sponsored
Activity |
| 4. Class Disruption/Behavior | 20. Name-calling |
| 5. Cutting Class | 21. Open Container |
| 6. Detention Misbehavior | 22. Possession of Energy Drink |
| 7. Disobedience | 23. Possession of Non-instruction Items |
| 8. Disrespectful | 24. Public Display of Affection |
| 9. Dress Code Violation | 25. Skipping School |
| 10. Driving Violation | 26. Tardy to Class |
| 11. Electronic Device | 27. Tardy to School |
| 12. Failure to be Prepared for Class | 28. Throwing Objects |
| 13. Failure to Complete Assignment | 29. Truancy |
| 14. Failure to Return Form | |
| 15. Forging Note | |
| 16. Foul Language | |
| 17. Gum Chewing | |

Disciplinary Procedures:

1. There is immediate and consistent intervention by the school personnel who is supervising the student or observes the misbehavior.

2. An anecdotal record of the date(s) and location(s) of the offense(s) and the disciplinary action is maintained by the teacher and entered into the computerized student management system for administrative review and further action if necessary.

Optional Disciplinary Actions:

1. Verbal Warning
2. Parent Communication: Verbal, Email, and/or Letter
3. Recess Suspension
4. Parent Conference
5. Loss of Privileges
6. *Reference to Acceptable Use of Internet, Computers, & Network Resources Policy
7. Referral to Study Group
8. Guidance Referral
9. Seating Change
10. Detention
11. Reflection Writing Assignment
12. Clean-up and/or Payment of Damage
13. Grade Point Penalty
14. Behavioral or Attendance Contract
15. Isolation
16. Other

LEVEL B

In this level are included misbehaviors whose frequency or seriousness tends to disrupt the learning climate of the school and to affect seriously the student's own education. Some of these infractions may be the result of a continuation of a misbehavior which remains unmodified by disciplinary action under Level A. As a result of their frequency or seriousness, the principal assumes the major responsibility for corrective action. The seriousness and frequency of their occurrence shall determine the appropriate disciplinary response and possible reclassification at a higher level.

Infractions:

1. Continuation or heightened severity of Level A infractions
2. Destruction of School Property
3. Excessive Referrals
4. Possession or Distribution of Pornographic Materials
5. Student Harassment
6. Theft/Stealing

Disciplinary Procedures:

1. There is immediate and consistent intervention by the school personnel who is supervising the student or observes the misbehavior.
2. The teacher or observer reports the infraction via the computer student management system for appropriate disciplinary action. If necessary, immediate contact with the office may precede the computer entry.
3. The principal meets with the student and/or the teacher and determines the most appropriate disciplinary response.
4. The parent is notified.

5. A record of the offense and the disciplinary action is maintained in the computerized student management system.

Optional Disciplinary Responses:

1. Continuation of the more stringent Level A options
2. Detention
3. Parent Conference
4. Guidance Referral
5. Loss of Driving Privileges
6. Activity Suspension
7. Athletic Suspension
8. Bus Suspension
9. In-School Suspension
10. Out of School Suspension
11. Referral to outside agency (counseling, probation, magistrate, law enforcement, etc.)
12. Other

LEVEL C

These acts are more serious because their consequences may have a lasting effect on the individual or may pose a threat to the health and safety of others in the school. While some might be considered criminal acts, for the most part their remediation can be undertaken through the disciplinary mechanism of the school. However, in some cases law enforcement officials may have to be contacted or notified. Included are those which present a direct and immediate threat to the welfare of others or may result in violence to persons or property. Some of these acts are so serious that they in most cases require administrative action which calls for the immediate removal of the student from school and the intervention of police.

