

ALBANY AREA
MIDDLE SCHOOL
STUDENT HANDBOOK



2022 - 2023

Albany Area Middle School: "A Community Of Successful Learners"

Board Approved July 2022

Daily Class Schedule

The school building is open from 8:00 a.m. to 3:45 p.m.

Students will remain in the Commons until 8:00 a.m.

Classes meet from 8:15 - 3:05.

GRADE 6

REGULAR SCHEDULE

Period 1	8:15 - 9:15
Period 2	9:17 - 10:17
Period 3	10:19 - 11:19
Period 4	11:21 - 11:40
Lunch	11:40 - 12:10
Period 5	12:10 - 1:10
Brain Break	1:10 - 1:25
Period 6	1:25 - 2:25
Advisory	2:25 - 3:05
Wed. PLC	2:30 - 3:30

EARLY DISMISSAL

Period 1	8:15 - 9:05
Period 2	9:07 - 9:57
Period 3	9:59 - 11:20
LUNCH	11:20 - 11:50
Period 6	11:50 - 12:20

LATE START

Period 1	10:15 - 11:05
Period 2	11:06 - 11:56
LUNCH	11:56 - 12:26
Period 3	12:26 - 1:21
Period 5	1:22 - 2:12
Period 6	2:13 - 3:05

NO BAND / NO WIN

NO BAND

GRADE 7

REGULAR SCHEDULE

Block 1	8:15 - 9:35
2nd Breakfast	9:35 - 9:45
Block 2	9:45 - 11:05
Block 3	11:10 - 12:00
LUNCH	12:00 - 12:30
Block 3	12:35 - 1:05
Brain Break	1:05 - 1:20
Block 4	1:25 - 2:25
Advisory	2:30 - 3:05
Wed. PLC	2:30 - 3:30

EARLY DISMISSAL

Block 1	8:15 - 9:05
Block 2	9:08 - 9:58
Block 3	10:01 - 10:51
Block 4	10:51 - 11:20
LUNCH	11:20 - 11:50
Block 4	11:50 - 12:20

LATE START

Block 1	10:15 - 11:17
Block 2	11:20 - 11:50
LUNCH	11:50 - 12:20
Block 2	12:23 - 12:55
Block 3	12:58 - 2:00
Block 4	2:03 - 3:05

GRADE 8

REGULAR SCHEDULE

Block 1	8:15 - 9:35
2nd Breakfast	9:35 - 9:45
Block 2	9:45 - 11:05
LUNCH	11:05 - 11:35
Block 3	11:40 - 12:40
Brain Break	12:45 - 1:00
Block 4	1:05 - 2:25
Advisory	2:30 - 3:05
Wed. PLC	2:30 - 3:30

EARLY DISMISSAL

Block 1	8:15 - 9:05
Block 2	9:08 - 9:58
Block 3	10:01 - 10:51
Block 4	10:54 - 11:45
LUNCH	11:45 - 12:20

LATE START

Block 1	10:15 - 11:17
LUNCH	11:17 - 11:47
Block 2	11:50 - 12:52
Block 3	12:55 - 1:57
Block 4	2:00 - 3:05

Advisory: This time at the end of the day will be used for school wide activities, academic interventions, academic enrichment activities and homework, to help students as determined by staff.

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School District Policies

Academics

Our Advancement Policy:

Students in Middle School are expected to earn passing grades in all classes which are required in our Middle School program. Grades are computed and recorded quarterly with some exceptions in grade 6.

Core subjects: Math, Social Studies (6), US Studies (7) and Global Studies (8), Science, English and PE/Health

Non-core subjects: Art, Family & Consumer Science, Automation & Robotics, , Computer Literacy, Band, Choir, Music, Health, and Spanish. If a student fails Math, Science, English, US Studies(7) / Global Studies(8) or Social Studies(6), the student may be required to attend after school or summer school programming. Failures will be determined by averaging the quarter grades for that semester.

Report Cards:

Report cards are issued at the end of each quarter. The purpose of the report card is to communicate academic progress relating to state standards.

A-B-C-D-F Grades:

"A" grade indicates superior understanding of subject standards..

"B" grade indicates more than average understanding of subject standards.

"C" grade indicates average understanding of subject standards..

"D" grade indicates below average understanding of subject standards.

"F" grade indicates the student has not shown understanding of subject standards.

An "I"(Incomplete) grade in any subject at the end of a marking period will be considered an F until the expected work is made up. Teachers may issue an incomplete at the end of the grading period. A student may be allowed a maximum of ten days, from the last day of the marking period to make up the work and to receive a grade.

Academic Eligibility Code for Student Extra-Curricular Participation:

Participation in extracurricular activities is a privilege extended to all students who meet academic standards of eligibility. Students participating in activities MUST be doing passing work (D- or higher) in all subjects, and on the day of a game or performance will have been in school a minimum of two blocks.

Grades will be checked weekly. In the event a student is not passing, the following action(s) will be taken: students may practice but will not be allowed to participate in games or performances until work is at a passing level in all classes.

Failing a class at the end of a quarter will result in ineligibility for two events or performances. Students may practice after attending but are not allowed to participate in games or performances during ineligibility period.

Students on an Individual Education Plan (IEP) will have their eligibility determined by the IEP Team.

After School Hours:

Students are expected to leave the school building promptly at 3:05. Students are allowed to stay in the building only if they are supervised directly by a staff member. Students must wait in the cafeteria to be picked up when done with after school activities.

Physical Education:

Students may be excused from physical education class due to illness or injury if the student presents one of the following in writing: Board Policy April 5, 2006

1. Doctor's excuse -- This note must include the time for non-participation, list any activities the student may participate in and must be signed by the doctor.

2. Parental excuse -- This is valid for one day in a case where the student has just returned to school after an illness, accident or similar circumstance.

Procedure: The student must present the excuse to the principal, principal designee or nurse in the morning before school. It is further understood an excused absence from physical education means the student will not participate in after school activities. We expect every student to dress in their PE uniform for every PE class.

Swimming Program Policy:

No jewelry is allowed in the pool area. Only certified staff, lifeguards and educational assistants will be permitted in the pool area while students are swimming. All individuals who are not involved in direct instruction with students will observe from the observation deck after signing-in at the Middle School office and receiving a guest pass. Swimsuits will cover an appropriate amount of the body. If there is a question about the appropriateness of the swimsuit, the school nurse will be consulted. Two piece swimsuits are acceptable as long as they cover the body to an acceptable level, one piece suits are recommended. All students are required to complete the full swimming curriculum as outlined in the Albany Area School P.E. Curriculum. Failure to fulfill this requirement will result in a non-passing / failing grade for that unit. Medical exceptions will be handled on an individual basis.

Attendance

STUDENT ATTENDANCE POLICY

THIS IS AN ABRIDGED VERSION OF THE ALBANY AREA SCHOOLS ATTENDANCE POLICY.

The Albany Area School Board believes students' regular school attendance is: (a) directly related to student's success in academic work; (b) benefits our students socially; (c) provides opportunities for communications between teachers and students; (d) establishes regular habits of dependability important to the future of the student. The purpose of our policy is to encourage regular school attendance; it is intended to be positive, not punitive. Our policy also recognizes class attendance is a joint responsibility to be shared by our students, the parent(s) or guardian(s), teacher(s) and administrator(s). It is also policy that all students are required to have all absences verified by a parent/guardian. The authority to decide whether an absence is excused, unexcused, or unapproved rests with the building principal. Prearranged absences may be allowed. A written note from a parent needs to be brought to the principal two to five days (2-5) before the intended absence. The office will provide the student in writing with an excused, unexcused, or unapproved absence slip ("advanced make-up note"). It is the student's responsibility to take this absence slip to each teacher before his/her absence.

The procedure for sickness/illness to be followed when a student will be absent from school is:

1. Email Katie Dirkes regarding all absences for grades 6-12. If your student will be absent, please email Katie at katedirkes@district745.org. **This is the preferred method.** You may also call 320.845.2171 and press #3; this is the absence line.
2. Absences not verified by a telephone call from the parent will require a note from the parent on the day the student returns to school. Parents may also be called by the principal or principal designate to verify absence.
3. Absences not verified by a parent/guardian, will be unexcused until resolved.
4. Absence from class during the school day ("skipping a class," or a part of it), excessive tardiness to class, tardiness or absence due to oversleeping, excessive absences as determined by the principal, or leaving the school building without approval will be an unexcused absence.
5. **Attendance and Extracurricular Participation:** Students must be in attendance for two blocks of the school day to participate in extracurricular activities. This pertains to practice and games or performances.

