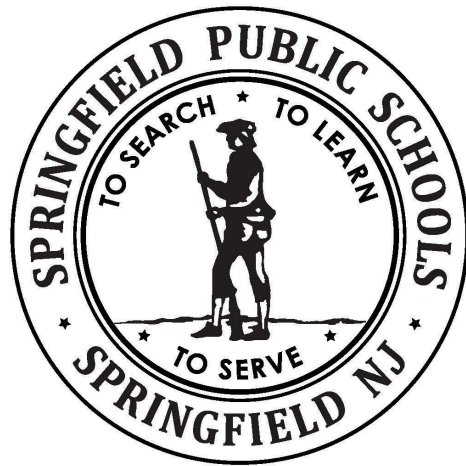




Florence M.
Gaudineer
Middle
School



Middle School Student Handbook

2026-2027

CENTRAL ADMINISTRATION

Dr. Rachel Goldberg
Mrs. Erica Scudero
Mrs. Michelle Calas

Superintendent
Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum
Business Administrator/
Board Secretary
Director of Student Support Services
Director of Early Childhood Education
Director of School Counseling Services
Director of Athletics
Supervisor of Buildings & Grounds

Mrs. Ann Suter
Mrs. Tiffany Boehm
Mrs. Meredith Gerckens
Mr. Raymond Lepski
Mr. Dave Walker

BOARD OF EDUCATION

Mrs. Meredith Murphy
Mrs. Tracey M. Rindaldi
Mrs. Laura Gamarekian
Mr. Luis Henriques
Mrs. Dana Kelly
Mrs. Kristy Rubin
Mrs. Adriana Silva
Mrs. Hilary Turnbull
Mrs. Jennifer Wishna

President
Vice President
Member
Member
Member
Member
Member
Member
Member

Florence M. Gaudineer Middle School
75 South Springfield Avenue
Springfield, NJ 07081

Mr. Ronald Slate, Principal
973-376-0948 Ext. 1505
rslate@springfieldschools.com

Mr. Matthew Lynch, Assistant Principal
973-376-0948 Ext 1506
mlynch@springfieldschools.com



Springfield Public Schools

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SPRINGFIELD PUBLIC SCHOOLS MISSION STATEMENT

Springfield Public Schools will challenge every student through meaningful and engaging experiences-empowering all students to flourish and contribute in an evolving world

Vision: Cultivating compassionate and extraordinary learners.

PARENTS AND STUDENTS

The faculty and staff of Florence M. Gaudineer Middle School are dedicated to continuing the development of character in our students. Good character involves understanding, caring about, and acting upon core ethical values in cognitive, emotional, and behavioral ways. These values include developing empathy skills, forming caring relationships, helping to create a feeling of community, and reflecting on life experiences. Through our Character Education Program, students learn pro-social skills such as communicating feelings, developing active listening skills, and helping others through activities practiced throughout the school year. This Program also helps students continue to develop a deeper understanding of the core values and to make a stronger commitment to living according to those values.

Each grade level at Florence M. Gaudineer Middle School is focused on four intrinsic values; Responsibility, Respect, Fairness, and Caring are the themes for the fifth graders; Responsibility, Citizenship, Trustworthiness, and Courage are the themes for the sixth graders; and Responsibility, Decision Making, Leadership, and Self Discipline are the themes for the seventh graders.

Bulletin boards and posters are strategically placed around the school year to help students explore and discover their own inner strengths and abilities, and to continue to develop a middle school student's appreciation of self and others.

Please join us in helping students benefit from understanding the need for respect and the needs of others.



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MISSION

The mission of the Florence M. Gaudineer Middle School is to create a quality academic and social environment, which nurtures the intellectual and affective growth of each student. The environment supports safety and security, fosters excellence and creativity, and provides opportunities for knowledge they will need to meet life challenges successfully.

The information in this booklet will help you to become better acquainted with your schools. It is our goal to strengthen the strong partnership between our families at home and the schools that are entrusted with your child's education.

We hope that you will read this material carefully and have it available so that you will be able to refer to it periodically. This is a living document that may be updated periodically. Students will be reviewing this document with their teachers to better understand the high expectations set at this age level so that they can develop the appropriate skills to become lifelong learners.



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FLORENCE M. GAUDINEER MIDDLE SCHOOL TIME TABLE

Regular Schedule

Period	Grade 5	Period	Grade 6	Grade 7
HR	7:45 – 7:52	HR	7:45 – 7:52	7:45 – 7:52
1	7:52 – 8:34	1	7:54 – 8:44	7:54 – 8:44
2	8:34 – 9:16	2	8:46 – 9:36	8:46 – 9:36
3	9:16 – 9:58	3	9:38 – 10:28	9:38 – 10:28
4	Snack 9:58 – 10:40	4	Lunch 10:30 – 11:02	10:30 – 11:20
5	10:40 – 11:22	5	11:04 – 11:54	Lunch 11:22 – 11:54
6	11:22 – 12:04	6	11:56 – 12:46	11:56 – 12:46
Lunch	12:04 – 12:34	7	12:48 – 1:38	12:48 – 1:38
Recess	12:34 – 1:04	8	1:40 – 2:30	1:40 – 2:30
7	1:04 – 1:46			
8	1:48 – 2:30			



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Early Dismissal Schedule

Period	Grade 5 (30)	Period	Grade 6 (32)	Grade 7 (32)
HR	7:45 – 7:52	HR	7:45 – 7:52	7:45 – 7:52
1	7:52 – 8:22	1	7:54 – 8:26	7:54 – 8:26
2	8:22 – 8:52	2	8:28 – 9:00	8:28 – 9:00
3	8:52 – 9:22	3	9:02 – 9:34	9:02 – 9:34
4	Snack 9:22 – 9:52	4	Lunch (21) 9:36 – 9:57	9:36 – 10:08
5	9:52 – 10:22	5	9:59 – 10:31	Lunch (21) 10:10 – 10:31
6	10:22 – 10:52	6	10:33 – 11:05	10:33 – 11:05
Lunch	10:52 – 11:13 (21)	7	11:07 – 11:39	11:07 – 11:39
7	11:13 – 11:43	8	11:41 – 12:13	11:41 – 12:13
8	11:43 – 12:13			



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Delayed Opening Schedule

*****Fifth Grade students will have Recess first followed by Lunch on Delayed Openings*****

Period	Grade 5 (28)	Period	Grade 6 (33)	Grade 7 (33)
HR	9:45 – 9:52	HR	9:45 – 9:52	9:45 – 9:52
1	9:52 – 10:20	1	9:54 – 10:27	9:54 – 10:27
2	10:20 – 10:48	2	10:29 – 11:02	10:29 – 11:02
3	10:48 – 11:16	3	11:04 – 11:37	11:04 – 11:37
4	Snack 11:16 – 11:44	4	Lunch (31) 11:39 – 12:10	11:39 – 12:12
5	11:44 – 12:12	5	12:12 – 12:45	Lunch (31) 12:14 – 12:45
6	12:12 – 12:40	6	12:47 – 1:20	12:47 – 1:20
Recess	12:40 – 1:03 (23)	7	1:22 – 1:55	1:22 – 1:55
Lunch	1:03 – 1:34 (31)	8	1:57 – 2:30	1:57 – 2:30
7	1:34 – 2:02			
8	2:02 – 2:30			



Procedures For Reporting Absences/Lateness

Regular attendance is essential to the successful completion of a course of study, and students are expected to be present every day school is in session except when their absence is excused as per the Board of Education policy.

