



**STUDENT
HANDBOOK
2026-2027**

Principal
Mr. John Beltrante

Assistant Principals
Mr. Christian Jaspersen, Mrs. Stefanie McDevitt, Mr. Anthony Prinzo



Marple Newtown School District is committed to equal access to programs, facilities, admission, and employment for all persons. It is the policy of the district to maintain an environment free of harassment and free of discrimination against any person because of age, race, color, ancestry, national origin, religion, creed, service in the uniformed services (as defined in state and federal law), veteran status, sex, sexual orientation, marital or family status, pregnancy, pregnancy-related conditions, physical or mental disability, gender, perceived gender, gender identity, including transgender status, genetic information or political ideas. Discriminatory conduct and harassment, as well as sexual misconduct and relationship violence, violates the dignity of individuals, impedes the realization of the district's educational mission, and will not be tolerated. Direct all inquiries regarding the nondiscrimination policy to:

Jennifer Canavan, Title IX Coordinator
Human Resources Office
40 Media Line Road, Newtown Square, PA 19073
Email: ecclancy@mnsd.org
Tel 610-359-4380

All policies and procedures are subject to change. Please refer to the district and high school webpages for the most up-to-date information.

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Marple Newtown School District Administration

Superintendent of Schools	Dr. Tina Kane
Assistant Superintendent of Teaching and Learning	Dr. Kevin Fagan
Director of Human Resources	Dr. Joel DiBartolomeo
Director of Pupil Services	Dr. Kerri McGinley
Director of Operations	Mr. Jake Gallagher
Director of Dining Services	Mrs. Tina Stiles
Director of Technology	Mr. Chris Lee
Supervisor of Transportation	Mr. Joseph Sheehan

Board of School Directors

Matthew J. Bilker, *President*; Nicholas V. Siano, *Vice President*
Dana Altobelli; Kathleen Byrne; Dave Dezzi;
Barbara S. Harvey John McKenzie; Lisa S. Pacell;
Nick Reynolds

Marple Newtown School District has a long tradition of excellence in education. There are approximately 3,800 students enrolled in Grades K through 12. The academic curriculum reflects the strength of traditional programs while meeting the changing needs of a technological society. The district is a clear leader in the county in the development of academic standards. There are Advanced Placement and accelerated courses in all disciplines and a comprehensive Special Education program. A variety of opportunities are available to students through elective courses, independent study programs, and a wide range of extra-curricular activities and athletics.

PRINCIPAL'S GREETING AND IMPORTANT PHONE NUMBERS

MNHS Tigers,

It is my pleasure to serve as your principal at MNHS. I am looking forward to working with you to ensure you have a successful high school experience. I was once told that an educated person may not know all the answers but knows where to find them and uses the resources that are available to them. I encourage every student to become familiar with this student handbook. Get involved and make the most of your time at MNHS and reach out to the faculty and administration for guidance. Tiger Pride!

John Beltrante
Principal

IMPORTANT PHONE NUMBERS

<i>MNHS Main Office</i>	<i>610-359-4215</i>
<i>Mr. Beltrante, Principal</i>	<i>610-359-4218</i>
<i>Mr. Jaspersen, Asst. Principal</i>	<i>610-359-4232</i>
<i>Mrs. McDevitt, Asst. Principal</i>	<i>610-359-4244</i>
<i>Mr. Prinzo, Asst. Principal</i>	<i>610-359-4293</i>
<i>Mr. Gicking, Athletic Director</i>	<i>610-359-4232</i>
<i>Attendance (24 hr. line)</i>	<i>610-359-4219</i>

Email: hsattendance@mnsd.org

CCAC Guidance Office..... 610-359-4240

SSC Guidance Office..... 610-359-4279

Nurse..... 610-359-4221

FAX..... 610-356-2194

District Website..... www.mnsd.org

School Closing number..... 454

MNHS FACULTY AND ADMINISTRATION

Principal	World Language	Social Studies
John Beltrante	Carmen Bilc	Matthew Baker
Assistant Principals	Kerri Confora	Courtney Gibbons
Christian Jaspersen	Jamie Kneafsey	Collin Hannan
Stefanie McDevitt	Barbara O'Neill*	Michael Karpyn
Anthony Prinzo	Nikki Wagner	Douglas Killough*
Athletic Director	Marie Yeoh	Heather Molyneaux
Christopher Gicking	Librarian	Michael O'Shea
Family and Consumer Sciences	Erin Daley	William Powell
Mary Dolenti	Health and Physical Education	Robert Smythe
Karen Pantle/Amy Burkart	Ronnie Braverman	Keli Tull
Business and Technology Education	Kelsey Garraty	Scott Wanner
Andrew Butler	Andrew Kane	Special Education
Tyler Mertens	Sean Spratt*	David Beatty
Michael Pagliara	Jacqueline Vilmerding	Stephanie Borowski
Tyler Roth	Eleanor Woolery	Kevin Creeley
Anita Stum*	Mathematics	Kristen DeNucci
Counseling	Doug Black	Jill Gill
Victoria Carrell	Shannon Blessington	Leah Graeff
Jennifer Cipollone	James Blaser	John Jacobs
Shane Elison	Jennifer Irvine*	Laura Jones
Kathrine Froschle/Jess Langlois	Ashlee Laubach	John Kneafsey
Tracy Jacobson*	Elizabeth Knowlton	Cheri McMonagle*
Dan Lang	Tara Lauria-Wark	Susan Salerno
Nicole McCarthy	Steven Smilk	Nicole Shoch
Kelly McCool	Michael Snow	Catherine Thomas
English	Kevin Sudall	Jamie Zampier
Bill Cawley	David Vosheski	Gifted Support
Sarah Crowley	Nurse	Kitty Kohout
Isabella Dahms	Jessica Shearman	Visual and Performing Arts
Jennie DeLuca	Science	Rachel Basescu
Zoe Demetriades	Dennis Andrews	Karen Can
Gerald Doemling	Chris Carson	Michael Massimo
Lorisa Friedman	Rodger Claar	Jake Olimpi*
Amy Gallagher	Moir DiTrollo	Rebekah Rush
Galen Mooney*	Amber Dunkel	Michael Winterbottom
Helene White	Jennifer Finley	Secretaries
Sarah Winterbottom	Elizabeth Landes	Susan Becker
Speech	Regina Leardi	Jill Butler
Christine Miehle	Nicole Pica	Dana Chirico
	Christine Roy*	Michele Fischetti
	Donald Sloat	Mackenzie Ginter
	Dalia Stephenson	Amy Townsend
*-denotes Department Leader		



BE RESPONSIBLE

re·spon·si·ble

1: able to answer for one's conduct and obligations

2: able to choose for oneself between right and wrong

MNHS students are responsible citizens who generally do the right thing and make the most of every opportunity. They come to school, do their best, and respect themselves and others.

STUDENT CONDUCT AND SAFETY

Student Conduct

Courtesy, cooperation, and consideration of others are personal characteristics, which we desire in all of our students. Therefore, students should:

- Show respect for themselves, their peers, their teachers, staff members, and all school property.
- Make thoughtful decisions so that their actions reflect positively on themselves and their families.
- Assist the faculty and administration in maintaining a safe and productive educational climate.

Student Safety

The safety of all persons within our building is of primary importance. Students share responsibility with the faculty and administration in maintaining a safe learning environment. Specifically, students are to:

- Remain within the school building at all times.
- Enter and exit through the front doors once school has begun.
- Follow all sign-in and sign-out procedures.
- Keep all exterior doors closed.
- Report any suspicious activity to faculty or administration.

STUDENT RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES

Student Rights

All students in the Marple Newtown School District have the right to:

- A free and appropriate education.
- A learning environment which is safe and enhances individual growth, a positive self-image, self-respect, and respect from others.
- Express ideas and opinions freely and respectfully, provided that the exercise of this right does not interfere with the rights of other students, encourage unlawful activity, threaten immediate harm to the school or community, or interfere with the educational process.
- Be graded primarily on the basis of achievement.
- Participate fully in the curricular and co-curricular activities of the school.

Student Responsibilities

- Student responsibilities include regular school attendance, conscientious effort in classroom work, and conformance to school rules and regulations.
- Students share with the faculty and administration a responsibility to develop a climate within the school that is conducive to wholesome learning and living.
- No student has the right to interfere with the education of his fellow students. It is the responsibility of each student to respect the rights of all who are involved in the educational process.

As stated in MNSD School Board Policy it is the responsibility of each student to:

1. Become a self-sufficient contributing member of society.
2. Secure training sufficient to carry out a meaningful life's work.
3. Develop within himself/herself respect for the rights and ideas of others, and a concern for the well-being of the total group.
4. Respect and obey existing regulations, recognizing that should changes in policy be necessary, proper channels should be followed in effecting such changes.
5. Voice his/her own views while at the same time listening to and respecting the opinions of others.
6. Respect other people and their possessions.
7. Grant the professional staff respect and deference due its position and academic preparation.
8. Furnish truthful information concerning school-related matters to the professional staff, upon request.
9. Refrain from abusing school property and recognize that because school property is publicly owned each citizen bears the responsibility for the preservation of its utility and beauty. It is therefore incumbent upon each student to aid in the apprehension of any individual who would destroy school property through acts of vandalism, or abuse of any kind.
10. Refrain from any actions that would disrupt the learning process for others.
11. Attend school on a regular basis and make a conscientious effort in all classes.
12. Dress and groom themselves so as to meet fair standards of safety, health, and common decency.

STUDENT ATTENDANCE, CLASS CUTS, AND SECURLYPASS

Student Attendance

Daily attendance is essential to maintaining good scholastic standing. Students are required, by law, to be in attendance at school.

Absence

Parents or guardians must email the Attendance Office at hsattendance@mnsd.org or call at 610-359-4219 prior to 7:30am in the event that a student is absent.

Students, regardless of age, must turn in absence notes signed by a parent/guardian.

Excused Absences

An absent student must be called out for each day of absence from school. This helps to ensure the safety of your children. **All absences require that a written excuse be submitted to the school within three (3) days of an absence.** If a written excuse is not submitted to the office within that time period, the absence is recorded as unexcused and is deemed by the state to be an illegal absence. A written excuse documenting an absence is required under the state's compulsory attendance laws.

- A written excuse must contain the following information: (1) name of the student and student number; (2) student grade level; (3) the date(s) of the absence; (4) the reason for the absence; and (5) a parent or guardian's signature.
- **We are able to accept excuse notes sent via email to hsattendance@mnsd.org**
- In the case of an absence of three (3) or more consecutive days, a note from a health care provider must be submitted to school within **three (3) calendar days**.
- **Administration reserves the right to request an original doctor's note at any time the school deems it necessary.** Students who have been absent from school because of a communicable disease must present a doctor's certificate before they may be readmitted to school.
- Juniors and Seniors are permitted 3 college visits per academic year. An official school form is required and must include signature, email and phone number of a collegiate official.

