2026-2027
ROCHESTER
MIDDLE SCHOOL



STUDENT-PARENT
HANDBOOK

MESSAGE FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Welcome Back!

As we begin a new school year, I want to extend a warm welcome to both our students and families. I am excited to continue serving the Rochester Area School District in my new role as Middle/High School Principal. Having already been part of this district, I am grateful for the relationships built and the opportunity to continue working with our students, staff, and families in this new capacity.

Our goal remains the same - supporting student growth, academic success, and a positive school experience for every learner. We believe strong partnerships between home and school are essential, and we encourage open communication throughout the year.

Please take time as a family to review this Student-Parent Handbook together. The handbook includes important information about school policies, procedures, expectations, and technology use. After reviewing the handbook, please complete and return the required forms to the school office.

Thank you for your continued support of the Rochester Area School District. I look forward to a great school year together!

Sincerely,

Dr. Cwynar

Dr. Amanda Cwynar
Middle/High Principal
Rochester School District



Mission Statement

The mission of the Rochester Area School District is to utilize a unique K-12 educational complex by providing all students the opportunity to realize their maximum academic potential in a rapidly changing world.

Mission Statement of Appropriate Conduct

The Rochester Area School District exists for the education of its citizens. District officials will not tolerate the actions of any individual, regardless of creed, national origin, race, religion or sex, who in any way will interrupt the educational program and jeopardize the health, safety, and well-being of those who attend this school. Every member of the Rochester Area School District will be responsible for building a safe, disciplined environment. Self-discipline, accountability, and mutual respect will be the cornerstones for a safe school. This is the responsibility of parents, students, staff, administrators, and the school board working together, mutually supportive and of common purpose. Those who dare to jeopardize the rights and safety of others will be dealt with in a consistent and timely manner.

The handbook was prepared by the School Administration and a Faculty Committee of the Rochester Area Education Association. Board policies referenced in this handbook can be accessed at the district's website: www.rasd.org.

Administration

Superintendent of Schools ……Dr. Joseph Guarino (x1291)
Middle/High School Principal ……Dr. Amanda Cwynar (x1212)
Athletic Director ……Mr. Brad Verrico (x1210)
Director of Student Services……Mr. Nathan Leeman (x1193)
Director of Maintenance & Facilities ……Mr. Lou Campisi (x1351)
Director of Technology ……Mr. Ryan Herstine (x6370)
School Resource Officer……Officer Joe Howard (x1370)

Office Personnel

Superintendent's Secretary ……Ms. Leslie King (x1311)
MS/HS Secretary ……Mrs. Casey Woodley (x1230)
Special Education Office Secretary……Mrs. Sheri Pizzella-Verrico (x1191)
Technology Secretary……Ms. Daryll Deever (x6351)
Business Office……Mrs. Melissa Hiltz (x1251)
Mrs. Elyse Ross (x1252)

Board of Education

President ……Mrs. Jocelyn N. Haskins
Vice President ……Mr. Thomas W. Majors
Treasurer……Mrs. Victoria C. Dilliott
Secretary……Mr. Charles J. Iannini

School Board Members

Mr. Lawrence E. Blackwell
Mr. James A. Bogolea
Mr. Thomas B. Daman
Mr. Thomas M. Hilliard
Mrs. Dana Morell-Verrico

Solicitor: Santicola, Steele and Fedeles

Rochester Area Middle School Faculty

Last Name	First Name	Department/Course	Phone Ext.	Email
Bauer	Ryan	RCA/Dean of Students	1071	BauerR@rasd.org
Benedum	Allison	STEM	2160	BenedumA@rasd.org
Carr	Briana	Band	1861	CarrB@rasd.org
Creese	Katie	Nurse	1022	CreeseK@rasd.org
DiNardo	Mark	Science	6060	DiNardoM@rasd.org
Dorian	Jessica	Social Studies	6100	DorianJ@rasd.org
Ford	Heather	English/Language Arts	6290	FordH@rasd.org
Frankenstein	Hillary	Chorus	1660	FrankensteinH@rasd.org
George	Samantha	Mathematics	6270	GeorgeS@rasd.org
Goedeker	Molly	Social Worker	1200	GoedekerM@rasd.org
Halbrock	Tiffany	Special Education	6120	HalbrockT@rasd.org
Kohl	Ben	H.E.L.P. Classroom	1010	KohlB@rasd.org
Lyons	Denise	FCS/Library	1510/1550	LyonsD@rasd.org
Morrow	Caryn	Art/Health	1220	MorrowC@rasd.org
Proctor	Steven	School Counselor	6353	ProctorS@rasd.org
Rhode	Nathan	Physical Education	1681	RhodeN@rasd.org
Seezox	Allison	Special Education	6150	SeezoxA@rasd.org
Shychuck	Glory	GATE	2130	ShychuckG@rasd.org
Sterling	Marissa	Special Education	6210	SterlingM@rasd.org
Troup	Stephanie	Special Education	6250	TroupS@rasd.org
Twaddle	Savanna	Mathematics/Science	6070	TwaddleS@rasd.org
Walsh	Jill	Business/Technology	1420	WalshJ@rasd.org
Walsh	Maria	ELA/Mathematic	6190	WalshM@rasd.org
Ziegler	Karl (Tony)	ELA/Social Studies	6170	ZieglerK@rasd.org
Ambrose	Becky	MS Aide	1230	AmbroseR@rasd.org
Burton	Brian	MS/HS Aide	1230	BurtonB@rasd.org
Heasley	Emily	MS Aide	1230	HeasleyE@rasd.org

ACADEMICS 8
ACADEMIC ELIGIBILITY 8
ATTENDANCE (Policy 204) 8
ABSENCES EXCUSED (AE) 9
ABSENCES UNEXCUSED (AU) 9
EARLY DISMISSALS 10
MAKE-UP WORK 10
STUDENT TARDIES 10
EXCUSED SCHOOL TARDIES 10
UNEXCUSED SCHOOL TARDIES 10
CLASS TARDIES 11
STUDENT PARTICIPATION 11
GRADING POLICY AND SCALE 11
GRADE REPORTS 12
HONOR ROLL 12
PROMOTION POLICY 12
STUDENT RECORDS (FERPA) 13
SUMMER SCHOOL 13
WITHDRAWALS 13
STUDENT BEHAVIOR 13
SCHOOL-WIDE POSITIVE BEHAVIOR INTERVENTIONS & SUPPORTS (SWPBIS) 13
CODE OF STUDENT CONDUCT 14
ROCHESTER AREA MS/HS DISCIPLINE MATRIX 15
DETENTION POLICY 17
SUSPENSION POLICY (Policy 233) 17
ACADEMIC DISHONESTY 18
BULLYING/ CYBERBULLYING (Policy 249) 19
BUS CONDUCT 19
CAFETERIA 20
CLASS CUTS 20
DRESS CODE (Policy 221) 20
DRUG AND ALCOHOL POLICY (Policy 227) 22
ELECTRONIC DEVICES (Policy 237) 24
HALL PASS/RESTROOM PRIVILEGES 25
DISCRIMINATION/HARASSMENT AFFECTING STUDENTS (POLICY 103) 26

HAZING (Policy 247) 26
INTERNET/NETWORK/ACCEPTABLE USE POLICIES (815.1-815.4) 27
IPAD CARE AND USE POLICY (Policy 815.5) 27
SCHOOL EVENTS 28
STUDENT SEARCHES 28
THREAT ASSESSMENT (Policy 236.1) 28
TOBACCO, VAPE, & NICOTINE POLICY (Policy 222) 29
WEAPONS POLICY (Policy 218.1) 29
ASSEMBLY PROCEDURES 30
BREAKFAST 30
CAFETERIA PRICES 30
CHANGE OF ADDRESS/ TELEPHONE NUMBER 31
ENROLLMENT OF STUDENTS (Policy 200) 31
FLEXIBLE INSTRUCTIONAL DAYS (FID) 31
FIELD TRIPS 32
IMMUNIZATIONS AND COMMUNICABLE DISEASES (Policy 203) 32
NURSE'S OFFICE 32
OPIOID ANTAGONIST (POLICY 823) 33
PEST MANAGEMENT (Policy 716) 33
PRESS RELEASE 34
SCHOOL DANCES/EVENTS 34
SCHOOL DELAYS/CANCELLATIONS 34
SCHOOL PROPERTY 34
STUDENT INSURANCE 34
STUDENT LOCKERS 35
VISITORS 35
WORK PERMITS 35
STUDENT ACTIVITIES 35
ART CLUB 35
ATHLETICS 36
GARDEN CLUB 36
GLOW- (Girls Leading Others Wisely) 36
MIDDLE SCHOOL GAMING CLUB 36
MIDDLE SCHOOL STUDENT COUNCIL 37
MUSICAL 37
YOUTH AMBASSADOR PROGRAM (YAP) 37
STUDENT PROGRAMS AND SERVICES 37
COUNSELING, GUIDANCE, AND SOCIAL WORK SERVICES 37
ESL PROGRAM 38

GIFTED AND TALENTED EDUCATION (GATE) 38
HOMELESS CHILDREN AND YOUTH ACT 38
PARENT CONFERENCES 39
POSITIVE STEPS 39
ROCHESTER CYBER ACADEMY (RCA) 40
SECTION 504 OF THE REHABILITATION ACT OF 1973 40
SPECIAL EDUCATION PROGRAMS 40
STUDENT ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (SAP) 41
2026-2027 ROCHESTER SCHOOL DISTRICT 49

ACADEMICS

ACADEMIC ELIGIBILITY

Students participating in school athletics, and/or any other designated extracurricular activity will be subject to a cumulative weekly and quarterly performance review. Students will be ineligible to participate in games or performances for a period of one week if they are failing (59% or below) **two or more courses during the same week. If a student is failing two or more classes at the end of the nine-weeks, (s)he is ineligible for 15 days. Eligibility for the first grading period is based on your final grades of the preceding school year.**

ATTENDANCE (Policy 204)

The Board recognizes that regular school attendance is essential to student success and requires all students of compulsory school age to attend school during scheduled days and hours. Absences may be excused only when they meet district, state, and legal requirements and are properly documented.

Students are considered truant after three (3) unexcused absences and habitually truant after six (6) or more unexcused absences in a school year. Parents/guardians are responsible for ensuring students attend school regularly and for submitting written excuses within three (3) days of an absence.

Excused absences include illness, medical appointments, family emergencies, court appearances, religious observances, and other approved reasons.

After ten (10) days of cumulative parent-excused absences, additional absences will require medical documentation.

The district follows a progressive attendance intervention process for unexcused absences, which may include written notification, attendance improvement conferences, and the development of a School Attendance Improvement Plan (SAIP). Continued truancy may result in referral to community-based supports, Children and Youth Services, or citation to a magisterial district judge, as required by law.

Parents/guardians will be notified of all unexcused absences and are expected to participate in efforts to improve student attendance when needed. The district is committed to supporting students and families through early intervention, communication, and appropriate services.

Automated phone calls will be made daily to parent(s)/guardian(s) to notify them when a student is not in attendance.

ABSENCES EXCUSED (AE)

Every student regardless of age shall submit a doctor/ medical excuse (or a written excuse from his/her parent or guardian) upon the student's return to school following each absence. Failure to do so within 3 days will result in the absence recorded as an unexcused absence.

