

Pembroke Community Middle School
559 School Street
Pembroke, MA 02359

[Pembroke Community Middle School / Homepage](#)

Student Handbook

2025-2026



Pembroke Community Middle School....781.293.8627; (fax) 781-294-0916

Principal: Donna McGarrigle

Assistant Principal/Team Chair: Erica Swift

Guidance/School Counselors

Erin Goitia (G8)

Danielle McLean (G7)

School Psychologist: Bryanna Kerr

Social Worker: Cheryl Larson

School Nurse: Valerie Phillips

School Secretary: Alicia Clancy

Guidance/Special Education Secretary: Tracey Smith

Office of the Superintendent

Superintendent: Erin Obey

Assistant Superintendent: MaryBeth Brust

Office of Student Services

Director of Student Services: Jessica DeLorenzo

School Committee Members

Chair: David Boyle

Vice Chair: Allison Glennon

Clerk: Katrina Scarsottis

Member: Susan Bollinger

Member: Katrina Delaney

Office of Teaching and Learning

K-12 Humanities Curriculum Supervisor (ELA and Social Studies): Mark Galligan

K-12 STEM Curriculum Supervisor: Jonathan Shapiro

K-12 Director of Fine and Performing Arts: Gwynne Chapman

7-12 World Language Curriculum Supervisor, 7-12: Saviz Safizadeh

Secondary Special Education Coordinator: Meghan Collum

Director of Athletics/Facilities and Physical Education Content Supervisor: Brian Phillips

No person shall be excluded from or discriminated against in admission to Pembroke Public Schools, or obtaining the advantages, privileges and courses of study of such public school on account of race, color, sex, gender identity, religion, national origin or sexual orientation.

The Pembroke Public Schools strives to provide a safe, respectful and supportive learning environment in which all students can thrive and succeed in its schools. The Pembroke Public Schools prohibits discrimination on the basis of race, color, sex, gender, gender identity, religion, national origin or sexual orientation and ensures that all students have equal rights of access and equal enjoyment of the opportunities, advantages, privileges and course of study.

PEMBROKE PUBLIC SCHOOLS
Civil Rights Laws/District Coordinator(s) Information

All programs, activities and employment opportunities provided by the Pembroke Public Schools are offered without regard to race, color, gender, gender identity, religion, national origin, sexual orientation or disability.

Questions regarding implementation of these practices should be addressed to the appropriate coordinator listed below:

Title VI: Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964

Prohibits discrimination, exclusion from participation, and denial of benefits based on race, color or national origin in programs or activities receiving federal financial assistance. Title VI is codified at 42 U.S.C. 2000d *et seq.*; regulations have been promulgated under it in the Code of Federal Regulations at 34 CFR Part 100 (available at [34 C.F.R. Part 100 \(HTML Version\)](#))

Coordinators

Jessica DeLorenzo, M. Ed., Director of Student Services
72 Pilgrim Road
Pembroke, MA 02359
781-829-0832

Michael Murphy, Principal NPES
72 Pilgrim Road
Pembroke, MA 02359
781-826-5115

Section 504: Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973

Prohibits discrimination, exclusion from participation, and denial of benefits based on disability in programs or activities receiving federal financial assistance. Section 504 is codified at 29 U.S.C. 794; regulations have been promulgated under it at 34 CFR Part 104 (available at [34 C.F.R. Part 104](#)).

Coordinator

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Title IX: Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972

Prohibits discrimination, exclusion from participation, and denial of benefits based on sex in educational programs and activities receiving federal financial assistance. Title IX is codified at 20 U.S.C. 1681 *et seq.*; regulations have been promulgated under it at 34 CFR Part 106 (available at [34 C.F.R. Part 106](#)).

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IDEA 2004: The Individuals with Disabilities Education Act of 2004

Governs special education. Most of IDEA 2004 is codified at 20 U.S.C. 1400 *et seq.*; regulations have been promulgated under it at 34 CFR 300 (available at [IDEA](#)), effective October 13, 2006.

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Title II: Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990

Prohibits discrimination, exclusion from participation, and denial of benefits on the basis of disability in public entities. Title II is codified at 42 U.S.C. 12131 *et seq.*; regulations have been promulgated under it at 28 CFR Part 35 (available at [28 C.F.R. Part 35 \(HTML Version\)](#)).

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The McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act, reauthorized in December 2001

Part of the federal No Child Left Behind Act, ensures educational rights and protections for children and youth experiencing homelessness and requires school districts to adapt to a new set of requirements regarding the education of this needy at-risk population. Information on this act is available in the Massachusetts Department of Education's Homeless Education Advisories at <http://www.doe.mass.edu/mv/haa>

Coordinator

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Pembroke District Mission Statement

To ensure student achievement through excellence in teaching and learning.

The Pembroke Public Schools strive to provide a safe, respectful and supportive learning environment in which all students can thrive and succeed in its schools. The Pembroke Public Schools prohibits discrimination on the basis of race, color, sex, gender, gender identity, religion, national origin or sexual orientation and ensures that all students have equal rights of access and equal enjoyment of the opportunities, advantages, privileges, and course of study.

Our efforts include the following:

- Promotion of good citizenship and character;
- Discussion of safety issues openly;
- Meaningful family involvement;
- Promotion of academic success for all children;
- Development of links to the community;
- Emphasis on positive relationships between students and staff;
- Identification and referral of problems for solutions;
- Helping children to identify and express feelings safely;
- Treating students with respect.

Pembroke District Core Beliefs

We believe:

- In creating and maintaining safe and inviting schools.
- All children can learn and may demonstrate learning in different ways.
- Every student should contribute to our democratic society and the global community.
- In making decisions and acting in the best interest of students.
- Every member of the school community should be valued and respected.
- In a school community that is ethical, civil, and respectful of individual differences.
- In strong civic, business, and community partnerships that support student achievement

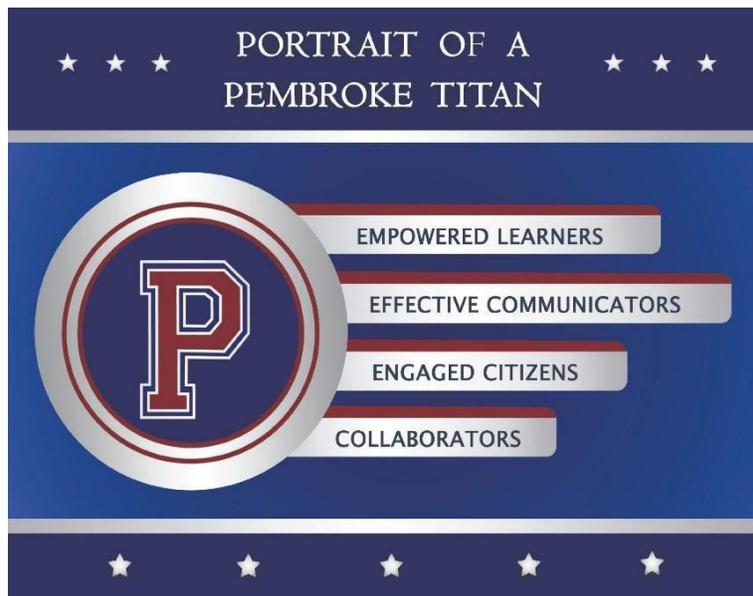
Our Goals for All Children

To the best of their abilities, all students will:

- read for understanding and enjoyment;
- communicate effectively through speaking, writing, and listening;
- use mathematics as a practical as well as a theoretical tool;
- make decisions based on a sound rationale;
- develop skills, attitudes, and knowledge that foster physical health;
- respect integrity, hard work and the rights and values of others;
- develop their skills, sensitivity and imagination through the arts;
- acquire a basic knowledge of scientific concepts and apply them to the environment;
- respect and appreciate other people and their ways of living;
- develop a respect for and pride in the school and community;
- know and appreciate their own worth, ability and potential and accept their limitations and develop pride in their personal achievements;
- develop a capacity for self-discipline in work, study and play.

The schools will:

- recognize the emotional, social, intellectual, and physical needs of each child;
- provide enrichment or remediation;
- provide opportunities that promote positive self-image;
- maintain and encourage meaningful communication and participation among parents, school, and community;
- provide opportunities for the staff to remain knowledgeable of educational research and learning;
- provide an environment which supports the objectives of the school;
- foster knowledge, habits and attitudes that promote good health and safety.



Interdisciplinary Team Organization

Pembroke elementary students will be transitioning from their neighborhood schools to a community middle school. As your child progresses from a primary classroom with often only a few teachers and classmates to a school where they will experience many different teachers and classmates, the structure has been made to create a smaller community for students during the middle school years.

There are two seventh grade teams (7.1 & 7.2) and two eighth grade teams (8.1 & 8.2) which consist of approximately 100 students. ELA and math teacher will be paired on a team. Science and social studies teachers will teach on either grade level team.

Academic Information

Academic Integrity

Academic honesty is essential for the well-being of a school community. Pembroke Community Middle School expects every student to be intellectually honest in the preparation of homework, class work, projects, lab reports,

take-home tests, essays, assessments, and other academic activities. Effective evaluation of student work and instruction can only take place in an environment where intellectual honesty is respected.

Students are expected to seek clarification from a faculty member if they are uncertain about requirements for any particular academic exercise. Students should monitor their work to assess its originality and seek explanation when they are uncertain. If a student is aware of a violation of academic honesty, the student is expected to communicate the knowledge both to the person who has violated these standards and to a faculty member. When a violation of academic honesty occurs, the individual instructor will discuss the matter with the student as soon as possible.

All members of our school community must address definitions of academic dishonesty. Students, teachers, and families should all be concerned with the following:

Cheating: An act of deception by which a student misrepresents that they have mastered information on an academic exercise that the student has not mastered.

Plagiarism: The presentation of words, concepts, sequence of ideas, graphs, or other visual representations of others as one's own. A student's work that is not primarily their own creation with copied, paraphrased, or summarized material without citation of sources is considered plagiarism. The use of Artificial Intelligence (AI) programs such as ChatGPT and other tools to create and submit work as your own is considered plagiarism.

Unintentional plagiarism is still plagiarism.

Attendance and Tardiness

Attendance at school is mandated by state law and is recognized as beneficial for all students. The Pembroke School Committee, therefore, exercises its responsibility in enforcing and encouraging timely school attendance. Absence from school is strongly discouraged as it negatively impacts student learning and disrupts the educational process.

Whenever a student is going to be absent from school, parents should call the attendance line at 781-293-8627 and leave a message. When students are marked absent, an automated absence call will be made to the primary number listed in the student's records. This daily call will occur even if parents have called the school to report an absence.

Personal illness is the typical reason for absence from school; however, student absence for other reasons also occurs. An excused absence is defined as a personal illness accompanied by a dated physician's note excusing the absence; an absence attributable to a death in the family; an observance or practice of a religious holiday; documentation on a legal matter requiring a personal appearance. When absence from school becomes necessary, parents should notify the school as soon as possible.

No student who has been absent or suspended (in or out of school) from school is to participate or attend any school activity or function during the day or evening of the absence or suspension. Exceptions may be made as deemed appropriate by the building principal.

Absence Notifications

The principal, or designee, monitors attendance using letters and/or meetings to remind the parents about the importance of attendance; to remind parents of attendance policy; to identify an effective solution to the problem that improves attendance, and address instructional issues raised by the student's absence. When absence from school becomes necessary, parents should call the attendance line as soon as possible at 781-293-8627. If parents/legal guardians fail to contact school regarding a student's extended absence, the school will contact the parents/guardian using the phone number listed in the student's records.

The principal, or designee, will notify parents in writing if a student has five (5) or more unexcused absences within the school year. In accordance with provisions of the mandated attendance law, a continued pattern of unexcused absences from school for any reason shall require additional follow up/meetings including potential

disciplinary measures. Chronic absenteeism is defined as missing 10% or more of school. Chronic absenteeism is related to learning loss and poorer academic outcomes. Therefore, determining effective interventions to support more consistent school attendance is important for student success. In extreme situations in which attendance does not improve despite interventions, the school may enlist the support of state agencies to help and support families (Department of Children and Families, Department of Social Services, Plymouth District Juvenile Court, etc.).

Extended (Medical) Absences

An extended (medical) absence is one where students will be absent for three (3) or more days for medical reasons. To provide students with every opportunity to remain current in the curriculum, the following guidelines will apply: 1. Parents/Guardians should contact the school nurse so that they are aware of the condition and can help develop a plan to support students upon their return. 2. Parents should also notify the student's guidance counselor, who will serve as a liaison when communicating with teachers and collecting work. 3. For absences that extend to five (5) or more days, the guidance counselor will schedule a re-entry meeting prior to the student's return to school. This meeting will be attended by the student, parent(s), the guidance counselor, and other school personnel, as appropriate. The purpose of the reentry meeting will be to help identify any concerns and develop a plan to allow the student to transition back to school successfully.

Accommodations for Religious Holidays

It is the belief of the School Committee that the schools shall make reasonable efforts to accommodate the religious beliefs of students and staff as mandated by Federal Law. Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 151C, Section 2B reads as follows: "Any student in an educational or vocational training institution, other than a religious or denominational educational or vocational training institution, that is unable, because of his religious beliefs, to attend classes or to participate in any examination, study, or work requirement which they may have missed because of such absence on any particular day; provided, however, that such make-up examination or work shall not create an unreasonable burden upon such school. No fees of any kind shall be charged by the institution for making available to said student such opportunity. No adverse or prejudicial effects shall result to any student because of their availing themselves to the provisions of this section."

Field Trips/School-Related Absences

Field trips and scheduled, school-related absences (i.e., school visits) are considered excused. Because field trips are scheduled well in advance, students are expected to meet with their teachers to get any work that they will be missing during the trip. Any work received should be submitted at a time established by and at the discretion of the teacher. Any work that is due on the day of the trip shall be turned in the next school day. Any assessments to be taken the day after a field trip will be taken as scheduled, unless other arrangements with the teacher have been made.

Tardy to school

Any child who arrives at school late must check-in at the main office to ensure they are not marked absent. Students will receive a tardy pass and can then proceed to their next class. Excessive days/patterns of late arrival will be brought to the attention of the principal or designee. The principal, or designee, will meet with the student and contact the parent/guardian when there are concerns with excessive student tardiness.

Dismissals from School

Student dismissals tend to disrupt classes; therefore, dismissals should be confined to those of a medical, legal, or emergency nature. Every attempt should be made to schedule appointments after school hours.

1. Students should bring dismissal notes to the office on the morning of the dismissal. Dismissal notes should contain the date, time of dismissal, reason for the dismissal, and a telephone number where the students' parents/caregivers can be reached on that day and must be signed by parents/caregivers. Once an adult has

arrived at school to pick up the student, the secretary will call the classroom to have the student report to the office for dismissal.

2. Students returning to school after a dismissal must get a pass from the front office secretary.

Note: The school nurse issues dismissals for illness; if, in the school nurse's medical opinion, a student should be dismissed for medical reasons, the dismissal shall be considered excused. If the nurse does not, and the parent/student wishes for the dismissal to happen anyway, the dismissal shall be considered unexcused.