Unexcused/Unlawful Absences

In cases where a student has **accumulated ten (10) or more days of absence**, parents/guardians may be notified that future absences will require an excuse signed by a health care professional treating the student. **Only 10 days will be excused with a parent note per year- after this a doctor, court, or educational visit (Juniors and Seniors only) note will be required.**

Official Notice –When a student accumulates a third unlawful absence, the state law requires that we send a document “Official Notice of Child’s Unlawful Absence” explaining that future unlawful absences will result in a petition to the local District Justice. Included in the Official Notice will be an invitation to a School Attendance Improvement Conference. A School Attendance Improvement Plan will be created during this conference.

The school district does not recognize any day as a “cut day.” Absences on such days are considered unexcused/illegal.

*** Unexcused absences are classified as illegal if the student is under the age of 18.

Students who arrive after 11:00 a.m. will be marked as a half-day absence.

Any student that accrues more than 4 unexcused/illegal absences per marking period may be excluded from all extracurricular activities for the remainder of the marking period. Any student

that exceeds 10 unexcused/illegal absences during the school year may be excluded from all extracurricular activities for the remainder of the school year.

Class Cuts

Regular attendance and participation in classroom activities is an integral part of every subject in our curriculum. Absences from class can interfere with the continuity of the instructional process for the student and the class. Recognizing that regular attendance in class is essential for success in school, it is expected that students will assume the responsibility of attending every assigned class and study hall.

A class “cut” is defined as an absence from a scheduled class or class activity that is not excused by the classroom teacher or school administration. This also includes if a student is missing from class for more than 10 minutes. It is the responsibility of the student to provide the classroom teacher with written documentation explaining his/her absence by the next school day; failure to do so will result in the absence being listed as unexcused.

A student having an unexcused absence (“cut”) will not be permitted to make up the day’s work, including any tests or quizzes. The student will not be given credit for class participation, thereby affecting his/her overall grade. Additionally, the unexcused absence shall be referred to the school administration for disciplinary action.

Securlypass

Marple Newtown High School uses securlypass (a cloud-based contactless digital hall pass system) to enhance school security and simplify classroom management. Teachers, office staff, counselors, and administrators can log into their system dashboard to monitor and approve passes. Students must use the securlypass system anytime they are in the hallways during the school day.

NOTIFICATION OF ABSENCE, PARENTAL REQUEST FOR STUDENT EXCUSED ABSENCE

Notification of Absence

The automated phone system will be used to notify parents of all unexcused absences. In keeping parents and guardians informed of possible non-compliance with the attendance policy, notification letters will be sent by the school administration and/or home and school visitor.

Pre-planned Trip

The Marple Newtown School District strongly discourages student absence from school except when illness or other urgent reasons prevent the child from attending. School district officials are aware that it is not always possible to schedule family trips and vacations while school is not in session. In keeping with our guiding philosophy, but also recognizing the importance of the family unit, the school district will approve pre-planned trips up to a **maximum of five school days per student per year**.

The following provisions must be met for approval of a pre-planned trip:

- A. A “Parental Request for Student Excused Absence” form has been designed for pre-planned trips. This form can be found on the district website or in the main office. A copy of this form can be found at the end of the district handbook.
- B. A “Parental Request for Student Excused Absence” form must be submitted to the child’s building principal or designee for consideration at least **one week prior** to the date of the intended trip. The request must include a statement detailing the educational value of the trip and the name of the person responsible for supervision. Any questionable requests will be submitted to the Superintendent for final determination.
- C. The building principal will evaluate the request in terms of its educational value, duration, and adequateness of the supervision. **Anything above 5 cumulative days in an academic year will be unexcused.** Prior to leaving on the trip, it is the responsibility of the student to seek assignments. It will be the responsibility of the student to make up all work missed during the absence within one week after the student returns to school.
- D. The absence of a student taking a trip which has not received prior approval from the building principal as being educational in nature will be considered unlawful (unexcused) and subject to the provisions of the Compulsory Attendance Laws (Section 1327 of the School Code).
- E. Any trip scheduled during state standardized testing may not be excused and may be marked as an unexcused absence.
- F. If more than one child in a family will be absent and the children attend different schools, a separate request for each child shall be made to each child's principal

PERFECT ATTENDANCE AND LATENESS TO SCHOOL

Perfect Attendance

Perfect attendance means that a student has missed no days, has not been tardy for any reason, and has not been dismissed early for reasons other than school related activities. Family trips, even if excused, still disqualify a student from achieving perfect attendance.

Lateness to School

All students must be in class at or before 7:40 am. School attendance will be taken during each period. Any student not present at the beginning of period 1 will be considered late to school. Students who arrive after 11:00 a.m. will be marked as a half-day absence.

2 categories:

1. Excused tardy – arrive with the original doctor, court note, family funeral, or official school form to designate a collegiate visit (for juniors and seniors only and must include signature, email and phone number of a collegiate official).

2. Unexcused Tardy – this covers all other tardies.

Levels of discipline and consequences:

- ☐ 2 unexcused tardies per marking period = none
- ☐ 3rd tardy = 1 detention
- ☐ 5th tardy = 2 detentions

- ☐ 8th tardy (and every 3rd after) = Saturday school, and loss of campus privileges for 1 week. A parent conference may be set up to plan for improved attendance
- ☐ Loss of campus privileges means students must leave school grounds at the conclusion of the school day, unless attending a help class or detention.
- ☐ Parking permit may be revoked for this period of time.
- ☐ Students in this situation are not permitted to attend or participate in any extracurricular activities during this time.

LATENESS TO CLASS/EARLY DISMISSAL

Lateness to Class

As a general rule, students are required to be in the classroom by the end of the “bell tone” that signals the start of the class period. Students have four minutes to pass between classes. Lateness to class will be unexcused if a student fails to present a written pass from a teacher or administrator. Teachers are empowered to take measures deemed necessary to enforce the late to class standard.

Disciplinary actions include, but are not limited to:

- ☐ Student verbally warned by teacher
- ☐ Loss of privileges, parents contacted
- ☐ 3 unexcused lates to class. Teacher Detention
- ☐ 6 unexcused lates to class 2 Teacher Detentions
- ☐ 9 unexcused lates to class 3 Administrative Detentions
- ☐ 12 unexcused lates to class Saturday School
- ☐ 13 or more lates to class will result in out-of-school suspension and/or additional assignment to Saturday School.

Early Dismissal

Attendance in all classes is considered an important part of the educational process. Therefore, it is recommended that students do not schedule appointments during the school day. Students may pick up their approved Early Dismissal from the Attendance Office. Upon returning to school, students are to sign in at the Attendance Office. **Students who leave school early must follow proper sign-out procedures (and sign-in procedures, if student returns) to avoid disciplinary action.**

There are two types of early dismissals:

2. Early Dismissal: Parent written notification needs to be submitted 24 hours prior to dismissal. It is recommended to email: hsattendance@mnsd.org.

3. Excused Early Dismissal: upon return, student brings an original note from a doctor, court, family funeral, or official school form to designate a collegiate visit (for juniors and seniors only and must include signature, email and phone number of a collegiate official).

For all early dismissal notes, students must submit the original doctor or court note upon return to school. Without such note, student may not be eligible to participate in any extracurricular activities at the conclusion of the school day.

Early dismissals follow same procedure as tardies in terms of consequences. Students are allowed 2 early dismissal notes per marking period. On the 3rd early dismissal, students begin to receive consequences in the same manner as being late to school.

- ☐ 3rd ED = 1 detention
- ☐ 5th ED = 2 detentions Saturday school
- ☐ 8th ED (and every 3rd after) = Saturday school and loss of privileges for 1 week. A parent conference may be set up to plan for improved attendance
- ☐ Loss of privileges means students must leave school grounds at the conclusion of the school day, unless attending a help class.
- ☐ Students in this situation are not permitted to attend or participate in any extracurricular activities during this time.



APPLY YOURSELF

ap·ply

1: to put to use for some practical purpose

2: to work diligently or with close attention

MNHS students take their studies seriously and apply themselves to learning. They prepare and try their best.

ACADEMICS, MNHS GRADING SCALE

ACADEMICS

MNHS offers a vast curriculum to all students. In each class, a variety of activities and assessments (formal, authentic, and professional) are used to determine a student's overall grade.

Grading Scale and GPA

Grade	Range	GPA	Grade	Range	GPA
A+	100-98	4.3	C+	79-77	2.3
A	97-94	4.0	C	76-73	2.0
A-	93-90	3.7	C-	72-70	1.7
B+	89-87	3.3	D+	69-67	1.3
B	86-83	3.0	D	66-63	1.0
B-	82-80	2.7	D-	62-60	0.7
			F	59 or below	0.0

Other Grades

P = Pass, F = Fail, I = Incomplete,

M = Medical, WP = Withdraw Passing, WF = Withdraw Failing,

Technical School Grades

The grades and credits earned at the technical school will be recorded as provided on the official transcript issued by that institution.

Edmentum School Grades

The grades and credits earned through Edmentum will be recorded as provided on the official transcript issued by that institution.

FINAL GRADES AND EXAMS

Final Exams are given at the end of each course and are calculated into a student's grade, as follows:

Grades for semester courses are calculated as follows:

First Marking Period.	45%
Second Marking Period.	45%
Examination.	10%

INFINITE CAMPUS, SCHOOLGY, AND EDMENTUM

Infinite Campus

Infinite Campus is a web-based portal which is designed to further promote educational excellence by enhancing our program of communication between parents, students, and teachers. Students and parents use a secure activation code to gain access to current, confidential, and secure information regarding grades, class assignments, school attendance, and more.

Schoology

Schoology is a Learning Management System which complements Infinite Campus and allows users to share academic content in-person and virtually. Teachers are able to post daily objectives, email students, manage various assignments and assessments, and sync grades with Infinite Campus.

Edmentum

Marple Newtown School District's goal is to provide a high-quality education to every student in our traditional face-to-face school environment and those in a virtual environment. We understand that some of our students need an education that is flexible enough to meet their unique situations, while maintaining the integrity of quality teaching and learning. We are proud to offer our K-12 students will have the option to attend MNSD's full time cyber school, MN ConnectEd, which is delivered through EdmentumTM. Additional information can be found on the district website, under Departments→Teaching and Learning.

STANDARDIZED TESTING, SR. PROJECT, JR. INITIATIVE

Standardized Testing

Students take standardized tests each year. These tests serve as predictors of performance and assist with scheduling and assessment.

Keystone Exams in Algebra 1, Literature, and Biology. These tests will be given during the state testing window once a student completes the course.

9 th /10 th Grade	PSAT
11 th Grade	PSAT, SAT recommended
12 th Grade	SAT recommended

Senior Project

The Senior Project provides the student with a practical learning situation and an opportunity to utilize skills and knowledge acquired over the course of their education in a “real world” application. The project is an individual project, which the student chooses, plans and develops. The student ensures the project’s success by piloting the project and taking charge of the educational experience. **Students are required to pass the Senior Project in order to graduate.**

Junior Initiative

Business is the foundation of our economy. The Junior Initiative program is an interdisciplinary program that introduces MNHS Juniors to the thousands of different careers. The insights gained about the world of work as a result of participating in the Junior Initiative program aid students in determining their future career path.

GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS, PROMOTION, KEYSTONE EXAMS

		Credits
Health/Physical Education		2.5
Health	1.0	
Phys Ed	1.5	
English		4.0
Social Studies		4.0
Mathematics	3.0 min	
Science	3.0 min	
Math/Sci Combined		7.0
World Language		1.0
Electives		6.5
Applied Arts	1.0	
Arts	1.0	
Other Electives	4.5	
Senior Project		1.0
Total		26.0

Students are required to attain a score of Proficient or higher, as defined by the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, Department of Education, on the Algebra I, Literature, and Biology Keystone Exams. Any student who does not achieve a score of Proficient or higher shall be required to find a different Pathway to fulfil Act 158.

TECHNICAL SCHOOL, GUIDANCE DEPARTMENT

Technical School Program

The Technical School Program is offered to tenth, eleventh, and twelfth grade students at one of two Intermediate Unit run Technical Schools: Aston or Folcroft. The training available at these schools is extensive and demanding and provides a graduate with an excellent background for technical jobs, 2-4 year technical colleges, or 4-year colleges.

Students interested in this program should see their CCAC counselor early in the fall semester each year to apply for the following school year.

Guidance Department

The mission of the Guidance Department is to promote and enhance the learning process. To this end, the counseling staff offers a wide range of programs and services designed to facilitate student growth in the areas of academic, career, and personal/social development. Students meet with counselors to discuss concerns in an atmosphere of confidentiality. Appointments are scheduled at a time convenient for students and least disruptive to the educational program. Appointments can be requested by the student, parent, and/or counselor and are scheduled by the Guidance Secretaries.

Student Services Center

A-F	Mrs. McCarthy	610-359-4225
G-M	Ms. Froschle	610-359-4227
N-Z	Dr. McCool	610-359-4241
School Psychologist	Ms. Carrell	610-359-4242
Behavioral Health Worker	Mr. Lang	610-359-5591
Secretary	Mrs. Fischetti	610-359-4279

College and Career Access Center (CCAC) Counselors

A-F	Mrs. Cipollone	610-359-4233
G-M	Mr. Elison	610-359-4229
N-Z	Ms. Jacobson	610-359-4246
Secretary	Ms. Ginter	610-359-4240

The MNHS Guidance Department offers a variety of programs:

- Academic counseling, course planning and course selection
- Individual and group counseling
- Parent and teacher communication and conferences
- Achievement and college admissions testing
- Vocational interests
- Referral services to outside agencies

Four Year Guidance Curriculum

- Seniors: Finalize post-high school plan, college/technical school/ job applications, Senior Project
- Juniors: Career initiative, post-high school planning, interviews
- Sophomores: Career Pathways and College Board online access
- Freshmen: High school orientation and 4-year high school plan



GET INVOLVED

in-volved

- 1: engaged as a participant
- 2: committed to a program or activity

Most MNHS students choose to get involved in one or more of the many clubs, activities, and sports teams that we offer. Students can also get involved by attending school events.

STUDENT COUNCIL, CLUBS, AND ACTIVITIES

Student Council

The Student Council supports the mission of the school through sponsorship of all student clubs and activities. The goal of Student Council is to involve the student body in a variety of activities that foster school spirit. Student Council sponsors dances, charity drives, Spirit Week activities, homecoming ceremonies, and other school and community programs.

Advisors: Mr. Hannan, Mrs. Tull, Ms. McSorley, and Mr. Baker

Student Council Executive Board Positions: President, Vice President, Treasurer, Secretary, Senior Representatives (6), Junior President, Junior Vice President, Junior Representatives (6), Sophomore Representatives (6), Freshmen Representatives (4).

CLUBS AND ACTIVITIES

A variety of clubs and activities are available to our students. Visit our High School webpage for an updated and detailed list of current clubs and activities. Listen to the morning announcements and watch the bulletin boards for meeting information.

New Club or Activity

The MNHS Student Council charters all school clubs and activities. To start a new club or activity, see a Student Council Advisor for the required forms. Each club or activity is required to have at least one faculty sponsor. Administrative and School Board approval are required.

ATHLETICS

Athletic Director: Mr. Gicking, cgicking@mnsd.org

The interscholastic athletic program is designed to promote cooperation and sportsmanship while fostering wholesome interscholastic athletic competition. Our athletic program is extensive and seeks to promote the health and physical welfare of our student-athletes. Students are encouraged to participate in one or more of the many sports that are a part of our interscholastic athletic program.

Eligibility

Marple Newtown High School is a member of the P.I.A.A.. For a student to be eligible to participate in our sports program, he/she must be a student-athlete who evidences regular school attendance, passing grades, and good citizenship. Student-athletes are expected to serve as positive role models for others. Students who are failing 2 or more subjects or those who are passing less than 2 credits at any point during a marking period would be deemed ineligible.

Athletic academic eligibility is enforced:

- Daley Eligibility – students may not participate in games if they arrive to school after 9:00 A.M. also explained in the athletic handbook; are academically ineligible; suspended from school; have a scheduled detention; loss of privilege including too many disciplinary points.
- Weekly Eligibility – students may not participate in games if they are academically ineligible; loss of privileges runs from Sunday through the following Saturday.
- Marking Period Eligibility – Loss of participation privileges for 15 school days from the date the report cards are issued.
- End of School Year Eligibility – Loss of participation privileges for 15 school days upon the beginning of the new school year, unless the class credit is made up through summer school.
- Each season, the team with the highest academic average wins the coveted ROAR
- (Recognizing our Academic Responsibility) Award.

Fall Sports	Winter Sports	Spring Sports
Cheerleading	Basketball	Baseball
Cross Country	Bocce	Flag Football
Field Hockey	Cheerleading	Lacrosse
Football	Indoor Track	Softball
Golf	Swimming & Diving	Tennis, Boys
Soccer	Wrestling	Track & Field
Tennis, Girls		
Volleyball		

For more specific information regarding the MNHS athletic program, eligibility requirements, and expectation of our student-athletes, please see the MNHS Athletic Handbook or contact Mr. Gicking, Athletic Director.

HONOR SOCIETIES, STEM ACADEMY, RENAISSANCE

Honor Societies

For complete information, see our webpage: <https://mnhs.mnsd.org/activities/honor-societies>

At MNHS all students are required to meet a character requirement in order to be admitted into an honor society and in order to maintain membership. The character requirement is determined through a review of each candidate's discipline record. Violations of the school's discipline code are reviewed by the Faculty Advisory Board. Students with serious or repeated discipline violations may be excluded/removed from each honor society. If any student is removed, there is an appeals process beginning on page 22.

National Honor Society

The National Honor Society is a service organization that promotes recognition for students who reflect outstanding accomplishments in the areas of academic achievement, character, leadership, and service.

Advisor: Dr. Killough

Active members will be selected during their junior/senior year(s), providing they meet the required standards:

At the end of the second marking period, a preliminary list is compiled of all sophomores and juniors with a weighted Grade Point Average (GPA) of 4.0 or above. Academically eligible sophomores and juniors will be invited to a meeting to discuss the process for fulfilling the service and leadership requirements.

Candidates will continue the application process for admission by completing an Activity Verification Form for each activity the student participated in during his/her time in high school. Students will be assigned points for service/participation and leadership. If students have a reason for failing to achieve the necessary points required for National Honor Society induction, they should provide a written explanation as part of their application. In order for an activity to count toward membership the candidate must have completed the athletic season for sports, or the duration of the club or organization. The Faculty Advisory Board will determine which activities meet the requirements for service/participation and leadership.

Sophomore candidates must accumulate at least 40 points in service/participation/leadership. Junior candidates need at least 60 points.

The character requirement is determined through a review of each candidate's discipline record. Violations of the school's discipline code are reviewed by the Faculty Advisory Board. Students with serious or repeated discipline violations may be excluded/removed from the NHS.

When all requirements are met, the Faculty Advisory Board votes to approve the list of candidates. Once the list of candidates is approved by the Faculty Advisory Board, candidates are notified through their school email.

Induction into the National Honor Society will take place in the spring of each year.

Tri-M Music Society, Chapter 764

Tri-M Music Honor Society is a program of the National Association for Music Education (NAME) which focuses on creating future leaders in music education and music advocacy. Tri-M recognizes students that have gone above and beyond both academically and musically.

Advisor: Ms. Ditri

Requirements - Candidates for active student membership shall be chosen by the chapter advisor(s). Candidates for active student membership shall be chosen from those students enrolled in the music department at Marple Newtown High School. Candidates, at the time of their selection, shall meet the following requirements:

1. They must be a sophomore, junior, or senior in the current school year.
2. They must have enrolled in a music ensemble and/or class for at least one semester the current school year at Marple Newtown High School;
3. They must have a minimum of 4 points in music activities (cumulative).
 - A. Full year ensemble/classes, marching band and musical – 1 point
 - B. Half year ensemble/classes - .5 point
4. They must exhibit leadership, service, and character in their activities while at Marple Newtown High School; and
5. They must have maintained for the previous semester at least a 3.70 average grade or equivalent in music with at least a 3.00 average grade or equivalent in other academic subjects.
6. They must have a minimum of 40 hours of volunteer music service.

The character requirement is determined through a review of each candidate's discipline record. Violations of the school's discipline code are reviewed by the Faculty Advisory Board. Students with serious or repeated discipline violations may be excluded/removed.

World Language Honor Society

World Language Honor Society provides an opportunity to recognize outstanding achievement in French and Spanish and to promote interest in Francophone and Hispanic studies.

Advisor: Mrs. Confora

World Language Honor Society students must:

- A. Be actively engaged in a language course until graduation (continuous enrollment) or complete the highest level offered.
- B. Be currently enrolled in Spanish III or French III or higher during the year of application.
- C. Be in the 10th, 11th or 12th grade at time of application; 9th graders who have gone through the Honors Program at the middle school are also eligible.
- D. Have maintained an A- average or higher in all language courses throughout their secondary school study, including the semester of selection and all previous work awarded secondary school credit.
- E. Have maintained an overall B- average or higher in all other secondary school subjects prior to the semester of selection.
- F. Have never failed a course in his/her high school studies.
- G. Have a behavioral record free from suspension, instances of academic dishonesty (i.e. plagiarism), and/or a pattern of inappropriate behavior, attendance issues.

Science National Honor Society

The purpose of this organization shall be to encourage participation in and recognition of scientific and intellectual thought. It is to advance the students' knowledge of classical and modern science, to communicate with the scientific community, and to aid the civic community with its comprehension of science. It is to encourage students to participate in community service and, in turn, encourage dedication to the pursuit of scientific knowledge that benefits all mankind.