Parents/Guardians are only permitted to write up to ten (10) excuses for absences (AE) a year without a doctor/ medical excuse. Doctor /medical excuses will be required for all absences after ten (10) written parental excuses.

Absence from school due to suspension will be considered a legal absence (OSS) with all privileges of making up any work missed. Students assigned Out-of-School Suspension (OSS) will be permitted to make up missed assignments and assessments. The student will be provided the same number of school days to complete and submit make-up work as the number of days missed due to the suspension. For example, a student suspended for three (3) school days will have three (3) school days upon returning to school to complete and submit all missed work. Students are responsible for obtaining assignments from their teachers and arranging any necessary make-up assessments within the allotted timeframe.

School approved trips or activities will not count as days absent (FT). Teachers must allow students to make-up work missed during these activities. Teachers must also prepare a list of students attending such functions and submit them to the office in advance of such events. The administration shall approve or disapprove such activities and participation.

ABSENCES UNEXCUSED (AU)

Each day that a student does not attend school and fails to submit a doctor's/ medical excuse (or a written excuse from his/her parent or guardian) will be considered an unexcused absence (AU)/ truant.

Truancy Process

- Letters will be sent home at the following benchmarks to schedule a SAIP (Student Attendance Improvement Plan):
    - 3 days of unexcused absences
    - 6 days of excused and/or unexcused absences

A 3 and/or 6 day absence letter will be sent home scheduling a conference with the student and their guardian.

The Principal along with the School Social Worker will conduct conferences with parents, work with parents and students on a Student Attendance Improvement Plan (SAIP), and/or implement Truancy Intervention Plan (TIPS). Other forms of intervention will be discussed and implemented for future absences. The individual student attendance will be monitored closely throughout the remainder of the year.

EARLY DISMISSALS

Students are encouraged to schedule appointments outside of school hours whenever possible. When an early dismissal is necessary, students must submit a written note from home to the Middle/High Secretary before the start of the school day, including a daytime phone number where a parent/guardian can be reached. Parents/guardians must also indicate in the note whether the student is permitted to be a walker for the early dismissal.

Parents/guardians may be contacted by phone to verify dismissal requests. Students will only be released when a parent, guardian, or authorized adult signs them out at security. If both parents/guardians are working, it is requested that they also call the school to confirm the dismissal in addition to providing a written note.

No student may leave school without prior permission and must sign out in the Middle/High Office.

Students who have an early dismissal for medical or court-related reasons, including but not limited to those verified by the Principal, are eligible to participate in extracurricular activities or athletic events.

MAKE-UP WORK

Students who are absent from school for an excused reason will be provided the opportunity to make up missed assignments and assessments. Students will be allotted the same number of school days to complete make-up work as the number of days they were absent. For example, a student who is absent for three (3) school days will have three (3) school days upon returning to school to complete and submit all missed work. It is the student's responsibility to obtain missed assignments and communicate with teachers regarding any make-up assessments.

Any absence not classified as an excused absence will be considered as an illegal and unexcused absence. A student will receive a 0 for any work missed with an unexcused absence.

STUDENT TARDIES

EXCUSED SCHOOL TARDIES
Excused tardies will be granted for the same reasons allowed for excused absences. All doctor's excuses must include the doctor's name and phone number for verification. Exceptions will be made for students on a case-by-case basis with the principal's approval.

UNEXCUSED SCHOOL TARDIES
If a student arrives at Homeroom/1st period AFTER 8:00 a.m., they will be counted as Tardy. If a student comes in AFTER the beginning of first lunch at 11:02am, they will be counted as One-Half Day Absent.

1. STUDENT PROCEDURE

- If a student arrives late to school; security will give the student a late slip. The student must give the late slip to the classroom teacher. If a student is in the building but late to homeroom/1st period, they must report to the Middle/High School office to receive an admittance to class slip (late slip).

Students are expected to arrive at school and class on time. Multiple tardies may result in truancy interventions, meetings with parents/guardians, and other attendance-related consequences. Students with excessive tardies may also lose school privileges, including participation in certain activities, events, and incentive programs.

CLASS TARDIES
A student is late when they are not in the classroom when the bell rings for the start of class. If you are late to class without an excuse, your teacher will record the tardiness. After the third class tardy, the discipline matrix will be followed.
CONSEQUENCES: (Refer to Discipline Matrix)

STUDENT PARTICIPATION

Students who are absent from school cannot take part in any activities on the day of the absence. This includes practice, games, plays, concerts, etc.

- After School Activities- In order to participate in after-school activities, including, but not limited to, practices, games, activities, and performances, students must arrive by **9:00 a.m.**
- Field Trips (Held during or outside of the school day) - To participate in field trips students must not accumulate a total of **five (5)** or more unexcused absences and/or tardies per grading period.
- After School Dance - To attend the Middle School Winter Dance, students must not exceed the unexcused absence/tardies as listed below:
    - Middle School Dances: a combination of **ten (10)** unexcused absences and/or tardies

GRADING POLICY AND SCALE

The school year is divided into four (9-week) grading periods. A letter grade is issued in all subjects at the end of each grading period. In addition, a final grade for each subject is assigned. Final Grades shall be calculated by averaging the percentage totals from each grading period.

Grading Scale in percentages:

A= 90-10
B= 80-89
C= 70-79
D= 60-69
F= 59- below

M= Medical Excuse from Gym

I= Incomplete. Students must see teachers for work. An “I” grade must be resolved within one week or it will be changed to an “F”.

X= This grade is a long term “I” or incomplete grade. An “X” grade is given to indicate that a student must complete all assignments, work, reports, tests, etc. before the “X” grade is changed to an “F” or better. The “X” grade blocks averaging and calculating the final grade and awarding of credit for the course. **An “X” grade stands for the last day of school until the end of the second week in June. At that time it turns into an “F”. Seniors forfeit receiving their diploma and defer getting their credentials and it is understood that this will take place as a result of an “X” grade.**

GRADE REPORTS

Mid-Grading Period Reports and Report Cards will be posted on CSIU on a designated day in each grading period to all students. Parents/guardians will receive an email notification when progress reports and report cards are posted and available for viewing. Parents/guardians should contact the Middle School Guidance Office, the student’s teacher, and the **CSIU Online Gradebook** to monitor their child’s grades. Parents/Guardians can access Progress Reports at any point throughout the year by utilizing the **CSIU Online Gradebook** to monitor students’ academic progress. If you need access to the CSIU Parent Portal, please visit the district website and use the Parent Portal link to create an account. The portal provides access to important student information, including grades, attendance, schedules, and other school-related updates.

HONOR ROLL

Honor roll status is determined by a student’s GPA and shall be as follows:

Highest Honors=	4.00+ - 4.0
High Honors=	3.99- 3.65
Honors=	3.64- 3.4

Students who earn a “D” or “F” or fail any subject are not eligible for honor roll status.

PROMOTION POLICY

A student must obtain the following credits to be classified as the following:

Grade/ Homeroom Placement	Credits for Promotion
7th Grade	4 major subjects must be passed in 6th grade
8th Grade	4 major subjects must be passed in 7th grade
9th Grade	4 major subjects must be passed in 8th grade

STUDENT RECORDS (FERPA)

Rochester Area School District has adopted a procedure for protecting the confidentiality of student records. This procedure also protects the confidentiality of personally identifiable information regarding its exceptional and protected handicapped students in accordance with the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act of 1974 (FERPA) and other applicable federal and state laws. Parents/Guardians may have access to all records including recent standardized test scores upon request. Call the high school office to schedule an appointment.

SUMMER SCHOOL

Students who fail any core academic courses can repeat these courses in summer school. A student may only take (2) courses per summer session that need to be repeated and it must be done through a District-approved educational provider. The cost of each credit recovery course is $150.

WITHDRAWALS

Before a pupil may withdraw from school, all books, iPads, chargers, and cords must be returned and all financial obligations fulfilled.

STUDENT BEHAVIOR

SCHOOL-WIDE POSITIVE BEHAVIOR INTERVENTIONS & SUPPORTS (SWPBIS)

Our School-Wide Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports (R.A.M.S program) focuses on teaching students our school-wide expectations: **R**espectful of Others, **A**ct Responsibly, **M**ake a Difference, **S**uccess Starts with You.

The School-Wide Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports (SWPBIS) program is a proactive approach to school-wide discipline that focuses on creating and sustaining an environment that promotes important social and academic outcomes. This approach emphasizes preventing problem behaviors through clear expectations, positive reinforcement, and a collaborative team effort among staff, students, and families.

CODE OF STUDENT CONDUCT

As members of this school, students are expected to follow the rules that are established for the welfare of the entire building. The Rochester Area School District maintains high standards for all students. The Code of Student Conduct was created to provide students and parents with a clear understanding of the school's expectations. While the majority of students consistently demonstrate acceptable behavior, there remains a need to define acceptable behavior.

Certain behaviors are unacceptable in public life and our mission is to provide students with guidance and a clear set of expectations for their behavior before, during, and after school (including school sponsored events). All possible means will be utilized to improve student behavior; however the student needs to recognize that he/she is responsible for his/her own actions.

All students are subject to the Rochester Area Middle School/ High School Discipline Matrix *(The matrix only serves as a general reference: it may not address all disciplinary matters).*

ROCHESTER AREA MS/HS DISCIPLINE MATRIX

LEVEL I INFRACTIONS: TEACHER **LEVEL II INFRACTIONS: OFFICE MANAGED**

	Teacher Detention	Office Detention	Saturday Detention	In-School Suspension (ISS)	Out-of-school Suspension (OSS)	Parent Conference	Expulsion Hearing
Being Where Not Supposed To Be		1	2	3	4	3	
Bullying	1	2	3	4	5	3	
Class Cut			1	2	3	3	
Damage to School Property (Minor)	1	2	3	4	5	5	
Damage to School Property/Vandalism (Major)					1 (Principal discretion/ restitution/fine &/or legal action)	1 (Principal discretion/ restitution/fine &/or legal action)	1 (Principal discretion/ restitution/ fine &/or legal action)
Dishonesty / Cheating	1	2	3	4	5	4	
Disruptive Classroom Behavior (Minor)	1	2	3	4	5	4	
Disruptive Classroom Behavior (Major)		1	2	3	4	5	
Dress Code	1-2 warning	3 or more					
Electronic Device Violation *(Policy 237)*	**(Progressive Discipline)**						
Elevator Violation			1	2	3	3	
Failure to Keep Hands / Feet to Self	1	2	3	4	5	**3**	
Failure to Serve Teacher Detention		1					
Failure to Serve Saturday Detention				1			
Food/Drink Violation	1	2	3	4	5	6	
Hall Pass / *Bathroom* Misuse	1-3	4-5	**6 or more**				
Hallway Disruption		1					
Harassment/Extortion		1	**2**	3	4	**2**	
Sexual Harassment					1	1	
Inappropriate Language (Minor)	1	2	3	4			
Inappropriate/Abusive Language (Major)					1	2	
Inappropriate Lunchroom Behavior	Lunch Detention 1	2	3	4		**3**	
Inappropriate Social Interaction	1	2	**3**	4	5	**3**	
Insubordination (Minor)	1	2	3	**4**	5	**4**	
Insubordination (Major)			1	2	3	3	

LEVEL I INFRACTIONS: TEACHER LEVEL II INFRACTIONS: OFFICE MANAGED

	Teacher Detention	Office Detention	Saturday Detention	In-School Suspension (ISS)	Out-of-school Suspension (OSS)	Parent Conf./ Behavior Contract	Expulsion Hearing
Left Classroom without Permission			1	2	3	3	
Left Building without Permission					1(1 day) 2 (3 days)		
Public Display of Affection	1	2	3				
Physical/Verbal Intimidation				1	**2**	**2**	
Physical/Verbal Threat					1	1	1
Fighting/Assault					**1**	1	1
Security Threat					1	1	1
Tardiness to class	1-3 offenses	4-5 offenses	6 or more offenses				
Theft		Based On Principal's Discretion					
Drug and Alcohol (Refer to Policy)					1	1	1
Tobacco *(Refer to Policy)*			4 hr class on vapes/ smoking 1		2(3 days & Fine) 3(5 days & Fine) 4(10days & Fine)		
Verbal/Non-Verbal Disrespect	1	2	3	4		4	
Weapons					1	1	1
False Safe2Say Report	Will be reported to the authorities						
Plagiarism/Dishonesty *(refer to p. 23)*							

- This Matrix is only to serve as a general reference; It may not address all disciplinary matters.
- The Administration may exercise its discretion in determining appropriate consequences on a case by case basis.
- Law Enforcement may be involved at the administration's and/or the district's discretion.