Tardiness to School

Prompt arrival to school is paramount, as students that arrive late to class cause a disruption to the learning environment and miss out on valuable learning opportunities. Therefore, students are considered tardy to school if they are not present in their homeroom by 7:20 a.m. A student that arrives at school after 7:20 a.m. should report to the front office to attain a tardy slip and will be marked tardy. Students failing to follow this procedure or with an excessive pattern of tardies can face disciplinary measures. As is the case with absences, all tardiness (even when authorized by parents) is considered unexcused unless the required documentation is provided to the main office by the end of the next school day. Failure to do so will result in a tardy not being excused. A tardy shall be considered excused for the following reasons: A. Medical/Dental appointment (with documentation) B. Bereavement (Please contact the front office to notify) C. Religious obligations (Please contact the front office to notify) D. Legal obligations (with documentation) E. Other – On a case-by-case basis, an administrator can use discretion to determine if a tardy should be excused based on extenuating circumstances.

Tardiness and Extra-Curricular Activities

Any student wishing to participate in an extracurricular activity (including athletics or clubs) that afternoon or evening must be in school by the start of the second block that day and remain for the remainder of the day. Only students with excused tardies and/or dismissals and that have spoken to a building administrator about the excused tardy, and/or dismissal will be granted an exception to this rule.

Tardiness to Class

Students that arrive late to class without a pass will be admitted to class and may be assigned a teacher detention or sent to the office to have a follow up discussion and potential disciplinary measures.

Grading

Teachers create a class procedure for grading students. Procedures are based on departmental objectives and standards of excellence. It is important that you receive a copy of the class grading process from each teacher and that you fully understand the method by which your child will be graded.

Questions about how a grade was determined should be addressed with the classroom teacher and/or the student's guidance counselor. Grades are used for promotion, honor roll, and course recommendations.

Grading Scale

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

Progress Reports and Report Cards

Progress reports are issued during the middle of each marking term to all students in all subjects and/or any time deemed appropriate by a teacher. These reports will indicate an approximate measure of your child's

progress in the middle of the current marking term. These reports will be emailed to the primary guardian contact listed in PowerSchool. If parents/caregivers have any questions, they should contact the classroom teacher regarding the information on the progress report. In addition to mid-term progress reports, student progress reports may come from an individual teacher, a team of teachers, a learning specialist, or a guidance counselor.

Report cards are issued four times during each school year. These reports will be emailed to the primary guardian contact listed in PowerSchool. The dates report cards are listed on the grading dates calendar listed previously.

Grading Dates

PEMBROKE COMMUNITY MIDDLE SCHOOL 2025-2026 GRADING DEADLINES (ALL DATES TENTATIVE AND WEATHER DEPENDENT)

TERM 1: AUGUST 27, 2025 – OCTOBER 31, 2025

Progress Reports Grades Close	September 29, 2025
PRs Grades Saved/Published:	September 30, 2025 at 9 a.m./ 11 a.m.
Term 1 Grades Close:	October 31, 2025
RCs Saved/Published	November 6, 2025 at 9 a.m./11 a.m.

TERM 2: NOVEMBER 3, 2025 – JANUARY 16, 2026

Progress Reports Grades Close	December 8, 2025
PRs Grades Saved/Published	December 9, 2025 at 9 a.m./11 a.m.
Term 2 Grades Close	January 16, 2026
RCs Grades Saved/Published	January 22, 2026 at 9 a.m./11 a.m.

TERM 3: JANUARY 20, 2026 – MARCH 27, 2026

Progress Reports Grades Close:	February 25, 2026
PRs Grades Saved/Published	February 26, 2026 at 9 a.m/ 11 a.m.
Term 3 Grades Close	March 27, 2026
RCs Grades Saved/Published	April 2, 2026 at 9 a.m./11 a.m.

TERM 4: MARCH 30, 2026 – JUNE 12, 2026

Progress Reports Grades Close	May 6, 2026
PRs Grades Saved/Published:	May 7, 2026 at 9 a.m./11 a.m.
Term 4 Grades Close	June 12, 2026
RCs Grades Saved/Published:	June 15, 2029 at 9 a.m./11 a.m.

Homework

At the secondary school level, the homework that is assigned is that which is important to learning and/or is a necessary extension of the classroom experience. A central goal of any academic endeavor is to develop and foster independent learning, and homework generally provides much of that opportunity.

Individual teachers determine, according to the course requirements, the type, nature and quantity of individual assignments. Homework varies by subject and task, as does the time required to complete assignments.

Consequently, the amount of time allotted to homework is determined by the nature of the assignment and may vary according to the individual teacher's requirements.

Honor Roll

High Honors ~ To attain High Honor Roll status, a student must receive an **A-** or better in all subjects.

Honors ~ To attain Honor Roll status, a student must receive a **B-** or better in all subjects.

PowerSchool

PowerSchool is an on-line communication software program used by the Pembroke Public Schools that maintains all student records and scheduling information. PowerSchool uses the Internet to facilitate student information management and communication among school administrators, teachers, parents and students.

The Student and Parent Portals allow parents and students access to information including attendance, grades and assignment descriptions, daily announcements, lunch menus and even messages from teachers.

Promotion Policy

Administration, guidance counselors and teachers will consider student grades and other extenuating circumstances in cases where promotion comes into question. The building principal makes the final decision regarding student promotion or retention.

School Cancellation

School closing announcements are broadcasted on local television and radio stations. School closing and emergency announcements will be posted on the home page of the district website and sent via broadcast email, which you may sign up for through the district website (www.pembrokek12.org). Announcements will also be sent through the district's automated telephone messaging system, SchoolMessenger. This system uses the telephone numbers you provide to the school on the emergency contact form (via School OfficePro), so please make sure that the school always has your most up-to-date contact information.

Testing Programs

The School Committee supports the use of testing as one method, among several, for assessing its goals relative to the achievement of students in the district schools. Statewide assessments will be administered according to regulations set forth by the Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education.

These tests will be used to help establish local achievement norms and provide longitudinal assessments for graded groups as well as for individuals. In addition, they will be used to assess the alignment of curriculum with the learning standards identified in Massachusetts State Curriculum Frameworks for each subject area and the effectiveness of the delivery of instruction by teachers. The data provided will be compared to national and/or state results to provide further evaluation and give direction to the instructional program and aid in the development of educational plans for students. In addition, the results of the assessment programs administered by the schools will be shared with parents and the community.

Title One

Title One is a federally funded program to support a high-quality education for every child. Funding is determined by a number of factors including the low-income percentage of the town as reported in the latest U.S. Census. Pembroke Community Middle School is a Title One school. PCMS has two supplemental programs that offer additional instruction for students in language arts and math. Literacy is designed to improve student reading

fluency, vocabulary and writing skills through reading and responding to a variety of texts. Math Foundations will reinforce concepts being taught in the grade level curriculum as well as strengthen students' mathematical reasoning and problem-solving skills. Students are identified for placement in each of these courses based on formal and informal school-based assessments in those specific content areas, state assessment scores, and teacher recommendation. Student progress is tracked throughout the year to better target learning focus and student growth.

Parental Involvement:

Collaboration with parents is an important component in effectively educating our students. Thus, we actively solicit and encourage parents to be involved in the educational process. PowerSchool, our student information system, allows our teachers to keep parents informed on student learning. Two-way parent/teacher communication also occurs through PowerSchool messaging, email, parent/student/teacher meetings or telephone calls. In addition, a Title One family night will be held annually to further support students and families in learning about how best to support student learning at home. This plan represents our home/school collaboration to enhance and maintain a high level of parental involvement in our schools. We will make this plan available in languages our parents understand and ensure that the plan is updated annually.

PCMS Title 1 Staff

Literacy: Mrs. Leonard & Mrs. Murphy (7th grade); Mrs. Ruggiero & Ms. Hayes (8th grade)

Math Foundations: Mrs. Jeffers & Mrs. Dresser (7th grade); Mrs. Michalek & Mrs. Frost (8th grade)

District Administrator: Ms. Jessica DeLorenzo

Vacation Statement

Families are encouraged to take vacations during the regularly scheduled school vacations and holidays as school days that students miss are considered an absence. Introduction to new material occurs daily; the more frequently a student is absent, even if the absence is unavoidable, the harder it is for the student to keep up with the class. Therefore, the responsibility of learning new material presented during absences will belong to the student and his/her parents/caregivers. Missed assignments must be turned in within 10 calendar school days after the return to school.

Procedures and Activities

Absentee Make-Up of Assignments

Students are responsible for making up assignments due to absence and must see teachers on the day of their return. Students are encouraged to contact fellow classmates for assignments for absences of less than three days. A prolonged absence is defined as missing three (3) or more consecutive school days. For a prolonged absence, parents should contact their child's guidance counselor who will contact the teachers and gather make-up materials. Students have up to 10 school days to complete the missed assignments. Assignments are available for parent/caregiver pick-up at the close of school the day following the request after a consecutive three-day absence.

After-School Enrichment Programs

PCMS offers an enrichment program of after-school clubs and activities based on student and staff interest. Activities may include intramural sports programs, music and art activities, computer activities, writing/newspaper, tutoring, yearbook, and more. All activities must be approved by administration and supervised by a staff member or district coach.

Fees: After-school Enrichment Programs

There is no fee for the first after-school program student joins. There is a \$50 fee for the second and

subsequent activities. There is an annual fee cap of \$100 per student.

If any family has difficulty paying for extra-curricular fees, they should reach out to building administration to discuss.

Athletics/Sports Program

Throughout the year, PCMS offers several sports teams. PCMS sports teams compete against other local area middle schools. To participate, students must have a recent physical on file (valid for 13 months) and complete the athletic registration form. Athletic registration is open 4 weeks prior to the start of each season. Sports offered include: track & field, basketball, volleyball, and cross country.

Fall Sports: Cross Country

Winter Sports: Basketball

Spring Sports: Volleyball, Track & Field

Fees: Athletics/Sports Program

The fee for the PCMS athletic teams is \$50 per sport/per season with an annual cap of \$100 per student. If any family has difficulty paying for sports fees, they should reach out to building administration to discuss.

Backpacks/Bags

Students will be allowed to keep their backpacks with them throughout the day. Conversely, they can store them in their Titan Time locker, if they prefer.

Bathroom Passes

Students should request permission from their teacher to use the bathroom. Teachers will review their classroom expectations for how students sign in/out of the bathroom, including which bathroom is to be used for specific classrooms (typically the bathroom closest to that class). PCMS uses E-Hall pass for student bathroom use. Students should log in to E-Hall pass to indicate they will be using the bathroom. Upon return to their class, students log out to indicate their return. During class, students should try to keep requests to leave for emergencies only. During lunch periods, students who would like to use the bathroom must have permission from a member of the staff supervising the cafeteria.

Cafeteria

Our school community may include students with severe food allergies, particularly to peanuts. Strict guidelines will be implemented, when warranted, to prevent life-threatening allergic reactions. Students should not bring food to school to share with others (i.e., birthday cake, cupcakes, etc.), as this is not allowed.

If parents/caregivers are concerned about a food allergy that a child has, please notify the school nurse and the cafeteria staff with this information. A warning will appear on the cashier's screen for a quick review of the items on the student's meal tray.

Pembroke Public Schools has a computerized point-of-sale payment system for all school meals purchased in the middle school cafeteria. Every student will have his/her own personal account based on the current student ID number. This is the same cafeteria numbers students have used in the elementary schools. Students can access their accounts on the PIN pads located at every register. It is strongly recommended that all students remember their numbers as this will make the lunch lines move faster.

We encourage parents/caregivers to deposit money into their child's account; please use myschoolbucks.com to add money to your child's account. Checks can be sent in to school and should be made payable to Pembroke Public Schools. If parents/caregivers want to ensure that their child is spending money only on complete lunches, they can designate that monies paid into a student account be limited to the purchase of regular and alternative meals only. A la carte items may be purchased from prepaid accounts. This system allows students to charge only if there is money in their account; negative balances are not allowed.

If a student has qualified for **free or reduced** price lunches, this information is securely contained within the system and the meal will be processed just as it is for all other students. There is no need to be concerned about a potentially uncomfortable situation for your child. To receive the free or reduced price of a meal, students must take at least 1 serving of fruit or vegetable and a minimum of 3 components of a meal. A school meal consists of five components which are fruit, vegetable, protein, grain, and dairy. Students are encouraged to take all of the items offered daily. When students don't take the required items, they are charged an a la carte price for each item. Please encourage your child to take a fruit or vegetable. We offer fresh fruit, fruit cups, 100% fruit juice, and a variety of vegetables daily. All other items are at an additional, but reduced, charge.

Eating in the lunchroom is a privilege. If students are uncooperative or disrespectful during this time, they will lose the privilege of eating lunch with friends for a certain number of days.

Students are allowed to purchase a "grab and go" breakfast in the morning. Breakfast is available every morning starting at 7:00 am. Students are allowed to eat their breakfasts in the waiting area or outside, weather permitting. Beverages, excluding water, must also be consumed during this time and should be discarded at 7:30 am.

Monthly menus are available online on the school website.

Lunch & breakfast program

* Please Note that the Commonwealth of Massachusetts waived the cost of the hot breakfast and lunch program for all students for the 2025-2026 school year. Snacks and bottled water will still be charged to the student.

Care of School Property

The PCMS custodians work very hard to keep our school clean and safe. Their job is difficult, and they need everyone's cooperation in order to keep our school a clean and pleasant place in which to learn.

Clean corridors, classrooms, walls, tables, and desks enhance school pride. As such, students involved in vandalism will be subject to disciplinary action, including possible suspension. Students may be required to make restitution for materials and labor necessary to repair any damage.

Computer/Internet/Network

Internet Responsible Use Policy

The Pembroke Public Schools (PPS) provides a wide range of technology resources for student use. These technology resources are to be used only for educational purposes. This agreement outlines responsible use and prohibited activities when using all technology resources and electronic devices as defined by school administrators. Every student is expected to follow all of the rules and conditions listed, as well as those given verbally by PPS teachers and administrators, and to demonstrate good digital citizenship and ethical behavior at all times.

Student Responsible Use

1. **I AM RESPONSIBLE FOR MY COMPUTER ACCOUNT AND EMAIL ACCOUNT**

I understand that passwords are private and that I should not share my password with anyone. I understand that

I am responsible for all activities done through my account. I will not allow others to use my account name and password, or try to use that of others. I understand that I will be in violation of the law if I attempt to electronically capture another person's password. I understand that it is important to log off the computer at the end of every session so another user cannot use my password.

2. I AM RESPONSIBLE FOR MY LANGUAGE

I will use appropriate language in my email messages, online postings, and other digital communications with others. I will not use profanity, vulgarities or any other inappropriate language as determined by school administrators.

3. I AM RESPONSIBLE FOR HOW I TREAT OTHER PEOPLE

I will use email and other means of communications (e.g. blogs, wikis, chat, instant messaging, discussion boards, etc.) responsibly. I will not send or post hateful or harassing mail, make discriminatory or derogatory remarks about others, or engage in bullying, harassment, or other antisocial behaviors while in school or out of school.

4. I AM RESPONSIBLE FOR MY USE OF THE PPS NETWORK

I will use PPS computer resources responsibly. I will not search, retrieve, save, circulate or display hate-based, offensive, or sexually explicit material. I will not search, retrieve, save or circulate images or information about weapons using any PPS computer resources unless authorized by a school administrator/teacher as part of a school assignment. I understand the use of the PPS network for illegal or commercial activities is prohibited. I also understand that school issued devices and accounts are monitored by a filtering program on and off site.

