STUDENT HANDBOOK

2026 – 2027

Joseph A. DePaolo Middle School

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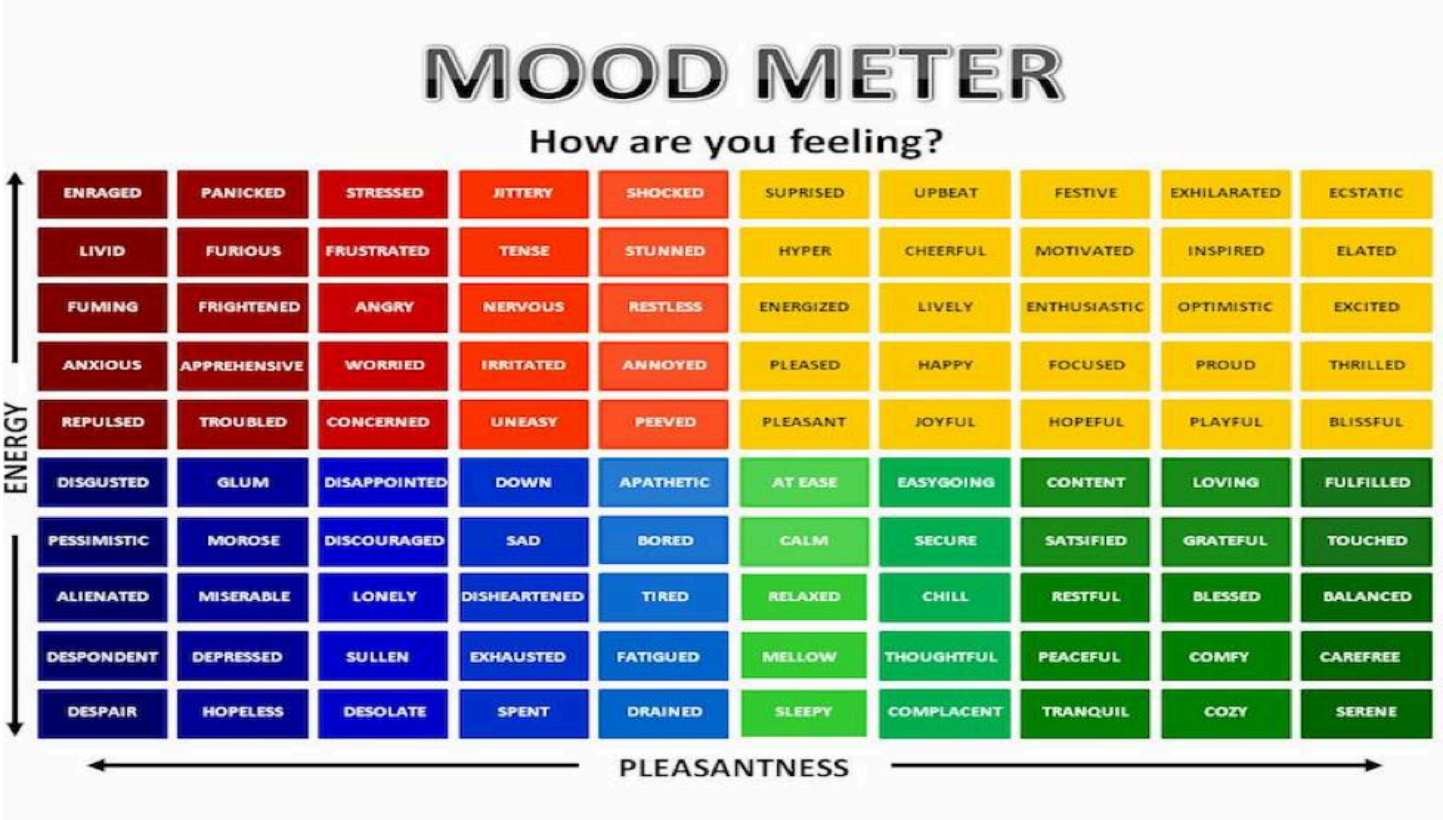
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Emotional Intelligence



Blueprint	
Recognize & Label	● How do I feel? ● How does the other person feel?
Understand	● What is causing my feelings? ● What is causing the other person's feelings?
Express & Regulate	● How am I expressing and regulating my feelings? ("I Message" I feel ___ when/because ____, I need/would like ____) ● How is the other person expressing and regulating his/her feelings?
Reflect & Act	● What can I do to handle the situation better?



