



**Michigan City
Area Schools**

Opportunity ★ Excellence ★ Pride

**Student/Parent Handbook &
Code of Responsible Behavior
Michigan City High School
2025-2026 School Year**

June 2025

Dear Parents/Guardians of Michigan City Area Schools Students:

We are pleased to present to you a revised edition of the Michigan City Area Schools Code of Responsible Behavior for the 2025-26 School Year. In keeping with our Michigan City Area Schools Mission Statement, our focus is on the positive behaviors students should exhibit every day. Through each school's Positive Behavior Supports plan, these behaviors will be acknowledged and rewarded. Using this approach, students will learn responsibility and gain an understanding of how their behavior affects their success.

Our discipline is administered through a "level" system that assigns different consequences to behaviors based on the severity and frequency of the infraction. Our goal is to help students understand how their behaviors impact themselves and others. It is our hope that students will see value in behaving responsibly in classrooms, hallways, and in the school setting in general. Through this Code of Responsible Behavior, we believe students will be given the opportunity to learn and grow. Our aim is for students to contribute positively to society through a system that has clear goals and high expectations.

Thank you for your continued partnership with us as we work together to ensure success for all students!

Sincerely,

Dr. Wendel McCollum
Superintendent
Michigan City Area Schools

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Equal Opportunity

The Michigan City Area Schools does not discriminate on the basis of the Protected Classes of race, color, national origin, sex (including transgender status, sexual orientation and gender identity), disability, age, religion, military status, ancestry, or genetic information, which are classes protected by Federal and/or State law (collectively, "Protected Classes"). This includes the Corporation's employment opportunities, programs, and/or activities, or, if initially occurring off Corporation grounds or outside the Corporation's employment opportunities, programs and activities, affecting the Corporation's environment. For further information, clarification, or complaint, please contact the MCAS School Administration, 408 S. Carroll Avenue, Michigan City, Indiana 46360 at (219) 873-2000 for Title IX (gender equity related issues); or Special Education Department, 408 S. Carroll Avenue, Michigan City, Indiana 46360 at (219) 873-2000 for Section 504 (non-discrimination/ disability issues and Americans with Disabilities). Any other information concerning the above policies may be obtained by contacting the Administration Office, 408 S. Carroll Ave., Michigan City, Indiana 46360 at (219) 873-2000.

Michigan City Area Schools High School Student/Parent Handbook

WELCOME

Welcome to Michigan City High School! Through this handbook, the school administration wishes to acquaint you with the services provided by the school and familiarize you with the regulations, rights, and responsibilities that apply to all high school students.

Academics is your first priority at Michigan City High School. Our policies and procedures outlined in this book fit this philosophy. Daily attendance and best efforts on a daily basis should be a priority before extracurricular activities and socialization. We are proud of our diversity and expect students to respect others as well as themselves. With these thoughts in mind, we look forward to your success at Michigan City High School.

MICHIGAN CITY AREA SCHOOLS MISSION STATEMENT

MISSION

We are a diverse community of families, students, and staff who take pride in our schools, contribute positively to society, and prepare students for lifelong success.

VISION

Michigan City Area Schools: High expectations. Supported students. Innovative paths to success.

VALUES AND BELIEF STATEMENTS

TRUST

We believe in promoting a culture of integrity so that all members of our community experience deep trust and partnership with the district.

DIVERSITY

We believe in celebrating diversity and empowering all members of our community.

GROWTH

We believe in continuously growing, learning, and improving, so that all of our students experience academic and personal success.

PRIDE

We believe in cultivating pride in our schools.

MICHIGAN CITY HIGH SCHOOL MISSION STATEMENT

Michigan City High School, a diverse learning community committed to excellence, will ensure our graduates are responsible and productive participants in an evolving global society by focusing on:

- a rigorous and engaged learning;
- a curricular foundation preparing students to be college and career ready;

- a safe and supportive environment;
- a highly effective staff; and
- community, business and family participation and ownership.

OBJECTIVES

- 100% of Michigan City High School students will graduate and exceed the standards.
- 100% of Michigan City High School students will experience rigorous and engaged learning.
- 100% of Michigan City High School students will be responsible, productive citizens.

TACTICS

- We will ensure all students a guaranteed and viable curriculum.
- We will provide the tools necessary for students to confidently pursue academic and career goals.
- We will engage our community in the education of our students.
- All members of the learning community will engage in results-driven, ongoing professional development.
- We will ensure a safe environment conducive to learning.

REFERENCE GUIDE FOR PARENTS

For Questions About:	Contact:	Telephone Number:
Absences	Attendance	(219) 873-2047
Cafeteria	MCHS Food Service Manager	(219) 873-2044 ext. 4568
Career & Technical Education	A. K. Smith Career Center	(219) 873-2120
Career & Technical Education	South Campus	(219) 873-2120
Changing Schools	School Counseling Office	(219) 873-2050
Discipline	Administration/Asst. Principal	(219) 873-2044 ext. 4313
Lockers	Administration/Asst. Principal	(219) 873-2044 ext. 4313
Lost and Found	Administration/Asst. Principal	(219) 873-2044 ext. 4300
Parking	Administration/Asst. Principal	(219) 873-2044 ext. 4313
Scheduling	School Counseling Office	(219) 873-2044, ext. 4306
Special Education (IEPs)	Special Education Office	(219) 873-2000
Technology	Technology	(219) 873-2044 ext. 8359
Transcripts	School Counselor/Registrar	(219) 873-2044, ext. 4443
Transportation	Transportation Office	(219) 873-2127
Withdrawal	School Counseling Office	(219) 873-2044, ext. 4306
Administration Offices		(219) 873-2044
Athletic Office		(219) 873-2043
School Nurse		(219) 873-2044, ext. 4509

- **If you have a concern about a classroom issue:**
1) Please call or e-mail the classroom teacher. 2) Contact the Assistant Principal.
- **If you have a question regarding your child's behavior:**
Please contact the Discipline Secretary at (219) 873-2044 ext. 4313 or 4314, and you will be directed to the appropriate Assistant Principal.
- **If you have a question about an MCHS policy:**
Please contact the MCHS receptionist at (219) 873-2044, and you will be directed to the appropriate department.
- **If your child has experienced a harassment/bullying concern**
Please ask your child to complete a statement form in the Discipline Office. It may also be appropriate to contact the School Counseling Office.

HELP YOUR CHILD BECOME SUCCESSFUL IN HIGH SCHOOL

Good teaching starts in the home because the parent is the first teacher of the student. It is your privilege and obligation to teach by example and to develop in your child the good habits of behavior as well as a positive attitude toward school. To help assure your child's progress in high school, you should:

- Read the Student/Parent Handbook to familiarize yourself with the procedures used in the Michigan City Area Schools.
- Recognize that the teacher takes the place of the parent while your child is at school.
- Teach and require your child to have respect for the law, for authority, for the rights of others, and for private and public property.
- Become an active part of the school by volunteering time, attending school activities, checking on your child regularly with their teachers, counselor, or an administrator and by serving on various school committees.
- Talk with your child about school activities and show an active interest in report cards and the daily progress of your child. Ask your child daily what was learned.
- Encourage and demand prompt and regular school attendance and comply with attendance rules and procedures.
- Safeguard the physical and mental health of your child and be responsible for periodic health examinations.
- Attend individual or group parent conferences. Request conferences as you see a need.
- Attend special school programs.
- Arrange for a time and a place at home for homework assignments, supervise your child, and check the work.
- Work with the high school in carrying out recommendations made in the best interest of your child.
- Know your child's friends. Encourage and guide wholesome friendships, interests, and activities.
- Understand and comply with the rules of the school concerning student conduct, and cooperate with the school in carrying out disciplinary action.
- Call the school with your concerns or compliments.

GENERAL INFORMATION

Through this handbook, the school administration wishes to acquaint you with the services provided by the school and familiarize you with the regulations, rights, and responsibilities that apply to all high school students. In the event of a conflict between individual school procedures and guidelines, and Michigan City Area Schools policies and guidelines, Michigan City Area Schools policies and guidelines shall govern.

ACADEMICS

Specific courses and additional information can be found in the Michigan City High School Course Selection Guidebook, on the MCHS website, or by contacting the School Counseling Office.

Academic Honors

The Michigan City Area Schools are committed to providing additional resources to students who demonstrate academic excellence and wish to take rigorous coursework in preparation for post-secondary education opportunities. Challenging coursework is offered through Academic Honors courses, Advanced Placement Courses, and Dual Credit Courses for high school and college. There is no additional fee for Academic Honors classes.

Advanced Placement Courses

Advanced Placement (AP) Courses provide opportunities for college-bound students to experience courses more commensurate with college-level work. Students participating in the AP Program are required to take the AP Test at the completion of their coursework. (A list of AP courses can be found in the Michigan City Course Selection Guidebook or on the MCHS website.) There is a fee for the AP Test, however, assistance is available. Contact the School Counseling Office for additional details.

Concurrent Enrollment (Dual Credit)

Concurrent Enrollment courses are taught by Michigan City High School teachers who have been approved by the cooperating university. Students who obtain a “C” or higher and pay the course fee, if applicable, will receive college credits that will likely transfer to any public Indiana university or college that the student attends in the future. The per-credit-hour fees are significantly lower than the normal course fees; students will save money because they will not have to take those classes when they attend college.

AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT AND SECTION 504

The Americans with Disabilities Act and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act requires the Michigan City Area Schools to ensure that no individual will be discriminated against on the basis of a disability. This protection applies to students, staff, and all individuals that have access to the School Corporation’s programs and facilities.

Students who have disabilities who do not qualify for IDEIA (the Individuals with Disabilities Education Improvement Act) may be served within the regular education program with an accommodation plan developed through an interactive dialogue between the school, the student, and the student’s parents. Parents/Guardians who believe that their child may have a disability that interferes substantially with the child’s ability to function in school should contact the building principal.

ATHLETICS

The following interscholastic athletic programs are offered at Michigan City High School.

FALL

Cheerleading
Cross Country
Football
Golf (Girl's)
Soccer
Tennis (Boy's)
Volleyball (Girl's)

WINTER

Basketball
Cheerleading
Gymnastics
Swimming
Wrestling

SPRING

Baseball
Golf (Boy's)
Softball
Tennis (Girl's)
Track/Unified Track
Volleyball (Boy's)

Participants must satisfy the following eligibility requirements, as outlined by the Indiana High School Athletic Association (IHSAA) and the Michigan City Area Schools:

- A. have a completed school-approved physical examination form on file and have a consent and release form on file before practicing;
- B. be in good standing with the school;
- C. have earned passing grades in six (6) or more full credit subjects during the previous grading period or semester (as determined by IHSAA rules) and be currently enrolled in and passing six (6) or more full credit subjects;
- D. have a minimum grade point average of 1.5 on a 4.0 scale for the previous grading period or semester (as determined by IHSAA rules).

(Please see Appendix C for the Code of Conduct for Participants in Athletics.)

ATHLETICS - GUIDELINES FOR SPECTATORS

Michigan City High School makes every effort to assure the enjoyment and participation of all that attend events held in the gymnasium. The second level of the gymnasium is not accessible for those persons who have difficulty climbing stairs. To assure the safety of all spectators, persons with mobility limitations will be seated on the Main Floor level.

Parents and student supporters are encouraged to attend extracurricular activities and events. They must comply with the same rules of sportsmanship and appropriate behavior expected from students. The individual supervising events will have the final decision to exclude disruptive participants.

We make a difference by showing spirit through encouraging our players and cheering them on.

- 1. We focus on our players – not the other team, other coaches, other fans, or officials.
- 2. We understand that the main event is on the floor – not in the stands.
- 3. We understand that the DAC sets high expectations regarding sportsmanship and any inappropriate or rude acts, words, or aggressive behavior reflect poorly on our school and may in fact inspire the opponents.

* Students and spectators who do not uphold these beliefs will be removed.

ATHLETIC BOOSTERS

The Michigan City High School Athletic Booster Club is a not-for-profit organization that has two (2) purposes – to Raise Funds and Distribute Funds – in its effort to support the athletic programs and the students participating in those programs. Funds are mostly generated through dues, donations, and any

fundraising efforts decided upon by the Club. Also, 50-50 ticket sales at football and basketball games generate funds for the Scholarship awards. Funds raised outside of the 50/50 are spent on equipment, team uniforms or approved needs of a team. Family memberships are available to any parent, teacher, or interested citizen. Meetings are open to all members and are held at Michigan City High School at 6:00 p.m. on the third Monday of each month. Parents, particularly those of student-athletes, are encouraged to participate in the Athletic Booster Club. If you have any questions, please call the Athletic Office at (219) 873- 2043. The Athletic Office can provide you with the names and telephone numbers of current Athletic Booster Officers.

ATTENDANCE

Perfect Attendance Awards:

MCHS recognizes those students were marked present all 180 school days as Perfect Attendance Award recipients. These individuals are recognized at awards ceremonies at the end of the school year. Students must be marked present in all classes.

Student Absences:

Any student not present at the designated school of enrollment for **any reason** other than defined exemptions will be reported as absent per the guidelines/procedures of the MCAS Attendance Policy and the Indiana Department of Education.

Make-Up Work

It is the student's responsibility to gather, complete, and return classroom assignments to their teachers in a timely manner upon return to school. Students have the same number of blocks to make up classroom assignments as the number of blocks they were absent from school. Make-up work for trancies is up to teacher discretion. If students are absent for an extended period of time, the parent/legal guardian may contact the student's teacher or counselor and request information pertaining to homework assignments. Please allow at least 24 hrs for homework to be provided. It is highly recommended to use the student's school-issued device to check Schoology for any make-up work.

There are three different types of absences that accumulate per semester: exempt, excused, and truant:

Exempt: Under certain circumstances, the law requires the school to authorize the absence and excuse of a student:

- serving as a page or honoree of the General Assembly (IC 20-33-2-14);
- serving on the precinct election board or as a helper to a political candidate or party on the day of a municipal, primary or general election (IC 20-33-2-15);
- when subpoenaed to testify in court (IC 20-33-2-16);
- serving with the National Guard for no more than 10 days (IC 20-33-2-17); or serving with the Civil Air Patrol for up to 5 days (IC 20-33-2-17.2),
- the student is approved for an educationally related non-classroom activity (I.C. 20-33-2-17.5) – Note: College visits must be approved by the principal.
- the student or a member of the student's household exhibits or participates in the Indiana State Fair for educational purposes (IC 20-33-2-17.7).

In each of these circumstances, the student is excused from school and is not to be recorded as absent, and is not to be penalized in any way by the school.

Excused: Absences verified within 24 hrs by a parent/guardian phone call or note, or verified by a doctor's statement.

Tuant: A student may be considered truant when they are not in their assigned area/room at any time during the school day. A truancy can be either all day or for individual blocks during the day when students are more than 15 minutes late to a class/assigned area. Teachers have the right to not accept students into their class after 15 minutes.

