

Rye Middle School
Handbook
2026 - 2027

3 Parsons Street
Rye, New York 10580

Telephone: 914.967.6100

Main Office - Ext. 3002

Attendance Office - Ext. 3003

Counseling Office - Ext. 3050

CONTENTS

TEAMS FOR 2026 – 2027	3
RYE MIDDLE SCHOOL STAFF	4
MESSAGE FROM THE PRINCIPAL	5
MIDDLE SCHOOL PROGRAM	5
RMS GUIDANCE DEPARTMENT	5
COURSE REQUIREMENTS	5
PROGRAM CHANGES	5
X-PERIOD	5
ACADEMIC REPORTING	5
STUDENT PROGRESS	5
NWEA ACADEMIC PROGRESS MONITORING	5
PARENT CONFERENCES	5
REPORT CARDS	6
ACADEMIC MISCONDUCT	6
STUDENT RECORDS	6
TRANSCRIPTS	6
PROMOTIONAL REQUIREMENTS FOR GRADES 6, 7, and 8	6
ORGANIZATIONS, CLUBS & ACTIVITIES	6
PRINCIPAL'S COUNCIL	6
ATHLETIC PROGRAMS	6
RYE CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT STANDARDS FOR INTERSCHOLASTIC ATHLETES	7
ELIGIBILITY FOR MS/HS EXTRA-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES	7
SOCIAL EVENTS	7
EMERGENCY SCHOOL CLOSING	8
UNSCHEDULED EARLY DISMISSAL	8
DELAYED OPENING/SCHOOL CLOSING INCLEMENT WEATHER NOTIFICATION	8
THE LIBRARY MEDIA CENTER	8
REGISTRATION REQUIREMENTS	8
HEALTH OFFICE	9
	1

STUDENT ILLNESS AND INJURY GUIDELINES	9
ATTENDANCE	10
SIGNING OUT	11
CLASS CUTTING	11
LATENESS	11
STUDENT CODE OF CONDUCT	11
CELL PHONE USE	11
HALLWAYS	11
LOCKERS	12
CHEATING/PLAGIARISM	12
CITIZENSHIP	12
RESPECT	12
RMS TECHNOLOGY & INTERNET USE	12
DRESS CODE	12
DRUGS AND ALCOHOL	13
SMOKING	13
DANGEROUS WEAPONS IN SCHOOL	13
THEFT, VANDALISM & HARASSMENT	13
FIREWORKS	13
FIELD TRIPS/SCHOOL-RELATED ACTIVITIES	13
SCHOOL SAFETY DRILLS & EVACUATIONS	13
SEX HARASSMENT	13
PENALTIES	14
RYE MIDDLE SCHOOL BULLYING POLICY	15
DASA	16
ONE & TWO HOUR DELAY SCHEDULE	17

TEAMS FOR 2026 – 2027

Team 6R

- Nicholas Apiscopa: Math
- Julianne Corbalis: Social Studies
- Scott Cifone: Language Arts
- Julie Divi*: Science
- James Pape: Special Education

Team 8R

- Allyson Furcick*: Social Studies
- Michele Haiken: Language Arts
- Lisa Irvine: Science
- James Kennedy: Math
- Stephen York: Special Education

Team 6M

- Cari Caulway: Social Studies
- Gina Elezovic: Special Education
- Michael Massett*: Language Arts
- Michele McRedmond: Science
- Alex Tejera: Math

Team 8M

- John Aguilar*: Math
- Debra Davis: Science
- Geri Jones: Social Studies
- Heather Moran: Special Education
- Fiona Youngs: Language Arts

Team 6S

- Michael Johnson: Math
- Carin Mehler: Social Studies
- Lisa Rifas: Special Education
- Katrina Smith: Science
- Leslie Webb*: Language Arts

Team 8S

- Harold Brosowsky: Science
- Victoria Dosso: Math
- Allison Gelbstein: Special Education
- Noreen Kennedy*: Language Arts
- Francesca Miller: Social Studies

Team 7R

- TBD: Special Education
- Shane O'Brien*: Social Studies
- John O'Donnell: Language Arts
- Caitlin Pecora: Math
- Shaina Simpson: Science

***Team Leader**

Team 7M

- Simon Berk: Social Studies
- Peter Gouveia*: Language Arts
- Quan Huynh: Math
- Julianne Tamucci: Science
- Margo Hackett: Special Education

Team 7S

- Michael Carey*: Social Studies
- April Colarusso: Language Arts
- Sophia Gelard: Science
- Sarah Horne: Special Education
- Aleksey Vodyanitskiy: Math

RYE MIDDLE SCHOOL STAFF

PRINCIPAL'S OFFICE

Nicholas Clair
Daniela Vitiello, Assistant

ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL'S OFFICE

Leah Blumenthal
Lynn Mazzola, Office Management

GUIDANCE OFFICE

Dina Farewell, Guidance Counselor, Grade 6
Gabrielle Thomas, Guidance Counselor, Grade 8
Robert Villanova, Guidance Counselor, Grade 7
Marie Zambardi, Office Management

STUDENT SERVICES

Lisa Barone, Psychologist
Meredith Kalbacker, ESS Mental Health Counselor
Danielle McGuire, Psychologist
Kristin Quintano, Social Worker

