

Henry H. Wells Middle School
Student Handbook
2026-2027



Mission Statement

Our purpose as a middle school:

- To discover and leverage the unique strengths of our students to help them develop the skills necessary for the 21st century.
- To support all students in their journeys toward personal, social, and academic growth.
- To foster a school community where every student is known, affirmed, safe, and challenged.

Dear Middle School Student(s) and Families,

Welcome to the 2026-2027 school year at Henry H. Wells Middle School!

To our returning seventh- and eighth-graders, we hope you have had a wonderful summer break and are looking forward to the excitement of a new school year. Please join us in welcoming our incoming sixth graders! Together, we will work hard, have fun, and grow - together, *We are Wells!*

Your first days here will provide you with a chance to meet your teachers, socialize and catch up with friends, get acquainted with your schedule and the building, and to settle back into the routine of school. We will hold student orientation with the Principal, Assistant Principals, and Dean of Students at each grade level, where we will outline our expectations for students and the rules of the building.

One of the many things that makes Wells Middle School a special place, is the shared summer reading experience that the entire building participates in. This year students and staff were able to choose their summer read. The titles included:

- *The New Kid*, by Jerry Craft
- *Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone*, by JK Rowling
- *Restart*, by Gordan Korman
- *Fish in a Tree*, by Lynda Mullaly Hunt
- *Odder*, by Katherine Applegate

These books explore themes of belonging, resilience, empathy, courage, and personal growth. Our BookTalk Committee selected these books because they reflect many of the experiences, challenges, and opportunities that middle school students encounter as they learn more about themselves and the world around them. In September, we will celebrate our annual schoolwide BookTalk Day, when students and staff will come together to participate in activities and discussions centered on the books and their themes.

This year, we are embracing the Call to Action: **“Grow through what you go through.”** We embrace challenges as opportunities to learn, show resilience, and support one another along the way. As a community, we meet people where they are, support one another, and grow together.

Lastly, envision yourself in June, walking out the doors for the last time this year - what do you want to accomplish? Who do you strive to be? Think about the personal goals you want to set for the 2026-2027 school year, and know that we are all invested in you and your success. Here's to a great school year, and remember: **We are Wells!**

Sincerely,

Mr. Rodriguez
Principal

Ms. Rivera
Assistant Principal

Mr. Carpanzano
P-Tech / Assistant Principal

Mrs. Pryce
Dean of Students

**H. H. Wells Middle School
Administrators**

(845) 279-3702

Mr. Carlos Rodriguez	Principal
Ms. Samantha Rivera	Assistant Principal
Mr. David Carpanzano	Assistant Principal & P Tech Coordinator
Mrs. Donna Pryce	Dean of Students

School Resource Officer

Mrs. Claire Pierson	SRO
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Secretaries

Mrs. Jennifer Cormier	Secretary to the Principal
Mrs. Ann Grassia	Secretary to the Assistant Principal
Mrs. Tina Aulabaugh	Secretary to the Dean of Students

**Brewster Central School District
Board of Education**

Mrs. Kerry Cunningham	President
Ms. Cynthia Fox	Vice President
Ms. Jennifer Carpinello	Trustee
Ms. Melissa Finateri	Trustee
Mr. Louis T. Riolo, Jr.	Trustee
Mr. Scott Seaman	Trustee
Ms. Dehisy Jimenez-Vazquez	Trustee

Administrative Offices

(845) 279-8000

Dr. Michelle Gosh	Superintendent of Schools
Mrs. Maggie Andriello	Asst. Superintendent for Curriculum, Instruction & Assessment
Mr. Victor J. Karlsson	Asst. Superintendent for Finance & Operations
Dr. Stephen Hancock	Asst. Superintendent for Human Resources
Mrs. Amelia Carpanzano	Director of Pupil Personnel Services
Mrs. Jennifer Nilsen	Director of Literacy & Professional Learning
Mr. James Treloar	Director of Technology & Innovation
Mrs. Amalia Berdecia	Assistant Director of Pupil Personnel Services, K-5
Mrs. Sarah Vazquez	Assistant Director of Pupil Personnel Services, 6-12
Mr. Kenneth Winch	Director of Facilities
Mr. Dean Berardo	Director of Physical Education, Health & Athletics
Mrs. Adriana MacGregor	Administrator of Wellness and Athletic Development
Ms. Mary E. Smith	Supervisor of Transportation
Ms. Perla Granados	Assistant Supervisor of Transportation
Ms. Cathy Hancock	Director of Child Nutrition Services

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Attendance

General Attendance Information ([District Policy 5100](#))

Henry H. Wells Middle School is in session from 7:40 a.m. until 2:40 p.m. When a parent/guardian finds it necessary to bring their child to school, students are to be dropped off and enter the building using the Farm-To-Market Road entrance. This entrance is locked at 7:40 a.m. All students arriving after 7:40 a.m. will need to use the main entrance and report immediately to the attendance office.

Students must be in school ***five full periods*** for the day to be counted as a full day. If students are in school less than five periods or are absent, they will not be permitted to participate in any after school activities or athletic events.

Class participation is included as part of our grading criteria. Excessive absenteeism can have an adverse effect on academic achievement. Consistent attendance is the heart of education. Please sign a student out for only important reasons. Understand that while he/she is out of school, classroom instruction continues.

Attendance Guidelines

If a student is absent from school, the parent/guardian must call the school's attendance office, 845-279-3702 extension 2116, to advise of their child's absence. The New York State Education Department requires schools to produce ***bi-quarterly*** reports of unexcused absences and tardiness. All children between 7 and 16 years of age must attend school the entire time the school is in session, unless:

- He/she is physically or mentally incompetent.
- He/she has completed a four-year high school course of study.

The Commissioner of Education of New York State has defined the following as reasons for legal absences: personal illness, illness or death in the family, ***impassable roads or weather***, religious observance, quarantine, required court appearances, attendance at health clinics, disciplinary detention, or an incarcerated youth, or for such other reasons as approved by the Commissioner.

The consent of the parent/guardian to the absence of the student does not affect the lawful dominion of the state regarding attendance.

Written Excuses

Students are expected to bring a note from their parent/guardian upon their return to school.

The following information should be included:

- Dates of absences
- Reason for absences
- Parent/Guardian signature
- Parent/Guardian phone number

A doctor's note may be required for students absent five or more days due to illness.

Attendance Codes

Excused Absences will be coded as follows:

- E Doctor's note submitted
- MED Medical
- RE Religious exemption

Unexcused Absences will be coded as follows:

- A Absent unexcused, no parent or doctor's note
- APE Absent parent excused
- T Tardy
- VNS Vacation
- BV Bereavement
- FT Field Trip
- COI Continuity of instruction

Chronic Absenteeism

Our Guidance Department oversees attendance. Each counselor meets with the Assistant Principal every five to six weeks to review attendance and create a plan for chronically absent students. The team will study the absences, monitor the student's attendance and take the following actions:

Phase One: A letter of concern will be sent home requiring contact with school support staff.

Phase Two: A second letter will be sent home, which may require a parent(s) to attend a meeting with the administration and their child's guidance counselor.

Phase Three: An administrative meeting will be required, and a possible referral will be submitted to an outside agency for further investigation or support.