DEFINITIONS OF TYPES OF ABSENCES

1. **EXCUSED ABSENCES:** Absences will be excused if they fall into one of the categories: A) Illness, B) Family Emergency, C) Medical/Dental appointments, D) Court Appearances, E) Religious instruction not to exceed 3 hours per week, F) Physical emergencies such as flood, fire, etc., G) Pre approved trips. H) In School Suspension.
2. **UNAPPROVED ABSENCES:** These are absences excused by the parent but not excused by the school. The student will not receive disciplinary consequences for these absences but the student will not have a time extension to complete school work. Unapproved absences may be counted as unexcused absences for the purpose of determining truancy.
3. **UNEXCUSED ABSENCE:** The following excuses are illegal and unexcused: babysitting, work, rest due to work, travel (unless pre approved), missing the bus or getting kicked off the bus, weather (unless school is officially canceled), keeping a parent company, oversleeping, helping at home, and car trouble.

HABITUAL TRUANCY

After the third unexcused/unapproved absence, a letter will be sent to parents/guardians informing them of the issue. If there are further unexcused/unapproved absences, a student will be referred to the Stearns County Truancy mediation program.

POLICY FOR EXCESSIVE ABSENCE:

If a student is excessively absent from school the following policy will be made active. On the fifth day of absence during the quarter the parent will be notified and be requested to conference with the principal. From that point on (Day 5 of absence for the quarter) all absences will be unexcused unless the parent calls the office with an acceptable excuse by 3:45 p.m. the day of the absence. **The only**

exceptions to this policy will be for long-term illness requiring home rest or hospitalization as determined from an investigation conducted by the school nurse which will include doctor verification.

Health & Safety

Policy on Data Privacy Rights/Duty:

Parents have an opportunity to notify us if they do not wish to provide student directory information. The directory information is public information unless a parent or guardian provides written notice of their wish for nondisclosure. Information which is "public" includes: student's name, parent(s), or guardian(s), date and place of birth, sex, honor roll and weight and height for members of athletic teams if required for that activity, and listing on sports or extracurricular team roster.

Infinite Campus -- Student Information System:

Our school uses Infinite Campus to provide information to families.. Parents may access progress reports, grades, attendance, parent demographics and lunch account information through our Infinite Campus portal. Parents need to have an "ID" and a "password" to access such information. Contact the office administrative assistant for details. All school payments are made through Infinite Campus.

Student Discipline Policy:

Disciplinary action may include one (or more) of the following actions: Detention, Loss of School Privileges, Parent Conference, Modified School Program, Removal From Class, Suspension (in-school or out-of-school), Exclusion, and Expulsion. All student disciplinary action will be in accordance with: "An act relating to education; establishing grounds and procedures for the suspension, exclusion, and expulsion of school pupils"; repealing Minnesota Statutes 1971, Section 127.071. Be it enacted by the Legislature of the State of Minnesota Sections 127.26 to 127.42 may be cited as The Pupil Fair Dismissal Act revised 2004." Information is provided below which summarizes this Act. Students and parents shall be notified of any violation of rules of conduct which result in disciplinary actions, except as provided otherwise by the Pupil Fair Dismissal Act of 2004.

Disciplinary Action may include but is not limited to the following:

- A. Meeting with teacher, counselor, principal
- B. Loss of School Privileges or Assignment Credit
- C. Removal From Class
- D. Parent Contact
- E. Detention (B/A = Before/After School, L=Lunch)
- F. Suspension
- G. Exclusion
- H. Expulsion

The chart contains examples of unacceptable behavior and possible discipline. The Principal may dictate greater or lesser action.

UNACCEPTABLE BEHAVIOR	CONSEQUENCES FOR OCCURRENCE #				
	*Note: Numbers in parentheses denote days				
	1	2	3	4	5
Tardiness to Class (Teacher records first 3) 3=unexcused absence towards truancy	-	-	-	E (L)	E (B/A)
Misuse of Teacher Pass	D/B	E	E	F	-
Inappropriate Classroom Behavior	D/E (L)	E (B/A)	C	F	G/H
Failure to Serve Teacher Assigned Consequence	D/E	F	G/H	-	-
Cheating/Plagiarism	D/B	-	-	-	-
Unexcused Absence - Truancy	D/E (equal time/1hr)	D/E (double time/1hr)	F (1)	F (2)	-

Leaving School Without Permission	D/E	F	-	-	-
Defiance of Authority/Insubordination Refusal to Follow Reasonable Staff Directive	D/F (1)	F (2)	G/H	-	-
Failure to Serve Assigned Detention	1 hour added or suspension at the rate of 1 day per 2 hours of missed detention.				
Vandalism/Damage to Property (Restitution/Police Referral)	D/F (≤ 3)	G/H	-	-	-
Theft (Restitution/Police Referral)	D/F (≤ 3)	G/H	-	-	-
Safety Violation	E (L)	E (B/A)	C	-	-
Weapons - Possession of Use	See Policy				
Assault (Police Report)	D/F (3-5)	G/H	-	-	-
Harassment/Intimidation	D/E	F (≤ 3)	-	-	-
Fighting	D/F (≤ 3)	F (5)	G/H	-	-
Alcohol Use/Possession (Police referral)	D/F (3)	F (5)	G/H	-	-
Tobacco Use/Possession (Police referral)	D/F (2)	F (4)	G/H	-	-
Drug Use/Possession (Police referral)	D/F (5)	G/H (carry over K-12)			
Disorderly Conduct in Classroom	D/E	C	F (≤ 3)	F (5)	G/H
Forgery of Notes	D/E	F (1)	F (3)	F (5)	G/H
Dress Attire (Change Clothes)	A	D	E	F (≤ 3)	G/H
Disorderly Conduct in Hallway/Lunch Room	D/E (L)	E (B/A)	F (1)	F (3)	G/H
Cell Phone	loss of STAR	device taken	device left in office		
Bus	verbal warning	assigned seat	removal from bus		

Emergency Procedures: Fire Drills, Tornado drills and Lock Down drills

According to state law, Albany Area Middle School will conduct 5 fire drills, 5 lockdown drills and 1 tornado drill throughout the year. Drills may be announced or unannounced by administration, school resource officer and custodial staff.

School Closings:

Unscheduled closing due to weather conditions, emergency, or other unforeseen situations will be announced over various television/radio stations. Families may also be notified via call or text message in Infinite Campus.

Student Guests and Visitors:

Students must first request a “Visitation Permit” from the office and have teachers of the classes in which the student is enrolled, and principal sign off BEFORE the guest’s arrival. Students may be denied the opportunity to bring a guest at the principal’s discretion. Guests must be currently attending school in another public or private district.

School Board Policy against Sexual, Racial, and Religious Harassment and Violence:

(The following is a summary of the district policy. A complete copy of the policy is available upon request.)

Harassment is a form of discrimination which violates Section 703 of Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, as amended, 42 U.S.C. 2000e, et seq., and Minnesota Statute 363.01.14, the Minnesota Human Rights Act. Violence is a physical act of aggression that may include a sexual act or sexual purpose. It is the policy of District #745 to maintain a learning and working environment that is free from harassment and violence. Our school district prohibits any form of sexual, racial, or religious harassment and any form of violence. It shall be a violation of this policy for any student or employee through conduct or communication of any kind as defined by this policy. The policy also prohibits any violence from either a student or employee to any other student or employee. The school district will investigate complaints either formal or informal, verbal or written, of sexual, racial, or religious harassment or acts of violence and to discipline any student or employee who harasses or is violent to a student or employee. Local law enforcement will be notified in the cases of violence.

BULLYING PROHIBITION POLICY

I. PURPOSE:

A safe and civil environment is needed for students to learn and attain high academic standards and to promote healthy human relationships. Bullying, like other violent or disruptive behavior, is conduct that interferes with a student’s ability to learn and/or a teacher’s ability to educate students in a safe environment. The school district cannot monitor the activities of students at all times and eliminate all incidents of bullying between students, particularly when students are not under the direct supervision of school personnel. However, to the extent such conduct affects the educational environment of the school district and the rights and welfare of its students and is within the control of the school district in its normal operations, the school district intends to prevent bullying and to take action to investigate, respond to, and to remediate and discipline for those acts of bullying which have not been successfully prevented. The purpose of this policy is to assist the school district in its goal of preventing and responding to acts of bullying, intimidation, violence, reprisal, retaliation and other similar disruptive and detrimental behavior.