Procedures and Expectations

MISSION STATEMENT

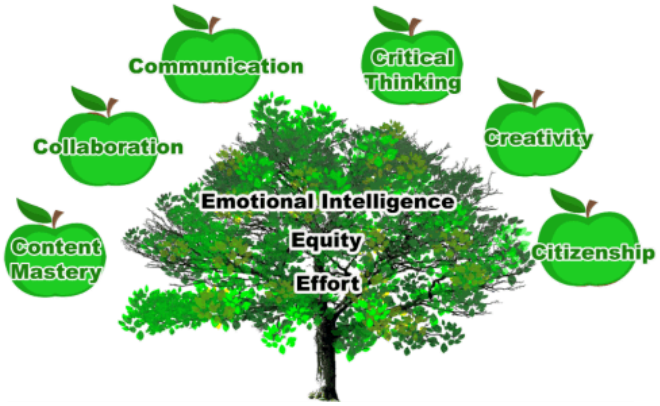
Students engage in a range of educational experiences to become informed, adaptive, problem solvers who effectively communicate, rise to challenges, and are committed to improve themselves and their communities.

To accomplish this mission, Joseph A. DePaolo and John F. Kennedy Middle Schools provide a variety of experiences to help students:

- know and apply the concepts and principles of mathematics, the sciences, social studies, the arts, and health and fitness.
- integrate core academic concepts and skills with life experiences and understand the importance of work and how personal performance, effort, and decision-making directly effect career and educational opportunities.
- read, listen, and observe to acquire the ability to critically analyze and effectively produce oral and written communication in all disciplines.
- acquire and apply personal and professional computer and technological skills in all disciplines.
- demonstrate the ability to apply, analyze, synthesize, and evaluate information to reach a creative, logical conclusion and utilize these skills in everyday life.
- acquire and use the principles and concepts of equity, including respecting the rights of self and others, to become responsible members of the school, town, and world community.

VISION OF A GRADUATE

A graduate of the Southington Public Schools will be college or career ready and prepared for life beyond by mastering the knowledge and demonstrating the skills to communicate effectively, think creatively and critically, and contribute to the global community.



NON-DISCRIMINATION STATEMENT

It is the policy of the Southington Public Schools not to discriminate on account of race, color, religion, ancestry, national origin, gender, age, pregnancy, marital status, sexual orientation, gender identity and expression, socioeconomic status, academic status, physical appearance, mental, physical, developmental or sensory disability, or by association with an individual or group who has or is perceived to have one or more of such characteristics in any of its education programs, activities, or employment policies.

It is the intention of the Southington Public Schools to be in compliance with Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973.

ABSENCE FROM SCHOOL

If a student is absent from school, parents/guardians are requested to call the school to report the absence or verify an absence in writing or via email. Failure to report an absence will result in an "unexcused" absence. For absences one through nine, a student's absences from school are considered "excused" when the student's parent/guardian approves such absence and provides appropriate verification to school officials confirming the nature of the absence. For the tenth absence and all absences thereafter, a student's absences from school may be excused by the principal for one of the following reasons:

- Student illness (must be verified by a licensed medical professional)
- Religious holidays
- Death in the family (or other emergency beyond the control of the student's family)
- Mandated court appearances (documentation required)
- Lack of transportation that is normally provided by a district other than the one the students attends (this reason does not require documentation and does not apply to exclusion from transportation for disciplinary reasons.)
- Limited absence from school for special activities or extraordinary educational opportunities pre-approved by district administration and to be in accordance with CT State Department of Education guidance.

See Board Policy 5113 for more information.

ACADEMIC INFORMATION – MARKING PERIODS

Parents/Guardians are formally informed of student progress three times a year at approximately thirteen-week intervals. Each trimester is approximately 60 days. Although summative grades will be reported at the end of each trimester, parents are encouraged to access PowerSchool to review student progress throughout the school year. The approximate end of the trimesters for the school year are as follows:

- First Trimester – End of November
- Second Trimester – Beginning of March
- Third Trimester – Last Day of School

ATTENDANCE

A student is considered to be "in attendance" if present at his/her assigned school, or an activity sponsored by school (e.g., field trip), for at least half of the regular school day (3 hours 20 minutes). A successful educational experience depends upon continuity and growth through the uninterrupted learning process. School is in session each day from 8:05 AM – 2:40 PM. Regular attendance promotes academic success, self-discipline, and self-esteem. Students benefit from classroom enrichment and participation; therefore, regular attendance is essential to achievement. Irregular attendance may lead to a meeting with an administrator, referral to the district's truancy committee (ASET) and failure to complete a course satisfactorily. A student who is serving an in-school suspension, out-of-school suspension, or expulsion cannot participate in after school sports, clubs, or activities. Please see Board Policy 5113.

BICYCLES – SKATEBOARDS – SCOOTERS – etc.

Students may ride bicycles, skateboards, or scooters to school. For safety, helmets must be worn, and **students must walk their bicycles, scooters, or skateboards while on school property**. When riding bicycles, skateboards, or scooters to and from school, students should exercise caution: Ride single file, keep to the right, and observe all rules and regulations pertaining to automobiles. Bicycle racks are available for storage; however, students should provide their own locks. The school is not responsible for objects stolen or damaged while stored on school grounds.

BOOK BAGS / BACKPACKS

Bookbags / backpacks are necessary to transport items to and from school. Backpacks should be stored in lockers during the school day, however, they may be used at certain times with administrative/teacher permission.