DETENTION POLICY

For disciplinary infractions, students at Rochester Area School District may be assigned a Teacher, Office or Saturday Detention:

- TEACHER DETENTION**-** Teacher detentions may be given for minor disciplinary infractions **either before or after school** according to the teacher's discretion. Once a student has been assigned teacher detention and given a (24) hour notice, the student must serve that time on that day if in attendance at school. Students may waive the (24) hour notice and serve the detention on the day it was issued. If a student is assigned detention and is absent that day, he/she will report for detention the first day he/she returns back to school. If a student does not show up for a teacher detention, he/she will be assigned an Office Detention. **Any student assigned to detention must serve the detention on any given day before reporting to practice or any extracurricular activity.**

- OFFICE DETENTION**-** Office Detention may be assigned by an administrator and will take place from 2:35 p.m. - 4:00 p.m. on Tuesdays. Students must do school work or read available material during detention. Failure to report to an Office Detention will result in a Saturday Detention. **Any student assigned to detention must serve the detention on any given day before reporting to practice or any extracurricular activity.**

- SATURDAY DETENTION**-** A Saturday Detention may be assigned by an administrator and will take place on Saturdays from 8:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m. Students are to report to the Main Entrance on time to be let into the building. **Failure to report to a Saturday Detention will cause the student to be unable to participate in ANY extra curricular activity until the Saturday detention is made up. If multiple Saturday Detentions are missed, additional consequences may be added. Any student assigned to detention MUST serve the detention on any given day before reporting to practice or any extracurricular activity.**

SUSPENSION POLICY (Policy 233)

The district uses a range of disciplinary actions, including suspension and expulsion, when student behavior violates the Code of Student Conduct. These actions are used only when necessary and are carried out with required due process protections to ensure fairness.

A principal may assign an out-of-school suspension for 1-10 school days for disciplinary reasons. Parents/guardians are notified, and students are given the opportunity to explain their perspective. When a suspension exceeds three days, an informal hearing with the principal will be offered. Students are expected to complete assigned academic work during the suspension period. Students can obtain their assignments by calling the MS/HS Office at Ext. 1230 or by email from their teachers.

In-school suspension may also be used as a disciplinary option. Students will continue to receive educational services while serving an in-school suspension.

Expulsion is the most serious disciplinary action and results in removal from school for more than 10 school days. Expulsions are determined by the School Board following a formal hearing process that includes written notice of charges, the opportunity to present information and witnesses, and the right to representation. The Board may also establish conditions for continued enrollment or readmission.

Students with disabilities are provided disciplinary protections and services in accordance with applicable state and federal law.

Throughout the disciplinary process, the district is committed to clear communication with students and families and to ensuring that all actions are consistent with established procedures and student rights. Please refer to Policy 233 for detailed information.

Students who participate in athletics or extracurricular activities are not eligible to participate in practices, games, or performances the day of their ISS/OSS.

ACADEMIC DISHONESTY

Academic Dishonesty

Academic dishonesty includes cheating, plagiarism, unauthorized use of artificial intelligence (AI), copying another student's work, sharing answers, or any other form of misrepresentation of academic work. These expectations and consequences apply to all courses, including Rochester Cyber Academy (RCA) courses.

Level 1 – Classroom Level

- Zero on the assignment or assessment
- Teacher conference with student
- Parent/guardian notification

Level 2 – Building Level

- Zero on the assignment or assessment
- Administrative referral
- Parent/guardian notification
- Administrative conference with student

Level 3 – Building Level

- Zero on the assignment or assessment
- Administrative referral
- Parent/guardian notification
- Administrative conference with student and parent/guardian
- Additional disciplinary consequences and/or loss of privileges as determined by administration

BULLYING/ CYBERBULLYING (Policy 249)

This policy, including the rules, regulations, and guidelines, is an effort to provide a safe, positive learning environment for all district students. Bullying is an intentional electronic, written, verbal, or physical act or series of acts directed at another student or students occurring in a school setting which is severe, persistent or pervasive and has the effect of doing any of the following:

- Creates a substantial interference with a student's education
- Creates a threatening environment
- Creates a substantial disruption of the orderly operation of the school

The Administration and Board encourage students who have been bullied to promptly report such incidents to the teacher and or building principals. A student who violates this policy shall be subject to appropriate disciplinary action in accordance with the discipline matrix.

BUS CONDUCT

School bus transportation is provided for your safety and convenience. Students are expected to act appropriately and help maintain the condition of the bus they ride.

1. Students are expected to demonstrate proper respect for the position represented by the bus driver and to obey all rules, regulations, and/or instructions of the bus driver.
2. Be on time at the designated school bus stops and walk in front of the bus when crossing the road.
3. Students shall file onto buses, be seated immediately, conduct themselves properly and exit from buses in an orderly and well-disciplined manner. Seats may be assigned by each driver.
4. Students shall always remain seated when the bus is in operation. Students shall not extend their hands or head out of the windows.
5. Voice volume on the bus must be maintained at a moderate level.
6. Emergency doors at the rear of the buses are to be operated only when it is necessary to vacate the bus during emergencies.
7. Throwing objects, while at bus stops or on buses, is strictly forbidden.
8. Possession of any device that can impair the safety of the riders and /or the safe operation of the bus is strictly prohibited.
9. Fighting, profane, or obscene language, immoral conduct and/or insubordination to the authority of the bus driver is prohibited.
10. When buses stop to discharge passengers, students shall remain in the bus unless otherwise directed by the driver.
11. In case of a road emergency, students are to remain in the bus unless otherwise directed by the driver.
12. **Students who desire to get off the bus at any stop other than their regular designated bus stop must have a written request from the parents and approved by the building principal.**
13. Food and beverages can be carried but not opened or eaten. Possession and/or use of illegal substances or tobacco of any type are not to be used on buses.
14. No weapons or look-a-like weapons are permitted to be transported by bus.

15. Loosening or removing screws, bolts and other hardware is strictly forbidden. Tampering with bus controls or the emergency door is strictly prohibited.
16. Students must refrain from littering inside the bus with paper and other refuse.
17. Marking or writing on any part of the bus is prohibited.
18. **Transportation by school bus is a privilege and not a right. Students may be suspended from the bus-riding privilege for violation of rules.**

CAFETERIA

Students are expected to behave properly in the cafeteria. Violation of the rules below may result in disciplinary action. In order to provide for efficient operation of the cafeteria, the following rules will be observed by all students:

1. Walk to the lunch line. When entering the lunch line, please walk to the back of the line and do not cut in front of someone already in line.
2. All purchased food and beverages must be consumed in the cafeteria.
3. Respect cafeteria supervisors' authority.
4. Always report to the cafeteria during your assigned lunch period. Being in the cafeteria during a lunch that is not your scheduled lunch will be considered a class cut.
5. No food or drink is to be consumed outside the cafeteria, especially in the classroom areas.
6. Students may have a bottle of water in the classroom. All other snacks, drinks, etc. should only be consumed in the cafeteria.
7. All students will abide by the seating assignments given by the lunch monitors during the lunch periods.
8. All students are responsible for removal of garbage from his/her table.
9. The number of students per table will not exceed the number of seats at the table.
10. No loud disruptions will be permitted and may result in disciplinary action.

CLASS CUTS

Students who are not present in class, leave class without permission, or are unaccounted for in any way will be disciplined according to the discipline matrix.

DRESS CODE (Policy 221)

The Rochester Area Administration reserves the right to question any mode of student dress/jewelry/hair or makeup styles (No Halloween makeup), that is beyond current school accepted standards or in any manner jeopardizes the health, welfare, or safety of the student or other students. **Any clothing judged to be a disruptive influence in class, or interfering with the educational rights of others, is considered improper dress. Administration will determine if the clothing is improper.** Certain types of clothing and hairstyles may be required for physical education classes or for the extracurricular activities such as band, football, etc.

The following are specifics to the student dress code for the Rochester Area School District:
<u>Section I: General</u>

1. Torn or ripped clothing is not permitted.

2. Spandex or skin-tight outfits of any type or material are not permitted.
3. Excessively baggy pants or clothing that can conceal items and/or pose a safety hazard are not permitted.
4. Undergarments should not be exposed in any way.
5. Pants may not have one leg rolled up or uneven with the other.
6. Emerging trends will be evaluated by administration.

Section II. Tops

1. Tops may not be “low- cut” or exposing.
2. Bare midriffs and bare backs are not permitted.
3. The following are unacceptable school attire:
    a. Tank tops/Muscle shirts
    b. Spaghetti strap/Halter/Mesh tops
    c. See-Through Blouses or Shirts
    d. Tube Tops/Crop Tops
    e. Any top that is skin-tight or allows the midriff, cleavage or undergarments to be exposed is not permitted.
4. Coats, jackets or garments designed for protection from the outside weather including blankets, are not to be worn in school.

Section III. Pants/Shorts/Skirts/Skorts

1. Pants, shorts, and skorts must be secured and worn no lower than the hip. Low riding/sag style is not permitted.
2. Length of pants should not extend beyond the bottom of the shoe or should not drag on the floor.
3. Tear-away pants (snap pants) and boxer shorts worn as outerwear are not permitted.
4. All shorts, skirts and slits in skirts must be at least fingertip length or longer.

Section IV. Offensive Dress

1. Clothing, patches, buttons, pins, jewelry, backpacks are not permitted if they:
    a. Have sexually suggestive writing/pictures.
    b. Advocate violence.
    c. Advertise or promote the use of tobacco, alcohol, or drugs.
    d. Have double meaning wording or obscene language.
    e. Are disrespectful.
    f. Are gang related.
2. A tattoo must be covered if it:
    a. Has sexually suggestive writing/pictures.
    b. advocates violence.
    c. Advertises or promotes the use of tobacco, alcohol or drugs.
    d. Has double meaning wording or obscene language.
    e. Is disrespectful.
    f. Gang related.

