



## **D.H.H. Lengel Middle School Student Handbook | 2025-2026**

### **Mission Statement**

Pottsville Area School District...

Discover possibilities

Uncover potential

Develop purpose

### **Vision Statement**

The Pottsville Area School District's vision focuses on students uncovering their potential and developing purpose. In collaboration with families and community partners, school staff will guide students to discover possibilities for becoming productive members of society.

## Welcome to the D.H.H. Lengel Middle School

The D.H.H. Lengel Middle School educates 5<sup>th</sup> through 8<sup>th</sup> grade students in the Pottsville Area School District. Our faculty and staff strive to provide our students with a safe, compassionate, and challenging school experience. The middle school curriculum is aligned to the PA Core Standards and offers a rigorous and diverse academic progression. Learning is enhanced through the use of 1:1 iPads, allowing access to online resources.

Middle school students have opportunities to become involved in our school community through a variety of clubs, activities, musical endeavors, and athletics. We encourage our students develop a sense of ownership within our building by taking advantage of extra-curricular offerings to further enrich these transitional years.

D.H.H. Lengel Middle School is a great place filled with amazing people, boundless opportunities, and unparalleled Tide PRIDE. We are looking forward to a wonderful 2025-26 school year!

Dr. Caitlin R. Mohl, Principal

*Pottsville Area School District is an equal opportunity educational institution and will not discriminate based on race, color, national origin, sex, or handicap in its activities, programs or employment practices as required by Title VI, Title IX, and Section 504.*

## Contact Information

### PHONE NUMBERS

- **General Office:** (570) 621-2924
- **Nurse's Office:** (570) 621-2927
- **Middle School Fax:** (570) 621-2999

### DISTRICT WEBSITE

[www.pottsville.k12.pa.us](http://www.pottsville.k12.pa.us)

### FACEBOOK

@ctidepride  
@LengelMiddleSchool

### INSTAGRAM

@lengel\_middle\_school

## Our Building

Ground was broken for a new middle school in the Pottsville Area School District on March 21, 1968. The DHH Lengel Middle School was officially dedicated on April 28, 1971. The building was designed to provide a comprehensive education for our children and to meet the many needs of the community. Today the school continues provides a world class education to students in grades 5-8.



## District Personnel

Dr. Alan Lonoconus  
Mrs. Stephanie Wood  
Dr. Jared A. Gerace  
Mr. David Gonzalez  
Mr. Peter Sanfilippo  
Mr. Donald "Bo" Ditzler  
Mrs. Lisa Schu  
Mrs. Maria Larish

Interim Superintendent  
Business Manager  
Director of Curriculum, Instruction & Assessment  
Technology Director  
Director of Athletics  
Supervisor of Facilities  
Director of Food Services  
Title 1 & Federal Programs Coordinator

# D.H.H. Lengel Middle School Faculty & Staff

Dr. Caitlin R. Mohl, Principal  
 Mrs. Lisa A. Holobetz, Assistant Principal  
 Ms. Kelly A. Brennan, Director of Special Education  
 Mr. Chris Nabholz, Dean of Students

Mrs. Serenity Allen	5 <sup>th</sup> Grade	Mrs. Candace Lubinsky	Building Substitute
Miss Morgan Althouse	Art	Mrs. Jennifer Lutz	Science/PSSA Prep
Mr. Cody Blankenhorn	Social Studies/Digital Citizenship	Mrs. Stephanie Maroukis	Special Education
Miss Paige Borrell	Special Education	Mrs. Mary Matulevich	Science/Health Science
Mrs. Jennifer Brant	Certified Counselor	Mr. Patrick McCord	Social Studies/Digital Citizenship
Miss Samantha Brennan	ELA	Mrs. Megan Menchefsky	Science/PSSA Prep
Mr. Dennis Buchman	Science/Career Readiness	Mrs. Katelynn Miller	ELA
Mr. John Carestia	Social Studies/Digital Citizenship	Mrs. Pam Miller	Special Education
Mr. Chris Davis	Special Education	Mrs. Johanna Morrison	Special Education
Ms. Jamie Dawson	Science/SOAR	Mr. Danny Moyer	Social Studies
Mrs. Amy Digris	5 <sup>th</sup> Grade	Miss Sydney Murray	Math
Dr. Kristin Durkee	5 <sup>th</sup> Grade	Ms. Holly Naradko	Occupational Therapist
Miss Olivia Eagan	Speech & Language Pathologist	Mrs. Kim O'Brien	Special Education
Ms. Kimberly Edling	Special Education	Ms. Allison Parker	School Counselor
Mrs. Alicia Fehr	Math	Miss Rachelle Price	ELA
Mrs. Ashley Fehr	ESL	Mr. Ian Renninger	Building Substitute
Mrs. Breanne Ferdoucha	ELA	Mr. Michael Roberts	Special Education
Ms. Melissa Focht	Special Education	Mrs. Kara Ryan	ELA
Dr. Ceri Fogarty	Music/Choir	Ms. Melissa Scheetz	ELA
Dr. Michael Fries	Music/Band	Mrs. Miranda Schultz	School Counselor
Ms. Teresa Glenn	Special Education	Mr. Christian Selinko	Spanish/Digital Citizenship
Mr. Owen Golden	Building Substitute	Ms. Ashley Shappell	5 <sup>th</sup> Grade
Mrs. Liz Grow	Title 1 Intervention	Mrs. Angela Snyder	5 <sup>th</sup> Grade
Mr. Jamie Gunoskey	Title I Intervention	Mrs. Elizabeth Sophy	Special Education
Ms. Paula Heffner	Physical Ed./Health/Aquatics	Ms. Shannon Sweeney	Math
Mr. Greg Hoak	Physical Education/Health	Mr. Phil Tenaglia	Math
Miss Cara Holman	Special Education	Ms. Carolyn Wasilewski	Math
Mr. Jeff Hughes	Math	Miss Cameryn Winton	Social Studies/Digital Citizenship
Mr. Jonathan Hughes	STEM	Mrs. Amy Withelder	Speech & Language Pathologist
Mr. Josh Kalyan	Social Studies/Digital Citizenship	Miss Anya Wood	5 <sup>th</sup> Grade
Mr. Anthony Kelly	Alt. Ed./Behavior Interventionist	Mrs. Connie Yutko	Nurse
Miss Kate Leffler	Special Education	Ms. Patricia Zartman	Science/Science Lab
Mrs. Julia Leiby	5 <sup>th</sup> Grade	Miss Michala Zembas	Library Media Specialist
Dr. Jennifer Lipton	Title I Intervention	Ms. Leah Zerbe	5 <sup>th</sup> Grade
Mrs. Lisa Revenis	Administrative Assistant	Mr. Shawn Snyder	Head Custodian/Aquatics Director
Ms. Desiree Weikel	Administrative Assistant	Mr. Robert Celani	Custodian
Mrs. Robin Kalinich	Cafeteria Manager	Mr. Damon Davis	Custodian
Mrs. Joanie Williams	Head Cook	Mr. Tanner Detweiler	Custodian
Ms. Colleen Coulson	Food Services	Mr. Dave Kull	Custodian
Ms. Noell Diehl	Food Services	Mr. Kole Laughlin	Custodian
Mrs. Lisa Frederick	Food Services	Mr. Joe Lukach	Custodian
Mrs. Cindy Gillis	Food Services	Mr. Brian O'Dell	Custodian
Mrs. Cindy Hermany	Food Services	Mr. Luis Barrios	Paraprofessional
Ms. Nicole Lukach	Food Services	Ms. Molly Bressler	Paraprofessional
Mrs. Crystal Major	Food Services	Ms. Vanessa Cuevas	Paraprofessional
Mrs. RoseAnn Petrusky	Food Services	Mrs. Flynn Cynthia	Paraprofessional
Mrs. Michelle Corby	Title 1 Aide	Mrs. Lisa Krammes	Paraprofessional
		Mr. Jevin Reeve	Paraprofessional
		Mrs. Tonya Shappell	Paraprofessional
		Ms. Naomi Vigoda	Paraprofessional