II. GENERAL STATEMENT OF POLICY:

- A. An act of bullying, by either an individual student or a group of students, is expressly prohibited on school premises, on district property or at school functions or activities, or on school transportation. This policy applies not only to students who directly engage in an act of bullying but also to students who, by their indirect behavior, condone or support another student’s act of bullying. This policy also applies to any student whose conduct, at any time or in any place, constitutes bullying or other prohibited conduct that interferes with or obstructs the mission or operations of the school district or the safety or welfare of the student or other students. Materially and substantially interferes with a student’s educational opportunities or performance or ability to participate in school functions or activities or receive school benefits, services or privileges. This policy also applies to an act of cyberbullying regardless of whether such act is committed on or off school district property and/or with or without the use of school district resources.
- B. No teacher, administrator, volunteer, contractor, or other employee of the school district shall permit, condone, or tolerate bullying.
- C. Apparent permission or consent by a student being bullied does not lessen or negate the prohibitions contained in this policy.
- D. Retaliation against a victim, good faith reporter, or a witness of bullying is prohibited.
- E. False accusations or reports of bullying against another student are prohibited.
- F. A person who engages in an act of bullying, reprisal, and retaliation or false reporting of bullying or permits, condones, or tolerates bullying shall be subject to discipline or other remedial responses for that act in accordance with the school district’s policies and procedures, including the school district’s discipline policy. The school district may take into account the following factors:

1. The developmental ages and maturity levels of the parties involved;
2. The levels of harm, surrounding circumstances, and nature of the behavior;
3. Past incidences or past or continuing patterns of behavior;
4. The relationship between the parties involved; and
5. The context in which the alleged incidents occurred.

Consequences for students who commit prohibited acts of bullying may range from remedial responses or positive behavioral interventions up to and including suspension and/or expulsion. The school district shall employ research based developmentally appropriate best practices that include preventative and remedial measures and effective discipline for deterring violations of this policy, apply throughout the school district, and foster student, parent, and community participation.

Consequences for employees who permit, condone, or tolerate bullying or engage in an act of reprisal or intentional false reporting of bullying may result in disciplinary action up to and including termination or discharge.

Consequences for other individuals engaging in prohibited acts of bullying may include, but not be limited to, exclusion from school district property and events.

- G. The school district will act to investigate all complaints of bullying reported to the school district and will discipline or take appropriate action against any student, teacher, administrator, volunteer, contractor, or other employee of the school district who is found to have violated this policy.

III. DEFINITIONS:

For purposes of this policy, the definitions included in this section apply.

- A. “Bullying” means intimidating, threatening, abusive, or harming conduct that is objectively offensive and:
 1. an actual or perceived imbalance of power exists between the student engaging in the prohibited conduct and the target of the prohibited conduct, and the conduct is repeated or forms a pattern; or
 2. materially and substantially interferes with a student’s educational opportunities or performance or ability to participate in school functions or activities or receive school benefits, services, or privileges.

The term “bullying” specifically includes cyberbullying as defined in this policy.

- B. “Cyberbullying” means bullying using technology or other electronic communications, including, but not limited to, a transfer of a sign, signal, writing, image, sound, or data, including a post on a social network Internet website or forum, transmitted through a computer, cell phone or other electronic device. The term applies to prohibited conduct which occurs on school premises, on school district property, at school functions or activities, on school transportation, or on school computers, networks, forums, and mailing lists or off school premises to the extent that it substantially and materially disrupts student learning or the school environment.

- C. “Immediately” means as soon as possible but in no event longer than 24 hours.

- D. “Intimidating, threatening, abusive or harming conduct” means, but is not limited to conduct that does the following:
 1. Causes physical harm to a student or a student’s property or causes a student to be in reasonable fear of harm to person or property;
 2. Under Minnesota common law, violates a student’s reasonable expectation of privacy, defames a student, or constitutes intentional infliction of emotional distress against a student; or
 3. Is directed at any student or students, including those based on a person’s actual or perceived race, ethnicity, color, creed, religion, national origin, immigration status, sex, marital status, familial status, socioeconomic status, physical appearance, sexual orientation including gender identity and expression, academic status related to student performance, disability or status with regard to public assistance, age, or any additional characteristic defined in the Minnesota Human Rights Act (MHRA). However, prohibited conduct need not be based on any particular characteristic defined in this paragraph or the MHRA.

- E. “On school premises, on district property at school functions or activities, or on school transportation” means all school district buildings, school grounds, and school property or property immediately adjacent to school grounds, school bus stops, school buses, school vehicles, school contracted vehicles, or any other vehicles approved for

school district purposes, the area of entrance or departure from school grounds, premises, or events, and all school-related functions, school-sponsored activities, events, or trips. School district property also may mean a student's walking route to or from school for purposes of attending school or school-related functions, activities, or events. While prohibiting bullying at these locations and events, the school district does not represent that it will provide supervision or assume liability at these locations and events.

F. "Prohibited conduct" means bullying or cyberbullying as defined in this policy or retaliation or reprisal for asserting, alleging, reporting, or providing information about such conduct or knowingly making a false report about bullying.

G. "Remedial response" means a measure to stop and correct prohibited conduct, prevent prohibited conduct from recurring, and protect, support, and intervene on behalf of a student who is the target or victim of prohibited conduct.

H. "Student" means a student enrolled in a public school or a charter school.

III. REPORTING PROCEDURE

- A. Any person who believes he or she has been the target or victim of bullying or any person with knowledge or belief of conduct that may constitute bullying or prohibited conduct under this policy shall report the alleged acts immediately to an appropriate school district official designated by this policy. A student may report bullying anonymously. However, the school district may not rely solely on an anonymous report to determine discipline or other remedial responses.
- B. The school district encourages the reporting party or complainant to use the report form available from the principal or building supervisor of each building or available from the school district office, but oral reports shall be considered complaints as well.
- C. The building principal or the principal's designee or the building supervisor (hereinafter the "building report taker") is the person responsible for receiving reports of bullying or other prohibited conduct at the building level. Any person may report bullying or other prohibited conduct directly to a school district human rights officer or the superintendent. If the complaint involves the building report taker, the complaint shall be made or filed directly with the superintendent or the school district human rights officer by the reporting party or complainant.

The building report taker shall ensure that this policy and its procedures, practices, consequences, and sanctions are fairly and fully implemented and shall serve as the primary contact on policy and procedural matters. The building report taker or a third party designated by the school district shall be responsible for the investigation. The building report taker shall provide information about available community resources to the target or victim or the bullying or other prohibited conduct, the perpetrator, and other affected individuals as appropriate.

- D. Teacher, school administrator, volunteer, contractor, or other school employee shall be particularly alert to possible situations, circumstances, or events that might include bullying. Any such person who witnesses, observes, receives a report of, or has other knowledge or belief of conduct that may constitute bullying or other prohibited conduct shall make reasonable efforts to address and resolve the bullying or prohibited conduct and shall inform the building report taker immediately. School district personnel who fail to inform the building report taker of conduct that may constitute bullying or other prohibited conduct or who fails to make reasonable efforts to address and resolve the bullying or prohibited conduct in a timely manner may be subject to disciplinary action.
- E. Reports of bullying or other prohibited conduct are classified as private educational and/or personnel data and/or confidential investigative data and will not be disclosed except as permitted by law. The building report taker, in conjunction with the responsible authority, shall be responsible for keeping and regulating access to any report of bullying and the record of any resulting investigation.
- F. Submission of a good faith complaint or report of bullying or other prohibited conduct will not affect the complainant's or reporter's future employment, grades, work assignments, or educational or work environment.

- G. The school district will respect the privacy of the complainant(s), the individual(s) against whom the complaint is filed, and the witnesses as much as possible, consistent with the school district's obligation to investigate, take appropriate action, and comply with any legal disclosure obligations.