5. I AM RESPONSIBLE FOR MY CONDUCT ON ALL ONLINE SITES

I understand that what I do on social networking websites should not negatively impact the school learning environment and/or my fellow students, teachers and administrators.

6. I AM RESPONSIBLE TO BE HONEST WHILE I AM ONLINE

I understand that impersonating, spoofing, or pretending to be someone else is forbidden. This includes, but is not limited to, sending out email, creating accounts, or posting messages or other online content (e.g. text, images, audio or video) in someone else's name.

7. I AM RESPONSIBLE FOR PROTECTING THE SECURITY OF THE PPS NETWORK

I will not attempt to bypass security settings or Internet filters, use proxies, or interfere with the operation of the network by installing illegal software including file sharing, shareware, or freeware on school computers.

8. I AM RESPONSIBLE FOR PROTECTING SCHOOL PROPERTY

I understand that vandalism is prohibited. This includes but is not limited to accessing, modifying, or destroying equipment, programs, files, or settings on any computer or technology resources. I understand that I need authorization from a school administrator/teacher to use personal electronic devices that I bring to school.

9. I AM RESPONSIBLE FOR RESPECTING OTHER PEOPLE'S PROPERTY ONLINE

I will obey copyright laws. I will not plagiarize or use other's work without proper citation and permission. I will not illegally download materials protected by copyright including, but not limited to, music and movies.

10. I AM RESPONSIBLE FOR FOLLOWING SCHOOL RULES WHENEVER I PUBLISH ANYTHING ONLINE

I will follow all guidelines set forth by the PPS and/or my teachers when publishing schoolwork online (e.g. to a website, blog, wiki, discussion board, podcasting or video server). I understand that it is unsafe to post any personal information about myself, including but not limited to: my name, address, phone number or school. I will not post photos of students with their first and last names on any online site, including but not limited to:

blogs, wikis, and discussions forums.

As a PCMS student, it's important to remember that the use of the school network and e-mail is a privilege, not a right. The school network and e-mail accounts are owned by the PPS and are not private, and because of that, PPS has the right to access your information at any time. Administrators will decide what conduct is inappropriate use if such conduct is not specified in this agreement. It's important to notify an adult immediately if a student encounters material that violates responsible use. PPS technology resources should be used productively and responsibly for school-related purposes and not in such a way that would disrupt the activities of other users. The consequences of student actions could include possible loss of technology privileges and/or school disciplinary action as stated in the Code of Conduct and/or prosecution under state and federal law.

School-Issued Devices

Daily Expectations

The expectation is that you will bring your Pembroke Chromebook to school daily, and that you treat it with care. Your device is to be fully charged before school and kept secure throughout the day. Follow rules and expectations set by your classroom teachers and expectations of the Pembroke Public Schools Code of Conduct.

Device Care

Treat your Chromebook carefully when the device is inside your backpack. Place your device in a backpack that is free of food, liquids, and heavy or sharp objects that may damage the device. Do not eat or drink around the device because a spill could cause permanent damage. Report any damage or breaks immediately to your teacher. You only get one charger, so please keep track of it.

Damage

Please bring your damaged Pembroke assigned Chromebook to your school as soon as you realize it is broken. Please note that devices must be sent to Pembroke Public Schools for repairs. Taking Pembroke devices to any other provider will void our warranty with the device. Some damages are covered by Pembroke technicians and others require us to send the device out for repair. Warranties don't cover spills in or on the unit, drops, falls, screen breaks, and electrical surges that occur in the course of the normal intended use of the product. Warranties do not cover cosmetic damage and/or other damage that doesn't affect the device's functionality or intentional damage.

Damage and Repair Costs

If your child's device is broken beyond the total cost, there will be a replacement fee for the damage depending on device. We have flexible payment options available.

Screen: \$50.00

Case: \$50.00 - \$100.00

Keyboard repair: \$40.00

Lost charger: \$30.00

Defacing the Chromebook with stickers or other markings: \$100.00

Full device replacement: \$300.00

Lost or Stolen Devices

We have options to lock down the device if the device is lost or stolen with directions on where to return the device. If your device is missing, please let the technology department know ASAP so this process can be started.

Confidentiality

Pembroke Community Middle School is committed to providing a safe and respectful school community environment. Towards this goal, the use of students' names or pictures on the school website will be prohibited if parents have so requested in writing to the school principal by September 15th of that school year.

Daily Announcements

The Pledge of Allegiance and a moment of silence will occur at the start of the school day (7:20 am). Daily announcements typically occur during the homeroom but occasionally during Titan Study or at other times during the day. Daily announcements are posted on PowerSchool under the Daily Bulletin link.

Directory Information Notice

Pembroke Public Schools has designated certain information contained in the education records of its students as directory information for purposes of the Family Educational Rights Privacy Act (FERPA) and the Student Record Regulations at 603 CMR 23.00. The following information regarding students is considered directory information: (1) name; (2) address; (3) telephone number; (4) date and place of birth; (5) major field of study; (6) participation in officially recognized activities and sports; (7) weight and height of members of athletic teams; (8) dates of attendance; (9) degrees, honors and awards received; (10) post high school plans of the student. Directory information may be disclosed for any purpose at the discretion of the principal, without the consent of a parent/caregiver or an eligible student. Parents/caregivers of students and eligible students have the right to refuse to permit the designation of any or all of the above information as directory information. In that case, this information will not be disclosed except with the consent of a parent/caregiver or student, or otherwise allowed by FERPA and 603 CMR 23.00.

Parents/caregivers or students refusing to have any or all of the designated directory information disclosed must file written notification to this effect with the school principal on or before October 1 of that school year.

Drinks in School

Students are encouraged to stay hydrated throughout the day and can bring water with them to all of their classes. Students may drink their beverage of choice during the 10 minutes of their Titan Time homeroom. At 7:30am, any drinks, other than water, should be discarded or put away. Any drink that the students will carry in their backpacks should have a twist cap or other secure top.

Early Dismissal Procedures

- If a student is going to be dismissed prior to the end of the school day, the student should bring in a note from parents/caregivers that should include the student's full name, the time of dismissal and the name of the person dismissing the student. Students should bring the note to the main office in the morning.
- The student will be called to the main office when the person dismissing the student has arrived. The person should use the buzzer to indicate they have arrived to dismiss a student. The secretary will ask the person to identify themselves and indicate who they are there to pick up. The person will remain outside waiting for the student.
- The secretary will complete the dismissal information in the Dismissal Log (time, reason).
- The student will be dismissed and will walk out the main entrance door to meet the person picking them up.

Identification may be required of the person signing a student out of the building. If there are any court decisions or documentation which restricts dismissal to only certain identified adults, the school will need to receive a copy of this information.

Field Trips

School-sponsored field trips of brief duration (one school day) for the purpose of providing an educational experience away from the school grounds must be approved by the school principal. School-sponsored field trips involving the student absence exceeding one day must have the prior approval of the Pembroke School Committee.

A field trip is just like any other school day and students are required to adhere to the Student Code of Conduct. The following are additional items to review prior to a scheduled field trip:

- Follow all instructions of teachers/chaperones and adhere to all bus safety rules.
- Respect public property.
- Remember that people judge our school and Pembroke by the way students behave.
- Students not participating in a field trip must attend school.
- A parent/caregiver may be asked to accompany a student who has health or safety issues.

Fire Drills and Building Evacuations

Fire drills at regular intervals are required by law and are an important safety precaution. Students are expected to know the evacuation route from any location in the building. Exit routes are posted in each classroom. Fire drills will be held to practice the safest ways to evacuate our building. When the alarm rings, students are expected to walk in a quiet and orderly manner and follow the directions of the school staff. Attendance will be taken by the teachers after students vacate the building. Students must remain with their teachers in the designated areas until they return to their classrooms.

Food Allergies

Food allergies and anaphylaxis are potentially life-threatening conditions. All Pembroke schools are responsible for developing an individualized health care plan (IHP) for identified students as well as a medication administration plan. Staff will work in conjunction with the school nurse and parents to understand the typical symptoms, manage avoidance of the allergen and educate peers.

Food allergy tables are designated in the cafeteria as needed. Snacks will be checked in the classrooms as needed. Parents/Guardians of classmates are asked to be sensitive to those with food allergies and take into consideration the types of food sent to school from home.

- a. A limited number of lessons taught will include food as manipulatives or demonstration tools. Teachers must seek approval for lessons/activities involving food, and approval will be limited. Teachers must be mindful of the severity of food-related medical issues, and even if no students in their class are known to have such issues, they must obtain approval for any food-related activities from the administration and ensure advance consultation with the school nurse. If approved, teachers must inform all parents of the activity.
- b. No food will be provided for students as rewards or incentives.
- c. No food may be distributed on school buses.

Forgotten Materials

If your child forgets any materials (e.g., books, homework, lunch), parents can drop them off at the school. Anyone dropping off material, should buzz the secretary to indicate what and for whom they are dropping off materials. Students are not called and pulled out of class to get missing materials; it is disruptive to the educational environment to call into classrooms. Students are allowed to pick up materials between classes or at lunch.

Hallway Rules and Passes

When walking in the hallways, students should keep to the right. Students should take the most direct route to travel

from one class to the next. Therefore, students should be traveling within their team/grade hallway unless the next assigned class is in a different area of the building (e.g., Band, Art, World Language, Stem Lab, PE). In practical terms, that means that Team 7.1 students should be using the 7.1 team hallway for the majority of the day. The same applies to Team 7.2 students. Eighth grade students should be traveling in the lower-level 8th grade hallways and should not be walking in the 7.1 or 7.2 hallway. When eighth grade students have classes on the main level, they should be using the stairs in the main hallway near the cafeteria, or the stairs near the world language or art classes.

Students are not to yell, run or participate in unnecessary physical contact in the hallways. Unless students are changing classes or transitioning to lunch, they should have a valid hall pass in their possession. Passes are obtained from a teacher or administrator and include an identified destination.

Health Services

Student health and physical well-being is very important to us. If a student becomes ill or hurt during the school day, our school nurse is available to help. Students who are ill or get hurt must report to the health office for assessment. The nurse will contact either the parent/caregiver or designated emergency contact person after a clinical assessment is made. When this occurs, the parent/caregiver has the responsibility of providing transportation home and any further necessary care. Students who are ill are prohibited from calling or texting parents/caregivers from their cell phones. Except in an emergency, students need a pass to see the school nurse. If the nurse determines that a student is too ill to remain in school, they will call home to make arrangements for dismissal.

If a student has had a contagious disease such as chicken pox or strep throat, the school nurse may readmit the student only after the designated period of isolation and a required note from a physician. The Department of Public Health and the Academy of Pediatrics recommend that school age children should remain at home for 24 hours if they have vomited or have had a fever.

Each year, **Pembroke School District Medical Consent and Information forms** are electronically completed (via School OfficePro) by parents/caregivers. The form should be completed accurately to ensure the school always has the most up-to-date information. The forms are kept on file in the nurse's office to help in emergency care for a sick or injured student and for contacting parents/caregivers. This form must be updated by the family as changes occur in family situations, i.e. work schedule, new telephone numbers, emergency contacts. Please do not list as emergency contacts individuals who are without transportation. Each year student accident insurance is available at a nominal cost. The Student Accident Insurance Brochure is available on the school's website under Parents & Community, Parent Resources.

Administration of Drugs

The Pembroke School Committee recognizes the importance of providing a certified nurse in each of its schools to monitor and supervise the storage and administration of prescribed drugs and medications and to provide health related services to support the well-being and safety of students and staff in the building.

It is recognized that the purpose of this policy is to ensure that uniform standards for the safe and proper administration of medications are provided for students in the Pembroke schools and to make certain that students requiring such medication will receive it in a timely, safe, and appropriate manner.

I. Administration

- A. Unless otherwise approved, the school nurses shall be responsible for the management and distribution of all medications to students in the Pembroke schools in accordance with the regulations of 105CMR 210.000 and MGL Chapter 94.
- B. Exceptions would include the possession and self-administration of any prescribed medications for asthma, related respiratory diseases, cystic fibrosis, and diabetes as specified in MGL Chapter 71, Section 54B.

II. Storage of Medications

- A. All medications (other than exceptions listed above) must be kept in the nurse's office and will only be dispensed by the school nurse. A doctor's order and written permission from parents/caregivers must be on file only in the nurse's office. All orders and permissions for medication must be renewed each school year.
- B. Under normal circumstances, students may not carry medication in school unless they have received specific approval to do so from the building administration and a required permission request from doctors and parents/caregivers is on file in the nurse's office.

III. Off-Site Delegation

While every effort will be made to obtain a nurse or school staff member trained in medication administration during field trips and short-term special school events, the school committee recognizes that the school nurse may delegate the administration of prescription medication to a responsible adult.

- A. In such cases the parents/caregivers must give written consent and the school nurse must instruct the responsible adult on how to administer the medication to the child.
- B. Additionally, approval to delegate administration and distribution of medications may only be given on a limited basis to unlicensed personnel who may have been granted this authority by the Pembroke Public Schools and provided the Pembroke Public Schools be registered with the Division of Food and Drugs of the Massachusetts Department of Public Health.

Legal References: MGL Chapter 94, 105 CMR 210.000 and MGL Chapter 71, Section 54B [School Committee Policy #JLCD]

The Massachusetts Department of Public Health requires that a physical examination be given to each school child every four years and to all new students during the year of entrance to a school. All doctor certificates, either for illness or injuries, are to be sent to the nurse so they can be entered into the student's health record. **The school nurse does not give medication, not even acetaminophen (Tylenol) or ibuprofen (Advil), unless the appropriate form is completed and the parent supplies the medication.**

All medical excuses for modification of student programs, i.e. physical education, must be brought to the nurse who will process them.

When a routine physical exam is planned with the student's physician, please request a medical record form from the nurse so that the findings of that exam can be entered into the record. [School Committee Policy 5.66, 5.67, 5.68, 5.69]

The Pembroke School District affirms its responsibility to provide for the safety and well-being of students. This responsibility extends to complying with the Massachusetts Mandatory Child Abuse and Neglect Reporting Statute, Chapter 119, Section 51A. The Pembroke School District recognizes that because of their sustained contact with school-age children, school employees will actively carry out the letter and spirit of the law. It is expected then, when any staff member in his/her professional capacity, has reasonable cause to believe that a child under the age of eighteen years is suffering the effects of any form of child abuse and neglect, the staff member will report his/her concerns to the building principal for consideration of reporting to the Department of Children and Families. [School Committee Policy JLF Reporting Child Abuse]

Students with AIDS/HIV— Refer to School Committee Policy 5.73

Home or In-Hospital Educational Services

Upon receipt of a physician's written order verifying that students enrolled in a public school or placed by the public school in a private setting must remain at home or in a hospital for medical reasons on a day or overnight basis, or any

combination of both, and for a period of not less than fourteen school days in any school year, the administration (in coordination with the Office of Student Services) shall provide educational services in the home or hospital. Such services shall be provided with sufficient frequency to allow students to continue their educational program, as long as such services do not interfere with the medical needs of the students. Such educational services shall not be considered special education unless the students have been determined eligible for such services, and the services are included on the students' IEP. Students in non-public schools shall be entitled to home and hospital services when deemed eligible through the special education process.

