

2017-2018 Proposed Junior High Handbook Changes Summary

P. 2

- Change start and end of day times to 8:00 A.M. and 3:18 P.M.
- Remove babysitting, haircuts, and shopping from list of excused absences

P. 3

- Add babysitting and haircuts to list of unexcused absences
- Add “parents/guardians should send written notification to the office” to clarify communication of extended absence (family trip, etc.)
- Add “Students should not contact parents via cell phone to report an illness. All contact should be made by a staff member in the office or by the school nurse,” under Accidents and Illness
- Add “A student who is absent from school more than one-fourth of the year (45 days) will severely jeopardize his/her chances of advancing in grade level.”

P. 5

- Clarify language regarding staying after school on Wednesdays while waiting for practices to begin: “During early dismissal Wednesdays, students are discouraged from remaining on campus while waiting for practice or other after school activities to begin. Any violation of handbook policy rules of conduct or threat to safety will result in loss of this privilege.”
- Eliminate language allowing a student to participate in an extracurricular activity when ill that school day if a doctor's note is received.

P. 6

- Under Dress Code, add clarification on tank tops and holes in jeans: “NO pants, shorts, shirts or blouses that are either too short or reveal the back, belly, and/or breast areas (cleavage) are allowed. In addition, the area from a student's neck to their shoulders must be covered at all times with a clothing garment. Tank tops for both male and female students should follow the “three finger width” guideline. No undergarments (cami or bra straps) should be visible. Shorts and skirts/skorts must come below a student's fingertips while arms are hanging naturally at their sides.
Students are discouraged from wearing jeans or other pants with holes. Any holes, rips, and/or tears in jeans and/or pants must be at or below knee level.”
- Add “P.E. clothing must also meet dress code criteria.”

P. 7

- Under 8th grade curriculum, eliminate: “Algebra (8th) may be counted towards general education requirements but will not count towards the math requirement at PHS,” due to updated policy regarding credit for Algebra.

P. 8

- Under Extracurricular Activities and Eligibility, update language regarding 6th grade athletics: “These activities, though not IESA-sponsored, will still follow eligibility guidelines set forth by IESA.”

P. 9

- Add homework completion policy to Grading Scale Section: “Students are expected to fully complete assigned work at a proficient level. A serious effort will be made to see that the student completes the work. Mandatory after school homework completion sessions, parent conferences and/or other means will be used to ensure that student work is completed. Completion or incompleteness of make-up work a student has missed due to their absence(s), as well as the general completion or incompleteness of work assigned in all classes, can be a factor in determining promotion/retention to the next grade level. It is vital for the school, parents/guardians, and students to actively work together to ensure work is completed to achieve student success.

Each week, a grade report will be run for students who are failing one or more classes. These students will be placed “on monitor” with their homeroom teachers. Students will check with their teachers and on the Lumen Student Portal to determine what work is missing or what work can be corrected. On Friday of the same

week, if the student is still failing, he or she will be required to attend late stay from 3:20-4:00 to work to bring the grade(s) up. The Friday Late Stay requirement is in addition to any other consequence assigned by a teacher (lunch detention, after school detention, etc.).

- Eliminate Honor Roll algebra and pre-algebra weightings.

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- Add language regarding decorating the exterior of lockers and use of locks: "Students should not decorate the exterior of the locker except in special circumstances and only with advance approval from the principal (i.e. 8th grade night). Book bags and purses are to be left in the locker during the day, and locks should be utilized. The school and district assume no liability for missing, stolen, or broken objects left in unsecured lockers."
- Add section regarding Parent Communication:

"PJHS utilizes a variety of parent/guardian communication tools including email, web based programs, phone, apps, and social media. Teachers are easily available to communicate regarding a student's performance via email or phone. Email addresses can be found on the school website.

It is recommended that parents/guardians sign up for access to the Lumen Parent Portal. This allows family access to academic and behavioral information as well as lunch account and absence information.

Remind messaging is also available at each grade level, and a flyer with sign up instructions will be sent home at the beginning of the year. You can also request one from the office or grade level teacher at any time.

Although agenda books are not provided, students are encouraged to purchase one for use on their own or to use their chromebooks to track assignments."

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- Update section on Prohibited Objects: "Any item, material, substance, or device that could be a disruption to the educational process or a threat to safety (including but not limited to fidget spinners or other fidget objects, toys, bats, balls, sporting equipment not necessarily for an athletic event, pocket knives, skateboards, hoverboards, etc.) should be left at home. Consequences for bringing any of the above-mentioned items include a verbal warning up to and including out-of-school suspension (previous infractions will be taken into consideration).

If a student could benefit from a fidget object, a doctor's note, 504 plan, or IEP stating necessity of use and appropriate usage guidelines should be filed with the school nurse or appropriate school designee."

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- Eliminate language under Visitors allowing students to bring friends as visitors to the school with administrator approval.
- Add language to clarify Chromebook appropriate use: "All attempts will be made to collect the technology fees associated with the Chromebook Program. Non-payment or partial payment may result in delay in issuing a student a device, limited access to use of a device, and/or other measures as deemed necessary by administration. In addition, students and parents are reminded that the use of technology is a privilege that can be revoked for inappropriate use (refer to Internet Use Policy and Chromebook Usage agreement for guidelines.) Usage can and will be monitored as deemed necessary to ensure student safety."

P. 27

- Add to Cell Phone Policy: "Upon the first violation, a student will surrender his or her device to the office and may pick it up at the end of the school day. Upon the second offense, a student will surrender his or her device to the office and a parent or guardian will be notified for pick-up."

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- Relocated to other sections of handbook: Items That Should Not Be Brought to School and Refusing to Do Class Assignments