V. SCHOOL DISTRICT ACTION

- A. Within three days of the receipt of a complaint or report of bullying or other prohibited conduct, the school district shall undertake or authorize an investigation by the building report taker or a third party designated by the school district.
- B. The building report taker or other appropriate school district official may take immediate steps, at their discretion, to protect the target or victim of the bullying or other prohibited conduct of the complainant, the reporter, and students, or others pending completion of an investigation of the bullying or prohibited conduct, consistent with applicable law.
- C. The alleged perpetrator of the bullying or other prohibited conduct shall be allowed the opportunity to present a defense during the investigation or prior to the imposition of discipline or other remedial responses.
- D. Upon completion of an investigation that determines that bullying or other prohibited conduct has occurred, the school district will take appropriate action. Such action may include, but is not limited to, warning, suspension, exclusion, expulsion, transfer, remediation, termination, or discharge. Disciplinary consequences will be sufficiently severe to try to deter violations and to appropriately discipline prohibited conduct. Remedial responses to the bullying or other prohibited conduct shall be tailored to the particular incident and nature of the conduct and shall take into account the factors specified in Section II. F. of this policy. School district action taken for violation of this policy will be consistent with the requirements of applicable collective bargaining agreements; applicable statutory authority, including the Minnesota Pupil Fair Dismissal Act; school district policies; and regulations.
- E. The school district is not authorized to disclose to a victim private educational or personnel data regarding an alleged perpetrator who is a student or employee of the school district. School officials will notify the parent(s) or guardian(s) of students who are targets of bullying or other prohibited conduct and the parents or guardians of alleged perpetrators of bullying or other prohibited conduct who have been involved in a reported and confirmed bullying incident and of remedial or disciplinary action taken, to the extent permitted by law.
- F. In order to prevent or respond to bullying or other prohibited conduct committed by or directed against a child with a disability, the school district shall, when determined appropriate by the child's individualized education program (IEP) team or section 504 team, allow the child's IEP or section 504 plan to be drafted to address the skills and proficiencies the child needs as a result of the child's disability to allow the child to respond to or not to engage in bullying or other prohibited conduct.

VI. RETALIATION OR REPRISAL

The school district will discipline or take appropriate action against any student, teacher, administrator, volunteer, contractor, or other employee of the school district who commits an act of reprisal or who retaliates against any person who asserts, alleges, or makes a good faith report of alleged bullying or prohibited conduct, who provides information about bullying or prohibited conduct, who testifies, assists, or participates in an investigation of alleged bullying or prohibited conduct, or who testifies, assists, or participates in a proceeding or hearing relating to such bullying or prohibited conduct. Retaliation includes, but is not limited to, any form of intimidation, reprisal, harassment, or intentional disparate treatment. Disciplinary consequences will be sufficiently severe to deter violations and to appropriately discipline the individual(s) who engaged in the prohibited conduct. Remedial responses to the prohibited conduct shall be tailored to the particular incident and nature of the conduct and shall take into account the factors specified in Section II.F. of this policy.

VII. TRAINING AND EDUCATION

- A. The school district shall discuss this policy with school personnel and volunteers and provide appropriate training to school district personnel regarding this policy. The school district shall establish a training cycle for school personnel to occur during a period not to exceed every three school years. Newly employed school personnel must receive the training within the first year of their employment with the school district. The school district or a school administrator may accelerate the training cycle or provide additional training based on a particular need or

circumstance. This policy shall be included in employee handbooks, training materials, and publications on school rules, procedures, and standards of conduct, which materials shall also be used to publicize this policy.

- B. The school district shall require ongoing professional development, consistent with Minn. Stat. § 122A.60, to build the skills of all school personnel who regularly interact with students to identify, prevent, and appropriately address bullying and other prohibited conduct. Such professional development includes, but is not limited to, the following:
 - 1. Developmentally appropriate strategies both to prevent and to immediately and effectively intervene to stop prohibited conduct;
 - 2. The complex dynamics affecting a perpetrator, target, and witnesses to prohibited conduct;
 - 3. Research on prohibited conduct, including specific categories of students at risk for perpetrating or being the target or victim of bullying or other prohibited conduct in school;
 - 4. The incidence and nature of cyberbullying; and
 - 5. Internet safety and cyberbullying.
- C. The school district annually will provide education and information to students regarding bullying, including information regarding this school district policy prohibiting bullying, the harmful effects of bullying, and other applicable initiatives to prevent bullying and other prohibited conduct.
- D. The administration of the school district is directed to implement programs and other initiatives to prevent bullying, to respond to bullying in a manner that does not stigmatize the target or victim, and to make resources or referrals to resources available to targets or victims of bullying.
- E. The administration is encouraged to provide developmentally appropriate instruction and is directed to review programmatic instruction to determine if adjustments are necessary to help students identify and prevent or reduce bullying and other prohibited conduct, to value diversity in school and society, to develop and improve students' knowledge and skills for solving problems, managing conflict, engaging in civil discourse, and recognizing, responding to, and reporting bullying or other prohibited conduct, and to make effective prevention and intervention programs available to students.

The administration must establish strategies for creating a positive school climate and use evidence-based social-emotional learning to prevent and reduce discrimination and other improper conduct.

The administration is encouraged, to the extent practicable, to take such actions as it may deem appropriate to accomplish the following:

- 1. Engage all students in creating a safe and supportive school environment;
 - 2. Partner with parents and other community members to develop and implement prevention and intervention programs;
 - 3. Engage all students and adults in integrating education, intervention, and other remedial responses into the school environment;
 - 4. Train student bystanders to intervene in and report incidents of bullying and other prohibited conduct to the school's primary contact person;
 - 5. Teach students to advocate for themselves and others;
 - 6. Prevent inappropriate referrals to special education of students who may engage in bullying or other prohibited conduct; and
 - 7. Foster student collaborations that, in turn, foster a safe and supportive school climate.
- F. The school district may implement violence prevention and character development education programs to prevent or reduce policy violations. Such programs may offer instruction on character education including, but not limited to, character qualities such as attentiveness, truthfulness, respect for authority, diligence, gratefulness, self-discipline, patience, forgiveness, respect for others, peacemaking, and resourcefulness.
 - G. The school district shall inform affected students and their parents of rights they may have under state and federal data practices laws to obtain access to data related to an incident and their right to contest the accuracy or

completeness of the data. The school district may accomplish this requirement by inclusion of all or applicable parts of its protection and privacy of pupil records policy (See MSBA/MASA Model Policy 515) in the student handbook.

VIII. NOTICE

- A. The school district will give annual notice of this policy to students, parents or guardians, and staff, and this policy shall appear in the student handbook.
- B. This policy or a summary thereof must be conspicuously posted in the administrative offices of the school district and the office of each school.
- C. This policy must be given to each school employee and independent contractor who regularly interacts with students at the time of initial employment with the school district.
- D. Notice of the rights and responsibilities of students and their parents under this policy must be included in the student discipline policy (See MSBA/MASA Model Policy 506) distributed to parents at the beginning of each school year.
- E. This policy shall be available to all parents and other school community members in an electronic format in the language appearing on the school district's or a school's website.
- F. The school district shall provide an electronic copy of its most recently amended policy to the Commissioner of Education.

IX. POLICY REVIEW

To the extent practicable, the school board shall, on a cycle consistent with other school district policies, review and revise this policy. The policy shall be made consistent with Minn. Stat. § 121A.031 and other applicable law. Revisions shall be made in consultation with students, parents, and community organizations.

The purpose of this policy is to assist the school district in its goal of preventing and responding to acts of bullying, intimidation and other similar disruptive acts. Any person who believes he or she has been the victim of harassment or violence by a student or employee, or any third person with knowledge or belief of such conduct should immediately report the alleged acts to an appropriate school district official as designated by this policy. The reporting party is encouraged to use the report form available from the building office. [Board adopted 6/21/90, Revised June 1995, 2005]

Health & Emergencies:

ILLNESS: Students who become ill or injured during the school day will come or be brought to the health office. If it is determined the student is too ill/injured to return to class, a parent/guardian will be called. Students and parents must complete and return our Emergency Information Form. Please keep this information current by notifying us of any changes.

Immunizations:

Minnesota State Law requires verification of immunization records in order to enroll students or continue their attendance at this school.