WORLD LANGUAGES

Pamela AuCoin
Biao Cai
Dominic Guazzo
Danielle Kelly
Dayna Reist
Alexandra Soberon
Alyssa Valente

MUSIC

Anthony Abate
Lizbeth Burrow
Victoria Jessie
Leah Sperber

DIRECTOR of TECHNOLOGY & CHIEF INFO. OFFICER

Kaitlyn Sassone

INSTRUCTIONAL TECH COACH

Caroleann Bombace

INSTRUCTIONAL COACH

Shehnaz Khalfan-Washington

SPECIAL EDUCATION TEACHERS

Kristen DiMatteo
Gina Elezovic
TBD
Allison Gelbstein
Margo Hackett
Sarah Horne
Heather Moran
James Pape
Lisa Rifas
Stephen York

HEALTH OFFICE

Elizabeth Carty

ART

Maggie Heinze
Kim Tamalonis

PHYSICAL/HEALTH ED.

Kelly Duffy
Randall McCumber
Josh Plaice
Tommy Proudian
Emily Trupia

ENGINEERING

Francesca Diamante
Suzanne Granata
Scott Peck
Brian Rodefelfd

MEDIA CENTER

Emily Wagner

ENL

Wendy Robins

SPEECH/LANGUAGE THERAPIST

Mia Verrigni

READING SPECIALIST

Megan Wilson

MESSAGE FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Welcome to Rye Middle School. Middle school is a great place to grow academically, socially, and personally, and we look forward to having you join our community. We hope to create an environment where you can feel safe and comfortable as you challenge yourself to be your very best.

MIDDLE SCHOOL PROGRAM

RMS SCHOOL COUNSELING DEPARTMENT

The counseling department consists of three counselors, one for each grade level. Functioning as a team, they often include the school social worker and psychologist in their work. Counselors are available to assist with achieving academic and social success, and they make every effort to be easily accessible to students and parents. Parents can contact Ms. Marie Zambardi in the School Counseling Office at Ext. 3050 if they wish to make an appointment with their child's counselor.

Students are welcome to seek out their school counselor when necessary. Every effort will be made to avoid scheduling counseling sessions or appointments during class periods. Lunch periods and X-period are the best times for students to meet with their counselor.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Rye Middle School students are scheduled for all instructional periods of the school day. Each student will be enrolled in language arts, math, social studies, science, and physical education. Most students take a world language. Sometimes, students may be given additional classes, such as a math lab or literacy class, to help them improve their skills. In such cases, the counselor will work with students to obtain the best possible schedule to accommodate the student's individual needs. Students and parents should consult the RMS Program of Studies for a complete description of all programs.

PROGRAM CHANGES

Student requests for classes must be approved by the parent, the school counselor, and the principal. Students may NOT drop or add courses once two full weeks of a semester have elapsed unless there is a compelling reason. It is the responsibility of the student to continue to attend the class until the request to drop the course has been approved.

X-PERIOD

Teachers will provide extra help to students Monday through Thursday between 2:53-3:15 pm.

X-PERIOD is optional. Teachers will post their extra-help days in advance on a school-wide Google Sheets Workbook. Students can access this workbook via Google Classroom, bookmarks, and digital weekly agendas. In addition, families and students will have access to the Rye Middle School website.

Rye Middle School teachers are available at X-period to provide assistance, academic support, additional instruction, or consultation with students on their class and homework assignments. Parents are urged to encourage their children to take advantage of this time by asking teachers for clarification of assignments and to receive extra instruction. Teachers may encourage students to attend X-period to make up an assessment, complete an assignment, or review academic material.

ACADEMIC REPORTING

STUDENT PROGRESS

Student progress is available through the Parent Portal of PowerSchool. Parents can access their child's grades by logging into PowerSchool and using their school-issued password. The Parent Portal is open at the end of each school day. Keep in mind that grades are only as current as the latest teacher input. Please do not over-check grades. In addition, parents are encouraged to regularly check PowerSchool to monitor their student's daily and cumulative attendance, including absences and tardies.

NWEA ACADEMIC PROGRESS MONITORING

The NWEA MAP Test will be administered to all middle school 6th & 7th grade students three times and all 8th grade students twice a year to measure academic progress in the content areas of ELA and mathematics. The testing windows will be in late September, mid-February, and late May for both ELA and Math.

PARENT CONFERENCES

Parents may make appointments for conferences with teachers or school counselors through their child's team leader. In addition, three Parent-Teacher conferences are scheduled throughout the year for each grade; these conferences are arranged through the Team Leader.

It is not necessary for every parent to schedule a formal conference. Teachers may initiate conferences, but parents are always encouraged to reach out to their child's teachers and school counselor with any questions or concerns.

REPORT CARDS

Report cards are available online at the end of each marking period for the purpose of reviewing academic progress. Parents are encouraged to check their child's performance on PowerSchool throughout each marking period.

ACADEMIC MISCONDUCT

Cheating and plagiarism/misuse of Artificial Intelligence on tests, research papers, homework, quizzes, labs, projects, and other assessments will not be tolerated. Students involved in such activity will be referred to the classroom teacher and the Assistant Principal for the appropriate consequence.

STUDENT RECORDS

Parents of a student under the age of 18 have a right to review and inspect any and all official records and files in accordance with the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act of 1974.

