BLUE MOUNTAIN MIDDLE SCHOOL



Parent & Student Handbook

Blue Mountain Middle School
Important Phone Numbers
(914) 257-5700

Principal, William X. Toro Ed.D.	**Option #6**
Assistant Principal, Anecia McGill	**Option #5**
Main Office	**Option #4**
Guidance Office	**Option #3**
Guidance Fax #	**(914) 257-5761**
Nurse, Phyllis Moschetti, RN	**Option #2**
Nurse Fax #	**(914) 257-5791**
Attendance	**Option #1**

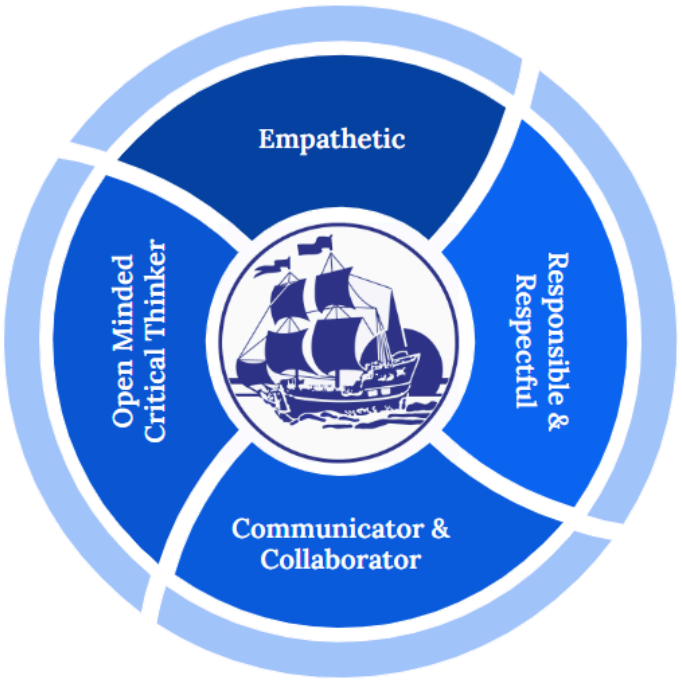
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I. Mission Statement

The mission of the Hendrick Hudson School District, a dynamic, innovative, and supportive educational community, is to ensure each student is an engaged, passionate learner who achieves his or her maximum potential and contributes to society.

This is accomplished in a system characterized by:

- A culture of the highest expectations for all;
- A rigorous, articulated curriculum;
- Diverse, effective instructional strategies and resources;
- An educational environment that is challenging, creative, exploratory, accessible, and nurturing; and
- A fully engaged, supportive community.



At BMMS we believe in supporting the whole child utilizing the *Profile of a Student*. We teach these concepts, model these skills, and encourage our students to practice each of these characteristics and qualities that we want all BMMS students to epitomize.

II. Important Information

E-mail
Parents may contact members of faculty and staff via email. E-mail addresses are in the following format: firstname.lastname@henhudschools.org

School Website:
We encourage you to visit the school website at www.henhudschools.org for detailed school information, updated on a regular basis.

Academic Team Concept:
A featured advantage of Blue Mountain is the division of each grade into teams. Each academic team is led by a team leader. Teams include English, Mathematics, Social Studies, Science and Special Education teachers. Each team meets on a regular basis

to discuss student progress, social emotional well-being, coordinate curriculum, plan interdisciplinary projects, and meet with parents.