BULLYING / CHALLENGING BEHAVIOR

Bullying behavior by any student in the Southington Public Schools is strictly prohibited, and such conduct may result in disciplinary action, including suspension and/or expulsion from school. "Bullying" means unwanted and aggressive behavior among children in grades kindergarten to twelve, inclusive, that involves a real or perceived power imbalance. Additionally, CT Public Act 23-167, an Act Concerning Transparency in Education, also identifies "challenging

behavior" as behavior that negatively impacts school climate or interferes, or is at risk of interfering, with the learning or safety of a student or the safety of a school employee. The law prohibits bullying or challenging behavior which occurs outside of the school environment as well. It can be done in writing, orally, or through electronic communication. School environment means anywhere something connected to school happens — like during a school event, on a field trip, at the bus stop, on the school bus, or even during activities outside of school — if it affects how students feel or learn at school.

Students and parents may file verbal or written complaints concerning suspected bullying behavior, and students shall be permitted to report acts of bullying anonymously to teachers and school administrators. Any report of suspected bullying behavior will be promptly reviewed. If acts of bullying are verified, prompt disciplinary action may be taken against the perpetrator, consistent with his/her right of due process. Board Policy 5131.911 sets forth this prohibition and the related procedures in detail and are available to students and their parents/guardians online.

BUSES

The primary objective of school bus transportation is to provide safe transport for students to and from school. It is imperative students behave appropriately at the bus stop and while riding the bus. Good bus conduct includes waiting at the assigned stop (off the traveled portion of the road), boarding and exiting the bus in an orderly fashion, promptly obtaining a seat, remaining in the seat until required to exit, and complying with the driver's requests. Students should also refrain from using excessively loud voices or unkind language. Unacceptable behavior at the bus stop or on the bus may result in disciplinary actions that can include, but not be limited to, temporary or permanent loss of bus privileges. All bus students are required to ride on the bus designated for their neighborhood.

CELL PHONES AND OTHER ELECTRONIC DEVICES

Students may bring their cell phone into the building, but they **MUST** be powered off and stored during the school day. Please refer to Board Policy 5131.2. **Students are expected to remove ear buds or headphones upon entry into the building.**

Consequences for violating this procedure are as follows:

- **First Violation:** Cell phone / electronic device will be taken, stored in the main office, and returned to the student at the end of the school day. Students may pick up their device at dismissal.
- **Second and Third Violations:** Cell phone / electronic device will be taken, stored in the main office, but only returned to a parent or guardian.
- **Fourth Violation:** Cell phone / electronic device will be taken, stored in the main office, but only returned to a parent or guardian. For the remainder of the school year, the student will be required to drop off their cell phone, upon arrival, to the main office. Students may pick up their device daily at dismissal.
- **Subsequent Violations:** Administrative actions may include parent/guardian meeting(s), on-site community service assigned, and/or, if necessary, disciplinary consequences.

Please note, the school cannot accept responsibility for lost, damaged, or missing items.



CHROMEBOOKS / TECHNOLOGY

Southington Public Schools provides a Chromebook, or other appropriate device, to each student in grades K-12 as part of their instructional materials. Devices are intended for schoolwork only, to be used in classroom and/or home use. All devices are the property of Southington Public Schools.

Like all instructional materials, students are expected to use SPS issued technology responsibly by keeping devices safe, secure, and in working order. Care of all instructional material, including any device assigned to a student by Southington Public Schools, is the responsibility of the student to which they are assigned and the parent/guardian. This includes any costs associated with damage, loss, or theft. A document with device care guidelines and the estimated costs of any repairs is sent home at the start of each school year. In addition, all SPS families are offered the option of a Device Protection Program, to assist SPS families in covering costs resulting from accidental damage, loss, or theft.

The internet is a valuable research tool and widely used as a source of communication for students, staff, and parents. Internet access by students is guided by Board of Education regulations and is closely monitored. Inappropriate use, especially on social media sites in and outside of school, as well as the use of proxy sites, may result in disciplinary action.

For more information, please see the board policies related to technology:
6141.9 - Responsible Use of Technology for Students
6162 - Care of Instructional Materials

Intentional misuse or damage to school technology may result in disciplinary measures and/or fines.

DISCIPLINARY MEASURES

A student may be excluded from school when his/her conduct endangers others, disrupts the education of others, or consistently violates school rules. Depending on the nature of the offense and the number of times the offense has been committed, below are some examples of the actions that may be taken by staff and/or administration:

Verbal warning	Expulsion	Assigned a new seat/class	Behavior improvement plan
Detained after class	Financial restitution	In-school suspension	Loss of school privileges
Discussion with teacher	Peer mediation	Out of school suspension	Bus suspension
Community service	Police referral	Parent/guardian contact	Lunch/after school detention
Referral to Assistant Superintendent		Referral to Juvenile Review	Loss of field trip privilege

A teacher may request to remove a student from class when the student has caused a serious disruption to the educational process.

