

MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of the Susquehanna Township Middle School is to provide a school program which emphasizes academic achievement, responsibility, and respect in an environment which stresses safety, self-esteem and self-worth. We believe all students can succeed, and we hold them accountable to do their part to ensure this success. Parents are a key element in helping us achieve our mission. Without their cooperation and assistance, we will be less than successful in our endeavors. Each child we deal with is an individual and will be treated as such. There is an obligation for all students to demonstrate respect for fellow students, teachers, property and themselves. This is the most critical element in making Susquehanna Township Middle School the best it can be.

CREED FOR GOOD MANNERS

I will be friendly and polite to all persons I meet, regardless of their race or religion.

I will have deep respect for the feelings and opinions of others by supporting those ideas I agree with and politely tolerating those with which I disagree.

When in the presence of older people, I will show due respect for them and help them if they need assistance.

I will ask permission before using another person's belongings, return them promptly, and express my appreciation for having used them.

When spoken to, I will give my full attention to the speaker, and when finished, I will answer to the best of my ability.

While in public, I will conduct myself in the manner of a lady or gentlemen.

I will not tease others or laugh at their disabilities or mistakes.

Should I offend someone, I will apologize for the offense.

I will respect and protect the property of the school and aid in preserving its beauty, its equipment, and its fine facilities.

My associates shall always be persons of good reputation, and I will be friendly and kind to everyone.

MIDDLE SCHOOL EXPECTATIONS

1. That all students are able to learn without disruption.
2. That all teachers are able to teach without disruption.
3. That all members of the school community are treated with consideration.
4. That all work is completed to the best of one's ability.
5. That we all support each other and are supporters of the school.

MIDDLE SCHOOL PHILOSOPHY

In order to create an organizational pattern that provides for the developmental changes unique to early adolescent students, a goal of the middle school is to provide for the academic, personal, physical, social, and emotional needs of the student during transition from the elementary school to the high school.

To create an environment of learning and exploration, Susquehanna Township Middle School emphasizes:

- building positive self-concepts
- providing opportunities for a wide range of educational and social experiences
- providing opportunities for each student to master basic skills and develop aesthetic and moral values
- providing opportunities for students to develop skills which enable them to collect and critically evaluate information with emphasis on how to learn
- providing an educational setting which students experience as supportive, safe, and familiar
- providing an atmosphere in which concern for the student is as evident as concern for the subject matter and focuses on special student interests
- providing an atmosphere where courtesy, respect, and responsibility is the accepted rule.

The middle school continues the elementary school program, introduces new programs, and provides activities that help prepare students for the experience of high school.

WEEKLY SCHEDULE

The Middle School employs a “six day cycle” for scheduling. This means the first day of school is day one, the second day, day two, etc. After day six, the schedule begins again with day one. Whenever school reopens after a weekend, holiday, snow day, etc., the next number day is used.

The student day is divided into three daily learning blocks. All students have two Related Arts classes daily. During the course of a school year, students will participate in Related Arts courses that run on a thirty (30) day rotation. Sixth, seventh, and eighth graders have Spanish and French as part of their Related Arts classes.

TIME SCHEDULES

7:35 Building opens for students to go to their lockers and report to homeroom

7:45

Tardy Bell

7:45-7:57 Homeroom attendance, WAVE TV

6th Grade – 70 Minute Blocks

8:00-8:32 Flex/Advisory

8:35-9:45 Block 1

9:48-10:58 Block 2

11:01-11:43 Related Arts A

11:46-12:16 Lunch B

12:19-1:01 Related Arts B

1:04-2:14 Block 3

2:15-2:30 Assignment Book Check, etc.

7th Grade – 75 Minute Blocks

8:00-8:32 Flex/Advisory

8:35-9:50 Block 1

9:53-11:08 Block 2

11:11-11:41 Lunch A

11:44-1:00 Block 3

1:03-1:45 Related Arts A

1:48-2:30 Related Arts B

8th Grade – 75 Minute Blocks

8:00-8:32 Flex/Advisory

8:35-9:17 Related Arts A

9:20-10:02 Related Arts B

10:05-11:20 Block 1

11:23-12:38 Block 2

12:41-1:11 Lunch C

1:14-2:30 Block 3

ATTENDANCE/TARDINESS

Regular attendance at school is essential. The law recognizes this fact, and all absences must be declared either excused (legal) or unexcused (illegal). The Handbook/Calendar contains the reasons for excused absences as well as the times outlined that define absence and tardy arrivals. Accumulated minutes/hours of unexcused tardy arrival may be considered as cumulative and translated into equivalent days. If a student fails to bring a note from home within three (3) school days explaining the absence or tardiness, it will be considered illegal. After three (3) unexcused absences or tardies, it will be considered illegal. After three (3) unexcused absences, parents are subject to legal action as provided by the Pennsylvania Public School Code. Legal action may also include a fine of \$300 or more.

Students who arrive late to school deprive themselves of a full instructional day and disrupt the education of others. Students who are not in their homerooms by **7:45 AM** are considered tardy. Detentions and school suspensions may be assigned to students after five tardies.

RETURNING TO SCHOOL AFTER AN ABSENCE

Upon returning to school after an absence, it is very important that you have a note from your parents explaining the reason for the absence. This note MUST be presented to the Guidance Office. **IMPORTANT** – Because the Middle School employs a computerized attendance accounting system, a student absence is recorded as “unexcused” if a note is not received within three days after the student returns to school.

During absences a student should call the Homework Hotline or check the website, www.susq-town.org/hwhotline/index.htm for assignments. If a student is absent more than three days, you may call the Guidance Office to request homework assignments. The number of days a student has to make up missed work due to a legal absence is equal to the number of days absent. For example, if a student is absent 2

days, he or she will have 2 days to make up the missed work.

GENERAL INFORMATION

ACADEMIC ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (AAP)

The Academic Assistance Program affords our students an opportunity to receive tutoring in most major subject areas on Tuesdays and Thursdays after regular school hours. Staff members serve as tutors. Sessions usually run from 2:30 PM to 4:00 PM, and transportation is provided to those students who elect to stay for tutoring. There is no cost to the students for this service; however, a signed permission form (available in the Guidance Office) is required.

ACTIVITY BUSES

Activity buses are provided on certain days for those students who stay after school for sports (athletes only) or other activities. These buses are announced daily and normally depart at 4:15 PM and/or 5:00 PM. Students who attend athletic events as spectators are not permitted to ride activity buses.

ASSEMBLY BEHAVIOR AND COOPERATION

Throughout the school year, assemblies will be held for your enjoyment and enrichment. In order to make these programs as worthwhile as possible appropriate behavior is expected. Violation of behavior infractions will warrant the appropriate disciplinary response.

ATHLETIC PROGRAMS

The Middle School offers the following interscholastic sports for 7th and 8th graders – soccer, cross country, field hockey, boys' and girls' basketball, wrestling, and boys' and girls' track.

BUS PROCEDURES

Only the bus driver may grant you permission to leave the bus. Students must travel on assigned buses unless they have a note

stating otherwise signed by their parent or guardian and approved by the school office. This note must be presented to the school office in the morning. Bus passes will be issued only for assignment collaboration approved by a teacher or family emergencies. The note requesting the bus pass must state the reason for the request. Bus passes will only be granted for emergency situations.

