

Midwest Central Middle School
Handbook Edits
For 2024-25

Handbook Committee: Matthews, Keaschall, Phillips, Henry, and Garman (parent representative) Initial meeting: 3/4/24, final approval by committee 4/9/24

Proposed additions and changes in addition to formatting for easier reference:

Section	Current Language	Proposed Change	Rationale for Change
Index (back page)	Index	Change name to Table of Contents and move to page 2	When accessing it online, you have to scroll to the end to get to the index. Moving it to the beginning will allow for easier online accessibility.
Academics	"Late work, accepted at the discretion of the teacher, may impact a final grade." (pg. 4)	Late work will be accepted, however, work will be marked down one letter grade for each day late, up to 4 days. On the 5th day late it will be marked as a zero and a student will be unable to make up that assignment. (Example, homework is due Monday, student turns it in on Wednesday, the paper was graded as a 88% B, but is 2 days late, the grade is 68% D.)	There is a large percentage of students not turning in homework on time, which results in students being unprepared for the next day's lessons, and teachers continually having to track down missing work.
Grading Scale/Letter Grade	The Middle School grading scale is based on percentage points: A = 100-93% B = 92 - 86% C = 85 -77% D = 76 - 70% F = Below 70% (pg. 5)	The Middle School grading scale is based on percentage points: A = 90-100% B = 80-89% C = 70-79% D = 60 - 69% F = 59% and below	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We want our grading scale to match the high school grading scale. • Aligns each letter grade with 10 percentage points, as opposed to each one being a different distribution of percentage points
Physical Education	3. Students MUST wear traditional athletic shoes. Other types of footwear	3. Students must wear sneakers that have light-colored soles and be non-marking. Other types	Dark marks on the gym floor take a lot of time to continually clean. This will help with maintenance of the floor, and

	pose a safety hazard. (pg. 5)	of footwear pose a safety hazard.	our courts.
Response to Intervention (Rtl)	These new laws emphasize... (pg. 6) This new process... (pg. 6)	These laws emphasize... This process...	Rtl law was mandated into law by ISBE in the 2010-11 school year. We need to get rid of the word new.
Promotion/Retention Policy for Grades Six-Eight	2.The average must be equal to or above 70% (pg. 6)	2.The average must be equal to or above 60%.	Change needed due to the new grading scale.
Tardies and Late Arrivals	ISS will be issued on the 8th tardy. (pg. 8)	Every 5 tardies will result in an after school detention.	A tardy does not justify removing a student from the learning environment. Being in class, and having an after school detention is a more fitting consequence.
Electronic and Visual Devices/Cell Phones	<u>Notice:</u> Cell phones, like all other personal items brought by a student into a school zone, may be subject to search. (pg. 17)	<u>Notice:</u> Cell phones, like all other personal items brought by a student into a school zone, may be subject to search <i>by law enforcement</i> .	School administrators do not have the legal right to search a student's personal cell phone.
Notification Regarding Student Accounts or Profiles on Social Networking Websites	Notification Regarding Student Accounts or Profiles on Social Networking Websites – State law requires the District to notify students and their parents/guardians that school officials may request or require a student or his or her parents/guardian to provide a password or other related account information to gain access to the student's account or profile on a social networking website. This request may be made only if there is reasonable cause to believe that the student's account contains evidence that he or she violated a school disciplinary rule or Board policy. (pg. 17-18)	Strike the whole section.	School Administrators do not have the legal right to ask a student for their password for a social media site.

Student Dress and Hygiene	No pajama pants (pg. 18)	Remove this from the dress code list of violations.	Pajama pants are allowed at the high school and the wearing of pajama pants does not constitute a significant disruption to the learning environment, and will be allowed. However, the standard will remain that "Students must maintain modesty and present a neat appearance" (pg. 18) Slippers will continue to not be allowed as they pose a safety hazard of tripping.
Library/Media Center	The library is to be quiet.	The library is a place to access information.	The library needs to adapt to be a place students want to come and access information. The expectations for sound will be dictated by what is happening in the library at the time and will be communicated by the librarian.
Cafeteria Guidelines and Lunch Program	1. Students many buy an additional lunch for \$2.35 (pg. 21)	1. Students many buy an additional lunch for \$3.00	Increase in costs for next year.
School Insurance	School insurance is available as a service. Parents/guardians are urged to read the information that is available at registration and make a decision concerning this item. (pg. 23)	Strike the whole section.	We do not offer this service.
Sporting Event Attendance	The expectations of student spectators are for students to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Keep phones put away during play. • Focus on the game. (pg. 25) 	The expectations of student spectators are for students to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cell phone use is discouraged when sitting in the student section, as the focus should be on the game. 	Students attending an extracurricular, as a spectator, do not need to have this expectation imposed on them.
Gum, Candy, Treats & Food in the Classroomand costly repairs. (continued...) pg. 25	Eliminate the word (continued...)	typo

Vending Machine for Bottle/can Drinks	Keeping bottles and cans picked up is the responsibility of all students. Students are not to stomp cans on the floor or throw them at the trash container. Spills are to be cleaned up by the student responsible for the spill. Also, there are to be no glass bottles in the school building. (pg. 26)	Eliminate whole section	We no longer have a vending machine.
Bus Policy - Team or Fan	Students who ride the bus to an activity must return on the bus.	Students who ride the bus to an activity, must return on the bus, or be signed out by a legal parent or guardian. No student can be signed out by another student's parent/guardian, without written consent authorizing pick-up by that other person.	This problem arose on the fan bus after the state basketball game and needs to be addressed for future events.