Student records are confidential and may not be released or made available to persons other than parents or students without the written consent of such parents or students. Exceptions to this rule, as designated by FERPA, include "other school officials, teachers, and certain state and federal agencies, etc."

TRANSCRIPTS

Grades earned in Algebra 1, Earth and Space Science, 7th and 8th-grade world language, and American Sign Language will appear on students' high school transcripts. Together, 7th and 8th-grade world language classes and American Sign Language are equivalent to one credit of high school language.

PROMOTIONAL REQUIREMENTS FOR GR 6, 7, & 8

Satisfactory completion of all required and elective courses is necessary for promotion to the next grade. If a student fails one or more core academic subjects, he or she must attend a recognized summer school program. Promotion will be determined after successful completion of summer school and passing the course. Any student failing three or more core academic classes will be retained.

ORGANIZATIONS, CLUBS & ACTIVITIES

The Middle School offers a full assortment of clubs and activities. Participation in the co-curricular programs at Rye Middle School is a privilege. The same eligibility requirements essential for athletics are in effect for students participating in any school-sponsored club or activity. All clubs and activities will not meet before 3:15 p.m. so that all academic requirements may be met.

PRINCIPAL'S COUNCIL

The Principal's Council at Rye Middle School is the student government. Meetings are held after school and are open to all middle schoolers. The success of the Principal's Council depends on student involvement. Students are always needed to work on committees and help with Council-sponsored activities.

The Principal's Council is active in student life by sponsoring activities such as assemblies, athletics, community service, and outings. It also provides an organization where student opinions can be expressed and then presented to the faculty, administration, and community groups for the improvement of the schools.

ATHLETIC PROGRAMS

A wide range of sports, including cross country, field hockey, football, soccer, volleyball, basketball, ice hockey, indoor track, wrestling, baseball, and lacrosse, are available. To be eligible to play a sport, students must have a physical examination with the results on file in the health office.

RYE CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT

STANDARDS FOR INTERSCHOLASTIC ATHLETES

Interscholastic sports are an important part of the total educational program of the Rye City School District. It is the overwhelming opinion of physical educators and coaches that athletes perform best when they follow intelligent training rules that include restrictions on the use of tobacco, alcohol, and illegal drugs. To this end, the following expectations have been established for students participating in interscholastic athletics.

1. Student-athletes are expected to follow all school regulations pertaining to the use of tobacco, alcohol, and other drugs as outlined in the handbook.
2. Student-athletes, under the direction of the coach and captains, will discuss the negative impact of the use of tobacco, alcohol, and illegal

drugs on performance. Students will agree not to use these substances.

3. Student-athletes must maintain the highest level of positive behavior in and out of the classroom. A student who cuts academic classes or is disruptive will not be permitted to participate until the situation is rectified with the Assistant Principal.
4. A student-athlete who accumulates 4 or more after-school detentions may be prohibited from practice or competition until detentions are served.
5. Athletes are expected to be at all practices and competitions unless excused by the coach.
6. A student-athlete who is absent from school may not participate in any athletic team practice or competition that day.
7. A student-athlete who arrives without authorization after 8:44 a.m. will not be allowed to participate that day unless approved by the Assistant Principal.
8. Athletes and parents/guardians must register via familyid.com, the sports clearance/registration online platform. Students and parents/guardians must acknowledge the school code of conduct via electronic signature.

Consequences for Violations of Interscholastic Athletes' Standards

For possession or use of any tobacco products (cigarettes, snuff, chewing tobacco), alcohol, or illegal drugs, including e-cigarette vaporizers, the student-athlete will be given a two-week suspension from competition in his/her/their sport. He/She/They will be required to practice with the team while on suspension. A second violation will result in removal from the team for the duration of the season. A third violation (if the athlete plays another sport in the next season or in a subsequent season) will result in removal from all interscholastic sports for the year.

ELIGIBILITY FOR MIDDLE SCHOOL/HIGH SCHOOL EXTRA-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

The Board of Education recognizes the educational value of student participation in extracurricular activities and strives to provide a well-balanced program of activities (athletic/clubs/theater/

organizations) that will respond to a variety of student interests and needs.

The Board requires that the following three standards for eligibility be met by students in order for them to participate in extracurricular activities:

1) Maintain a Full Schedule

A student is expected to carry a program of 5 classes (or the equivalent) plus physical education. The student is expected to be in regular attendance and to be doing regular coursework in all of his or her classes for each marking period. The Superintendent shall develop regulations for Board approval.

2) Maintain Standards for Academic Performance

All middle and high school students must achieve a 65 average with no failures or a maximum of one failure with a plan to remediate that failure to be eligible to fully participate* in athletics, clubs, organizations, or theater. The Superintendent shall develop regulations for Board approval.

When an IDEA or Section 504 student is in jeopardy of failing to meet minimum grade requirements for eligibility at the mid-marking period, the Assistant Principal shall convene a meeting of the "eligibility committee," which shall be made up of the administrator, the case manager, the student's guidance counselor, the teacher, and the student's parents. This meeting will be held to determine if the failure is related to the student's disability or if it is a result of other factors unrelated to the disability. If the failure is related to the student's disability, a referral shall be made to the Committee on Special Education [CSE] for a program modification.