Infractions:

1. Continuation or heightened severity of Level A or Level B infractions
2. Assault
3. Bomb Threats
4. Bullying
5. Fighting
6. Indecent Exposure
7. Possession of Controlled Substance
8. Possession of Firearm
9. Possession/Use of Alcohol
10. Possession of Knife
11. Possession of Weapon
12. School Personnel Harassment
13. Sexual Harassment
14. Student Harassment
15. Threat
16. Tobacco Use
17. Vandalism
18. Other

Disciplinary Procedures:

1. The infraction is reported or detected, the principal investigates further and confers with staff members on the circumstances and immediate needs

2. The principal meets with the student and confers with the parent about the misbehavior, the extent of its consequences, and the subsequent disciplinary action
3. Student makes restitution for any loss or damage resulting from the misconduct
4. A record of the offense and the disciplinary action is maintained in the computerized student management system.

Optional Disciplinary Responses:

1. Continuation of appropriate Level B options
2. Principal Collaboration with Superintendent
3. Student/Parent Conference with Superintendent
4. Hearing Before the Board of Education
5. Community Service
6. Partial or Full Loss of Privileges
7. Guidance Referral
8. In-School Suspension
9. Out of School Suspension
10. Referral to Outside Agency (counseling, probation, magistrate, law enforcement, etc.)
11. Full Restitution
12. Full Suspension
13. Expulsion
14. Alternative Education Placement
15. Charges Under Criminal Code

DETENTION PROCEDURES & GUIDELINES

Assignment of Detention

School-day detention will be assigned for minor discipline infractions. Misbehavior in detention will result in suspension. Failure to report to detention will result in additional detention and/or suspension.

Suspension from Class

All students are required to conduct themselves properly in each class so that the class may operate efficiently. Teachers dismissing students from class shall send a dismissal not to the office with another student or bring it personally.

Suspension from School

Students acquiring five detention incidents will at that time receive a suspension, which may be either in-school or out-of-school.

ELECTRONIC DEVICES

Refer to ELECTRONIC DEVICES POLICY

Electronic Devices

The building Principal reserves the right to administer disciplinary actions based on violations of law, ethics or moral practices that could include referral to law enforcement officials or social services. Under normal circumstances the following process will apply:

- The first student cell phone or electronic device infraction will result in a warning being recorded on the student disciplinary record.
- The second student cell phone or electronic device infraction will result in the device being confiscated and stored in the school office in a sealed envelope until the end of the day when it will be returned to the student.
- The third student cell phone or electronic device infraction will result in the device being confiscated and stored in the school office in a sealed envelope until retrieved by a parent/guardian or designee. Students will receive one day of lunch time detention. The student may be required to complete an educational activity focusing on the responsible and appropriate use of cell phones.
- The fourth student cell phone or electronic device infraction will result in the device being confiscated and stored in the school office in a sealed envelope until retrieved by a parent/guardian or designee. Students will receive three days of lunch time detention.
- Further student cell phone or electronic device infractions will result in the device being confiscated and stored in the school office in a sealed envelope until retrieved by a parent/guardian or designee. The following progression of discipline will be followed and may include an intervention meeting with the parent/guardian:
 - one day of In-school-suspension
 - three days of in-school-suspension
 - out-of-school suspension

If a student refuses to relinquish the electronic device to the principal, the consequence will be one day of out-of school suspension.

BULLYING

Refer to BULLYING/CYBERBULLYING POLICY

BULLYING PREVENTION

In an effort to improve peer relations and make our school a safer and more positive place for students to learn and develop, the Meyersdale Area School District has implemented the Olweus Bullying Prevention Program (OBPP). This program recognizes bullying as repeated exposure to negative actions on the part of one or more students with an imbalance in power or strength. Our school rules against bullying will be:

- We will not bully others.
- We will try to help students who are bullied.

- We will include students who are easily left out.
- When we know somebody is being bullied, we will tell an adult at school and an adult at home.

