

HUNTINGDON AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT



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Revised July 2016

HUNTINGDON AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT

SCHOOL BOARD

Mr. Richard Scialabba, President
 Mrs. Apryl Hawn, Vice President
 Mrs. Carolyn Payne
 Mrs. Tammy Peterson
 Mrs. Janice Metzgar
 Mrs. Susan Grainey
 Mr. Ian Thompson
 Mrs. Lucinda Dell
 Mrs. Danyle Shea

ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE 814-643-4140

Mr. Fred Foster Superintendent
 Dr. Patricia Wargo Director of Education
 Mrs. Robin Whitsel Director of Pupil Services
 Ms. Cindy Ritchey Assistant Director of Pupil Service
 Mr. Andrew Socie Buildings and Grounds
 Mrs. Faith Swanson Business Administrator
 Mr. David Myers Director of Technolog
 Mr. Christopher Lantz School Psychologist
 Mr. Dean Grenfell Athletic Director

**MIDDLE SCHOOL
 814-643-2900**

Mrs. Deborah Luffy	Principal
Mr. Zach Treece	Assistant Principal
Mrs. Linda Miller	Counselor
Mrs. Kristina Launtz	Secretary
Mrs. Lisa Wykoff	Secretary
Mrs. Margaret B. McNitt	Food Service Director (or 643-6371)
Mrs. Ellen Riley	Food Service Secretary

HUNTINGDON AREA MIDDLE SCHOOL
TIME SCHEDULE

<u>Period</u>	<u>Times</u>
Holding Areas	7:30 - 7:40
Homeroom	7:50 - 7:55
Period 1	7:55 - 8:40
Period 2	8:42- 9:27
Period 3	9:29 - 10:14
Period 4	10:16 - 11:01
Period 5 (Lunch times included--see below)	11:03 - 12:24
LUNCHES	6th- 11:05-11:35 7th-11:25-11:55 8th- 11:52-12:22
Period 6	12:26 - 1:11
Period 7	1:13 - 1:58
Period 8	2:00 - 2:45

TIME SCHEDULE IS SUBJECT TO CHANGE

WELCOME TO HUNTINGDON AREA MIDDLE SCHOOL
www.huntsd.org

The faculty and administration of HAMS hope you find your years at our school filled with learning, friendships, and excitement.

We know you will find many new challenges in our school, and all confidence is placed in you to meet these challenges as responsible young adults.

We are proud of our school and are here to help you receive the best education possible. It is up to you to work to your capacity to make the years at the Middle School the best you have ever had. A good way to begin is for you and your parents/guardians to read the contents of the handbook to get to know your school better.

Have a great school year!

IMPROVE YOUR LEARNING POWER

Going to school is your job. To do it well, you have to work at it. Here are a few tips that might help:

- Choose the same time and place to study each day.
- Find a comfortable place with fresh air and good lighting.
- Avoid distractions.
- Get enough sleep, exercise, and fun.
- Study before you are tired.
- Review material a little every day to improve your memory.
- Make up work as soon as you return from an absence.
- Write assignments down in your assignment book neatly and accurately. Check Skyward if you are not sure of your homework.

WHERE IS YOUR ASSIGNMENT BOOK?

You must have your assignment book with you at all times during the school day. This includes hallways, classrooms, holding areas, etc. This book also serves as your pass if you need to leave a room. If you lose your book, you will need to purchase another assignment book in the main office. Please do not destroy, remove pages, or alter your assignment book. If your book becomes destroyed and hinders you from using it as a pass, you will need to purchase a new one. Teachers and staff will not issue you a pass. **Students who do not have their assignment book may be referred to the office.**

LIBRARY MEDIA CENTER

Our library media center is a busy place! Many students and teachers use both the library and adjacent computer lab in cooperation with the Media Specialist. Although the lab is often used as a writing lab, other programs are utilized, as well. There are ample opportunities for students to enhance their math and creative writing skills, as well as programs that allow students to enter and interpret data.

At the beginning of the year, you will receive the [Huntingdon Area Middle School Computer Resource User Agreement and Parent Permission Form](#) that must be signed by students and parents. This form is a list of rules, relevant laws and restrictions for use of our computer resources and will be kept on file. If this form is not returned, the student will not be permitted to use the Internet and other resources available.

Students may come to the library media center during homeroom in the morning or with a teacher's permission at any time during the day. **In order to visit the library media center, students are required to have their assignment notebooks signed by their teachers.** Students are permitted to borrow two books at a time from the library media center for a period of two weeks. Reference books may be borrowed on an overnight basis. If students have overdue books, they lose their media center privileges. No fines are charged on overdue materials.

Students also use the library media center for class activities and various research projects. They receive instruction on information retrieval, plagiarism, and ethical use of information before research projects. Computers and electronic media are available for class assignments or

recreational use with staff permission.

Technology is an integral part of the library media center. Circulation is done by scanning bar-codes on materials and using student numbers. The card catalog is accessed electronically from computer workstations and notebook computers. Parent and students may also view the card catalog and library accounts from home using the link on the school home page.

Students can obtain information on various topics through the Wide Area Network (WAN). The HAMS library media center is a member of ACCESS PA. ACCESS PA is a bibliographic union catalog and resource-sharing tool that is a guide to the Pennsylvania library collections. The holdings of over 1,000 school, public, academic, and special libraries are searchable using technology. Being a member of ACCESS PA allows students to borrow materials from any of these libraries by using the inter library loan system. Collections of libraries in other district buildings may be searched as well as the ACCESS PA database, various reference material databases, and the Internet.

SCHOOLWIDE POSITIVE BEHAVIOR (SWPB)

HAMS Bearcat PRIDE

The Schoolwide Positive Behavior Support system has been adopted by middle school as a means to instill proper behavior within our students. Using the guided model approach to teach proper behavior, the faculty and staff of the Middle School will be constantly modeling to the students the types of behavior we hope to see from them. By targeting instructional design and delivery, classroom/school arrangement, and rules and procedures, a significant number of school-wide behavioral problems can be prevented, leaving staff with fewer individual problems to manage and increase instructional time.

After a number of surveys and faculty/staff discussions, it was determined that our "hot spots" include: the classrooms, bathrooms, cafeteria, hallways, and buses. From here, we developed our core expectations for each area. These expectations focus on our slogan: PRIDE. Each student is encouraged to show Bearcat PRIDE by following these expectations.

Throughout our school, at each hot spot location, students are reminded of our "PRIDE" expectations for that particular area. The expectations are broken down into five general items:

- P- Positivity
- R- Respect
- I- Integrity
- D- Determination
- E- Everyone Together

With this program, we are able to reward the students on various levels for showing proper behavior. Students can receive rewards independently and as a team. These reinforcements can be implemented by all employees-principals, teachers, para-educators, custodians, cafeteria staff, etc.

All teachers and employees will be issued "Bearcat Buckaroos" that will be distributed to students who are positively demonstrating the targeted behavior. The use of Buckaroos is to reward students and serves as a reminder to accentuate the positive and keep a proactive frame of mind. These Buckaroos will then be used to "purchase" rewards independently or as a team.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR STUDENT INVOLVEMENT

EXTRA-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES AVAILABLE:

Football	Basketball (Girls/Boys)
Jazz Band	Wrestling
Marching Band	Indoor Band
Soccer (Girls/Boys)	Indoor Color Guard
Volleyball (Girls/Boys)	Cheerleading

STUDENT COUNCIL

The purpose of Student Council is to provide opportunities for student leadership and participation in the internal management of the school, to promote worthy school activities, and to promote the general welfare of the school. Participation is dependent on maintaining a grade point average of 3.0 or higher, without any F's or D's every nine-week period. Any student falling below this average will be removed from Student Council for half a marking period. At this time, the grades will be reviewed, and if they have improved, the student will become an active member again. Failure to improve grades by the end of the marking period will result in permanent removal from Student Council.

The council assists in making the school environment better. It elects or appoints committees to carry out its decisions. Student Council investigates and reports on questions and problems referred to the group by students. Council members then meet with administration to discuss issues for decision or action. The council primarily plans and carries out social functions within the school for the various grades. Student Council also organizes and executes events to benefit charitable causes in the Huntingdon area.

ACTIVITY NIGHT

Activity Night is held at the Middle School approximately every two months from 6:00 PM until 8:00 P.M. during the school year for Huntingdon Area Middle School students only. Dancing, gym activities, and refreshments are part of each Activity Night. Middle School Activity Night is a student privilege, not a right. We view this evening as a reward for appropriate behavior. All school rules, dress codes, and policies are in effect during Activity Night. Activity Nights are chaperoned by parents and school employees. Parents are encouraged to volunteer to serve as chaperones.

The following conditions may prevent students from attending:

- Being suspended since the previous Activity Night
- Failing to serve detention
- Failing one or more classes
- Displaying inappropriate behavior
- Failing to complete schoolwork
- Administration reserves the right to prohibit participation

Students not picked up by 8:15 P.M. will not be permitted to attend the next Activity Night.

MUSIC ORGANIZATIONS:

INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC PROGRAM

Participation in the instrumental music program is open to all students attending the Huntingdon Area Middle School. All students will be placed into small group instrumental instruction classes at

the beginning of the school year. Since this small group instruction is in addition to regular band rehearsals, anyone who wants to play an instrument is welcome to join regardless of experience. Since the success of these classes and co-curricular activities relies on commitment and discipline, it is suggested that prospective students (and parents) make sure they are prepared to make the commitment. Students are expected to maintain an 80% or higher in core classes to participate in the program. A letter with specific requirements will be sent to parents at the beginning of the year.

The program consists of regularly scheduled classes for 6th, 7th, and 8th grade bands. The bands perform annual Christmas and Spring concerts. In addition to the previously mentioned curricular offerings, the following co-curricular instrumental music activities are also available:

- Jazz Band (grades 6-8) – This band performs music in the Jazz, Rock, and Pop genres. The Middle School Jazz Band performs in several concerts throughout the months of April and May.
- Marching Band (grades 7-12) – This band performs music at football games, band competitions, and parades. Practices begin August (a couple of weeks before school begins) and continue twice a week after school in September and October. Middle School and High School students mix together to make up this co-curricular activity.
- County Band (grades 7-9) – Representatives are chosen for the annual Huntingdon County Junior High Band Festival. This is a one-day festival at which our best instrumental music students join forces with the best instrumental music students from the other three county school districts for morning and afternoon practices in order to prepare a concert for that evening. The festival usually occurs in April or May.
- District 4 6th Grade Band Fest – Representatives for the annual District 4 6th Grade Band Festival are chosen by audition from our 6th Grade instrumental music class. This is a one-day festival at which the best 6th Grade instrumental music students from the Pennsylvania Music Educators Association District 4 (26 school districts) join forces for morning and afternoon practices to prepare a concert for that evening. The festival usually occurs in April or May.

CHORAL MUSIC PROGRAM

Participation in the choral music program is open to all students attending the Huntingdon Area Middle School. Since the success of this class relies on commitment and discipline, it is suggested that prospective choir students (and parents) make sure they are prepared to make that commitment. Students are expected to maintain an 80% or higher in core classes to participate in the program. A letter with specific requirements will be sent to parents at the beginning of the year. The program consists of regularly scheduled classes for 6th, 7th, and 8th graders in the Huntingdon Area Middle School Choir.

SPECIAL NEEDS ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION

This program is designed to encourage training in various sports for exceptional students so they can participate in tournaments in the local, county, and state level. Special Education students team up with peers and coaches to challenge themselves by growing stronger in their social, emotional, and physical abilities.