3) Maintain Standards for School Citizenship

Every student is expected to be a responsible school community member and help create an orderly and supportive learning environment. Citizenship standards are defined in the policies referenced, in school handbooks, and in administrative regulations.

* Fully participate = practice and/or compete and/or take part in athletic competitions, practice and/or perform in theatrical performances or take part in other extra-curricular clubs/organizations.

SOCIAL EVENTS

Student social events are considered an integral part of the total educational program of the Rye Public Schools, and they are expected to further the

students' social, intellectual, cultural, and physical development. Most social events will involve the charging of a reasonable fee to each participant.

Student social events will normally not be planned during school holiday periods, on days set aside for religious observance, during major examination periods, or at a time when they will conflict with other major school or community events.

Evening social events planned for Rye Middle School students will end no later than 10:30 pm. These social events are for Rye Middle School students only. Parents are requested to pick up their child promptly upon the conclusion of the event; any student who must leave early must submit a note from a parent to the event supervisor.

EMERGENCY SCHOOL CLOSING UNSCHEDULED EARLY DISMISSAL

If schools need to be dismissed earlier than the regularly scheduled time, every reasonable effort will be made to contact families. Information will be posted on our notification system and the school district website. Students should have a plan to evacuate the building on their own and should know what to do in case no parents are at home upon the student's arrival.

DELAYED OPENING/SCHOOL CLOSING INCLEMENT WEATHER NOTIFICATION

Information regarding a delay at the beginning of the school day or the closing of school is available through the following sources:

1. District phone system, list serve, website.
2. Reverse 911 activated.

Please do not call the Fire Department or the Police Department for this information.

THE LIBRARY MEDIA CENTER

Hours: Monday - Friday, 7:30 am to 3:30 pm

The Library Media Center (LMC) is a computerized learning center where students develop reading, listening, research, computer, and study skills, guided and assisted by the media specialist, staff, and teachers. Teachers may schedule class visits or send individual students with a pass to the library. Students can be found working on computers, looking for books, reading independently, studying in small groups, and working on projects. The library has black and white and color printing as well as a photocopier.

The library has books, audiobooks, and e-books available for borrowing and magazines for browsing. Students may borrow up to four items at a time for three weeks; they may be renewed for an additional three weeks. Any book that is lost or damaged must be paid for.

The library offers a wide variety of online resources and databases available in school and also accessible from home. Students can also access Destiny, the library catalog, in school and from home.

The Library Media Center offers book clubs, a Library Council, and community service opportunities to all students.

REGISTRATION REQUIREMENTS

New students' registration must be completed using our online registration system, on POWERSCHOOL ENROLLMENT EXPRESS (Formerly known as INFOSNAP). The link to pre-register can be found on the district website. If you are new to the district, a new account must be created before pre-registering. If there is an existing account for a child currently in the system, parents should sign into their existing account using their email address and password to begin the process. Parents/guardians will receive an email confirmation from PowerSchool once the pre-registration is approved. Follow the instructions in the email to continue the registration process. Please call 967-6100, ext 1113 for assistance.

HEALTH OFFICE

The Health Office is open from 8:00 am - 3:00 pm on school days.

The New York State Education Law requires each student to have a complete immunization record on file at the Health Office.

New students and 7th graders need to have a current Health Appraisal on file.

Medication, emergency, as well as over-the-counter, can be given by the school nurse and stored in the Health Office only with written authorization from both physician and parent/guardian. Students who require medication to be available at school and school-sponsored events need to have the appropriate medication administration plans (completed by a doctor and parent/guardian) on file and arrangements made with the Health Office so that the medication is accessible at school and school-sponsored events. Unless these forms are on file, medication should not be brought to school or school-sponsored events.

Please see the Health Office webpage for the required forms.

New students and 7th graders will have a hearing and vision screening. In addition, 7th-grade girls will be screened for scoliosis.

All 7th and 8th graders may participate in interscholastic sports. To participate, parents must:

1. Register their child on familyvid.com.
2. Turn in a current (less than a year old) physical exam to the Health Office, or upload it on familyvid.com.
3. Turn in medication administration care plan forms (completed by a doctor and parent/guardian), if applicable, to the Health Office or familyvid.com.
4. Make arrangements with coaches to have emergency medication available during practices and contests, if applicable.

Registration on familyvid.com generally opens 3-4 weeks before the start of the sport and will close a few days before the start of the sport to allow for processing time.

Please refer to the Health Services link under Departments at www.ryeschools.org for more Health Office information. Our school nurse, Liz Carty, can be reached at carty.elizabeth@ryeschools.org

(914) 967-6100 Ext 3020 (914) 921-6189 (FAX)

STUDENT ILLNESS AND INJURY GUIDELINES

One of the best ways to help prevent the spread of illness is to keep your children home from school when they are contagious. Proper hand hygiene is the best way to prevent the spread of germs. Children should be encouraged to wash their hands frequently with soap and water. Teach your children to cough into their elbows, cover their noses and mouths with a tissue before a sneeze, throw away used tissues, and keep their hands away from their faces. It's also a good idea to remind your child not to share food, utensils, or drinks with classmates for hygiene and food allergy reasons.

