
Mattapoissett Public Schools

Center School and Old Hammondtown School 2023-2024 Student Handbook



Center School

17 Barstow Street

P.O. Box 477

Mattapoissett, MA 02739

School Office Phone 508-758-2521

School Office Fax 508-758-3153

Old Hammondtown School

20 Shaw Street

Mattapoissett, MA 02739

School Office Phone 508-758-6241

School Office Fax 508-758-4667

August 30, 2023

Dear Parents and Guardians:

Welcome to a new school year!

The Center School and Old Hammondtown School staff welcome the opportunity to share each day with your children. We are confident that together we can create the optimum learning environment to ensure the success of all students.

The Mattapoissett Public Schools Handbook has been designed to share information with you regarding school policies and the daily school operations. We hope that you will find the information contained in this handbook to be a useful reference throughout the school year.

We are looking forward to this new school year and continuing to work with each family. Together we can make a difference in the life of each child in the Mattapoissett Public Schools!

Thank you for your continued support!

Sincerely,

Linda Ashley, Center School Principal

Kevin Tavares, Old Hammondtown School Principal

CENTER SCHOOL MISSION STATEMENT

“Children are the world’s most valuable resource and its best hope for the future.”

John F. Kennedy

Center School is dedicated to the belief that all children can learn. We believe in educating the whole child-- intellectually, physically, emotionally and socially. We believe that our children are our future, and that it is the shared responsibility of our staff, parents and the community to assist our students in reaching their optimum growth and development.

CENTER SCHOOL VISION STATEMENT

By the promotion of positive values, goals, and high expectations, Center School students will foster a love of learning and realize that through their best efforts success will be achieved. Students will continue to broaden their sense of worth and exhibit confidence in their abilities. Our ultimate goal is to prepare our children for the academic and social challenges of an ever-changing world.

OLD HAMMONDTOWN SCHOOL MISSION STATEMENT

Our mission at Old Hammondtown School is to create a safe and enriching learning environment. The members of the OHS staff work together to be supportive role models and provide strong leadership for student achievement. We set high academic and social standards, and build positive relationships with students. Instruction is relevant and connected to the local and greater world community.

OLD HAMMONDTOWN SCHOOL VISION STATEMENT

By the promotion of positive values, goals, and high expectations, Old Hammondtown School students will foster a love of learning and realize that through their best efforts success will be achieved. Students will continue to broaden their sense of worth and exhibit confidence in their abilities. Our ultimate goal is to prepare our children for the academic and social challenges of an ever-changing world.

Center School and Administration

Linda Ashley Principal
Lori Sevigny Administrative Assistant, CS
Jamie Balsis Center School Nurse
Kathleen McManamon Adjustment Counselor, CS

Old Hammondtown School and Administration

Kevin Tavares Associate Principal
Jennifer Janicki Administrative Assistant, OHS
Amy Ripley Old Hammondtown School Nurse
Bethanie Grant Adjustment Counselor, OHS

Old Rochester Regional School District Administration

Michael S. Nelson Superintendent of Schools
Kris Lincoln Interim Director of Student Services
Sharlene Fedorowicz Assistant Superintendent of Teaching and Learning
Howard Barber Assistant Superintendent of Finance and Operations
Eugene Jones District Facilities Director

Central Office Phone (508) 758 - 2772

Mattapoisett School Committee Members

Carly Lavin - Chairperson
James Muse - Vice Chairperson
Tiffini Reedy
Amanda Hastings
Cristin Cowles

Center School Staff

Aarsheim, Courtney - Grade One Teacher
Aguiar, Jennifer - Grade One Teacher
Anderson, Greta - Art Teacher
Ashley, Linda - Principal
Balsis, Jamie - Center School Nurse
Barbosa, Amilcar - Head Custodian / Facility and Grounds
Barry, Michele - Grade Two Teacher
Cabeceiras, Chad - Physical Education Teacher
Camacho, Deborah - Reading Specialist
Crowley, Katie, Lunch/Recess Monitor/Paraprofessional
Allison Dunn - Math Interventionist
Dawicki, Cynthia - Special Education Paraprofessional
Dowling, Willow - General Music/Chorus Teacher
Duke, Claudia - Special Education Teacher
Eble, Miriam - Special Education Teacher
Farell, Karen - Special Education Paraprofessional
Fernandes, Stacey - Head Cook
Fiore, Tracy - Speech/Language Pathologist
Goodwin, Beth - Special Education Paraprofessional
Guertin, Brittany - Health Teacher
Griffin, Kim - Grade Three Teacher
Hughes, Marissa - Grade One Teacher
Julian, Christylyn - Kindergarten Teacher
Kendall, Jane - Project GROW Teacher
Klinka, Tara - Special Education Paraprofessional
Lourenco, Lisa - Technology Teacher
McManamon, Kathleen - School Adjustment Counselor
Medeiros, Alda - Special Education Secretary
Mendes, Sarah - Grade Three Teacher
Mirabito, Laura - Librarian
Pawlishen, Carolyn - Reading Specialist
Perriera, Virginia - Special Education Teacher
Plant, Valeri - Special Education Paraprofessional
Renna, Amy - Grade Two Teacher
Rotchford, Virginia - Special Education Paraprofessional
Sevigny, Lori - School Secretary
Simmons, William - Technology Consultant
Souza, Laurie - Cook
Squire, Benjamin - Science Specialist
Sylvia, Mackenzie - Kindergarten Teacher
Thuestad, Sharon - Project GROW Assistant
Tippins, Nancy - Special Education Paraprofessional
Titcomb, Joy - School Psychologist

Tranfaglia, Jeannine - Grade Three Teacher
Williams, Kate - Grade Two Teacher
Zajac, Jane Kindergarten -Teacher

Old HammondtownSchool Staff

Alger, Brent - Instrumental Music
Amoruso, Mary Ann - Special Ed. Paraprofessional
Anderson, Greta - Art Teacher
Aruri, Linda - Title I Math Tutor
Atwood, Cynthia - Special Education Paraprofessional
Barrows, Stacy - Grade Five Teacher
Behan, Michele - Special Education Teacher
Brogioli, Stella - Special Education Paraprofessional
Cabeceiras, Chad - Physical Education Teacher
Casi, Amy - Grade Five Teacher
Daniel, Susan - Head Cook
DeMello, Margaret - Title I Director
Dowling, Willow - General Music/Chorus Teacher
Foye, Jill - Speech Therapist
Grant, Bethanie - School Adjustment Counselor
Jacobsen, Sara - Grade Six Teacher
Jennifer Janicki - Principal's Secretary
Lakey, Jillian - Reading Interventionist
Letendre, Kyle - Grade Six Teacher
Letourneau, Julie - Grade Six Teacher
Lourenco, Lisa - Technology Instructor
Mare, Jocelyn - Grade Four Teacher
Medeiros, Alda - Special Education Secretary
Methia, Jordan - Special Education Paraprofessional
Mirabito, Laura - Librarian
Panek, Sherri - Special Education Paraprofessional
Pierson, Miranda - Special Education Teacher
Piquette, Christine - Special Education Paraprofessional
Querim, Kristen - Lunch Recess Monitor
Ripley, Amy - Old Hammondtown School Nurse
Simmons, William - Technology Consultant
Squire, Benjamin - Science Specialist
Sunde, Kristen - Grade Four Teacher
Tavares, Kevin - Principal
Titcomb, Joy - School Psychologist
Trudell, Katie - Grade Five Teacher
Valliere, Elizabeth - Grade Four Teacher

GENERAL SCHOOL INFORMATION

SCHOOL HOURS: 8:30 AM - 2:45 PM

Center School and OHS Transportation Information

Bus Transportation

Bus routes for the Old Rochester Regional School District and Massachusetts School Superintendency Union #55 for the Towns of Marion, Mattapoisett, and Rochester are established yearly. Bus routes are modified slightly each fall to accommodate new membership. Any questions regarding bus routes and/or stops that affect your child should be addressed to the District's transportation provider, **Amaral Bus Company Inc.** Ms. Cheryl Sweeney, Dispatch Manager at amaralbusritown@gmail.com or 508-324-0551.