Students must show respect for the bus driver. Obey all other rules as posted or given to you by the bus driver. Students may be assigned seats on the bus.

Parents/guardians who have not made prior arrangements but wish to pick up a student after dismissal instead of having them ride the bus may call the office and have the student's name placed on a pick-up list. Those students will be called via the PA system.

CALCULATORS

The Math and Science Departments recommend the following calculators: Sharp EL500 or Texas Instrument T130.

CHEATING AND PLAGIARISM

Cheating compromises the educational integrity of the school program. The faculty and administration of Susquehanna Township Middle School believe that enforcing rules against student cheating and academic dishonesty will enhance the validity of the educational program for every student.

We believe that cheating constitutes, but is not limited to, the following situations:

1. Use of non-authorized materials during a test (copying).
2. Plagiarism, especially as used in research assignments. (Definition from Webster's Dictionary) Plagiarism is stealing the language, ideas, or thoughts of others and presenting them as your own work. For example using material from the internet indirectly or changing only a few words without attributing the work as someone else's creation is plagiarism. It is acceptable to rewrite the material in your own words as long as you give credit for the ideas.

3. Soliciting or facilitating answers from/to other students during a testing situation.
4. Submitting of individual assignments which in the opinion of the teacher have been shared improperly with other students.
5. Any other situation involving dishonesty in preparing academic assignments either in or out of school.

Consequences:

1. A failing grade will be issued to a student who cheats on a quiz, test, project or research paper. At the option of the teacher, the student may be allowed to retake the assignment, but in no case will the grade be higher than 70, and it may be lower. The decision will strictly be in the hands of the teacher. In the case of a project such as a research project, which has been listed on the course syllabus as mandatory, the project must be resubmitted even if the highest grade is a zero. Failure to resubmit a mandatory project will result in an incomplete (I) grade.
2. Students who cheat as part of an extracurricular academic competition either as an individual or part of an academic team will be barred from participating in that extracurricular activity during their remaining time at the school.
3. Cheating/Plagiarism is a Level II infraction and will be dealt with accordingly.

COMPUTERS

The Middle School has several stationary computer labs and portable laptop labs as well as computers in each classroom. All classrooms have been wired for Internet access. Parents and students must sign an Authorized Usage Policy (AUP) before students are permitted to use the Internet on an individual basis. Violations of the terms and conditions of the Authorized Usage Policy are unethical and may constitute a criminal offense. A violation may result in loss of access privileges, school disciplinary action, and/or appropriate legal actions.

RTI (RESPONSE TO INTERVENTION)

This is a three-tiered framework for delivering instruction to all students. It is systematic and data driven. The purpose of RTI

is to identify and resolve students' academic and behavioral difficulties through the implementation of scientifically based instructional practices that meet the individual learners' needs. Each tier of instruction denotes both the setting in which the instruction is to be delivered, as well as the size of the group of students receiving the targeted instruction.

COUNSELING SERVICES

Counseling services are available to all students in grades 6, 7 and 8. Counseling services are provided by many people – counselors, principal, assistant principal, psychologist, nurse, teachers, safety and transition coordinator, community agencies, etc.

Counseling services are designed to help all students understand themselves and their relationships with others, select courses of study, and assume personal responsibility for their own progress. Many techniques, including formal and informal tests, group conferences, and private talks with students are used to meet these goals.

STUDENT ASSISTANCE TEAM (SAT)

The heart of the Student Assistance Program is the specially trained Student Assistance Team. The Student Assistance Team works to identify and help students with drug and alcohol problems and mental health issues. Members of the team include the principal, counselors, school nurse, and teachers.

HELP TEAM

This is a multidisciplinary team designed to help uncover the underlying reasons (root causes) why a student might be experiencing academic and/or behavioral difficulties. HELP Team develops and works to implement practical, classroom-friendly interventions to address these needs. HELP Team meets weekly and uses the most current student data to drive the decision-making process with the goal of moving students towards positive academic and behavioral change.

DETENTION

Detention is held after school on Wednesdays from 2:45 to 4:15 PM. Detention may also be held in the morning or during lunch. If a detention must be rescheduled, a request must be made to administration at least 24 hours before the scheduled detention. Individuals who fail to report without a legitimate excuse will receive a Saturday detention. Failure to report to Saturday detention will result in a suspension from school. Students who are removed from after-school detention will be assigned an in-school suspension or Saturday detention.

NOTE: Transportation is provided by the parent/guardian for Saturday detentions.

DRUG DETECTION DOG

The Susquehanna Township Board of School Directors has approved a policy which permits the use of drug detection dogs to enforce the drug policy. Under no conditions shall drug detection dogs be permitted to sniff the person of any student or group of students; however, the drug detection dogs shall be permitted to make investigations of corridors, lockers, desks, unoccupied cars, unloaded school buses, and other real estate of the school district and personal property located thereon.

Use of drug detection dogs shall be at the discretion of the school district at unannounced times for the purpose of enforcing the school district's drug policy and other disciplinary policies.

EDUCATIONAL TRIPS

Educational trips are approved by the building principal if it is determined that the trip is educationally significant for the student. Parents must submit a written request (on the school district's official *Educational Trip* request form), to the principal at least **ten (10) school days** prior to the trip. Approval is not automatic. Please do not make travel plans before receiving approval. The Educational Trip form may be found on-line or in the Guidance Office. Trips may not take place during the last two weeks (10 school days) of the school year and requests may not exceed a total of five (5) days in one school year. Please refer to

the district handbook and calendar for additional guidelines on educational trips and tours.

EMERGENCY SCHOOL CLOSING

In the morning when weather conditions are such that you think school might be canceled or the start of school delayed, listen to the local radio and television stations. If there is a delayed start or school is closed for the day, the announcement will be made by the following radio and television stations: WINK 104, WCMB, WHP (21 and 580), WGAL, WHTM, WTPA, WITF, KOOL 94.9, Z-107 and WHYL. **PLEASE DO NOT CALL THE SCHOOL.**

Breakfast will not be served when the start of the school day is delayed.

EXTRA-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES ELIGIBILITY

To receive automatic academic eligibility to participate in any extra-curricular activities (athletic, music) sponsored by the Susquehanna Township School District, students must not fail two or more classes on their previous report card.

It is the wish of all coaches and staff of Susquehanna Township Middle School that all athletes represent themselves well on and off the field. With that in mind, the athletic staff views their players' academic performance just as important as their athletic performance. Students are evaluated on a **weekly** basis for each class in which they are enrolled.

A student is **ineligible** for that week if they are failing two or more subjects or failed to meet probationary requirements for AAP. Ineligible students may practice with the team at the coach's discretion, but are not eligible to play or compete and must attend AAP for the week of ineligibility.

A student is on **probation** for that week if they are failing one class. Students on probation may practice and compete. Students on probation should attend AAP if possible. If they continue to fail the same subject for a second week, they **must** attend AAP to remain eligible.

FIRE DRILLS AND BUILDING
EVACUATIONS

A diagram of the building indicating the nearest exit is provided for each room. There is also a directional sign above the door designating the exit direction. All doors and windows are to be closed and lights turned off while the students are out of the building. Leave the building in an orderly manner. WALK, DO NOT RUN, to your designated exit. Remain as quiet as possible so any instructions given may be heard by those involved in the drill. The first student to reach any outside door will open the door and hold it open until the last person has left by the door. Then the door should be closed. Do not return to the building until notified.