# 2025-2026 SCHOOL CALENDAR

\*Dates may be subject to change; additional dates/events may be added\*

DATE	EVENTS
August 7, 2025	Fifth Grade Orientation
August 12, 2025	Fifth Grade Orientation
August 21, 2025	Back To School Night
August 18, 2025	Kindergarten Orientation
August 19, 20, & 21, 2025	In-Service Day-Teachers Only
August 25, 2025	First Day of School
August 29, 2025	School Closed
September 1, 2025	Labor Day- No School
September 3, 2025	Picture Day for 5 <sup>th</sup> & 6 <sup>th</sup> Grade
September 4, 2025	Picture Day for 7 <sup>th</sup> & 8 <sup>th</sup> Grade
October 6, 2025	Picture Re-take day
October 13, 2025	In-Service Day-Teachers Only
November 10, 2025	No School for Students/Teacher Conferences
November 26, 2025	Holiday Early Dismissal 11:30
November 27, 2025-December 1, 2025	Schools Closed- Thanksgiving Recess
December 23, 2025	Holiday Early Dismissal 11:30
December 24, 2025-January 4, 2026	School Closed- Winter Break
January 5, 2026	Classes resume
January 19, 2026	In-Service Day-Teachers Only
February 16, 2026	President's Day- No School students or staff
March 16, 2026	Spring Break
April 1, 2026	Early Dismissal 11:30
April 2, 2026-April 7, 2026	Schools Closed - Spring Recess
March 16, April 7, & April 2, 2026	Snow Make Up Days (as needed)
April 20, 2026-April 24, 2026	PSSA ELA Testing Window
April 27, 2026-May 1, 2026	PSSA Math, Science and Make up Testing Window
May 11, 2026-May 22, 2026	Keystone Algebra Test (8 <sup>th</sup> Grade Accelerated only)
May 22, 2026	Holiday Early Dismissal
June 5, 2026	Tentative last day of school, early dismissal 11:30

## Tentative Marking Periods & Report Card Dates

Marking Period		Report Cards Posted
1 <sup>st</sup> Marking Period	8/25/25-10/30/25	November 5, 2025
2 <sup>nd</sup> Marking Period	10/31/25-1/17/26	January 23, 2026
3 <sup>rd</sup> Marking Period	1/20/26-3/27/26	April 1, 2026
4 <sup>th</sup> Marking Period	3/28/26-6/5/26	Mailed Home/Uploaded to Portfolio

## STATEMENT OF NON-DISCRIMINATION

The Pottsville Area School District is an equal opportunity educational institution and will not discriminate in its educational programs, activities, or employment practices based on race, color, national origin, sex, age, religion, ancestry, handicap, union membership, or other legally protected classification. Announcement of this policy is in accordance with the state and federal laws including Title VI, Title IX, and Section 504.

For information regarding 1) civil rights 2) grievance procedures 3) services activities, and facilities that are accessible to and usable by handicapped persons or 4) employee or participant complaints of harassment or discrimination, contact Dr. Jared Gerace, Title IX Coordinator, 1501 W Laurel Blvd, Pottsville, PA (570)621-2900.

## POLICY STATEMENT

All Pottsville Area School Board policies and procedures may be found here:

<https://go.boarddocs.com/pa/pott/Board.nsf/Public?open&id=policies>. The policies may be searched and viewed on the website by hovering over the tab(s) ***Our District – select District Policies***. It is highly encouraged that parents and guardians review all board policies.

## BUILDING ACCESSIBILITY

The Lengel Middle School is equipped with an elevator and ramps to provide access to individuals with physical disabilities. Parents/guardians of a child in need of accessibility should contact the building principal at (570) 621-2924 or school nurse at (570) 621-2927 for inquiries regarding their child's entrance to school, dismissal, and general movements throughout the school day. General questions regarding access to the building may also be directed to the building principal.

## STUDENT SERVICES

### Special Education

Pottsville Area School District is required by the Individuals with Disabilities Education Improvement Act of 2004, (IDEIA) to provide a free appropriate public education for children with disabilities. Children with disabilities are those that are in need of special education and related services as a result of one or more of the following physical and/or mental disabilities:

- |                                |   |
|--------------------------------|---|
| * Autism                       | * Hearing Impairment including Deafness |
| * Orthopedic Impairment        | * Speech/Language Impairment            |
| * Deaf-Blindness               | * Intellectual Disabilities             |
| * Other Health Impairment      | * Traumatic Brain Injury                |
| * Emotional Disturbance        | * Multiple Disabilities                 |
| * Specific Learning Disability | * Visual Impairment including Blindness |



## **Screening and Evaluation Process**

The Pottsville Area School District has procedures in place to help identify children who may be eligible for special education and related services. The process includes both screening procedures for potential speech, hearing and vision needs as well as parent/guardian or teacher referrals for a comprehensive educational evaluation. If the parent/guardian believes their child may be eligible for special education and/or related services they may request a screening and evaluation at any time at no cost to them. Any such request should be directed to the district special education contact person listed at the conclusion of this announcement.

## **Services for Protected Handicapped Students**

In accordance with Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 all school districts must provide services to and may not discriminate against “protected handicapped students.” A “protected handicapped student” is a student who has a physical or mental impairment that substantially limits one or more major life activities, has a record of such an impairment or is regarded as having such an impairment. A “protected handicapped student” may qualify for special services to ensure equal opportunity to participate in the school program including extracurricular activities to the maximum extent appropriate for the individual student.

## **Notice of Rights under Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act of 1974**

The Pottsville Area School District is required to protect the confidentiality of personally identifiable information of students in accordance with federal law and state and federal rules and regulations. The rights and privacy of students include the following:

- The right to inspect and review the student’s educational records within forty-five days of the date that the educational agency receives a request for access to the records.
  - A written request, identifying the record(s) to be inspected, should be submitted to the building administrator of the school where the student attends.
- The right to request that the student’s educational records be amended if the parent/guardian believes the records to be inaccurate or violates the privacy or other rights of the student.
  - A written request identifying what record(s) are seeking to be amended and why should be submitted to the building administrator of the school where the student attends. - The school will notify the parent/guardian, in writing, of the decision and advise them of their right to a hearing regarding their request for amendment of the record(s).
- The right to consent to disclosures of personally identifiable information contained in the student’s educational records, except to the extent that federal and state law authorize disclosure without consent.
- The right to file a complaint with the U. S. Department of Education at the Family Policy Compliance Office concerning alleged failures by the educational agency to comply with the requirements of FERPA.
- In accordance with 34 CFR § 300.624, please be advised of the following retention/destruction schedule for the Pennsylvania Alternate System of Assessment (PASA), Pennsylvania System of School Assessment (PSSA), and Keystone Exam related materials:
  - PSSA, Keystone Exam, and PASA test booklets will be destroyed one year after student reports are delivered for the administration associated with the test booklets.
  - PSSA and Keystone Exam answer booklets and PASA media recording swill be destroyed three years after completion of the assessment.

Questions regarding programs and services for eligible students with special needs as well as thought to be exceptional students may be addressed to: Director of Special Education, Ms. Kelly Brennan (570) 621-2924.

## **Gifted Education Services**

Pottsville Area School District offers specially designed instruction for students that have been evaluated and identified as “mentally gifted.” These services include specially designed programs or support services that are not ordinarily provided in the regular education program. The Pottsville Area School District uses multiple criteria, including IQ score, to identify students with gifted ability who may require specially designed instruction.

## **McKinney-Vento Homeless Education Assistance Act**

The Pottsville Area School District recognizes its obligation to ensure that homeless students have access to the same educational programs and services provided to other district students. The district shall make reasonable efforts to identify homeless children within the district, encourage their enrollment, and eliminate existing barriers to their attendance and education, in compliance with federal and state law and regulations.

Homeless students are defined as individuals lacking a fixed, regular and nighttime residence, which include students living under the following conditions:

1. Sharing the housing of other persons due to loss of housing or economic hardship.
2. Living in motels, hotels, trailer parks or camping grounds due to lack of adequate alternative accommodations.
3. Living in emergency, transitional or domestic violence shelters.
4. Abandoned in hospitals.
5. Living in public or private places not designed for or ordinarily used as regular sleeping accommodations for human beings
6. Living in cars, parks, public spaces, abandoned buildings, substandard housing, transportation stations or similar settings.
7. Living as migratory children in conditions described in previous examples.
8. Living as run-away children.
9. Being abandoned or forced out of homes by parents/guardians or caretakers.
10. Living as school age unwed mothers in houses for unwed mothers if they have no other living accommodations.

Students shall not be discriminated against, segregated nor stigmatized based on their status as homeless. When a student is claiming or thought to be homeless, contact the PASD Homeless Liaison at (570) 621-2900.

## **Student Assistance Program (SAP)**

A SAP team made up of school and agency staff is available to help you access school and community services for your child. In Pennsylvania, every school district is required to have a plan for identifying and assisting students who experience barriers to learning. Our school’s Student Assistance Program team name is D.H.H. Lengel SAP Team.

The D.H.H. Lengel SAP team will help you find services and assistance within the school, and if needed, in the community. We do not diagnose, treat, or refer your child for treatment. We will provide you with information and you make the choice(s) that best fit your needs and wishes. As the parent/guardian you are an important part of the team.

Anyone can refer a child to the D.H.H. Lengel SAP team. Some students are referred by teachers or other school personnel. A friend at school or family member can also let the D.H.H. Lengel SAP team know that they



are worried about someone. The child can even go directly to the D.H.H. Lengel SAP team to ask for help. Referral sheets can be found outside the main office. Schools will gather information to determine how a student is doing in their classes. However, the SAP team will not proceed unless you give your written parent permission. Once permission is received, the D.H.H. Lengel SAP team will work with you to develop a plan of action to help your child achieve success in school. Participation in the program is voluntary. The SAP team information is completely confidential and the team will respect you and your child's privacy at all times.

