



**R.J. Baskett Middle School
Student Handbook
2024-2025**

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WELCOME TO R. J. BASKETT MIDDLE SCHOOL

The Mississinewa Community School Corporation has provided the students of R. J. Baskett Middle School with an excellent faculty and facility. Students will be challenged to make the most of the opportunities presented to them each day.

A tradition of pride in academics, athletics, and the arts has long been established. We challenge you to maintain and build on this tradition while a student at R. J. Baskett Middle School. Your middle school career is a very important part of your life. A positive mental attitude will help you overcome obstacles you may encounter during middle school. Respect for yourself and others are essential for your success during these three years. The administration, faculty, and support staff stand ready to help you become successful. Your hard work and self-discipline can only enhance your opportunities for success. Together, we can make your middle school career one of the most rewarding experiences of your life. Best of luck to you.

MISSISSINEWA SCHOOL CORPORATION CIVIL RIGHTS POLICY

It is the policy of Mississinewa School Corporation not to discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, national origin, age, or disability, in its programs, activities, or employment policies as required by the Indiana Civil Rights Law (I.C. 22-9-1), Title VI and Title VII (Civil Rights Act of Former students have distinguished themselves during and after high school. 1964), the Equal Pay Act of 1973, Title IX (educational amendments), Section 504 (Rehabilitation Act of 1973), and the American with Disabilities Act (42 USCS 12101,et.seq.).

The compliance officer for Title IX, Section 504, The Americans with Disabilities Act and Title VI is Mr. Jeremy Fewell, Superintendent, 765-674-8528. The offices are located at the Frederick W. Hengstler Administration Building, 424 East South "A" Gas City, IN 46933.

MISSISSINEWA COMMUNITY SCHOOLS CIVIL RIGHTS NONDISCRIMINATION GRIEVANCE PROCEDURE

This nondiscrimination grievance procedure applies to civil rights regulatory TITLE VI (race, color, national origin including limited English proficiency), TITLE IX (sex/gender), SECTION 504 of the REHABILITATION ACT OF 1973 (handicapping conditions), and the Americans With Disabilities Act.

Interested parties include school corporation officers, employees, students and patrons. The nondiscrimination procedure applies to acts or omissions relating to protected rights based upon age, race, color, sex, handicapping condition, and national origin including limited English proficiency.

Civil rights regulations require the identification and notification of employees, students, and patrons of the corporation's Civil Rights Coordinator(s). The Coordinators for Mississinewa Schools are as follows:

1. The building principal or designee serves as the compliance coordinator for allegations of building level violations of building level violations affecting students, employees, or building patrons.
2. The superintendent or designee serves as the compliance coordinator for violations at the corporate level such as policy or practice.

Mississinewa Schools Nondiscrimination Policy is as follows:

Mississinewa Schools supports the principle that all persons are entitled to equal employment opportunity without regard to race, religion, color, marital status, national origin, sex, age, disability or limited English proficiency. No person is excluded from participating, denied the benefits of, or otherwise subject to unlawful discrimination on such basis under any educational program or student activity.

If you believe that you have experienced discrimination or been denied participation in any program or activity, contact your building principal or unit head, who acts as Compliance Officer. He or she has a copy of the student grievance procedure, which explains your right to file a complaint, and how that complaint is filed and investigated.

I. THE PROCESS:

A. Level One

1. The officer, employee, student, or patron alleging a violation shall submit the initial complaint in writing to the appropriate compliance coordinator described above (building level or corporation level). The complaint shall stipulate the specific act or omission, the date the same, and parties involved.
2. The compliance coordinator shall initiate investigation of the circumstances of the complaint within seven (7) calendar days of the receipt of the written complaint.
3. The compliance coordinator shall render a decision within fourteen (14) calendar days of the receipt of the written complaint. The decision shall be in writing to the complainant.
4. The complainant shall have seven (7) calendar days to react to the decision before it becomes final. If the complainant disagrees with the decision of the compliance officer, a level two procedure shall be initiated.

B. Level Two

1. The compliance coordinator shall submit the statement of written disagreement and all related information to the superintendent within three (3) calendar days of receipt.
2. The superintendent shall review all materials and schedule a meeting within seven (7) calendar days of receipt of the statement of written disagreement and all related information. The participants shall be the complainant, the compliance coordinator, and the superintendent. Other witnesses may be called with mutual prior notice of three (3) calendar days.
3. The superintendent shall make a decision within seven (7) calendar days of the final meeting of parties. The decision shall be final.

NOTE: By mutual agreement, circumstances of calendar availability may result in extension of stipulated time allowances if a request is made in writing by either party and so agreed to by the parties.

If the alleged violation, interpretation or application is of a corporate nature such as a written rule, regulation, or policy, then Level Two is initiated immediately.

Inquiries regarding compliance by Mississinewa School Corporation with Title IX, Section 504, and other civil rights laws may be directed:

Superintendent (Mr. Jeremy Fewell)
Mississinewa School Corporation
424 East South A Street
Gas City, IN 46933
(765) 674-8528

ATTENDANCE POLICY

Regular attendance, for both in person and virtual students, is a factor in being successful in school and is the responsibility of the student and his/her parents or guardian. Developing a good attendance record is a very important aspect of a student's academic record. Regular attendance habits are basic to a good education.

Each student is allowed five (5) absences per semester. Any time an absentee presents a doctor's statement that includes information as to the time, date, and length of treatment on the day they return to school, the absence will not count towards one of the allowed. Also, government sanctioned absences (court dates, for example) with written verification, funerals of immediate family members, suspensions, or field trips will not count towards one of the allowed. When a student is absent and neither the parent/guardian nor the school knows where they are, that student is truant.

When a student is absent, the following procedure should be followed:

1. On the day of the absence, a parent/guardian must call the school's attendance office during normal school hours to report the student's absence.
2. If the student is going to be absent for more than one day, arrangements can be made with the attendance office on the number of calls to be made. Unless arrangements have been made, a call verifying the absence will be expected each day of the absence.
3. The day the student returns to school, they must present written documentation to the attendance office if they feel the absence should not count against their allowed days.

Actions taken on excessive absences are as follows:

- Parent Notification Letter
- Parent conference
- Thursday Afternoon School
- One or more day(s) of in-school detention
- Suspension from extra-curricular activities
- Possible referral to Grant County Juvenile Probation
- Possible report to Grant County Child Protective Services
- Possible referral to The Indian Academy

Students are required to make up all work missed due to absence. It is the student's responsibility to request the work to be made up. In the event of an absence students are encouraged to communicate with their teacher via email and locate their assignments through Google Classroom. Credit will be granted for work made up due to an allowable absence (as defined above). As stipulated by case law, students suspended from class will be permitted to make up work without penalty.

TRUANCY

Truancy is defined as an act of skipping a period or part of a period, failure to report to an assigned area, being outside of the building during the school day, or similar actions where permission is not granted. Actions taken on truanancies are as follows:

- Parent conference
- Thursday Afternoon School
- One or more day(s) of in-school detention
- Suspension from extra-curricular activities
- Possible referral to Grant County Juvenile Probation
- Possible report to Grant County Child Protective Services
- Possible referral to The Indian Academy

TARDINESS

Being prompt to school or class is very important for success in middle school. It tends to be a reflection of an individual's attitude towards rules and regulations. It is an excellent habit to develop in preparation for high school and beyond. The following tardy policy shall be applicable to all students. Tardies will accumulate over a one quarter time period.

Any student who is tardy to class will be documented by the classroom teacher. All tardies are recorded in PowerSchool. The first three (3) tardies for each class will be recorded in PowerSchool and simply a warning given. Parents and students can monitor their student's attendance on the school's web site at www.olemiss.k12.in.us and click on the PowerSchool icon. You must have your password in order to access this site.