A student is eligible for tutoring after 14 days of absence.

The student's physician must complete a Department of Elementary and Secondary Education Form 28R/3; Physician's Statement for Temporary Home or Hospital Education 603 CMR 28.03(3) (c) and submit it to the student's building administrator or guidance counselor. Forms are available from the Principal's Office.

At a minimum the physician's signed notice must include information regarding:

- The date the student was admitted to a hospital or was confined to home;
- The medical reason(s) for the confinement;
- The expected duration of the confinement; and
- The medical needs of the student should be considered in planning the home or hospital education services.

The form must be completed by a physician, including pediatricians, or any other M.D. but will not be accepted from a Ph.D. or Ed.D.

The district will assign an appropriate tutor selected from district staff, privately contracted tutors, or an agency. The school district determines the number of instructional hours per day or per week based on the educational and medical needs of the individual student.

Homeless Students: Enrollment Rights and Services

To the extent practical and as required by law, the Pembroke School District will work with homeless students and their families to provide stability in school attendance and other services. Special attention will be given to ensuring the enrollment and attendance of homeless students not currently attending school. Homeless students will be provided district services for which they are eligible. [School Committee Policy 5.35]

Immunizations

Public school students attending the Pembroke Schools will be required to present a physician's certificate attesting to successful immunization against all diseases as stipulated in M.G.L. Ch. 76, Sect. 15 and as may be specified from time to time by the Department of Public Health. These diseases include: diphtheria, tetanus, measles, pertussis, and poliomyelitis, and such other communicable diseases which may be specified by the Department of Public Health.

An exception to these requirements will be made on receipt of written statement from a doctor that he has personally examined the child and that immunization would not be in the best interest of the child; or from the student's parent or guardian stating that vaccination or immunization is contrary to the religious beliefs of the student or parent. A doctor's statement must be resubmitted at the beginning of each school year. Students who are not vaccinated or under-vaccinated (including those with medical and/or religious exemptions) may be subject to exclusion from school if there is exposure to certain communicable childhood diseases. Additionally, in accordance with Federal law, a homeless student shall not be required to present proof of immunization as a prerequisite for attending school.

Library: Materials Selection Policy

The suitability of particular books or materials may be questioned. The principles of freedom to read and of the professional responsibility of the staff must be defended rather than the specific materials. The school shall have no obligation to remove material from use during the review process.

If a complaint is made, the following procedure will be followed:

1. Complainant will confer with the principal.
2. If complainants are not satisfied, they will fill out a "Request for Reconsideration of Library/Media Materials" form and forward it to the superintendent's office for review.

Lockers

Students will be assigned a Titan Time (home-based) locker. Students can lease combination locks from the school. **Only locks leased from the school may be used on school lockers.** Combination locks can be leased for \$5/year. The lease money will be returned when students return the locks at the end of the school year. We advise students to keep their lockers locked at all times and not to leave money or expensive items in a locker. The school is not responsible for any lost items. Changes in locker assignments must be approved by the Titan Time teacher or administration. Any locker problems (malfunction, theft) should be reported to the Titan Time teacher.

Students should not use any tape on their lockers. If they would like to hang their schedule or other pictures, they should use magnets. Any drinks stored in lockers must have a twist top, so there is no danger of spillage.

Lockers are not private property. They are school property and may be opened and inspected by school officials at any time.

Lost and Found

"Lost and Found" boxes are located in the nurse's office, the locker rooms, the library and at different locations in the hallways. If a personal item has been misplaced, please check these locations. Students and staff should deposit any unclaimed items found in the "Lost and Found" boxes. It is a good idea to clearly label clothing, books, lunch boxes, etc. with the student's name so they can be returned without delay. Any materials left on the benches or tables outside the cafeteria after lunch is over are dropped off at the lost & found in the library.

Lost, Stolen and Damaged Materials

Students assume financial responsibility for all materials and equipment issued to them by the school. In the event such material is lost, stolen, damaged, or defaced, teachers will notify the student and the office of the material(s) involved and the fee to be assessed. Parents/caregivers will be notified of the charges for lost, damaged, or defaced material and equipment based on the replacement cost.

Non-Custodial Parent's Right of Access to Records

1. A certified copy of the court order or judgment relative to the custody of the student that either indicated that the requesting parent is eligible to receive access as set forth in 603 CMR 23.07(5) (a), or a certified copy of a court order specifically ordering that the student records may be made available to the non-custodial parent and,
2. An affidavit from the non-custodial parent that said court order or judgment remains in effect and that there is no temporary or permanent order restricting access to the custodial parent or any child in the custodial parent's custody.

The non-custodial parent must submit a written request for access each year stating that said parent

continues to be entitled to unsupervised visitation with the student and is eligible to obtain access as set forth in 603 CMR 23.07 (5) (a).

Upon receipt of the request (initial and annual) the school must immediately notify the custodial parent by certified and first class mail, in English and the primary language of the custodial parent, that it will provide the non-custodial parent with access after 21 days, unless the custodial parent provides the principal with documentation that the non-custodial parent is not eligible to obtain access as set forth in 603 CMR 23.07 (5) (a).

The school must delete the address and telephone number of the student and custodial parent from student records provided to non- custodial parents. In addition, such records must be marked to indicate that they shall not be used to enroll the student in another school.

Upon receipt of a court order, which prohibits the distribution of information pursuant to MGL c.71 Section.34H, the school shall notify the non-custodial parent that it shall cease to provide access to the student records to the non-custodial parent.

Parental/Caregiver Concerns

From time to time, parents/caregivers may wish to bring concerns to the attention of appropriate school officials. To assist in this regard, the following general guidelines may be helpful:

- The parent/caregiver should first raise any concern regarding a school-related matter with the staff member most directly involved.
- If the matter remains unresolved, the parent/caregiver should then contact the appropriate department head/content supervisor (see p. 2)
- If the matter remains unresolved, the parent/caregiver should contact the assistant principal.
- If the parent/caregiver continues to feel the problem is not resolved, they may wish to contact the building principal, who has the authority to make final judgments regarding student discipline and other building procedural matters.

We request that parents/caregivers use the progressive steps outlined above as the teacher or other staff member most directly involved can address most problems satisfactorily. Parents and school personnel are expected to show each other respect in all communications and to listen to the other's viewpoints. Respectful and reasoned communication between parents and school personnel is helpful in obtaining satisfactory resolution of concerns.

Parental Notification Law

Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 71, Section 32A, known as the Parental Notification Law, requires that parents/caregivers be notified about any curriculum that primarily involves human health and sexual education. The goal of the comprehensive Health Education curriculum, which incorporates the State's Health Frameworks, is to promote the health and well-being of our students. The instructional materials utilized may include class texts, various handouts and video presentations. If you would like to review these materials at school, please call the school office to arrange a convenient time to do so.

Each student's privacy will be respected throughout the instruction of the curriculum. Materials will be presented in a balanced and age-appropriate way that makes clear that people may have strong religious and moral beliefs about health-related issues and that these beliefs must be respected. Under Massachusetts Law and Pembroke School Committee Policy, you may exempt your child from any portion of the curriculum that primarily involves human

sexual education or issues pertaining to human sexuality. To request an exemption, mail a letter to the Principal, Pembroke Community Middle School, 559 School Street, Pembroke, MA 02359. No student who is exempted from this portion of the curriculum will be penalized. An alternative assignment may be provided to students who are exempted.

Photography or Videotaping of Students

Pembroke Community Middle School may use photographs or videotapes of students participating in school activities to share with local newspapers, broadcast stations or the district and/or school website. The school hereby notifies parents/caregivers that unless a written objection is received in the office of the principal by September 15 of each school year, the school will assume the rights to use photographs or videotape where students may appear or be heard.

Physical Education

Physical Education Exemption Any medical exemptions from physical education class require a written note from the student's physician. The note must include the time frame for exemption. When possible, long-term exemptions will be referred to the guidance department so that those students may be reassigned during that class period.

Students who do not participate in PE due to medical exemptions are not eligible to participate in school-based athletic activities during that time.

School Dances

We sponsor several dances or other after school social activities throughout the school year for all students in good-standing. Staff volunteer to chaperone school dances. Music is supplied by a disc jockey and refreshments and snacks are sold. Tickets to school dances are sold during the school day and will not be sold at the door.

Please remember these few rules so that our school dances will be successful:

- No forms of the dances identified as "grinding" or "twerking" or other inappropriate dancing will be permitted.
- Rules for appropriate dress and Code of Conduct that apply during extra-curricular activities also apply at school dances.
- Our dances are for PCMS students only.
- Parents/caregivers are requested to arrive promptly at the end of dance to transport students home. Students will not be allowed to leave the grounds unsupervised, unless the school has been notified that students have been given permission to do so. Staff will remain with students until they are picked up.
- Students will not be allowed to enter the dance after it has begun unless accompanied by an adult or unless prearranged with the principal or principal's designee.
- Students will not be allowed to leave the social until the dance is over, unless accompanied by an adult or unless prearranged with the principal or principal's designee.
- Once students leave the dance, they will not be allowed to return.

School Visits/Visitors

Ensuring the safety of students and school employees takes the cooperation of the entire community. Visitors and volunteers are required to check in at the main office, present photo identification, and wear a visitors' badge at all times while in the building for the purposes of safety for all students and staff.

At no time may a parent or guardian enter the building during school hours to see a staff member without a scheduled appointment. Teachers and students are asked to report any visitor to the school who is without proper identification.

Section 504 School Accommodation Plan

All programs, activities, and services are open to all students, including those with disabilities. When a student requires specific accommodations unique to a disability that substantially impairs a major life function, the principal or principal's designee convenes a team to determine eligibility for a Section 504 Accommodation Plan. Procedures in accordance with Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act are followed in these circumstances. The District 504 Coordinator is Ms. Jessica DeLorenzo, Director of Student Services.

Student Risk Assessment

The following administrative procedure is utilized when a student is considered to be a potential risk to self or others in the school:

1. Referral to administration for full investigation: Principal, Assistant Principal, or guidance counselor.
2. Parent/Caregiver contacted, student removed from school if determined necessary and referral of student for independent risk assessment if clinically indicated. Parents will be provided with a list of elements to be included in the risk assessment.
3. Risk assessment concludes with appropriate follow up.
4. An administrator and/or guidance counselor will visit classrooms to reassure students if necessary, depending on the circumstances.
5. Contact by administration to any parent/caregivers of other students directly involved or implicated.
6. Monitoring of students and/or the situation for a period of time as deemed appropriate by school administration.

Substitute Teachers

If the regular classroom teacher is absent and a substitute teacher is teaching for the day, students are expected to act in the same courteous and cooperative way they do when their regular teacher is present. Please keep in mind that a substitute teacher is a member of the community and will form an impression of PCMS from their experiences in the classroom. We want that impression to be a positive one.

Tardy to School Procedures

- Students are considered tardy if they arrive after **7:20** am.
- Students must check in at the main office, sign the tardy book stating the time and reason for tardiness and obtain a hall pass to enter class.
- Students report to their scheduled classes even if there is only a minute left so that they can get make-up work.
- Tardiness is not excused.
- Excessive tardiness will be addressed in the following manner:
 - Students may receive an administrative detention
 - Students may receive a one-day, in-school suspension

A student must be recorded as present by the start of second block, and they must remain in school for the day in order to participate in any athletic event/practice/meeting unless excused by the principal or designee.

Titan Study

Titan Time is a daily, thirty-three-minute block in students' schedules that will be used to support and extend student learning. There is also a ten-minute Titan Time homeroom at the beginning of each day (7:20-7:30 pm). Each student has been assigned a Titan Time teacher. Each teacher typically has 12-18 students assigned to their room. Students can use this time to organize their materials, study, or complete upcoming homework/assignments.

Translation of Documents

Parents/guardians whose primary language is not English may request to have all notices and documents provided in their native language. Translator services may be requested for conferences and meetings and provided with advance notice.

Transportation Procedures

Arrival and Departure by Car

Parents/caregivers that drive their children to school should drop them off at the designated parent/caregiver drop-off locations.

Seventh grade students should be dropped off in the circular driveway near the front entrance or by using a loop around the staff parking lot. These would be the same areas where parents would pick up 7th grade students, who will enter and be dismissed from the main doors.

Eighth grade students: Parents dropping off eighth grade students should drive around the fire road at the back of the school (accessed by passing the staff parking lot on your left). Students should get out at the basketball courts on the far side of the building and enter into the gymnasium.

Buses

Students are expected to be well-behaved and respectful while riding the buses. Students should bear in mind that continued or severe offenses on the buses could lead to the loss of bus-riding privileges.

Please review the Pembroke Public Schools Bus and Bus Pass Manual in the transportation section of the district website for expectations regarding student behavior. If you have specific questions, please contact the Transportation Coordinator, Ms. Lori Jacobs at 781.829.0832.

The bus driver has full authority and responsibility to enforce order and maintain discipline by direct command to the pupils. In the event of a discipline problem with a student, the driver will deliver the student to his/her destination and then notify the administration via the **Pembroke Bus Conduct Report**.

Social Bus Passes

Social bus passes, seeking to take another bus in order to be dropped off at a friend's house, will not be approved. By the established bus fee, transportation has only been arranged for students to and from home. Emergency bus passes may be obtained by contacting the main office. The principal or his/her designee will review all emergency bus pass requests. Parents/caregivers must communicate, in writing to the PCMS office, any change or adjustment to your child's assigned bus route, e.g. dropped off at Pembroke High School for after school clinics or programs.

Biking/Walking Procedures

- Written permission is required from parent/caregiver to inform the school of students who will be walking or riding bicycles to and from school. The note must indicate the extent of permission, e.g., school year, today only, for a week, etc.

- If a student rides a bike to school, it should be parked in the bike racks located near the cafeteria and securely locked. The school department does not take responsibility for bicycles, which may be lost, stolen, or damaged on school property. Administration reserves the right to suspend bicycle riding to school for safety reasons. Per Massachusetts state law, if a student is 16 years old or younger, they must wear a helmet. The helmet should fit the rider's head and the chin strap must be fastened.
 - **Seventh grade students** should enter and exit the school by using the main doors.
 - **Eighth grade students** should enter and exit the school by using the gymnasium doors.
- For safety reasons, students who walk or ride bikes will be dismissed daily from the cafeteria by a supervisor after the buses have left the parking lot.

Permitted Equipment

Only non-motorized bicycles are allowed.

All other recreational items are prohibited, including but not limited to:

- Motorized bikes or scooters
- Regular (kick) scooters
- Skateboards
- Hoverboard
- Rollerblades

Work Permits

Students should see the guidance secretary for work permit applications. There is a process for acquiring a work permit for 14- to 17-year old students:

1. Once you have a promise of employment, the student seeking employment should obtain a copy of the Employment Permit Application from the guidance office.
2. Complete the Employment Permit Application with full employment information and obtain all required signatures (employer, physician, parent/guardian, and student). You do not need to supply proof of age when returning the application to school as we have those records on file.
3. Return completed application to the Guidance Secretary, Mrs. Tracey Smith.
4. The permit will be created within 24 hours and given to the student. The permit is good for as long as you are employed by that employer. If there is a change of employment, the student will need to apply for a new permit.