**D.H.H. Lengel SAP Team Members**

Dr. Caitlin Mohl, Principal  
Mrs. Lisa Holobetz, Asst. Principal  
Mr. Chris Nabholz, Dean of Students  
Mr. Cody Blankenhorn, Teacher  
Mrs. Jennifer Brant, Certified Counselor  
Mr. Chris Davis, Teacher  
Ms. Kim Edling, Teacher

Ms. Liz Grow, Teacher  
Mrs. Kimberly O’Brien  
Miss Allison Parker, School Counselor  
Mrs. Miranda Schultz, School Counselor  
Miss Ashley Shappell, Teacher  
Mrs. Elizabeth Sophy, Teacher  
Ms. Candice Hadesty, CFSS-PA

**HEALTH SERVICES**

Students with an illness or injury may report to the nurse’s office with permission from a teacher or other supervising adult. The nurse will make all decisions regarding a student’s health and ability to stay in school. *Students may not call a parent prior to visiting the nurse.* Students who leave school property without the recommendation of the school nurse or building administration may be charged with an unexcused absence.

Students requiring prescription medication, including inhalers, during school must submit a written note from the prescribing physician and the medication in the original bottle to the nurse. Over the counter medications will be administered when the medication is in the original bottle and a written note from the parent is supplied to the nurse. For additional information please refer to the school district’s website. Elevator and two-minute passes must be obtained from the nurse and require a doctor’s note.

In accordance with the Public School Code of Pennsylvania, students will receive the following screenings as scheduled by the school nurse:

Grades K to 12:	Height, weight and BMI
Grades K to 12:	Vision
Grades K, 6, and 11:	Physical Examination
Grades 1, 3, and 7:	Dental Examinations
Grades 6 and 7:	Scoliosis Screening
Grades K, 1, 2, 3, 7, 11	Hearing

**FOOD SERVICES**

The Pottsville Area School District is implementing the Community Eligibility Provision (CEP) for the 2024-25 school year. The program makes all students eligible to receive breakfast and lunch at no cost. Ala carte items and USDA Smart Snack compliant snacks are available for purchase. Students must have a positive balance in their meal account to make purchases. Questions regarding food services should be directed to Mrs. Lisa Schu, RD, LDN, by email, [lschu@pottsville.k12.pa.us](mailto:lschu@pottsville.k12.pa.us), or phone, (570) 621-2910.

# CURRICULUM

## Mathematics

**5<sup>th</sup>** The Grade 5 curriculum is based on the Envision Math Savvas Realize series. It begins with place value and is followed by computation of decimals and fractions. The second half of the year looks at data, volume, measurement, numerical expressions, the coordinate plane, algebraic patterns and two-dimensional figures

**6<sup>th</sup>** The Grade 6 curriculum is based on the Envision Math Savvas Realize series. It begins with a review of arithmetic of decimals and fractions learned in 5th grade with a heavy emphasis on application. Students then explore the concepts of rational numbers, numeric and algebraic expressions, equations and inequalities, ratios and rates, percent, area, volume, and data analysis.

**7<sup>th</sup>** The Grade 7 curriculum utilizes a framework from Maneuvering the Middle (MTM). It begins with arithmetic of integers and rational numbers. Students then explore the concepts of proportional relationships, percent problems, equivalent expressions, equations and inequalities, sampling, probability, and geometry.

**8<sup>th</sup>** The Grade 8 curriculum utilizes a framework from Maneuvering the Middle (MTM). It begins with a review of real numbers (rational and irrational) as well as exponent laws and scientific notation. Students then explore the concepts of linear equations, functions, bivariate data, systems of linear equations, congruence and similarity, Pythagorean Theorem, and surface area and volume.

## English Language Arts

**5<sup>th</sup>** The 5<sup>th</sup> grade English Language Arts uses the Into Reading Series. The Into Reading Series is a comprehensive literacy curriculum designed to improve literacy through student self-actualized learning. The students will be instructed in Small Groups, Spelling Words, Vocabulary Words, Grammar, Reading Tests, Writing assignments. Each story focuses on comprehension, fluency, writing, conventions, vocabulary, spelling, and listening/speaking. Google Classroom will be utilized for supplemental materials.

**6<sup>th</sup>** The 6th grade ELA course incorporates reading and writing skills that are aligned with Pennsylvania Common Core standards to enhance rigor and advance student knowledge toward academic success. These goals are met by teaching skills that are related to comprehension, grammar skills, vocabulary, writing techniques, and research. Progress is monitored by gathering data that is used to assess students' strengths and weaknesses. A differentiated curriculum is developed based on the needs of the students.

**7<sup>th</sup>** The 7th grade ELA course incorporates reading and writing skills that are aligned with Pennsylvania Common Core standards to enhance rigor and advance student knowledge toward academic success. These goals are met by teaching skills that are related to comprehension, grammar skills, vocabulary, writing techniques, and research. Progress is monitored by gathering data that is used to assess students' strengths and weaknesses. A differentiated curriculum is developed based on the needs of the students.

**8<sup>th</sup>** The 8th grade ELA course incorporates reading and writing skills that are aligned with Pennsylvania Common Core standards to enhance rigor and advance student knowledge toward academic success. These goals are met by teaching skills that are related to comprehension, grammar skills, vocabulary, writing techniques, and research. Progress is monitored by gathering data that is used to assess students' strengths and weaknesses. A differentiated curriculum is developed based on the needs of the students.

## Social Studies

**5<sup>th</sup>** This course will provide students with keys skills to identifying places on a map, answer questions using a map, and parts of a map. Students will then explore the United States by the regions of the country. Students will examine borders & boundaries, features of a regions, culture, resources and climate. Students will study the state and capital locations and abbreviations.

**6<sup>th</sup>** This course will provide students with an in-depth look into world geography, map skills, culture, resources and systems of governments. We will study the 7 continents of the world closely covering the various aspects that make each unique. At the end of the course, students will be able to know how to read a map, identify countries on a map and describe each continent in detail. We will utilize a variety of resources from videos, to projects, to PowerPoints for each continent to provide a differentiated learning experience.

**7<sup>th</sup>** This course will cover a broad foundation of history from the Prehistorical Era to the Middle Ages. Areas of focus will include Mesopotamia, Egypt, India, China, Greece and Roman civilizations. We will focus our attention specifically on the geographical, religious, governmental, economic and social organization of each ancient civilization.

**8<sup>th</sup>** This course will cover a broad foundation of our history from the Age of European exploration to the adoption of the United States Constitution. Areas of focus will include motivations for exploration, age of exploration, Spanish empire in the new world, challenges to Spanish power, English and French colonies in the new world, shaping of the American colonies, clash of France and England, rebellion of the colonies, American independence, and the Constitution. We will focus our attention specifically on how these events have helped shape the ideals that guide our country today.

## Science

**5<sup>th</sup>** The goal of this class is to expose students to the topics in midlevel science. Students will have the opportunity to be introduced to a variety of topics in earth science, life science, and physical science. Introductory information in these areas will help prepare them for the in-depth studies in these topics in subsequent years.

**6<sup>th</sup>** The goal of this class is to expose students to the topics in Earth science. Students cover space exploration and astronomy. Students understand the relationship and impact the Earth, moon, and sun have on each other and how we view their movements here on Earth. Students also investigate how the terrain of Earth varies and how we use this investigative information to understand more of the relationship of how Earth varies from location based upon the soil components. Students learn and comprehend how materials are used and travel through continuous cycles, as energy/materials are never created nor destroyed just transformed into various arrangements of the components. Lastly, students focus on water and how it impacts many processes on Earth.

**7<sup>th</sup>** The goal of this class is to expose students to the topics of life sciences. Topics covered include classifying organisms, viruses/bacteria and how they impact the body, Plants and how they grow, develop, and reproduce through means of photosynthesis. Animals are covered in the capacity of how they vary from plants as well as how each species is adapted to grow, develop, and survive in their specific habitat-- but also how animals are similar despite their differences. In the second semester, we expose students to the topics of introductory chemistry. Topics covered include atomic theory by way of contributions made by key scientists in history, atomic structure, states of matter, types of chemical reactions, structure and application of the periodic table, chemical bonding, radioactivity, and physical and chemical changes of matter. Students learn

to apply knowledge learned about matter to everyday life as they encounter various substances and chemical reactions on a nearly daily basis.

