



Meridian Junior High School

Student Handbook 2024-2025

**207 W. Main Street
Stillman Valley, IL 61084
815-645-2230**

Property of: _____

Address: _____

Phone #: _____ SOAR Teacher: _____

In case of emergency, please notify:

Name: _____ Phone #: _____

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PREAMBLE

This handbook is provided to the students and their families to acquaint them with the rules, regulations, procedures, and other relevant information necessary for the orderly functioning of the school. It has been structured to help promote student

progress as well as a guide to school operations. In addition this handbook provides for the psychological and physical safety of students through appropriate rules and regulations.

When violations of school disciplinary rules and regulations occur, it is the responsibility of the involved teachers and administrators to work with the student, his/her parents, and other support personnel to help the student correct his/her behavior. All disciplinary actions shall be directed toward protecting the welfare of the school community, as well as helping the student develop self-discipline. When determining the response for a specific violation of discipline, school personnel will consider the nature of the act, the student’s previous history, his/her age and maturation, any mitigating circumstances and the effect his/her action had on the welfare of the school community. Disciplinary responses may include, but are not limited to, the actions described in this handbook.

This handbook does not equate to an irrevocable contractual commitment to the student. This handbook is only a summary of board policies governing the district. Those policies are available for inspection at the district’s administrative office. Membership or participation in a school-sanctioned activity is a privilege and not a property right. **The school has the right to update this handbook at any time during the school year.**

MERIDIAN COMMUNITY UNIT SCHOOL DISTRICT #223
MISSION STATEMENT

“Our mission is to educate students to be self-directed learners, collaborative workers, complex thinkers, quality producers and community contributors.”

GREETINGS FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Welcome to Meridian Junior High School. This handbook has been prepared for the express purpose of presenting information about our school policies, courses of study, and activities. **READ THIS CAREFULLY, PLEASE SIGN AND DATE THE LAST PAGE OF THE HANDBOOK STATING YOU AND YOUR PARENT HAVE READ THE HANDBOOK; TURN IT INTO YOUR FIRST HOUR TEACHER.** It will answer many questions you may have about your needs and what is expected of you. Everyone on the faculty and staff is ready to help you enjoy a worthwhile school experience. You have fine qualities and talents to develop and share in making Meridian Junior High School a great school. We hope that if you have any questions or problems during the year, you will contact us. We are proud of Meridian Junior High and are expecting you to represent our school with pride. Good wishes for a happy and successful school year!
#WeAreMCUSD

Mrs. Speakes
Principal
Meridian Junior High School

PERIOD & BELL SCHEDULES

8th Grade: (Late Start Days Listed Below)							
1st hour	2nd hour	3rd hour	4th hour	5th hour	6th hour	Lunch	8th hour
9th hour							

8:00-8:42 2:30	8:45-9:27	9:30-10:12	10:15-10:57	11:00-11:42	11:45-12:27	12:30-1:00	1:03-1:45	1:48-
8:30-9:08 2:30	9:11-9:49	9:52-10:30	10:33-11:11	11:14-11:52	11:55-12:33	12:36-1:06	1:09-1:47	1:50-

7th Grade: (Late Start Days Listed Below)

1st hour	2nd hour	3rd hour	4th hour	5th hour	Lunch	7th hour	8th hour	
9th hour								
8:00-8:42 2:30	8:45-9:27	9:30-10:12	10:15-10:57	11:00-11:42	11:45-12:15	12:18-1:00	1:03-1:45	1:48-
8:30-9:08 2:30	9:11-9:49	9:52-10:30	10:33-11:11	11:14-11:52	11:55-12:25	12:28-1:06	1:09-1:47	1:50-

6th Grade: (Late Start Days Listed Below)

1st hour	2nd hour	3rd hour	4th hour	Lunch	6th hour	7th hour	8th hour	
9th hour								
8:00-8:42 2:30	8:45-9:27	9:30-10:12	10:15-10:57	11:00-11:30	11:33-12:15	12:18-1:00	1:03-1:45	1:48-
8:30-9:08 2:30	9:11-9:49	9:52-10:30	10:33-11:11	11:14-11:44	11:47-12:25	12:28-1:06	1:09-1:47	1:50-

Early Dismissal Days out at 11:10

Early Release Days out at 1:00

SCHOOL CALENDAR 2024-2025

AUGUST

12-13 Teacher Institute
14 First Day of School
30 Early Dismissal 11:10 a.m.

SEPTEMBER

2 No School - Labor Day

OCTOBER

10 Parent/Teacher Conferences 3:30-6:30
10 End of 1st Quarter
11 Early Dismissal 11:10 a.m.
14 No School - Columbus Day
17 Parent/Teacher Conferences 3:30-6:30

NOVEMBER

5 No School - Election Day
25-29 Thanksgiving Break

DECEMBER

20 Early Dismissal 11:10 a.m.
20 End of 1st Semester
23-31 No School - Winter Break

JANUARY

1-3 No School - Winter Break
6 Teacher Institute
20 No School - Martin Luther King, Jr. Day

FEBRUARY

14 Early Dismissal 11:10 a.m.
17 No School - Presidents' Day

MARCH

14 End of 3rd Quarter
21 Early Dismissal 11:10 a.m.
24-28 No School - Spring Break

APRIL

18 No School - Good Friday
21 Teacher Institute

MAY

23 Last Day of School - Early Dismissal 11:10 am
26 Memorial Day
27-30 Possible Emergency Days

JUNE

2 Possible Emergency Days

MERIDIAN JUNIOR HIGH PERSONNEL

BOARD OF EDUCATION:	Mr. John Smith	Mr. Matt Rhodes	Mr. Tim DeVries	Mrs. Kristine Youman
	Mrs. Jill Huber	Mrs. Marsha Welden	Mr. Dustin Collins	
SUPERINTENDENT:	Dr. Joe Mulikin		jmulikin@mail.meridian223.org	
PRINCIPAL:	Mrs. Jen Speakes		jspeakes@mail.meridian223.org	
ATHLETIC DIRECTOR:.....	TBD			
COUNSELOR:	Mr. Robert Wissinger		rwissinger@mail.meridian223.org	
	Mrs. Kelli Zitzke		kzitzke@mail.meridian223.org	
SECRETARY:	Mrs. Margarita Alvarez		malavrez@mail.meridian223.org	
	Mrs. Kelli Spray		kspray@mail.meridian223.org	
NURSE:	Mrs. Maria Millan		mmillan@mail.meridian223.org	
HEAD LIBRARIAN:	Mrs. Dana Brooks		dbrooks@mail.meridian223.org	
LIBRARY AIDE:	Ms. Elizabeth Hong		ehong@mail.meridian223.org	
JANITOR:	Miss Ashley Simmons		asimmons@mail.meridian223.org	
HEAD COOK:	Mrs. Pam Allison		pallison@mail.meridian223.org	

