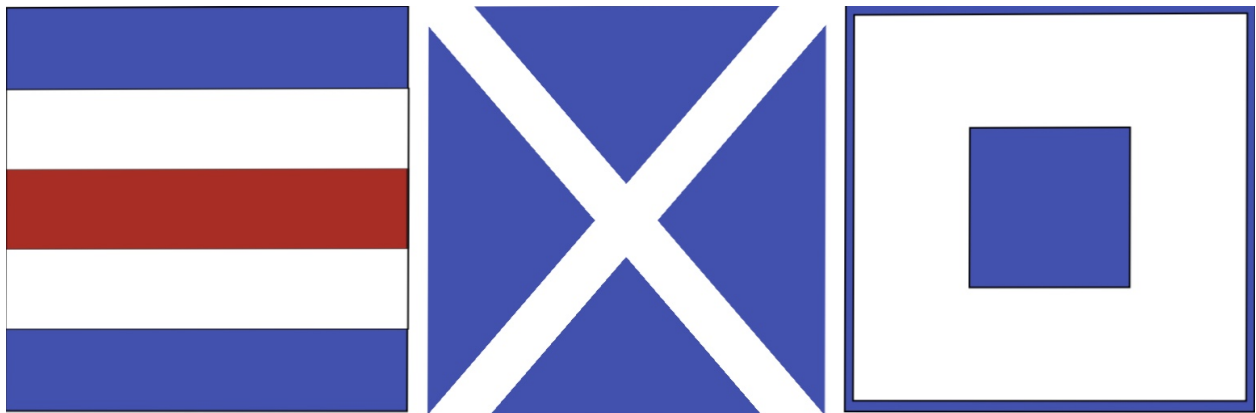


Cohasset Middle School

Student-Family Handbook

2026-2027



143 Pond Street
Cohasset, MA 02025
781-236-1070

<https://middleschool.cohassetk12.org/>

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The Cohasset Public Schools policy of nondiscrimination shall apply to the District's students, staff, and families, and shall extend to the District's dealings with the general public and those with whom it does business, in accordance with applicable law. No individual shall be discriminated against or harassed in admission, employment, or access to educational opportunities, courses of study, programs, activities, or facilities of the Cohasset Public Schools on the basis of actual or perceived race, color, ethnicity, national origin, ancestry, immigration status, religion, creed, sex, sexual orientation, gender, gender identity or expression, genetic information, veteran status, U.S. uniformed military service member status, disability, age (student age eligibility requirements excepted), homelessness, marital or parental status, pregnancy or pregnancy related condition, or any status or characteristic protected under applicable federal, state or local law. Cohasset Public Schools is an equal opportunity employer. Any complaint of a violation of the District's nondiscrimination policy should be directed to the Superintendent of Schools or to the relevant District Officer or Coordinator (e.g., Title VI, Title VII, Title IX, ADA, Section 504, McKinney-Vento).

ADMINISTRATIVE GREETING



Dear CMS Students and Families,

Welcome to the 2026-2027 academic year! We are thrilled to have each and every one of you join us as part of the Cohasset Middle School (CMS) community. As we all embark on this new chapter of your educational journey, we want to introduce you to our Student-Family Handbook, which serves as your guide to navigating the school's policies, procedures, and expectations.

The handbook is designed to provide you with information that will maintain a safe, inclusive, and engaging learning environment for all. It outlines the rights and responsibilities of every student, promoting respect, integrity, and a sense of community within CMS. It also serves as a reference tool, answering questions and concerns that may arise during our time together this year.

As we work towards a positive, inclusive, and joyful school culture, we encourage you to remember the Skipper Creed: Be responsible, be respectful, and be safe. Our school values the uniqueness and individuality of each person in our community, and we are committed to providing you with an environment that promotes personal growth, critical thinking, and collaboration.

On behalf of the entire staff at Cohasset Middle School, we wish you a successful and rewarding school year. Remember, you are an integral part of our school community, and we are here to support and guide you every step of the way.

If you need this booklet translated, please contact the main office.

Portuguese/Português

Se você necessitar este livreto traduzido, contate por favor o escritório principal da escola da sua criança.

Spanish/ Español

Si usted necesita este librete traducido, entre en contacto con por favor la oficina principal de la escuela de su niño.

French/ Français

Si vous avez besoin de ce livret traduit, entrez en contact avec svp le bureau principal de l'école de votre enfant.

German/ Deutsch

Wenn Sie diese übersetzte Broschüre benötigen, treten Sie bitte mit dem Hauptbüro der Schule Ihres Kindes in Verbindung.

Russian/Русско

Если вы этот переведенный буклет, то пожалуйста контактируйте главный офис школы вашего ребенка.

Korean/한국어

너가 번역되는 이 소책자를 필요로 하면, 너의 아이 학교의 본사를 접촉하십시오.

Chinese/汉语

如果您需要这本小册子被翻译, 请与您的儿童的学校大会办公处联系。

Japanese/日本語

翻訳されるこの小冊子を必要とすれば あなたの子供の学校の主要なオフィスに連絡しなさい。

Hindi/ihndI

Agar Aapka yah puistka kI Anauvaaidt AavaSyakta hO tba kRpyaa Apnao baccao ko ivaValaya ka mau#ya kayaa-laya sampk- kiryao .

Polish/Polski

Jeśli potrzebujesz tej broszury przetłumaczone, skontaktuj się z głównego urzędu Twoje dziecko w szkole.

Greek

Αν χρειάζεστε το φυλλάδιο αυτό μεταφράστηκε, παρακαλούμε επικοινωνήστε με την κύρια έδρα του σχολείου του παιδιού σας.

Italian/Italia

Se hai bisogno di questo opuscolo tradotto, si prega di contattare l'ufficio principale del vostro bambino scuola.

Arabic

عاجز ,مجرتي سارك اذه جاتحت تنأ ناب لصتا.تسر دم كتلفظ نم ئيسئر بتكملا

Albanian

Ne qofte se ju do te deshironit dokumentat te perkthyer ne gjuhen shqip. Ju mund ti kerkoni ne zyren qendrore te shkolles du eshte femija juaj.

NOTICES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

Notice of Equal Opportunity

The Cohasset Public Schools reaffirms that they do not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, national origin, age, disability or sexual orientation in admission to, access to treatment in or employment in its programs or activities. Consistent with M.G.L. Chapter 76, Section 5, the Cohasset School District also affirms the commitment to maintain a school and work environment free of harassment based on race, color, religion, sex, national origin, age, disability, or sexual orientation. Any harassment on the basis of sex, race, national origin, religion, age, disability, or sexual orientation will not be tolerated and will be punishable to the full extent of the law.

If you should have any questions about the district's policy, please feel free to contact the Director of Student Services. This person has been designated to respond to your inquiries and to be the district's Equal Opportunity, Title IX, Section 504, and Americans with Disabilities (ADA) Coordinator. The Director of Student Services can be reached at (781) 383-6104.

If you should have a complaint or concern that there has been discrimination, you may also utilize the following procedure:

1. Report the violations to any staff member in the Cohasset Public Schools. That person will notify the building principal or grievance coordinator. The building principal will meet with you and other persons who might have information about the issue promptly and will attempt to resolve the issue. Any additional investigation will be commenced by the school district investigators in each area, within a reasonable period of time. The building principal will issue a decision in writing to you within ten (10) days of the conclusion of the investigation.
2. If the complaint is not resolved, it can then be appealed to the district's Equal Opportunity, Title IX, Section 504, ADA Coordinator. This appeal must be in writing, describe the circumstances, and identify the relief you seek. This appeal should be taken within one week after receipt of the principal's decision.
3. The Equal Opportunity, Title IX, Section 504, ADA Coordinator will meet with you within a reasonable time. Following a review of the materials presented to the principal and any additional investigation which will be conducted promptly, the Coordinator will make a final determination on whether there has been a violation of the district's policy within ten (10) days after the conclusion of any additional investigation. If there has been a violation, the Coordinator will indicate the steps to be taken to correct it.

Inquiries concerning the application of nondiscrimination policies may also be referred to the Superintendent of Schools or the Regional Director, Office for Civil Rights, U.S. Department of Education, J.W. McCormack POICH, Room 222, Boston, MA 02109-4557.

Notice of Non-Discrimination

Cohasset Public Schools admits the students of either sex and of any race, color, religion and ethnic origin to all the rights, privileges, programs, courses and activities generally accorded or made available to students at the school. Further, Cohasset Middle School does not discriminate on the basis of sex, sexual orientation, race, color, religion, national or ethnic origin or disability in the administration of its educational policies and programs.

Inquiries concerning the application of this policy prescribed by Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 and Chapter 622 of the Laws of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts may be directed to: Director of Student Services, Michael Stapleton or Assistant Superintendent, Dr. Elizabeth Wilcox.

Inquiries concerning the application of nondiscrimination policies may also be referred to: Regional Director, Office for Civil Rights U.S. Department of Education J. W. McCormack POICH - Room 222 - Boston, MA 02109-4557.

Abbreviated Reference to the Legislation and Specific Criteria of

Civil Rights Laws, and School and District Coordinator Information

Law	Coordinator
Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 – prohibits discrimination, exclusion from participation, and denial of benefits based on race, color and national origin.	Director of Student Services: Mr. Michael Stapleton, 781-383-6104
Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 – prohibits discrimination, exclusion from participation, and denial of benefits in educational programs based on sex.	Assistant Superintendent: Dr. Elizabeth Wilcox, 781-383-4210
Title I of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 – prohibits discrimination, exclusion from participation, and denial of benefits on the basis of disability in the areas of employment.	Director of Student Services: Mr. Michael Stapleton, 781-383-6104
Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 – prohibits discrimination, exclusion from participation, and denial of benefits on the basis of disability in the areas of educational programming and activities.	Director of Student Services: Mr. Michael Stapleton, 781-383-6104

Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1993 – prohibits discrimination, exclusion from participation, and denial of benefits based on disability.	District – Mr. Michael Stapleton, 781-383-6104 Osgood – Mr. David Vinton 781-383-6117 Deer Hill – Ms. Robyn Costa 781-383-6115 Middle School – Dr. Kathryn Salas 781-383-6100 High School – Ms. Kate Darling 781-383-6100
Massachusetts General Laws, Ch. 76, S.5 – prohibits discrimination in all public schools on the basis of race, color, sex, national origin, religion and sexual orientation.	Director of Student Services: Mr. Michael Stapleton, 781-383-6104
Title I of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 – designed to help disadvantaged children meet challenging content and student performance standards.	Assistant Superintendent: Dr. Beth Wilcox, 781-383-4210
603 CMR 4600 – governs the use of physical restraint on students in publicly funded schools.	Director of Student Services: Mr. Michael Stapleton, 781-383-6104
McKinley-Vento Act - Homeless	Director of Student Services: Mr. Michael Stapleton, 781-383-6104

Cohasset Public School policy, AC, “Nondiscrimination” states, “Individuals who have a complaint or feel they have been discriminated against because of race, color, gender, religion, national origin, sexual orientation and disability, should register their complaint with the Title IX compliance officer.” The above references laws and coordinators indicate whom individuals should contact in the event they feel they have been victims of discrimination.