Tardiness

Students who arrive tardy to school (after 7:40 a.m.) are required to report to the attendance office immediately upon arrival to obtain a late pass. Those students who have a legal excuse for being tardy are required to bring a note, written on the day that he/she is late, and the note should be given to the attendance office upon arrival at school. Students who arrive late to school unexcused and/or consistently may be assigned detention or other disciplinary consequences.

Early Student Dismissal

Students must never leave the school building without permission and/or without their parent/guardian signing them out at the desk at the main entrance. When a parent/guardian wishes to sign out a student, a note from the parent/guardian should be brought to the main entrance desk at the beginning of the day. The parent/guardian must go to the main entrance desk and show proof of identification before signing out their child. **No student will be called from class until a parent/guardian arrives. No student will be dismissed from school without a parent/guardian request and sign-out.**

Students will be called to the main office upon the parent/guardian's arrival. Please do not park in the Wells main entrance parking lot after 2:10 p.m. This area needs to be open for the arrival of afternoon buses.

Requesting Homework

Parent/Guardians requesting homework for students absent two days or more must notify the guidance office at (845) 279-3702, ext. 2140 or 2141 by 9:30 a.m. on the day of absence and may pick up material from 2:45 p.m. to 3:45 p.m. Homework assignments are also available on the teacher's website pages or sometimes through the Parent Portal.

Tardy to Class/Periods

Students are responsible for arriving at class/periods on time to ensure the orderly conduct of the teaching and learning process. Sufficient passing time between class periods is provided. If a student has repeated tardiness without a pass, teacher follow-up and/or administrative consequences will occur.

After-School Late Dismissal

After-school late dismissal is at 3:20 p.m. Student pick up is at the Wells main entrance on Route 312 only. All students getting picked up must remain on the Wells Middle School property until a parent/guardian arrives.

Arrival & Dismissal

Arrival starts at 7:20am if you are arriving on a bus in front of WMS.

Parent Drop Off arrival is 7:20 - 7:40am @ Gym Entrance right before CV Starr.

Dismissal is at 2:40pm if you are taking the bus home.

Parent Pick Up is 2:40pm @ Gym Entrance right before CV Starr.

Lockers

Students will be given a locker this year. Students are expected to use the locker that has been assigned to them. Students will go to their lockers before 9th period to gather all of their belongings. Students will be dismissed right from their 9th period class. School bags are not allowed during the school day and bathroom. Students are not allowed to share lockers. The guidance department is where students can get support with learning how and when to use their lockers.

Check & Connect

Check & Connect is a time for students and teachers to check in and connect about daily events and activities. Students will be asked to Check & Connect in the morning during morning announcements and at the end of the day. In the morning and afternoon, students will be asked over the loudspeaker and by their teachers to check their email for important information. At the end of the day, teachers will have 3 minutes with students to ensure that they have all the materials they need for homework, that any items borrowed from the Tech Department have been returned, etc. This time is used to help students in building executive functioning skills and also relationships with their peers and teachers.

Early Dismissal/Emergency Closing

There may be a few days when school will be closed or a delayed opening may occur due to heavy snow or unusually hazardous conditions. Announcements of delays or closings will be broadcast on the following radio stations:

WAXB	105.5 FM	WDAQ	98.3 FM
WHUD	100.7 FM	WLAD	800 AM
WPUT	1510 AM	WFAS	1230 AM/103.9FM

Comcast Cable Channel 22, broadcasts Brewster School District information daily, including delays and closings. Also check our website: www.brewsterschools.org for weather-related closings.

Also, the school district uses an automated phone calling system to alert parents/guardians of the need to close schools or any important information that parents/guardians need to receive in a timely manner. Parents/Guardians' home and cell phone numbers, if supplied to the school, will be contacted via this automated system. In the event of an unexpected early release of students for non-weather related reasons, students must take school transportation home. Therefore, parents must have an emergency plan in place for their children.

FERPA

The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) (20 U.S.C. § 1232g; 34 CFR Part 99) is a Federal law that protects the privacy of student education records. The law applies to all schools that receive funds under an applicable program of the U.S. Department of Education. FERPA gives parents certain rights concerning their children's education records. Additional information can be found [here](#).

Photographs for Publication

During the school year, special events are covered by the local news media for publication purposes. Students may be photographed during these events, and photographs may be printed in local newspapers, district bulletins, or on the district website. To opt your child out of any photographs for publication, please [click here](#) and follow the directions to complete the form.

Dignity for All Students Act

In accordance with the **Dignity for All Students Act**, School District policy and practice must ensure that no student is subject to discrimination or harassment, based on a person's actual or perceived race, color, weight, national origin, ethnic group, religion, religious practice, disability, sexual orientation, gender/gender identity or sex by school employees or students on school property, on a school bus, or at a school function.

Mr. Carpanzano is the DASA Coordinator for Wells Middle School.

School Property means in or within any building, structure, athletic playing field, playground, parking lot, or land contained within the real property boundary line of a public elementary or secondary school; or in or on a school bus (Education Law Section 11[1]).

School Bus means every motor vehicle owned and operated for the transportation of pupils, children of pupils, teachers and other persons acting in a supervisory capacity, to or from school or school activities, or, privately owned and operated for compensation for the transportation of pupils, children of pupils, teachers and other

persons acting in a supervisory capacity to or from school or school activities (Education Law Section 11[1] and Vehicle and Traffic Law Section 142).

School Function means a school-sponsored extracurricular event or activity (Education Law Section 11[2]).

Disability means (a) a physical, mental, or medical impairment resulting from anatomical, physiological, genetic or neurological conditions which prevent the exercise of a normal bodily function or is demonstrable by medically accepted clinical or laboratory diagnostic techniques or (b) a record of such an impairment or (c) a condition regarded by others as such an impairment, provided, however, that in all provisions of this article dealing with employment, the term must be limited to disabilities which, upon the provision of reasonable accommodations, do not prevent the complainant from performing in a reasonable manner the activities involved in the job or occupation sought or held (Education Law Section 11[4] and Executive Law Section 292[21]).

Employee means any person receiving compensation from a school district or employee of a contracted service provider or worker placed within the school under a public assistance employment program, pursuant to title nine B of article five of the Social Services Law, and consistent with the provisions of such title for the provision of services to such district, its students or employees, directly or through the contract, whereby such services performed by such person involve direct student contact (Education Law Section s11[4] and 1125[3]).

Sexual Orientation means actual or perceived heterosexuality, homosexuality, or bisexuality (Education Law Section 11[5]).

Gender means actual or perceived sex and includes a person's gender identity or expression (Education Law Section 11[6]).

Under the Dignity Act, there are currently 11 protected classes, groups or characteristics.

