

MEYERSDALE AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT

1349 Shaw Mines Road, Meyersdale, PA 15552

An Equal Opportunity Employer

TRACEY A. KARLIE

Superintendent
(814) 634-5123

SHANNON K. BRANT

Business Manager
(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 2022-2023 Student Handbook and the ACCEPTABLE USE OF INTERNET, COMPUTERS, AND NETWORK RESOURCES POLICY. These documents, as well as all referenced polices, 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 24
2022-2023

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

A.M. Hall Regulations	17
Absences, Excuses, Permits.....	32
Academic Achievement Letter/Pin Awards	12
Acceptable Use of internet, Computers and Network Resources.....	13
Alcohol – Underage Drinking Penalties	44
Anabolic Steroid Violation.....	24
Attendance	32
Authority of Faculty	17
Bed Bugs Notice & Instructions.....	16
Bell Schedules – High School/Middle School	5
Book Bags.....	18
Bullying	41
Bus Evacuation Rules.....	20
Bus Transportation Guidelines & Procedures	18
Cafeteria Information	13
Canine Search	43
Clubs.....	14
Code Of Conduct – Athletic/Extracurricular.....	22
Copyright Material Policy	13
Definitions	36
Discipline.....	37
Dismissal & Building Regulations	17
Dress Code - Students.....	44
Drug & Alcohol Testing.....	24
Drug & Alcohol Guidelines & Procedures – Student Athletes	24
Early Dismissal/Closings/Delays	44
Educational Trips Guidelines & Procedures	32
Electronic Devices.....	40
Emergency Preparedness.....	44
Energy Drinks.....	15
Extracurricular Eligibility and Tutorial Program	8
Failure of a Subject.....	12
Field Trips/School Trips	33
Fundraising	18
Gifted Services	7
Grading Procedures	11
Guidance Office.....	7
Gym Lockers	18
Hall Lockers	18
Harassment	41
Hazing Policy	41
Head Lice Notice & Instructions	15
Health Services	14
Homework Policy.....	11
Honor Roll or Honorable Mention Determination	12

Insurance - Athletic	21
Irregular Dismissal	17
Lost & Found	18
Lost Books and Payment of School Bills Procedures	18
Nondiscrimination	6
Open Containers	15
P.M. Building Regulations	17
Parent Rights - Exceptional Students	35
Passes / Permits	33
Payment of Funds	13
Permission to Leave School	33
Plagiarism / Cheating.....	12
Promotion & Retention Policy	11
Property – School and Student Property.....	18
Relations with Parents/Guardians Policy	6
Resource Materials Policy	13
Searches - Locker Inspection and Inspection of School Grounds	42
Services for Protected Handicapped Students/Section 504.....	7
Services for Students with Disabilities	6
Sexual Harassment Information	41
Special Education Programs/Evaluation Process	6
Student Assistance Program Policy	7
Student Records	35
Student Rights and Responsibilities	33
Student Wellness	14
Suspension from School	34
Tardiness.....	32
Tobacco/Nicotine Policy	43
Visitors.....	6
Weapons	42

MIDDLE SCHOOL/HIGH SCHOOL BELL SCHEDULE

7:45 - Students enter schools/breakfast

7:55 - Students due in homeroom

7:55 – Morning Announcements

7:55 – 2:50 – Instructional Time

2:50 – Dismissal

3:02 – Bus Departure

**Vo-Tech departs at 7:55/returns at 11:25

MIDDLE SCHOOL/HIGH SCHOOL TWO HOUR DELAY BELL SCHEDULE

***No Breakfast Served**

9:45 - Students enter schools

9:55 - Students due in homeroom

9:55 – Morning Announcements

9:55 – 2:50 – Instructional Time

2:50 – Dismissal

3:02 – Bus Departure

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

SERVICES FOR STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES

The Meyersdale Area School District, Department of Special Education, is responsible for providing a Free and Appropriate Public Education (FAPE) to those students who are considered eligible under state and federal regulations. The District will provide eligible students with the appropriate programs and related services necessary to make meaningful progress within the curriculum.