TEACHING STAFF	SUBJECT	EMAIL
Ms. Jacquie Arjes	7th Math	jarjes@mail.meridian223.org
Mrs. Rebecca Barton	7th Science	rbarton@mail.meridian223.org
Mrs. Malinda Bonnell	8th Resource	mbonnell@mail.meridian223.org
Mrs. Sarah Bouton	Paraprofessional	sbouton@mail.meridian223.org
Mrs. Emilea Bramm	Paraprofessional	ebramm@mail.meridian223.org
Mrs. Deb Close	8th Literature	dclose@mail.meridian223.org
Mrs. Kathleen Combs	Math Intervention	kcombs@mail.meridian223.org
Mrs. Katie Fore	7th ELA	kfore@mail.meridian223.org
Mr. John Gelasi	Band	jgelasi@mail.meridian223.org
Mrs. Jolene Graney	Building Sub	jgraney@mail.meridian223.org
Mr. Ben Groselak	8th Math	bgroselak@mail.meridian223.org
Mrs. Janet Hall	7th Resource	jhall@mail.meridian223.org
Mrs. Jennifer Hall	8th Science	jenhall@mail.meridian223.org
Mr. Todd Hall	6th English	thall@mail.meridian223.org
Mrs. Katelyn Hamel	6th Resource	khamel@mail.meridian223.org
Ms. Kim Hofmeister	8th English	khofmeister@mail.meridian223.org
Mrs. Darby Gensler	7th Literature	dgensler@mail.meridian223.org
Mrs. Beth Kleinschmidt	Instructional Coach	bkleinschmidt@mail.meridian223.org
Mr. Michael Lalor	8th History	mlalor@mail.meridian223.org
Mrs. Kristi Lundine	6th Math	klundine@mail.meridian223.org
Miss Mercedes Maglio	Band	mmaglio@mail.meridian223.org
Mr. Ryan McDevitt	6th/7th Physical Education	rmcdevitt@mail.meridian223.org
Mrs. Lisa McNeal	Aide	lmcneal@mail.meridian223.org
Mrs. Julia Palmer	Paraprofessional	jpalmer@mail.meridian223.org
Mrs. Sherri Pudino	Paraprofessional	spudino@mail.meridian223.org
Mr. Adham Ralev	6th History	aralev@mail.meridian223.org
Mrs. Kaitlyn Rippentrop	Art	krippentrop2@mail.meridian223.org
Miss Abigail Risner	Choir	arisner@mail.meridian223.org
Miss Alyssa Rueff	Reading Interventionist	arueff@mail.meridian223.org
Mrs. Ali Salo	7th History	asalo@mail.meridian223.org
Mrs. Jacey Schneiker	6th Literature	jschneiker@mail.meridian223.org
Mrs. Aimee Stewart	6th Science	astewart@mail.meridian223.org
Mrs. Jessica Summers	Paraprofessional	jsummers@mail.meridian223.org
Ms. Deb Thibodeau	6th, 7th, & 8th Computers	dthibodeau@mail.meridian223.org
Ms. Abbey Wheeler	Paraprofessional	awheeler@mail.meridian223.org
Mr. TJ Zambrovitz	7th/8th Physical Education	tzambrovitz@mail.meridian223.org

Parents are encouraged to contact teachers and get acquainted with the teacher and classroom procedures. Through contact with teachers and the use of Student/Family Access, parents become partners in the academic development of their child. If parents have any questions or concerns about their child, they should contact the teacher **FIRST**. As a courtesy we request that you email the teacher or call and make an appointment that will be convenient for both you and the teacher.

STUDENT APPEARANCE

Student dress and grooming must not disrupt the educational process; interfere with the maintenance of a positive teaching/learning climate, or compromise reasonable standards of health, safety, and decency.

The School Board believes it is the parent's responsibility to have their children dress in an acceptable manner for school. Any form of dress that is deemed to be a distraction or disruption to the serious business of the educational process is unacceptable, such as:

STUDENT APPEARANCE	APPROPRIATE ACTION
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Clothing must be non-transparent (undergarments cannot be seen), and size appropriate. Pants may not have holes above the 5 inch inseam. Hoods should not be worn inside the school building. 2. Shirts, tank tops, and dresses must completely cover the abdomen and back. Tank tops must have a two inch shoulder strap. 3. Skirts, dresses, and shorts must adequately cover the buttocks/upper thigh area when seated and/or standing. All shorts must have at least a 5 inch inseam. 4. Students will wear safe and appropriate shoes at all times. Heelys or any shoes with wheels are not appropriate wear for school. 5. No bedroom attire such as slippers, pajamas or blankets will be permitted at school. 6. Sunglasses, hats, bandanas, and sweatbands are not acceptable dress for school. 7. No clothing or jewelry displaying language or symbols promoting violence, vandalism, sex, suggestive material, Satanism, use of drugs, alcohol or tobacco, or containing language/symbols degrading any gender, culture, religious or ethnic values are not acceptable.. 8. Winter coats shall be left in the student's locker 	<p>The list is only a guideline and should not be considered all-inclusive. When dress is identified as inappropriate, the student will be immediately referred to the building principal for appropriate action, which may include</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. A request to remove or cover up the unacceptable clothing, jewelry, etc. 2. Parental contact to bring in acceptable clothing. 3. A student may be sent to in-school suspension if nothing can be done to either cover-up, remove or replace the inappropriate dress. 4. Any other incident of inappropriate dress may result in an out of school suspension for insubordination.

If you debate whether the clothing you're wearing may be inappropriate - it probably is.

Meridian Junior High School is committed to providing the best educational climate possible. Student dress is part of that climate. Although there are very few restrictions on dress in the Meridian School District, we expect all students to respect and observe the stated dress code and guidelines.

MERIDIAN JUNIOR HIGH PHYSICAL EDUCATION GOALS

Students will learn the value of lifelong physical activity. Physical activities can and should be fun, so the students are more likely to remain active throughout their lives. Teachers will teach according to national and state standards for quality physical education, thus helping the students feel confident in their ability to lead an active life and be in control of their own health.

UNIFORM AND DRESS POLICY FOR P.E. - REGULATION DRESS:

- ★ Gray Shirt
- ★ Plain Black Athletic Shorts. Minimum of a 7" inseam.
- ★ Athletic Socks
- ★ Tennis Shoes
- ★ Some type of Sweats (recommended for use on days with cold weather)

CHANGING FOR P.E. AND CONSEQUENCES

If a student does not have their own P.E. clothes, they may be issued a loaner. Any student who is issued a loaner will need to do so on a Google Spreadsheet. All clothing will be numbered to help keep track of what goes in and out. Loaners should be returned to school the following day, washed and dried. Upon the third loan, parents will be notified by the student via the office phone during their scheduled P.E. time. Daily points will not be deducted from the students' grade.