Students will be given 24-hour notification prior to an after-school detention. Teacher or office detentions take precedence over the school's extracurricular activities.

The administration may suspend (or the Board of Education may expel) any student for conduct **on or off school property**, or at a school-sponsored activity which endangers persons or property or is disruptive of the educational process, or for conduct which violates any Board Policy, or the standards for conduct set forth in Board Policy R-5114.

- Notice of suspension and conduct for which the student was suspended must be included in the student's cumulative record and reported to the State Department of Education.
- When a suspension is assigned to a student, the student may not attend any daytime or evening school-sponsored activities.

Possession, use, or distribution of tobacco or vaping products is prohibited on school grounds and may result in a school suspension.

Alcohol/drug use or possession on or off school property may result in a school expulsion.

The administration shall exercise its statutory right to conduct investigations with students when incidents in and outside of school arise and will inform parents or guardians of the investigative findings and any disciplinary consequences.

DRESS CODE

Each student in the Southington Public Schools has the responsibility of dressing in appropriate attire with respect to neatness, decency, modesty, health, and safety. Through their dress, students will demonstrate respect for themselves, their fellow students, and the educational process.

Clothing should cover the upper thigh, navel, midriff, lower back, and chest. Shorts or skirts should be appropriate in length. Clothing should cover all undergarments. Shirts must have straps at least three fingers wide. No crop tops, spaghetti straps, muscle shirts, tube tops, halter tops, sheer tops, strapless or backless tops are allowed. Clothing with offensive language, messages, or illustrations is not allowed. The term offensive includes, but is not limited to, any wording or symbols that advertise or promote the imagery of alcohol, tobacco, or other drugs, or which debase or negatively portray any individual or group through cultural, political, racial, religious, sexual, or other innuendo. Also included are types of clothing that contain violence, hate, or death messages. Hats or pajamas should not be worn in the school setting unless for an administratively approved event.

Whenever dress does not conform with these regulations, the student will be asked to contact his or her parent/guardian and more appropriate apparel will be required. It is the prerogative of the administration to determine if student attire is conducive to the learning environment. Therefore, please use a conservative approach when discussing appropriate attire for school.

EARLY DISMISSAL

A written note or an email from a parent/guardian to the attendance clerk may arrange an early dismissal. This note should indicate the date, dismissal time, and the name of the individual who will be picking up the student. Upon arrival at school, the student must bring the note to the main office where he/she will be issued a dismissal pass. At the time of dismissal, the student must show the pass to the teacher to whom he/she is assigned and report to the main office to await the arrival of the individual designated on the note. Students will not be allowed to wait outside the building or in the lobby. Students will not be released without parental permission and identification will be required of the adult transporting the student. These procedures help ensure the safety of our students.

FLEX - ACADEMIC SUPPORT

During the school day during FLEX time, students will have the opportunity to receive additional support from various teachers. This time will be used to strengthen student learning, especially related to Language Arts and math curriculum.

GRADING

Visit **https://ps.southingtonschools.org** 24 hours a day for immediate updates on academic progress. Please note Canvas is our primary online tool for assigning and collecting student work. Grades and feedback may be provided through Canvas as well. However, not all assignments, quizzes, tests, etc. are assigned through Canvas. PowerSchool is still the official gradebook.

According to board policy, students who fail any one of the core academic subjects (i.e., language arts, math, science, and social studies) **must** attend summer school, or complete a district approved online alternative, at the parent/guardian expense and earn passing grades to be promoted to the next grade.

In an effort to ensure consistency and accuracy across both middle schools, grade levels, and within content areas, the following grading practices have been adopted for middle school. Grades will now be derived from assignments entered into the following categories.

Learning Activities (formative assessment) 30%: The goal of ***formative assessment*** is to monitor student learning and gather feedback and evidence to improve teaching and learning. Formative assessments help students and educators identify strengths and target areas that need work throughout the learning process. These **"Learning Activities"** can be graded for accuracy, understanding and/or completion based on the type of assignment. Learning Activities are smaller scale assessments/activities that assess students' skills and/or progress towards attainment of concepts. They lead up to performance assessments.

Examples include:

- Classwork assignments
- Practice problems
- Checks for understanding
- Mini-Quizzes
- Progress Checks
- Other formative assessment measures as identified by departments

Performance Assessments (summative assessment) 70%: The goal of ***summative assessment*** is to evaluate student learning at the end of an instructional unit or series of lessons by comparing it against standards or benchmarks. The **"Performance Assessment"** category contains various types of summative assessments that bring together multiple skills/concepts and look for mastery. Performance Assessments typically involve opportunities for students to apply and demonstrate mastery in multiple ways.

Examples include:

- Performance Tasks (PTs)
- Performance Based Assessments (PBAs)
- Projects
- Essays (summative)
- Final Products
- Tests
- CER's
- Quizzes that cover multiple skills/concepts
- Other summative assessment measure as identified by departments

Teachers will enter a grade of 40 for any Performance Assessment that falls below a 40 and will include a comment indicating the actual grade the student earned (Example: Original Score: 27%).