A parent has 24 hours to change an “absence” to an “excused absence” regardless of the reason for the absence. If a student absence remains as “absent” or has excessive absences without a doctor’s note, phone call, or email to the attendance secretary, the student will have the following consequences:

Consequences for all-day “unexcused absences” truanities:

- 3 Truanities - 3 day absence letter sent to residence
- 4 Truanities - 1 day in school suspension issued.
- 5 Truanities - 2 days in school suspension issued. 5 day absence letter sent to residence, social probation for 9 weeks.
- 6 Truanities - 3 days in school suspension issued. District attendance officer will contact parent, revoke driving privileges
- 7 or More Truanities - The administration will determine appropriate consequences including a referral to juvenile probation or Teen Court.

Consequences for truanities for individual blocks during the day when students are not where they are scheduled to be, or are more than 15 minutes late to class:

- 1st offense - Email to parent, lunch detention
- 2nd offense - Phone call home, after school detention issued
- 3rd-5th offense - in school suspension for 1 day issued
- 6th offense - in school suspension for 1 day issued, parent meeting and “attendance plan” created.
- 7th offense - Teen court and social probabtiob for the remainder of the grading period/semester.

Students cannot enter the classroom 15 minutes after the period starts. Students will report to the in house room until the remaining block ends.

Reporting of Student Absences:

- The student’s parent/legal guardian must call the school of the student’s enrollment no later than 9:00 a.m. indicating the reason for the student’s absence; otherwise after 24 hours the student will be considered truant from school.
- Upon the student’s return to school, the parent/legal guardian may be requested to provide a written statement and/or a doctor’s statement indicating the reason for the student’s absence.
- In cases where the student’s absence has been extensive, a written Consent to Release Pertinent Medical Information (completed by the parent/legal guardian) and a Letter of Incapacity (completed by both the parent/legal guardian and physician) must be provided to the school if requested.
- Automated calls will be placed daily to parents for absences.

Pre-Approved Planned Full-Day Absences (excused and non-exempt):

- The student’s parent/legal guardian must provide the building principal with a written explanation prior to the student’s anticipated absence.

- It is the student's responsibility to gather all makeup work prior to a planned absence. Work is due to the student's teacher(s) immediately upon their return to school. Please allow **at least 24 hrs** for homework to be provided. It is highly recommended to use the student's school-issued device to check Schoology for any make-up work.
- **Absences resulting from approved planned absences are considered excused by the Michigan City Area Schools and the Indiana Department of Education.**

Early Dismissal (excused)

- It is strongly encouraged that professional appointments for students be scheduled outside of the school day. In cases where this is not possible, it is suggested that appointments be made either early or late in the school day, so that the student may benefit from classroom instruction with as little interruption as possible.
- Prior notification from the student's parent/legal guardian informing the school of the student's professional appointment is required **BEFORE** the student may be released from school.
- The student will be given an Early Dismissal Pass and sign out of the building at the Attendance Office. Failure to follow the sign-out procedure may constitute truancy and may result in appropriate disciplinary action.
- The school may request proof of identification when signing out the student.
- **Students with an Early Dismissal must enter and exit via Door A.**

Excessive Absences: Students whose attendance rate is less than 95% (approximately 9 days per school year) will not be eligible for the graduation waiver.

Tardiness

Students have 5 minutes to arrive at their next class from their previous one. There will be a one minute warning bell sound for students to get to class. A student is considered tardy if they are not in their designated room/location/area after the bell rings.

After more than 5 minutes, the student will be required to have a pass from the attendance office to be let into class. Teachers have the right to not accept students into their class after 15 minutes.

- 5 tardies - Email sent to student and parent by the administration
- 10 tardies - Afterschool detention. Student conference and parent contacted by administrator
- 15 tardies - in school suspension for 1 day issued
- 20 tardies - in school suspension for 1 day issued
- 25 tardies - in school suspension for 3 days issued, Parent meeting and "attendance plan" created
- 30 tardies - Teen court and social probation

Late Arrival

If a student arrives to school late, the student must sign in and receive a pass to enter the class after 5 minutes. If the students are more than 15 minutes late arriving at the start of the class, the teacher has the right to deny entry. In such cases, the student must report directly to the In-House Room to be accounted for and avoid being marked absent..

AUTOMOBILE REGULATIONS

The use of motor vehicles for travel to and from school by students is an assumption of responsibility on the part of those students. It is a responsibility in the care of property, the observation of safety rules, and the display of courtesy and consideration toward others. Therefore, students are expected to

abide by the following rules, and drive safely and defensively when approaching and exiting the school.

- All students interested in possessing a parking permit at MCHS must be in good standing (not on social probation and GPA of 1.5 or above).
- All vehicles **must** be registered annually with the school and display a parking permit.
- Parking permits may be purchased from the Main Office. The \$20 fee is non-refundable.
- Parking is strictly limited to each student's designated parking spot.
- **The school is not responsible for a vehicle or its contents.**
- **Students are not to go to their vehicles or to the parking lot at any time during the day without permission from an administrator. Students are asked to exit their vehicles once they arrive and not remain sitting in them.**
- Speeding or any form of reckless driving to or from school or on school grounds is prohibited. Drive slowly!
- Student vehicles may be subject to search if there are reasonable grounds to believe that drugs, alcohol, stolen property, or other contraband might be present in that vehicle.
- All cars should be kept locked during school hours.
- Students parked illegally will be subject to disciplinary action and the car may be towed.
- Non-handicapped students are never to park in designated handicapped areas.

Please note: By bringing a vehicle onto school property, it is implied that the student consents to a search of the vehicle and its contents by a school administrator with a reasonable suspicion that the search will produce evidence of a violation of law, a school rule, or a condition that endangers the safety or health of the student driver or others. The student shall have no expectation of privacy in any vehicle or in the contents of any vehicle operated or parked on school property.

Students who do not abide by MCHS automobile regulations face possible sanctions under the Code of Responsible Behavior, as well as the following: warning ticket, ticket with fine, suspension of driving privileges, and towing of the vehicle.

BOOK USE GUIDELINES

- **Libraries 360:** All students will have access to LaPorte County Public Library resources. Accounts will be generated at the beginning of the school year. Students will maintain a "student unlimited" Libraries360 account. Students will have access to adult, young adult and youth books in both print and digital formats. Any materials checked out through Libraries 360 shall be considered MCAS materials and will be subject to all MCAS library policies and procedures. Students are welcome to utilize the Library 360 account personally with parent supervision.
- **Lost or Damaged Books** - Students are responsible for maintaining textbooks and library books. Teachers record the book number and condition of the textbook when it is issued to the student. Students must return the textbook(s) issued to them at the end of the course unmarked, and without unreasonable wear and tear. Students will pay for lost or damaged books.

BULLYING, HARASSMENT AND INTIMIDATION

Our schools take bullying, harassment and intimidation very seriously. Students should report bullying, harassment or intimidation promptly to a teacher or staff member. Bullying is defined according to Indiana Law (see Bullying and Intimidation in the Code of Responsible Behavior section).

BUILDING ACCESS

School doors will open at 7:05 a.m. Students may enter and exit through Entrance “A” only for breakfast and door “P” for no breakfast. Students are restricted from entering or exiting any other doors during normal operating hours. Students may obtain access to the building after school hours if they are attending a supervised activity.

BUS TRANSPORTATION

Bus transportation is provided to students who do not live within walking distance of the school. While commuting on school transportation, traveling to and from the bus stop, or waiting at the bus stop, students are expected to conduct themselves according to established school rules and follow the directions of the bus driver. **Please see Appendix A for Michigan City Area Schools’ Transportation Guidelines.**

CAFETERIA

MCAS provides free breakfast and lunch to all students under the Community Eligibility Provision (CEP). However, we encourage eligible families to complete the Household Application for Summer EBT and Other Assistance form each year, which could enable families to qualify for summer EBT benefits and other educational benefits. A la Carte options, such as snacks and beverages, are available for purchase. All MCAS Cafeterias are cashless, which helps ensure speed and efficiency. Each student has a cafeteria account, which is accessed by the student's unique identification number. To add funds into a student's account, create a free account on the LINQ Connect Portal by visiting <https://linqconnect.com/>.

Creating an account is easy and gives you access to view your child's daily meal activity and deposit funds instantly. You can link all your children's accounts into one. For further information, including menus, nutrition information, and other information, please visit www.mcas.k12.in.us/food or call (219) 873-2131.

For students with food allergies, a Dietary Prescription Form and a Food Allergy Action Plan must be completed. For further information, including menus, nutrition information, current pricing, and an online payment option please visit www.mcas.k12.in.us/food or call 873-2131.

Students are expected to be courteous to cafeteria staff and others along with obeying all school rules. Additionally, the following guidelines are to be adhered to:

- Upon entering the cafeteria, take your place at the end of the line.
- Obey cafeteria staff and supervisors.
- No outside food (i.e. McDonalds, Dominos, etc.) is permitted to be brought or delivered to lunch or during school hours.
- Lockers are off-limits during lunch.
- Food and drink must remain in the cafeteria.
- Students are responsible for cleaning up after themselves.
- Students will remain seated until the bell dismisses them from lunch.
- Students are expected to remain in the cafeteria for their entire lunch period.
- Students are not permitted to bring book bags and coats to the cafeteria during lunch.
- Students are to be conscious of others regarding voice levels and/or disruptions.

Students violating the above guidelines may be subject to loss of privileges, including having a seat assigned to them, a change in lunch period, or limited access to the cafeteria.

CAREER AND TECHNICAL PROGRAMS

The Michigan City Area Schools support a successful and beneficial career and technical program with various experiences that are housed at the A. K. Smith Career Center. Students interested in enrolling in these programs should speak with their school counselor and/or call the career center for more information. Transportation to the A.K. Smith Career Center is provided. Students riding the bus will be held responsible for their actions. Misconduct on the bus will result in disciplinary action and/or may result in the student's removal from the bus and/or career and technical classes.

CELLPHONES (SEE PORTABLE ELECTRONIC DEVICES)

CHROMEBOOKS

Students are responsible for having a charged Chromebook for every class period. If there is a technical problem, it is the student's responsibility to go to the Student Tech Zone (STZ) before school or during a passing period. Students are expected to have a pass to enter the Student Tech Zone (STZ) during class periods.

CLOSED CAMPUS

Michigan City High School has a closed campus. All students are to remain on campus for the entire day unless scheduled off-campus. Students leaving without permission or violating any other school policy will be considered truant and will be subject to disciplinary action.

COLLEGE VISITATIONS

Eleventh and twelfth-grade students will be allowed at least two exempt college visitation days, providing the requirements and the following steps are completed:

- Pick up a college visitation form from the School Counseling office and have each teacher sign it.
- The form must be signed by a parent or legal guardian.
- The form must be signed by someone involved in the visitation at the university.
- When the student returns, forms should be returned to the attendance office so the absence can be marked exempt.

CONFERENCES (Parent-Teacher)

The parent-teacher conference can play a significant role in the education of students. A conference provides the teacher with vital information from parents that will strengthen the plans and strategies the teacher uses with students. It helps parents understand more clearly what the school and the teacher are trying to accomplish with a student, and builds a strong home-school partnership. Parent-Teacher Conferences will be held in the first and third quarters of the school year. If you would like additional conferences, please make arrangements with the teacher by calling the teacher and/or the school counselor. Parent visits to a classroom require a 24 hour advance notice.

COUNSELORS AND SOCIAL WORKERS (School Counseling Services)

All students have the opportunity to talk with their assigned counselor and/or school social workers regarding such issues as: personal problems, concerns, interests, educational planning, career planning, and testing. Students may be assured that information shared at these conferences will be held in the strictest of confidence unless a statement indicating unethical, immoral, or illegal activity or a matter

concerning someone's safety is reported. Students may request an appointment to see their counselor and/or social workers. The counselor will respond to a student's request at their earliest convenience. If the student and/or the family is in need of professional counseling, please call the counseling office to request a referral for outside professional counseling.

DANCES/SOCIAL EVENTS

Participation in and attendance at dances and other social events is considered a privilege. MCHS supports the notion that academics come first, students must be in good standing to attend all school dances.

While social events are primarily for MCHS students, in some instances MCHS students may request to bring guests from other high schools. Guests must be enrolled as a full-time student and in good standing at their schools, and must be in the appropriate grade level. (No adults/students who have graduated.) Guest forms, which must be signed by both school principals, are available in the school office and have the requirements for approval listed. Forms should be turned in no later than one (1) week before the dance.

Dances	Grade Levels	Guest Requirements
Regular Dances	9, 10, 11, 12	· No guests at regular dances.
Sadie Hawkins Dance	9, 10, 11, 12	· High school student · Good standing · All grades
Winter Ball	9, 10, 11, 12	· High school student · Good standing · All grades
Prom	11, 12	· 11th, 12th grade student · Good standing

When school-sponsored dances are held, students must show their student identification card to gain admittance. There will be no pass-outs during the dances. Anyone leaving the dance will not be permitted to return. Students who leave the dance early must sign out. All students attending a MCHS dance will dance appropriately or will be removed from the dance and a parent will be notified. Any activity that is not satisfactory to the adults who are supervising the dance will be addressed. Students on social probation are not allowed to participate in school dances.

DIPLOMAS AND CERTIFICATES

Please refer to the course guide for the student cohort in regards to specific requirements.

DISTINCTION RECOGNITION

Michigan City High School is proud to recognize its top graduates each year. Distinguished graduates must meet the following requirements:

- Earn a cumulative grade point average of 4.1 or higher
- Earn 51 total credits or more
- Attendance rate of 95% or more
- Meet all academic honors diploma requirements
- Be present for 8 semesters of high school

The top ten students with the highest cumulative grade point average will be considered students of high distinction.

Distinguished students are honored at a Distinction Banquet and the Senior Awards Ceremony. They sit in the front row at graduation and are recognized in the graduation program booklet.

DRESS CODE

Students must dress appropriately for school. The following dress code rules will apply:

1. Clothing signifying gang-related activities, slogans, colors, etc. is prohibited.
2. T-shirts, other attire, or jewelry that advertise or promote alcoholic beverages, drugs, cigarettes, vaping, profanity, or the disregard for others are unacceptable.
3. Hats, bandanas, and other headgear are not to be worn in the building. This includes extracurricular activities.
4. Mesh tops, see-through tops, spaghetti tops, or tank tops with enlarged sleeve openings are prohibited.
5. Hoodies are acceptable but must be worn with hoods down.
6. Skirts and shorts shall be no less than mid-thigh length.
7. Jackets, coats, gloves, or other forms of outerwear are not to be worn in the classroom.
8. Shoes must be worn at all times. No open toes, flip flops, slides, heels above 2", slippers.
9. Beachwear and pajamas are prohibited.
10. All pants must be worn at the waistline.
11. Leggings are not acceptable as pants unless worn with a long shirt or dress.
12. Straps that are unbuckled and belts that are unfastened or anything dangling from the waist or pockets such as chains, ropes, rags, etc are prohibited.
13. Tops and pants that reveal the midriff or undergarments are prohibited.
14. Any clothing or appearance that is disruptive to the educational process is prohibited.