Advisor: Mrs. Roy

Requirements:

- Must be a junior or senior
- Must have & maintain a 3.0 GPA
- Must maintain a 3.5 GPA in **Science** class
- Must be currently enrolled in a **Science** class
- Must have been and currently enrolled in only **Honors/AP** level science classes
- Must be enrolled in at least one upper-level science class (AP or dual enrollment) during or prior to the twelfth grade year
- Must complete at least 10 hours of science related community service each year

Social Studies National Honor Society

This honor society acknowledges students who exemplify excellence in their social studies courses and promotes active civic and community engagement for its members.

Advisor: Mrs. Gibbons

To become a member, students must:

- Have attended MNHS for at least one semester
- Have completed two core social studies courses and be prepared to complete at least three courses (*inducting juniors and seniors, only*)
- Have an overall GPA of 3.5 (unweighted and cumulative)
- Have an average of 90 or higher (unweighted and cumulative) across each core Social Studies course taken
- Have completed at least two (2) honors-level social studies courses and/or one (1) Advanced Placement (AP) social studies course since their freshman year

English National Honor Society, *Spiritus Mundi*

This organization connects our school with a national network of English teachers and students who share a special interest in language, literature, and writing.

Advisors: Mrs. Gallagher

Requirements for membership:

- Have been in attendance at MNHS for at least one semester
- Cumulative unweighted GPA 3.2
- Must be currently enrolled in Honors or AP level English class

- Must have completed honors-level English courses since freshman year.
- Have 93 or above in all previous English courses
- No suspensions or expulsions in high school

Once a member:

- Complete one “in house” and one “out of house” point per semester.
- Members must submit points to the secretary.
- Maintain a 93 in English
- Maintain a 3.2 GPA
- No suspensions or expulsions

Math Honor Society

Math Honor Society provides an opportunity to recognize and encourage students who enjoy and excel in mathematics.

Advisor: Mrs. Irvine

Math Honor Society students must:

- Must have completed two college prep level math courses
- Must have a 3.0 math grade point average
- Must attend weekly Math Club meetings beginning in September

National Art Honor Society

This honor society acknowledges students who exemplify creative excellence in their Art courses and promotes community by participating in Art activities that enrich our school culture and experience.

Advisor: Mrs. Can

To become a member, students must:

- Have attended MNHS for at least one semester
- Have completed ONE Art elective course
- Have an overall GPA of 3.0 (unweighted and cumulative)
- Have an average of a 90 or above in Art courses (unweighted and cumulative)
- Attend a minimum of 15 NAHS meetings during Advisory period throughout the school year.
- Completed 40 hours of volunteer Arts related service to the school community. (IE: Mural Arts, Empty Bowls, Face Painting, Lawn Logos, Sport & Extracurricular Photography, Video Prod.)

STEM Academy

The Marple Newtown School district STEM Academy is a four-year program for students interested in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics that operates as a “school within a school” model. Students attend MNHS and engage in rigorous coursework, including Design Thinking and Advanced Placement (AP) classes, while participating in field excursions, guest speakers, career exploration, and

other real-world STEM opportunities. Admission is through a competitive application process during eighth grade, and students are expected to maintain strong academic performance and uphold the Academy's standards of character and integrity. For more information, visit the [MNHS STEM Academy webpage](#) or read through the Academy handbook.

High School Faculty Council and Administrative Appeal Process

Background: A student was removed from an honor society (e.g., National Honor Society, National Science Honor Society, STEM Academy etc.) due to violating the code of conduct for the honor society (e.g., cheating or suspension). Below are the steps a student can take to appeal the decision to remove them from their honor societies.

Appeal to the Faculty Council

The student will first need to appeal their removal to the Faculty Council for those honor societies they belong to. The student must submit a formal written appeal to the honor society advisors within **5 school days** of receiving the disciplinary consequence and removal from their honor society.

Once a disciplinary consequence is given:

1. Administration will inform the Honor Society Advisors.
2. Honor Society Advisors will inform the student that they are being removed from their honor societies they are members of in person and in writing.
3. The student will be informed that they will have 5 school days to appeal this decision to the Faculty Council. (Faculty Council consists of all the Honor Society Advisors)
4. The student must request the appeal in writing and include the following:
 - Student's name, grade, and honor society membership
 - Summary of the disciplinary incident and resulting suspension
 - Reason for requesting faculty council review
 - Any evidence or context the student wants considered (e.g., character references, improved behavior, inaccuracies in the record, etc.)
5. Faculty Council will present their determination to the student in writing. If the Council determines that the student is dismissed from the honor societies, the student can appeal this decision to the Administration Council.

Appeal to the Principal and Administration Council After Removal from an Honor Society

The student must submit a formal written appeal to the principal within **5 school days** of receiving the final decision from the Honor Society's Faculty Council.

The written appeal must include:

- Student's name, grade, and honor society membership
- Summary of the disciplinary incident and resulting suspension
- Reason for requesting administrative review
- Any evidence or context the student wants considered (e.g., character references, improved behavior, inaccuracies in the record, etc.)

1. Administration Council Review of Records

The principal along with the administration council will conduct a full review, which may include:

- The original disciplinary documentation

- The honor society's bylaws and eligibility requirements
- Minutes or notes from the Faculty Council's deliberations
- The student's academic, behavioral, and attendance record
- Any supplemental documents submitted by the student

2. Meeting with the Student

The principal will invite the student to meet to:

- Clarify details about the incident
- Discuss the student's reflection and personal growth
- Review the honor society's standards relative to the violation

The sponsor or advisor of the honor society may also be invited if clarification is needed.

3. Determination of Scope of Authority

Common bases for administrative reconsideration include:

- A procedural error in the Faculty Council's process
- New evidence relevant to the suspension
- Misapplication of honor society bylaws
- A disciplinary record that was inaccurately reported or misinterpreted

4. Administration Council's Decision

- After reviewing all materials, Administration Council will present their determination to the student in writing. If the Council determines that the student is dismissed from the honor societies and supports the Faculty Council's decision this will conclude the appeal process at the building level.

Renaissance

The Renaissance Program was established to empower students, educators, administrators, parents, businesses, and community organizations in promoting student achievement, increasing community involvement, and recognizing success among our students and faculty. It is an incentive-based program that provides privileges to those students who demonstrate achievement in the areas of academic achievement, school attendance, and citizenship.

Advisors: Mrs. Cipollone, Ms. Dolenti, Ms. Jacobson

Membership Requirements

1. No more than 2 excused absences per quarter (zero unexcused)
2. No more than 2 latenesses per quarter
3. No more than 3 early dismissals per quarter
4. No discipline referrals
5. No failures
6. Minimum GPA of 3/0 for Orange Card, 3.7 for Black Card
7. Active participation in eligible school sponsored club or activity each quarter.

Membership Privileges

1. 'Recognition Events' (trips, celebrations)
2. Reduced ticket prices at selected school events
3. Arrive late/Leave early – if block 1 or 4 study hall with parent permission on file (**Juniors and Seniors Black Card only**)

****Current quarter performance determines next quarter membership. Administration or faculty sponsors may revoke a student's membership, if necessary, at any time.***

MARPLE NEWTOWN A-Z

Acceptable Use of Networks Policy (AUP)

Inappropriate computer use or violation of any of the AUP regulations may result in suspension or loss of computer access, as well as other disciplinary or legal action. (See AUP Policy, p. 37)

Advisory

Advisory is a time for students to make-up missing work, meet with teachers to discuss content misconceptions, for teachers to provide additional practice relating to content, IXL practice, attend student information sessions, and participate in clubs/activities. If a student is failing a course their teacher has the right to keep the student in their advisory and deny attendance to a different advisory.

Assembly Guidelines

Assemblies, class meetings, and pep rallies will be held periodically throughout the school year. Such programs are intended to be educational, informative, and entertaining. No assemblies will be scheduled the week before finals.

Bathrooms

Students are required to use SecurlyPass when requesting permission to use the bathroom during the school day. Bathroom visits should be limited to the time necessary to use the facilities and students are expected to return promptly to their assigned location. Students are prohibited from occupying the same bathroom stall with another student at any time. Any student found sharing a stall with another student will be subject to disciplinary action. The use of electronic devices, including cell phones, smartwatches, cameras, or any other recording devices, is strictly prohibited in all bathroom facilities. Students found using or attempting to use such devices in a restroom will be subject to disciplinary consequences in accordance with the Student Code of Conduct.

Bullying

Bullying is unacceptable at MNHS and is subject to disciplinary action. Bullying occurs when a student is exposed, repeatedly and over time, to negative actions on the part of one or more students. (See Bullying, p. 39)

Cafeteria

The cafeteria is located on the first floor of the high school and provides a variety of meal options for students. MNSD recognizes that student wellness and proper nutrition are related to students' physical well-being, growth, development, and readiness to learn. The School Breakfast Program is free to all MNSD students for the 2024-2025 school year. Students and their food must remain inside the cafeteria.

Cell Phones

Cell phones must be placed in designated holders in every classroom. Failure to do so will result in disciplinary action as well as parental contact. Students cell phones can/will be taken and a parent will have to pick up the phone from the main office between 7:15 a.m. and 2:45 p.m. (See

Electronic Communication Devices Policy, p. 53)

Levels of discipline and consequences:

If a student is observed with a phone after indicating that they did not have a phone and/or if observed using a second phone and comply with placing the device in the designated holder:

- ☐ 1st offense – Administrative Detention
- ☐ 2nd offense – Saturday School Detention
- ☐ 3rd offense and every offense after – Suspension + parent meeting

If a student is observed with a phone after indicating that they did not have a phone and/or if observed using a second phone and does not comply with placing the device in the designated holder:

- ☐ 1st offense – Saturday School Detention + Phone confiscated and returned at the end of the school day
- ☐ 2nd offense and every offense after – Suspension + Phone confiscated and parent must pick up the phone between 7:15 a.m. and 2:45 p.m.

Cheating/Plagiarism

Cheating and plagiarism, defined as the taking and use of another person's ideas, writings, or inventions as one's own, will not be tolerated. Disciplinary action will be taken for violations against the cheating/plagiarism policy.

Cheating/plagiarism includes:

- Turning in someone else's work (including homework) as your own.
- Copying another's lab report or similar assignment.
- Copying something word for word without putting it within quotation marks and citing the author.
- Paraphrasing another work without giving credit to the original author.
- Extensive paraphrasing, even when credit is given.
- Failing to indicate where the borrowing begins and ends.
- Cheating on any assignment by using another person's work or allowing another person to use your work.
- Failure to comply with AI guidelines set forth by the district and teacher

Dances

Many times during the school year organizations sponsor informal and semi-formal dances for students. The regulations for school dances are:

- All tickets will be sold in advance, and no ticket will be sold at the door or on the day of the dance. One ticket per person. One guest per person for the junior/senior prom (with administration approval on guest form prior to 10:00 a.m. the day before the dance).
- Guests must be under 21 years of age on the day of the dance. The guest must present identification at the dance that includes birthdate.
- Guest forms must be submitted in advance and approved by an administrator. The administration reserves the right to deny entry to any guest.
- All attendees must submit to a breathalyzer test prior to entering the dance. (See Breathalyzer, p. 48)
- Students may be required to show their MNHS ID when attending the dance.
- Proper attire is required. Failure to dress appropriately will result in non-admittance to the dance.