The following actions steps will be taken for any student who goes beyond three (3) tardies per class, per quarter:

- Lunch detention(s)
- Parent conference
- Thursday Afternoon School
- One or more day(s) of in-school detention
- Suspension from extra-curricular activities
- Possible referral to Grant County Juvenile Probation/TRAC Program
- Possible referral to The Indian Academy

VIOLENCE, THREATS OF VIOLENCE, AND BULLYING

IC 20-33-8-0.2. As used in this chapter, "bullying" means overt, repeated acts or gestures, including:

1. verbal or written communications transmitted;
2. physical acts committed; or
3. any other behaviors committed;

by a student or group of students against another student with the intent to harass, ridicule, humiliate, intimidate, or harm the other student.

Actions or threats of actions with the focus of physically or emotionally assaulting any individual on school property or at a school-related function off of school property shall not be tolerated. Disciplinary action and/or legal action shall be taken against violators. Examples of prohibited action include: fighting, intimidation, harassment (including sexual harassment), hazing, threats including digital threats, assault and other actions with the intent to commit physical or emotional harm. A student who commits such acts against another student, a teacher, or a staff member is subject to appropriate discipline that depends on the nature or intent of the offense, up to and including, referral to local authorities, and expulsion from school. Any person who has any knowledge that such actions are being carried out must report that information to a school administrator. Failure to do so may result in disciplinary action.

STANDARDS OF STUDENT BEHAVIOR

As teachers and pupils are brought together so that learning may take place in our middle school classrooms, an environment, which permits an orderly and efficient operation of the schools, must be provided. This environment comes through consideration and self-discipline so that individuals do not allow themselves to infringe upon the rights of others as they seek an expression for their own just and legal privileges as members of the school and society.

The entire foundation and success of any society, including the community of a public school population, is the basic concept of self-discipline. Self-discipline allows all individuals to co-exist and be afforded individual rights at the same time. Mississinewa attempts to instill the concept of self-discipline within all students. Responsibility for the development and maintenance of self-discipline falls to the cooperative efforts of students, parents, teachers, administrators and the community at large. The following information is meant to advise students and parents of those actions by students that may cause the student to face consequences from the school. The spirit of this

information is to foster the concept of self-discipline. It is expected that students at Mississinewa will not find these concepts to stifle each individual's rights, but will find them to enhance the environment of the school. Any action that disrupts the educational atmosphere of the school can cause disciplinary consequences. Disruption of the educational atmosphere includes, but is not limited to, the following specific infractions.

All actions by school officials related to disciplinary consequences will follow due process procedures as outlined by Indiana Law (I.C. 20-33-8) and Mississinewa Community School Corporation policies included in the appendix of the student handbook.

The following types of student conduct shall be considered in violation of school rules and shall be dealt with according to the following minimum guidelines. These rules pertain to activities occurring on school grounds or immediately before or during school hours, or immediately after school hours, or at any other time when the school is being used by school groups, or off school grounds at a school activity, function, or event, or traveling to or from school or a school activity, function or event. These same rules apply to summer school.

1. Fighting, provoking, or encouraging a fight may result in the following:
1-10 days out-of-school suspension with possibility of expulsion. Or 1-10 days in school detention. (Students can avoid a suspension for engaging in a fight if they select an appropriate alternative such as: a) walking away from the person who wishes to fight and refusing to engage in that sort of solution, or b) seeking help of a staff member to avoid a fight, preferably at a point when counseling would be effective in reducing tensions). Administration may involve Gas City Police when needed and refer student(s) to Grant County Probation.
2. Insubordination is the failure to obey reasonable directions or requests.
3. Verbal, written, digital, or physical aggression towards students and/or staff.
4. Harassment/bullying-overt/covert, repeated acts or gestures including verbal or written communication transmitted; physical act committed; or any other behaviors committed by a student or group of students against another student with the intent to harass, ridicule, humiliate, intimidate, or harm the other student. (This includes using school equipment/property to commit said acts)
5. General misbehavior including, but not limited to, undue display of affection, disrespectful conduct, uncooperative behavior, forging passes and notes, forging or altering school forms (also parent notes or parent phone calls), the use of vulgarity, profanity, obscenities, racially offensive, violent (language, gestures, or printed materials) is strictly prohibited, corridor disruptions such as running or yelling, unauthorized presence in off-limits areas, failing to obey classroom rules, and gambling.
6. Theft and/or possession of stolen goods.
7. Vandalism: Students who destroy damage or destroy school property shall be required to make restitution.
8. Cheating/academic fraud: Students submitting work (in any way, shape or form) as their own when, if fact, it is not their own, will be guilty of cheating/academic fraud. In such cases (as determined by the teacher) students may receive a 0% for the assignment and may face other disciplinary action. Students that provide answers or do the work of the other students may face the same consequences as those listed above. Repeat offenders may face additional consequences.

A student may be expelled from school for the use of violence, force, noise, coercion, threat, intimidation, passive resistance, or other conduct constituting an interference with school purposes. He/she may be expelled for urging other students to engage in the above conduct. Damage or theft involving school and/or private property, intentionally causing bodily harm to fellow students or school employees, intent of obtaining money, possessing weapons, and failing in a substantial number of instances to comply with directions of teachers and/or rules of the school, all are grounds for expulsion, in addition, a student may be expelled for possessing, using, transmitting, or being under the influence of drug or alcoholic beverages.

The following actions may be taken for a student who demonstrates these behaviors:

- Verbal Warning/Student Conference
- Lunch detention(s)
- Parent conference
- Thursday Afternoon School
- One or more days of in-school detention
- One or more days of out of school suspension
- Suspension from extra-curricular activities
- Possibility of Expulsion, Due Process, required counseling, and/or referral to The Indian Academy
- Possible referral to Grant County Juvenile Probation

CRIMINAL ORGANIZATION ACTIVITY IN SCHOOLS

The board of School Trustees of the Mississinewa School Corporation prohibits gang or criminal organization activity and similar destructive or illegal group behavior on school property, on school buses, and/or at school sponsored functions. The Board also prohibits reprisal or retaliation against individuals who report gang or criminal organization activity and similar destructive behavior or illegal group behavior or who are victims, witnesses, bystanders, or other people with reliable information about an act of gang or criminal organization activity and similar destructive or illegal group behavior.

The following definitions apply to this policy:

Criminal Gang or Criminal Organization means a group with at least three (3) members that specifically:

1. Either:
 - a. promotes, sponsors, or assists in; or
 - b. participates in; or
 - c. requires as a condition of membership or continued membership; the commission of a felony or an act that would be a felony if committed by an adult or the offense of battery.

Gang or Criminal Organization Activity means a student who knowingly or intentionally actively participates in a criminal gang or criminal organization, or a student who knowingly or intentionally solicits, recruits, entices or intimidates another individual to join a criminal gang or criminal organization.

Per state law, a school employee shall report any incidents of suspected criminal gang or criminal organization activity, criminal gang or criminal organization intimidation, or criminal gang or criminal organization recruitment to the principal and the school safety specialist. The principal and the school safety specialist may take appropriate action to maintain a safe and secure school environment, including providing appropriate intervention services. Appropriate consequences and remedial actions are those that take into consideration the severity of the offenses and consider both the developmental ages of the student offenders and the students' histories of inappropriate behaviors per the code of conduct.

Any corporation and school employee who promptly reports an incident of suspected gang or criminal organization activity and who makes this report in compliance with the school corporation procedures is immune from a cause of action for damages arising from any failure to remedy the reported incident.