Changes in student transportation plans are strongly discouraged. Please contact the main office with any questions or requests.

For Center/OHS Routes, please use this link.

<https://www.oldrochester.org/>

This link will take you to the District web page.

Calendar and Hours of Operation:

In-Person ARRIVAL TIME/TARDINESS

Students may be dropped off at the designated door at each school starting at 8:15 a.m.

Buses arrive between 8:15 – 8:30 am.

Students who arrive after 8:30 must report to the office and will be marked tardy.

Students arriving after 11:30 will be marked absent according to state law.

EARLY RELEASE/DISMISSAL DAYS

Parent Conferences — Students dismissed at 11:30 am

Thursday, October 19, 2023 Lunch is served

Friday, October 20, 2023 Lunch is served

Additional Early Release Days — Students dismissed at 12:20 pm

Friday, September 1, 2023 Lunch is served

Wednesday, September 27, 2023 Lunch is served

Wednesday, November 22, 2023 Lunch is served

Friday, December 22, 2023 Lunch is served

Wednesday, January 31, 2024 Lunch is served

Wednesday, March 6, 2024 Lunch is served

Wednesday, June 5, 2024 Lunch is served

Full-day Professional Development Days - No School for Students

Tuesday, November 7, 2023

EMERGENCY CLOSING

Parents and guardians should make a plan and a backup plan with students ahead of time in the event of an emergency closing of school in the middle of the day. Students may be sent home for such conditions as a snowstorm, boiler failure, or power outage. **The Blackboard Connect telephone communication system will be used to notify parents if school is closed unexpectedly. This system will notify families using a home telephone number, a cell phone number or a work telephone number as provided by the parent/guardian.** If school is closed early, an announcement will be made to the students explaining the time buses will take them home. Students, who do not know what their emergency plan is, or where to go, will be allowed to use the telephone to call their parents/guardian..

INCLEMENT WEATHER PROCEDURE

The decision to close school, due to inclement weather, will be made by 5:45 a.m. School cancellations will be broadcast on the following radio stations: **WBSM (1420 AM), WFHN (107.1 FM)**. It is advisable to begin listening to the 6:00 AM news announcements.

The Blackboard Connect telephone communication system will be used to contact all parents/guardians regarding the closing of school. Parents will be contacted using a home telephone number. Cell phones or a work telephone number will also be inputted into the system if the parents/guardian provide them.

Student Drop Off and Pick-Up at Dismissal Time

CENTER SCHOOL

ARRIVAL: Students may be dropped off between 8:15 and 8:30 am at the Hammond Street entrance of the school. Please access this entrance by using the Hammond Street entrance near the tennis court.

END OF DAY DISMISSAL: All students being picked up at the end will be dismissed from the Hammond Street entrance.

Signs with the STUDENT'S NAME, GRADE, and the NAME of the TEACHER should be displayed in the window of the passenger side of the car. We will have the students ready to exit the building at 2:45 pm. This will decrease the waiting time for each vehicle. Students will be dismissed on a car-by-car basis. Students will only be allowed to enter the vehicle on the curbside of the car.

OLD HAMMONDTOWN SCHOOL

ARRIVAL: Students may be dropped off at 8:15 am. Dismissal will begin at 2:45 pm. Vehicles should enter the parking lot using Shaw Street to avoid bus drop off. Use the INNER CIRCLE by the flagpole and PULL ALL THE WAY UP. For safety reasons, students should only exit the vehicle on the curb side.

END OF DAY DISMISSAL: Dismissal begins at 2:45 pm. Vehicles should enter the parking lot using Shaw Street to avoid bus pick-up. Signs with the STUDENT’S NAME, GRADE, and the NAME of the TEACHER should be displayed in the window of the passenger side of the car in the first few weeks of school.. Use the INNER CIRCLE by the flagpole and PULL ALL THE WAY UP to the sidewalk near the small basketball court. Students will only be allowed to enter your vehicle on the curbside. (and exit on the curb side during morning drop off)

Student Emergency Information or Status: Parent Notification to Center/OHS

To ensure student safety, changes in family situations, addresses, or cell and telephone numbers **must be** reported to the school office *immediately*. It is important that all our records are up to date.

The Old Rochester Regional School District is continuing with online forms using our student information system Powerschool. In an effort to update student contacts, addresses, emails and phone numbers we ask that you log into your PowerSchool account and update all of the required student information forms.

Families moving from the community should notify the school office at least three days before their departure so transfer materials can be prepared. A *release of information* form must be received from the “new” school before any records will be forwarded.

Attendance

School attendance is compulsory. Attendance law states that:

- *The Commonwealth of Massachusetts G.L. c. 76 sect. 1 requires that every child, with certain exceptions, between ages established by the state board of education, must attend a public day school or some other approved school, during the time when public schools are in session.*
- *Under G.L. c. 76, sect. 1, necessary absences by a student may not exceed 7 full-day or 14 half-day sessions in any 6-month period.*
- *Under G.L. c. 76, sect. 1, a pupil who is not present during at least half a session must be marked and counted as absent on the school register.*

All Massachusetts schools are accountable for student achievement. Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) mandates particular indicators of success for all schools with one being “chronic absenteeism. “All students are considered “chronically absent” if they miss 10% of the school year.

Full days of attendance are essential to the learning process. If a child is to be out of school, parents/guardians should call the nurse’s office at **508-758-2521** before 9:00am on the morning of the absence. Please provide the following information in the message that you leave on the answering machine: **student’s name, teacher, and reason for absence**. If a call is not received and a student is absent, the School Nurse uses the *Blackboard Connect* messaging system to contact parents/guardians

at home or work. **After any absence, students should present a parent's note indicating the reason for the absence to the School Nurse.**

Absences are "excused" for only the following reasons:

- Bereavement
- Hospitalization
- School-sponsored trip
- Documented court or legal commitment
- Obligatory religious holidays
- Illness substantiated by a note (Five days or more of continuous absences for medical reasons must be corroborated by a physician's note).
- Weather so inclement as to endanger the health of the child

A child may also be excused for other exceptional reasons with approval of the Principal or designee.

In instances of chronic or irregular absence reportedly due to illness, the school administration may request a physician's statement certifying such absences to be justified.

Excessive absenteeism can occur because families take vacations during school time. This is strongly discouraged. Teachers will not provide assignments prior to vacations taken during school time. After students return to school they will be made aware of missed assignments, making them up as soon as possible. Missed assignments are factored into students' grades.

When Absences Exceed Three or More Days

On the third day of consecutive absence or tardiness, the school nurse or a designee of the principal will call the student's home. Each Principal or designee shall make a reasonable effort to meet with any student, and that student's parent/guardian, who has missed five (5) or more unexcused school days (a school day shall be equal to two (2) or more class periods in the same day) in a school year. The meeting shall be to develop action steps to improve student attendance and shall be developed jointly by the Principal or designee, the student, and the student's parent/guardian. The parties may seek input from other relevant school staff and/or officials from relevant public safety, health and human service, housing, and nonprofit agencies.

On the eighth day of an unexcused absence, the school attendance officer will be notified and a complaint for Failure to Cause School Attendance pursuant to *G.L. c. 76, sect. 2* may be filed in Wareham District Court.

If the students' absences or tardiness occur on a regular basis and impede their academic progress, the school, as a mandated reporter, must consider filing a Child Requiring Assistance (CRS) report. Depending on circumstances, the school district may choose to file a 51A with the Massachusetts Department of Children and Families.

Tardiness

Tardiness negatively impacts the educational progress of all students. Therefore, the above policy will also be followed for excessive tardiness.

Dismissals

All dismissal policies are developed with students' learning and safety in mind. Policies are developed with input from the Mattapoissett School Committee and town safety officials.

Dismissals During the School Day

No child will be dismissed from school during the day unless an authorized adult comes to the office to dismiss the student. This applies to daily, or occasional, pickup arrangements. Students being dismissed before the end of the school day must bring a note to the homeroom teacher that morning. Students will be called from class *when the parent/guardian arrives*.