Violations of the dress code will result in disciplinary action as outlined in the Code of Responsible Behavior.

Bags

Book bags, string bags, large tote bags, backpacks, purses, carry-all or bags with straps, *etc.* make the aisles in classrooms unsafe and are sometimes used to conceal inappropriate items that may be brought to class for the purpose of creating disruptions. Therefore, these bags may not be carried from class to class during the school day. Such bags are to be stored in the student's locker.

EARLY RELEASE DAYS

Michigan City Area Schools will utilize Early Release days to allow teachers and staff to participate in professional development. Students will receive assignments to complete at home during the afternoon. Early dismissal dates will be noted on school calendars and on the Michigan City Area Schools web site. Early dismissal times are as follows:

Middle and High School students: 11:00 a.m.

Elementary students: 12:00 noon

E-LEARNING

The eLearning Day Program allows schools to continue instructional programming away from the school building when the weather or other circumstances prevent school from being in session. For more information visit <http://educateMC.net/eLearning>.

ELEVATOR ACCESS

Michigan City High School has an elevator for use by students with physical disabilities. Students who have a physical disability that requires the use of the elevator should consult with the school nurse.

EMERGENCY SCHOOL CLOSINGS AND DELAYS

Student safety is a primary goal of the Michigan City Area Schools. At all times, weather conditions are monitored to ensure that students can be safely delivered to schools and returned home. Parents are strongly encouraged to make arrangements for the welfare of their children due to school closings or delays and ensure that their children are appropriately dressed for weather conditions.

General Procedures:

Weather and road conditions are monitored by the Director of Transportation on a daily basis. The Director of Transportation, along with assistance from the Plant Planning Department, begins to monitor road conditions at 4:00-4:30 a.m. The Director of Transportation is also in contact with surrounding school corporations, local and state police, and other community agencies. Between 4:30 a.m. and 5:00 a.m., the Director of Transportation will make a recommendation to the Superintendent to close or delay schools.

When weather conditions, such as severe cold or heavy snow, can be predicted before 4:30 a.m., the Director of Transportation will recommend closing or a delay of start the night before.

Once the recommendation to close is accepted by the Superintendent, the media is notified no later than 5:30 a.m. (except in extreme conditions) and parents are informed via the news media and the Internet.

School closing and delay information is available on the MCAS website (www.EducateMC.net) or by calling the MCAS Delay and Cancellation Information Line at **(219) 873-2000 (press option “2”)**. In addition, in the event of a delay or closing, the following media will be notified. (Many of these media outlets also have smartphone apps and Facebook pages that announce closings/delays.)

Radio: WEFM (95.9 FM); WCOE (96.7 FM); WIMS (1420 AM and 95.1 FM); WLOI (1540 AM); Adams Radio Group (Z-107.1 FM, Indiana 105.5FM)

Television: ABC57 - Channel 57; WNDU - Channel 16; WSBT - Channel 22

Parents are encouraged to register for text alerts from MCAS about closings and delays at <http://educatemc.net/texts>. Closings and delays will also be shared using the MCAS smartphone app.

Parents are also encouraged to stay tuned to local media and to check for updated text messages, particularly in the case of a school delay. On rare occasions a decision may be made to move from a delay status to a closed status.

If school is closed for the entire day, after school activities, Adult Education courses, and Safe Harbor and Boys and Girls Club are all canceled. High School athletic activities are considered on an individual basis.

Hazardous Road Conditions

Decisions to close or delay school due to hazardous road conditions are determined by the Director of Transportation and the Superintendent of Schools based on the ability to successfully navigate buses both within the city limits and the county areas. Weather conditions across the district can vary greatly due to the potential of lake effect snow. The conditions of the parking lots and the temperature and wind chill factor as well as the safety of children who walk to school are considered.

Wind Chill

As a general rule, a wind chill factor of -19 degrees will be the determining factor as to whether to close or delay school. Frostbite can occur on exposed skin in a relatively short time for children out in extreme temperatures. Parents are encouraged to ensure that students are appropriately dressed for these conditions while waiting at the bus stop or walking to and from school.

Decisions to close or delay school will take into consideration the current conditions as well as the duration of the wind chill factor predictions.

Fog

As in the case of hazardous road conditions, fog conditions can vary greatly across the district. Consideration to delay the start of school for fog conditions will be determined by 5:00 a.m.

Tornado Warnings

Our bus drivers are trained to know how and where to seek safety for children in the event of a tornado. Drivers also are instructed by the Transportation Department, which will be monitoring weather alert warnings. Individual buses or the fleet may be ordered back to the school(s) to unload students at the buildings or to the nearest school site to safely unload students.

Two-Hour Delay Schedule

If the notice is given that school will be delayed **two hours**, middle and high schools will start at 9:25 a.m. (doors open at 9:15 a.m.) Buses arrive at the designated bus stop two hours later than on a normal school day. There is no breakfast served on a two-hour delay schedule.

Please note that a two-hour delay can change to a cancellation of school if weather conditions warrant.

Early Dismissal Due to Weather Conditions

On rare occasions, weather conditions may necessitate closing school early. The same media will be contacted in the event that this is necessary and parents should have child-care arrangements in place should this occur. On these rare occasions, usually all secondary schools will be dismissed first and then elementary schools will be dismissed approximately one hour later.

ENROLLMENT PROCEDURES

Students enrolling in the Michigan City Area Schools in any grade must provide the following information, along with a completed MCAS Student Enrollment Form:

- The name and address of the school the student last attended (if any).
- The student's birth certificate, issued by a State Board of Health (hospital certificates are not acceptable).

- Parent/legal guardian's proof of residency consisting of a utility bill, deed, rental agreement, or public assistance documentation.
- Parent/guardian's driver's license or state picture identification card, which must be presented for the school to photocopy.
- An updated record of the student's immunizations, as Indiana law requires all students to have their immunizations up-to-date. If a student's immunizations are not up-to-date, the school has the authority to exclude the student from school until immunizations are up-to-date.
- Updated emergency contact and student medical information.

In the event that a student is not living with both biological or adoptive parents, parents/legal guardians may be asked to provide legal documentation confirming guardianship of the student, in addition to completed Legal Settlement Forms required by the Indiana Department of Education. If there are legal reasons why a non-custodial parent may not have access to their natural child's academic records, it is the custodial parent's responsibility to provide proof to the school.

New students who are in the process of expulsion/suspension or who are expelled or suspended at their current school of enrollment may not be accepted for enrollment in MCAS.

EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

The philosophy of Michigan City High School encourages interest, involvement, and participation in extracurricular offerings.

All students participating in athletics, clubs, organizations, and other extracurricular activities must have at least a 1.5 G.P.A. per grading period and should be in good standing (not on social probation). Students are encouraged to participate in a variety of clubs, organizations, and activities.

Participation in extracurricular activities is a privilege and can be taken away. Such participation should not interfere with a student's maintaining good grades.

The following are some clubs and organizations offered at Michigan City High School:

American Sign Language Club	HSSC	Retro Gaming Club
Bowling	HOSA	Rho Kappa Honor Society
Bring Change 2 Mind	Japanese Club	Robotics & EV Racing
Drama/Thespian Society	Jazz Band	Safe Harbor
Den Delirium	J.R.O.T.C.	Science Club
Early College Club	Kendama Club	Science Club
Envirothon	Marching Band	Student Leadership Advisory Council
eSports	Mathletes	Spanish Club
Faith Club	MCHS TV	Spell Bowl
Fishing Club	Mural Club	Steering Committee
French Club	National Honor Society	Student Council
German Club	Pep Band	Table Tennis
Helping Hands	Quiz Bowl	Yearbook
History Club	Rainbow Road (LGBTQIA + Club)	

New clubs can be formed if there is sufficient student interest and a faculty sponsor. Please see an Assistant Principal if you have an interest.

In an attempt to assist students who are faced with a selection of one extracurricular event over another, the following remedies are offered:

1. In order to avoid potential scheduling conflicts, a master calendar will be maintained in the main office by a designated secretary.
2. When conflicts occur, student input is always solicited. However, the sponsors are to agree upon a solution that is in accordance with the student's best interest.
3. In the situation that a practice conflicts with an event, the event will always take precedence over the practice.
4. If a solution cannot be agreed upon by the sponsors, the principal or designee will determine the outcome.

EVENTS

The public address system, closed-circuit television, and posters will inform students of the date, time, and particulars of an event. These items are usually read during morning announcements. Events are open to Michigan City High School students with an I.D. card, which must be shown upon request at the door. Once a student or guest leaves an event, they will not be allowed to return. Events will generally last no later than 10:00 p.m. Monday through Thursday, and 12:00 a.m. Friday and Saturday. All school rules apply at all school activities. For more information, see **Dances/Social Events**.

FAFSA

Each graduating senior shall, as part of their individual graduation plan and as a requirement for graduation, complete at least one of the following steps to support a successful transition to postsecondary education or training:

- Complete and submit to the U.S. Department of Education a Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA); or
- A parent or legal custodian, or a student legally emancipated or of the legal age of majority, may certify a waiver in writing to the school if they refuse to complete such an application; or
- If a graduating senior is not able to fulfill the requirements due to extenuating circumstances, the Michigan City High School counseling staff may apply for a waiver to be approved by the superintendent (or their designee).

FIELD TRIPS

Students who wish to participate in field trip activities must complete a permission slip signed first by all teachers and then the parent/legal guardian. Additional criteria may be established as needed for specific field trips. The permission slip must be on file with the class sponsor or teacher prior to the student's participation. Class assignments for work missed while the student is on the field trip are the responsibility of the student. The School Corporation does not sponsor overseas trips or out-of-state trips (with the exception of the Chicago area and Southwest Michigan). Field trip chaperones will be subject to the volunteer background check procedures described in this handbook.

FINAL EXAMS

Final exams are an important component of each semester. Exams demonstrate knowledge retention over an 18-week period and count as 1/5 of the semester grade. Final exams will not be administered early without approval from the building principal. **Students absent for any reason other than school activities will make up exams at a later date.**

FINANCIAL OBLIGATIONS TO MCHS

Parents must pay their child's financial obligations (library fines, the cost of replacing lost books, *etc.*) incurred while attending Michigan City High School. Any fees not paid by the end of each school year will be sent to a collection agency. A student who withdraws from school shall return the school issued Chromebook and/or charger or will be invoiced for the Chromebook.

Students who do not return their textbooks or supplies to the proper teacher at the end of the semester will be assessed the price for replacement. Lost books must be paid for before being issued a replacement book. Students are expected to have met all financial obligations before graduation.

FUNDRAISERS

Students are only allowed to sell items for school-approved fundraisers, and this may only take place before or after school. The money must be submitted to the appropriate sponsor or coach. Students who violate this will be subject to disciplinary action.

GRADES (Report Cards, Honor Rolls, Scholarship Pins)

Michigan City High School is on a four (4) nine-week grading period schedule. Consult the school calendar for the beginning and end dates of each grading period. Report cards are available following the end of each grading period. Online access to student grades and attendance is available to parents/legal guardians. Contact the School Counseling Office for a password and instructions. Report cards will be printed upon parent request.

Grading Procedures

The following letter designations have been assigned for the purpose of student evaluation.

A	Superior	A = 100% - 90%
B	Above Average	B = 89% - 80%
C	Average/Satisfactory	C = 79% - 70%
D	Below Average/Poor	D = 69% - 60%
F	Failed	F = 59% and below
I	Incomplete	

Computing Semester Grades

Each nine-week grade counts 2/5 of the semester grade. The semester final exam counts 1/5 of the semester grade. Each nine-week grade is assigned a point value (A=4, B=3, C=2, D=1, F=0) and multiplied by 2. The grade for the semester exam is also assigned a point value. The numbers from each semester and the final exam are added together and the final semester grade is derived from the following scale:

A = 18 - 20
B = 13 - 17
C = 8 - 12
D = 3 - 7
F = 2 or less

Note: "+" and "-" may be attached to a grade for the grading period or final exam, but for the purpose of figuring semester grades, grades will be considered A, B, C, D, F. If for some reason a student does not have all three of these grades, their grade is calculated using the following scale:

A = 3.51 - 4.00
B = 2.51 - 3.5

C = 1.51 - 2.5
D = 0.51 - 1.5
F = 0.00 - 0.5

Nine-week grades are still doubled and the exam grade is single. For two grading periods, the divisor is 4, and for a grading period and an exam, the divisor is 3.

A student must pass either both grading periods or one grading period and the final exam. Students who pass both grading periods or one grading period and the final exam are NOT automatically cleared to receive semester credit. This is a minimum requirement for semester credit. Semester credit must be earned by mastering course objectives. The semester mark is the culmination of the evaluation process. Class participation will be a factor when grades are calculated. A semester final examination is required in all courses. A behavior grade will be assigned every nine weeks.

Nine-Week Grades

1. Report cards will be available online after each nine (9) week period for each graded class in which the student is enrolled.
2. Grades in question should be discussed with the individual teacher. If a mistake was made, the teacher will correct it.
3. Incomplete deadline dates will be announced. Grades at MCHS that are not made up by the announced deadline will be changed to "F."
4. Seniors are reminded that the eighth semester G.P.A. will be used to determine final class rank.
5. Printed report cards will be given upon parent request to the Registrar.

Principal's Distinguished Honor Roll

Students with a 4.1 GPA or higher with no D's or F's in six (6) or more subjects will qualify for the Principal's Distinguished Honor Roll. A student will not qualify for the Principal's Distinguished Honor Roll with an "Incomplete" on their report card.

Academic Honor Roll

Students with all A's in six (6) or more subjects will qualify for the Academic Honor Roll. A student at MCHS will not qualify for the Academic Honor Roll with an "Incomplete" on their report card.

Honor Roll

A 3.0 GPA or above with no D's or F's in six (6) or more subjects will qualify a student for the Honor Roll. A student at MCHS will not qualify for the Honor Roll with an "Incomplete" on their report card.

Academic Pins

Any student who maintains a 3.5 scholastic average in six (6) or more subjects for two (2) consecutive semesters is eligible for a copper academic pin, for four (4) consecutive semesters a silver pin, for six (6) consecutive semesters a brass pin, and for eight (8) consecutive semesters an enameled brass pin. Freshman pins are determined by first semester grades. Sophomores, Juniors, and Seniors will be awarded pins based on second semester grades of the previous school year and first semester grades of the current year.

Class Rank will be based on grades received in classes that merit high school credits.

Weighted Grades

Michigan City High School will weigh the grades of all honors, concurrent enrollment, and advanced placement courses. The additional weight placed on grades for honors, concurrent enrollment, and advanced placement courses is in response to the additional rigor, challenges, and demands that are associated with taking courses beyond high school level.

Starting with the Class of 2025, any dual credits earned through the LaPorte county Career and Technical Education program will be weighted the same as those earned at the MCHS campus.