SPORTS

Philosophy: The primary purpose of the athletic program in the Huntingdon Area School District is to promote the physical, social, emotional, and moral well being of the participants. It is hoped that athletics in our schools will be a positive force in preparing youth for an enriching and vital role in American life.

The athletic program is an important and integral part of the total school program and is open to participation by all students regardless of individual differences. Through voluntary participation, the student gives time, energy, and loyalty to the program. He/she also accepts the training rules, regulations, and responsibilities that are unique to an athletic program.

STUDENT CONDUCT POLICY

Violations of the Huntingdon Area School District "Student Conduct Policy" which require administrative action will be handled in accordance with the provisions of the policy.

1. If a violation involves a detention or suspension, then said athlete will be suspended from practices/contests of that team for those days.
2. No disciplinary leniency will be granted based on a student's participation in extra-curricular activities.

SUBSTANCE USE/ABUSE & POSSESSION

The use and/or possession of controlled substances/drug paraphernalia not prescribed by a doctor are absolutely forbidden. Coaches must immediately notify the athletic director of such occurrences. If a member of an extra-curricular team or activity is caught using or possessing such:

- The student will be referred to the Student Assistance Program (SAP) which will include drug/alcohol evaluation and counseling sessions.
- The student will be suspended from competition immediately for twenty (20) calendar days.
- The student may practice and travel with the team while on suspension.
- Second or subsequent offenses will result in the athlete being dismissed for sixty (60) calendar days from school-sponsored extra-curricular activity.

This policy shall also apply to student conduct that occurs off school property. Violations of the Huntingdon Area School District "Student Conduct Policy" that require administrative action will be handled in accordance with the provision of the policy.

The Pledge:

I agree to refrain from the possession, use, and distribution of any tobacco products, drugs (unless prescribed), alcohol, and controlled substance, both on and off school grounds, during the school year. If it is verified that I have used any of these substances, I understand that the aforementioned consequences will apply.

PIAA: The High School and the Middle School in the Huntingdon Area School District are members of the Pennsylvania Interscholastic Athletic Association (PIAA) and subscribe to the philosophy and intent of its by-laws. The PIAA by-laws that pertain to age, awards, attendance, health, transfers and residence, participation, representation, curriculum, and seasonal rules will be followed. Each coach is responsible for knowing the rules, informing team members and parents of them, and enforcing them.

Eligibility Requirements:

Academic: Academic eligibility for athletic activities is based on the premise that academic performance is the keystone of the curriculum and the standard upon which participation is measured. Pennsylvania Interscholastic Athletic Association (PIAA) eligibility requirements will be followed along with the HAMS eligibility requirements.

1. Students must pursue a full-time curriculum defined and approved by the Principal.
2. Eligibility will be cumulative from the beginning of a grading period and will be reported on a weekly basis.
3. Students who are failing (below 60%) two or more courses will not be eligible to participate in practice or scheduled events for the following week.
4. A student that has failed two or more classes during the previous grading period, except that eligibility for the first grading period is based on the final grades for the preceding school year will be ineligible for 15 school days of the next grading period, beginning on the first day of the next

marking period.

Attendance: A student must be in school by **9:30AM** in order to participate in any extracurricular contest/practice that day. An exception will be made if the student has an approved appointment; in which case, the student must present a signed statement regarding the absence one day in advance.

If a student is absent the last school day of the week, and the competition is on a non-school day, the student must have coach and parent permission to participate. It is recommended that the coach call the parent regarding the absence.

If a student is absent from school during a semester for a total of 20 or more school days, the student will lose his/her eligibility until he/she has been in attendance for a total of 45 school days following his/her 20th day of absence.

Sportsmanship: Student athletes in the Huntingdon Area School District must keep in mind that they are always in the public eye and that their personal conduct will always be subject to the scrutiny of their fellow students, fans, opponents, and the media. They, therefore, have an obligation to serve as positive role models by subscribing to the following.

1. Showing respect for authority and property.
2. Maintaining academic eligibility and training rules.
3. Emphasizing the ideals of sportsmanship, loyalty, ethical conduct, and fair play.
4. Understanding that striving to win is important to success in athletics just as in every facet of life.

Any display of unsportsmanlike behavior toward an opponent, official, or spectator during the season will result in counseling by the coach and possible suspension from the team.

Travel: Extended Trips are defined as any travel that requires an overnight stay. Athletes must travel to and from contests, away from Huntingdon, in transportation provided by the school.

The only exceptions are:

1. Injury to participant that would require alternate transportation.
2. Prior arrangement made in writing between the participant's parent/guardian and the coach for the student to ride with the parent/guardian or another approved parent.
3. When school transportation is not provided and alternative means are approved.

Equipment & Uniforms: Equipment and uniforms are issued to students on a loan basis and are to be worn only when authorized by the coach. If any of the equipment is not returned at the conclusion of the season, an obligation will be issued to the student for the fair cost of replacing it. Until the obligation is resolved, the student will not be permitted to participate in any future athletic season.

Practices & Contests: Each member of any team is required to make a commitment to that sport during the season. Part of the commitment involves being at every scheduled practice and contest throughout the season. Unexcused absence(s) from scheduled practices/contests will result in:

1. Counseling by the head coach and notification of parents, if necessary; and
2. Suspension from the team and possible dismissal for remainder of the season if subsequent violations occur.

A student who has been injured and has had medical treatment cannot participate until medical clearance has been granted. Athletes must return all appropriate insurance forms promptly or face the possibility of suspension from the team until forms are returned.

General Regulations:

1. Student-athletes should be neatly groomed and properly dressed when traveling to any contest.
2. No athlete may quit one sport and try out for another after the season has begun without mutual consent of both coaches.
3. Any civil law infraction or conduct by a student-athlete that occurs during a sport season that is determined by the administration and head coach to be detrimental to the athletic program, or the school district, will result in counseling by the school administration and head coach and possible suspension/dismissal from the team.

Completion of Sport Season: In order for the student-athlete to be eligible for a letter, team and/or individual awards, it is required that he/she complete the sports season, including post-season playoffs and tournaments. No awards will be given to any student-athlete suspended and/or dismissed for the remainder of the season for violations.

Student Conduct Policy: Violations of the Huntingdon Area School District "Student Conduct Policy" which require administrative action will be handled in accordance with the provisions of the policy.

1. For example, if a violation involves a suspension, then said athlete will be suspended from practices/contests of that team for those days.
2. It should be clearly understood that the same standard of behavior and discipline for the regular student shall also apply to the student-athlete, and any violations may result in forfeiture of the privilege to participate in the Huntingdon athletic program.

Jurisdiction: The rules and regulations for the student-athlete will apply to any violations, on and off school premises, during the sport season of participation.

Coaching Rules: Any additional rules and regulations developed by the head coach of any sport must be approved by the principal and athletic director prior to the season. These additional rules and regulations must be in writing and on file in the athletic office.

SUPPORT SERVICES

COUNSELING OFFICE

There is a school counselor available at the Middle School to meet with students regarding academic, career, and personal/social development.

Counseling Services:

1. Individual counseling
2. Child Study Team
3. Career exploration/classroom lessons
4. Academic services
5. Parent-teacher conferences
6. Teen Issues Group
7. Scheduling support
8. Student Assistant Program (SAP)
9. Global Perspectives
10. Crisis intervention
11. Parent Outreach
12. Tours: Juniata College and HCCTC
13. Career Cafe
14. Lunch Bunch
15. Job Shadowing
16. Career Day
17. STEPS Program
18. Realityworks, Inc. (Infant Simulation)

The school counselor is available for all middle school students. When students wish to speak with the School Counselor, they should obtain a pass during homeroom period or ask for teacher permission with a signed planner. Parents/guardians are encouraged to contact the School Counselor with concerns pertaining to their child.

For situations that require specialized services, referrals are made to the appropriate agencies and/or professionals.

STUDENT ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (S.A.P.)

The Student Assistance Program is designed to help school personnel in identifying issues, including drugs and alcohol, which pose a barrier to a student's learning and school success. When the issues are beyond the scope of the school, community services are accessible to students and parents when such needs are identified. Parent involvement and responsibility in the decision-making process affecting their children's education is key to the successful resolution of problems.

SCHOOL RESOURCE OFFICER

A full-time uniformed school resource officer is available. The officer is a member of the Huntingdon Borough Police Department and may be contacted at the High School.

STUDENT PROGRESS

ASSESSMENTS

District assessments, teacher generated evaluations, and standardized testing will be used to monitor student progress in order to guide instruction and to ensure proper student placement. Assessments include:

Grades 6 and 7: Pennsylvania System of School Assessment: ELA & Math

Grade 8: Pennsylvania System of School Assessment: Math, ELA, & Science

All Grades: Algebra I Keystone Exam (for students taking or have taken the Algebra I course) & Classroom Diagnostic Tests (3 times per year)

GRADING

Report cards are issued every nine weeks. Midterm reports are issued halfway through each marking period. Parents will be notified by the classroom teacher of any unsatisfactory progress when deemed necessary.

A	95-100%	C	73-76%
A-	90-94	C-	70-72
B+	87-89	D+	67-69
B	83-86	D	63-66
B-	80-82	D-	60-62
C+	77-79	F	Under 60

HONOR ROLL

At the end of each nine-week grading period, an Honor Roll is issued for all students who qualify. Honor roll requirements are as follows:

- All subjects are included for a cumulative GPA to determine Honor Roll
- Students must have a GPA of 3.75-4.0 for High Honors and 3.5-3.74 for Honors in all subjects to qualify for the honor roll.

Those students who have demonstrated outstanding scholastic achievement each marking period qualify for the Cumulative Honor Roll.

FINAL GRADES

Final grades will be calculated using the average (mean) of a student's grades for the four nine-week marking periods.

PROMOTION POLICY

Students must earn a minimum grade of "D" in a course in order to pass. Students who successfully pass all major subjects (Language Arts, Math, Science, and Social Studies) will be promoted to the next grade. Students who fail at least two major subjects must remediate them in our summer school program. Students who do not attend summer school will be retained. A student who fails the same subject two years in a row must remediate in order to be promoted to the next grade. Students in summer school will receive the basic core of the course failed as outlined in the curriculum guide.

ACADEMIC HONESTY

I. STATEMENT OF BELIEFS

As a community of learners, the students and faculty at HAMS share the responsibility for establishing and maintaining appropriate standards for academic honesty. It is our obligation to foster a learning environment that is free of academic dishonesty.

II. FORMS OF ACADEMIC DISHONESTY

Cheating

- Intentionally using or attempting to use unauthorized materials, information, notes, study aids
- Unauthorized communication of information

Fabrication and falsification

- Intentionally inventing or counterfeiting any information
- Altering information
- Changing record of data or experimental procedures/results
- Falsely citing a source of information

Multiple submissions

- Turning in more than once substantial parts of the same work for credit
- Turning in the same work for credit in more than one class without prior authorization

Plagiarism

- Submitting material that is not credited to the proper owner
- Knowingly presenting another's work as one's own

Complicity in academic dishonesty

- Knowingly assisting another without prior authorization
- Discussing or distributing test questions without prior authorization

In each of the preceding statements above, students and faculty share equal responsibility for understanding interpretations and applications specific to a given course.

III. PROCEDURE FOR INFRACTIONS

- Student-teacher conference
- Possible penalties
 - Student will be written up on Skyward
 - Verbal Reprimand
 - Student will retake the test or redo the assignment. The highest grade that will be earned will be a 59%.
 - No credit for the assignment
 - Failure for the marking period and/or the year

ATTENDANCE
(Reference School Board Policy #204)

Regular attendance at school is necessary for a good educational experience. If a student is under the compulsory school attendance law, proper steps will be taken to enforce that law. Unexcused absences will result in no credit for the day and no opportunity to make up work that was missed.