If any individual associated with the Cohasset Public Schools feels discriminated on the basis of race or national origin (Title VI), gender (Title IX) or disability (Section 504), s/he may file a complaint with the appropriate school or district coordinator.

Grievance Decision APPEALS: Dr. Sarah Shannon, Superintendent, 781-383-6111

Guiding School Committee Policies

The following guiding policies can be found in the School Committee Policy Manual, located [here](#).

JA	STUDENT POLICIES AND GOALS
JB	EQUAL EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES
JBA	STUDENT-TO-STUDENT HARASSMENT
JEB	ENTRANCE AGE
JEBA	POLICY AND PROCEDURE FOR EARLY ENTRANCE TO

	KINDERGARTEN
JECA	ENROLLMENT OF THE CHILDREN OF SCHOOL DEPARTMENT PERSONNEL
JF	SCHOOL ADMISSIONS
JF-R	RESIDENTIAL REQUIREMENTS FOR SCHOOL MEMBERSHIP
JFABB	ACCEPTANCE OF INTERNATIONAL AND EXCHANGE STUDENTS
JFABD	HOMELESS STUDENTS: ENROLLMENT RIGHTS AND SERVICES
JFBB	SCHOOL CHOICE
JFBB-1	SCHOOL CHOICE
JH	STUDENT ABSENCES AND EXCUSES
JHD	EXCLUSION AND EXEMPTIONS FROM SCHOOL ATTENDANCE
JI	STUDENT RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES
JIB	STUDENT INVOLVEMENT IN DECISION-MAKING
JICA	STUDENT DRESS CODE
JICC	STUDENT CONDUCT ON SCHOOL BUSES
JICE	STUDENT PUBLICATIONS
JICF	GANG ACTIVITY/SECRET SOCIETIES
JICFA	PROHIBITION OF HAZING
JICFA-E	HAZING
JICFB	BULLYING PREVENTION
JICG	TOBACCO USE BY STUDENTS
JICH	ALCOHOL, TOBACCO, AND DRUG USE BY STUDENTS PROHIBITED
JIE	PREGNANT STUDENTS
JIH	INTERROGATIONS AND SEARCHES
JII	STUDENT COMPLAINTS AND GRIEVANCES
JJ	CO-CURRICULAR AND EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES
JJA	STUDENT ORGANIZATIONS
JJE	STUDENT FUND-RAISING ACTIVITIES
JJF	STUDENT ACTIVITY ACCOUNTS
JJG	CONTESTS FOR STUDENTS
JJIB	INTERSCHOLASTIC ATHLETICS
JK	STUDENT DISCIPLINE
JKA	CORPORAL PUNISHMENT
JKAA	PHYSICAL RESTRAINT REQUIREMENTS
JL	STUDENT WELFARE
JLA	STUDENT INSURANCE PROGRAM
JLC	STUDENT HEALTH SERVICES AND REQUIREMENTS
JLCB	INOCULATIONS OF STUDENTS
JLCC	COMMUNICABLE DISEASES
JLCD	ADMINISTERING MEDICINES TO STUDENTS
JLCEA	THE USE OF AUTOMATED EXTERNAL DEFIBRILLATORS
JP	STUDENT GIFTS AND SOLICITATIONS
JQ	STUDENT FEES, FINES, AND CHARGES
JRA	STUDENT RECORDS
JRA-R	STUDENT RECORDS
JRD	STUDENT PHOTOGRAPH

CPS MISSION, MOTTO, VISION & CORE VALUES

Cohasset Public Schools Mission

We place students first. Together, we inspire character, purposeful growth, and a commitment to authentic scholarship for the fulfillment of our collective potential.

Motto

Learn. Grow. Inspire.
TOGETHER

Vision

Students improving communities

Core Values

- ♦ I – Unlock the power of Individuality
 - ♦ N – Nurture belonging and empathy
 - ♦ S – Create authentic learning experiences to drive academic Success
 - ♦ P – Partner with students in learning
 - ♦ I – Inspire Innovation by cultivating curiosity
 - ♦ R – Build Resilience through perseverance
 - ♦ E – Ensure all members of our CPS community are actively Engaged
-

CALENDARS

Please refer to the online [Cohasset Public School 2026-2027 School Calendar](#)

CMS 2026-2027 TERM CALENDAR

Term	Start	End	Date Report Card Published to Aspen
1	September 2, 2026	December 3, 2026	December 11, 2026
2	December 4, 2026	March 17, 2027	March 26, 2027
3	March 18, 2027	June 17, 2027	June 24, 2027

2026-2027 CMS DAILY SCHEDULES

CMS Daily Bell Schedule

Period	Start	End
Period 1	8:15	9:11
Period 2	9:14	10:08
Period 3	10:11	11:05
Lunch/Utility	11:08	12:04
Period 4	12:07	1:01
Period 5	1:04	1:58
Period 6	2:01	2:55

CMS Daily Lunch/Utility Schedule

	Lunch Times	Utility Times	Grades
1st Lunch	11:08-11:35	11:37-12:04	6 th & 7 th
2nd Lunch	11:37-12:04	11:08-11:35	8 th

CMS Early Release Schedule

Grade 6 and 7 Schedule			Grade 8 Schedule		
Start	End	Class	Start	End	Class
8:15	8:53	Period 1	8:15	8:53	Period 1
8:56	9:34	Period 2	8:56	9:34	Period 2
9:37	9:47	Gr 6 & 7 Break	9:37	10:15	Period 3
9:49	10:27	Period 3	10:17	10:27	Gr 8 Break
10:30	11:08	Period 4	10:30	11:08	Period 4
11:11	11:49	Period 5	11:11	11:49	Period 5
11:52	12:30	Period 6	11:52	12:30	Period 6

CMS Delayed Opening Schedules

CMS Daily Schedule with One-Hour Delay

Start	End	Class
9:15	10:00	Period 1
10:03	10:47	Period 2
10:50	11:34	Period 3
11:35	12:35	Lunch
12:37	1:21	Period 4
1:24	2:08	Period 5
2:11	2:55	Period 6

CMS Lunch Schedule with One-Hour Delay

	Lunch Times	Utility Times	Grades
1st Lunch	11:35-12:00	12:03-12:35	6 th &7 th
2nd Lunch	12:10-12:35	11:35-12:08	8 th

CMS Daily Schedule with Two-Hour Delay

Start	End	Class
10:15	10:50	Period 1
10:53	11:27	Period 2
11:29	12:28	Lunch
12:30	1:04	Period 3
1:07	1:41	Period 4
1:44	2:18	Period 5
2:21	2:55	Period 6

CMS Lunch Schedule with Two-Hour Delay

	Lunch Times	Utility Times	Grades
1st Lunch	11:29-11:54	11:56-12:28	6 th &7 th
2nd Lunch	12:03-12:28	11:29-12:01	8 th

GENERAL SCHOOL INFORMATION

Cohasset Middle School Administration

John Scopelleti	Principal	781-236-1070
Kathryn Salas	Assistant Principal	781-236-1070
Melissa Loney	Secondary Spec. Educ. Team Chair	781-236-1070
Deborah Simmons	Middle School Secretary	781-236-1070

Cohasset Middle School Counseling

Allison Pearce	CMS School Counselor	781-236-1070
Vanessa Leary	School Psychologist	781-236-1070
Emily Manewal	Adjustment Counselor	781-236-1070
Robert Collins	Social Worker	781-236-1070

Cohasset Department Chairs, Grades 6-12

English	Eileen Norton	enorton@cohassetk12.org
Health and Wellness	Ron Ford	rford@cohassetk12.org
Math	Jon Fortin	jfortin@cohassetk12.org

Science	Ed Savage	esavage@cohassetk12.org
Social Studies	Jim Willis	jwillis@cohassetk12.org
Visual & Performing Arts	Stephanie Moriarty	smoriarty@cohassetk12.org
World Languages	Jeff Kotter	jkotter@cohassetk12.org

Visitors

All visitors entering the building are required to sign in using the Lobby Guard system in the Cohasset Middle School Main Office. The Lobby Guard system requires visitors to present a government-issued photo identification such as a driver's license.

Parents can drop off materials at the CMS Main Office. Students can be released to parents through the CMS Main Office.

Guests

Guests of students are not permitted at Cohasset Middle School. Students who are planning on enrolling in our school are welcome if arrangements are made in advance with the administration.

Communications with the School

It is the school's policy not to interrupt classes to convey personal messages to students, except in the case of emergencies.

Messages for teachers may be left in the teacher's voicemail or through email. The secretary will forward phone calls directly to teachers only during non-teaching blocks or when classes are not in session. Teachers will return phone calls within a reasonable period, usually 24 hours.

We encourage parents to communicate any problems or concerns they may have about their children's education. Teacher conferences, arranged by appointment or as scheduled by the District, are a good vehicle for communications. If a parent or guardian has a concern about a course or practice, we ask that the following procedures be followed:

- 1. Contact the teacher to discuss the matter or to arrange an appointment.**
- 2. If the problem is not resolved, a meeting may be arranged with the department chairperson.**
- 3. If a resolution is not reached at this point, the assistant principal may be called.**
- 4. If the matter is still not resolved, it may be escalated to the principal.**

Circumventing the above protocol may inhibit communication and delay a resolution. Teaching responsibilities and extra help sessions often occupy teachers before, during, and after school hours. Hence, we ask that parents and guardians please understand that, in most instances where discussions with teachers are concerned, appointments are advisable. The principal maintains an "open door" policy for drop-in conversations, but calling ahead of time is still recommended since the principal may have previously scheduled meetings.

EMERGENCY PROTOCOLS

In the event of an emergency, Cohasset will respond first with the local police and fire departments. Should the situation escalate, Cohasset will be supported by the South Shore Regional Emergency Communications Center (comprised of Cohasset, Hingham, Norwell, and Hull) and then the Metropolitan Law Enforcement Council (Metro LEC), a consortium of 42 law enforcement agencies in the metropolitan Boston area.

Emergency Evacuation of the Building

There are times during the school day when it may be necessary to evacuate the building of all personnel. An evacuation may cause fire apparatus and police vehicles to arrive.

During these times, students will:

- Leave the classroom quickly but quietly as a group under the supervision of the teacher.
- Follow the posted evacuation route to leave the building by the nearest exit.
- Remain with the teacher/class that they are currently assigned to. Students are not to leave school grounds.

Shelter-in-Place

Shelter in place is used when it has been determined that it is safer **inside** the building than **outside** the building. These situations could constitute weather emergencies, medical emergencies, violence, or criminal activities outside of the building. If the school needs to shelter-in-place, the order will be announced by the principal or other administrator over the public address system. All exterior doors and windows must be locked. Gym classes or other outside activities should report to the gymnasium by the closest point of entry.