Grade	Percent Range	Points	Academic Honors	AP/Concurrent Enrollment
A	90-100	4	4.5	5
B	80-89	3	3.5	4
C	70-79	2	2.5	3
D	60-69	1	1.5	2
F	0-59	0	0	0

GRADUATION

Ceremony

A student must meet all graduation requirements before they will be allowed to participate in the graduation ceremony. The requirements for this privilege include:

- Passing grades in all required subjects
- Minimum of 40 credits
- Beginning with the Class of 2023, completion of Indiana Graduation Pathway requirements.
- Acceptable behavior and/or conduct during practices, pictures, and ceremony
- Participate in all scheduled commencement practices
- Adhere to the dress code for the ceremony

The Graduation Ceremony is not a social event, but rather a ceremony to recognize those who meet the requirements for a diploma. The State of Indiana measures all high schools according to the percentage of students who graduate within four years. Due to the importance of completing all requirements, students who do not complete all requirements will not walk in the ceremony.

GRADUATION PATHWAYS

All students must satisfy three Graduation Pathway Requirements in order to graduate. They include:

1. High School Diploma
2. Learn and Demonstrate Employability Skills
3. Demonstrate Postsecondary-Ready Competencies

For more information about Graduation Pathways, including specifics about each of the above requirements, visit the MCHS School Counseling Department website at <http://mchs.educateMC.net/school-counseling>.

HALL CONDUCT

Michigan City High School has established procedures for hallway behavior using the Positive Behavior Supports framework. In order to be a Leader of the Pack students will display dignity and respect when in the halls. Ample time is provided for passage to and from classes and to attend to personal needs.

Hallways are an extension of the classroom and all school expectations apply. Conduct must be respectful, considerate of others, and conducive to student learning. The following are general hallway expectations:

- Students must have an active pass in our system when in hallway during class periods.
- Walk/stay to the right.
- Avoid blocking hallway passages.
- Avoid gathering in groups.
- Avoid creating loud disturbances.
- Treat others with respect.
- Get to class before the bell rings.
- Use appropriate language.
- Identify yourself if asked by any MCHS employee or volunteer.

HARASSMENT

It is the policy of the School Board to maintain an education and work environment which is free from all forms of unlawful harassment, including sexual harassment. This commitment applies to all School Corporation operations, programs, and activities. All students, parents, administrators, teachers, staff, and all other school personnel share responsibility for avoiding, discouraging, and reporting any form of unlawful harassment. The Corporation will not retaliate against any person who makes a report or files a complaint alleging harassment or a violation of this policy. This policy applies to unlawful conduct occurring on school property, or at another location if such conduct occurs during an activity sponsored by the Board.

The Board will vigorously enforce its prohibition against harassment based on sex, race, color, national origin, religion, disability, or any other unlawful basis, and encourages those within the School Corporation community as well as third parties who feel aggrieved to seek assistance to rectify the problems. The Board will investigate all allegations of harassment and in those cases where unlawful harassment is substantiated, the Board will take immediate steps to end the harassment. Individuals who are found to have engaged in unlawful harassment will be subject to appropriate disciplinary action, including but not limited to 1.) Suspension or expulsion of a student; 2.) Suspension or termination of an employee.

All reports of harassment should be reported to Associate Superintendent, Cathy Bildhauser, Complaint Coordinator.

Office: 408 S. Carroll Ave., Michigan City, IN 46360
Telephone: (219) 873-2000, extension 8325
Email: cbildhauser@mcas.k12.in.us

Sexual Harassment

Pursuant to Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, "sexual harassment" is defined as:

Unwelcome sexual advances, requests for sexual favors, and other verbal or physical conduct of a sexual nature, when:

- A. Submission to such conduct is made either implicitly or explicitly a term or condition of an individual's employment, or status in a class, educational program, or activity.
- B. Submission or rejection of such conduct by an individual is used as the basis for employment or educational decisions affecting such individual.
- C. Such conduct has the purpose or effect of interfering with the individual's work or educational performance; of creating an intimidating, hostile, or offensive working, and/or learning environment; or of interfering with one's ability to participate in or benefit from a class or an educational program or activity.

“School Corporation community” means students, parents, administrators, teachers, staff, and all other school personnel, including Board members, agents, volunteers, contractors, or other persons subject to the control and supervision of the Board.

“Third parties” include, but are not limited to, guests and/or visitors on School Corporation property (e.g., visiting speakers, participants on opposing athletic teams, parents), vendors doing business with, or seeking to do business with, the Board, and other individuals who come in contact with members of the School Corporation community at school-related events/activities (whether on or off School Corporation property).

The Board will also take immediate steps to impose disciplinary action on individuals engaging in any of the following prohibited acts:

- A. Retaliating against a person who has made a report or filed a complaint alleging harassment, or who has participated as a witness in a harassment investigation.
- B. Filing a malicious or knowingly false report or complaint of harassment.
- C. Disregarding, failing to investigate adequately, or delaying investigation of allegations of harassment when responsibility for reporting and/or investigating harassment charges comprises part of one's supervisory duties.

Members of the School Corporation community and third parties are encouraged to promptly report incidents of harassing conduct to an administrator, supervisor or other School Corporation official so that the Board may address the conduct before it becomes severe, pervasive, or persistent.

When a Complainant believes criminal activity may have occurred the Complainant has the option to pursue a criminal complaint with an appropriate law enforcement agency, to pursue a harassment complaint under the Corporation's complaint procedures, or to pursue both processes simultaneously.

Members of the School Corporation community or third parties who believe they have been unlawfully harassed by another member of the School Corporation community or a third party are entitled to utilize the Board's informal and/or formal investigation and complaint processes. Initiating a complaint, whether formally or informally, will not adversely affect the complaining individual's participation in educational or extra-curricular programs. Individuals should make every effort to file an informal or a formal complaint as soon as possible after the conduct occurs while the facts are known and potential witnesses are available.

The School Corporation will respect the privacy of the complainant, the individual(s) against whom the complaint is filed, and the witnesses as much as possible, consistent with the Board's legal obligations to investigate, to take appropriate action, and to conform with any discovery or disclosure obligations. All records generated under the terms of this policy and its related administrative guidelines shall be maintained as confidential to the extent permitted by law.

Although certain cases may require additional time, either the Complaint Coordinator or a designee will attempt to complete an investigation into the allegations of harassment or retaliation within fifteen (15) business days of receiving either an informal or a formal complaint pursuant to the Board's policy.

The Board encourages everyone to read through the Board's policy on anti-harassment which can be found online on the Corporation's website or by requesting a copy from the central office. The current Complaint Coordinator is Associate Superintendent, Dr. Wendel McCollum, and his contact information is provided above.

Additionally, any inquiries concerning the application of Title IX and its implementing regulation may be referred to the Complaint Coordinator or to the United States Department of Education Office for Civil Rights. The OCR Office for Indiana is located at:

Chicago Office
Office for Civil Rights
U.S. Department of Education
Citigroup Center
500 W. Madison Street, Suite 1475
Chicago, IL 60661-4544
Telephone: (312) 730-1560
TDD: 800-877-8339
Email: OCR.Chicago@ed.gov

HEALTH SERVICES

The **school nurse** provides health services to students by assessing illness and injuries, providing interventions, administering medications, providing wellness information, and monitoring immunization requirements. School nurses are not equipped to diagnose or treat many illnesses and injuries. Whenever a student is seen in the office for anything other than a minor issue, the nurse will notify the parent/guardian that the child was seen and it will be the parent/guardian's responsibility to pursue further diagnosis and treatment.

In addition to the school nurse, students also have access to the **Open Door Adolescent Health Center**, which provides health and mental health services on site at the Michigan City High School during the school day. For further information and enrollment procedures, please visit <http://www.EducateMC.net/opendoor>.

Immunizations

Indiana law requires all students to have their immunizations up-to-date. Every student who is entering grade 9 and grade 12 shall be immunized against hepatitis B. (See MCAS Policy 5320 for complete immunization policy.) If a student's immunizations are not up-to-date, the school has the authority to exclude the student from school until such time that immunizations are up-to-date. The nurse maintains these files. The nurse has information about clinics where immunizations can be provided free or at a reduced cost. For more information concerning the state of Indiana's immunizations requirements or about clinics, contact your school or visit the MCAS website for health services at <http://www.EducateMC.net/health>.

Medication

A student who requires prescription or over-the-counter medications must have the appropriate forms on file in the nurse's station. For prescription medication, an **Authorization to Administer Prescription Medication form 241** must be completed by a physician and parent.

Also, the prescription medication must be given to the nurse in the original container dispensed by a registered pharmacist. For over-the-counter medication a parental **Permission to Administer Non-prescription Medication form 239** must be completed by the parent and the medicine must be given to the nurse in its original container. This includes pain relievers, cough syrup, throat lozenges, *etc.* Both forms may be obtained in the school office or on the MCAS website at <http://www.EducateMC.net/health>. The school cannot accept any medications until these forms are completed.

Nurse's Office

The following procedures will be in place when interacting with the nurse or the nurse's office:

1. Students who become ill while at school should report to their teacher and obtain a pass before going to the nurse.
2. All students with a personal injury, other than one of an emergency nature, must have a pass to the nurse from their teacher.
3. No student will be sent home unless the nurse and/or appropriate administrator contacts a parent/legal guardian.
4. Students must be fever/vomit/diarrhea-free for 24 hours before returning to school. It is the parent's responsibility to arrange transportation home for a sick child.
5. The school nurse (or appropriate designee) will dispense all prescription and over-the-counter medications.

HOMEWORK

Homework is an extension of classwork and is related to the objectives of the curriculum. Homework fulfills the following purposes or objectives:

- To review, reinforce, or extend classroom learning by providing practice and application of knowledge gained.
- To teach students responsibility and organizational skills.
- To promote wise and orderly use of time.
- To provide opportunities for enrichment activities.

It is the student's responsibility to complete all homework assignments. Failure to complete or submit homework assignments on time may affect the student's overall class grade. The School Board anticipates that homework will be an integral part of instruction at all levels. The amount and type of homework should vary according to the age and developmental needs of the students. Parents are encouraged to provide a quiet place at home and to review the student's assignments. **Failure to complete or turn in homework will be assessed by each teacher in accordance with their homework policy.**

IDENTIFICATION CARDS

An important part of maintaining a safe and orderly environment in the Michigan City Area Schools is student identification. **Students are required to have the school-issued ID card in their possession at all times when present at any school activity.** They must produce the identification card when asked to do so by a school employee. The student should be in possession of their school-issued ID:

- During school hours (including summer school);
- To or from school activities while being transported on a school bus;
- After-school activities such as Club Inspire, sporting events, club meetings, and disciplinary sessions;
- During school-sponsored field trips;
- At school dances, such as Prom, Winter Ball and Sadie Hawkins.

Students are not to deliberately alter the school-issued ID card: for example, erasing, drawing, coloring, cutting, bending, or attaching stickers. If an ID card is lost, the student must purchase a new card – \$5.00 per card. Replacement ID cards will be available in the Assistant Principal’s office.

LOCKERS

Each student is assigned a locker. According to Indiana State Law, school lockers remain the property of the school and the school authorities have a responsibility and a right to examine the contents of those lockers for reasons of health and safety. Any contraband found may be turned over to the local authorities and lead to disciplinary action. Acceptance by the student of a locker is acknowledgment of this right. In addition:

- Students are not to share lockers or lock combinations.
- Only those locks issued by the school may be used on lockers.
- When a locker does not open properly, the student should go to class and ask for a pass to go to the Assistant Principal’s office to report the problem.
- Students should not tamper with, open, or remove items from any locker other than their own.
- Students should never leave their lockers without checking to see that they have locked them. Do not preset a locker combination.
- Students must keep lockers clean and neat, and free of food and drink garbage. They should not place any item on or in a locker that cannot be removed.
- Students should not kick or force lockers to open or close.
- Students cannot leave the lunch area to go to lockers.
- Lockers are provided for items such as coats, sweaters, caps, PE uniforms, personal grooming items, lunches, books and cell phones.
- The school is not responsible for loss or damage of a student’s personal property. Locker combinations are strictly private information and must not be given out to anyone.

MANDATORY REPORTING

Under Indiana Code 31-33-5 an individual who has reason to believe that a child is a victim of child abuse or neglect shall make a report to the proper authorities. School personnel will make reports to the Department of Child Services or law enforcement as required under this statute. School personnel are prohibited by law from investigating claims prior to making a report.

MEAL CHARGE POLICY

The National School Lunch Program (NSLP) requires school food authorities to establish written administrative guidelines and policy for meal charges. Michigan City Area Schools will adhere to the following meal charge policy.

High School, Middle Schools and Elementary Schools

1. Michigan City Area Schools will not allow any charging through the meal program.
2. Michigan City Area Schools will be providing meals at no charge under the Community Eligibility Program (CEP).
3. All students are required to have money in their account to purchase a milk or a la carte items. They will not be able to make a purchase without funds available in their account.
4. All staff are required to have money in their account to purchase a meal or a la carte items.

All Accounts

Students who graduate or withdraw from the district and have \$2.00 or more in their food service account will be notified by mail by the district Food and Nutrition Department office at the end of the school year and given an option to transfer the funds to another account or to receive a refund. If no response is received in 30 days the student's food service account will be closed and the funds will no longer be available. Staff who leave the district will need to notify the Food Service Department for a refund.

MEDIA CENTER

The Michigan City High School Media Center is located in the center of the Academic (A) building on the ground floor. The Media Center is the heart of the school and contains materials to supplement the curriculum, as well as materials for recreational reading, personal improvement, and exploration.

The Media Center is available to all students who choose to use it properly. The atmosphere should be pleasant and conducive to study at all times. Each student visiting the Media Center must come prepared to work on school or personal work. Students in classes who use the Media Center as a group should come prepared to work on their assignment. The Media Center staff is available to serve students and faculty.

The following are general Media Center procedures that should be followed at all times:

1. During the school day all students must have a pass from a classroom teacher to use the Media Center. Students must sign in to the media center. When finished, they must sign out and be issued a smart pass by media center staff to return to class.
2. Students will be issued passes to leave the Media Center only in emergency situations.
3. Food, drinks, and games are prohibited in the Media Center.
4. Any student creating a disturbance will be asked to move to another seat or to go to the office.
5. Talking should not disrupt others, and should not be heard beyond the table at which the student is sitting.
6. All books, except reference books, may be checked out for two weeks and may be renewed as necessary if they are not reserved.
7. Book circulation is done through the use of technology. Students must provide their names at the circulation desk.
8. Students are responsible for the cost of replacing lost books. The Media Center is not to be used as a thoroughfare. Use outside hallways at all times.

MULTI-TIERED SYSTEMS OF SUPPORT (MTSS)

Michigan City Area Schools is committed to educating the whole child and maximizing the success of all students. The multi-tiered system of supports (MTSS) framework is the umbrella for other support systems. MTSS encompasses academic, behavioral, and social emotional support for all students in the areas of Response To Intervention (RTI), Social Emotional Learning (SEL) and Positive Behavior Interventions and Support (PBIS). Students in general education and those receiving special education and related services participate in MTSS. Each school has an established MTSS Team that designs, implements, and monitors individual student intervention plans.