The Health Department of the Springfield Public Schools wishes to continue in its effort to maintain the health and safety of its students. In this regard, we have initiated a program called "Call for Safety." A voicemail extension has been designated specifically for this purpose.

Reporting an Absence/Tardy - If a student is going to be tardy or absent from school, his/her parent/guardian should call the school at (973) 376-0948 (x1510) or (x1501). Parents are encouraged to post a child's absence through the parent portal in Genesis.

****Be reminded that a student must be present for at least four hours for attendance to be considered PRESENT.**

When calling to report an absence or late arrival, please indicate the following information:

1. Child's name
2. Child's grade and teacher
3. Reason for absence
4. Duration of absence, if known

(Daily calls are not necessary if the school has been informed of the number of days of an extended absence.)

Return to School - When a student returns to school, a note from home explaining the tardy or absence should be brought to school and given to the homeroom teacher. A note should be brought to school prior to planned extended absence from school.

Tardiness - When a student is tardy, he/she must first report to the Main Office to sign in and receive the appropriate tardy pass before reporting to class.



GENERAL INFORMATION

SCHOOL DAY

GENERAL ARRIVAL INFORMATION: All Fifth, Sixth, and Seventh Grade students will enter FMG through the doors adjacent to the Turf Field Entrance in the back of the school beginning at 7:25am. Fifth, Sixth, and Seventh grade students will report to the Girls Gym. Students may proceed to the cafeteria if they would like to get breakfast. Students will be permitted to place their belongings in their lockers at 7:40am and then proceed to their first period class.

BREAKFAST

Breakfast will be offered from 7:25 am until 7:35 am during our Regular Schedule and Early Dismissal Schedule.

BUS TRANSPORTATION

Transportation will be provided to those students eligible determined by the State of NJ.

SCHOOL BUS BEHAVIOR GUIDELINES:

- All students are to sit in assigned seats that are designated by the driver.
- All riders should use seat belts. If a seat belt is broken, the student should notify the driver and request a change in seating. Belts are inspected and repaired twice per week.
- All students are to remain seated at all times when the bus is in motion.
-
- Students in the front seats should not speak to the driver while the bus is in motion and should not distract the driver.
- Students should not open or close windows and should keep hands and limbs inside the school bus. The driver will assist students for safety reasons in lowering or raising the windows.
- Students should not board the bus unless a driver is seated in the driver's seat.
- Students should not block the aisle with packages and large band instruments. These items should be placed under the seats. If assistance is needed, the driver will give appropriate direction.
- Students will be "dropped off" only at the students' designated bus stops or at school. Students will only be permitted on buses to which they are regularly assigned. If emergencies or special situations exist and if seating is available, exceptions to this rule may be approved by the building principal.

DISCIPLINE:

All discipline problems will be handled by the school principal or his/her designee. Upon receipt of a complaint, the principal will take the following action:



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- A. **First Offense:** The student will receive a verbal warning and the parents will be sent a copy of the "Bus Discipline" form.
- B. **Second Offense:** The student will be removed from the bus for three days.
- C. **Third Offense:** The student will be removed from the bus for one week.

Further offenses will be handled according to the progressive discipline procedures of the district. Bus stop behavior problems should also be reported to the school principal for appropriate action.

GENERAL PROCEDURES:

Since safety is such a major concern of the school, all must cooperate to build proper bus riding habits. Some ground rules for developing and promoting safety habits are listed below.

- A. It is suggested that you be at the bus stop five (5) minutes before the scheduled departure as the driver must maintain a schedule and cannot wait for you. If there is inclement weather, you may return home if the bus has not arrived within fifteen (15) minutes after its scheduled departure. If the temperature is above freezing and there is no precipitation, you should wait forty-five (45) minutes.
- B. Get on and off your assigned bus at your designated bus stop. Due to space limitations and assigned bus routes, written requests for students to go home with a friend on another bus are not granted.
- C. A driver will not knowingly permit any child to get off the bus at a different stop.
- D. When your bus approaches, wait until it comes to a complete stop. Then, form a single line and board courteously, one pupil at a time.
- E. Once inside the bus, take your seat as soon as possible, stay seated and make yourself comfortable. The driver will give you permission to open and close your window as deemed necessary. When windows are open for ventilation do not hang your hands or head out of the windows. Trash must not be thrown out of the windows.
- F. Seating arrangements are the responsibility of the bus driver. For the safe operation of the bus, it is essential that there be no boisterous talking, or other distracting behavior.
- G. In case of a road emergency, stay seated. Protect yourself and others by obeying the bus driver at all times. When approaching a railroad crossing lower your conversation.
- H. When leaving the bus, cross at least ten (10) feet in front of it. Before walking out from in the front of the bus, look both ways to be certain no traffic is approaching.
- I. Treat the bus as your own. Respect your fellow students and drivers. Abuse of the necessary guidelines and rules may cause the loss of riding privileges.

GENERAL DISMISSAL INFORMATION: When dismissed at the end of the school day, students can exit the building through various locations. Students, who are walking home will exit through the front of the building. Students, who are being driven home, will exit through the back of the building. Bus students will exit the building by using the ramp by the flagpole or the Main Entrance.



EMERGENCY PROCEDURES:

Each day the Springfield Public School District transports many pupils to multiple bus stops within the Springfield community. Such things as inclement weather, delays, breakdowns do occur, and the fact that children sometimes tend to do the unexpected, it is quite possible that there will come a day when your child will not arrive home on time.

Should this happen, we are eager to help you find your child as soon as possible. Listed below are some suggestions, which should help both of us. It is also important to work out an emergency plan in case your child is dismissed early without your knowledge, or if you are unexpectedly delayed. The plan should include what the child should do or where they could go until you arrive home. Discuss the plan periodically so your child is always prepared for emergencies.

BE PREPARED:

- A. Know your child's bus number and usual arrival time after school.
- B. Know the names and phone numbers of a few children who get off at the same stop or nearby stops.
- C. See that your child knows his telephone number and possibly that of the person designated to be contacted in case you cannot be reached.

