Tredyffrin/Easttown Middle School
Handbook & Code of Conduct
2025-2026

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Table Of Contents

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Table Of Contents 1

Academic Program.....3

Grades & Report Cards 3

Honor Roll.....3

Missing Assignments & Assessments Due To Absence 3

Promotion & Retention.....3

Athletics Program.....4

The Mission of Middle School Interscholastic Athletics 4

PIAA Interscholastic Athletic Offerings 4

Athletic Academic Eligibility.....4

Athletic Behavior Eligibility.....4

ImPACT Baseline Testing.....5

Participation Fees.....5

Athletic Team Selection Policy 5

Insurance.....5

Attendance.....6

Absences 6

Tardiness.....6

Building Rules and Procedures 7

Academic Honesty 7

Bullying.....7

Bus 7

Care of School Property 8

Cell/Mobile Phones and Personal Digital Devices 8

Classroom & Class Cuts 8

Common Areas (Activity, Auditorium, Cafeteria, Hallway, Library/Media Center, Restroom, Etc.) .8

Dangerous or Nuisance Materials and Activities 9

Disrespectful, Disruptive, & Inappropriate Behaviors 10

District Technology.....10

Dress & Appearance 10

Dropping Off & Picking Up Students and Items....10
Field Trips....10
Forgery & Misrepresentation....11
Harassment & Discrimination....11
Leaving School Premises....11
Lockers....11
Lost & Found....12
Physical Education and Activity Excusal....12
Recording of Instruction....12
Safe Practices & School Climate....12
Safety Drills....13
School Events (Athletic Events, Socials/Dances)....13
Threat to Health, Morals, Safety or Welfare of Others....13
Visitors....13
Clubs and Activities....14
Music....14
Consequences for Inappropriate Behavior and Code of Conduct Violations....15
Types of Consequences....15
Points & Disciplinary Probation....15
Health Room....16
Health Screening....16
Immunizations....16
Illnesses & Injuries....16
Concussions....17
Medications Policy (Policy and Regulation 5406)....17
School Counseling and Supports....18
POLICIES AND REGULATIONS....19
Annual Notice of Special Education Services....32
McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act....33

Academic Program

Grades & Report Cards

Numerical and letter grades (O, S, U) for courses are both used in middle school, depending on the subject. Teachers will continue to assess and evaluate student progress throughout the year, using a system of graded assignments and assessments. Course assignments, assessments and associated grades will be posted throughout the year for students and parents and guardians to view in Schoology. Report Cards containing students' final grades for each course will be generated at the conclusion of the year.

Honor Roll

Students who achieve Garnet or Gray Honor Roll are recognized quarterly, based on the criteria below:

- Garnet Award – Students with a combined average grade of 90 or higher in all core subjects with no grade lower than an 80 or an "S" in any course (core or special areas).
- Gray Award – Students with a combined average grade of 85 or higher in all core subjects with no grade lower than an 80 or an "S" in any course (core or special areas).

Missing Assignments & Assessments Due To Absence

Students are responsible for obtaining and completing assignments and assessments missed because of absences from class. Once a student returns to school, it is their responsibility to check Schoology and talk with their teachers to obtain information about assignments and assessments that were missed. Students can also work with their school counselor to create a plan to make up missing assignments and assessments. Teachers may decide on an individual basis when to schedule students to take make-up tests. Students are encouraged to communicate with their teachers about testing schedules when they have been absent before or during tests. Failure to meet these specific arrangements and expectations made by individual teachers may result in the student receiving no credit for the assignments.

Promotion & Retention

Promotion to the next grade level will be contingent upon the student passing four of their core subjects. A passing grade is defined as 60 or higher. Students may not fail (59 or below) more than one core subject area class to be promoted. If a student attains a failing academic status for the school year, they must complete an approved summer school program or be retained. Documented completion of the summer school program for the failed subject area/s may result in the student advancing to the next grade level, based on administrative approval.

Eighth Grade Recognition: The Eighth Grade Recognition Ceremony is an event where eighth graders are recognized for their contributions to T/E Middle School and their completion of our academic requirements. The administration and staff regard the Eighth Grade Recognition as a highly visible opportunity to publicly acknowledge our students and the milestone of completing middle school. For this reason, students must earn the opportunity to participate in this event. Any misconduct or repeated violation of the student code of conduct may affect a student's participation in the Eighth Grade Recognition Ceremony.

Athletics Program

Students in grades seven and eight are eligible to try out for PIAA (Pennsylvania Interscholastic Athletic Association) teams at TEMS. The PIAA is the governing body of secondary schools in Pennsylvania and sets the policy and regulations concerning all interscholastic sports.

The Mission of Middle School Interscholastic Athletics

The mission of the Tredyffrin/Easttown and Valley Forge Middle School interscholastic athletic programs is to provide an enjoyable educational experience based upon the developmental needs and characteristics of the young adolescent. This period of early adolescence is characterized by the most dramatic changes in physical, psychological, social, emotional, and intellectual growth since the first years of life. Therefore, it remains imperative that middle level coaches treat members of this age group with the special care that these students' personalities require. These student-athletes are in a period of becoming, striving for the discovery, development, and refinement of their own individual personalities. The middle school interscholastic program emphasizes participation, fun, and safety.

PIAA Interscholastic Athletic Offerings

Fall Sports	**Winter Sports**	**Spring Sports**
Field Hockey (7th and 8th)	Girls' Basketball (7th and 8th)	Girls' Softball (7th and 8th)
Boys' Soccer (7th and 8th)	Boys' Basketball (7th and 8th)	Boys' Baseball (7th and 8th)
Girls' Soccer (7th and 8th)	Wrestling (7th and 8th)	Girls' Lacrosse (7th and 8th)
Football (Varsity and JV)		Boys' Lacrosse (7th and 8th)
Volleyball (7th and 8th)		Track & Field (7th and 8th)

PIAA rules require that all students have the Comprehensive Initial Pre-Participation Physical Evaluation (CIPPE) forms completed by parents/guardians and a physician. Physicals must be scheduled after May 1 to qualify for the school year. All CIPPE forms are available on the PowerSchool Parent Portal.

To participate in interscholastic sporting events students must be in attendance by 11:57 AM on the day of the event. Any exceptions to this must be approved in advance by the Athletic Director.

Athletic Academic Eligibility

The following is an excerpt from the Pennsylvania Interscholastic Athletic Association (PIAA) bylaws, Article X – Curriculum:

> The student must be passing at least four full-credit subjects, or the equivalent. Eligibility is cumulative from the beginning of a grading period, must be reported on a weekly basis, and must be filed in the Principal's office. Where a student's cumulative work from the beginning of the grading period does not as of any Friday meet the standards provided for in this Section, the student is ineligible from the immediately following Sunday through the Saturday immediately following the next Friday as of which the student's cumulative work from the beginning of the grading period meets the standards provided for in this Section. Where a school is closed on a Friday for any reason, the Principal may, at the Principal's election, determine whether the student as of that day meets the standards provided for in this Section.

Athletic Behavior Eligibility

All student-athletes are representing TEMS in the classroom and school building, at practices, and at home and away competitions. Therefore, they are expected to be always positive school citizens. Coaches are authorized to determine levels of participation in practices and games based on student-athlete behavior during school and during practices and games.

ImPACT Baseline Testing

From Regulation 5422 – Student Accidents and Injuries – Treatment and Reporting, pages 3-4:

> The District uses the ImPACT (Immediate Post Concussion Assessment and Cognitive Testing) Concussion Management System, which is a computerized baseline evaluation of a student's neurocognitive state that tracks memory, reaction time, brain processing speed, concentration, and visual motor skills. The ImPACT test is not a diagnostic tool, but it does provide objective data. It is a return-to-play manager that provides data that physicians and athletic trainers can revisit for comparative purposes in the event of a head injury. The ImPACT test is required and free to District student athletes in selected sports. Those sports are based on the assumed risk of the given sports: Football, Soccer, Lacrosse, Field Hockey, Basketball, Wrestling, Volleyball, Baseball, Softball.

The program recommends that student-athletes age 12 and over receive a baseline test once every two years; therefore TEMS student-athletes will take the baseline test once during their time at middle school.

Participation Fees

TESD charges an activity participation fee to offset some of the expenses of extra-curricular programs. The established fee is $50, which covers participation in one or more sports or activities for one school year. Participants in all middle school or high school sports or activities that use a paid advisor or District-funded transportation will be required to pay this fee. The $50 fee allows a student to participate in as many activities as the student wishes. Any student who plans to participate in one or more of these activities must pay the $50 fee on or before October 1. Students participating in the free or reduced-price lunch program and students experiencing educational instability will not be required to pay this fee. See this website/document below for payment information: Activity Participation Fee Information (tesd.net)

Athletic Team Selection Policy

TEMS strives to accommodate interested student-athletes in pursuing participation on an athletic team. However, when facilities, equipment availability, and supervision limit safe involvement, a process of selection is implemented. Certain sports may have to limit participation, based on a tryout period for eligible students.

Insurance

The District has purchased insurance to cover most medical expenses from injury due to interscholastic sports, band, intramurals, gym classes, special activities, school time field trips, recess and volunteer activities as related to a covered activity for all T/E schools.

Attendance

Absences

Students are required to be in regular attendance at school, from 8:27 AM – 3:10 PM, unless absent for reasons listed in the next paragraph. Parents and guardians should email the attendance office at temattendance@tesd.net to report a child's absence on the day of the absence. All schools will accept written notes signed by a parent/guardian the day after the absence. If a note or email is not received within 3 school days of the absence, the absence will be counted towards the calculation of unexcused absences for the purposes of reporting truancy.

Legitimate excuses for school absences include, most frequently, mental, physical, or other urgent reasons such as illness, family emergency, death of a family member, medical or dental appointments, authorized school activities, educational travel with prior approval from an administrator, pre-approved religious instruction (limit of 36 hours per year), or a bona fide religious holiday. Additional categories of less common excused absences are outlined in Policy and Regulation 5113 on the District's website. Absences from school for illness beyond ten cumulative days may require an excuse from a physician, in addition to the excuse from the parent/guardian.

When absent from school, students are not permitted to participate in after-school activities on that given day, such as athletic events or a school dance. Exceptions to this must be approved in advance by an administrator.

Students and parents/guardians requesting permission to be excused for educational travel must complete the appropriate form, available on the school website and at the link below, prior to departure. Absences that will exceed five (5) school days require the additional approval of the Superintendent or designee. The maximum number of days that may be excused for educational travel in a given school year is twenty (20). Any school days missed beyond twenty (20) in a given year for educational travel will be deemed unexcused.
Travel Form 5113.pdf (tesd.net)

Accumulation of absences, excused or unexcused and including accumulated tardies and early dismissals, can be addressed with school conferences, school attendance improvement conferences, and truancy citations. Please refer to Regulation 5113 for additional information.

Tardiness

A tardiness is any student arrival to homeroom at 8:27 AM or later. Tardiness is excused only upon receipt of a note or email from a parent, guardian, or doctor indicating that the reason for tardiness is illness or a medical appointment, religious study, or religious holiday.

Once the amount of time missed due to both unexcused tardiness and unexcused early dismissals equals the amount of instructional time in a school day, that accumulated time shall be considered an unexcused absence and is subject to the regulations as outlined above and as set forth in Regulation 5113.

Excused or unexcused, a student who arrives at school after 11:50 AM will be recorded as absent for a half day. Students must be present for a half day to participate in after-school activities on that given day.