If a student should refuse a loaner, a minor will be given for being unprepared for class, daily points will be deducted and an alternate assignment will be given. This assignment will need to be completed before the end of the class period. Student(s) will also be required to notify a parent via a phone call immediately upon their refusal.

We want to help every student be successful and participate in P.E. Providing loaners in P.E. is the same as letting them borrow a pencil or chromebook.

7TH & 8TH GRADES

7th and 8th graders will participate in Health and Too Good for Drug classes during their scheduled P.E. times.

P.E. LOCKERS

All students will be assigned a P.E. locker and are to use the lockers assigned to them. Students are not allowed to share lockers. If for any good reason a locker cannot be used, students will need to report this to their P.E. teacher. **Students must keep their locker locked during and after P.E. class.** The school cannot assume responsibility for lost articles. Lockers should be clean and tidy. Students will be held responsible for any damages done to their locker. **There will be a \$10.00 charge for all lost locks; due to increase in costs, prices are subject to change.**

Students should bring home their P.E. clothes weekly to be washed.

Students must have a parent note to be excused from physical activity. Students requiring more than three days from P.E. are required to bring a note from a doctor.

GENERAL GUIDELINES

ADDRESS CHANGES

It is important that we have at all times your current address and telephone number. This information is especially important in cases of emergency. Please take proof of address to the District Office if you need to change your address.

BEFORE SCHOOL

No student should be on school grounds before 7:00 a.m. Doors will be unlocked at 7:00 a.m.

AFTER SCHOOL

The building is to be cleared by 2:45 p.m. Students waiting for a late bus must wait in the large gym. Only those who have supervised activities may remain in the building after 2:45 p.m.

AT SCHOOL

You become the school's responsibility when you board the bus in the morning until you depart the bus at night. Students may be taken to the park that is located behind the school during or after school by staff members or across the street to our fields by the bus garage. In the event that parents must remove a child from school before the close of day, they should send a note to that effect and bring it to the office.

ITEMS NOT TO BRING TO SCHOOL

Problems arise each year because children bring articles to school, which are hazards to the safety of others or interfere in some way with school procedures. Such items as Stanleys, toy guns, electronic games, ipods, dice, laser pointers, skateboards, game cards, any items of value, etc., if brought to school as playthings, are undesirable and will be confiscated.

The school is not responsible for any lost or stolen items.

BIRTHDAYS & SPECIAL OCCASIONS

Deliveries of balloons and flowers are not permitted. If you choose to bring in food for your student, please ensure that the food provided is intended for your student only. Visitors are not permitted to have lunch with students.

BOOK REFUND POLICY

Any student entering Meridian Junior High School during the first semester shall pay the full year's cost for books. A student entering during the second semester will pay one-half the full year's cost for books. One-half the full year's cost will be refunded to anyone leaving during the first semester. A student leaving second semester will get no refund for books. All partially used books will be returned to the office so that they may be used for new students entering school. Textbooks are assigned to and are the responsibility of the student. The student is liable for all damages and/or lost texts and will be billed accordingly. If a student loses a text, he/she will need to purchase a new text immediately. **TEXTBOOKS WILL BE LOANED TO THE STUDENT BY THE TEACHER FOR THAT CLASS PERIOD ONLY.** If the text is found, and the newly purchased text is returned undamaged, the purchase price will be returned to the student.

CELL PHONES

Cell phones may be brought to school for before and after school use or if required by a teacher for a specific lesson. Phones must be turned off and locked in lockers during school hours. If a student's phone is observed during school hours or in a class that was not required by the teacher that day it will be confiscated and taken to the principal to be held until the end of the school day. Students will be given a warning for the first incident and a 4-hour Saturday school on the second and thereafter. Apple watches may be worn, but students should not use them during the school day; watches that are being used will be confiscated and the same consequences will be given as cell phones.

CHROMEBOOK RESPONSIBILITIES/DAMAGED FEES

Students are expected to bring their chromebooks fully charged and their chargers with them daily; the office does not loan out chargers. Students who visit the office to borrow a chromebook will be given one to borrow for the day. On the students' third visit to borrow a chromebook from the office, they will be required to make a phone call home to inform a parent that they were unprepared for school, they will speak with the principal and receive a minor. Minors will be issued for each occurrence thereafter for the duration of the quarter.

Damaged Chromebook Fees (prices subject to change): \$5 per key; headphone jack \$30; LCD screen \$45; keyboard \$65; touchpad \$15; USB port \$30; body/hinge \$25; charger \$30; replacement of chromebook \$359.00.

EMERGENCY DRILLS

The Meridian District runs emergency drills throughout the year. Parents may request that their student(s) opt out of participating in any of the drills. Please send a request in writing to the principal 24 hours prior to said drill.

FIELD TRIPS

Field trips are correlated with the educational program and are used to either introduce or climax a unit. Field trips are considered to be an extension of the classroom. Field trips are planned teaching of those things which can best be taught outside the classroom. Children should not be kept home because a field trip has been scheduled. It is a part of the enrichment program and is concrete learning rather than abstract. Adequate preparation in the subject area and definite objectives are made before each trip. Evaluation and review of material seen on the field trip is made after the trip has been completed. No child is allowed to go on a trip without a signed permit from his/her parents. Safety rules are strictly enforced on these trips, and children not conforming to the rules or who have been issued discipline prior to the field trip may be barred from participating in future trips.

FOOD & BEVERAGES

Students are not allowed to leave the cafeteria with any food items, opened or unopened. Only clear water bottles are permitted in classrooms; due to spills, only water will be allowed in the building. Students who arrive at school with anything other than water, may leave their beverages in the office to be picked up at lunch or after school. In addition, students are not allowed to have gum. Students can only have clear, plastic water bottles.

GRADING

Assignments will be entered in as a zero, unless a doctor's note is submitted, or the student is excused for. Once report cards are posted, they will be viewable on Skyward under the "portfolio" tab.

HONOR ROLL

The purpose of an Honor Roll is to provide students recognition for academic achievement. Honor roll recognition will be given at the end of each semester for students in grades six through eight. Recognition may include an Honor Roll Certificate and students name entered on the Honor Roll List. To qualify for this honor students must have all homework and assignments submitted by 2:30 p.m. on the last day of the semester.

INTERNET ACCESS

Meridian Junior High School is fortunate to have extensive access to the internet. In order to have access to the internet, students and parents must sign a Meridian C.U.S.D. #223 acceptable use policy. This policy requires students to abide by appropriate protocol while on the internet. Failure to abide by the policy may result in the student being permanently denied access to the internet. Students are prohibited from emailing from the school, unless it is authorized by a teacher/administrator and part of the school's instructional program. Students are also prohibited from entering and participating in online "chat rooms". Violations will result in disciplinary measures up to and including expulsion.

LIBRARY

The library has a wide variety of materials for individual reports and research. By arrangement with the librarian the day before, students may use the library for studying before or after school. The library is open during the noon hours by arrangement with the librarian only.