Student disruptions during building evacuations will be dealt with severely and could result in criminal charges for disorderly conduct.

GRADING SYSTEM

Academic Achievement - Student academic achievement during each marking period will be determined by the following system:

94 to 100	excellent
86 to 93	good
78 to 85	average
70 to 77	passing
69 or below	failing

Report card percentage grades will be assigned in all subjects. A final numerical grade will be determined by averaging each marking period grade.

Computing Honors: To compute your grade point average for the marking period:

- multiply grade by credit points for subject
- total all of these figures
- add total grade point credits
- divide total grade points by credit points

Example:

<u>Subject</u>	<u>Grade</u>		<u>Credits</u>	
Math	96	x	.25	= 24
Lang. Arts	97	x	.25	= 24.25
Music (CAT)	93	x	.17	= 15.81
Tech. Ed. (Expl)	95	x	.25	= 23.75
French	96	x	<u>.50</u>	= <u>48</u>
			1.42	135.81

135.81 / 1.42 = 95.64

End of Marking Period

Thursday, October 30	1 st m.p. ends
Wednesday, January 21	2 nd m.p. ends
Thursday, March 26	3 rd m.p. ends
Thursday, June 4	4 th m.p. ends

Report Cards/Progress Reports – Report cards are distributed to students at the end of each marking period approximately seven days after the marking period closes. The last report card will be mailed from the school office. Progress reports are given to students at the mid-point of each marking period. Related Arts teachers will not issue progress reports unless a student is in danger of failing. If a progress report is warranted, it will be issued half way through the thirty day rotation. Related Arts final grades will be given at the end of the 2nd and 4th marking periods.

Edline will be updated every on to two weeks. Please check Edline regularly to keep updated.

Report Card Envelopes/Progress Reports – Report cards and Progress Reports for the first three marking periods are placed into envelopes and carried home by students. Parents/guardians are to sign the report card envelope or progress report and have it returned by their child the following day. Since this is an important communication tool, student failure to return signed progress reports and report card envelopes may result in a disciplinary referral.

BOOKBAGS

Bookbags, string bags, large tote bags must to remain in the lockers throughout the school day.

GUEST TEACHERS (Substitute Teachers)

Our school is fortunate to have capable people help us whenever our regular teachers are ill or attending conferences. A guest teacher is an important visitor whose impressions of our school will be carried into the community. Please be cooperative, obedient, polite, and helpful to

every guest teacher. Failure to do so will result in serious disciplinary consequences.

GUM

Chewing gum is prohibited in the building at all times.

HEALTH SERVICES

A primary responsibility of the school is the protection and health of each student. A registered nurse is available at school to address health issues.

The School Health Law requires medical examinations for students in grade 6. A dental examination is required for grade 7 students. It is recommended that these examinations be done by your family dentist or physician, since he/she can best evaluate your child's medical or dental health.

State mandated screening programs for all grades such as weighing, measuring, testing for vision and hearing, and checking for scoliosis (curvature of the spine) are procedures used to identify those students who need further attention. Parents of students who fail these tests will be notified of the results. Since certain phases of a student's health may change rapidly and interfere with school progress, these screening devices are essential supplements to less frequent, periodic medical and dental examinations.

In case a student is injured or becomes ill in school, they will be cared for by the school nurse. If the student's condition is thought to be serious, the school nurse will notify the parents and determine their wishes. In cases which require immediate intervention (i.e. bleeding, stopping of breathing, or poisoning), the school will notify the parents and obtain emergency transportation to a medical care facility.

Medication Guidelines

Susquehanna Township School District recognizes the problems associated with the misuse of drugs and concerns with product tampering and school liability. Therefore any medication brought to or consumed at school by students is considered a serious matter. This policy is designed to protect students and to

allow provisions for medical care while attending classes. It covers non-prescription as well as prescription drugs.

Generally, a four-times-per-day medication does need to be given once during the school day. One, two or three-times-per-day medication does not need to be given during school. Our medication policy is as follows:

1. Students requiring medication during the school day must present a written order from the attending physician, which includes the diagnosis, name of medication, dosage, when it is to be administered at school, and the length of time for school use.

2. The medication must be brought directly to the nurse in the prescription bottle with the label intact. Send in only the number of pills or amount of liquid that the student will take at school. We recommend that you ask the pharmacist for a "school bottle" with a complete label and the amount of medication that will be needed at school.

3. In the case of non-prescription drugs, the physician's written statement must accompany an unopened container of the drug of the same name as written on the physician's statement. A yearly update is required on all medications.

If this policy is not followed, no medication will be administered at school. If there are any questions regarding this policy, please call the school nurse.

4. Medication will not be sent home with students. A parent or guardian must pick up medications.

5. Students in possession of any prescribed or over the counter medication **WILL BE FOUND TO BE IN VIOLATION OF THE DISTRICT'S DRUG AWARENESS POLICY.** These meds must be kept in the nurse's office.

HOMEWORK

Students are expected to complete all their homework assignments on time. The amount of homework assigned by each teacher will vary. Students are to record all assignments in the Assignment Handbook. Assignments may not be faxed to the middle school. All assignments are posted each night on the Homework Hotline and at www.susq-town.org/hwhotline/index.htm

for your convenience. In addition, some teachers also post their assignments on teacher web pages. Your child's teacher will provide the web site address.

HOMEBOUND INSTRUCTION

If you are out of school due to illness or injury for an extended period of time and your doctor thinks you will be out more than two weeks, your parents can arrange to have you taught at home with no expense to them. This is called Homebound Instruction. The Middle School guidance counselors coordinate the program.

INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC

The instrumental music program is a "pull-out" program of private or small group lessons for all students in sixth, seventh, and eighth grades. Band and orchestra rehearse during the day twice per cycle.

LIBRARY MEDIA CENTER

The Library Media Center contains a variety of print, audio, and visual media. Multimedia encyclopedias, ProQuest Direct, ACCESS PA, other online catalogs are available for student use. Students must have a pass in order to visit the library.

Most materials are circulated for two weeks. A late fee of five cents per day is charged for overdue materials. Twenty-five cents is charged for overnight materials. All library fines must be paid before a final report card is issued.

The library will be open after school from 2:45 PM – 4:00 PM fifty-two times during the year. Students may check out books, do research using texts or online resources or read for pleasure. A schedule will be posted in the library, published in the newsletter and be announced on the WAVE.

LOCKERS

In the Middle School, students will keep their books, coat, and other belongings in a locker. Lockers are located in the hallways of

the Middle School. Students will be assigned a locker with a built-in combination lock on the first day of school. Students are permitted to visit their lockers before and after school and at other times designated by each team.

Searches of Lockers

1. Student lockers are owned by the Susquehanna Township School District. Students have no expectation of privacy in the lockers which may be searched as provided in paragraphs 2 and 3.

2. School authorities may conduct a physical search of a student's locker and seize any illegal materials. Such materials may be used as evidence against the student in disciplinary proceedings.