Section V. Footwear

1. Some sort of shoe must be worn at all times
2. Any shoe that poses a safety hazard is not permitted.

3. Shoes with laces must be tied.
4. For Physical Education classes, athletic shoes are required.

Section VI. Jewelry

1. Spiked jewelry, chains or jewelry that could cause injury or constitute a hazard are not permitted.

Section VII. Head Wear

1. Hats, caps, bandanas, sunglasses, visors, do-rags, wave caps and sweatbands are not permitted.
2. Covering of the face or head is not permitted, during school hours or at school functions. (e.g., morph suits, sweatshirts that zip over the head/face)

Section VII. Health and Hygiene

1. Any apparel that is judged to be unhealthy or unsanitary (e.g., clothing that is dirty and/or gives off a foul odor) is not permitted.
2. Each student is expected to maintain good personal hygiene

If a student violates the dress code, he/she will need to change or call home for a change of clothes/footwear. If a student refuses to comply with the dress code, disciplinary actions will be taken. Repeat offenses will result in further disciplinary action.

DRUG AND ALCOHOL POLICY (Policy 227)

Disciplinary actions are in accordance with the following Rochester Area School District Drug, Controlled Substances and Alcohol Beverages Policy and Administration Guidelines. **NOTE: Students who are required to take prescription drugs during the school day must register with the school nurse. All non-prescription drugs, including aspirin/Tylenol/digestive supplements must also be registered with the school nurse.**

Preface: The policy, including the rules, regulations, and guidelines is a concerted effort by the Rochester Area School District to openly and effectively respond to the current uses and abuses of drugs, alcohol and mood-altering substances by members of our entire student population.

State of Policy: Through the use of an up-to-date curriculum, classroom activities, community support and resources, a strong and consistent administrative and faculty effort, and rehabilitative and disciplinary procedures. Rochester Area School District will work to educate, prevent and intervene in the use and abuse of drug, alcohol, and mood-altering substances by the entire student population.

Definition of Terms:
Mood Altering Drugs/Controlled Substance - shall include any alcohol or malt beverage, any drug listed in Act 64 (1972) as a controlled substance, chemical, abused substance or medication for which a prescription is required under law and/or any substance which is intended to alter mood, mental and/or physical functions. Examples of the above include but are not limited to beer, wine, liquor, marijuana, hashish, crack, cocaine, chemical solvents, glue, look-alike substances and any capsules or pills not registered with the nurse annotated within

the student's health record and given in accordance with the School District policy for the administration of medication to students in school.

Cooperative Behavior- shall be defined as the willingness of a student to work with staff and school personnel in a reasonable and helpful manner complying with reasonable requests and recommendations by the staff and school.

Uncooperative Behavior - shall be defined as any resistance or refusal either verbal, physical or passive on the part of a student to comply with the reasonable requests or recommendations of a school personal. Defiance, assault, deceit and truancy shall constitute examples of uncooperative behavior. Uncooperative behavior shall also include the refusal to comply with the recommendations of a licensed drug and alcohol facility

Distribution - Deliver, sell, pass, share or give any alcohol, other drug, or mood altering substance, determined to be illegal or as defined by this policy.

Possession - Possess or hold, without any attempt to distribute, any alcohol, other drug or mood altering substance determined to be illegal or as defined by this policy.

Drug Paraphernalia - Includes any utensil or item that in the school's judgment can be associated with the use of alcohol, other drugs, or mood altering substances. Examples include but are not limited to, roach clips, pipes and bowls.

Assessment – Is a process by which a referral agency determines the need for, and/or level of care or treatment and determines the child and family's willingness, recognition and motivations.

Intervention- Is any level of involvement with the student and family designed to interrupt the potentially destructive/harmful behavioral/attitudes of the student and his/her family.

Crisis Intervention- is to provide immediate assistance/aid in order to lessen the severity of a crisis situation.

School Property - School property shall include not only actual buildings and facilities on the school grounds, but also school buses, school bus stops, school parking areas, and any facility being used for a school function.

Early identification and referral of students evidencing a problem with chemical abuse or dependence will be a primary goal. Disciplinary procedures will be administered with the best interests of the student and the student body in mind. This can include but not limited to suspensions, expulsions, hearings, legal action and/or counseling. Searches of lockers/possessions and confiscation of substances may occur during investigations. Due consideration has been given to the legal rights and responsibilities of the school administration, staff, students, and parents. The School Board reserves the right to authorize the use of any measure deemed necessary to control chemical use in accordance with the Immunity Bill (Act 67 of 1984, 42 PA. C.S.A. Section 8337, eff. 6/30.84) passed by the General Assembly of Pennsylvania.

ELECTRONIC DEVICES (Policy 237)

Electronic devices, including but not limited to cell phones, earbuds, headphones, laser pointers, iPods, Meta AI glasses, digital cameras and non-instructional items are prohibited due to the potential disruption of the educational environment. **Students are not permitted to use these devices during school hours: 8:00am to 2:32pm. (Unless directed to use while in class under the direction of the teacher.)**

Any cell phone that rings, buzzes due to a call, makes a low battery sound, receives a text message, or is being used to make a call, take a picture, text a message, or listen to music will give cause for punishment**.**

The use of electronic devices in locker rooms, bathrooms, health suites and other changing areas at any time is strictly prohibited.

The district shall not be liable for the loss, damage or misuse of any electronic device.
The Board prohibits the taking, storing, disseminating, transferring, viewing, or sharing of obscene, pornographic, lewd, or otherwise illegal images or photographs, whether by electronic data transfer or other means, including but not limited to texting and emailing.

Because such violations may constitute a crime under state and/or federal law, the district may report such conduct to state and/or federal law enforcement agencies.

Electronic Device Violation Procedures

1st Level - Warning
Any student who has a cell phone/earbuds out and visible, or in use during undesignated times, will be asked to turn their cell phone/electronic device over to the teacher. If the student cooperates, a warning is issued, and the device will be returned at the end of the class period. The teacher will notify the parents and document this information in CSIU.

2nd Level - Saturday Detention
If this occurs a second time in the teacher's classroom or school building area, the cell phone/earbuds must be turned into the Middle/High School Office.
* Students cannot participate in any extracurricular activities if they do not serve their Saturday Detention on the assigned day.

3rd Level - In School Suspension
A student who receives three Saturday Detentions due to cell phone/ear bud violations in the same school year will receive an in-school suspension.

4th Level - Cell Phone Restriction
If a student receives another violation after their in-school suspension in the same school year, the student will be on cell phone/earbuds restriction. The student will have to turn their cell phone/earbuds into the Middle/High School Office each morning prior to 1st period and may pick up their cell phone/earbuds at the end of the school day.

5th Level - Out of School Suspension (OSS)
After being on Cell Phone Restriction, if a student is found with a cell phone, he/she will automatically be suspended.

NOTE: If a student is found to be in violation of the electronic device policy, for example using their cell phone to inappropriately record another student and/or staff member, the student will receive Out of School Suspension.

Smart watches may be included in this policy if they are used as a cell phone or a messaging tool.

Any student who has an electronic device out and/or in use will be asked to turn it over to the teacher. **If a student refuses to turn the electronic device over to the teacher, this will result in suspension for defiance. Students may retrieve the device from the office at the end of the school day.**

Failure to serve a Saturday detention, without prior notification/approval, the student will not be permitted to participate in any extra curricular activities including but not limited to: field trips, practices, games, musicals and competitions until the Saturday detention has been served.

If an emergency occurs, students may use the office phone or seek a counselor or an administrator to use their phone in the administrator's office. If a parent needs to contact his/her child, the parent should call the office 724-775-7500 ext. 1230. We will summon your child to give him/her the message.

HALL PASS/RESTROOM PRIVILEGES

Restrooms are to be used only for the purpose intended. Any other usage, such as vaping, smoking, loitering, purposeful meeting, or hiding from school personnel, will not be tolerated, and appropriate disciplinary action will result. Students will be able to use the hall pass one student at a time. Students will only use the restroom on the floor/area in which they are located.

Students are not permitted in the halls during class periods unless they are accompanied by a teacher or have a hall pass from an authorized faculty member. The Middle School has implemented a Hall Pass folder, requiring students to get their teacher's approval before using the hall pass. Students are afforded two (2) passes a day. All entries are time-stamped and logged to help monitor the abuse of hallpasses, as well as vandalism and use of tobacco products in the restrooms.

DISCRIMINATION/HARASSMENT AFFECTING STUDENTS (POLICY 103)

The Rochester Area School District is committed to providing an equal opportunity for all students to achieve their maximum potential through the programs and activities offered in the schools without discrimination on the basis of race, color, age, religious creed, religion, sex, sexual orientation, ancestry, national origin, marital status, pregnancy or handicap/disability Discrimination, harassment, and retaliation based on race, color, age, religion, sex, sexual orientation, ancestry, national origin, marital status, pregnancy, or disability are prohibited.

The district does not discriminate in any manner, including Title IX sexual harassment, in any district education program or activity, to be issued to all students, parents/guardians, employment applicants, employees and all unions or professional organizations holding collective bargaining or professional agreements with the district. All discrimination notices and information shall include the title, office address, telephone number and email address of the individual(s) designated as the Compliance Officer and Title IX Coordinator.

The Board encourages students and third parties who believe they or others have been subject to Title IX sexual harassment, other discrimination or retaliation to promptly report such incidents to the building principal, even if some elements of the related incident took place or originated away from school grounds, school activities or school conveyances. A person who is not an intended victim or target of discrimination but is adversely affected by the offensive conduct may file a report of discrimination.

Additional information regarding nondiscrimination procedures, Title IX protections, and complaint processes is available on the district website or through the Director of Student Services/Title IX Coordinator, Mr. Nathan Leeman, leemann@rasd.org, 724-775-7500, ext 1193.

HAZING (Policy 247)

Hazing of any kind is strictly prohibited and will not be tolerated, whether it occurs on or off school property, during or outside of school hours.

Hazing includes any activity that humiliates, intimidates, endangers, harms, or pressures a student as a condition of joining, participating in, or maintaining membership in a team, club, organization, or activity. A student's willingness to participate does not make the behavior acceptable.

Students, parents/guardians, staff members, coaches, volunteers, and sponsors are encouraged to report any suspected hazing incidents immediately. Reports will be investigated promptly, and appropriate action will be taken to protect those involved.

Individuals or organizations found to have participated in, encouraged, or ignored hazing may face disciplinary consequences, including removal from activities, suspension, expulsion, termination of volunteer or employment status, and possible criminal charges.

INTERNET/NETWORK/ACCEPTABLE USE POLICIES (815.1-815.4)

Rochester Area School District provides students with access to technology and the Internet to support learning, research, communication, and educational opportunities. Students are expected to use district technology responsibly, safely, and in accordance with school rules and all applicable laws.

School technology and Internet access may only be used for educational purposes. Activities such as accessing inappropriate content, cyberbullying, unauthorized downloading, sharing passwords, damaging equipment, or engaging in illegal activities are strictly prohibited. The district reserves the right to monitor technology use and may limit or revoke access for violations of district policies.

Parents/guardians of students under the age of 18 have the right to revoke their child's technology and Internet access privileges.

Students must abide by the district's Network Acceptable Use Policy. Failure to follow procedures listed above will result in suspension or loss of the right to access the Internet, to use Rochester Area School District's technology, and to be subject to other disciplinary actions.

IPAD CARE AND USE POLICY (Policy 815.5)

Rochester Area School District provides each student with an iPad to support teaching, learning, communication, and college and career readiness. District-issued iPads are school property and are intended for educational use both at school and at home.