IF:

- A. If your child has not arrived home on time, first check with your neighbors to determine whether the bus is running late.
- B. If the entire bus is late, particularly in bad weather, wait about twenty minutes. If it has still not arrived, call your child's school office: 973-376-948 X. 1500. Transportation Office 973-376-1025 X 6031. When we are aware of delays, someone is available to help and to furnish information until the delayed bus has finished its run.

IF THE BUS IS LATE:

- A. If you have determined that the bus has gone by and your child did not arrive home, first contact a few neighbors whose children also ride the bus to see if your child got off at the bus stop or whether your child was even on the bus. If your child was not on the bus, or somehow got off at the wrong stop, call your child's school office. If you are unable to get an answer, call the Transportation Office.
- B. If your child has missed the bus, the school will contact you immediately.

PEDESTRIAN REMINDERS

Please practice safe walking habits. Use the sidewalk around the school. Use the various crosswalks on school property. Do not jay-walk or walk on the loop. It is for vehicles only.

PARKING

Please do not use the handicap or reserved parking spaces at the front of the school; it is for eligible individuals only. If you need to park, please use the visitor spots in the parking lot at the side of the building. Keep in mind that parking is prohibited on the driveway at the front entrance. This is a fire lane and school bus loading and unloading zone. Additionally, if you are parking on a side street, please do not block the driveways.



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Parents/guardians need to communicate special dismissal arrangements, such as those mentioned above, in writing to each child's classroom teacher so they can plan accordingly for the afternoon. See more details below.

SIGNED NOTES FOR ANY CHANGE IN YOUR CHILD'S REGULAR DISMISSAL PROCEDURE:

Whenever possible, we urge that parents/guardians keep the same dismissal procedure for their children each day. We understand that there are times when it is necessary to make a change. Any change in a child's regular dismissal procedures (including bus) must be communicated to the teacher with a signed note in the morning. Including:

- If someone else is to pick-up your child
- If you plan to pick-up your child earlier than regular dismissal
- If you need to pick-up your child instead of having him/her take the bus
- If you plan to pick-up your child at a different door
- If you plan to pick-up your child rather than going to the Aftercare program

With our population, we cannot accommodate last minute phone calls to the office or classroom regarding changes in dismissal. Please make necessary arrangements and plan ahead. This is to help ensure your child's safety and create less confusion for all parties involved. Please do not leave a message regarding dismissal on a teacher's voicemail or email as there are times when a teacher may be absent and the message is not retrieved until the teacher returns on the next day.

PICKING UP YOUR CHILD(REN) FOR EARLY DISMISSALS / APPOINTMENTS

Our instructional day is scheduled to provide the maximum amount of contact time a student has with their teacher to address the developmentally appropriate rigor to address the Student Learning Standards. Pulling students out of their classrooms for non-school related activities, impacts the pace in which students master those standards. We understand the difficulty in scheduling medical and / or dental appointments. In an effort to minimize the impact to your child(ren)'s instruction, we kindly ask you to do your best to schedule appointments before or after school hours, holidays, and school breaks. With that said, we ask that when your child needs to leave school early for an appointment, send a note to school or email the school secretary and principal no later than that morning with the following information:

- Name of child
- Grade level and homeroom teacher's name
- Name of the adult who will be picking up the child from school
- Time the child will be picked up
- Reason for leaving early
- If the child will be returning to school the same day (this is to let us know whether or not to send homework with the child).



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When you pick your child up during school hours, please follow these guidelines:

- Park in a visitor's spot.
- Ring the buzzer at the main entrance and announce your name and your student's name.
- Be prepared to show photo identification.
- A staff member will escort your child to the entrance where you will be required to sign them out.

If someone other than a parent/legal guardian will need to pick up your student, please follow these guidelines:

- If someone other than the legal guardian is signing your child out, you must notify the office in advance or we cannot release your child until we have contacted the guardian to confirm. Please send a note to your child's teacher/ main office stating the time your child will be picked up.
- Please include the name of the person picking up your child.
- Photo ID is required at time of pickup and must match the name provided on the notification letter to the school..

Procedures For Emergency School Closings, Delayed Openings, And Unplanned Early Dismissal

Announcements will be made at:

- Springfield Public Schools website at www.springfieldschools.com
- Find us on Facebook at www.facebook.com/springfieldschools
- Follow us on Twitter at <https://twitter.com/springfieldschools>
- District voicemail at (973) 376-1025 (Press 8)

Verizon FIOS 1

News Fox 5 TV

NBC TV

CBS TV

ABC TV

News 12 New Jersey

The **unplanned delayed opening** schedule is as follows. Based upon this delayed opening information, all a.m. bus pickup times will be adjusted by 1-1/2 hours. Example – A stop for 8:00 am will be adjusted to 9:30 am.

FMG delayed opening: 9:45 am



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Early Dismissals– (Unplanned):

On days when it is advisable to dismiss children prior to regular dismissal times, the following procedures will be implemented:

- All students under 18 years of age will only be released to parents/guardians or designated individuals as identified on the emergency contact list.
- Students who normally take the bus home on early dismissal days will do so unless the school is otherwise notified.
- Radio and television stations will be contacted, the district voicemail (973) 376-1025 (press 8) will be activated and a message will be on the district website announcing the emergency closing information.
- In the event an early dismissal is determined by mid-morning, we will serve lunch before the early dismissal.
- All school days less than 4 hours will be made up and added to the school calendar.
-

SCHOOL VISITATION POLICY

The Entry Door Access Protocol was established in collaboration with the New Jersey Department of Homeland Security

Please note the following:

- No visitors are to enter the building with students during arrival. **All visitors to our schools will need to have an appointment to enter the building.** (If you require assistance, an appointment must be made after the start of the school day.)
- At the buzzer, it is expected that all visitors will state the purpose of their visit and/or specify with whom they have the appointment.
- All visitors are required to show photo identification prior to being buzzed into the building.
- If the appointment is verified, the visitor will be buzzed in and must present themselves to the main office immediately upon entry.
- **Visitors will be required to show photo identification again, and sign in to obtain a visitor's lanyard and badge that must be worn for the duration of the visit.** Visitors will be required to submit their keys and /or photo ID in exchange for the visitor's lanyard pass.
- **It is imperative that visitors do not hold the door open for others behind them. Each visitor must be acknowledged individually through the buzzer system.**
- If you must drop off an item for a student (lunch, homework, etc.) you will be directed to deposit that item in a bin outside the main entry)
- Front office secretaries will be required to call 911 and notify school administrators if the visitor is uncooperative, does not adhere to the procedures, or becomes threatening.



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- Ultimately, failure to follow these procedures may result in a lockdown for the safety of our students and staff, and the Springfield Police Department may be notified that an intruder is in the building.

We know that this protocol is stringent and may inconvenience our visitors who are, as always, welcome in our schools. The safety of our students and staff must remain our priority and we are optimistic that our visitors will ultimately recognize our need to be as vigilant as possible.