Conflict is an inevitable part of interaction. As children learn the give and take of relationship, of group cooperation, and of social interaction, conflict naturally occurs. The following table highlights the main difference between normal peer conflict and bullying:

Table 1 Recognizing the Difference	
Normal Peer Conflict	Bullying
Equal power or friends	Imbalance of power; no friends
Happens occasionally	Repeated negative actions
Accidental	Purposeful
Not serious	Serious with threat of Physical or emotional harm
Equal emotional reaction	Strong emotional reaction from victim and little or No emotional reaction from bully
Not seeking power or attention	Seeking power, control, or material things
Not trying to get something	Attempt to gain material things or power
Remorse—will take responsibility	No remorse-blames victim
Effort to solve the problem	No effort to solve the problem
Isolation of victim is not intent	Isolation of victim is intentional

Bullying is harassment.

HAZING

Refer to HAZING POLICY

HARASSMENT

Refer to UNLAWFUL HARRASSMENT POLICY - STUDENTS

Harassment – Smallest Summary Offense

This is handled thru the Magistrate’s office. It has three distinct separations:

1. If you strike, shove, push, or kick someone to attempt to annoy or alarm them.
2. If you follow them about in a public place, annoying them or alarming them.
3. If you engage in a course of conduct that serves no legitimate purpose.

Simple Assault – Misdemeanor

This is directly related to the amount of injury. It is handled through the court system as either juvenile court or adult court.

Aggravated Assault

This is where an instrument is used such as a club, baseball bat or knife and causes excessive injury, life threatening, or serious bodily injury.

SEXUAL HARASSMENT – INFORMATION

Refer to UNLAWFUL HARRASSMENT POLICY - STUDENTS

Filing of a complaint or otherwise reporting sexual harassment will not reflect upon the individual’s status nor will it affect future employment, grades or work assignments.

The right to confidentiality, both of the complainant and of the accused, will be respected consistent with the district's legal obligations, and with the necessity to investigate allegations of misconduct and to take corrective action when this conduct has occurred.

A substantiated charge against a staff member in the district shall subject such staff member to disciplinary action, including discharge.

A substantiated charge against a student in the school district shall subject that student to student disciplinary action including suspension or expulsion, consistent with the student discipline code.

No employee or student, either male or female, should be subjected to unsolicited and unwelcome sexual overtures or conduct, either verbal or physical.

Sexual harassment lowers morale and is damaging to the work environment; it also is illegal. Therefore, the district will treat sexual harassment like any other form of employee misconduct, and it will not be tolerated.

The district will enforce disciplinary action against any person who threatens or insinuates, either explicitly or implicitly, that an employee's or student's refusal to submit to sexual advances will adversely affect the employee's or student's employment, evaluation, wages, advancement, assigned duties, shifts, or any condition of employment, career development, classroom evaluation or school experience. This discipline can include termination.

The district recognizes that the question of whether a particular action or incident is a purely personal, social relationship without a discriminatory employment effect requires a factual determination based on all facts in each case.

The district will act positively to investigate alleged sexual harassment claims and to effectively remedy them when an allegation is determined to be valid.

Given the nature of the type of discrimination, the district also recognizes that false accusations of sexual harassment can have serious effects on innocent male and female. Therefore, false accusations will result in the same severe disciplinary action applicable to one found guilty of sexual harassment.

WEAPONS

Refer to WEAPONS POLICY

Weapons - Procedures & Guidelines

As stated in the Weapons Policy, "the school district shall expel for a period of not less than one (1) year any student who violates this weapons policy. Such expulsion shall be given in conformance with formal due process proceedings required by law. The Superintendent may recommend modifications of such expulsion requirement on a case-by-case basis."

Modifications may include one or more of the following actions depending upon the specific violation and intent:

1. Suspension from school for ten (10) days.
2. Mandatory hearing before the Board of School Directors (or, as authorized by the Board, a committee of the Board or hearing examiner). The Superintendent may exclude the student from school pending the hearing. The standard penalty will be a) expulsion from school of not less than a semester or the equivalent or b) permanent expulsion from school when one or more of the following aggravating circumstances exist:
 - a. Possession of firearm.