Student Code of Conduct

Students in Pembroke Community Middle School are expected to conduct themselves in a courteous and cooperative manner.

Pembroke School Committee Policy JK: STUDENT DISCIPLINE

The Pembroke School Committee (PSC) recognizes the importance of good discipline and self-management in the schools so as to maintain a constructive and safe learning environment for all students and faculty. The goal of student discipline and the code of conduct is to ensure mutual respect and responsible behavior. When the conduct of a child interferes with his/her own progress, the education of other students or the orderly operation of the school, corrective procedures shall be utilized.

The Student Code of Conduct expects that all members of the school community have the responsibility to conduct themselves in a way that demonstrates respect for all individuals, their rights, and their property. All members of the school community must also understand and support the standards of conduct of the school and assist in the enforcement of rules and regulations. This behavior is expected during all curricular, co-curricular, and special events of

the school, both on and off-campus, including school sponsored trips and those times when school buses or other school-provided transportation is used. The administration shall reserve the right to restrict a student's participation in co-curricular activities as participation is a privilege, not a right based on the safety and well-being of other students or the student in question.

Assignment of discipline shall be on a progressive basis. This means that an administrator has the discretion to increase penalties in the cases of second and third offenses. In determining the severity of the penalty or suspension, the Principal or Assistant Principal may consider all relevant factors, including but not limited to the following:

1. The student's previous disciplinary record.
2. The severity of the disruption of the educational process.
3. The degree of danger to self, others, and the school in general.
4. The degree to which students are willing to change their inappropriate behavior.

General Expectations for Student Conduct

1. All pupils will respect and adhere to the standards established by each classroom and to the standards established for the total school setting.
2. Pupils are not permitted to bring to school any items which constitute a safety hazard for themselves or other children (example: knives, fireworks, matches).
3. Students are expected to adhere to the Student Code of Conduct.

General Procedures

1. Infrequent or minor infractions of the rules and regulations will be handled by the classroom teacher.
2. Continuous minor infractions may result in an office referral and notification to caregivers.
3. Major infractions of school rules and regulations may result in more significant behavioral consequences and potential meeting with caregivers.

As a community, norms of behavior are necessary in order to make everyone's work at Pembroke Community Middle School as personally and intellectually safe and productive as possible. We want our community to be one in which individuals flourish and our mutual respect and concern for each other's feelings and needs further the well-being of students, faculty, and staff. We believe that personal integrity and self-respect are reflected in honest, responsible behavior; in respect for each other's property and for the property of our community; in concern for the integrity of the academic process in which we are participants; and in respect for each other's efforts to carry out the responsibilities of our roles in the community.

Being in an Unauthorized Area

All students are assigned to a class period or other area during the school day. If a student is found in an area other than his/her assignment, this constitutes being in an unauthorized area.

This violation also relates to passage in an unnecessary hallway and use of other areas of the school that are not related to a student's assigned class.

Students may be subject to disciplinary consequences for being in an unauthorized area.

Bomb Threats, False Fire Alarms, and Possession /Exploding of Fireworks

Making a bomb threat or pulling a false fire alarm is a crime. Possessing and/or exploding fireworks are crimes.

Cell Phones, Portable Listening Devices, Cameras, Video Recording Devices, and other Electronic Devices

Students will not be permitted to use phones or other electronic forms of communication, or wear portable listening devices, including ear buds, in school unless given specific permission by administration or, pertaining to classroom use, with permission of the classroom teacher. Cell phones are to be stored in backpacks or lockers and notifications are to be silenced while in school.

Students are not allowed to use devices while walking in the hallways during the school day. Students are not allowed to use devices during lunch. Students must obtain permission from school administration for use of cameras and other video recording devices. The school will not be responsible for these items if they are damaged or stolen.

In an emergency, a student may be contacted via the front office. If a student needs to contact home, they may ask their teacher for permission to use the classroom phone. Conversely, they could ask their teacher for permission to go to the office to request to use the office or their personal cell phone to call home.

Use of cell phones while waiting for the late bus is at the approval of the supervising staff member.

Students using prohibited items during school without permission are subject to disciplinary action of Disturbing the Normal Process according to the Student Code of Conduct. Cell phones and/or ear buds or other electronic devices will be confiscated and held in the front office until the end of the school day, where students may come and pick them up. If there is repeated, unauthorized student use, additional consequences over and above losing access to the device(s) for the day, may be incurred (e.g., after school and/or lunch detentions, calls home, the device may be taken for the remainder of the school day, and a parent/caregiver pick up device).

Cutting Class

Cutting class is any unauthorized non-attendance during an assigned period. Students who cut class will be referred to administration for disciplinary action.

Displays of Affection

Displays of affection, such as kissing or embracing, that may make others uncomfortable or embarrassed are not permitted. On the first reported offense, parents/caregivers may be notified and both students and parents/caregivers informed that any future violations could result in disciplinary action. No forms of lewd and lascivious behavior will be tolerated.

Distribution

Distribution and/or (re)selling of any item by a student and/or staff member is strictly prohibited. These items include but are not limited to gum, candy, soda, energy drink, etc. Students and/or staff members found in violation of this policy may be subject to disciplinary action.

Dress Code

The First Amendment guarantees students' rights to choose the clothes they want to wear. The school does not interfere with this right except where there is an overriding, legitimate school concern. Since one of the purposes of Pembroke Community Middle School is to create a safe, supportive learning community, and since appropriate dress reflects positively on the school community, students will be prohibited from wearing any clothing that detracts from the learning process or otherwise compromises health and safety.

When implementing the Dress Code, the administration, teachers, and other school authorities are mindful of the constantly changing nature of the styles of dress and grooming in our society and the transient "fads" often evident in

the dress and grooming of our students.

We encourage students to dress in a neat and attractive manner that reflects pride in themselves and their school. School is a student's workplace, and we expect all students to follow the dress code:

- Clothing should be neat and clean.
- Clothing displaying vulgar writing or symbols or sexual reference(s) will not be allowed.
- Waistbands that are too low exposing underwear will not be allowed.
- Clothing that references alcohol, tobacco, or controlled substances will not be allowed.
- Students are not permitted to wear head coverings during school hours unless the principal or principal's designee grants permission. Students should remove head coverings as soon as they enter the building.
 - Head coverings for religious observance or medical reasons are an exception to this rule.
- Proper shoes/sneakers must be worn. Open-toe shoes, sandals, and flip-flops are allowed. In the event that a student appears unstable because of their choice of footwear they may be required to wear shoes that are more appropriate. Students must wear sneakers to physical education class. Teachers will give students 24-hour notice if a planned activity or lesson requires students to wear shoes or sneakers. Please remember that heels, platform shoes, and plastic soled shoes can be slippery and dangerous on our floors.
- Dress must not be of destructive nature or a safety concern (e.g. chains and spiked jewelry).
- Any other apparel that the administration determines to be unacceptable to the dress code will not be allowed.

If a student wears something inappropriate to school, they will first be asked to change in the nurse's office and then may be asked to call a parent/caregiver to request that clothing that is more appropriate be brought to school. The school will have t-shirts and/or sweatpants so that students may return to their studies as soon as possible.

Disturbing the Normal Process of the Daily Activity in School

A school can meet its educational goals only when each student respects the rights of every other student to learn in an orderly environment. No student has the right to behave in a way that hinders the learning process. Every student and staff member has the right to be treated with dignity and respect. Generally, the first response to disruptive behavior is from the classroom teacher. The teacher may move the student's seat, contact the parent/caregiver, conference with the student, ask the guidance counselors to meet with the student, or keep the student after school or during lunch both as discipline consequences and as an opportunity to discuss the student's behavior. If any of these initial teacher efforts fail to produce a behavior change, the teacher may remove the student from the class and an administrative detention or other disciplinary consequences may be assigned.

Behavior which disrupts the educational process may include, but is not limited to, inappropriate classroom behavior, inappropriate physical contact, making excessive noise, and/or misuse of school equipment. Any student who willingly takes part in an unauthorized assembly, sit-in, protest meeting, etc. during school hours, and/or on school property, may be subject to disciplinary action.

The teacher and/or administrator may arrange for parent/teacher/student and/or administrator conference, at which time a contract may be written regarding classroom behavior. This contract will identify what is expected of the student, what the teacher and/or other school personnel will do to help the student meet these expectations, and what the consequences for inappropriate behavior will be. Such consequences may include after school detention with a teacher, removal from a class for an instructional period, removal from class pending a parent/teacher/student conference, or permanent removal from class.

Drugs, Dangerous Weapons and Staff Assaults (MGL Ch. 71, Sec. 37H)

- (a) Any student who is found on school premises or at school- sponsored or school- related events, including athletic games, in possession of a dangerous weapon, including but not limited to a gun, or a knife; or a

controlled substance as defined in MGL Ch. 94C, including but not limited to marijuana, cocaine, and heroin, will be subject to disciplinary action up to and including expulsion from school or school district.

- (b) Any student who assaults a principal, teacher, paraprofessional or other educational staff on school premises or at school- sponsored or school-related events, including athletic games, will be subject to disciplinary action up to and including expulsion from school or school district.

Electronic Readers/iPads/Other Technological Devices for Learning Purposes

Electronic Readers/iPads/and other technological devices are allowed for the sole purpose of educational opportunities as permitted by the teacher/staff member. Inappropriate use of these devices may result in the loss of privilege and/or confiscation. If the device is taken from a student, a parent/caregiver may be required to pick it up.

Fighting/Assault/Battery

Pushing, punching, wrestling, or other types of physical force will not be tolerated. Initiating, provoking, or instigating a fight will not be tolerated. Assaults, defined as an attempt or threat to use unlawful force against someone to physically hurt him/her, will not be tolerated. A battery is an unlawful and offensive touching of a person without his/her consent and will not be tolerated. The determination as to whether such behavior constitutes a fight rests with the staff member who observes the behavior, not with the student participants.

Harassment, Bullying or Discrimination

Pembroke Community Middle School is committed to providing an educational environment that is free of harassment, bullying, and discrimination. This applies to all students at all school-sponsored activities. Harassment, bullying, or discrimination of any form will not be tolerated including bullying, harassment of discrimination that targets the protected categories of race, color, national origin, sex, gender identity, religion, or sexual orientation.

To access the Pembroke Public Schools Bullying Prevention and Intervention Plan, can be found here:

[PPS Bullying Prevention and Intervention Plan](#)

Parents and students can also access a hard copy of this plan in the school's main office or on the district website (www.pembrokek12.org).

Bullying, as defined in M.G.L. c. 71, § 37O, is the repeated use by one or more students or by a member of a school staff including, but not limited to an educator, administrator, school nurse, cafeteria worker, custodian, bus driver, athletic coach, advisor to an extracurricular activity or paraprofessional of a written, verbal, or electronic expression or a physical act or gesture or any combination thereof, directed at a target that:

- causes physical or emotional harm to the target or damage to the target's property;
- places the target in reasonable fear of harm to themselves or of damage to their property;
- creates a hostile environment at school for the target;
- infringes on the rights of the target at school; or
- materially and substantially disrupts the education process or the orderly operation of a school

Harassment, bullying or discrimination may include but not be limited to:

- Repeated or persistent offensive remarks including name calling, teasing, jokes, rumors, or other derogatory or dehumanizing remarks
- Intimidation for favors
- Overt threats or demands
- Unwanted physical contact of a person or person's clothing
- Display or circulation of written materials or pictures of a derogatory nature

- Unwelcome gestures

Pembroke Public Schools acknowledges that certain students may be more vulnerable to becoming targets of bullying or harassment based on actual or perceived differentiating characteristics. To ensure all students are supported and equipped to prevent or respond to bullying and harassment, Pembroke Public Schools takes the following steps:

- Building-Wide Student Support Teams (SSTs):
Each school maintains a Student Support Team that proactively monitors student well-being, academic progress, and social-emotional needs. These teams collaborate regularly to identify students at risk, plan interventions, and promote an inclusive school climate.
- Access to Mental Health Staff in Each Building:
Every school is staffed with dedicated mental health professionals, including school psychologists and/or social workers, who are available to provide counseling, support services, and crisis intervention to all students
- Anonymous Reporting via Titans Talk:
Students, families, and community members can report bullying or harassment confidentially through *Titans Talk*, an anonymous online reporting tool on the district's website.
- Bullying Consideration in an IEP:
 - As part of the Massachusetts Individualized Education Program (IEP), teams are required to consider whether a student with a disability is vulnerable to bullying or harassment.
 - The IEP includes a designated question that prompts teams to assess and plan for any additional protections or supports the student may require.
 - Teams must document how they will support the student in accessing a safe and supportive school environment.
- Skills-Based Instruction and Preventive Programming:
All students receive instruction on social-emotional learning, digital citizenship, empathy, and conflict resolution. These lessons aim to equip students with the knowledge and strategies needed to recognize, prevent, and respond appropriately to bullying or harassment.
- General teaching approaches that support bullying prevention efforts:
 - setting clear expectations for students and establishing school and classroom routines
 - creating safe school and classroom environments for all students
 - communicating with parents and guardians regarding the school's goals and expectations for students and students' safety
 - using appropriate and positive responses and reinforcement, even when students require discipline
 - using positive behavioral supports
 - modeling, teaching, and rewarding pro-social, healthy, and respectful behaviors
 - using positive approaches to behavioral health, including collaborative problem-solving, conflict resolution training, teamwork, and positive behavioral supports that aid in social and emotional development
 - using the Internet safely
 - supporting students' interest and participation in non-academic and extracurricular activities, particularly in their areas of strength.

Procedure of Complaint and Investigation of harassment, bullying or discrimination

If a student feels they are a victim of harassment, bullying, or discrimination, a building administrator should be contacted immediately. All complaints of harassment, bullying, or discrimination must be reported by staff or students to the principal or the principal's designee. It is building practice to have all complaints of harassment, bullying, or discrimination fully investigated and to take appropriate steps necessary to remedy the situation. All students are expected to cooperate fully in any investigation of harassment, bullying, or discrimination.

Reports of bullying or retaliation may be made by staff, students, parents or guardians, or others, and may be oral or written. Oral reports made by or to a staff member must be recorded in writing. All employees are required to report immediately to the school principal or, in the absence of the principal, the assistant principal, any instance of bullying or retaliation that the staff member becomes aware of or witnesses. Reports made by students, parents or guardians, or other non-employees may be made anonymously.

All of the information that is provided during an investigation of harassment, bullying, or discrimination will be treated as confidential. This means that such information will be shared with others on a need-to-know basis only.

An investigation of a complaint of harassment, bullying, or discrimination will be conducted by the principal or principal's designee. The investigation may include:

- Separate, private interviews with the complainant and each person accused of harassment, bullying or discrimination
- Interviews of witnesses if any
- Written statements by complainant, accused, and witnesses

At the conclusion of the investigation, the principal or the principal's designee will prepare and recommend an appropriate action. Parents or caregivers will be notified, and additional actions may include:

- A contract of expectations
- School disciplinary action
- Police notification

Additionally, any student found engaging in harassment, bullying, or discrimination; condoning harassment, bullying, or discrimination; or retaliating in cases of harassment, bullying, or discrimination is subject to disciplinary sanctions from warning up to and including suspension. The principal or principal's designee will conduct follow-up interviews within 30 days.