Lockdown

Some situations will require containment of students and staff to a semi-secure space. If the school needs to lock down the building, this will be announced by the principal over the public address system, and the principal will designate another staff member to call 911 and report the situation.

ACADEMIC STANDARDS AND PROCEDURES

CMS Course Overview by Grade

Grade 6	
Full-Year Courses	Specialist Courses (Trimester)
ELA 6	Chorus 6, Beginning Instrumentation, or Band 6
Math 6	Health/Wellness 6

Science 6	STEM 6
World Geography/Ancient Civilizations I	Literacy 6
French or Spanish	Art
Grade 7	
Full-Year Courses	Specialist Courses (Trimester)
ELA 7 or Accelerated ELA 7	Chorus 7 or Band 7
Math 7 or Accelerated Math 7	Health/Wellness 7
Science 7	STEM 7
World Geography/Ancient Civilizations II	Guidance
French or Spanish	Art
Grade 8	
Full-Year Courses	Specialist Courses (Trimester)
ELA 8 or Accelerated ELA 8	Chorus 8 or Band 8
Math 8 or Accelerated Math 8	Health/Wellness 8
Science 8	STEM 8
Civics	Research
French or Spanish	Art

The principal may exempt a student from any of these requirements. Each request for exemption will be considered on its own merit. In general, the request will be considered if meeting the requirements will severely disrupt a student's academic program.

Requirements for Promotion and Grade Assignment

Students receiving two or more Fs in year-long subject areas may be considered for retention in the current grade.

Grading

It is the philosophy of the Cohasset professional staff that students respond more positively to the opportunity for success than to the threat of failure. Therefore, it seeks to make achievement both recognizable and possible for students. It emphasizes achievement in its processes of evaluating student performance and reports achievement using letter grades.

The primary purpose of grading is to report to students and their parents/guardians the extent to which the student has learned the content and skills of a course as defined by course objectives

and learning outcomes. The issuance of grades on a regular basis serves to promote a process of continuous evaluation of student performance, to inform students and their parents/guardians of progress, and to provide a basis for improvement in student performance.

Students receive course expectations and objectives at the beginning of each course. The teachers explain to students the course objectives, their expectations of students' performance and responsibilities, and the evaluation system that will be used to measure mastery of those objectives. The teacher will make clear to students and parents/guardians, as necessary, the basis upon which the grades are earned.

Academic Letter Grades and Numerical Equivalents

Letter Grade	Numerical Equivalent	Student demonstrates
A	93.5 - 100	Comprehensive and in-depth understanding of the essential concepts/processes embodied in course content; substantial evidence of understanding, reasoning, and communication skills as they apply to specific learning tasks, assessments, and class discussions
A-	89.5– 93.49	
B+	86.5–89.49	Proficient understanding of the essential concepts/processes embodied in the course content; sufficient evidence of understanding, reasoning, and communication skills as they apply to specific learning tasks, assessments, and class discussions
B	83.5–86.49	
B-	79.5–83.49	
C+	76.5–79.49	Basic understanding of the essential concepts/processes embodied in the course content; adequate evidence of understanding, reasoning, and communication skills as they apply to specific learning tasks, assessments, and class discussions
C	73.5–76.49	
C-	69.5–73.49	
D+	66.5–69.49	Minimal understanding of the essential concepts/processes embodied in the course content; partial evidence of understanding, reasoning, and communication skills as they apply to specific learning tasks, assessments and class discussions
D	63.5–66.49	
D-	59.5–63.49	
F	0 –59.49	Deficient understanding of the essential concepts/processes embodied in the course content; inadequate evidence of understanding, reasoning, and communication skills as they apply to specific learning tasks, assessments, and class discussions

Course/Level Placement

Cohasset Middle School utilizes both heterogeneous and homogeneous grouping patterns. In heterogeneous classes, students with different ability levels and varied interests are brought together in a learning situation. In homogeneous classes, students are grouped by ability levels as determined by several established criteria. Seventh- and eighth-grade Math and ELA programs feature homogeneous grouping while all other classes are heterogeneously grouped.

When a course is homogeneously grouped, every effort is made to group students according to and commensurate with their individual abilities in each subject area. Grouping of students will be based upon the following factors:

1. Prior academic record
2. Teacher recommendations
3. Standardized and diagnostic or screening test results
4. Department chair and/or counselor recommendation

Thus, it is possible for students to be placed at different levels depending on their strengths and weaknesses in each subject area.

Any parent/guardian wishing to discuss a child's placement in a particular subject should first contact the teacher.

If a parent/guardian desires that a student take a course level that differs from the recommendation of the teacher, the parent must request a recommendation waiver using the waiver form. These forms are available in the middle school main office and [online](#). A waiver request will only be considered after talking to the teacher and the department head (when possible) and is subject to the approval of the principal.

Academic Integrity

Plagiarism

Academic integrity is as integral to the education process as the acquisition of skills and the accumulation of knowledge. The faculty assumes that any work submitted by a student represents that student's own work. Because plagiarism is a serious form of cheating, it is not tolerated at Cohasset Middle School.

It is teachers' responsibility to present and reinforce what students should do to avoid plagiarism. Cohasset Middle School follows the guidelines set by the Modern Language Association as presented in the [MLA Style Center](#), which states that "Plagiarism is presenting another person's ideas, words, or entire work as your own." *Another person* in this definition is not limited to a single person but may be two or more persons as well as a digital resource such as but not limited to an artificial intelligence program.

In each instance of plagiarism, the teacher will contact the parent/caregiver, explain the situation, and submit a discipline referral. First penalties will be determined by the teacher in consultation with CMS administration. Penalties may include but will not be limited to receiving a "0" for the work with no option to make up the work. Subsequent penalties will be the responsibility of school administration.

Cheating Policy

Each Cohasset Middle School student will develop a strong sense of honor and integrity, behave ethically, and act responsibly. Implicit in this statement is the fact that trust is an important component in the educational process. Cheating violates this trust. Consequently, the work that students hand in must be their own. For instance, students are expected to complete assignments individually unless otherwise directed by the teacher. Furthermore, the unauthorized provision of information to another individual, whether in a testing situation, homework assignment, etc., also constitutes a violation. **In this case, the person who provides the information will be considered just as at fault as the person who uses it.** The dishonest use of technology

resources also falls under this policy. For example, downloading material from the internet and submitting it as the student's own work, using translation websites, downloading essays or parts of essays, book summaries, or inserting plagiarized material in a research project all constitute serious breaches of the academic code of ethics.

Make-up Work

Students with absences will be allowed make-up time according to the following general guidelines, recognizing that each situation is unique and will be considered individually:

- Make-up for absences will be determined by the teacher after consultation with the student, school counselor, and administration.
- Normally, students will have two (2) days to make up work upon return from a short-term absence due to illness (considered less than 3 days).
- Make-up for extended absences of three (3) consecutive days or more will be determined by the assistant principal after consultation with the student, counseling department, and teachers.
- If absence from class is due to tardiness or dismissal, work in all classes is still due on that day.

Textbooks and School Devices

If a textbook or school device is misused, students will be required to pay a fine. If a textbook or school device is lost, the student to whom it was issued must pay for a replacement.

Homework

Part of the school's mission is to encourage life-long learning; study beyond the school day may therefore be a significant part of students' education. Homework supplements classroom instruction, fosters independent learning, and provides students with practice in skill development beyond the regular class period. Students are expected to prepare for all classes. **Students may receive 20-30 minutes of homework per subject per night, with increased expectations for accelerated courses.** Accordingly, students should make careful choices about commitments beyond the school day. Academic responsibilities should always remain a priority, and students are encouraged to make choices that allow them to balance academics with other parts of their lives.

Exam Policy

Teachers may administer final exams in their courses as they deem appropriate. The grade weight will be determined by each department.

Escalation of Academic Concerns

In cases where a parent is dissatisfied with an academic matter and wishes to further clarify a teacher's policy or decision, the following chain of command should be respected: faculty member, department chair, assistant principal, principal.

BEHAVIORAL EXPECTATIONS AND PROCEDURES

CMS students and staff have a responsibility to contribute to an environment that is safe, comfortable, and conducive to learning. All have a responsibility to conduct themselves in a manner that respects the rights of other students, staff, and visitors to our school, specifically:

- the right to feel welcome and respected at all times;
- the right to a safe, non-threatening learning environment; and
- the right to work hard and learn in an environment free from distraction.

General Information

Assemblies

There will be opportunities to attend a variety of assemblies throughout the school year. These assemblies will be of an informational and cultural nature, and students are expected to receive these programs in a most courteous manner. Prior to an assembly, students will report to regularly assigned classes. After attendance has been taken, students will proceed in an orderly fashion to the assembly area. Students will sit with their class under the supervision of the teacher.

Cafeteria

The cafeteria is intended to be a pleasant place where students may eat lunch in a relaxed atmosphere. Students may bring their own lunch or purchase a school lunch. For the service to be as efficient as possible, student cooperation is necessary. Students are expected to follow the guidelines listed below:

1. Neatness and cleanliness are everyone's responsibility. Nothing should be left on the tables at the conclusion of lunch. Areas surrounding the tables should be left reasonably clean.
2. **Students may not take food or drink from the cafeteria, except for water.** Students should not have any beverage other than water outside of the cafeteria. To maintain a safe school environment, students cannot use reusable drinking containers made out of glass or lined with glass at CMS.
3. Students can only go to the cafeteria during their assigned lunch or during break time.
4. All students **MUST** remain in the cafeteria unless otherwise directed by the school administration.
5. Students are **NOT** permitted to have cell phones **OR** devices out or on during break or lunch.
6. Students are not permitted to have food delivered from restaurants or anyone other than parents/caregivers without permission from the administration. Parents/Caregivers are asked **NOT** to deliver coffee, snack items, or food for groups (more than 1 person) of

students as it is very disruptive to the school day, places an unfair burden on the office staff, and may impact students with food sensitivities or allergies.

7. Respectful behavior is always expected.
8. Students will observe any protocol established to accommodate students with food allergies (e.g., “peanut-free” tables, “peanut-free” locker areas).
9. Absolutely no throwing of food, trash, or any other object will be tolerated.
10. To help promote sustainability and protect our environment, students and staff are expected to support Green Team and school-wide efforts to reduce waste whenever possible, by reducing, reusing, recycling, and composting in the cafeteria.

Personal Technology

Personal technology is “Away for the Day” at Cohasset Middle School unless expressly permitted by a teacher for instructional purposes. Examples of personal technology include (but are not limited to) cell phones, smartwatches, airpods, gaming consoles, etc. Students have ample access to technology for instructional purposes and do not need to utilize personal technology during the school day. This holds true at break, lunch, during passing time, as well as in lavatories and locker rooms. Students needing to connect with a parent/caregiver can use a school phone in the middle school main office before, during, and after school with the permission of a staff member.