PROGRESS REPORTS

The PowerSchool student information system permits parents/legal guardians to obtain information about students' progress, attendance, discipline, and book rental information in a timely manner. Parents are encouraged to visit this site regularly to discuss their child's progress with them and to

contact the teacher for a conference if there are concerns about academic progress. If you are unable to access the MCAS website to reach PowerSchool, please contact the Front Office.

PARENT NETWORK

The Parent Network is the parent group that promotes the parent-school partnership. Membership is free and all parents are encouraged to attend the monthly meetings held in the school media center. Each meeting provides parents with the opportunity to increase their knowledge about how to have their child experience success in high school. Parent volunteers for school committees are sought from the membership. The Parent Network offers a variety of activities for the students during the year, culminating in the Post Prom in May. You may contact the Parent Network at mchsparentnetwork@gmail.com

PARKING PERMITS - See AUTOMOBILE REGULATIONS

POLICE INVOLVEMENT

Cooperation between schools and law enforcement agencies is vital to school safety and the administration of justice. To these ends, schools and law enforcement agencies cooperate with each other, within the confines of the law and consistent with their respective legal responsibilities. When in the estimation of school personnel, law enforcement is called to investigate or assist in an investigation of school related matters, the school will inform parents of an interview being conducted.

PORTABLE ELECTRONIC DEVICES

Per IC 20-26-5-40.7 - The use of wireless communication devices, including but not limited to cellular telephones, tablet computers, personal computers, gaming devices, smartwatches, Ipads, etc. is strictly prohibited during academic class periods unless explicitly authorized by the teacher for educational purposes. Failure to comply will result in disciplinary action.

Students are permitted to use a wireless communication device in the event of a health or safety emergency or to manage health care as specifically defined in the student's Individualized Health Plan (IHP), Individualized Education Plan (IEP) and/or Section 504 Plan.

A wireless communication device is defined by Indiana law as any portable wireless device that has the capability to provide voice, messaging, or other data communication between two (2) or more parties.

POSITIVE BEHAVIOR INTERVENTIONS AND SUPPORTS (PBIS)

All Michigan City Area Schools have established school-wide behavior expectations and procedures in all settings using a framework called Positive Behavior Interventions and Supports (PBIS). PBIS is the application of a behaviorally based, systems approach to enhance the capacity of schools, families, and communities to design an effective environment that improves the link between research-validated practices and the environment in which teaching and learning occurs. Leaders of the PACK (Practice Respect, Attend and Achieve, College and Career Ready, Keep Working) will be recognized by each department on a monthly basis

RESPONSE TO INSTRUCTION

Michigan City Area Schools utilizes Response to Instruction, a process that provides systematic, research-based instruction and tiered interventions for at-risk learners. It assumes that the instruction/interventions are matched to student needs and that the monitoring of progress is

continuous and reviewed/revised as needed. RTI is considered a general education service, but can be applied to special education settings.

SAFETY

Metal Detectors

In an effort to provide a safe and secure learning environment for students and employees, the Michigan City Area Schools believes it is necessary to periodically conduct searches of students and their property using corporation-owned metal detectors. Only school personnel who have received training in the use of metal detectors will conduct searches. Searches will be conducted by employees who are the same gender as students, and all searches will be supervised by school or district administrators. For more information on specific procedures, please visit <http://educateMC.net/safety>.

Safety Drills

Michigan City Area Schools uses the "Standard Response Protocol" (SRP) for emergency situations. The SRP is used by schools and institutions across the nation, giving students, staff, parents, communities, and first responders a common language and course of action. MCAS follows all drill requirements per Indiana Code (20-34-3-20) including monthly fire drills, one severe weather drill per semester, and one armed intruder drill during the first semester.

Safety Searches

School officials, in cooperation with local law enforcement, may schedule safety searches in an effort to identify inappropriate activity in the school and to maintain a safe and orderly environment. Safety searches will be conducted consistent with applicable laws. Student lockers, bags, and automobiles may be searched during these events. Any inappropriate material found during these searches will be confiscated and used to identify appropriate legal and school consequences.

SCHEDULING OF CLASSES

The following procedures will be followed when students enroll for classes at MCHS:

- All students will be scheduled into seven (8) classes with a minimum of six (6) credit-bearing courses each semester.
- Counselors will conduct classroom, small group, and individual sessions to assist students in planning their schedule of classes for the following school year. Parents are encouraged to discuss these choices with their student and to contact counselors if they have questions.

Education professionals work with students and parents to plan a four-year educational program and select specific courses for the following year. With this in mind, it is the school's position that schedule changes after the school year begins disrupt instructional time. Since student course selection determines staffing and the Master Schedule, students are expected to honor their course selection commitment. There are, however, circumstances that warrant a schedule change. Schedule change requests must meet the following guidelines:

- Failure to meet course prerequisites.
- Failure to meet graduation requirements.
- Course changes due to completion of summer school.
- Inappropriate level placement.

Changes meeting these requirements must be made within the first 5 school days of the beginning of first semester. Any change of schedules after those 5 school days, must obtain administrative approval.

Please note that requests for teacher changes will not be honored. Communication involving all parties — parent(s), legal guardian, student, teacher, and counselor — is encouraged. Schedule change request forms are available in the School Counseling office.

SCHOOL HOURS

Michigan City High School classes begin at 7:25 a.m. and dismiss for the day at 2:15 p.m.

SCHOOL RESOURCE OFFICER

Michigan City High School has a full-time police liaison officer who works with staff, students, and administration in an effort to secure an atmosphere conducive to learning. Our liaison officer is a certified police officer with the authority to make arrests in the event of disruptions to our atmosphere and unlawful activity. The officer also has the authority to write moving violation citations. The liaison officer's office is located in the administrative wing.

SECLUSION AND RESTRAINTS

Consistent with State Law, local school corporations are required to develop a Seclusion and Restraint policy and Plan. Michigan City Area Schools Policy 5630.1, Use of Seclusion and Restraint with Students, complies with this requirement and directs the Director of Special Education to develop a "Seclusion and Restraint Plan."

As a part of the emergency procedures in place in our schools, no student will be placed in seclusion and/or restrained by school staff unless the student's behavior poses an imminent risk of injury to themselves or others. However, significant violations of the law including assaults on students and staff will be reported to the police. As soon as possible after any such use of restraint and/or seclusion, the parents or guardian will be informed when any of these actions have occurred and will be provided with a detailed account of the incident including the circumstances that led to the use of seclusion and or restraint.

Additionally, all incidents involving seclusion or restraints must be reported to the district's CPI coordinator using the appropriate forms.

SOCIAL PROBATION

Social Probation is the limiting of privileges for student participation in/attendance at school-related activities and events. Students may be placed on social probation by an administrator for a period of time. There will be a restorative process agreement between student/parent and administrator for their release of social probation status. Students may be prohibited from social functions or activities based on academic and/or disciplinary behaviors. While on social probation, students are not to participate in or attend any extracurricular activities including dances and are only to be on Michigan City Area Schools property during school hours, unless in an after-school tutoring program. See the Code of Responsible Behavior for more information, or "Tutorial Programs" below. Students who are enrolled in our alternative to expulsion program (SCALE) or (RESTORATION) are automatically on social probation.

SPECIAL EDUCATION SERVICES

The school provides a variety of special education programs and a continuum of services for students identified as having a disability as defined by the Individuals with Disabilities Education Improvement Act (IDEIA). A student may be eligible for special education services only after the proper evaluation

and placement procedure. Parent involvement in this procedure is required. The school encourages the parent to be an active participant in the education of their child. To inquire about special education services and the procedure that needs to be followed to access those services, a parent should contact the building principal.

STUDENT (OFFICE) AIDES

Student aides are permitted in the counseling office only. Student aides are accepted by application only and must apply during the next-year scheduling process.

The following procedures apply for a student wishing to become an office student aide:

1. Aides must maintain at least a “C” average and pass six classes.
2. Assignments will be made at the beginning of each semester.
3. Each aide will be issued an I.D. badge to be worn when on duty.
4. Opportunities for aide positions are available in all areas. Please see your school counselor.
5. Student Aides serve at the discretion of the principal (or their designees).
6. Aides must follow MCHS attendance policy
7. Students will be allowed only one student aide period per semester

STUDENT RECORDS AND THE FAMILY EDUCATION RIGHTS AND PRIVACY ACT

Many student records are kept by teachers, counselors, and administrative staff. There are two basic kinds of records: Directory Records and Confidential Records.

Directory Records or Directory information can be given to any person or organization for nonprofit making purposes when requested, unless the parents of the student request in writing to the principal that their child’s directory information be restricted. Directory information includes the student’s name, address, and listed or published telephone number.

Confidential Records contain educational and behavioral information that has restricted access based upon the Family Education Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA). This information can only be released with the written consent of the parents, the adult student, or a surrogate. The only exception to this is a request for confidential records made by an organization to comply with State and federal laws that may require release without consent. Included in confidential records may be test scores, psychological reports, behavioral data, disciplinary actions, and communications with the family and outside service providers.

The school must have a parent’s written consent to obtain records from an outside professional or agency. Parents may also provide the school with copies of records made by non-school professionals or outside agencies.

Students and parents have the right to review all educational records generated by the School Corporation, request amendment to these records, insert addendum to the records, and obtain copies of such records. If a review of records is required, please contact the building principal, in writing, stating the records desired. The records will then be collected and an appointment will be made with the appropriate persons present to answer any questions.

The Family Policy Compliance Office in the United States Department of Education administers FERPA. Parents and students who feel that their rights have been violated may file a complaint with:
Family Policy Compliance Office
U.S. Department of Education

400 Maryland Avenue, SW
Washington, D.C. 20202-4650

For more information or assistance with the review of records, please contact the school principal.

SUCCESS THROUGH EDUCATION (TRIO TALENT SEARCH) PROGRAM

Success Through Education is a program funded through the U.S. Department of Education and sponsored by Purdue University Northwest, Westville. The goal of the program is to assist students and adults in Porter, La Porte, Jasper, and Starke counties to complete their high school education, obtain a high school diploma (or high school equivalency diploma), and enroll in postsecondary education (colleges, universities, trade and technical schools). Free assistance to qualified clients includes financial aid workshops, educational and career newsletters, resource materials, follow-up counseling sessions after high school, and scholarship listings. If you would like more information regarding this free program, contact either your high school counselor or the Success Through Education at (219) 785-5369 or (855) 608-4600 ext. 5369. The program office is located at Purdue Northwest.

TEEN COURT

Teen Court is a program of the Youth Service Bureau Big Brothers Big Sisters of LaPorte County. Students may be referred to Teen Court, with the consent of the student and parent(s), as an alternative to arrest. The decision to refer a student to Teen Court will be made by a school official and/or by a law enforcement officer. A hearing is held and constructive sanctions are determined by a jury of the students' peers. Failure to successfully complete sanctions imposed by Teen Court could result in additional consequences at school and/or arrest for the offense.

In addition to Teen Court, a student may face appropriate disciplinary consequences administered by school personnel.

TOBACCO USE/SMOKING/VAPING

Michigan City High School is a smoke-free building and complex. The use of tobacco, e-cigarettes or the possession thereof in any form (i.e., cigarettes, cigars, pipe tobacco, chewing tobacco, snuff, vaping devices) or the possession of paraphernalia associated with the use of cigarettes, e-cigarettes, or tobacco is prohibited anywhere in the Michigan City High School complex or at any school-sponsored function. Violations of the above will result in disciplinary action. Students under the age of 18 found in possession of e-cigarettes or tobacco products may be ticketed by police.

TUTORIAL PROGRAMS

Students may receive tutoring in the following ways:

- Teachers, by arrangement (before/after school).
- The Club Inspire after-school program, sponsored by Safe Harbor.
- Honor Society members before or after school (arrangements with faculty sponsor).
- Michigan City Public Library Learning Center - (219) 873-3043

VIDEO CAMERAS

In an effort to keep students safe, Michigan City High School uses video cameras to monitor many aspects of the school. Footage from video cameras may be used to determine disciplinary action and may be shared with law enforcement officials at their request. Video records are kept for a short period of time unless specifically saved for a disciplinary or legal case.

VISITORS

The Michigan City Area Schools welcomes parents and visitors during school hours. In order to ensure the safety of our students, the corporation screens individuals entering the building.

Visitors/parents must enter through the front doors of the school. All other outside doors are locked during the school day. Michigan City Area Schools uses the Raptor Visitor Management System in all schools to improve security for students and staff. The Raptor system tracks who is in school buildings, and allows MCAS to screen visitors, contractors, and volunteers. Upon entering a school, all visitors are asked to present an ID such as a Driver's License, which can either be scanned or manually entered into the system. If a parent or guardian for any reason does not have a US government-issued ID, the school staff member can use any form of identification and manually enter the person's name into the Raptor system. The Raptor system checks the visitor's name and date of birth for comparison with a national database of registered sex offenders. The registered sex offender database is the only official database checked by the Raptor system. No other data from the ID is gathered or recorded and the information is not shared with any outside agency. Once entry is approved, Raptor issues a badge that identifies the visitor, the date, and the purpose of their visit. Upon leaving the school, the visitor should again report to the school office, and will be checked out of the system. A visitor's badge will not be necessary for those who visit our schools simply to drop off an item in the office or pick up paperwork. In addition, MCAS does not use this system for large events open to the public, such as school awards programs or performances.

Visiting or "Shadowing" students must be approved through the Counselors' Office and require a letter from the parent/guardian. Shadowing requires pre-approval and will not be allowed during state testing windows.

Visitors may be denied access to the building if, in the judgment of a principal, the visitor presents a physical risk or a substantial disruption to the educational process. At times, principals may issue "no trespass" letters to individuals who fulfill these criteria.

VOLUNTEERS

MCAS values the many contributions of school volunteers. For the safety of all students, all volunteers must complete a Volunteer Application and undergo a criminal background check. This includes chaperones for field trips. Volunteer Applications are available in the school office and on the school web site. Volunteers are encouraged to apply at least three weeks in advance.

WITHDRAWAL/TRANSFER PROCEDURES

- Parents who are seeking to transfer their child within or outside the MCAS district must complete a Student Withdrawal Form.
- Compulsory education is mandatory until age 18. Per IC 20-33-2-28.5, a student of at least 16 years of age but less than 18 years of age who is seeking to withdraw from school prior to graduation must make a request to the school in writing. Students must also provide written parental consent to the withdrawal, complete an exit interview, receive written consent from the school principal, and meet all other Indiana statutory requirements.
- Return all books to the counselor.
- Pay all financial obligations in the Treasurer's Office/Media Center.
- Turn in student I.D.
- Clean out assigned locker.

HIGH SCHOOL CODE OF RESPONSIBLE BEHAVIOR

Philosophy

The primary focus of the Michigan City Area Schools is to create and maintain safe and caring schools that promote high expectations for behavior and learning, responsible choices, and success for all. . Our mission is to achieve Excellence for Everyone. In order to ensure the proper environment for “Excellence for Everyone,” strict adherence to the Code of Conduct is required.