- No student will be re-admitted to a dance once he/she leaves.
- School rules and regulations apply to all those who attend a Marple Newtown dance. Failure to comply with these rules will result in removal from the dance and may result in additional disciplinary action.
- No outside food or drinks may be brought into the dance.
- The administration, teachers, sponsors and chaperones are not responsible for personal property that is lost, stolen, or damaged while in attendance at a school dance.

Detention

Detention is assigned when student conduct is inappropriate or unacceptable. (See Administrative Detention, p. 33)

Dress Code (see Board [Policy #221](#))

The Marple Newtown School Board wants to provide a climate of student individuality and freedom of choice within a framework that provides safety and reflects dignity and respect upon the school and community. Appropriate grooming is an essential ingredient of the total educational experience and is a shared responsibility among parents/guardians, students, and school authorities.

School authorities, parents/guardians and students should work together to provide a dress standard which is logical, tasteful, discourages displays of extremes, and promotes personal cleanliness and neatness of clothing. Students should dress for an educational setting, not a recreational one.

If, in the opinion of the teachers and administration, a student's attire is inappropriate, the student will be given the opportunity to correct the dress code violation(s) on their own or by contacting a parent to provide appropriate items. The violation must be corrected. Students will be withheld from class(es) until properly attired. Disciplinary action will result for repeat offenders.

The following are specific interpretations of the dress standard policy:

- All clothing must be neat, clean, and in proper repair.
- Clothing must cover undergarments.
- Shirts and blouses must cover the chest and mid-section at all times (must be long enough that they could be worn tucked in). Form-fitting attire may not be worn. No midriffs, spaghetti straps, tube tops, or halter-tops. Tank top straps must be at least 1" wide.
- Shorts/skirts/skorts should be fingertip length when arms are in a natural, relaxed manner. Inside pockets should not be visible at any time.
- Protective footwear is required at all times. Hats, hoods, outerwear, bandanas, visors, or sunglasses may not be worn inside the school building, unless warranted by a medical, safety or religious circumstance.
- Message apparel, chains, spiked jewelry, and other jewelry/ equipment which presents a safety concern and/or encourages the use of drugs or alcohol, cites inappropriate language, words or expressions, or displays sexually inappropriate gestures, or has an inappropriate or double meaning, are prohibited.
- Students may be required to wear certain types of clothing while participating in physical education

classes, technical education, extracurricular activities, or other situations where special attire may be required to ensure the health and safety of the student. This includes the wearing of any clothing, such as, for example, a face covering which the district is obligated to require students to wear pursuant to state or local law, unless an exemption has been granted to the student.

- The building principal or designee shall be responsible to monitor student dress and grooming, and to enforce Board policy and school rules governing student dress and grooming.
- Dress must not disrupt or endanger student health and must comply with all safety rules, or state or local orders or applicable laws.

Electronic Devices

(See Electronic Communication Devices Policy, p. 50)

Emergency Cards

Each year, students must submit completed emergency cards to the school nurse. Students who do not provide this information are not allowed to participate in school field trips and other activities. Students are also subject to further disciplinary action.

Emergency Closing

In the event that the schools must be closed because of an emergency, an announcement of the closing will be made over the radio and television stations. The automated phone system will also be activated, and information can be acquired from the district's website, www.mnsd.org, and the Inform-a-Phone 610-359-4280.

Marple Newtown School District's school closing number is 454.

If no announcement is made, assume school is in session. In order to keep telephone lines clear, please do not call the school office or local police authorities.

Field Trips

Opportunities to visit places of educational interest are offered to students throughout the course of the school year. To be allowed to participate in a field trip, a student must have a completed emergency card on file with the nurse and have his/her teachers and parent complete a permission slip. This permission slip must be given to the classroom teacher at least one day before the field trip. Students on field trips are ambassadors of our school. As such, they are expected to dress and to conduct themselves in a courteous and appropriate manner.

Fire Drills/Emergency/Lock Down Procedures

During a Fire Drill, or an emergency or lock down situation, students are to follow the directions given by their teacher and/or the administration. If moving to an outside location, students should proceed quietly and in an orderly fashion.

General Housekeeping

The care of school property is everyone's concern. It is our desire to keep our school as pleasant, clean, and orderly as possible. Students are not permitted to take food or beverages from the cafeteria. Students are encouraged clean up after themselves at all times.

Hall Pass

Students are to use the digital hall pass whenever they need to leave an assigned class.

Hallway Regulations

To maintain order in hallways and stairways, students are expected to conduct themselves in an appropriate manner. Specifically, students are to:

- Keep to the right and keep moving.
- Maintain cleanliness in the halls and stairways.
- Have used the digital hall pass, except between classes.

Help Class

All faculty provide regular help classes. Check with your teachers for specific details.

Infinite Campus

Infinite Campus is a valuable tool for communicating academic information. (See Infinite Campus, p. 13)

Insurance

Student insurance information is given out in block 1 at the start of the school year.

Library

The library is for your benefit and convenience. The following rules are to be observed:

- The library is usually available for students between 7:25 a.m. and 2:55 p.m.
- Computer use in the library must follow the guidelines of the school district's AUP Policy. (See AUP Policy, p. 37)
- Cellphones will not be permitted in the library during block 5.

Lockers

At the beginning of each school year, students may request an assigned locker in which to keep books, lunch, and outdoor clothing. Each student will be provided a combination padlock for his/her locker. If the lock is lost or stolen, the cost to replace the lock is \$5.00.

The administration and teachers are not responsible for the loss of money or property, including school textbooks, kept in your locker. Valuables or large sums of money should not be brought to school. Any theft of money and/or property should be reported immediately to Security. Any locker that does not function properly should be reported promptly to the office of the Assistant Principal.

Students are required to always keep lockers clean and neat. Decals, stickers, or other markings on lockers are not permitted. Individual lockers may be opened without prior notice to the student for inspection and/or repair. Damage, vandalism or graffiti to lockers will result in a monetary fine for cleaning and repair. Sharing lockers with other students is prohibited.

Lost & Found

Lost and found items are turned into the Main Office.

Nurse

A nurse is on duty during the school day. Students should use the digital hall pass before seeing the nurse.

School Bus Behavior Guidelines

For the protection and safety of the driver and all students, video and audio recording devices may be utilized on school buses or school vehicles. The District reserves the right to use any video and audio recordings for purposes of implementing student or staff discipline under provisions of the School District's Policies, Student Discipline Code, and the Public School Code.

While waiting for or leaving the school bus, students:

1. May ride only those buses to which they are regularly assigned.
2. Shall not board the bus until the driver is in attendance.
3. Shall not stand or play in the roadway while waiting for the bus.
4. May not deface property at bus stops. Pupils must remain off lawns, refrain from touching shrubbery, and stand on sidewalks where possible.
5. Shall remain in line at least five feet from the bus when it stops to pick-up.
6. Shall be at the bus stop at the designated time and be ready to board the bus with the least possible delay.
7. Shall go home promptly after leaving the school bus.
8. Who must cross the highway after disembarking from the bus, shall pass ten feet in front of the bus. They shall cross the highway only after the driver signals them to do so.

While on the school bus, students:

1. Shall always obey the bus operator, while under his/her supervision.
2. Shall sit in the assigned seat, if driver chooses to make such an assignment.
3. Shall remain seated while bus is in motion.
4. Shall keep aisles clear of book bags, musical instruments, etc.
5. Shall refrain from smoking/vaping, vulgarity, and boisterous/other improper conduct.
6. May not eat or drink on the bus.
7. Shall assist the driver in keeping the bus clean.
8. Shall not damage or deface any part of the bus.
9. Shall not play radios on the school bus.
10. May not operate the service door.
11. Must surrender their identification cards, upon driver request.
12. May not tamper with any operating mechanisms.
13. Shall not be allowed to leave the bus at any place other than his/her regular stop, without the written consent of the principal.

Safety Rules to be observed:

1. Use crosswalk areas.
2. No smoking/vaping.
3. When walking along the highway, walk on the left facing oncoming traffic.
4. Remain seated if the bus is delayed on the road.
5. Use the emergency door only in case of emergency.
6. Be of assistance to smaller children.

Signs

Hallway signs/posters that advertise upcoming events or elections may only be posted on the student bulletin boards located throughout the school. Items for posting must have the authorization of the Assistant Principal. Removal of the signs/posters after the advertised event is the responsibility of the sponsoring teacher, organization, and student. In accordance with School Board Policy, only student-approved organizations may post materials on the bulletin boards.

Smoking/Vaping – Smoking/vaping is prohibited. MNSD has a strict board policy that will be enforced. (See Tobacco/Vaping Policy, p. 47)

Student Assistance Program - SAP

In accordance with state provisions and in support of district educational goals, the high school offers a Student Assistance Program (SAP). The intent of the program is to enable the school to address barriers to learning among our students such as the use of illegal drugs, alcohol, social and emotional problems, etc. If an individual student's observable behavior warrants, a faculty member, friend, or parent may refer the student to our SAP team. The SAP team consists of trained teachers, guidance counselors, school nurse, school psychologist, Pupil Services personnel, external consultants, and a building administrator. The team works with the student and the parents to help resolve the issue. This may include referral of the student to an outside agency for assessment and related services, if necessary. Referral forms may be obtained from the school nurse, guidance counselor, or school psychologist.

Student Parking

Students who drive to school must register their vehicle and obtain a Parking Permit via the Main Office. **Student parking is limited and a privilege.** Any student exhibiting frequent poor school behavior may have his/her parking privileges revoked. Students are not permitted to leave the school building during the school day. Should an emergency arise, permission to leave is granted by either the high school Principal or an Assistant Principal.

The following guidelines are in effect for students who drive to school:

- Students are not allowed to visit or drive their car during school hours.
- Students may only park where indicated. The student parking lot is in the rear of the building. Student parking is prohibited in the front parking lot or in the rear faculty lots.
- MNHS parking permits must always be visible. Failure to display a parking permit or parking in an unauthorized area will result in after-school detention(s) and/or a loss of parking privileges.
- Other specific regulations concerning student use of vehicles are listed on the Parking Permit Form.
- Lost permits may be replaced for \$5.

Student Identification

Photographs of all students will be taken during the school year. Students will be advised in advance as to when school pictures will be taken. Photo identification cards will be provided to all students. The replacement cost is \$5.00. Replacement ID can be obtained in the Main Office.

Study Hall

Study hall is a place of learning. Students are expected to bring work to do for the entire period.

Student Visitor Policy

All visitors must register in the main office immediately upon arrival and be issued a visitor's pass. Loitering or trespassing on school property is not permitted. We allow student visitors only if they are seriously considering attending Marple Newtown High School. Parents of these students should arrange permission to visit beforehand through the principal. Students attending other local schools, whether in session or not, are not permitted to visit.