3. Where school authorities have a reasonable suspicion that the locker contains materials which pose a threat to the health, welfare and safety of others in the school, including drugs, alcohol, tobacco or weapons, student lockers may be physically searched without prior notification or opportunity to be present.

LOST AND FOUND

Have your name printed clearly on all articles of clothing, i.e. coats, hats, boots, gym equipment, etc. and anything else you bring to school. This especially applies to books or projects (models). Money or valuable items should be given to the main office and kept there until needed. Should you lose or find items, the Lost and Found Box is located in the rear of the auditorium.

LUNCH

Lunch will be served between 11:11 and 1:11 in the Middle School. Each lunch period will allow students 30 minutes to eat.

A monthly lunch menu is posted in each homeroom. In addition to the posted menu, ala carte items are available daily. Students may not call home for forgotten lunch money and the offices do not have a lending program. Parents are encouraged to deposited money into your child's lunch account to prevent missed meals.

Breakfast

Breakfast is served in the middle school cafeteria. Students may participate in the breakfast program if they arrive to school early. Students who wish to participate in breakfast must report directly to the cafeteria upon entering the school in the morning. Students must leave the cafeteria by 7:45 AM. They may not take food out of the cafeteria.

Unfortunately, breakfast will not be available to students who ride a late bus. Breakfast may not be served on days in which the cafeteria is being used for a special AM event.

ADVISORY (PERIOD 1)

Advisory is a small group of students that meet daily with one adult in the building to participate in discussions and activities that promote community-building and a positive school climate. One purpose of an Advisory program is to make sure that every child in the building will be well known by at least one adult and to help students know they will be listened to and heard. Advisory will also help create a caring learning community and enable kids to connect to their school.

PTSO (PARENT-TEACHER-STUDENT ORGANIZATION)

The Susquehanna Township Middle School has an active PTSO whose objectives are to support the school and to act as a forum for communications among parents, teachers, administrators, and students. The PTSO sponsors dances, election-day bake sales, the Super Kid Program, the annual 8th grade party, and many other worthwhile activities.

The PTSO is headed by a board of officers and committee chairpersons who meet on the third Tuesday of each month to coordinate activities. All parents are welcome and encouraged to attend the monthly meeting. Parents, faculty, and students are welcome to become a vital part of this active school organization and to attend board meetings.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION

Physical education is a required course. Students must bring a complete change of clothing for participation in physical education classes. Gym clothing may not be worn over school clothing. T-shirts and shorts without zippers are acceptable. Sweatshirts, sweatpants, and warm-ups are recommended for outdoor wear. Sneakers and socks must be worn. All students will be assigned a lock and locker to be used to lock up valuables. Students who lose their locks will be charged \$6.00. Participation in physical education is a state mandated graduation requirement. Students who fail to participate will be disciplined according to the physical education tiers of discipline.

SCHOOL INSURANCE

The Susquehanna Township School District is not responsible for medical expenses caused by injuries which occur on school property and does not carry insurance which would cover such expenses. The school district does offer an insurance policy to students at a special school rate. This is a service to students and is not mandatory. This policy covers any accident while on the way between home and school, while in the school building or on school grounds, and as a participant in a school-sponsored activity. Parents should review the brochure and student accident insurance policy carefully for coverage and exclusion information.

STUDENT COUNCIL

The Student Council is the students' voice at the Middle School. Its purpose is:

1. To encourage student interest through activities which are aimed at creating school spirit and pride.
2. To improve school conditions and community relations through an increased democratic sense of respect for the rights and property of others.
3. To create friendly cooperation between the students and the faculty.

STUDENT DRESS

A student's dress, personal appearance, hygiene and behavior should reflect sensitivity to and respect for others. The fact that the Susquehanna Township School District permits a wide variety of clothes to be worn by students does not imply that all styles worn are equally appropriate. Student dress must be such that it does not present a danger to the students or for the health and safety of others. In addition, student dress should not disrupt or interfere with the work, creativity or order of the classroom or the overall operation of the building. It is the expectation of the district that all students will be appropriately dressed and groomed at all times.

Skirts, shorts, and skorts must be of appropriate length. The garment should exceed the length of the student's fingertips when the student's arms are fully extended. Additionally, tank tops are not permitted. Skirts, shorts, and skorts must meet required length even if leggings or tights are worn.

The district recognizes that problems may arise during the year that pertain to student dress which require an immediate response to insure student safety or prevent disruption to the educational process. The district designates the building principal with the responsibility to issue specific regulations to solve these situations. The building principal will notify students and parents/guardians of any change. Building principals have the authority to temporarily waive specific provisions of the dress code to allow for special events or deal with extreme weather conditions.

Students who do not adhere to dress code regulations will have to change and disciplinary action may result.

STUDENT STORE

The student store is sponsored by the PTSO and is open on Tuesdays during lunch. Items usually found in the student store are: pencils, pens, paper, book covers, erasers, compasses, protractors, and many more useful and needed items. This store is located in the cafeteria.

TELEPHONE USE

1. Classroom telephones may not be used by students.
2. The only telephone students are permitted to use during the day is located in the guidance office, where a log of student initiated calls is maintained. **The use of the phone is limited to emergencies, and we reserve the right to deny students use of the phone.**
3. The pay phones which are located in the lobby and outside the main entrance are only to be used AFTER SCHOOL.
4. Students are not permitted to use cell phones at school.

TELEVISION STUDIO

Located in the Library Information Center, our television studio provides selected students with opportunities to write, produce and perform both live and taped telecasts which can be viewed throughout the building. Mrs. Lucy Richardson plans and organizes the broadcasts. The morning news is broadcast at 7:50 AM daily.

TEXTBOOKS

Textbooks must be covered at all times. Damage fees will be assessed for books which are returned in poor condition. Students should notify teachers immediately about books that are assigned which are damaged.

TRANSPORTATION

The bus schedule for Middle School is sent to each student during August. Generally, students will be picked up between 7:00 and 7:30 AM and arrive at the Middle School around 7:30 AM. **Students are not permitted to arrive before 7:15 AM.** Upon arrival, all students should report to the auditorium unless participating in the breakfast program.

All buses unload and load at the front of the building.

VISITORS

Out-of-town visitors or friends of students are not permitted to visit the school during school hours. Parents are free to visit the school

at any time; however, it is necessary to make arrangements with the classroom teachers IN ADVANCE of visits to classrooms while classes are in progress.

No one should walk through the building without signing in at the Main Office, getting permission to enter the building, and wearing a visitor's badge.

VOCAL MUSIC

Different choral programs are available to students. Rehearsals are conducted during the day twice per cycle and after school. Participation in select groups and the Dauphin County Choral Festival is available to students in STMS choruses by audition only.

WITHDRAWAL FROM SCHOOL

When a student is withdrawn from school for reasons of moving or to attend another school, the guidance office should be notified two (2) days in advance. The student must secure a withdrawal form from the attendance secretary and on the last day of attendance have each teacher initial the form to show that all obligations with each teacher are cleared. All textbooks, library books and gym locks must be either returned or paid. Information as to where the student is moving and the name of the school district, if possible, must also be furnished on this form. After all obligations are taken care of and proper information presented to the school, all grades and records will be released to the next school.

