

HOPE TOWNSHIP SCHOOL DISTRICT
Middle School (Grades 6-8) Parent/Student Handbook and Code of Student Conduct

BOARD OF EDUCATION PK-8 POLICIES

Detailed information regarding the following Board policies is available in the main office of the school and at the Board of Education Office. You can also access all BOE policies on-line at (<http://www.hope-elem.org>). What follows is a synopsis.

ATTENDANCE

Punctuality and attendance are important habits for students to develop and maintain. In accordance with the laws of the *State*, the Hope Township School District requires students to attend school regularly to ensure continuity of instruction and classroom participation.

NJ State Law requires that we document all days when a student is absent from school. As such, the school will monitor your child's attendance and timely arrival throughout the year. Parents are also encouraged to monitor their child's attendance through the OnCourse Parent Portal. **NOTE: Students who have missed 18 or more days of school, excused or unexcused, will be labeled as "chronically absent" by the State of New Jersey.**

Excused Absence: In keeping with the *NJ State Education Code*, we expect that, except in the case of illness (particularly contagious illness, vomiting, or fever), State-recognized religious observances, emergencies such as family illness or death, special educational opportunities or as per an individualized education, health or accommodation plan, your child should be in school and arrive on time. To be considered "excused" for these reasons, there **must** be parental/guardian notice to the school **in writing** with the reason for absence/lateness no more than **10 days** from the absence. **If written notification is not received within 10 days of the absence, it will be marked as an unexcused absence. There will be no exceptions.**

Note: Even if absences have been excused, letters will be sent home regarding any areas of concern, if there are instances where parents/guardians are permitting excessive absenteeism or late arrivals, or when the number of cumulative absences are high. A total of 18 absences per year are considered to be excessive whether excused or unexcused and a referral may be made to the Municipal Court in accordance with 18A:38-25.

Unexcused Absence: On a day when an absence/lateness is for reasons other than those noted above as "excused," the day of absence/lateness is recorded as "unexcused" and will go into your child's permanent record marked as such. Please note that family vacations and other non-educational activities are not included in the list of "excused" absences above. They are considered "unexcused" absences, and should be planned so they do not interfere with school attendance. Parents/guardians must assume full responsibility for all missed academic assignments. Teachers will not provide work in advance of such absences but may provide work upon a student's return.

In addition, in accordance with *NJ Statutes Annotated (NJSA) 18:A* and *NJ Administrative Code (NJAC) 6A*, the following guidelines will be followed when absences are "unexcused."

- For up to 4 cumulative unexcused absences, the school will conduct an investigation including contact with the student's parents to determine cause of absences, will develop an action plan as necessary, and will contact law enforcement and other authorities or agencies as appropriate;

HOPE TOWNSHIP SCHOOL DISTRICT
Middle School (Grades 6-8) Parent/Student Handbook and Code of Student Conduct

- For between 5 and 9 cumulative unexcused absences, the school will conduct a follow-up investigation including contact with the parents, will evaluate and revise the action plan above to include referrals, consultations or assessments, and will cooperate with law enforcement and other authorities and agencies;
- For cumulative unexcused absences of 10 or more, the student is considered truant. For students between the compulsory school ages, the school district will make mandatory referral to the court program as required by the *NJ Administrative Office of the Courts*. The school will consult with the parents, cooperate with law enforcement and other authorities and agencies, and will proceed in accordance with *NJSA 18:A, Compelling Attendance at School*, and other applicable State and Federal statutes, as required.

A reasonable attempt to notify the parent of an “unexcused” absence will be made. The school will proceed in accordance with the law’s provision if a potential missing or abused child situation is detected.

Unexplained Absence: Parents/guardians must provide the school with a reason for a child’s absence. If the child is not in school and the school office has not received parental/guardian notification as to reason, this absence will be considered “unexplained” and will be marked as “unexcused” in the child’s permanent record and the guidelines above will be applied. In the event of “un-notified” absence, the school will make a reasonable attempt to contact the child’s parents to determine the reason for the absence prior to the start of the following day.

Absences during Testing and Instructional Periods: If a student has an absence during the District or State standardized testing periods, he/she will only be able to make-up the test during the scheduled retake period that follows the testing period. This includes MAP testing that occurs in the fall, winter and spring.

Excessive absences may result in an incomplete or not applicable grade on a student's report card. Missing instructional time may limit the teacher's ability to issue a complete grade. *Children learn most effectively when they are regularly in school. Make-up work is not a replacement for missing day-to-day instruction and cannot replace lost student/teacher time.*

Absence and After School/Evening Events: Please note that except under previously-approved and special circumstances, a student who is absent from school during the day may NOT participate in any after school or evening events. (Note: A student who is absent due to illness may NOT participate.)

Reporting Absence: It is a parent’s/guardian’s responsibility to call the school when a child is going to be absent. The District’s voicemail system is operative 24 hours a day and parents are requested to call the school by 8:30 AM (or by 10:30 AM if it is an afternoon absence only). When calling the school to report an absence, please leave a voice message with the main office or school nurse and give the child’s full name, reason for absence and the date(s) of absence. It is District policy that any “un-notified absence” will result in a call from the school. If left “unexplained,” the absence will be classified as “unexcused.”

HOPE TOWNSHIP SCHOOL DISTRICT
Middle School (Grades 6-8) Parent/Student Handbook and Code of Student Conduct

Reporting Lateness: If a student must report to school late, the parent must escort the student to the main office and provide the office staff with the reason for the tardiness. The parent must sign the student in at the main office.

Reporting an Early Sign-out: Early sign-out from school is discouraged; however, we realize there are times when this will occur. Please send a note in advance to alert us of the need to sign your child out early from school. The parent must come into the main office to sign the student out.

Readmission after Absence: A physician’s statement explaining a non-communicable absence of *more than five days* is required. The school nurse must receive a written physician explanation if the student has been absent with a communicable disease for *any length* of time. This will serve as evidence of the student being free of the communicable disease.