**8<sup>th</sup>** The goal of this class is to expose students to the topics covered in genetics and heredity. Cells are covered extensively, in regard to how they function, how they relate to human life and existence, and how they are designed to help the body work as a whole. The individual functions of the parts of a cell are studied in detail. Students will learn how genetics are passed on in a methodical, mostly predictable, way from one generation to the next by way of the mechanism of dominant and recessive genes. Students study in detail the function and structure of DNA and mRNA and the role they play in heredity. Also studied are genetic links and predispositions in terms of certain diseases and disorders. Briefly touched on are modern advances in genetics ie: GMOs, cloning, mapping of the human genome and early identification of genetic disorders.

### **Co-Curricular Courses**

Students at Lengel Middle School are provided with a diverse offering of co-curriculars. Students will take co-curricular courses for one marking period. The co-curricular courses offered at DHH Lengel Middle school are as follows:

Art      Physical Education      Music      SOAR (Study Skills)      Science Lab  
STEM      Digital Citizenship      Career Readiness      Health Science      Spanish

### **Accelerated Math & ELA**

Seventh and Eighth grade curriculum includes accelerated coursework for math and ELA. Eligibility for participation is based on multiple factors including, but not limited to, achievement on PSSAs, achievement on quarterly benchmarks, PVAAS projected performance on Keystone assessments, grades, teacher observations of effort, and teacher recommendations. Specific criteria is provided on course syllabi provided at the beginning of the school year.

### **ENGLISH AS A SECOND LANGUAGE**

The mission of the English as a Secondary Language (ESL) Program in the Pottsville Area School District (PASD) is to provide support and intensive instruction in English and American culture to Non- and Limited English Proficient (NEP and LEP) students which will enable them to become successful in the mainstream classroom, the school environment, and the community at large.

Pottsville Area School District will provide English as a Secondary Language (ESL) program. An ESL team will review student background information and test results. An instructional plan will be developed that is appropriate to the student's language proficiency level and congruent with the district curriculum. The student will be placed in an ESL program in lieu of a language arts program. The student will be placed in the regular education program for all other subject areas and activities. District support services will be provided as needed.

### **iPad**

A key component of our curriculum implementation is the use of Apple iPads. The Lengel Middle School is a 1:1 school. Students are given an iPad, charging cable, charging block, and cover at the beginning of school. Each iPad is individually marked and identified for each student in the building. It is expected that the iPad is charged fully each school day and is free from any games or apps that are not school district approved. The

iPads are the property of the Pottsville Area School District and may be searched at any time for reasonable suspicion of behavior that violates the Acceptable Use Board Policy (#815).

We strongly encourage you to pay the technology fee. If the technology fee creates a financial hardship, please contact the Technology Office for payment options. If the fee is not paid, you will be financially responsible for all repairs or replacement cost of the iPad. Students should report any damages or malfunctions of the iPad to the school immediately. Any damages to the iPad will be assessed based on the **Pottsville Area School District Technology Fee**. This fee is due annually. Information is posted on the school district website and payable using SchoolPay or cash/check sent into school.

If a student is having issues with their iPad, they should report the issue to their homeroom teacher. The homeroom teacher will write a pass for the student to go to the library to meet with our technology specialist to troubleshoot the problem.

**GOOGLE CLASSROOM**

Each class will have their own individual Google Classroom page. Student are expected join all of their teachers’ Google Classroom. Teachers will provide information at the beginning of the school year with information on how to join. Teachers will use Google Classroom as a way to distribute and post important information regarding materials, resources, assignments, due dates, and quizzes and/or tests.

**ACADEMIC DISHONESTY**

Students may lose academic credit and/or receive discipline for academic dishonesty. The following may be deemed academically dishonest:

- 1. Looking at another student’s testing materials, homework, or other academic assessment
- 2. Talking during an assessment or presentation
- 3. Submitting projects, reports, assignments, or assessments for another student
- 4. Plagiarism
- 5. Allowing another student to copy personal materials for academic gain
- 6. Being in the possession of unauthorized testing materials or answer keys
- 7. Changing or altering a grade in print/electronic form
- 8. Using unauthorized resources during an assessment

Students who demonstrate any degree of academic dishonesty will lose the ability to gain academic credit on the assignment and possibly receive disciplinary consequences.

**STUDENT PROGRESS**

**GRADING SCALE**

Grading periods end every nine weeks during the school year. Consequently, we have four grading periods during the school year. Report cards are distributed approximately one week after the close of the grading period. The grading scale for major subjects followed is as follows:

<b>A+ 97-100%</b>	<b>B+ 87-89%</b>	<b>C+ 77-79%</b>	<b>D+ 67-69%</b>	<b>F 0-59%</b>
<b>A 93-96%</b>	<b>B 83-86%</b>	<b>C 73-76%</b>	<b>D 63-66%</b>	
<b>A- 90-92%</b>	<b>B- 80-82%</b>	<b>C- 70-72%</b>	<b>D- 60-62%</b>	

Parents/guardians are encouraged to access our school's online grading system, Skyward, to keep informed of academic progress. Please contact Nancy Schaeffer-Muldowney (570-621-7679) if you need assistance to access Skyward.

## **MID-MARKING PERIOD REPORTS**

In order to keep parent/guardian up to date on student progress, teachers will email mid-marking period reports via Skyward to the parent/guardian information on file. Please contact your student's teacher with specific questions regarding academic progress.

## **After School Tutoring**

Free after school tutoring is available to all students for all subjects on Tuesdays and Thursdays throughout the school year from 3:00 – 3:30. Students that are interested in attending this program report to the library immediately at the end of the day.

## **REPORT CARDS**

Report cards will be issued at the conclusion of each marking period. Report cards will be uploaded to the student's profile on Skyward. The report card can be accessed under the portfolio tab. Parents/guardians and students can access the report card by logging into Skyward to see the grade earned in each course and comments about the student's behavior, attitude, and effort. Paper copies of the report card are not printed.

## **CONFERENCES**

All Lengel teachers welcome the opportunity to discuss student performance with parents/guardians. Teacher conferences are scheduled for Monday November 10, 2025. You will receive information on scheduling conferences closer to the date. Please contact your child's teacher(s) with any concerns throughout the school year. If you would like to schedule a conference throughout the school year, please contact your child's teacher.

## **HONOR ROLL**

The D.H.H. Lengel Middle school recognizes outstanding academic achievement in the classroom. Grades earned in all courses during a marking period are used to determine a student's honor roll standing.

### ***Principal's Distinguished Honors***

**A** in all major subjects (ELA, Mathematics, Science, Social Studies)

No failures, unsatisfactory ratings, or incompletes in any co-curricular subjects.

### ***First Honors***

An **A** in at least 2 major subjects, and no other major subject grade lower than a **B**.

No failures, unsatisfactory ratings, or incompletes in any co-curricular subjects.

### ***Honors***

One (1) **A** and three **Bs** in all major subjects or **B** in each major subject.

No grade below a **B** in any major subject

No failures, unsatisfactory ratings, or incompletes in any co-curricular subjects.

## **PROMOTION**

Students must earn credit (60% or higher) in at least 3 major courses to be promoted to the next grade level. If a student does not meet the requirement for promotion, summer school may be offered. In order to qualify for summer school, students need to be passing 2-3 major subjects. Students failing all major subjects will not be eligible for summer school.



# STUDENT LIFE

## ACTIVITIES

The D.H.H. Lengel Middle School has numerous activities in which a student can become involved. In addition to interscholastic athletic activities (basketball, football, cross country, wrestling, track) for junior high (7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> grade) students, we offer intramural activities such as, Art Club, Library, Yearbook, Tide-Tek, TV Studio, Drama Club, 24 Club, Student Council, Band, and Choir. Students who met all academic, disciplinary, and school board policy requirements are eligible to participate in extra-curricular activities.

## Afterschool Program

The afterschool program provides students with a variety of activities and learning opportunities which are designed to support positive student outcomes both in and out of school. The program is offered, at no-cost to participants, Monday through Thursday during the school year for a total of 36 weeks. Registration information will be given to students near the beginning of the school year. Additional questions can be directed to Mrs. Alicia Fehr, Afterschool Site Coordinator, at [afehr@pottsville.k12.pa.us](mailto:afehr@pottsville.k12.pa.us).

## SCHOOL DANCES

Lengel Middle School dances are considered extra-curricular activities. These events are intended for Pottsville Area School District students that attend the D.H.H. Lengel Middle School, unless otherwise noted. Dances are sponsored and planned by Lengel PTO. In general, the following is expected for students attending the events:

- Parents are responsible for student transportation to and from the dance
- Students are expected to follow all regular rules and conduct as during the regular school day
- Students must be in attendance at school on the day of the event
- Students must have their ID

## DRUG TESTING POLICY

At the Board Meeting held on August 15, 2018, the Pottsville Area School District approved Policy # 227.1. This policy requires all students in grades 7-12 who are involved in extra-curricular activities (“interscholastic athletes, clubs, and other activities in which a student participates on a voluntary basis”) to participate in random drug testing. Elective activities also include prom, driving/parking on campus during the school day and numerous other activities. The names of students participating in random drug testing are placed into periodic drawings. Students whose names are randomly drawn will be required to provide a sample for drug analysis screening on the day of the drawing. Students will be escorted from their classroom by an administrator to go to the Nurse’s Office to be tested.