DISCIPLINE CODE

The purposes of publishing the discipline code are to:

- Encourage students to assume responsibility for their behavior.
- Inform students, teachers, and parents of what is behaviorally unacceptable.
- Develop an approach to discipline which embodies fairness, firmness, and consistency.
- Prevent interference with the educational process by disruptive students.

DISCIPLINARY ACTIONS INCLUDE, BUT ARE NOT LIMITED TO:

Teacher Detention

Individual teachers may assign detention to be served in their classrooms on any school day. Teachers will give students a minimum of one day's advanced notice of a detention assignment. Students who do not report are subject to assignment of two detentions by an administrator for each unexcused absence from a Teacher Detention.

Administrative Detention

Administrative detention is held from **2:45 pm to 3:40 pm**, Monday through Thursday

afternoons. The purpose of the detention is to provide guidance to those who fail to follow school guidelines and procedures. The following procedures will be in effect for Administrative Detention.

- One day's notice shall be given to the student assigned to detention unless the student elects to serve the detention the day it is scheduled. Students who are absent on the assigned date are expected to report to the next scheduled administrative detention beginning with the day they return from their absence.
- Students are expected to have work to complete during detention.
- The use of electronic devices is prohibited.
- Students will not be admitted to administrative detention after 2:45 pm, unless they have an administrative pass excusing the lateness.
- Failure to attend an assigned administrative detention will result in the assignment of two administrative detentions.
- Failure to serve either of these detentions will result in a Saturday School assignment.

Saturday School Detention

Saturday School is held most Saturdays and meets in Room A117, from 8:00-11:00 am. During Saturday School, the following conditions apply:

- Students enter through the rear entrance of the building. Students will report to Room A117 no later than 8:00 am and remain until 11:00 am. No one will be excused for any reason without prior admin approval.
- Students will be escorted to the lavatories at a designated time.
- The use of electronic devices is prohibited.
- No food or drink is allowed.
- Students must bring their books, assignments, and all necessary pens, pencils, and paper. Students must do schoolwork. Sleeping is not allowed.
- Failure to serve Saturday School will result in an additional Saturday School and/or out-of-school suspension.

Behavior Affecting Participation in School Events

Participation in extra-curricular events and activities is a privilege that must be earned. Failure to comply with academic, behavioral or attendance guidelines will result in removal from the activity.

The following guidelines, based on a code of conduct point system, will determine participation in school events. If a student accumulates **10 or more** disciplinary points, he/she will lose the privilege to participate in planned school sponsored events until his/her point total is reduced to 9 points or less. At the conclusion of each marking period, administration will review students' points and conduct to determine if points may be further reduced.

The following is the infraction breakdown system.

Infractions

Each Administrative Detention	1 point
Each Saturday School Detention	2 points

Suspension

3 Points per Day

Following each recorded offense, the parent will receive a point update form regarding the violation. A student shall have 1 point deducted by avoiding any administrative infractions for a period of 5 consecutive school days.

Behavior Affecting Participation in Extracurricular Activities

- Students who are absent from school for the entire day are not permitted to participate in any practices, competitions, or school-sponsored activities held after school or during the evening of the day(s) absence.
- Please note that school detentions will not be moved from assigned dates due to rehearsals, practices or games.
- Also, note that students who are removed from extra-curricular activities will not receive a refund of their activity fee.

Behavior Affecting Participation in Graduation

- Students who demonstrate consistent behavior problems during the year (e.g. excessive disciplinary referrals, suspensions, lateness, etc.) may be excluded from commencement at the discretion of the administration. Any student suspended from school during the second semester may lose commencement privileges.

OUT-OF-SCHOOL SUSPENSION

Temporary Suspension – up to three school days

The assistant principal or principal may temporarily suspend a student for disobedience, misconduct, or infraction of school rules after the student has been given an opportunity to tell his/her side of the story and has been informed of the reason(s) for the out-of-school suspension.

Full Suspension - more than three school days

The principal may suspend a student for more than three days if the total number of days does not exceed ten school days. An informal hearing opportunity will be afforded to students within the first five days of full suspension. This hearing is held in the presence of the principal and notice shall be provided by the principal to the parent/guardian requesting their presence.

Purpose of Hearing

The purpose of the informal hearing is to enable the student to explain circumstances and discuss the offense for which he/she is charged.

Due Process

Reasons for suspension, in writing, must be provided to the student and parent/guardian. The Principal shall make a reasonable attempt to accommodate the parent/guardian in scheduling the time of the hearing. The student may speak or present witnesses on his/her behalf and witnesses may be cross-examined.

Following the informal hearing, the principal may decline additional suspension, authorize return of student to school, return student to school on probation, restrict extra-curricular activity, continue suspension for full suspension period of ten days, or recommend to the Superintendent of Schools action to expel.

Student Rights During Out-of-School Suspension Period

Students are required to make up exams and work missed during temporary/full suspension. Exams and missed work must be completed within no more than twice the number of school days of temporary/full suspension.

- Parents will be immediately notified that their child has been suspended, the reason for the suspension, and the length of the suspension. A parent conference may be scheduled, if requested. An informal hearing will be scheduled for all full suspensions.
- Credit will be given for all work missed. Work should be completed promptly after the student's return. It is the responsibility of the student to make up the work, including tests and quizzes. The regular classroom teacher is responsible for evaluation of the work.
- Students are not allowed on school grounds or district property while suspended. They may not attend or participate in extra-curricular activities (on or off campus) or practices while suspended.
- If the conditions of suspension are violated, the pupil is subject to additional suspension.

STUDENT EXPULSION

The Board of School Directors shall conduct formal hearings, upon written notice from Superintendent of Schools, recommending student expulsion. The Board Solicitor shall be present at all hearings to advise the committee on matters pertaining to procedure and evidence. The Board shall be responsible for keeping a record of proceedings.

Upon receipt of written notice from the Superintendent of Schools recommending expulsion, the Board Secretary shall arrange, without unreasonable delay, the time, date, and place of the hearing. The Secretary shall give at least three (3) days' notice, in writing, by certified mail, to parents or person in loco parentis, and to student. Notice from the secretary shall include name of accuser, offense or offenses, names of witnesses, and an explanation of the student's right to offer testimony and present witnesses and evidence in his/her own behalf, as well as the right of student to be represented by counsel of individual choice, and referral to Delaware County Legal Assistance Association if he/she cannot afford legal counsel. Students shall have the right to demand that witnesses appear in person to answer questions or be cross-examined. If requested by a student or parent, a private hearing shall be held. Board shall not be bound to technical rules of evidence but may hear all relevant probative evidence pursuant to Local Agency Act PA C.S.A. Section 551.

STUDENT DISCIPLINE CODE – MNSD School Board Policy # 218

The MNSD School Board acknowledges that conduct is closely related to learning. An effective instructional program requires a wholesome and orderly school environment, and the efficacy of the educational program is, in part, reflected in the behavior of students and employees.

The Board shall require each student of this district to adhere to the rules and regulations promulgated by the administration and to submit to such disciplinary measures as are appropriately assigned for infraction of those rules. The rules govern student conduct in school and during the time spent travelling to and from school. Such rules shall require that students:

1. Conform to reasonable standards of socially acceptable behavior.
2. Respect the rights, person, and property of others.
3. Preserve the degree of order necessary to the educational program in which they are engaged.
4. Obey constituted authority and respond to those who hold that authority.

According to Title 22 of the Pennsylvania School Code:

- ❖ Corporal punishment shall not be imposed upon a student.
- ❖ Reasonable force may still be used by teachers and school authorities under any of the following circumstances: (1) to quell a disturbance, (2) to obtain possession of weapons or other dangerous objects, (3) for the purpose of self-defense, or (4) for the protection of persons or property.

The discipline policy is in effect for all students during any and all school hours, school activities and/or school-sponsored events, and/or whenever a student is in school, on school property and nearby properties, and/or in school vehicle, including, but not limited to, school buses.

LEVEL I – Misbehaviors classified in this level represent relatively minor infractions of established procedures which regulate the orderly operation of the school and the educational process. The frequency of the occurrence of the infraction may impact the disciplinary response, including, but not limited to, reclassification to a higher level. This level of misbehavior includes, but is not limited to, the following:

- ❖ Abuse of hall, locker or lavatory privileges
- ❖ Disruptive/Disrespectful behavior
- ❖ Dress Code violations
- ❖ Unauthorized visits – being present on school district property without approval of building administration
- ❖ Unexcused absence or excessive lateness to school or class
- ❖ Other minor infractions of acceptable school behavior

Disciplinary Options (any one or more of the following):

- ❖ Verbal reprimand
- ❖ Restriction of privileges

- ❖ Notification of parent/guardian
- ❖ Detention
- ❖ Referral to building administrator or building administrator's designee
- ❖ Assign to work detail
- ❖ Special assignments
- ❖ Behavior contract
- ❖ Counseling
- ❖ Saturday school

LEVEL II – This level includes misbehavior which by its frequency and/or seriousness tends to disrupt the learning climate of the school and/or seriously affects the student's own education. Some of these infractions may be the result of a continuation of misbehaviors which remain unchanged by disciplinary actions under Level I. This level of misbehavior includes, but is not limited to, the following:

- ❖ Bullying
- ❖ Cheating/Plagiarism
- ❖ Cutting class
- ❖ Defacing school property
- ❖ Fighting
- ❖ Forging/Changing official documents
- ❖ Insubordination/Disrespect
- ❖ Offensive language or gestures
- ❖ Petty theft/Gambling
- ❖ Possession of tobacco and/or smoking/vaping paraphernalia
- ❖ Refusing teacher/administrative detention
- ❖ Smoking/vaping
- ❖ Truancy
- ❖ Unauthorized use of cell phones or other electronic devices
- ❖ Verbal assault
- ❖ Other more serious infractions of acceptable school behavior
- ❖ Violation of Acceptable Use of Networks Policy
- ❖ Violation of District Bus Policy
- ❖ Violation of Motor Vehicle Code or school regulations

Disciplinary Options (any one or more of the following):

- ❖ Verbal reprimand
- ❖ Detention
- ❖ Restriction of privileges
- ❖ Notification of parent/guardian
- ❖ Suspension/Removal of school bus privileges
- ❖ External suspension*
- ❖ Citation and fine
- ❖ Restitution of damages
- ❖ Removal from class/Placement in study hall

- ❖ Schedule modification
- ❖ Saturday school

LEVEL III – Infractions in Level III are more serious because their consequences may have a lasting effect on the student and/or may pose a threat to the health and safety of others. While some of these infractions may also be criminal acts, for the most part their remediation may be undertaken through the disciplinary actions of the school. However, in some cases, law enforcement officials may be contacted or notified. This level of misbehavior includes, but is not limited to, the following:

- ❖ Continuation of Level II behavior
- ❖ Chronic truancy
- ❖ Commission of any acts punishable under Pennsylvania Crimes Code
- ❖ Fighting
- ❖ Harassment
- ❖ Assault and battery
- ❖ Verbal assault
- ❖ Possessing, using, or being under the influence of unauthorized substances
- ❖ Publishing/Distributing libelous material
- ❖ Racial/Ethnic intimidation
- ❖ Tampering with safety equipment or school buses
- ❖ Theft
- ❖ Vandalism