Students who arrive at school sick or become sick at school will be sent home as soon as possible. Please be sure all parent/guardian contact information is kept up to date on POWERSCHOOL ENROLLMENT. In the event a parent/guardian cannot be reached and/or your child must be left in the care of another

individual, it is also important that emergency contact information is kept up to date.

Report absences, late arrivals, and early dismissals to the Attendance Line at Ext. 3003. Additionally, please report potential communicable conditions to the Health Office. Communicable conditions include but are not limited to: a temperature of 100.0 or higher, flu, strep throat, impetigo, staph, vomiting, diarrhea, MRSA, Covid-19, or any infectious illness diagnosed by a medical provider.

RETURNING TO SCHOOL AFTER A FEVER

Your child should stay home with a temperature of 100.0 or higher. The temperature should be measured prior to administering fever-reducing medication, and if using an oral thermometer, it should be taken at least 10 minutes after consuming any food or beverage. Before returning to school, your child should be fever-free for 24 hours without the aid of fever-reducing medicines. Of course, your child may not be ready for school even if he or she is fever-free.

RETURNING TO SCHOOL AFTER VOMITING OR DIARRHEA

Children may return to school after 24 hours have passed without vomiting or diarrhea and they can tolerate liquids and solid food.

RETURNING TO SCHOOL AFTER STREP THROAT

Students may return to school 24 hours after taking the first dose of antibiotic treatment AND be 24 hours fever free without the aid of fever-reducing medication.

There may be other instances, depending on the illness, when families will be asked to keep their children home for a longer period of time than recommended. Parents may be asked for medical clearance from a licensed healthcare provider before the child can return to school.

SITTING OUT OF PHYSICAL EDUCATION OR INTERSCHOLASTIC SPORTS

If your child needs to sit out for a day or two, an email to the nurse and gym teacher/coach is required. If your child's injury/illness requires your child to see a health care provider and/or it will take longer than a day or two to recover, a note from a licensed health care provider must be submitted to the Health Office. The note should indicate the length of time the activity restriction will be required (either indicating a specific time frame or

until further evaluation by a physician.) Notes from physical therapists cannot be accepted.

ATTENDANCE

Student drop-off begins at 7:30 am. Students can report to the MPR or to the HS cafeteria. Drop-off zones are clearly designated on Parsons Street. Students should follow the directions of the crossing guards. Crossing assistance is available each morning from 7:30 am to 8:00 am. Students should be present and in a class by 8:00 am.

Cars are NOT permitted in the parking lot during morning arrival and afternoon pick-up times.

The Rye Board of Education has an established policy requiring students to be in attendance when school is in session and on time for all scheduled instructional periods. Parents are expected to support this policy, and the Board and staff will hold parents AND their children responsible for regular school attendance.

Students must arrive at school on time. Students are dismissed from the MPR and HS cafeteria at 7:50 am to go to their lockers; they must be seated in their first scheduled class when it begins at 8:00 am. Any student arriving after the first scheduled class must sign in and obtain an admit slip to school at the Assistant Principal's office. Legal tardiness to school must be verified by a written excuse from a parent or guardian. Excessive tardiness will result in a parent conference.

Parents are asked to call Mrs. Lynn Mazzola in the Assistant Principal's office at 967-6100 Ext. 3003 no later than 9:00 am to advise the school whenever their child is absent. Students who have been absent for more than three (3) consecutive days can request homework assignments, although the majority of schoolwork can be accessed via Google Classroom. Parents can contact Ms. Marie Zambardi in the School Counseling Office at Ext. 3050.

When a student has been absent from school, the pupil must return to school with an absence note signed by a parent or guardian. This written excuse, which should contain the reason and exact dates for the absence, should be delivered to Mrs. Lynn Mazzola in the Assistant Principal's Office.

The Board recognizes the following as legal excuses for a student's absence, each of which must be verified by the student's parent/guardian or school personnel, where applicable:

1. Personal illness
2. Death in the immediate family
3. Religious observance

4. Required attendance in court
5. Approved school-sponsored activities, including field trips, interscholastic athletics, musicals, and other competitions
6. Directed or authorized presence at the Administrative Offices or Nurse's Office
7. Quarantine
8. Emergency dental and medical appointments
9. Military obligations
10. Approved cooperative/work-study programs
11. College visitations (only for juniors and seniors), with the prior knowledge and approval of parents and counselors, so long as it does not exceed 4 days in a school year.
12. Unsafe travel conditions

Family vacations are not recognized as excused absences. The middle school does not schedule early final exams for students leaving before the end of school for camp, family vacations, or other personal reasons. If a student misses a final due to an excused absence, a make-up may be scheduled through the middle school principal.

SIGNING OUT

If a student must leave school before the end of the day's scheduled classes, the student must:

- Present a written request from a parent or guardian to Mrs. Lynn Mazzola in the Assistant Principal's Office BEFORE the first class of the day. An Early Dismissal Slip will be issued.
- Show the Early Dismissal Slip to the classroom teacher to inform the teacher of the student's departure.
- Report to the Assistant Principal's office to sign out.
- Present the Early Dismissal Slip to the security guard at the front door. The parent/guardian collecting the student will sign out the student with Security.

Emergency health-related sign-outs are handled by the Health Office.