The principal or designee shall conduct a thorough and complete investigation for each report of suspected gang or criminal organization activity. The investigation shall be initiated by the principal or the principal's designee within one school day of the report of the incident. The principal may appoint additional personnel and request the assistance of law enforcement to assist in the investigation. The investigation shall be completed and the written finding submitted to the principal as soon as possible, but no later than five school days from the date of the report of the alleged incident of gang or criminal organization activity.

The principal shall take any appropriate disciplinary actions based upon the findings of the investigation, in accordance with the code of conduct. The superintendent of the school corporation is authorized to define the range of ways in which school staff and the principal or the principal's designee shall respond once an incident of

gang or criminal organization activity is confirmed, according to the code of conduct. Consequences for a student who engages in gang or criminal organization activity may range from positive behavioral interventions up to and including suspension or expulsion.

The principal shall provide the parents of the students who were investigated with information about the investigation. The information to be provided to parents includes the nature of the investigation, whether the corporation found evidence of gang or criminal organization activity, whether consequences were imposed or services were provided to address the activity. This information is to be provided in an expedited manner. As appropriate to the investigation findings, the principal also shall provide intervention and/or relevant support services. The principal shall inform the parents of all students involved in alleged incidents and discuss the availability of counseling and other intervention services.

The principal shall submit the report to the superintendent of the school corporation within ten (10) school days of the completion of the investigation. The superintendent or his/her designee shall report the results of each investigation to the school board on a quarterly basis during regularly scheduled board meetings.

Each school within the school corporation shall record the number of investigations disposed of internally and the number of cases referred to local law enforcement, disaggregated by race, ethnicity, age and gender. Each school shall report this information to the school corporation superintendent who shall submit a written report to the Indiana Department of Education by June 2 of each year.

This policy shall be annually disseminated to all parents who have children enrolled in a school within the school corporation. Notice of this policy must be published in student handbooks and all other publications of the school corporation that set forth the rules and procedures for schools within the school corporation.

IC 20-26-18

IC 20-33-9-10.5

IC 35-45-9-1

DRUG AND ALCOHOL POLICY

It is a violation of the disciplinary code of R. J. Baskett Middle School to:

1. Possess, use, provide to another person, or be under the influence of any substance which is or contains: alcohol, vaping paraphernalia, marijuana, amphetamines, barbiturates, an intoxicant, a narcotic, a depressant, or a hallucinogen, whether a prescription or sold over the counter (without a prescription) or any substance represented by the provider to be any of the listed substances: a) on school grounds at any time or b) at any school sponsored activity at any location including the school bus. Use of medication by a student prescribed by a medical doctor, dentist, or other health care provider authorized by law to prescribe medication for that student, must adhere to "Use of Medications" policy on page 13.
2. Possess, use, provide to any person anything used or designed to be used primarily for the storage, processing, delivery, or consumption of: alcohol, marijuana, amphetamines, barbiturates, intoxicants, depressants, or hallucinogens: a) on school premises at any time, or b) on any school bus. Any student who is unsure if possession, use, or providing another person with any particular medicine or substance would violate this rule should contact any R. J. Baskett Middle School Administrator before possessing, using, or providing the medication or substance.
3. Possess, use, or provide to any person, or be under the influence of substances such as caffeine tablets, look-a-likes, 20/20's, or any other substance, which although considered a non-controlled substance, interferes with school purposes, potentially endangers the health and well-being of students, and/or adds to the proliferation of more serious drugs and drug usage. Examples of things which are not to be possessed or provided to another person are: pipes, rolling papers, roach clips, power hitters, or rolling devices.

STUDENT NICOTINE & VAPING POLICY

Students are not allowed to be in possession of any nicotine or vaping product while under the jurisdiction of Mississinewa Community Schools. This policy will also apply to any school-sponsored activity or event. Students will be considered in possession if they have any nicotine or vaping product on their person, in their locker, or in anything belonging or assigned to them. Students in violation of this policy shall be disciplined as determined by the building discipline code.

- First offense - Student participation in a tobacco education program to be completed during ISD/ Thursday Afternoon School.

Actions taken for further offenses:

- Continued student participation in a tobacco education program
- Parent conference
- Thursday Afternoon School
- One or more days of in-school detention
- Suspension from extra-curricular activities
- Contacting Local Law Enforcement**
- Possible report to Grant County Child Protective Services

**Law Enforcement may issue a citation, community service, or referral to Grant County Juvenile Probation.

DETENTIONS

Detentions will be held during the student's lunch period. Failure to serve a scheduled detention without prior administrative approval is considered unexcused and subject to possible disciplinary action including additional detentions, Thursday Afternoon School, ISD, and suspension.

THURSDAY AFTERNOON SCHOOL

The faculty and administration feels that Thursday Afternoon School is a positive alternative to suspension from school. In an effort to keep students in school rather than being suspended from classes, students may be assigned certain Thursday afternoons to remain at school. Thursday Afternoon School will be held at the middle school from 2:40 pm to 5:10 pm. Parents will be informed if their student is to report for a Thursday Afternoon School session. If a student is sick and cannot attend, his/her parent must report the absence to R. J. Baskett Middle School's main office before 2:30 pm on the day of the Thursday Afternoon School. Each student is responsible to bring enough homework to remain busy the entire two and a half hour period. No food, games, cards, or cell phones will be allowed. Failure to attend Thursday Afternoon School may result in a day of in school detention and rescheduled Thursday Afternoon School.

PASSES FROM THE BUILDING

Absences for doctor's appointments will be excused if the attendance office is notified by the parent in advance of the appointment and the student has a pass from the building. Passes should be obtained from the attendance office. If there is an emergency and your student must leave the building after arriving at school, we require that a parent contact the office to inform them of their student's departure. If the student leaves without a pass at any time, he/she may be considered truant for the time away from classes. A student must have a pass from the attendance office before leaving for home. Office phone may be used for emergency illness calls.

Student safety is one of the most important things to the administration and staff at R. J. Baskett Middle School. Therefore, R. J. Baskett Middle School operates on a closed campus policy for lunch. No restaurant food deliveries will be permitted. No student should leave school at any time without first obtaining permission in the attendance

office. Any student leaving the building without permission will be considered truant. Parents or guardians who wish to take their child to lunch may do so by following these steps:

1. Call the attendance office for a pass for your child to come to the office when it is time to leave.
2. Come into the building and sign your student out on the sign out sheet.
3. Return with your student to the office to sign him/her back into school at the appropriate time.
4. Students then may report to class or the attendance office if they are tardy.

This procedure will better ensure the safety of our students and increase the communication between school and home.

HALL PASSES

Students should never be in the halls without a pass when classes are in session. Passes from any classroom must be issued by the teacher in charge or person who is authorized to release the student from class.

SEARCH AND SEIZURE

LOCKERS AND PERSONS

1. There are circumstances, which would cause a reasonable person to believe that the search of a particular person, place or thing is necessary:
 - a. Evidence of a violation of the student conduct standards contained in the student handbook, school board policies, and/or Indiana Code 20-8.1-5-1 through 16.
 - b. Anything which, because of its presence, presents an immediate danger of physical harm or illness to any person. The principal, or a member of the administrative staff designated by the principal, may search a locker or student.
2. All lockers and other storage areas provided for student use on school premises remain the property of the school corporation and are provided for the students subject to inspection, access for maintenance, and search pursuant to this section. No student shall lock or otherwise impede access to any locker or storage area except with the lock provided by, or approved by, the principal of the school in which the locker or storage area is located. Unapproved locks shall be removed.
 - a. Where the locker to be searched is assigned to a particular student and that student is on school premises at the time of the search, the student shall be notified.
 - b. R. J. Baskett Middle School is not responsible for personal items in hall lockers or gym lockers.
3. Anything found in the course of a search conducted in accordance with this section which is evidence of a violation of the student conduct standards, school board policies, and/or Indiana Code 20-8.1-5-1 through 16 will be disposed of as appropriate and set forth in Board Policy.
4. The principal, or a member of the administrative staff designated by the principal, may request the assistance of a law enforcement officer and/or canine unit to:
 - a. Search any area of the school premises or any student on school premises;
 - b. Identify or dispose of anything found in the course of a search conducted in accordance with this section.