The district continues to collaborate with local and state law enforcement officials and will continuously monitor to upgrade and implement improved security measures throughout all of our schools as needed.

SCHOOL VOLUNTEER POLICY

The Board of Education recognizes that the services of volunteers can enrich the educational program, assist teaching staff members in the performance of their duties, and enhance the relationship between the school district and the community. The Board authorizes a program for the utilization of volunteer services in the school(s) of the school district.

A “school volunteer” is an individual who is invited into a school and provides occasional assistance for school activities, acts as a class parent, chaperones a class trip, or assists with classroom or other school activities, and provides assistance for school activities throughout the school year in district-led programs and activities. Please see the full volunteer policy at the link below:

- [9180- Volunteer Policy](#)

ADDITIONAL STUDENT INFORMATION

School Lunch Program:

Meals served in the Cafeteria are part of the National School Lunch Program (NSLP). The meal patterns required by the NSLP regulations are designed so that over a period of time, school lunches will provide children with approximately one-third of the nutrients they need.

Free / Reduced Lunch:

The application for free or reduced-price meals is available to all students at the beginning of the school year. A new application must be completed and returned to the office each school year. Following review of each application, parents/guardians are notified of the child's eligibility for either free or reduced-price meals. Any student who was eligible for free or reduced-price lunch benefits at the end of a school year will begin the next school year at the same level. Parents/guardians must complete a new application for the current school year as soon as possible. Carry-over benefits will expire 30 calendar days from the first day



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of school. In the operation of the child nutrition programs, no child will be discriminated against because of race, sex, color, national origin, or handicap.

Please visit our Food Services tab on our district website:

<https://www.springfieldschools.com/food-services>

The Food Services page of our District web site contains additional information concerning the operations of the food service department. Such items include monthly menus, ala carte items, lunch prices, nutritional information, and much more.

School Pictures:

Each year school pictures are taken of all students. Parents are given the option of purchasing different picture packets prepared by the photographer. Information about the picture options will be sent home with students prior to picture day.

Transfers To Another School District:

Parents are requested to contact the school office prior to moving out of the school district. A withdrawal form needs to be signed by a parent/guardian. All textbooks must be returned, and all financial obligations must be paid before transfer cards will be issued.

Field Trips:

Although field trips are an extension of the curriculum, they are privilege-based trips. Students exhibiting behaviors in school which are detrimental to themselves and to the safety and learning experiences of other students may be excluded from participation in these trips. Students who do not participate on a field trip are required to attend school. Appropriate schoolwork will be provided for the students who remain in the school building.

Home Instruction:

When a child is expected to be out of school for a prolonged period of time due to certain illnesses or immobility, parents may apply for home instruction. This application must take the form of a letter from the child's doctor, stating the nature of the illness and its probable duration, and verifying the fact that the child will not be endangered by receiving such instruction. This request will be processed through the school Principal, the Office of the Superintendent, and approved by the Board of Education. There is no charge.

Custody of Children:

The school district presumes that custody of children is with both parents unless there is evidence to the contrary. This evidence must be a written order from a court, which has jurisdiction in the Springfield Public School District. A copy of this court order must be given to the building Principal in order for it to be enforced. Parents are required to update this information as it changes and provide copies of legal documentation to the building principal. In accordance with the law, non-custodial parents may have the same access to educational records as the parents with custody.

Testing / Evaluation:

In compliance with State and Federal Law, notice is hereby given by the Springfield Public



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School District that it conducts ongoing identification activities as a part of its school program for the purpose of identifying students who may be in need of special education and related services. If your child is identified by the district as possibly in need of such services, you will be notified of applicable procedures. Individualized services and programs are available for children due to the following conditions:

1. Autism
2. Deaf-blindness
3. Deafness
4. Emotional disturbance
5. Hearing impairment
6. Mental Retardation
7. Multiple disabilities

If you believe that your school-age child may be or your preschool child (age 3 to school-age) may be in need of early intervention, screening and evaluation processes designed to assess the needs of the child and his/her eligibility, these services are available to you at no cost, upon written request. You may request screening and evaluation at any time, whether or not your child is enrolled in the district's public school program. Requests for evaluation are to be made in writing to the Director of Student Support Services.

For further information on the rights of parents and children, provision of services, evaluation and screening (including purpose, time and location), you may contact, in writing, the Director of Student Support Services.

Confidentiality: All information gathered about your child is subject to the confidentiality provisions contained in Federal and State Law. The district has policies and procedures in effect governing the collection, maintenance, destruction and disclosure to third parties and procedures, as well as rights of confidentiality and access to educational records. You may contact, in writing, the Director of Student Support Services.

Contacting Your Child's Teacher:

A convenient way to reach your child's teacher is by email. Teachers check their emails in the morning and at the end of the day. Staff email addresses can be found on our website at www.springfieldschools.com and most times are the teacher's first initial, last name followed by @springfieldschools.com. You can also call the main office and leave a message for the teacher. In order to maintain our focus on instruction and learning, no outside calls are to go into the classrooms during the 8:30-3:30 timeframe.

Health Services:

The school nurse is the health counselor in each building. The nurse helps with medical examinations and counsels with parents in the prevention and correction of physical defects. The nurse watches for signs of communicable diseases and illnesses that may occur during the school day. The school nurse never makes a diagnosis and never prescribes treatment, but guides the parents toward community resources available for



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proper medical attention. No care beyond first aid, defined as immediate, temporary care given in case of an accident or sudden illness, will be given by the school nurse.

Parent's Role in Health Partnership: We encourage parents to assist us in the health of their child(ren) and the other students. In the case of illness, if a student has the following symptoms, they should NOT report to school:

1. Elevated temperature (remain at home twenty-four (24) hours after temperature is below 100 degrees).
2. Vomiting, diarrhea.
3. Sore throat
4. Sore eyes (redness in color, watery, yellow drainage, itchy with sensitivity to light).
5. Toothache, earache, headache.
6. Skin rash or skin lesion, which has the appearance of impetigo or ringworm.

If illness or injury warrants, the nurse or office personnel will contact parents to arrange transportation home. If a parent/guardian cannot be contacted, the student may be sent to the home in care of an Emergency Contact person authorized by the parent/guardian to function in such an emergency. Parents must supply Emergency Contact information to the main office. No student will be released to anyone not on the official Emergency Contact list, **no exceptions**. Also, no student will be sent home by himself/herself.

It is the parent's responsibility to contact the school nurse concerning any special problem of which the school staff should be aware. For example, diagnosis by a physician of severe allergies, chicken pox, diabetes, or seizure disorder; or sustained injury or hospitalization.

The Springfield Public School District realizes the danger nut products pose to students with severe allergies. The following guidelines will be followed to lessen student exposure to these substances and to improve staff responses if a student demonstrates the symptoms of a severe allergic reaction.