As students mature from childhood to adolescence to young adulthood, our practice will be to initially teach children to understand how their actions affect themselves and others, and that expectations for acceptable behavior are based on our culture and civilization. We will guide children to assume increasing responsibility for making decisions for their individual behavior based upon the laws and rules of our community and society.

Through our actions with students, we will demonstrate and model compassion, kindness, and integrity so that our children learn how to make good decisions, resolve conflicts peacefully, and work together cooperatively. Parental/Guardian support is essential for the proper development of our students.

We believe that students have a right to attend school without fear and should be able to express themselves in their words and actions as individuals. However, this right to express one’s self cannot be harmful, disrespectful, or disruptive to others or to the educational process.

Rights and Responsibilities

When a student fails to meet expectations or makes inappropriate choices, the student will be subject to a series of interventions and/or consequences with the goal of improving future behaviors. Behaviors that occur outside of school but that have the effect of disrupting the educational process are subject to the consequences covered in this handbook.

At each school, the staff, using Positive Behavior Supports, and through the Response to Instruction Team, will develop and implement a series of interventions for the general population and individual students as needed to promote the goals of this Code.

When a student engages in actions considered irresponsible, the following process will occur:

Students will be afforded Minimum Due Process, which is defined as:

- The student will be informed of the alleged violation of this Code of Responsible Behavior;
- The student will have an opportunity to respond to the accusation;
- The student will be informed of the consequences for this action.

In assessing the consequence for the student, the age of the student, the frequency of the misbehavior, and the seriousness of the situation will all be taken into account.

Parents/guardians will be informed of the administration of student due process. The school will work together with the parent/guardian to monitor and correct irresponsible and inappropriate actions.

Schools will follow due process in instances of suspension (whereby a student is separated from school attendance for a period of not more than ten school days) and expulsion (a denial of the right of a student to take part in any school function for any period greater than ten school days).

Any student recommended for expulsion shall be entitled to Formal Due Process as provided by law. Formal Due Process requires a written statement and notification to parent that the school intends to seek expulsion and the parent/guardian has a right to a due process hearing with a Hearing Examiner.

The disciplinary interventions and/or consequences for Special Needs students will take into account the unique circumstances of their Individual Educational Plan and any behavior intervention plan and will be subject to procedural safeguards in accordance with state and federal regulations including Indiana's Article 7 and the Federal Individuals with Disabilities Education Act.

Consequences for Irresponsible Actions

The following is a list of actions subject to disciplinary action. This list is not intended to be all-inclusive, but is a general list of actions that do not meet expectations for responsible behaviors, or are highly disruptive or illegal. While the Levels of Behavior are designed to follow a logical progression, the final determination of these responses rests with the building administration, who will take into consideration the results of any investigation and all relevant facts. Responses for an irresponsible action will always involve consequences and may involve other interventions as well.

Generally, Level One behaviors are behaviors that do not require administrator intervention and can be resolved at the point of contact between staff and students. Level Two and Three behaviors require a disciplinary referral. At that point, resolution rests with the administrator assigned to the behavior subject to all applicable due process requirements and within the general framework of possible consequences and responses.

Level One Behaviors

<i>Definition</i>	<i>Examples</i>	<i>Possible Interventions</i>	<i>Possible Consequences</i>
Behaviors that: <u>do not</u> significantly violate the rights of others <i>and</i> <u>do not</u> endanger the safety of self or others <i>and</i> <u>do not</u> appear to be chronic <i>and</i> <u>do not</u> require administrator involvement	cellphone/electronic device in unauthorized area classroom disruption dishonesty disrespect to staff dress code violation food and/or drink beyond the cafeteria horseplay inappropriate use of equipment littering out of assigned area public display of affection put-downs/minor teasing refusing to follow directives sharing locker tardy truancy using inappropriate language (isolated incident)	Closer monitoring/proximity Describe and teach expected behavior Goal-setting Refer to counselor/MTSS team	Apology Class time-out Loss of class participation points Parent conference Redirection Restitution Detention

Level Two Behaviors

<i>Definition</i>	<i>Examples</i>	<i>Possible Interventions</i>	<i>Possible Consequences</i>
<p>Behaviors that:</p> <p><u>are chronic</u> Level One behaviors</p> <p><i>or</i></p> <p><u>violate</u> the rights of others</p> <p><i>or</i></p> <p><u>may endanger</u> the safety of self or others</p> <p><i>and</i></p> <p><u>require</u> administrator involvement</p>	<p>academic dishonesty</p> <p>defiance or disrespect</p> <p>excessive absences</p> <p>extortion</p> <p>fight instigation</p> <p>forgery, deception, misuse of any document</p> <p>gambling</p> <p>inappropriate language or gestures</p> <p>insubordination</p> <p>missed detention</p> <p>obscenity</p> <p>provocation</p> <p>throwing objects</p> <p>unauthorized presence in an unsupervised area</p> <p>vandalism/theft (minor)</p>	<p>Inform student of violation</p> <p>Contact local agencies that can provide support, which may include police contact or teen court referral</p> <p>Parent contact/conference</p> <p>Refer to counselor/MTSS team</p> <p>Responsible Behavior Plan</p>	<p>Class time-out</p> <p>Detention: Lunch or Wednesday</p> <p>In-school suspension</p> <p>Out-of-school suspension</p> <p>Restitution</p> <p>Revocation of license and/or work permit</p> <p>Revocation of parking privileges</p> <p>Social probation</p>

Level Three Behaviors

<i>Definition</i>	<i>Examples</i>	<i>Possible Interventions</i>	<i>Possible Consequences</i>
<p>Behaviors that:</p> <p><u>are chronic</u></p> <p>Level Two behaviors</p> <p><i>or</i></p> <p><u>violate</u></p> <p>district or state policies or laws</p> <p><i>or</i></p> <p>endanger safety of self or others</p> <p><i>and</i></p> <p><u>require</u></p> <p>administrator involvement and possible external assistance</p>	<p>arson</p> <p>bomb threat</p> <p>bullying/intimidation/harassment/hazing</p> <p>drug/alcohol violations</p> <p>drug paraphernalia violation</p> <p>false alarms</p> <p>fighting/assault/battery</p> <p>gang-related activities</p> <p>harassment: sexual, ethnic, racial, gender, or religious slurs</p> <p>sexual misconduct</p> <p>sexual harassment</p> <p>technology-related offenses</p> <p>* cyberbullying</p> <p>* digital images</p> <p>* sexting</p> <p>Tobacco/vaping violation</p> <p>threat or attack against a staff member</p> <p>unlawful activity</p> <p>vandalism/theft: felony</p> <p>weapon/explosive device</p>	<p>Contact local agencies that can provide support, which may include police contact or teen court referral</p> <p>Parent Contact/Conference</p> <p>Refer to counselor/MTSS team</p>	<p>Alternative to expulsion (A2E)</p> <p>Discipline referral</p> <p>SCALE</p> <p>Expulsion <i>(requires all formal aspects of due process)</i></p> <p>In-school suspension</p> <p>Out-of-school suspension</p> <p>Restitution</p> <p>Revocation of license and/or work permit</p> <p>Revocation of parking privileges</p> <p>Revocation of technology privileges</p> <p>Social probation</p>

DEFINITION OF TERMS

Academic Dishonesty includes the following behaviors:

- Using or attempting to use unauthorized materials, information, or study aids in any assignment or exam.
- Using external assistance on an “in class” or “take home” examination, unless the instructor has authorized such assistance. This includes (but is not limited to) the use of tutors, books, notes, the Internet, calculators, and electronic devices.
- Submitting substantial portions of the same academic work for credit more than once without permission of the teacher.
- Allowing others to conduct research or to prepare work without authorization from the instructor. This includes (but is not limited to) commercial term-paper companies, web sites, and past papers/work of other students.
- Collaborating with other students on a single project and turning in multiple copies that are represented as individual work.
- Falsifying or inventing information or citations in an assignment or exam.
- Plagiarism. A student must not adopt or reproduce the ideas, words, photographs, illustrations, or statements of another person without acknowledgment. A student must give credit whenever quoting another person’s words; using another person’s idea, opinion, or theory; or borrowing facts, statistics, or other illustrative material — unless the information is common knowledge.
- Stealing, changing, destroying, or impeding another student’s work. Impeding another student’s work includes (but is not limited to) the theft or destruction of common resources to deprive others of the information they contain.
- Helping or attempting to help another student to commit an act of academic dishonesty.

Alternative to Expulsion (A2E) is a program conducted in conjunction with the LaPorte County Juvenile Services Center and the Juvenile Court system. A2E provides an alternative setting for students with discipline infractions that would merit expulsion. The program offers these students the chance to stay on track academically through participation in a credit recovery program in a highly structured environment where establishing and maintaining discipline is a priority. In addition, students receive opportunities to improve basic life skills.

Arson is the act of setting fire to the school or any part of the school or school premises.

Bomb Threat includes any act that indicates the presence of a bomb or other destructive material when in fact there is none.

Bullying and Intimidation

Under Indiana Law, “bullying” means overt, unwanted, repeated acts or gestures, including verbal or written communications or images transmitted in any manner (including digitally or electronically), physical acts committed, aggression, or any other behaviors, that are committed by a student or group of students against another student with the intent to harass, ridicule, humiliate, intimidate, or harm the targeted student and create for the targeted student an objectively hostile environment that:

- (1) Places the targeted student in reasonable fear of harm to the targeted student’s person or property;
- (2) Has a substantially detrimental effect on the targeted student’s physical or mental health;
- (3) Has the effect of substantially interfering with the targeted student’s academic performance; or
- (4) Has the effect of substantially interfering with the targeted student’s ability to participate in or benefit from the services, activities, and privileges provided by the school.

School staff will comply with the reporting and investigation requirements in Indiana Law. Consistent with Indiana Law, every school will enable an anonymous reporting procedure. Witnesses to the bullying or intimidation of another student are encouraged to report it to a staff member. Failure to report bullying and/or intimidation may be cause for disciplinary action.

Class Disruption is any combination of actions that interfere with, interrupt, or create disorder to the extent that instruction cannot take place.

Consumption or Possession of Food or Drink in Unauthorized Areas: Students may only consume food or drink in the cafeteria and other designated areas. This includes beverages that are carried in and consumed from portable water bottles. Only those students with permission from the school nurse may consume beverages in classrooms.

Cyberbullying - See “Bullying” and “Technology-Related Offenses.”

Dishonesty includes those occasions in which students choose to be untruthful or fail to disclose information.

Dress Code Violations involve attire that does not follow the dress code outlined in the Student Handbook section of this document. Dress code violations also involve attire or accessories that disrupt the educational environment, are destructive to school property, or are a threat to safety and health.

Drug and Alcohol Violations involve selling, purchasing, possessing, consuming, or distributing alcohol, illegal drugs, or controlled substances. Participating in a plan to sell, purchase, process, possess, consume, or distribute these substances is also prohibited – including prescription medication prescribed for someone else. Being under the influence of alcohol, illegal drugs, or any controlled substance or any prescription medication prescribed for someone else is prohibited. The possession of look-alike drugs is also prohibited. These rules apply on school property or at any school-related activity or event, or while traveling to or from school or any school-related activity or event.

Drug Paraphernalia Violations involve selling, purchasing, possessing, distributing, or participating in a plan to sell, purchase, possess, or distribute drug paraphernalia. This includes items associated with illegal drugs such as rolling papers, pipes, clips, razor blades, lighters, and hypodermic needles. Possession of these items at school or at any school-related activity or event, or while traveling to or from a school-related activity or event, is prohibited.

Excessive Absences - see the Handbook section of this document.

Extortion occurs when a student forces another student to give him or her something, including but not limited to money, through force or threats.

False Alarms are the actions of setting off an alarm or sprinkler system when there is no fire or emergency.

Fight Instigation includes instances in which a student or students motivate, encourage, or plan to fight or motivate/encourage others to fight.

Fighting includes instances in which harmful or offensive contact occurs with another person. Fighting can include but is not limited to assault, battery, and bruising.

Fighting (Verbal) - See “Provocation.”

Forgery is the alteration or falsification of documents (i.e., passes or permission slips) or signatures.

Gambling involves playing any games in which money or items of value can be won or lost.

Gang-Related Activity includes involvement in gangs or gang-related activities. No student on or near school property or at any school activity may show, wear, possess, use, display, or sell any clothing, jewelry, emblem, image, symbol, or sign that may be viewed as evidence of membership in or affiliation with any gang. This includes any badge, symbol, or sign that may be present in anything in the student’s possession while on school grounds or at a school-related activity. No student may commit any act or use any speech, either verbal or nonverbal (gestures, handshakes, carving in hair, *etc.*) showing membership or affiliation in a gang. No student shall use any speech or commit any act promoting the interests of any gang or gang activity, including but not limited to: recruiting others for membership in a gang; requesting any person to pay for protection or otherwise intimidating or threatening; inciting others to physical violence; or committing any other illegal act or violation of school policies.

Harassment: Sexual, Ethnic, Racial, Gender, or Religious

Sexual Harassment consists of unwelcome sexual advances, requests for sexual favors, and other inappropriate verbal or physical conduct of a sexual nature by any student to another student, or by a student to a staff member. This includes conduct of a sexual nature that may include verbal or physical sexual advances and/or comments of a sexual nature regarding physical or personality characteristics. Verbal or physical conduct of a sexual nature constitutes sexual harassment when the allegedly harassed student has indicated, by his or her conduct or verbal objection, that such conduct is unwelcome. **Note: A student who has initially welcomed such conduct by active participation must give specific notice to the alleged harasser that such conduct is no longer welcome in order for subsequent conduct to be deemed unwelcome.**

Sexual harassment may include but is not limited to the following:

- Verbal harassment or abuse.
- Repeated remarks to a person with sexual or demeaning implications.
- Unwelcome touching.
- Pressure for sexual activity.
- Suggesting or demanding sexual involvement accompanied by implied or explicit threats concerning one’s grades, job, or promotion.

Ethnic, racial, gender, or religious harassment may include but is not limited to:

- Written or oral innuendos, comments, jokes, insults, threats, or disparaging remarks concerning a person’s gender, race, national origin, religious beliefs, or disabilities directed toward a fellow student, staff member, or other person associated with the school corporation; or conducting a “campaign of silence” toward a fellow student, staff member, or other person associated with the Corporation.
- Placing objects, pictures, or graphic commentaries in the school environment or making insulting or threatening gestures toward a fellow student, staff member, or other person associated with the school corporation.

- Any intimidating or disparaging action such as hitting, hissing, or spitting on a fellow student, staff member, or other person associated with the corporation.

False Reporting of Harassment

Students who knowingly file false charges against an employee or a student in an attempt to demean, harass, abuse or embarrass that individual shall be subject to disciplinary action.