1. **Harassment** means the creation of a hostile environment by conduct or by verbal threats intimidation or abuse that has or would have the effect of unreasonably and substantially interfering with a student's educational performance, opportunities or benefits, or mental, emotional or physical well-being; or conduct, verbal threats, intimidation or abuse that reasonably causes or would reasonably be expected to cause a student to fear for his or her physical safety; such conduct, verbal threats, intimidation or abuse based on a person's actual or perceived race, color, weight, national origin, ethnic group, religion, religious practice, disability, sexual orientation, gender or sex (Education Law Section 11[7]).
2. **Race** means a group of persons related by common descent or heredity. For purposes of enumeration, the U.S. Census Bureau uses terms such as "White/Caucasian", "Black/African American/African-descent", "Asian", "Bi-Racial", "Hispanics/Latinos" etc. to describe and classify the inhabitants of the United States.
3. **Color** means the term refers to the apparent pigmentation of the skin, especially as an indication or possible indication of race.
4. **Weight** means aside from the obvious meaning in the physical sciences, the word is used about a person's "size".
5. **National Origin** means a person's country of birth or ancestor's country of birth.

6. **Ethnic Group** means a group of people who identify with each other through a common heritage, including language, culture, and often a shared or common religion and or ideology that stresses ancestry.
7. **Religion** means specific fundamental beliefs and practices generally agreed to by large numbers of the group or a body of persons adhering to a particular set of beliefs and practices.
8. **Religious Practice** means a term including practices and observances such as attending worship services, wearing religious garb or symbols, praying at prescribed times, displaying religious objects, adhering to certain dietary rules, refraining from certain activities, proselytizing, etc.
9. **Sex** means the biological and physiological characteristics that define men and women (MALE and FEMALE denote “sex”).)
10. **Gender** refers to the socially constructed roles, behaviors, activities and attributes that a given society considers appropriate for men and women. (MASCULINE and FEMININE denote “gender”).)
11. **Sexual orientation** means the sex to which a person is sexually attracted. Someone attracted primarily or exclusively to members of the opposite sex is characterized as straight or heterosexual. Someone attracted primarily or exclusively to members of the same sex is characterized as homosexual. A person with a strong or viable attraction to both genders is characterized as bisexual or pansexual.
Refer to policy #5311.4

In 2019, the Dignity for All Students Act, or DASA, was amended by the CROWN Act to add the definition of race that includes traits such as hair texture and protective hairstyles such as locs, braids, and twists in order to protect students’ access to their public education regardless of how they choose to wear/style their hair. The CROWN Act, which stands for Creating a Respectful and Open World for Natural Hair, prohibits racial discrimination based on hair texture and protective hairstyles. While DASA already protects the right of all students to learn in schools free of discrimination, harassment, and bullying, it is now clarified that those rights include self-expression through hairstyle.

Basic Principles Regarding Student Investigations

Parental permission is not required for school administrators to meet with a student regarding a discipline issue. Under District policy, school officials may investigate school policy or Code of Conduct violations or other school disciplinary matters (See, Policy No. 5310).

There is no requirement school personnel provide a student with a “Miranda” type warning before questioning advising the student of the consequences of answering questions (See, Pollnow v. Glennon, 757 F.2d 496 [2d Cir. 1985]).

The District is required to investigate claims of harassment (e.g. based on race, disability or sexual harassment) under federal law and District policy (See, Policy No. 5311.4, Dignity for All Students Act.)

School officials should not allow police to enter the school building to interview students or use school facilities in connection with police department work, unless they have a warrant [See, Opinion of Counsel, 1 E.D.R. 800 (1959)]. In cases where the police have a warrant, the school will attempt to reach the parents.

Use of Surveillance Cameras in the District and on School Buses

(Refer to Policy #5684)

It is the Board's responsibility to ensure the safety of the District's students, staff, facilities, and property. While the Board recognizes the importance of privacy, it has authorized the use of surveillance cameras on District property including in school buildings, school facilities, as well as on school buses, when necessary. These surveillance cameras will help to assist the Board in maintaining the overall safety and welfare of the District's students, staff, property, and visitors, as well as to deter theft, violence, and other criminal activities.

Further, surveillance cameras will only be placed in public or common areas, such as stairwells, hallways, cafeterias, parking lots, or playgrounds, and not in private areas such as locker rooms, bathrooms, or other areas in which individuals have a reasonable expectation of privacy. Audio recordings will not be utilized by the District officials in accordance with their official duties or as otherwise authorized by law.

Disciplinary Proceedings

Video recordings or footage from District surveillance cameras may be used in student or employee disciplinary proceedings, as appropriate.

Signage/Notification

The District will place signage at entrances to the school campus or major entrances into school buildings notifying students, staff, as well as visitors of the District's use of surveillance cameras. Students and staff will also receive an additional notification, as deemed appropriate by the Superintendent, regarding the use of its surveillance cameras through means such as publication in the District calendar, employee handbook, and/or student handbook.

Maintenance of Video Recordings

Any video surveillance recordings in the schools, on school buses, or school property, on tape, CD, or digitally will be the sole property of the District and stored in its original form and a secure location to avoid tampering and also to ensure its confidentiality in accordance with relevant law and regulations.

Also, to the extent that any video images create student or personnel records, the District will comply with all applicable state and federal laws related to record retention, record maintenance, and record disclosure, including the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act ("FERPA").

Student Expectations

These student expectations define individual responsibilities, identify ways responsible behavior is recognized, describe unacceptable behavior and provide for behavior interventions.

Student Responsibilities

Throughout every school day, it is the responsibility of each student to assume the following to ensure the best education possible and ensure an appropriate, caring and safe environment that respects the rights of all individuals learning and working in the school community.

Those responsibilities are:

- Accept responsibility for his/her actions
- Attend school on a regular and punctual basis
- Be familiar with these student expectations and the Henry H. Wells Student Handbook Guidelines
- Complete class assignments and other school responsibilities by established deadlines
- Complete the course of study prescribed by the state and local school authorities
- Contribute toward establishing and maintaining an atmosphere that generates mutual respect and dignity for all
- Follow school regulations and rules made by school authorities
- Respect school property and the personal property of others and help to keep such property free from damage and theft
- Respect the rights of others; students and adults, regardless of titles

Each of us should make good choices and consistently strive to be respectful, thoughtful and courteous. At morning arrival, during classes, assemblies, lunch/recess/HW Labs, in hallways, dismissal, during classes, and on the bus, all students are expected to act responsibly.

Recognizing Responsible Behavior

H. H. Wells Middle School takes time to recognize those students who contribute to the positive atmosphere of our school community. Students of this character are recognized in the following ways:

- Good News Cards
- Honor/High Honor Roll
- Monthly Recognitions at grade-level meetings
- Moving Up/Awards Ceremony
- National Junior Honor Society
- PBIS Bear Bucks Reward System
- Scholars Program
- Students of the Quarter (Overall, Profile of a Learner, Writer, Physical Education, Artist, Technology, Foreign Language, Instrumentalist, Orchestra, Vocalist, General Music,)

Unacceptable Behaviors

The following are examples of unacceptable behaviors at the H. H. Wells Middle School. This list is certainly not comprehensive, nor does it represent all behaviors that may be considered unacceptable. School property is defined as bus transportation to and from school, school grounds, after school activities, sports, and events.