LIBRARY LOST/DAMAGED BOOKS

Lost Books: Fine = Replacement cost plus \$3 processing fee

Lost/Found/Returned Books: Book returned before replacement ordered = accumulated late fine only

Book returned after replacement ordered = No Refund

Damaged Books: \$3 repair fine if the book can be repaired. If the book is wet (prone to mold) or damaged beyond repair, refer to Lost Books.

LOCKERS

On the opening day of school a locker will be assigned to each student. All students are to use the lockers assigned to them. Students are not allowed to share lockers. If for any good reason a locker cannot be used, report the trouble to the office. **Keep your locker locked at all times.** The school cannot assume responsibility for lost articles. Valuable property, such as money, iPods, cell phones, etc. should not be brought to school. In case a sum of money must be brought to school, it should be deposited with the office staff for safekeeping and never in your locker. Lockers should be clean and tidy. Students will be held responsible for any damages done to their locker. **There will be a \$10.00 charge for all lost locks; due to increase in costs, prices are subject to change.**

LUNCH PROGRAM

Checks for payment of lunch fees should be made payable to the MERIDIAN CUSD #223. Parents are able to add lunch payments via E-pay, which is located through the district website or cash/checks may be brought to the school office. Payments through the MJHS office will be processed daily at 10:00 a.m. Credit card payments made through E-pay may take up to 72 hours to process. If lunch cards are implemented, students will be issued a student i.d. which is needed to purchase a lunch; ala carte items can only be purchased with the student's i.d. First time replacements will be issued at no charge; all cards thereafter will be \$1 each. If an account goes more than \$5.00 in debt, a student will be allowed to purchase lunch, but will not be able to purchase any ala carte items until their account is in good standing.

Students will be notified as to the status of their account.

PARKING AREAS

Please do not park on the east side of the building at morning arrival or evening dismissal times. The buses take up a large segment of the available space, and these buses will be given priority on parking space. There are parking spaces on the west, north, and south sides of the building.

PROMOTION (8TH GRADE)

In order for students to be eligible to participate in the 8th grade promotion ceremony, students must be in good academic standing, meaning they must be passing all of their classes. Any misbehavior that results in disciplinary action may exclude students from the ceremony. Students must be in attendance the entire day of school to attend.

REMOTE LEARNING

Remote learning is offered only on days when school is closed due to inclement weather. All students will be considered "present" on remote school days. Faculty, staff, admin, counselors & support staff (paras, interventionists, administrative assistants) will be available via email for students and parents as needed during the school day (8:00 a.m. - 2:30 p.m.). Students should check Google Classroom for any assignments and do their work remotely.

RISE (REACH INDIVIDUAL SUCCESS & EXCELLENCE)

Students who do not turn in an assignment when it is due, will be issued RISE. RISE sessions run every morning Monday/Tuesday & Thursday/Friday from 7:00 (or 7:15 when their early bus arrives)-8:00 a.m (RISE will not take place on Wednesdays). If students are not able to finish their assignment(s), they will be expected to return for another session. Parents will be notified by text and phone call if their student has been issued a RISE for the following morning. The purpose of RISE is to ensure that all students are completing assignments and remain caught up in class in order to learn new rigorous concepts. Students who are not in attendance will be issued another alternative method (warning, lunch detention, after school detention, in school suspension).

SCHOOL ARRIVAL

1. **Students will not be permitted to enter the building before 7:00 a.m.**
2. When you arrive in the morning, students will need to ring the bell at the front door in order to gain entry. Students must use only these doors to enter the building, unless arriving by bus.
3. When arriving at school in the a.m. 6th and 8th grade students must go to the large gym, 7th grade students must go to the small gym and talk quietly until the first bell. **Students are not to be in the hallways without permission.** Students' needing admits or having office business should go to the office before going to the small/large gym.
4. All other areas are closed to students.
5. Students cannot go upstairs to their lockers before the first bell rings without a pass from the office or a teacher.

6. Students may not leave the school campus once they have arrived.

SCHOOL BUSES (cameras)

The same conduct rules that apply on the campus of Meridian Junior High School also apply on bus routes. Bus drivers are responsible for conduct on their bus and will report serious misconduct to the principal. Gross disobedience or misconduct will result in the suspension of bus riding privileges and possible suspension from school. Examples of misconduct include, but are not limited to the following:

1. Willful injury or threat of injury to a bus driver or to another rider.
2. Willful and/or repeated defacement of the bus.
3. Repeated use of profanity.
4. Repeated willful disobedience of the bus driver's directives.
5. Such other behavior as the administration deems to threaten the safe operation of the bus and/or its occupants.

For the safety of your child and all the children on the bus, please stress the importance of obeying the rules established by the bus driver. Students who are not regular passengers on the bus are not allowed to ride for any reason. Regular bus students must ride the bus unless a phone call and note from the parent is given to the Transportation Department in advance, or they are attending a scheduled school activity. If you have questions or concerns regarding buses please contact the Bus Garage at 815.645.2230. Students will not be permitted to ride the bus if they leave the school property and return. Any students who choose to leave the property will need to find another means of transportation.

TARDINESS

If you arrive late to school you must report to the office, sign in and secure a pass from the office to enter class. You will be asked to explain the reason for your tardiness. During the school day, there are THREE (3) minutes given between class periods. You are expected to be in your seat when the bell sounds. If you are not in your seat by this time, you will be required to explain to the teacher why you were detained. Being on time is one of the first things an employer inquires about when checking on a student. Now is the time to begin forming a lifelong habit of being on time.

If a student is tardy 3 times in a 9-week period, he/she will serve detention after school. (Detentions are held on Thursdays from 2:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m.) Students will receive a detention after school for every 3 tardies that are accumulated. If a student accumulates 9 tardies in a nine-week period, he/she will serve a 4-hour Saturday school detention and every 3 tardies beyond 9 there will be another Saturday school assigned. Parents will need to arrange transportation for students who stay after school for detentions.

TELEPHONE

IN CALLS: The school recognizes that there are times when parents need to communicate with their children during the school day. However, the school would appreciate those situations to be kept to a minimum. Only under extreme emergencies at the request of a parent will a student be taken out of a class or study hall to take a phone call. The office will attempt to get phone messages from parents to students during the school day, however due to increased phone messages, any messages that need to be passed on to your student should be phoned into the school office before their lunch period. 6th grade lunch: 11:00; 7th grade lunch 11:45; 8th grade lunch 12:30. Calls received after the lunch hour, will be emailed to the student.

OUT CALLS: Students finding it necessary to make local telephone calls may do so before or after school only. No calls are to be made during the time school is in session, **including lunch**, unless approved by a faculty member or the office.

CALLS TO TEACHERS: Teachers and staff will NOT be taken out of class for phone calls. PHONE MESSAGES WILL BE PLACED IN TEACHERS' MAILBOXES OR VOICE MAIL AND THEY WILL RESPOND TO THE MESSAGES AT THEIR EARLIEST CONVENIENCE. Please be aware that messages may not always reach them before dismissal time.