Any Change in Dismissal Routine

To ensure each child's safety, a note from a child's parent/guardian must be provided before a child is allowed to leave school with any adult other than a parent or if he/she is normally transported by bus. There must be a note for each change to a child's routine. Bus changes are allowed for childcare purposes only, not for play or party dates. Parent(s)/Guardian(s) must arrange with the office prior to a bus switch. This restriction is in place for each child's safety.

Bikes to School

Students may ride their bicycles to school provided that they wear a helmet (as required under state law) and obey all traffic regulations. **A blanket permission note is required before students begin riding to and from school.** Students not following safety rules may have their riding privileges revoked. A bike rack is available in front of the cafeteria. Students are encouraged to lock their bicycles.

School Breakfast & Lunch - Food Service

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts has signed into law on August 09, 2023; all children in public schools will receive 1 FREE Breakfast and 1 FREE Lunch per day, permanently. (Students wanting milk only are not part of the free program and will be charged.)

Please note that even though meals will be free for all, it is very important for families to still complete the household Application for Free and Reduced Price Meals for the 2023-2024 school year. You can view and complete the application here: [link to meal application](#). We strongly encourage ALL families to submit this form as it allows us to establish eligibility for P-EBT benefits, as well as other benefits such as waived or reduced college testing and application fees, sports fees, and other fees for those who qualify, and serve families most effectively.

In addition, please consider applying for SNAP, the federal nutrition program that provides eligible residents with monthly financial assistance to purchase groceries. More SNAP information can be found at gettingsnap.org or by calling Project Bread's FoodSource Hotline at 1-800-645-8333.

Food Service Page - <https://orrschoolmeals.com/>

[Interactive menus](#) and the Titan [payment system](#).

Lunch Protocol

Brief description:

- Lunch in the building cafeteria
- Students enter their lunch number into the Point of Sale system.
- Lunch monitors clean the cafeteria tables after children leave and prior to the next group entering.

Bringing Lunch from Home

If you choose to have your child bring lunch from home each day, to keep it cold, we recommend (1) bringing food in an insulated lunch bag with a frozen gel pack or frozen juice box; (2) freezing the sandwiches overnight (will thaw by lunchtime but keep cold until then); (3) packing the foods in a cooler with ice or another cold source. Please note District Life Threatening Allergy Policy Below. [Life Threatening Allergy Information](#)

School Safety and School Visits

All visitors and volunteers are required to have a valid driver's license or Massachusetts issued identification card to be scanned-in upon entering the building *for any reason*; office staff will provide badges to wear once the ID is scanned into our system and each visitor is approved to enter. This includes stops at the Nurse's office. All visitors who do not have a valid driver's license or Massachusetts issued ID card will not be allowed to enter the school during operating hours.

Parents, guardians, or guests wishing to visit a particular class are asked to plan with the teacher or the principal at least one day in advance. Teachers will always welcome an extra pair of hands; we encourage you to become an active part of our volunteer staff. Massachusetts State Law requires that all regular classroom volunteers, lunchroom visitors and field trip chaperones have a Criminal Record (CORI) check. These forms must be completed in the school office before your first volunteer visit.

Clothing

School is a place where student learning is a priority. A student's attire may influence his/her attitude as well as how much he or she learns. Student dress, therefore, is expected to be in good taste, appropriate for the weather and for academic work. It is not our purpose to dictate specific dress, but rather to ensure that our students are dressed in such a way as to contribute to their success and help generate a positive learning environment throughout our school. Students are not to be attired in clothing, which compromises safety or modesty or is disruptive to the educational process.

In order to assist parents in planning for their student's school apparel, the following guidelines are presented. Students are prohibited from wearing any clothing, including masks, that contain offensive or obscene symbols, slogans or words that degrade any gender, cultural, religious, or ethnic values, clothing that contains language or symbols oriented toward violence, drugs, or alcohol.

The administration reserves the right to determine appropriateness of clothing consistent with these guidelines. A student whose clothing is determined inappropriate for school will be required to arrange for other, more appropriate clothing to be provided.

All coats, boots, sweaters, sweatshirts, backpacks, lunchboxes and hats should be clearly marked with students' names. For those of you who have seen our Lost and Found area, you know that this can be a problem. Take the time to label! This will allow items to be returned easily if lost, or avoid confusion when two items are similar. Several cases of lost clothing were donated to charity during the last school year.

Recess

All students will have outdoor recess. Only in very inclement weather is recess held indoors. **Please be sure that your child is properly dressed.** Decorative footwear and flip-flops can create a safety issue when students play at recess. Therefore, flip-flops or any other type of opened-toe shoes are not allowed to be worn to school. We strongly recommend sneakers for all students.

Student Valuables It is strongly recommended that students do not bring large sums of money, hand-held video games, toys or stuffed animals to school. This includes trading cards. ie Pokemon cards.

Inclement Weather: Cancellations and Delays

Please be attentive to our telephone messaging system for news of school cancellations or delays. During stormy weather the District may call school for an entire day, or for a one to two hour delayed opening. If bad weather develops during the school day, afternoon classes or special programs and after-school activities may be canceled. It is important that families have plans in place for dealing with these possibilities.

We utilize the "BlackBoard" communication program that is capable of contacting all Center and OHS families within a five to ten-minute window. As soon as the Superintendent has determined a delay, closing, or early dismissal, we will send out a "BlackBoard" call.

Because all district schools utilize the BlackBoard system, storm delays and closings may not be broadcast on local television stations. We ask that you not call the school office or the police station. The dispatcher reports they receive many calls that interfere with their ability to handle true emergencies.

Should the decision be made to close school early or cancel after-school activities, due to inclement weather, an attempt will be made to contact parents, using all emergency contact numbers within the "BlackBoard" system. In the event of a non-weather emergency, we will contact all parents using the same system.

Telephone Calls

Responsibility is an important attribute for all students. No school telephone in any office may be used by students. If students have forgotten books, classwork, or musical instruments, classroom teacher discretion will determine whether a call can be made via the classroom telephone. Teachers' classroom phones are capable of local calling only. In cases of illness or emergency, calls will be made by the school nurse, an administrator, guidance counselor or personnel in the main office. Students will not be called to the phone for any reason. Messages will be taken in cases of illness and emergency.

Cell phones

A student may carry or keep a cell phone in his/her backpack **if authorized by the school office**. The phone must be shut off and kept in the child's locker/backpack and may be used only for emergency or unusual circumstances as agreed by parents and administration. The phone may not be used to receive or send messages anytime during school hours **or on school buses**. Student phones used to make, or receive, unauthorized calls during school hours, or on a bus, will be confiscated by the school administration or the bus driver.

Homework and Independent Reading

The School Committee has established homework guidelines that all teachers follow. Your child's teacher will establish homework routines appropriate to his grade level. The School Committee policy can be acquired through the main office at the school. We ask all family members to become "Reading Partners" with our students. Research shows the more children read, the better readers they become. We encourage all students to read independently each night for 20–30 minutes before bed. In some classrooms, Student Reading Logs are sent home for students and/or parents to indicate that the material has been completed.

Photographs of School Activities for Local News Outlets

Contact the office for Opt-Out Procedure for Parents Who Do NOT Want Their Child's Picture to Appear.

As part of our public relations efforts, local newspapers are invited to photograph many school programs and events. Students are often included in these photos. As a parent, you have the right to request that no picture of your child is used in this way. **You must make this request in writing by completing a FERPA Privacy Form, included in this packet, and returning it to the school office before September 8, 2023.** If no letter is on file, we assume parental permission is granted for photographs to appear in local newspapers or on our school website

Parent Involvement

1. Being actively involved in your child's school is one way to alleviate concerns about their education. The Mattapoissett PTA meets for an hour once a month via ZOOM. A link to the meeting can be found on the Mattapoissett PTA website.
2. Parent volunteers are needed to be a part of our School Council. Representation from primary and intermediate grade students' families, as well as special education parents (if available), staff members and the community sit on this advisory team. Meetings are typically one afternoon per month from 3:15-4:15 pm.