SCHOOL PROPERTY

Each school citizen has an individual responsibility in the care and maintenance of the condition and appearance of the school building and grounds. The school building is your home for several hours each day. School property should be treated as you would treat your own property. Good housekeeping requires that we do not litter our school with paper and that we do nothing to mar the appearance of walks, floors, walls, lawns, shrubbery, or furnishings around the school. All accidental damage to school property and textbooks should be reported to the office by the student involved. A fair fee shall be determined for accidental damage. Students causing intentional damage on school premises and school personnel property will be subject to disciplinary action.

ELECTRONIC DEVICE POLICY

Students must adhere to Mississinewa Community School's digital device policy. A copy of this policy is available in the main office and on the school website. In addition, students and parents must read and sign the user device pledge and complete the digital device policy.

- Mississinewa Community School Corporation Personal Communication Device Policy Link: <https://bit.ly/MCSCPersonalDevices>
- As a safety precaution, students are not permitted to use "Earbuds" during the school day. Students must be able to hear emergency sirens, directions and procedures given by teachers, staff, and administration in the hallways or over the PA. Teachers must submit a proposal to school administration, documenting when ear buds will be used by students within the classroom.

The following actions may be taken for a student who violates this agreement:

- Verbal Warning/Student Conference
- Student cell phone/earbuds confiscated and held in the office
- Lunch detention(s)
- Parent conference
- Thursday Afternoon School
- One or more days of in-school detention
- Check in/out policy for cell phone/earbuds in the office

REGULATIONS CONCERNING SCHOOL BUS BEHAVIOR

School bus drivers are to have control of all children conveyed between the homes of the children and the school. The driver will keep order and maintain discipline. The following regulations are to be observed by all pupil passengers:

1. Each pupil shall be located immediately upon entering the bus in the place assigned by the driver.
2. No pupil shall stand or move from place to place during the trip.
3. Loud, boisterous profane language, or indecent conduct will not be tolerated.
4. No windows or doors will be opened or closed without permission of the driver.
5. No pupil shall enter or leave the bus until it has come to a full stop.
6. Upon recommendation of the bus driver, school authorities may deny the privilege of riding on the school bus to any pupil who refuses to conduct himself/herself in a proper manner.
7. These school bus regulations apply when buses are used for field trips, fan buses, etc.

LIBRARY REGULATIONS

The library is available for research, study, and leisure reading. It offers supplementary materials to students and faculty in the form of books, periodicals, electronic resources, and audio-visual media. Students are to use library time constructively, with courtesy and respect for others using the facility. No food or drink is permitted.

Library policies are as follows:

1. During the school day, a pass is required of individual students coming from class to use the library and those wishing to use the library during their early release time.
2. Books from the general collection may be checked out for 20 school days and may be renewed unless reserved by another student.
3. Current issues of magazines and newspapers must stay in the library. Back-issues may be checked out for 5 school days.
4. Reference books may be checked out overnight with the permission of the librarian.

5. An overdue notice will be sent as a courtesy to the student via the Indian Success Hour teacher. This notice must be promptly acknowledged by returning the book or paying for the item if lost. Failure to receive the overdue notice does not relieve the student of responsibility for the item. Books overdue longer than two weeks will be referred to building administrators.

PERSONAL APPEARANCE AND DRESS CODE

We take pride in the appearance of our students. Your dress reflects the quality of the school, of your conduct, and of your schoolwork. As general guidelines for reasonableness, the administration will require that students wear footwear and clothing that meet standards of decency, safety, and cleanliness. Apparel and appearance deliberately planned to disrupt will not be tolerated. No student will be permitted to dress or appear in any manner that is unhealthy, obscene, or distracting. In certain extra-curricular activities, the school retains the right to impose specific dress and grooming requirements as a condition of participation. School authorities will follow the practice of requiring a change of attire and calling the parent if a student appears at school in questionable attire. Dress Code Violations result in the following:

1st offense - The student will be sent to the office to change the inappropriate attire; parent contacted.

2nd offense - The student will be sent to the office to change the inappropriate attire; parent contact.

Disciplinary action determined by administration.

3rd Offense - The student will be sent to the office to change the inappropriate attire; parent contact.

Disciplinary action determined by administration.

4th offense - Further disciplinary action.

Specific Guidelines:

1. All items of clothing will be worn in an appropriate and modest manner. Clothing that allows exposure of under garments or skin will not be tolerated. Shirts must be of a minimum length to touch the front, back, and sides of pants or skirts. "Crop tops" or shirts with openings in the front, back, or sides that expose skin are not allowed. Pajamas will not be considered appropriate dress for school.
2. Torn or shredded clothing in inappropriate and/or offensive areas is not permitted. Mesh, halter-tops, tank tops, and muscle shirts are not permitted. All tops/shirts/dresses must have sleeves that cover the shoulder.
3. Skirts, shorts and dresses must be fingertip length (arms at side, fingertips pointed straight down) and not so tight fitting that it prevents the student from sitting in an appropriate manner. Also, slits or cutouts in pants, skirts, dresses must not extend higher than this measure.
4. Clothing that has pictures and/or writing that alludes to or has double meanings that relate to drugs, alcohol, sex or tobacco, or is vulgar, suggestive, indecent, disruptive, or otherwise offensive as determined by the administration. Tattoos that fall into this category shall be required to be covered.
5. Over-sized, sagging pants of any kind are not permitted. Waistline of the pants should be at or above the hip bone.
6. Gang related paraphernalia/apparel is not permitted at school or at school related activities (including, but not limited to, "chains").
7. Winter coats, trench coats, gloves, mittens, hats, hoods, durags, pillows and/or blankets will not be permitted during the school day.
8. Students may bring sweaters or sweatshirts to class for comfort.
9. Students are not allowed to wear metal chains, spiked bracelets and or neck wear, bandanas, hats of any kind. Sunglasses are not to be worn in the building unless those prescribed by a doctor.
10. Appropriate footwear must be worn at all times. House slippers are not appropriate.
11. Personal hygiene and cleanliness of the person and hair are required.
12. Book bags should contain only school-related materials and may be subject to inspection at any time.

13. The administration reserves the right to make the final judgment concerning the appropriateness of the student's attire and appearance.

CODE FOR RELATIONSHIPS AT SCHOOL

It is the feeling of the faculty and administration that if students are mature, responsible individuals, they will not show affection for one another in public by placing their arms around each other or by other outward displays of affection. The faculty and administration believe that this code of behavior is essential for wholesome relationships at school and at school functions. We ask for your cooperation in this matter. Continuous violations of this policy may result in disciplinary action.

GENERAL EXPECTATIONS

Students are encouraged and expected to demonstrate good citizenship at all times. Respect for school personnel, school property, other students and their property should be practiced daily. It is essential for students to comply with the directions of teachers and administrators in order to have an educational environment conducive for learning. Behavior which deviates from the above shall result in disciplinary action by a teacher or an administrator. Below are some specific rules to be followed by all students at all times:

1. Students are not to bring any type of weapon to school. This includes knives, guns, etc.
2. Digital device usage during the passing period should be limited and sounds and/or music should not be heard. Students must comply when instructed to put devices away. Failure to do so is insubordination and may result in confiscation and possible loss of device for a time period. Students may also be subject to disciplinary action. This includes classrooms, passing period, and lunch. If a digital device is confiscated the following action will be taken:
1st offense - student may pick up the device at the end of the period.
2nd offense - student may pick up the device at the end of the school day. Parents/Guardian will be notified.
Continued offense - student may be required to check in/out device in the office for the school day.
Parent meeting may be required. Additional disciplinary action may be taken due to incorrigibility.