Students are expected to use their iPads responsibly, follow all school technology and acceptable use guidelines, and take proper care of their devices. Parents/guardians and students must sign the required agreements before an iPad is issued. Students are responsible for bringing their charged iPad to school each day and using it appropriately for instructional purposes.

Lost, stolen, or damaged devices must be reported to the school immediately. Families may be responsible for replacement costs in cases of negligence or failure to return district-owned equipment. The district reserves the right to monitor device usage and conduct inspections to ensure compliance with school policies. **If a device is lost, stolen, or damaged, the student will not be allowed to take another iPad home until payment is received for the device.**

Each student will be provided one charger with his or her device. If said charger is lost, stolen or damaged, a replacement will be the responsibility of the parent/guardian. Apple certified chargers and USB cables are the only accessories that are to be used to charge or connect the

district-issued iPad. Those accessories can be purchased through the Rochester Technology Office.

The use of technology is a privilege that supports student learning. Failure to follow district expectations may result in disciplinary action and/or loss of technology privileges.

SCHOOL EVENTS

Students will do their utmost to exercise the best behavior possible at all school events. All school rules must be adhered to during the event. If violations occur, the discipline policy will be followed. A student could be excluded from all Rochester Area School District events for inappropriate conduct. Courtesy must be shown toward all opponents and officials. If a student leaves early from an event, he/she cannot re-enter.

STUDENT SEARCHES

Students enter through a secured area every morning and proceed through metal detectors. Should the metal detector sound off, the student and his/her possessions will be searched. With reasonable suspicion or in the case of an emergency, the Administration reserves the right to search a student and his/her belongings, which may include, but are not limited to, a backpack, a locker, clothing, a purse and any other belongings during school or any school related event. This will include a student vehicle if the vehicle is parked on school property. A student who refuses a reasonable search will be disciplined for insubordination, suspended and/or recommended for an expulsion hearing.

THREAT ASSESSMENT (Policy 236.1)

Rochester Area School District is committed to maintaining a safe and supportive learning environment for all students and staff. To help identify and address potential safety concerns, the district has established a Threat Assessment Team in each school building.

The Threat Assessment Team reviews reports of student behavior that may indicate a risk to the safety of the student, others, or the school community. The purpose of the process is prevention, intervention, and support—not punishment. Team members gather information, assess concerns, and work with students, families, school personnel, and community agencies to determine appropriate supports and interventions when needed.

Students, staff, parents/guardians, and community members are encouraged to report safety concerns. Reports are taken seriously, investigated promptly, and handled with appropriate confidentiality. Depending on the situation, the district may provide counseling, behavioral supports, referrals to outside services, safety planning, or involvement of law enforcement when required.

Through this process, the district strives to proactively support students, prevent crises, and promote a safe school environment for everyone.

TOBACCO, VAPE, & NICOTINE POLICY (Policy 222)

The Rochester School District is committed to providing a safe and healthy environment for all students, staff, and visitors. Students may not use, possess, or bring tobacco, vape, or nicotine products to school, on school buses, or to any school event or activity. This includes:

- Cigarettes, cigars, pipes, chewing tobacco, dip, snuff, or similar products
- Vapes, e-cigarettes, vape pens, and nicotine delivery devices
- Herbal smoking products or look-alike products
- Tobacco or vape-related items such as lighters, matches, rolling papers, or other paraphernalia

These items are not allowed on school property at any time. If found in a student's pocket, backpack, purse, or other belongings, they will be confiscated. Pennsylvania law (Act 145 of 1996) also prohibits students from possessing or using tobacco products at school.

Consequences
Paraphernalia (lighter, vape accessories, etc.)

- 1st Offense: 1 Saturday Detention

Vape/Tobacco/Nicotine Products

- 1st Offense: Required educational class (instead of a fine). If the class is not completed, a fine may be issued.
- 2nd Offense: 3-Day Suspension + Fine
- 3rd Offense: 5-Day Suspension + Fine
- 4th Offense: 10-Day Suspension + Fine and/or Possible Expulsion

WEAPONS POLICY (Policy 218.1)

To maintain a safe learning environment, the Rochester Area School District strictly prohibits students from possessing or bringing weapons or replica weapons onto school property, school buses, or to any school-sponsored activity, including events held off campus.

A "weapon" is broadly defined under Pennsylvania law and includes items such as firearms, knives, cutting tools, and any object that can cause serious bodily injury. A student is considered in possession of a weapon if it is found on their person, in their belongings, locker, or under their control while on school property or at school-related activities.

Any violation of this policy is taken very seriously. Incidents will be reported to law enforcement, and parents/guardians will be notified. Students in violation are subject to disciplinary action, which includes a mandatory expulsion of at least one (1) year, as required by state law and due process procedures. The Superintendent may review individual cases as permitted by law.

The District also follows required procedures for students with disabilities, threat assessment protocols when safety concerns arise, and all state and federal reporting requirements related to weapon incidents.

This policy applies at all times on school grounds, during school transportation, and at all school-sponsored activities.

Recent changes to Pennsylvania law require schools to notify families and staff when an item defined by law as a “weapon” is found on school property. This applies regardless of intent or whether a threat is present. Notifications are based only on the legal definition of a weapon.

Please note:

- This is a change in reporting requirements, not an increase in safety concerns.
- The presence of a weapon does not automatically mean a threat or unsafe situation occurred.
- The District will continue to follow existing procedures for addressing all weapon-related incidents.
- Families may receive notifications that were not previously required due to this change in law.
- The legal definition of “weapon” is broad and may include items not typically considered weapons.

General Operations

ASSEMBLY PROCEDURES

The purpose of assemblies is to provide students with information or an enjoyable educational experience. The student’s responsibility is to enjoy the presentation, applaud, laugh at appropriate times and show respect to those people making the presentation. The procedure for reporting to assemblies will be announced before the assembly. Review seating assignments in the homeroom periodically throughout the school year; homeroom seating charts will be adhered to at all times.

BREAKFAST

Breakfast is served from 7:30 to 7:50 a.m. in the Elementary Cafeteria. Since time is limited, students electing breakfast are to report **directly** to the cafeteria upon entering the building. Students will be dismissed from the cafeteria to Homeroom/1st period at 7:50 a.m.

CAFETERIA PRICES

Rochester Area School District participates in the Community Eligibility Provision (CEP) program. As a CEP school district, all students are eligible to receive both breakfast and lunch

at no cost each school day, regardless of household income. We are proud to provide nutritious meals to support the health, well-being, and academic success of all students.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS/ TELEPHONE NUMBER

Parents/guardians are responsible for notifying the school office whenever there is a change in address, phone number, or emergency contact information. Maintaining current contact information is essential so the school can reach parents/guardians in the event of an emergency and ensure that important school communications and documents are delivered promptly. Families who move outside the district must notify the school immediately, as students residing outside district boundaries may be subject to tuition charges for unauthorized attendance.

ENROLLMENT OF STUDENTS (Policy 200)

Rochester Area School District welcomes all eligible school-age students residing within the district. To enroll a student, parents/guardians must provide required documentation, including proof of age, residency, immunization records, and any state-required registration forms.

The district strives to complete enrollment promptly and generally enrolls eligible students within five business days of receiving the required information. Students experiencing homelessness, foster care placement, or other educational instability will be enrolled immediately, even if all required documents are not available at the time of enrollment.

The district is committed to providing equal access to education and does not request information regarding a student's immigration status during the enrollment process.

FLEXIBLE INSTRUCTIONAL DAYS (FID)

Rochester Area School District has received approval from the Pennsylvania Department of Education and the School Board to utilize Flexible Instructional Days (FID) in place of traditional school closures due to weather or other circumstances. On a FID, students will participate in learning remotely from home rather than reporting to school.

Families will be notified of a FID through the district's mass communication system, website, social media platforms, and local media outlets. Students will access assignments, resources, and virtual learning opportunities through their district-issued iPads using Google Classroom and Google Meet. Teachers will review FID expectations with students throughout the school year to ensure everyone is prepared should a FID be used.

Students who have limited internet access or experience technology issues will be provided with alternative options, including paper materials when needed. If widespread power or internet outages affect the community, the district may choose a traditional school cancellation rather than implementing a FID.

Additional information and reminders regarding Flexible Instructional Days will be shared with students and families throughout the school year.

FIELD TRIPS

Students may participate in school-sponsored field trips and activities provided they are in good academic standing, meet attendance expectations, have satisfied all school obligations, and submit a completed field trip permission form signed by the office and a parent/guardian prior to the trip or activity. Information is listed below:

- All school rules and policies will be maintained for school-sponsored field trips (both during and after school).
- Must be in good disciplinary and academic standing (If a student is failing more than one course at the time of the trip, they may not participate on that field trip and may forfeit any costs that may have been made).
- Be present at school to attend any after-school field trip (Students may not attend if they arrived after 9 AM).
- Have fewer than five (5) unexcused absences and/or tardies per grading period.
- Have all school bills and fees paid in full.

IMMUNIZATIONS AND COMMUNICABLE DISEASES (Policy 203)

To help maintain a healthy school environment, students must meet Pennsylvania immunization requirements unless a medical or religious exemption has been approved. Proof of immunization is required for school attendance, and student immunization records are maintained by the district.

Students who are diagnosed with or suspected of having a communicable disease may be excluded from school in accordance with Pennsylvania Department of Health guidelines.

Parents/guardians are asked to keep students home when ill and to notify the school of communicable diseases when appropriate.

The district maintains confidential health records for all students and requires parents/guardians to provide updated medical information each year. Information regarding health education, disease prevention, and communicable disease protocols is available through the school nurse and district administration.

NURSE'S OFFICE

If a student becomes ill during the school day, he/she should ask the teacher for a medical pass and report to the nurse for treatment. **All students reporting to the nurse must have a pass.** If there is a necessity to go home, the nurse will inform the parent. If a student leaves without permission, the student will be considered truant. When the nurse is not available, students who are ill should not report to the office. The nurse is permitted to administer medication that is sent

to her by the parent. The medication policy, which is distributed on the first day of school each year, will be followed. **Loitering in the nurse's room is prohibited.**

OPIOID ANTAGONIST (POLICY 823)

To help protect the health and safety of students, staff, and visitors, the district maintains emergency opioid overdose response procedures. Trained school personnel may administer an opioid overdose reversal medication (such as naloxone) when an individual is believed to be experiencing an opioid overdose. Emergency medical services (911) will be contacted immediately in all suspected overdose situations.

Parents/guardians will be notified if their child is involved in an overdose-related incident. Students who experience a drug overdose may be referred to the district's Student Assistance Program (SAP) for additional support and resources.

Additional information regarding the district's opioid overdose response procedures is available through the school nurse or district administration. The District has Naloxone stocked in the High School Nurse's Office for use in the event of an emergency.

PEST MANAGEMENT (Policy 716)

The district uses Integrated Pest Management (IPM) practices to control pests in a safe and environmentally responsible way while minimizing risk to students, staff, and visitors. IPM focuses on prevention and uses a combination of methods, including limited and controlled pesticide use when necessary.

Parents/guardians and staff will be notified in advance when pesticide applications are planned in school buildings or on school grounds. This includes posted notices in the building and written communication sent home, with at least 72 hours' notice when possible. Families may also request to receive additional pesticide application notifications. **If you would like to be placed on this registry, please contact the Director of Maintenance and Facilities at Ext. 1351.**

Only certified professionals may apply pesticides on school property, and emergency applications may occur if there is an immediate health or safety concern. In such cases, families who have requested notification will be contacted as soon as possible.