Hazing Policy

Pembroke Community Middle School recognizes the right of all students to participate through competition or open admission in clubs, activities and sports programs. Pembroke Community Middle School prohibits the practice of "hazing". School Committee Policy and Massachusetts General Laws state the following:

That no student, employee or school organization under the control of the School Committee shall engage in the activity of hazing a student while on school property or at a school sponsored or school related event regardless of the location. No organization that uses the facilities or grounds under the control of the PSC shall engage in the activity of hazing any person while on school property.

For purposes of this policy the term "hazing" shall mean any conduct or method of initiation into any student organization, whether on public or private property, which willfully or recklessly endangers the physical or mental health of any student or other person. Such conduct shall include whipping, beating, branding, forced calisthenics, exposure to the weather, forced consumption of any food, liquor, beverage, drug or other substance, or any other brutal treatment or forced physical activity which is likely to adversely affect the physical health or safety of any such student or other person, or which subjects such student or other person to extreme mental stress, including extended deprivation of sleep or rest or extended isolation." MGL Chapter 269, §17.

Any student who observes what appears to them to be the activity of hazing another student or person should report such information to the principal including the time, date, location, names of identifiable participants and the types of behavior exhibited. Students and employees of the school district are obligated by law to report incidents of hazing to the police department. Any student who is present at a hazing has the obligation to report such an incident. Failure to do so may result in disciplinary action by the school against that student, up to and including suspension. Any student who participates in hazing of another student or other person may be subject to disciplinary action up to and including expulsion. Any student who is determined by the principal to be the organizer of a hazing activity may be subject to disciplinary action, up to and including expulsion. Legal Refs: 603 CMR 33.00: M.G.L. c.269: 17, 18, 19 (School Committee Policy #JIFCA)

Horseplay, Fooling Around, and Unnecessary Physical Contact

Students who participate in horseplay that includes physical contact with friends or any form of physical joking around with peers that would make someone feel uncomfortable are subject to consequences.

Although the intent of horseplay or fooling around may not be to hurt someone, physical harm often accompanies such acts in a school community. Others may also misconstrue such acts; therefore, all students are required to refrain from participating in unnecessary physical contact.

Language

Language that is rude, profane, or obscene, whether directed at students or staff members or used in the presence of others, will not be tolerated. Language that is **abusive or threatening** is even more serious than language that is rude or profane and will not be tolerated.

Leaving School Grounds, Activities, Field Trips/Leaving School without Permission

Once students are present in school or on school grounds or attending a field trip or an after-school student function, they may not leave without permission from a teacher, staff member, or chaperone as this presents a serious safety issue.

Students are not permitted to leave school grounds, unsupervised, during after-school sessions or activities and then return to school for the purpose of taking a late bus or arranging for a ride home. After-school sessions are considered part of the school day for students who choose to utilize that time.

Perfume/Cologne & Personal Grooming

There are to be no colognes, perfumes or any aerosol-based items brought or used in school. The odors are bothersome for many- e.g., headaches, irritated airways, etc. These reactions can occur to anyone but are particularly relevant for those with preexisting conditions (e.g. asthma).

Also, personal grooming (hair brushing, eyelash curling, etc.) should be done in a private space (i.e. a bathroom) and not in the classroom.

Possession and/or Dissemination of Sexually Explicit Photographs or Videos (“Sexting”)

It is against school rules to possess and/or disseminate sexually explicit photos or videos while on school property. It is also against the law, and such acts could be charged as a felony if the subject of the photos/videos are of a minor. Students found to be in possession of sexually explicit photographs or videos or who are found to have solicited and/or disseminated those items will receive appropriate disciplinary consequences including police notification. (Please see “Categories of our Code of Conduct”)

Possession, Use, Distribution or Being under the Effect following the use of Alcohol or Drugs

Student possession of alcohol or drugs is a crime. There is no tolerance for possession, use, or being under the effect following the use of alcohol or drugs. Any quantity constitutes a violation of this Student Code of Conduct. Any student who possesses, uses or distributes alcohol or drugs or is under the effect of alcohol or drugs is in violation of the Student Code of Conduct. If, in the opinion of the principal or the principal’s designee, after consultation with the school nurse (if available) it is reasonable to conclude that a student is involved in the possession, distribution, sale, or illicit use of drugs or alcohol, the principal or principal’s designee has the authority to suspend the student. Notification of parents/caregivers will take place as soon as possible.

Respect for Authority/Insubordination/Noncompliance

Insubordination is noncompliance with a reasonable request from any member of the staff. Students at Pembroke Community Middle School must yield to the authority of staff members and comply with direct requests for

modifications of behavior. When a student feels a request or direction is unreasonable or unjustified, they are still expected to comply at the time of the direction and may later appeal (at the conclusion of the class period, activity, or assembly) first to the teacher, second to an administrator.

Respect for People

Every student, teacher, staff member, and visitor has the right to come to school without fear of intimidation or coercion of any kind. Under no circumstances can any student be allowed to remain in school if they pose a threat to the safety of another. Abusive language and behavior will not be tolerated.

“No person shall be excluded from or discriminated against in...obtaining the advantages, privileges, and courses of study (of such) public school on account of race, color, sex, gender identity, religion, national origin, or sexual orientation.” (MGL Ch. 76, Sec. 5)

Responsibility to be a Good Student

Pembroke Community Middle School exists primarily to provide students with formal classroom instruction. Each student enrolled must conduct himself/herself in a way that promotes the achievement of this goal. Students are expected to: (a) arrive at school and classes promptly, (b) be in attendance every day except for illness or family emergencies, (c) be prepared for classroom work, (d) contribute in positive ways to the activities of each class, and (e) accept responsibility for any inappropriate actions while working to ensure they are not repeated.

Sexual Harassment, Sexual Assault or Gender-Based Discrimination

All persons associated with the school system are expected to conduct themselves in a professional manner at all times and to provide an atmosphere free from sexual harassment, sexual assault and gender-based discrimination. Any person who engages in sexual harassment, sexual assault or gender-based discrimination while acting as a member of the school community will be in violation of this policy.

Title IX Sexual Harassment and Discrimination

Sexual Harassment is defined as unwelcomed verbal, physical or other sexual conduct to male, female or gender non-conforming students, whether or it is intended or not, that is so subjectively and objectively offensive and so severe or pervasive that it limits or denies a student’s ability to participate in or benefit from their education program or activity.

Sexual harassment includes:

- Quid pro quo harassment
- Hostile environment harassment
- Sexual assault
- Dating violence
- Domestic violence
- Stalking
- Sex-based harassment

While it is not possible to list all those additional circumstances that may constitute sexual harassment, the following are some examples of conduct, which if unwelcome, may constitute sexual harassment, depending on the totality of the circumstances, including the severity of the conduct and its pervasiveness:

- Unwelcome sexual advances-whether they involve physical touching or not;

- Sexual epithets, jokes, written or oral references to sexual conduct, gossip regarding one's sex life; comment on an individual's body, comment about an individual's sexual activity, deficiencies, or prowess;
- Displaying sexually suggestive objects, pictures, cartoons;
- Unwelcome leering, whistling, brushing against the body, sexual gestures, suggestive or insulting comments;
- Inquiries into one's sexual experiences; and,
- Discussion of one's sexual activities.

Sexual discrimination is defined as no person shall, on the basis of sex, be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any academic, extracurricular, research, occupational training, or other education program or activity.

Sexual discrimination includes discrimination on the basis of:

- Sex stereotypes
- Sex characteristics
- Pregnancy or related conditions
- Sexual orientation
- Gender identity

Procedure of Complaint and Investigation of harassment or discrimination under Title IX

Pembroke Public Schools has adopted both policy and grievance procedures that provide for the prompt and equitable investigation and resolution of any sexual harassment and discrimination complaints made by students, employees, or other individuals who are participating or attempting to participate in its education program or activity. Any complaint should be immediately brought to the attention of the building administration and/or the district's Title IX Coordinator (Jessica DeLorenzo, Director of Student Services) either orally or in writing. Access to the district's grievance procedures can be found on the district's website or click here:

[Pembroke Public Schools Title IX Grievance Procedures](#)

Slurs Based on Race, Ethnicity, Disability, Religion, or Sexual Orientation

Any student who uses a slur based on race or ethnicity, disability, religion, or sexual orientation, whether verbal, in symbol form, in a school building, on school grounds, on a school bus, or at any school sponsored event, may be subject to disciplinary action.

Student Searches

If a reasonable suspicion exists that a student's personal belongings were used to violate any element of our Code of Conduct, the student will be asked to surrender any belongings believed to be involved in the violation as part of a thorough investigation. The inspection of the personal belongings will be carried out immediately to protect the integrity of the investigation. In the context of an investigation by school administrators into the violation of the Code of Conduct, a request for the surrender of an item is considered reasonable by the school administration and is sanctioned

by existing law. Therefore, students are expected to comply with the teacher or administrator making the request or face disciplinary consequences.

Tardiness to Class

Each teacher will address the issue of tardiness with the student(s). Tardiness will be addressed through, but not limited to parent/caregiver contact, teacher-assigned detention(s), and referrals to administration for disciplinary action. Any student tardy to class in excess of ten minutes should be referred to the office, as one would for a class cut.

Threat of Violence

Pembroke Community Middle School is committed to providing an educational environment that is free of threats of violence. This applies to all students and all school-sponsored activities. Pembroke Community Middle School will take seriously all complaints of threats of violence and will have each complaint thoroughly and promptly investigated. All reports of threats of violence will be communicated to parents or caregivers. All confirmed reports of threats of violence will be reported to the police.

Procedure for Complaint and Investigation of Threat of Violence

All threats of violence will be reported by staff or students to the principal or principal's designee who will communicate all reports to the parent/caregiver of those involved. The principal or principal's designee will conduct an investigation of the complaint of violence and the investigation may include:

- Separate, private interviews with the complainant and each person accused of threats of violence.
- Interviews of witnesses, if any.
- Written statements by complainant, accused, and witnesses. At the conclusion of the investigation, the parent/caregiver will be notified with the results of the investigation.

It is building practice to have all threats of violence fully investigated and to take appropriate steps necessary to remedy the situation. All students are expected to cooperate fully in any investigation of a threat of violence. Information provided during an investigation of a threat of violence will be treated as **confidential**. This means that such information will be shared with others on a need-to-know basis only. Once a potential victim of violence has been identified, all necessary steps to protect the victim will be taken. These may include:

- Separating the parties temporarily
- Calling a parent/caregiver to dismiss student from school
- Modifying the passing-to-class procedures
- Shadowing a student
- Implementing a schedule change

The principal or principal's designee will conduct follow-up interviews within 30 days.

Throwing Items In/Out of the Cafeteria

Every student has the right to eat lunch in a non-threatening environment. Therefore, throwing food or other items in the cafeteria is prohibited. Throwing any object in the classroom, hallways, at any assembly, or event may result in disciplinary action. The student may also be banned from all future assemblies and events. While waiting at a bus stop or for a bus after school, throwing snow is strictly prohibited.

Tobacco Possession/Use

In accordance with MGL CH 71, Sec. 37H, smoking and the use of any other tobacco products are prohibited in all areas of public school buildings, facilities, properties, and grounds. Possession of tobacco products and/or possession of paraphernalia (lighters, matches, etc.) will not be tolerated. A student found with a lit cigarette will be considered smoking. If smoke is detected coming from a group of students (for example, in a closed bathroom stall), all persons will be considered to have been smoking. The possession or use of electronic cigarettes or vaping equipment is strictly prohibited.

Unacceptable Items at Pembroke Community Middle School

This list may not recognize all of the items that may be unacceptable. The school will confiscate items if they are a distraction from or a disruption to the educational process.

Students may not bring to school aerosol cans, spray cologne, knives, jackknives, chains (including wallet chains), guns, water pistols, lighters, electronic cigarettes, electronic/video games, fireworks (including snaps and stink bombs), laser pointers, laser pens, roller blades, and any other item(s) which may be considered dangerous or which interfere with the learning environment. The item(s) will be taken, parent(s)/caregiver(s) will be notified, and confiscated items will be returned to parent(s)/caregiver(s) at a time to be determined. Students who bring unacceptable items to school are subject to disciplinary action according to the Student Code of Conduct.

Vandalism and Theft

The intentional marring, damaging, destruction of school property or the property of students and staff constitutes vandalism. Taking the property of another without prior permission constitutes theft. Acts of vandalism or theft may result in disciplinary actions.

Discipline Procedures

The public schools in Pembroke follow a progressive discipline philosophy and adhere to the provisions of Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 71, sections 37H, 37H ½ and 37H ¾ as well as 603 CMR 53.00 et seq. The types of behavior that will not be allowed in school, on school grounds or at school-sponsored events and trips are identified in this student handbook and through PSC policy.

School rules and regulations may be supplemented by teachers' rules for individual classes, which will be explained to students and posted. Teachers' rules must be in concert with the Student Handbook and approved by the principal.

Suspensions

The suspension of any student shall be used as a disciplinary measure only in the case of a serious offense upon the part of the student or when, in the opinion of the principal or assistant principal, a continuum of offenses makes it necessary to use this kind of action.

Before issuing a suspension, the principal or designee acting as a decision-maker at a student meeting or hearing, when deciding the consequences for the student, shall consider ways to re-engage the student in the learning process; and shall not suspend or expel a student until alternative remedies have been employed and their use and results documented, following and in direct response to a specific incident or incidents, unless specific reasons are documented as to why such alternative remedies are unsuitable or counter-productive, and in cases where the student's continued presence in school would pose a specific, documentable concern about the infliction of serious bodily injury or other serious harm upon another person while in school. Alternative remedies may include, but shall not be limited to: (i) mediation; (ii) conflict resolution; (iii) restorative justice; and (iv) collaborative problem solving. The principal, headmaster, superintendent or person acting as a decision-maker shall also implement school-or district-

wide models to re-engage students in the learning process which shall include but not be limited to: (i) positive behavioral interventions and supports models and (ii) trauma sensitive learning models; provided, however, that school-or district-wide models shall not be considered a direct response to a specific incident.

Short Term Suspensions (10 days or less, in or out of school)

The principal or his/her designee shall inform the student of the disciplinary offense charged and the basis for the charge, and provide the student with an opportunity to dispute the charges and explain the circumstances surrounding the alleged incident. If the principal or his/her designee determines that the student committed the disciplinary offense, the principal or his/her designee shall inform the student of the length of the student's short-term suspension, which shall not exceed ten (10) days, cumulatively or consecutively, in a school year.

On the same day as the suspension decision, the principal or his/her designee shall make reasonable efforts to notify the parent orally of the disciplinary offense, the reasons for concluding that the student committed the infraction, and the length of the suspension.

On the day of the suspension, the principal or his/her designee shall send written notice (by hand-delivery, certified mail, first class mail or email) to the student and parent including the reason and the length of the in-school suspension, inviting the parent to a meeting if the meeting has not already occurred. The notice shall be in English and the primary language of the

Penalties of suspensions will be served on those dates specified by the principal or assistant principals. Suspensions will be served on consecutive days. If a suspension ends on the day prior to a weekend or vacation, then students are ineligible to participate or attend any activities on the following day. When the period of suspension begins before the weekend or vacation but continues after the weekend or vacation period, students are ineligible to participate in activities throughout the entire period.