When a student returns to school after an absence, the student must present a properly signed excuse during the homeroom time. If you have obtained a written doctor excuse, please send this excuse as well. **The student has 3 days after his/her return to school to bring this note. Each day that is not covered by a legal excuse will result in an unexcused day on record. Excuses will not be accepted after the three day window is over.**

The Huntingdon Area School District attendance policy provides that a claim of continual or repeated illness in excess of 10 days per school year requires a physician's statement regarding illness. If a student has absences in excess of 10 days with no medical excuse, the absences will be considered unexcused. Students whose absence is determined to be unexcused will not be allowed to make up their work.

Parents will receive an attendance letter in the mail after 10 days of recorded absences and doctor's excuses will be required. State legislation stipulates that students (and/or their parents) may be fined for excessive absences. A citation may be filed once a student reaches 4 unexcused absences.

ABSENCE NOTIFICATION

Each day a student is absent from school, the home will be called by the School Messenger System to notify the parents/guardians of the absence.

Notification letters of unexcused absences will be sent after one (1) unexcused day, after two (2) unexcused days, after three (3) unexcused days, and after the fourth unexcused day. Once a student has obtained three (3) unexcused absences, a truancy meeting may be scheduled with the parents/guardians, student, and school administration. Child and Youth (CYS) may be notified and asked to attend the meeting.

Notification letters of total absences will be sent after a total of **five (5) days and ten (10) days** absent. Once a student has obtained ten (10) days absent, a meeting may be scheduled with the parents/guardians, student, and school administration.

REASONS FOR ABSENCE

The Board considers the following conditions to constitute reasonable cause for absence from school:

- Illness
- Quarantine
- Impassable roads
- Death in family
- Recovery from accident
- Absences approved in advance by the administration or Superintendent
- Educational tours and trips, with prior approval
- Family educational travel, with prior approval

All other reasons for absence will be considered unexcused.

Absences shall be treated as unlawful until the district receives a written excuse explaining the absence, to be submitted within three (3) days of the absence.

A maximum of ten (10) days of cumulative lawful absences verified by parental notification shall be permitted during a school year. All absences beyond ten (10) cumulative days shall require an excuse from a licensed physician. Excessive absences excluding medical and funeral/death absences may result in students losing the privilege of participating in school-sponsored activities.

COMPLUSORY ATTENDANCE LAW (UNDER 17 YEARS OF AGE)

Any student who has been absent for a total of four (4) or more unexcused days will be cited to the local magistrate for a fine, loss or delay of driver's license, and/or community service. In addition to being cited, a referral may be made to Huntingdon County Children's Services. An unexcused absence from an attendance timeframe will count as one-half day of illegal absence.

The magistrate may impose the following:

1. Student's driver's license may be suspended for 90 days for the first conviction.
2. Student's driver's license may be suspended for six months for second conviction.
3. Unlicensed juveniles are prohibited from applying for a learner's permit for 90 days (first offense) and six months (second offense), commencing upon their 16th birthday.
4. All students convicted will be referred to County Children and Youth Service.
5. Authorities have the right to arrest the student if the parent is unable to make the child attend.
6. A parent or guardian can be fined for failing to have the child in school. Fines may go as high as \$300.00.

COURSEWORK

Coursework is a valuable part of the educational process at the Middle School. Coursework must be completed on a regular basis. Any work missed or not completed will have a negative effect on the course grade.

Students are responsible for making up any missed assignments/tests when absent. Your child's teachers will fill out a coursework sheet if he/she has been absent two or more days. You should contact the school at 643-2900 before 9:00 AM to request work for your child. Coursework sheets may be picked up in the office after 2:30 PM or will be sent home with another student when a request is made. Assignments are also available on Skyward. Parents may come in to the school and get books from a child's locker when necessary. Students who are absent for one day have two days to make up any assignments/tests missed unless other arrangements have been made with your child's teachers. Students who are assigned In-School Suspension (ISS) or Out-of-School Suspension (OSS) will be given their daily assignments/tests and will receive credit for all work completed.

TARDINESS TO SCHOOL

Students will be admitted into the building at 7:30 AM unless inclement weather warrants an earlier admittance. Students report to their assigned areas from 7:30 until 7:40 AM each morning. At 7:40 AM, students may go to their lockers and then report to their homerooms. Students must be in their homerooms each morning by 7:50 AM. Students arriving to homeroom between 7:50 AM and 7:55 AM will be admitted by the teacher and marked tardy unexcused. Students arriving to school after 7:55 AM must present an excuse to the office to be marked tardy excused. Students without a note will be marked unexcused tardy. Students will receive a pass to class. Reasons for excused tardiness are: illness, appointment with doctor's excuse, inclement weather, late buses. Any other reason is considered an unexcused tardy. Students arriving after 9:30 AM will be considered ½ day absent, and students arriving after 1:05 PM will be considered absent for a full day. Student arriving between 9:30 AM and 1:05 PM will be considered absent for one half day. Tardy minutes will be totaled toward total days absent, and excessive tardiness may result in a citation being filed with the District Magistrate.

EARLY RELEASES

Pupils are not permitted to leave school before the close of the school day unless by a recommendation from the school nurse for illness or by the school administration for some legitimate reason. When an appointment is necessary during school hours, an office excuse is required. The school reserves the right to call parents when an early dismissal is requested. An appointment card should be sent in if one is available. Early releases will be totaled toward total days absent, and excessive early releases may result in a citation being filed with the District Magistrate.

The procedure for early dismissals will be as follows:

- The student must present a written note from his/her parent or guardian requesting the early dismissal during homeroom. This note must contain name, phone number, reason for request, time of departure, and expected time of return. Verbal requests

will not be recognized.

- Students will be given an early dismissal slip and early dismissals will be recorded on the attendance bulletin.
- Parents must come into the office to sign their child out unless prior arrangements have been made with the office.
- When the student returns, he/she must report to the office to sign in and receive a pass to class. An excuse from the doctor's office is required in order for the absence to be considered a doctor appointment or medical excuse.
- Students are responsible to receive and turn in any class work missed during their absence.
- If the dismissal results in half a day absence, a doctor's excuse will be required if the child is over their 10 illness day limits or it will be considered illegal.

TARDINESS TO CLASS

Students are responsible for being in class on time. A reasonable amount of time is provided for changing classes. Teachers will keep appropriate records and work with students to resolve problems of tardiness. Disciplinary consequences are listed below:

Procedure for handling tardiness to class and school:

- 1st tardy: Skyward referral and Student/Teacher conference
- 2nd tardy: Skyward referral and Student/Assistant Principal conference
- 3rd tardy: Skyward referral and detention
- 4th tardy: Skyward referral and 2 detentions
- 5 or more tardies: Administrative discretion

FIELD TRIPS

Class and school-wide field trips may be scheduled throughout the year as a component of our planned curricula. The intent of our field trips is to enrich or extend classroom activities. Parental permission forms with pertinent information about the trip will be sent home before the field trip and must be signed by the parent/guardian and returned to the school in a timely manner. In the event of serious or extended illness, the participating teachers and administration will decide if a student is capable of going on the field trip. Students must be in good academic and behavioral standing to participate in field trips. Students who are at a Level II Suspension or above and/or have a poor attendance record may not be eligible to participate.

EDUCATIONAL TRIPS

Educational trips not sponsored by the district may be approved if the following conditions are met:

- The parent/guardian submits a written request for excusal at least five (5) days prior to the absence with a copy of the educational flier/brochure/registration form attached
- The student's participation has been approved by the Superintendent or designee
- The adult directing and supervising the tour or trip is acceptable to the parents/guardians and Superintendent
- The student is in good academic and attendance standing

HOMEBOUND INSTRUCTION (Reference School Board Policy #117)

FAMILY VACATIONS

Family vacations during the school year are permitted but are not encouraged. If a vacation will be scheduled, please avoid our state testing windows. Any vacation exceeding five (5) days must have prior approval from the Superintendent. Family vacations not exceeding five (5) school days will be excused under the following conditions:

- A written request for the trip is submitted to the principal five (5) school days in advance.
- The student must be in good standing. Good standing is determined by the student's teacher(s) and based on attendance, academic progress, and discipline.
- Coursework will be provided to the student one day prior to departure.
- All schoolwork missed must be completed and turned in to the teacher upon return to school.

Failure to meet any of the above conditions may result in unexcused/illegal absences.

Any days exceeding five days may be counted as unexcused/illegal absences.

GENERAL INFORMATION

BEVERAGE CONTAINER/SNACK GUIDELINES

Students may not bring glass beverage containers to school. Appropriate drinks (energy drinks are not appropriate) and/or snacks are to be opened and consumed in the cafeteria or classroom during an activity assigned by the teacher. Open beverage containers and snacks may not be kept in hall lockers or consumed in hallways.

HALL LOCKERS

Students will be assigned a locker in the corridor close to their homeroom. Locks are permitted on these lockers; however, a spare key or combination must be given to the office. The Middle School will provide the use of a lock to students if requested. Locks remain the property of the District; loss or destruction of locks will be subject to replacement charges. Students are discouraged from bringing valuables to school. The school is not responsible for lost, damaged or stolen valuables. Students may not use any locker but the one assigned to them. Lockers are school property; using them is a privilege, not a right. Items are to be kept in the locker, not on the top of the locker. Anything located on top of the locker will be removed. The Huntingdon Area School District will not be responsible for theft when students fail to use a lock or share lockers. Students should not have an expectation of privacy for hall and gym lockers. These areas will be subject to search with reasonable cause.

BACKPACKS

Backpacks are permitted to be used to and from school. Backpacks, book bags, and draw-string bags are not to be used between classes throughout the school day. Like lockers, students should not have an expectation of privacy. Backpacks will be subject to search with reasonable cause.

LOST AND FOUND

Articles found by students should be taken to the school cafeteria where the owner may claim them. Parents are encouraged to label their child's belongings and have their child place a lock on his/her locker. Unclaimed articles that remain in the Lost and Found for over one month will be given to the Salvation Army.

STUDENT SEARCHES

Students have the right to be free from unreasonable searches and seizures under the Fourth Amendment to the U.S. Constitution. Balanced against this right is the school officials' responsibility to create and maintain a school environment consistent with the school's educational mission.

School personnel may search individual students and their property when they have reasonable grounds or reasonable suspicion to believe that the search will uncover evidence that the student is violating the law or the rules of the district or the school. All staff members must exercise discretion, good judgment, and common sense in all student searches. Unannounced locker searches conducted by local or state police departments using certified dogs may occur during the school year.

ELECTRONIC DEVICES

- Electronic devices are permitted in the cafeteria during lunch periods; however, no electronics or headphones/earbuds are permitted when going through the food lines.
- Electronic devices are permitted in classrooms at teacher discretion.
- Sound from any electronic device must be contained via headphones/earbuds.
- Electronic devices are not permitted in the hallways between 7:50 and 2:45.
- The use of electronic devices for unauthorized picture taking or recording (video or audio) of any kind is strictly prohibited.
- The use of electronic devices for any illegal activity is strictly prohibited.

Any use of electronic devices that impede or distract from the educational environment will be disciplined. Students utilizing electronic devices to contact parents/guardians during school hours will be disciplined. All phone calls and messages need to go through the office. The school nurse will contact home with concerns regarding a student's health. All disciplinary matters will be communicated by the administration.