- b. Possession of a knife or cutting instrument, the blade of which is exposed in an automatic way by push-button, switch, spring mechanism or otherwise.
- c. Possession of a bomb or similar explosive device, the use of which could cause serious bodily injury or property damage.
- d. By use of a weapon, attempt to cause or intentionally or recklessly causing bodily injury to another.
- e. By use of a weapon attempt to put another in fear of imminent bodily injury.

Violation of this policy shall require that the proceedings for the expulsion of the student involved shall be initiated immediately by the building principal. In all cases, parents will be notified, students will be reported to the local and/or state police, and legal charges where applicable will be filed.

Staff members and students observing or otherwise becoming aware of weapons on school property, at school activities, or on school transportation shall report the same to the administration immediately. Administrators shall report individuals suspected of possessing weapons on school property, at school activities, or on school transportation to the appropriate law enforcement officials immediately, such duty to report being subject to review by the district's Solicitor. Staff members shall cooperate with law enforcement officials in the detection and prosecution of all violators of this policy.

School personnel who supply information relating to this policy are immune from prosecution as defined in Commonwealth law. This immunity is guaranteed even if the information is determined to be inaccurate, if the information provided was given in good faith and with the best interest of the school community in mind.

To the greatest extent possible, information which is supplied by students shall be kept confidential to protect the students making the reports.

LOCKER INSPECTION AND INSPECTION OF SCHOOL GROUNDS

Refer to SEARCHES PUPILS POLICY

RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF SCHOOL DIRECTORS OF THE MEYERSDALE AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT PROVIDING FOR THE INSPECTION OF STUDENT LOCKERS AND THE USE IN SCHOOL BUILDINGS AND ON SCHOOL GROUNDS OF TRAINED DOGS TO SNIFF FOR DRUGS OR OTHER SUBSTANCES OR THINGS WHICH STUDENTS, BY LAW OR BOARD POLICY, ARE NOT PERMITTED TO POSSESS.

WHEREAS, the use of drugs, alcohol, or controlled substances by students is already prohibited by law and policy; and,

WHEREAS, the search or inspection of student lockers had been conducted in the past when deemed necessary; and,

WHEREAS, the reinforcement of the right to search or inspect lockers is appropriate at a time when eliminating drugs, alcohol, and controlled substances is a major concern of school administrators and boards; and,

WHEREAS, in the effort to eliminate drugs, alcohol, and controlled substances from school property it would be helpful to use trained dogs to "sniff" for the presence of such contraband.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED and it is hereby resolved by the Board of School Directors of the Meyersdale Area School District as follows:

1. SCHOOL LOCKERS

- a. School lockers are school property provided as a convenience to students for their use. Students who accept lockers from the school must understand that such lockers are subject to inspection by school authorities. The use of a locker shall constitute the student's consent to such inspection.
- b. The locker must not be used for or contain illegal drugs, alcohol, or controlled substances, tobacco or tobacco products, guns, knives or other weapons, or any other items, matter or thing the possession of which is illegal under the law or school policy, rules or regulations. Lockers

should be kept clean and neat and should be free of materials which would be commonly considered indecent or obscene. Upon inspection, any materials not permitted in a locker may be seized by school authorities and may be used in any proper manner against the student.

- c. The following provision of the Regulations of the State Board of Education of Pennsylvania, 22 PA code 12;14 shall apply:

School authorities may search a student's locker and seize any illegal materials. Such materials may be used as evidence against the student in disciplinary proceedings. Prior to a locker search the students shall be notified and given an opportunity to be present. However, where school authorities have a reasonable suspicion that the locker contains materials which pose a threat to the health, welfare and safety of students in the school, student lockers may be searched without prior warning.