Retention or Credit Loss: Prolonged or repeated absences or lateness, excused or unexcused, from school or class may result in retention or the loss of credit toward promotion as per district policy. ***As per school policy, a student who is not present in school for at least 160 of the 180 school days will be a candidate for retention.***

Religious Holidays: A list of the State of New Jersey Approved Religious Holidays can be found at the NJ Department of Education website at <http://www.state.nj.us/education/>.

Student Tardiness (A.M. and P.M.)

Students are expected to arrive at school on time. Developing habits of punctuality and regular attendance help to foster success through school and into adult life. A student who is not in homeroom by 8:40 AM, or is dismissed prior to 3:13 PM, is considered tardy and must be signed in at the main office by a parent or guardian. Students who come to school on a bus that is late are not considered tardy. After school detentions will be held on Thursday afternoons weekly.

IN A SCHOOL YEAR	Consequence
6 unexcused tardies	A letter will be mailed home to the family
7-8 unexcused tardies	Recess detention
9-10 unexcused tardies	After school detention (Thursday)
11-12 unexcused tardies	In-person parent conference with Superintendent
13-14 unexcused tardies	After school detention (Thursday)
15-16 unexcused tardies	After school detention (Thursday)
17-19 unexcused tardies	1 morning and 1 afternoon detention (Thursday)
20-22 unexcused tardies	Letter sent notifying parents that cumulative tardies may result in truancy charges.
24-26+ unexcused tardies	Office of the Courts will be notified

HOPE TOWNSHIP SCHOOL DISTRICT
Middle School (Grades 6-8) Parent/Student Handbook and Code of Student Conduct

RECOGNITION OF STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT

Students in grades six through eight who distinguish themselves by high academic achievement will be recognized on an honor roll at the end of each marking period.

***High Honor Roll**

The high honor roll will include all students who have achieved a grade of A- or better in each subject.

***Honor Roll**

The honor roll will include all students who have achieved a grade of B or better in each subject.

Panther Pride Honor Society

Panther Pride Honor Society was established in Hope during the 2001-2002 school year to promote appropriate recognition, specifically to Hope students in grades 7 & 8, who reflect outstanding accomplishments in the areas of scholarship, leadership, service, character, effort and citizenship. Hope students who have a grade point average of 3.5 or better, with no grade below a "C," will be considered. Fourth marking period grade point averages for Grade 6 will also be considered.

Additional Awards and Recognition

Because it is not possible to anticipate the achievements of students in all areas of school and community life, the administration and faculty are committed to recognizing outstanding student accomplishments that may occur outside the traditional academic arena. Any such accomplishment should be reported to the Administration.

Student Government

Students who participate in student government are role models for the student body. They are expected to behave in accordance with the contract they have signed. This requires them to maintain a B average or above and be in good behavioral standing. If an officer or representative is placed on academic probation for a given marking period, he/she will not be able to be an active member in student government for that marking period. If an officer or representative earns more than six demerits in a given marking period, he/she will be required to resign from this post. If the president misses more than two meetings for reasons other than absence due to illness, he/she will be required to resign from this post.

ACCEPTABLE USE POLICY (A.U.P.)

The Hope Township School District believes that all students should have access to technology tools, resources, and services when they act in a responsible, efficient, courteous and legal manner. Internet access and other online services, available to students and teachers, offer a multitude of global resources. Our goal in providing these services is to enhance the educational development of our students.

We educate students about appropriate online behavior including awareness and response to cyber-bullying and interacting with others on social websites. In addition, we take steps to block access to inappropriate content, monitor safety and security when students use electronic

HOPE TOWNSHIP SCHOOL DISTRICT
Middle School (Grades 6-8) Parent/Student Handbook and Code of Student Conduct

communications, prevent unauthorized access including “hacking,” and prevent unauthorized disclosure, use and dissemination of students’ personal information.

Acceptable uses of technology are devoted to activities that support and enhance teaching and learning. Use of “technology tools” refers to all digital tools and equipment that are used in Hope School classrooms and the school— whether district-owned or privately-owned. Therefore, the A.U.P. also covers students in upper grades who participate in Bring Your Own Device (B.Y.O.D.) **at the invitation of their teachers and under the conditions outlined in the B.Y.O.D. Guidelines.**

To use any technology in our instructional environment and while on school grounds, students must have an “Acceptable Use Policy: Technology Agreement” on file. All students and their parents/guardians must sign and/or electronically acknowledge this document. The Agreement, which is written in age-appropriate language, must be signed and on file.

BRING YOUR OWN DEVICE (B.Y.O.D.)

The B.Y.O.D. Policy applies to students in grades 6-8 only. On occasion, an elementary teacher in 4th or 5th grade may choose to invite students to bring their own privately owned devices to school for use with a particular project during a specified time period. A communication will be sent home with the specifics should this occur. A student who does B.Y.O.D. must adhere to the Student Code of Conduct, the Acceptable Use Policy, and all applicable Board policies and the guidelines for B.Y.O.D. The use of personal devices by students is optional; students who do not participate in B.Y.O.D. will not be penalized, and alternative modes of participation will be available.

Devices must be put into silent mode, while on school grounds. Responsibility for the safety, security, loss, damage, operation, and charging of personal devices rests with the student. The school administration has the authorization to collect and examine any device if the device is suspected of a violation of the Student Code of Conduct. If the device is locked or password protected, the student will be required to unlock the device at the request of the CSA.

BUS CONDUCT

NJ Statute provides that the bus driver shall be in full charge of the school bus at all times. Infractions deeming the student to be unmanageable can be reported to the school CSA by the driver and disciplinary action taken as necessary. **Students are only permitted to ride on their assigned bus.** In addition, the Code of Student Conduct also applies to bus behavior as well as behavior at the bus stop. It also applies to the behavior of walkers to and from school.