STUDENTS' RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES

1. The right to develop one's own personality without criticism or pressure from cliques.
2. Freedom from physical abuse and mental abuse such as name calling, intimidation or harassment.
3. Freedom from being set apart or mocked because of race, sex, religion, physical strength, size, features, friendship groups, culture, age, handicap, financial status, clothing, or classroom performance or disability.
4. The right of privacy and freedom from being harassed in the classroom.

5. The right to be treated respectfully.

6. The right to an education, which means that teachers are free to teach and students are free to learn without being interrupted by inconsiderate or unruly students.

7. The right to have our personal and school property respected as a part of human rights. Our school community should be a safe place for property as well as people.

STUDENT DISCIPLINE

Classification of Violations and Disciplinary Action

Level I Misbehavior:

Description

Minor misbehavior on the part of the student which impedes orderly classroom procedures or interferes with the orderly operation of the school.

These incidents can usually be handled by an individual staff member, but sometimes require the intervention of other school support personnel.

Procedures

There is immediate intervention by the staff member who is supervising the student or who observes the misbehavior.

An anecdotal record of the offense and disciplinary action taken is maintained by the staff member. The staff member may choose to involve the parent, administrator and/or support personnel.

Level I Examples: Minor classroom disruptions or cafeteria disruptions, classroom/school tardiness, non-defiant failure to complete assignments or return forms, public display of affection, not prepared for class, food/drink in unauthorized areas, dress code violation, inappropriate hallway behavior, misuse or abuse of school materials (no damage.)

Disciplinary Options: Warnings, demerits, verbal reprimand, in-school conference and/or parent contact, confiscation of property, pass restriction, lunch detention, time-out, loss of privileges.

Level II Misbehavior:

Description

Behavior whose frequency or seriousness tends to disrupt the learning climate of the school.

Procedures

A student is referred to an administrator for appropriate disciplinary action. The administrator meets with the student and/or teacher to establish the most appropriate response. Parents/guardians may be notified of the student's behavior and the school's response to it. An anecdotal record of the offense and disciplinary action is taken is maintained by the administrator.

Level II Examples: Unmodified Level I misbehavior, truancy, assembly misconduct, open disrespect and defiance toward staff, forged notes/excuses, severely disruptive classroom behavior, cutting class, safety violations, abusive or profane language, aggressive horseplay (shoving, pushing, or tripping), violation of electronic devices policy, careless/destructive handling of school or personal property.

Disciplinary Options: Any combination of Level I options, in-school suspension, out-of-school suspension, parent conference, restitution, lunch detention, time-out in office, discipline contract, temporary removal from class, detention.

Level III Misbehavior:

Description

Acts directed against persons or property, but the consequences do not seriously endanger the health and safety of others in the school.

These acts might be considered criminal, but most frequently can be handled by the disciplinary mechanism in the school.

Corrective measures which the school should undertake; however, depend on the extent of the school's resources for remedying the situation in the best interest of all students. At the Middle School and High School levels, these infractions will usually result in an in-school or out-of-school suspension.

Procedures

The administrator initiates disciplinary action by investigating the infraction and conferring with staff. The administrator meets with the student and informs the parent/legal guardian regarding the student's misconduct and the resulting disciplinary action. If warranted, the administrator will notify a law enforcement agency. An anecdotal record of the offense and the disciplinary action taken is maintained by the administration.

Level III Examples: Unmodified or accumulated Level II misbehaviors, leaving school grounds, use of profanity toward staff, violation of acceptable use policy, fighting, vandalism, bullying, threats to others, stealing, violation of tobacco policy, physical attack, misbehavior during emergency drill or emergency, insubordination, failure to serve detention/ISS.

Disciplinary Options:

Any combination of Level I or II options, in-school suspension, out-of-school suspension, temporary removal from class, building level administrative hearing, district level administrative hearing, discipline contract.

Level IV Misbehavior:

Description

Acts which result in violence to another's person or property or which pose a threat to the safety of others in the school.

These acts are generally criminal and are so serious that they always require administrative actions which result in the immediate removal of the student from school, intervention of law enforcement authorities and possible action by the Board of School Directors. At the Middle School, these infractions will almost always result in an out-of-school suspension. Based on the seriousness of the offense, the administrator may recommend expulsion. In the case of possession/furnishing or selling of controlled substances, and/or look-alike drugs, the administrator will recommend expulsion. In the case of possession or use of a weapon, a recommendation for expulsion will usually occur.

Procedures

The administrator verifies the offenses, reviews the staff referral, confers with the staff involved, and meets with the student. The student is immediately removed from the school environment and the parent/legal guardian is notified of the incident. School officials may contact a law enforcement agency and will assist in prosecuting offender. An anecdotal record of the offense and disciplinary action taken is maintained by school officials.

Level IV Examples: Unmodified or accumulated Level III misbehaviors, arson, violation of District Drug and Alcohol Policy, fighting which results in damage or injury, refusing to stop fighting when directed by staff member, vandalism, extortion, bomb threat/false alarm, violation of school weapons policy, theft, possession/sale of stolen property, racial/ethnic or religious intimidation, possession or use of firecrackers or explosive devices, other criminal acts, violation of harassment/improper conduct policy.

Discipline Options

Any combination of Level II or III options, administrative hearing, law enforcement officials contacted, parents/legal guardians notified, expulsion, student removed from class.

STANDARDS OF CONDUCT FOR STUDENTS

The following rules have been established to provide an atmosphere conducive to learning. Students are expected to obey these rules for their safety and the good of the student body.

1. Hallways and Stairs

- a. Walk quietly on the right side of the hall and stairs, no more than double file in hallways and single file on stairs. Obey teachers who are supervising the hallways.
- b. No running, tripping, or pushing in the halls or on stairs. No knocking on other classroom doors or looking into other classrooms.
- c. No yelling or loud conversation in the halls.

- d. Do not slam locker doors.
- e. When using drinking fountains, line up against the wall, not out into hall traffic.
- f. Students are expected to take the most direct route between classes. Repeated tardiness to class will not be tolerated.
- g. Students are not permitted in other student's lockers.
- h. Students must have a pass whenever they are in the hallways during a class period.

2. Classrooms

- a. Students are not permitted in a room unless assigned to be there and a teacher is present for supervision.
- b. Students are responsible for their own belongings. Watches, money and valuables shall not be placed in locker rooms, lavatories, etc.
- c. Students are required to follow their teacher to assigned seats for an assembly.
- d. Yelling or talking loudly is not permitted.
- e. The wearing of hats or sunglasses in the building is not permitted.
- f. Students may go to the nurse's office only with the written permission of the appropriate classroom teacher.
- g. Wearing or carrying a book bag or other bag is not permitted during the school day. The administration will determine, at their discretion, the difference between a pocket book and a book bag.
- h. Students are expected to be equipped with a pencil or pen, notebooks and text for each class.
- i. Girls should keep their purses with them at all times.
- j. Students are responsible for making up missed work due to absences. Students may request homework be gathered for pick-up after a 3-day absence.

3. Restrooms

- a. No playing or fooling around inside the restrooms.
- b. Students should keep the restrooms neat and clean.
- c. Students should use the nearest restroom to their class or activity.