- d. Lockers shall be cleaned out at the end of the school year and at other times in accordance with instructions given to students by school authorities. After any clean-out date and before reassignment of lockers or authorization to students to reuse the lockers, they shall be open to full inspection, cleaning and use by school authorities without notice to students and anything found in said lockers may be removed by school authorities and disposed of as they see fit with no responsibility to students thereof.
- e. Students should not expect privacy regarding items placed in school lockers because school property is subject to search at any time by school officials and that random, periodic, or sweeping searches of all lockers will be conducted by school officials. Locker searches will be conducted without regard to any individualized suspicion.

2. CANINE SEARCH

School administrators are authorized to request and/or permit, at such time or times as they deem appropriate, the Pennsylvania State Police and/or law enforcement agencies with certified sniff dogs, to use on school property and in school buildings, at no cost to the District, dogs specially trained to "sniff" for drugs or other controlled substances or illegal substances or things. Such dogs may be used to examine school buildings or property and anything on or in school buildings or property, except that such dogs shall not be used to examine individual students or other persons on school property, provided, however, that this prohibition shall not invalidate any information gathered because of the incidental interaction of the dogs and students or to others when the dogs are on school property or in buildings.

Any vehicle entering the school grounds is subject to search at the direction of school authorities. Search may be conducted without warrant for any reasonable purpose. Search of vehicle includes all compartments and components thereof. Once notified of intent to search, the student in control of the vehicle will not be permitted to remove the vehicle from the premises until search is completed.

TOBACCO LAW: USE AND/OR POSSESSION

Refer to TOBACCO USE POLICY - PUPILS

Senate Bill 1315 became Act 145 of 1996 when signed into law by Governor Ridge on December 4, 1996. This new law amends Title 18 (Crimes and Offenses). The law clarifies the School Tobacco Control Act in 35 P.S. Section 1223.5 for school districts and local district justices. The major changes are: possession is now included, unlighted tobacco is added and such possession or use is identified as a summary offense. The definitions differ from the School Tobacco Control Act by adding "pupil" and changing the definition of tobacco to include lighted or unlighted material and smokeless tobacco. These new definitions supersede the definitions in 35 P.S. Section 1223.5.

The law defines possession or use of tobacco products or smokeless tobacco by a student in a school building, a school bus or on school property owned by, leased by or under the control of a school district as a summary offense. School districts must initiate prosecution. The student may be sentenced to pay a fine of not more than \$50 for the benefit of the school district, in which such offending pupil resides, and to pay

court costs, or be assigned to an adjudication alternative. Conviction of this offense cannot be placed on a criminal record.

This law became effective February 3, 1997, 60 days after the Governor signed it.

The relevant parts of the law follow:

ACT 145 OF 1996

Section 6306.1 USE OF TOBACCO IN SCHOOLS PROHIBITED

(A) Offense defined-A pupil who possesses or uses tobacco in a school building, a school bus or on a school property owned by, leased by or under the control of a school district commits a summary offense.

(B) Grading-A pupil who commits an offense under this section shall be subject to prosecution initiated by the local school district and shall, upon conviction, be sentenced to pay a fine of not more than \$50 for the benefit of the school district in which such offending pupil resides, to pay court costs. When a pupil is charged with violating subsection (A), the court may admit the offender to an adjudication alternative as authorized under 24 PA.C.S. Section 1520 (relating to adjudication alternative program) in lieu of imposing the fine.

(C) Nature of offense-A summary offense under this section shall not be a criminal offense of record, shall not be reportable as a criminal offense of record, shall not be reportable as a criminal act and shall not be placed on the criminal record of the offending school-age person if any such record exists.

(D) Definitions-As used in this section, the following words and phrases shall have the meanings given to them in this subsection:

“Pupil.” a person between the ages of 6 and 21 years who is enrolled in school.

“School.” A school operated by a joint board, board of directors or school board where pupils are enrolled in compliance with the Act of March 10, 1949 (P.L. 30, No. 14), known as the Public School Code of 1949, including area vocational-technical schools and intermediate units.

“Tobacco.” A lighted or unlighted cigarette, cigar, pipe or other lighted smoking product and smokeless tobacco in any form.