DATING VIOLENCE AT SCHOOL

Dating violence is defined as a pattern of physical, sexual, verbal or emotionally abusive behavior delivered through any means whereby one person attempts to coerce, control or abuse another considered a dating partner.

The term “at school” means in a classroom or anywhere on school property, on a school bus or school-related vehicle, at an official bus stop, or at any school sponsored activity event whether or not it is on school grounds.

HOPE TOWNSHIP SCHOOL DISTRICT
Middle School (Grades 6-8) Parent/Student Handbook and Code of Student Conduct

The District will not tolerate acts of dating violence. A student's safety shall be the first priority in an act or incident of dating violence. School administrators will implement discipline and remedial procedures to address acts or incidents of dating violence at school that are consistent with the school code of student conduct.

A report of such violence will be investigated promptly within the defined timeline and in adherence with the procedures set forth in the District Dating Violence at School Policy.

DRESS CODE / CELL PHONES

Hope Township Middle School is constantly striving to provide the best possible environment for student learning and achievement. This is a reminder to parents and students of the clothing guidelines as described in the student handbook, which is available online. This list also expands on the policy in the hopes to provide even further clarification on clothing appropriateness. Our standards regarding these policies will be administered consistently. Student attire can have a significant effect on learning and behavior. To avoid any negative impact on our students' learning, clothing must cover the body sufficiently and avoid attracting excessive attention or causing disruptions.

The dress code has been developed with a concern for modesty, safety and the general good order of the school. Students have the right to exercise judgment in the matter of dress and grooming as long as they do not present a danger to the health and safety of themselves or others, cause an interference with schoolwork, create a classroom disturbance or distract teachers or students.

Clothes must be school appropriate and size appropriate. Students who are dressed inappropriately will be required to change in order to stay in school that day. If students do not have appropriate clothes a parent or guardian will be notified to bring appropriate clothing or our school nurse may have appropriate clothing to offer your child.

*Students may not use their personal cell phones to make calls or accept calls without permission from a staff member. The same applies for text messages.

- Students may not wear headphones or earbuds during non-instructional time (lunch/recess classroom transitions). Headphones and earbuds may be used in class for educational purposes ONLY with teacher permission. Headphones and earbuds may be used on the school bus as long as no pictures or recordings are taken.

- Revealing clothing is unacceptable. Students may not wear: transparent clothes (see through), clothes with exaggerated slits, low cut shirts, spaghetti strap tops, one-sleeve shirts, strapless shirts, halter tops of any kind, backless shirts (any shirt with the majority of the back showing), bare midriffs, muscle shirts that are not fitted around the arm (tank tops), and clothing that exposes any type of undergarment.

- Skirts and shorts must extend beyond the length of a student's knuckles when the arm and hand hangs straight at the student's side.

HOPE TOWNSHIP SCHOOL DISTRICT
Middle School (Grades 6-8) Parent/Student Handbook and Code of Student Conduct

- At times, clothing that adheres to the above general guidelines may still be inappropriate because it is distracting, revealing or offensive. Once again, the administration will make the final determination regarding appropriate student attire.
- Clothes that have words or sayings that are profane, sexually suggestive or that promote drugs, tobacco, alcohol, violence, racism or sexism, are prohibited.
- Students may not wear winter clothing, such as, overcoats, scarves, gloves, etc., inside school. Students may not wear pajamas or slippers unless it is for a school wide event or fund raiser such as pajama day.
- Students may not wear clothing which hinders the ability to identify them inside the building. This is a safety issue. All students and staff must be visibly recognizable while in school and on school grounds. To further clarify: students head, forehead, eyes, nose, mouth and chin must be visible at all times. Clothing/accessories that compromise the above will have to be removed at the request of the CSA. Hats and sunglasses may be worn outside of the building.
- Students may not wear sunglasses inside the building without a note from a doctor. Spiked wristbands, necklaces, sharp jewelry or other items that may be dangerous are not permitted. Students may not attend school barefoot or wearing footwear that may be unsafe such as slippers or flip flops that could potentially fall off.
- Students may not wear sleep wear such as nightshirts, pajamas, etc.
- Students must wear clothing appropriately; pants/shorts must be pulled up above the hips and secured with a belt if necessary. Students may not wear belt buckles with inappropriate sayings or symbols.
- Students who wear tights/leggings/yoga pants must wear a top that covers the stomach so no skin is exposed.
- Students may not wear ripped jeans or cut-off shorts/skirts with rips wider than an inch (size of a postage stamp). The length of the rip may be no longer than three inches.
- Students who violate the above rules may receive disciplinary consequences and must change into appropriate attire or spend the day in In School Suspension (ISS).

We ask your cooperation and support in our effort to maintain the kind of school environment in which teachers are able to teach and students are able to learn.

ELECTRONIC COMMUNICATIONS POLICIES

"Electronic Communications Between Teachers / Support Staff Members and Parents/Guardians"

Parents must communicate to their child's teacher via the district email system, district telephones, and district-sponsored or district-approved social media sites and web pages. Teachers **are**

HOPE TOWNSHIP SCHOOL DISTRICT
Middle School (Grades 6-8) Parent/Student Handbook and Code of Student Conduct

not permitted to communicate to Parents/Guardians via personal cell phones, which includes phone calls and text messages. Please be respectful of the 24 hour rule meaning that you should anticipate a response within 24hrs. of sending your inquiry. If an inquiry is sent on a Friday or before extended weekends for extended school recesses, a response can be expected on the following day that school is back in session as teachers are not required to check the district email system, district telephones, and district-sponsored or district-approved social media sites and web pages over the weekends/extended weekends.