TRANSFERS

When a child is to be transferred from Meridian Junior High to another district, please notify the school office at least one week in advance. This will enable the teacher to complete necessary records. A transfer slip will be prepared which the parent or child may pick up on the last day of the child's attendance. School records will be forwarded upon request by the other school.

WAIVER OF FEES

This is to advise you that you may be eligible for a waiver of student fees if you receive public aid; if your gross household income is under that set out in federal guidelines for free lunches; or if you are otherwise able to establish that you cannot afford to pay these fees. Applications requesting waiver of fees should be submitted to the office. Forms for submission of such requests are available in each building office. The use of false information to obtain such waiver is a felony under Illinois law. Any inquiries should be directed to the principal of the building in which your child is enrolled.

STUDENT RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES

Students are entitled to enjoy the rights protected by the Federal and State Constitutions and laws for persons of their age and maturity in a school setting. Students should exercise these rights reasonably and avoid violating the rights of others. Students, who violate the rights of others, violate District policies, or MJHS rules will be subject to disciplinary measures.

DUE PROCESS

The Board of Education and Administration intend to protect students' rights. A brief summary of Due Process for students follows:

1. A student has the right to hear the charges/evidence against him/her.
2. A student has the right to tell his/her side of the story.
3. A student has a right to be informed of the decision.
4. A student and the student's parents have a right to a hearing with:

1st - Principal

2nd - Superintendent

3rd - Board of Education

CONTACT INFORMATION:

Principal: Jen Speakes
207 West Main Street, Stillman Valley, IL
Phone: 815.645.2230

Superintendent: Dr. Joe Mullikin
207 West Main Street, Stillman Valley, IL
Phone: 815.645.2230

SEARCH AND SEIZURE

For the safety and supervision of students in the absence of parent(s)/guardian(s), to maintain discipline and order in schools, and to provide for the health, safety and welfare of students and staff, school authorities are authorized to conduct searches of students and their personal effects, as well as Meridian C.U.S.D. #223 property.

Certified employees and school administrators may search a student and/or a student's personal effects (e.g., purses, wallets, knapsacks, book bags, lunch boxes, etc.) when there are reasonable grounds for suspecting that the search will produce evidence that a student has violated or is violating either the law or MJHS conduct rules.

School property, including, but not limited to, desks, lockers, and parking lot is owned and controlled by the Meridian C.U.S.D. #223 and may be searched by school authorities at any time. School authorities are authorized to conduct area-wide, general administrative inspections of school property (e.g., searches of all student lockers) without notice to or consent of the student and without a search warrant.

If a search produces evidence that the student has violated or is violating either the law or Meridian C.U.S.D. #223 policy or MHS rules, such evidence may be seized and impounded by school authorities and disciplinary action may be taken. When appropriate, such evidence may be transferred to law enforcement authorities.

ACCESS TO STUDENT SOCIAL NETWORKING, PASSWORDS AND WEBSITES

School officials may conduct an investigation or require a student to cooperate in an investigation if there is specific information about activity on the student's account on a social networking website that violates a school disciplinary rule or policy. In the course of an investigation, the student may be required to share the content that is reported in order to allow school officials to make a factual determination.

STUDENT BEHAVIOR

PROHIBITED STUDENT CONDUCT

Students may be disciplined for gross disobedience or misconduct, including but not limited to the following:

1. Using, possessing, distributing, purchasing, selling or offering for sale tobacco or nicotine materials, including electronic cigarettes, e-cigarettes, vapes, vape pens or other vaping related products.
2. Using, possessing, distributing, purchasing, or selling alcoholic beverages. Students who are under the influence of an alcoholic beverage are not permitted to attend school or school functions and are treated as though they had alcohol in their possession.
3. Using, possessing, distributing, purchasing, selling or offering for sale:
 - Any illegal drug, controlled substance, or cannabis (including marijuana, hashish, and medical cannabis unless the student is authorized to be administered a medical cannabis infused product under *Ashley's Law*).
 - Any anabolic steroid unless it is being administered in accordance with a physician or licensed practitioner's prescription.
 - Any performance-enhancing substance on the Illinois High School Association's most current banned substance list unless administered in accordance with a physician or licensed practitioner's prescription.
 - Any prescription drug when not prescribed for the student by a physician or licensed practitioner, or when used in a manner inconsistent with the prescription or prescribing physician or licensed practitioner's instructions. The use or possession of medical cannabis, even by a student for whom medical cannabis has been prescribed, is prohibited unless the student is authorized to be administered a medical cannabis infused product under *Ashley's Law*.
 - Any inhalant, regardless of whether it contains an illegal drug or controlled substance: (a) that a student believes is, or represents to be capable of, causing intoxication, hallucination, excitement, or dulling of the brain or nervous system; or (b) about which the student engaged in behavior that would lead a reasonable person to believe that the student intended the inhalant to cause intoxication, hallucination, excitement, or dulling of the brain or nervous system. The prohibition in this section does not apply to a student's use of asthma or other legally prescribed inhalant medications.
 - "Look-alike" or counterfeit drugs, including a substance that is not prohibited by this policy, but one: (a) that a student believes to be, or represents to be, an illegal drug, controlled substance, or other substance that is prohibited by this policy; or (b) about which a student engaged in behavior that would lead a reasonable person to believe that the student expressly or impliedly represented to be an illegal drug, controlled substance or other substance that is prohibited by this policy.
 - Drug paraphernalia, including devices that are or can be used to: (a) ingest, inhale, or inject cannabis or controlled substances into the body; and (b) grow, process, store, or conceal cannabis or controlled substances.
 - Any substance inhaled, injected, smoked, consumed or otherwise ingested or absorbed with the intention of causing a physiological or psychological change in the body, including without limitation, pure caffeine in a tablet or powdered form.
 - Students who are under the influence of any prohibited substance are not permitted to attend school or school functions and are treated as though they have the prohibited substance, as applicable, in their possession.
1. Using, possessing, controlling or transferring a "weapon" or violating the procedures listed below under the Weapons Prohibition section of this handbook procedure.
2. Using or possessing an electronic paging device.
3. Using a cellular telephone, smartphone, video recording device, personal digital assistant (PDA), or similar electronic device in any manner that disrupts the educational environment or violates the rights of others, including using the device to take photographs in locker rooms or bathrooms, cheat, or otherwise violate student conduct rules. Prohibited conduct specifically includes, without limitation, creating and sending, sharing, viewing, receiving or possessing an indecent visual depiction of oneself or another person through the use of a computer,

electronic communication device or cellular telephone, commonly known as “sexting.” Unless otherwise banned under this policy or by the building principal, all cellular phones, smartphones and other electronic devices must be kept powered-off and out-of-sight during the regular school day unless: (a) the supervising teacher grants permission; (b) use of the device is provided in a student’s individualized education program (IEP); (c) it is used during the student’s lunch period; or (d) it is needed in an emergency that threatens the safety of students, staff, or other individuals..