Disciplinary Options (any one or more of the following):

- ❖ External suspension *
- ❖ Restitution of damages
- ❖ Restriction of privileges
- ❖ Referral to an outside agency
- ❖ Notification of parent/guardian
- ❖ Notification of school police and/or local law enforcement
- ❖ Expulsion

LEVEL IV – Misbehavior which presents a direct and immediate threat to the welfare of others or may result in violence to persons and/or damage to property. So serious are the infractions that in most cases they require administrative action which calls for the immediate removal of the student from school and/or the intervention of police. This level of misbehavior includes, but is not limited to, the following:

- ❖ Continuation of Level III behavior
- ❖ Arson
- ❖ Assault and battery
- ❖ Bomb threats
- ❖ Burglary
- ❖ Breaking and entering
- ❖ Commission of any acts punishable under Pennsylvania Crimes Code

- ❖ Extortion
- ❖ Grand theft
- ❖ Indecent exposure
- ❖ Major vandalism
- ❖ Possessing, using, or being under the influence of unauthorized substances
- ❖ Possession and/or sale of stolen property
- ❖ Possession and/or use of firecrackers or explosives
- ❖ Possession of a weapon
- ❖ Tampering with fire alarm or pulling false alarm

Disciplinary Options (any one or more of the following):

- ❖ Restitution of damages
- ❖ External suspension*
- ❖ Expulsion
- ❖ Referral to an outside agency
- ❖ Notification of parent/guardian
- ❖ Notification of school police and/or local law enforcement
- ❖ Prosecution in Juvenile or Criminal Court
- ❖ Restriction of privileges

*A student who is on suspension shall not participate in, nor attend any school sponsored extracurricular activity during the period of suspension, effective immediately upon notification of suspension. Suspension shall remain in effect until the start of the first day that the student is eligible to return to school.

MNSD SCHOOL BOARD POLICIES

Marple Newtown School Board Policies stipulate that the following types of behavior are unacceptable conduct:

1. Using, possessing, selling, giving, or being under the influence of illegal drugs, including alcohol, and/or possession of drug paraphernalia will result in suspension, expulsion, and legal action.
2. Smoking/vaping, use, or possession of any tobacco product or facsimile is prohibited on campus, including the parking lot.
3. Physical or verbal assault upon any student, visitor, or school employee will not be tolerated, nor will possession of any weapon or explosive (including fireworks). Violators will be subject to suspension, expulsion, and/or legal action.
4. Disobedience, disrespect, or open defiance of proper authority will not be permitted. Students who disrupt the learning environment will be referred to the administration for disciplinary action.

5. Vandalism, the willful destruction or defacing of school or personal property, will not be permitted. Theft of any kind will not be tolerated. Violators in these areas will be subject to suspension, expulsion, restitution, and/or legal action.
6. Tampering with the fire alarm system or fire safety equipment (fire extinguishers) is against the law, as is making false hazard reports. Violators in these areas will be subject to suspension, expulsion, restitution, and/or legal action.
7. Scholastic dishonesty, which includes, but is not limited to, cheating on a test, plagiarism, or unauthorized collaboration with another person to prepare written work, can result in a student receiving a failing grade for the class and/or suspension from school.
8. Engaging in verbal abuse, i.e. bullying, name calling, ethnic or racial slurs, sexual harassment, or any derogatory statements addressed publicly to others that may precipitate disruption of the school program, or incite violence is not permitted. Profanity, vulgar language, or obscene gestures toward other students, school personnel, or visitors to the school will not be tolerated. Offenders will be subject to disciplinary action, including suspension and/or expulsion.
9. Loitering in the parking lot or in student areas during class time is not permitted.
10. Physical or verbal hazing is unacceptable behavior and is subject to disciplinary action.
11. Obscene, vulgar, or profane language or expression will not be permitted on school grounds or at any school sponsored activity.
12. Public displays of affection, i.e. kissing, are not allowed.

The school board also provides that the principal may suspend or recommend expulsion of a student who engages in any of the following activities while in school buildings, on school grounds, in school vehicles, or during any school sponsored activity.

- A. Commission of any act which is a violation of criminal law.
- B. Committing extortion or forcing an individual to act through the threat of force.
- C. Behavior, which is detrimental to the welfare, safety, or morals of other students or school personnel.
- D. Lying or giving false information to a school employee.

During the school year it may become necessary to change or add to the guidelines. When this takes place you will be notified by announcements. If situations occur which are not covered in the above information, the school administration will make decisions based on the merits or the individual situation, and which are consistent with Board policy. It is the primary purpose of these rules and regulations to foster an atmosphere conducive to learning and increased student responsibility.

ACCEPTABLE USE OF INTERNET, COMPUTERS AND NETWORK RESOURCES

(AUP) - Policy #815

Marple Newtown School District provides students, staff, and other authorized users with access to district computers, electronic communication systems, and network resources, including Internet access, to support instruction, learning, teaching, research, collaboration, and district operations. Use of these resources is a privilege, not a right, and must be consistent with Board

policy, applicable law, and the approved purpose of the user's access.

Users have no expectation of privacy in anything they create, store, send, receive, access, or display on district devices or network resources. The District reserves the right to monitor, track, and log network use, file storage, and online activity, and may deny or revoke access to prevent unauthorized, inappropriate, or illegal activity.

The District uses technology protection measures to block or filter access to obscene content, child pornography, and material harmful to minors, as well as other content deemed inappropriate for minors under Board policy. Students, staff, and other authorized users must act responsibly, ethically, and legally when using district technology, and must immediately report violations or suspicious activity to the building principal or designee.

Prohibited uses include, but are not limited to: illegal activity; commercial or for-profit use; nonwork or nonschool-related use; bullying, cyberbullying, harassment, hate speech, or threatening or offensive communications; accessing or sharing obscene, pornographic, or otherwise inappropriate materials; unauthorized access to files, passwords, systems, or confidential information; impersonation of another user; unauthorized games, programs, or media; copyright violations; disruption of others' work; damage to hardware, software, or systems; and bypassing Internet filtering or other security measures without authorization.

Failure to comply may result in restrictions on use, loss of access privileges, disciplinary action, financial responsibility for damages, and/or referral to legal authorities.

DISCRIMINATION/ TITLE IX SEXUAL HARASSMENT AFFECTING STUDENTS - [Policy #103](#)

Marple Newtown School District is committed to providing all students equal opportunity to achieve their maximum potential through the programs and activities offered in the schools, without discrimination on the basis of race, color, age, creed, religion, sex, sexual orientation, ancestry, national origin, marital status, pregnancy, or handicap/disability.

The District also complies with Title IX and federal regulations prohibiting sexual harassment as a form of unlawful sex discrimination. Questions about the application of Title IX may be directed to the District's Title IX Coordinator, the U.S. Department of Education's Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights, or both.

The District is committed to maintaining a safe and positive learning environment free from discrimination by providing all students access to course offerings, counseling, assistance, services, employment, athletics, and extracurricular activities without discrimination, including Title IX sexual harassment. Discrimination is prohibited at, or in the course of, district-sponsored programs or activities, including transportation to or from school and school-sponsored activities.

NONDISCRIMINATION-TRANSGENDER AND GENDER EXPANSIVE STUDENTS- [Policy #248.1](#)

Marple Newtown School District is committed to creating a safe and inclusive learning environment for all students that is free from discrimination on the basis of sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, or gender expression, and to ensuring equal access to all components of the educational program.

This policy is intended to support compliance with district policy and state and federal laws concerning bullying, harassment, and discrimination. It applies to conduct occurring in school, on school property, at school-sponsored functions and activities, on school buses and at bus stops, and on school computers, networks, forums, and mailing lists, including conduct addressed under the district's cyberbullying policy. The policy applies to the entire school community, including educators, school staff, students, parents/guardians, and volunteers.

The policy further provides that complaints involving discrimination or harassment based on actual or perceived gender identity or expression must be taken seriously and handled consistent with law and board policy. It protects the confidentiality of student information to the extent required by law, supports the use of names and pronouns consistent with a student's gender identity, and allows students to participate in school programs, activities, and use gender-segregated facilities in a manner consistent with their gender identity. The district also provides for transition-related planning and staff training regarding the policy.

BULLYING/CYBERBULLYING - [Policy #249](#)

Marple Newtown School District is committed to providing a safe, positive learning environment for students and prohibits all forms of bullying by district students. Bullying, including cyberbullying, is defined as an intentional electronic, written, verbal, or physical act, or series of acts, directed at another student or students, occurring in a school setting and/or outside a school setting, that is severe, persistent, or pervasive and substantially interferes with a student's education, creates a threatening environment, or substantially disrupts the orderly operation of the school.

Students who believe they or others have been bullied are encouraged to promptly report the incident to the building principal or designee. Verbal and written complaints must be investigated promptly, and appropriate corrective or preventative action must be taken when allegations are substantiated. If the reported conduct may also involve discrimination, the matter must be handled as a joint, concurrent investigation with the Compliance Officer and Title IX Coordinator. If student behavior indicates a threat to safety, staff must report it to the threat assessment team.

The District protects confidentiality consistent with law and prohibits retaliation against anyone who reports bullying or participates in an investigation. The policy is reviewed annually with students, reviewed every three years by administration, included in the Code of Student Conduct, accessible in every classroom, and posted in school buildings and on the district website. The District also provides bullying prevention and intervention education and training for students and staff.

Students who violate the policy are subject to discipline under the Code of Student Conduct, which may include counseling, parental conference, loss of privileges, transfer, exclusion from activities, detention,

suspension, or expulsion.

IDENTIFICATION AND REMEDIATION OF SUBSTANCE ABUSE - [Policy #227](#)

Marple Newtown School District recognizes that student use and abuse of alcohol, tobacco, drugs, and other chemical substances is a serious concern with significant social, legal, physical, emotional, and spiritual consequences. The District uses counseling, education, extracurricular activities, community resources, and law enforcement, as appropriate, to prevent, intervene in, and remediate student substance abuse.

For purposes of this policy, all student use of alcohol, tobacco, and other drugs is treated as substance abuse requiring intervention. The policy applies on school district property and in any setting where the District has primary jurisdiction, including travel to and from school and school-sponsored off-campus events.

The District provides prevention and support through K–12 health education, age-appropriate awareness programs, annual staff training, school guidance services, the school nurse, the Student Assistance Team (STAR), and outside community agencies. Students may voluntarily seek confidential help for substance abuse concerns.

Students suspected of being under the influence of a controlled substance will be referred to the school nurse for assessment. Administrators may conduct student searches when supported by reasonable suspicion and may require breathalyzer testing when circumstances justify it, including prior to admission or readmission to school-sponsored events.

Students who use, possess, or distribute alcohol, illegal drugs, prescription drugs not prescribed to them, look-alike drugs, drug paraphernalia, tobacco products, or other chemical agents on school premises or within school purview are subject to consequences under district policy and law. Employees who become aware of such violations must report them to a school administrator or a member of the Student Assistance Team, and administrators will notify parents/guardians and appropriate authorities. The policy also prohibits anabolic steroid use by students in school-related athletics except for a valid medical purpose and sets minimum athletic suspensions for violations.