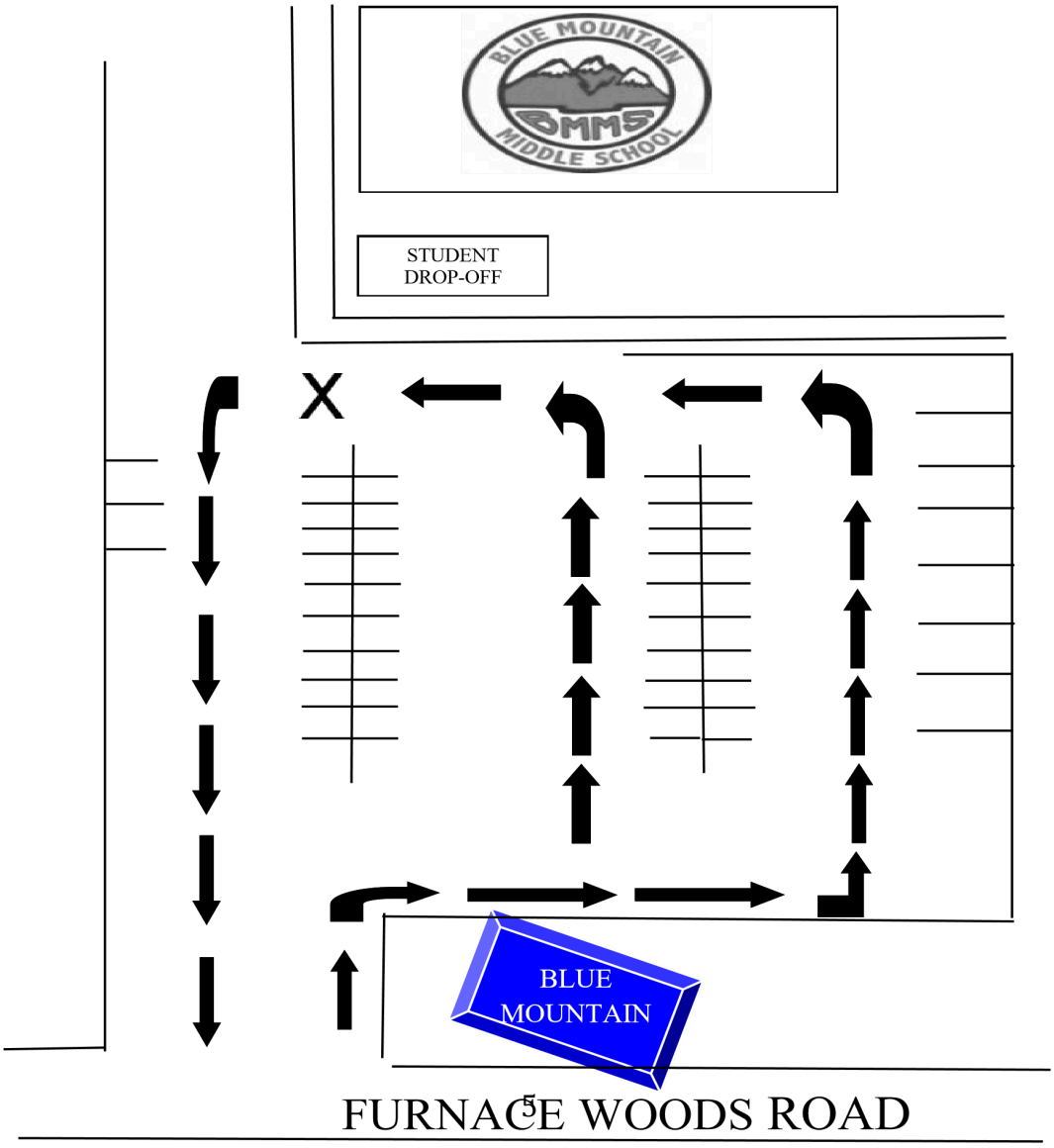
III. STUDENT ARRIVAL AND DISMISSAL

Student Arrival

District buses unload students each morning @ 7:45. Students go to their lockers and then report to their first class.

Parent Drop-off

The Blue Mountain day begins @ 7:45. There are no provisions for student supervision before that time. Parents must drop students off between 7:45 and 7:50. To avoid traffic issues with the buses dropping off our students, parents must make the first right into the parking lot upon entering Blue Mountain. Both lanes of the parking lot may be utilized. Students are to be dropped off at the "Student Drop Off" sign located near the Special Education Department's entrance to Blue Mountain. See diagram.



Late Arrivals:
Students arriving after 7:55 should be dropped off in front of the Main Entrance to Blue Mountain. Students arriving late report to the Main Office for attendance purposes. Multiple late arrivals will result in administration-parent contact.

Dismissal:
The last class of the day ends @ 2:35. After announcements, students go to their lockers and then to their buses. If you are planning on picking up your child, please arrive at 2:45 as parent pickup students will be released after the buses depart.

Bus Notes:
Students who wish to ride a bus other than their assigned bus, or get off at a bus-stop other than the one assigned to them must bring in a note from a parent. Students will give the note to the main office during homeroom. Additionally, parents can email the main office at Valerie.Diresta@henhudschools.org. Students will pick up a bus pass in the main office when the building is dismissed. The bus pass is then given to the driver of the bus the student is taking home.