The lowest grade that can be entered per subject for a trimester final average is a 40. A teacher must include a comment when entering that grade for the trimester as a default indicating what the actual grade was (i.e., Student actual score earned was a 28; however, school default policy is a 40.)

Both schools have adopted a "Re-Teach not Retake" model meaning *any student earning below a 70 on **tests and quizzes** may come back for re-teaching of material/extra help through means arranged with a teacher and earn back a grade of 70. The teacher decides if learning has occurred through an informal assessment (exit slips, oral interview, problems on a board, short writes, etc.). To qualify for this, the following criteria must be met*

- *The student completed ALL the homework assignments in the particular unit of study.*
- *The student must amend the failed assessment by correcting all errors (or at least attempt to correct) to verify a better understanding.*

When a re-teach opportunity is triggered, the teacher shall make contact with a parent/guardian via a note on a test, email, phone conversation, etc. providing notice of this opportunity for the child.

When a student has completed a reteach, earning a 70, the following comment should be noted: Original Score: 47%. Reteach done on (enter date).

Although non-graded enrichment opportunities may be offered, extra credit and bonus points will not be given.

Grades for assignments will be entered into the grade book in a regular and timely manner to ensure accuracy and constant opportunity for parents/guardians and students to follow their progress throughout the course of a marking period. It is understood that some assignments might take longer to correct (i.e., labs, published papers, performance-based assessments, etc.). This delay should be the exception and reserved for these types of assignments.

Parents are encouraged to access PowerSchool to review student progress throughout the school year.

HEALTH OFFICE

The school nurse is in the building during school hours for routine health matters. The health office is available for students who are ill, injured, or have a health concern. Students must have a pass from a teacher to go to the health office except in the case of an emergency. Typically, nurses respond to minor illnesses or injuries that occur during the school day, administer medications, maintain health records, conduct screenings, and promote good health practices.

Parents/guardians will be notified when it becomes necessary to dismiss a student due to illness or injury. The student must be dismissed from the health office and parents/guardians are responsible for providing transportation home. The adult who arrives at school to pick up a sick child should report to the main office.

Parents/guardians should notify the nurse, in writing, if students on crutches (or for whom walking in a crowded corridor would be hazardous) require special arrangements to allow for safe passage. Students who have been absent because of a communicable disease will need medical clearance prior to re-admittance. The school nurse is available to assist families with the procedural requirements for re-admittance.

Parents/guardians must notify the nurse in writing if, for any reason, a student is unable to participate in physical education classes. This note will excuse a student for one physical education class period. A doctor's note will be required if a student is to be excused from physical education classes for more than one week. This note must state the dates and reason for exclusions.

Connecticut state law requires every child enrolled in public schools to have a complete physical examination before entering kindergarten, **seventh,** and tenth grades. Failure to present medical evidence of complete immunization and physical will result in exclusion from school. There are no exceptions to the statute. In addition, screenings for hearing, visions and scoliosis are carried out throughout the school year in accordance with this statute.

HOMEWORK

Homework is an essential part of each student's educational program. Each student is expected to spend some time outside the normal classroom setting to achieve satisfactory progress. As a student progresses through middle school, he/she can expect an increase in the amount of homework required at a particular grade level. Homework assists the student in learning how to work independently and strengthens and extends those skills developed in a subject.

HONOR ROLL

In order to qualify for the Honor Roll in a trimester, a student must be taking a minimum of four classes. First Honors is awarded to students who earn a GPA of 3.75 and above. Second Honors is awarded to students who earn a GPA of 3.5 to 3.74. A grade of "D", "F", "NG," or "I" in any course will disqualify a student from Honor Roll.

Core academic classes which include Language Arts, Math, Algebra, Science, and Social Studies are worth one full credit. World Language and Encore classes range in credit depending on the frequency that class meets during the course of the trimester.

Please see below for GPA equivalents that are utilized when we calculate our Honor Roll.

Letter Grade	Points	Letter Grade	Points
A+	4.0	C+	2.8
A	3.8	C	2.6
A-	3.6	C-	2.4
B+	3.4	D+	2.2
B	3.2	D	2.0
B-	3.0	D-	1.8
		F	1.0

LOCKERS

Every student is issued a locker and combination and these are changed yearly. The combinations are issued to individual students and should not be shared. It is very important to realize that everything placed in a student's locker is the student's responsibility. No stickers are allowed in or outside lockers. School lockers are under the joint control of students and the school administration; therefore, the principal, assistant principal, or their designee has the right to inspect any locker at any time without student permission.

MAKE-UP WORK

An absent, tardy, or dismissed student is responsible for checking with teachers about missed work. Although many assignments are posted daily on our digital learning platform, Canvas, it is still the students' responsibility to check in with their teacher. It is also recommended that each student establish a homework partner at the beginning of the school year for the purpose of obtaining assignments and class notes missed. Upon return to school students can receive teacher assistance or additional time for make-up work, relative to the length of the absence.

