

EXPECTATIONS OF BEHAVIOR

Readington Middle School has expectations of student behavior that will create an orderly, positive school atmosphere. Our goal is to develop self-disciplined students who are able to make good judgments about acceptable behavior. The policies and procedures contained in this folder are the results of a concerted effort on the part of the faculty and administration at Readington Middle School.

DISCIPLINE PROCEDURES

The following discipline procedures have been developed with the understanding that students need to know what behaviors are unacceptable. A committee of both teachers and administration of Readington Middle School has developed these discipline procedures.

Teachers are expected to make direct contact with a student's parent(s) to explain firsthand what transpired prior to referring the student to an administrator for disciplinary action. This communication helps foster collaboration and ensures parents are aware of the situation. However, it is understood that in certain circumstances, such as when a student uses foul language or is so disruptive that the learning environment is significantly impacted, immediate administrative intervention may be necessary before parent contact is made.

After a student is seen by an administrator, the parent, teacher, and school counselor will be informed about the issue and the consequence. Repeated referrals to an administrator, or an infraction requiring a suspension from school, will require that the school counselor schedule a conference with the student to try to assist the student in changing his/her behavior.

All students are subject to the following discipline procedures whether these behaviors occur with a regular RMS staff member or a substitute teacher. All procedures also apply to all after school activities. Staff members are defined as being anyone who works at Readington Middle School.

The safety of each student in our school and the ability to maintain an appropriate environment for learning to take place is of utmost importance. Therefore, there may be inappropriate behaviors other than those listed above which warrant some form of consequence. In addition, the frequency of and/or severity of office discipline referrals may result in an alternative consequence other than the consequences listed in the above procedures. **Also, repeated infractions of the same rule will result in a more severe consequence.** After a student is assigned three suspensions, a parent/teacher/principal conference will be required prior to the student's return to his/her classes.

The level of infractions indicate less severe to more severe code of conduct violations. Higher level infractions will result in more severe levels of disciplinary action.

One of the tenets of RMS is to value the individuality of our students. Living up to that core belief, each incident will be taken on a case by case basis and the administration reserves the right to make decisions beyond the scope of the following guidelines. All Readington Township Public School District Board of Education Policies will be enforced.

Point System

We believe in ensuring that students should be given opportunities to understand and be held accountable for their actions, both positive and negative. We know that at times, students may not do the right thing. If a student fails to act as a responsible member of our learning community, they may lose points and along with them, privileges for certain activities. We also know that one bad decision does not define a student and we want to offer them the opportunity to earn back any lost points. We will award points back to students who we catch doing the right thing within the five competencies.

POSITIVE POINTS

No discipline referrals for full week (1 point)

Community Service (2 points)

**Valuable Viking Award/Student of the Week Award
(3 points)**

RMS Student of the Month (5 points)

Quarterly Honor Roll/High Honor Roll (10 points)

NEGATIVE POINTS

**Opportunity Period Detention (-1
point)**

**After School Detention (-3
points)**

**Suspension (In/Out School) (-5
Points)**

Once a student loses 8-10 points, the first school based activity will be removed. If they lose 11-15 points, the second activity and so on. This point system may also affect their SPORTS PARTICIPATION.

Students are always expected to meet the following behavioral standards, no matter what:

- 1. Maintain study habits and complete all required assignments, including missed assignments due to absences.**
- 2. Maintain attendance and arrive on time.**
- 3. Maintain appropriate behavior in school and on the bus.**
- 4. Model citizenship; helping peers, school and community.**
- 5. Respecting self, family, classmates, teachers, school staff and property.**

If you have any questions or concerns please do not hesitate to contact us. Our RMS staff and administration will continue to extend to our students every opportunity to succeed and excel. Thank you for partnering with us as we will help our students become conscientious and caring people who maintain high academic standards to reach their goals.

Level 1 Infractions

Disruptive Classroom Behavior:

OP Detention – as determined by teacher

Parent contact

Behaviors may include but are not limited to:

- Continual talking in class
- Calling out in class
- Out of seat without permission
- Writing or passing notes during class
- Throwing spitballs/other items
- Other miscellaneous, disruptive behaviors

Class Tardiness: 3 Tardies

OP Detention – as determined by teacher

Parent contact

Cutting Class:

After School Detention

Parent contact

Dress Code Violations:

1st Infraction: Student asked to change/ call home for change of clothes.