SMOKING

RESOLUTION OF THE MEYERSDALE AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT PROHIBITING TOBACCO/NICOTINE USE ON SCHOOL PROPERTY BY STUDENTS OR OTHER PERSONS UNDER 18 YEARS OF AGE AND PROHIBITING TOBACCO/NICOTINE USE BY ANY PERSON IN SCHOOL BUILDINGS AND OTHERWISE IMPLEMENTING ACT 168 OF 1988 AND OTHER PROVISIONS OF LAW.

1. The Board of School Directors of the Meyersdale Area School District hereby finds:
 - a. That the dangers of smoking and other tobacco use have become matters of general public knowledge;
 - b. That the Surgeon General of the United States has long warned of the dangers of tobacco use;
 - c. That the Pennsylvania Legislature has prohibited tobacco use by pupils in school buildings and school buses and on school property owned by, leased by or under the control of a school district;
 - d. That this Board is directed by law to establish a policy to enforce the statutory prohibition on tobacco/nicotine use;
 - e. That the teachers of a school district and other employees of the district are observed by students and influence students by their actions as well as their words;
 - f. That it is inconsistent with sound educational philosophy to teach the dangers of tobacco/nicotine use in the classroom while at the same time allowing students to observe teachers and employees using tobacco/nicotine in school buildings.

- g. That the nature of school buildings is such that tobacco smoke cannot be effectively confined to certain area and the use of tobacco in school buildings by teachers and other employees necessarily affects the health of students as well as other teachers and other employees;
 - h. That this Board has not only the right but the duty to provide proper and healthful accommodations for pupils and to otherwise provide for the health, safety and welfare of the students and employees of the District; and
 - i. That this Board has the power under 510 of the Pennsylvania Public School Code of 1949, as amended, to adopt and enforce reasonable rules and regulations regarding the conduct of teachers and other employees when engaged in their duties to the District and regarding the conduct and deportment of pupils during the time they are under the supervision of the Board of School Directors and teachers, including the time necessarily spent in coming to and returning from school.
2. As used herein:
 - a. "Tobacco use" shall be defined as use and/or possession of a lighted or unlighted cigarette, cigar, e-hooka, or pipe; other lighted smoking product; or smokeless tobacco in any form including, but not limited to, nicotine, and nicotine delivery devices such as electronic cigarettes.
 - b. "Smoking" includes possession of a lighted cigarette, cigar, pipe or other lighted smoking equipment.
 - c. "Pupil" or "student" shall mean the same thing and, for purposes of this resolution, shall include all persons under 18 years of age in school buildings and school buses and on school property owned by, leased by or under the control of this School District and all persons regardless of age who are enrolled as pupils or students at this School District or in any school of this Commonwealth, public or private, or, if a non-resident, would be so enrolled if a resident. For purposes of this resolution, school buses or other vehicles hired or contracted for by this District transporting students enrolled in this District shall be covered by this policy even though operated by independent contractors of the District.
 - d. "Employee" shall mean teacher, administrator, superintendent, secretary, maintenance employee or any other appointee, employee or officer of the District, and shall also include the members of this Board
 3. Tobacco used by students as above defined is prohibited in school buildings and school buses and on school property owned by, leased by or under the control of this District, including all school buses which transport students enrolled in this District. Tobacco use by students is also prohibited during the time necessarily spent coming to and returning from school.
 4. Tobacco use by employees and all other persons is prohibited in school buildings and school buses.
 5. During the time school is in session for students, tobacco use by employees and other persons on school grounds is prohibited if the area is adjacent to a building and at a location readily visible to students. Tobacco use by employees and other persons is also prohibited at all times at any location on school grounds which is posted or designated as a non-smoking area.
 6. The Superintendent is directed to notify employees, students, parents, and others of this policy by publishing appropriate notices in any student handbook or parent newsletter and by appropriate posters and by such other means including the general media as he shall determine to be appropriate.
 7. Violations of this policy shall result in appropriate disciplinary actions as to any student of this District or employee of this District. Such persons and any other violator may be removed from school buildings, buses, property or grounds. The penalties prescribed in act 168 of 1988 shall also be applicable.
 8. This policy applies at all times, including at athletic events.