SPECIAL EDUCATION PROGRAMS/EVALUATION PROCESS

Special Education programs and services are available free of cost to any child ages three through twenty-one, within the Meyersdale Area School District who exhibits one or more of the following disabilities:

- Autism
- Deaf/Blindness
- Deafness
- Emotional Disturbance
- Hearing Impairment
- Intellectual Disability
- Multiple Disabilities
- Orthopedic Impairment
- Other Health Impairment
- Specific Learning Disability
- Speech or Language Impairment
- Visual Impairment
- Traumatic Brain Injury
- Developmental delays for children ages three through five

Many students are referred for special education by a Child Study Team or a screening process. Parents are encouraged to work with his/her child's building principal and school staff members to determine if eligibility for special education services appears necessary. However, a parent always maintains the right to request an evaluation. The student must be determined to be eligible for services by an evaluation. A certified school psychologist will be involved in the evaluation to determine whether the child is disabled due to autism, emotional disturbance, intellectual disability, multiple disabilities, other health impairment, specific learning disability, or traumatic brain injury, and other disability.

Documents entitled, Parental Procedural Safeguards or Pennsylvania Parent Guide to Special Education for School-Age Children may be obtained by contacting the Director of Special Education's Office: 814-634-8311 ext. 304 or by visiting the Meyersdale Area School District's Special Education Department Website. The Procedural Safeguards Notice can also be found at the PaTTAN website, at www.Pattan.net .

GIFTED SERVICES

Services for mentally gifted students are not driven by federal mandates; however, the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania requires gifted support services under Chapter 16. The District provides a process for screening and determination of eligibility for gifted services. A parent may send a letter of request to the Director of Gifted Education if the parent/guardian feels an evaluation for gifted support is needed. If you feel your child requires gifted services, the following procedures should be applied:

You may contact the Director of Gifted Education at 814-634-8311 ext. 304 or your child's building principal with questions regarding the assessment process (or) 2. Send a letter requesting an evaluation to: a. The principal of your child's school (or) b. Director of Gifted Education Meyersdale Area School District 309 Industrial Park Road Meyersdale, PA 15552

NOTE: If you would like assistance with preparing a letter that requests an evaluation, please contact the Director of Gifted Education at 814-634-8311 ext. 304.

An evaluation report will be developed as part of the legal requirements of the assessment process. Parents and/or guardians are included throughout the assessment process. Documents entitled, "Parental Procedural Safeguards" or "Pennsylvania Parent Guide to Special Education for School Age Children" may be obtained by contacting the Director of Gifted Education's office at 814-634-8311 ext. 304.

SERVICES FOR PROTECTED HANDICAPPED STUDENTS/SECTION 504

Section 504 and its accompanying regulations protect otherwise qualified handicapped students who have physical, mental or health impairments from discrimination because of those impairments. The school district must ensure that protected handicapped students have equal opportunity to participate in the school program and extracurricular activities to the maximum extent appropriate for each individual student. In compliance with state and federal law, the school district will provide to each protected handicapped student without discrimination or cost to the student or family, those related aids, services or accommodations which are needed to provide equal opportunity to participate in and obtain the benefits of the school program and extracurricular activities to the maximum extent appropriate to the student's abilities.

In order to qualify as a protected handicapped student, the child must be of school age with a physical or mental disability that substantially limits or prohibits participation in or access to an aspect of the school program. These service and protections for "protected handicapped students" may be distinct from those applicable to exceptional or thought-to-be exceptional students. The school district or the parent may initiate an evaluation if they believe a student is a protected handicapped student. For further information on the evaluation procedures and provision of services to protected handicapped students, parents should contact the Special Education Director, 309 Industrial Park Road Meyersdale, PA 15552, or call 814-634-8311 ext. 304.

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.

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.

***Core Subjects** – Core 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)

Athletic / Extra-Curricular Tutoring & Eligibility Procedure

Step 1

Students participating in an extra-curricular activity and who are also failing any one of the four core subject areas will be notified on Friday of each week that he/she is required to attend athletic /extra-curricular tutoring on a specified day of the following week.