STUDENT IDENTIFICATION CARDS

Each student is given an identification card at the beginning of the school year. Student ID cards may be used for admission at R.J. Baskett Middle School athletic events or fine arts programs.

IMPORTANT NOTICE TO STUDENTS AND PARENTS REGARDING CELL PHONE CONTENT AND DISPLAY

Recording or taking photos of other individuals without consent, sending, sharing, viewing, or possessing pictures, text messages, emails, or other material of a sexual nature in electronic or any other form, including the contents of a cell phone or other electronic device is grounds for suspension or expulsion.

The Child Abuse/Neglect Law requires school personnel to report law enforcement or child protective services whenever there is reason to believe that any person/student is involved with "child exploitation" or "child pornography" as defined by Indiana Criminal Statutes.

It is "child exploitation", a Level 5 felony, under IC 35-42-4-4(b)-

A person/student who:

1. knowingly or intentionally manages, produces, sponsors, presents, exhibits, photographs, films, videotapes, or creates a digitized image of any performance or incident that includes sexual conduct by a child under eighteen (18) years of age;
2. knowingly or intentionally disseminates, exhibits to another person, offers to disseminate or exhibit to another person, or sends or brings into Indiana for dissemination or exhibition matter that depicts or describes sexual conduct by a child under eighteen (18) years of age;
3. knowingly or intentionally makes available to another person a computer, knowing that the computer's fixed drive or peripheral device contains matter that depicts or describes sexual conduct by a child less than eighteen (18) years of age; or
4. with the intent to satisfy or arouse the sexual desires of any person: (A) knowingly or intentionally: (i) manages; (ii) produces; (iii) sponsors; (iv) presents; (v) exhibits; (vi) photographs; (vii) films; (viii) videotapes; or (ix) creates a digitized image of; any performance or incident that includes the uncovered genitals of a child less than eighteen (18) years of age or the exhibition of the female breast with less than a fully opaque covering of any part of the nipple by a child less than eighteen (18) years of age;
5. knowingly or intentionally: (i) disseminates to another person; (ii) exhibits to another person; (iii) offers to disseminate or exhibit to another person; or (iv) sends or brings into Indiana for dissemination or exhibition; matter that depicts the uncovered genitals of a child less than eighteen (18) years of age or the exhibition of the female breast with less than a fully opaque covering of any part of the nipple by a child less than eighteen (18) years of age; or (C) makes available to another person a computer, knowing that the computer's fixed drive or peripheral device contains matter that depicts the uncovered genitals of a child less than eighteen (18) years of age or the exhibition of the female breast with less than a fully opaque covering of any part of the nipple by a child less than eighteen (18) years of age.

It is "possession of child pornography", a Level 6 felony. under IC 35-42-4-4(c)-

A person who knowingly or intentionally possesses: (1) a picture; (2) a drawing; (3) a photograph; (4) a negative image; (5) undeveloped film; (6) a motion picture; (7) a videotape; (8) a digitized image; or (9) any pictorial representation; that depicts or describes sexual conduct by a child who the person knows is less than eighteen (18) years of age or who appears to be less than eighteen (18) years of age, and that lacks serious literary, artistic, political, or scientific value.

Because student cell phones have been found in a number of Indiana school districts to have contained evidence of "sexual conduct" as defined above, it is important for parents and students to be aware of the legal consequences should this occur in our school system.

STUDENT GUESTS

Any visitor to the school must first report to the office where they may request a visitor's pass. Any person other than a student or school employee on school grounds should be directed to the office. Students from other schools will not be allowed to visit the school except by special permission of the Assistant Principal or Principal. Students who have small children are not to bring them to school.

WORK PERMITS

After securing employment, work permits may be obtained from the Main Office Secretary at the middle school.

CHECKS

Checks for books, supplies, and fees should be made payable to the "Mississinewa Activity Fund".

USE OF MEDICATIONS

In order to protect the health and welfare of children, Indiana law requires that schools observe certain safeguards in administering medication to students. All medication that is to be administered to students during the school day must be brought to the school nurse by the parent before it can be given to the student. If we are to administer medicine to your child, the proper release form must be completed. This release form shall be completed and signed by the parent(s) and shall include:

1. Authorization for school personnel to administer the prescribed medication.
2. Agreement/satisfactory arrangement to deliver medication to/from school.
3. Agreement to notify the school in writing if the medication, dosage, schedule, or procedure is changed or eliminated. A new request form must be submitted each school year.

Failure to abide by these procedures will result in expulsion pending due process from school.

STUDENT ILLNESS OR INJURY

Any student who becomes ill or injured while at school must report to the office for referral to the clinic or school nurse.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS

Please inform the Main Office if you change your address or telephone number during the school year.

LOST AND FOUND

A lost and found department is located in the Office and on the Stage. Articles found should be turned in to the Main Office.

STUDENT FEES

Student fees will be collected during registration time and students will receive their digital device at the Digital Orientation before school starts. If a student withdraws during the first grading period of the first semester, one-half of the first semester's student fees and second semester's entire student fees will be refunded. After the first grading period is over, only second semester student fees will be refunded. If a student withdraws during the first grading period of the second semester, one-half of second semester's student fees will be refunded. After the first grading period of the second semester is over, no student fees will be refunded.

MONEY/JEWELRY

Students should not carry large sums of money to school. When it is necessary to bring money for fees or some payment, go directly to make the payment. If you have valuables in gym class, ask your teacher to assist you. All money and valuables must be secured in a student locker at all times. These items are the responsibility of the individual student.

EMERGENCY AND SECURITY DRILLS

Fire, tornado and security drills will be conducted in order to acquaint the student with a quick and orderly method of leaving the building in case of fire or other disaster. These drills must be kept serious and orderly. There must be no stopping for books, clothes, etc. Students are not to run, but must walk rapidly. There must be no talking. When the alarm sounds, every person is required to follow the directions posted in each classroom. Students are to remain in their designated areas until the all clear is given to return to class. The following codes will be used for security purposes

Code Red - Move to secure area of the classroom and remain quiet

Code Yellow - Return inside the building, exterior doors locked. Proceed as normal inside the building.

Code Green - Evacuate the building quickly and quietly

CONDUCT AT ATHLETIC EVENTS

Students should remain in their seats and show good sportsmanship at all times. The conduct of our student body can affect our standing with the Indiana Athletic Association. Please encourage good sportsmanship for all students and adults. No loud noisemakers, bells, horns, whistles, or abusive signs are allowed. If you fail to observe these regulations, you will be asked to leave or will be barred from attending future contests. Students not in good standing due to attendance, academic performance, or behavior may not be permitted to attend or participate in extracurricular activities or athletic functions.

TELEPHONE CALLS

No student will be dismissed from class to receive a phone call unless it is an emergency. Calls will be taken and the students notified to return the call as soon as they are free to do so. Students are able to use the phone in the Main Office in case of emergency. We would encourage family members not to call students during the school day. In case of emergency, please contact the school directly.

ADVERTISING/SALE OF MERCHANDISE

Advertising, selling tickets or merchandise, or soliciting money for any non-school activity is prohibited unless advanced written permission from the Principal is received. Posters must be approved by the Principal before being posted.

AHERA ANNUAL NOTICE MISSISSINEWA COMMUNITY SCHOOLS CORPORATION

This information is being published to comply with the requirements of 40 CFR 763 Subpart E asbestos containing material in schools. This regulation, commonly known as the "AHERA"

Rule, requires local education agencies, such as this one, to perform certain tasks in regards to the presence and control of asbestos containing materials in the buildings under the jurisdiction of the local education agency.