If you are interested in playing Pottsville Area School District sports, participating in any of the listed Pottsville Area School District activities or participating in extra-curricular activities in the Pottsville Area School District, you will need to complete and return the consent authorization form, which can be found on the district website. These forms need to be returned to the Middle School or High School Office. Failure to submit the consent authorization form means the student cannot participate in any of the above-mentioned activities.

## ASSEMBLIES

Assemblies are held in either the Lengel Auditorium or Martz Hall. Students are expected to proceed to the area in an orderly and quiet manner and sit in their designated area. Dismissal from the assembly should also be in a quiet and orderly manner to ensure student safety and the educational process of all classrooms.

## STUDENT PHOTOGRAPHS

Students will have their picture taken each school year. Information regarding packages and purchasing pictures will be email to parent. Picture days will be held on September 3, 2025, for 5<sup>th</sup> & 6<sup>th</sup> grade, and September 4, 2025, for 7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> grade. Picture retake date is October 6, 2025.

## STUDENT ID

All students will receive a student ID card with their picture. It is expected that students carry their ID cards with them during the school day and present the ID to school personnel upon request.

## LIBRARY

Students are encouraged to use our school library. Library permits (to come to the library during homeroom) are issued in the library before the beginning of the first block.

The normal circulation period for borrowed books is one week. Books may be renewed for an additional week at the end of that one-week fines are charged at a rate of five cents per day for every school day a library book is overdue.

The responsibility for any books checked out of the library rests with the student. The student is responsible for returning the book to the library undamaged and on time.

## CAFETERIA

The cafeteria doors open at 7:45 AM each morning for students who arrive to school early. During this time, students will be able to purchase breakfast. Breakfast should be finished in the cafeteria and not taken to homeroom. Students eating breakfast at school must do so prior to reporting to homeroom and arrive to homeroom on time.

D.H.H. Lengel Middle School students will eat lunch in the cafeteria during their designated lunch time. The cafeteria offers both hot and cold lunch options daily. Students should sit with their homerooms in the cafeteria, or as assigned by staff. Staff will call students homerooms to proceed to the lunch line. Students are expected to arrive at the cafeteria PROMPTLY and are not permitted to leave the cafeteria during the lunch period without permission from a staff member. After lunch, tables and the immediate area should be left clean, and trays/garbage returned to the designated area.

Students are expected to follow all school rules/expectations in the cafeteria. Failure to do so, may result in disciplinary action. Students will be dismissed from lunch by a staff member. Students should exit the cafeteria in an orderly manner and proceed directly to their next class. Students should take the shortest possible route to their classroom.

## LOCKERS

A locker is assigned to each student in the Lengel Middle School for convenience. The school maintains ownership/control of the lockers and the right to inspect the locker to ensure proper usage is occurring. Controlled/illegal/prohibited items stored in lockers will not be treated as *personal property* and are subject to confiscation. Any student who is found to have items that are considered contraband, illegal, or violated school policy will subject to any charges appropriate under the Student Code of Conduct or law enforcement agencies. Students may NOT share lockers. Items left in another student's locker will not be retrieved by school personnel and the locker owner will not be called from class in the event that a student needs to retrieve items from a locker other than their own.

## LOST AND FOUND

All items found are sent to the office. If a student loses something, they may check with their teachers throughout the day. Students should seek permission from their teacher before going to search for any missing items in the building.

## FIRE AND EMERGENCY DRILLS

Fire and Emergency Drills be conducted to ensure students can move out of the building in a safe, orderly, and timely manner. Students should follow the direction/exit route for each classroom. Fire drills will be conducted monthly in the Lengel Middle School. All persons within the building must exit during the drill. Emergency drills will be conducted throughout the school year. No talking is permitted during any drill both inside and outside of the building. Students must remain with their class for attendance purpose.

# ATTENDANCE

School board policy #204 regarding pupil attendance and procedures can be found on the Pottsville Area School District's website, [www.pottsville.k12.pa.us](http://www.pottsville.k12.pa.us). This policy was updated on July 13, 2022.

## Absence

The policy of the Pottsville Area School District regarding a pupil who has been absent from school for any reason requires the parent to prepare a written statement of reason, which the pupil presents at school upon his/her return. It will be the parent's responsibility to see that the school receives this written excuse within three days of returning to school.

- Note the following terms:
  - Truant shall mean having incurred three (3) or more school days of unexcused absences during the current school year by a student subject to compulsory school attendance.
  - Habitually truant shall mean six (6) or more school days of unexcused absences during the current school year by a student subject to compulsory school attendance.
- Policy highlights:
  - **Common excused/lawful absences:** illness, professional health care or therapy, quarantine, family emergency, recovery from an accident, required court attendance, death in family, non school-sponsored educational tours/trips\*
  - **Unexcused/unlawful absences** are absences which do not meet the criteria of excused/lawful absences, per PASD Policy No. 204.
  - **Enforcement of Compulsory Attendance Requirements:**
    - Written notification when a student reaches 3 days of unexcused/unlawful absences

- School Attendance Improvement Conference (SAIC) scheduled if a student reaches 6 days of unexcused/unlawful absences (habitually truant)
- Habitually truant students may be referred to an attendance improvement program, referred to Schuylkill County Children & Youth, and/or cited through the magistrate's office
  - **Unexcused/unlawful absences** may result in not receiving credit for work made up, lunch or after school detention, not being allowed to participate in school activities, SAP referral, interventions/supports identified by the SAIP team
- Following an absence, a note indicating the reason for absence must be sent in with student
  - Notes are due within 3 days of absence
  - Student will be directed to fill out an absence slip in homeroom
  - Teacher will retrieve note and send to the office
- If a student becomes ill during the school day, he/she may visit the school nurse, with permission from the teacher. The nurse will determine whether or not to contact parent/guardian and if the student needs to be sent home. Students will not be excused to leave early due to illness without being dismissed by the nurse.
- Early dismissal is permitted for doctor appointments, legal appointments, etc. A note must be sent to school with the student. The homeroom teacher will send the student to the office to receive a pass to leave early.
- An excuse from a medical provider is required when a student is absent for 5 or more consecutive days. 10 or more absences (excused or unexcused) during the school year will require a doctor's note for any additional absences to be excused.

**Excessive absences** will result in a letter being sent to the home by Lengel Administration and may result in the students being placed on the doctor's note list.

- Absences of *five (5) or more consecutive days* will require a doctor's note which covers the duration of the absence.
- Absences shall be treated as **unlawful** until the district receives a written excuse explaining the absence, that should be submitted within three (3) days of the absence.
- A maximum of ten (10) days of cumulative lawful absences verified by parental notification shall be permitted during a school year. All absences beyond ten (10) cumulative days shall require an excuse from a licensed physician.

School board policy #204 regarding pupil attendance and procedures can be found on the Pottsville Area School District's website, [www.pottsville.k12.pa.us](http://www.pottsville.k12.pa.us).

*\*Unexcused/unlawful absences may result in the loss of academic credit or the ability to make up assignments or tests from the day of the absence(s)*

### **A. Truancy/Cutting Class**

Students who are deemed truant by either leaving the school building, school grounds, or out of assigned area will receive disciplinary consequences. This includes but not limited to; Assignment to the Alternative Education Classroom (AEC), Out of School Suspension, After School Detention, referral to District Magistrate, and other academic consequences. Habitual truancy will follow School Board Policy #204 regarding attendance.

### **B. Tardiness or Absence**

The school day begins at 8:00 am and the late bell rings at **8:10 am**.

1. Students will be considered tardy from **8:11 am** to **10:45 am**.
2. Student entering school after **10:46 am**, but before **1:25 pm**, will be considered a ½ day absent.
3. Any student who enters the building after **1:26 pm**, will be considered absent for a full day.

### C. Doctor's Note

All students leaving school early or arriving late to school because of a doctor's appointment, should present a doctor's note upon return for the absence to be excused. Students arriving after **10:00 am** will be ineligible to participate in extracurricular events unless they were attending court proceedings or doctor's appointments and can provide verification of such.