Parent Pick-up:
Parents wishing to pick their children up from school at the normal dismissal time should arrive at 2:45. Students will be released to their parents after the buses have departed. If you need to pick your child up before dismissal please do so before 2:30 and before the buses arrive.

IV. SCHEDULES

HOMEROOM	**7:50 - 7:58**
MOD 1	**8:01 - 8:43**
MOD 2	**8:45 - 9:27**
MOD 3	**9:29 - 10:11**

GRADE 7	GRADE 6	GRADE 8
MOD 4 10:13 - 10:55	**LUNCH-MOD 4 10:13 - 10:55**	**MOD 4 10:07- 10:50**
MOD 5 10:57 - 11:39	**MOD 5 10:57 - 11:39**	**LUNCH-MOD 5 10:57 - 11:39**
LUNCH MOD 6 11:41 - 12:23	**MOD 6 11:41 - 12:23**	**MOD 6 11:41 - 12:23**

MOD 7	**12:25 -1:07**
MOD 8	**1:09 - 1:51**
MOD 9	**1:53-2:35**
EXTRA CURRICULAR	**2:45 - 3:45**

Sample Student Schedule

MOD	TIME	SUBJECT	TEACHER	ROOM	A - D Day
HR	7:50 - 7:58	Homeroom			ABCD
1	8:01 - 8:43	Math 6			ABCD
2	8:45 - 9:27	Science 6			ABCD
3	9:29 - 10:11	Unified Arts/Band/PhysEd			AB or CD
4	10:13 - 10:55	Lunch			ABCD
5	10:57 - 11:39	Tiered Instruction/Executive Functioning			ABCD
6	11:41 - 12:23	Chorus/Band/Orch/Lab/AIS			AB or CD
7	12:25 - 1:07	PhysEd/Orch/Chorus/Unified Arts			AB or CD
8	1:09 - 1:51	English 6			ABCD
9	1:53 - 2:35	Social Studies 6			ABCD

Lunch:
Students eat with members of their grade. The lunch module is the same 42 minute length as the other modules of the day. In the beginning of the year students are given an opportunity to decide where they will sit in the cafeteria. Faculty lunch supervisors in conjunction with the grade level school counselor monitor the process to ensure that every student has a place to sit. Once settled, students will sit in the same seat. School counselors and faculty lunch supervisors will oversee seating changes if necessary throughout the year, and may change seat assignments. We are pleased to announce that effective September 2, 2025 all middle school students will receive meals at no cost to your household. No further action is required of you.

Recess:
After eating, students may remain in the cafeteria area and talk with friends, play PingPong, pool, air hockey, or foosball in the upper commons area or play outside and/or in the gym depending upon the season and weather..

Advisory:
Advisory meets twice a month. Advisory is to get students thinking, discussing and their relationship to others, ethics and how we treat each other in the building and the larger world.

Academic Intervention Service:
Academic intervention service in the Hendrick Hudson Schools includes differentiated, supplemental instruction to assist students in meeting the New York State learning standards. Academic intervention services are intended to assist students who are at risk of not achieving the State learning standards in English language arts, mathematics, social studies and/or science, or who are at risk of not gaining the knowledge and skills needed to meet or exceed designated performance levels on State assessments. These services are provided by certified teachers within the core program and/or in supplemental programs.
Academic intervention services are made available to students with disabilities on the same basis as nondisabled students, provided, however, that such services shall be provided to the extent consistent with the individualized education program developed for such student pursuant to section 4402 of the Education Law. They shall not include services provided to students with limited English proficiency or special education services and programs as defined in Education Law section 4401(1) and (2).

V. AFTER SCHOOL ACTIVITIES

After school activities such as after school extra-help, clubs, and other activities generally take place Mondays through Thursdays. Activities do not occur on the first and third Mondays of each month due to faculty and department meetings. After school activities take place from 2:40 to 3:50. Students must have a predetermined activity in order to stay after school. Supervision is not provided for students who do not have a specific after school destination. As a result, students may not stay after to watch modified sporting events which typically do not begin until 4:00 or later.

National Junior Honor Society:
Membership in the chapter is an honor bestowed upon deserving eighth grade students by the faculty and shall be based on the criteria of scholarship, service, leadership, character, and citizenship. Students who are interested in attaining this honor should be aware that the grades they receive in sixth grade and in seventh grade are used to help determine their eligibility as candidates in eighth grade.