4. Using or possessing a laser pointer unless under a staff member’s direct supervision and in the context of instruction.
5. Disobeying rules of student conduct or directives from staff members or school officials. Examples of disobeying staff directives include refusing a staff member’s request to stop, present school identification or submit to a search.
6. Engaging in academic dishonesty, including cheating, intentionally plagiarizing, wrongfully giving or receiving help during an academic examination, altering report cards and wrongfully obtaining test copies or scores.
7. Engaging in bullying, hazing or any kind of aggressive behavior that does physical or psychological harm to a staff person or another student or encouraging other students to engage in such behavior. Prohibited conduct specifically includes, without limitation, any use of violence, intimidation, force, noise, coercion, threats, stalking, harassment, sexual harassment, public humiliation, theft or destruction of property, retaliation, hazing, bullying, bullying using a school computer or a school computer network or other comparable conduct.
8. Engaging in any sexual activity, including without limitation, offensive touching, sexual harassment, indecent exposure (including mooning) and sexual assault.
9. Engaging in teen dating violence.
10. Causing or attempting to cause damage to, stealing, or attempting to steal, school property or another person’s personal property.
11. Entering school property or a school facility without proper authorization.
12. In the absence of a reasonable belief that an emergency exists, calling emergency responders (calling 9-1-1); signaling or setting off alarms or signals indicating the presence of an emergency; or indicating the presence of a bomb or explosive device on school grounds, school bus or at any school activity.
13. Being absent without a recognized excuse.
14. Being involved with any public school fraternity, sorority, or secret society.
15. Being involved in a gang or engaging in gang-like activities, including displaying gang symbols or paraphernalia.
16. Violating any criminal law, including but not limited to, assault, battery, arson, theft, gambling, eavesdropping, vandalism and hazing.
17. Engaging in any activity, on or off campus, that interferes with, disrupts, or adversely affects the school environment, school operations, or an educational function, including but not limited to, conduct that may reasonably be considered to: (a) be a threat or an attempted intimidation of a staff member; or (b) endanger the health or safety of students, staff, or school property.
18. Making an explicit threat on an Internet website against a school employee, a student, or any school-related personnel if the Internet website through which the threat was made is a site that was accessible within the school at the time the threat was made or was available to third parties who worked or studied within the school grounds at the time the threat was made, and the threat could be reasonably interpreted as threatening to the safety and security of the threatened individual because of his or her duties or employment status or status as a student inside the school.
19. Operating an unarmed aircraft system (AUS) or drone for any purpose on school grounds or at any school event unless granted permission by the building principal
20. For purposes of these rules, the term “possession” includes having control, custody, or care, currently or in the past, of an object or substance, including situations in which the item is: (a) on the student’s person; (b) contained in another item belonging to, or under the control of, the student, such as in the student’s clothing, backpack, or automobile; (c) in a school’s student locker, desk, or other school property; (d) at any location on school property or at a school-sponsored event; or (e) in the case of drugs and alcohol, substances ingested by the person.

Efforts, including the use of positive interventions and supports shall be made to deter students, while at school or a school-related event, from engaging in aggressive behavior that may reasonably produce physical or psychological harm to someone else.

No disciplinary action shall be taken against any student that is based totally or in part on the refusal of the student’s parent/guardian to administer or consent to the administration of psychotropic or psychostimulant medication to the student.

When and Where Conduct Rules Apply

The grounds for disciplinary action also apply whenever the student’s conduct is reasonably related to school or school activities, including but not limited to:

1. On, or within sight of, school grounds before, during, or after school hours or at any time;
2. Off school grounds at a school-sponsored activity or event, or any activity or event that bears a reasonable relationship to school;
3. Traveling to or from school or a school activity, function, or event; or
4. Anywhere, if the conduct interferes with, disrupts, or adversely affects the school environment, school operations, or an educational function, including but not limited to, conduct that may reasonably be considered to: (a) be a threat or an attempted intimidation of a staff member; or (b) endanger the health or safety of students, staff, or school property.

DISCIPLINARY MEASURES

MINOR	Minor Progression Defined
Preparedness Throwing small object Noncompliance Touching (Minor) Inappropriate comments/gestures Inappropriate hallway behavior (Minor) Minor Disruptions Minor physical contact Cheating Put down Calling outs Refusing to work Minor dishonesty Attitude/tone Disrespect Sleeping Dress code	<p style="text-align: center;">Administrative Action (6-8)</p> <p style="text-align: center;">1st Minor student is notified</p> <p style="text-align: center;">2nd Minor is a call home</p> <p style="text-align: center;">3rd Minor call home/teacher assigned detention</p> <p style="text-align: center;">4th Minor = Major Administration will issue Discipline and call home.</p>
MAJOR	Consequences - Progressive Discipline will be followed.
Fighting Verbal Threats Major Dishonesty Tobacco Alcohol Walking out of Class Cutting Class Aggressive Physical Attack Inappropriate Language Chronic Minor Infractions Harassment of Students or Teacher Truancy/Tardies Inappropriate Hallway Behavior (Major) Vandalism Drugs Dress Code (Chronic) Severe Insubordination Cheating Major Disruption Discriminatory/Inflammatory Language Cell Phones	<p style="text-align: center;">Administrative Action (6-8)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Detention ● In School Suspension ● Saturday School ● Out of School Suspension <p style="text-align: center;">Interventions (6-8)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Meet with Counselor ● Develop Behavior Contract ● Assign adult mentor ● Parent attends school
MAJOR	Consequences - Progressive Discipline will be followed.
Weapons Group Fighting Threats	<p style="text-align: center;">Administrative Action (6-8)</p> <p style="text-align: center;">In Addition to the mentioned above Administrative Actions Possible recommendation for expulsion</p>

This is just a guide, not a complete list. Other infractions against the ‘Cardinal Code’ not listed may fall as either a major or minor.

BULLYING POLICY

Bullying, intimidation, and harassment diminish a student’s ability to learn and a school’s ability to educate. The term bullying means any severe or pervasive physical or verbal act or conduct, including communications made in writing or electronically, directed toward a student that has or can be reasonably assumed to have the effect of one or more of the following:

- Placing the student in reasonable fear of harm to the student’s person or property.
- Causing a substantially detrimental effect on the student’s physical or mental health

- Substantially interfering with the student's ability to participate in or benefit from the services, activities, or privileges provided by a school.