"Electronic Communications Between Teachers / Support Staff Members and Students"

These two policies (teacher and support staff) protect students from receiving or exchanging any improper or inappropriate electronic communications with any members of the staff. Students may not communicate with a staff member through anything other than the district email system, district telephones, and district-sponsored or district-approved social media sites and web pages. Likewise, a staff member may not use or provide a personal email address to communicate with students, may not use a personal phone to communicate with students, is prohibited from text messaging communications with students, and prohibited from communicating with any student through a personal social networking website or other personal Internet-based website. A staff member may not offer or accept "friend" requests. Note: Under special circumstances (e.g. field trips, club activities), a staff member may receive permission from the principal to use a personal device or personal media site for the purpose of communicating emergency/information notification in a timely manner.

HARASSMENT, INTIMIDATION, AND BULLYING (H.I.B.) POLICY

It is the intent of the NJ Legislature in its January 2011 enactment of the Harassment, Intimidation, and Bullying (HIB) Law to strengthen the standards and procedures for preventing, reporting, investigating, and responding to incidence of HIB of students that occur in school and off school premises.

The District prohibits all acts of harassment, intimidation or bullying. HIB is defined as any gesture, written, verbal or physical act or any electronic communication (that is, transmitted by an electronic device) whether it be a single incident or a series of incidents that:

- Is reasonably perceived as being motivated by either any actual or perceived characteristic such as race, color, religion, ancestry, national origin, gender, sexual orientation, gender identity and expression, or a mental, physical or sensory disability or by any other distinguishing characteristic; and
- Takes place on school property, at any school-sponsored function, on a school bus, or off school grounds that **substantially disrupts or interferes with the orderly operation of the school or the rights of other students**; and that
- A reasonable person should know, under the circumstances, that the act will have the effect of physically or emotionally harming a student or damaging the student's property, or placing a student in reasonable fear of physical or emotional harm to person or damage to property; or
- Has the effect of insulting or demeaning any student or group of students, or
- Creates a **hostile educational environment** for the student by interfering with a student's education or by **severely or pervasively** causing physical or emotional harm to the student.

HOPE TOWNSHIP SCHOOL DISTRICT
Middle School (Grades 6-8) Parent/Student Handbook and Code of Student Conduct

A HIB complaint will be investigated promptly within the defined timeline and in adherence with the procedures set forth in the District HIB Policy. This policy can be accessed along with contact information for the District's Anti Bullying Coordinator and Anti Bullying Specialist by contacting the main office.

PUBLIC COMPLAINTS AND INQUIRIES

Policy provides a forum for members of the community to resolve any misunderstandings between the public and the school district regarding school personnel, district operations or instructional materials. Resolution is initially attempted through discussion between the involved parties and generally takes place at the classroom or administrative level.

RECORDING POLICY

The taking or sharing of pictures and/or video during school hours is prohibited unless required for an academic task and under the direction of a staff member. Students may not use devices to record, transmit, or post photographic images or video of a person or persons on campus during school activities or school hours.

SOCIAL MEDIA

The district and the school will maintain a school Web page and Facebook page. Expanding Internet presence and utilizing social media sites will allow the building administration to share information at any moment, thereby allowing the community to access this information via commonly used platforms.

WEAPONS AND DANGEROUS INSTRUMENTS

Board of Education Policy regarding Weapons and Dangerous Instruments and State Law states that "any item known to be a weapon or any item used in such a way as to intimidate or physically hurt another person is prohibited from being on school property.." In addition, the Board Policy prohibits all imitation weapons and "the Board reserves the right to initiate and impose disciplinary action for conduct involving weapons." Given the changing political climate in schools across our country, it is essential that our students learn early that threatening language is not acceptable. Expressions like the following will not be tolerated: "I'm going to shoot you. I'm going to bring a gun to school and shoot you. I'd like to kill you." Verbal comments, written notes, and gestures along these lines will be taken seriously and dealt with accordingly. The school may have to consider police involvement in such instances.

2NDFLOOR Helpline (888-222-2228)

Parents: In operation since 2008, the 2NDFLOOR Youth Helpline is operated by 180 Turing Lives Around, Inc. The NJ Department of Education has encouraged districts to inform their young people about the helpline as it serves students seeking guidance with a crisis or simply needing an immediate place to talk.

Students: The 2NDFLOOR Youth Helpline is a safe place to call when you need help with ANY problem. 2NDFLOOR is free, confidential and anonymous (except if you say you are going to hurt yourself or others). 2NDFLOOR is available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. You can call 888-222-2228 anytime! 2NDFLOOR's phone counselors are caring, supportive and friendly. 2NDFLOOR also has a website at www.2ndfloor.org. You can anonymously write a message on

HOPE TOWNSHIP SCHOOL DISTRICT
Middle School (Grades 6-8) Parent/Student Handbook and Code of Student Conduct

the online message board and receive a response from 2NDFLOOR. What types of problems do people talk about when they contact 2NDFLOOR? Problems with friends, peer pressure, dating, substance abuse, school stress, dating violence, bullying, eating disorders, family problems, depression, anxiety, abuse, suicide, worry about a friend, and any other problem, question or concern. The Helpline is here to support you!

CODE OF STUDENT CONDUCT (CSC)

Hope Township School believes in fostering positive school citizenship. To that end, we embrace the following core values or CARES:

RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES

Cooperation

I have the right to be an active participant in the school community, and the responsibility to do my best work with others.

- *I follow the rules at work and play.*
- *I take turns and share.*
- *I strive to be inclusive of others and their ideas when at work or play.*

Assertion

I have the right to have my ideas heard and appreciated by others, and the responsibility to listen to others and deal peacefully in the event of a conflict.

- *I listen to others.*
- *I speak up respectfully for what I believe.*
- *I tell the truth.*
- *I am an up-stander, not a bystander.*

Responsibility/Respect

I have the right to learn and the responsibility to do my best.

- *I come to school prepared and ready to learn.*
- *I let other students learn.*
- *I am accountable for my choices.*
- *I take care of myself, others and the school environment.*
- *I use technology in agreement with the district's Acceptable Use Policy.*

Empathy

I have the right to be treated with respect, and the responsibility to respect others.