Students who violate this practice are subject to progressive discipline. The following are guidelines for such discipline, but the school retains the right to apply a more significant consequence if a device is used in a severe or significantly impactful way:

- **1st offense: Device is confiscated, and student may retrieve it from the office at the end of the school day.**
- **2nd offense: Device is confiscated, and parent/caregiver must retrieve the device from the office.**
- **3rd offense: Device must be turned in to the office at the beginning of the day and retrieved at the end of the school day.**

Parent/Caregiver support for this “Away for the Day” practice is appreciated. The following are some ways to support the expectations around personal technology:

- Refrain from directly texting students during school hours. Please call the CMS Main Office (781-236-1070) to relay messages to students without disrupting their academics.
- Reconsider whether students need to bring smart watches to school, as they constitute a major distraction to middle school students.
- Actively manage the student’s BYOD device. Restrictions can be set on laptops so students cannot access certain apps/websites during school hours.

Most importantly, parents/caregivers are encouraged to discuss with their children how important it is to avoid letting technology negatively impact them during the school day. Academic achievement is undermined when learning is frequently disrupted and distracted by inappropriate

technology use. The goal of CMS is to develop students who are engaged in their learning; can meaningfully communicate in person; maintain healthy, respectful relationships; and can limit their use of technology to productive pursuits. Parents/Caregivers are important partners in this endeavor.

Students are also reminded that use of audio/video recording devices is particularly prohibited without the express consent of the student, teacher, or administrator. A violation of this prohibition is considered a serious infraction, and appropriate disciplinary consequences may be assigned. Students should also be aware that a secret audio recording (recording of an individual without her/his/their knowledge) could result in criminal charges under Massachusetts General Laws Ch. 272, §99F and/or civil damages.

Dances, Social Events, and School Activities

Students who attend any school dance, social event, or school activity will be required to observe the rules of behavior that are in effect during the school day. In order to participate in such activities, students must be in good behavioral standing as determined by the administration. **In order to attend any dance, social event, or other school activity, students must be present in school for the full day unless otherwise approved by the administration.**

Cohasset Middle School dances and social activities are planned for members of the school.

Students must remain for the entire dance unless previous arrangements have been made with the administration. Students will not be permitted to enter the dance or activity thirty minutes after it has started. Each student entering a school-sponsored dance may be required to submit to a breathalyzer test. A full copy of the Breathalyzer Protocol that is currently in effect can be found on page 34.

When possible, the School Resource Officer (or detail officer, alternatively) will be present at school dances to assist the administration in the event of any law enforcement issues that may arise. A student whom the administration has determined to have violated the school's alcohol and controlled substances policies will be sent home with a parent/caregiver or turned over to the police for protective custody or arrest.

Fitness Center

Fitness and well-being are critical for learning and emotional health. CMS is fortunate to have the fitness center as an asset to be enjoyed by staff and students. In order to use the fitness center safely and effectively, the following expectations must be met:

1. Middle school students are only allowed to use the Fitness Center when there is adult supervision provided by a member of the school personnel.
2. Students must be dressed appropriately to perform to the best of their abilities everyday. Please do not work out in boots or barefoot/socks.
3. Treat ALL others in the fitness center with courtesy and respect.
4. Follow posted safety guidelines while in the fitness center.
5. Respect and care for all equipment and facilities.

- Use the equipment appropriately.
 - One person per machine
 - Use a safe amount of weight.
 - Respect peoples' personal space.
6. All other CMS and CHS rules and policies will be enforced.

Learning Commons

The Learning Commons is a flexible learning space designed for use by teachers and students who may engage various spaces for group or individual work. Students are allowed to use the space during the Utility period with prior permission of an academic teacher and with the appropriate notation entered into the "Utility Pass" page of the agenda book.

The Library Media Specialist is available to assist students with developing the following skills:

- Becoming effective users of information,
- Making optimal use of resources,
- Expanding problem-solving and thinking skills,
- Providing access to a broad scope of information and ideas, and
- Enhancing literacy and the enjoyment of reading.

Learning Commons materials may be checked out for two weeks. Reserved materials can be checked out overnight at the end of the school day, to be returned before school the following day. Reference materials do not circulate, and therefore, must be used in the Learning Commons.

Lockers

The school district has the responsibility to create a climate within the school that assures the safety and welfare of all persons. Lockers belong to the school district but may be used by students. Therefore, the school insists that lockers be properly cared for and not used for storage of illegal items. Lockers are subject to reasonable searches by District and building administration. Students will be charged for any damage done to their lockers, including marker graffiti. Disciplinary action will be taken against those who damage lockers. Students are responsible for the contents of any locker assigned to them. To help ensure safety, security, and cleanliness, a student should:

1. Never share a locker
2. Keep his/her locker locked and not give the combination to anyone else
3. Always make sure the locker door is CLOSED AND LOCKED when not in use
4. Never leave money or expensive valuables in the locker
5. Keep the locker neat and clean

The right of inspection of students' school lockers is inherent in the authority granted School Committees and administrators. This authority may be exercised as needed in the interest of safeguarding children, their own property, and school property. (SC Policy JIH)

Personal Property

CMS prohibits students from bringing toys and personal property that is inappropriate for the school environment. (Examples include, but are not limited to, toy guns, water guns, etc.)

These can be disruptive to the learning environment and undermine the important sense of safety that CMS offers to all members of the community. Appropriate disciplinary consequences may be assigned to a student for violating this expectation.

School-Sponsored Field Trips

Field trips by their very nature are optional. Students not wishing to attend a field trip cannot be penalized academically and will be given an alternate assignment to complete.

Students who participate in a school-sponsored field trip must have their parents/caregivers complete the required permissions. Additional behavior contracts may be required for all overnight trips organized by the school.

Technology

The Cohasset Public Schools fully realizes the potential of technology as a tool to inspire learning and create independent, critical thinkers who are prepared to be successful individuals in society. To ensure that students are prepared to meet these expectations, Cohasset's Technology Plan has incorporated a BYOD (Bring Your Own Device) initiative in Grades 6 through 12. A BYOD initiative is one in which students bring their own devices to and from school so that they can be utilized in their classes. Please note that a cell phone does not meet the needs of the BYOD Program. Please review the section on personal technology above.

CMS students utilize and integrate technology into many aspects of their school day and are expected to demonstrate responsible digital citizenship. More information about the BYOD Program can be found [here](#). Students are expected to use technology responsibly and appropriately. Students and families are encouraged to review the [District Technology Network Access and Acceptable Use Policy](#).

Being prepared for a successful day at CMS includes bringing an appropriate and charged device to school each day. However, if a student's device becomes inoperable during the school day, the CMS main office may lend out a Chromebook for the school day, if one is available. Students are expected to leave a cell phone or other device as collateral to ensure that the device is returned at the end of the school day. A student who does not return the loaner device at the end of the school day will be assigned an office detention to be served on the next school day.

STUDENT CONDUCT AND DISCIPLINE

The purpose of discipline at CMS is to ensure a responsible, respectful, and safe learning environment for students and staff. To that end, discipline practices are guided not only by all applicable state and federal laws but also by the following principles:

- *Educators should hold students to high standards.* This is true academically and in terms of behavior.
- *Students are here to learn.* They will make mistakes, and many will need support to learn from their mistakes. Some will need more support than others.
- *Consistency matters.* Mitigating factors may arise, but processes and consequences should be followed and implemented in accordance with this handbook and applicable legislation.
- *Parents/Caregivers are an important part of the student's team.* Communication between school and home is an essential element in addressing student behavior and student choices.

Escalation

Cohasset employs a system of progressive discipline through which consequences for violating school rules are determined based on the severity of the infraction and the number of offenses the student has incurred. The goal of all interventions is to change the student's behavior and in most cases will be addressed by the teacher or administrator in whose presence the incident occurs. Instances of significant or repeated conduct violations will result in more intensive or severe consequences.

Discipline issues are generally handled by the party that was closest to the infraction. In most cases, this will be a faculty member, but depending on the circumstances surrounding the infraction or the severity of the infraction, could escalate to the building administrator. **In cases where a parent is dissatisfied with a consequence assigned and wishes to further clarify or appeal the decision, the following chain of command should be respected: faculty member, department head, assistant principal, principal.**

The following tables are meant to serve as general guidelines for the levels of severity and the possible consequences. Each case is considered individually and in context. Consequences are determined by the faculty member or administrator in charge.

Level 1 Offenses: Irresponsible

The student made a negative choice when she/he/they should have known better. Educators should address the behavior at the classroom level. They may request administrative involvement at any time, especially if the behavior occurs outside of the classroom.

Types of Level 1 Offenses	Possible Consequences
• Cheating/Plagiarism • Classroom disruptions • Eating, drinking or chewing gum. • Tardiness to class* • Using inappropriate language • Littering • Careless hurtful remarks towards another student or adult • Cell phone policy violation* • Abuse of a pass	• Verbal or non-verbal correction • Private conference with the student • Written or verbal apologies • School counseling referral • Teacher-assigned detention • Email or phone call home • Parent conference

• Class cut* • Unintended forms of disobedience or disrespect • Drinks, other than water, outside of the cafeteria (unless permitted by a teacher for a special classroom activity) • Non-compliance (failure to follow directions)	
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Level 2 Offenses: Disrespectful

The student made someone feel like they don't matter. Educators may address the behavior themselves or immediately seek administrative support.

Types of Level 2 Offenses	Possible Consequences
• Failure to respond to teacher's corrective strategies, including failure to report to teacher detention or office detention. • Excessive tardiness to class* • Cutting class* • Smoking/tobacco* • Repeated cell phone violation* • Verbal or written teasing • Meal card violations • Dress code violations* • Forgery • Internet policy violation* • Lying / academic integrity violation (cheating)* • Being in unauthorized areas without permission • Bus violations • Disrespectful behavior towards faculty or staff • Disruptive or inappropriate acts as deemed serious by the administration. • Gambling • Throwing objects / snowballs • Cutting school* • Insubordination (repeated or substantial non-compliance)	• Student/teacher conference • Office detention(s) • School counseling referral • Verbal or written reflection • Written or verbal apologies • Parent conference • Behavioral contract • Adult mentor assigned • Community service • Loss of privilege • Removal from class (should be followed up with a parent phone call or email that day) • In-school or out-of-school suspension

Level 3 Offenses: Unsafe

The student did significant harm to a body, mind, or property. Educators should immediately seek administrative support.