These include but are not limited to:

1. Developing an asbestos management plan which is designed to outline procedures and guidelines for the inspection, reinspection and periodic surveillance of asbestos containing materials that are present in the buildings.
2. Provide awareness training and additional training to selected school employees.
3. Periodically notify all workers and occupants, or their local guardians, parent teacher organizations, and collective bargaining organizations of the availability of asbestos management plans, the location of same and the times that the plans may be reviewed

This notification is to advise all patrons, occupants, or their legal guardians, collective bargaining organizations, and parent-teachers organizations, that the asbestos management plans required under this act are available for review upon request. A copy of the plans for all Buildings under the jurisdiction of this local education agency are available in the Administration Building, which is located at 424 East South "A" Street, Gas City, Indiana 46933; telephone number (765) 674-8528. Plans for individual schools and other buildings are located in the Administration office of each school. The plans can be viewed by any person during normal business hours of the particular school. Interested parties wishing to inquire about the hours and times that the plans are available should call the above number.

At this time, the management plans can provide information regarding inspections, response actions, and post-response action activities, including periodic reinspection and surveillance activities that are planned or in progress. Inquiries regarding any facet of the regulation or the management plans should be directed to Jill Townsend at the above telephone number during regular business hours.

Listed is a brief description of asbestos work that has been completed in our schools this year.

Detailed reports have become part of each school's asbestos management plan and may be reviewed in the school office.

Mississinewa High School, R.J. Baskett Middle School, Northview and Westview Elementary Schools, the Frederick W. Hengstler Administration Building (formerly East Elementary School) and the former Administration Building.

*The required triennial re-inspection was performed in July 2006.

*The required six month periodic surveillance was performed in January 2008.

CLASS TIMES FOR 2024-2025 SCHOOL YEAR

7 Period Schedule for Monday-Wednesday-Friday

Warning Bell	7:28
First Period	7:30-8:20
Passing Period	8:20-8:25
Second Period	8:25-9:15
Passing Period	9:15-9:20
Third Period	9:20-10:10
Passing Period	10:10-10:15
Fourth Period	10:15-11:05
Passing Period	11:05-11:10
Fifth Period	11:10-12:40
First Lunch	11:10-11:40
Second Lunch	11:40-12:10
Third Lunch	12:10-12:40
Passing Period	12:40-12:45
Sixth Period	12:45-1:35
Passing Period	1:35-1:40
Seventh Period	1:40-2:40

ISH/7 Period Schedule for Tuesday-Thursday

Warning Bell	7:28
ISH	7:30-8:15
Passing Period	8:15-8:20
First Period	8:20-9:00
Passing Period	9:00-9:05
Second Period	9:05-9:45
Passing Period	9:45-9:50
Third Period	9:50-10:30
Passing Period	10:30-10:35
Fourth Period	10:35-11:20
Passing Period	11:20-11:25
Fifth Period	11:25-12:55
First Lunch	11:25-11:55
Second Lunch	11:55-12:25
Third Lunch	12:25-12:55
Passing Period	12:55-1:00
Sixth Period	1:00-1:40
Passing Period	1:40-1:45
Seventh Period	1:45-2:25
RJB Connects/ Announcements	2:25-2:40

SCHEDULE CHANGES

Changes in a student's schedule will be made in the office. Schedule changes must be made by Friday, August 9, 2024 for first semester and Wednesday, January 8, 2025 for second semester. No changes will be made after these dates of either semester, except by special request of the teacher or a parent-teacher conference.

GRADE REPORTS

Grade reports to parents will be provided through a computer printed Grade Report. This report will include classes with grades, earned by the quarter and the semester. This report will be given to students approximately one week following the end of each nine-week grading period. Parents are not required to sign and/or return these reports.

Parents are encouraged to monitor their student's grades on the school's website at www.olemiss.k12.in.us and click on the PowerSchool icon. You must have your password in order to access this site. PowerSchool username and password can be obtained from the guidance office.

INTERNET ACCEPTABLE USE POLICY

The Internet and other types of distance learning may be used as instructional technologies for the purposes of finding and retrieving information and doing collaborative work in accordance with the learning goals of the Mississinewa Community School Corporation. Our students and staff now have access to devices that will enable them to access public domain software and shareware of all types, which include; discussion groups involving most any topic, access to many university library catalogs, the Library of Congress, information and news from NASA, and communicate with people (i.e. experts) from around the globe.

Access to the Internet at Mississinewa will be regarded as a privilege and not a right. Students interested in utilizing the Internet through the district's access must first obtain permission to use equipment from a Mississinewa instructional staff member such as the student's teacher or another member of the school's administrative or teaching staff. It is expected that student access to the Internet will be structured in ways that point students to those resources and have been evaluated prior to use. Students using the Internet, provided by the school district, are expected to exhibit behavior, while engaged on-line, consistent with the standard established in the Mississinewa Schools policy on student discipline. Parents will be notified if their student's privileges have been suspended. Parents shall be given the option to request alternate activities to access the Internet.

With the use of district-owned, school-based computers, users shall not have or claim to have any expectation of privacy with regard to the storage of files or information. The use of memory, storage, and Internet access will be treated like school lockers. The professional staff may review all files and message exchanges on the systems in order to maintain system integrity and ensure that users are acting responsibly and consistent with the acceptable use standards.

Inappropriate usage by adults and students of the Mississinewa Community Schools' Internet/electronic communications capacity may result in termination of access. Inappropriate usage may include, but is not limited to, the following:

1. Violating any local, state, or federal statute,
2. Accessing, uploading, downloading, or distributing pornographic, obscene, or sexually explicit materials,
3. Transmitting obscene, abusive, or sexually explicit language,
4. Vandalizing, damaging, or disabling the property of another person or organization,
5. Accessing another person's materials, information, or files without the direct permission of that person,
6. Accessing material or resources which result in the Mississinewa School Corporation receiving an unauthorized billing,
7. Violating copyright, or otherwise using another person's property without his or her prior approval or proper citation,

8. Extensive use for non curriculum-related communication, including chat rooms, blogs, social networking sites (i.e. Social Media), and email. Email is allowed only before or after school hours under adult supervision.

The Mississinewa Community School Corporation cannot be held liable for any information that may be lost, damaged, or unavailable due to technical or other difficulties. In addition, the Mississinewa Community School Corporation cannot be held accountable for the information that is retrieved via the network.

ACTIVITY PROGRAM

The Activity Program at R. J. Baskett Middle School provides many opportunities for students to become involved in a variety of activities, which supplement the regular academic curriculum. All students are encouraged to become involved in some aspect of the Activity Program during their years at R. J. Baskett Middle School. We believe that this is a very important part of each student's total education.

This handbook has been prepared to familiarize students with the many clubs, organizations, athletics, and other events, which take place each year.

STUDENT PARTICIPATION IN ACTIVITIES WITH CONFLICTING DATES

Because of the large number of activities scheduled at R. J. Baskett Middle School students may find that they are required to participate in two or more activities scheduled at the same time. We try to avoid schedule conflicts, but this is not always possible. If a schedule conflict does occur, it is important for you to bring it to the attention of your coach or sponsor as early as possible.

When a student is involved in two activities falling on the same day, the student should bring the conflict to the attention of both advisors/coaches involved and then decide in which activity the student will be allowed to participate. Under no circumstances should repercussive action be taken against the student after a decision has been made.

GUIDELINES FOR PARTICIPATION

Students participating in activities are expected to follow the established guidelines, even if the activity takes place after school or on a non-school day.