### D. School and Classroom Tardiness

- i. **First and Second Offense** – Verbal/Formal Warning
- ii. **Each Offense Thereafter** – Discipline will be assigned per the chart found at the end of the handbook

### E. Non school-sponsored educational tours/trips (educational field trips)

- Maximum of 5 days excused per school year
- Will not be excused the first 5 days of school, the last 5 days of school, or during standardized testing (April 22, 2026-May 1, 2026)

## EARLY DISMISSALS

Students are permitted to leave school early for doctor's/dentist's appointments, religious instruction classes, etc. Parents who wish to have their son/daughter dismissed early from school should send the assigned note to the school indicating the date(s) of the appointment, the reason for the request, where the student is going, and the time of the requested early dismissal. The student should bring this note to the office in the morning where he/she will receive an early dismissal permit. Parents should call for their children in the office at the requested time. When returning to school the student should report to the office. Any student leaving school to report to a doctor's appointment must return to school with a doctor's note verifying that he/she was seen in the office. Students will only be released to individuals who are listed as parent/guardian or emergency contacts who have permission and have photo ID.

## SCHOOL CLOSURES

Every year there are instances when it may become necessary to delay the opening of school, dismiss early, or close school for the day due to inclement weather. In some events, the district may call for a flexible instruction day (FID), during which students will be required to login to participate in classes virtually. Specific information about a FID is communicated with students and families by email. The district will communicate these schedule changes in a variety of ways including: Skyward Messaging, Facebook, local tv/radio.

## TRANSPORTATION

### School Transportation Guidelines

At Pottsville Area School District, we believe that riding the school bus or van is convenient and enjoyable part of the school day. It's a privilege that helps students get to and from school safely and on time.

To keep our transportation system running smoothly and safely for everyone, we ask that all students follow a few important guidelines. Our goal is to ensure a respectful and secure environment for every rider.

Please note that the district cannot offer individual or personal transportation to students who frequently miss the bus. We encourage families to help students arrive at their bus stop on time each day. Students may only ride their assigned school bus/van. Parent notes will not be accepted to ride a different bus/van.

While riding the bus or van, students should respect the driver's role as the adult in charge. Drivers are there to

help keep everyone safe and are supported by school administration in addressing any concerns. Students are expected to follow directions given by the driver at all times.

The school buses and vans may be equipped with audio and video recording in accordance with Pottsville Area School Board Policy #810.2 and federal and state regulations.

**Before the Bus Arrives:**

- Be at your assigned bus stop **at least five (5) minutes** before the scheduled pick-up
- time with your bus ticket in your possession.
- Always stand safely on the sidewalk while waiting.
- Please be respectful of nearby private property.
- Follow the directions of any crossing guards.

**When Boarding the Bus:**

- Wait until the bus comes to a complete stop and the door has opened.
- Approach the bus calmly and enter in a single line.
- Go directly to your assigned seat and remain seated properly facing forward with all belongings out of the aisle.

**While on the Bus:**

- Listen to and follow the driver's instructions.
- Use kind words and maintain a respectful tone. Avoid shouting or using inappropriate language.
- Treat others with respect—physical contact such as fighting, hitting, or touching others is not allowed.
- Keep hands, feet, and belongings inside the bus and away from emergency exits.
- Follow school-appropriate behavior, just like in the classroom.
- For safety reasons, certain items such as **glass containers, flammable materials, drugs, alcohol, tobacco** and **sharp objects** are not allowed on the bus.

By following these guidelines, students contribute to a safe and pleasant ride for everyone.

Failure to follow these guidelines could result in a fine. Thank you for your cooperation and commitment to a positive school transportation experience!

Parents/guardians are never allowed to board the bus/van. Any concerns with transportation should be brought to the attention of the following:

**Contact Information**

Transportation: Deniece Krater (570) 621-2949 dkrater@pottsville.k12.pa.us

Elementary: Stanley Sabol (570) 621-2945 ssabol@pottsville.k12.pa.us

Middle School: Lisa Holobetz (570) 621-2924 lholobetz@pottsville.k12.pa.us

High School: Jeromy Guistwite (570) 621-2972 jguistwite@pottsville.k12.pa.us

Further information is available at the following web addresses:

<https://www.pottsville.k12.pa.us/departments/transportation>

<https://www.pottsville.k12.pa.us/transportation>

<https://www.pottsville.k12.pa.us/departments/transportation/transportation-students-rights-responsibilities>



# STUDENT RESPONSIBILITIES

This section on student responsibilities is taken from the Pennsylvania Regulations on Student Rights and Responsibilities adopted by the State Board of Education in 1974 (revised 1983).

1. Student responsibilities include regular school attendance, conscientious effort in classroom work, and conformance to school rules and regulations. Students, faculty, staff, and administration share a responsibility to develop a climate within the school that is conducive to wholesome learning and living.
2. No student has the right to interfere with the education of his/her fellow students. It is the responsibility of each student to respect the rights of other students, teachers, administrators, and all others who are involved in the educational process.
3. Students should express their ideas/opinions in a respectful manner. It is the responsibility of each student to conform to the following:
  - A. Students should be aware of all rules and regulations for student behavior and conduct themselves in accord with them. Students should assume that until a rule is waived, altered, or repealed, in writing, it is in full effect.
  - B. Students should volunteer information in matters relating to the health, safety, and welfare of the school community and the protection of school property.
  - C. Students should dress and groom to meet fair standards of safety and health, and not to cause disruption to the educational process.
  - D. Students should assist the school staff in operating a safe school for all students.
5. Students should comply with state and local laws.
6. Students should exercise proper care when using public facilities and equipment.
7. Students should attend school daily and be on time for all classes and other school functions.

## STUDENT BEHAVIOR

### CELL PHONE

Cell phones are to remain *off and out of sight* at all times while in the school building and on school transportation. Cell phones and other electronic devices that are used during the day may be confiscated and require a parent/guardian to pick up after school. Repeated offenses may result in additional disciplinary actions, including the phone be turned in to the office prior to the start of each school day for an established time period. Refusal to turn over the device to staff members will result in additional disciplinary action.

### CARE OF VALUABLES

Students are encouraged to bring to school only those items necessary to function during the school day. The school cannot be responsible for money or valuables lost in the building. We discourage students from bringing large sums of money, electronic devices, smartphones, headphones, cameras, or other expensive items to school. Money for fundraising projects should be given to the faculty sponsor immediately upon entering school in the morning. Electronic devices, cell phones, musical devices, cameras, and any other devices are not permitted to be used during the school day.

### PHYSICAL CONTACT

Any physical altercation that occurs during the school day, on school grounds, on school transportation, or at a school event will be considered a violation of the student code of conduct. One or more of the following actions may be utilized for inappropriate physical contact, fighting, assault, etc.:

- Verbal/written reprimand/warning
- Attempts to contact parent/guardian
- Required meeting with parent/guardian
- Detention
- Assignment to Alternative Education Classroom (AEC)
- Out-of-school suspension
- School or Local Police referral

## **DRESS CODE**

PASD Dress Code was updated on June 19, 2024. Information is available on the PASD website, or through this link:

<https://www.pottsville.k12.pa.us/cms/lib/PA01916599/Centricity/Domain/4/PASD%20Dress%20Code.pdf>.

## **EATING/DRINKING IN THE SCHOOL BUILDING**

Students are only permitted to have food and drink in the cafeteria. Water bottles are permitted but may NOT be opened and used in the hallways while transitioning between classes. Water fountains and water filling stations are also available. Only water is permitted in the building (outside of the cafeteria).

## **SCHOOL SECURITY**

The Lengel Middle School is equipped both inside and outside with cameras and the ability to record and save images. Visitors are required to enter through the main lobby doors and proceed directly to the main office. Visitors will be required to show identification upon entry into the building. All visitors must sign-out in the office prior to exiting the building. School Police are employed by the District and may be present throughout the day.

## **COOPERATION WITH LOCAL LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES**

The Lengel Middle School and Pottsville Area School District recognize and respect the responsibilities of the Pottsville Bureau of Police and local/state/federal law enforcement agencies. The Lengel Middle School will cooperate fully with the Pottsville Police (and other agencies enforcing the laws of the Commonwealth) in incidents of violation or alleged violation of the law, as covered by the Juvenile Act of Pennsylvania.

## **PENNSYLVANIA STATE POLICE CANINE UNIT**

The Pottsville Area School District prioritizes the health and safety of our students, faculty, and staff. As a proactive measure toward school safety, the Pennsylvania State Police may bring their Canine Unit to our school at any point during the school year to help deter, prevent, and mitigate the possession and/or sale of illegal drugs in our schools.

## **CORPORAL PUNISHMENT**

The laws of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania prohibit the use of corporal punishment to discipline students for violations of school district policies, rules, or regulations.

Reasonable force may be used by teachers and school authorities under any of the following circumstances: to quell a disturbance, obtain possession of weapons or other dangerous objects, for the purpose of self-defense, and for the protection of persons or property.

The building principal shall have the authority to assign discipline to students, subject to the policies, rules, and regulations of the Pottsville Area School District and to the student's due process right to notice, hearing and appeal.

The teaching staff and other school district employees responsible for students shall have the authority to take reasonable actions necessary to control the conduct of students in all situations and within the jurisdiction of the school district, and when such conduct interferes with the educational program of the school or threatens the health and safety of others.