- *I try to understand feelings, emotions, and actions of others.*
- *I respect that everyone is different.*
- *I act in a way that respects other people's feelings.*

Self-control

I have the right to be safe and the responsibility to treat others in a safe manner.

- *I solve problems using appropriate school words.*
- *I think before I act and consider the consequences of my actions.*

HOPE TOWNSHIP SCHOOL DISTRICT
Middle School (Grades 6-8) Parent/Student Handbook and Code of Student Conduct

As students progress through the school system and into high school, they continue to build upon this basic core while also emphasizing the values of Honesty, Respect, Kindness, Service, and Responsibility.

Our primary goal is to maintain a safe and caring learning community. This is supported by the District's proactive, intentional approaches to Character Education—Elementary *Responsive Classroom* and Middle School *Developmental Designs*-- which foster social, emotional and academic growth.

The ultimate purpose of the Code of Student Conduct is the development of self-discipline and self-regulation. At Hope Township School, we strive to be consistent, firm but fair, and aware of the pride and dignity of every student. We expect students to behave responsibly, to respect the rights and properties of others, and to work cooperatively with all members of the school community. We expect students to follow the code of student conduct and the specific behavioral guidelines established in each class. Students are accountable to all school personnel for their behavior while on school property, at any school-sponsored function, at the bus stop, on a school bus, walking to and from school, in the before or after school programs, or off school grounds including field trips, when substantial disruption occurs to the orderly operation of the school. This includes but is not limited to behavior when using an electronic device for such things as shared documents, text messaging, video taping, social media posting, email, blogging, website posting and apps.

When a student commits an offense, the school staff helps the student to see the relationship between the offense and the related core value. When logical consequences are applied, age-specific parameters are used. The student's developmental needs and history of unacceptable behavior, as well as the circumstances of the offense are taken into consideration.

STUDENT RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES in the MIDDLE SCHOOL

All students have the right to be treated with dignity and respect and they are expected to treat others accordingly.

- Students have the right to be respected. Students have the responsibility to respectfully treat all members of the school community, the school property, and the property of others.
- Students have the right to attend a school where everyone is held accountable for their actions. Students have the responsibility to accept consequences for their actions.
- Students have the right to learn in an environment free from teasing, bullying, and harassment. Students have the responsibility to treat others with dignity.
- Students have the right to a learning environment in which all members follow the rules of the school. Students have the responsibility to respect authority and comply with directions from all adults in the school community.
- Students have the right to extend their learning beyond the school day and participate in after school activities and clubs with prior approval. Students have the responsibility to

HOPE TOWNSHIP SCHOOL DISTRICT
Middle School (Grades 6-8) Parent/Student Handbook and Code of Student Conduct

complete all assigned work, remain in good academic standing, and come to school prepared to learn.

- Students have the right to an orderly and productive learning environment without significant distractions. Students have the responsibility to understand and abide by the rules as outlined in the Code of Conduct.
- Students have the right to succeed with the highest standards of honesty and integrity. Students have the responsibility to live within the laws of the school, community, state, and nation.

LOGICAL CONSEQUENCES in the MIDDLE SCHOOL

The Hope Township School District Student Code of Conduct was designed to ensure a safe and caring environment in which all members of the community can work and learn with dignity and respect.

The list of Logical Consequences sets forth the actions that are taken when a student fails to comply with behavioral expectations. It is a set of guidelines only. The administrator in charge may vary the consequences depending on the particular circumstances of an offense. Logical consequences help children see the effects of their actions, repair the situation, and learn to make better decisions in the future.

Consequences may include meetings, conferences, community service, counseling, detention, and loss of privileges, suspension, police notification, parental notification, administrative hearings and/or expulsion. Definitions of the consequences follow:

- **Restorative Practice** - Restorative approaches enable those who have been harmed to convey the impact of the harm to those responsible, and for those responsible to acknowledge this impact and take steps to make it right under administrative supervision and guidance.
- **Administrative-Assigned Detention** - Held in a school-wide specified detention area. Only an administrator may assign a student to this detention. This will be a quiet area in which the student will be expected to do school work. Parents will be notified of after-school detentions.
- **Community Service** - A student may be assigned a task within the school or on school grounds that serves the school community.
- **Suspension** - When a student is suspended, parents will be notified that a suspension has been assigned, and the reason for and duration of the suspension; a parent conference will be requested prior to student re-entry. Any student receiving a suspension will also be excluded from any extracurricular activities and school sponsored events for the duration of the suspension. The student will be expected to complete assignments from his/her teacher(s).

HOPE TOWNSHIP SCHOOL DISTRICT
Middle School (Grades 6-8) Parent/Student Handbook and Code of Student Conduct

- **In-School Suspension (I.S.S.)** - Refers to the temporary exclusion from attending regular classes. The student will report to the office on the day(s) he/she is assigned. The student will remain in an assigned location for the entire day.
- **Out-of-School Suspension (O.S.S.)** - Refers to the temporary exclusion from attending school. Serious violations of the Discipline Rules and Regulations will result in O.S.S. Depending upon the infraction, the suspension may be from one to ten days. In all cases, the student will not be readmitted without a parent conference with an administrator.
- **Administrative (Admin) Hearing** –The purpose of an administrative hearing is to share investigative findings with a student about conduct that could result in a school suspension. In matters of less severe consequences, (3 days of suspension or less), an administrative hearing requirement is met by an administrator meeting with the student in question. In instances where the suspension is potentially more than three days, parents have the right to participate and other due process rights are involved.
- **Expulsion**- Expulsion describes any suspension from school greater than ten (10) days. Special due process provisions are observed. Decisions in such circumstances are rendered by the Board of Education..
- **Police Notification** - Serious infractions of the Code of Conduct may result in police notification as per the Memorandum of Agreements.