Parent Concerns

Constructive criticism of our school is welcomed on the assumption that it is motivated by a sincere desire to improve the quality of the educational program and to equip the school to perform its tasks more effectively. Complaints are resolved most expeditiously if they are first taken to the staff member or administrator immediately in charge of the area in which a problem arises, then through successive administrative levels to the Principal, Superintendent, and subsequently to the School Committee, if necessary. Anonymous letters serve no positive purpose when trying to resolve problems and will not be given the same weight as an identified correspondence. The School Committee has

adopted a policy to be followed when a parent/guardian has a concern that has not been satisfactorily addressed. A copy of that policy is available at the school office.

Our principals, Linda Ashley, and Kevin Tavares are available to all parents by appointment. Please call the school office or contact the principals directly via email:

lindaashley@oldrochester.org or kevintavares@oldrochester.org

FIRST AID / EMERGENCIES

If a sudden illness or an accident occurs at school, the school nurse will administer first aid and immediately notify parents. Parents are responsible for transporting the student home in the event of illness or injury. If a serious illness or accident (life-threatening accident) occurs at school, the Mattapoisett Police / EMS will be called for transport to the hospital.

Health Information

Health Records

Student health records are kept in a locked file in the nurse's office. It is the parents' responsibility to keep the nurse informed of new medical information. Students are required to have physical examinations in grades 3 and 6.

Vision/hearing screenings and height/weight measurements are done yearly. Parents are notified only if the results are not within normal limits. Postural screening is done only for students in grade 5. Screening for head lice is done as needed.

Dispensing Medications

Children are not permitted to carry medications on the bus or in the school building. A signed order from a physician, dentist, nurse practitioner, or physician's assistant is required to administer any prescription medications in school, as required by Massachusetts General Law. Parental permission is also required. A Medication Protocol form that covers non-prescription medications is included in this packet. Special arrangements for medication administration during field trips must be made with the school nurse. Medications will be given by a parent or by a school representative who has permission from the parent. Children will be allowed to self-administer inhalers on field trips only, with permission of the school nurse and when parental permission is on file at the nurse's office.

Additional Services Available

Center and Old Hammondtown offers all students General Education support and accommodations including:

- Title I Services
- Social Work/Counseling Services
- Availability of the School Psychologist
- Reading Specialist Support
- Math Interventionist Support
- STEM Interventionist
- Others outlined the Mattapoisett Schools Curriculum Accommodation Plan.

Since we are all different with varying needs, our schools provide many special education services to students (who are eligible) including:

- Inclusive support in regular classrooms

- Pull-out instruction when warranted
- The availability of the school psychologist
- Speech and Language therapies
- Occupational and physical therapies
- School Social worker small group/individual support

Health and Guidance Curricula

ORR District Health and Guidance Curricula have been implemented across all grade levels at Center and OHS. There are nine general topics covered with the specific content tailored to the developmental needs of our differing age groups. The topics are as follows:

Growth & Development

Students will learn the basic characteristics of physical growth and development, including body functions and systems throughout the life cycle, and will acquire skills to promote and maintain positive growth and development (At the fifth-grade level, students will have an introduction to the human reproductive system. A parent letter will be sent out prior to the presentation).

● Nutrition

Students will gain the knowledge and skills to select a diet that supports health and reduces the risk of illness and future chronic diseases.

● Social & Emotional Health

Students will acquire knowledge about emotions and physical health, the management of emotions, personality and character development, and social awareness; and will learn skills to promote self-acceptance, make decisions, and cope with stress, including suicide prevention.

● Family Life

Students will gain knowledge about the significance of the family on individuals and society, and will learn skills to support the family, balance work and family life, be an effective parent, and nurture the development of children.

● Interpersonal Relationships

Students will learn that relationships with others are an integral part of the human life experience and the factors that contribute to healthy interpersonal relationships, and will acquire skills to enhance and make many of these relationships more fulfilling through commitment and communication.

● Disease Prevention & Controls

Students will learn the signs, symptoms, and treatment of chronic and communicable diseases, and will gain skills related to health promotion, disease prevention, and health maintenance.

● Safety & Injury Prevention

Students will gain the knowledge and skills to administer first aid and carry out emergency procedures, including cardiopulmonary resuscitation, will avoid, recognize, and report verbal, physical, and emotional abuse situations, and will assess the factors that contribute to intentional and unintentional injury, including motor vehicle accidents, fire safety, and weapons safety.

● Violence Prevention

Students will learn how their actions affect others, will understand the power that positive character traits can have in violence prevention, will gain skills to report incidents of violence and hurtful behavior to adults in the school and community, will avoid engaging in violence, and identify constructive alternatives to violence, including how to discourage others from engaging in violence.

If parents/guardians wish their children to be exempt from any portion of the Health Curriculum, a written request

should be addressed to the school principal.

The Massachusetts Comprehensive Assessment System (MCAS) Testing

Once during the school year, students in grade 5 participate in the Science Massachusetts Comprehensive Assessment System (MCAS) Test. Also, once a year all students in grades 3-6 will participate in the English Language Arts & Mathematics Massachusetts Comprehensive Assessment System (MCAS) tests. Testing during the 2023-2024 school year will take place at the following times:

2024 MCAS Dates Center and OHS

Grade 3	ELA	April 9 and April 10, 2024
Grade 3	Math	May 14 and May 15, 2024
Grade 4	ELA	April 2 and April 3, 2024
Grade 4	Math	May 14 and May 15, 2024
Grade 5	ELA	April 9 and April 10, 2024
Grade 5	Math	May 9 and May 10, 2024
Grade 5	Science	May 16 and May 17, 2024
Grade 6	ELA	April 11 and April 12, 2024
Grade 6	Math	May 7 and May 8, 2024

It is highly recommended that all students be present during MCAS testing.

Student Records

The privacy of student records is guaranteed. Only parents/guardians and appropriate school personnel are allowed access to the information in a student's record. Specific written consent provided by the parent or legal guardian is necessary for any other examination. A student transcript, which includes name, address, and grades, is kept for at least sixty years. However, the student's temporary record, containing standardized test scores, evaluations by teachers, Special Education records, and the like, is given to the student upon graduation or destroyed within five years after the student leaves the school system.

In accordance with the student record regulations of the Massachusetts Department of Education, parents have the right to inspect a student's record. Records are made available within two (2) working days of a request being made. Copies of any part of the record may be requested and a reasonable fee may be charged for the cost of duplicating these materials. It has been our practice to make any student records easily accessible to parents and you will find the office staff most cooperative in this matter.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts has adopted procedures for non-custodial parents who wish to receive separate copies of student records or school notices. Information is available in the school office.

Report Cards and Parent Conferences

It shall be the duty of each teacher at the end of each term or at the end of any period of time designated by the Superintendent, to estimate and to record the progress of students. The report card is an effective means of communicating an individual student's progress in relation to the curriculum and his/her own mastery of skills and social development. In the elementary grades, the written record is a standards-based report that indicates a student's progress.

Parent/Guardian - Teacher Conferences

Regular communication between school and home is important if we are to be successful. Conferences between families and teachers are scheduled twice during the school year, but if questions about your child's progress should arise in any curricular area, do not hesitate to initiate a conversation with teachers at any time.

The October 19th and October 20th Early Release Days will be set-aside for families to schedule conferences with teachers. Please contact your child's teacher to schedule a conference. An appointment for a Parent/Guardian Conference can be set up at any time during the year by calling the school office or sending an email to the classroom teacher requesting a conference.

STUDENT PLACEMENT AND REQUESTING TEACHERS

Parent/Guardian requests for specific classroom teachers will not be accepted. It is neither possible to grant the request of the parents/guardian of all the students at Center School or Old Hammondtown School, nor is it fair or appropriate to grant the requests of only a select group of families.