Medications:

1. Only prescribed medication can be administered at school.
2. Nonprescription medication: A student may possess and use nonprescription pain relief in a manner with the labeling, if the school district has received written authorization from the student's parent or guardian permitting the student to self-administer the medication. The parent or guardian must submit written authorization for the student to self-administer the medication each school year. The school district may revoke a student's privilege to possess and use nonprescription pain relievers if the school district determines the student is abusing the privilege. This provision does not apply to the possession or use of any drug or product containing ephedrine or pseudoephedrine as its sole active ingredient or as one of its active ingredients. Except as stated in this paragraph, only prescriptions are governed by this policy.
3. Medication is administered to the student at the designated time under the supervision of authorized school staff.
4. When medication dosage or time changes, the nurse will assist you to obtain a revised medical order from your physician.
5. Parents or guardians are responsible for notifying the school nurse if there is a change in the medication or dosage.

6. Students may self-carry prescription inhalers and Epi-Pens when medical orders are on file in the Health Office.
7. Parents may bring medication to school for their child and administer it when there is no medical order on file.
8. All medications must be picked up on the last day of school year, or the meds will be destroyed.

NOTE: Possession & Use of Sunscreen

Students are allowed to have and use sunscreen at school or school events without a prescription or note from a health professional. A school employee is not required to provide sunscreen or help apply sunscreen to a student.

Insurance:

Our school district does not carry accident or health insurance to cover our students.

Sports Physicals:

A physical is required of every 7th grade student, and any 8th grade student new to our school, who will be in any extracurricular sport. If you are in 8th grade this school year and had an athletic physical in the last school year, it is not necessary to have a physical for grade nine. "Approval by Physician for Participation" form may be obtained from our web site. It must be completed by a physician and returned to the school office before any active participation is allowed.

Albany Area Schools Weapons Policy:

Students and non-students, including adults and visitors, are forbidden to knowingly or voluntarily possess, store, handle, transmit, or use any instrument that is considered a weapon or a "look-alike" weapon in our school, on school grounds, at school-sponsored activities, at bus stops, on school buses or school vehicles, or entering upon or departing from school premises, property, or events. According to State law, effective 08/01/93, it is a felony to possess a dangerous weapon within 300 feet of a school building.

A. Zero Tolerance

The district takes the position of "**zero tolerance**" on the following objects:

- (1) All firearms (whether loaded or unloaded);
- (2) Other guns of all types including pellet or "BB";
- (3) Lead pipes;
- (4) Bows and arrows, except as authorized for instruction;
- (5) Knives
- (6) Black jacks, clubs, nun-chucks, throwing stars, daggers, metal knuckles, and like objects;
- and (7) Explosives.

Zero tolerance will also be the position of the District when any object (whether real or "look-alike") is used to injure, or threaten personal injury at or on those places or vehicles listed in paragraph number 1 of this section.

Section A: Violations by Students: The procedure for all offenses is:

1. Call police to request assistance.
2. Confiscate the weapon (if it can be done safely).
3. Hold an administrative hearing with the student(s), which will include:
 - a. notification of parent/guardian;
 - b. involvement of police with recommendation to charge;
 - c. suspension for up to ten days;
 - d. recommendation of student expulsion.

Section B: A Violation by Other Youth or Adults:

1. Immediate police involvement with recommendations to charge.

B. Inadvertent possession / Administrative discretion.

While this policy represents a firm "**zero tolerance**" position on weapons possession, there could be a rare occasion when a weapon is inadvertently brought onto school property. If such an occasion is clearly the case, the building principal, after a thorough investigation, may use discretion in determining the appropriateness of the consequences. Students who discover an inadvertent possession of a weapon on their person must immediately turn it into the building principal. The building principal will have the weapon removed from school property in a safe and reasonable manner.

C. Authorized instructional and work equipment and tools.

While this policy represents a firm "**zero tolerance**" on weapons and/or "look-alike" weapons, it is not meant to interfere with instruction or appropriate use of equipment and tools by employees and students. Such equipment, when properly used and stored, shall not be deemed a weapon for purposes of this policy. However, when any authorized instructional and work equipment and tools are used in a potentially dangerous or threatening manner, the guidelines and the consequences of this policy will take effect.

D. Length of Expulsion

When a student is expelled from our school for reasons of weapon possession and/or use, it shall be the intent of the Board of Education that the expulsion shall last for the remainder of the school year and may be extended up to 12 months based on advice from legal counsel. [Adopted by the Board of Education on 07/07/1993. Revised by Board of Education 06/04/2001.]

POLICY 534 UNPAID MEAL CHARGES

The purpose of this policy is to ensure that students receive healthy and nutritious meals through the school district's nutrition program and that school district employees, families, and students have a shared understanding of expectations regarding meal charges. The policy seeks to allow students to receive the nutrition they need to stay focused during the school day and minimize identification of students with insufficient funds to pay for school meals as well as to maintain the financial integrity of the school nutrition program. The policy can be found on the school district's website at <https://www.district745.org>.

Other

APPROPRIATE DRESS REQUIRED

Appearance and dress are to be in good taste at all times. Extremes in dress are not considered appropriate.

The following areas are points of emphasis for student dress:

Clothing/Accessories;

- Must not depict inappropriate or negative pictures, messages, symbols, lettering, or anything deemed inappropriate or unsafe.
- There can be no depiction of sex, alcohol, drugs, or weapons
- Shoes must be worn at all times.
- Student Council sponsored dress up days will be approved in advance.
- Hats and hoods may not be worn in middle school, during class time. They are allowed in hallways and lunch.

Bottoms;

- Excessively short shorts or skirts are not appropriate
- Pants/shorts/skirts must not expose undergarments or the buttocks.
- Leggings should be athletic leggings. Material should not be see-through.
- Administrative discretion will determine appropriateness.

Tops;

- Shirts must have a strap on each shoulder or sleeves that sit on the shoulder.
- Tops must be below the belly button.
- Shirts should not expose areas of the stomach, sides, lower back, or chest.
- Administrative discretion will determine appropriateness.

Pledge of Allegiance:

On Monday of each school week in the Pledge of Allegiance is recited over the PA system. Anyone not wishing to participate in reciting the pledge may elect not to do so. Students must respect the right of other students to make that choice. MSA120. Approved June 2, 2010 by School Board resolution.

Procedure for registering complaints:

We at Albany Area Schools realize that students, parents, and community members may have complaints as to the way specific things are done in our schools. Whether these complaints concern classroom situations or overall operational situations we ask that you use the procedure listed below to register your complaints. Start at number one and if that does not solve the problem, go to the next level:

1. Talk to the instructor or staff member personally.
2. Talk to the instructor/staff member's immediate supervisor.
3. Make an appointment to see the superintendent of schools.
4. Contact the superintendent of schools and ask to be placed on the agenda for the school board meeting.

Bus Transportation:

Students will be allowed a maximum of two pick-up/drop off locations. These locations must be consistent from week to week and all changes must be made at least 30 days in advance in writing. A change request form is found on our website. For safety reasons, transportation on a bus that a student is scheduled to be a passenger is not permitted. Students are not allowed to use a note from a

parent authorizing them to ride a bus they are not scheduled to ride (for example, birthday party or sleepover at a friend's). Emergency exceptions may be made at the discretion of the principal and Transportation Director. Large objects may not be allowed on the bus.

Student Resources for Academics and Activities

Activities

MSHSL Activities Grades 7 & 8. Athletic fees are \$80/sport with a family cap of \$400. Academic and Arts fees are \$45.

FALL

Cross Country
Football
Volleyball
Swimming

WINTER

Wrestling
Basketball
Basketball
Dance Team

SPRING

Baseball
Softball
Golf
Track
Speech
Drama
Trap Shooting

Co-Curricular Activities 6-8:

Art Club, Come Alive Read 25, Future Novelists, Drama, Jazz Band, Student Council, FFA, Math Team, Knowledge Bowl, Fall Play, Spring Musical

Student Activity Tickets:

Students may buy an activity pass in lieu of paying at each event. This activity pass does **not** include admission to playoff games.

Albany Area Middle School Information

At-Home Learning Days

At-Home learning is a term used to define a day when students are learning off-site via the internet or other means of instructional delivery. Albany Area Middle School will have scheduled At-Home Learning days on Friday, October 7, 2022, Friday, December 9, Thursday, February 16, 2023, and Friday, March 10, 2023. As we continue to prepare our students for an ever changing world, we must recognize learning can and does happen anywhere, anytime. We now have the ability to provide innovative opportunities for students to learn outside of our traditional setting.