CLUBS AND ORGANIZATIONS

ACADEMIC SUPER BOWL

Competition will be made up of five subject matter rounds (English, science, social studies, mathematics, and fine arts) and a sixth interdisciplinary round in which questions may come from any and all of the subject matter rounds. Some interdisciplinary questions will require knowledge of at least two subject areas. Junior Division teams do not compete in Fine Arts.

Eligibility - All students in grades 7-8 (6 where appropriate) are eligible to compete.

Expectations - Students who participate in the Academic Super Bowl must be able to commit to after-school practices and competitive events. Students must demonstrate a positive attitude and kindness to others. Students must have reliable transportation to and from practices and events.

CAMPUS LIFE

Campus Life middle school ministry combines healthy relationships with creative programs to help young people make good choices, establish a solid foundation for life, and positively impact their schools. Campus Life seeks to

engage all young people wherever they are, as lifelong followers of Jesus Christ. It is open to all students. Other involvement can include fun trips and hanging out with CL director and/or other volunteers, core team, and small groups.

Eligibility - All 6th-8th grade students.

Expectations - Students who participate in Campus Life must be able to meet before or after school. Students will require transportation to before/after-school meetings.

CARDINAL GREENWAY

As part of the Cardinal Greenway Club, students attend outings, events and actually volunteer on the trail during Spring Clean Up and fundraising at Ducktail Run. In this way, our students learn more about helping their community and philanthropic endeavors. The Cardinal Greenway of Grant County is a great asset for this community and in learning about how it is run and maintained, our students begin a life-long process of leadership and ownership in their own community.

Eligibility - All 6th-8th grade students

Expectations - Students who participate in the Cardinal Greenway Club must be able to meet after school and some weekends. Students will require transportation to after-school meetings and events.

CIVIL AIR PATROL

Civil Air Patrol Aerospace Education programs are available to the public and, particularly, schools. This is accomplished through academic programs within the educational systems and through contacts between CAP members and their communities. CAP's cadet program is unique in that it uses aviation as a cornerstone. Thousands of young people from 12 years through age 21 are introduced to aviation through CAP's cadet program.

Eligibility - All 6th-8th grade students

Expectations - Students must be in good academic and behavior standing to participate. Must be able to attend after-school practices and events. Students will require transportation to before/after-school meetings.

DRAMA CLUB

R.J. Baskett's Drama Club is an extracurricular theater program at R.J. Baskett Middle School. This club is all about learning about the many elements of theater including how to act on stage, memorizing lines, blocking, improv, and working behind the scenes. These skills will be taught through being involved in a one school production as well as other fun activities during our after school meeting. We will meet once a week for an hour after school. The month before a production will include more frequent meetings.

Eligibility - Any student in 6th-8th grade is welcome to participate.

Expectations - Students involved in a production will be expected to attend weekly/bi-weekly rehearsals as well as daily rehearsals closer to the time of the production. Most rehearsals will take place at RJB but will be moved to a secondary location 1-2 weeks before the production.

eSports

The mission of eSports at Mississinewa is to provide an organized eSports league in a comfortable environment with healthy competition. We believe that eSports should be available to every student .

Eligibility - eSports is open to all students.

Expectations - Increased interest in school functions and school spirit and gaming experience. students will meet after with play/game dates determined by eSports MS League.

ROBOTICS TEAM

This program will focus on designing and building robots and participating in competitions with other schools. Interest in becoming a member of the robotics team is great, but space is limited. Experience with VEXiq is not necessary to apply.

Eligibility - All 6th-8th grade students must submit an application if interested.

A committee of teachers and/or administrators review the applications and select students based upon their demonstrated work ethic, leadership potential, and strengths in the area of science, technology, engineering and mathematics.

Expectations - Students who participate in the Robotics program must be able to commit to after-school practices and multiple competitive events. Students must demonstrate a positive attitude and kindness to others. Students will require transportation home following after-school practices and transportation to and from competitions.

SHOW CHOIR

Show Choir is an auditioned group of student singers, grades 6-8 that focuses on vocal skills and technique, specifically in the styles of classic and contemporary popular music, musical theater, and vocal jazz. Show Choir also features dance as a portion of its performance repertoire, and strength in showmanship is preferred! The group has a variety of performance opportunities throughout the school year, including but not limited to the Winter and Spring RJB Concerts, ISSMA Jazz Festival and a spring musical for the elementary schools. Involvement in Show Choir offers a unique opportunity to develop as a vocalist while singing and dancing as a member of an ensemble. Auditions are held in September annually.

Eligibility- By Audition Only: Any RJB student in grades 6-8.

Expectations- Students are expected to attend weekly/bi-weekly rehearsals, as well as, daily rehearsals closer to the time of a show or competition. Most rehearsals will take place in the Choir room at RJB on Mondays immediately following school (2:45-4:00 p.m.), but we will do dress rehearsals in the location of the show the week of the show. Concerts outside of the school day are REQUIRED for this after-school, extra-curricular activity.

STUDENT COUNCIL

The R.J. Baskett Student Council is a group of elected student representatives that promotes student participation and cooperation in school government, fosters school spirit, and encourages higher scholastic attainment by giving our students a hands-on demonstration of our national system of government. Student Council also works to stimulate goodwill among and between students and faculty, promote school safety, encourage the growth of good citizenship, and coordinate school activities.

Eligibility - All 6th-8th grade students must maintain A's and B's throughout the school year and receive no disciplinary referrals.

Expectations - RJB students are held to a very high standard of Academic and behavioral performance. Students must also have reliable transportation to and from RJB Student Council events.

YEARBOOK STAFF

Yearbook staff employs students in photography, graphic design, writing, and layout to create your yearly memory book. Working as a team to compile and edit a year's worth of Mississinewa events gives members a hands-on view of book publishing and journalism—and it's tons of fun!

Eligibility - All 6th-8th grade students.

Expectations- Students must be in good academic and behavior standing to participate. Must be able to attend after-school meetings and have a reliable means of transportation to and from all meetings.

WE THE PEOPLE

The Citizen and the Constitution Program promotes civic competence and responsibility among the nation's upper elementary and secondary students. The We the People print textbooks' and enhanced ebooks' interactive strategies, relevant content and the simulated Congressional hearings make teaching and learning exciting for both students and teachers. The We the People curriculum is an innovative course of instruction on the history and principles of the United States constitutional democratic republic. The program enjoys active support from state bar associations and foundations, and other educational, professional, business, and community organizations across the nation. Since its inception in 1987, more than 30 million students and 75,000 educators have participated in the We the People program.

Eligibility - We the People is open to 8th grade students who elect to enroll in the Advanced Social Studies course.

Expectation - Students who participate in We the People must maintain excellent attendance at scheduled practices and competitions. Reliable transportation after practices and events is required. Students must be in good academic and behavior standing with RJB.

R. J. BASKETT INDIANS STUDENT/ATHLETE HANDBOOK

Students may participate in extracurricular programs. Those participating in the sixth, seventh, and eighth grade athletic programs must have updated documentation of a Physical Exam and Final Forms completed before participation.

SCHOOL SPIRIT

SCHOOL SPIRIT MAY BE DIVIDED INTO THREE CATEGORIES:

1. Courtesy – Toward teachers, fellow students, and the officials of school athletic activities.
2. Pride – In everything our school endeavors to accomplish and has accomplished.
3. Sportsmanship – The ability to win and lose gracefully. School spirit means loyalty to all functions of the school. A loyal student supports his/her school and does his/her utmost to keep his/her scholastic and activity standards at the highest possible level.