- A. No items, which contain obvious peanut or nut products, will be served in the Elementary School cafeterias.
- B. Each building will be responsible for the identification of staff that work with a student who has a severe food (nut, dairy, or egg) allergy, including teacher aides, cafeteria personnel, and bus drivers. The school nurse(s) assigned to that building will be responsible for providing in-service programs to the identified staff on how to react in case a student demonstrates the symptoms of a severe allergic reaction. This could include the use of an EPI-pen or other medications for use in an emergency.
- C. Parents of children with severe allergies should contact the building Principal immediately.

Students who are so ill they require medication throughout the day should remain at home under parental care. Only in exceptional cases, should the nurse or other authorized personnel be asked to administer prescribed medication. No medications are to be administered in school by the nurse or others except by direct order of a physician



(according to the New Jersey Department of Health). We realize, however, that students sometimes require regular on-going medication as part of their daily routine. When medication must be taken during school hours (hyper-kinetic, diabetic, epileptic) the school will follow this procedure:

1. Arrangements will be made through the school nurse.
2. A special consent form will be completed by parents, with instructions or directions stating the type of medication, dosage, and time schedule.
3. Written authorization by a family physician is **REQUIRED**.
4. All medication **MUST** be received in a prescription original container and be marked with the student's name, dosage, time, and type of medication and **MUST** be kept in the health office. Ask the pharmacist/doctor for a duplicate prescription or container. The school nurse and/or designee will not administer, or dispense aspirin or aspirin products to students.
5. All medications must be brought to the nurse's office by parent(s)/guardian(s).

Required Health Services:

Immunization Requirements. See BOE policy **5320- IMMUNIZATION**

The immunization requirements for school age children shall be in accordance with the requirements of N.J.A.C. 8:57-4 – Immunization of Pupils in School as outlined below:

MINIMUM IMMUNIZATION REQUIREMENTS FOR SCHOOL ATTENDANCE IN NEW JERSEY N.J.A.C. 8:57-4: Immunization of Pupils in School		
DISEASE(S)	REQUIREMENTS	COMMENTS
DTaP	(AGE 1-6 YEARS): 4 doses, with one dose given on or after the 4 th birthday, OR any 5 doses. (AGE 7-9 YEARS): 3 doses of Td or any previously administered combination of DTP, DtaP, and DT to equal 3 doses.	Any child entering preschool, pre-Kindergarten, or Kindergarten needs a minimum of four doses. Pupils after the seventh birthday should receive adult type Td. DTP/Hib vaccine and DtaP also valid DTP doses. Laboratory evidence of immunity is also acceptable.
Tdap	GRADE 6 (<i>or comparable age level special education program with an unassigned grade</i>): 1 dose	For pupils entering Grade 6 on or after 9-1-08 and born on or after 1-1-97. A child does not need a Tdap dose until FIVE years after the last DTP/DtaP or Td dose.
POLIO	(AGE 1-6 YEARS): 3 doses, with one dose given on or after the 4 th birthday, OR any 4 doses. (AGE 7 or OLDER): Any 3 doses.	Either Inactivated Polio Vaccine (IPV) or Oral Polio Vaccine (OPV) separately or in combination is acceptable. Polio vaccine is not required of pupils 18 years of age or older.



		Laboratory evidence of immunity is also acceptable.
MEASLES	If born before 1-1-90, 1 dose of a live Measles-containing vaccine. If born on or after 1-1-90, 2 doses of a live Measles-containing vaccine. If entering a college or university after 9-1-95 and previously unvaccinated, 2 doses of a live Measles-containing vaccine.	Any child over 15 months of age entering child care, pre-school, or pre-Kindergarten needs a minimum of 1 dose of measles vaccine. Any child entering Kindergarten needs 2 doses. Previously unvaccinated pupils entering college after 9-1-95 need 2 doses of measles-containing vaccine or any combination containing live measles virus administered after 1968. Documentation of 2 prior doses is acceptable. Laboratory evidence of immunity is also acceptable. Intervals between first and second measles/MMR/MR doses cannot be less than 1 month.
RUBELLA and MUMPS	1 dose of live Mumps-containing vaccine. 1 dose of live Rubella-containing vaccine.	Any child over 15 months of age entering child care, pre-school, or pre-Kindergarten needs 1 dose of rubella and mumps vaccine. Each pupil entering college for the first time after 9-1-95 needs 1 dose of rubella and mumps vaccine or any combination containing live rubella and mumps virus administered after 1968. Laboratory evidence of immunity is also acceptable.
VARICELLA	1 dose on or after the first birthday.	All children 19 months of age and older enrolled into a child care/preschool center after 9-1-04 or children born on or after 1-1-98 entering a school for the first time in Kindergarten, Grade 1, or comparable age entry level special education program with an unassigned grade, need 1 dose of varicella vaccine. Laboratory evidence of immunity, physician's statement or a parental statement of previous varicella disease is also acceptable.
HAEMOPHILUS INFLUENZAE B (Hib)	(AGE 2-11 MONTHS) ⁽¹⁾ : 2 doses	Mandated only for children enrolled in child care, pre-school, or pre-Kindergarten.



	(AGE 12-59 MONTHS) ⁽²⁾ : 1 dose	Minimum of 2 doses of Hib vaccine are needed if between the ages of 2-11 months. ⁽²⁾ Minimum of 1 dose of Hib vaccine is needed after the first birthday. DTP/Hib and Hib/Hep B also valid Hib doses.
HEPATITIS B	(K-GRADE 12): 3 doses or 2 doses ⁽¹⁾	(2) If a child is between 11-15 years of age and has not received 3 prior doses of Hepatitis B then the child is eligible to receive 2-dose Hepatitis B Adolescent formulation. Laboratory evidence of immunity is also acceptable.
PNEUMO- COCCAL	(AGE 2-11 MONTHS) ⁽¹⁾ : 2 doses (AGE 12-59 MONTHS) ⁽²⁾ : 1 dose	Children enrolled in child care or pre-school on or after 9-1-08. (3) Minimum of 2 doses of Pneumococcal vaccine are needed if between the ages of 2-11 months. ⁽²⁾ Minimum of 1 dose of Pneumococcal vaccine is needed on or after the first birthday.
MENINGO- COCCAL	(Entering GRADE 6 <i>(or comparable age level Special Ed program with an unassigned grade)</i> : 1 dose ⁽¹⁾ (Entering a four-year college or university, previously unvaccinated and residing in a campus dormitory): 1 dose ⁽²⁾	⁽¹⁾ For pupils entering Grade 6 on or after 9-1-08 and born on or after 1-1-97. ⁽²⁾ Previously unvaccinated pupils entering a four-year college or university after 9-1-04 and who reside in a campus dormitory, need 1 dose of meningococcal vaccine. Documentation of one prior dose is acceptable.
INFLUENZA	(AGES 6-59 MONTHS): 1 dose ANNUALLY	For children enrolled in child care, pre-school or pre-Kindergarten on or after 9-1-08. 1 dose to be given between September 1 and December 31 of each year.