At-Home Learning Days - Teachers in building; students not in building

These days are counted as student contact days meeting MDE requirements. More detailed communication will be shared prior to the date.

WEATHER RELATED At-Home Learning Day - Students and teachers not in the building

These are days when school is canceled due to inclement weather or other uncontrollable circumstances.

1. Parents/Guardians will receive a message that school will be closed. Students will not report to school, but will engage in learning activities assigned via Schoology.
2. Teachers will post work by 9:00 AM.
3. Teachers will be available online via email/Schoology to answer questions and provide guidance from 9:00-11:00AM and 1:00-3:00PM
4. Assignment due dates will be noted by the teacher.
5. Students must log in to block 1 by 9:45 AM via Schoology. (Block 1 teachers take attendance and enter in Infinite Campus.)
6. SPED
 - If students' IEP goals are not met by following the grade level plan, alternate plans will be sent home.
 - If students who receive interventions are not able to follow the grade level plan, alternate plans will be sent home that focus on students' specific needs.
 - Parents of students receiving Speech and Language services will receive plans via email or copies sent home from the case manager with activities outlined.
7. A plan will be developed by Sept 30th for students who do not have internet access available to them.

Daily Bulletin:

A "Daily Bulletin" is provided to every teacher prior to block 1 and read to students during block 1. Student notices intended for this bulletin should be written and given to the office before 8:00 a.m. the day the announcement is expected to be made.

All students are expected to:

1. Be in school every day unless ill or an emergency occurs. See also participation in activities and attendance.
2. Be on time for and be in all classes with class materials. Students who are late to class will be recorded by their teacher as tardy. Three classroom tardies will result in a formal discipline report, count as an unexcused absence and count towards truancy; a subsequent tardy will also result in a discipline report.
3. Show respect for and follow reasonable requests & directions of teachers and all other staff.
4. Stay in the building and/or on school grounds during school hours. Students are not allowed to leave school grounds without permission from our office. "Signing out" when leaving during the school day is required. Students do not leave their classrooms without permission of the classroom teacher.
5. Avoid any damage or destruction to any other student's personal property, or to any school property.
6. Keep our school clean and neat. Students are expected to clean up their garbage and table/floor area at lunch. Littering, writing on walls, desks, lockers, or bathroom stalls is not acceptable behavior.
7. Do their own work. Teachers have the right to discipline students for cheating by assigning a zero on any assignment/test which the student cheated or other appropriate disciplinary action.
8. Follow all school bus rules.
9. Not use personal devices at any time from 8:15 - 3:05 unless you are requested by a teacher to bring one for a class purpose. Parents/Guardians should contact the office if they need to communicate with their student.
10. Maintain a safe learning environment for yourself and others. Dangerous, harmful, or nuisance articles are prohibited from our school environment. Included among those items are the following:
 - (A) Alcohol and other mood altering drugs: Students are prohibited from using, possessing, distributing, or being under the influence of alcohol, narcotics, e-cigarettes, vapes or other mood altering drugs at school, and/or at school-sponsored activities.
 - (1) The first violation of this rule will result in suspension (in or out of school) for two days. Students who participate in extracurricular activities and who have signed the Minnesota State High School League (MSHSL) agreement not to use chemicals will be suspended from play for a period of two games, or two weeks, whichever is longer. A student will be expected to attend all practices. As required by the State law, the school will notify law enforcement of this violation. The school will receive notice from law enforcement of any out-of-school violations.
 - (2) A second violation will result in four days of suspension. A chemical assessment may be required by the principal. Our school will also notify law enforcement of this violation. If a student is a member of a school activity, the second violation will result in suspension from the next six consecutive contests.
 - (3) A third violation will result in further disciplinary action, which could include exclusion or expulsion for the balance of the school year as determined by the school board. A student in an activity will be suspended from the next twelve consecutive contests.

[Special note: Violations are cumulative from grades 7-12.]

(B) Tobacco products: The possession of, the use of any type of tobacco product, e-cigarette or vape by a student, and/or the use of such on our school grounds, or at any school-sponsored activities is prohibited.

- (1) The first violation of this rule will result in suspension for two days. Students in extracurricular activities who have signed the MSHSL agreement not to use tobacco products will be suspended from play for a period of two games or two weeks, whichever is longer. A student will be expected to attend practices. The school will notify law enforcement of any violation.
- (2) A second violation will result in four days of suspension. A chemical assessment may be required. The school will notify law enforcement of this violation.

(3) A third violation will result in further disciplinary action, which could include exclusion or expulsion for the balance of the school year as determined by the school board. A student in an activity will be suspended from the next twelve consecutive contests.

(C) Harmful/Nuisance Articles: Our students are prohibited from use and/or possession of articles that are nuisances, illegal, or which may cause harm to persons or property while at school or school-sponsored activities. See also: Weapons Policy.

Expected Student Behavior at School Activities:

School rules apply to home and away activities; failure to abide by these rules may result in disciplinary actions. School activities include athletics, music, and class field trips. Students are expected to watch the activity and not run around the premises/venue.

Fees:

A fee may be charged under the following circumstances:

1. A project in courses, which is more than the material requirements of the minimum course outline.
2. To pay for the cost of school equipment and/or materials destroyed or unduly damaged through carelessness or failure to follow instructions, in the amount necessary to restore the item(s) to usable. "The school will also charge an appropriate replacement fee for textbooks, workbooks, computers or library books lost or destroyed by students." MSA 120.101
3. Admission fees for school concerts, plays, athletic events, and other programs or activities which the student may attend.
4. Any fees which are unpaid within 30 days of the end of the school year may be collected through an action in small claims court. This procedure is in accordance with and governed by the Minnesota Public School Fee Law, MSA 120.71-120.76.

Lunch:

Families may deposit money in their account on-line. Students are not allowed to take food or drink out of the lunchroom. Students may not leave school grounds to eat lunch, or have lunch "ordered in". Parents may access lunch account information in Infinite Campus. Devices are not allowed to be used at lunch.

Homework:

Students are given clear and very definite time lines to have teacher-assigned work complete so the student and teacher are able to continue with new learning or relearn topics. Students are responsible for their work. When students have not done their work, parents may expect contact from the teacher apprising them of this fact and that the student may be staying after school that day. Parent cooperation and support is expected so students do not fall behind in their schoolwork.

Posters:

Before any kind of poster or notice is put up in the halls by any student(s), it must be approved by the Principal.

Student Lockers & Combination Locks:

All students are issued a locker. Students may purchase a lock from the office for \$5.00. Student lockers are district property. Searches of lockers may be conducted by school authorities for any reason, at any time, without notice, without student consent, and without a search warrant. Personal possessions of students within a school locker may be searched when school authorities have a reasonable suspicion the search may uncover evidence of a violation of law or school rules. School authorities must provide notice of the search to students whose lockers were searched unless disclosure would impede an ongoing investigation by police or school officials. Lockers should only be used to store textbooks, school materials, coats, or outdoor garments. Any lock(er) malfunction or damage of any kind should be reported immediately to the office. Each student will have a locker in the P.E. Locker rooms for storing "gym" clothing. **We strongly recommend students do not keep valuables in lockers!**

School Supplies:

A list of supplies is found on the school website under the digital backpack tab. We encourage families to purchase supplies through the PTO fundraiser.

Media Center Procedures:

Students must obtain a pass from the classroom teacher in order to be admitted to the media center to select materials, or to do research. Media materials may be checked out for a limited time, usually three weeks for books. Payment is required for any material not returned to the library. Students are expected to follow rules and procedures.

Awards and Incentive Opportunities

Honor Roll:

Students who maintain a 3.0 grade point average or better are eligible for our "Honor Roll" each quarter. All classes are included in the honor roll calculation. Students who have an incomplete grade at the end of the quarter are not eligible for the Honor Roll until the incomplete grade has changed to a final grade.

STAR Program:

Our STAR Program recognizes students who meet the following qualifications in each of their classes each quarter. Any discipline report automatically means a student does not qualify.

1. I will not be disruptive in class and/or advisory.
2. I will not have excessive tardies (3 or more).
3. I will not have incomplete homework or be unprepared for class.
4. I will not abuse using devices (chromebook, cell phone, etc..)
5. I will not be disrespectful to other students and/or staff.
6. I will not display a poor attitude, be uncooperative or be a non participant.
7. I will not cheat or plagiarize.
8. I will not waste class time.
9. I will not display disrespect toward school property.
10. I will have library books returned or renewed in a timely manner.