Building Rules and Procedures

Academic Honesty

TEMS expects that all students will be responsible students and will practice academic honesty. Academic honesty is completing all schoolwork independently or with a teacher-approved group and giving proper credit when appropriate. There are three primary forms of academic dishonesty: plagiarism, cheating, and unauthorized collaboration. Plagiarism is copying words, sentences, images, or ideas for use in a written or oral assignment or examination, and not giving proper credit or attribution to the source. Internet and hardcopy texts are considered sources. Cheating is acquiring or providing information about the content of instructional materials used in the assessment of student achievement in order to gain or to give an unfair advantage on the assessment. Unauthorized collaboration is when a student helps another student complete assigned work in a manner not permitted by the teacher. Using artificial intelligence (AI) technologies are not prohibited, but it is expected that work submitted by each student is entirely their own.

Upon suspicion of cheating, plagiarism, or unauthorized collaboration, a referral to the building administrators may be made. Upon determination that a violation of academic honesty has been committed, the teacher may assign the student(s) involved in the incident a grade of zero for that assessment instrument (e.g. quiz, report, project, homework, etc.). Other disciplinary measures may be assigned in lieu of no credit or in addition to no credit.

Bullying

Bullying means intentional and repeated hurtful or intimidating words, acts, or other behaviors, such as name-calling, threats and/or deliberate ostracism, committed by one or more students against another student. Bullying includes systematic harassment, attacks or intentional electronic, written, verbal, or physical acts, perpetrated by a student or group of students, on another student or students, which occurs during the school day or on school property. Disciplinary consequences can be assigned according to the school code of conduct and will be based on the seriousness and repetitiveness of the behavior. Additional information can be found in Policy and Regulation 5401.

Bus

All school rules and policies apply when students are at the bus stop and on a school bus. Bus safety depends upon student cooperation with the driver and students are expected to follow the directives of the driver. Students must remain seated and keep their hands, heads and feet inside the bus and out of the center aisle. There is no eating or drinking on the bus at any time. The throwing of any object on or at the bus is prohibited. Tampering with the bus or any of its equipment (including the emergency exit when there is not a bona fide emergency) is prohibited. Students may be assigned a seat on the bus for any misbehavior. Additional violations of school rules while riding the bus or waiting for it may result in the loss of riding privileges.

Permission to ride a bus other than a student's own may be granted on a daily/temporary basis. A note from the parents and guardians to the main office listing the date, reason, and destination (address and bus number) is required. Such requests should be made on the morning of the given day and are granted only for supervision reasons.

Students must ride on their assigned bus and depart only at the assigned stop, unless given approval through the transportation office.

Care of School Property

All students and staff are responsible for maintaining the appearance and condition of all school property. Destroying, defacing, or littering on any school property is contrary to the functioning of the school and is strictly prohibited. Tampering with emergency and/or safety equipment (e.g. video surveillance system, fire alarm boxes, fire extinguishers, etc.) is strictly prohibited. Tampering includes actions from touching the item to disabling it to activating it due to conduct such as smoking or horseplay. Unauthorized calls to 911 are prohibited. Students destroying or defacing school property may receive disciplinary consequences and may be referred to the police for further action. Exterior building doors should not be opened for visitors or propped open.

Cell/Mobile Phones and Personal Digital Devices

Cell/mobile phones and all other digital devices, besides a District device, must be turned off and kept in the student's locker during the school day (7:45AM – 3:10PM). Students may listen to personal music and communicate with parents/guardians before and after school. TEMS will not be responsible for any loss or theft of cell phones, personal digital devices, or their accessories. They may be confiscated if students are carrying them around during the school day. Students are responsible for retrieval of their personal devices at the conclusion of the school day. Repeat offenses may result in disciplinary action.

Classroom & Class Cuts

Students should follow all classroom expectations and rules established by the teacher. Students should demonstrate respect to all adults and classmates and should not be disruptive. Substitute/Guest/Student teachers and speakers are to be shown the same respect as the regular classroom teacher. Teachers may assign consequences for violations of classroom rules and may be referred to building administration for further disciplinary action.

A class cut is defined as an unexcused absence from all or part of a scheduled class or activity. Cutting class interrupts the continuity of learning and can have a direct negative effect on a student's grade. If a student is unsure about a schedule change or locating a teacher, the student should report to the main office immediately to prevent the recording of a class cut. Teachers are not obligated to provide makeup work for students who cut class and therefore willfully remove themselves from academic instruction. A failing grade may be assigned for any graded work that was completed during the class cut. Students may receive disciplinary consequences for class cuts.

Common Areas (Activity, Auditorium, Cafeteria, Hallway, Library/Media Center, Restroom, Etc.)

Students are expected to behave appropriately when in all common areas of the building.

Students are expected to report to one location for the entirety of activity period. Students should engage in the appropriate activity for the space and should demonstrate respect to classmates and adults.

There are various assemblies held throughout the year to provide educational and cultural experiences for students. Attendance at school- and grade-wide assemblies is required. Inappropriate responses to productions and presentations are not permitted. Students who need to enter or exit the assembly after it has begun should do so only at appropriate breaks in the assembly and then only with the permission of a staff member.

During lunch in the cafeteria, students are expected to sit and eat, throw away all trash, and remain in the cafeteria until dismissed by an adult. Food that has been opened may not be taken from the cafeteria when opened. Students may bring lunch or purchase lunch in the school cafeteria. Prices for lunch and a la carte items can be found on the District website or by calling the District Food and Nutrition Services Department.

Students are not permitted in the halls during class, lunch, or activity periods for any reason unless they have a pass from an adult. While in the halls, students are to walk and demonstrate safe behaviors.

Students use the library with classroom teachers and may come to the library individually with a pass. Books may be checked out for three weeks. Reference books or items on teacher reserve may be borrowed overnight. They may be taken at the end of the school day and need to be returned before homeroom the next day. Magazines that are more than one month old may be borrowed for one week. Please make every effort to return library materials on time. All lost or damaged materials and equipment should be replaced. Replacement prices will be charged accordingly.

Students may visit technology support in the library with a pass from a classroom teacher.

During class, students must get permission from their teacher to use the restroom. All restroom trash should be placed in the appropriate bins and any issues with the restrooms should be reported to an adult promptly.

Dangerous or Nuisance Materials and Activities

The school, school property and school buses shall be free of objects, materials or activities that have the potential to disrupt anyone's freedom to learn, inflict injury, or otherwise jeopardize the health, safety, or welfare of students, staff, and other members of the school community. A listing of all such dangerous or nuisance items and activities is not possible. Possession or use of the following is prohibited, unless authorized by a school official: aerosol cans, firecrackers, explosives, squirt guns, laser pointers, snowballs, and other projectiles. Students who find or encounter dangerous/nuisance items are required to inform a staff member immediately. Throwing objects such as snowballs, food, rocks, clay, wood, firecrackers, etc. is dangerous and always prohibited in the building, on school grounds, on school vehicles, and during school activities.

Any items, materials, or activities considered to be potentially hazardous to safety or disruptive to the school environment will be confiscated. Students in possession of such items or materials must surrender them as requested. Additional consequences may be assigned. Failure to cooperate in surrendering an item or material to school personnel will be considered insubordinate behavior and may result in additional disciplinary action. Failing to report dangerous or nuisance materials is a safety concern and may result in disciplinary action.

Students are prohibited from using, distributing, possessing, or being under the influence of controlled substances in any of the buildings owned by the District, on District property, in school vehicles and/or while participating in school-sponsored activities on or off District property. Additional information can be found in Policy and Regulation 5405. Students who are found to be in violation of this prohibition shall be disciplined in accordance with Policy 5405 and the applicable student handbook. Aiding or abetting any of the above-mentioned prohibited conduct shall be treated in the same manner. The issue will be reported to local law enforcement.

Students may not possess or use tobacco products while on school property (including district sidewalks and parking lots), while riding in district vehicle, while at school activities. This includes cigarettes, chewing tobacco, dip, snuff, cigars, pipes, and electronic smoking products. "Electronic smoking products" means electronic products designed to deliver nicotine, flavor and/or other potentially harmful chemicals. Additional information can be found in the Policy and Regulation 5411. School personnel will confiscate tobacco products found in the possession of students. The failure of a student to comply with a request to relinquish these products shall be considered insubordinate behavior. Students who are found to be in violation of this prohibition shall be disciplined in accordance with Policy 5411.

Weapons or weapon look-alikes are not permitted on District property or vehicles. Pennsylvania law includes weapons as firearms, knives, cutting tools or any instrument capable of inflicting bodily injury. Weapon look-alikes are prohibited even if they are not capable of inflicting bodily injury. Students who are found to be in violation of this prohibition shall be disciplined in accordance with Policy 5410.

Disrespectful, Disruptive, & Inappropriate Behaviors

Students must treat school personnel and classmates with respect and consideration. Behavior which disrupts or has the potential to disrupt the educational process is prohibited and will not be tolerated. Such behavior could include, but is not limited to, rudeness, interruption of classroom activities, insubordination, failure to obey instructions of a school official, the use of profanity, vulgar, lewd, or obscene gestures, language, or other misconduct, sleeping in class, loitering, being in unauthorized or unassigned areas, including when 2 or more student are found in the same stall in restrooms, and/or other degrading or insulting behavior towards school personnel and/or other students. Failure to do so may result in a disciplinary action.

Fighting and any form of physical violence towards another student is also specifically prohibited. Teasing and bullying behaviors are a form of disrespect for classmates and will not be tolerated. Fighting, teasing, and bullying may result in disciplinary action for the offenders.

District Technology

When using District technology resources, students are required to adhere to the terms and conditions contained in Board Policy and Administrative Regulation 8080 (Acceptable Use of Technology), which are available for review on the District's website.

Dress & Appearance

TEMS students are expected to dress appropriately for weather conditions and in accordance with Regulation 5415. Guidelines apply to all areas of TEMS during school hours and school-sponsored events. Clothing of a revealing or sexually suggestive nature is prohibited. The advertisement of drug, alcohol or tobacco products and the depiction of sexually explicit messages or images are prohibited.

Students whose attire does not conform to the dress standards will be asked to put on or change into appropriate clothing. Serious or repeated violations of the dress code may be subject to discipline action.

Dropping Off & Picking Up Students and Items

Parents and guardians who wish to drop off or pick up their students before or after school should do so using either the Old Lancaster Rd. or the Conestoga Rd. entrance. No cars are permitted to drive through the bus loading area. No parking in the bus loading area will be enforced by Tredyffrin Township Police 7 days a week. Cars should follow all traffic signs and arrows and should enter and exit at Conestoga Road. Please do not drop off or pick up students at the District Network Operations Center (NOC) parking lot across Howellville Rd. from TEMS. There is not a direct crosswalk from the NOC to TEMS due to PA Department of Transportation regulations.

Students should be dropped off after 7:45 AM when teachers and staff are available in the building for appropriate supervision. The building will not be open to students prior to 7:45 AM unless students are given a pass from a teacher.

In order to minimize interruptions to class and to encourage student responsibility for their possessions, parents and guardians are asked to keep student drop-offs to a minimum. Classroom time is not interrupted to contact students about forgotten lunches, homework, books, permission slips, sports equipment, etc. If a student calls home for forgotten items, it is their responsibility to check the office for those items. If there is an important message from home, the office will provide the information to the student. The school is not responsible for items dropped off in the main office. Parents and guardians should not drop off food items for children to share with their classes.

Field Trips

Field trips are regarded as extensions of the school day. Participation in a field trip may be contingent upon the demonstration of good academic and behavior standing and with any additional and specific rules and deadlines established for the trip. It is the student's responsibility to become aware of and follow the specific expectations for preparation and participation for each field trip. Teachers and administrators have the right to exclude a student from field trips for disciplinary purposes and/or behavior issues that pose a safety concern. At the recommendation of a student's teacher(s), school administrators will determine whether or not a student will be permitted to attend a

school-sponsored trip. Students who have been excluded from field trips for disciplinary purposes will have their field trip status reviewed if a significant improvement in behavior is observed.