Bullying may involve, but is not limited to any of the following actions that create an intimidating, hostile or offensive educational environment:

- Repeated teasing or name calling
- Cyber bullying*
- Sexual, religious, or racial harassment
- Public humiliation
- Social exclusion
- Spreading rumors

*Cyberbullying means bullying through the use of technology or any electronic communication, including without limitation any transfer of signs, signals, writing, images, sounds, data, or intelligence of any nature transmitted in whole or in part by a wire, radio, electromagnetic system, photo-electronic system, or photo-optical system, including without limitation electronic mail, Internet communications, instant messages, or facsimile communications. Cyberbullying includes the creation of a webpage or weblog in which the creator assumes the identity of another person or the knowing impersonation of another person as the author of posted content or messages if the creation or impersonation creates any of the effects enumerated in the definition of bullying. Cyberbullying also includes the distribution by electronic means of a communication to more than one person or the posting of material on an electronic medium that may be accessed by one or more persons if the distribution or posting creates any of the effects enumerated in the definition of bullying.

Meridian Junior High School has a no tolerance policy against any form of bullying, intimidation and harassment. Administration will conduct a prompt and thorough investigation of alleged incidents of bullying, cyberbullying, intimidation, harassing behavior or similar conduct. Administration will also provide each student who violates one or more of these policies with appropriate consequences and remedial action and protect students against retaliation for reporting such conduct. A reprisal or retaliation against any person who reports an act of bullying is prohibited. A student's act of reprisal or retaliation will be treated as bullying for purposes of determining any consequences or other appropriate remedial actions. A student will not be punished for reporting bullying or supplying information, even if the school's investigation concludes that no bullying occurred. However, knowingly making a false accusation or providing knowingly false information will be treated as bullying for purposes of determining any consequences or other appropriate remedial actions.

Meridian School District 223 Board of Education Policies in regard to Bullying:

- 7:20, Harassment of Students Prohibited.* This policy prohibits any person from harassing, intimidating, or bullying a student based on actual or perceived characteristics is also identified in this policy's second paragraph.
- 7:190, Student Discipline.* This policy prohibits students from engaging in hazing, bullying, or any kind of aggressive behavior that does physical or psychological harm to another or any urgings of other students to engage in such conduct; prohibited conduct includes any use of violence, force, noise, coercion, threats, intimidation, fear, harassment, or other comparable conduct.
- 7:310, Restrictions on Publications and Written or Electronic Material.* This policy prohibits students from: (i) accessing and/or distributing at school any written, printed, or electronic material, including material from the internet, that will cause substantial disruption of the proper and orderly operation and discipline of the school or school activities, and (ii) creating and/or distributing written, printed, or electronic material, including photographs and internet material and blogs, that causes substantial disruption to school operations or interferes with the rights of other students or staff members.
- 6:234, Access to Electronic Networks.* This policy states that the use of the District's electronic networks is limited to (1) support of education and/or research, or (2) a legitimate business use. It subjects any individual to the loss of privileges, disciplinary action and/or appropriate legal action for violating the *District's Authorization of Electronic Network Access*.

School officials shall limit the number and duration of expulsions and out-of-school suspensions to the greatest extent practicable, and, where practicable and reasonable, shall consider forms of non-exclusionary discipline before using out-of-school suspensions or expulsions. School personnel shall not advise or encourage students to drop out of school voluntarily due to behavioral or academic difficulties. Potential disciplinary measures include, without limitation, any of the following measures:

1. Notifying parents/guardians.
2. Disciplinary conference.
3. Withholding of privileges.
4. Temporary removal from the classroom.
5. Return of property or restitution for lost, stolen or damaged property.
6. In-school suspension.
7. After-school study or Saturday study provided the student's parent/guardian has been notified. (If transportation arrangements cannot be made in advance, an alternative disciplinary measure will be assigned to the student.)
8. Community service.
9. Seizure of contraband; confiscation and temporary retention of the personal property that was used to violate school rules.
10. Suspension of bus riding privileges.
11. Suspension from school and all school activities for up to 10 days. A suspended student is prohibited from being on school grounds.
12. Expulsion from school and all school activities for a definite time period not to exceed 2 calendar years. An expelled student is prohibited from being on school grounds.

13. Transfer to an alternative program if the student is expelled or otherwise qualifies for transfer under State law.
14. Notifying juvenile authorities or other law enforcement whenever the conduct involves criminal activity, such as, illegal drugs (controlled substances), “look-alikes,” alcohol or weapons or in other circumstances as authorized by the reciprocal reporting agreement between the District and local law enforcement agencies.

The above list of disciplinary measures is a range of options that will not always be applicable in every case. In some circumstances, it may not be possible to avoid suspending or expelling a student because behavioral interventions, other than a suspension or expulsion, will not be appropriate and available, and the only reasonable and practical way to resolve the threat and/or address the disruption is a suspension or expulsion.

CORPORAL PUNISHMENT

Corporal punishment is illegal and will not be used. Corporal punishment is defined as slapping, paddling, or prolonged maintenance of students in physically painful positions, or intentional infliction of bodily harm. Corporal punishment does not include reasonable force as needed to maintain safety for students, staff, or other persons, or for the purpose of self-defense or defense of property.

WEAPONS PROHIBITION

A student who is determined to have brought one of the following objects to school, any school-sponsored activity or event, or any activity or event that bears a reasonable relationship to school shall be expelled for a period of not less than one year but not more than 2 calendar years:

A student who is determined to have brought one of the following objects to school, any school-sponsored activity or event, or any activity or event that bears a reasonable relationship to school shall be expelled for a period of not less than one year but not more than 2 calendar years:

(1) A firearm, meaning any gun, rifle, shotgun, weapon as defined by Section 921 of Title 18 of the United States Code, firearm as defined in Section 1.1 of the Firearm Owners Identification Card Act, or firearm as defined in Section 24-1 of the Criminal Code of 1961. The expulsion period may be modified by the superintendent, and the superintendent’s determination may be modified by the board on a case-by-case basis.

(2) A knife, brass knuckles or other knuckle weapon regardless of its composition, a billy club, or any other object if used or attempted to be used to cause bodily harm, including “look a like” of any firearm as defined above.

The expulsion requirement may be modified by the superintendent, and the superintendent’s determination may be modified by the board on a case-by-case basis.

GANG AND GANG ACTIVITY PROHIBITED

“Gang” is defined as any group, club or organization of two or more persons whose purposes include the commission of illegal acts. No student on or about school property or at any school activity or whenever the student’s conduct is reasonably related to a school activity, shall: (1) wear, possess, use, distribute, display, or sell any clothing, jewelry, paraphernalia or other items which reasonably could be regarded as gang symbols; commit any act or omission, or use either verbal or non-verbal gestures, or handshakes showing membership or affiliation in a gang; or (2) use any speech or commit any act or omission in furtherance of the interest of any gang or gang activity, including, but not limited to, soliciting others for membership in any gangs; (3) request any person to pay protection or otherwise intimidate, harass or threaten any person; (4) commit any other illegal act or other violation of district policies, (5) or incite other students to act with physical violence upon any other person.