Types of Level 3	Possible Consequences
• Any failure to respond to Level 2 interventions or repeated violation of school rules. • Assault on a staff member (MGL 37H /37H-1/2)	• Remove from class (requires a call home from the teacher or administrator that night) • Behavior improvement plan / disciplinary contract • Student or adult mentors

● Felony charge or conviction (MGL 37H /37H-1/2) ● Harassment on the basis of protected class, including of race, color, religion, nationality, sex, sexual orientation, age, gender identity, ancestry or disability ● Possession or use of a weapon (MGL 37H /37H-1/2) ● Sexual harassment ● Truancy or excessive tardiness* ● Off campus without permission after school starts ● Physical attacks/fighting ● Stealing ● The use of possession of alcohol in school or at any school-related event. ● The use and/or possession of look-alike designer drugs or drug paraphernalia or other violation of the chemical health policy.* ● Vandalism ● Physical threats or actions reasonably deemed as intimidation. ● Verbal or physical harassment* ● Unwanted touching ● Abusive language or actions towards staff or students ● Verbal or written taunts* ● Encouraging peer aggression (including athletic or co-curricular competitions) or inciting others to disregard school rules. ● Cafeteria or other public disturbance ● Possession of a toy or replica weapon ● Abusive, threatening, or intimidating language/actions directed at a staff/faculty member ● Inappropriate use of image altering technology ● Audio or video recording without consent	● Consultation with the student's doctor / Psychiatric evaluation / Rehabilitation ● Parent-teacher-administrator meeting ● In-school suspension ● Out-of-school suspension ● Exclusion ● Expulsion ● Referral to police or fire department ● Restitution
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Description of Infractions Named in Tables

Academic Integrity

Please refer to “Academic Information” on page 20 regarding the definition and discipline policy on cheating.

Attendance

Please refer to “Attendance” on page 39 regarding penalties for attendance.

Bus Violations

Please refer to School Committee policy [*Student Conduct on School Buses \(EEAEC\)*](#)

Dress Code

The responsibility for the dress and appearance of the students will rest with individual students and parents/caregivers. They have the right to determine how the student will dress, provided that the attire is not destructive to school property, complies with requirements for health and safety, does not cause disorder or disruption, and does not violate the rights of others. The administration is authorized to take action in instances where individual dress does not meet the stated requirements. This does not mean that student, faculty, or parent groups may not recommend appropriate dress for school or special occasions. It means that students will not be prevented from attending school or a school function, or otherwise be discriminated against, so long as their dress and appearance meet the requirements set forth above.

Tardiness to Class

If a student arrives late for a class without a pass or justification for tardiness, that student is subject to the following procedure for unexcused tardiness:

1. For the first (1st), second (2nd), and third (3rd) incidents of unexcused tardiness, the student will report to the teacher after school. On the fourth (4th) and subsequent incidents of unexcused tardies, students will be referred to the assistant principal for further disciplinary action, which may include office detention.
2. If a student fails to report to the teacher after school, the teacher will reassign the student to two after-school detentions. Failure to serve either of these detentions result in the student being referred to the assistant principal.
3. For subsequent failures to serve detention, the student will be referred to the Assistant Principal for further disciplinary action.

Teachers are not to send students in pursuit of a pass (exception: first block of the day). If students arrive late to class without a pass, they may be assigned teacher detention. The student may present an excused tardy pass to the teacher by the next school day or class day. Teachers are to notify the parent(s)/guardian(s) and the assistant principal if they find a problem with tardiness developing with a student.

Classroom Disruptions

Most classroom disruptions are considered Level 1 offenses and will be handled by the teacher at the teacher's discretion. Depending on the circumstances, the teacher may inform the parent or guardian, but such notification is neither expected nor required except in cases of repeated misbehavior.

Removal from Class

Removal of a student from the learning environment is among the most serious consequences and is generally reserved for when a student's behavior has become so problematic that the

student poses a safety threat or that the student's continued presence substantially affects other students' learning. In most cases, removal from class is considered only after other strategies have failed. In all cases in which a student has been removed from class, the teacher must attempt to contact the parent or guardian within twenty-four hours.

Unexcused Absence from Class (Class Cuts)

Any student who deliberately fails to attend a scheduled class in its entirety, without permission, will be disciplined as described below. Students who cut class and also leave school grounds will be disciplined in accordance with the rules governing "Unauthorized Departure from School Grounds" on page 35.

When students are not where they are supposed to be, the burden of proof is on them to prove that they did not leave school grounds. A student who cuts class will be disciplined as follows:

- **1st Cut - The student is to be assigned a teacher detention.**
- **2nd Cut - The student is to be referred to the Assistant Principal.**
- **3rd Cut - The student is to be referred to the Assistant Principal.**
- **For any subsequent cut, the student may receive two (2) days of out-of-school suspension, and a parent conference is required for reinstatement.**

Inappropriate Use of Image-Altering Technology

Students cannot intentionally alter any likeness of any member of the Cohasset Middle School community using any form of image-alteration programs (such as, but not limited to, artificial intelligence applications, DeepFake/FaceSwap/ReFace, etc.) in an effort to discredit, harass, bully, or intimidate that individual. Appropriate disciplinary consequences may be assigned to a student for violating this expectation.

Meal Card Violations

The Cohasset Public School district recognizes the importance of child nutrition and how that directly relates to a successful learning environment. Because of this, the food services department will strive to make sure all students receive a lunch regardless of meal card account balances. Students are forbidden from charging the meal card account of another student to purchase meals, snacks, etc. for themselves. Students found in violation will be assigned disciplinary consequences.

Students and parents are encouraged to learn more about the School Committee *Meal Charge Policy* (EFD) by clicking [here](#).

Alcohol, Tobacco, and Controlled Substances (including vaping and related paraphernalia)

In order to safeguard the individual and general welfare and safety of all students, the Cohasset School District has established the following guidelines for disciplinary action with regard to due

process and student's rights in dealing with drug, alcohol, or other matters involving student impairment.

Students shall not use or consume, possess, buy/sell, or give away any product containing nicotine, tobacco, alcohol, steroid, any other controlled substance, drug paraphernalia, or look-a-like on any school premises or while attending or before a school-sponsored activity. For the purposes of discipline, the school considers vaporizers and electronic smoking devices drug paraphernalia.

Referrals should be made by all school personnel (teachers, secretaries, custodians, etc.) to a building administrator who may consult other administrators, the school nurse, and/or Superintendent of Schools. The following procedures should be followed:

Please refer to the School Committee policy manual, Section J- Students, for the full text of this policy. The manual can be accessed by clicking here: [Cohasset School Committee Policy Manual Section J](#)

Suspicion of Being Under the Influence of Alcohol, a Controlled Substance, Designer Drug or Using Related Paraphernalia (*including vaporizers and electronic smoking devices*)

If a member of the staff suspects that a student is under the influence of alcohol, a controlled substance, designer or “look-alike” drugs, using drug paraphernalia, or other substances, which, in the opinion of the administrator, are intended to be used harmfully and/or in ways that are not in accordance with their intended use, the following steps will be taken:

- The opinion of a second person – school principal, assistant principal, teacher, and/or a school nurse – will be sought.
- The parent/caregiver will be contacted to take the student home.
- The School Resource Officer will be notified.

Possession of Alcohol, a Controlled Substance, Designer Drug or Using Related Paraphernalia (*including vaporizers and electronic smoking devices*)

If a member of the staff suspects that a student is in the possession of alcohol, a controlled substance, designer or “look-alike” drugs, drug paraphernalia, or other substances, which, in the opinion of the administrator, are intended to be used harmfully and/or in ways that are not in accordance with their intended use, the following steps will be taken:

- The opinion of a second person - school principal, assistant principal, teacher, and/or school nurse - will be sought;
- The parent/caregiver will be called to take student home;
- The District will hold a discipline hearing, in accordance with Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 71, Section 37H and/or 37H3/4;
- The student will be immediately suspended from all school programs;
- A letter will be sent to the parent(s)/guardian(s) - copy placed in student's temporary file;

- When deemed appropriate, possible referral to a rehabilitation program may be made;
- Notification will be sent to the local police department;
- The student may be assigned expulsion, reinstatement, or further suspension, consistent with Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 71, Section 37H and/or 37H3/4.

Under the Influence and/or Use of Alcohol, a Controlled Substance, Designer Drug or Using Related Paraphernalia (*including vaporizers and electronic smoking devices*)

If a member of the staff suspects that a student is in the under the influence of alcohol, a controlled substance, designer or “look-alike” drugs, using drug paraphernalia, or other substances, which, in the opinion of the administrator, are intended to be used harmfully and/or in ways that are not in accordance with their intended use, the following steps will be taken:

- The opinion of a second person - school principal, assistant principal, teacher, and/or school nurse - will be sought;
- The parent/caregiver will be called to take the student home;
- The District will hold a discipline hearing in accordance with Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 71, Section 37H and/or 37H3/4
- The student will be immediately suspended from all school programs;
- A letter will be sent to the parent(s)/guardian(s) - copy placed in student's temporary file;
- When deemed appropriate, possible referral to a rehabilitation program may be made;
- Notification will be sent to the local police department;
- The student may be assigned expulsion, reinstatement, or further suspension, consistent with Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 71, 37H and/or 37H3/4.

Selling or Distributing Alcohol, a Controlled Substance, Designer Drug or Using Related Paraphernalia (*including vaporizers and electronic smoking devices*)

If a student has been determined to be selling or distributing alcohol, a controlled substance, designer or “look-alike” drugs, drug paraphernalia, or other substances, which, in the opinion of the administrator, are intended to be used harmfully and/or in ways that are not in accordance with their intended use the following steps will be taken:

- The parent/caregiver will be called to take the student home;
- The student will be immediately suspended from all school programs;
- Notification will be sent to the local police department;
- A discipline hearing, in accordance with Massachusetts General Laws, Section 37H and/or 37H3/4 will be conducted;
- A letter will be sent to the parent(s)/guardian(s) - copy placed in student's temporary file;
- The student may be assigned expulsion, reinstatement, or further suspension, consistent with Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 71, 37H and/or 37H3/4.

Breathalyzer Protocol

Part I: During School Sponsored Events

1. The administration will determine at which school-sponsored events the breathalyzer test procedures will be used. These events will include, but are not limited to, proms, dances, concerts, overnight activities, athletic events, etc.
2. The administration will determine the manner by which the students will be tested: entire group, random selection, or based on individualized suspicion. The administrator or designee present at such events has the authority to test and retest any individual suspected of being under the influence of alcohol even if the student has a negative test on entering the event.
3. Students attending these school-sponsored events may be required to take a breathalyzer test administered by a trained member of the staff prior to entering the event.

- Any student who tests positive (any reading above 0.00) will be given a second test after a waiting period of five (5) minutes;
- If this test is also positive, the student will be denied entrance to the event and detained by school officials until parents/guardians arrive to remove them;
- Students who refuse the test will be denied entrance to the event and detained until parents/guardians arrive to remove them;
- Where school officials are testing based on individualized suspicion, a student who tests positive or who is suspected of using alcohol as described herein and refuses the test will be denied entrance, detained, and sent home with a parent/caregiver, and may be suspended for up to ten (10) days;
- Whether school officials are testing students randomly or testing the entire group, a student who tests positive may be subject to social probation and prohibited from participating in extra-curricular activities including, but not limited to, athletics.

4. A student already in attendance at a school-sponsored event who is suspected of being under the influence will be tested or retested.

- If this test is positive, the student will be detained until a parent/caregiver arrives and may be suspended for up to ten (10) school days.
- If a student who is suspected of using alcohol as described herein refuses the test, that student will be detained and sent home with a parent/caregiver and may be suspended for up to ten (10) school days.