Forgery & Misrepresentation

The forgery, alteration, or counterfeit of an excuse note, pass, school form, or other school-related document and/or record is prohibited. Forgery includes, but is not limited to, the alteration of time, date or other information bearing the signature or initials of a parent or faculty member or attempting to use a forged note/email. Signing a parent's/guardian's name upon their oral consent constitutes forgery. Impersonating a parent or any other person is impermissible and cause for discipline. Incidents involving forgery, impersonation or counterfeit materials may result in disciplinary action.

Harassment & Discrimination

The Tredyffrin/Easttown School District requires a positive learning and working environment that is free from any form of harassment. Our school environment reflects multiple forms of diversity. It is important to ensure an environment of safety, tolerance, respect for diversity, non-discrimination and equality for all students/staff, so that they can fully enjoy the opportunities that education has to offer them. Harassment/Discrimination means verbal, written, electronic, graphic, or physical conduct relating to an individual's actual or perceived race, color, age, creed, religion, sex, gender, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, ancestry, national origin/ethnicity, veteran status, marital status, or handicap/disability when such conduct:

1. Is sufficiently severe, persistent, or pervasive that its impact on students or staff members creates an intimidating, threatening, or abusive environment; and/or
2. Has the purpose or effect of unreasonably interfering with a student's educational performance; and/or,
3. Adversely affects a student's educational opportunities.

Harassment/Discrimination includes, but is not limited to slurs, jokes, bullying, hazing and/or other verbal, written, electronic, graphic or physical conduct relating to an individual's actual or perceived race, color, age, creed, religion, sex, gender, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, ancestry, national origin/ethnicity, veteran status, marital status, or handicap/disability. It also includes sexual harassment, which means unwelcome sexual advances, requests for sexual favors, inappropriate verbal or physical conduct of a sexual nature, gestures of a sexual nature, or display of materials which evoke responses not in keeping with the atmosphere intended for the classroom or the school environment. More specifically, incidents of harassment/discrimination could include, but are not limited to verbal, written or electronic abuse in which the self-confidence or sense of safety of a person/group without the recipients being present, for example:

- stereotypical statements/behaviors
- comments and jokes
- mockery/teasing/making fun of someone's clothes, relationships, socioeconomic status, or physical appearance
- demeaning language/comments/gestures
- display of insignia/symbols/graffiti/slogans (on walls, on the desk, etc.) that threaten individuals or groups

Incidents of harassment/discrimination may result in disciplinary action, parent conferences, police contact, and/or risk assessments. Additional information can be found in the Policies and Regulations 5401 and 6141.

Leaving School Premises

The school is responsible for student safety while on school premises and while traveling to and from school on District-provided transportation. No students may leave the school premises after arrival at school without permission. Doing so without permission may result in disciplinary action and police involvement.

Lockers

The school provides hall lockers for student use during the school year. Lockers are to be kept clean inside and out. To facilitate this, general locker clean-outs are scheduled from time to time during which teachers will inspect lockers for orderliness and their condition. Gym lockers may also be assigned to student-athletes. In addition, the administration reserves the right to conduct periodic general or random locker inspections, and to inspect lockers of students for whom evidence indicates the possible presence of inappropriate, illegal or dangerous items according to Policy and Regulation 5412.

Book bags are to be kept in students' lockers from the time they arrive at their locker in the morning until school dismissal in the afternoon. They are not to be carried to class. Students are permitted to go to their lockers before school, between classes, before and after lunch, and after school.

Lockers are not to be shared, and locker combinations are not to be given out to other students. Locker malfunctions should be reported to the main office as soon as possible. Sharing lockers or locker combinations may result in disciplinary action.

Some students like to decorate a friend's locker to celebrate the friend's birthday. This is permitted providing the decorations are temporary and easily removed. All decorations of this type should be removed one week following the birthday. Decorations inside the locker are permitted. All decorations should be in good taste and temporary in nature. These must be removed before the end of the school year.

The school is not responsible for items lost or stolen from hall or gym lockers.

Lost & Found

Items that are lost and found will be placed outside of the main office. Students should check regularly for missing items, as items arrive frequently. Items remaining at the lost and found tables will be removed periodically. Lunch items may be disposed, and clothing items may be donated to a local organization. TEMS is not responsible for items that are lost and found.

Physical Education and Activity Excusal

A parent/guardian may excuse a student from Physical Education (PE) class with written/e-mail communication to the teacher for up to 3 days/classes. An excuse from a healthcare provider familiar with the student who may not be the student's parent/guardian will be required for missing more than 3 days/classes. The healthcare provider's guidance will give the school team more information to support the student if an injury or illness is keeping the student from participating in PE and/or physical activity for a longer duration of time.

Students with concussions must provide a note from an appropriate medical professional stating that they are cleared from a concussion prior to return to gym class. Guidelines for evaluation and clearance of concussions are set forth in Regulation 5422.

Recording of Instruction

When engaging in any learning environment sessions, in-person or virtual, students are prohibited from photographing, recording or livestreaming instruction. Repeated and/or willful failure to adhere to this directive may lead to disciplinary action.

Safe Practices & School Climate

Students must engage in conduct that upholds the health, morals, safety, and welfare of others. Students are expected to exercise good judgment. Best practices may change, depending on recommendations from local, state, and federal authorities. Students are expected to adhere to current safety procedures as outlined by administration in conjunction with local, state, and federal authorities (health protocols, opening exterior doors, propping exterior doors open, etc.). Students will work in conjunction with their teachers and their administrators to maintain a safe and secure atmosphere. With that in mind, students should immediately report any information related to past, present, or future activities that could compromise our school environment and/or others' wellbeing. Students should not overtly or covertly aid and/or abet any behavior that disrupts the educational environment. In addition, students should not provide false or inaccurate reports. Such reports are disruptive as they affect the balance of resources and/or time that is necessary in maintaining a positive learning environment. Students who demonstrate lack of cooperation with safety standards may be subject to disciplinary consequences.

Safety Drills

Safety drills occur regularly throughout the school year, according to state and District guidelines. During safety exercises, students are expected to follow the guidelines set forth for the exercise. Such exercises are extremely important for maintaining safety and preparedness. Do not prop or leave doors open.

School Events (Athletic Events, Socials/Dances)

Students are to conduct themselves responsibly and appropriately at all after-school events and all school rules will be in effect.

For school socials and dances, students will dress in accordance with the requirements determined by the Student Council and the school's dress and appearance guidelines. Students not in attendance at the social or dance are not to be on school property.

For athletic events, the school community considers all visiting players and their fans to be our guests. Failure to treat them as such is poor citizenship and poor sportsmanship. Booing and rude remarks to players, coaches, officials, or fans is not permitted. Additionally, no food or beverages are permitted in the gyms at any time.

Threat to Health, Morals, Safety or Welfare of Others

Threatening behavior shall mean a physical, verbal or written threat to (1) commit violence with intent to terrorize, injure or damage another or others, (2) cause evacuation of a building, place of assembly or facility of transportation, or (3) otherwise cause serious public inconvenience with reckless disregard of the risk of causing such terror or inconvenience.

Threat means a communication of intent to harm another individual or property or behavior suggesting intent to harm an individual or property. Disciplinary consequences will be assigned according to the school code of conduct and will be based on the seriousness and repetitiveness of the behavior. Additional information can be found in Policy and Regulation 5401.

Visitors

All visitors must report to the main office to register as a visitor and wear a visitor's badge while on TEMS property during school hours. Failure to follow this procedure may result in the visitor being asked to leave the school and possible referral to the proper authorities (Policy and Regulation 1310). Students should not open outside doors for any visitors. Students should tell a staff member if someone is attempting to enter school through an outside door.

Clubs and Activities

TE Middle School offers a variety of after-school activities in which students can participate. Students should listen to morning announcements and check the school website (linked below) for specific clubs and their dates and times. Permission forms are required for club activities and are available in the main office, on the clubs webpage, or from the teacher/sponsor. After school buses are not available for students participating in clubs and students should arrange for transportation home promptly at the conclusion of the club and activity. See this website for the list of clubs and activities: TEMS Clubs and Activities (tesd.net)

Students are welcome to initiate the establishment of a club of their interest. Students should meet with their counselor or administrator to receive approval and to discuss next steps.

TESD charges an activity participation fee to offset some of the expenses of extra-curricular programs. The established fee is $50, which covers participation in one or more sports or activities for one school year. Participants in all middle school or high school sports or activities that use a paid advisor or District-funded transportation will be required to pay this fee. The $50 fee allows a student to participate in as many activities as he or she wishes. Any student who plans to participate in one or more of these activities must pay the $50 fee on or before October 1. Students participating in the free or reduced-price lunch program or students experiencing educational instability will not be required to pay this fee. See this website/document below for payment information: Activity Participation Fee Information (tesd.net)

Music

T/E Middle School offers a variety of music opportunities for students, including 5 Band, 6 Band, 7/8 Band, 5/6 String Orchestra, 7/8 Orchestra, 5 Chorus, 6 Chorus, 7/8 Chorus, 7/8 Cantabile, Jazz Band and Jazz Ensemble. Ensemble rehearsals for all students take place before school, from 7:45 AM to 8:22 AM, in designated music rooms. Students in Band, Orchestra, and Chorus have one small group sectional rehearsal each week in addition to the full-ensemble rehearsal. Band and Orchestra sectionals take place during the school day on a rotating schedule, and Chorus sectionals take place during students' scheduled activity period.

Consequences for Inappropriate Behavior and Code of Conduct Violations

Efforts toward the development of student self-discipline are not only critical to a student's growth as a learner but are also essential to maintain a school climate that encourages learning for all students. While every effort shall be made to assist each student in developing self-discipline, staff members shall respond appropriately to actions or situations that disrupt the learning process (Policy and Regulation 5401). Teachers may assign consequences when the behavior of a student does not meet expectations for respect, responsibility, or safety. Teachers may also make referrals to school administration for more serious infractions. The administrators shall have the authority to discipline students for sufficient reason in accordance with PA School Code of 1949 and other applicable state and federal laws and/or regulations. Discipline measures may include conferences, warnings, detentions, suspensions or expulsion, and parents and guardians shall be promptly notified by an administrator (Policy and Regulation 5401). For repeated, frequent, or severe infractions, students may receive additional consequences, at the discretion of the administrator and in communication with the parent/guardian. Disciplinary measures may also include times of reflection and education to promote positive growth in the area of the violation.

Types of Consequences

- Teacher Detentions (lunch/activity or after school)
- Administrative Conference
- Administrative Detention (lunch/activity, after school)
- In-School Suspension
- Out Of School Suspension
- Loss of Privileges
- Restorative Practices

Points & Disciplinary Probation

Discipline points may be assigned at the discretion of administration:

Lunch/Activity Detention = 1 Discipline Point
Administrative Detention = 2 Discipline Points
In-School Suspension (ISS) = 4 Discipline Points
Out of School Suspension (OSS) = 6 Discipline Points

For every 8 discipline points that a student accumulates, they can be placed on disciplinary probation for a period of two weeks. Students and parents will be notified if probation is assigned. Students on disciplinary probation may be assigned to lunch/activity detention each day during the two weeks to encourage self-reflection and correction. Students on disciplinary probation are not permitted to participate in any after school activities, such as interscholastic sports practices and games, club meetings, dances, concerts, social trips or other evening events, nor are they permitted to remain on school grounds for any reason other than disciplinary action (such as to serve a detention) beyond the departure of the last bus. Students who receive a disciplinary office referral while on probation may have their probation extended.