SPORTS PROGRAMS

The R. J. Baskett Athletic Program consists of the following activities within each of the three seasons:

FALL

BOYS	GIRLS
Football	Volleyball
Cross Country	Cross Country
Tennis	Tennis
	Cheerleading

WINTER

Basketball	Basketball
Wrestling	Wrestling
	Cheerleading

SPRING

Track	Track
Golf	Golf
Baseball - 7th & 8th	Softball - 7th & 8th
Soccer	Soccer

EDUCATIONAL VALUES OF ATHLETICS

We believe in interscholastic athletics.

We believe there is a substantial educational outcome from a soundly conceived and executed program for the participants, the student body, and the school as a whole.

We believe the potential values to the participants are genuine. Rigorous competition under prescribed regulations and policies provide for students the opportunity to develop ideas and habits of health, fair play, initiative, achievement, and emotional control.

We believe students can be taught to win gracefully and to lose in the same fashion.

We believe that many students have found a purpose in their schoolwork and in their lives through the program of athletics.

We believe that athletics provides tangible values for the student body. Athletics can make a substantial contribution to morale and can provide an outlet for enthusiasm.

We believe the athletic program, though differing in nature from the academic program, does justify its existence by providing profitable educational experience for the participant.

We believe the welfare of the individual student is always to be the primary concern. The game exists for the student, never the student for the game.

MISSISSINEWA COMMUNITY SCHOOLS PHILOSOPHY, POLICY AND OPERATIONAL PROCEDURES REGARDING ATHLETIC TRAINING RULES IN REGARDS TO ALCOHOL, TOBACCO AND DRUGS

Philosophy

The entire Board, coaching and administrative staff of Mississinewa Community Schools believe that when a person wears the athletic uniform of Mississinewa Community Schools he/she assumes the privilege that carries with it a like responsibility. That responsibility is to represent themselves, their school, their family and their community in the rich tradition that is Mississinewa. The athletes are expected to conduct themselves a notch above the other students. The athlete represents not only the image of athletics, but also the image of the youth of our community. Our athletic program at R. J. Baskett Middle School can be rewarding and satisfying to every athlete that becomes a team member. We believe that being on a team develops an obligation to others and to oneself. Students soon realize what they do reflects on their team and their school.

POLICY

1st Violation - 14 calendar day suspension from regularly scheduled interscholastic contests beginning with the next scheduled contest and discussion between the school and parents before the athlete is allowed to resume participation.

2nd Violation - 365 calendar day suspension from participation or 30 calendar days suspension during the course of regularly scheduled interscholastic contests and continuation to completion of Level I counseling for participant and parents as approved by the building principal. Note: If the athlete has been through Level I counseling, then Level II will be appropriate. If both Level I and Level II counseling have been completed previously, then the penalty will be 365 calendar days' suspension from participation.

3rd Violation - 365 calendar days suspension from participation or 60 calendar days suspension during the course of regularly scheduled interscholastic contests and continuation to completion of Level II counseling for the participant and parents as approved by the building principal.

4th Violation - Student/athlete will not be permitted to participate during the remainder of his/her attendance at R. J. Baskett Middle School.

Note: All penalties will be served consecutively and not concurrently. Should a counseling alternative be selected but aborted before completion, the penalty will revert to the suspension option not including counseling as a component. In such cases, days suspended and already served will not count toward the new suspension option.

RULES ARE IN EFFECT AT ALL TIMES 24 HOURS A DAY AND 12 MONTHS A YEAR

RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE ATHLETE

Playing a sport at R. J. Baskett is a privilege, not a right. Academic commitment and good behavior are expected of ALL R. J. Baskett athletes.

1. The athlete should be aware of the academic policy in regard to interscholastic activities.
2. The athlete should be a good sport on and off the field; he/she should set the example for other students to follow.
3. The athlete may not participate in a game or practice on a day when he/she is not present for more than half of the school day.. Exception would be a prearranged absence approved by the attendance office, principal or athletic director.
4. Once the athlete is out for a sport, he/she is considered to be committed for that season. He/she cannot begin to practice in another sport until the preceding sport season is over. An athlete being cut or released by a coach is the only exception.
5. All athletes are students first and subject to the same rules as other R. J. Baskett students. Any athlete that is suspended from school (in-school or out) may be restricted from participation during that time.
6. The athlete has a definite responsibility to his teammates and coach. He/she should treat them with respect and be loyal at all times.
7. The athlete has a definite responsibility to other athletes to support them in those efforts, even though he or she may not be a member in a given sport.
8. Athletes who are participating in outdoor sports are to remove and put on shoes outside the locker doors. If shoes are muddy, they should be cleaned outside before entering the locker room. Walls are not to be used as a cleaning device.
9. Athletes must have received passing grades in at least five full credit subjects or the equivalent during the last grading period except that the semester grades shall take precedence at the end of a semester; and must be currently enrolled in at least five full credit subjects or the equivalent.
10. Parents expect supervision of their children (safety and injuries a concern). Athletes are to only be practicing or participating in physical activity on school grounds with a coach, teacher, or administrator present that is responsible for the supervision of those athletes.

RESPONSIBILITIES OF ATTENDEES

1. It is our expectation that all attendees at our athletic contests adhere to the same philosophy and procedures as our student athletes. Part of that expectation is that players, coaches and spectators show respect and appreciation towards each other.
2. Understand that game officials are doing their best to support our athletic programs.
3. Remember that a ticket to a middle school or high school event is not a license to verbally assault others; including officials, coaches and all players.

ATHLETIC EQUIPMENT

1. One of the values of athletics is to teach responsibility and this should apply to the care of athletic equipment as well as school property. Every athlete is expected to take pride in the fine equipment and facilities that the Athletic Department has provided.
2. The school attempts to provide the best and safest equipment money can buy. Each athlete is expected to take excellent care of this equipment. This includes regular laundering of all practice equipment.
3. The original equipment issued must be returned by the athlete at the close of the season.
4. Each athlete is held financially responsible for any lost or misplaced equipment.

ATHLETIC INJURIES

1. All participants in the athletic program must be covered by insurance or waiver before they are permitted to practice and it must be on file in the Athletic Director's Office.
2. Any school-connected injury shall be reported to the trainer and coach.
3. If an individual has any special medical problem, be sure that the Athletic Department, coach, and trainer are so informed.
4. Should an injury be discovered after the athlete has returned home, go to your doctor and report as in number 2 above.

TRAVEL

Our bus will leave school on schedule (which will be posted). The entire team will travel by bus to and from a game. All players will come home on the bus unless a parent personally asks and provides written permission to the head coach. The Student-Athlete must ride home with their parent/guardian.

ATTENDANCE AT SCHOOL

1. The athlete is expected to be in school the entire day of an athletic contest and the entire day after said contest. Any exceptions to this are to be at the discretion of the Attendance Office and the Athletic Director.
2. You cannot practice or participate in any contest while serving out-of school suspension.
3. Any athlete who is absent from school is ineligible for practice or competition on that day, unless said absence is prearranged.
4. If an athlete is absent on Friday because of illness, he or she cannot compete in a Saturday practice or contest without written permission of his parents and approval of the high school principal or his representative

MISSISSINEWA COMMUNITY SCHOOLS 2024 - 2025 CALENDAR

Aug 5 & 6	Teacher Organization Days
Aug 7	First Student Day
Sept 2	Labor Day-No School
Sept 27	eLearning Day (Ducktail Run)
Oct 9	End of 1st Grading Period
Oct 11	eLearning Day
Oct 21-25	Fall Break
Nov 27-29	Thanksgiving Break
Dec 20	End of 1st Semester
Dec 23-Jan 3	Winter Break
Jan 6	School Reconvenes
Jan 20	MLK Day - No School
Feb 17	President's Day - No School
March 12	End of 3rd Grading Period
March 21-31	Spring Break
April 1	School Reconvenes
May 23	End of 2nd Semester
May 26	Memorial Day - No School
May 27-30	Snow Makeup Days
June 1	Commencement