The district maintains records of pesticide use and follows strict safety guidelines, including restricted re-entry times to ensure students and staff are not exposed during or immediately after treatments. Certain low-risk products and methods are exempt from notification requirements.

Additional information about pest management practices is available through district administration.

PRESS RELEASE

Throughout the year, students achieve many honors. Names of students are periodically released to the local newspapers, radio and television stations. These may include honor roll, graduation, academic honors, athletics, etc. **Please complete the *Signature Page* in the handbook and return it to the office if you do not want your child's name released.**

SCHOOL DANCES/EVENTS

To participate in school dances and events, students must meet the following requirements:

- Students who leave the dance/ event will not be readmitted for any reason.
- No outside guests will be permitted.
- After School Dance - To attend the Middle School Winter Dance, students must not exceed the unexcused absence/tardies as listed below:
    - Middle School Dances: a combination of **ten (10)** unexcused absences and/or tardies

SCHOOL DELAYS/CANCELLATIONS

In the event of a school cancellation or delay, information will be posted on the district website, and all families will receive notification through the district's School Messenger all-call system, including phone calls, emails, and text messages when available. This information will also be shared with television stations KDKA, WTAE, and WPXI.

SCHOOL PROPERTY

Students are responsible for the proper care of all books, supplies and furniture supplied by the school. Students shall not mark school furniture, walls, ceilings, floors or equipment with pen, pencil, paint or any other instrument. They may not tamper with fire alarms, fire extinguishers, or any electrical systems. Anyone who willfully destroys school property through vandalism, arson, or larceny or creates a hazard to the safety of our students will be disciplined and may be turned over to the proper law enforcement agency.

Students who disfigure property, break windows or do other damage to school property or equipment will be required to pay for the damage incurred and will be disciplined.
If a textbook is misused, a fine will be imposed. If a textbook is lost, the cost of a replacement will be charged. Failure to pay will result in the amount being applied to his/her senior bill.

All athletic equipment and uniforms are the property of the school. Therefore, any student who does not return any equipment or uniforms at the end of the season will be charged the full amount on their senior bill.

STUDENT INSURANCE

The school district has authorized an insurance agency to provide student accident insurance at a reasonable rate. Policy literature and premium collection procedures will be posted on the District website within the first two weeks of the school year. Insurance may however be

purchased at any time during the school year. All policies will continue until the same date of the following year. Claims will be made on forms available through the insurance agency.

STUDENT LOCKERS

1. All students will be assigned a locker during the homeroom/1st period on the first day of school. The lockers are to be used only by the person to whom it is assigned. Changes cannot be made unless approved by the homeroom teacher and/or the Administration.
2. Students may be charged for all expenses when damages occur to a locker.
3. Writing on or in lockers is prohibited. Stickers that cannot be removed at the end of the school year are prohibited and students will be charged for expenses.
4. Lockers are the property of the school and students must expect that privacy in the use of lockers is limited. School authorities may search a student's locker and seize any illegal materials. Such materials may be used as evidence against the student in disciplinary, juvenile, or criminal proceedings. Prior to a locker search, the student may be notified and given an opportunity to be present. However, where school authorities have a reasonable suspicion that the locker contains materials that pose a threat to the health, welfare and safety of students in the school, student lockers may be searched without prior warning.
5. Cell phones and other electronic devices are to be placed in lockers. Rochester Area School District is not responsible for any theft or loss.

VISITORS

All visitors will report to the Security Entrance off of Virginia Avenue. No visitor is permitted beyond the security area without proper identification (picture ID) or a security pass. The District reserves the right to check containers, bags, etc. Student-arranged visitations are not permitted. No children of students are permitted in the school during normal operating hours.

WORK PERMITS

Any student who is under 18 years of age must obtain a work permit in order to accept employment. The law has certain requirements concerning the type of work your child may do, the hours and under what conditions he/she may work. The work application and all necessary information may be obtained from the Middle/High Office. Student work permits may be denied or revoked for academic and attendance concerns.

STUDENT ACTIVITIES

ART CLUB

Art Club is a club open to middle and high school students. During Art Club, students will have the opportunity to try different Art mediums and techniques - in both group and individual settings, as well as participate in service projects for the school & community such as Light up

Night, the Haunted Courtyard & the annual Art show. Art Club meets monthly, but some months require multiple meetings. Attendance is flexible and students are encouraged to attend when they can, and according to their personal Art interests. Art Club students also participate in Art related field trips, with past trips including visits to Bicycle Heaven, Phipps Conservatory, The Frick Museum and the multiple Liberty Galleries in downtown Pittsburgh.

ATHLETICS

Students in grades 7 and 8 have the opportunity to participate in interscholastic athletics, including football, cheerleading, girls volleyball, and boys and girls basketball. These programs promote teamwork, sportsmanship, and school spirit while encouraging student involvement beyond the classroom. Participation is subject to all PIAA, WPIAL, and Rochester eligibility requirements.

GARDEN CLUB

The ‘Rochy Garden’ Club is a 6-12 grade club that welcomes everyone to join in creating a beautiful school garden. We get our hands dirty and enjoy all that growing flowers and vegetables has to offer. We take trips from time to time to Brady’s Run Park and do crafts related to nature and sustainability. Come be a part of this club that brings joy and friendship to the forefront while learning in the school garden.

GLOW- (Girls Leading Others Wisely)

GLOW is an after-school community created just for middle-school girls—a place to grow, connect, and shine. Our program empowers girls to build confidence, explore new interests, support one another, and develop leadership skills in a fun and safe environment. We host a variety of activities for girls to participate in, including speakers from community providers that present on a plethora of topics including healthy relationships, cyber safety, mental and physical well-being, etc. Whether we’re diving into physical activities, exploring art and self-expression, learning practical life skills, or talking about friendships and wellbeing, every session is designed to inspire and uplift; girls learn to embrace who they are while discovering who they want to become. GLOW is more than a program—it’s a supportive sisterhood that helps girls navigate the middle-school years with courage, integrity, and pride.

MIDDLE SCHOOL GAMING CLUB

The Rochester Middle School Gaming Club is a fun and welcoming opportunity for students to build friendships, develop strategic thinking skills, and enjoy friendly competition. Club members will participate in a variety of games, including chess, card games, and classic board games. Students will practice critical thinking, problem-solving, teamwork, communication, and good sportsmanship while having fun with their peers.

Throughout the year, members may also have opportunities to participate in special activities such as bowling outings and friendly tournaments. Whether students are experienced players or

just learning a new game, the Gaming Club provides an inclusive environment where everyone can learn, play, and connect with others who share similar interests.
Open to all middle school students. No prior experience is required—just bring a positive attitude and a willingness to have fun!

MIDDLE SCHOOL STUDENT COUNCIL

The purpose of the Rochester Area Middle School (R.A.M.S.) Student Council is to initiate school-wide activities and community services throughout the year. Some of the activities include: Student of the Month, Thanksgiving Canned Food Drive, Christmas Dance, Valentine Day Community Service, and other service-related projects.

MUSICAL

Students are encouraged to audition for the Middle/High School Musical, an exciting opportunity to experience the performing arts and be part of a team production. Participants can develop their acting, singing, and dancing abilities while learning the importance of commitment, preparation, teamwork, and responsibility. Auditions are typically held in October, with rehearsals beginning in January and continuing through the spring performance dates. Students interested in performing on stage are welcome to audition for a chance to become part of this memorable experience.

YOUTH AMBASSADOR PROGRAM (YAP)

The Youth Ambassador Program (YAP) is a youth-driven initiative open to students in grades 6–12 across Beaver County. The program brings together a diverse group of students from public, private, charter, cyber, and alternative schools to promote awareness, understanding, and support around youth wellness and mental health.

Youth Ambassadors work to increase awareness of mental health, reduce stigma, and build positive relationships among students across districts. Members participate in countywide events, school-based activities, and outreach efforts to share resources and promote wellness. They also serve as student leaders by helping to educate peers, families, and their communities through presentations, media, and advocacy efforts that support a culture of acceptance and understanding.

STUDENT PROGRAMS AND SERVICES

COUNSELING, GUIDANCE, AND SOCIAL WORK SERVICES

Counseling, guidance, and school social work services are available to support students with questions, concerns, or challenges that may arise during the school year. School counselors

and social workers provide support through private, confidential meetings and are available to assist students and families as needed.

Students and parents/guardians are encouraged to utilize the wide range of academic, personal, social-emotional, and career resources available through the school counseling office and student support services.

ESL PROGRAM

The Rochester Area School District has developed a program for instructing English as a Second Language. ESL students will have access to all extracurricular activities and all curricular programs and the right to an interpreter or translator if needed. For explanation of the services provided by the District or questions regarding the program, contact Mr. Nathan Leeman, Director of Student Services Office, ext 1193.

GIFTED AND TALENTED EDUCATION (GATE)

The Rochester GATE Program shall provide educational experiences through regular classroom placement and out of classroom opportunities. Within the regular classroom, children shall be encouraged to pursue academic excellence. Outside of the regular education setting the gifted student will be challenged to utilize the knowledge and skill gained in higher level thinking and problem solving application.

HOMELESS CHILDREN AND YOUTH ACT

Under McKinney Vento all school districts are responsible for identifying students experiencing homelessness and connecting them with the resources needed to ensure academic success.

Who is considered homeless—Children or youth living in a shelter, transitional housing, hotel/motel, vehicle, campground, on the street or doubled up with friends or family due to a lack of alternate resources are considered homeless. An unaccompanied homeless youth is a child or youth that is not in the care of their parent or legal guardian and meets the definition of homeless under McKinney Vento.

Where can students experiencing homelessness attend school?—The law indicates that homeless students have the right to remain in their school origin (the school they attended at the time of the homeless episode or last school attended) through the end of the school year in which they find permanent housing, provided it is in the child/youth's best interest. If through consultation between the school and the family and/or unaccompanied youth it is determined that remaining in the school of origin is not in the student's best interest, then the student has the right to immediately enroll in the school that non-homeless students living in the attendance area in which the child/youth is actually living are eligible to attend, even if they do not have all of the required documentation. Additionally, unaccompanied homeless youth have the right to immediately enroll in school, even if they do not have a legal guardian present.

What supports can school districts provide to homeless students?—Homeless students are eligible for supports and services to remove barriers to educational success. This may include transportation to the school of origin, free meals, referrals to physical/mental health providers,

clothing to meet school requirements, access to school supplies and resources, assistance with credit recovery, tutoring supports, expedited evaluations and assistance to participate in school activities including parent engagement opportunities, sports, club, etc.

Homeless Dispute Process—If at any time there is a disagreement about homeless status or best interest for school placement, the district will notify the family in writing of their determination that the family/unaccompanied youth is ineligible for McKinney Vento services. At this time, the district will provide the family/unaccompanied youth with the ability to dispute their determination. Throughout the dispute process, the child/youth, including unaccompanied youth, will continue to be educated in the school of origin or immediately enrolled in the school they are seeking enrollment in until the dispute process is finalized. Transportation will continue throughout the dispute process. All disputes will be sent to the ECYEH Regional Coordinator who will issue a determination. If any party is unhappy with the determination, they can elevate the dispute to the state coordinator.

What if I think that I am eligible for services under McKinney Vento?—If you think you are eligible to receive services, please contact Mr. Nathan Leeman, Director of Student Services, leemann@rasd.org, 724-775-7500, ext 1193.