Hazing is an abusive, often humiliating form of initiation into or affiliation with a group (such as organizations, clubs, and athletic teams). It includes any willful action taken or situation created that recklessly or intentionally endangers the mental or physical health of another. Urging or encouraging hazing is also prohibited.

Horseplay involves such actions as pretend/play fighting, tapping, poking, smacking or pinching, pulling on others' clothing, or placing hands or feet on others.

Inappropriate Language or Gestures includes behaviors and actions directed toward students/staff that are reasonably considered profane, vulgar, lewd, or obscene.

Insubordination and/or Disrespect includes those behaviors by which students refuse to respond to or follow the directions of staff members and/or act disrespectfully toward staff members. Examples of this kind of behavior include but are not limited to leaving a classroom without permission or obstructing staff in the performance of their duties.

Libel and Slander are two forms of defamation. **Libel** consists of printed communication whereas slander consists of oral communication. The actions of **Libel** and **Slander** consist of a false statement that is printed or broadcast about an individual that brings that person into public ridicule, contempt, or hatred, or inflicts injury. (Also see Technology-Related Offenses.)

Littering includes behavior that causes an area to be in disorder or in an unsanitary, unhealthy condition.

Lockers (Inappropriate Use): Students should not misuse or abuse their lockers, as it will be considered an act of vandalism. Students are not to share their lockers or give their locker combinations to others.

Multi-tiered System of Supports (MTSS) is the umbrella for other support systems. MTSS encompasses academic, behavioral, and social emotional support for all students in the areas of Response To Intervention (RTI), Social Emotional Learning (SEL) and Positive Behavior Interventions and Support (PBIS). Students in general education and those receiving special education and related services participate in MTSS. Each school has an established MTSS Team that designs, implements, and monitors individual student intervention plans.

Obscenity includes those items or behaviors that an average person, when viewing the material or behavior and applying community standards for children of a relevant age, would find offensive and lacking in serious literary, artistic, political, or scientific value.

Positive Behavior Interventions and Supports (PBIS) is a school-wide approach to teaching and reinforcing school expectations. PBIS allows the school to develop and maintain a positive atmosphere

that fosters social and academic success for all students. For additional information, see the Handbook section of this document.

Portable Electronic Equipment includes cellphones, pagers, laser pointers, iPods, or any other electronic device. (See Technology-Related Offenses.)

Procedure Violation is any behavior or action that does not follow established, school-wide expectations.

Provocation includes verbal confrontations with a student or staff member, fight instigation, and other aggressive gestures and behaviors.

Public Displays of Affection (other than the holding of hands) are not appropriate for the school environment. Students should not, while on school grounds or at school functions, show affection to one another in a manner that is immodest and/or draws undue attention to themselves.

Responsibility, Education and Character (REC Room) is an alternative placement for students that impede the learning of others or who are behaviorally at risk. Students in REC maintain classroom assignments and remain in school but are isolated from other school activities. The building principal or their designee has oversight responsibilities for the program. REC is staffed with a qualified person who supervises and serves as a supportive resource for students. Students may be sent to the REC Room as a class "time out" or a student may spend a longer period of time in REC. Frequent referrals to REC will also result in referral to the school counselor and/or the MTSS team.

Responsible Behavior Plan is an individualized plan that helps students set goals for positive behaviors. This plan is created in conjunction with the school counselor, teacher and/or MTSS team and is shared with parents.

SCALE (Student-Centered Alternative Learning Environment) is an alternative learning program based at the Elston Building. This program may serve as an alternative to expulsion for some some students.

Sexting - See "Technology-Related Offenses."

Social Probation is the limiting of privileges for student participation in/attendance at school-related activities and events. Students may be placed on social probation for a period of time not to exceed the remainder of the school year. While on social probation, students are not to participate in or attend any extracurricular activities including dances and are only to be on Michigan City Area Schools property during school hours. Reasons for being placed on social probation include, but are not limited to:

- Truancy
- Excessive tardiness
- Excessive behavioral referrals
- Actions that lead to suspension, A2E, or expulsion
- Misbehavior at an extracurricular activity

Students who violate their social probation will be subject to disciplinary action including suspension, A2E, and/or expulsion.

Academic Probation

Academic Probation is the limiting of privileges for student participation in/attendance at school-related activities and events. Students may be placed on Academic Probation for a period of

time. While on Academic Probation, students are not allowed to participate in/attend any extra curricular activities including dances, and are only to be on Michigan City Area School property during school hours. Reasons for being placed on Academic Probation include, but are not limited to:

- Academic failure - failing two or more classes in a nine-week period
- Excessive absences - failing two or more classes in grading period due to excessive absences

Tardiness to Class is the act of not being in the assigned classroom at the time the bell rings to begin class. See the Handbook section of this document.

Technology-Related Offenses:

Please refer to the Michigan City Area Schools Technology Acceptable Use/Email Guidelines (Appendix B) for expectations and descriptions surrounding the use of MCAS technology. In addition, the behaviors below are subject to Leveled Responses under the MCAS Code of Responsible Behavior.

- **Electronic Devices:** See the Handbook section of this document.
- **Digital Images:** Electronic devices capable of taking and/or transmitting digital photographic images can create a risk factor in locker rooms, restrooms, private areas, and other locations where students and/or staff have a reasonable expectation of privacy. In addition, because of their capacity to be used to carry out acts of academic dishonesty, use of electronic devices for the purposes of taking digital photographic images in the school is strictly prohibited.
- **Cyberbullying** occurs when a student harasses, mistreats, or makes fun of another person online or while using a personal communication device or other electronic device. Violations off campus that cause a disruption of the school environment are subject to appropriate school discipline.
- **Sexting** is sending, receiving, or forwarding sexually suggestive nude or nearly nude photos or sexually suggestive messages through any personal communication device or electronic equipment.

Teen Court is a program of Youth Service Bureau Big Brothers Big Sisters of LaPorte County. Students may be referred to Teen Court, with the consent of the student and parent(s), as an alternative to arrest.

Threat or Attack Against Others involves any display of aggressive or negative gestures toward another individual. Written, verbal, or physical behavior that places another person in reasonable fear of harm is prohibited. Actions that have the effect of threatening, insulting, demeaning, or intimidating in such a way as to disrupt or interfere with the school and the school environment are also prohibited. Violations off campus that cause a disruption of the school environment are subject to appropriate school discipline.

Tobacco, Smoking and Vaping Violations involve the possession or use of tobacco products, e-cigarettes, or paraphernalia (such as lighters) by students. This policy applies when students are at school or at any school-related activity or event, or while traveling to or from school or any school-related activity or event. Prohibited products include cigarettes, e-cigarettes and other vaping devices, cigars, or tobacco in any other form, including smokeless tobacco that is loose, cut, shredded, ground, powdered, compressed, or leaf tobacco.

Truancy is a student's absence from school or class without a parent/legal guardian's or the school's knowledge. Any absence that is not phoned in or verified by a parent or legal guardian within three (3) days of the student's return will be labeled as truant. Truancies accumulate throughout the school year. Should a student be found truant from school, the child's parent will be contacted and relevant legal authorities, such as Project Attend, may be notified. Student truancy may be considered an act of academic misconduct, which may result in loss of credit for missed class period(s) and may be subject to disciplinary action, including but not limited to loss of work permits and/or driver's license.

Unauthorized Presence in Unsupervised Areas is defined as being in an area without prior authorization from staff. Examples include but are not limited to athletic facilities, locker rooms, auditoriums, science labs, computer labs, resource centers, and classrooms.

Unlawful Activity includes any activity or behavior that violates the laws of the State of Indiana, or conviction under the laws of any other state in the United States, that takes place either while school is in session or on weekends, holidays, school breaks, and the summer period when a student may not be attending classes or other school functions. A student may be suspended or expelled for engaging in unlawful activity on or off school grounds if the unlawful activity may reasonably be considered to be an interference with school purposes or an educational function, or the student's removal is necessary to restore order to protect persons on school property. Note: **Trespassing** is considered an unlawful activity; students who have been suspended or expelled are not permitted on school grounds.

Vandalism/Theft includes behaviors such as theft, destruction of school property, and possession or sale of stolen materials. Note: Vandalism that causes a loss of more than \$300 is considered **major vandalism**. Vandalism that causes a loss of less than \$300 is considered **minor vandalism**.

Weapons/Explosive Devices: No student shall possess, handle, or transmit any weapon or destructive device while on school property. The following devices, while not a complete list, are considered weapons or explosive devices:

1. any weapon that will or is designed to or may readily be converted to expel a projectile by the action of an explosive or forced air;
2. any destructive device that is an explosive, incendiary, or poison gas bomb, grenade, or rocket having a propellant charge of more than 4 ounces;
3. any missile, rocket, or similar device having an explosive or incendiary charge of more than one quarter ounce;
4. any combination of parts either designed or intended for use in converting any device into a destructive device and from which a destructive device may be readily assembled;
5. any explosive, incendiary, or overpressure device that is configured as a bomb, a grenade, a rocket with a propellant charge of more than 4 ounces, a missile having an explosive or incendiary charge of more than one quarter ounce, a mine, a Molotov cocktail, or any device that is substantially similar to any of these items;
6. any knife, taser, electronic stun gun, equipment, chemical substance, or other material that in the manner it is used, or could ordinarily be used, or is intended to be used, is readily capable of causing serious bodily injury;
7. bullets or gun ammunition of any kind.
8. any toy or look-alike weapon that, in the judgment of school staff, can be used to deceive others into believing the weapon is real.

Appendix A: Student Transportation Guidelines

Michigan City Area Schools

OVERVIEW

It is recognized that excessive distances and extraordinary or excessive hazards to pedestrian safety can affect access to an equal educational opportunity for some children in the school district. Therefore, it shall be the practice of the Michigan City Area Schools to provide safe, economical transportation to those children affected by these conditions. The Board of School Trustees retains the right to eliminate all, or portions of, transportation should conditions warrant such an action.

The primary purpose of the transportation system is to provide transportation for eligible students (see “Eligibility” below) from the vicinity of their homes to the school they attend. Use of transportation equipment for field trips, extracurricular activities, and other authorized educational, cultural, and recreational activities is permitted when it does not conflict with the primary purpose of transportation.

In organizing and operating the transportation system, all applicable statutes and rules and regulations of the State of Indiana, or its agencies, shall be strictly adhered to and all recommendations and suggestions shall be considered carefully.

In all cases, the primary consideration shall be to provide safe transportation to eligible students. Careful consideration shall also be given to efficiency and economy of operation.

Since school bus transportation is provided only for certain eligible students, **it shall be considered a privilege to be enjoyed by a student only as long as they accept responsibility for their own conduct.** The student is to carefully follow all rules and regulations and promptly respond to the directions and requests of the bus driver. Most students will find it necessary to walk some distance to the designated bus stop.

School transportation equipment shall be used only for the transportation of students to and from school, extracurricular school activities, or for other purposes specifically authorized by the Board of School Trustees.

ELIGIBILITY

Any elementary students living one and one-half (1½) miles, more or less, from the school they attend and secondary (middle school and high school) students living two (2) miles more or less from the school they attend, are eligible for transportation to and from school. However, the Transportation Director or their designee, with the approval of the Superintendent, may determine that transportation service should be extended to selected students within these stated distances.

A student identified with a disability in accordance with Article 7 of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act may be provided special transportation as a related service. Accommodations for such transportation are specified within the student’s Individual Education Program (IEP).

Students with a temporary medical condition that necessitates the use of crutches, wheelchairs, or other aids must call the Transportation department so that temporary accommodations for transportation can be made.

Persons other than eligible students shall not be provided transportation. Exceptions to this rule will be made only by the Building Administrator or their designee.

TRANSPORTATION PROCEDURES

I. TRANSPORTATION SERVICE LIMITATIONS

A. Bus routes shall be planned to achieve maximum safety of operations with reasonable economy.

1. Bus routes will not be extended, or stops scheduled, unless an eligible elementary student would otherwise be required to walk in excess of one quarter ($\frac{1}{4}$) mile to a bus stop or a secondary student in excess of one-half ($\frac{1}{2}$) mile to a bus stop.
2. A bus will not make more than four (4) stops in any one mile unless safety requirements make additional stops necessary.
3. In establishing routes in new or existing residential subdivisions, buses will be scheduled to use perimeter routes and/or main thoroughfares. Students will be required to walk to bus stops in accordance with Sections 1 and 2 above to the extent walking safely permits.
4. In apartment complexes and trailer parks, bus service shall be provided off the public road onto the private property only in the interest of safety. Departure from the public road in such instances will be only to the extent of a turnaround or for a limited number of stops, where space permits.
5. Buses will not be routed on dead-end roads. Exceptions will be student safety and availability of an adequate turnaround.

B. Bus routes are to be designed to keep individual riding distance and time to a practical minimum.

C. In setting up bus schedules, it shall be the objective to arrange for buses to arrive at school approximately ten (10) minutes prior to the scheduled time for the beginning of classes in the morning and to leave approximately five (5) minutes after the scheduled dismissal time.

II. SERVICE REDUCTIONS

When conditions warrant, the Superintendent, along with the Transportation Director or their designee, shall develop a plan for reduction of transportation services subject to approval by the Board of School Trustees.

III. OPERATION OF THE SYSTEM

A. The measurement of the mileage to determine eligibility for transportation shall be the responsibility of the Director of Transportation or their designee. This measurement shall be accepted as conclusive evidence of eligibility for transportation.

B. Each eligible student will be assigned to use a specific bus and bus stop. Any exceptions must be

approved by the Director of Transportation or their designee.

- C. The scheduled number of students assigned to ride a standard bus will not exceed 100% of its rated passenger capacity. When circumstances result in overload, an adjustment in the routes and stops will be made.
- D. The Director of Transportation or their designee may grant permission for a student to ride a different bus or use a different scheduled stop. Such permission may be granted for a specified period of time subject to the following conditions and limitations:
 - 1. The receipt of a written request of a parent or guardian.
 - 2. Upon authorization of the building Administrator.
 - 3. The request for change may not result in the overcrowding of any bus, altering of any regular bus route, stop, or time schedule, or the creation of a new route.
 - 4. The purpose of such special permission requested shall be:
 - a. To participate in a regularly organized group activity for children of school age that is educational in nature.
 - b. To relieve a temporary situation that would otherwise result in a severe hardship on a student in getting to and from school.
 - c. For other emergencies as shall be approved by the Director of Transportation or their designee.
 - 5. Drivers are to transport only their regularly assigned passengers unless other authorization is received from the Director of Transportation or their designee.
 - 6. In an emergency, written request may be waived. Such emergency requests should be made to the child's building administrator, who will be responsible for coordinating necessary actions with the Director of Transportation or their designee.
- E. The Director of Transportation or their designee will maintain a comprehensive bus safety education program for students. The program includes, but is not limited to, instruction in rules of behavior when riding, boarding, and exiting the bus at stops, and emergency bus evacuation drills.
- F. The safety of walking conditions for students ineligible for bus transportation will be reviewed by the Director of Transportation or their designee. Actions to alleviate unsafe walking conditions may include coordinated actions with local governments, provision of bus service, or other alternatives. The Director of Transportation or their designee will make recommendations to the Superintendent of Schools as specific problems arise.