All classes will count one star per class. Students who do not meet the criteria and receive two checks from each of two classroom teachers will not qualify for STAR for the quarter. All class and school fees and overdue books must be taken care of to qualify for STAR. All students who qualify as a "STAR Student" have the opportunity to participate in a fun activity at the end of each quarter. Any student who chooses not to participate in, or does not qualify for STAR, is expected to be in attendance at school.

Purple Pride Students of the Month

Albany Area Middle School recognizes students who display the following character traits and represent Albany Area School's PURPLE PRIDE: being Productive, being Positive, being Prompt, being Prepared, being Polite. Chosen students will earn a certificate, be recognized in school and local newspaper, and given a token of appreciation.

Purple Pride Principal Referral

Any student being referred to the principal for positive deeds will have their name entered in a weekly drawing.

Purple Pride Postcards

Cards sent to students and parents recognizing something positive.

Recognition of Outstanding Attendance:

Recognition is given to our students who achieve "Perfect" and "Exemplary" attendance. We award special certificates to these students at our awards program on the final day of the school year. A "Perfect Attendance Award" is for students who have attended every school day of this year. An "Exemplary" award is for students who have missed no more than one half-day of school. Students excused due to school activities are not considered absent in determining the attendance awards.

U.S. Presidential Academic Excellence Award:

This recognition award consists of a small pin and a certificate signed by the President of the United States, the Secretary of Education, and the Principal. The awards are given to students who are completing Middle School. Students must fulfill criteria listed below to qualify for the Presidential Academic Excellence Award.

Grade Point Average = A-average or better. The A-(or better) average is composed of the fall semester of the 8th grade and all the seventh grade years. It is equivalent to a 3.6+ on a 4 point scale.

Student Council:

Albany Area Middle School has a Student Council composed of elected representatives from each grade level. The Student Council holds regular meetings, and may hold special meetings as called by the advisor(s). A student may be elected to the Student Council if he/she is eligible according to the rules of the Minnesota State High School League and if the student meets our academic standards. These standards include academic fitness and a superior disciplinary record. Once elected, members in violation of these standards

may be removed. Student Council sponsors and organizes student dances, the student agenda book, Spirit days/week, and special events and other programs for our students and teachers.

Student Assistance

Advisory:

A scheduled time for students to meet with teachers to get extra support. Students have the same advisor all year, allowing them to build a trusting relationship.

A.S.K.:

Assistance to Students for Knowledge is our peer-tutoring program available to any middle school student who needs help improving his/her understanding of subject material. A student will meet with his/her tutor at least one hour per week. Each tutor attends a minimum of one training session and works closely with the ASK coordinator. Students should see the counselor for enrollment in this program. Any student (or parent) may request ASK help.

Counseling and Social Worker:

Our counselor and social worker will assist students with educational, personal, or general needs. Passes must be acquired ahead of time and students are not allowed to wait in the counselor's office during class time without an appointment.

Registration Procedure:

Registration for next school year will be conducted around the beginning of the second semester. We strongly encourage students and parents to read, study and review our Course Description Manual and discuss course requirements and offerings related to their student's career goals.

Multi-Tiered System of Support Team (MTSS):

The MTSS Team is composed of the principal, school nurse, social worker, counselor, school resource officer and other faculty members as needed. MTSS uses a comprehensive team approach to assist students in need or at-risk. The MTSS team meets as needed to evaluate referrals, to take feedback, and to make recommendations. Considering information received from persons having daily contact with a referred student, the MTSS Team may meet with the student and parent(s).

NONDISCRIMINATION POLICY STATEMENT

It is the policy of the Albany Area School District not to discriminate on the basis of race, color, creed, religion, gender, national origin, age, marital status, disability, and status with regard to public assistance or in its educational programs or employment policies as required by Titles VI and VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, The Equal Pay Act of 1973, Title IX (1972 Education Amendments), and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973. The District will identify, evaluate and provide an appropriate public education to learners who are disabled within the definition of Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973. Inquiries regarding compliance with Title IX, Section 504, or the Americans with Disabilities Act should be directed to the Superintendent of Schools of the Albany Area School District, Box 40, Albany, Mn. or to the Office of Civil Rights, U.S. Department of Education, Washington, D.C.

Acceptable Use Policy - Albany Area Schools ISD 745

***Student Contract Use of the Internet & Technological Devices**

I accept, and agree to abide by the rules set forth by Independent School District No. 745 and contained in the Internet Computer / Equipment Usage Policy. I further agree my use of the Internet, Computer, and/or Equipment of the School District are subject to additional rules and directives issued by the instructor.

I realize the primary purpose of the District Internet connection is educational and I will limit my usage to educational purposes only.

I realize the use of the Internet, Computer and Equipment is a privilege, not a right. My access may be revoked at any time by the School District, as it shall see fit. I also acknowledge inappropriate behavior may lead to penalties, including disciplinary action, reduction in MGM grade, or loss of credit for assignments and/or legal action.

I understand my use of School District equipment, computers, and Internet access is not private and all of my activity, transmissions, documents, etc., are subject to review and monitoring by School District personnel for any reason, without notice.

I agree not to participate in the transfer of inappropriate or illegal materials through the School District's Internet Connection. I realize in some cases, the transfer of such material may result in legal action against me.

I agree not to allow other individuals to use my account for Internet activities nor will I give anyone my password.

I release the School District and all organizations related to the District's Internet connection from any liability or damages that may result from the use of the Internet connection. In addition, I will accept full responsibility and liability for the results of my actions with regards to the use of Internet access, Network, Computers, and Equipment of the District.

I understand the Internet contains information that is inappropriate and unrelated to educational purposes. I recognize it is impossible for the District to prevent access to all forms of inappropriate information and my responsibility to avoid such information. I will not hold the School District responsible for materials found or accessed on the District's Internet access. If I should come across, accidentally, any information that seems inappropriate and makes me uncomfortable, I will inform my teacher immediately.

Digital Citizenship

Students must follow the conditions of being a good digital citizen.

- *Respect Yourself and Others:* I will show respect for myself and others through my actions. I will post appropriate content online and carefully consider what I share. I will not abuse my rights of access and will not enter access accounts or sites owned by other people.
- *Protect Yourself and Others:* I will ensure information, images, and other materials posted online will not put me or others at risk. I will not publish personal information, contact information, or schedules of myself or my peers. If I come across abusive or inappropriate material online, I will inform a teacher or administrator right away.
- *Respect Intellectual Property:* I will request permission to reuse copyrighted resources. I will follow fair use guidelines and cite websites, books, and other media properly. Above all, I will act with integrity while using online resources and materials.

***Parent Contract**




Parents of students are required to review the Internet, Computer and Equipment Usage Policy with their child and to sign the consent form prior to access being granted to the student.

I have read the Internet, Computer and Equipment Usage Policy and the Student Contract for Use signed by my child. I understand and accept the responsibilities and liabilities stated that are placed on me and my child/ward as a result of signing this contract should my child/ward violate the rules.

I understand the Internet contains some material that is inappropriate for minors. I support the School District's position that students are individually responsible for not accessing such material. Unacceptable use of the School District's Internet access will result in possible suspension of privileges or other discipline. I will not hold the School District liable for any inappropriate information my child may encounter by using the School District's Internet access and expressly agree to the disclaimer provisions contained in the Internet, Computer and Equipment Usage Policy.

The items below detail separate permissions for students' use of digital education tools, the district Internet and computers, and district use of student pictures. Please read these items carefully. **By signing this document you give your consent to all the following:** (Please contact the technology department 320-845-5099 if you do not agree to a specific item.)

- I give permission for my child to use the School District Internet connection, computers, equipment, and networks and specifically agree to the terms stated in this document.
- I give consent for my child to use a District 745 Gmail account. If you have already given consent for this privilege (in elementary school or later), the district will continue to give your child access until you ask the district to revoke it.
- I understand occasionally my child's picture, work and/or projects may be published publicly by the School District. Such publication is intended to further the educational mission of the school district. Various web tools used by the classroom teacher allow online collaboration, enhancing both students' digital skills as well as the curriculum. I grant the School District copyrights and privileges to reproduce, adapt, publish, and display my child's work, picture, and name on the internet.