As discipline is a learning process, students may have their points reduced as they consistently display appropriate behavior. If a student has no disciplinary referrals for a period of 3 weeks, discipline points may be reduced by 2 and can continue for each remaining 3 weeks.

Health Room

The school nurse is in the Health Suite in the Main Office area. Students must obtain permission from the teacher of the class they will be missing. Students should not go to the nurse between classes without first getting a pass from the teacher whose class they will have next. If the nurse is not present, students should report to the main office.

Health Screening

Vision, hearing, height, and weight screenings are completed in the fall as mandated by Pennsylvania School Health code and referrals are sent to parents/guardians when further evaluation by a health care provider is required. A scoliosis screening is performed on all 6th and 7th grade students who have not had one completed by another health care provider. Referrals are sent to parents/guardians when further evaluation for scoliosis by a health care provider is required. All 6th grade and new students must have a state mandated physical examination by the end of April of the 6th grade school year. All 7th grade and new students must have a state-mandated dental examination by the end of April of the 7th grade school year. BMI reports can be found on the parent portal of Power School in the late fall each year.

Immunizations

State legislation deems it mandatory for children attending school to have the following immunizations prior to starting school:

- 4 doses of tetanus and diphtheria, with one dose given on or after the fourth birthday
- 4 doses of polio, with the 4th dose given on or after the fourth birthday
- 2 doses of measles, mumps & rubella (given after 12 months of age)
- 3 doses of hepatitis B
- 2 doses of varicella (chickenpox) vaccine (or history of the disease or evidence of immunity)

Students need the following immunizations prior to the first day of 7th grade or they will be excluded:

- 1 dose of tetanus, diphtheria, acellular pertussis (Tdap) after their 10th birthday
- 1 dose of meningococcal conjugate vaccine (MCV)

Students need the following immunization at either 16 years of age or older or prior to the first day of 12th grade:

- 1 dose of meningococcal conjugate vaccine (MCV)

Please contact the school nurse for certain medical or religious exemptions.

Illnesses & Injuries

Students who contract contagious conditions are not permitted to attend school for a set period as per the Pennsylvania Department of Health. Some examples of contagious conditions & the time frame for return to school include:

- Chicken pox - when all lesions have dried & crusted
- Conjunctivitis (Pink Eye) - until deemed non-infected by health care provider, 24 hours after treatment was started, and/or without discharge
- COVID-19 and Influenza - per CDC guidelines
- Impetigo - 24 hours after implementation of treatment
- Measles - 4 days from the onset of rash
- Mumps - 9 days from the onset or until swelling subsides
- Ringworm - after first treatment if body lesions are covered
- Scabies - after completion of health care provider ordered treatment
- Strep Infection including scarlet fever - 24 hours after antibiotics have started or at least 10 days
- Tonsilitis - 24 hours after antibiotics started
- Undiagnosed Rash or Fever - 24 hours after rash has resolved or 24 hours after fever has subsided without fever reducing medication
- Whooping Cough (Pertussis) - 21 days from start or upon completion if antibiotics

Please note that lice is not deemed a communicable disease and has a low risk of contagion in school settings. In line with guidance from the Center for Disease Control and the American Academy of Pediatrics, while students with lice should begin treatment once lice is discovered, such students do not need to be excluded from school.

Please call the Certified School Nurse to find out more specific information if your child contracts a contagious condition not listed or with any questions.

A parent email or note is permissible for missing one week of gym class. After one week or 2 gym classes, a note from a health care provider is required for excusal from physical education class.

Concussions

If a student is diagnosed with a concussion, the family should contact the school nurse and counselor to discuss needed accommodations. All students diagnosed with a concussion must provide the nurse/athletic trainer with a clearance letter from an appropriate medical professional prior to being allowed to return to gym class, sports or activity.

Medications Policy (Policy and Regulation 5406)

No medications including over the counter medications, other than those listed on the Emergency Medical Card which parents must complete each school year, will be administered in school without specific written orders from a physician and a parent request. Medication cannot be accepted without the health care provider's written order with signature. All medication orders must be dated July 1st or after for the impending school year.

Medication provided by the family must be delivered to the nurse's office by an adult in the original pharmacy container, including the name of the student, date of prescription, time and dosage to be given, and the name of the doctor. All medications shall be stored in the health office and administered by the nurse except for asthma inhalers, epinephrine, and insulin for those students with self- administer orders from their health care provider. If the date on the prescription container is more than one year old, the medication cannot be accepted by the nurse.

For life threatening situations, trained staff shall be trained & authorized to administer epinephrine auto-injectors, asthma inhalers, and emergency medications for diabetes.

The Pennsylvania Public School Code, Section 1414.2(g) allows parents/guardians to request an exemption to the administration of an epinephrine auto-injector for their student. To request this exemption, contact the school nurse to make an appointment to discuss this decision, review and sign the opt-out form. The opt-out form must be reviewed and signed in the presence of the school nurse.

Please review Policies and Regulations 5403 and 5406 for more specific information regarding the use of medication in school.

School Counseling and Supports

School Counselor: The foundation of student support in every building, school counselors are involved in a wide range of student and school issues including personal/social development, goal setting, student discussion groups, course selection and post-secondary planning, individual and group assessment, school climate, and student activities.

School Psychologists: These individuals provide mandated individualized assessments to determine students' learning strengths and needs, assist with determining appropriate interventions and consult with students, families, and school personnel.

Mental Health Specialists: Certified Specialists are available to all schools for coordination of services, individualized counseling and consultation with student assistance and IEP teams.

Student Assistance Program (SAP)/CARE Team: CARE Team is a systematic process to assist school personnel in identifying issues, including problems with alcohol and drugs, which pose a barrier to student learning and success in school. Working with community agencies, SAP teams identify school supports and assist families in accessing community services.

For additional information, review the TESD Student Emotional Well-Being brochure: Student Well-Being Brochure.pdf (tesd.net)

POLICIES AND REGULATIONS

Please see Policies and Regulations **for a complete list of Policies and Regulations.**

MAINTAINING APPROPRIATE BOUNDARIES WITH STUDENTS (P5461 and R5461)

All District Adults shall be expected to maintain professional, moral and ethical relationships with District students that are conducive to an effective, safe learning environment. "District Adults" means all District employees, coaches of recognized club sports, volunteers, student teachers, and independent contractors, including the employees of independent contractors who interact with District students or are present on District grounds.

A copy of School Board Policy 5461 and Administrative Regulation 5461 are available at Policy 5461 and Regulation 5461, respectively. Select excerpts and summary information from this Policy and Administrative Regulation are also presented below.

In order to maintain professional boundaries, District Adults shall ensure that their interactions with students are appropriate. Social interactions and electronic communications by District Adults with students shall be for legitimate educational reasons only, unless an exception applies as outlined in Board Policy and Administrative Regulation 5461. District Adults shall be prohibited from entering into or attempting to form romantic or sexual interactions with any student enrolled in the District, regardless of the student's age. Students of any age are not legally capable of consenting to romantic or sexual interactions with District Adults. All electronic communications conducted by District Adults with a student must relate to educational or extra-curricular programs or activities. Authorized methods of electronic communication are the following:

1. District-provided email;

2. District-sponsored web site (including school and teacher web pages);

3. Telephones (not including texting, unless otherwise permitted under number 4 below); and

4. Other electronic communication methods that are authorized by the administration in support of educational or extra-curricular programs or activities.

When available, all employees, including extra-duty employees such as coaches and activity sponsors, shall use District-provided email or other District-provided communication devices when communicating electronically with students. The use of District-provided email or other District provided communication devices shall be in accordance with District policies and procedures. District employees are prohibited from using personal email, text messaging, instant messaging, and social-networking accounts, websites, and any other applications for communicating with parents and students that are not specifically authorized. District employees shall not follow or accept requests for current students to be friends or connections on personal social networking sites and shall not create any networking site for communication with students other than those provided by the District for this purpose, without the prior written approval of the building principal. An example of allowable communications in this context includes where the adult is a family relative of the student.

If an employee plans to communicate electronically with students through the use of text messages, the employee must obtain permission to do so from their building principal using the form attached as Attachment A to R5461. Also, if permission from the building principal is received, the employee must also obtain written parental/guardian permission to do so.

Policy 5461 applies to conduct committed on or off school property and extends beyond the workday. However, this Policy is not intended to interfere with appropriate personal relationships between District Adults and students and their families that exist independently of the District or to interfere with participation in civic, religious or other outside organizations that include District students.

An emergency situation or a legitimate educational reason may justify deviation from professional boundaries set out in Regulation 5461. The District Adult shall be prepared to articulate the reason for any deviation from the requirements of this Regulation and must demonstrate that they have maintained an appropriate relationship with the student.

Administrative Regulation 5461 includes examples of conduct that could or may violate District Policy regarding maintaining professional boundaries with students. District Adults shall be informed of conduct that is prohibited and the disciplinary actions that may be applied for violation of Board Policies, Administrative Regulations, rules and procedures.

Any District Adult or student who has concerns about or is uncomfortable with a relationship or interaction between a District Adult and a student or who is aware of or suspects a violation of Board Policy or Administrative Regulation 5461 shall immediately, or as promptly as possible thereafter under the circumstances, notify the Superintendent, Title IX Coordinator, principal or other administrator. The District's Title IX Coordinator is the Director of Equity and Public Programs. Contact information for the Title IX Coordinator is available in Administrative Regulation 5461. Individuals who make good faith reports of potential or actual violations of Policy or Regulation 5461 shall not be subject to retaliation, discipline or other adverse action. Allegations of inappropriate conduct shall be promptly investigated in accordance with the procedures utilized for complaints of prohibited harassment of students.

STUDENT DISCIPLINE (P5401 and R5401)

In order to maintain a safe school climate that encourages learning for all students, teachers and administrators shall respond to actions or situations that disrupt this learning process. Discipline measures may include warnings, detentions, suspensions, expulsions or other appropriate responses to the circumstances.

Violations of this Policy and Administrative Regulation shall be reported to local law enforcement in accordance with the Memorandum of Understanding in effect between the District and the local law enforcement agency and any applicable Board Policy.

Offenses committed on school grounds, in school vehicles or while participating in school-sponsored activities on or off school premises or that have some other legally recognized nexus to the school that are considered to be of an extremely serious nature and may result in either suspension or expulsion, include but are not limited to the following:

1. Inappropriate physical contact, attack, fighting, bullying, hazing, harassment, threatening behavior or threats;
2. The use of, distribution of, or possession of, any substance subject to Policy 5405 (Student Substance Abuse) or 5411 (Tobacco Products: Possession and Use). Aiding or abetting any of the above actions regarding substances subject to Policy 5405 or 5411 shall be treated in the same way;
3. The use, possession, or transfer of any item which could be considered a weapon or which is dangerous in nature, as outlined in Policy 5410 or in accordance with applicable law;
4. Destruction or defacing of school property;
5. Infraction of school rules that carries the consequence of suspension or expulsion, as outlined in the applicable Student Handbook, Code of Conduct or otherwise in Board Policy or an accompanying Administrative Regulation;
6. Conduct adversely affecting the school routine or otherwise endangering the safety, morals, health or welfare of others;
7. Inappropriate physical contact, attack, threatening behavior, threat or other retaliatory conduct directed at school staff members or other members of the school community while subject to the school's jurisdiction, their property, or their families.