Eligible students become NJHS candidates during their eighth grade year. Candidates shall have a minimum cumulative grade point average of 95%. This grade point average will be calculated using all four quarters of sixth grade and all four quarters of seventh grade. Letters notifying students of their candidacy will be generated during the fall of their eighth grade year.

Candidates will then need to log hours of service and complete personal statements. All candidate materials need to be handed in for review. Additionally, behavior records will be run. Any infractions that are deemed serious will be reviewed by the faculty council to determine if a candidate may continue in the process. The faculty council then reviews each candidate's application and materials and selects the members.

Students are then officially inducted into our chapter of the NJHS at a special ceremony during the spring of their eighth grade year.

Clubs:
Blue Mountain offers a variety of clubs open to all grades 6th through 8th. Clubs meet after school. Club offerings vary with student interests and faculty advisor availability. Clubs provide opportunities for students to pursue hobbies or interests, meet other students and faculty members with similar interests and or discover new areas of

interest. Student participation in after school activities has been shown to increase student performance and enjoyment of their school experience.

Intramurals:
Depending upon student interest, faculty interest, and facility availability, Blue Mountain offers after school activities such as Fitness Center workouts, volleyball and dodgeball. Building announcements are made and posted to inform students about these activities and how to sign up.

Modified Sports:
For additional information on modified sports, select the *Athletics* tab on the district website, and then select *Modified* from the choices in the box on the right. Below is the "philosophy" of the modified sports program as seen on the website:

Modified Sports Philosophy:
We have a wide variety of programs for students in the 7th and 8th grades between the ages of 12 to 15. A student reaching age 16 during a sport season may complete that season and must play freshman, junior varsity or varsity the next sport season. Sport activities offered are determined by existence of leagues, student interest, and relationship to the high school program and board approval. At this level the focus is on learning athletic skills and game rules, fundamentals of team play, socio-emotional growth, physiologically appropriate demands on the adolescent body and healthy competition. This program is designed to offer students the opportunity to engage in a more highly organized competitive experience than what is found in intramural or recreation programs, but not as involved as those found in varsity or junior varsity interscholastic competition. An attempt will be made to give all members meaningful contest participation over the course of a season.

Selective Classification:
This is the procedure a middle school student must follow to play a sport at the high school level. The following can be found in the *Modified* section of the *Athletics* section of the district website: http://www.henhudschools.org/
Selective Classification is a New York State Education Department approved program. This is the program where students who are in 7th and 8th grade have the opportunity to participate on a high school level team. At Hendrick Hudson, this experience is only offered for the junior varsity and varsity level. Any interested athlete should contact the Athletic Office. The Selective Classification test is administered prior to each season. Information is made available to all interested athletes prior to the seasons.

Modified Sports Transportation:
Separate sports buses are available to take student athletes home whenever practices are held. These buses are in addition to the late buses and leave Blue Mountain at approximately 4:30 pm, which is later in the afternoon than the late buses. Sports bus information is available on the district website as well as in the main office.

After School Transportation Late Busses:
Late buses are available to take students home whenever there are after school activities. Late buses leave Blue Mountain at approximately 3:50. It is important to know that late buses cover larger areas of the district than the regular afternoon buses. This means students may get off at stops farther from their homes and the late bus ride may be longer. Late bus assignments and bus stop information are available on the district web site and in the main office. Parents and students should determine specific bus information (number and stop location) before the student stays after school.

After School Parent Pick-up:
Parents picking up their child from an after school activity must be at Blue Mountain by 3:45 or students will be placed on the late bus as there is no additional supervision available after that time. Students may not be picked up by anyone other than a parent without prior, written permission provided to the main office secretary responsible for attendance.

VI. PARENT INVOLVEMENT

PTA:
The support of the BMMS PTA is greatly appreciated by all members of the BMMS community. Please consider joining the BMMS PTA this year. PTA membership shows school spirit and support of the programs they offer our children. Membership is now online at the MemberHub website, or you can download the membership form and return it to BMMS with your payment. Membership forms can be handed in at Meet the Teacher Nights, or at any PTA meeting.

Parent Access to Building:
All parents as well as any other visitors to Blue Mountain are to enter the building via the main entrance only. All parents, regardless of the purpose of their visit, must then enter the main office to receive a visitor's pass and or be directed to their destination. Please have a photo id with you upon arrival.