CLASS CUTTING

Teachers will report a class cut to the Assistant Principal who will, in turn, notify the student's parents, confer with the student, and institute disciplinary action as required by the Code of Conduct.

LATENESS

It is important to be on time for classes and to school. Lateness disrupts the teacher and interferes with the active learning of other students. Students have four minutes to get from one class to the other. Students are expected to report on time to all scheduled classes. If a teacher has detained a student, the student should secure a pass. Students arriving to class after 8:00 will be marked tardy. Excessive tardies will result in after-school detention.

STUDENT CODE OF CONDUCT

Students at the Rye Middle School are expected to show respect for each other, teachers, and all school personnel, school property, and personal property. Students are expected to adhere to a high standard of personal behavior and to share in the responsibility of seeing that school rules are consistently followed.

Rye Middle School implements restorative practices when educating students about their behavior and decision-making. These school-based restorative practices can offer a more sustainable, equitable, and respectful alternative to dealing with misbehavior.

CELL PHONE USE

Students may not use cell phones during the day. Cell phones are to be stored in secured lockers. If a student must get in touch with a parent, the student should come to the main office to place a call.

HALLWAYS

RMS students show responsible behavior in the halls during class passing to promote safety, promptness to class, and uninterrupted classroom activity. To demonstrate this responsibility, students should:

1. Keep to the right of the hall to help the flow of traffic. Please enter and leave stairwells on the right;
2. Walk, and never run, push, trip, punch, shove or fool around;
3. Avoid loitering in the corridors or stairwells;
4. Discard trash in wastebaskets;
5. Keep the hallways clean by picking up paper and litter found on the floors.

Students should not be in the hallway during classes unless they have been excused from their room by a teacher and given a pass. When excused from a class and given the proper pass, students must go directly to their destination using the shortest route possible. While in the hallways, students must

remain quiet so as not to disturb classes that are in session.

STUDENT LOCKERS

Students are expected to keep their lockers clean, organized, and free of food, trash, and unnecessary clutter. Lockers should be used only for storing school-related materials and personal belongings that support the school day. Students are responsible for maintaining the condition of their assigned locker and should report any damage or maintenance concerns to the main office promptly. Periodic locker inspections may be conducted to ensure lockers are safe, clean, and in compliance with school expectations.

CHEATING/PLAGIARISM

School pride puts a value on integrity. Personal integrity is the accepted standard for each student at RMS. Cheating in any form, including giving or receiving actual test questions and/or answers, copying homework, tests, or quizzes, or plagiarizing work or information from the Internet, *including the unauthorized use of artificial intelligence tools*, is an unacceptable practice and will result in disciplinary action and/or a reduction in the grade of the student cheating and the student providing the information.

CITIZENSHIP

Students of Rye Middle School are expected to accept responsibility for their behavior and to conduct themselves in an intelligent and socially acceptable manner. Good citizenship is measured primarily in terms of maturity. The mature student not only cooperates with those in authority but is trustworthy, courteous, and respectful both in school and outside school. Students should display good citizenship when using their technological devices. Good citizenship requires students to report to their teachers, guidance counselor, or administrators any information they have concerning a situation that could harm fellow schoolmates, RMS staff, or citizens in the community. Students are requested to cooperate with both their fellow students and faculty in promoting good citizenship and are urged to participate as active learners in school-supervised activities to develop school pride.

RESPECT

We expect all students to show respect toward others with regard to race, appearance, gender identification, handicap, religion, ethnicity, and

sexual orientation. Disrespectful jokes, comments, slurs, or inappropriate behavior are not permitted and are subject to disciplinary consequences.

RMS TECHNOLOGY & INTERNET USE

Using mobile technology is a privilege at RMS, and students are expected to act responsibly at all times when using devices. It is the student's responsibility to report any damage to a device, both accidental or other, to the student help desk immediately. In addition, in accordance with the Acceptable Use Policy as well as the Student Computer Use and Internet safety policy, students are advised to exercise caution when using the Internet at all times. Both policies can be found on the District website at www.ryeschools.org. If at any time a student feels uncomfortable about a situation on the computer or has gained access to a site deemed inappropriate, this should be reported immediately to an RMS faculty member.

Rye Middle School is a 1-1 device building for grades 7-8. Our 6th grade students have access to Chromebooks in classrooms during school hours. Students in grades 7 & 8 are issued Chromebooks, a charger, and a personal carrying case. It is the responsibility of each student to bring their device, charger, case, and personal set of headphones or earbuds to school daily. Devices should be charged nightly and brought to school with a full battery. Charging stations are located throughout the middle school should batteries need charging during the day; however, it is the responsibility of the student to bring the device fully charged each day. A loaner device will only be provided if a student device is undergoing repairs. If a student repeatedly forgets to bring his/her device, parents will be notified and a plan will be discussed to help support the student in remembering to bring the device, charger, case, and personal headphones daily.

If a student encounters trouble recalling their username and/or password, they have the option to submit a request to the Student Help Desk via our online portal system or visit the help desk during middle school office hours. The district instructional technology coach will be available to provide assistance in resolving the issue. This service is accessible to all students in grades 6 through 8 through our Google services. Once the request is received and the password reset, the student will receive a notification through their RCSD Gmail account.