Part II: During the School Day

A trained member of the school staff, in the presence of an administrator, may give a breathalyzer test to any student who is suspected of being under the influence of alcohol according to the regulations of this policy.

- A student who tests positive (any reading above 0.00) may be given a second test after a waiting period of five (5) minutes.
- If the second test is also positive, school officials will detain the student until parents/guardians arrive; the student will be sent home and may be suspended for up to ten (10) school days.
- A student who is determined to be under the influence as described herein and

who refuses the test will be detained until parents/guardians arrive, be sent home, and may be suspended for up to (10) days.

Unauthorized Departure from the School Building and/or Grounds

Students are not to leave the school building without permission from the main office.

Any student who is found to have left the school grounds or attempting to leave school grounds during school hours without just cause will be disciplined as follows:

- 1st Offense – The student will be referred to the Assistant Principal, and parent(s)/guardian(s) will be notified.
- 2nd Offense - The student may serve one (1) day of out-of-school suspension.
- For subsequent violations, the student may serve two (2) days of out-of-school suspension; with a parent/caregiver, a conference is required for re-admittance.
- When a student leaves school grounds without authorization or is truant on the day of an athletic contest or co-curricular activity, he/she will be suspended for one game/activity.

Truancy

A student who is absent from school without authorization will be disciplined as follows:

- 1st Offense - Any student who is truant from school will be referred to the Assistant Principal for disciplinary consequences, and his/her parent(s) or guardian(s) will be notified.
- 2nd Offense - Any student who is truant from school will be referred to the Assistant Principal for disciplinary consequences, and his/her parent(s) or guardian(s) will be notified.
- Subsequent offenses will be handled at the discretion of the Principal or designee.

Vandalism

Every citizen of the town, staff members, students, and members of the police department are urged by the School Committee to cooperate in reporting any incidents of vandalism to property under control of the school department, and the name(s) of the person or persons believed to be responsible. Each employee will report to the principal of the school every incident of vandalism known to them and, if known, the names of those responsible.

The superintendent is authorized to sign a criminal complaint and to press the charges against perpetrators of vandalism against school property and is further authorized to delegate authority to sign such complaints and to press charges.

Parents and students will be made aware of the legal implications involved. Reimbursement will be sought for all or part of any damages. (School Committee Policy ECAC)

ADMINISTRATIVE RESPONSES

The principal has the authority to exercise discretion in deciding the consequences for a student who has violated disciplinary rules. The principal shall first consider ways to re-engage the student offender in the learning process and shall avoid using expulsion or suspension until other remedies and consequences have been employed. A variety of administrative responses are available depending on the nature of the infraction and the accompanying circumstances. The following consequences require clarification.

Detention

Detention can be assigned as a teacher detention or an office detention. The length of a teacher detention is at the discretion of the teacher within reason and is not to exceed 90 minutes. Most office detentions are 30 minutes in length and may be served before school, after school, or during lunch depending on the circumstances of the infraction.

Restorative Justice Practices

Detention, at times, may be replaced or supplemented with restorative justice practices that are deemed appropriate. Restorative justice practices seek to repair and restore the relationship between the offending party, the victim, and the larger community.

Social Probation

Students may be prohibited from attending non-academic activities or field trips, including activities that occur outside of the school day, including athletic events, dances, community-building events, and performances. Social probation can be imposed by an administrator for any length of time during a school year and may be inclusive of co-curricular activities including athletics. Students are always expected to represent Cohasset Middle School in a way that is safe, respectful, and responsible; and a blatant disregard for responsible behavior could result in that student being denied permission to participate in any or all school events.

Suspension

Suspension procedures are followed in accordance with the Massachusetts General Laws governing student discipline found at 603 CMR 53.00 et seq.

In-School Suspension

In-School Suspension Procedures

A student may be removed from regular classroom activities, but not from the school premises, for up to ten (10) consecutive school days or up to ten (10) school days cumulatively for multiple infractions during the school year. Students who are placed in in-school suspension shall have the opportunity to earn credits, make up assignments, tests, papers, and other school work as needed to make academic progress during the in-school suspension.

A student who is unable to consistently adhere to acceptable classroom standards in a particular class may be removed from the class permanently and assigned to a different class at the discretion of the principal and/or the principal's designee.

Notice of In-School Suspension

The principal or designee shall inform the student of the disciplinary offense charged and the basis for the charge and provide the student with an opportunity to dispute the charges and explain the circumstances surrounding the alleged incident. If the principal or designee determines that the student committed the disciplinary offense, the principal or designee shall inform the student of the length of the student's in-school suspension. If the in-school suspension exceeds ten (10) days, cumulatively or consecutively, in a school year, the student shall have the right to appeal the suspension to the Superintendent or Superintendent's designee.

On the same day as the in-school suspension decision, the principal or designee shall make reasonable efforts to notify the parent orally of the disciplinary offense, the reasons for concluding that the student committed the infraction, and the length of the in-school suspension. On the day of the suspension, the principal or designee shall send written notice (by hand-delivery, certified mail, first-class mail, or email) to the student and parent/caregiver including the reason and the length of the in-school suspension and inviting the parent/caregiver to a meeting if the meeting has not already occurred. The notice shall be in English and the primary language of the home if another language is identified in the home language survey, or by other means, as appropriate.

Parent Meeting

The principal or designee shall also invite the parent/caregiver to a meeting to discuss the student's academic performance and behavior, strategies for student engagement, and possible responses to the behavior. Such a meeting shall be scheduled on the day of the suspension if possible, and if not, as soon thereafter as possible. If the principal or designee is unable to reach the parent/caregiver after making and documenting at least (2) attempts to do so, such attempts shall constitute reasonable efforts for purposes of orally informing the parent/caregiver of the in-school suspension.

No Right to Appeal

The decision of the principal or designee is the final decision for in-school suspensions not exceeding ten (10) days, consecutively or cumulatively during a school year

Out-of-School Suspension

Procedures Under M.G.L. ch. 71, § 37H^{3/4}

Due Process Procedures for Out-of-School Suspensions

There are two types of out-of-school suspensions: short-term suspensions and long-term suspensions under M.G.L. ch. 71, § 37H^{3/4}. The principal or the principal's designee shall determine the extent of the rights to be afforded the student at a disciplinary hearing based on the anticipated consequences for the disciplinary offense. If the consequence may be long-term

suspension from school, the principal or designee shall afford the student additional rights as described below, in addition to those rights afforded to students who may face a short-term suspension from school. All students facing out-of-school suspension shall have the right to oral and written notice, as described below.

Notice for Any Out-of-School Suspension

Prior to suspending a student, the Principal or the principal's designee will provide the student and the parent/caregiver oral and written notice of the possible suspension, an opportunity for the student to have a hearing, and the opportunity of the parent(s)/guardian(s) to participate in the hearing. The notice will be in English and in the primary language of the home if other than English as identified in the home language survey, or by other means of communication where appropriate.

The notice will set forth in plain language:

- a) The disciplinary offence
- b) The basis for the charge
- c) The potential consequences, including the potential length of the student's suspension
- d) The opportunity for the student to have a hearing with the principal or designee concerning the proposed suspension, including the opportunity to dispute the charges and to present the student's explanation of the alleged incident, and for the parent/guardian to attend the hearing
- e) The date, time, and location of the hearing
- f) The right of the student and the student's parent/guardian to interpreter services at the hearing if needed to participate
- g) If the student may be placed on long-term suspension following the hearing with the principal,
 - 1. The rights set forth in 603 CMR 53.08(3)(b); and
 - 2. The right to appeal the principal's decision to the superintendent.

The principal or designee shall make reasonable efforts to notify the parent/guardian orally of the opportunity to attend the hearing. Prior to conducting a hearing without the parent/guardian present, the principal or designee will document reasonable efforts to include the parent/guardian. The principal or designee is presumed to have made reasonable efforts if the principal or designee has sent written notice and has documented at least two (2) attempts to contact the parent/guardian in the manner specified by the parent/guardian for emergency notification.

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

Any student suspended from school shall have the opportunity to make up assignments, tests, papers, and other schoolwork as needed to make academic progress during the period of removal from the classroom or school.

Any student who is expelled or suspended from school for more than 10 consecutive days shall have an opportunity to receive educational services that will enable the student to make academic progress toward meeting state and local requirements through the school-wide educational services plan.

Emergency Removal of Student

Under certain emergency circumstances, it may not be practical for the principal or designee to provide prior oral and written notice before removing a student from school. The principal or designee may remove a student from school temporarily when a student is charged with a disciplinary offense and the continued presence of the student poses a danger to persons or property, or materially and substantially disrupts the order of the school, and, in the principal's (or designee's) judgment, there is no alternative available to alleviate the danger or disruption.

The principal or designee will immediately notify the superintendent in writing of the removal and the reason for it, and describe the danger presented by the student. The temporary removal shall not exceed two (2) school days following the day of the emergency removal, during which time the principal shall:

- a. Make immediate and reasonable efforts to orally notify the student and the student's parent/caregiver of the emergency removal, the reason for the need for emergency removal, the disciplinary offense, the basis for the charge, the potential consequences, including potential length of suspension, the opportunity for a hearing including the date/time/location of the hearing, the right to interpreter services, and other rights permitted for students who may be placed on long-term suspension as set forth in 603 CMR. 53.08(3)(b)
- b. Provide written notice to the student and parent/guardian, including the information described in 603 CMR 53.06(2)
- c. Provide the student an opportunity for a hearing with the principal or designee that complies with 603 CMR 53.08(2) or 53.08(3), as applicable, and the parent/guardian an opportunity to attend the hearing, before the expiration of the two (2) school days, unless an extension of time for hearing is otherwise agreed to by the principal, student, and parent/guardian.
- d. Render a decision orally on the same day as the hearing, and in writing no later than the following school day, which meets the requirements of 603 CMR 53.08(2)(c) and 53.08(2)(d) or 603 CMR 53.08(3)(c) and 53.08(3)(d), as applicable.

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

ATTENDANCE

Student Absences and Excuses

Regular and punctual school attendance is essential for success in school. The Committee recognizes that parents/guardians of children attending school have special rights as well as

responsibilities, one of which is to ensure that their children attend school regularly, in accordance with state law.

Therefore, students may be excused temporarily from school attendance for the following reasons: illness or quarantine; bereavement or serious illness in family; weather so inclement as to endanger the health of the child; and observance of major religious holidays.

Students' understanding of the importance of day-to-day schoolwork is an important factor in the shaping of their character. Parents/guardians can help their children by not allowing them to miss school needlessly.

Accordingly, parents/guardians should provide a written explanation for the absence or tardiness of a child. This will be expected in advance for types of absences where advance notice is possible.

In instances of chronic or irregular absence reportedly due to illness, the school administration may request a physician's statement certifying such absences to be justified.

[Please access the full Cohasset School Committee Policy JH by clicking on this link](#)

Absence Procedures

Short-Term Absences

Parents/caregivers are asked to call the absent line (781-236-1070) before 8:15 a.m. in the event that a child will be absent or tardy. Parent/Caregiver cooperation is appreciated.