Students who are suspended from school are not allowed to be in school or on school property at any time during the period of suspension and are not allowed to attend any school-sponsored activities.

Definitions

In-School Suspension:

The removal of a student from regular classroom activities, but not from the school premises, for up to ten (10) consecutive school days, or up to ten (10) school days cumulatively for multiple infractions over the course of the school year. Students will have the opportunity to earn credits, make up assignments, tests, papers, and other school work as needed to make academic progress during the suspension. Removal from participation in extracurricular activities does not count as a removal from school in calculating the duration of a suspension.

Out-of-School Suspensions:

1. *Short Term:* The removal of a student from the school premises and regular classroom activities for ten (10) consecutive school days or less. Students will have the opportunity to earn credits, make up assignments, tests, papers, and other school work as needed to make academic progress during the suspension.

2. *Long Term:* The removal of a student from the school premises and regular classroom activities for more than ten (10) consecutive school days in one school year, or for more than ten (10) school days cumulatively for multiple disciplinary offenses in any school year. A long-term suspension can occur after ten (10) or more cumulative or consecutive school days of short-term suspension, in or out of school. Except for students who are charged with a disciplinary offense set forth in Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 71, §37H, or in Chapter 71 §37H ½, no student may be placed on long-term suspension for one or more disciplinary offenses for more than ninety (90) school days in a school year beginning with the first day that the student is removed from school. No long-term suspension shall extend beyond the end of the school year in which such suspension was imposed. Any student facing a potential long-term suspension is entitled to a hearing with the principal or his/her designee as described below.

In-School Suspension Procedure

If, after the principal or his/her designee has informed the student of the disciplinary charge(s), basis for the charge(s) and has provided the student with the opportunity to respond, they decide that the student has committed the offense in question, an in-school suspension may be issued, not to exceed 10 consecutive or cumulative days.

On the same day as the suspension decision, the principal or his/her designee shall make every reasonable effort (at least two documented phone calls) to notify the parent(s) of the offense, the reason for the decision and the length of the in-school suspension. On the day of the suspension, the principal or his/her designee will also provide written notice in English (and in the primary language of the home if a language other than English is identified in the home language survey), or by other means of communication where appropriate, with the same information and inform the parent of the student's right to make continued academic progress. The principal or his/her designee shall invite the parent(s) to meet in order to discuss the student's performance and behavior as soon as possible.

Out-of-School Suspension Procedures

Out-of- School Suspension under 37H 3/4

Notice

Prior to suspending a student, the principal or his/her designee will provide the student and the parent oral and written notice of the possible suspension, an opportunity for the student to have a hearing and

the opportunity of the parent(s) to participate in the hearing. If the parent(s) cannot be reached after documented reasonable effort, the hearing may be conducted without the parent present. Reasonable efforts are defined as the principal or his/her designee documenting written notice and at least two (2) attempts to contact the parent in the manner specified by the parent for emergency notification that the school has on file.

The written notice will be in English (and in the primary language of the home if a language other than English is identified in the home language survey), or by other means of communication where appropriate. The notice will set forth in plain language:

- 1) the disciplinary offense;
- 2) the basis for the charge;
- 3) the potential consequences, including the potential length of the student's suspension;
- 4) the opportunity for the student to have a hearing with the principal or his/her designee concerning the proposed suspension, including the opportunity to dispute the charges and to present the student's explanation of the alleged incident, and for the parent to attend the hearing;
- 5) the date, time, and location of the hearing;
- 6) the right of the student and the student's parent(s) to interpreter services at the hearing if needed to participate;
- 7) if the student may be placed on long-term suspension following the hearing with the principal, the principal must inform the student and the parent of:
 - a. the rights set forth in 603 CMR 53.08(3)(b); and
 - b. the right to appeal the principal's decision to the superintendent.

Written notice to the parent may be made by hand delivery, first-class mail, certified mail, email to an address provided by the parent for school communications, or any other method of delivery agreed to by the principal and parent.

Principal Hearing

The purpose of the hearing with the principal is to hear and consider information regarding the alleged incident for which the student may be suspended, provide the student an opportunity to dispute the charges and explain the circumstances surrounding the alleged incident, determine if the student committed the disciplinary offense, and if so, the consequences for the infraction. At a minimum, the principal shall discuss the disciplinary offense, the basis for the charge, and any other pertinent information. The student shall have an opportunity to present information, including mitigating facts, that the principal should consider in determining whether other remedies and consequences may be appropriate as alternatives to suspension. The principal shall provide the parent, if present, an opportunity to discuss the student's conduct and offer information, including mitigating circumstances, that the principal should consider in determining consequences for the student.

Short-Term Suspensions (10 days or less)

If the principal or his/her designee determines after conducting the hearing described above that the student committed the disciplinary offense, the principal or his/her designee shall inform the student of the length of the student's short-term suspension, which shall not exceed ten (10) days, cumulatively or consecutively, in a school year.

The decision of the principal or his/her designee to issue a short-term suspension is final and not subject to appeal.

Long-Term Suspensions

If the principal or his/her designee determine after conducting the hearing described above that the consequence for the infraction(s) in question is to be a long-term suspension from school, the principal or his/her designee shall afford the student the following additional rights:

1. In advance of the hearing, the opportunity to review the student's record and the documents upon which the principal may rely in making a determination to suspend the student, or not;
2. The right to be represented by counsel or a lay person of the student's choice, at the student's/parent's expense;
3. The right to produce witnesses on their behalf and to present the student's explanation of the alleged incident, but student witnesses shall not be compelled to do so;
4. The right to cross-examine witnesses presented by the school district;
5. The right to request that the hearing be recorded by the principal, and to receive a copy of the audio recording upon request. If the student or parent requests an audio recording, the principal shall inform all participants before the hearing that an audio record will be made and a copy will be provided to the student and parent upon request.

The principal shall provide the parent, if present, an opportunity to discuss the student's conduct and offer information, including mitigating circumstances, that the principal should consider in determining consequences for the student.

Based on the evidence, the principal shall determine whether the student committed the disciplinary offense, and, if so, after considering mitigating circumstances and alternatives to suspension, what remedy or consequence will be imposed, in place of or in addition to a long-term suspension. The principal or his/her designee shall send the written determination to the student and parent by hand delivery, certified mail, first-class mail, email to an address provided by the parent for school communications, or any other method of delivery agreed to by the principal and the parent. If the principal decides to suspend the student, the written determination shall:

1. Identify the disciplinary offense, the date on which the hearing took place, and the participants at the hearing;
2. Set out the key facts and conclusions reached by the principal;
3. Identify the length and effective date of the suspension, as well as a date of return to school;
4. Include notice of the student's opportunity to receive educational services to make academic progress during the period of removal from school;
5. Inform the student of the right to appeal the principal's decision to the superintendent or designee. Notice of the right of appeal shall be in English (and the primary language of the home if other than English as determined by the home language survey), or other means of communication where appropriate, and shall include the following information stated in plain language: the process for appealing the decision, including that the student or parent must file a written notice of appeal with the superintendent within five (5) calendar days of the effective date of the long-term suspension; provided that within the five (5) calendar days, the student or parent may request and receive from the superintendent an extension of time for filing the written notice for up to seven (7) additional calendar days; and that the long-term

suspension will remain in effect unless and until the superintendent decides to reverse the principal's determination on appeal.

Superintendent's Appeal Hearing

A student who is placed on long-term suspension following a hearing with the principal shall have the right to appeal the principal's decision to the superintendent. The student shall have all the rights afforded at the principal's hearing for long-term suspension.

The student or parent shall file a notice of appeal with the superintendent within five (5) calendar days of the effective date of the long-term suspension and may, within the five (5) calendar days request and receive from the superintendent an extension of time for filing the written notice for up to seven (7) additional calendar days. If the appeal is not filed in a timely manner, the superintendent may deny the appeal, or may allow the appeal in their discretion, for good cause.

The superintendent shall hold the hearing within three (3) school days of the student's request, unless the student or parent requests an extension of up to seven (7) additional calendar days, in which case the superintendent shall grant the extension.

The superintendent shall make a good faith effort to include the parent in the hearing. The superintendent shall be presumed to have made a good faith effort if they have made efforts to find a day and time for the hearing that would allow the parent and superintendent to participate. The superintendent shall send written notice to the parent of the date, time, and location of the hearing.

The superintendent shall conduct a hearing to determine whether the student committed the disciplinary offense of which the student is accused, and if so, what the consequence shall be. The superintendent shall arrange for an audio recording of the hearing, a copy of which shall be provided to the student or parent upon request. The superintendent shall inform all participants before the hearing that an audio record will be made of the hearing and a copy will be provided to the student and parent upon request. The superintendent shall issue a written decision within five (5) calendar days of the hearing which meets the requirements of 603 CMR 53.08(3)(c) 1 through 5. If the superintendent determines that the student committed the disciplinary offense, the superintendent may impose the same or a lesser consequence than the principal, but shall not impose a suspension greater than that imposed by the principal. The decision of the superintendent shall be the final decision of the school district.

School-Wide Education Services Plan

A document created by the principal that includes a list of educational services is available for students who are expelled or suspended from school for more than ten (10) consecutive days. This list includes events and activities which represent the student's opportunity to continue to receive educational services and make progress while suspended or expelled. Plans are available in each school office.

Exclusion/Expulsion under 37H:

The exclusion or expulsion of a student from school will be in accordance with Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 71, Section 37H. The grounds for exclusion or expulsion include, but are not limited to, the following:

- a. Any student who is found on school premises or at school-sponsored or school-related events, including athletic games, in possession of a dangerous weapon, including, but not limited to a gun, a knife, or their facsimile, or anything used in the commission of assault and battery; or a controlled

substance as defined in Chapter 94C, including, but not limited to, marijuana, cocaine and heroin, may be subject to expulsion from the school or school district by the principal.

b. Any student who assaults a principal, assistant principal, teacher, teacher's aide, or other educational staff on school premises or at school-sponsored or school-related events, including athletic games, may be subject to expulsion from the school or school district by the principal.

c. Any student who is charged with a violation of either paragraph (a) or (b) shall be notified in writing of an opportunity for a hearing; provided, however, that the student may have representation, along with the opportunity to present evidence and witnesses at a hearing before the principal. After said hearing, a principal may, in his/her discretion, decide to suspend rather than expel a student who has been determined by the principal to have violated either paragraph (a) or (b).

d. Any student who has been expelled from a school district pursuant to these provisions shall have the right to appeal to the superintendent. The expelled student shall have ten days from the date of the expulsion in which to notify the superintendent of his/her appeal. The student has the right to counsel at a hearing before the superintendent. The subject matter of the appeal shall not be limited solely to a factual determination of whether the student has violated any provisions of this section.

e. If the student moves to another district during the period of suspension or expulsion, the new district of residence shall either admit the student to its schools or provide educational services to the student in an education services plan.

f. Any student who is suspended or expelled pursuant to this section shall have the opportunity to earn credits, as applicable, make up assignments, tests, papers, and other school work as needed to make academic progress during the period of their removal.

g. Any student who is suspended or expelled pursuant to this statute for more than ten (10) consecutive days shall have the opportunity to receive education services and make academic progress toward meeting state and local requirements, through the school-wide education services plan.

Felony Complaint or Conviction under CHAPTER 71, SECTION 37H 1/2:

Pursuant to Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 71, Section 37H ½, the following procedures shall be implemented for students charged with or convicted of a felony:

a. Upon the issuance of a criminal complaint charging a student with a felony or upon the issuance of a felony delinquency complaint against a student, the principal of a school in which the student is enrolled may suspend such student for a period of time determined appropriate by the principal if they determine that the student's continued presence in school would have a substantial detrimental effect on the general welfare of the school. The student shall receive written notification of this right to appeal and the reasons for such suspension taking effect.

b. The student shall have the right to appeal the suspension to the superintendent. The student shall notify the superintendent in writing of his/her request for an appeal no later than five (5) calendar days following the effective date of the suspension. The superintendent shall hold a hearing with the student and the student's parent or guardian within three (3) calendar days of the student's request for an appeal. At the hearing, the student shall have the right to counsel. The superintendent shall have the authority to overturn or alter the decision of the principal, including recommending an alternate educational program for the student. The superintendent shall render a decision on the appeal within five (5) calendar days of the hearing. Such a decision shall be the final decision of the school district with regard to the suspension.

c. Upon a student's conviction of a felony or upon an adjudication or admission in court of guilt with respect to such felony or felony delinquency, the principal may expel said student if they determine that the student's continued presence in school would have a detrimental effect on the general welfare of the school. The student shall receive written notification of the charges and reasons for such expulsion prior to such expulsion taking effect. The student shall also receive written notification of his/her right to appeal and the process for appealing such expulsion provided, however, that the expulsion shall remain in effect prior to any appeal hearing conducted by the superintendent.

d. The student shall have the right to appeal the expulsion to the superintendent. The student shall notify the superintendent, in writing, of his/her request for an appeal no later than five (5) calendar days following the effective date of the expulsion. The superintendent shall hold a hearing with the student and the student's parent or guardian within three (3) calendar days of the expulsion. At the hearing, the student shall have the right to present oral and written testimony on his/her behalf, and shall have the right to counsel. The superintendent shall have the authority to overturn or alter the decision of the principal, including recommending an alternate educational program for the student. The superintendent shall render a decision on the appeal within five (5) calendar days of the hearing. Such a decision shall be the final decision of the school district with regard to the expulsion.

e. Any student who is suspended or expelled pursuant to this section shall have the opportunity to earn credits, as applicable, make up assignments, tests, papers, and other school work as needed to make academic progress during the period of their removal.

f. Any student who is suspended or expelled pursuant to this statute for more than ten (10) consecutive days shall have the opportunity to receive education services and make academic progress toward meeting state and local requirements, through the school-wide education service plan.

Emergency Removal

Under certain emergency circumstances, it may not be practical for the principal or his/her designee to provide prior oral and written notice before removing a student from school. The principal or his/her designee may remove a student from school temporarily when a student is charged with a disciplinary offense and the continued presence of the student poses a danger to persons or property, or materially and substantially disrupts the order of the school, and, in the principal's (or his/her designee's) judgment, there is no alternative available to alleviate the danger or disruption. The principal or his/her designee will immediately notify the superintendent in writing of the removal and the reason for it, and describe the danger presented by the student. The temporary removal shall not exceed two (2) school days following the day of the emergency removal, during which time the principal shall:

- 1) Make immediate and reasonable efforts to orally notify the student and the student's parent of the emergency removal, the reason for the need for emergency removal, the disciplinary offense, the basis for the charge, the potential consequences, including potential length of suspension, the opportunity for a hearing including the date/time/location of the hearing, the right to interpreter services, and other rights permitted for students who may be placed on long-term suspension as set forth in 603 CMR 53.08(3)(b);
- 2) Provide written notice to the student and parent, including the information described in 603 CMR 53.06(2);
- 3) Provide the student an opportunity for a hearing with the principal or his/her designee that complies with 603 CMR 53.08(2) or 53.08(3), as applicable, and the parent an opportunity to attend the hearing, before the expiration of the two (2) school days, unless an extension of time for hearing is otherwise agreed to by the principal, student, and parent;

4) Render a decision orally on the same day as the hearing, and in writing no later than the following school day, which meets the requirements of 603 CMR 53.08(2)(c) and 53.08(2)(d) or 603 CMR 53.08(3)(c) and 53.08(3)(d), as applicable.