Link to Pennsylvania Department of Education Information - Homeless Education

PARENT CONFERENCES

Parent conferences are an important part of supporting student success. Individual or team conferences may be scheduled at any time during the school year at the request of a parent/guardian by contacting the school counselor or principal.

We encourage parents/guardians to participate in conferences, as open communication between families and teachers helps support student learning and growth. These meetings allow teachers and parents/guardians to share valuable insights about the student and work together to ensure academic success.

POSITIVE STEPS

Rochester Area School District in cooperation with Western Pennsylvania Psych Care is proud to offer counseling services through the Positive Steps Wellness Center. The services include:

- Individual therapy
- Family therapy
- Consultation with teacher/parents to address behavior problems
- Group therapy

A student can be referred by a teacher, principal, school counselor and/or a parent. Prior to the start of services, a family member will complete an intake packet with a therapist. For children 13 years old and younger, no therapy will be conducted without written parental/guardian

permission. Services are provided during the school day. Therapy sessions are typically an hour a week. Services can cover a wide variety of problems, from diagnosed disorders (such as ADHD, depression, or anxiety) to temporary or situational problems (such as bullying, separation anxiety, divorce/grief counseling, or acting out in class). Services are provided by master's level clinicians. Both commercial insurance and medical assistance will be accepted as forms of payment. Co-pays may exist. For more information, please contact Lori Bollen at 724-775-7500 ext.1430

ROCHESTER CYBER ACADEMY (RCA)

The Rochester Area School District offers online courses through Edgenuity in a variety of subject areas to support student learning and provide flexibility. Students and parents can monitor grades, progress, and course information online using the student's username and password at www.edgenuity.com.

Students are expected to stay on track with their coursework and complete assignments in a timely manner. For questions or assistance with these services, please contact the RCA Coordinator at Ext. 1071.

SECTION 504 OF THE REHABILITATION ACT OF 1973

It is the policy of Rochester Area School District not to discriminate against any person on the basis of handicap in its educational programs, activities, or employment policies as required by the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, Section 504. Students, employees, applicants for admission, and applicants for employment who have complaints or parents who have inquiries about Section 504 should address them to: Principal, Rochester Area School District, 504 Reno Street, Rochester, PA 15074, phone (724) 775-7500 Ext. 1230.

SPECIAL EDUCATION PROGRAMS

The Rochester Area School District offers a full continuum of special education programs and services to all students eligible for such services. Services for eligible students of school entry age through 21 years of age may also be requested by contacting the Rochester Area School District. Special Education programs are available for students who are identified as: Intellectually Disabled (ID), Learning Disabled, Autistic/Pervasive Developmental Disorder, Visual Impairment, Hearing Impaired, Mentally Gifted, Multi-handicapped, Neurologically Impaired, Other Health Impairments, Physically Impaired, Emotionally Disturbed, Speech and Language Impaired.

The Rochester Area School District conducts ongoing identification activities to determine if students are in need of special education services **Child Find** refers to the activities performed by district personnel to identify, locate, and evaluate children residing in the district, including children attending private schools, who are suspected of needing special services. Special services include the entire spectrum of special education services from specially designed instruction in order to be academically successful to specially designed instruction for the gifted and talented. We offer the following programs for eligible students: Transition Services,

Learning Support, Emotional Support, Gifted Support, Life Skills Support, Autistic Support, Speech and Language Impaired, Occupational & Physical Therapy.
In addition to teachers and school counselors, parents or guardians may request their child be screened or evaluated for special education services. Requests for screening or evaluation should be made in writing to your child's school counselor or to Mr. Nathan Leeman, Director of Student Services.

All information collected as part of an individual student referral or evaluation is treated in a confidential manner and does not become a part of the student's permanent record file.

For answers to specific questions about special education services, the screening or evaluation process, or any other information, please contact your child's school counselor.

STUDENT ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (SAP)

The Rochester Area School District has a Student Assistance Program (SAP) which is intended to assist the student with any barriers to their learning or to their success in school. Students can refer themselves, or express concern about a friend. Parents can also refer themselves, or express concern about a friend. Parents can also refer their child for support. Please call the SAP Coordinator Mr. Steve Proctor, at ext. 6353, to refer your child to or learn more about SAP.

ROCHESTER AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT
EXCUSE FOR ABSENCE

_____, a student in the

_____ elementary _____ middle / high school (check one) Grade _____

Was absent on the following dates:

_____

_____
_____
_____

Reason for absence: _____
_____
_____
_____

Signature of Parent/Guardian: _____

ROCHESTER AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT
EXCUSE FOR ABSENCE

_____, a student in the

_____ elementary _____ middle / high school (check one) Grade _____

Was absent on the following dates:

_____

_____
_____
_____

Reason for absence: _____
_____
_____
_____

Signature of Parent/Guardian: _____

ROCHESTER AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT
EARLY DISMISSAL REQUEST

_____, a student in the

_____ elementary _____ middle / high school (check one) Grade _____

has an early dismissal request scheduled for _____ at _____

The early dismissal is for:
_____

Please list the physician's name and telephone number for verification:

Doctor's name: _____

Telephone number: _____

Signature of Parent/Guardian: _____

ROCHESTER AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT
EARLY DISMISSAL REQUEST

_____, a student in the

_____ elementary _____ middle / high school (check one) Grade _____

has an early dismissal request scheduled for _____ at _____

The early dismissal is for:
_____

Please list the physician's name and telephone number for verification:

Doctor's name: _____

Telephone number: _____

Signature of Parent/Guardian: _____

ROCHESTER MIDDLE/HIGH SCHOOL TIME SCHEDULE

REGULAR TIME SCHEDULE

Bell Schedule Grades 6-12					
Breakfast	7:30-7:50	**Breakfast**	7:30-7:50	**Breakfast**	7:30-7:50
Period 1	8:00-8:47(47)	**Period 1**	8:00-8:47(47)	**Period 1**	8:00-8:47(47)
Period 2	8:50-9:32(42)	**Period 2**	8:50-9:32(42)	**Period 2**	8:50-9:32(42)
Period 3	9:35-10:17(42)	**Period 3**	9:35-10:17(42)	**Period 3**	9:35-10:17(42)
Period 4	10:20-11:02(42)	**Period 4**	10:20-11:02(42)	**Period 4**	10:20-11:02(42)
Lunch 1	11:02-11:32(30)	**Period 5A**	11:05-11:47(42)	**Period 5A**	11:05-11:47(42)
Period 5B	11:35-12:17(42)	**Lunch 2**	11:47-12:17(30)	**Period 6A**	11:50-12:32(42)
Period 6B	12:20-1:02(42)	**Period 6B**	12:20-1:02(42)	**Lunch 3**	12:32-1:02(30)
Period 7	1:05-1:47(42)	**Period 7**	1:05-1:47(42)	**Period 7**	1:05-1:47(42)
Period 8	1:50-2:32(42)	**Period 8**	1:50-2:32(42)	**Period 8**	1:50-2:32(42)

ACTIVITY/ASSEMBLY TIME SCHEDULE

Bell Schedule Grades 6-12					
Breakfast	7:30-7:50	**Breakfast**	7:30-7:50	**Breakfast**	7:30-7:50
Period 1	8:00-8:38(38)	**Period 1**	8:00-8:38(38)	**Period 1**	8:00-8:38(38)
Period 2	8:41-9:19(38)	**Period 2**	8:41-9:19(38)	**Period 2**	8:41-9:19(38)
Period 3	9:22-10:00(38)	**Period 3**	9:22-10:00(38)	**Period 3**	9:22-10:00(38)
Period 4	10:03-10:41(38)	**Period 4**	10:03-10:41(38)	**Period 4**	10:03-10:41(38)
Lunch 1	10:41-11:11(30)	**Period 5A**	10:44-11:22(38)	**Period 5A**	10:44-11:22(38)
Period 5B	11:14-11:52(38)	**Lunch 2**	11:22-11:52(30)	**Period 6A**	11:25-12:03(38)
Period 6B	11:55-12:33(38)	**Period 6B**	11:55-12:33(38)	**Lunch 3**	12:03-12:33(30)
Period 7	12:36-1:14(38)	**Period 7**	12:36-1:14(38)	**Period 7**	12:36-1:14(38)
Period 8	1:17-1:55(38)	**Period 8**	1:17-1:55(38)	**Period 8**	1:17-1:55(38)
Club/Activity	1:58-2:32(34)	**Club/Activity**	1:58-2:32(34)	**Club/Activity**	1:58-2:32(34)

EARLY DISMISSAL TIME SCHEDULE

Bell Schedule Grades 6-12					
Breakfast	7:30-7:50	**Breakfast**	7:30-7:50	**Breakfast**	7:30-7:50
Period 1	8:00-8:20(20)	**Period 1**	8:00-8:20(20)	**Period 1**	8:00-8:20(20)
Period 2	8:23-8:43(20)	**Period 2**	8:23-8:43(20)	**Period 2**	8:23-8:43(20)
Period 3	8:46-9:06(20)	**Period 3**	8:46-9:06(20)	**Period 3**	8:46-9:06(20)
Period 4	9:09-9:29(20)	**Period 4**	9:09-9:29(20)	**Period 4**	9:09-9:29(20)
Lunch 1	No Lunch	**Period 5A**	9:33-9:52(20)	**Period 5A**	9:33-9:52(20)
Period 5B	9:33-9:52(20)	**Lunch 2**	No Lunch	**Period 6A**	9:55-10:15(20)
Period 6B	9:55-10:15(20)	**Period 6B**	9:55-10:15(20)	**Lunch 3**	No Lunch
Period 7	10:18-10:38(20)	**Period 7**	10:18-10:38(20)	**Period 7**	10:18-10:38(20)
Period 8	10:41-11:01(20)	**Period 8**	10:41-11:01(20)	**Period 8**	10:41-11:01(20)

2-HOUR DELAY TIME SCHEDULE

Bell Schedule Grades 6-12					
Breakfast	9:30-9:50	**Breakfast**	9:30-9:50	**Breakfast**	9:30-9:50
Period 1	10:00-10:26(26)	**Period 1**	10:00-10:26(26)	**Period 1**	10:00-10:26(26)
Period 2	10:29-10:54(25)	**Period 2**	10:29-10:54(25)	**Period 2**	10:29-10:54(25)
Period 3	10:57-11:22(25)	**Period 3**	10:57-11:22(25)	**Period 3**	10:57-11:22(25)
Period 4	11:25-11:50(25)	**Period 4**	11:25-11:50(25)	**Period 4**	11:25-11:50(25)
Lunch 1	11:50-12:20(30)	**Period 5A**	11:53-12:28(35)	**Period 5A**	11:53-12:28(35)
Period 5B	12:23-12:58(35)	**Lunch 2**	12:28-12:58(30)	**Period 6A**	12:31-1:06(35)
Period 6B	1:01-1:36(35)	**Period 6B**	1:01-1:36(35)	**Lunch 3**	1:06-1:36(30)
Period 7	1:39-2:04(25)	**Period 7**	1:39-2:04(25)	**Period 7**	1:39-2:04(25)
Period 8	2:07-2:32(25)	**Period 8**	2:07-2:32(25)	**Period 8**	2:07-2:32(25)