STUDENT MESSAGES/DELIVERIES

Any message called in to a student by parents or guardians will be held until the end of the day unless it is necessary for the student to receive the message earlier. The school reserves the right to contact the parent or guardian to verify any message before it is given to a student.

Parents may drop off items for students until 9:30 AM. Any materials brought to the student after 9:30 AM will be held until the end of the school day unless it is an emergency or a child's lunch.

Deliveries of any kind other than school-related materials for students are NOT to be sent to the school. This causes a disruption of the educational process and is a potential safety hazard during travel.

TELEPHONES

A telephone, located in the main office, is provided for students' use. A student must first have permission from the teacher and a signed planner to come to the office to use the phones. The student will then gain permission from the office secretary. The student will then be required to fill out a phone log sheet located by the telephone. **Student phone calls should be limited to forgotten school work, lunch, or an item needed for class. Students will not be given permission to call regarding after school arrangements or other non-school related questions.** Phone privileges may also be suspended if students are not forthcoming with their reason for the call. All student phone calls must be made by 8:15 AM unless it is an emergency.

LUNCH PROGRAM

STUDENT ACCOUNT PAYMENTS

All cafeteria lunch payments may be handed in each morning in the Middle School cafeteria during the homeroom period. Students should bring their money and completed yellow slip to the lunchroom by 8:00 A.M. Payment may be made in cash or by check. Checks should be made payable to HASD Cafeteria. Student ID numbers are non-transferable, and student accounts may not be borrowed from or loaned to another student.

CHARGING PROCEDURE

- A limit of three lunches will be enforced for charging.
- Purchasing of any a la carte items or a second lunch is prohibited if any amount of cash is due to the cafeteria. Second lunches and a la carte items are not covered by free or reduced lunch programs and must be paid for through the student account.
- Positive balances from each school year will be carried over into the next school year even if the student moves to another building. Any negative balances must be paid before the end of the school year.
- Due to excessive negative balances in the past, no charging will be allowed during the last two weeks of school.
- There will be a \$ 20.00 service charge for any check returned from the bank for any reason.

CAFETERIA PROCEDURES, RULES, AND CONSEQUENCES

PROCEDURES:

- Students will go to their lockers before entering the cafeteria.
- No more than three (3) students per bench. Staff will reserve the right to change seats.
- When all students are seated and talking is controlled, students will be dismissed by table to get in line for trays.

- Students will return to seats and empty trays as needed.
- Students may use restrooms with teacher permission only.
- Students are not permitted to use lockers during lunch.
- Students may request nurse or office visit with staff permission.
- Students are not permitted to go to other classrooms unless a pass is given from the teacher.
- Students are responsible for keeping the table and floor area clean. Both must be done for students to be dismissed from lunch.
- **ALL** food must be consumed in the cafeteria unless permission is granted/requested by staff.
- Students will use polite table manners at all times.
- Excessively loud voices are not permitted. Students are expected to be quiet during any announcements and when passing through school hallways.
- Students are not permitted to throw food or any other object.
- Food from outside sources (ex: Fast food restaurants) is not permitted in the cafeteria. If a student is provided that for lunch, they will be asked to eat in the office. Please keep this to a minimum.
- Students are not permitted to wear earbuds/headphones or use electronic devices while going through food lines.

POSSIBLE CONSEQUENCES:

- Warning
- Detention
- Loss of cafeteria privileges
- Other consequences deemed appropriate by administration.

HEALTH AND SAFETY

**MEDICATION POLICY
(Reference School Board Policy #210)**

Although the Huntingdon Area School District strongly recommends that medication be given in the home, it realizes that the health of some children requires that they receive medication while in school. When medication is to be taken at school, the following steps must be taken:

- The doctor must complete Medication Form A (obtained from school or online).
- The parent/guardian must sign the consent form for Medication Form B (obtained from school).
- Any medication to be given during school hours must be delivered to the school nurse, principal, or designated individual by the parent/guardian. The medication must be brought to school in the original pharmaceutical dispenser and properly labeled container.
- In instances where parent/guardian neglects to fulfill the requirements of forms A and B, the medication will not be administered.

POSSESSION/USE OF ASTHMA INHALER OR EPINEPHRINE AUTO-INJECTORS (Reference School Board Policy #210.1)

PROOF OF IMMUNIZATION AND PHYSICALS

Proof of immunizations is required of all students entering the Huntingdon Area School District. A Health History form must be completed and sent in with your child the first day he/she attends school. Please be advised State Law requires the following exams: Physical exams: kindergarten, grades 6 and 11; Dental exams: kindergarten, grades 3 and 7.

ACCIDENTS AND ILLNESS

Any serious injury which occurs on a school bus, in the school building, or on the school grounds, must be reported immediately to the office and the nurse. A written report must be filed

immediately by the supervising teacher and turned in to the office for medical and insurance purposes.

ILLNESS AT SCHOOL

During the school day, a student must have their planner signed to report to the nurse's room. If the nurse is not available, the student must see the principal or assistant principal, for permission to go home. When the school nurse is not present or available, the student is not permitted to call or text a parent to go home without permission from the main office. If a student calls or texts a parent without permission of the nurse or principal, then the absentee and/or discipline procedures will apply. When a parent/guardian comes in to pick up a sick student, that parent/guardian must sign the student out on the attendance notebook on the counter in the office.

A school nurse is available at the Middle School each day from 7:30 A.M. until 3:00 P.M. Her duties include: caring for students who are ill and/or injured, administering medication, maintaining health and immunization records, serving on the student assistance team and coordinating routine screenings. Physical examinations are required for grade 6. (The school physician will administer the physicals or the students may choose a private physician at their own expense.) Scoliosis screenings are done in grade 7. Hearing screening is conducted in grade 7. Dental screenings are done in grade 7. Vision, height, and weight screenings are conducted each year for grades 6, 7, and 8. All students are required to have a signed pass from their teacher to visit the nurse's office, except in the case of an emergency.

EMERGENCY DRILLS (previous FIRE REGULATIONS)

An emergency drill may be called at any time. All drills are very important; the lives of students and staff may depend on their success. When the alarm sounds, it is a signal for the pupils to follow the direction of staff in all situations. Information concerning assigned exits for all rooms is posted in every room. The LGR, cafeteria, and gymnasium have their own plainly marked exits.

The first student to reach any outside door will open the door and hold it open until the last person has left by that door. Then the door should be closed. All windows and doors should be closed. Staff and students will move to the area assigned, well away from the building, and remain orderly. The teacher will take his/her class roster with him/her and take attendance when everyone is out of the building. He/she will report attendance to an administrator or school official. Students will be informed when it is safe to return to the building.

SCHOOL INSURANCE

The Western Pennsylvania Caring Foundation for Children, through the State-sponsored BlueCHIP program, offers free or affordable health care insurance to uninsured children from families who make too much to receive medical assistance but do not have or cannot afford private health care insurance. Please call 1-800-KIDS-105 if you have questions or are interested in this program.

CODE OF STUDENT CONDUCT & DISCIPLINE

For any school district to function properly, reasonable and necessary rules governing student conduct must be designed and enforced. Every student that is in non-compliance with the following rules will be disciplined based on knowledge of the current problem and past experience with the individual involved. Every situation is different, and after hearing all the facts involved, a decision will be made.

The administration and teachers retain the right to assign such discipline for infractions that are not specifically listed within this handbook. Students will be disciplined taking into consideration the past disciplinary record of the student and any other extenuating circumstances. **All disciplinary actions are at the discretion of the administration.**

ACCEPTABLE SCHOOL BEHAVIOR

PHILOSOPHY:

The Huntingdon Area Middle School believes that all students should have the opportunity to learn and grow in a learning environment that is safe and friendly for both students and staff. This positive environment is the responsibility of students, staff, parents, and the community. Students and staff will be expected to:

- Be considerate of all individuals in any school environment or activity.
- Take pride in the building. Keep it clean and in good condition.
- Show respect to fellow students, school employees, and all visitors.
- Contribute to a safe, orderly, and healthy learning environment.
- Come to class prepared to learn!

DRESS GUIDELINES

In order to create an atmosphere of learning, cleanliness, and safety, the following are guidelines for proper dress:

- Cleanliness and personal hygiene must be stressed at all times.
- Sandals, shoes, or some form of footwear must be worn at all times. Slippers are not permitted.
- Students are permitted to wear shorts or skirts with a length to the ends of the student's fingertips. Short shorts and mini skirts are not acceptable.
- Clothing, buttons, or other apparel which condone or promote the use of alcohol, drugs, sex, tobacco, violence, as well as any visible profanity, are prohibited.
- Students must wear clothing of conservative neckline. Two piece outfits must overlap at the waist with no bare skin exposed. Students are permitted to wear sleeveless, short sleeve, or long sleeve tops. Straps must be two-fingers' width. Racerback tanks, all lace, or other garments exposing the back are not permitted. Clothing that exposes the torso or upper thighs are not permitted; this includes holes in pants.
- All undergarments must be covered by outer wear.
- Hats, visors, bandannas, head coverings, or sunglasses may not be worn in school by males or females.
- Articles of clothing or jewelry with projecting studs (e.g., dog collar) and safety pins worn as decoration or accent are prohibited.
- Chains hanging from wallets, pockets, shirts, etc. are prohibited.
- Face painting or writing on body is not permitted.
- Trench coats are prohibited.
- Display of gang colors, symbols, language, or gestures associated with undesirable groups/gangs will not be tolerated.
- No bedroom slippers/pajamas may be worn.
- Costumes, including animal ears and tails, are not permitted.

School officials may impose limitations on dress or articles that cause the disruption of the educational process or constitute a health or safety hazard. Violation of this policy will result in student being required to comply with the guidelines before returning to class. Repeat offenses may result in disciplinary action. Refusal to comply will result in spending the day in ISS.

DEFINITIONS

A. Assault

Hitting, biting, kicking, or striking with an object another student or staff member will not be tolerated. Assault will result in suspension from school.

B. Bicycles and Wheeled Devices

Use of wheeled devices is not permitted without permission on school property. This includes, but is not limited to: bicycles, skateboards, wheeled shoes, or skates. A bicycle rack is available for security. The school is not responsible for lost or damaged items and will not allow wheeled devices to be kept in the office or school.

C. Bus Rules

Rules and consequences (suspension of bus privileges) are addressed in the Transportation Section. In addition, students are subject to additional consequences in accordance with school discipline policies. Students are not permitted to ride a bus other than the bus to which they are

assigned without prior permission from the office staff.

D. Class Skipping

Students are expected to attend all classes in their schedules. Unexcused absences from classes will result in disciplinary consequences.

E. Computer Policy

All students must have a completed School District Acceptable Use Policy on file before being permitted systems access. Violation of policy will result in disciplinary consequences.

F. Disorderly Conduct

The Huntingdon Area Middle School has a **ZERO** tolerance for violence or threats of violence.

Misconduct, disobedience, or disorderly conduct will not be tolerated. Commission of any of the following offenses will subject the pupil committing such offenses to out-of-school suspension, alternative school, and or expulsion. A mental health assessment may also be required prior to the student's return to regular school. In addition, in accordance with Section 1341 of the School Code, charges may be filed by the Police Department for further civil action.

- Fighting
- Performing an act of violence or threat of violence against school personnel or members of the student body
- Engaging in any conduct or activity contrary to, or in violation of, the Pennsylvania Crimes Code or ordinances of any municipality within the district
- Active participation in school disruption
- Throwing of objects that could inflict harm such as snowballs, money, pens, pencils, etc. is prohibited.
- Hazing

G. Disrespecting the Property of Others

Damage to or theft of the property of others will not be tolerated. Student will be liable for the cost of repair or replacement in addition to other disciplinary consequences.