If a child is absent and it has not been reported, parents/caregivers will receive an automated courtesy communication via email from the school asking for confirmation of the absence. This procedure promotes student safety by ensuring that all students are accounted for.

After any absence from school, a student is requested to bring in a written note of explanation, signed by a parent/guardian, stating the date(s) and reason for the absence. The note is to be submitted to the main office on the day of return to school.

Parents/Guardians are reminded that Aspen lists the number of absences, and they should review and contact the school to discuss any discrepancies. For the purposes of school attendance records, a student must arrive at school before 11:35 a.m. to be considered present. A student who begins the school day at 8:15 a.m. must remain in school at least until 11:35 a.m. in order to be considered present. Refer to MGL Chapter 72, Section 8: "A pupil who is not present during at least half of a session shall be marked and counted as absent for that session."

Long-Term Absences

The administration recognizes that there are circumstances when a student may have reason for an extended absence from school. If a student is absent due to prolonged illness, the

parent/guardian should refer to the section of the handbook on Home Tutoring/ Hospital Services (p. 44). A signed doctor's note must be presented to the main office if a student returns to school after an illness of five (5) or more consecutive days. Extenuating circumstances should be discussed with the principal or a designee.

Family Trips

Cohasset Middle School considers that its first responsibility to students is to provide them with an education and that attendance in class is the responsibility of the student. In that regard, the school discourages absences due to family trips, and these absences will not constitute excused absences. If an absence from class is due to a family trip, students are responsible for making arrangements with teachers for make-up work. Students and parents/guardians should consult the policy on make-up work (below) and understand that the student should be prepared to make up work upon their return to school. Extended absences due to travel may result in unenrollment from school.

Make-up Work

Students with absences will be allowed make-up time according to the following general guidelines, recognizing that each situation is unique and will be considered individually:

- Make-up for absences will be determined by the teacher after consultation with the student, school counselor, and administration.
- Normally, students will have two (2) days to make up work upon return from a short-term absence due to illness (considered less than 3 days).
- Make-up for extended absences of three (3) consecutive days or more will be determined by the assistant principal after consultation with the student, school counselor, and teachers. For absences that exceed five (5) consecutive days, students may be referred to the Bridge for Resilient Youth in Transition (BRYT) Program, where the student will be assisted by a member of the staff to coordinate make-up work with teachers and create a plan for reentry.
- If absence from class is due to tardiness or dismissal, work in all classes is still due on that day.

Dismissal Procedures

Illness

The following procedures will be followed for dismissals due to illness:

- Students who are ill may not leave school without the authorization of the nurse or an administrator.
- If a student becomes ill while in school, that student must obtain permission from a staff member and receive a pass to report to the nurse. If a student fails to present a pass to the nurse, a class cut will be charged to the student.
- The nurse will then make a determination if the illness requires a dismissal from school, at which point a parent/guardian will be notified.

- In order to receive an excused absence from class(es) due to illness, students must have been dismissed by the nurse.
- If the illness does not appear to be serious enough to warrant dismissal, the nurse may keep the student under observation for a period of time in order to determine if the student should return to class or be sent home.
- Students must check out in the main office before leaving the building. Students may not dismiss themselves without parent/caregiver and administrator approval.
- Students who have been dismissed due to illness will not be allowed to participate in co-curricular activities that day unless they receive permission from the principal or designee.

Other Dismissals

Dismissals will be granted for an emergency or for those important matters that cannot be taken care of after school hours. If a student wishes to be dismissed for a reason other than illness, that student must follow the procedures outlined below. Failure to follow these rules will result in an unauthorized departure from school being assigned.

- **The student must bring a written request from a parent/guardian to the main office before school on the day of the requested dismissal, or a parent/guardian should call the CMS Main Office (781-236-1070) to request a dismissal.** The request must specify the name, date, time to be excused, and the destination/reason for the dismissal, along with a phone number where a parent/guardian can be reached. The main office will issue a pass to be released from class.
- The student must sign out in the main office before leaving the building.
- A student dismissed from school before 11:35 a.m. will be considered absent due to dismissal. Participation in co-curricular activities that day will be at the discretion of the principal or designee.

Tardiness to School

All students entering the building after 8:15 a.m. must immediately report to the main office and receive a pass for admittance to class. A student failing to report to the main office will be assigned a consequence for “unauthorized entrance into school.” In addition, the student may be assigned a class cut if 30 minutes of a period is missed. A student arriving tardy to school will be held responsible by the teacher to make up missed work, possibly after school.

Any student arriving at school after 8:15 a.m. must have a note or phone call from a parent/guardian indicating their awareness of the tardiness. If a note or phone call is not submitted, the student may be subject to disciplinary action.

Excused Tardiness

Tardiness to school may be excused under the following circumstances:

- After a documented medical appointment
- Observance of a religious holiday
- Bereavement.

Tardiness Consequences

Unless excused (see above), excessive incidents of tardiness will result in escalating consequences:

- **Tardy 5 times**
 - An office detention for each incident at the discretion of an administrator, and students may be restricted from participating in co-curricular activities including sports, clubs, or drama practice until the assigned detention is served. The office detention is expected to be served before school on the days subsequent to its assignment by an administrator.
- **Tardy 10 times**
 - Referral to the assistant principal for disciplinary consequences
- **Tardy 15 times**
 - Attendance hearing with the assistant principal or principal

SCHOOL COUNSELING

The School Counseling Department helps students lead lives that are intellectually, emotionally, and socially full and rich. The goal of the School Counseling Department is to help students with educational, vocational, and personal problems; to assist students in understanding themselves; to help in the relief of tensions and anxieties; and to remove, so far as possible, obstacles to learning.

Students should feel free to come to visit the school counselor any time during the school day. Students wishing to see the school counselor may request a pass from their teacher, or if they wish, they may make an appointment through the CMS main office secretary.

Student Records

According to Student Record Regulations in the Code of Massachusetts Regulations, student records are divided into two parts: the transcript and the temporary record. The transcript contains the student's name, address, course titles, grades, credits, and grade level completed. The school keeps the transcript for at least sixty years after the student leaves the school. The

temporary record may consist of standardized test scores, class rank, school-sponsored extracurricular activities, evaluations and comments by school personnel, and disciplinary information. The temporary record is destroyed within five years after the student leaves the school system. Among other rights accorded to parents/guardians and eligible students are the rights to inspect student records upon request, to receive copies of these records, and to meet with the principal or the principal's designee to discuss the contents of the student record.

1. Upon receiving verification that the student may be transferring out of the district, the Cohasset Public Schools may provide access to the student's record to any public school into which the student seeks or intends to enroll. Cohasset Public Schools shall give notice to the student and parent(s) or legal guardian(s) that the request for records has been made by the other school district.
2. It is also a requirement of the Cohasset Public Schools that incoming students provide a complete copy of their student record from their prior school (M.G.L. Chapter 71, Section 37L). Students may not be admitted to the Cohasset Public Schools until the necessary documentation (health records, proof of residency, up-to-date immunizations, and discipline records required under M.G.L. Chapter 71, Section 37H, etc.) have been provided.
3. Access to student records is provided to parents, guardians, non-custodial parents, etc. as outlined in Massachusetts General Law, Chapter 71, Section 34H: "An educational agency or institution shall give full rights under the Act to either parent, unless the agency or institution has been provided with evidence that there is a court order, state statute, or legally binding document relating to such matters as divorce, separation, or custody that specifically revokes these rights." Procedures may be obtained from the principal.

Temporary Home or Hospital Education

Upon receipt of a physician's written order verifying that any student enrolled in a public school or placed by the public school in a private setting must remain at home or in a hospital on a day or overnight basis, or any combination of both, for medical reasons and for a period of not less than fourteen school days in any school year, the principal shall arrange for provision of educational services in the home or hospital. Such services shall be provided with sufficient frequency to allow the student to continue the educational program, as long as such services do not interfere with the medical needs of the student. The principal shall coordinate such services with the Administrator for Special Education for eligible students. Such educational services shall not be considered special education unless the student has been determined eligible for such services, and the services include services on the student's IEP.

For students who request home or hospital education services, the following procedures must be followed.

1. Parents/Guardians must submit the Physician's Affirmation of Need for Temporary Home or Hospital Education for Medically Necessary Reasons (DESE form 28R/3), which must include the following information:
 - a. Date the student was seen by the physician;
 - b. Medical reason(s) indicating why the student is unable to attend school and any restrictions for providing educational services;
 - c. Expected duration of hospitalizations/home confinement;
 - d. Please note the physician's Statement must be completed by a physician and not a designee;
 - e. Upon receipt, the physician's statement should be sent to the Office of Student Services;
 - f. If the physician's statement comes directly to the Office of Student Services, it will be sent to the school counselor. If a child is on an IEP, it will also be sent to the Team Chair.
2. The school counselor contacts the parent/guardian to inform them that the school has received a Physician's Statement for Temporary Home or Hospital Education (DESE form 28R/3), indicating their child has been hospitalized due to illness:
 - a. The parent/guardian should be asked if there is an expected discharge date and if they are willing to sign a release for school personnel to speak with physicians, social workers, and/or counselors that may be working with their child;
 - b. The school counselor may inform the parent/guardian that if desired, they can come to the school to pick up work for their child prior to tutoring services being approved.
3. The Director of Student Services will notify the agency affiliated with the hospital in writing when tutoring services will be approved:
 - a. The 14 days may be consecutive or cumulative days throughout the year for the same illness;
 - b. Once the contract is signed, it will be sent to the school counselor or principal who will work directly with the hospital tutoring agency to provide work.
 - c. If a student is required to remain at home, the student's support team, in collaboration with the parent/guardian, will create a temporary success plan. This plan will be reviewed after 10 school days to assess progress and make any necessary adjustments.
4. The school counselor or principal must monitor attendance and notify the Special Education office if the student is expected to be out of school for 14 days or more. Information provided to the Special Education office should be timely and include answers to the following questions:
 - a. When was the last contact with the parent/guardian?
 - b. Is the student hospitalized or in a step-down day program?
 - c. What is the expected discharge date?
 - d. Is there an expected return date to school?
 - e. Have you provided work to the student while hospitalized?
 - f. If yes, how is the student receiving this work?
 - g. Has the work been returned to the school?

Please note: If the duration of the expected confinement extends beyond 30 days, the parent/guardian is required to provide an updated Physician's Statement for Temporary Home or Hospital Education.

If the duration of the confinement extends beyond 60 days, the team (including the parent/guardian) shall determine if a special education evaluation of the student would be beneficial in meeting the student's needs.

If, in the judgment of the student's physician, a student with an IEP is likely to remain at home, in a hospital, or in a pediatric nursing home for medical reasons and for more than sixty (60) school days in any school year, the Administrator of Special Education is required, without undue delay, to convene a team meeting to consider evaluation needs and, if appropriate, to amend the existing IEP or develop a new IEP suited to the student's unique circumstances. (See 603 CMR 28.04(4).)