AGE APPROPRIATE VACCINATIONS (FOR LICENSED CHILD CARE CENTERS/PRE-SCHOOLS)	
CHILD'S AGE	NUMBER OF DOSES CHILD SHOULD HAVE (BY AGE):
2-3 Months	1 dose DtaP, 1 dose Polio, 1 dose Hib, 1 dose PCV7



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4-5 Months	2 doses DtaP, 2 doses Polio, 2 doses Hib, 2 doses PCV7
6-7 Months	3 doses DtaP, 2 doses Polio, 2-3 doses Hib, 2-3 doses PCV7, 1 dose Influenza
8-11 Months	3 doses DtaP, 2 doses Polio, 2-3 doses Hib, 2-3 doses PCV7, 1 dose Influenza
12-14 Months	3 doses DtaP, 2 doses Polio, 1 dose Hib, 2-3 doses PCV7, 1 dose Influenza
15-17 Months	3 doses DtaP, 2 doses Polio, 1 dose MMR, 1 dose Hib, 1 dose PCV7, 1 dose Influenza
18 Months – 4 Years	4 doses DtaP, 3 doses Polio, 1 dose MMR, 1 dose Hib, 1 dose Varicella, 1 dose PCV7, 1 dose Influenza

PROVISIONAL ADMISSION:

Provisional admission allows a child to enter/attend school but must have a minimum of one dose of each of the required vaccines. Pupils must be actively in the process of completing the series. If a pupil is less than 5 years of age, they have 17 months to complete the immunization requirements.

If a pupil is 5 years of age and older, they have 12 months to complete the immunization requirements.

GRACE PERIODS:

- 4-day grace period: All vaccine doses administered less than or equal to four days before either the specified minimum age or dose spacing interval shall be counted as valid and shall not require revaccination in order to enter or remain in a school, pre-school or child care facility.
- 30-day grace period: Those children transferring into a New Jersey school, pre-school, or child care center from out of State/out of country may be allowed a 30-day grace period in order to obtain past immunization documentation before provisional status shall begin.

Regulations Concerning Communicable Diseases:

The period of time a child should remain out of school is at the discretion of the physician. It is suggested the child remain out until the danger of a secondary infection (ear infection, respiratory complications) has passed. The following communicable diseases are those, which may warrant remaining out of school for an indicated period of time: measles, German measles (rubella), chicken pox, mumps, whooping cough, scarlet fever, shingles.

Note: The school reserves the right to exclude children from school until the family physician has furnished the school with written acknowledgment of the child's ability to return to school. Examples of such exclusions would be children showing symptoms such as the following:

- unusual skin eruption (impetigo and ringworm)
- scabies



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- contagious conjunctivitis (pink eye)

In cases of head lice, students are to be excluded from school if there is an active infestation (live lice). Parents will need to drive students who have been excluded from school to be checked by the school nurse to certify that the child is permitted to return to school. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact the school nurse.

STUDENT PROGRESS

Belief Statements For Grading:

The faculty at Florence M. Gaudineer Middle School continually challenges all students to reach the highest standards in each discipline. At the middle school level, there is an understanding that each student's academic success is based on many factors. Our faculty takes this into account when grading and does not follow the "one size fits all" approach. Each student's academic progress is individualized while following each teacher's grading policy. With this in mind, students who struggle academically in a particular marking period cannot receive a grade lower than 50. This policy gives all students a chance to succeed in the following marking periods and receive a passing grade for the course.

Grading System:

Report cards serve the purpose of informing parents and students of each child's progress in school. The middle school uses a numerical grading scale. 65 and higher is passing.

Honor Roll:

High Honor Roll is determined by cumulative average of 95 or higher with no grade under 90.

Honor Roll is determined by cumulative average of 90 or higher with no grade under 85.

See District Policy 2624 - GRADING SYSTEM

Student report cards are sent home four times during a school year. Formal parent/teacher conferences are scheduled at the end of the first marking period. Additional parent conferences can be scheduled throughout the school year at either a parent/guardian or the teacher's request. Please feel free to contact the school if you have any questions about your child's progress.



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STUDENT DISCIPLINE /CODE OF CONDUCT

The Student Code of Conduct, District policy **5600 - STUDENT DISCIPLINE / CODE OF CONDUCT**.

The FMG Student Code of Conduct was developed with the ideals that contribute to the maintenance of a safe and secure learning environment for all members of our school community. Our expectation is that all students will act and behave appropriately not only when following their regular daily schedule, but also during any special activities that may take place. The FMG Code of Conduct is designed as a basic agreement between members of the school community to act in a fair manner towards one another. It identifies student rights and responsibilities as well as consequences for misbehavior. In addition, the parent section is designed to serve as a framework for an effective home- school partnership with parents.

The Code of Conduct provides expectations and guidelines for students to work successfully within the school community and communicates the importance of coming to class with a readiness to learn.

Student Responsibilities

In a well-run school, certain rules and regulations are necessary for the best interest of all concerned. As a member of the school community, students will be asked to meet the expectations set forth by the school. Students who do not behave as expected are subject to consequences.

The expectations of our student management program are designed to help the student understand the need to demonstrate high levels of respect for authority

and peers, self-discipline and a willingness to be a productive member of the community.

Examples of behaviors that are not consistent with the expectations of the Florence M. Gaudineer Community include but are not limited to the following:

- Violating the Computer Acceptable Use Policy.
- Bullying, teasing, threatening physical harm or intimidation (Violations will be handled in accordance with the District's Harassment Intimidation and Bullying policies and procedures).
- Insubordination or disobeying the lawful authority of school personnel.
- Using language that is offensive to one's race, gender, religion, ethnicity, physical attributes, or sexual orientation.
- Smoking.
- Excessive tardiness/absences.
 - Students who accrue more than 5 unexcused tardies to school will be assigned



- a progressive disciplinary action.
- Students who accrue more than 4 unexcused tardies to a classroom will be assigned a progressive disciplinary action.
- Gambling.
- Fighting or horseplay/acting in a physically aggressive manner.
- Engaging in any unwanted physical contact.
- Destruction or defacing of school or another's property.
- Possession of any items that may disrupt the orderly running of a school such as airsoft guns, toy guns, any imitation weapons, laser pointers, pocketknives, razor or any item that may be used as a weapon or poses danger to students and faculty.
- Theft.
- Any illegal act.
- Trespassing.
- Possession of and or being under the influence of drugs or alcohol.
- Selling items on school property for profit.
- Disruption of the educational and instructional process.
- Possessing a weapon or any other object that has the potential to negatively impact the school environment.
- Repetition of behaviors that have been addressed in previous interventions.
- Posting videos online that are inappropriate.