9. As used herein the singular shall include the plural, and the use of any gender shall be applicable to all genders.
10. The provisions of this resolution are severable. If any provision or portion thereof shall be declared illegal or unenforceable, it is declared that this resolution would have been adopted without the offending provision or portion thereof which is found to be illegal or unenforceable.

ALCOHOL - UNDERAGE DRINKING PENALTIES

Refer to CONTROLLED SUBSTANCES/PARAPHERNALIA POLICY

On May 24, 1988, tough penalties went into effect in Pennsylvania for various alcohol related offenses committed by persons under 21. The penalties were enacted by the legislature and signed into law by Governor Casey on March 25, 1988. The major change requires suspension of the offender's driver's license.

The common offense of purchase, consumption, possession or transportation of alcoholic beverages by a person under age 21, alcohol violation by a minor, adds a 90-day license suspension to the fine not exceeding \$300.00 and jail sentence not to exceed 90 days. For the second offense the maximum fine is \$500.00 and jail sentence not to exceed 90 days. For the second offense the maximum fine is \$500.00 and the suspension is one year. Subsequent offenses result in a two-year suspension. In all offenses, the police are required to notify the parent or guardian of the offense.

The offense of misrepresentation of age to procure alcoholic beverages results in a fine not exceeding \$500.00 and the same jail and license suspension provisions as alcohol violations by minor. A second offense becomes a misdemeanor of the third degree and a maximum fine of \$250.00 and the license suspensions applicable.

Penalties for knowingly selling or furnishing alcoholic beverages to a person under 21 were also increased. The offense is a third-degree misdemeanor with minimum fines of \$1000.00 for the first offense and \$2500.00 for each subsequent offense.

Persons under 21 who falsify an identification card commit a second degree misdemeanor and are subject to a mandatory \$1000.00 fine for the first offense and \$250.00 for each subsequent offense. A person under 21 who carries or uses a false identification card to obtain alcoholic beverages commits a summary offense with a fine not exceeding \$500.00 and the same jail and license suspension provisions as for alcohol violations by a minor.

DRESS CODE - STUDENTS

Refer to DRESS AND GROOMING POLICY - PUPILS

An individual's grooming, the way he/she dresses, and how he/she behaves does have a bearing on how others react to him/her.

Dress and grooming should be clean and not unkempt. Hair and dress should satisfy sanitary and safe conditions. If a style demonstrates that it is disruptive to the educational process, constitutes a threat to the safety and health of oneself or others, or is in violation of any statute, it will not be permitted in school. Although styles do change, dress should reflect good taste and a style appropriate for a school day. Garments not permitted include but are not limited to:

1. Vulgar language or vulgar innuendo.
2. Bike pants, see through clothing, or clothing that is too revealing is not permitted.
3. Shorts, skirts, dresses, etc. that are shorter than the distance above the knee determined by the position on the leg of the middle finger on each hand while standing upright. Shorts will not be rolled. The principal shall determine what is unkempt, inappropriate and extreme. Within these limits, the decision regarding attire and grooming shall be left to the good judgment and responsibility of the individual and his/her parents.