- Bullying/Cyberbullying including DASA infractions
- Cheating/plagiarism/academic dishonesty
- Defiance, profanity or obscenity
- Destroying school property
- Endangering the safety and well-being of yourself and/or others
- Fighting
- General misconduct and/or insubordination
- Harassment or intimidation (verbal, physical and/or sexual) of other students or adults including DASA infractions
- Inappropriate display of affection
- Inappropriate or disrespectful behavior towards peers or adults
- Inappropriate use of cell phone, iPod, iPad, and/or any electronic device
- Leaving school grounds without permission, including before/after school hours while participating in an extracurricular activity
- Possession/distribution/under the influence of drugs/alcohol/other illegal substance
- Possession of a weapon. This is state law. Possession of a knife or other weapon, regardless of the size of the weapon or the intent of the student, will result in up to a five-day out-of-school principal's suspension and a Superintendent's Hearing.
- Possession of dangerous instrument
- Possession of an outside animal alive or dead is strictly prohibited
- Presence in unauthorized or unsupervised areas
- Recording, storing or transmitting images of students and/or staff is prohibited, including any other online activity regarding a student or staff member
- Serious disruptive behavior which impedes the teaching/learning process for others
- Use of racial or ethnic comments, or inappropriate sexual comments (DASA, Title VI, Title IX)

General Expectations

After School & Evening Events

Several times during the school year events will be held and chaperoned by teachers and/or administration. When at a school-sponsored event, students are a representation of our school and therefore are expected to observe all normal school day rules, showing courtesy and respect towards others. Transportation should be arranged with the parent/guardian before the event. All students need to be aware of the start and end times for events held at school. A parent/guardian needs to be available to pick up students at the designated times. Students may not attend sporting events unless they are accompanied by an adult, a teacher, a parent, or a guardian. Also, to attend any school event, you must be present in school for a full five (5) periods.

Backpacks, Shoulder Bags, Purses

Students will be given a locker this year. Students are expected to use the locker that has been assigned to them. Students will go to their lockers in between 8th & 9th periods to get their belongings for dismissal. Students will bring their belongings to their 9th period classes. At the end of 9th period, they will be dismissed by grade level and will go directly to their bus assignment or parent pick-up.

Bicycles and Skateboards

Students are not allowed to bring bicycles, skateboards, or scooters to school. The use of these items will not be permitted on school property.

Computer Use in Instruction (Responsible Use Policy)

The Brewster Central School District is committed to optimizing student learning and teaching. The district considers student access to digital learning resources, including the Internet, to be a powerful and valuable educational and research tool, and encourages the use of computers and other web-enabled technology in district classrooms to advance and promote learning, student engagement, and teaching.

Digital learning resources can provide a powerful forum for learning and the use of software applications, online databases, collaborative tools, and other web-based forums can significantly enhance learning experiences and provide global communication opportunities for staff and students.

The Director of Technology and Innovation shall establish [regulations governing the use and security of the district's computer network](#). All users of the district's computer network and equipment shall comply with this policy and those regulations linked above. Failure to comply may result in disciplinary action as well as suspension and/or revocation of computer access privileges

Dances

Students who do not attend H. H. Wells Middle School will not be permitted to attend school dances. All school rules and student expectations are in effect during the dance. An appropriate school dress should be maintained. Students should be picked up immediately after the dance. Students must be in attendance at least 5 full periods the day of the dance to attend.

Dress Code

Wells is committed to providing its students with a safe, welcoming, and affirming learning environment. Attire is not only a reflection of the individual student but also the general learning environment. Therefore, students are responsible for wearing clothing that projects a positive attitude of pride in self and school. Students' dress, grooming, and appearance shall be safe and appropriate and not disrupt or interfere with the education process. Building administrators have the final decision regarding the appropriateness of all clothing and attire. To establish this climate, the following are not acceptable at school or school-sponsored activities:

- Any clothing or item that is: a put-down to self and/or others, sexually demeaning in terms of pictures or words or numbers, containing sexual innuendo, or clothing that communicates violent messages or images. This includes offensive language or images that promote hate speech, racism, vulgarities, threats, and defamatory language.
- Any clothing that promotes or endorses alcohol, tobacco, marijuana, or illegal drugs.
- Clothing that inappropriately exposes private areas, including undergarments (excluding bra straps) and see-through or strapless garments.
- No midriffs above the belly button. Students' backs must not be exposed.
- Hats are allowed except during the pledge, in the auditorium, and during local and state assessments. Head coverings are allowed for health, safety, or religious reasons.
- No hoods. Hoodies are permitted, but students cannot wear their hoods up.
- No pants that sag below the hips.
- No face paint is allowed during school hours unless approved by an administrator for a specific event. This includes tar face paint.

If a student comes to school inappropriately dressed, their parent/guardian will be called and requested to bring an appropriate dress to school or to take the student home.

Energy Drinks

Energy drinks are not allowed at Wells Middle School. If a student is found with an energy drink, they will be asked to throw it out.

Gum Chewing

Careful disposal of gum is required and gum chewing is at the discretion of the classroom teacher.

Hallway

Students are expected to walk to and from class and stay to the right side of the hallways. Students are asked to be courteous and polite while traveling through the building. Running and other hazardous behavior in a busy school hallway creates a danger to personal safety and is not permitted.

Electronic Devices

Students will be allowed to bring electronic devices to school for project/curriculum based purposes that have been identified by their teacher. Teachers will notify the main office when they have requested students to bring

iPods for the above purpose. Headphones, earbuds and AirPods are not to be worn in the hallways or on school grounds at any time.

Leaving School Grounds

Under no circumstances are students allowed to leave the school property to go across the street to the deli before, during, or after school. It is dangerous and it is against school rules. Students found crossing the street will be assigned a disciplinary consequence.

Lost and Found

Clothing, books, jewelry and other items turned in to the main office will be kept in the lost and found location outside the auditorium. Items not claimed are donated to a charitable organization.

E-Hall Pass

Students are expected to use an E-Hall pass when leaving during the class period. No student will be permitted to go to the nurse, main office, guidance office, or other location without having filled out an E-Hall Pass. If a student is going to a classroom for lunch, it is expected that the teacher will fill out an appointment pass for the student. Please check your E-Hall Pass profile every morning to see if you have any appointments with the nurse, main office, guidance office, teacher, etc.

Personal Property Reimbursement

The Board of Education of the Brewster Central School District, Brewster, New York, presents and endorses the following policy:

No student, visitor, parent/guardian, or any other non-employee of the district will be reimbursed for lost, stolen, or damaged personal property brought on the school premises for any purpose. Personal effects brought in by students and other parties who are not employed by the district may include but are not limited to, clothing, jewelry, sports equipment, musical instruments, electronics, and other items used in the educational curriculum or recreational activities of third parties not employed by the district which are brought on the district premises for any purpose.

The district will not reimburse students or other non-employees for the cost of replacing or repairing dental work, eyeglasses, hearing aids, or other prosthetic devices which are destroyed or lost as a result of injuries sustained during the school day.

Selling for Profit

Students are not permitted to sell items that are not part of a school-sponsored event.

Visitors

As a security measure, all visitors must sign-in/out at the main entrance to the building located off of Route 312 and wear a visitor pass. Student visitors are not allowed in the school building during the school day, this includes dismissal. Under no circumstances is anyone permitted to open a door for another person.

Code of Conduct - August 2026

Our District Code of Conduct is a document that consists of procedures around the safety and security of all students, visitors and personnel. Please read it thoroughly.