The placement of students is done in a thoughtful and careful manner, and is not done haphazardly or randomly. Information on each student is gathered through the use of a placement card completed by each child's teacher. These are reviewed by the school principal. Two meetings are then held involving the teachers at that specific grade level, the special education teachers, consulting teachers of reading, school adjustment counselor, and the principal, to discuss placement for the following year. All students are placed in heterogeneous classes which reflects a range of student ability levels. In order to achieve a truly heterogeneous class composition, students of high, average and low ability levels are placed in each room. No class should have all the high, or low, ability students. Research has shown this to be an inappropriate way to group students. Strengths and weaknesses of students are evaluated, and placement is made in the best educational interest of the child. A student who does not interact well with another particular student is not placed in the same class, if at all possible.

All students in Kindergarten through Grade Six, and their parents/guardians, will be informed of their assigned teacher for the next school year by mail on or about the 15th of August prior to each school year's opening.

Promotion/Retention of Students

It is expected that students progress annually from grade to grade. Exceptions are made only when it is in the best educational interest of the student.

Student Enrichment

Our schools offer various ways for students to enrich their academic learning. Here are

some examples:

- Chorus: Groups meet weekly during school, and perform each year at the district *FORM* concert.
- 4th Grade Band: Students select an instrument for in-school instrumental instruction. In

In January, students come together as a beginner band.

- 5th and 6th Grade Band: Weekly instrumental instruction continues and the students meet as a band once a week.
- Jazz Band: Auditions are held in the fall and the band meets before school once a week
- After School Activities: The Mattapoisett Recreation Department offers after school enrichment/athletic sessions each year. Brochures are sent home with students.
- Art, General Music, Instrumental Music (grades 4-6), Technology education, Physical Education, and Library are also part of our weekly classes.

FIELD TRIPS

During the year, field trips may be scheduled at each grade level. A student's behavior while on these trips will reflect upon his/her school. Misconduct will not be tolerated. A permission slip must be signed by one of his/her parents or guardians before a student can participate in the field trip. The form must be returned to the teacher in charge prior to the trip. All school rules apply to field trips. Any child may be denied the privilege of going on a field trip based on poor academic performance or inappropriate behavior.

General Statement and School Rules

Mattapoisett elementary schools emphasize a positive, community-based sense of responsibility and respect throughout the school day. Students learn what is expected of them through the consistent modeling of the adults around them. Students, teachers, administrators and parents/guardians all work together to maintain a safe, orderly school environment where everyone can learn and grow.

Party Invitations

In keeping with our Responsive Classroom beliefs, and not wanting any child to feel hurt or excluded, we remind parents/guardians of the insensitive practice of students bringing party invitations to school. It puts students who are not invited (and many times the student doing the inviting) into unnecessarily uncomfortable situations. Please take the time to mail party invitations, or see that they are delivered outside of the school community and school day. We ask that you not call the office for this information.

School Staff Role in Establishing High Behavioral Expectations

Teachers and support staff model and reinforce positive behavior and compliance with school-wide rules and values. In addition, teachers implement classroom rules and policies. Generally, these rules are developed with student involvement appropriate to age and social development.

Teachers follow all disciplinary steps outlined in their program on a consistent basis. This may include notes or phone calls home, after school time, individual contracts as deemed appropriate, or other strategies. Teachers and parents/guardians who have ongoing concerns about a student's behavior have several sources of support - the School Adjustment counselor, Administration, and the Staff RTI (Response to Intervention) Team.

Responsive Classroom

The Mattapoisett elementary schools utilize the Responsive Classroom approach in supporting our students in the learning process. All Center/OHS teachers have participated in Responsive Classroom training.

Responsive Classroom is a way of teaching that creates a safe, challenging, and joyful classroom and schoolwide climate for all students. Teachers who use the Responsive Classroom approach understand that all of students' needs—academic, social, emotional, and physical—are important. Elementary and middle school teachers create an environment that responds to all of those needs so that your child can do his or her best learning. The Responsive Classroom approach develops teachers' competencies in four key areas:

1. Engaging Academics—Teachers create learning tasks that are active, interactive, appropriately challenging, purposeful, and connected to students' interests.
2. Positive Community—Teachers nurture a sense of belonging, significance, and emotional safety so that students feel comfortable taking risks and working with a variety of peers.
3. Effective Management—Teachers create a calm, orderly environment that promotes autonomy and allows students to focus on learning.
4. Developmentally Responsive Teaching—Teachers use knowledge of child development, along with observations of students, to create a developmentally appropriate learning environment.

Bullying

In the spring of 2010 the legislature and governor enacted an anti-bullying law that impacts all schools in Massachusetts. Bullying is defined as a type of violence that occurs when someone uses his or her power unfairly and repeatedly to hurt someone else. The law recognizes bullying as any repeated word, look, sign, or act that hurts a person's body, feelings, or things. All staff members will receive training during this year that will better equip them to deal with students' needs in this area. We recognize each student for his or her unique qualities, attributes, and characteristics. We embrace the differences among all students and will continue to foster an environment of acceptance with an appreciation for those differences.

DISCRIMINATION

The Old Rochester School District, including Center and Old Hammondtown Schools adheres to the following Anti-Racism Resolution:

- WHEREAS, as schools have the responsibility to equip students with their civil right of obtaining a free and appropriate public education, it is the responsibility of each school to ensure we create a welcoming community for ALL students;
- WHEREAS, it is the responsibility that every district provide to all district staff, including School Committee members annual professional development on diversity, anti-racism, equity and inclusion; WHEREAS, every district will commit to recruiting and retaining a diverse and culturally responsive teaching workforce;
- WHEREAS, every district will examine their policies for institutional and systemic racialized practices and implement change with sustainable policies that are evidence based;
- WHEREAS, every district will incorporate into their curriculum the history of racial oppression and works by diverse authors and works from diverse perspectives;

- WHEREAS, we as school district leaders can no longer remain silent to the issues of racism and hate that continue to impact our public and private institutions;
- RESOLVED: that the Old Rochester School District and all the school districts in the Commonwealth must guarantee that racist practices are eradicated, and diversity, equity and inclusion is embedded and 17 practiced for our students, families, faculty and staff. We must ensure our own school culture and that of every district in the Commonwealth is actively anti-racist.

Treating people differently, or interfering with or preventing a person from enjoying the advantages, privileges or courses of study in a public school because of an individual's actual or perceived race, color, national origin, ethnicity, religion, sex, sexual orientation, age, or disability (i.e., protected status). A person may not be subjected to discipline or more severe punishment for wrongdoing, nor denied the same rights as other students, because of his/her membership in a protected class.

The Mattapoisett School District does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, sex, religion, gender identity, sexual orientation, homelessness or disability in admission to, access to, treatment in or employment in its programs and activities.

HARASSMENT

Harassment is oral, written, graphic, electronic or physical conduct on school property or at a school related event, function or activity relating to an individual's action or perceived race, color, national origin, ethnicity, religion, sex, sexual orientation, age, or disability (i.e., protected status), that is sufficiently severe, pervasive or persistent so as to interfere with or limit a student's ability to participate in or benefit from the district's programs or activities, by creating a hostile, humiliating, intimidating, or offensive educational environment. For purposes of this policy, harassment shall also mean conduct, if it persists, that will likely create such a hostile, humiliating, intimidating or offensive educational environment.

RETALIATION

Any form of intimidation, reprisal, or harassment by a student directed against any student, staff or other individual for reporting or filing a complaint, for aiding or encouraging the filing of a report or complaint, for cooperating in an investigation under the district's Comprehensive Civil Rights Policy, or for taking action consistent with the policy.

HATE CRIME

A hate crime is a crime motivated by hatred, bias, or prejudice, or where the victim is targeted or selected for the crime at least in part because of his/her actual or perceived race, color, ethnicity, national origin, religion, sexual orientation, age disability or sex. A hate crime may involve a physical attack, threat of bodily harm, physical intimidation, or damage to another's property.