H. Disrespectful or Aggressive Behavior toward Staff or Students

Students are expected to behave in a respectful manner toward all other students and staff members.

I. Disruptive Behavior

Disruption of the educational process will not be tolerated.

J. Failure to Attend Detention

Students are expected to attend scheduled detentions without reminders. Failure to do so will result in the following:

- 1st offense: 1 additional day detention plus original detention must be served
- 2nd offense: 1 day of in-school suspension
- 3rd offense and all subsequent offenses: 3 days in-school suspension

K. False Alarms and Bomb Threats

Pulling of a fire alarm, calling 911, making a bomb threat, or signaling for assistance under false pretenses is a serious offense. Anyone caught in violation will be reported to the police department, will be given Out-of-School Suspension, and will be recommended to the Student Services Committee of the School Board for expulsion.

L. Forgery

Signing or having someone sign a document with other than his/her own name or alter a document will result in discipline.

M. Gambling

Any event, action, or statement, which relies on chance for monetary advantage of one participant at the expense of others is prohibited. This includes exchanging items of value or currency and extends to keeping score for later settlement. No card playing is allowed unless it a part of the approved academic curriculum.

- 1st offense: 1 day ISS and parents will be informed
- 2nd offense: 3 days ISS and a meeting with parents
- 3rd offense: 3 days OSS and a meeting with parents will be held before student may return to school

N. Hall Passes

Except for class change periods and emergencies, students must carry their signed planner at all times.

O. BULLYING/CYBERBULLING (Reference School Board Policy #249)

Purpose

The Board is committed to providing a safe, positive learning environment for district students. The Board recognizes that bullying creates an atmosphere of fear and intimidation, detracts from the safe environment necessary for student learning, and may lead to more serious violence. Therefore, the Board prohibits bullying and cyberbullying in any form by district students.

Students share the responsibility with the administration and faculty of developing and maintaining 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/her fellow students. It is the responsibility of each student to respect the rights of teachers, students, administrators, and all others who are involved in the educational process.

Definitions

Bullying means an intentional electronic, written, verbal or physical act or series of acts directed at another student or students, which occurs in a school setting and/or outside a school setting that is severe, persistent or pervasive and has the effect of doing any of the following:

1. Substantial interference with a student's education.
2. Creation of a threatening environment.
3. Substantial disruption of the orderly operation of the school.

Bullying, as defined in this policy, includes cyberbullying, and may take place in several forms including, but not limited to, the following:

1. Written, verbal or nonverbal threats directed against a student or school employee.
2. Intimidating or threatening gestures.
3. Unwanted physical contact, violence or assault.
4. An intentional display of force that would give the victim cause to expect or fear physical contact or injury.
5. Nonphysical acts including, but not limited to, mean faces, rude gestures, systematic exclusion and/or isolation.
6. Jeering, taunting, mocking and other put-downs.
7. Degrading or insulting teasing or derogatory comments.
8. Conduct intended to demean, dehumanize, embarrass or incite a student or school employee.
9. Social scheming and spreading false and/or cruel rumors.
10. Hazing.
11. Harassment.
12. Extortion.
13. Theft of money or possessions.
14. Vandalism of a student's personal property.
15. Unauthorized exercise of control over a student's personal property.
16. Placing a student in reasonable fear of loss or damage to personal property.
17. Acting in a manner that has an effect substantially similar to the effect(s) of bullying.

Cyberbullying - includes, but shall not be limited to, communications or images transmitted by means of an electronic device, telephone, wireless phone or other wireless communications device, computer or pager with the effect or intent of harassing, teasing, intimidating or terrorizing another student through substantial interference with the student's education, creation of a threatening environment or substantial disruption of the orderly operation of the school. Such communications may include sending or posting inappropriate or derogatory

e-mail messages, instant messages, text messages, digital pictures or images, or website postings, including blogs, even if such communications occur outside the school setting.

School setting means in the school, on school grounds, in school vehicles, at a designated bus stop or at any activity sponsored, supervised or sanctioned by the school.

Authority

The Board prohibits all forms of bullying by district students.

The Board encourages students who have been bullied to promptly report such incidents to the building principal or designee.

The Board directs that complaints of bullying shall be investigated promptly, and corrective action shall be taken when allegations are verified. Confidentiality of all parties shall be maintained, consistent with the district's legal and investigative obligations. No reprisals or retaliation shall occur as a result of good faith reports of bullying.

Delegation of Responsibility

Each student shall be responsible to respect the rights of others and to ensure an atmosphere free from bullying.

The Superintendent or designee shall develop administrative regulations to implement this policy.

The Superintendent or designee shall ensure that this policy and administrative regulations are reviewed annually with students.

The Superintendent or designee, in cooperation with other appropriate administrators, shall review this policy every three (3) years and recommend necessary revisions to the Board.

District administration shall annually provide the following information with the Safe School Report:

1. Board's Bullying Policy.
2. Report of bullying incidents.
3. Information on the development and implementation of any bullying prevention, intervention or education programs.

Guidelines

The Code of Student Conduct, which shall contain this policy, shall be disseminated annually to students.

This policy shall be accessible in every classroom. The policy shall be posted in a prominent location within each school building and on the district website, if available.

Education

The district may develop and implement bullying prevention and intervention programs. Such programs shall provide district staff and students with appropriate training for effectively responding to, intervening in and reporting incidents of bullying.

Consequences for Violations

A student who violates this policy shall be subject to appropriate disciplinary action consistent with the Code of Student Conduct, which may include:

1. Counseling within the school.
2. Parental conference.
3. Loss of school privileges.

4. Transfer to another school building, classroom or school bus.
5. Exclusion from school-sponsored activities.
6. Detention.
7. Suspension.
8. Expulsion.
9. Counseling and/or therapy outside of school.
10. Referral to law enforcement officials.

P. UNLAWFUL HARASSMENT (Reference School Board Policy #248)

The Huntingdon Area School District strives to provide a safe, positive learning climate for students in the schools. Therefore, it shall be the policy of the district to maintain an educational environment in which harassment in any form is not tolerated. A student is being harassed when she or he is exposed to negative actions on the part of one or more students. It is imperative that students report when they or someone else is subject to harassment, inappropriate or derogatory treatment.

Definitions

Harassment shall consist of verbal, written, graphic or physical conduct relating to an individual's race, color, ancestry, creed, national origin/ethnicity, sex, age, marital status, pregnancy, handicap/disability, sexual orientation or religion when such conduct:

1. Is sufficiently severe, persistent or pervasive that it affects an individual's ability to participate in or benefit from an educational program or activity or creates an intimidating, threatening or abusive educational environment.
2. Has the purpose or effect of substantially or unreasonably interfering with an individual's academic performance.
3. Otherwise adversely affects an individual's learning opportunities.

Sexual harassment shall consist of unwelcome sexual advances; requests for sexual favors; and other inappropriate verbal, written, graphic or physical conduct of a sexual nature when:

1. Submission to such conduct is made explicitly or implicitly a term or condition of a student's academic status.
2. Submission to or rejection of such conduct is used as the basis for academic or work decisions affecting the individual.
3. Such conduct deprives a student of educational aid, benefits, services or treatment.
4. Such conduct is sufficiently severe, persistent or pervasive that it has the purpose or effect of substantially interfering with the student's school performance or creating an intimidating, hostile or offensive educational environment.

Examples of conduct that may constitute sexual harassment include but shall not be limited to sexual flirtations, advances, touching or propositions; verbal abuse of a sexual nature; graphic or suggestive comments about an individual's dress or body; sexually degrading words to describe an individual; jokes; pin-ups; calendars; objects; graffiti; vulgar statements; abusive language; innuendoes; references to sexual activities; overt sexual conduct; or any conduct that has the effect of unreasonably interfering with a student's ability to work or learn or creates an intimidating, hostile or offensive learning or working environment.

CYBER HARASSMENT-Any of the above that is transmitted using electronic technology.

Violation of guidelines may result in the following:

First Offense: 3-5 days ISS

Second Offense: 1-5 days OSS

Third Offense: 1-10 days OSS

Offenders may be required to have mandated counseling.

Student Resource Officer (SRO) may be notified.

Q. DATING VIOLENCE (Reference School Board Policy #252)

The purpose of this policy is to maintain a safe, positive learning environment for all students that is free from dating violence. Dating violence is inconsistent with the educational goals of the district and is prohibited at all times.

Definitions

Dating Partner shall mean a person, regardless of gender, involved in an intimate relationship with another person, primarily characterized by the expectation of affectionate involvement, whether casual, serious or long-term.

Dating Violence shall mean behavior where one person uses threats of, or actually uses, physical, sexual, verbal or emotional abuse to control the person's dating partner.

Authority

The Board encourages students who have been subjected to dating violence to promptly report such incidents.

The district shall investigate promptly all complaints of dating violence and shall administer appropriate discipline to any student who violates this policy.

Guidelines

Complaint Procedure

When a student believes that s/he has been subject to dating violence, the student is encouraged to promptly report the incident, orally or in writing, to the building principal, guidance counselor or classroom teacher.

The building principal shall conduct a timely, impartial, and comprehensive investigation of the alleged dating violence.

The building principal shall prepare a written report summarizing the investigation and recommending disposition of the complaint. The complainant and the accused shall be informed of the outcome of the investigation.

If the investigation results in a substantiated finding of dating violence, the building principal shall recommend appropriate disciplinary action, as circumstances warrant, in accordance with the Code of Student Conduct.

If a possible violation of the district's harassment policy is implicated, the building principal shall take additional action as necessary to comply with Board policy and state and federal law and regulations.

The district shall document the corrective action taken and, where not prohibited by law, inform the complainant.

This policy on dating violence shall be:

1. Published in the Code of Student Conduct.
2. Published in the Student Handbook.
3. Made available on the district's website, if available.
4. Provided to parents/guardians.

Dating Violence Training

The district may provide dating violence training to guidance counselors, nurses, and mental health staff at the high school as deemed necessary. At the discretion of the Superintendent, parents/guardians and other staff may also receive training on dating violence.

Dating Violence Education

The district may incorporate age-appropriate dating violence education into the annual health curriculum framework for students in grades nine through twelve. The district shall consult with at least one (1) local domestic violence program or rape crisis program when developing the educational program.

A parent/guardian of a student under the age of eighteen (18) shall be permitted to examine the instructional materials for the dating violence education program.

At the request of the parent/guardian, the student may be excused from all or part of the dating violence education program.

R. Housekeeping

In order to promote safety, respect, and a positive learning environment, students are expected to store books and personal items inside lockers.

S. Insubordination

Students must respect not only each other but respond to written and verbal directions given by ALL school personnel. When a person in a position of authority makes a reasonable request, students must comply in a respectful manner.

T. Leaving Building and/or School Property without Permission

Students are to remain in the building and/or on school property at all times during the school day unless proper permission has been obtained by the student before leaving.

U. Mechanical/Electronic Devices

The unauthorized possession and/or use of any type of electronic or mechanical device, which distracts or impedes the educational process is against policy. The following are examples of such but are not limited to: cell phones, iPods, cameras, hand held video game systems, tablets and other Internet capable devices. If a device is out without permission it will be confiscated. First offense the student may pick it up after school. Any offense following will require a parent/guardian to pick up the device regardless of the length of time it takes.

V. Possession of Matches/Lighter

Possession of matches or a lighter will result in a discipline offense.