ROCHESTER MIDDLE/HIGH SCHOOL ASSESSMENT SCHEDULE

Bell Schedule Grades 6-12					
Assessment	8:00 - 10:00	8:00 - 10:00	8:00 - 10:00	8:00 - 10:00	8:00 - 10:00
Period 1	10:00-10:26(26)	**Period 1**	10:00-10:26(26)	**Period 1**	10:00-10:26(26)
Period 2	10:29-10:54(25)	**Period 2**	10:29-10:54(25)	**Period 2**	10:29-10:54(25)
Period 3	10:57-11:22(25)	**Period 3**	10:57-11:22(25)	**Period 3**	10:57-11:22(25)
Period 4	11:25-11:50(25)	**Period 4**	11:25-11:50(25)	**Period 4**	11:25-11:50(25)
Lunch 1	11:50-12:20(30)	**Period 5A**	11:53-12:28(35)	**Period 5A**	11:53-12:28(35)
Period 5B	12:23-12:58(35)	**Lunch 2**	12:28-12:58(30)	**Period 6A**	12:31-1:06(35)
Period 6B	1:01-1:36(35)	**Period 6B**	1:01-1:36(35)	**Lunch 3**	1:06-1:36(30)
Period 7	1:39-2:04(25)	**Period 7**	1:39-2:04(25)	**Period 7**	1:39-2:04(25)
Period 8	2:07-2:32(25)	**Period 8**	2:07-2:32(25)	**Period 8**	2:07-2:32(25)
Duty/Planning	2:32-3:00(28)	**Duty/Planning**	2:32-3:00(28)	**Duty/Planning**	2:32-3:00(28)

Report Cards/Mid QT Dates

Day 23	September 24, 2026	Mid QT 1st 9wks
Day 45	October 27, 2026	End of 1st 9wks
Day 69	November 24, 2026	Mid QT 2nd 9wks
Day 90	January 20, 2027	End of 2nd 9wks
Day 113	February 22, 2027	Mid QT 3rd QT
Day 135	March 30, 2027	End of 3rd 9wks
Day 158	April 30, 2027	Mid QT 4th 9wks
Day 180	June 3, 2027	End of 4th QT

ROCHESTER AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT 2026/2027

August 2026 (6-6)

S	M	T	W	R	F	S
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25*	26	27	28	29
30	31					

August 19 & 20 - In-Service Days #1 & #2
August 21 - Act 80 Day
August 24 - Clerical Day #1
August 25 - First Day of School for Students

September 2026 (21-27)

S	M	T	W	R	F	S
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30			

September 7 - Labor Day, No School
September 24 - Mid-point of 1st 9 wks

October 2026 (21-48)

S	M	T	W	R	F	S
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

October 12 - In-Service Day #3, No School for Students
October 27 - End of 1st 9 wks
October 30 - Act 80 Day, No School for Students, K-12 Parent/Teacher Conferences

November 2026 (17-65)

S	M	T	W	R	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30					

November 11 - Veterans Day, No School
November 24 - Mid-point of 2nd 9 wks
November 25 - Act 80, Student Early Dismissal
November 26-30 - Thanksgiving Vacation, No School

December 2026 (14-79)

S	M	T	W	R	F	S
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

December 18 - Act 80, Student Early Dismissal
December 21-31 - Winter Break, No School

January 2027 (18-97)

S	M	T	W	R	F	S
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

January 1- New Years Day, No School
January 18 - MLK Day, No School
January 19 - Clerical Day #2, No School for Students
January 20 - End of 2nd 9 wks & 1st Semester

February 2027 (19-116)

S	M	T	W	R	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28						

February 15 - Flexible In-Service, No School for Students
February 22 - Mid-point of 3rd 9 wks

March 2027 (20-136)

S	M	T	W	R	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

March 25 - Emergency Make-up Day #1, No School unless school cancelled previously
March 26-29 - Spring Vacation, No School
March 30 - End of 3rd 9 wks

April 2027 (21-157)

S	M	T	W	R	F	S
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	

April 23 - In Service Day # 4, No School for Students, Senior Projects, Kindergarten Registration
April 30 - Mid-point of 4th 9wks

May 2027 (20-177)

S	M	T	W	R	F	S
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

May 7 - Act 80 Day, No School for Students PROM
May 31 - Memorial Day, No School

June 2027 (3-180)

S	M	T	W	R	F	S
		1	2	3*	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30			

June 3 - End of 4th 9 wks & 2nd Semester; Last Day of School; Commencement (7:00 p.m.)
June 18 - Juneteenth recognized, Buildings Closed

July 2027

S	M	T	W	R	F	S
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

July 5 - Independence Day recognized, Buildings Closed

Grading Periods

1st-9 weeks	October 27
2nd-9 weeks	January 20
3rd-9 weeks	March 30
4th-9 weeks	June 3

RASD Time Schedule

	ELEM	MS/HS
Start	8:20 a.m.	8:00 a.m.
Dismissal	2:45 p.m. (K)	2:32 p.m.
Walker	3:00 p.m. (1-5)	
Bus	3:05 p.m.	

arly Dismissal Times for 11/25/26 & 12/18/2

	ELEM	MS/HS
Kinder.	11:25 a.m.	11:05 a.m.
Walker	11:40 a.m.	
Bus	11:45 a.m.	

Key

* First & Last Day of School
Half Act 80 Day
Holiday Break (No School)
Snow Make-Up Day
Act 80 Day
Clerical Day (No School for Students)
In-Service Day (No School for Students)
Mid/End of Grading Periods

PSSA & KETSONE ASSESSMENTS

April 24-28	English Language Arts (Gr 3-8)	December 7-18	Keystone Winter Wave 1
May 1-8	Math, Science & Make-Ups (Gr 3-8)	January 4-15	Keystone Winter Wave 2
May 8-12	Math, Science & Make-Ups (Gr 3-8) - Optional	May 17-28	Keystone Spring
		July 26-30	Keystone Summer

Board Approved 2/23/26; Revised 4/27/26

PSSA and Keystone Testing Information

PSSA Testing Window 2026-2027

Assessment	Dates	Grades
English Language Arts	April 26 - 30, 2027	Grades 3-8
Mathematics, Science and Make-ups	May 3 - 7, 2027	Grades 308
PSSA Math, Science, Makeups (Optional)	May 10 - 14, 2027	Grades 3-8

Keystone Exams Testing Windows 2026-2027

Time of Year	Date
Winter (Wave 1)	December 7 - 18, 2026
Winter (Wave 2)	January 4 - 15, 2027
Spring	May 17 - 28, 2027
Summer	July 26 - 30, 2027

2026-2027 ROCHESTER SCHOOL DISTRICT
HANDBOOK SIGNATURE PAGE

Student's Name: _____ Homeroom _____
(Please print)

Please check ALL appropriate boxes.

STUDENT HANDBOOK

❑ I acknowledge receipt of the Rochester School District Student Handbook.

TO BE COMPLETED BY THE STUDENT
INTERNET USE AGREEMENT

❑ I understand and will abide by the Internet Use Agreement found in the Student Handbook. I further understand that any violations of the regulations are unethical and may constitute a criminal offense. Should I commit any violation, my access privileges may be revoked, school disciplinary action may be taken, and/or appropriate legal action may be taken. I also understand that this policy includes Internet correspondences from outside the Rochester Area School District as well; also, the use of Artificial Intelligence according to school policy.

TO BE COMPLETED BY THE PARENT/GUARDIAN
INTERNET USE AGREEMENT (Check one box)

❑ As the parent or guardian of this student, I have read the Student Handbook, the Internet Use Agreement, and the use of Artificial Intelligence school policy. I understand that Internet access is designed for educational purposes. I recognize it is impossible for the Rochester Area School District to restrict access to all controversial materials and I will not hold them responsible for materials acquired on the network. I hereby **give permission** to issue an account for my child and certify the information contained on this form is correct. I understand that off-campus activities on the Internet may be the subject of discipline if the communications have the potential to create a serious threat of harm or serve to create a material and substantial disruption to the school program.

❑ I **do not** give permission for my son/daughter to use the Internet in the Rochester Area School District; however, I understand that off-campus activities on the Internet may be the subject of discipline if the communications have the potential to create a serious threat of harm or serve to create a material and substantial disruption to the school program.

TO BE COMPLETED BY THE PARENT/GUARDIAN
PERMISSION TO USE STUDENT NAMES AND PICTURES

The Rochester Area School District will periodically use names and pictures of students in the district publications and/or the district's webpage.

IF YOU DO NOT WANT THE DISTRICT TO USE YOUR SON/ DAUGHTER'S NAME OR PICTURE IN ANY DISTRICT PUBLICATION YOU MUST NOTIFY THE DISTRICT IN WRITING.

Parent or Guardian's Name: _____ Date: _____
(Please print)

Parent or Guardian's Signature: _____

Parent or Guardian's Email: _____

Student's Signature (User's Signature): _____ Date: _____

ATTACHMENT A

Rochester Area School's
iPad Agreement

Parent Requirements

Rochester Area Schools has issued your child an iPad to improve and personalize his/her education while integrating technologies into the classrooms. It is essential that the following guidelines be followed to ensure the safe, efficient, and proper operation of your child's iPad. Failure to comply with any of the following guidelines will constitute a breach of contract and may be subject to consequences as outlined in school procedures,

- I understand that I must supervise my child's use of the computer at home.
- I understand the importance of discussing family/school's expectations regarding the use of the Internet at home and will supervise my child's use of the internet.
- I understand that I should not attempt to clean or repair the iPad. I will make sure my child recharges the iPad when brought home.
- I understand that if my child comes to school without his/her computer, he/she will responsible for completing all course work.
- I understand that I must sign and return the Rochester Area School's AUP before my child can access the Internet at school or at home using the iPad.
- I understand that my child will return the iPad to the school at the end of the school year or upon leaving the school during the school year.
- I understand that any intentional damages to the iPad at home or school will be subject to disciplinary action.
- I have read the Rochester Area iPad Policy and agree to the terms.

_____ _____Parent/Guardian Signature

Print Name Date

Student Requirements

Your iPad is an important learning tool and is for educational purposes. In order to take your iPad home each day, you must be willing to accept the following responsibilities. The failure to obey any of the following requirements will result in a breach of contract and may be subject to consequences as outlined in school procedures.

- I will follow the policies outlined in the iPad Policy and the Acceptable Use Policy while at school and outside of school.
- I will treat my iPad with care by not dropping it, getting it wet, leaving it outdoors, or using it with food or drink nearby.
- I understand that my iPad is subject to inspection at any time without notice and remains the property of Rochester Area Schools.
- I will not loan my iPad to my friends. It will stay in my possession at all times. I will not remove county installed apps or files from my iPad.
- I will sign and follow the Rochester Area School's Acceptable use Policy.
- I will not attempt to repair or clean my iPad screen with any liquid, only a soft dry cloth.
- I will recharge my iPad each night.
- I will bring my iPad to school everyday.
- I will keep my iPad in the case provided by Rochester Area Schools at all times.
- I will not deface the iPad in any way, stickers, markings, etc.

_____ _____Student Signature

Print Name Date

ALMA MATER

Where the hills of Pennsylvania

Stand like sentinels round

Nestling fondly in the valley

Lies our high school town.

High school days will soon be over

Far from thee we'll roam

But we'll think of thee dear Rochy,

Ever as our home.

CHORUS

Rochy High, our alma mater

Thee we'll always praise

Sons and daughters ever loyal

Songs to thee we'll raise