V. BUS DISCIPLINE PROCEDURE

Listed below are the expectations for students' behavior while they are being transported by school bus or any school vehicles. These rules apply to any trip under school sponsorship. Any violation of these rules will result in the driver proceeding with the steps listed under "Consequences" below.

Michigan City Area Schools believes parents must monitor and accept responsibility for student behavior at the bus stop.

Bus Rules

A. Prior to loading (on the road and at the school) students are required to:

1. Be at their assigned bus stop at least five (5) minutes prior to the scheduled pick up time. Note: Buses may arrive five minutes before OR after the scheduled pickup time, due to traffic conditions. The driver is responsible for keeping their bus on schedule and cannot wait if a student is not present.
2. Stay off the roadway or street while waiting for the bus. Bus riders are to conduct themselves in a safe manner while waiting.
3. Wait until the bus comes to a complete stop and the stop arm is extended before attempting to board.
4. Board in an orderly manner and immediately take their seats.
5. Practice rules of safe behavior as they go to and from their assigned bus stop.

B. While on the bus students are required to:

1. Keep all body parts and possessions inside the bus.
2. Assist in keeping the bus clean and sanitary. Trash goes in the waste container at the front of the bus.
3. Talk quietly and avoid acting in any manner that distracts the driver's attention away from driving. This includes but is not limited to teasing others, horseplay, throwing objects, *etc.*
4. Refrain from tampering with any bus equipment.
5. Keep books, lunches, and other articles in their possession.
6. Sit in the seat assigned by the driver. Students are to remain in their seats while the bus is in motion and will be held responsible for the condition of the assigned seats surrounding them.
7. Be **ABSOLUTELY** quiet while approaching a railroad crossing. Students will remain quiet until the bus has cleared all sets of railroad tracks.

8. In case of an emergency, remain in their assigned seat on the bus unless instructed by the driver to leave.
9. Refrain from eating or drinking, chewing gum or having any other objects in their mouths when on the bus. Glass bottles are not permitted on the bus.
10. Refrain from bringing live animals on the bus.
11. Turn off cellphones. Radios, iPods, and other electronic listening devices may be used with earphones.
12. Keep musical instruments on their laps or under their seats.
13. Refrain from the use of profanity or offensive language.
14. Board and get off at the regularly-assigned bus stop.
15. Use emergency bus exits **only** at the direction of the driver.
16. Close windows before getting off the bus.

C. After leaving the bus students are required to:

1. Cross the road by passing at least ten (10) feet in front of the school bus, only after looking in both directions to be sure no traffic is approaching.
2. **NEVER** cross behind the bus for any reason.
3. **NEVER** attempt to retrieve an item from under the bus for any reason.
4. Move immediately away from the bus and refrain from hitting or throwing things at the bus.

VI. DISCIPLINARY PROCESS

Drivers will make every effort to maintain appropriate student behavior on the bus. When these efforts are no longer effective, the driver will submit a written referral to the Transportation Director.

- A. The first (1st) referral will result in parent contact in all but the most serious infractions.
- B. The second (2nd) referral will result in parent contact and a formal written warning in all but the most serious infractions.
- C. After the second (2nd) referral, a student who violates these rules shall be subject to disciplinary action that may include a meeting with the parents, loss of riding privileges for a period (determined by the severity of the infraction) or permanent loss of bus-riding privileges.

At any point in the disciplinary process, the Transportation Director may refer a disciplinary situation to the school principal. The principal and the director may work together to develop and enforce disciplinary consequences at school for bus related behavior.

Please note that suspension of bus privileges does not mean suspension from school. Parents are required to transport their children to school in the event of a bus suspension. Lack of school attendance will be considered truancy. However, bus related behavior may lead to a school suspension. At that point, the attendance requirements for school suspensions apply.

VII. SERIOUS IRRESPONSIBLE BEHAVIORS

In cases of more serious irresponsible behavior, in addition to a meeting with the parents and possible loss of riding privileges, students shall be subject to disciplinary measures provided for in the Code of Responsible Behavior, including but not limited to suspension or expulsion from school. In cases where the law has been broken, penalties may further result in a report being filed with local law enforcement.

Serious Irresponsible Behaviors may include (but are not limited to):

- A. Possession of Fireworks
- B. Extortion and Intimidation
- C. Gambling
- D. Throwing Objects
- E. Damaging Personal Property
- F. Disorderly Conduct
- G. Vandalism (Student or parent will be financially responsible for damage to seats, windows, *etc.*)
- H. Insubordination
- I. False Alarm/Bomb Threat
- J. Possession of Weapons
- K. Fighting/Battery
- L. Tobacco, Drugs, or Alcohol

VIII. APPEAL PROCEDURES

In any aspect of the application of the provisions of this policy, a parent, guardian, or adult student may appeal the decision of any school employee. A decision of a bus driver may be appealed to the Director of Transportation within five (5) working days. A decision of the Director of Transportation may be appealed to the Superintendent or their designee within five (5) working days and; if necessary, to the Board of School Trustees within ten (10) working days. The appellant should be prepared in every instance to both meet with the official involved and submit the specifics of the case in writing, if required. The response of such appeals at each level will be rendered within ten (10) working days.

Appendix B: Technology Acceptable Use/Email Guidelines

Michigan City Area Schools

Because of the ever-changing nature of technology, not all possible violations can be covered in this policy. Nevertheless, the Michigan City Area Schools is ready to take immediate action when individuals violate system integrity. **The use of computers is a privilege, not a right. *Violations may result in a loss of computer access as well as other disciplinary and/or legal action.***

Students accept personal responsibility for all activity while using a computer or other school owned equipment. ***The student and parents will be held accountable for damage and repair costs.***

The activities listed below are not permitted:

1. Damaging or defacing the network, hardware, and/or software.
2. Sharing your password, using another person's password, or allowing another person to use the computer under your login.
3. Setting, changing, or removing passwords on any district computer or wireless device.
4. Giving personal information, such as complete name, phone number, address or identifiable photo, without permission from teacher and parent or guardian.
5. Accessing "Gaming sites" or the playing of games, chat rooms, bulletin boards, or instant messaging, except use of resources that have been assigned by the teacher.
6. Using the network for cheating, plagiarism, fraud, financial gain, or commercial purposes.
7. Installing or downloading software, shareware, or freeware on school-owned equipment.
8. Viewing, sending, displaying, or transmitting offensive materials such as those that are illegal, defamatory, inaccurate, unsolicited or potentially offensive to some people.
9. **Cyberbullying** - defined as overt, repeated acts or gestures, including verbal or written communications transmitted; or any other behaviors committed by individuals or groups of people against another with the intent to harass, ridicule, humiliate, intimidate, or harm the other. **Violations off campus (regardless of whether using school owned equipment) that cause a disruption of the school environment are also subject to appropriate school discipline and/or legal action.**
10. Violating federal, state, or local laws, copyright laws, and/or license agreements.
11. Accessing files, information, or any other resources (hardware or software) to which you have not been given the specific right of access.
12. Engage in any other activity deemed inappropriate by the administration, or discovered by any staff that may cause or tend to cause substantial disruption to school activities.

This is an evolving document. All additions and changes will become effective immediately upon posting to the MCAS district technology website. All changes to this document will be made through the MCAS K-12 Technology Committee.

Uses for MCAS Student Email

Email can be a powerful tool for students, increasing communication and collaboration. For example, teachers may send email to their students to communicate reminders and course content, to pose questions related to classwork, and for other instructional purposes. Students may send email to their teachers with questions or comments regarding class or to turn in an assignment. Students are encouraged to check their email at least once per day.

General Email Guidelines for Students

Email is to be used for school-related communication only. Student email is also covered by the student Acceptable Use Policy. These guidelines cannot possibly cover all unacceptable activities because of the ever-changing nature of technology. MCAS staff will take immediate action when individuals violate school rules or abuse the technology.

The activities listed below are not permitted:

- Sending harassing email messages or content.
- Sending offensive email messages or content.
- Sending spam email messages or content.
- Sending email containing a virus or other malicious content.
- Sending or reading email at inappropriate times, such as during class instruction.
- Sending email to share test answers or promote cheating in any way.
- Using another person's account.

Limits on Email Senders and Recipients

The Gmail accounts provided to our students are only for use within the school district. This is to provide another way for students to communicate with their teachers. The following limits are set on email use:

- MCAS students can email all staff.
- MCAS students cannot email anyone outside of the MCAS domain.
- MCAS students cannot receive email from outside of the MCAS domain.

Because no email can come in from outside of the school district, students will not receive spam, unsolicited messages, or anything inappropriate from the outside world. Also, students cannot send messages to people who are not staff or students in our district. Monitoring and filtering of email that is sent within our district is monitored and filtered based upon content. All student email passes through Google's Message Security system. Rules/filters are setup to monitor student email for profanity, harassment, and other inappropriate content.

Student email that is identified as inappropriate will be blocked from delivery, and instead may be sent to the school administration for review.

Consequences of Misuse of Email

Use of the computer network and/or Internet is an integral part of research and class work, but abuse of this technology can result in loss of privileges. Students could also face additional disciplinary or legal action.

This is an evolving document. All additions and changes will become effective immediately upon posting to the MCAS district technology website. All changes to this document will be made through the MCAS K-12 Technology Committee

Revised: May 2016

Appendix C: Athletics Code of Conduct and Eligibility

Michigan City High School

A participant's conduct, in and out of school, shall be such as:

- Not to reflect discredit upon the school or the activity,
- Not to create a disruptive influence on the discipline, good order, moral or educational environment in the school.
- Participation in extracurricular activities is a privilege that may be revoked for any just cause.*
- If an athlete quits a team (after making the team), the athlete may not participate in open gym or participate with another team during that same season if the athlete has not received a release from the coach of the sport they quit.

***NOTE: It is recognized that principals, by the administrative authority vested in them by their School Corporation, may exclude such participants from representing their school.**

I. Statement of Purpose and Philosophy

A. Purpose

1. To encourage students involved in athletic activities to develop a wholesome and healthful lifestyle.
2. To foster self-discipline.
3. To communicate rules/regulations in a clear, concise manner.
4. To publish and distribute the rules and regulations so they are readily available to students, parents, and staff.
5. To provide coaches with unifying guidelines so that enforcement of the rules is fair and equitable throughout the school community.

B. Philosophy

Interscholastic athletics are an integral part of the school's program, offering students a means to help develop self-discipline, accept responsibility, and make decisions to prepare for the adult world.

Athletes are encouraged to develop social conscience as well as intellectual faculties. We believe that learning is a never-ending process and that athletic participation helps to develop a positive set of values to guide young people through life. Athletics are wholesome activities because participants are judged by their ability to perform singly or in concert as they strive toward athletic excellence.

II. Responsibilities

It is a privilege to participate in and be associated with athletics. This privilege is extended to all students, provided they are willing to assume certain responsibilities. A student must be willing to make necessary sacrifices in order to be a credit to himself/herself. This can be done by:

- A. achieving academically by first being a good student.
- B. exhibiting high standards of social behavior.
- C. displaying sportsmanship, both on and off the playing field.
- D. respecting other athletes, cheerleaders, officials, spectators, and those in authority.
- E. being cooperative.
- F. maintaining a good appearance, including cleanliness and good grooming.
- G. using language that reflects well on family, school, and self.
- H. being a positive leader by example, words, and/or actions.
- I. complying with the rules necessary to be in good standing at the completion of the sport season (the last contest or the banquet, whichever comes later).

III. Eligibility*

As outlined by the Indiana High School Athletic Association (IHSAA) and the Michigan City Area Schools, the student must:

- A. have a completed school-approved physical examination form on file and have a consent and release form on file before practicing;
- B. be in good standing with the school;
- C. have earned passing grades in five (5) or more full credit subjects during the previous grading period or semester (as determined by IHSAA rules) and be currently enrolled in and passing six (6) or more full credit subjects;
- D. have a minimum grade point average of 1.5 on a 4.0 scale for the previous grading period or semester (as determined by IHSAA rules).

*** These guidelines also apply to cheerleaders.**

IV. The following general rules for participants have been established:

- A. A participant shall not violate local and state laws, IHSAA regulations, and the Michigan City High School's "Code of Responsible Behavior" and "Guidelines for Athletics."
- B. Abuse of school-owned equipment is prohibited.
- C. A participant must attend a full day of school the day in which they participate in competition, performance, or practice unless excused by a principal or Athletic Director.
- D. A participant shall not possess or use tobacco products.
- E. A participant shall not consume or be in possession of alcoholic beverages.
- F. A participant shall not knowingly possess, use, transmit or be under the influence of any narcotic drug, hallucinogenic drug, stimulant, controlled substance, or possess, use, or transmit paraphernalia for use of such substances.
- G. A participant is discouraged from being in attendance at a place where they know that illegal consumption or possession of alcohol is occurring, and/or transmission or use of substances listed in Section D-6 of the IHSAA By-Laws. Attendance at these events may result in ineligibility.
- H. A participant shall not use or possess weapons.

V. Procedure for Alleged Violations

Any alleged violation of the above general rules shall be reported first to the Athletic Director or school administration. The allegation will then be followed by an investigation by the Athletic Director (or his designee) and/or the school administration. The Athletic Director will make a ruling and enforce the appropriate discipline. The Athletic Director will share the decision of the violation penalty with the building Principal. If the student is found to be in violation, the following discipline will result:

A. Consequences of violations:

1. On the first offense in violation of Section D, 4-8 (tobacco, alcohol, firearms and drugs) the student will be excluded from contest participation for a minimum of 1/4 of the contests (include actual number of contests scheduled plus one IHSAA tournament contest and round to the nearest whole number) for the present or next sport in which the athlete has previously participated for a complete season at the high school level.
2. When a violation occurs and an athlete has qualified for awards, the awards may be given, subject to the approval of the Athletic Director.
3. During an exclusionary period, practice for the athlete is subject to the coach or administrator.

4. When it is determined that the student has been truthful about the violation from the beginning of the investigation, the penalty for the exclusion from participation will be reduced by 25 percent.

B. Individual coaches will establish, within the confines of their own sports program, additional rules and regulations which pertain to such items as practice attendance, tardiness, practice and game conduct, curfews, *etc.* These rules and regulations, in conjunction with their ensuing penalties for violation, shall be in writing and given to each athlete participating in that program, with an additional copy on file in the office of the Athletic Director.

C. When there have been two offenses in violation of Section D, 4-8 the athlete will be excluded from all athletic participation for one full year (12 months).

D. Athletes have a responsibility to Michigan City High School that extends beyond the season in which they participate. Therefore, athletes who violate training rules and/or general rules while out of season will be disciplined in the same manner as an in-season athlete.

E. These consequences are in addition to the normal disciplinary consequences.

VI. Appeal Procedure

Any excluded participant may appeal a decision of exclusion to the building Principal.