There are some situations when the consequence of an in- or out-of-school suspension may be warranted. These include but are not limited to: unethical use of technology and electronic device violations; trespassing, leaving school grounds or class without permission, cutting class, truancy, and tardiness; unacceptable language, behavior or gestures; endangerment or horseplay, threats, fighting, assault, and hitting or tussling; theft, gambling, falsification of identity, burglary, robbery, extortion, and vandalism; violation of the Harassment, Hazing, Intimidation and Bullying Policy; sexual harassment; insubordination; distribution/possession or use of tobacco/tobacco products or alcohol/substances; threats/ physical assault to staff; weapons; false alarms, bomb threat (fake or real), pollution of school environment, vandalism/ damage to school property and arson.

Memorandum of Agreement: In New Jersey, there is a uniform Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) between school districts and law enforcement officials. The MOA, which is approved by the NJ Department of Law and Public Safety and the NJ Department of Education, documents the commitment for schools and law enforcement agencies to work together as equal partners to enforce the law on school grounds. The MOA also details how schools are to report suspected incidents involving alcohol or drugs, weapons, child abuse, hazing, harassment, intimidation and bullying, or problems that compromise school security or safety. School administrators use the MOA to determine their course of action when faced with matters that rise to this level.

HOPE TOWNSHIP SCHOOL DISTRICT
Middle School (Grades 6-8) Parent/Student Handbook and Code of Student Conduct

EXPECTATIONS FOR STUDENT BEHAVIOR: MIDDLE SCHOOL

Consequences for all violations may include parent notification, parent conference, and school social worker referral.

VIOLATION	CONSEQUENCE
Acceptable Use Policy (A.U.P.) Violation- It is expected that students act in a responsible, ethical, efficient, courteous and legal manner when using school district technology (or privately-owned technology through B.Y.O.D.). Refer to Acceptable Use Policy and B.Y.O.D. Policy listed later in this Code for greater detail.	If a student violates the A.U.P.: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Review of actions with administration ● Detention ● Loss of technology privileges ● ISS/OSS
Alcohol/Substance Abuse —possession, use, sale or distribution of any substance on school property/transportation/ school sponsored activity	As per policy
Arson- Starting a fire or causing an explosion in/on school grounds placing others in danger or damaging/destroying property	ISS/OSS Police notification Possible Admin Hearing Consideration for expulsion
Attendance: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Truancy (“unexcused” absence from school) ○ Cutting Class ○ Late to Class ○ Leaving Class without permission 	Detention ISS/OSS Parent conference Refer to attendance policy listed on page 1 for greater detail.
Bomb Threat/Offense (fake or real) - Creating or assisting in creating a bomb or a bomb threat to the school (via telephone, email, or other means).	OSS/ISS Police notification Admin Hearing Consideration for expulsion
Bring Your Own Device (B.Y.O.D.) Violation- Each teacher will make the decision as to whether the students will use privately – owned technology devices in his/her class or instructional environment. Based on assignment or the nature of a class, the teacher may approve the use of B.Y.O.D. or may prohibit the use, of privately – owned technology. It is a teacher choice, and student compliance is expected. Refer to information on the B.Y.O.D. policy listed later in this Code for greater detail.	If a student does not comply with the teacher’s decision and rules regarding B.Y.O.D. in the classroom, the following will occur. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● 1st- Confiscation, parent notification; student pick-up end of school day. ● 2nd- As above; parent pick-up. ● 3rd- As above; additional consequences, may include detention, ISS/OSS

HOPE TOWNSHIP SCHOOL DISTRICT
Middle School (Grades 6-8) Parent/Student Handbook and Code of Student Conduct

	If there is reason to believe that B.Y.O.D. has been used inappropriately (e.g. cheating) or is involved in a violation of the Code of Conduct or A.U.P., building administration will collect and examine the device. Further consequences will depend on the findings.
Dating Violence at School- Acts of dating violence at school whether verbal, sexual, physical or emotional will not be tolerated.	Consequences: Admonishment, Removal from the classroom or location, Detention, Suspension Remedial Measures: parent conference, service learning, corrective instruction, counseling, behavior management plan, alternative placement
Dress Code Violation- In order to promote a serious learning environment, clothing which is distracting, suggestive or inappropriate is prohibited. Refer to pages 6 and 7 for greater detail.	Change clothing Detention if repeated Parent conference ISS Restorative Practice if offensive to peers
Electronic Communication Violation- Students may not communicate with a teacher or support staff member through anything other than the district email system, district telephones, and district-sponsored or approved social media sites and web pages. Refer to information on the Electronic Communicate. policy listed later in this Code for additional detail and special circumstances.	Any communication sent by a student to a staff member's personal address, site or device shall be reported to school administration. The administration will take appropriate action to have the student discontinue such improper electronic communications. Improper electronic communications will result in appropriate disciplinary action.
Endangerment / Horseplay- Failing to comply with established safety procedures that contribute to possible harm of others, i.e. pushing or running in the hallway which may result in injury	Restorative Practice Detention ISS/OSS
False Alarm/Pollution of School Environment - Setting off a false alarm, stink bomb or fireworks causing a disruption to the school community	ISS/OSS Police notification Admin Hearing
Fighting – Mutual engagement in a physical confrontation that may result in bodily injury. Assault- An action that causes (purposely, knowingly or recklessly) bodily injury to another	Restorative Practice ISS/OSS Police notification Re-entry meeting
Forgery (Falsification of Identity)- forging passes, notes, letter, etc	Restorative Practice Detention ISS/OSS
Hostile Environment/ Inciting Violence: creating peer conflict through posturing, social media posts, video recording without permission, harassment or intimidation.	Detention, ISS/OSS, and a meeting with the CSA Restorative Practice