Bullying Prevention & Intervention Policies

- Everyone has the right to feel safe in and out of school. Any form of bullying or cyberbullying is forbidden in any location. *Bullying* refers to repeated, intentional acts of physical or mental cruelty or intimidation between two people who are unequal in real or perceived social power. Targets of school bullies may be perceived as "different" in either subtle or noticeable ways. Bullying is *not* simply "conflict". The most common type of bullying is verbal or psychological but technological advances in our society mean that the next most common type of bullying is, or soon will be, written in the form of cyber bullying.
- Every reported act of bullying will be investigated, action will be taken where necessary, and parents will be

notified. The school can investigate any bullying or cyberbullying that occurs on or off school grounds if it is having an apparent impact on the student's education.

- School disciplinary actions will be taken if the bullying creates a hostile environment at school for the victim, infringes on the rights of the victim at school, disrupts the education of the victim or disrupts the orderly operation of the school.
- Disciplinary actions range from a warning to after school detention, an in or out of school suspension, and may include notifying police.
- Targets must seek help from an adult. Reports of bullying can be made to parents, guardians, principals, teachers, counselors, or any trusted adult. The adult will immediately inform the principal and an investigation will begin. It is important to note that a member of the school staff may be named as the "aggressor" or "perpetrator" in a bullying report. For example, the following staff members (but not limited to) could be named: educator, administrator, school nurse, cafeteria worker, custodian, bus driver, athletic coach, and advisor to an extracurricular activity or paraprofessional.
- Retaliation is prohibited against a person who witnesses and reports bullying, provides information during an investigation, or has reliable information about bullying.

School Contacts

- Linda Ashley, Principal (508)-758-2521 lindaashley@oldrochester.org
- Kevin Tavares, Associate Principal (508)-758-6241 kevinavares@oldrochester.org
- Katie McManamon, Center School Guidance Counselor katiemcmanamon@oldrochester.org
- Bethanie Grant, OHS School Guidance Counselor bethaniegrant@oldrochester.org

Video Cameras

The School Committee, after carefully considering the privacy rights of students and drivers and the District's duty to ensure discipline and protect the health, welfare, and safety of staff and students on school transportation vehicles, has authorized the use of video cameras on its transportation vehicles when deemed necessary by school administration.

School Bus Conduct Rules

1. Treat your bus driver and other passengers with respect and courtesy.
2. Get on and off the bus by moving slowly and safely.
3. Passengers must be seated at all times with their feet on the floor, and facing forward.
4. Conversations should be carried on in a normal tone of voice. Shouting is inappropriate and unsafe.
5. Arms and heads must be kept inside the bus.
6. Windows may be open only by the bus driver or with his/her permission
7. Aisles must be kept clear at all times.
8. Profane and bullying language is forbidden.
9. Horseplay is unsafe and forbidden.
10. Throwing objects is unsafe and forbidden.

BUS DISCIPLINE POLICY

The driver to the offending student, school principal and the student's parents in writing will report violations of bus rules promptly. Violations may result in the loss of bus privileges or application of discipline sanction up to and including suspension.

1st Offense – Warning

2nd Offense – **Detention or Assigned Seat at Front of Bus**– *This will be strictly enforced in conjunction with changes to our bullying policy*

3rd Offense - **5-day bus suspension**

Repeated Offenses* - Consideration of permanent exclusion

*Including exclusion from the bus for the balance of the school year.

Complete copies of the Transportation Policy are available upon request and for all new incoming students.

The Old Rochester Regional School District has established rules and policies regarding bus discipline. Bus drivers report violations of rules to administration. Parents receive a written notice of the incident and its consequences. are advised that school buses are equipped with videotape equipment. Taped incidents may be used in the process of dealing with infractions of school bus rules.

Copies of the Old Rochester Regional School District Bus Policy are available at the office or by visiting the link below.

<http://z2policy.ctspublish.com/masc/Z2Browser2.html?showset=oldrochesterset>

Old Rochester Regional District-Wide Behavioral Guidelines

Expectations

Expectations for behavior are necessary in order to guarantee that those who do not respect these rights do not interrupt the educational rights and privileges of well-behaved students. Rules are needed to ensure students' cooperation and responsible behavior. Self-control and consideration of others are the key components.

Students must behave appropriately and accept the leadership of teachers, school officials and others who have been assigned such responsibilities. Students must also adhere to school regulations on the way to and from school, on school grounds, on school buses, during extracurricular activities, or any time while under the school's supervision. Students may be disciplined for other behavior, which directly or indirectly impairs the educational process or good order of the school.

Due Process/Suspension and Expulsion

Teachers, administrators, and other authorized staff ordinarily will discipline students for inappropriate behavior. Consequences may include verbal warning, "time out", and notification to parents, referral to the principal, and/or detention. More serious cases, such as disrespectful language, stealing, destruction of property, fighting, drug possession and/or abuse, and possession of dangerous objects, will be referred to the administration, who may impose discipline, including suspension and/or expulsion, as provided by law.

Before a student is removed from the school for disciplinary reasons, the parent/guardian will be provided with notice and a hearing, except that a student may be immediately removed from school if the student's presence poses a continuing danger to persons or property or an ongoing threat of disrupting the academic process. In such circumstances, the notice and hearing will follow the initial removal from school.

Notice and hearing will consist of the following: the designated disciplinarian will give the parent/guardian oral notice

of the charges against him/her, and an opportunity to present his/her version of the facts. If the designated disciplinarian thereafter decides to suspend or expel the student, the student will be informed of the length of the suspension or expulsion.

The parent will be notified of the hearing and will be permitted to attend.

Sexual Harassment

We are committed to providing an educational environment that is free of sexual harassment. Sexual harassment is unacceptable and will not be tolerated in any form at any level of the school system. Any student or employee found to have condoned or engaged in sexual harassment may, depending upon the extent of his/her participation, be subject to disciplinary sanctions, up to and including suspension, in or out of school, or permanent exclusion from school in the case of a student, and up to and including termination of employment, in the case of an employee.

If a student or employee believes that they have been subjected to sexual harassment, whether by a student, a school employee, or any other person who comes on school property with permission, or that s/he has witnessed the sexual harassment of another, the student or employee should report the incident promptly to the Principal, the Associate Principal, the Superintendent, the Assistant Superintendent, or any other administrator with whom the student or employee feels comfortable. A complaint of sexual harassment by a student, or by a parent on the student's behalf, may also be made to any counselor or teacher. A counselor or teacher who receives such a complaint will notify the appropriate administrator to initiate an investigation.

It is the policy of the school committee to have all complaints of sexual harassment promptly and fully investigated and to take any steps necessary to remedy the situation. Normally, the Principal/Associate Principal will conduct the investigation of a complaint of sexual harassment or a designee selected by the Principal and will include separate private interviews with the complainant, each person accused of harassment and each of the witnesses, if any. The administrator conducting the investigation will ordinarily document the interview, but those interviewed may also be asked to provide a written statement. All students and employees are expected to cooperate fully with any investigation of sexual harassment. Information provided during an investigation of sexual harassment will be accused may be informed of the identity of the complainant or witnesses, but, in those circumstances, the accused will be cautioned against reprisals or recriminations or any attempted intimidation or coercion of the complainant or witnesses. At the conclusion of the investigation, the administrator will prepare a report, which will be shared with both the complainant and the person or persons accused of harassment. If the complainant or the accused is dissatisfied with the results of the investigation, either may discuss the issue directly with the superintendent.