HEALTH SERVICES

Pregnancy Policy

State and federal laws protect students against unlawful discrimination and harassment on the basis of race, color, sex, religion, national origin, sexual orientation, and disability. The Cohasset Public Schools support the statutes that consider discrimination against pregnant students as a form of sex discrimination based upon gender. In addition, Cohasset schools support locally planned and implemented programs designed to educate students and protect them from harassment and promote continued learning in a nondiscriminatory manner.

Health Clinic

Cohasset Middle School has the professional services of a registered nurse. The health room facilities are available to students throughout the school day for adult and student first aid, emergency care, health assessment, medication administration, mandated screenings, and referrals. There is no nurse available after school hours.

The health office provides state mandated screenings for Cohasset Middle School students.

Parents/Guardians are permitted to opt out of all or part of the screening for their child by notifying the school nurse at the start of the school year.

The screening schedule is as follows:

Grades 6 through 9: Scoliosis Screening

Grades 7 and 10: Vision Screening, Hearing Screening, Height and Weight, Body Mass Index (BMI)

Parents/Caregivers will be contacted by the school nurse if their student fails the screenings and needs further follow-up. BMI results are kept in the student's school health record and may be accessed by the parents by contacting the school nurse.

Along with the state mandated screenings, students entering Grades 7 and 10 are also required to have a current physical examination on file in the health office. If a parent/guardian is unable to provide this documentation, they should contact the school nurse.

All medication given during the school day is to be dispensed through the health office by the school nurse. Medication must be brought to the health office by a parent/caregiver. Prescription medication must be in the pharmacy container with the pharmacy label intact. Over-the-counter medication must be in the manufacturer's container and labeled with the student's name. Proper documentation must be completed prior to the medication being administered.

Students are allowed to carry their epinephrine auto injectors and rescue inhalers during school hours, provided that proper documentation is in the health office. **Students are not allowed to carry any other prescription or over-the-counter medication with them during the school day or transport medication to or from school.**

The *Cohasset Confidential Health Form* is to be completed annually by the student's parent/caregiver and brought to the health office. Completion of the form provides the health office with updated health information on the student. A copy of the form will be sent home at the start of each year and is available on the school website.

Any injury occurring during school hours or at any school-sponsored function must be reported to the school nurse. Prompt attention will ensure adequate medical treatment and reduce the chance of further complications. For a student to become eligible for an insurance claim, the injury must be recorded.

HIV/AIDS Policy

Epidemiologic studies show that HIV/AIDS is transmitted via sexual contact or blood-to-blood contact. Research indicates that it is not transmitted through casual contact such as that found in a school setting. State and federal laws dealing with discrimination based on handicap prohibit exclusion of students with HIV/AIDS from school unless their attendance would present an immediate danger to themselves or others.

Federal and state laws also protect the confidentiality of students with HIV/AIDS. These laws prohibit school personnel from requiring that students or their parents/guardians inform the school that a student has HIV/AIDS. Furthermore, if a parent/guardian or student chooses to inform school personnel, school personnel are prohibited from disseminating this information without the consent of the student or parent/guardian.

Based on research indicating that HIV/AIDS is unlikely to be transmitted in a school setting and based on legal requirements regarding student confidentiality, the following policy statement has been approved by the School Committee:

1. A parent/guardian is not required to inform school personnel if the student has HIV/AIDS. However, the parent/guardian is urged to inform school personnel regarding the infection. If informed, school personnel may be able to better attend to the needs of the child by informing the parent/guardian of the occurrence of a contagious disease (e.g., influenza, measles, etc.) within the school population to which the HIV/AIDS infected student might be particularly susceptible and by administering medications if needed.
2. If a parent/guardian or student chooses to inform school personnel regarding the student's HIV/AIDS infection, the staff member receiving the information may not inform other school personnel without the specific, informed, written consent of the parent or guardian. If the student has independently sought HIV testing and informs school personnel of his/her/their HIV/AIDS status, the school staff member may not inform others without the student's specific, informed written consent.
3. A student will not be excluded from school merely on the basis of HIV/AIDS status. However, students with HIV/AIDS are not exempt from the Board's policy of excluding from school all students who bleed in an uncontrollable fashion.

Head Injury/Concussion Management Procedures and Protocols

1. The school nurse will collect documentation of physical examination prior to a student's participation in extracurricular athletic activities on an annual basis, consistent with 105 CMR 200.100(B)(3): Physical Examination of School Children; and information for students participating in multiple sports seasons that documentation of one physical examination each year is sufficient.
2. The Athletic Director and school nurse will establish the procedure for the school to obtain and ensure review, prior to each sports season, of current information regarding an athlete's history of head injuries and concussions using either the Department Pre-participation Head Injury/Concussion Reporting Form For Extracurricular Activities (herein after "Pre-participation Form"), or school-based equivalent.
3. The Athletic Director and school nurse will establish the Procedure for medical or nursing review of all Pre-participation Forms indicating a history of head injury. Procedure for sharing information concerning an athlete's history of head injury and concussion, recuperation, reentry plan, and authorization to return to play and academic activities on a need-to-know basis consistent with requirements of 105 CMR 201.000 and applicable federal and state law including but not limited to the Massachusetts Student Records Regulations, 603 CMR 23.00, and the Federal Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act Regulations, 34 CFR Part 99.
4. The school nurse administers all Baseline and Post-Concussion IMPACT testing to all student athletes. Student-athletes will be given a baseline test once every two years.
5. Coaches will be responsible for reporting head injuries or suspected concussions sustained during extracurricular athletic activities to the school nurse, athletic trainer,

- and the licensed athletic trainer or EMT in charge of the event at opposing school if applicable.
6. The school nurse and athletic trainer will be responsible for the procedure for identifying head injuries or suspected concussions sustained during extracurricular and referring the student for medical evaluation.
 7. After a head injury/concussion has occurred, students must have a completed Commonwealth of Massachusetts Post Sports-Related Head Injury Medical Clearance and Authorization Form” completed before they can begin their return to play.
 8. ImPact Post-Concussion Testing will also be made available for “return to play” decisions made by a student’s physician in the Cohasset High School Athletic Program.
 9. The athletic trainer and school nurse will work together and be responsible for the reporting of all concussions to the student’s parents, physician, coach, teachers, and school administration. The school nurse and athletic trainer will work together to inform all the above-mentioned parties of “return to play” decisions made by physicians and to develop and implement gradual reentry post-concussion plans and protocol for school and extracurricular activities.
 10. Students and parents/guardians must complete the school “Commonwealth of Massachusetts Pre-Participation Head Injury/Concussion Reporting Form” and the “CHS Permission to Participate and Emergency Medical Form” section which is part of the Cohasset Athletics On-line Registration form before the first date of participation.
 11. Student-athletes and parents/guardians will be informed about the ImPACT Concussion Management Program at the preseason sport’s informational meetings. ImPACT Baseline Testing has been mandatory in athletics at Cohasset High School since 2008.
 12. The NFHSLearn.com Concussion Course and/or the CDC Heads-Up Concussion Training will be offered to all students and parents/guardians. Students and parents/guardians will be given a sign-off sheet confirming they completed the course and/or are attending a head injury education session at a preseason sports information program.
 13. Additional handouts from the CDC (Heads-Up Concussion) will be available to students and parents/guardians at the preseason sports information program and the CHS athletic page of the school’s website.
 14. Appropriate information and resources will be posted on the CHS athletic page of the school website for athletes, coaches, faculty, and parents/guardians. There will also be a procedure in place to provide effective communication to students and parents/guardians with limited English proficiency.
 15. The Athletic Director will implement a procedure for outreach to parents/guardians who do not return completed forms required for students to participate in extracurricular sports and for how to handle situations where a student verifies completion of the annual training requirement, but a parent/guardian has not.
 16. All Athletic Department staff will be required annually to complete the NFHSLearn.com Concussion Course and/or CDC Heads Up Concussion Training Course.

17. Instructions will be given to coaches, licensed athletic trainers, trainers and volunteers:
 - (a) To teach form, techniques, and skills and promote protective equipment use to minimize sports-related head injury, and
 - (b) To prohibit athletes from engaging in any unreasonably dangerous athletic technique which endangers the health or safety of an athlete, such as using a helmet or any other sports equipment as a weapon.
 18. The CMS faculty will be trained and given information re: school protocol, policy, and information regarding the school's concussion management program. The school nurse will communicate to the staff procedures, protocols, and academic accommodations once a student has suffered a head injury/concussion.
 19. The school nurse and the athletic director will be responsible for the implementation of these policies and protocols and will complete the Year End Reporting Form for Schools, which is required for all public schools and other schools subject to the rules of the MIAA with extracurricular sports Grades 6-12 and should be submitted to the Department of Public Health annually by August 30.
 20. Per the regulations, schools or school districts shall provide MDPH with an affirmation on school or school district letterhead that it has developed policies in accordance with 105 CMR 201.000 and it shall provide an updated affirmation biannually by September 30th every odd-numbered year upon review and revision of its policies.
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CO-CURRICULAR PARTICIPATION

All CMS students in good standing who are eligible to participate in co-curricular offerings are required to agree to the terms and expectations for behavior herein detailed. Students cannot participate in co-curricular activities on any school day in which their attendance is marked with an unexcused absence. Co-curricular activities include CMS teams, clubs, drama/music productions, school dances, or any other activity organized by CMS administration or faculty as well as participation in any CHS activities or sports.

Cohasset Middle School supports student development through activities that are driven by student interest and participation levels. All students who wish to remain club members or who want to participate in events beyond the school day are always expected to adhere to the code of conduct. Any student who is put on social probation immediately forfeits the right to membership in, attendance at, or leadership roles of any student group.

Club Officers

Elected or appointed officers of Student Council or other clubs and groups have a responsibility to lead in a positive way. We expect such leaders to be inclusive, approachable, and respectful of the entire student body. A student's discipline record and behavior in the building are both relevant factors. No student is entitled to be a club officer, nor does longevity in the program guarantee such a role. Criteria for consideration include respect of one's peers, a positive

attitude, a willingness to mentor younger students, reliability and promptness, and a desire to be a school leader. Any leadership role is revocable if student behavior is not in keeping with expectations.

Communication

Students can expect clear communication about meetings, events, and activities from their advisor. Updates are communicated to the school community via morning announcements and may also be shared on the school website.

When a concern or question arises, the appropriate protocol is for the student to reach out to the advisor in person or by email to request a conversation. If an advisor or club officer cannot provide a satisfactory explanation to a student, then the student is urged to speak to the assistant principal or principal.

Teachers and administrators reserve the right not to respond to emails or postings on social media that make ad hominem attacks. Such activities could result in the principal requesting that parents/caregivers or other adult community members be restricted from attending Cohasset school events.

ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE

(The district's AI guidelines will be provided here when they are available. They essentially express that AI should not be used by students unless a teacher explicitly instructs them to do so.)