The office will keep records on all student behavior(s) in the school setting. If necessary, administration will hold parent/student meetings of individuals who continue to exhibit unacceptable behavior in school. A behavior contract between the parents-student and the school may be issued based upon the severity of the behaviors, or repeated displays of mis-behavior.

MISSING AN ASSIGNED DETENTION

When a student is assigned detention, it is expected that the student will attend the detention barring any emergency commitments (medical appointments, court dates, etc.). Missing a detention will result in an escalation of the original penalty. If a student is absent from school on the day of an assigned detention, the detention will be re assigned.

General Rules To Follow

Respect the rights of others: Use good manners and be courteous, wait to take turns, and raise your hand. Stop what you are doing, listen and follow directions from the staff or teacher. Settle differences in a positive manner or ask for help when needed.

Use appropriate behavior: Appropriate behavior is the behavior that one would expect at a particular place. What kind of behavior would we expect in the lunchroom or in the hallways? What kind of behavior would we expect during an assembly? What kind of



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behavior would we expect in a classroom? What kind of behavior would we expect during a fire drill? What kind of behavior would we expect during announcements?

Display good sportsmanship: A student who displays good sportsmanship plays fairly, follows the rules of the game, and treats opponents with respect. A student who displays good sportsmanship knows how to be a winner without making fun of those who lose. A good sport cheers teammates with positive statements and applauds good plays even if completed by opponents. Good sportsmanship is an attitude that can have a positive influence on everyone.

Walk at all times and stay to the right: What is the appropriate behavior for walking in the hallways? When walking in the hallways, walk quietly and in a straight line. Always walk to the right in the hallways. Walk to cross streets and cross only at the crosswalks, follow directions of the crossing guard. Walking while inside school is a good way to make sure no one gets hurt.

Come to school Ready to Learn: How does a student who comes to class **Ready to Learn** act while in school? They raise their hand and listen attentively when the teacher is asking questions. They are active learners and help create a positive learning environment. Their actions help other students learn while in class. They come to class prepared by having completed their homework, studying for lessons, and bringing the materials they need. Students who are Ready to Learn always try to do their best.

Be on time when coming to school: When you are on time you have all your things packed and ready to go to school. Being on time also means you have enough time to line up before school starts and are ready when your class walks to your room.

Consequences of Misbehavior

Each teacher will establish and enforce the Code of Conduct in addition to their classroom rules and disciplinary procedures for their individual classroom. The staff can informally handle most minor infractions. More serious or repeated infractions may necessitate a conference with the parent. Each infraction will be handled on an individual basis since some incidents are more serious than others.

The following consequences, appropriate to the action and the student's age, may be expected:

- I. **Teacher Detention:** A student may be required to arrive before or remain after school with a teacher for academic or behavioral reasons. Notification will be given to the student and/or parent/guardian. Students are expected to adhere to all directions of their teacher or central detention supervisor.
- II. **Lunch Detention:** A student may be excluded from the regular lunch area by a teacher or lunch supervisor for behavioral reasons. Students may be assigned to



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the teacher's classroom.

III. Classroom Exclusion: A student may be sent to the main office for behavior that disrupts the learning of the class. This is done to provide supervised time away from the classroom for the student to regain their composure and complete their work for the period's balance. Contact with the parent/guardian is initiated by the excluding teacher with appropriate documentation to the Administration.. Severe or multiple classroom infractions may result in the teacher filing an Incident Report. Due to the nature of the inappropriate behavior, Administrative Detention, Sunset School or an In or Out of School Suspension may result. Classroom Exclusions will be recorded in the student's permanent file.

IV. Administrative Conference: Due to the nature of the infraction, an Administrative Conference may be initiated. The Principal or the Assistant Principal will discuss the infraction with the parent via phone conference or schedule a meeting with the parent at FMG.

V. Office Detention: A student assigned an Administrative Detention may be referred by a teacher on an Incident Report or directly assigned by an administrator. Parental contact is initiated by the teacher or an administrator. Parents/guardians, students, and teachers will be notified of the time and location of the detention. Repeated Office Detentions may result in an In-School Suspension or Sunset School. Office Detentions will be recorded in the student's permanent file.

VI. Sunset School: A student whose inappropriate behavior is considered so severe that the remainder of his/her school day will no longer be productive and may interfere with the learning or safety of others may be assigned to Sunset School. Parents/guardians will be contacted to notify them of their child's behavior. Students will serve a three-hour detention beginning 5 minutes after the dismissal bell at 2:30. Repeated Sunset Schools may result in an In or Out of School Suspension. Assignment of Sunset School will be recorded in the student's permanent file.

VII. In School Suspension: A student assigned an In-School Suspension may be referred by a teacher on an Incident Report or directly assigned by an administrator. Prior to assigning an In-School Suspension, notification will be made with the student's parents/guardians. A student assigned to In-School Suspension for the first time in any school year shall be assigned 1 to 3 days. Severe circumstances or repeated In School Suspensions may result in an Out of School Suspension. In-School Suspensions will be recorded in the student's permanent file.

VIII. Out of School Suspension: A student assigned an Out of School Suspension may be referred by a teacher on an Incident Report or directly assigned by the school Principal. Prior to assigning Out of School Suspension, the student's parents/guardians will be notified. A student may be suspended for up to 10 days



based upon the severity of the infraction. Out of School Suspensions will be recorded in the student's permanent file.

As per building policy:

Students with three or more incidents in their file during one marking period may be asked to meet with administration. A plan will be developed with the student and his/her parents/guardians to improve behavior. Certain school privileges which may include exclusion from field trips, school picnics, assemblies, promotion exercises, etc. will be denied to students whose behavior continues to be disruptive.

WATER BOTTLES

Students are permitted to carry water bottles provided they do not become a disruption to the educational process and are kept away from technology devices including i-Pads as water damage is not covered under our care agreements.

DRESS CODE

There is an established dress code expectation at FMG. Our parents and students have been receptive and supportive of a dress code practice that encourages the wearing of clothing, which is comfortable, safe, and acceptable for the school setting. What is deemed appropriate or inappropriate is left to the discretion of the administration. The following can serve as a guideline:

- T-shirts with certain logos, pictures and/or sayings may not be appropriate.
- Promote or advertise the use of firearms, alcohol, drugs, or tobacco.
- Have abusive sayings, profanity or foul language.
- Convey inappropriate messages, innuendo See-through blouses, fishnet shirts.
- Proper and safe footwear is required at all times. "Flip flop" shoes or sandals are not permitted for safety reasons. **All footwear must have a heel strap.**
- Excessively short skirts and shorts are not permitted.
- Excessively loose and/or baggy pants or shorts that reveal undergarments.
- Hats, sunglasses and bandanas are not permitted inside the school building.
- Hooded sweatshirts must be worn without the hood covering the head.