A principal will not remove a student from school on an emergency basis for a disciplinary offense until adequate provisions have been made for the student's safety and transportation.

Procedural Requirements for Discipline of Students Not Yet Determined Eligible

If, prior to the disciplinary action, a district had knowledge that the student may be a student with a disability, then the district makes all protections available to the student until and unless the student is subsequently determined not to be eligible. The district may be considered to have prior knowledge if:

- The parent had expressed concern in writing; or the parent had requested an evaluation; or
- District staff had expressed directly to the supervisory personnel specific concerns about a pattern of behavior demonstrated by the student.

The district may not be considered to have had prior knowledge if the parent has not consented to evaluation of the student or has refused special education services, or if an evaluation of the student has resulted in a determination of ineligibility.

If the district had no reason to consider the student disabled, and the parent requests an evaluation subsequent to the disciplinary action, the district must have procedures consistent with federal requirements to conduct an expedited evaluation to determine eligibility.

If the student is found eligible, then that student receives all procedural protections subsequent to the finding of eligibility.

Discipline Students with Disabilities

All students are expected to meet the requirements for behavior as set forth in this handbook. The Department of Education Policy on Disciplining Students with Special Needs requires that the team evaluation determine the student's disability that requires modification of the rules and regulations as outlined in the student handbook. The following additional requirements apply to the discipline of students with special needs:

1. The I.E.P. or 504 Plan for all students with disabilities will indicate whether the students can be expected to meet the school's *Discipline Code* or if the students' handicapping condition requires a modification;
2. Suspension is defined as a day in which special needs/504 students are denied the opportunity to participate in the general education curriculum and special needs services as a result of not complying with the rules and regulations outlined in the student handbook;
3. When it is known that the suspension(s) of students with disabilities will accumulate to ten days in a school year, a review of the I.E.P. or 504 Plan will be held to determine the appropriateness of the students' placement or program. The team will make a finding as to the relationship between the students' misconduct and their handicapping condition and either: a) design a modified program for the students or b) write an amendment to provide for the delivery of

special education services during the suspension and any modification of the I.E.P. or 504 Plan relative to the school's *Discipline Code*;

4. A suspension of longer than 10 consecutive days or a series of suspensions that are shorter than 10 consecutive days but constitute a pattern are considered to represent a change in placement. When a suspension that constitutes a change in placement of a student with disabilities, district personnel, the parent, and other relevant members of the Team, as determined by the parent and the district, convene within 10 days of the decision to suspend to review all relevant information in the student's file, including the IEP, any teacher observations, and any relevant information from the parents, to determine whether the behavior was caused by or had a direct and substantial relationship to the disability or was the direct result of the district's failure to implement the IEP "a manifestation determination;"
5. If district personnel, the parent, and other relevant members of the Team determine that the behavior is NOT a manifestation of the disability, then the suspension or expulsion may go forward consistent with policies applied to any student without disabilities, except that the district must still offer:
 - a. Services to enable the student, although in another setting, to continue to participate in the general education curriculum and to progress toward IEP goals; and
 - b. As appropriate, a functional behavioral assessment and behavioral intervention services and modifications, to address the behavior so that it does not recur.
6. Interim alternative educational setting. Regardless of the manifestation determination, the district may place the student in an interim alternative educational setting (as determined by the Team) for up to 45 school days.
 - a. On its own authority if the behavior involves weapons or illegal drugs or another controlled substance or the infliction of serious bodily injury on another person while at school or a school function or, considered case by case, unique circumstances; or
 - b. On the authority of a hearing officer if the officer orders the alternative placement after the district provides evidence that the student is "substantially likely" to injure themselves or others.

In either case, the interim alternative education setting enables the student to continue in the general curriculum and to continue receiving services identified on the IEP, and provides services to address the problem behavior.
7. If district personnel, the parent, and other relevant members of the Team determine that the behavior IS a manifestation of the disability, then the Team completes a functional behavioral assessment and behavioral intervention plan if it has not already done so. If a behavioral intervention plan is already in place, the Team reviews it and modifies it, as necessary, to address the behavior. Except when the student has been placed in an interim alternative educational setting in accordance with part 5, the student returns to the original placement unless the parents and district agree otherwise or the hearing officer orders a new placement;

8. Not later than the date of the decision to take disciplinary action, the school district notifies the parents of that decision and provides them with the written notice of procedural safeguards. If the parent chooses to appeal or the school district requests a hearing because it believes that maintaining the student's current placement is substantially likely to result in injury to the student or others, the student remains in the disciplinary placement, if any, until the decision of the hearing officer or the end of the time period for the disciplinary action, whichever comes first, unless the parent and the school district agree otherwise.

Detentions

Academic Detentions

Students who are not doing well in class and are not accessing any extra help sessions to support their progress may be assigned after school or Saturday detentions. The after-school detentions last from one to two hours. Saturday detentions, when needed, are two to three hours long. Parents/caregivers will be notified when an academic detention is assigned. These detentions will be monitored by a staff member to ensure students are completing their work and to provide organizational/study help, if needed.

Administrative Assigned Detention

Administrative detention(s) will be assigned by an administrator for misconduct of a more serious nature and for repeated misconduct of a minor nature. Some examples are habitual tardiness to school and/or class and misbehavior on buses, in the cafeteria, in corridors and during other activities or skipping teacher detentions. Administrative detentions which hold a student after regular school hours will be assigned with 24-hour notice, or the same day if communicated with a parent/caregiver. Administrative assigned lunch detentions may be assigned for the same day with no advance notice. Students who do not report to an administrative detention may receive further disciplinary consequences.

Teacher Assigned Detention

All teachers handle their own detentions for minor incidents occurring within the teacher's jurisdiction. Teacher detentions that hold students after regular school hours will be assigned with 24-hour notice, or the same day if communicated with a parent/caregiver. Teacher assigned lunch detentions may be assigned for the same day and require no advance notice. If a student does not report for a teacher detention, the teacher will confer with the student and determine whether the student's explanation is acceptable, and reassign the teacher detention. Students who do not report to a teacher assigned detention may be referred to administration for further disciplinary consequences.

Guidelines for Participation in After-School Functions or School-Sponsored Activities

As with all extracurricular activities, students must be in attendance at school for the minimum number of hours required by law to constitute a full day, approximately three hours and twenty-five minutes, in order to participate in either an after-school function or a school sponsored activity. Students who are suspended in school or out of school on the day of a school-sponsored activity or after-school function will lose their right to participate.

Students must be in good academic standing in order to participate in after-school activities/functions. Students with a failing grade in any subject are not considered to be in good academic standing and therefore may not be allowed to participate in after-school activities/functions. Students with a failing grade(s) at the time of the after-school function/activity may be allowed to participate with special consideration from administration.

Participation in after-school functions/activities is a privilege, which may be revoked due to behavior inconsistent with the Code of Conduct. Administration will make the final decision on eligibility for after-school functions/activities.

All students in good standing will have equal access to participating in extracurricular activities, including students

within the protected categories of gender identity, sexual orientation, disability, and homelessness.

Any student who has an outstanding financial obligation to Pembroke Community Middle School in excess of

\$10.00 will be prohibited from participation in athletics and school socials (dances), until the outstanding debt is satisfied.

Categories for Violations of the Code of Conduct

All suspensions, exclusions or expulsions listed within the consequences of each category listed below shall be in accordance with the above stated procedures regarding student discipline.

****Please note, the following categories outline possible consequences for student misconduct. While this list offers a range of possible consequences, the list is not exhaustive. Administration may assign additional, unlisted consequences, as deemed appropriate based on student behavior.***

Group A: Attendance

1. Failure to sign in when tardy after 7:20 a.m.
2. Being in an unauthorized or restricted area
3. Cutting class(es). A loss of credit for all work will result for class(es) missed.
4. Truancy (absence from school without parental/caregiver permission).
5. Excessive tardiness

Consequence:

First Offense: Detention or Extended Detention.

Subsequent Offenses: Progressive discipline will be applied, including ISS/OSS not to exceed three (3) days.

Group B: Classroom Disruptions

1. Failure to report for a teacher or office detention.
2. Behavior that disrupts the educational process (e.g., inappropriate physical contact, misuse of school equipment, disrespectful treatment of school property, dress code violations, the inappropriate use of cellular phones or portable electronic devices, etc.).
3. Non-compliance with any reasonable request from any member of the school staff. Students are to respond in a courteous and respectful manner. When doubt exists as to the reasonableness of a request from a staff member, students are encouraged to consult with a school administrator after compliance with the request.
4. Failure to identify oneself or giving false information upon request by any member of the school staff.

Consequence:

First Offense: Detention, Extended Detention.

Subsequent Offenses: Progressive discipline will be applied, including ISS/OSS not to exceed three (3) days.

Group C: Serious Behaviors

1. Actions and/or comments that may threaten or incite others to disrupt the good order of the school and/or endanger a person(s) or property.
2. Failure to consent to a search of personal belongings (Please see "Student Searches")
3. Unauthorized taking of a photograph, video, or audio recording.
4. Embarrassment of a staff member or other member of the school community which is of an abusive nature.
5. Participation in the act of hazing, which is any conduct or method of initiation into any

student organization or team that endangers the physical or mental health of a student or staff member.

6. The use of racial, religious, ethnic, or sexual slurs which disrupt the good order of the educational process, school, or co-curricular activities.
7. Bullying of any student.
8. Harassment of any student or staff member (Sexual Harassment see Category D).
9. Fighting. It is the responsibility of students claiming self-defense to prove that they had no route of escape.
10. Assault and/or battery of another student.
11. Leaving school grounds without permission.
12. Forging or willfully misusing a school related document, tampering with a school record, or misrepresentation of parental communication.
13. Inappropriate behavior, including profanity, gestures or other forms of symbolic expression which disrupt the good order of the educational process, school, or co-curricular activity.
14. Obscene or vulgar behavior directed towards an adult which is inappropriate, and/or disruptive to the good order of the school or any related school event.
15. Failure to comply with a reasonable request or directive from an administrator that is intended to ensure student safety and well-being or to prevent significant interruption to learning.

Consequence:

First Offense: OSS not to exceed five (5) school days. Extended detentions and/or ISS can be applied in lieu of, or in conjunction with OSS, at the discretion of the principal or his/her designee.

Subsequent Offenses: Progressive discipline may be applied, including but not limited to long term out of school suspension and/or expulsion.

When necessary, Pembroke Police Department, and/or other agencies may be contacted.

Group D: Banned/Illegal Substances

1. Possession of any tobacco product, electronic cigarettes, vaping equipment, and/or lighters or matches.
2. Smoking and/or using smokeless tobacco including electronic cigarettes and vaping.
3. Setting off a fire alarm will result in a 1-day OSS and restitution to the Pembroke Fire Department.
4. Distributing/purchasing alcohol or any nicotine or tobacco product, including vaping materials
5. Possessing, using, or being under the effect of alcohol.

Consequence:

First Offense: OSS not to exceed five (5) school days per offense. Extended detentions and/or ISS can be applied in lieu of, or in conjunction with OSS, at the discretion of the principal or his/her designee.

Subsequent Offenses: Progressive discipline may be applied, including but not limited to long term suspension and/or expulsion.

When necessary, Pembroke Police Department, and/or other agencies may be contacted.

Note: Any items, products, or paraphernalia found in the possession of a student while on school grounds or at a school function or activity will be confiscated and turned over to the police or destroyed. This includes vaping and e-cigarette products.

Group E: Serious Illegal/Criminal Activity:

1. Any form of gambling.
2. Possession and/or dissemination of sexually explicit content, including but not limited to photographs or videos (“sexting”).
3. Violation of the district’s Sexual Harassment or Bullying Prevention Policies.
4. Theft of school or personal property or receipt of such stolen items including, but not limited to, possession of an answer key, teacher manual, or test not yet taken.
5. Obtaining money, material goods, or favors by threat of physical harm.
6. Willful destruction or damage to school or personal property.
7. Possessing drugs (illegal or prescription. ***) or drug paraphernalia (including marijuana, any marijuana product, THC-based vaping product
8. Using or being under the effect of illegal drugs or prescription drugs that have been misused or illegally obtained.
9. Distributing/purchasing drugs: illegal or prescription. ***

Consequences:

First Offense: OSS not to exceed ten (10) school days. Extended detentions and/or ISS can be applied in lieu of, or in conjunction with OSS, at the discretion of the principal or his/her designee. Restitution for damages or loss (if applicable) will be required.

*** Possessing drugs, including marijuana, is considered a violation of M.G.L Chapter 71 Section 37H (see Expulsion/Exclusion section). As such, a first offense of these violations could be OSS in excess of ten (10) days, including long term suspension or exclusion.

Note #1: Any items, products, or paraphernalia found in the possession of a student while on school grounds or at a school function or activity will be confiscated and turned over to the police or destroyed.

Note #2: Included in the definition of drugs and banned/illegal substances are all marijuana- based products, including THC and CBD products.

Subsequent Offenses: Progressive discipline may be applied, including but not limited to long term suspension and/or expulsion.

When necessary, Pembroke Police Department, and/or other agencies may be contacted.

Group F: Threatening Behaviors

1. Act of arson (i.e., setting something on fire), or the use of explosives (including fireworks).
2. Bomb threat or false fire alarm.
3. Any credible threat made to a staff member.
4. Any threat made against the school or that in any way threatens to disrupt the safety of the school or the student body.
5. Possession of a weapon (NOTE: Any weapon deemed dangerous by the Pembroke Police Department is a violation of M.G.L. Chapter 71, Section 37H4)

Consequences:

First Offense: Possible long-term suspension (see Disciplinary Procedures section).

Subsequent Offenses: Progressive discipline may be applied, including but not limited to long term suspension and/or expulsion.

When necessary, Pembroke Police Department, and/or other agencies may be contacted.

Group F: Students Charged with or Convicted of a Felony (M.G.L Chapter 71, Section 37H ½):

Please see relevant area(s) in the Disciplinary Procedures section.

Students That Continue to Act Inappropriately

When all other methods of discipline have failed to bring about the desired change, and the student continues to act inappropriately, the administration can invoke progressively stronger measures that may include additional suspension, long term suspension or possible exclusion/expulsion from Pembroke Community Middle School.

Investigations and Student Locker Searches

From time-to-time school officials will use their discretion to conduct investigations and searches based upon reasonable suspicion. School lockers are the property of the school department. The right of inspection of students' school lockers is inherent in the authority of administrators. This authority may be exercised as needed in the interest of safeguarding children and school property.

Interview by Police during School Hours

Whenever possible, the interviewing of students in connection with investigations by the Police Department should be conducted away from the school and after school hours. When, in the opinion of the Police Department, it becomes necessary to interview a student at the school during school hours, parents/caregivers of the student shall be advised by the school administrator that such an interview is contemplated and that the parent/caregiver may attend the interview if they so desire.

A student being interviewed by the police is to be granted full constitutional protection by being advised by the police officer of his/her full rights and responsibilities under the existing law in the presence of an administration.