4. Cafeteria

- a. Expectations

1. Students will remain in their seats and get their food/drinks only when their table is called into the line.
 2. Follow all instructions given the first time.
 3. Dispose of all trash on or beneath the table before being dismissed.
 4. Eat and socialize using appropriate conduct which includes the absence of loud talking, horseplay, throwing food, making messes, squashing milk cartons or other inappropriate behavior.
 5. All food is to be eaten in the cafeteria.
 6. Students are to help keep the cafeteria clean – even if they are not the one who dropped trash on the floor.
- b. Students who do not follow cafeteria expectations will be assigned lunch detentions.

5. Library Information Center

- a. Conversation should be kept to a minimum so as not to disturb others.
- b. If a book is overdue, a student may not checkout another book until the overdue book is returned.
- c. Students are responsible for books/materials that are borrowed. Fees will be assessed for damaged or lost materials.

6. Bus Discipline

The driver of all buses or other vehicles will fill out bus conduct reports on students who are violating the rules of proper bus behavior. The reports will be signed by the driver and submitted to administrators. Copies of the report will be distributed to the parents, the district office and the driver after the administrator has met with the student. The form indicates the violation as well as the action taken.

The bus drivers are the school representatives on the bus and their judgment will be respected in evaluating the conduct report. The minimum consequences of violations are as follows:

- a. First discipline report – student should be advised, on report, that a recurrence will result in suspension of bus privileges. Students may also be assigned a detention, or assigned seat on the bus.
- b. Second discipline report – three day suspension of bus privileges.
- c. Third discipline report – ten day suspension of bus privileges.
- d. Fourth discipline report – removal of bus privileges for the balance of the school term.
- e. Fighting on the bus – automatic five day suspension of bus privileges. Fighting on the bus may result in an out-of-school suspension.

7. Textbooks

- a. All books should be covered with a protective book cover at all times.
- b. The book cover should be clearly marked with the subject, student's name, grade and homeroom.
- c. Textbooks should not be stuffed with loose worksheets, notes, etc.
- d. Students should provide themselves with a binder for the storage of supplemental materials.
- e. Fines will be assessed for damage to textbooks/materials.

8. Cell Phones/Electronics/Cameras

Although the possession of electronic communication/storage devices (“Electronic Devices”) by students on school property is not prohibited, possession of Electronic Devices is subject to the terms and conditions of this policy:

- a. For the purpose of this policy, Electronic Device is defined as any instrument capable of capturing, storing, displaying and/or transmitting information including text, audio, and or video data. Electronic Devices include but are not limited to tape recorders, cellular phones, MP3 players, personal data assistants, and digital cameras. The term does not include telephone pagers which are addressed in Policy #5012.
- b. Student Electronic Devices must be turned off upon entering the building at the start of the school day. Electronic Devices must be stored in such a way that

they are not visible during the school hours.

- c. Students who use an Electronic Device during the school day by either receiving a call or placing a call, messaging or sending, receiving or displaying information will be subject to the following penalties:
 1. 1st violation – a weekend detention and confiscation of the Electronic Device. Only a parent or guardian of the student may retrieve the Electronic Device from the building principal.
 2. 2nd violation – prohibition of Electronic Device possession.
 3. Each subsequent violation – three-day in-school suspension.
- d. After the final bell of the normal school dismissal time, students may use Electronic Devices in the building except during:
 1. Detention
 2. AAP
 3. Any co-curricular activity at the discretion of the supervisor, supervisor, or coach.
- e. Students who fail to properly store their Electronic Devices during school hours will be subject to the following penalties:
 1. 1st violation – confiscation of the Electronic Device for the remainder of the day.
 2. 2nd violation – confiscation of the Electronic Device which must be retrieved by a parent or guardian of the student.
 3. 3rd violation – prohibition of Electronic Device possession for the remainder of the school year.
 4. Each subsequent violation – three-day in-school suspension.
- f. Students may also be subject to criminal prosecution if the Electronic Device is used for criminal or other unlawful activity.
- g. After prior approval, students may use an Electronic Device during the regular school day when used in conjunction with a lawful supervised school activity.

The school is not responsible for lost or stolen Electronic Devices that have not been properly stored in a locked locker.

9. Dances

- a. All school rules apply at dances.
- b. The dances are for STMS students only; no students from other schools may attend without permission from the principal.
- c. Students who have been placed on an in-school or out-of-school suspension, served three or more detentions, or a Saturday detention since the last dance may not attend the next scheduled dance.
- d. At the conclusion of the dance, students must be picked up by a parent within 15 minutes of the end of the dance. Failure to do so will result in a student missing the next dance. Students are not permitted to walk home.

10. Other

- a. Students should place personal belongings, along with school issued materials, in assigned lockers.
- b. Toys, stuff animals, games and other non-educational materials are to remain at home.
- c. Throwing of any object (inside or outside of the building) to include pine cones, snowballs, and rocks is prohibited.

11. Serious Disciplinary Offenses

Students should be aware that serious disciplinary offenses are dealt with immediately. Below are listed the minimum actions which will be taken.

Fighting – An immediate 3–5 day suspension. When both students have been actively involved in the exchange of punches/pushes, both are suspended. We do not absolve one participant because he/she “defended” himself/herself. If a student has been punched/pushed, we require that child to remove himself from the scene and not retaliate physically.

Students who initiate or whose conduct aggravates a situation, even though they did not participate in a fight, will be considered for disciplinary action. Often a meeting will be held with an administrator during the initial suspension. At this meeting additional suspension or other consequences may be

administered. In most cases, the police will be contacted.

Bullying – Bullying is defined as a student being exposed, repeatedly and over time, to negative actions on the part of one or more other students.

- direct -
Hitting, kicking, shoving spitting - (Physical)
Taunting, teasing, racial slurs, verbal sexual harassment - (Verbal)
Threatening, obscene gestures - (Non-verbal)
- indirect -
Getting another person to assault someone - (Physical)
Spreading rumors - (Verbal)
Deliberate exclusion from a group or activity - (Non-verbal)
 - a. Detention
 - b. In-School suspension
 - c. Parent of victim or victim may pursue the harassment policy
 - d. School can document/file a complaint with police

Possession or Use of Alcohol

- a. Suspension pending a hearing before the school board on permanent expulsion of the student
- b. Parents are called to school
- c. Police are called to school
- d. School can file criminal charges with police

Possession or Use of Cigarettes

- a. 1st Offense – One (1) day in-school suspension
- b. 2nd Offense – Two (2) day suspension and criminal charges filed with police
- c. 3rd Offense – Three (3) day suspension and criminal charges filed with police
- d. Cigarettes, matches or lighters will be confiscated

Possession or Use of Drugs or “Look Alike Drugs”

- a. Suspension pending a hearing before the school board on permanent expulsion of the student
- b. Parents are called to school

- c. Police are called to school
- d. School may file criminal charges with police
- e. The possession or use of any drug or medication by a student outside of the nurse’s office is a violation of the school district’s drug policy.

Possession of Weapons – This includes any knife, cutting instrument, cutting tool, projectile, non-chuck stick, star, firearm, BB gun, pellet gun, shotgun, rifle, pistol, look-alike or replica of any of the above or components which can be assembled into a weapon.

- a. Ten day out-of-school suspension
- b. Informal hearing
- c. Formal hearing
- d. Possible mandatory one calendar year expulsion
- e. Weapon turned over to police
- f. School may file criminal charges

Harassment – All district policies regarding offensive behavior, discrimination, and improper conduct are enforced. See school district handbook/calendar for detailed information.