2nd Infraction and beyond: Student asked to change/ call home for change of clothes - OP Detention

Parent contact

Cheating/Plagiarism/Copying/Use of AI for cheating purposes:

OP Detention – 1-3 days

Parent contact

Potential school counseling referral

Cafeteria Misconduct/Throwing Food in the Cafeteria:

OP Detention - 1-3 days

Parent contact

Potential school counseling referral

Possession Of Provocative Material:

After School Detention – 1-2 days

Parent contact

Unsafe Behaviors:

Running in the building

OP Detention

Parent contact

Use of cell phone / SmartWatch:

1st Infraction: Confiscation by teacher, given back at the end of the day

2nd Infraction: Confiscation by teacher, given to main office, given back by an administrator at the end of the day- OP Detention

3rd Infraction: Confiscation, parent must pick up cell phone from an administrator- After School Detention

4th Infraction and beyond: Student is banned from being in possession of a cell phone at school for the remainder of the school year. In-School Suspension - 1 Day

Level 2 Infractions

Insubordination to a Staff Member

After School Detention

Parent contact

Forging another person's name

After School Detention

Parent contact

Unsafe Behaviors:

Rough-housing, pushing/tripping

After School Detention

In-School Suspension – 1-2 Days

Parent contact

Inappropriate Touching:

After School Detention – 1-2 days

In-School Suspension- 1-2 Days

Parent contact

Gambling/Sale of any Item on School Property other than those Approved by the BOE

After School Detention – 1-2 days

Property confiscated

Parent contact

Defacing Student Work on Display

After School Detention – 1-2 days

Parent contact

Use of any form of technology, school or personal, to create and/or distribute any audio, video, or images of students or employees without prior approval:

After School Detention – 1-2 days

In-School Suspension- 1 Day

Parent contact

Potential HIB Investigation

Use of Foul Language, verbal harassment, gestures, intimidation, or threats directed at or about other students.

After School Detention – 1-2 days

In-School Suspension - 1-2 Days

Parent contact

Potential school counseling referral, Potential HIB Investigation

Any behavior that results in the embarrassment or humiliation of others:

After School Detention – 1-2 days

In-School Suspension- 1-2 Days

Parent contact, Potential HIB Investigation

Illustrations depicting explicit or implied acts of violence:

After School Detention – 1-2 days

In-School Suspension - 1-2 Days

Parent contact

Potential school counseling referral

Level 3 Infractions

Insubordination to an Administrator

In-School Suspension – 2-3 days

Truancy/Leaving School

In-School Suspension – 2-3 days

Parent contact

Possible Court Complaint

Use of Foul Language, verbal harassment and/or gestures directed at or about a staff member:

In-School Suspension – 2-3 days

Police Contact

Parent contact

Use of racial/ethnic slurs directed at or about another person.

In-School Suspension – 2-3 days or Out-of-School Suspension – 1-2 days

Parent contact

Potential school counseling referral, Potential HIB Investigation

Participating in and/or watching group intimidation toward another student

In-School- Suspension – 2-3 days or Out-of-School Suspension – 1-2 days

Parent contact

Potential school counseling referral, Potential HIB Investigation

Vandalism:

In-School-Suspension – 2-3 days

Parent contact

School counseling referral

Restitution for damages

Possible Police contact

Please note: Threats of vandalism or acts of vandalism toward any staff member's property will result in immediate suspension, restitution for damages if vandalism is committed, and police intervention.

Theft/Possession/Sale of Stolen Property:

In-School- Suspension – 2-3 days

Parent contact

School counseling referral

Possible Police contact

Please note: Theft of any staff member's property will result in immediate suspension, restitution, and police intervention.

Level 4 Infractions

Verbal Threats Made to Any Staff Member or Verbal Threats Made About a Staff Member:

In-School Suspension – 3-5 days or Out-of-School Suspension – 2-4 days

Parent contact
Police Intervention

Illustrations depicting explicit or implied acts of violence toward students and/or staff members:

In-School Suspension – 3-5 days or Out-of-School Suspension – 2-4 days

Parent contact
Police Intervention

Possession/Sale/Distribution or Use of caps, stink bombs, fart spray, poppers, and matches/lighters or other combustible material:

In-School Suspension – 3-5 days or Out-of-School Suspension – 2-4 days

Parent contact
Potential school counseling referral
Fire Department/Police contact

Possession/Display/Threatening to use any weapon which may include, but are not limited to: firearms knives, brass knuckles, pepper spray, chains, tasers, martial arts weapons, firecrackers or other explosives.