ELECTRONIC DEVICES

New Jersey's "bell-to-bell" law (P.L. 2025, c. 195) requires all K-12 public school districts to prohibit students from using cell phones and personal internet-enabled devices during the entire school day. Earbuds, watches, Meta-Glasses, electronic games, and other electronic and/or wearable devices ***are not permitted to be used in school at any time.*** Students may NOT carry their cell phones with them throughout the school day. Phones must be put away in lockers from the first bell to the last bell of the day. This includes



instructional time, class changes, lunch breaks, school buses, and school-sanctioned events. The cell phone must remain off and must not interfere with the educational process. If seen, students may be subject to disciplinary action and electronic equipment may be confiscated until a parent and/or someone listed on the emergency contact list can pick it up during normal school hours.

E-Bicycles

NJ E-Bike Law

As per law signed into effect on July 19, 2026, all E-bikes classified as motorized bicycles can only be ridden by students 15 years of age or older, require a valid driver's license or special E-bike license and will require registration and insurance. E-bikes fitting this criteria will not be allowed on school grounds. Also, the NJ Helmet Law is required for anyone 17 years of age or under. We will require any bicycle riders to wear a helmet.

SCHOOL/ CAFETERIA/ AUDITORIUM GUIDELINES

The rules for the school, cafeteria and auditorium call for the expectation and demonstration of safety and respect for others and oneself. Rules are reviewed by teachers and are clearly posted. The following guidelines are listed for your understanding and practice.

School Guidelines:

- Students will respect others and keep their hands/feet to themselves at all times.
- Students will walk in the hallways at all times, staying to the right.
- Students will have a hall pass while in the hallway when class is in session.
- Students will arrive promptly to class and the cafeteria (for lunch) within the two-minute passing time.
 - Students will respect all school facilities, supplies, books, equipment, and the property of others.
 - Students will walk their bicycles, skateboards, scooters and roller blades at all times on school property.

LOCKERS

By law, the Principal, Assistant Principal or other school officials may inspect lockers or other areas which students use provided the students are informed in writing at the beginning of each school year that inspections **MAY** occur. Please consider this your written notification. Inspections will occur periodically when we are housekeeping or if there is sufficient reason to suspect that a weapon, dangerous substance, or stolen property may be concealed.

Students will be provided the opportunity to obtain necessary materials from their lockers. Other than these designated times, students are not permitted at their lockers for any reason. The school is not responsible for lost or stolen property. Please note that locker



sharing is **not permitted** at any time and may result in a disciplinary consequence.

Remember to be respectful of your locker. It is school property. No kicking, slamming, or defacing of any lockers is permitted. Keep your locker clean and do not leave food in it overnight.

If you have a problem with your locker, please go to the main office to complete a Locker Work Order. Your locker will be fixed when a custodian is available.

TELEPHONE

Students have access to a telephone in the main office. The phone is available to students for emergency purposes only. Emergencies do not include forgotten homework, projects, or lunch money.

LOST & FOUND

"Found" items are kept in the cafeteria for a reasonable amount of time, and if not claimed, are donated to a charitable organization.

SCHOOL DANCES AND SOCIALS

- School appropriate dress should be followed.
- School guidelines presented in this handbook should be followed at all times.
- Upon entering, students will be required to remain in the building during the event.
- Parents picking students up at the end of an event are expected to arrive at the designated time.
- Adult supervision is unavailable at the conclusion of a school dance.
- Tickets will not be sold at the door.
- *Only FMG students are permitted to attend dances.*
- *Students must be in school on the day of the event in order to participate. Anyone leaving from the health office early will not be permitted into the dance.*

HARASSMENT, INTIMIDATION & BULLYING

Harassment, Intimidation, Bullying Definition from NJSA: 18A:37-14:

"Harassment, intimidation or bullying" means any gesture, any written, verbal or physical act, or any electronic communication, whether it be a single incident or a series of incidents, that is reasonably perceived as being motivated either by any actual or perceived characteristic, such as race, color, religion, ancestry, national origin, gender, sexual orientation, gender identity and expression, or a mental, physical or sensory disability, or by any other distinguishing characteristic, that takes place on school property, at any school-sponsored function, on a school bus, or off school grounds as provided for in section 16 of P.L.2010, c.122 (C.18A:37-15.3), that substantially disrupts or interferes with the orderly operation of the school or the rights of other students and that:



- a. a reasonable person should know, under the circumstances, will have the effect of physically or emotionally harming a student or damaging the student's property, or placing a student in reasonable fear of physical or emotional harm to his person or damage to his property;
- b. has the effect of insulting or demeaning any student or group of students; or
- c. creates a hostile educational environment for the student by interfering with a student's education or by severely or pervasively causing physical or emotional harm to the student.

Harassment, Intimidation and Bullying will not be tolerated within our school community. The Springfield Board of Education is committed to providing a safe, positive learning environment for District students. The Board recognizes that bullying creates an atmosphere of fear and intimidation, detracts from the safe environment necessary for student learning, and may lead to more serious violence. Therefore, the Board prohibits bullying by District students. Bullying/Cyber Bullying will be handled in accordance with Board Policy 512- HARASSMENT, INTIMIDATION, AND BULLYING



HOW PARENTS CAN HELP . . .

The home and the school must work to ensure the best educational program for each child. There are many ways in which parents can help. Here are a few suggestions:

1. Take an active interest in school affairs; volunteer in the school, serve on district committees, and/or join the Parent Teacher Association
2. Establish and maintain a healthy schedule at home: plenty of rest, adequate diet, and free time for leisure activities. In addition, encourage good health habits.
3. Talk positively about the educational program, the teachers, and other school personnel.
4. Show confidence in your child and their ability to make small decisions for him or herself. Build a sense of responsibility through ever-widening experiences such as regular household chores, running errands, etc.
5. Provide stimulating reading materials at home such as children's magazines, encyclopedias, and non-fiction and fiction books written on your child's reading level.
6. Acquaint your child with the wonders of nature and the world. Plan and participate in trips to nearby places of interest: a zoo, animal farms, museums, historic spots; encourage hobbies and collections.
7. Help your child feel a sense of security. Avoid friction and other emotional tensions in the home.
8. Refrain from pressuring your child about grades, not having enough homework, or other children doing better in school. Remember that your child is a unique person--with his/her own innate qualities and abilities.
9. Contact the school if it is learned that, because of a lengthy illness, your child will be absent from school for a long period of time.

We hope this handbook has provided you with a better understanding of the policies, procedures, and guidelines that help us maintain a healthy and safe learning environment. We understand that there is a lot of material covered, and encourage you to refer to this as many times as needed. Please remember to call your building Principal should you need any clarification on any of the material covered in this handbook.

We look forward to guiding your child(ren) to developing the necessary academic and social-emotional learning skills that will help them become life-long learners.



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