When a suspendable offense occurs, the principal or designee will meet with the student, at which time the student will have the opportunity to offer an explanation of the infraction. After that meeting the principal or designee may suspend the student from school. Parents/guardians of the disciplined student will be notified of the disciplinary action, as will any staff member and/or the parent/guardians of any student determined to be a target or recipient of behaviors targeting others in violation of District policy.

When a suspension exceeding three (3) school days is under consideration, the principal or designee shall offer the student and student's parents/guardians an informal hearing, as required by law. After such hearing the principal or designee may extend the suspension for a period of up to ten (10) total school days. Parents/guardians will be notified.

When discipline is to be imposed upon a student with disabilities, District employees are required to follow the additional procedures outlined in the District's Administrative Regulation (R5401) and applicable law.

Policy and Administrative Regulation 5041 are available in their entirety on the District's website at Policy 5401 and Regulation 5401, respectively. Students and parents/guardians are encouraged to review these documents carefully in their entirety.

HAZING, BULLYING, DISCRIMINATORY HARASSMENT, THREATS, THREATENING BEHAVIOR (P5401 and R5401)

Bullying shall mean an intentional electronic, written, verbal or physical act, or a series of acts which meet the following criteria:

1. directed at another student or students;
2. occurs in a school setting;
3. is severe, persistent or pervasive; and
4. has the effect of doing any of the following:
    a. substantially interfering with a student's education;
    b. creating a threatening environment; or
    c. substantially disrupting the orderly operation of the school.

School setting shall mean in school, on school grounds, in school vehicles, at a designated bus stop or at any activity sponsored, supervised or sanctioned by the District.

Hazing occurs any time a person intentionally, knowingly or recklessly, for the purpose of initiating, admitting or affiliating a student into or with an organization, or for the purpose of continuing or enhancing a student's membership or status in an organization, causes, coerces or forces a student to do any of the following:

1. Violate Federal or State criminal law.
2. Consume any food, liquid, alcoholic liquid, drug or other substance which subjects the student to a risk of emotional or physical harm.
3. Endure brutality of a physical nature, including whipping, beating, branding, calisthenics or exposure to the elements.
4. Endure brutality of a mental nature, including activity adversely affecting the mental health or dignity of the individual, sleep deprivation, exclusion from social contact or conduct that could result in extreme embarrassment.
5. Endure brutality of a sexual nature.
6. Endure any other activity that creates a reasonable likelihood of bodily injury to the student.

Aggravated hazing occurs when a person commits an act of hazing that results in serious bodily injury or death to the student and:

1. The person acts with reckless indifference to the health and safety of the student; or
2. The person causes, coerces or forces the consumption of an alcoholic liquid or drug by the student.

Organizational hazing occurs when an organization intentionally, knowingly or recklessly promotes or facilitates hazing regardless of whether the consent of the student was sought or obtained or whether the conduct was sanctioned or approved by the student organization.

Student activity or organization means any activity, society, corps, team, club or service, social or similar group, operating under the sanction of or recognized as an organization by the District, whose members are primarily students or alumni of the District.

Bodily injury shall mean impairment of physical condition or substantial pain.

Serious bodily injury shall mean bodily injury which creates a substantial risk of death or which causes serious, permanent disfigurement, or protracted loss or impairment of the function of any bodily member or organ.

Discriminatory harassment means verbal, written, electronic, graphic or physical conduct relating to an individual's actual or perceived race, color, age, creed, religion, sex, gender, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, ancestry, national origin/ethnicity, veteran status, marital status, or handicap/disability when such conduct:

1. Is sufficiently severe, persistent or pervasive that it affects a student's educational performance or creates an intimidating, threatening or abusive educational environment; and/or
2. Has the purpose or effect of unreasonably interfering with a student's educational performance; and/or
3. Adversely affects a student's educational opportunities.

Discriminatory harassment includes, but is not limited to, slurs, jokes, bullying, hazing or other verbal, written, electronic, graphic or physical conduct relating to an individual's actual or perceived race, color, age, creed, religion, sex, gender, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, ancestry, national origin/ethnicity, veteran status, marital status, or handicap/disability. Discriminatory harassment also includes sexual harassment, as defined below.

Sexual harassment is a specific form of discriminatory harassment which means unwelcome sexual advances, requests for sexual favors, inappropriate verbal or physical conduct of a sexual nature, gestures of a sexual nature, or display of materials which evoke responses not in keeping with the atmosphere intended for the classroom or the school environment.

Title IX sexual harassment is a specific form of sexual harassment which means conduct on the basis of sex that satisfies one or more of the following:

1. An employee of the District conditioning the provision of an aid, benefit, or service of the District on an individual's participation in unwelcome sexual conduct;
2. Unwelcome conduct determined by a reasonable person to be so severe, pervasive, and objectively offensive that it effectively denies a person equal access to the District's education program or activity; or
3. Sexual assault, dating violence, domestic violence, or stalking.

Sexual assault means an offense classified as a forcible or nonforcible sex offense under the uniform crime reporting system of the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

Dating violence means violence committed by a person:

1. Who is or has been in a social relationship of a romantic or intimate nature with the victim; and
2. Where the existence of such a relationship shall be determined based on the reporting party's statement and with consideration of the following factors:
    a. The length of the relationship.
    b. The type of relationship.
    c. The frequency of interaction between the persons involved in the relationship.

Different treatment discrimination – when an individual or group of individuals is treated differently because of their sex.

Domestic violence includes felony or misdemeanor crimes of violence committed by a current or former spouse or intimate partner of the victim, by a person with whom the victim shares a child in common, by a person who is cohabitating with or has cohabitated with the victim as a spouse or intimate partner, by a person similarly situated to a spouse of the victim under the domestic or family violence laws of the jurisdiction receiving grant monies, or by any other person against an adult or youth victim who is protected from that person's acts under the domestic or family violence laws of the jurisdiction.

Stalking means engaging in a course of conduct directed at a specific person that would cause a reasonable person to:

1. Fear for their safety or the safety of others; or
2. Suffer substantial emotional distress.

Threat means a communication of intent to harm another individual or property or behavior suggesting intent to harm an individual or property.

Threatening behavior shall mean a physical, verbal or written threat to (1) commit violence with intent to terrorize, injure or damage another or others, (2) cause evacuation of a building, place of assembly or facility of transportation, or (3) otherwise cause serious public inconvenience with reckless disregard of the risk of causing such terror or inconvenience.

Title IX Coordinator means the District's Director of Equity and Public Programs, whose contact information is included in Administrative Regulation 5401.

Transient threat means there is no sustained intent to harm.

Substantive threat means the intent of the threat is present (or not clear) and therefore requires protective action.

Behaviors targeting others means bullying, hazing, harassment, threatening behaviors, and threats collectively.

It is the Policy of the Board to maintain a safe, positive and respectful environment for students and staff that is free from bullying, hazing, discriminatory harassment, threatening behavior and threats. Any form of bullying, hazing, discriminatory harassment, threatening behavior or threats that is a part of a school sponsored or student activity or organization is prohibited.

No student, coach, activity sponsor, volunteer, District employee, administrator, representative, agent, or contractor shall plan, direct, encourage, assist, engage in, tolerate, condone, ignore, or fail to properly report any known instances of bullying, hazing, discriminatory harassment, threatening behavior or threats.

Students who believe they or others have been subjected to bullying, hazing, discriminatory harassment, threatening behavior or threats are encouraged to promptly report such incidents to a building administrator, teacher and/or school counselor. Students are also encouraged to report allegations of sexual harassment to the District's Title IX Coordinator.

Students, administrators, coaches, activity sponsors, volunteers, District employees, representatives, agents, and contractors shall be alert to incidents of bullying, hazing, discriminatory harassment, threatening behavior and threats and shall promptly report such conduct to their supervisor or the building principal. Individuals are also encouraged to report allegations of sexual harassment to the District's Title IX Coordinator.

Complaints of bullying, hazing, discriminatory harassment, threatening behavior and threats shall be promptly investigated, and appropriate discipline shall be administered to any individual who violates the District's prohibitions against bullying, hazing, discriminatory harassment, threatening behavior and threats, in accordance with applicable Board Policies, Administrative Regulations, and any applicable Code of Conduct. Appropriate corrective and preventative action shall be taken when allegations are substantiated.

Reports of alleged bullying or hazing that could be interpreted to also constitute discrimination and/or discriminatory harassment shall be handled in coordination with the Title IX Coordinator. Reports of alleged sexual harassment must be handled in accordance with the procedures set forth on the District's website at Non-Discrimination/Title IX in the document titled "Grievance Process with Exhibits." Complaints of bullying, hazing, discriminatory harassment, threatening behavior and threats may also be referred to the appropriate law enforcement agency for investigation, as required by law or in accordance with Board Policies and Administrative Regulations.

No reprisals nor retaliation shall occur as a result of good faith charges of bullying, hazing, discriminatory harassment threatening behavior or threats. Confidentiality of all parties shall be maintained, consistent with the District's legal and investigative obligations.

EQUAL OPPORTUNITY AND NONDISCRIMINATION OF STUDENTS IN SCHOOL AND CLASSROOM PRACTICES (P6141 and R6141)

The District will provide an equal opportunity, for all students to achieve their maximum potential through the programs and activities offered by the District without discrimination on the basis of actual or perceived race, color, age, creed, religion, sex, gender, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, ancestry, national origin/ethnicity, veteran status, marital status or handicap/disability, as required by Title VI, Title IX and Section 504. Furthermore, the District provides equal access to the Boy Scouts and other designated youth groups, as required by law.

The District shall provide to all students, without discrimination, course offerings, counseling, assistance, services, employment, athletics and extracurricular activities, in full compliance with all Federal and state laws. The equitable distribution of District resources is one means the District shall use to ensure all students receive a quality education. The District shall make reasonable accommodations for identified physical and mental impairments that constitute disabilities, consistent with the requirements of federal and state laws and regulations.

The District shall comply with federal law and regulations under Title IX prohibiting sexual harassment, which is a form of unlawful discrimination on the basis of sex. Inquiries regarding the application of Title IX to the District may be referred to the Title IX Coordinator, to the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights of the U.S. Department of Education, or both. The District's Title IX Coordinator is the Director of Equity and Public Programs, whose contact information can be found in Administrative Regulation 6414. Depending on the specific allegations raised in a complaint received pursuant to this Policy, the Superintendent may designate additional individuals to assist the Title IX Coordinator in carrying out their responsibilities.

Students and third parties who believe they or others have been subject to discrimination are encouraged to promptly report such alleged incidents in accordance with Policy and Administrative Regulation 6141, which are available on the District's website at

Policy 6141 and Regulation 6141, respectively. Additional information regarding the investigation and disposition of complaints can be found in the Policy and Administrative Regulation referenced above.

WEAPONS: POSSESSION AND USE (P5410)

Possession of a weapon or weapons on District property (as defined in this policy) or at school-sponsored activities is specifically prohibited. In addition, with very limited exceptions, Pennsylvania law *requires* public schools to report to police, and expel, for a minimum of one year, any student found in possession of any knife, cutting instrument, cutting tool, firearm, shotgun, rifle and any other tool, instrument or implement capable of inflicting serious bodily injury on District property.

SEARCHES (P5412 and R5412)

Authorized school officials are permitted to conduct searches of students, including their persons, lockers, motor vehicles, and other possessions on school property, when there is a reasonable suspicion that such a search will uncover evidence of a violation of Board Policy, Administrative Regulations, school rules, or local, state or federal law on the part of the student. In order for the requisite level of reasonable suspicion to exist, the school official must be able to point to a "particularized suspicion" for conducting a search. Searches that arise out of generalized concerns or merely suspicious behavior, where the school official is not looking for any object in particular, have been struck down as illegal. The scope of any search must be reasonable under the circumstances, taking into consideration the student's age, the intrusiveness of the search, and the immediacy of any threat prompting the search.