Designated Eating Areas

Designated eating areas are public eating spaces and students are expected to behave in a manner which demonstrates the high quality of their table manners and their respect for other students.

- All students must report to their designated eating area promptly at the beginning of their regularly assigned lunchtimes.
- Cell phones are not to be utilized in the school cafeteria. Students can use their Chromebooks after they have eaten or during indoor recess.
- Each student is responsible for the cleanliness of the table/desk at which they sit. All garbage must be removed before leaving the designated eating area.
- Food may not be removed from the designated eating area unless the student is scheduled to meet with a teacher.
- Students are not permitted to leave the school building to purchase or eat lunch.
- Students may bring lunch from home or purchase it at the school cafeteria.
- Plastic water bottles with caps are permitted to be carried out of the cafeteria and kept in student lockers.

Recess Norms & Expectations

Recess is a time for you to enjoy with your friends and have downtime from your academics. We encourage you to socialize with your peers but you must remember to do this in a safe and healthy environment. Please review the norms and expectations below for recess.

- Recess is a time for you to reconnect with your friends.
- During recess, you are expected to listen to the adults around you.
- During recess chromebooks, speakers, and cell phones are not allowed. You may use your Chromebook during indoor recess.
- You have access to recess equipment that you can play with.
- You can wear your hoods outside but not inside.
- You are allowed to sit on the rocks, but no one is allowed on the hill.
- You are not to bring equipment outside that can compromise the safety of others. (Ex. hard baseballs)

Cell Phone Policy

*In alignment with [N.Y. Education Law 2803](#) and [Board Policy 7316](#), the use of **cell phones and other personal electronic devices** by students is **prohibited during the instructional day**, including during lunch, recess, and hallway transitions.*

1. **Prohibited Use During School Hours:** The use of cell phones is strictly prohibited on school grounds during the instructional day. **Devices must be turned off, out of sight, and stored in lockers.** This includes before school, in hallways, and during lunch periods.
2. **Permitted Use (Limited):** Responsible use of cell phones and other personal devices is permitted on the bus to and from school, and during athletic and after-school activities.
3. **Listening Devices:** Airpods and other listening devices are prohibited unless a staff member explicitly allows their use.
4. **Emergency Calls:** In case of an emergency, students should request permission to use an office phone in the main office.
5. **Disciplinary Actions:** Cell phone use in the educational environment will result in disciplinary action. This also includes, but is not limited to, instances of cheating, bullying, harassment, unlawful recording or photographing, and other violations of school rules.
6. **Personal Responsibility:** The school and its staff are not responsible for any damage to or theft of students' cell phones, AirPods, smartwatches, other electronic devices, or their accessories. Students are solely responsible for properly securing and caring for their own devices.

Scaffolded Consequences

If students violate the school's cell phone policy, the following may occur:

- **First Tier:** The child will be asked to turn in their cell phone to the main office for the rest of the school day. Parents will be contacted by phone and in writing.
- **Second Tier:** The child's cell phone will be collected at the beginning of each day and can be picked up after school in the main office until further notice. Parents will be contacted by phone and in writing.
- **Third Tier:** If a student's cell phone is confiscated a third time, it will be held in the main office until a parent retrieves it. A mandatory parent meeting will be scheduled to discuss the student's cell phone use at school.
- **Fourth Tier:** If a student's cell phone is confiscated a fourth time, it will be held in the main office until a parent retrieves it. This action will also lead to more serious consequences, including but not limited to, lunch detention, after-school detention, in-school suspension, or out-of-school suspension.

Policy Enforcement Considerations

- If a student refuses to hand their phone over, teachers will call the Main Office for an administrator to come to the classroom to speak with the student.
- The hallway is a shared space. If a student uses their phone in the hallway, a teacher will ask the student to put the phone away. If students do not comply, the teacher will write up a referral and the Main Office will process it.
- The administration reserves the right to adjust these consequences on a case-by-case basis if needed. For example, extreme behaviors that break the law or engage in bullying or harassment of other students

may result in higher-level consequences. The administration will continue to review policies at grade-level meetings.

Exceptions for Specific Purposes

Use of internet-enabled devices must be permitted where included in a student's Individualized Education Program, Section 504 Plan or where required by law. Additionally, student use of otherwise prohibited devices during the school day on school grounds may be permitted:

- if authorized by a teacher, principal, superintendent, or other personnel designated by the Superintendent for a specific educational purpose;
- where necessary for the management of a student's healthcare;
- in the event of an emergency, as determined by teachers or administrators; or
- for translation services.

Behavior Interventions

In general, discipline will be progressive; a second violation will merit more severe consequences than the first, and so on. Administration reserves the right to take the most severe action in the first event of serious misconduct and/or to notify appropriate law enforcement agencies if a student is suspected of engaging in conduct which would constitute a crime. The following guidelines regarding student behavior are designed to address student conduct in general and are certainly not comprehensive, nor do they represent the "final word" on all discipline issues.

The ranges of behavior interventions for violations of these expectations which may be imposed include the following:

- | | |
|--|---|
| ● Verbal/Written warning | ● Referral to our Multi-Tiered Support System |
| ● Verbal/written notification to parent/guardian | ● Mediated Conflict Resolution Conference |
| ● Teacher-Student conference | ● Restorative Practice |
| ● Parent/Guardian conference | ● Check-in with School Building Staff |
| ● Confiscation | ● Mentoring |
| ● Restitution Plan | ● The DEN |
| ● Loss of privileges including Recess | ● Alternative Learning Center - In School Suspension |
| ● Cover-up, replacement of offending clothing | ● Suspension from school for up to (5) five school days |
| ● Removal from classroom | ● Suspension from school over (5) five school days |
| ● Suspension from transportation | ● Superintendent/Principal Hearing |
| ● Suspension from athletic participation | |
| ● Suspension from social, extra-curricular, or other school-related activities including Field Trips | |

Administrative Detention

Administrative detentions most often result in the removal from the Cafe and/or Recess privilege or an after school detention.

Classroom Removals

A student who is removed from their class will report to The Den for 8-10 minutes in order to redirect, refocus and rejoin their learning environment. If a student is disrupting the classroom environment to the point that the learning process of others is interrupted, the teacher should call an administrator to the classroom to remove the student. The student will meet with the administrator and possibly the school counselor. A consequence may be issued depending on the situation. The administrator will work with the teacher regarding parent outreach.

Alternative Learning Center (ALC)- In School Suspension Guidelines

Only an administrator or the Dean of Students will assign a student to ISS. The main office will promptly notify teachers that a student has been assigned to ISS. Teachers should then gather any necessary class assignments and send them to the main office if they know ahead of time that a student will be in ISS. If a student is assigned to ISS during the day, staff members will be promptly notified and gather class assignments when time allows. Assignments should be sent directly to the ISS room or the main office, depending on when the ISS is issued.

All students who have ISS will report to the Assistant Principal's office by 7:40 AM to review the ISS guidelines & expectations. The student will then be escorted to his/her locker to gather textbooks, paper, pen, pencil, and other materials needed to complete assignments that teachers have left for them. These items will remain in the ISS room throughout the duration of the student's stay in ISS. All students will have assigned seating and keep the area clean and graffiti-free. Defacing cubicles, desks, and/or walls will not be tolerated. A student who is tardy, absent, or does not complete the daily work for any reason will be assigned additional time in ISS. Students placed in the ISS room will be excluded from participation in assemblies and after-school activities such as clubs or sports practices/games. Outreach may be done to advisors/coaches to support and guide the student toward better decision-making skills. Medication of any kind will be administered by the school nurse in the nurse's office.