Parent-Student Communication during the School Day:
If a parent needs to communicate with a child during the school day, the parent should call the Main Office. Blue Mountain will communicate parent messages to students at the end of class. A child's school counselor, social worker or administrator will be notified to supply student support if a parent needs a student to be pulled from class to speak with in an emergency situation. Parents are asked not to call or text their children directly, please call 914-257-5700. After obtaining permission, students may call parents during the school day from guidance or main office telephones.

VII. LOCKERS AND LOCKS

Each student is assigned a locker and lock at the beginning of the school year to secure school supplies, clothing and lunches. Lockers are the property of the school district and district employees maintain access to lockers through the use of school supplied locks. Students therefore may not use their own locks. Students are responsible for the contents of their lockers and therefore are not to share lockers or provide friends with their lock combination. Students should use discretion and exercise care with regard to their personal items. Students should not bring excessive amounts of money or valuable possessions to school. Valuable personal items should not be kept in backpacks. Backpacks should never be left unattended.

Cell phones should be turned off and remain in the student's locker during the day unless a teacher requests a student to use it for an assignment. Cell phones may be used only before or after school hours. *See full description of cell phones on pg. 18.*

Students are encouraged to memorize their locker combinations as soon as they are able, and avoid writing the combination in easily accessible locations such as the front of an assignment pad.

"Lost" locks must be replaced by a school lock at the cost of $5.00. The district is not responsible for lost or stolen items. We ask parents to reinforce that large sums of money, expensive jewelry, electronic devices, and objects of sentimental or other value should not be brought to school. Properly locking lockers virtually eliminates the possibility of another student gaining access.

VIII. LOST AND FOUND

Larger lost and found items such as jackets and backpacks can be found in the student commons by the lunchroom. Due to the volume of such unclaimed items, after two

months they are donated to *Goodwill.* Smaller items such as jewelry and eye glasses are held at the secretary's desk in the main office.

IX. ATTENDANCE

School Notification and Procedures:
Parents are asked to call the main office secretary to report a student absence at 914-257-5716. A message may be left. Parents may also email the attendance office at valerie.diresta@henhudschools.org.

When a student is legally absent from school for a period of three days or more, parents should also be in contact with the school guidance office to arrange to pick up missed school assignments. Requests for homework may be made to the guidance office by 9:00 AM on the second consecutive day of absence. Homework can be picked up at the guidance office. Requests for homework may only be made for legal absences.

If, in an unusual circumstance, the child will be legally absent for a longer period of time, the parent should communicate this to the guidance department. Steps will be taken to work with the family to assist the child in making up the school work.

If a child is absent for multiple days:
When a child's absences exceed ten days during a marking period or exceed five consecutive days, a meeting with the parents, guidance department, and principal/assistant principal will be arranged to address the attendance problem. A home visit may also be made when deemed necessary. A member of the school's counseling team will be asked to accompany the school authorities on such a visit. Parents who fail to comply with mandated attendance at school for their child may be referred to Child Protective Services for educational neglect.

District Attendance Policy:
Blue Mountain follows the district attendance policy which can be found in its entirety in the *Code of Conduct,* which can be found on the district website. By law, the policy cannot distinguish between legal and illegal absences. As a result, regardless of the reasons for the student's absences, parents will be notified in writing when their child reaches 5, and then again at 10 absences. At 15 absences, the parent will be asked to meet with an administrator and school counselor to ensure that all stakeholders understand the nature of the absences and or review the educational and legal ramifications of student absences from school.

X. HOMEWORK

Blue Mountain Middle School: Homework Beliefs, Understandings and Practice
Blue Mountain believes that regular homework assignments are necessary and important to:

- Practice methods and skills introduced to students in school
- Review and retain skills and material necessary for students to achieve their best
- Foster the practice of completing school work outside of the classroom

Blue Mountain as well as Blue Mountain parents and students should understand that:

- Students are enrolled in as many as 8 classes a day
- Students may receive nightly homework in most classes
- Students spend 7 hours a day in school
- Students are involved in after school activities
- Students also need time to eat, play, relax, read and receive enough rest each night

Homework Practices:

- Homework assignments are posted in classrooms
- Homework may be given each night of the week
- Homework may be assigned over weekends as well as over vacations
- Musicians are expected to practice their instrument 20 minutes a day, 4 days per week
- Homework assignments will be monitored for completion and may be collected

XI. LIBRARY MEDIA CENTER

Our library media center supports the information literacy needs of our students and staff. Our collection includes 20,000 books selected to support the curriculum and match the assignments that students will have during their years at Blue Mountain Middle School. In addition to our extensive book collection, students have access to an extensive web-based collection that includes *eBooks*, several *magazine databases* which give our students access to high quality, current information, and *reference* materials in the style of encyclopedias.