DRESS CODE

All students are expected to dress appropriately and give proper attention to personal cleanliness for school and school functions. Families and students have the primary responsibility for dress and appearance. The district outlines dress, grooming, and appearance as follows:

A student's dress, grooming, and appearance shall:

1. Include appropriate protective gear in certain classes (e.g. science, technology, physical education).
2. Include footwear at all times. Footwear that is a safety hazard will not be allowed.
3. Not promote and/or endorse the use of alcohol, tobacco, or illegal drugs and/or encourage other illegal or violent activities.
4. Not include the wearing of headgear in the classroom except for a medical or religious purpose.
5. Recognize that see-through or otherwise revealing garments are not appropriate. Undergarments should be covered with outer clothing.
6. Not include items that are vulgar, obscene, libelous, or denigrate others on account of actual or perceived race, color, weight, national origin, ethnic group, religion, religious practice, disability, sex, sexual orientation or gender (including gender identity and expression) or any other characteristic protected by law.

DRUGS AND ALCOHOL

Responsible students take pride in not condoning or allowing illegal drugs at RMS because they believe that the use of drugs and alcohol is dangerous to the health and safety of both the user and those exposed to a person using drugs. Anyone found to be possessing, using, giving, or selling illegal drugs or alcohol will be suspended from school. Parents will be notified. Any other legal and reasonable action deemed necessary will be taken by the school administration.

SMOKING

Smoking (including cigarettes, e-cigarettes, vaping, or any other smoking devices) is prohibited in the school building and on campus.

DANGEROUS WEAPONS IN SCHOOL

No student shall have in his or her possession on school premises any rifle, shotgun, pistol, revolver, other firearm, knife, box cutter, dangerous chemicals, explosives, or any object that is not necessary for school activities and which could be

used as a weapon. A weapon is defined as any instrument capable of firing a projectile, the frame or receiver of any such weapon, a firearm muffler or silencer, any explosive device, or any other instrument capable of inflicting bodily harm.

The police will be notified of any student found in possession of a dangerous weapon. A serious infraction will result in in-school suspension and possible expulsion.

In accordance with the Gun-Free Schools Act of 1994, if after a hearing has been provided pursuant to Section 214 of the Education Law, a student is found guilty of bringing a firearm (as defined in Federal Law) onto school property, such student will be subject to at least a one-year suspension from school.

THEFT, VANDALISM & HARASSMENT

Any student, teacher, or staff member discovering evidence of, having knowledge of, or experiencing vandalism, theft, harassment, and/or assault, is to report the incident immediately to the assistant principal's office. In case of vandalism or theft, standard report forms on file with school security should be completed and returned as quickly as possible. In cases involving major theft or vandalism, the police may be called.

Teasing, name-calling, put-downs, or other forms of verbal abuse will not be tolerated. Any student experiencing verbal harassment should report it to the Assistant Principal. The Assistant Principal will meet with the offending student and, if necessary, the parent will be notified and the incident will be reported to the district's DASA officer.

FIREWORKS

Fireworks and other explosive devices are prohibited by law in the State of New York. Any student bringing such a device to the campus or into the building will immediately be subject to a suspension from school and possible expulsion. The police will be notified.

FIELD TRIPS/SCHOOL-RELATED ACTIVITIES

Violations of the Student Code of Conduct may result in exclusion from a field trip and further disciplinary action. The Code of Conduct applies to all school-related activities and field trips.

SCHOOL SAFETY DRILLS & EVACUATIONS

During drills, lockdowns, and evacuations, both planned, and unplanned, students are to follow the directions of the lead teacher/staff member who will guide students to the appropriate exit(s)

designated for the room. When students leave the building, they must cross driveways and/or parking areas so that fire equipment, if necessary, may be driven right up to the building. All entranceways must be kept clear during a fire drill. Books must NOT be carried out of the building. Students should move in a quiet and orderly manner both upon leaving and reentering the building. No talking is permitted. Teachers will check attendance once outside.

SEXUAL HARASSMENT

It is the policy of the Rye City School District not to discriminate on the basis of sex in its educational programs, activities, or employment policies as required by the Title IX of the 1972 Educational Amendments.

Inquiries regarding compliance with Title IX may be directed to a Title IX compliance officer. The Title IX officers for the district are Mr. Nicholas Clair (RMS Principal), Mr. Joseph DiGiovanni (Assistant Superintendent for Human Resources and Leadership), and Ms. Susan Dullea (Director of Health, Physical Education, and Athletics).

PENALTIES

Students who are found to have violated the district's Code of Conduct may be subject to the following penalties, whether alone or in combination. Student discipline is restorative and progressive, thus a student's first violation may merit a lighter penalty or action than subsequent violations; however, depending upon the nature of the violation, any one of these penalties/actions can be implemented. The following penalties and/or actions may be implemented, either alone or in combination, for violation of the Student Code of Conduct:

- Oral warning
- Written warning
- Notification to parents
- Reprimand
- Lunch Detention
- Detention
- Teacher conference
- Parent conference
- Referral to legal action, police
- Suspension from transportation
- Exclusion from a particular class
- Suspension from after school or extracurricular activities such as newspaper, athletics, drama, music, etc.
- In-school suspension

- Suspension

A copy of the Code of Conduct can be found on the RMS homepage under the FAMILY drop-down menu.