Upon arrival to ISS the first time, students will receive a detailed student orientation for the purpose of clearly communicating the ISS guidelines, consequences for non-compliance, and establishing clear expectations while assigned to ISS. Returning students will be given a review/re-teach of these rules.

Breakfast: Students can pick up their breakfast from the CVS cafeteria between 7:20 AM & 7:35 AM.

Lunch: The adult assigned to ISS during period six will bring all students in ISS down to the cafeteria. The students will cut the line so they can get their lunch quickly and return to the ALC room to eat. They will not be allowed to visit or have any physical contact during lunch, and the assigned adult should supervise them while on the lunch line.

Student Expectations

1. Students will always stay on task and follow the In-School Suspension Schedule/Guidelines. The student must remain seated, quiet, awake, and working on daily assignments. Sleeping is prohibited. No physical contact of any kind between students. Students may read a book or magazine if they finish their schoolwork.
2. Chromebooks are to be used to complete assignments only. Once students finish their assignments, they must put their Chromebooks away. Computer games will not be permitted in ISS on any device.

Students may read a book or magazine once they finish their assignments. Students who should have an assignment that requires computer use will obey the policies outlined in the student Responsible Use of Technology Policy set forth by the District.

3. The student is expected to complete each day's assignments for every class according to the directions given. The ISS supervisor will check that work is completed accurately and acceptably. No credit will be given for incomplete work. Teachers who assign this work will be responsible for grading it.
4. The student will be required to write a one-page summary and/or complete a Reflection Sheet on why he/she was issued ISS and include a positive resolution for the behavior. The summary/Reflection Sheet should also include what can be done in the future to change the behavior. A copy of this will be placed in the student's folder and will also be sent home to the parent/guardian. The student will have a follow up meeting with the Dean of Students about their reflection and next steps forward.
5. The student must ask permission to go to the bathroom. The student should fill out an E-Hall Pass for this.
6. No food or drinks allowed (except bottled water) unless it is during the scheduled lunch break.
7. The student must serve all assigned days in ISS in order to qualify for release and return to regular classes.
8. Respect for others must be shown at all times. No foul language, disruptive behavior, or physical contact between students at any time.
9. Students will be dismissed from ISS at 2:40 pm.
10. All regular school rules apply as outlined in the Student Handbook and Code of Conduct.

Out-of-School Suspension

Out-of-School Suspension is reserved for those acts that the administration deems most serious and/or threatening to the health, welfare, and/or safety of students at Wells. A student who is suspended from school is not permitted to be on school grounds or to participate in any extracurricular activities for the full days and evenings of the suspension, i.e. school dances, sporting events, concerts, assemblies, etc.

Principal's Hearing

A student who commits a serious offense or who is the subject of repetitive referrals may be required to appear at a Principal's Hearing. The purpose of this hearing is to state clearly to the student and the parent/guardian the seriousness of the offense and what the course of action will be if the infractions continue.

Superintendent's Hearing

A student who commits a very serious offense or who is the subject of repetitive referrals may be required to appear at a Superintendent's Hearing. The purpose of this hearing is to determine whether the student body and the individual student can be better served by an extended suspension beyond that of five days. The student and his/her parent/guardian may be represented by an attorney at this hearing. Violent behavior, theft, and the possession of drugs or alcohol are among some of them, but not the only, very serious offenses which may lead to Superintendent's Hearings.

Transportation

Board of Education Bus Conduct Policy

The behavior of students on buses of the Brewster Central School District is a matter of major importance since the health and welfare of the students are jeopardized when behavior is not appropriate. The students, parents/guardians, administrators, and transportation staff will work together to establish and maintain consistent procedures that result in appropriate behavior on buses and effective resolution of inappropriate behavior. Students are expected to follow the same rules and regulations for appropriate and safe behavior on the bus as they would within the school.

Inappropriate Bus Behavior Consequences

Students who do not follow bus rules or the instructions of bus personnel will be subject to disciplinary action. The school administrator(s) will assess the action in conjunction with the Transportation Department referral and assign a suitable consequence.

Bus Passes

Students transported to school by bus must have parent/guardian written permission if they wish to return home by some other means, travel on another bus, or be discharged at other than their designated bus stop. The written permission must be submitted to the front desk before or during the first period. The necessary bus pass is to be picked up at the front desk before lunch/recess. Bus passes will be issued only in *cases of emergency at administrative discretion.* Any questions or problems related to buses or transportation should be referred to the office of the Transportation Supervisor, (845) 279-4700.

Activity Buses

Activity buses depart from the middle school at approximately 3:30 p.m. Activity bus lists are posted in the main office/cafeteria. You can confirm your child's activity bus number by calling the Transportation Department at (845) 279-4700. Students taking the activity buses must remain on campus. Middle school students are not allowed to leave the school campus and return to school to board activity buses.

Please note: Students may **not** walk over to BHS. We provide shuttle buses to BHS for students participating in athletic teams **only**. The shuttle buses are not for spectators.

Walkers

A student walking to and from school is strongly discouraged. Nevertheless, students who need to walk must present a note to the main office from a parent/guardian permitting them to do so at the start of the school year. They may walk to/from their primary residence or after school child care only.

Academics

Wells Grading Policy

Grading Weight

Henry H. Wells Middle School utilizes a consistent grading system across all content areas. Student grades are calculated using a weighted grading system consisting of 60% formative assessments and 40% summative assessments. Formative assessments measure student progress throughout the learning process and may include classwork, homework, quizzes, practice activities, and drafts. Summative assessments measure student mastery of learning standards and may include tests, projects, performance tasks, labs, presentations, and major writing assignments. Teachers will communicate course-specific expectations at the beginning of the school year.

Homework Guidelines

Wells Middle School has developed the following homework guidelines for teachers, parents/guardians, and students. Homework is assigned to review the material presented, to prepare for the next day's classes, to extend learning, and to help students develop habits of independent work and study. Some of the most valuable work by students is completed on their own at home. Daily homework assigned for next-day review must be completed on time and will not be accepted after it has been reviewed in class. Long-term assignments, such as projects, labs, and writing assignments, may be submitted late; however, formative credit may be reduced according to department guidelines while students may still earn full summative credit by demonstrating mastery of the learning standards.

Teacher Responsibilities

- Be clear about what is required for homework and what the criteria are for evaluating the completed work. The teacher should assign relevant homework assignments that either reinforce or expand the work done in the classroom.
- Inform a parent/guardian if homework is consistently not completed.
- Provide students with feedback on homework assignments.

Student Responsibilities

- Homework is completed to the best of their ability and on time.
- Provide quality products.
- Make the teacher and/or the parent/guardian aware of any difficulties.
- Obtain missed classwork due to absences.