To assist students in locating appropriate materials, *BMMS Library OPAC,* our automated *card catalog* is available as a powerful computer database, accessible in school and at

home. *BMMS Library OPAC* and our other electronic resources are accessible in school and from home through the *Library Media Center Website* found linked here.
Students are encouraged to read for pleasure as well as information. Paperback and hardcover fiction titles account for half of our book collection. We offer them many choices including classics, Newbery Award winners, and other highly regarded titles selected especially for middle school students.

XII. STUDENT BEHAVIOR

Blue Mountain Middle School follows the *Hendrick Hudson School District Code of Conduct* in spirit and in process. The *Code of Conduct* can be found on the district website, linked here. Parents and students are asked to review the document, and may use it as a reference as needed.

Adult Approach to Student Behavior:
The faculty, staff and administration know that most students behave appropriately most of the time. On occasion, it may be necessary to remind or correct student behavior. Students are expected to accept adult input/directives and make necessary adjustments to their behavior. When students follow this process the situation is most often resolved without further consequence. The most common reason for escalation and resulting consequences is when students can't or won't follow such directives/rules.

Preferred Process:
Whenever possible, faculty, staff and administration prefer to explain to students and when necessary parents, why a behavior is unacceptable and that repeating the behavior may result in an escalated reaction. This approach works well with lower level offenses such as talking in class or with student to student tension that has taken place over a period of time. More often than not, the behaviors cease without the need for consequences.

Progressive Discipline:
When consequences do come into play, typically they are administered in a progressive manner. This means that a first time offense will receive a more mild consequence than a repeated behavior and/or, students who demonstrate the same inappropriate behavior may receive different consequences as a result of their disciplinary histories.

Positive Behavior Interventions And Supports (PBIS) - Profile of a Student
Positive Behavior Interventions and Supports (PBIS) is a proactive system designed to teach students appropriate behavior in various school settings. Acknowledgement of appropriate behavior provides immediate feedback to students that they are demonstrating acceptable behaviors. By having appropriate behaviors reinforced, students are taught to recognize the role they play in creating and sustaining a positive environment.
This system sets clear expectations for student behavior at Blue Mountain Middle School. Addressing discipline from this standpoint results in an increase in the quality of instructional time and the impact that it has on each student.
Acknowledgement of positive behaviors is a key component of this program.

Other Offenses Resulting in Consequences Including Suspension:
On rare occasions middle school students receive suspensions for more serious offenses. Please understand that some of these offenses do not occur for years at a time. However, when they do take place, behaviors that would result in potential police intervention outside of school result in likely suspension when they take place within school or are connected to school. Public schools have an obligation to deal with issues that impact them even if the inappropriate behaviors take place outside of school. These offenses include but are not limited to: vandalism, theft, assault, harassment, possession or use of prohibited substances such as tobacco, drugs or alcohol, and weapon possession or use.

Prohibited Items:
Another area of concern revolves around items that students may legally possess outside of school that may result in disciplinary action if brought to and especially if used in school. Examples include but are not limited to “noxious sprays” which include items from spray deodorant to “stink bombs” and “fart spray” that could cause a disruption and or safety concern for students with respiratory issues. Bringing “joke” items that can be purchased at the local mall such as fake pens or gum packs that deliver a shock to unsuspecting classmates are not allowed in school. Because laser pointers can cause serious injury if used incorrectly, they too are not to be brought to school.

Backpacks/Bookbags:
Students are to keep backpacks and bookbags in their lockers during the school day. Students have access to their lockers upon arrival to school, before and after lunch, and at the end of the day. This is done to reduce the physical impact of hauling overstuffed backpacks throughout the building.