W. Public Display of Affection

Public displays of affection will not be tolerated in school. This includes, but is not limited to: hugging, kissing, hand holding. This will result in a discipline offense.

X. Repeated Lack of Preparation for Class

Unprepared for class includes, but is not limited to: not bringing required materials and supplies, incompleting assignments, and not dressing for PE. When this is a repeated offense and is reported to the office, it will result in disciplinary action.

Y. Tardiness to Class or to School

Students are expected to arrive on time to school and to each class. Please refer to the Attendance section.

Z. Threats

Verbal, written, or gestured threats to do physical harm to another student or school employee will result in :

- Level III or IV Violation
- A mental health assessment may be completed and when the student is cleared, he/she may return to school.
- Police may be notified and ALL information of the incident will be turned over to them for possible legal action.

AA. Tobacco

The possession or use of tobacco (including any form of smokeless tobacco or its look alike) by students on any part of school property (which shall include buses or leased property under the control of the school) during the school day or any school activity is strictly prohibited. Violations will result in a discipline offense. In addition, Pennsylvania Law now requires school districts to submit the names of all students who possess or use ANY tobacco product on school property. Students who violate this law must appear before the local magistrate and will be required to pay a fine and court costs.

BB. Truancy

Students are truant when they are absent from school without the knowledge/permission of their parent/guardian. Truancy may result in disciplinary action, citations, and/or referral to Raystown Deveelopmental Services (RDS).

CC. Vandalism

Students who willfully destroy school property will be suspended from school. Students will also be held liable for the property destroyed. The police may be notified.

DD. Vulgar or Obscene Language, Gestures, Images, or Drawings

The possession of literature or illustrations which disrupt the educational process or which are obscene will not be tolerated. Cursing or using abusive language, including remarks intended to demean a person's race, religion, sex, national origin, handicapping condition, or intellectual ability is prohibited. Students may be suspended from school.

**SUBSTANCE ABUSE, WEAPONS, EXPLOSIVES, AND ARSON – POLICY AND PROCEDURES
IN HUNTINGDON AREA MIDDLE SCHOOL**

The term contraband includes any controlled substance, any drug paraphernalia, any weapon, any explosive, and any unauthorized material that may cause or result in a fire on school property.

I. CONTROLLED SUBSTANCES, MIND-ALTERING SUBSTANCES, OR DRUG PARAPHERNALIA

A. **Definitions**

- The term **Controlled Substances** means
 - Alcohol
 - All controlled substances, marijuana, and certain solvents as defined in the Pennsylvania Criminal Code
 - Imitation controlled substances as defined in the Pennsylvania Criminal Code
 - Over-the counter drugs and any other drug or prescription medication not possessed for legitimate medicinal purposes
 - Inhalant substances (glue, gas, paint, etc.)
- The term **Mind-Altering Substance** refers to a substance that acts in a manner where it alters brain function, resulting in changes in perception, mood, consciousness, and behavior.
- The term **Drug Paraphernalia** means all equipment, products, and materials of any kind that either are designed for use or intended by the student for use in packaging, repackaging, storing, containing, concealing, injecting, ingesting, inhaling, or otherwise introducing into the human body any controlled substance, including, but not limited to, those items enumerated in the Pennsylvania Criminal Code.
- The term **Substance Abuse** means:
 - The use, possession, sale, distribution, possession with intent to sell or distribute, or the attempted sale or distribution of a controlled substance or drug paraphernalia.
 - Being under the influence of a controlled substance.

B. **Possession or Use**

- **Possession** is defined as an amount for one single use of a substance by one individual. Any greater amount of the substance will be considered as possession with the intent to distribute. **The policy for sale and distribution will be used.**
First violation of the prohibition against the use or possession of a controlled substance or drug paraphernalia:
 - A minimum out-of-school suspension for 10 days. These days of out-of-school suspension will be excused absences, and make-up work will

- be provided by the school during the period of the suspension.
- The student may be required to participate in and complete an appropriate substance abuse program.
- If the student fails to attend the substance abuse intervention follow-up sessions, the days of OSS shall be unexcused absences, and no credit shall be given for work missed.
- The principal or his designee will immediately notify the parents/guardians of any period of suspension and schedule a discipline hearing. When they meet with the Student Services Committee, the student and the parents/guardians will be requested to sign a statement that they have been informed of the consequences of any subsequent violations.
- Huntingdon Borough Police Department may conduct an investigation.

Second violation of Possession or Use:

- A minimum out-of-school suspension for 10 days.
- Suspension from all school activities (participation on teams, in clubs, and in all other school-sponsored student activities) for at least the remainder of the school year.
- At or before the time of the re-entry conference with the Superintendent, the Principal may recommend an additional period of suspension or expulsion from school as deemed appropriate.
- The student may be required to participate in and complete an appropriate substance abuse program before re-admission.
- The Huntingdon Borough Police Department may conduct an investigation.

C. Sale and Distribution

The penalty for the sale, distribution, possession with the intent to sell or distribute, or the attempted sale or distribution of any controlled substance or drug paraphernalia shall be:

- Immediate out-of-school suspension for a minimum of 10 days. These days of suspension will be excused absences, and make-up work will be provided.
- Suspension from all school activities (participation on teams, in clubs, and any other school-sponsored student activities) for at least the remainder of the school year.
- In addition, at or before the time of the conference of the student and the parents/guardians with the Student Services Committee, the principal will advise the student and the parents/guardians that he will recommend to the superintendent that the student be expelled for the remainder of the school year.
- The Huntingdon Borough Police Department may conduct an investigation.

II. WEAPONS AND EXPLOSIVES

A. Purpose

The Board recognizes the importance of a safe school environment to the educational process. Possession of weapons in the school environment is a threat to the safety of students and staff and is prohibited by law.

B. Definitions

The term Weapons means

- Any of the devices enumerated in the Pennsylvania Criminal Code, including but not limited to, any knife, cutting instrument, cutting tool, nunchaku stick, brass or metal knuckles, firearm, shotgun, rifle, bb or pellet gun, look-alike gun, chemical agent, explosive device, and/or any other tool, instrument, or implement capable of inflicting serious bodily injury
- Any object used with the intent of threatening or harming an individual

The term Explosive means

- Any item of material which has the capacity to create an explosion, including, but not limited to, smoke bombs, caps, fireworks, ammunition, and black powder.

C. Possession and Use

A student is in possession of a weapon when the weapon is found on the person of the

student; in the student's locker; under the student's control while he/she is on school property, on property being used by the school, at any school function or activity, at any school event held away from the school; or while the student is on his/her way to or from school.

Possession:

- The penalty for the unauthorized possession of a weapon or explosive shall be an immediate out-of-school suspension for a minimum of 10 school days and suspension from all school activities (participation on teams, in clubs, and in all other school-sponsored student activities) for at least the remainder of the school year.
- The school district shall expel for a period of not less than one (1) year any student who violates this weapons policy. Such expulsion shall be given in conformance with formal due process proceedings required by law. The Superintendent may recommend discipline short of expulsion on a case-by-case basis.
- In addition, at or before the time of the conference of the student and the parents/guardians with the Student Services Committee, the principal will advise the student and the parents/guardians that he will recommend to the Superintendent that the student be expelled for the remainder of the school year.
- The Huntingdon Borough Police will conduct an investigation.

Use:

- The penalty for the use of or distribution of a weapon or explosive shall be an immediate out-of-school suspension for a minimum of 10 school days and suspension from all school activities (participation on teams, in clubs, and in all other school-sponsored student activities) for at least the remainder of the school year.
- In addition, at or before the time of the conference of the student and the parents/guardians with the Student Services Committee, the principal will advise the student and the parents/guardians that he will recommend to the Superintendent that the student be expelled for the remainder of the school year.

III. ARSON

A. **Definition**

The term Arson means the unauthorized use of or possession with the intent to use any material that may cause or result in a fire on school property.

B. **Violations**

For the violation of the prohibition against Arson:

- The penalty for any act of Arson shall be a minimum out-of-school suspension for 10 school days and suspension from all school activities (participation on teams, in clubs, and in all other school-sponsored activities) for at least the remainder of the school year.
- In addition, at or before the time of the conference of the student and the parents/guardians with the Student Services Committee, the principal will advise the student and the parents/guardians that he will recommend to the Superintendent that the student be expelled for the remainder of the school year.

IV. PROCEDURES FOR HANDLING VIOLATIONS AND PENALTIES

A. In the event that the Principal has reasonable cause to believe that a student is violating or has violated the discipline policy:

- The Principal or his/her designee may search such student's locker, desk, personal belongings, such as book bag, clothing, pocketbook, etc.
- In the event that a search discloses the existence of contraband, the Principal or his/her designee will retain such contraband for delivery to police authorities for appropriate disposition and will notify the Superintendent. Such contraband should be seized in the presence of witnesses and marked for future identification. The principal should deliver to the owner of the contraband, if known, a receipt with the names of the witnesses and their signatures. The Principal should also obtain a receipt from the police officer who takes possession of such contraband. The Principal will maintain a record of the seizure, which will include the date and time of any seizure, the name of the person from whom the

contraband was received, the date and time of the disposition of the contraband, the name of the person to whom the contraband was delivered, and description of the contraband. Any person having seized or received contraband will be prepared to testify as to its purpose and the times and dates of this possession.

- B. In the event that it is determined that the student has violated Sections I, II, or III of this policy, the procedures will be as follows:
- The Principal shall immediately notify by telephone the student's parents/guardians and the school Superintendent. In all instances in which any contraband is seized, the principal or his/her designee will observe the procedure described in Paragraph A.2. of this section.
 - The Principal or his/her designee will confer with the student, his/her parents or guardians, police officials, and school Superintendent or his/her designee to discuss the incident and determine a proper course of action consistent with the policy set forth herein.

V. PREVENTION

- The Principal and his/her staff shall maintain a general knowledge of Controlled Substances and be able to recognize significant changes in appearance and behavior in students.
- The Principal and his/her staff shall monitor each substance abuse case to ensure that an appropriate intervention and follow-up response has been made.
- The Principal or his/her designee will promptly investigate any report or rumor of the presence or possession of any contraband or materials that may cause or result in arson.

USE OF DRUG DETECTING CANINES

The Huntingdon Area School District has authorized the use of drug detecting canines in the school district. All persons need to be aware that searches will be periodic and unannounced and will include all lockers, backpacks, and all vehicles on school grounds.

HALL LOCKERS, PHYSICAL EDUCATION LOCKERS, AND BACKPACKS

The above may be searched by authorized school personnel with reasonable cause without prior warning. Students should not have an expectation of privacy at school for these items.

DISCIPLINARY ACTIONS

The Middle School administration and teachers retain the right to assign such discipline for infractions that are not specifically listed within this statement. Students will be disciplined taking into consideration the past disciplinary record of the student and any other extenuating circumstances.

REPRIMAND AND WARNING

For some infractions, first offenses, and minor behavior problems, teachers and/or administrators may reprimand a student or students. A warning may be issued that further, more serious, or repeated problems will result in increased consequences.

DETENTION

Detention is held Tuesday and Thursday from 2:45 until 3:45 PM. Students will be given a 24-hour notice of assigned detention, and parents are responsible for transportation for their child. Students assigned detention cannot participate in extra-curricular activities the day of the assigned detention. In addition, failure to report to detention will result in an additional detention assignment or suspension.

Detentions may eliminate activity nights, assemblies, clubs, activities, and athletics. Extra-curricular activities cannot be an excuse for missing detention. An administrator must approve excused absences from detention prior to the absence. Approved absences will need to

rescheduled. If an absence is unexcused, 2 detentions will be assigned.