## **SEARCHES**

Lockers are the property of the school district and students shall have no expectation of privacy in their lockers. Lockers are subject to random searches by administration. Students may not use the lockers for substances or objects that are prohibited by law, Board policy, district regulations, or pose a threat to the safety and welfare of the students, staff, or building.

School administration are authorized to search a student's locker when there is reasonable suspicion, for the purpose of determining whether the locker is being improperly used for the storage of items that may violate school code, district policies, or be deemed contraband/illegal.

School administration are authorized to search a student's personal possessions when there is reasonable suspicion, for the purpose of determining if the student is violating the law or possessing items that may violate school code, district policies, or be deemed contraband/illegal. The use of metal detector wands, when necessary, may be included in a search.

## **VANDALISM OF SCHOOL PROPERTY**

Repair and/or restitution will be required, in addition to school district punishment to the fullest extent and possible legal action depending on the severity of the offense.

## **WEAPONS FREE ZONE**

The Pottsville Area School District and Lengel Middle School are designated a weapons free zone. The possession of a weapon as defined by the approved board policy (#218.1) is prohibited on school grounds or events. Please read the full policy found on the district website, [www.pottsville.k12.pa.us](http://www.pottsville.k12.pa.us).

## **INSUBORDINATION**

Students are expected to follow the rules and regulations of the Lengel Middle School. Refusal to follow said rules or the requests of faculty and staff members will be met with disciplinary action as per the framework found at the end of this handbook.

## **LEAVING SCHOOL GROUNDS**

Any student that leaves school grounds without permission will be marked truant for the time and lose academic credit for the day. In addition, students may receive a disciplinary consequence.

## SMOKING AND TOBACCO

School Board Policy #222 prohibits the possession or use of E-Cigarettes, Vapes, Juuls, and/or any other device that can be used for smoking/vaping on school grounds. Please read the full policy on the school district's website, [www.pottsville.k12.pa.us](http://www.pottsville.k12.pa.us).

Possession of tobacco products and derivatives of said product are not permitted in school, on school property, or while participating in school activities. This includes lighters, matches, or other flame-producing items. Such possession will be subject to confiscation. Refusal to release such items will result in further punishment. The actual use or possession of tobacco products on school premises or while participating in school activities will result in disciplinary actions, referral to the Magistrates office, and possible suspension. Effective February 1997, by law, the possession or use of tobacco products on school property is subject to prosecution under the laws of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

## WEAPONS

The full Weapons Policy (#218.1) can be found on the district website, [www.pottsville.k12.pa.us](http://www.pottsville.k12.pa.us). It is the responsibility of the students and parents to familiarize themselves with the policy. Weapons are not permitted on school grounds. Questions can be referred to the building principal.

**Purpose:** The Board recognizes the importance of a safe school environment relative to the educational process. Possession of weapons in the school setting is a threat to the safety of students and staff and is prohibited by law.

**Definitions:**

*Weapon* - the term shall include but not be limited to any knife, cutting instrument, cutting tool, nunchaku, firearm, shotgun, rifle, a replica of a weapon, and/or any other tool, instrument or implement capable of inflicting serious bodily injury.

*Possessing* - a student is in possession of a weapon when the weapon is found on the person of the student; In the student's locker; under the student's control while on school property, on property being used by the school, at any school function or activity, at any school event held away from the school, or while the student is coming to or from school.

### **Authority**

The Board prohibits students from possessing and bringing weapons and replicas of weapons into any school district buildings, onto school property, to any school-sponsored activity, and onto any public vehicle providing transportation to school or a school-sponsored activity.

The school district shall expel for not less than one (1) year any student who violates this weapons policy. Such expulsion shall be given in conformance with formal due process proceedings required by law. The Superintendent may recommend modifications of such expulsion requirement on a case-by-case basis.

In the case of a student with disabilities, including a student for whom an evaluation is pending, the Superintendent shall take all necessary steps to comply with state and federal laws and regulations, the procedures set forth in the memorandum of understanding with local law enforcement, the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act and follow Board policies.

Incidents Involving Weapons (one or more of the following may be applied)

- An immediate search of student, possessions, and locker
- Report to Superintendent and Pottsville Police
- Reasonable effort will be made to contact the parent or guardian of the student
- Possible refer to Juvenile Probation
- Possible out of school suspension for a maximum of ten (10) school days
- Possible recommendation for expulsion and a hearing before the Pottsville Area School Board and school superintendent

## **INAPPROPRIATE BEHAVIOR**

### **A. Inappropriate behavior will not be tolerated. Inappropriate behavior includes, but is not limited to:**

- Use of inappropriate language
- Hallway misbehavior
- Insubordination
- Unprepared for class
- Disruptive classroom/hallway behaviors
- Theft
- Lying
- Academic Dishonesty
- Recording, being in possession of a recording, sharing a recording, etc.

### **B. Consequences for inappropriate behavior may be assigned as follows:**

- Confiscation of inappropriate materials
- Verbal reprimand/warning
- Detention
- Assignment to ISS
- Out-of-school suspension
- Expulsion

*This list is not all-inclusive. Consequences are at the discretion of a designated school disciplinarian.*

\*Please see the discipline chart found at the end of the handbook that identifies multiple levels of disciplinary infractions and the consequences that may be applied to the specified offense.

# Lengel PBIS

#ctidepride

D.H.H. Lengel Middle School is a PBIS school. PBIS stands for Positive Behavior Intervention and Supports. PBIS's mission is to promote a safe, respectful learning environment where students are supported within a proactive community. Our goal is to teach rules, catch students following them and reward them for it! Our rules are listed below as PRIDE.

## ▶ **P** Prepare

- Have supplies and planner with you
- Have homework and assignments completed on time

## ▶ **R** Respect

- Respect others' personal boundaries
- Treat others with kindness and respect
- Respect school and personal property

## ▶ **I** Inspire

- Listen while others speak
- Consider others' thoughts and opinions

## ▶ **D** Demonstrate

- Follow directions as soon as you are told

## ▶ **E** Excel

- Always do your best at what you try
- Seek to help others



## PBIS POINT SYSTEM

Students receive PBIS points when discipline is assigned. Points are accumulated based on infractions that occur during the school year. The breakdown on offenses and point value can be found at the end of this handbook.

## STUDENT REWARDS

PBIS strives to award students for positive behaviors in the school building. Teachers may distribute “Crimson Cash” when they see students demonstrating the PRIDE rules listed above. The Crimson Cash may be used to by the students to purchase various prizes and privileges and enter raffles throughout the school year.

The PBIS teams will also plan quarterly celebrations as a reward for students (every eligible student participates each quarter). This may include:

- Field Day
- Movie
- Swim Party
- Free Gym Time, etc.

## PBIS Behavior Framework

This chart is to serve as a framework of discipline for student actions. Administration has the right to move within this chart depending on the severity of the incident and/or frequency of events. Offenses that are not specifically identified in this chart will be categorized under an appropriate incident term that demonstrates the best description of the incident. The district also reserves the right to look for an alternative placement for students who are continually disrupting the educational process of the classroom/building or compromising the safety and security of the students, staff, and building. Please note, this framework is not all-inclusive.

Any student who continually disrupts the educational process and/or affects the safety and security of the Lengel Middle School may face the possibility of a formal hearing in front of the Superintendent and Pottsville Area School Board.

## Offense and Consequence Chart

Offense	Pts	1 <sup>st</sup> Offense	2 <sup>nd</sup> Offense	3 <sup>rd</sup> Offense	4 <sup>th</sup> + Offense
Academic Dishonesty	5	Zero on Assignment Teacher call home Formal warning	Zero on assignment Office call home Meeting with counselor	Zero on assignment Meeting w/parent and student	Zero on assignment AEC/ISS <i>Progressive</i>
AEC/ISS Rules Violation	5	Removal from AEC to OSS	<i>Progressive</i>		
Aggressive Physical Contact	10	Detention Meet with counselor Phone call home	Detention AEC/ISS Meeting with parent/guardian	AEC/ISS OSS	OSS
Bathroom Misconduct	5	Formal warning	Phone call home Adult supervision Detention	Meeting with parent/guardian Adult supervision Tiered Intervention	AEC/ISS <i>Progressive</i>