Disrespectful Behavior – Any student exhibiting disrespectful or defiant behavior toward an adult to include vulgar, rude, profane, or inappropriate language may be suspended.

- a. 1-3 day out-of-school suspension
- b. Parents notified
- c. Harassment policy reviewed with student and parents.

Theft

- a. Parents are called to school
- b. Police can be called to school
- c. Possible suspension
- d. School can file criminal complaint with police

11. Discipline Contracts

Students with excessive behavior issues may be placed on a contract.

Specific guidelines governing students on discipline contracts are outlined in the discipline contract and may vary from regular school disciplinary procedures

Anonymous Tip Line

Students and parents are encouraged to use the Susquehanna Township Police Tip Line, 900-TIPS (8477), to anonymously report safety and security concerns.

GRADE 6

TEAMS

The students in sixth grade are divided into the Red and Orange Teams. The teams are each composed of four teachers. The core subjects are language arts, math, social studies, and science. These classes will be on a block schedule.

Sixth graders are assigned to Related Arts for two periods each day. The related arts course offerings include health, physical education, music, art, Spanish, French, civics, environmental science, technology education, and corrective reading.

CURRICULAR OFFERINGS

LANGUAGE ARTS (meets for 36 weeks, 6 periods per cycle)

This course maintains and expands grammar, usage, mechanics and spelling as tools to be used in the writing process and composition. The process approach to writing is utilized in all composition and writing assignments. Spelling and handwriting are integrated into the language arts course.

MATHEMATICS (meets for 36 weeks, 6 periods per cycle)

This course will review operations with whole numbers. Basic operations with decimals and mixed decimals will be taught. Emphasis will be placed on addition, subtraction, multiplication, and division of fractions. Percent, decimal and fraction equivalents will be stressed as well as maintenance of multiplication facts.

PRE-ALGEBRA (meets for 36 weeks, 6 periods per cycle)

This course is intended to provide the necessary background for Academic Algebra I, which is taught at the high school. Attention will be given to verbal problem solving. Emphasis will

be placed on the maintenance of basic skills including an extended understanding of percent, the use of formulas, and word number sentences. Topics covered will include directed numbers, properties of real number, equations and inequalities and polynomials.

GENERAL SCIENCE (meets for 18 weeks, 6 periods per cycle)

This science course will investigate topics in physical science and earth science. During the first semester students will gain an understanding of geology patterns to help them describe the world in which they live. They will acquire skills necessary to perform experiments using scientific method. During the second semester students will have an introduction to physical science. Areas of study will include measurement, forces, motion, matter and chemical interaction. Emphasis will be placed on problem solving techniques in all laboratory work.

SOCIAL STUDIES (meets for 18 weeks, 6 periods per cycle)

This course provides an investigation of the major geographic and cultural aspects of our modern world. Students review map and globe skills and are introduced to other key tools and concepts of geography to help them understand how environment affects culture. The discussion of each region also includes an examination of population, agriculture, language, family, religion and technology.

TECHNOLOGY EDUCATION (meets for 30 days, 6 periods per cycle)

This course will address the specialized requirements of reading and analyzing multimedia electronic text. Students will gain an awareness that electronic text is an integral form of verbal and visual communication. Topics will include the format of electronic text, graphics, hypermedia, site authenticity and technological resources.

GRADE 7

TEAMS

The students in seventh grade are divided into two teams. The Yellow and Green Teams are each composed of four teachers.

Seventh graders are assigned to Related Arts for two periods each day. The related arts course offerings include health, physical education, music, art, Spanish, French, civics, environmental science, technology education, and corrective reading.

CURRICULAR OFFERINGS

LANGUAGE ARTS (meets for 36 weeks, 6 periods per cycle)

The seventh grade literature text introduces students to a variety of literary forms through its excellent selection of excerpts from renowned authors. Supplemental materials help develop the students' literary appreciation, vocabulary, comprehension, study and reference skills throughout the year. The course also includes grammar, spelling, composition and vocabulary building and reinforces basic skills in English. The process approach to writing is utilized in all compositions and writing assignments.

HONORS ENGLISH/LANGUAGE ARTS (meets for 36 weeks, 6 periods per cycle)

This course addresses literary selections that cover various genre including short stories, drama, non-fiction, and poetry. Composition places strong emphasis on the writing process which enables students to compose paragraphs and essays. Grammar includes a review and reinforcement of basic grammar principles. Vocabulary development is a component of the course.

MATHEMATICS II (meets for 36 weeks, 6 periods per cycle)

The purpose of this course is to increase and expand basic mathematics skills. The major units of work will include the basic operations with whole numbers, decimals and fractions. Percents, equivalents and percent problems will be introduced. Topics covered will include

graphs, geometric figures, perimeter, area and the use of formulas.

PRE-ALGEBRA (meets for 36 weeks, 6 periods a cycle)

This course is intended to provide the necessary background for Academic Algebra I, which is taught at the high school. Attention will be given to verbal problem solving. Emphasis will be placed on the maintenance of basic skills including an extended understanding of percent, the use of formulas, and word number sentences. Topics covered will include directed numbers, properties of real number, equations and inequalities and polynomials.

ALGEBRA (meets for 36 weeks, 6 periods per cycle)

This course is an introduction to the basic structure of algebra. The topics covered will include sets, set notation, properties of real numbers, positive and negative numbers, polynomials and factoring polynomials, linear and quadratic equations in inequalities. Emphasis will be placed on problem solving. Review of basic skills will be included.

LIFE SCIENCE (meets for 18 weeks, 6 periods per cycle)

This course is an introduction into the biological science field. Laboratory experiments provide an opportunity to experience the sub-microscopic world. Particular emphasis is placed on laboratory experiences in this course.

WORLD CULTURES I (meets for 18 weeks, 6 periods per cycle)

World Cultures I is a study of the cultures of the past: Sumer, Egypt, China, India, Greece, Rome, Europe of the Middle Ages and Renaissance periods and the African American, Indian, and Japanese civilizations. The students will be examining how the people of each civilization met common human problems such as food, shelter, clothing, transportation, communication, education, expressing themselves in art forms, developing forms of family and social life, organizing and governing themselves and developing forms of religious expression.

GRADE 8

TEAMS

The students in eighth grade are divided into two teams. The Blue and Purple teams are each composed of four teachers. The core subjects are language arts, math, social studies, and science. These classes will be on a block schedule.

Eighth graders are assigned to Related Arts for two periods each day. The related arts course offerings include health, physical education, music, art, Spanish, French, civics, environmental science, technology education, and corrective reading.

CURRICULAR OFFERINGS

ENGLISH (meets for 36 weeks, 6 periods per cycle)

This course includes mastery of the basic skills in English through the study of grammar and literature, through vocabulary building, and through composition and daily writing. The process writing approach is used for all writing assignments.

HONORS ENGLISH (meets for 36 weeks, 6 periods per cycle)

This course focuses on various literary genres including short story, drama, poetry, and nonfiction. Grammar instruction, vocabulary development, the writing process, and a research paper are components of the course. *A Midsummer Night's Dream* and Junior Great Books are presented and discussed.