A copy of School Board Policy and Administrative Regulation 5412 are available at Policy 5412 and Regulation 5412, respectively, and contain additional information and procedures for the various types of searches (including, but not limited to, systematic suspicionless testing and general searches) to which students may be subjected. Students are encouraged to familiarize themselves with this information and procedures.

STUDENT RECORDS (P5225 and R5225)

The Board recognizes its responsibility for the collection, retention, disposition and security of student records. The Board further recognizes its duty to maintain the confidentiality of such records as required by law.

Parents/Guardians and eligible students shall be notified upon initial enrollment and annually thereafter of their rights concerning student records. The notice shall be modified to accommodate the needs of the disabled or those whose primary language is other than English. Notice of the rights of parents/guardians and eligible students with respect to student records, as well as other District guidelines governing the collection, retention, disposition and disclosure of student records is available for review in Board Policy and Administrative Regulation 5225, which are available at Policy 5225 and Regulation 5225, respectively.

PARTICIPATION OF ECONOMICALLY DISADVANTAGED PUPILS IN CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES (P5312 and R5312)

No student shall be denied the opportunity of participating in curricular programs and activities, including field trips, because of an inability to pay necessary fees for participation or costs of materials. For students wishing to participate in extracurricular programs and activities who are unable to pay the necessary fees or costs to participate, the District will make a good faith effort to identify funds to cover the fees or costs for such students, but cannot guarantee that such funds will always be available in all cases.

STUDENT CONDUCT ON DISTRICT-PROVIDED TRANSPORTATION (P5413 and R5413)

No student shall be permitted to engage in conduct that could endanger that student's safety or the safety of others. Discipline will be imposed as the situation warrants, in accordance with Board Policy, applicable Administrative Regulations, this Student Handbook, and the Code of Student Conduct.

RECORDING IN SCHOOLS AND ON SCHOOL BUSES/VEHICLES (P8070 and R8070)

In order to promote a safe school environment for all stakeholders, the interior and exterior of schools and other District property may be equipped with video and audio recording devices. The Superintendent is authorized to provide law enforcement with access to live images and audio captured by recording devices in order to promote the health, safety and welfare of student, staff, and other individuals. The Board of School Directors has also authorized the use of video and audio recording on school buses and vehicles while transporting students for school-related purposes for disciplinary and security purposes. Students and, when applicable, school bus passengers will be notified as to the presence and possible activation of any video and audio recording devices. Additional information can be found in Board Policy and Administrative Regulation 8070, which are available on the District's website at Policy 8070 and Regulation 8070, respectively.

STUDENTS' FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION (P5400 and R5400)

Freedom of expression is a right guaranteed by the United States Constitution. Students have the right to express themselves in accordance with law; however, expression that materially and substantially interferes with the educational process, threatens serious harm to the school or community, encourages unlawful activity, or interferes with another individual's rights is prohibited.

DRESS AND APPEARANCE (P5415 and R5415)

Students have the right to determine their dress and appearance as long as it conforms to norms of decency as set forth below and does not substantially and directly endanger physical health or safety, damage property or substantially disrupt activities.

Students may be required to wear certain types of clothing while participating in physical education classes or in activities such as music performances and athletics. A student may not be disciplined or excluded from regular instruction because of their appearance if style, fashion, or taste is the sole criterion for such action.

Students are expected to dress appropriately for weather conditions and in accordance with Board Policy.

Student attire or appearance that materially and substantially interferes with the educational process, threatens the school or community, depicts or encourages unlawful or otherwise prohibited activity, or interferes with another student's rights is not permitted.

Clothing bearing or depicting messages, images, or advertisements relating to drugs, alcohol tobacco is not permitted. Clothing depicting violent or sexually explicit messages or images is also prohibited.

Absent an administrative exception to the contrary, students are expected to dress in accordance with Board Policy and the guidelines established in the applicable Student Handbook during school hours and at school-sponsored events.
Each school's dress code policy shall be gender-neutral. Schools cannot enforce specific attire based on gender. Students have the right to dress in accordance with their gender identity within the constraints of the dress codes adopted by the school. Gender-neutral dress code guidelines apply to regular school days as well as any school sponsored activities.
Students whose attire does not conform to the applicable standards will be asked to put on appropriate clothing. Students may be asked to change into appropriate clothing, if available at school, or the student's parent/guardian will be called and asked to bring appropriate clothing to school.
Students with questions about the applicable dress code or the appropriateness of particular attire/appearance shall direct such questions to the building principal or assistant principal.

Serious or repeated violations of the dress code will be subject to disciplinary action.

STUDENT ACCIDENTS AND INJURIES – TREATMENT AND REPORTING (P5422 and R5422)

The Board has created procedures for students who suffer injuries at school or during school events, including students who suffer brain injuries or cardiac events. The Board requires that brain injuries or symptoms of sudden cardiac events to student-athletes be taken extremely seriously and with the short- term and long-term health of the student-athlete kept uppermost in mind. Regulations which have been established with regard to this policy are available in the Athletic Office or Main Office and in the Athletic Handbook.

FOOD AND NUTRITION SERVICES – STUDENT MEAL CHARGE POLICY (R8120)

School Meal Account Procedures / Meal Charging Policy

A student's meal status is always kept confidential. All students have accounts to purchase their meals and are treated the same at the register.

Parents/guardians are responsible for their student's cafeteria food purchases and are expected to maintain payments on any outstanding account balance for cafeteria food purchases. Parents/guardians may request in writing that the District restrict their child's purchase of a la carte food items and/or meals at any time.

The procedures for notifying parents/guardians of low and negative balances and collecting negative balances are detailed below. However, students will be permitted to charge meals (breakfast and/or lunch), and will not be denied a meal because of the insufficient funds in their student meal accounts. In addition to purchasing a meal, students are permitted to charge a la carte food items, even if their individual student meal accounts lack sufficient funds, as long as their balance is not negative $50 or more. In any event, the District will initiate procedures to restrict a la carte purchases when the student's negative meal account balance exceeds $50 and the student will only be permitted to purchase a breakfast and lunch meal.

Students may not be publicly identified or stigmatized, or required to perform chores or other work when they cannot pay or have a negative student meal account balance. Schools will not require a student to discard a school meal after it has been served to the student, even if the student is unable to pay for the meal or has a negative student meal account balance.

Low & Negative Account Balance Notification

If a student has an account balance of $5.00 or less, the parent/guardian will be notified at least weekly by email or a notice distributed in homeroom or in student folders that are brought home to the parent/guardian. The envelope containing this notice should be marked "confidential – to be opened by addressee only." If the student's outstanding account balance due reaches or exceeds five (5) school meals, including breakfasts and/or lunches, a request for payment letter will be mailed or emailed to the student's parent/guardian, which shall also include a request that the parent/guardian apply to participate in the school food program. In addition, a school official will contact the parent/guardian to resolve the outstanding account balance due by one or more of the following methods: telephone, electronic communication, certified letter, and again request that the parent/guardian apply to participate in the school food program. These contacts will continue until the outstanding account balance due is satisfied or has been determined to be uncollectible.

If the student's outstanding account balance due is in excess of $50.00 and remains unpaid for more than 30 days, the parent/guardian may incur additional collection charges on the outstanding balance. If a good faith effort is not made towards payment of the outstanding balance due, then a referral to an outside authority or agency may be made.

Parents/guardians experiencing economic hardships may request payment arrangements from the District.

Additional Information

The Principal or designee shall notify Food and Nutrition Services regarding departing students so that account balances can be rectified prior to their departure. Information on meal prices, menus, how to apply for free or reduced priced meals, how to check a school meal account balance or add funds to such accounts can be found on the District's Food and Nutrition Services webpage.

Delinquent School Meal Account Debt

After taking reasonable steps to collect delinquent school meal debt, which shall include at least two written correspondences, as outlined above, to the student's parent/guardian, unrecovered/delinquent debt at the end of each school year shall be referred to the Business Manager for appropriate action. Such unrecovered/delinquent debt shall be considered bad debt and non-federal funding sources must repay the Food Service Fund for the total amount of such unrecovered/delinquent debt. Delinquent school meal debt shall not be classified as bad debt for write off purposes until after reasonable steps have been taken to collect such delinquent school meal debt.

From time to time, parents/guardians or other individuals may choose to donate funds to the District. Donated funds may not be co-mingled with food service funds from federal or state sources or food sales. Instead, donations must

be made to the District's General Fund, and transferred to the Food Service Fund at the appropriate time to offset unrecovered/delinquent student meal debt. Donated funds will not be applied to individual student meal account balances, but instead as an overall reduction of the amount of funds that would otherwise need to be transferred from the General Fund to the Food Service Fund at the end of the school year to repay the Food Service Fund for unrecovered/delinquent debt.

Distribution
This Administrative Regulation, detailing the District's local meal charge policy, shall be provided in writing to each household at the beginning of the school year, and during the school year to households who transfer to the District during the school year.

STUDENT WELLNESS (P5402 and R5402)

A copy of the District's Student Wellness and Nutrition Policy and Administrative Regulation are available for review on the District's website at Policy 5402 and Regulation 5402, respectively. Students and their parents/guardians are encouraged to review this Policy and Regulation carefully, as they contain important information about fundraisers in school involving the sale of food and regulations regarding brining outside food into school.

TOBACCO PRODUCTS – POSSESSION AND USE (P5411 and R5411)

The possession, distribution and/or use of tobacco products by students is prohibited in all buildings owned by the District, on school grounds, in school vehicles and/or while participating in school-sponsored activities on or off school premises. The foregoing is a total ban, for all students, on all possession, distribution and/or use of tobacco products in any District building, on any District property, in any District vehicle and/or during any District-sponsored activity. The definition of "tobacco products" is outlined in detail in Policy 5411, which is available on the District's website at Policy 5411, and includes the use of vaping and other electronic smoking products Students who violate this Policy will be subject to school-based discipline.

STUDENT SUBSTANCE ABUSE (P5405 and R5405)

Students are prohibited from using, distributing, possessing, or being under the influence of prohibited substances in any of the buildings owned by the District, on District property, in school vehicles and/or while participating in school-sponsored activities on or off District property. Students who are found to be in violation of this prohibition shall be suspended from school and disciplined in accordance with Board Policy and the applicable student handbook. Aiding or abetting any of the above-mentioned prohibited conduct shall be treated in the same manner. The definition of "prohibited substances" is outlined in detail in Policy 5405, which is available on the District's website at Policy 5405. Violations of this Policy shall be referred to the appropriate law enforcement agencies in accordance with applicable law or regulations, Board Policy, and the Memorandum of Understanding in effect with local law enforcement. The District reserves the right to enforce this Policy and the accompanying Administrative Regulation with respect to off-campus conduct to the fullest extent permitted by law.

The District, recognizing the need to address the problem of substance abuse on a District-wide basis, supports the maintenance of a Student Assistance Program. The purpose of the Student Assistance Program is three-fold: (1) to identify students who are having problems because of substance abuse or due to mental health problems, (2) to intervene when appropriate either by personal contact or through support groups, and (3) with the involvement and approval of parents/guardians, to refer those students for appropriate help. Additional information regarding the Student Assistance Program and procedures for students to seek help for themselves or on behalf of another student with a drug, alcohol, or substance abuse problem can be found in Administrative Regulation 5405, which is available on the District's website at Regulation 5405.