4. Chains larger than fine jewelry are not permitted; in addition, jewelry that causes disruption is not permitted. Chain wallets are not permitted.
5. Pants/garments must not be unreasonable on dragging on the floor and not create a safety hazard.
6. Underclothing must be covered.
7. Belly/midriff shirts (where the body can be seen when arms and body are moving) are not permitted. All shirts and blouses must be of length to be able to be tucked in and remain tucked in when arms are raised above head or when seated.
8. Shoulder/tank tops are not permitted unless constructed with a three-inch strap.
9. Trench coats/raincoats, etc., cannot be worn during the school day.
10. Low-cut blouses are not permitted.
11. No ripped or torn clothing is permitted. This includes shirts with cut-off sleeves. An exception to this rule is an allowance for jeans that are factory ripped or torn if the holes are at knee length or below. Tears or rips above the knee will absolutely not be tolerated.
12. Any form of hair covering is not permitted. (hats, caps, hoodies, scarves, bandanas, etc.)
13. Any form of head apparel that covers the forehead or ears is prohibited.

Students, however, may be required to wear certain types of clothing while participating in physical education classes, or in extracurricular activities such as band, school sponsored trips or events.

Educational disruptions caused by violations of the above will lead to removal of the student until said student is properly attired as determined by the administrator of his designee. Dress policy concerns observed by staff should be addressed and reported to office immediately.

EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS

(Refer to Emergency Preparedness Policy No. 805)

At MASD, our first priority is to the safety of our students and employees. Emergency procedures are in place and emergency drills are conducted. If there is any threat to safety, whether direct or indirect, the district may choose to call a lockdown. There are two types of lockdowns which faculty and staff have been trained to address - YELLOW and RED.

Code Yellow Details:

- The school is **NOT** in imminent danger. The school is on low/medium alert.
- A situation has occurred that requires faculty and students to stay in their rooms until administration has had an opportunity to investigate.
- Students and faculty are to immediately report to their scheduled classroom.
- Teachers should resume regular classroom activities.
- No one is to enter or exit the classrooms until an "all-clear" signal is given by the building Principal.

Code Yellow Examples:

- Police are conducting a routine locker/drug search.
- An emergency situation has occurred within the local community that requires the school to lockdown.
- A serious illness of a student or employee has occurred on campus.

Code Red Details:

- An immediate threat to the school has been identified. The school is on high alert.
- Students and faculty are to immediately report to the nearest classroom.
- Doors and windows should be covered with blinds.
- Teachers and students should secure a safe position in the room away from windows and doors.
- No one is to enter or exit the classrooms until an "all-clear" signal is given by the Principal.

Code Red Examples:

- An outside intruder has entered the district buildings.

- A weapon (e.g., firearm, knife, etc.) has been located on school property.
- A physical attack has occurred on campus and direct threat exists for students, faculty, and staff.

FIRE EMERGENCY

At the ringing of the bell:

1. Stop work immediately.
2. Close all windows.
3. Leave the room in single file and go to the place for your particular class room.
4. Refrain from talking while leaving the building.
5. Return to your class when the bell rings.

Each room is provided with a notice giving the directions to follow when there are fire drills. Become familiar with these exits so that at a moment's notice you will be able to leave the building quietly and orderly.

EARLY DISMISSAL – SCHOOL CLOSINGS/DELAY

Almost every year, Meyersdale Area School District is confronted with inclement weather conditions which require the school to close for the day, delay the starting time, or dismiss children early. District administration will notify parents/guardians as early as 6:00 a.m. regarding school closings and/or delays. When these situations occur, the following radio and television stations will be used to communicate scheduling changes:

TV Stations:

WJAC TV Channel 6
 WWCP TV Channel 8
 WTAJ TV Channel 10
 WATM TV ABC 23

Radio Stations:

WFRB Frostburg (105.3/ 105.7 FM)
 WKGO Cumberland (106.1 FM)
 WQZS Meyersdale (93.3 FM)

Forever Broadcasting Radio Stations

WRKW Rocky 99 (99.1 FM)
 WJHT Hot 92 (92.1 FM)
 WKYE 96 Key (96.5 FM)
 WCCL Cool 101 (101.7 FM)
 WFGI Froggy 95 (95.5 FM)

Parents/guardians will also be notified by district administration via the One Call Now automated calling system. In order to receive these phone calls, please make sure that your contact information is up-to-date with your child(ren)'s school office.