MEDICATION

The administration of medication to students in the Southington Public Schools follows the policies established by the Connecticut Department of Health. Any medication to be administered to the student must be delivered directly to the school nurse by a parent/guardian or other responsible adult and must be in the original container. No medication, either prescription or over-the-counter, can be stored at school or administered to any student unless permission from a parent/guardian and order from a licensed physician have been received in writing on the Medical Authorization Form. The Board of Education shall permit those students who have a verified chronic medical condition and are deemed capable to self-administer prescribed emergency medication, including inhalers and epi-pens for medically-diagnosed allergies, to self-administer such medication, and may permit such students to self-administer other medications, excluding controlled drugs as defined in Section 10-212a-1 of the Regulations of Connecticut State Agencies.

PHONES

If a student needs to contact a parent during the school day, phones are available for student use in the main office. **Students should not use their cell phones throughout the school day.**

PICTURE POLICY

During the school year your child may be photographed or video recorded in school-related activities including clubs, sporting events, assemblies, awards, class projects, etc. If you **DO NOT** want your child photographed or video recorded for any reason, please notify the office in **writing.**

PLAGIARISM/CHEATING

Students are expected to engage in their academic work with honesty and integrity. Any form of academic dishonesty, including plagiarism, cheating, or the misuse of generative artificial intelligence (GenAI) tools, is not acceptable.

Plagiarism is defined as using another person's words, ideas, AI-generated content, or work without proper acknowledgment. Cheating includes copying work, unauthorized collaboration, or using prohibited resources (including AI tools) during any assigned task, including assessments.

For a first violation, the student will be required to meet with the teacher and be given an opportunity to demonstrate their understanding through a reteaching process or an alternative assessment for credit (up to 70%). The teacher will also notify the parent. Subsequent violations will result in a referral to administration for further consequences, which may include additional academic penalties and disciplinary action.

Our goal is to foster a culture of integrity while providing students with opportunities to learn from mistakes and develop ethical academic habits.

See Board Policy 5121.3 for more information.

SCHOOL COUNSELING OFFICE and SUPPORT SERVICES

All students will be assigned a school counselor with whom they should feel free to discuss any problem or question they may have. Counselors are available to listen to students and talk with them about possible ways to handle problems and uncomfortable situations. Counselors are here to support students' academic, social, and emotional growth. Students wishing to talk to a counselor should obtain a pass from a teacher or counselor before or after school. Parents/Guardians are also encouraged to communicate concerns or questions by contacting the school counseling office.

Some students require additional supports to achieve success in school. The support services staff include the school psychologist, school social worker, special education teachers, literacy and numeracy specialists, speech and language consultant, occupational therapist, and physical therapist.

SEXUAL HARASSMENT BOARD POLICY - #5145.3

Sexual harassment will not be tolerated among students of the school district. It is the policy of the Board of Education that any form of sexual harassment is forbidden on school grounds or at school sponsored functions. Sexual harassment can occur adult to student, student to student, between members of the opposite sex, or between members of the same sex. Students and staff are expected to adhere to a standard of conduct that is respectful and courteous to all members of the school community and to the public.

Sexual harassment is defined as unwelcome conduct of a sexual nature, whether physical, verbal or non-verbal, and any other gender-based harassment, whether initiated by students, school employees, or third parties, when:

- Submission to the conduct is made explicitly or implicitly a term or condition of a student's participation in school-sponsored activities, or another aspect of the student's education;
- Submission to or rejection of the conduct is used as the basis for decisions affecting a student's academic performance, participation in school-sponsored activities, or any other aspect of a student's education.
- The conduct has the purpose or effect of unreasonably interfering with a student's academic performance or participation in school-sponsored activities, or creating an intimidating, hostile, or offensive educational environment.

While an exhaustive list is not possible, the following are examples of specific behaviors that could constitute sexual harassment:

- Suggestive or obscene letters, notes, invitations, derogatory comments, slurs, jokes, epithets, assault, touching, impeding or blocking movement, leering gestures, display of sexually suggestive objects, pictures, or cartoons.
- Continuing to express sexual interest to an individual of the same rank or status after being informed that the interest is unwelcome.
- The deliberate or careless creation of an atmosphere of sexual harassment or intimidation, or a hostile or offensive learning environment.
- Inappropriate attention of a sexual nature. Sexual behavior between students and staff members or adult members of the public, regardless of who initiates the behavior, is never appropriate.

Any student who believes he or she has been the subject of sexual harassment should make a report immediately either orally or in writing. The report may be made to the student's teacher, school counselor and/or the school administration. Sexual harassment complaints regarding action by students will be investigated in the same manner as any other allegation of student misconduct in accordance with school district policy. Students found to have engaged in sexual harassment will be subject to disciplinary action in keeping with the established policies, regulations, and rules of the school district. Such disciplinary action may include suspension or expulsion from school.