RYE MIDDLE SCHOOL BULLYING POLICY

Possible Consequences

Behavior: Physical Bullying

1 st Time	2 nd Time	3 rd Time	Additional Incidents
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discipline Report • Documentation/ Warning • Detention/Possible In School Suspension • DASA Report Filed 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discipline Report • Documentation/Student Calls Parent • In School Suspension • DASA Report filed • Meet with Counselor 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discipline Report • Documentation/Guidance Referral/ Parent Conference • Out of School Suspension • Police Notification • DASA Report filed 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discipline Report • Documentation/ Out of School Suspension • Police Notification/ Mandated Re-admission Parent Conference/ Possible Superintendent Hearing

Behavior: Verbal Bullying

1 st Time	2 nd Time	3 rd Time	Additional Incidents
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discipline Report • Documentation/ Warning • Detention/Possible In School Suspension • DASA Report Filed 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discipline Report • Documentation/Student Calls Parent/Guidance Referral • In School Suspension • DASA Report filed • Meet with Counselor 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discipline Report • Documentation/Parent Notification/Conference with Title IX Officer • Out of School Suspension • DASA Report filed 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discipline Report • Documentation • Out of School Suspension • Meet with Counselor

Behavior: Relational Bullying (Exclusion)

1 st Time	2 nd Time	3 rd Time	Additional Incidents
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discipline Report • Documentation/ Warning • Detention • DASA Report filed 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discipline Report • Documentation/Guidance Referral • DASA Report filed • In School Suspension 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discipline Report • Documentation/Student Calls Parent • Out of School Suspension 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discipline Report • Documentation/ Parent Conference/ Exclusion from School-sponsored Activity • In School Suspension

For Severe Types of Bullying: Any of the above that is severe and/or has escalated over time

- Discipline Report Documentation/Disciplinary Action based on recommendations of the Child Study Team

Dignity for All Students Act (DASA)

It is the mission of the Rye City School District to provide a safe and supportive school environment for all our students. If you or another student is a target of harassment, bullying, threats to safety, intimidation or discrimination on school property or at a school function, we urge you to contact your school's Dignity for All Students Act Coordinator:

Ms. Leah Blumenthal (914) 967-6100 Ext. 3001 blumenthal.leah@ryeschools.org

Mrs. Kristin Quintano (914) 967-6100 Ext. 3042 quintano.kristin@ryeschools.org

Any report of harassment or intimidation will be received confidentially and taken seriously. The school will provide appropriate interventions and plans to help the targeted student feel safe in school. We will also take steps to help the aggressor learn appropriate behavior. In addition, the school can, at its discretion, impose a number of disciplinary consequences including, but not limited to: discipline reports, detention, parent notification, suspension, and police notification.

New York State enacted the Dignity for All Students Act in 2012. The Dignity for All Students Act makes schools responsible for preventing, investigating, and responding to acts of discrimination, harassment, and intimidation based on a student's race, color, weight, national origin, ethnic group, religion, religious practice, disability, sexual orientation, gender (defined to include gender identification or expression), or sex.

When an investigation results in a finding that harassment, bullying, or discrimination has taken place, the school is required to take prompt actions that:

- are reasonably calculated to end the bullying
- eliminate any hostile environment
- prevent the recurrence of the behavior
- ensure the safety of the student or students against whom the behavior was directed

The laws also prohibit retaliation against any individual who, in good faith, reports or assists in the investigation of harassment, bullying, or discrimination.

Rye Middle School Bell Schedules

Delay & Early Dismissal Schedules

	Regular Day <i>43/42 min</i>	1-hour Delay Opening <i>36/37 min</i>	2-hour Delay Opening <i>29/30 min</i>	P/T Conf. Schedule 11:30 Dismissal NO LUNCH <i>21/22 min</i>	12:00 pm Dismissal NO LUNCH <i>23/24 min</i>
1	8:00-8:43	9:00-9:37	10:00-10:30	8:00-8:22	8:00-8:24
2	8:46-9:29	9:40-10:16	10:33-11:03	8:25-8:46	8:28-8:52
3	9:32-10:15	10:19-10:55	11:06-11:35	8:49-9:10	8:56-9:20
4	10:18-11:01	10:58-11:34	11:38-12:07	9:13-9:34	9:24-9:48
5	11:04-11:47	11:37-12:13	12:10-12:39	9:37-9:58	9:51-10:15
6	11:50-12:32	12:16-12:52	12:42-1:11	10:01-10:21	10:18-10:42
7	12:35-1:18	12:55-1:31	1:14-1:44	10:24-10:44	10:45-11:08
8	1:21-2:04	1:34-2:10	1:47-2:17	10:47-11:07	11:11-11:34
9	2:07-2:50	2:13-2:50	2:20-2:50	11:10-11:30	11:37-12:00
Extra Help	2:53-3:15	2:53-3:15	2:53-3:15		

RMS Bell Schedule

Period	Time
1	8:00-8:43
2	8:46-9:29
3	9:32-10:15
4	10:18-11:01
5	11:04-11:47
6*	11:50-12:32
7	12:35-1:18
8	1:21-2:04
9	2:07-2:50
Extra Help (M-Th)	2:53-3:15

**42 minute period, all others
are 43 minutes*