Special Offenses

Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 71, Section 37H

G.L. Chapter 71, §37H	G.L. Chapter 71, §37H ½	G.L. Chapter 71, §37H ¾
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<p>Offenses:</p> <p>On school premises or at school-sponsored events or activities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Possession of a dangerous weapon ● Possession of a controlled substance ● Assault on a member of the educational staff 	<p>Offenses:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. A felony charge or felony delinquency complaint against a student. 2. Conviction, adjudication, or admission of guilt with respect to such felony. 	<p>Offenses:</p> <p>Any offense that is not addressed in 37H or 37H ½.</p>
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<p>Consequence:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Exclusion for amount of time up to expulsion; ● Principal may suspend and not expel as he or she deems appropriate <p>Due Process:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Constitutional due process; ● Prior notice to student of charge and written notice of right to hearing; ● Right to representation at hearing; and to present evidence and witnesses at hearing. 	<p>Consequence:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Felony charge or felony delinquency complaint: suspension for a period of time deemed appropriate by principal <i>if</i> the principal determines the student's continued presence would have a substantial detriment on the general welfare of the school. 2. Felony or felony delinquency conviction or adjudication or admission of guilt with respect to such felony: removal for a period of time up to expulsion (i.e. permanent exclusion) <i>if</i> the principal determines that the student's continued presence would have a substantial detriment on the general welfare of the school. <p>Due Process (for either suspension or expulsion):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Constitutional due process; ● Written notice of the charges and of the reasons before the suspension takes effect; ● Principal may determine the appropriate amount of time for suspension; ● Written notice of the right to appeal to the 	<p>Consequence:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● May not suspend a student from school long-term (i.e. more than 10 days) until other remedies and consequences have been considered; consider ways to re-engage the student in learning. ● Consequences other than suspension may draw from evidence-based strategies and programs such as mediation, conflict resolution, restorative justice, and behavioral interventions and supports. ● No student may be suspended for more than 90 school days in a school year. <p>Due Process:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Except for in-school suspension and emergency removals, prior oral and written notice of the charge to the student, and to the student's parent, and the opportunity for a meeting/hearing with the principal before suspension takes effect. Consult 603 CMR 53:08 for details on notices. ● Consult 603 CMR 53:07 for
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	<p>superintendent;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">● Suspension remains in effect pending appeal to the superintendent.	<p>emergency removal process and 603 CMR 53:10 for in-school suspension process</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">● Explicit requirement to translate notice of the
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		<p>charges and the reasons in primary language of the home if other than English, or other means of communication where appropriate.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">● Principal must make and document reasonable efforts to include the parent in meeting/hearing with the student.● Principal must audiotape the hearing if requested by the parent and all those attending the hearing must be informed of the taping.● Following hearing, principal must provide a written decision; and if a long-term suspension imposed, must inform student and parent in writing of the right to appeal to the superintendent and the process to be followed; translate notice of appeal rights in primary language of the home, or other means of communication where appropriate.● Before any out-of-school suspension of a student in preschool or grades K – 3, principal must notify
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		superintendent in writing of the alleged misconduct and the reasons for suspending the student out-of-school.
Appeal from Principal's Decision:	Appeal from Principal's Decision to Suspend or to Expel:	Appeal from Principal's Decision:

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Timeline for requesting appeal: written request
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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Right to appeal expulsion decision to superintendent ● Timeline for requesting appeal: ten days from date of expulsion ● Right to counsel at hearing ● Superintendent can make factual determinations as well as determine consequence. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Timeline for requesting appeal: no later than 5 calendar days following the effective date of the suspension/expulsion ● Superintendent must hold hearing within 3 calendar days of receipt of request and issue a decision within 5 calendar days. ● Superintendent may overturn or alter the decision. <p style="text-align: center;">A student may appeal a suspension decision and the subsequent expulsion decision (following the conviction, adjudication or admission of guilt) regarding the same offense.</p>	<p>not later than 5 calendar days following effective date of suspension; parent can request extension for up to 7 calendar days, which must be granted.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The superintendent must hold hearing within 3 calendar days of the parent’s request for a hearing. The student or parent may request up to 7 additional calendar days. If so, the superintendent must allow the extension. The superintendent may have the hearing without the parent if the superintendent has made a good faith effort to include the parent. ● The student has the right to present oral and written testimony, to cross examine witnesses, and to counsel at his or her expense at the hearing. ● The superintendent must audiotape the hearing and notify hearing participants that the hearing will be taped. ● The superintendent determines the facts and consequences, if any,
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		<p>but cannot impose a consequence greater than the principal decided. A written decision is due within 5 calendar days of the hearing.</p>
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<p>Provision of Education Services:</p> <p>Provide every student an opportunity to make <i>academic progress</i> during the period of suspension (whether in-school or out-of-school) or expulsion, to make up assignments, and earn credits missed. A district that suspends or expels a student for <i>more than 10 consecutive days</i> must provide the student and the parent with <i>a list</i> of alternative educational services.</p> <p>See G.L. c. 76, §21 and 603 CMR 53.13 for details, including required notice.</p>	<p>Provision of Education Services: Same</p>	<p>Provision of Education Services: Same</p>
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<p>Discipline Collection and Reporting:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Collect and report to the Department data concerning the types and lengths of removals, suspensions, and expulsions, and access to education services ● Periodically review discipline data by selected student populations; determine extent of disciplinary removals and the impact on such populations; adjust practice as appropriate ● Department will provide assistance to school(s) if Commissioner identifies school(s) in district that have the highest percentage of suspensions or expulsions in Massachusetts for more than 10 cumulative days in a school year. <p>See 603 CMR 53.14 for details.</p>	<p>Discipline Collection and Reporting: Same</p>	<p>Discipline Collection and Reporting:</p> <p>Same</p>
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Procedure for the Discipline of Students With Disabilities

If a suspension of more than ten days is proposed, or if a shorter series of suspensions would result in more than ten cumulative days out of class, for any student who has an IEP or 504 Plan, the school must convene a TEAM meeting before the expiration of the ten-day period.

At that meeting, the TEAM must first develop or review a behavioral intervention plan, consistent with the functional behavioral assessment of the student, then review the relationship between the student's disability and the behavior that is the subject of the discipline action. If the TEAM determines that the student's misconduct is a manifestation of the student's special needs, or results from an inappropriate special education program/program placement, or from an IEP that was not fully implemented, the long-term suspension or expulsion may not be imposed.

If the TEAM concludes that the misconduct is not related to the student's special needs, and it does not result from an inappropriate special education program/program placement, or an IEP that was not fully implemented, then the long-term suspension or expulsion may be imposed, following the procedures listed in the law. Among other things the TEAM must offer placement in an interim alternative setting that will (1) enable the student to continue to participate in the general curriculum, (2) enable the student to receive services listed in the last agreed upon IEP, and (3) include any services and modifications designed to address the student's behavior. The parents have the right to request an expedited hearing before the Bureau of Special Appeals (BSEA) to challenge the manifestation determination or the alternative program. If the parents request a hearing, the "stay put" provision of the IDEA entitles the student to remain in the last agreed upon educational placement while the procedures are pending before the BSEA. The right does not apply if the student is charged with possession of a dangerous weapon or drugs. In those circumstances, the school personnel may remove the student to an interim alternative setting without parental consent for up to 45 calendar days. Similarly, if the school convinces the BSEA hearing officer that the student's continued presence in the current placement poses a danger to that student or to others, the student may be ordered into an interim alternative setting for up to 45 calendar days without parental consent.

Procedural Requirements Applied to Students not yet determined to be Eligible for Special Education:

1. If, prior to the disciplinary action, a district had knowledge that the student may be a student with a disability, then the district makes all protections available to the student until and unless the student is subsequently determined not to be eligible. The district may be considered to have prior knowledge if:
 - a. The parent had expressed concern in writing;
 - or
 - b. The parent had requested an evaluation; or
 - c. District staff had expressed directly to the special education director or other supervisory personnel specific concerns about a pattern of behavior demonstrated by the student.
 - d. The district may not be considered to have had prior knowledge if the parent has not consented to evaluation of the student or has refused special education services, or if an evaluation of the student has resulted in a determination of ineligibility.
2. If the district had no reason to consider the student disabled, and the parent requests an evaluation subsequent to the disciplinary action, the district must have procedures consistent with federal requirements to conduct an expedited evaluation to determine eligibility.

3. If the student is found eligible, then he/she receives all procedural protections subsequent to the finding of eligibility.