RE-ENGAGEMENT OF RETURNING STUDENTS

The building principal or designee shall meet with a student returning to school from an out-of-school suspension, expulsion or alternative school setting. The goal of this meeting shall be to support the student’s ability to be successful in school following a period of exclusion and shall include an opportunity for students who have been suspended to complete or make-up missed work for equivalent academic credit.

SATURDAY SCHOOL SUSPENSION

Saturday school will take place at Stillman Valley High School on Saturday mornings from 8:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m. and from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon. Saturday morning schools will be assigned for various reasons including: truancy, tardies, inappropriate behavior, failure to serve a detention, etc. This policy enables students to serve time for disciplinary problems without missing classroom instruction. Students refusing to serve any Saturday school sessions could be suspended 2 days out of school for insubordination. An out of school suspension does not erase/substitute an assigned Saturday school detention.

DETENTION

Detentions will be assigned for after school by teachers or administrators. Detentions take place on Thursdays from 2:30-3:30. It will be the parent’s responsibility to provide transportation to or from detentions.

SEXUAL HARASSMENT

Sexual harassment of students is prohibited. An employee, district agent, or student engages in sexual harassment whenever he/she makes unwelcome sexual advances, requests sexual favors, and engages in other verbal or physical conduct of a sexual or sex-based nature, imposed on the basis of sex, which denies or limits the provision of educational aid, benefits, services or treatment; or that makes such conduct a condition of a student’s academic status; or has the purpose or effect of:

1. Substantially interfering with a student's educational environment
2. Creating an intimidating hostile, or offensive educational environment; or
3. Depriving a student of educational aid, benefits, services or treatment; or making submission to or rejection of such unwelcome conduct is the basis for academic decisions affecting a student.

The terms “intimidating”, “hostile”, and “offensive” include conduct, which has the effect of humiliation, embarrassment, or discomfort. Examples of sexual harassment include unwelcome touching, crude jokes or pictures, discussions of sexual experiences, teasing related to sexual characteristics and spreading rumors related to a person’s alleged sexual activities.

Students, who believe they are victims of sexual harassment or have witnessed sexual harassment, are encouraged to discuss the matter with the student Nondiscrimination Coordinator, building principal, or assistant principal. Students may choose to report to a person of the student's same sex. Complaints will be kept confidential to the extent possible given the need to investigate. Students who make good faith complaints will not be disciplined. An allegation that one student was sexually harassed by another student shall be referred to the building principal or assistant principal for appropriate action.

First Violation

Option 1: Up to one day out of school suspension if the student along with the parents or guardians agrees to have the student go through a sexual harassment educational program provided by the school.

Option 2: Up to five days out of school suspension

Second Violation

Option 1: Up to 1-10 days out of school suspension if the student along with the parents and guardians approval agrees to repeating the sexual harassment educational program and meeting with the school counselor.

Option 2: Up to 10 days out of school suspension.

Third Violation

10 days out of school suspension and possible expulsion hearing.

TRUANCY

We want to inform you of our school policy regarding student absences. In accordance with our guidelines:

- Parents/guardians will receive a letter when a student has been absent for 5 excused or 2 unexcused days.
- A second letter will be sent when a student has been absent for 7 excused or 4 unexcused days.
- A third letter will be sent when a student reaches 10 excused or 6 unexcused days of absence.

Please note that students who accumulate 6 unexcused absences may be referred to truancy.

HAZING PROHIBITED

Soliciting, encouraging, aiding, or engaging in hazing is prohibited. "Hazing" means any intentional, knowing, or reckless act directed against a student for the purpose of being initiated into, affiliating with, holding office in, or maintaining membership in any organization, club, or athletic team whose members are or include other students. Students engaging in hazing will be subject to one or more of the following disciplinary actions:

1. Conference with parent/guardian.
2. Removal from extra-curricular activities.
3. Referral to appropriate law enforcement agencies.

Students' engaging in hazing that endangers the mental or physical health or safety of another may also be subject to:

1. Suspension for up to 10 days.
2. Expulsion for the remainder of the school term.

ATHLETICS/ACTIVITIES INELIGIBILITY

The weekly eligibility report is run each Friday morning at 9:00 a.m. A student failing one class during the week is ineligible for the next week of competition, Sunday - Saturday. After the ineligibility report is completed, it is sent to all coaches and junior high school teachers. The junior high school teachers are asked to contact the Activities Director if they notice any errors in grading. Students who are ineligible will be allowed to practice, but will not be able to participate in games and/or contests. Students should remain supportive by attending games during their period of ineligibility. (see page 5-6 in the Athletic and Activity Handbook via the district website)

ATHLETICS/ACTIVITIES REGISTRATION

Students who participate in sports/clubs, will need to register via 8 to 18:

1. Log into the district website www.meridian223.org
2. Scroll down to the red trophy icon (8 to 18)
3. Click on registration
4. If you already have an account, click on "Begin Registration"
5. Choose your activity
6. Follow the instructions/steps making sure to check participant and parent for every form.
7. Fee Payment
 - a. Pay online
 - b. If you choose to pay by check or cash, you will need to enter the waiver code in the payment code box and then you must comment how you intend to pay the fee (sending a check/cash to school, free/reduced, or this is our 3rd activity this school year).
 - c. Athlete's will not be allowed to compete in games/meets until the fee is paid in full.
8. Make sure your athlete has a current sports physical on file in the office prior to the first practice.

2024-2025 • GOAL SETTING WORKSHEET

Student Name _____ Grade _____

STAR							
<u>READING</u>	Date	Goal	Scaled Score	Grade Equivalent	Percentile Rank	Goal Met? Yes/Not Yet	Was there growth? Yes/Not Yet
B.O.Y.							
Winter							
E.O.Y.							

IXL		
B.O.Y.	Winter	E.O.Y.

2024-2025 • GOAL SETTING WORKSHEET

Student
Name

Grade

STAR							
<u>MATH</u>	Date	Goal	Scaled Score	Grade Equivalent	Percentile Rank	Goal Met? Yes/Not Yet	Was there growth? Yes/Not Yet
B.O.Y.							
Winter							
E.O.Y.							
IXL							
B.O.Y.	Winter		E.O.Y.				

ThinkCERCA Benchmark Record

The middle- and end-of-year Writing Benchmarks are designed to monitor your writing progress throughout the school year. Keep a record of your scores and set a goal for the next benchmark. Reflect on your writing progress by celebrating your accomplishments (Glow) and setting a goal for improvement (Grow).

Criteria	Beginning Benchmark	Goal	Mid-Year Benchmark	Goal Met Y/N	Goal	End-of-Year Benchmark	Mid-Year Goal Met Y/N	Reflection	
								Glow	Grow
Claim/Counterclaim								Glow	Grow
Evidence									
Reasoning									
Coherence								End-of-Year Reflection	
Audience Appeal								Glow	Grow
Growth Focus									