ADMINISTRATION OF MEDICATION TO STUDENTS (P5406 and R5406)

Unless specifically authorized otherwise by Board Policy, the administration of medication to a student during school, at any school-sponsored activity, or on a conveyance providing transportation to or from school or school-sponsored

activity, will be permitted only upon prior consent of the student's parent/guardian and at the direction of a licensed healthcare provider, in the following circumstances:

1. Where failure to take or make available such medication would jeopardize the health of the student or would prevent the student from attending school or participating in a school-sponsored activity; or
2. Where the administration of medication is part of a student's accommodation plan, service agreement, or Individualized Education Program (IEP), in accordance with applicable law.

A copy of the District's Board Policy and Administrative Regulation 5406 are available for review on the District's website at Policy 5406 and Regulation 5406, respectively. Students and their parents/guardians are encouraged to review this Policy and Regulation carefully.

FIELD TRIPS (P6153 and R6153)

Students may have the opportunity to participate in supervised, school-sponsored field trips. Students are reminded that all rules and regulations of the District remain in effect. In the event that a trip is cancelled for any reason, the District shall not be responsible for monetary deposits lost due to such cancellation.

INTEGRATED PEST MANAGEMENT (P8012)

When pesticide applications are planned and scheduled in school buildings and/or on school grounds, the District will provide notification including: (1) posting a pest control sign in an appropriate visible area, (2) providing the pest control information sheet to all individuals working in the school building, and (3) providing required notice to all parents and guardians of students or to a list of parents or guardians who have requested notification of applications of pesticides. Records of the District's chemical pest control treatments for the past three (3) years are available to the public at the District's administrative office.

COMPLAINTS REGARDING THE DISTRICT (P1122 and R1122)

Complaints concerning the District's programs or operations should be directed to the staff member or the administrator immediately in charge of the area in which the complaint arises. Complaints received anonymously by the District, by the Board or by its members will not be recognized as formal correspondence; and therefore, typically will not be given a response.
The Superintendent shall promulgate Administrative Regulations detailing the process and procedures District personnel will follow for handling complaints received by the District. Special procedures provided by law or other District Policy for handling complaints in certain areas such as discrimination, sexual harassment, and resolving issues of concern for non-contract staff shall supersede the provisions of this Policy and its accompanying Regulation.

PROCEDURES FOR ENFORCING SCHOOL ATTENDANCE (P5113 and R5113)

Students of compulsory school age are required to attend school. Regular, timely attendance will ensure every student has the opportunity to achieve. Many of the rules and procedures governing **truancy, absences, and tardiness (which can be cumulatively counted as an absence)** are mandated by Pennsylvania law and school code. The District's Board Policy and Administrative Regulation governing student attendance are available on the District's website at Policy 5113 and Regulation 5113, respectively. It is important that students and their parents/guardians review these documents and familiarize themselves with the District's procedures.

ELECTRONIC DEVICES (P5414 and R5414)

Electronic devices include all devices that can take photographs; that can record, store, transmit, receive, reproduce, initiate, or display audio or video data, calls, messages, images, or any other form(s) of communications; or that can connect to the internet. This definition includes all devices with voice, data, text, and/or navigation capabilities, those that perform word processing functions, and those that support computer and online applications (apps).

The District has the right to regulate the use of electronic devices in accordance with applicable law. Students may possess electronic devices in buildings owned by the District, on school grounds, in school vehicles, and/or while participating in school-sponsored activities , subject to the conditions contained in Board Policy and Administrative Regulation 5414 and any additional regulations imposed by the building principal or designee.

The use of electronic devices is subject to the following restrictions:

1. Electronic devices may not be used to conduct any activities that violate applicable law, Board Policy, Administrative Regulations, school rules, or any applicable student handbook or code of conduct.

2. Electronic devices may not be used in any manner that interferes with, or is disruptive to, educational or extracurricular activities or events of the District.

3. Unless authorized by a teacher or building administrator for use in connection with an activity related to the curriculum or other District-sponsored activity, electronic devices must be turned off or set on silent mode when students are in classrooms and other locations where instruction is taking place.

4. Use of electronic devices in restrooms, locker rooms, and other areas where individuals would have a similar expectation of privacy is expressly prohibited.

5. Without prior permission from an administrator or teacher, students may not use electronic devices in school to capture videos, photos or audio.

6. The District is not responsible for any damages or theft that may occur to electronic devices.

7. Personal electronic devices must be used in accordance with Board Policy and Administrative Regulation 8080 (Acceptable Use of Technology).

Notwithstanding the rules set forth above, electronic devices may be used at any time for the purposes of reporting an emergency situation or a violation of Board Policy, Administrative Regulations, school rules, or any applicable student handbook or code of conduct to an appropriate school official when such violation constitutes a threat to the health, safety or welfare of members of the school community. Electronic devices may also be used in accordance with a student's IEP or Section 504 Service Agreement. Violations of Board Policy or Administrative Regulation 5414, including any regulations imposed on the use of electronic devices by individual building principals, may result in disciplinary action, including suspension, expulsion and/or referral to law enforcement.

A copy of the District's Board Policy and Administrative Regulation 5414 are available for review on the District's website at Policy 5414 and Regulation 5414, respectively. Students and their parents/guardians are encouraged to review this Policy and Regulation carefully.

ACCEPTABLE USE OF TECHNOLOGY (P8080 and R8080)

The Board recognizes the need to establish rules and regulations for the use by students, staff, and other authorized users of District-owned or issued technology resources, consistent with the educational and operational goals of the District.

District owned or issued technology resources (referred to hereafter as "District technology resources") shall mean:

1. All networks, servers and telecommunications systems maintained or operated by the District;

2. All District-owned or issued resources and hardware devices such as computers, laptops, tablets, telephones, cellular phones, drones, fax machines, printers, copiers, scanners, etc.;

3. All web-based and cloud-based storage; and

4. Web and cloud-based applications provided by the District through a third party.

The use of District technology resources shall at all times be in accordance with applicable law and other Board Policies and Administrative Regulations.

The use of District technology resources is a privilege, not a right, and may be revoked at any time for abusive conduct or violation of the terms outlined in Board Policy or Administrative Regulation 8080.

District technology resources shall be used primarily for school, District employment, or approved educational-related activities only. Limited incidental personal use is permitted, so long as such use otherwise complies with Policy and Administrative Regulation 8080, and further provided that such limited incidental personal use does not interfere with and is not disruptive to District or school operations or another user's use of District technology resources.

The use of drones or other unmanned aerial electronic devices on District property or at District-sponsored events is prohibited unless prior approval is granted by the Superintendent or designee, regardless of whether a drone or other unmanned aerial electronic device accesses or otherwise uses District technology resources.

The District reserves the right to conduct periodic general searches of network users' activity on District technology resources, using techniques reasonably designed to discover improper or harmful activity by students or other users. Further detail regarding the boundaries of this authority is outlined in Board Policy and Administrative Regulations 8080 and 5412.

The District reserves the right to prevent unauthorized, inappropriate or illegal use of District technology resources, and to administer appropriate discipline to users who violate Policy or Administrative Regulation 8080. Discipline could include, but is not limited to, usage restrictions, loss of access privileges, suspension, expulsion, termination, restitution, referral to law enforcement, and/or any applicable consequence outlined in any student handbook, collective bargaining agreement, or Board Policy/Administrative Regulation, as appropriate under the circumstances.

Users of District technology resources shall have no expectation that their activity on the District network, including files, communications, and internet activity, will be private, regardless of whether activity takes place on or away from school property. Files, communications, and internet activity on District technology resources are subject to review and may be deleted without notice.

The availability of information on District technology resources does not imply endorsement by the District of such content, nor does the District guarantee the accuracy of such content.

The District shall not be responsible for any information lost, damaged or unavailable while using District technology resources or for any charges or fees resulting from such use.

The District will fully cooperate with local, state and federal officials in any investigation concerning or related to alleged illegal activities of any individuals misusing District technology resources.

Users of District technology resources shall immediately report any violations of Policy or Administrative Regulation 8080 to their building principal, immediate supervisor, or the Director of Technology or designee.

The rules, regulations, and procedures that form the District's Acceptable Use of Technology Policy are outlined in detail in Board Policy and Administrative Regulation 8080. A copy of the District's Board Policy and Administrative Regulation 8080 are available for review on the District's website at Policy 8080 and Regulation 8080, respectively. Students and their parents/guardians are encouraged to review this Policy and Regulation carefully.

SELF-HARMING BEHAVIOR (P5423 and R5423)

The District takes a multifaceted approach to suicide prevention and the recognition of and response to other self-harming behaviors. Students shall receive age-appropriate education on the importance of safe and healthy choices, coping strategies, how to recognize risk factors and warning signs, as well as help-seeking strategies for themselves or others, including how to engage school resources and how to refer friends for help.

"Self-harming behavior" includes (but is not limited to) threats of suicide, excessive risk taking, purposeful self-injury, and evidence of excessive alcohol consumption or harmful drug use. Once evidence of self-harming behavior is made known to a District employee, the employee must intervene in accordance with the procedures outlined in Administrative Regulation 5423, which is available on the District's website at Regulation 5423. This Regulation also contains additional information regarding the prevention of suicide and other self-harming behaviors, including referral and response procedures. Students and their parents/guardians are encouraged to carefully review this Regulation and its associated Policy (available at Policy 5423).

HOMELESS STUDENTS AND STUDENTS EXPERIENCING EDUCATIONAL INSTABILITY (P5455 and R5455)

Students experiencing educational instability are students who experience one or more school changes during a single school year due to homelessness, involvement in the foster care or juvenile justice systems, or court ordered placements. These students are entitled to additional support from the District to remove barriers that could impact their graduation and participation in school. This includes waiver of fees and deadlines to join extracurricular activities. Further details are included in Board Policy and Administrative Regulation 5455, available for review on the District's website at Policy 5455 and Regulation 5455. Students and their parents/guardians are encouraged to review this Policy and Regulation carefully.

Annual Notice of Special Education Services

The Tredyffrin/Easttown School District provides – without cost to parents – screenings, evaluations, appropriate programs, and services to all students thought to be exceptional and in need of specially designed instruction, from age 5 through the end of their legally determined age eligibility. These programs and services are made available to children who meet the qualifications of being a student with intellectually disabled, hearing impairments including deafness, speech or language impairments, visual impairments including blindness, emotional disturbance, multiple disabilities, orthopedic impairments, autism, traumatic brain injury, other health impairments, and specific learning disability.

School-age children who do not meet the eligibility criteria outlined above may be eligible for special protections and for adaptations and accommodations in instruction, facilities, and activities under the Americans with Disabilities Act and/or Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973. Children are entitled to such protections, adaptations, and/or accommodations if they have a diagnosed mental or physical disability that substantially limits or prohibits participation in or access to an aspect(s) of the school program.

Public schools must educate children to the maximum extent appropriate in the regular education setting and they must receive instruction that conforms as much as possible to the instruction received by non-disabled students. Depending on the nature and severity of the disability, Tredyffrin/Easttown School District can provide programs and services beginning in the least restrictive environment to the most restrictive setting in the one of the following:

- The public school the child would attend if not disabled
- An alternative regular public school either in or outside of the district
- A special education program or center operated by a public school entity
- An approved private school or other private facility licensed to serve children with disabilities
- A residential school
- An approved out-of-state program
- In the home

Special education services are provided according to the primary educational needs of the child and not the category of disability. The types of educational services available include:

- Learning support
- Life skills support
- Emotional support
- Deaf or hearing impaired support, blind or visually impaired support, physical support, autistic support
- Multiple disabilities support
- Related services such as speech and language support, occupational therapy, physical therapy, nursing services, audiologist services, counseling, and family training

For further information regarding the Child Find process and related parent rights and protections, or other student services or special education information, please contact the Office of Individualized Student Services at 610-240-1921.

McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act

The McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act and the Pennsylvania Education for Children and Youth Experiencing Homelessness Program exist to make sure homeless youth have access to a free and appropriate public education while removing barriers that homeless children face.
Information for School-Age Youth: If you live in any of the following situations (or similar situations), you may qualify for certain educational rights and protections under the federal McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act.:

- A shelter
- A motel or campground due to the lack of an alternative adequate accommodation
- A car, park, abandoned building, bus or train station, or other public or private place not designed for or ordinarily used as a regular sleeping accommodation for human beings
- Doubled up with other people due to loss of housing or economic hardship
- Unaccompanied homeless youth

If you are determined to be an eligible student, you may have the right to:

- Receive a free, appropriate public education
- Enroll in school immediately, even if lacking documents normally required for enrollment
- Enroll in school and attend classes while the school gathers needed documents
- Enroll in the local school or continue attending your school of origin (the school you attended when permanently housed or the school in which you were last enrolled) if that is your preference and is feasible; if the school district believes that the school selected is not in your best interest, the district must provide you with a written explanation of its position and inform you of your right to appeal its decision
- Receive transportation to and from the school of origin, if you request this
- Receive educational services comparable to those provided to other students, according to your needs as a student

If you believe you may be eligible or know someone who could be eligible, contact the Tredyffrin/Easttown School District administrative liaison below to find out what services and supports may be available. Additional information can also be found in Board Policy and Regulation 5455 (Homeless Students), which is available on the District's website at Policy 5455 and Regulation 5455.

- Dr. Oscar Torres, Director of Equity and Public Programs, at 610-240-1909; torreso@tesd.net
  or
- Dr. Chris Groppe, Director of Safety and Student Services, at 610-240-1919; groppec@tesd.net

JUMAP INTO
2026, TEMSI!
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THE RAVEN
2025-2026
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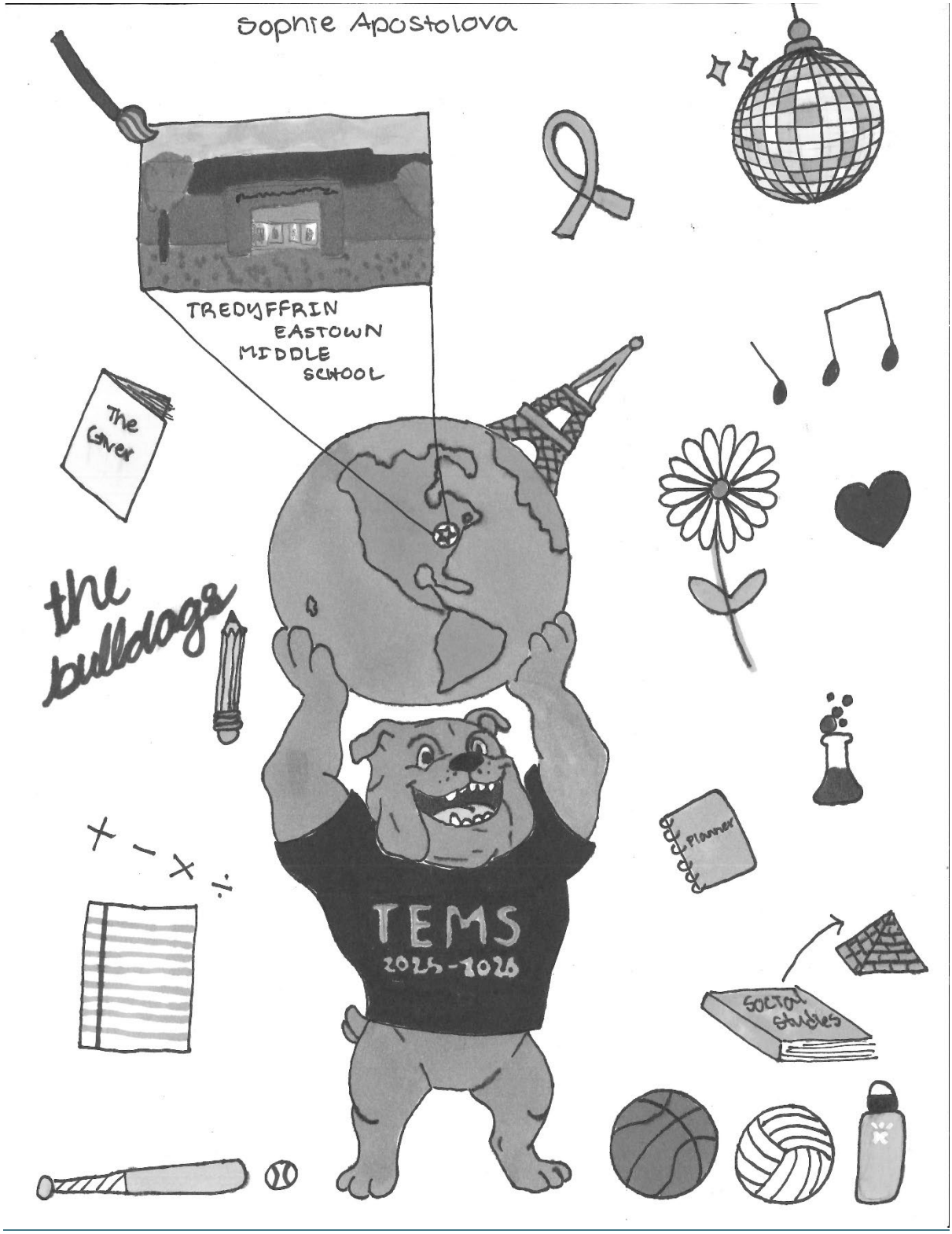
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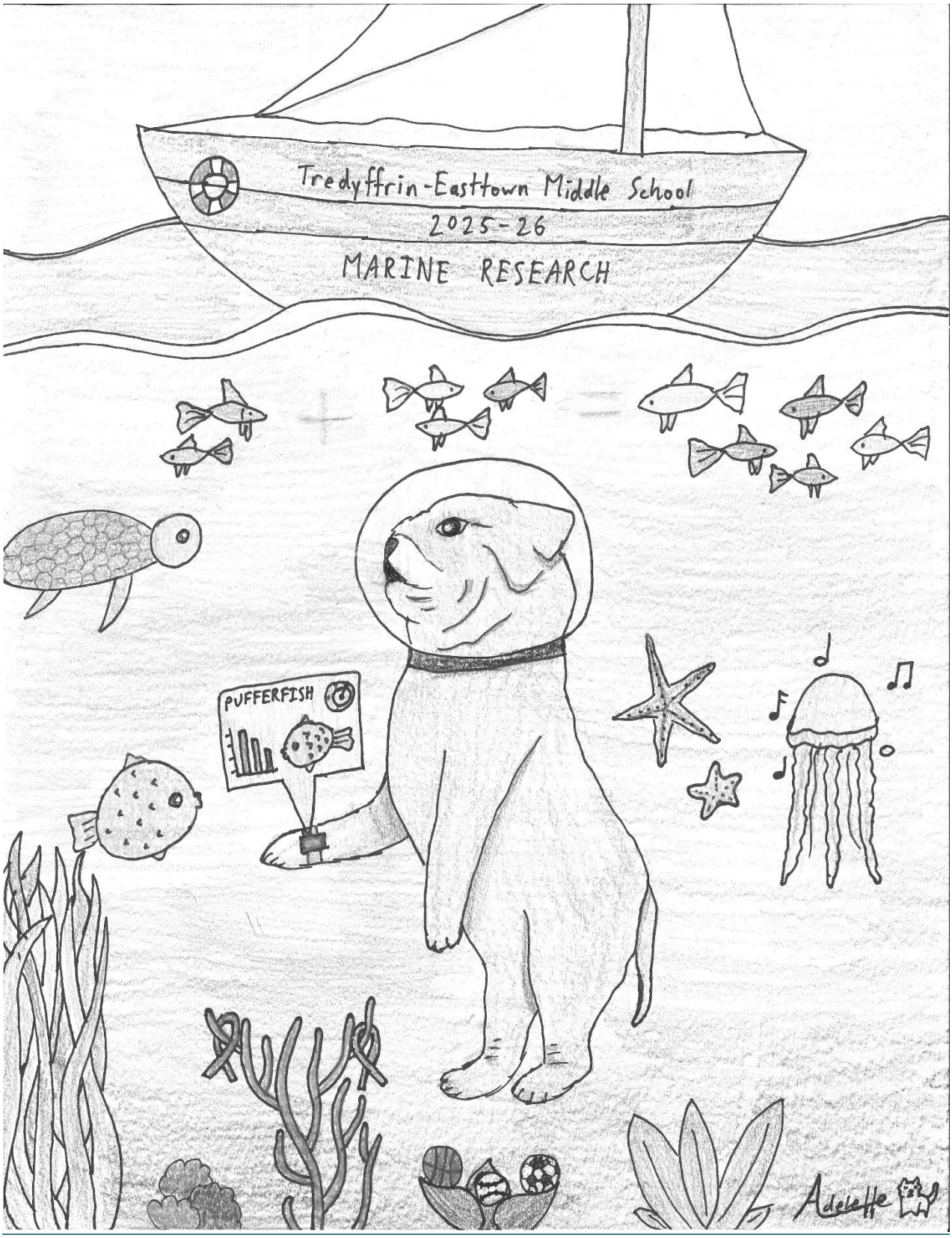
Tredyffrin-Easttown Middle School
2025-26
MARINE RESEARCH
PUFFERFISH
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Tredyffrin/Easttown School District

2025—Calendar—2026

NOTE: First full day for ALL students Gr. 1 - 12: August 25, 2025; 1st day for Kindergarten students: September 2, 2025
Tentative Last Day for students: June 12, 2026 (1/2 day) *No Kindergarten students report*
Tentative Last Teacher Day: June 16, 2026

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MS Marking Periods
HS Semesters

Aug. 25 - Oct. 31.....46 Days
Nov. 3 - Jan. 23.....46 Days
Semester 1.....Aug. 25 - Jan. 23
Jan. 26 - Apr. 10 .....47 Days
Apr. 13 - June 12.....43 Days
Semester 2.....Jan. 26 - Jun. 12

K E Y

- = No School
- = Kindergarten Screening & Parent Conferences, no Kindergarten
- = 1/2 Day: Elem. Parent Conferences, Gr. 1-4, no Kindergarten
- = 1/2 Day: Elementary / MS Parent Conferences, Gr. 1-8, no Kindergarten
- = Districtwide Parent Conference Day, no school for students
- = New Teacher Inservice, no school for students
- = Instr. Staff Inservice, no school for students
- = 1/2 Day for Gr. 1-12, no Kindergarten/ 1/2 Day Staff Inservice
- = Rescheduled days for emergency closings as per the list on this calendar. If needed, rescheduled days could extend until June 30.

Rescheduled student days for use in the event of emergency closings.

Day 1– 5	Flexible Instruction Days
Day 6	June 15, 2026
Day 7	June 16, 2026
Day 8	June 17, 2026
Day 9	June 18, 2026
Day 10	June 22, 2026

Section 15-1502(a) Local Holidays—No School
Defined by the PA School Code as days that will not be used as make up for emergency closings.
November 28, 2025, December 26, 2025, December 29, 2025, December 30, 2025 and April 3, 2026

August 20-22, 2025, November 4, 2025, December 1, 2025, February 17, 2026, May 19, 2026 and June 15, 2026 are additional Act 80 Days.