Sexual harassment of students by staff members or members of the public will be investigated in accordance with school district policy. Staff members or members of the public found to have engaged in sexual harassment will be subject to sanctions as determined by the school district.

SMOKING/VAPING

Possession, use, or distribution of tobacco or vaping products is prohibited on school grounds and may result in a school suspension.

SPORTS

A program of sports is available for both boys and girls. **Any student with two or more F's will not be eligible to participate in any sports for that trimester until those grades are passing.**
A valid Connecticut physical exam is required for participation as outlined by the Board of Education Policy.

STUDENT ACTIVITIES

A variety of after school activities are available for our students. In order for students to participate in an after-school activity, they must be in attendance the day of the activity. Administration reserves the right to use discretion in this matter. **Any student with two or more F's will not be eligible to participate in any student activities for that trimester until those grades are passing.** Students are encouraged to arrange time during FLEX or after school to work with their teacher to improve grades as needed. Students participating in extra-curricular activities should demonstrate appropriate behavior at all times. Failure to meet these standards **may** result in probation or, in more serious instances, dismissal from the club or team.

STUDENT EXPECTATIONS

Southington schools strive to create an environment conducive to academic and social growth. With this in mind, students are encouraged to learn, study, participate, contribute, and make a positive difference.
The administration shall exercise its statutory right to conduct investigations with students when incidents in and outside of school arise and will inform parents or guardians of the investigative findings and any disciplinary consequences.

TARDINESS

A student who is not in homeroom by 8:05 AM is considered tardy. Tardiness is considered an interruption of the learning process. Frequent unexcused tardiness may result in consequences assigned by administration.

TRUANCY

A student absent without the consent of his/her parent or guardian is truant. Truancy may be cause for disciplinary action, suspension, or a referral to the Southington's Attendance Support and Engagement Team (ASET).

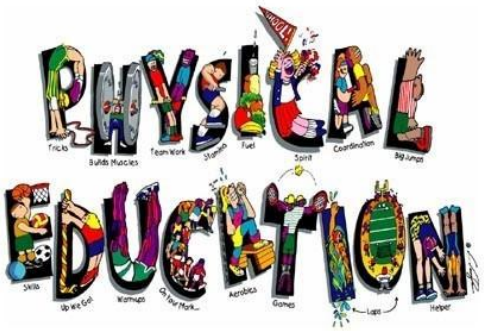
WATER / BEVERAGES

Students may bring a beverage (plastic bottles or cans only) to school for consumption in the cafeteria. If not water, this beverage should be placed in the student's locker until lunchtime. Students should not carry beverages of any kind except water bottles in the halls. **Energy drinks are strongly discouraged.** Glass bottles should not be brought to school.

WEAPON POLICY

Students found on school property in the possession of a weapon (or a facsimile thereof) or involved in using a weapon off school grounds in an illegal or unsafe manner may be subject to school expulsion. Students found on school

property in the possession of a BB gun or involved in using a BB gun off school grounds in an illegal manner may be subject to a school expulsion. This is a matter of state law and there are no exceptions. Under state law, a BB gun is considered to be a dangerous weapon. Laser pointers are not allowed in school as they can be dangerous when misused.



The objective for the physical education program is to promote a healthy and active lifestyle. For this goal to become a reality, it will take daily effort from everyone in class. This class will be informative, thought provoking, and highly active. With this in mind, the hope is to create a great educational experience for all students.

<u>The following criteria will be used to assess students:</u>

ACTIVE ENGAGEMENT AND QUALITY OF WORK
Regardless of the activity, 100% **<u>effort</u>** is expected at all times. It is understood that every student has different interests and different levels of skill and athleticism. The goal is for all students to improve and challenge themselves.

<u>PARTICIPATION</u>
Each student will be enrolled in physical education (PE) for two of our three trimesters. Students meet every other day during those trimesters. Students must participate to the best of their abilities in order to receive full credit for that day. Exceptions may be made for the following:

1. If a student must be excused from **<u>ONE</u>** class period due to illness or injury, a note or email is required from a parent or guardian. Unverified excuses will result in loss of credit.
2. A note must be provided by a doctor for an ***<u>extended</u> absence*** *(consecutive classes).*
    - Please have the doctor fill out our modified physical education form.
    - Please make alternate arrangements with the PE teacher.
3. **If a student is medically excused from participating in PE classes, that student cannot participate in any school-related athletics practice or competition until cleared by a physician to return to PE class.**
4. If a student is scheduled to attend a school event on the day he/she has PE and will miss that class, that student will need to see the PE teacher **FIRST** before being excused.
5. If a student is unable to physically participate, he/she may be required to complete an alternative assignment in order to receive credit for that day.

PREPARATION FOR LEARNING
Students may change BEFORE and AFTER class, but are not required to do so.

- **<u>PE ATTIRE</u>** - All clothing should be worn properly and follow the school dress code. Athletic shorts, shirts, sweatpants, and sweatshirts are acceptable. <u>Students will not be</u> <u>permitted to participate unless they are wearing sneakers</u>. Sneakers must be laced and tied.