HOPE TOWNSHIP SCHOOL DISTRICT

Middle School (Grades 6-8) Parent/Student Handbook and Code of Student Conduct

<p>(See more information in Harassment/Intimidation/Bullying/Hazing)</p>	
<p>Gambling – Any action involving playing or wagering for stakes in the hope of winning more than you waged. This includes cards, dice, gaming and also includes gaming on electronic devices.</p>	<p>Restorative Practice ISS/OSS Police notification Restitution Admin Hearing</p>
<p>Harassment/Intimidation/Bullying/Hazing (forcing someone to perform humiliating acts as part of initiation)- HIB is defined as any gesture, written, verbal or physical act or any electronic communication (that is, transmitted by an electronic device) whether it be a single incident or a series of incidents that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Is reasonably perceived as being motivated by either any actual or perceived characteristic such as race, color, religion, ancestry, national origin, gender, sexual orientation, gender identity and expression, or a mental, physical or sensory disability or by any other distinguishing characteristic; and ● Takes place on school property, at any school-sponsored function, on a school bus, or off school grounds that substantially disrupts or interferes with the orderly operation of the school or the rights of other students; and that ● A reasonable person should know, under the circumstances, that the act will have the effect of physically or emotionally harming a student or damaging the student’s property, or placing a student in reasonable fear of physical or emotional harm to person or damage to property; or ● Has the effect of insulting or demeaning any student or group of students, or ● Creates a hostile educational environment for the student by interfering with a student’s education or by severely or pervasively causing physical or emotional harm to the student. 	<p>A HIB incident will be investigated promptly within the defined timeline and in adherence with the procedures set forth in the District HIB Policy. Consequences shall vary according to the nature of the behavior, the developmental age of the student and the student’s history of problem behaviors. Consequences may include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Review of District Policies ● Parent notification ● Counselor referral ● Admonishment ● Temporary removal from class ● Deprivation of privileges ● Referral to anti bullying specialist ● Detention ● ISS or OSS ● Ban from program participation ● Restriction on being on school grounds ● Police notification ● Expulsion ● Restorative Practice <p>A HIB incident may also require remedial actions to be taken to correct the problem behavior or to prevent recurrence. Among the measures that may be taken are personal restitution, a behavioral plan, counseling, school or community service, or corrective instruction.</p>
<p>Hitting/Tussling- Minor confrontation (shoving match, slapping back and forth)</p>	<p>Restorative Practice Detention ISS/OSS</p>
<p>Insubordination/Defiant Behavior- refusal to cooperate/comply with staff member. This includes refusal to show hall pass when requested.</p>	<p>Restorative Practice Detention ISS/OSS</p>

HOPE TOWNSHIP SCHOOL DISTRICT
Middle School (Grades 6-8) Parent/Student Handbook and Code of Student Conduct

<p>Integrity Violation- All types of academic dishonesty including but not limited to: copying, cheating, plagiarism, fabrication, stealing, misrepresentation, buying, selling, or distributing information.</p>	<p>Restorative Practice Detention Loss of credit for assignment</p>
<p>Leaving School Grounds- leaving school grounds without permission.</p>	<p>Detention ISS/OSS Police notification</p>
<p>Physical Assault on Staff- Physical contact against school personnel that does or has the potential to cause bodily injury</p>	<p>OSS/ISS Psychiatric evaluation Superintendent notification Police notification Admin Hearing Restorative Practice</p>
<p>Possession of Tobacco- being in possession of tobacco products or electronic smokeless products (E-Cigarettes, Vapes)</p> <p>Smoking/Use of Tobacco- Smoking, use of tobacco products or electronic smokeless products, lighters and matches in any school building or on any grounds is prohibited.</p>	<p>Confiscation Detention or ISS/OSS Confiscation Detention ISS/OSS Police notification</p>
<p>Recording Policy Violation- The taking or sharing of pictures and/or video during school hours by students is prohibited unless required for an academic task and under the direction of a staff member. Using a device to record fights is also a violation of the BYOD policy.</p>	<p>Review of actions with administration Detention Loss of technology privileges ISS/OSS</p>
<p>Sexual Harassment- all unwanted, uninvited and non-reciprocal sexual attention, as well as the creation of an intimidation, hostile, or offensive school or work environment. Sexual Harassment can include, but is not limited to sexually suggestive looks or gestures, sexual jokes, pictures, teasing or pressure for dates or sex.</p>	<p>ISS/OSS Police notification Restorative Practice</p>
<p>Theft—Removal, concealment, or possession of property, other than one’s own. Depending on nature/degree of theft. >\$10 V&V Report</p> <p>Burglary- Entering or remaining in a school district facility or property to commit an offense.</p> <p>Robbery- Using violence or threat of violence to obtain money or materials from another (regardless of value).</p>	<p>Detention/ISS/OSS Restitution Police notification</p> <p>ISS/OSS Police notification Restitution Admin Hearing</p> <p>Same as Above</p> <p>ISS/OSS</p>

HOPE TOWNSHIP SCHOOL DISTRICT
Middle School (Grades 6-8) Parent/Student Handbook and Code of Student Conduct

Extortion- Obtaining money or any material thing from another by means of a stated or implied threat of future violence	Police notification Admin Hearing
Threat to Staff- Actions that cause staff to have concern for the safety of themselves, their property or families.	OSS/ISS Referral to counselor Psychiatric evaluation Superintendent notification Police notification Admin Hearing
Threats to Students- Actions, which cause others to have concern for the safety of themselves, their property or families.	Detention/ISS/OSS Police notification Referral to Counselor/Psychiatric evaluation Restorative Practice
Trespassing- On school property without permission. Unauthorized presence in area without adult supervision.	Detention ISS/OSS Police notification
Unacceptable Behavior – Conduct that disrupts class or school	Detention ISS/OSS Counselor referral Restorative Practice
Unacceptable Language/Gestures (obscene, profane, or otherwise offensive)	Detention ISS/OSS Restorative Practice
Vandalism/Damage to School Property- Destruction or defacing of property creates an excessive mess, is of socially unacceptable nature, or destruction of property, which results from some act of misbehavior.	Detention Community service Restitution ISS/OSS Police notification
Weapons- Firearms, explosive devices including firecrackers, tear gas canisters, smoke bombs, mace, knives, razors, cutting instruments, cutting tools, throwing stars, nun-chuck sticks used in a way as to intimidate or physically hurt another person. As per district policy 5131.7.	ISS/OSS Admin Hearing Police notification Superintendent notification Refer to Weapons Policy listed later in this Code for greater detail.