Parent/Guardian Responsibilities

- Provide an environment that facilitates effective homework/study time.
- Model an attitude that supports the importance of homework, including reviewing progress reports and report cards.
- Communicate with school personnel as concerns develop.
- Homework is assigned daily. If you have any concerns regarding the regularity of homework, please contact your child's teacher.

Wells Grading Policy cont'd

Absences and Make-Up Work

Students are responsible for making up all work missed during an absence. As a guideline, students will be given one day to complete missed work for each day absent. Students should check Google Classroom, communicate with their teachers regarding missed assignments, and return prepared to participate in class. Students who miss class for school-sponsored activities, such as music lessons, are expected to submit missed work the following school day unless otherwise directed by the teacher.

Reassessments

Reassessments are not permitted. Grades are intended to reflect a student's demonstrated level of understanding at the time of assessment.

Academic Integrity

Students are expected to complete all work honestly and independently unless otherwise directed by the teacher. Cheating, plagiarism, copying another student's work, or the unauthorized use of technology, including artificial intelligence (AI), is considered academic dishonesty and will result in a grade of zero on the assignment or assessment.

Extra Credit

Extra credit may be incorporated into an assignment or assessment when available to all students. Individual extra credit assignments will not be offered for the purpose of improving grades.

Incomplete

A student has two weeks after the close of the marking period, to make up incomplete grades.

Academic Eligibility for 8th Grade Events

Please note that a failure of two or more classes will result in students not being able to participate in the 8th Grade end-of-the-year activities, which include the Moving Up Ceremony.

Honor Roll

The Middle School presents recognition for outstanding achievement in two forms: high honor roll and honor roll. Grades will not be rounded up.

To achieve high honor roll status students need to achieve the following:

- A term G.P.A. of 93.000 or above
- All grades on the quarterly report card of 74.000 or above*

To achieve honor roll status students need to achieve the following:

- A term GPA of 88.000 – 92.999
- All grades on the quarterly report card of 74.000 or above*

*A grade of 73.000 or below or “F” on a quarterly report card will exclude a student from both honor rolls.

Textbooks

Students are responsible for all books assigned and will be expected to pay for lost or damaged books including those reported as “stolen.” Be certain that the student’s name, homeroom, and subject teacher appear on the inside cover of each book. Textbooks are to be covered at all times.

Parent Portal

The Infinite Campus Parent Portal is a secure web-based information resource where parents/guardians may view their child's contact information, attendance records, class schedule and grades. Currently, the Parent Portal is only available for students enrolled in the high school and middle school.

Parents/guardians must create a User Account to access the Parent Portal. A User Account can only be created after you have received a letter from the Main Office of your child's school with his/her unique GUID Number. If you have not received a letter, or you forget your User Account information, please email the middle school at msportal@brewsterschools.org.

It is the parent's responsibility to monitor their children’s progress throughout the school year and to contact the teacher when concerns arise.

Report Cards

Report cards will be issued four times a year. The dates for the end of the marking periods are listed in the district calendar. Report cards will be mailed home approximately ten days after these dates.

Parent/Guardian Conferences

Parent/Guardian conferences can be requested by either a parent/guardian and/or teachers by contacting the guidance office at (845) 279-3958. Periodic conferences are encouraged. There will be a parent/guardian/teacher conference after the first marking period. Specific dates will be listed in the district calendar.

Scholars Program

Students who achieve the distinction of maintaining grades that place them on the High Honor Roll for three consecutive marking periods are honored at the Scholars Program held at the end of the school year. Students who achieve High Honor Roll for all quarters in grades 6 and 7 and the first three-quarters of grade 8 will be recognized as Three Year Scholars.

Student of the Quarter Program

Once a quarter (September through June), two students per grade/team will be selected as Wells’ outstanding students and writers of the quarter. Alongside them, two students per team will also be chosen as Profile of a Learner recipients, recognized for demonstrating key characteristics such as Critical Thinker, Creative Innovator & Collaborator, Communicator, Reflective & Future Focused, Civic Engagement, or Curious Scholar. Additionally, one artist, technologist, foreign language student, physical education student, health student, orchestra member, instrumentalist, and vocalist will be selected across all three grade levels. Students may be nominated and selected for academic excellence, good character, or superior effort. In addition to a letter, certificate, and bumper sticker (for Student of the Quarter only), a special celebration will be held in June to honor all of our recipients.

National Junior Honor Society

Eligibility is limited to those eighth-grade students who maintain a 93% or better cumulative average for both sixth and seventh grades. These students are sent an application that must be completed and returned by the deadline stated. Also, applicants must receive three teacher recommendations from current middle school teachers. A committee of teachers, known as the faculty committee, will review each application separately based on a scoring rubric. A majority vote will allow a candidate to be accepted into this organization. The criteria for acceptance are based on scholarship, character, leadership, citizenship and service. Please see the NJHS website for more specifics. Please note that the committee members and their recommendations will remain confidential.

Character:

The student of good character upholds principles of morality and ethics, is cooperative, demonstrates high standards of honesty and reliability, shows courtesy, concern, and respect for others, and generally maintains a good and clean lifestyle.

Citizenship:

The student who demonstrates citizenship understands the importance of civic involvement has high regard for freedom, justice, and democracy, and demonstrates mature participation and responsibility through involvement with such activities as scouting, community organizations, and school clubs.

Leadership:

Student leaders are those who are resourceful, good problem solvers, promoters of school activities, idea-contributors, dependable, and persons who exemplify positive attitudes about life. Leadership experiences can be drawn from school or community activities while working with or for others.

Scholarship:

Students who have a cumulative grade point average of 92 percent or equivalent standard of excellence, meet the scholarship requirement for membership. These students are then eligible for consideration based on service, leadership, and character and citizenship.

Service:

This quality is defined through the voluntary contributions made by a student to the school or community, done without compensation and with a positive, courteous, and enthusiastic spirit.

Student Activities

After-School Help/Clubs/Sport Activities

- All school rules and student expectations are in effect during after-school activities and functions.
- Students are not allowed to stay after to decorate lockers.
- Students can stay after school for extra help when coordinated with a teacher, for a club or sports activity.
- Students that fail a class will be placed on academic probation. While on academic probation students will have to display a strong academic effort in order to continue their participation in athletics.
- Students will be given a bus pass to take the activity bus home.
- Students wishing to attend as a spectator for a sporting event must go home and return later for the event with a parent/guardian. Students who attend after-school activities as a spectator need to be supervised by a parent/guardian.
- Wells Middle School students are not permitted to leave the premises of Brewster Central Schools during after-school events.
- When staying after school, students must be supervised by a staff member.