Conflict of Interest Law and Gifts for Teachers

The Commonwealth's conflict of interest law, G.L. c. 268A, and the financial disclosure law, G.L.c.268B, restrict gifts and gratuities that school staff may receive. All teachers and school volunteers must be made aware of the content of these laws, specifically sections 3 and 23 of 268A, and section 6 of 268B. Section 3(b) prohibits a public employee from requesting or receiving anything of 'substantial value'* which is given for or because of an official act or act within the public employee's official responsibility. Similarly, under section 3(a), no one may give or offer such gifts to public employees.

In addition, G.L.c. 268B, section 6, specifically prohibits public employees or members of their immediate families from soliciting or accepting gifts with an aggregate value of \$100.00 or more in a calendar year. Next, under G.L.c. 268A, section 23(b)(2), public (school) employees are prohibited from using or attempting to use their position to obtain for themselves or others unwarranted privileges of substantial value that are not properly available to similarly situated individuals. Finally, even if a gift or gratuity is not of substantial value or does not fall within the prohibitions discussed above, G.L.c. 268A, section 23(b)(3) will, in many situations, require public (school) employees to disclose to their appointing authority, the gift and their relationship with the giver.

All school volunteers are required to be aware of the state's general laws and language surrounding gifts.

****Anything worth \$50.00 or more is considered to be "of substantial value" for the purposes of the conflict of interest law.***

The full content of the State Ethics Commission law is available from the school office or online at <http://www.mass.gov>.

OLD ROCHESTER REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT MASSACHUSETTS SCHOOL SUPERINTENDENCY UNION #55

135 Marion Road, Mattapoisett, MA 02739
Tel. (508) 758 -2772 FAX (508) 758-2802
www.oldrochester.org

NON-DISCRIMINATION POLICY

The Old Rochester Regional School District and the Massachusetts School Superintendency Union No. 55, Marion, Mattapoisett, and Rochester, Massachusetts are committed to equal employment and educational opportunity for all members of the school community. Students and employees are protected from discrimination on the basis of race, color, gender identity, religion, national origin, gender, sexual orientation, age, pregnancy, homelessness, or disability in admission to, access to, treatment in or employment in its programs and activities.

The schools are also committed to maintaining a school and work environment that is free of harassment based on race, color, religion, national origin, gender, sexual orientation, age, gender identity, pregnancy, homelessness, and disability. Harassment includes physical or verbal conduct that is derogatory; this may include jokes, gestures, unsolicited remarks, or other behavior that creates an intimidating or offensive working or learning environment.

A student or employee who has a concern about discrimination or harassment should inform the Principal or the

Superintendent of Schools, who will take appropriate steps to attempt to resolve the situation, such as discussion with involved persons, identifying and questioning of witnesses, and other appropriate steps. In most cases, a resolution will be achieved. However, if it is determined that a hearing is warranted, a hearing will be held before the Superintendent of Schools or a person that he or she may designate.

The goals of the above grievance procedures are to resolve complaints in a fair and timely manner and to ensure compliance with nondiscriminatory practices. Additionally, reprisals or retaliation against any individual who reports on, or files a discrimination or harassment complaint is strictly prohibited.

If you wish to discuss your rights, would like further information, or want to obtain help in filing a complaint, you may contact the Superintendent of Schools. The telephone number is (508) 758-2772 x1956. Any person having inquiries concerning the School District's compliance with the regulations implementing Title VI, Title IX, Section 504, ADA, or Chapter 622 is directed to contact the superintendent of schools, who has been designated by the School District to coordinate the District's efforts to comply with the regulations implementing Title VI, Title IX, Section 504, ADA, and Chapter 622, or write to:

Office for Civil Rights
John W. McCormack Post Office and Courthouse
Room 222
Post Office Square
Boston, MA 02109

**OLD ROCHESTER REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
MASSACHUSETTS SCHOOL SUPERINTENDENCY UNION #55
Marion – Mattapoisett – Rochester, Massachusetts**

Annual Notification of Rights Under PPRA

August 30, 2023

The Protection of Pupil Rights Amendment (PPRA) affords parents certain rights regarding our conduct of surveys, collection and use of information for marketing purposes, and certain physical exams. These include the right to:

Consent before students are required to submit to a survey that concerns one or more of the following protected areas (“protected information survey”) if the survey is funded in whole or in part by a program of the U.S. Department of Education:

1. Political affiliations or beliefs of the student or student's parent;
2. Mental or psychological problems of the student or student's family;
3. Sex behavior or attitudes;
4. Illegal, anti-social, self-incriminating, or demeaning behavior;

5. Critical appraisals of others with whom respondents have close family relationships; 6. Legally recognized privileged relationships, such as with lawyers, doctors, or ministers; 7. Religious practices, affiliations, or beliefs of the student or parents; or
8. Income, other than as required by law to determine program eligibility.

Receive notice and an opportunity to opt a student out of:

1. Any other protected information survey, regardless of funding;
2. Any non-emergency, invasive physical exam or screening required as a condition of attendance, administered by the school or its agent, and not necessary to protect the immediate health and safety of a student, except for hearing, vision, or scoliosis screenings, or any physical exam or screening permitted or required under State law; and
3. Activities involving collection, disclosure, or use of personal information obtained from students for marketing or to sell or otherwise distribute the information to others.

Inspect, upon request and before administration or use:

1. Protected information surveys of students;
2. Instruments used to collect personal information from students for any of the above marketing, sales, or other distribution purposes; and
3. Instructional material used as part of the educational curriculum.

These rights transfer to from the parents to a student who is 18 years old or an emancipated minor under State law.

The School Committee has adopted policies, in consultation with parents, regarding these rights, as well as arrangements to protect student privacy in the administration of protected information surveys and the collection, disclosure, or use of personal information for marketing, sales, or other distribution purposes. The school district will directly notify parents of these policies at least annually at the start of each school year and after any substantive changes. The school district will also directly notify, such as through US Mail or email, parents of students who are scheduled to participate in the specific activities or surveys noted below and will provide an opportunity for the parent to opt his or her child out of participation of the specific activity or survey. The school district will make this notification to parents at the beginning of the school year if the District has identified the specific or approximate dates of the activities or surveys at that time. For surveys and activities scheduled after the school year starts, parents will be provided reasonable notification of the planned activities and surveys listed below and be provided an opportunity to opt their child out of such activities and surveys. Parents will also be provided an opportunity to review any pertinent surveys. Following is a list of the specific activities and surveys covered under this requirement:

- Collection, disclosure, or use of personal information for marketing, sales or other distribution.
- Administration of any protected information survey not funded in whole or in part by ED.
- Any non-emergency, invasive physical examination or screening as described above.

Parents who believe their rights have been violated may file a complaint with:

Family Policy Compliance Office

U.S. Department of Education
400 Maryland Avenue, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20202-5901

Center School and Old Hammondtown

Health Office Information

Annual Screenings

Vision Screening: Grade Kindergarten through Grade 5

Hearing Screening: Grade Kindergarten through Grade 3

Postural Screenings: Grade 5 and Grade 6

If for any reason you would like your child to opt out of the screenings listed above, please submit a written request to the Health Office.

Health Requirements

School Physicals: Required upon entry to Kindergarten and prior to entering grade 4 and grade 7. Dr. Mendes, our school physician, is available to conduct physicals for students upon written request to the Health Office.

School Immunizations: Before entering Kindergarten, students **must** have:

- 3 doses of Hep B
- 5 doses of DTaP/DTP
- 4 doses of Polio
- 2 doses of MMR
- 2 doses of Varicella
- Lead screening

Guidelines for when to keep your child home from school

- Fever greater than 100 degrees (must be fever free without fever reducing medication for 24 hours)
- Vomiting and/or diarrhea prior to coming to school
- Thick green tinged mucous
- Persistent cough
- Lingering sore throat with or without fever
- Rash of unknown origin
- Asthma flare up if you have not provided necessary medication to the Health Office
- Red eyes with or without drainage

Medications

The administration of any medication, including over-the-counter medications such as Tylenol, Motrin and cough medicine, may only be given under an order from a physician, dentist, nurse practitioner or physician assistant, in conjunction with parental permission. These forms are available in the Health office at both schools.