



Doug Nebel, *Principal*    Jessica Stryhalaleck, *Assistant Principal*

## AMS STUDENT HANDBOOK SIGNOFF 2026-2027

Student Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Grade: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Listed below are key policy summaries from the **Amesbury Middle School Student Handbook (2026–2027)**. This is by no means an exhaustive list, so please review the full handbook with your student. After reviewing the handbook with your student, please initial and sign below to indicate your understanding of these handbook expectations. In addition to reviewing as a family, all students will have an overview of expectations during the opening days of school. Any questions about the student handbook can be directed toward the administration team. The complete handbook is available on our school website and has been sent home to families via email as well. Hard copies of the student handbook are available upon request.

### A. Behavioral Expectations

Behavioral expectations in our school have been designed to be fair to both students and teachers and are based on good sense and legal requirements. The reason for these expectations is simple: a student's main goal for being in school is to get an education.

Students are expected to be polite, courteous, thoughtful, and considerate. Running, pushing, shouting, and profane language which disturbs others is unreasonable in school and, therefore, not acceptable.

Teachers have the responsibility of educating students in school. It is the responsibility of students to follow their teacher's directions and not to interfere with the orderly teaching process nor to interrupt the education of other students. Disruptive behavior consists of actions which disturb students and teachers in the process of learning. It is further interpreted to mean the disturbance of orderly procedure within the school.

Student Initials: \_\_\_\_\_ | Parent/Guardian Initials: \_\_\_\_\_

### B. Cell Phone & Personal Electronic Device Policy

In alignment with impending DESE "bell-to-bell" guidelines, AMS is a **cell phone-free community**. Cell phones and earbuds are not allowed during the school day. Smart watches or other devices being used to access functions in place of a cell phone are also not allowed. Student cell phones will be collected and secured in a lockbox by the homeroom teacher every morning during the homeroom period. Students will collect their cell phones from the teacher during the afternoon homeroom period at the end of each day. Earbuds must be put away and may not be left in the ears. Smart watches may be worn, but if a student is found to be using a smart watch in place of a cell phone, the watch will also be secured in a lockbox.

- If a student is found to have a cell phone after the homeroom collection period, the cell phone will be collected by staff and placed in the appropriate lock box for student retrieval at the end of the day.
- Repeated offenses may result in additional disciplinary consequences.

If a parent/guardian needs to communicate with their student during the school day, they may call the Main Office. Unless there is an emergency, students should only call home either before or after school or during their lunch period.

Student Initials: \_\_\_\_\_ | Parent/Guardian Initials: \_\_\_\_\_

### **C. Attendance**

#### **School Committee Policy JH- Student Absences and Excuses (abbreviated for this page)**

Regular and punctual school attendance is essential for success in school. The Committee recognizes that parents/guardians of children attending our schools 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. A child may also be excused for other exceptional reasons with approval of the Principal or designee. *Unexcused absences* are any absences that do not meet the requirements for an excused absence. Examples include, but are not limited to: truancy, undocumented illness, sleeping late/missing bus, attendance of family member's appointments, staying home to take care of others, car trouble, personal grooming appointment, errands, work, family vacation during non- school vacation time, and non-school athletic events. Please note that extended absences are likely to have a negative impact on a student's academic success and have the potential to result in course failure.

If a student is absent from school, their family must contact the school at (978) 388-0515 by 8:00 a.m., the day of the absence, to explain why the student is not in school. If a parent/guardian does not call by 8:00 a.m., the parent/guardian will be contacted to notify home of their student's absence.

#### **Attendance Rules for After School Events/Activities**

Students who are absent from school, arrive after 11:00 a.m., or are dismissed before 11:00 a.m. are not permitted to attend or participate in co-curricular and school-sponsored activities on the same day or evening.

*Student Initials:* \_\_\_\_\_ | *Parent/Guardian Initials:* \_\_\_\_\_

### **D. Academic Integrity & Artificial Intelligence (AI)**

Students must uphold the highest standards of honesty. Plagiarism includes submitting uncredited work, copying peers, or using unauthorized generative AI tools (e.g., ChatGPT, Gemini). Violations result in a zero for the assignment, communication to families, and administrative review.

*Student Initials:* \_\_\_\_\_ | *Parent/Guardian Initials:* \_\_\_\_\_

### **E. 1:1 Chromebook & Responsible Use Policy**

School devices and Wi-Fi networks are provided for educational use. It is expected that devices and networks are used responsibly. Families are financially liable for damage or loss (Chromebook replacement: \$270, Screen: \$80, Charger: \$25). Optional Chromebook Insurance (\$27/year) is strongly recommended.

*Student Initials:* \_\_\_\_\_ | *Parent/Guardian Initials:* \_\_\_\_\_

#### **Signatures & Acknowledgement**

By signing below, we acknowledge that we have received, reviewed, and agree to abide by the expectations, rules, and policies outlined in the **2026–2027 Amesbury Middle School Student Handbook** and this summary sheet. Any questions related to the handbook can be directed to the administration.

**Student Signature:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Parent/Guardian Signature:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date:** \_\_\_\_\_