DUE PROCESS

Parents and students have procedural due process rights under the Fourteenth Amendment with respect to discipline that involves the possibility of serious sanction and consequences such as suspension or expulsion.

BEHAVIORAL SUPPORTS

A current list of community and school-based health and social service provider agencies and other resources are available to support a student and a student’s family. In addition to outside providers (help lines, referral services, counseling services and crisis services), there is a host of District

HOPE TOWNSHIP SCHOOL DISTRICT
Middle School (Grades 6-8) Parent/Student Handbook and Code of Student Conduct

supports including Student Support Teams (multidisciplinary teams that provide a coordinated system for the identification, planning and delivery of interventions to assist students who are experiencing learning, behavior or health difficulties), Child Study Teams, counselors, and school nurses.

Please refer to the District Web Site at www.hope-elem.org for this information or call the main office for assistance.

PARENT NOTIFICATION

Hope Township School District offers a notification service to parents to keep them informed of information pertaining to their child's particular grade and educational programs. The "Blackboard Connect" notification system keeps subscribers informed of emergency closings, delayed openings or other instances where parents may be required to take action (school evacuation due to power outage, etc.). Please make sure that the information that we have on file (phone numbers and email address') are current and the ways that you prefer to be notified are indicated (phone, text message, email).

MEDIA AND WEB NON-CONSENT FORMS

Annually, Hope Township School District sends parent/guardians information about federal and state laws as it pertains to the "personally identifiable information" of students and their rights when it comes to the school district using a child's name/likeness in the media, district sponsored publications or on its website. If a parent/guardian does not want his/her child's name and/or photograph to appear in the local newspapers, district's sponsored publications or on the district's website, they must sign and return the related form to the school's main office. Permission may be rescinded at any point during the school year by sending a note to the CSA. This will take effect upon receipt of the school. For further details, contact the main office.

NUTRITION

Hope Township School District contracts its school dining services through Maschio's Food Service which provides school lunch options in compliance with the state-mandated nutrition policy. We ask that you be mindful of the existence of food allergies among children and discourage sharing of snacks.

SCHOOL SAFETY PROCEDURES

School Safety: Hope School conducts drills and have plans in place to keep students, staff and community members visiting the school safe and secure. Among such safeguards are the following: Bus evacuation drills (twice a year); fire drills (once a month); lockdown and other state mandated drills (once a month).

School Security: Hope Township School has a camera and buzzer entry system which restricts visitor access to the building. To ensure the safety of our students, staff and community, the district also has a protocol that it follows before allowing anyone access to the school, specifically the main office upon arrival. Please contact the main office and make an appointment if you wish to enter the school for any reason prior to your arrival. Once a visitor is cleared and granted access to the main office, the visitor will be issued a visitor badge upon signing in at the main office that must be worn. **You will be required to turn over your car**

HOPE TOWNSHIP SCHOOL DISTRICT
Middle School (Grades 6-8) Parent/Student Handbook and Code of Student Conduct

key or driver's license as collateral. You must return your visitor badge to the main office and sign out prior to leaving the school building. At this time your car key or driver's license will be returned to you. Requiring visitors to present identification and to be identified as a visitor while in the building will help us to distinguish persons in our school and enhance safety.

Visiting Friends After School

Students wishing to visit friends after school must have a signed note indicating parental permission. Due to the capacity and routing of buses, a student cannot go on a bus different than their own. The district cannot issue bus passes for students to visit friends if the friend normally rides a different bus.

Student Drop-Off and Pick-Up

Parking/Drop Off and Pick-up: School buses will drop off and pick up students in the circular driveway in front of the All Purpose Room. ***No other vehicles are permitted in this driveway at any time.*** Parents of students in Grades K-8, who are picking up or dropping off students, must enter the parking lot adjacent to the All Purpose Room. This route is one way and all drivers are urged to use the utmost caution in order to ensure the safety of everyone. If you are not dropping off immediately, please park in an unmarked parking spot and escort your student(s) safely to the pick-up/drop off entrance. When being picked up please escort your students safely to your vehicle. A student who normally rides the bus must have a written note or be "signed out" in the main office by a parent or guardian.

Students are not to be dropped off at school prior to 8:45 a.m. For the safety of your child, please be advised that there is no supervision before 8:45 a.m. Please use the lower lot when dropping off students between 8:40 a.m. and 8:54am. Only those students who are later than 8:55 a.m. may use the upper parking lot, and must be signed in by a parent.

All bus and car-line students will be dismissed from the gymnasium at the end of the school day. A student who normally rides the bus, must have a written note (preferred) or be "signed out" by a parent or guardian for car-line dismissal. If an emergency arises, parents may call prior to 3:00 pm on the same day if a child is to be picked up. Students are not allowed to ride a bus different from the one they are assigned to. Students will only be put on their assigned bus at the end of the day. Students younger than 3rd grade will not be released from the bus without an adult present. Students must be in 6th grade or older in order to supervise a child younger than 1st grade when exiting the bus without an adult present. If conflicting information about dismissal is reported to the office, every attempt will be made to reach the parent and clarify dismissal procedures. However, if no one is able to be reached the student will go home in the manner we have on record from their daily dismissal procedures.

BOE Approved 8.23.22

**Administration reserves the right to update this document as applicable*