On the specified day of the following week, students designated for athletic /extra-curricular tutoring will report to the teacher of the subject(s) they are failing from 3:00 p.m. to 3:15 p.m.

At 3:15 pm. they will report to the general tutoring session at a specified location.

The faculty member in charge of tutoring will determine which students remain in the general tutoring session until 4:15 p.m., based on academic performance in the specified subject(s). All other students will report to practice at that time (3:15 p.m.). If practice is not scheduled, the student(s) will be dismissed if a ride is available or stay until 5:30 p.m. if no ride is available.

Step 2

The same procedure applies for any student assigned to a second tutoring session during a single season (additional activities may be assigned by a coach such as a running penalty to compensate for lost conditioning and practice time)

Step 3

Any student assigned to a third tutoring session during a single season will lose eligibility as listed below:

- Football: will lose eligibility for the first half of the game / Marching Band: will not participate in the pre-game
- All other extra-curricular activities/sports: will lose eligibility for an event after the tutorial list is run on Friday.

This is based on one football game equaling approximately 10% of a season ($\frac{1}{2}$ game ~ 5% of a season). Other extra-curricular activities follow in line.

Step 4

Any student assigned a fourth tutoring session during a single season will lose eligibility as listed below:

- Football: will lose eligibility for one game / Marching Band: will not participate in any activities the night of the game
- All other extra-curricular activities/sports: will lose eligibility for 2 games.

- Additional steps will refer back to step 4 procedures
- All students are required to attend the game/activity & practices regardless of eligibility
- Tutoring assignments are not subject specific: A student assigned to tutoring for mathematics one week then assigned to tutoring for English a different week will progress to step 2 for English tutoring
- Tutoring steps will be cumulative not consecutive
- Ineligibility will be assessed at the level of primary participation for each student
- Loss of eligibility for specific sports will be determined by the administration and athletic director and will be based upon the above guidelines in steps 3 and 4

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	Letter Grade Equivalency
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.

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.

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 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.

CLUBS

Refer to Extra-Curricular Activities Policy

Refer to Specific Club By-Laws and Constitution where applicable.

It is the responsibility of club officers and the advisors of all school sponsored clubs to provide the school office with the following:

- a. List of Officers
- b. Club Mission
- c. Criteria for Membership
- d. List of Members

A justifiable program is one that provides an educational opportunity and experience for its members not provided for in the formal school program. Clubs will meet at the discretion of the principal and/or advisor.

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.

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.

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.

OPEN CONTAINERS

Students are permitted to have/use water bottles during the school day. Water must be in a sealable, clear container, and may only be consumed with permission of the classroom teachers. Coffee mugs, fountain drink cups, Camel/hydration packs, etc, are not permitted. The only time open cans, bottles, or cartons are permitted is during breakfast in homeroom or lunch in the cafeteria. At no time can those beverages leave those designated areas. If the use of a clear water bottle appears to impact the student’s level of performance the student will be referred to the Principal and/or nurse and parents will be contacted. The use of a water bottle is a privilege and can be restricted at any time.

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. Your child may be asked to store personal items in a sealed container to help prevent the spread of lice.

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.

NOTICE AND INSTRUCTIONS FOR PARENTS REGARDING BED BUGS

In general, school environments are not conducive to bed bug infestations. Bed bugs prefer an environment where they can hide during the day and come out at night to feed on a sleeping host. Major infestations of schools are rare. However, bed bugs can hide in clothing or backpacks and can hitchhike to and from schools. There is no association between cleanliness and a bed bug infestation. Anyone can experience an infestation. If bed bugs are found, then it may be necessary to investigate the school as well as the child's home setting.