Bullying/Harassment	10	Meeting with counselor Phone call home Detention	Scheduled meetings with counselor Meeting with parent/guardian AEC/ISS	AEC/ISS OSS SAP referral Police contact	OSS Board hearing Alternate placement
Bus Misconduct	5	Formal warning	Detention Phone call home	Detention Meeting with parent/guardian	Loss of bus privileges <i>Progressive</i>
Cafeteria Misconduct/ Violation	5	Formal warning Move seat	Cafeteria time-out Detention Phone call home	Detention Meeting with parent/guardian	AEC/ISS <i>Progressive</i>
Classroom Disruption (instruction stoppage)	5	Move seat Detention Phone call home	Detention Meeting with counselor	Time-out Meeting with parent/guardian	AEC/ISS <i>Progressive</i>
Classroom Disturbance (nuisance)	2	Verbal warning	Formal warning Phone call home	Detention	Time-out <i>Progressive</i>
Classroom/PBIS Violation	1	Verbal warning	Formal warning Phone call home	Detention	<i>Progressive</i>
Computer Use Policy Violation	3	Formal Warning	Restricted iPad use	Meeting with student and family	<i>Progressive</i>
Defiance/ Insubordination	10	Time-out Loss of privileges Phone call home	AEC/ISS Meeting with parent/guardian	OSS Scheduled meetings with counselor	
Destruction of School Property	15	Phone call home Restitution/ Repair Police Contact AEC/ISS	Meeting with parent/guardian Restitution/Repair Police Contact OSS	<i>Progressive</i>	
Disorderly Conduct	10	Phone call home AEC/ISS Meet with counselor	OSS Meeting with parent/guardian	<i>Progressive</i>	
Disrespect to Staff	5	Formal warning Phone call home	Meeting with counselor Detention	Counselor sessions Time-out	AEC/ISS <i>Progressive</i>
Disruption	3	Verbal warning	Formal warning Phone call home	Detention	AEC/ISS <i>Progressive</i>
Documentation	0	Incident documented Email notification to parent/guardian			
Dress Code Violation - 1st	2	Formal warning Call home for change of clothes			
Dress Code Violation - 2nd	3		Detention Call home for change of clothes		
Dress Code Violation - 3rd +	5			Multiple detentions Call home for change of clothes	<i>Progressive</i>
Electronic Communication Violation 1 <sup>st</sup>	2	Phone call home Phone in office for 1 week			
Electronic Communication Violation 2 <sup>nd</sup>	3		Phone call home Phone in office for 2 weeks		

Electronic Communication Violation 3 <sup>rd</sup>	5			Phone call home Phone in office for 3 weeks	
Electronic Communication Violation 4 <sup>th</sup>	10				Meeting with parent/guardian Phone in office for marking period
Electronic Device/Headset Violation	2	Formal warning	Item confiscated for pick up by parent/guardian	Detention	<i>Progressive</i>
Failure to Report to ISS/AEC	20	AEC/ISS	OSS	OSS	Board hearing Alternate placement
Falsification/Lying	5	Verbal warning	Formal warning Phone call home	Detention	AEC/ISS <i>Progressive</i>
Field Trip Misconduct	10	AEC/ISS Loss of privileges Phone call home	<i>Progressive</i>		
Flagrant Disrespect to Staff	10	Time-out Loss of privileges Phone call home	AEC/ISS Meeting with parent/guardian	OSS Scheduled meetings with counselor	
Forgery	5	Formal warning Phone call home	Detention Phone call home	Tiered intervention Meeting with parent/guardian	<i>Progressive</i>
General Misconduct	3	Verbal warning	Formal warning Phone call home	Detention Meeting with parent/guardian	<i>Progressive</i>
Hallway Misconduct	3	Formal warning	Detention Phone call home	Detention Meeting with parent/guardian	Tiered intervention <i>Progressive</i>
Health/Safety Infraction - Minor	1	Verbal warning	Formal warning Phone call home	Detention	Tiered intervention <i>Progressive</i>
Horseplay/Inappropriate Behavior	2	Formal warning	Detention	Time-out Meeting with parent/guardian	Tiered intervention <i>Progressive</i>
Inappropriate Gesture	5	Formal warning Phone call home	Detention	Tiered intervention Meeting with parent/guardian	<i>Progressive</i>
Inappropriate Language	3	Formal warning	Detention	Tiered intervention Meeting with parent/guardian	<i>Other</i>
Inappropriate Physical Contact	15	Phone call home AEC/ISS/OSS Meet with counselor	AEC/ISS/OSS Meeting with parent/guardian	AEC/ISS/OSS	**Police contact may occur at any time**
Insubordination	5	Detention Phone call home	Tiered intervention Phone call home	AEC/ISS Meeting with parent/guardian	OSS Scheduled meetings with counselor
Late to Class	1	Verbal warning	Formal warning Phone call home	Detention	Tiered intervention <i>Progressive</i>
Leaving Class - No Permission	5	Formal warning Phone call home	Detention Meeting with parent/guardian	Tiered intervention Meeting with parent	<i>Progressive</i>
Leaving School without Permission	20	Phone call home AEC/ISS SAP referral	<i>Progressive</i>		
Littering	3	Verbal warning Clean up	Formal warning Phone call home	Detention Phone call home	Tiered intervention

			Clean up	Clean up	Meeting with parent
Skipping Class	5	Phone call home	Detention	AEC/ISS	<i>Progressive</i>
Non-Compliance - Minor	3	Verbal warning	Formal warning	Detention	Tiered intervention <i>Progressive</i>
Off Task	1	Verbal warning	Formal warning Phone call home	Detention Phone call home	<i>Progressive</i>
Out of Assigned Area/Loitering	3	Formal warning	Detention Phone call home	Tiered intervention Meeting with parent/guardian	<i>Progressive</i>
Physical Contact (non-aggressive/no injury)	5	Formal warning Phone call home	Detention Phone call home	AEC/ISS Meeting with parent/guardian	OSS
Public Display of Affection	5	Verbal warning	Formal warning Phone call home Meet with counselor	Detention Meet with parent/guardian	Detention Tiered intervention Meeting with parent
Repeated Misconduct	10	Detention Phone call home Meeting with parent/guardian	AEC/ISS Meeting with parent/guardian Counselor	OSS Scheduled meetings with counselor	<i>Progressive</i>
Skipping Class	5	Written warning Teacher call home	Lunch detention Escort to class Phone call home	After school detention/tutoring Phone call home	Tiered intervention Meeting with parent
Sleeping	1	Verbal warning	Formal warning Phone call home	Detention Phone call home	<i>Progressive</i>
Tardy to School	1	Verbal warning	Verbal warning	Formal warning	Counselor intervention <i>Progressive</i>
Threatening Behavior	15	Phone call home AEC/ISS Meet with counselor	OSS Meeting with parent/guardian	<i>Progressive</i>	**Police contact may occur at any time**
Truant/Skip School	5	Phone call home Meet with counselor Detention	Detention Tiered intervention Meeting with parent SAP Referral	Tiered intervention Meeting with parent/guardian SAIC	
Unauthorized Items	1	Verbal warning Phone call home	Formal warning Item pick-up by parent/guardian	Detention Item remains in office	<i>Progressive</i>
Unauthorized Ownership	10	Return item(s) Restitution Phone call home Loss of privileges	Meeting with parent/guardian AEC/ISS OSS	OSS Police contact SAP Referral	
Unauthorized Recording	5	Phone call home Loss of privileges Delete image/video	Phone call home Lunch detention Detention	Restricted iPad No phone AEC/ISS	<i>Progressive</i>
Unauthorized Substance	20	Phone call home Counselor/Nurse SAP referral	<i>Progressive</i>		
Unprepared for Class	2	Verbal warning	Formal warning Phone call home	Detention Meeting with parent/guardian	Assigned to tutoring <i>Progressive</i>
Unsafe Behavior	10	Formal warning Teacher call home Counselor	Meeting with parent/guardian Lunch detention	Detention AEC/ISS Support referral	
Vape/eCig Possession	10	Phone call home	Meeting with parent/guardian	AEC/ISS OSS	

		Cessation program	Support referral AEC/ISS	SAP Referral	
Vape/eCig Use on Property	20	Meeting with parent/guardian Cessation Program AEC/ISS	AEC/ISS OSS SAP Referral		
Verbal Altercation	10	Removal from class Time-out Phone call home	AEC/ISS Phone call home Peer mediation	AEC/ISS Meeting with parent/guardian	OSS
<p>Serious offenses including: simple assault, aggravated assault, rape, sexual assault, indecent exposure, obscene sexual materials &amp; acts, sexual harassment, racial/ethnic intimidation, other forms of harassment/intimidation, fighting, altercations, stalking, kidnapping, unlawful restraint, reckless endangerment, robbery, theft, attempted/committed murder/manslaughter, bullying, suicide, burglary, arson, vandalism, criminal trespass, rioting, bomb threats, terroristic threats, failure to disperse, possession of a weapon, possession or sale of prohibited substances, and cyber harassment will be assigned a minimum of 25 points. Consequences for such offenses may include law enforcement involvement, ISS, OSS, discipline agreement, or expulsion. Parent/guardian will be notified of such offenses as soon as possible and required to report to the school building.</p>					
<p>This chart is not all-inclusive. Offense determinations and actions will be appropriately assigned by school faculty and administration on a case-by-case basis, with consideration of the circumstances, and following any necessary investigation.</p>					