PRE-ALGEBRA (Selected students, meets for 36 weeks, 6 periods per cycle)

This course is intended to provide the necessary background for Academic Algebra I, which is taught at the high school. Attention will be given to verbal problem solving. Emphasis will be placed on the maintenance of basic skills including an extended understanding of percent, the use of formulas, and word number sentences. Topics covered will include directed numbers, properties of real number, equations and inequalities and polynomials.

ALGEBRA I – (Selected students, meets for 36 weeks, 6 periods per cycle)

This course is an introduction to the basic structure of algebra. The topics covered will include sets, set notation, properties of real numbers, positive and negative numbers, polynomials and factoring polynomials, linear and quadratic equations in inequalities. Emphasis will be placed on problem solving. Review of basic skills will be included.

PHYSICAL SCIENCE (meets for 18 weeks, periods per cycle)

This course provides an introduction to both Physics and Chemistry. Fundamental mathematics and problem solving techniques are emphasized. Laboratory experimentation allows for hands-on technical experience.

AMERICAN HISTORY (meets for 18 weeks, 6 periods per cycle)

“American History with a Geographic Perspective” demonstrates the relationship of the physical features to the early historic developments of our country. Stress is placed on sectional developments and differences, regional influences and personalities for the time period of 1620 thru 1880. The course will apply a multi-faceted learning approach using video disc technology, computer simulations, projects and student role playing to enhance the textbook material.

RELATED ARTS OFFERINGS

FRENCH AND SPANISH (meets for 60 days, 6 days per cycle)

Students will review the fundamentals of Spanish and French presented at the sixth, seventh and eighth grade levels. The course will focus on listening, speaking, reading, vocabulary development and comprehension. Emphasis will be placed on conversation capabilities. A variety of multi-media experiences will be used to present the course material. Cultural information will be included. Eighth grade students will be tested in May to determine their high school foreign language placement.

HEALTH (meets for 30 days, 6 days per cycle)

The Health course consists of instruction in mental health disorders, drug education, basic first aid, social awareness, human development and communicable diseases, including the AIDS virus. The students are given opportunities to develop attitudes, knowledge and skills which will enable them to contribute effectively to their present and future family life.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION (meets 2 30-day rotations, 6 days per cycle)

The physical education course is required of all students at each grade level. It provides students with instruction in aerobic fitness and physical conditioning. Touch football, field hockey, basketball, wrestling, tumbling, volleyball and softball skills are taught in conjunction with exercise and fitness programming. Evaluation is based on participation and skill development.

ART (meets for 30 days, 6 days per cycle)

Students through art experiences and through the exploration and experimentation in many media will develop creative expression and self-realization of the whole individual. Students are provided art experiences which emphasize: elements of design, production and art history.

MUSIC (meets for 30 days, 6 days per cycle)

The popular music of the American 20th Century is studied in depth. The approach is socio-political with analysis of many pieces of literature. The people creating the music of our culture are emphasized. Musical participation in many forms – singing, playing and listening are stressed. Our “National Anthem” is studied in depth, culminating in a public speaking activity or musical performance project on stage with a microphone.

CIVICS (meets for 30 days, 6 days per cycle)

This is the study of duties, rights and responsibilities of U.S. citizenship. The student is exposed to the various levels of a federal system, the three branches of our government, and the practices used in governing our nation. Included will be a basic U.S. Geography study.

TECHNOLOGY EDUCATION (meets 30 days 6 days per cycle)

This course is designed to introduce students to areas of technology that affect their daily lives. Some of the topics taught in technology education are inventions, how things work, manufacturing, construction, and robotics. Students will participate in lectures, as well as hands-on activities for each of the curriculum topics.

ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE meets 30 days, 6 days per cycle)

During the eighth grade environmental science course, students will cover topics in ecology. Topics covered will include biodiversity, energy, fossil fuels to electricity, global, national, and state level environmental policies, and current issues surrounding the Susquehanna River and Chesapeake Bay.

Students will participate in collaborative activities that include an environmental WebQuest.

CORRECTIVE READING (see Related Arts schedule)

This is a research based reading program designed to promote reading accuracy (decoding), fluency, and comprehension skills of students in third grade or higher who are reading below their grade level. The program has four levels that address students’ decoding skills and six levels that address students’ comprehension skills. All lessons in the program are sequenced and scripted. *Corrective Reading* can be implemented in small groups of four to five students or in a whole-class format

REMEDIAL/SUPPLEMENTAL COURSES

ESL – (meets according to the needs of identified students)

This course is for the non-English speaking student or one who is not yet fluent in English. The student will gain proficiency in speaking, reading, writing, and understanding English.

CORRECTIVE READING (see Related Arts schedule)

PARENT ACTIVITIES

1. All parents are welcome to attend and share ideas at these meetings.
2. Yearly, hundreds of parents meet with their children's team of teachers. Please call the team leader to arrange an appointment during the school year.
3. Feel like volunteering to tutor or provide clerical or other assistance? Contact Daphne Champagne at the District Office for details (657-5100.)
4. STMS has initiated a mentoring program to encourage student engagement and success. Faculty and community volunteer mentors will work with students who are experiencing difficulties transitioning to the middle school, students who need assistance in achieving academic success, or for students who need that extra support of an adult during the school day. Mentors foster supportive relationships with students and work collaboratively to develop a plan for students' academic and social success during the middle school years as well as for the future.
5. Everyone is welcome and encouraged to attend the Principal's Advisory Committee meetings. The committee meets four times during the year. The administration uses the Principal's Advisory Committee to explore ideas for new programs and policy.

MLA DOCUMENTATION OF WORKS CITED

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CITING AN ONLINE DATABASE

(w/printed source or printed

Garner, James. "Fall Foliage." analogue)

Newsweek 12 Nov. 1997, Newsweek Online. Online. Nexis. 10 Dec. 1997.
(1st date: when article went online; 2nd date: when it was accessed)

(no printed source or printed

"Crusades." Academic American analogue) Encyclopedia. Online. Prodigy. 21 Apr. 1998.

CITING A CD-ROM

United States, Dept. of Education. "Learning to Read." 1996. GPO Monographs. CD-ROM. US Printing Office. Dec. 1997.

CITATIONS IN TEXT—MLA STYLE

PARENTHETICAL REFERENCE:

The nutritional energy drink "should have twenty-five vitamins and at least eight of the essential minerals" (LaLane 76).

This reference refers to a quotation from page 76 of a work by LaLane. The reader could find the complete bibliographic data in the alphabetically arranged list of works cited that should be placed following the text of the paper.

- References in text must clearly indicate a specific source in the list of works cited.
 - Be as specific as possible when referring to the page cited.
-

AUTHOR'S NAME IN TEXT:

(specific)

LaLane has noted that a nutritional energy drink should contain eight of the essential minerals (76).

or

(in reference)

It has been noted that a nutritional energy drink should contain eight of the essential minerals (LaLane 76).

- Multiple page citations are inclusive if the reference includes material from all of these pages. Example: (LaLane 76-89)
- If your reference includes material from interrupted sections of text, you should cite them separately since the reader would have a difficult time finding the exact place from which you have taken the information.

*****REMEMBER: IT IS ESSENTIAL THAT YOU ARE ACCURATE.**