1. Upon the discovery of a suspected live bug in the school, any school personnel should attempt to capture the insect on a piece of tape and tightly secure in a zip lock bag. Make every effort to keep the bug intact.
2. Discreetly send the student and their belongings up to the designated area. Identification of captured bug will be made, and if it is identified as a bed bug, designated staff will be called to closely inspect the clothing and belongings for any other bugs.
3. If a confirmed bed bug was found on a child at the school nurse will inform the child's parents and perform a screening. Depending on the nurse's assessment, a recommendation may be made for the student to be sent home. If the student is sent home, he or she should immediately report to the nurse's office for a screening upon his or her return to school. The nurse will then make a determination on whether or not the student should report to his or her regularly scheduled classes.
4. Educational materials should be sent home with the student.
5. As directed by the school principal, custodial staff will be responsible for appropriate vacuuming and cleaning of affected areas upon initial sighting of bug(s) to include classroom areas, lockers, cubbies, etc.
6. Keep communication open between family, nurses, and staff during this period. A group effort is required in this situation. The building principal, guidance counselor, social worker, school nurse, and

custodial staff will continue to work together to ensure a positive outcome. Continue to educate family on the importance of obtaining PROFESSIONAL assistance in eliminating bed bugs.

7. For children in an infested home who repeatedly come to school with bed bugs, institute the following: **CLOTHING AND SCHOOL ITEM SANITATION** which requires Parents to:
 - a. Store their child's freshly laundered clothing in sealed plastic bags at home until they are put on in the morning. This prevents bed bugs from hiding in the clothing and being carried to school.
 - b. Wash the student's clothing at home at the hottest recommended setting and tumble dried on high heat for at least 30 minutes before being placed in the bag.
 - c. Backpacks, lunchboxes, coats, shoes, and other items that travel back and forth to school can also be inspected daily and stored in sealed plastic containers, such as a large plastic tote with tight sealing lid at home to prevent bed bugs from getting into them.
 - d. Placing and keeping all child's clothing in large sealed Ziploc bag after washing and drying the clothing.
 - e. Remind parent/guardian and child not to sit on any furniture in the home after removing clothing from dryer or sealed bag and dressing for school.
 - f. Limit items going to and from the home.
8. During this time, the child's personal belongings (backpack, coat, etc..) will be placed in clear plastic tote and kept in office or other designated area away from other student proximity. The smooth interior of the container is also difficult for the bed bugs to climb so wandering bed bugs are likely to fall into the bottom of the container. Designated school employee will inspect the storage tote daily for bed bugs.
9. When the family reports that exterminator has resolved the issue (in writing from the professional), continue bagging for one (1) week and then discontinue if no further bugs found.
10. A reasonable attempt will be made to keep the identity of the involved student(s) and classroom(s) confidential and to preserve the student's emotional and physical health during the time of identification and remediation of the bed bug concern.

Meetings and routine communication may occur with the Principal, relevant school personnel, and social worker to identify and support the needs of the family during the period of de-infestation.

DISMISSAL AND BUILDING REGULATIONS

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.

A.M. Hall Regulations

The doors to the school will not open until 7:45 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.

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.

FUNDRAISING

Refer to STUDENT FUNDRAISING POLICY and STUDENT WELLNESS POLICY

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.

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, the office will assign each student the number and location of a locker selected from a block of lockers assigned to the homeroom.

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' co-operation 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 and Personal Property

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. The school does not assume responsibility for lost or stolen items.

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 and then 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. Tobacco and vaping products
 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. Controlled substances and paraphernalia
- 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 ensure 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) 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 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 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 of 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 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.
- b. 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.
- c. Urine testing is unannounced. The day and date are selected by the building principal and confirmed with the testing center. Random testing may be done weekly.
- d. 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.
- e. Form Completion-the testing 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.
- f. Collection Process-Selected students report from class to the collection site. A specimen of urine is collected following this process:
 - 1) Student is brought to the collection site.
 - 2) 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.
 - 3) The drug testing custody and control form is completed by the student and collector.
 - 4) 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.)

- 5) The collector adds a bluing agent to the water in the urinal or toilet.
- 6) 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.
- 7) 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.
- 8) 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.
- 9) With the student watching, the collector will pour the specimen into the two bottles and recap the specimen bottles tightly.
- 10) The collector takes the properly signed and initialed bottle seals and places them over the caps and sides of the bottles.
- 11) The sealed bottles are placed inside the transport bag and the top sealed as directed.
- 12) 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.
- 13) The student may now rewash their hands and then be sent back to class.
- 14) 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.
- 15) The principal will be notified immediately of any student who refuses to give a urine sample.