Out-of-School Suspension – as determined by administrator

Parent contact
Report Made to **Readington Police Dept.**

Unsafe Behaviors

Aggressive Spitting/Biting

In-School Suspension – 3-5 days or Out-of-School Suspension – 2-4 days

Parent contact

Creating a Public False Alarm

In-School Suspension – 3-5 days or Out-of-School Suspension – 2-4 days

Parent contact

Fighting

In-School Suspension – 3-5 days or Out-of-School Suspension – 2-4 days

Parent contact
Possible Police Intervention

Sexual Harassment

In-School Suspension – 3-5 days or Out-of-School Suspension – 2-4 days

Parent contact
Potential school counseling referral, Potential HIB Investigation

Use/Possession/Distribution of Cigarettes or Nicotine Vaping Devices

Out-of-School-Suspension – 1-4 days

Parent contact

Use/Possession/Distribution of an Unauthorized Substance, including alcohol

Out-of-School Suspension - 5-9 days

Parent contact

BUS DISCIPLINE PROCEDURES

The safety of each student at our bus stops and on our school buses is of utmost importance. The law permits school administration to deny bus transportation privileges if a student's conduct warrants such action. If transportation privileges are denied, it becomes the responsibility of the student's parents to see that he/she arrives at school.

Standing While Bus Is In Motion

1st Infraction = OP Detention

2nd Infraction = Loss of bus privileges for 2 days – Potential school counseling referral.

Throwing Objects On or Out of the Bus

1st Infraction = OP Detention (3-5 days) – Parent contact

2nd Infraction = Loss of bus privileges for 3-5 days – Potential school counseling referral.

Profanity Directed at Another Student

1st Infraction = OP Detention – parent contact

2nd Infraction = Loss of bus privileges for 2 days – Potential school counseling referral.

Not Sitting in Assigned Seats

1st Infraction = OP Detention

2nd Infraction = Loss of bus privileges for 2 days – parent contact

Eating and/or Drinking/Littering While on the Bus

1st Infraction = OP Detention

2nd Infraction = Loss of bus privileges for 2 days – parent contact – Potential school counseling referral

Intentionally Taking Wrong Bus

1st Infraction = OP Detention (2 days)– Parent contact

2nd Infraction = Loss of bus privileges for 2 days – parent contact – Potential school counseling referral

Profanity at Bus Driver (including physical gestures):

1st Infraction = Loss of bus privileges for 3 days – Potential school counseling referral – parent contact

2nd Infraction = Loss of bus privileges for 3-5 days – Potential school counseling referral

Fighting/Hitting or Pushing Another Student Around

1st Infraction = Loss of bus privileges for 3 days – 2 days I.S.S. or OSS – parent contact

2nd Infraction = Loss of bus privileges for 3-5 days – 3 days ISS or OSS– parent contact – Potential school counseling referral

Intimidating Another Students by Verbal and/or A Physical Aggression

1st Infraction = Loss of bus privileges for 3 days – 2 days ISS or OSS – parent contact – Potential school counseling referral, possible HIB investigation

2nd Infraction = Loss of bus privileges for 3-5 days – 3 days ISS or OSS – parent contact – Potential school counseling referral - possible police intervention, possible HIB investigation

Vandalism

1st Infraction = Loss of bus privileges for 2 days – restitution – possible police intervention – parent contact – Potential school counseling referral

2nd Infraction = Loss of bus privileges for 3-5 days – restitution - possible police intervention – parent contact – Potential school counseling referral

Spitting on Bus, Students and/or Out of Bus Windows

1st Infraction = Loss of bus privileges for 2 days – ISS or OSS - parent contact

2nd Infraction = Loss of bus privileges for 3-5 days – ISS or OSS - parent contact – Potential school counseling referral

Dangerous behavior such as Tripping/Pushing and/or kicking Other Students

1st Infraction = Loss of bus privileges for 1 day- ISS or OSS – parent contact

2nd Infraction = Loss of bus privileges for 2-3 days – ISS or OSS- parent contact – Potential school counseling referral