SEARCHES - [Policy #226](#)

Marple Newtown School District may provide lockers for student storage, but all lockers remain district property. Students therefore have only a limited expectation of privacy in their lockers and may not use them to store items prohibited by law, Board policy, or district rules, or materials that threaten the health, safety, or welfare of the school community.

The Board authorizes locker inspections based on reasonable suspicion to determine whether a locker is being used improperly to store contraband, illegal items, or materials that pose a threat to the school population. The administration may also conduct random general locker searches when the district has a compelling interest in protecting the health, safety, or welfare of students and staff. Students, parents/guardians, and staff must be notified of this policy and related procedures at least annually.

The principal or designee must be present during locker inspections based on reasonable

suspicion, and the principal is responsible for documenting each inspection in writing, including the reason for the search, who was present, what was found, and how the items were handled. School officials may also search a student's personal belongings or vehicle on school property when there is reasonable suspicion of a violation of law, Board policy, school rules, or a threat to safety.

Before an individual locker search, the student should be notified and given an opportunity to be present, unless there is reasonable suspicion that the locker contains materials posing a threat to health, welfare, or safety, in which case the search may occur without prior warning. Illegal or prohibited materials found during a search may be used as evidence in school disciplinary proceedings. Searches may also include tools such as certified drug dogs or metal detection devices to protect the school community.

Reasonable Suspicion: Reasonable suspicion is defined as a conclusion arrived at by a reasonable, prudent, and conscientious mind, from the facts at hand. If the facts logically, rationally, and in the exercise of good common sense, lead a reasonable, prudent, and discreet person to conclude that a student has illegal material on school property, or on his or her person, this is a reasonable suspicion.

OPENING EXERCISES/FLAG DISPLAYS - [Policy #807](#)

Marple Newtown School District adopts this policy to ensure compliance with state and federal requirements regarding flag displays and daily opening exercises while respecting individual rights.

A United States flag must be displayed in classrooms and on or near each school building during school hours, in clement weather, and at other times determined by the Board. District schools must provide opening exercises that include a salute to the flag and/or the recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance or the National Anthem.

Students may decline to salute the flag or recite the Pledge of Allegiance or National Anthem based on personal belief or religious conviction, but they must respect the rights of classmates who choose to participate. The Board also directs professional employees to include a brief period of silent prayer or meditation in daily opening exercises, provided it is not conducted as a religious service or exercise.

TOBACCO USE/VAPING - [Policy #222](#)

Marple Newtown School District recognizes that student tobacco use and vaping present health and safety risks for both users and nonusers and negatively affect the school environment. For purposes of this policy, tobacco use includes the use and/or possession of lighted or unlighted cigarettes, cigars, pipes, other lighted smoking products, smokeless tobacco in any form, electronic cigarettes, nicotine products, nicotine delivery products, and any vaping delivery

system. Electronic cigarettes include battery-operated products designed to deliver nicotine, flavoring, or another substance in vapor form for inhalation.

The Board prohibits student use, possession, and vaping of these products at any time in school buildings, on school property, on district-owned, leased, or controlled buses, vans, and vehicles, and at school-sponsored activities held off school property. The District may initiate prosecution of students who violate the policy.

The Superintendent or designee must annually notify students, parents/guardians, and staff of the policy and develop administrative regulations to implement it. Incidents involving possession, use, or sale of tobacco or vaping products on school property must be reported annually to the Office for Safe Schools.

Students convicted of possessing or using tobacco or vaping products in violation of the policy may be fined up to \$50 plus court costs or admitted to alternative adjudication instead of a fine. In addition to citations, students are subject to school discipline, including:

1. first offense: three-day suspension and one month loss of privileges, including parking and extracurricular activities;
2. second offense: five-day suspension and one semester loss of privileges;
3. third offense: up to ten-day suspension and one year loss of privileges, including participation in graduation ceremonies; and
4. fourth offense: recommendation to the Board for expulsion.

WEAPONS - [Policy #218.1](#)

Marple Newtown School District recognizes that possession of weapons in the school setting threatens the safety of students and staff and is prohibited by law. For purposes of this policy, a weapon includes, but is not limited to, any knife, cutting instrument, cutting tool, nunchaku, firearm, shotgun, rifle, replica of a weapon, or any other tool, instrument, or implement capable of inflicting serious bodily injury. A student is considered in possession of a weapon if it is found on the student, in the student's locker, under the student's control on school property or property being used by the school, at a school function or activity, at an off-campus school event, or while the student is traveling to or from school.

The Board prohibits students from possessing or bringing weapons and replicas of weapons into school district buildings, onto school property, to school-sponsored activities, or onto public transportation providing transportation to school or a school-sponsored activity. Any student who violates this policy is subject to expulsion for at least one year, subject to formal due process, although the Superintendent may recommend modifications on a case-by-case basis. In cases involving students with disabilities, the District will comply with applicable law and Board policy.

The Superintendent or designee must report discovery of a prohibited weapon to the student's parents/guardians and local law enforcement, report applicable expulsion incidents to the Department of

Education, maintain procedures with local law enforcement through a memorandum of understanding, and report weapons-related incidents annually to the Office for Safe Schools. Students, staff, and parents/guardians must be informed of the policy at least annually. The Superintendent may authorize limited exceptions subject to special conditions or procedures, and weapons under the control of law enforcement personnel are permitted. For transfer students serving an expulsion period for a weapons offense, the District may assign alternative education or another alternative assignment for the remainder of that expulsion period.

ELECTRONIC COMMUNICATION DEVICES POLICY- [Policy #237](#)

Marple Newtown School District adopts this policy to support an educational environment that is orderly, safe, and secure while recognizing that electronic devices can make a positive contribution when used for educational purposes. Electronic devices include devices that can take photographs; record, play, or edit audio or video; store, transmit, or receive calls, messages, text, data, or images; operate online applications; or provide a wireless, unfiltered connection to the Internet.

The Board authorizes the use of electronic devices in classrooms, educational activities, and other approved locations under teacher or staff supervision for educational purposes, in compliance with Board policy, the Code of Student Conduct, and any applicable IEP or Section 504 Service Agreement. The Board also authorizes silent use of electronic devices during the school day, on district property, at school-sponsored activities, and while students are under district supervision, so long as such use does not interfere with educational responsibilities, the rights of others, or district operations. Students may use personal electronic devices only with written parental consent on a district-provided form.

Building principals, in consultation with the Superintendent, may establish school- or program-specific rules governing where and when electronic devices may be used. Authorized use may include instructional purposes, certain noninstructional times and locations, and approved educational, safety, emergency, medical, or security purposes. Electronic devices are prohibited at all times in locker rooms, bathrooms, health suites, and other changing areas. The district is not liable for loss, damage, or misuse of student electronic devices.

The policy also prohibits taking, storing, viewing, transferring, disseminating, or sharing obscene, pornographic, lewd, or otherwise illegal images or photographs by electronic means, including texting and email. Because such conduct may violate state or federal law, the district may report it to law enforcement. Violations of the policy may result in disciplinary action and confiscation of the device.

STUDENT WELLNESS – [Policy #246](#)

Marple Newtown School District recognizes that student wellness and proper nutrition are closely related to students' physical well-being, growth, development, and readiness to learn. The Board is committed to providing a school environment that promotes student wellness, proper nutrition, nutrition education and promotion, and regular physical activity as part of the

total learning experience. In a healthy school environment, students learn and practice positive dietary and lifestyle habits that support student achievement.

Based on recommendations of the Wellness Committee and in accordance with state and federal law, the Board provides students with a comprehensive nutrition program, access to reasonably priced foods and beverages that meet nutrition guidelines, physical education courses and developmentally appropriate physical activity during the school day, and K–12 curriculum and programs designed to teach proper nutrition and lifelong physical activity.

The Superintendent or designee is responsible for implementing and overseeing the policy, with building principals or designees reporting annually on compliance. The Superintendent or designee and the Wellness Committee must also conduct a public triennial assessment of the policy's implementation, school compliance, comparison to model wellness policies, and district progress toward wellness goals.

The policy provides for nutrition education and promotion, including age-appropriate health instruction, family and community involvement, and consistent healthy messaging throughout the district. It also encourages regular physical activity through physical education, recess and activity opportunities, classroom activity breaks, clubs, intramurals, and athletics, while discouraging extended periods of inactivity.

District schools must provide adequate space for meals, ensure the school meals program is administered by qualified nutrition professionals, and make all foods available during the school day consistent with established nutrition guidelines and Pennsylvania standards for competitive foods. Schools may not use noncompliant foods or beverages as rewards or withhold food as punishment, and marketing and fundraising practices must support student wellness goals.

STUDENTS EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS, FOSTER CARE AND OTHER EDUCATIONAL INSTABILITY: McKinney Vento Act - [Policy #251](#)

Marple Newtown School District recognizes the challenges faced by students experiencing homelessness, foster care, and other educational instability. The Board is committed to facilitating immediate enrollment, eliminating barriers to attendance, education, and graduation, and providing additional supports in compliance with federal and state laws, regulations, and Board policy.

The District will collaborate with school staff, other school districts, local agencies, and other entities to support students experiencing educational instability and ensure that they have equal access to the same educational programs, activities, and services available to other district students. The Superintendent is authorized to waive specific Board policies, procedures, and administrative regulations to the extent they create barriers to enrollment or attendance.

The policy is intended to promote school stability and educational access for eligible students and to ensure compliance with applicable legal protections, including those relating to immediate enrollment and support for students experiencing homelessness and other qualifying forms of educational instability.

You can visit the [PA Education for Children and Youth Experiencing Homelessness](#) site.

Please contact Jacqueline Litz, LSW

Home and school Visitor and Homeless Liaison

610-359-4288

jlitz@mnsd.org

MARPLE NEWTOWN SCHOOL DISTRICT HEALTH SERVICES INFORMATION

- can be found on the District Website at www.mnsd.org. Click on Departments and then Health Services.

References:

School Code – 24 P.S. § 510, 1317.1

Electronic Communications Privacy Act – 18 U.S.C. § 2510 et seq.

Wiretapping and Electronic Surveillance Act – 18 Pa. C.S.A. § 5703

Federal Children's Internet Protection Act - 47 U.S.C. § 254

Pennsylvania Child Internet Protection Act – 24 P.S. § 4601 et seq.

Bullying Act – 24 P.S. § 13-1303.1-A

School Board Policies, Regulations, Rules, and Procedures

A complete listing of all MNSD School Board Policies is available at www.mnsd.org.

ALMA MATER

*Lift your hearts to old MN High
for the service she has done for thee.*

*Hail! Oh, Hail! Alma Mater dear
with our songs of love and loyalty.*

*We survey with all pride and joy,
precious memories of the days gone by,
and instilled in our lives we find
ideals formed in MN High.*