5. 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.)

6. 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.

7. 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.

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
- a. have been designated for testing by parental request, or
- b. 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 the testing 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, 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

or

Middle School Principal

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

**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 testing 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. 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.
- B. 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

RECORD OF ATTENDANCE TIME LINE

- A student is considered tardy at 7:55 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.

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 7:55 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 after school discipline; 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, four additional tardy offenses, (10 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/or provided that the parents call the school for the student. 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.

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 middle school principal (634-1437); 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 disability
 - Student’s Individualized Education Program (IEP) and placement
 - Relation of disability to student’s behavior
- When suspension is recommended, the SCHOOL must:
 - Issue the Notice of Recommended Placement* (NORP) 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 NORP 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 INTELLECTUALLY DISABLED, 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 disability
 - 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 Placemnt (NORP)
- * NOTICE OF RECOMMENDED PLACEMENT 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, Suspension and Expulsion Policy, Controlled Substances/Paraphernalia Policy, Searches Policy, Tobacco Use Policy, Weapons Policy , Terroristic Threats/Acts Policy, and 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) | 17. Infraction of the Acceptable Use of Internet, Computers, and Network Resources Policy* |
| 2. Academic Dishonesty | 18. 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 | |

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 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. Out of School Suspension
10. Referral to outside agency (counseling, probation, magistrate, law enforcement, etc.)
11. In School Suspension
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. Out of School Suspension
9. Referral to Outside Agency (counseling, probation, magistrate, law enforcement, etc.)
10. Full Restitution
11. In School Suspension
12. Expulsion
13. Alternative Education Placement
14. Charges Under Criminal Code

ELECTRONIC DEVICES

Refer to ELECTRONIC DEVICES POLICY

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:
 - In School Suspension
If a student refuses to relinquish the electronic device to the principal, the consequence will be at the discretion of the Principal.

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 Safe School Ambassadors® Program (SSA)

The Safe School Ambassadors® Program (SSA) is an evidence-based program that harnesses the power of students to prevent and stop bullying and mistreatment. The SSA Program is a student-centered model that educates diverse social leaders with the skills to prevent and reduce bullying. It is the nation's most effective student-led bullying prevention program.

The Safe School Ambassadors® Program relies on the “inside-out” approach to improving school climate. Student bystanders see, hear, and know things adults don't, can intervene in ways adults can't and are often on the scene of an incident before an adult. They are a critical and necessary resource for positively impacting the crisis of bullying in our schools.

The Safe School Ambassadors® Program harnesses the power of the socially influential leaders of a school's diverse cliques; the ones who shape the social norms that govern other students' behavior. These leaders are carefully identified through student and staff surveys.

HAZING

Refer to HAZING POLICY

HARASSMENT

Refer to UNLAWFUL HARRASSMENT POLICY - STUDENTS

SEXUAL HARASSMENT – INFORMATION

Refer to UNLAWFUL HARRASSMENT POLICY - STUDENTS

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 –AND VAPING PRODUCTS

ALCOHOL - UNDERAGE DRINKING PENALTIES

Refer to **CONTROLLED SUBSTANCES/PARAPHERNALIA POLICY**

DRESS CODE - STUDENTS

Refer to **DRESS AND GROOMING POLICY**

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. Any form of attire is subject to evaluation on an individual basis. 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 and Response 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.

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/Radio Stations:

WJAC TV Channel 6

WFRB Frostburg (105.3/ 105.7 FM)

WKGO Cumberland (106.1 FM)

WQZS Meyersdale (93.3 FM)

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)

Forever Broadcasting Radio Stations

Parents/guardians will also be notified by district administration via Blackboard 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. Parents are also encouraged to follow MASD on social media:

Twitter@MeyersdaleAreaSD and Facebook