Student Dress:
The following are guidelines for appropriate dress for school functions, which may vary according to the function or event. Individual students and parents have the responsibility for student dress and general appearance.
Students are required to attend school in appropriate dress that meets health and safety standards and does not interfere with the educational process. Students may be asked to wear appropriate protective gear in certain classes (e.g. home and careers classes, science laboratory classes, physical education classes). The district's Code of Conduct outlines expectations for student dress as well as potential school reactions. The District expects all students to give proper attention to personal cleanliness and to dress appropriately for school and school functions. Students and their parents have the primary responsibility for acceptable student dress and appearance. Teachers and all other District personnel should exemplify and reinforce acceptable student dress and help students develop an understanding of appropriate appearance in the school setting. A student's dress, grooming and appearance shall:
• Be safe, appropriate and not disrupt or interfere with the educational process;
• Recognize that extremely brief garments are not appropriate apparel for school;
• Ensure that undergarments are completely covered with outer clothing;
• Include footwear at all times and the District will not allow footwear that is a safety hazard;
• Not include items that are vulgar, obscene, libelous or denigrate others on the basis of weight, national origin, ethnic group, religion, religious practice, disability, sexual orientation, gender or sex; and
• Not promote and/or endorse the use of alcohol, tobacco or illegal drugs and/or encourage other illegal or violent activities. Hats or head coverings at an elementary or middle school, except for medical or religious purposes, shall not be allowed.

Each building principal or his or her designee shall be responsible for informing all students and their parents of the student dress code at the beginning of the school year and any revisions to the dress code made during the school year. Any infraction of this Code shall be reviewed and decided upon by the principal or designee. Students who violate the student dress code shall be required to modify their appearance by covering or removing the offending item and, if necessary or practical, replacing it with an acceptable item. Any student who refuses to do so shall be subject to discipline, which may range from an oral warning to suspension. Any student who repeatedly fails to comply with the dress code shall be subject to further discipline, up to and including out of school suspension.

The following guidelines are meant to give parents and children a more clear idea of how the above Code applies to middle school.
All undergarments must be covered. Strapless tops are not to be worn. Shirt bottoms must extend to the tops of pants, shorts or skirts, both back and front. Shorts and skirts should not be shorter than mid-thigh. Hats, clothing and attire which have an expression (phrase, word, or words) or insignia (picture, symbol, patch, or pin) which is obscene, sexually suggestive, or libelous (that is, which contains objectionable language, including insults, whether directed to themselves or others), or which advocates racial, religious, gender, age disability, or sexual orientation prejudice is forbidden. Clothing that contains sexual innuendo, that glorifies or promotes drug, alcohol, or tobacco use, or violence, and/or is otherwise materially disruptive to the learning environment, as determined by the building principal or their designee, is prohibited. Hats and coats may not be worn in the building. Appropriate footwear must be worn at all times. Footwear that is a safety hazard, in terms of walking and/or participating in specific activities, will not be allowed. For safety reasons, it is recommended that flip flops should not be worn during recess.

If found wearing attire that does not meet these guidelines, the student will be required to change clothes prior to returning to class. Parents will be contacted to supply appropriate clothing if necessary. Any student who repeatedly fails to comply with the dress code shall be subject to disciplinary action.

Cell Phones and Electronic Devices:

Per district board policy 5695, all students must **silence their cell phones at the start of the school day and store them in their lockers until dismissal**. Students who need to contact a parent or caregiver during the school day may use the **Guidance Office phone**. In the event of an emergency, parents can contact the **Main Office** directly.

Consequences for not following above guidelines:
First Offense: Students will receive a warning.. Second Offense: The device will be taken from the student and held in the office until the end of the day. Third Offense: The device will be taken from the student. A parent/guardian will be called to pick up the device. Final Offense: The device will be taken from the student. The student will no longer be allowed to bring the device to school.

**Students who utilize the above devices to disrupt the educational process or to cause harm to other students or members of the staff will be subjected to consequences detailed in the Hendrick Hudson School District Code of Conduct.

Water Bottles:
Students may carry water in refillable containers with them throughout the school day. This enables students to be hydrated without the negative health effects of other beverages, and contributes to efforts to be *green* by not utilizing disposable bottles. Parents may pack their child's lunch with whatever beverages (within reason) they feel appropriate.

Selling for Personal Profit:
Students may not sell items on school grounds including but not limited to gum, candy, electronic devices, clothing, footwear, jewelry or other items for personal profit.

Fundraising/Service Projects:
Blue Mountain respects and appreciates the many service and social organizations to which our students belong. However, multiple, simultaneous solicitations can be taxing, disruptive and counter-productive. As a result, students may not use school grounds to solicit for outside organizations. Blue Mountain does coordinate a variety of charitable efforts via our Student Organization and academic teams. Students are urged to participate in these efforts and initiate new efforts through the Student Organization and academic teams.