I agree my child will use the School District Internet connection, computers, equipment and networks and specifically agree to the terms stated in this document.	
I understand my child will be issued a District 745 gmail account. If you have already given consent for this privilege (in elementary school or later), the district will continue to give your child access until you ask the district to revoke it.	
I understand occasionally my child's picture, work and/or projects may be published publicly by the School District. Such publication is intended to further the educational mission of the school district. Various web tools used by the classroom teacher allow online collaboration, enhancing both students' digital skills as well as the curriculum. I grant the School District copyrights and privileges to reproduce, adapt, publish and display my child's work and picture (names will not be displayed) on the internet.	

Parent/Guardian Guide and Refusal for Student Participation in Statewide Testing

This information will help parents/guardians make informed decisions that benefit their children, schools, and communities.

Why statewide testing?

Minnesota values its educational system and the professionalism of its educators. Minnesota educators created the academic standards which are rigorous and prepare our students for career and college.

The statewide assessments are how we as a state measure that curriculum and daily instruction in our schools are being aligned to the academic standards, ensuring all students are being provided an equitable education. Statewide assessment results are just one tool to monitor that we are providing our students with the education that will ensure a strong workforce and knowledgeable citizens.

Why does participation matter?

A statewide assessment is just one measure of your student’s achievement, but your student’s participation is important to understand how effectively the education at your student’s school is aligned to the academic standards.

- In Minnesota’s implementation of the federal Every Student Succeeds Act, a student not participating in the statewide assessments will not receive an individual score and for the purpose of school and district accountability calculations, including opportunities for support and recognition, will not be considered “proficient.”
- Students who receive a college-ready score on the high school MCA are not required to take a remedial, noncredit course at a Minnesota State college or university in the corresponding subject area, potentially saving the student time and money.
- Educators and policy makers use information from assessments to make decisions about resources and support provided.
- Parents and the general public use assessment information to compare schools and make decisions about where to purchase a home or to enroll their children.
- School performance results that are publicly released and used by families and communities, are negatively impacted if students do not participate in assessments.
- English learners not taking ACCESS or Alternate ACCESS for ELLs will not receive a score to meet English learner program exiting criteria.

Academic Standards and Assessments

What are academic standards?

The [Minnesota K–12 Academic Standards](#) are the statewide expectations for student academic achievement. They identify the knowledge and skills that all students must achieve in a content area and are organized by grade level. School districts determine how students will meet the standards by developing courses and curriculum aligned to the academic standards.

What is the relationship between academic statewide assessments and the academic standards?

The statewide assessments in mathematics, reading, and science are used to measure whether students, and their school and district, are meeting the academic standards. Statewide assessments are one measure of how well students are doing on the content that is part of their daily instruction. It is also a measure of how well schools and districts are doing in aligning their curriculum and teaching the standards.

Minnesota Comprehensive Assessments (MCA) and Minnesota Test of Academic Skills (MTAS)

- Based on the Minnesota Academic Standards; given annually in grades 3–8 and high school in reading and mathematics; given annually in grades 5, 8, and high school for science.
- Majority of students take the MCA.
- MTAS is an option for students with the most significant cognitive disabilities.

ACCESS and Alternate ACCESS for English Learners

- Based on the WIDA English Language Development Standards.
- Given annually to English learners in grades K–12 in reading, writing, listening, and speaking.
- Majority of English learners take ACCESS for ELLs.
- Alternate ACCESS for ELLs is an option for English learners with the most significant cognitive disabilities.

Why are these assessments effective?

Minnesota believes that in order to effectively measure what students are learning, testing needs to be more than answering multiple choice questions.

- To answer questions, students may need to type in answers, drag and drop images and words, or manipulate a graph or information.
- The Reading and Mathematics MCA are adaptive, which means the answers a student provides determine the next questions the student will answer.
- The Science MCA incorporates simulations, which require students to perform experiments in order to answer questions.

All of these provide students the opportunity to apply critical thinking needed for success in college and careers and show what they know and can do.

Are there limits on local testing?

As stated in Minnesota Statutes, section 120B.301, for students in grades 1–6, the cumulative total amount of time spent taking locally adopted districtwide or schoolwide assessments must not exceed 10 hours per school year. For students in grades 7–12, the cumulative total amount of time spent taking locally adopted districtwide or schoolwide assessments must not exceed 11 hours per school year. These limits do not include statewide testing.

In an effort to encourage transparency, the statute also requires a district or charter school, before the first day of each school year, to publish on its website a comprehensive calendar of standardized tests to be administered in the district or charter school during that school year. The calendar must provide the rationale for administering each assessment and indicate whether the assessment is a local option or required by state or federal law.

What if I choose not to have my student participate?

Parents/guardians have a right to not have their student participate in state-required standardized assessments. Minnesota Statutes require the department to provide information about statewide assessments to parents/guardians and include a form to complete if they refuse to have their student participate. This form follows on the next page and includes an area to note the reason for the refusal to participate. Your student's district may require additional information.

A school or district may have additional consequences beyond those mentioned in this document for a student not participating in the state-required standardized assessments. There may also be consequences for not participating in assessments selected and administered at the local level. Please contact your school for more information regarding local decisions.

When do students take the assessments?

Each school sets their testing schedule within the state testing window. Contact your student's school for information on specific testing days.

- The MCA and MTAS testing window begins in March and ends in May.
- The ACCESS and Alternate ACCESS for ELLs testing window begins at the end of January and ends in March.

When do I receive my student's results?

Each summer, individual student reports are sent to school districts and are provided to families no later than fall conferences. The reports can be used to see your child's progress and help guide future instruction.

How much time is spent on testing?

Statewide assessments are taken one time each year; the majority of students test online. On average, the amount of time spent taking statewide assessments is **less than 1 percent of instructional time** in a school year. The assessments are not timed and students can continue working as long as they need.

Why does it seem like my student is taking more tests?

The statewide required tests are limited to those outlined in this document. Many districts make local decisions to administer additional tests that the state does not require. Contact your district for more information.

Where do I get more information?

Students and families can find out more on our [Statewide Testing page](https://education.mn.gov) (education.mn.gov > Students and Families > Programs and Initiatives > Statewide Testing).



Minnesota Statutes, section 120B.31, subdivision 4a, requires the commissioner to create and publish a form for parents and guardians to complete if they refuse to have their student participate in state-required standardized assessments. Your student's district may require additional information. School districts must post this three-page form on the district website and include it in district student handbooks.

Parent/Guardian Refusal for Student Participation in Statewide Assessments

To opt out of statewide assessments, the parent/guardian must complete this form and return it to the student's school.

To best support school district planning, please submit this form to the student's school no later than January 15 of the academic school year. For students who enroll after a statewide testing window begins, please submit the form within two weeks of enrollment. A new refusal form is required **each year** parents/guardians wish to opt the student out of statewide assessments.

Date _____ (This form is **only** applicable for the 20____ to 20____ school year.)

Student's Legal First Name _____ Student's Legal Middle Initial _____

Student's Legal Last Name _____ Student's Date of Birth _____

Student's District/School _____ Grade _____

Please initial to indicate you have received and reviewed information about statewide testing.

_____ I received information on statewide assessments and choose to opt my student out. MDE provides the *Parent/Guardian Guide and Refusal for Student Participation in Statewide Testing* on the [MDE website](http://education.mn.gov) (education.mn.gov > Students and Families > Programs and Initiatives > Statewide Testing).

Reason for refusal:

Please indicate the statewide assessment(s) you are opting the student out of this school year:

_____ MCA/MTAS Reading

_____ MCA/MTAS Science

_____ MCA/MTAS Mathematics

_____ ACCESS/Alternate ACCESS for ELLs

Contact your school or district for the form to opt out of local assessments.

I understand that by signing this form, my school and I may lose valuable information about how well my student is progressing academically. As a result, my student will not receive an individual score. Refusing to participate in statewide assessments may impact the school, district, and state's efforts to equitably distribute resources and support student learning; for the purpose of school and district accountability calculations, my student will not be considered "proficient."

If my student is in high school, I understand that by signing this form my student will not have an MCA score that could potentially save time and money by not having to take remedial, non-credit courses at a Minnesota State college or university.

Parent/Guardian Name (print) _____

Parent/Guardian Signature _____

To be completed by school or district staff only.

Student ID or MARSS Number _____