Detentions and subsequent consequences are cumulative in most instances. However, the level or step of consequences may change at the discretion of the administration depending on circumstances or severity of the infraction.

SUSPENSION

Students who have major rule infractions (e.g., Assault, Insubordination, Vandalism) will receive either In-School Suspension (ISS) or Out-of-School Suspension (OSS). In-School Suspension is held every day at the Middle School from 1st period through 8th period. Students who are assigned ISS must report to the Middle School office with all books (and outerwear) immediately following homeroom. Assignments will be given to the student before leaving the Middle School. In order for her/him to receive credit for these assignments, s/he must complete and return the assignments to the appropriate teacher immediately upon return to class. Students who are assigned ISS or OSS may not participate in any extracurricular activity (ex. sports, activity night) until 8:00 A.M. of the next school day following completion of the suspension.

DISCIPLINE LEVELS--all discipline will be recorded on Skyward

Level I Violations (include but are not limited to):

- Minor school disruptions (minor horseplay, shouting, running)
- Inappropriate use of electronic device during class
- Outside assigned area without signed planner
- Violating general and classroom rules (printing on unauthorized printer, using equipment or systems for noneducational purposes, etc.)
- Changing computer hardware or software configuration that requires minimal time to restore
- Inappropriate language, verbal or written (name-calling, put-down statements, teasing, etc.)
- Repeated lack of preparedness to class, dress code violations, and classroom disruptions
- Public Displays of Affection
- Tardiness to class/school

Level I Disciplinary Action

First Offense	Teacher/Student Conference	Discipline Referral via Skyward	Verbal Warning/Reprimand
Second Offense	Principal/Student Conference	Parent Contacted	1 Detention
Third Offense	Principal/Student Conference	Parent Contacted	2 Detentions
Fourth Offense or More	Principal/Student/Parent Conference	Parent Contacted	1-5 days of ISS

Level II Violations (include but are not limited to):

- Throwing objects (including candy, pencils, erasers, paper, snow, etc.)
- Academic dishonesty (cheating, plagiarism, fabrication or forgery, multiple submissions, etc.)
- Skipping class
- Defacing school property (writing on walls, desk, other school property, etc. that CAN be removed by routine cleaning)
- Swearing, verbal or written
- Inappropriate peer interactions (pushing, hitting a peer in an inappropriate area, tripping,

poking, slapping, etc.)

- Insubordination (back talk, refusing to comply with a reasonable request, failure to report to the office upon command, leaving the classroom without the teacher’s permission, open defiance of school rules, etc.)

Level II Disciplinary Action

First Offense	Principal/Student Conference	Parent Contacted	1 Detention
Second Offense	Principal/Student Conference	Parent Contacted	2 Detentions
Third Offense	Principal/Student Conference	Parent Contacted	1 Day of ISS
Fourth Offense or more	Principal/Student/Parent Conference	Parent Contacted	1-10 Days of ISS

Level III Violations (to include but are not limited to):

- Stealing/Possession of stolen property
- Fighting/attempt to injure another person (police may be contacted)
- Destruction of property (any damage that CANNOT be removed by routine cleaning, such as carving or scoring into materials. Restitution may be required.)
- Harassment/Sexual Harassment
- Leaving school grounds without permission
- Threats, written or verbal
- Possession of matches/lighter. Possession of tobacco. Student will be required to pay a fine
- Disorderly Conduct
- Truancy

Level III Disciplinary Action

First Offense	Principal/Student Conference	Parent Contacted	1-2 Days of ISS
Second Offense	Principal/Student Conference	Parent Contacted	2-3 Days of ISS
Third Offense	Principal/Student Conference	Parent Contacted	3-5 Days of ISS 1-3 Days of OSS
Fourth Offense or more	Principal/Student/Parent Conference	Parent Contacted	5-10 Days of ISS 3-5 Days of OSS

Level IV Violations (include but are not limited to):

- Violation of HASD Drug and Alcohol Policy (includes the school building, the school grounds, the school buses, school activities, en route to and from school, and any and all activities under the control or direction of school personnel whether they occur on or off school property)
- Possession of and/or use of weapons or look-a-likes
- Arson
- Terrorist threats
- Physical assault on students/staff

Level IV Disciplinary Action – First Offense and Subsequent Violations:

- Principal/Student Conference
- Parent Conference
- At the discretion of the administration, the disciplinary action may result in one or more of the following:
 - Immediate Out of School Suspension
 - Long exclusion and probationary contract upon return to school

- Student Service Hearing for possible expulsion
- Alternative School recommendation
- Referral to SAP
- Police will be contacted
- No extracurricular activities
- Other disciplinary action deemed appropriate by administration

ALTERNATIVE EDUCATION

Alternative Education placement of a student may result from a series of incidents from any of the previously mentioned reasons/examples, wherein the student does not respond in a positive and forthright manner to in- or out-of-school suspension. Students who are placed in an alternative setting may be transitioned into regular classes and may participate in district-sponsored activities at administrative discretion.

EXPULSION (Reference School Board Policy #233)

The School Board, or an appropriately appointed committee, may, after a proper hearing, permanently expel a student. Reasons for expulsion may be, but are not limited to:

1. Repeated discipline offenses.
2. Violation of the Substance Abuse, Weapon, Arson and Explosive Policy.
3. Any violation that affects the safety or well being of students, faculty, or staff, or disrupts the educational environment

EXPULSION HEARING

The student who is being recommended by the high school administration for expulsion from school will have a formal hearing held before the school board or a committee authorized by the school board.

TRANSPORTATION

STUDENT CONDUCT ON BUS

Good bus riding conduct is essential to the safety of all who ride the bus. The bus driver's first concern is for the safety of the pupils. If for some reason unruly students disrupt his/her concentration, the welfare and safety of all is in danger. The school bus is an extension of the classroom. The driver of any school bus shall be held responsible for the orderly conduct and safety of the pupils transported.

All misconduct on the bus will be treated the same as misconduct in the school building; therefore, drivers are directed to report to the principal any misconduct by students which is deemed serious enough for further action.

Each driver will establish and post the rules of his/her bus. Riders must obey these rules. The bus driver will assign all students a seat.

No unauthorized person is to enter a school bus without permission from the bus driver. The only authorized personnel are school officials, students, and bus drivers/contractors.

The school district provides all eligible students with an opportunity to be transported by school bus to and from school. The riding of a school bus by students is a privilege and not a right. Disorderly conduct or refusal to respect the authority of the school bus driver shall be sufficient reason for a student to be denied transportation to and from school in accordance with regulations of the HASD. Misconduct on the school bus may result in the following:

Bus Conduct Consequences

- First Offense – One (1) day removal from bus, detention(s), or ISS
- Second Offense – Three (3) days removal from bus, detention(s), or ISS
- Third Offense – Five (5) days removal from bus
- Fourth Offense – Ten (10) days removal from bus
- Fifth or More Offenses – Removal from bus for the remainder of the year.

While bus rules are posted in each bus, we feel that it is important for students and parents to review these rules. They are:

- Observe the same conduct as in the school.
- Be courteous. Use no profane language.
- Keep the bus clean.
- Cooperate with the bus driver.
- Tobacco products are prohibited.
- Do not be destructive.
- Students must stay in their seats.
- Keep head, hands, and feet inside the bus.
- The bus driver is authorized to assign seats.
- Students are not permitted to sell food, etc. on the bus.

PARENT/GUARDIAN INFORMATION

In addition to reading the aforementioned material and reviewing it with your child(ren), please read the following information regarding parent guidelines.

SCHOOL-HOME COMMUNICATIONS

The school district is using the Internet to strengthen the communications between the home and school. Teachers use a website called Skyward to post student class information, progress reports, daily assignments, and other pertinent information for both students and parents. Parents have their own account separate from the students so parents will be able to use the Internet to more effectively partner with their child(ren)'s teachers. Please contact your child(ren)'s teacher(s) if you have any questions about this service.

STUDENT MESSAGES/DELIVERIES

Any message called in to a student by parents or guardians will be held until the end of the day unless it is necessary for the student to receive the message earlier. The school reserves the right to contact the parent or guardian to verify any message before it is given to a student.

Parents may drop off items for students until 9:30 AM. Any materials brought to the student after 9:30 AM will be held until the end of the school day unless it is an emergency or a child's lunch.

TRAFFIC PATTERNS AND VISITORS

For safety reasons, we are asking parents to park their cars outside the Middle School parking lot (along the road, by the church, etc.) at the end of the day. With approximately 500 students and a fleet of buses moving inside our lot, additional cars present a real danger to our students. This policy does not apply to parents who need to pick up their children before 2:10 PM. Please note: Cassady Avenue will not be open to private vehicles between 2:30 PM and the time when the last school bus exits the intersection of Cassady Avenue and 25th Street (approx. 3:00 P.M.)

If you are dropping off your child(ren) in the morning, you must follow the road behind the Middle School, through the back parking lot, and drop them off between the Middle and High School buildings. Drop off in the front of the building before 8 AM is not permitted due to the bus patterns and safety of the students.

All visitors are required to park in designated parking spaces and sign in at the main office. Office staff will follow procedures for admittance. Thank you in advance for your cooperation with this system. Student visitors are not permitted to shadow other students during school hours.

Please be advised that buses park in front of the Middle School daily starting at 2:15 PM. You will be parked in and will be unable to leave until the buses leave around 2:55 PM.

ALTERNATE BUS ASSIGNMENT

Acceptable reasons for a change in bus assignment are:

- Emergencies

Alternate bus assignments will not be granted for social reasons. Parents/guardians who wish for their child(ren) to ride an alternate bus must contact the Transportation Department at 643-4140. Bus drivers will only accept notes which have been properly signed by school officials.

RETURNED CHECKS

In the event that a check written to the Huntingdon Area Middle School or the cafeteria is returned because of insufficient funds, a \$20.00 charge will be added to the amount of the check, and cash or a money order will be requested as payment. Further steps for collection may result in additional charges.

PARENT CONFERENCES

Throughout the school year, parents are urged to schedule a meeting with their teachers to discuss their child's progress. Please call the school office (643-2900) to make appointments. Each team will have a daily team planning period to hold conferences. Your child's teachers will announce this time at the beginning of the year.

Parent-teacher conferences are held once a year. An appointment can be scheduled and confirmed by calling the school office two weeks before the conference date. The dates of these conferences are listed on the school calendar. If your child has special needs for the following school year, parents should contact the office before the end of the present school year.

INTEGRATED PEST MANAGEMENT PARENTAL NOTIFICATION

The Huntingdon Area School District uses an Integrated Pest Management (IPM) approach for managing insects, rodents, and weeds. From time to time, it may be necessary to use chemicals to manage a pest problem. Chemicals will only be used when necessary and will not be routinely applied. Notices will be posted in these areas 72 hours prior to application and for two days following the application.

Parents or guardians of students enrolled in the school may request prior notification of specific pesticide applications made at the school. To receive notification, you may be placed on the school's notification registry. If you would like to be placed on this registry, please notify the district in writing. Please include your email address if you would like to be notified electronically.

If a chemical application must be made to control an emergency pest problem, notice will be provided by telephone to any parent or guardian who has requested such notification in writing. Exemptions to this notification include disinfectants and antimicrobial products; self-contained baits placed in areas not accessible to students, and gel type baits placed in cracks, crevices or voids; and swimming pool maintenance chemicals.