Activity

Art Club

Gaming Club

Gay/Straight Alliance Club (GSA)

Grade Level Principal's Roundtables

Guitar Club

Homework Club

Jazz Ensemble

Kindness Club

Leadership Club

Marching Band (8th)

Musical Theater Production

National Junior Honor Society (8th)

Nature & Sustainability Club

PBIS Committee

Project U

Sea Dogs

Strings Ensemble

Student Government

Vocal Ensemble

WMS Students Against Cancer

Yearbook

Advisor(s)

TBD

Mr. Fidler

Mrs. Spears & Ms. Abrantes

Mr. Rodriguez

TBD

Mrs. Dima

Mr. Hartigan

Mrs. Biagi & Ms. Guzman-Hamel

Mrs. Gargano & Mrs. Potusek

Mr. Hartigan

Mr. Milici & Mr. Cummins

Mrs. Pryce

Ms. Pace

Ms. Rivera

Mrs. Casiano & Ms. Chacon Muñoz

Master Chief Campbell

Ms. Chetcuti

Mr. Gregorio & Mr. Browne

Mr. Milici

Mrs. Holliday & Mrs. Zyskowski

TBD

Extracurricular Activities

Students are encouraged to participate in extracurricular activities. H. H. Wells Middle School offers a broad range of choices to the students. Below is a list of the activities offered to students for both academic and social support. Please note that some of the activities listed below will be used as an intervention. There are activity buses provided for students who attend these programs. Most of these activities run from 2:40 pm to 3:20 pm.

See the curriculum guide for the activity description for each of the activities listed below.

Field Trips (Grade Level & Class Trips)

Field trips are an important extension of our school curriculum. For students to benefit from these activities, appropriate behavior from all students is necessary. Building administrators reserve the right to prohibit students from attending field trips because of disruptive behavior. Parent/Guardian permission slips will be signed in advance.

Student Government

Student Government is an active organization that seeks to promote a positive environment at the H.H. Wells Middle School. The President, Vice President, Treasurer, Secretary and grade specific Public Relations Officers are elected through a school-wide balloting election.

Monthly meetings include parliamentary procedure, discussion of upcoming events and effective leadership development. Student Council is the heart of all school activities, community service and fundraising. The major goal of the council is to involve the entire student body in the activities of school life and promote leadership skills.

Interscholastic/Modified Athletics

The 7th and 8th-grade middle school athletic program is the student's first experience with an interscholastic athletic organization. This program is structured to encourage students to participate and explore their abilities. For additional information regarding our modified athletic program, please contact the athletic office at (845) 279-5051 x1149. Below is a listing of possible athletic opportunities:

Grade Levels	Fall Sports	Winter Sports	Spring Sports
7 th and 8th-grade students only	Boys Soccer Girls Soccer Cross Country (Co-ed) Girls Field Hockey Girls Volleyball Boys Football Girls Tennis	Girls Basketball Boys Basketball Wrestling Ice Hockey	Track and Field Baseball Softball Boys Lacrosse Girls Lacrosse Boys Tennis

Student Services

Guidance

The middle school guidance counselors are available to all students. Appointments can be made by students requesting a pass from their teacher, office personnel, or the counselor. Working together with both teachers and administrators, guidance counselors encourage students' academic and personal growth. Counselors can be contacted at (845) 279-3958. The following services are provided:

- Academic advisement and programming
- Career exploration
- Consultant and resource person
- Group counseling
- Individual counseling
- Liaison between school, family & community
- Conflict Resolution conference

Library

A middle school library is a place where students and teachers can come for information and recreational reading materials. The library has a variety of information sources, including books, reference books, and online services. All of these materials are for the use of the entire school and must be treated properly and carefully. If there is any question as to the proper use of any materials in the library, see the librarian.

Any material borrowed from the library must be returned at or before the end of the loan period (usually two weeks; overnight for reference materials). Parents are responsible to replace or pay for any missing library books. Students who visit the library should have a pass from a subject teacher for research, a tutorial teacher for shorter visits, or a cafeteria aide for a lunch visit.

Lockers

Students will be assigned a school locker and lock for their school locker. A gym locker will be assigned to each student for physical education. Each student must provide their gym lock and give their P.E. teacher the combination or key.

Students are expected to use the locker that has been assigned to them and use them throughout the day to get their materials for their different classes. Students will go to their lockers in between 8th & 9th periods to get their belongings for dismissal. Students will bring their belongings to their 9th period classes. At the end of 9th period, they will be dismissed by grade level and will go directly to their assigned bus or parent pick-up.

If a student has a problem with an assigned lock or locker or if the lock is missing, it is his/her responsibility to bring it to the attention of the Guidance Office. It is each student's responsibility to have his/her assigned locker locked at all times. It is also the student's responsibility to pay for a replacement lock. The cost is \$5.00. Valuables should not be left in lockers as the school is not responsible for anything lost or stolen, including books, clothing, or personal belongings.

Switching lockers, without the permission of an administrator, may result in disciplinary actions. Please do not share your locker combination, even with your best friend. This is personal information. Random locker checks may be performed throughout the school year to verify that students are occupying the locker assigned to them. “Lockers, desks, and other storage spaces remain the exclusive property of the school, and students have no expectation of privacy with respect to these areas.” (New York State School Law 12:62-63)

Numbers for Special Needs

Alcohol Abuse Hotline	1-800-225-4646
Arbor House/Run-Away Hotline (24 hours)	845-278-4486
CPS – Child Protective Services	845-342-3720/800-342-3720
Family Violence Hotline	1-800-942-6906
Narcotics Anonymous	212-929-7300
Putnam County Crisis Hotline (24/7)	845-225-1222
Putnam County Youth Services	845-808-1600
Putnam Family and Community Services	845-225-2700
Sheriff’s Department	845-225-4300
Substance Abuse	1-877-8HOPENY
Y.E.S Office	845-279-5051 ext. 1136

School Nurse

The school nurse is available to assist students with health and medical issues. Please contact your school nurse when needed for assistance. The nurse is responsible for first aid care of school children that are injured or become ill while under school supervision. All accidents that occur in the school building, on school property, or at any school-sponsored activity must be reported to the nurse immediately. The nurse may be reached at (845) 279-3702, ext. 2128.

First aid is a treatment that attempts to protect the life and comfort of a student until authorized treatment is secured. It is limited to first aid treatment only, following which the student is to be placed under the care of his/her parent/guardian, upon whom rests the responsibility for subsequent treatment.

All medications (including over-the-counter medications) must be brought to the school nurse’s office. New York State law requires written order from the student’s physician and written permission from the parent/guardian before the school nurse, or designated supervising personnel, can give medications to students. All medication is kept in the nurse’s office unless the student has permission from the physician or nurse to carry it.

[Bell Schedule](#)

Please use the bell schedule as a guide when picking up your son/daughter for appointments. Following the class schedule will allow for fewer disruptions to their learning and support the learning of others. Please click the link to see the regular bell schedule and other schedules that pertain to delays or special events at Wells.

Student Confirmation of Receipt of Wells Middle School 2026-2027 Student Handbook:

I confirm that I am in receipt of the Wells Middle School 2026 - 2027 Student Handbook and that I have read it in its entirety.

[26-27 Student Handbook Confirmation Link](#)

Parent Confirmation of Receipt of Wells Middle School 2026-2027 Student Handbook:

To simplify the updating of contact information and the sharing of annual required notices, we are now using a new feature of the Parent Portal in Infinite Campus. We are asking every family to verify their contact information, including emergency contact details, directly within the parent portal. This is also where you will be asked to update any information for your child and **acknowledge receipt of the Student Handbook** and our required annual notices.

You can find this process under the "Online Registration & Verifications" tab in the parent portal. We anticipate this will take approximately 5 minutes to complete and will ensure we have accurate contact information for each family, allowing us to quickly reach you in case of an emergency. Thank you for your cooperation with this new workflow.