CLASS MANAGEMENT & PERSONAL CONDUCT
Students must respect their classmates, teachers, and staff to have the opportunity to gain full class credit. Irresponsible behaviors and attitudes will not be tolerated and will negatively affect the students' grades. The learning environment must be safe to promote success for every student each time they enter the gymnasium. Arriving on time for class is

important. If a student arrives late to class, he/she must have a pass; otherwise, full class credit for that day cannot be earned.

EVALUATION/ GRADING SYSTEM

Students will be assessed and receive grades every class. Active engagement, quality of work, preparation for learning, participation, wearing proper attire, class management, and personal conduct all play a role in the grade earned. PowerSchool viewing is available for updated grades and comments.

EXPECTATIONS IN THE LOCKER ROOM

- Students will change quickly. The locker room is for changing, not socializing.
- Students should not touch what does not belong to them.
- Cell phones are not to be used in the locker room.
- Students will leave all books, pens, and clothes in the locker room. Students unprepared for class or medically excused are also expected to put all belongings in the locker room. PE class will not be used as a study hall.
- Students should leave valuable belongings in their assigned hall lockers. Teachers are not responsible for lost, misplaced, stolen or damaged belongings.

EXPECTATION IN THE GYM

- Students shall be on time.
- Students must read the whiteboard for directions.
- Students, after changing, must go directly into the gym and sit in assigned attendance spots unless otherwise instructed.
- Students must participate in the pre-lesson warm-up.

SAFETY FIRST

- Students will never take out any equipment without asking a teacher.
- Students will always follow rules and instructions.
- Students need to think about the consequences before taking actions. There is the safety of other people in the gym to be considered. Inappropriate and immature behavior can lead to unnecessary injuries.



ATHLETIC PARTICIPATION ON A SCHOOL SPORTS TEAM







It is essential students and parents/guardians realize that participation in the Southington Public School's athletics program is not a right or an entitlement enjoyed by all students. It is a participation opportunity open to all students but only achieved by athletic ability and earned by strict adherence to the school's code of conduct. Participation is extended to those students willing to comply with reasonable rules and conditions. Behavioral expectations are high and willingness to live up to them is part of being a member of a team. In many cases, the expectations for athletes will be greater than for students not involved in school athletic teams. For this reason, each athlete and his/her parents/guardians must recognize and understand this responsibility and be willing to adhere to the basic concepts of good citizenship, proper training regulations, and the positive example with which every athlete should be identified.

Every effort will be made to have every sports team athlete participate in competition at some time during the season, according to individual skill level and the needs of the team. However, it must be understood that it is the coach's decision as to who plays in each game and for how long.

In the middle schools, responsible behavior begins with the desire to be a positive and contributing member of the school community. Participation in athletics at the middle school level is a privilege and demands certain commitments and responsibilities. The school system and the community have a high level of expectation for the students who represent our school and who benefit from its programs. Students will take pride in themselves, accept responsibility for their own actions, and support others in their efforts to do the same. Students can expect support from adults in their lives (educators/coaches/parents) to adhere to the commitments and expectations of this policy.

Listed below are the behaviors that could result in suspension or dismissal from the team by the Principal. Dismissal of a student-athlete from a team will only occur after consult between the Athletic Director and/or Principal. Student-athletes are reminded that proper behavioral expectations do not end when practices or competitions conclude or when a student-athlete is off school property. Because a situation is not specifically listed below does not mean it will not receive appropriate disciplinary action. Athletics related discipline may be instituted for school rules violations in addition to disciplinary measures imposed by school administrators. Students may not appear at practices or competitions (home and away) during the time they are suspended from athletics.

1. Poor school citizenship.
2. Cutting classes or school or not attending team practices/contests.
3. Being a negative influence in terms of team morale or effort. This includes insubordination to a coach or others.
4. Not making a sincere academic effort. **Any student with two or more F's will not be eligible to participate in any sports for that trimester until those grades are passing.**
5. Vandalism or property destruction.
6. Displays of poor sportsmanship (e.g. fighting, taunting, harassment or unsportsmanlike conduct directed toward opponents, opposing fans, officials, or others).
7. Any behavior which casts an adverse reflection on our athletic program and/or school, or is in violation of school rules or the laws of the Local, State, or Federal Governments.
8. Inappropriate use of social media sites such as Facebook, Twitter, Text Messaging, Email, Blogs, and other similar media. Inappropriate use refers to, but is not limited to, slanderous statements about coaches, athletes, or opponents.

Never do anything that will bring embarrassment or an unfavorable view to your teammates, coaches, family, school, or community.

The Southington Athletic Department requires parents/guardians to register their student athletes online to participate in sports. ALL STUDENTS REGISTERING FOR A SPORT WILL NEED TO HAVE A CURRENT PHYSICAL ON FILE WITH THE SCHOOL NURSE BEFORE TRY-OUTS.