Each year the district will prepare a new notification registry. If you have any questions, please contact, IPM Coordinator at 814-643-4140, ext. 1132.

ANNUAL ASBESTOS NOTIFICATION

The Huntingdon Area School District is providing information to you concerning the asbestos management plans required under the Asbestos Hazard Emergency Response Act (AHERA). These plans are available for your review upon request. A copy of the plans for all buildings is located in the Superintendent's Office, which is located at 2400 Cassady Ave. Huntingdon, Pennsylvania 16652; telephone number (814)643-4140. The plans can be viewed by any person during normal business hours. Interested parties wishing to inquire about the hours and times that plans are available should call the telephone listed above. The asbestos management plans provide information regarding six month inspections, third year re-inspections and response actions.

PUPIL SERVICES DEPARTMENT

The utilization of the Child Study Team (CST) enables the district to meet the Federal Regulation in regards to Chapter 14 as well as a component of Response to Intervention. The CST is a group of professionals who provide consultative, evaluative, and prescriptive services to parents and students. The CST encompasses parent(s), a regular education teacher, special education teacher, school psychologist, building administrator, guidance counselor, and the Director of Pupil Services and/or Assistant Director of Pupil Services. The district's therapist(s): occupational, speech/language, and/or physical therapist, as well as, consultants may also participate as deemed necessary. Any agency representatives that are involved with the child are also invited to be a member of the CST process.

The CST process has assisted our district with providing screenings in various areas (cognitive, emotional, social, and communication). Parents and teachers may request a CST meeting at any

time. The CST may recommend interventions, further screening, and/or a referral for a multidisciplinary evaluation (MDE) to determine eligibility for special education as a student with a disability.

CST members review the student's history, including any pertinent medical or health information as well as school attendance. Pre-referral interventions and assessment data are reviewed. The team may determine that additional interventions are warranted and would reconvene, or a Prior Written Notice for Initial Evaluation and Request for Consent Form and Procedural Safeguards would be issued to the parents. Once the Prior Written Notice for Initial Evaluation and Request for Consent Form is received, the Huntingdon Area School District abides by the information as stated in the form. After the evaluation results are gathered, a Multidisciplinary Evaluation Team meeting is convened. The team consists of parent(s)/guardian, school psychologist, Director of Pupil Services, regular education teacher, special education teacher, guidance counselor, and therapists (as deemed necessary). The MDE team reviews all of the information to determine by consensus if the student is a student with a disability and in need of special education services.

CHAPTER 14: Special Education

A child with a disability means a child who, as the result of a multidisciplinary evaluation, is determined to meet the criteria in one or more of the following categories: intellectual disability, hearing impairment including deafness, speech or language impairment, visual impairment, including blindness, serious emotional disturbance, orthopedic impairment, autism, traumatic brain injury, other health impairment, specific learning disability, deaf-blindness, or multiple disabilities and who is determined to need special education services. Students determined eligible for special education services will receive an Individualized Education Plan (IEP) based on their needs. The program to which a student with a disability is assigned shall be one that provides an appropriate education, seeks to assure success in learning, and offers the least restrictive environment, in accordance with federal and state regulations.

CHAPTER 16: Gifted Support

The policy for identification as gifted for students in the Huntingdon Area School District will require students to meet the following criteria: an IQ of 130 or higher who meets established multiple criteria indicating gifted ability or a school-aged student with an IQ score lower than 130 when other educational criteria strongly indicate gifted ability. Determination of mentally gifted must include an assessment by a certified school psychologist. Gifted education for each identified student is based on the unique needs of the student, not solely on the classification. Gifted education services enables identified students to participate in acceleration and/or enrichment programs, and to receive services appropriate to their intellectual and academic abilities and needs. Eligibility for gifted support is evaluated on a case-by-case basis.

CHAPTER 12: Overview of K-12 ESL Program

The K-12 English as a Second Language (ESL) Program provides initial assessments and instruction for students who are learning English while enrolled in the district. Instruction is provided to students with limited English proficiency until they are proficient enough to participate fully in grade-level classes. The program also facilitates the student's introduction to American schools and culture. Students generally receive between 1-8 hours of instruction a week, depending on proficiency and grade level. Instruction is conducted in English, and students are generally grouped when close in age and proficiency.

Annual Public Notice of Special Education Services and Programs, Services for Gifted Students and Services for Protected Handicapped Students April 2016

Notice to Parents

According to state and federal special education regulations, annual public notice to parents of children who reside within a school district is required regarding child find responsibilities. School districts (SDs), intermediate units (IUs) and charter schools (CSs) are required to conduct child find activities for children who may be eligible for services via Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973. For additional information related to Section 504/Chapter 15 services, the parent may refer to Section 504, Chapter 15, and the Basic Education Circular entitled Implementation of Chapter 15. Also, school districts are required to conduct child find activities for children who may be eligible for gifted services via 22 PA Code Chapter 16. For additional information regarding gifted services, the parent may refer to 22 PA Code Chapter 16. If a student is both gifted and

eligible for Special Education, the procedures in IDEA and Chapter 14 shall take precedence.

This notice shall inform parents throughout the school district, intermediate unit, and charter school of the child identification activities and of the procedures followed to ensure confidentiality of information pertaining to students with disabilities or eligible young children. In addition to this public notice, each school district, intermediate unit, and charter school shall publish written information in the handbook and on the web site. Children ages three through twenty one can be eligible for special education programs and services. If parents believe that the child may be eligible for special education, the parent should contact the appropriate staff member identified at the end of this public notice.

Children ages three to school-age may be eligible for Early Intervention services if they are experiencing developmental delays. Developmental delays, as defined by the State and as measured by appropriate diagnostic instruments, include a 25 percent delay or a test performance of 1.5 standard deviations below the mean on a standardized assessment in one of the following developmental areas: physical development, cognitive development, communication development, social or emotional development or adaptive development. A young child may also be deemed eligible if they are determined to have a diagnosed disability as defined by PA Chapter 14 regulations. Eligibility for Early Intervention services is two-pronged. The child must be diagnosed with a developmental delay or a diagnosed disability and display a need for specially designed instruction. Specially designed instruction means adapting the content, methodology, or delivery of instruction to address the unique needs of the child and to ensure access to the general education curriculum.

Evaluation Process

Each school district, intermediate unit, and charter school has a procedure in place by which parents can request an evaluation. For information about procedures applicable to your child, contact the school which your child attends. Telephone numbers and addresses can be found at the end of this notice. Parents of preschool age children, age three through five, may request an evaluation in writing by addressing a letter to the intermediate unit staff.

Consent

School entities cannot proceed with an evaluation or reevaluation, or with the initial provision of special education and related services, without the written consent of the parents. For additional information related to consent, please refer to the Procedural Safeguards Notice which can be found at the PaTTAN website, www.Pattan.net or your educational agency. Once written parental consent is obtained, the district will proceed with the evaluation process. If the parent disagrees with the evaluation, the parent can request an independent education evaluation at public expense.

Program Development

Once the evaluation process is completed, a team of qualified professionals and parents determine whether the child is eligible. If the child is eligible, the individualized education program team meets, develops the program, and determines the educational placement. Once the IEP team develops the program and determines the educational placement, school district staff, intermediate unit staff, or charter school staff will issue a notice of recommended educational placement/prior written notice. Your written consent is required before initial services can be provided. The parent has the right to revoke consent after initial placement.

Confidentiality of Information

The SDs, IUs and CDs maintain records concerning all children enrolled in the school, including students with disabilities. All records are maintained in the strictest confidentiality. Your consent, or consent of an eligible child who has reached the age of majority under State law, must be obtained before personally identifiable information is released, except as permitted under the Family Education Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA). The age of majority in Pennsylvania is 21. Each participating agency must protect the confidentiality of personally identifiable information at collection, storage, disclosure, and destruction stages. One official at each participating agency must assume responsibility for ensuring the confidentiality of any personally identifiable information. Each participating agency must maintain, for public inspection, a current listing of the

names and positions of those employees within the agency who have access to personally identifiable information.

For additional information related to student records, the parent can refer to the Family Education Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA).

This notice is only a summary of the Special Education services, evaluation and screening activities, and rights and protections pertaining to children with disabilities, children thought to be disabled, and their parents. For more information or to request evaluation or screening of a public or private school child, contact the responsible school entity listed below. For preschool age children, information, screenings and evaluations requested may be obtained by contacting the Intermediate Unit. The addresses of these schools are as follows:

INTERMEDIATE UNIT	
Tuscarora Intermediate Unit 11 814-542-2501 Ms. Sandi Dinardi 2527 US Hwy 522 S McVeytown, PA 17051	TIU Early Intervention Programming 814-542-2501 Ms. Fran Merrifield 2527 US Hwy 522 S McVeytown, PA 17051
SCHOOL DISTRICT OFFICES	
Central Fulton School District 717-485-3195 Ms. Ginger Thompson 151 East Cherry Street McConnellsburg, PA 17233-1400	Forbes Road School District 814-685-3865 Forbes Road High School Ms. Maria Scott 159 Redbird Drive Waterfall, PA 16689
Huntingdon Area School District 814-641-2104 Administrative Office Ms. Robin Whitsel 2400 Cassady Avenue, Suite 2 Huntingdon, PA 16652-2602	Juniata County School District 717-436-2111 Administrative Office Ms. Jill Condo 75 South Seventh Street Mifflintown, PA 17059
Juniata Valley School District 814-669-9150 Administrative Office Ms. Lisa Coble 7775 Juniata Valley Pike, PO Box 318 Alexandria, PA 16611	Mifflin County School District 717-248-0148 Administrative Building Ms. Tracey Quigley-Jones 201 Eighth Street, Highland Park Lewistown, PA 17044
Mount Union Area School District 814-542-2518 Administrative Center Ms. Dianne Thomas 603 N. Industrial Drive Mount Union, PA 17066	Southern Fulton School District 717-294-3400 Southern Fulton High School Ms. Diane Younker 3072 Great Cove Road, Suite 100 Warfordsburg, PA 17267
Southern Huntingdon School District 814-447-5520 Southern Huntingdon County High School Ms. Stacey J. Miller 10339 Pogue Road	Corrections Education 814-658-4024 Trough Creek Youth Forestry Camp #3 Mr. Ronn Bargiel 4534 Tar Kiln Road

Three Springs, PA 17264-9730	James Creek, PA. 16657
NON-PUBLIC SCHOOLS LOCATED IN IU 11	
Tuscarora Intermediate Unit 11 Ms. Linda Dell 2527 US Hwy 522 S McVeytown, PA 17051	814-542-2501
CHARTER SCHOOLS	
New Day Charter School 814-643-7112 Ms. Deb Goodman 256 South 5th Street. Huntingdon, PA 16652	Stone Valley Community Charter School 814-667-2705 Dr. Kim Connelly 13006 Greenwood Road Huntingdon, PA 16652
PRISONS	
Huntingdon County Prison 814-641-2104 Ms. Robin Whitsel 2400 Cassady Avenue, Suite 2 Huntingdon, PA 16652-2602	Mifflin County Prison 717-248-0148 Ms. Tracey Quigley-Jones 201 Eighth Street, Highland Park Lewistown, PA 17044

The school entity or charter school will not discriminate in employment, educational programs, or activities based on race, color, national origin, age, sex, handicap, creed, marital status or because a person is a disabled veteran or a veteran of the Vietnam era. No preschool, elementary or secondary school pupil enrolled in a school district, Intermediate Unit, or charter school program shall be denied equal opportunity to participate in age and program appropriate instruction or activities due to race, color, handicap, creed, national origin, marital status or financial hardship.