

**EAST ROCKFORD MIDDLE SCHOOL
STUDENT HANDBOOK**



2016-2017

**EAST ROCKFORD MIDDLE SCHOOL
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This handbook belongs to:

NAME _____

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DISTRICT MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of the Rockford Public Schools is to provide a safe teaching and learning environment which will ensure, with the support of the students, parents and community, that all students, upon graduation, will have the academic and social skills to be successful life-long learners in a global society.

**ROCKFORD MIDDLE SCHOOLS
MISSION STATEMENT**

We, the Rockford Middle School staffs, believe that all students can learn the basic academics and social skills required to be successful, healthy individuals. Being committed to this belief, we dedicate ourselves to teach students so they may attain their maximum educational potential.

ROCKFORD'S FIGHT SONG

*Smash right through that line of blue;
Watch the points keep growing.
Rockford Rams are bound to win;
They're fighting with a vim.
Rah! Rah! Rah!*

*See their team is weakening;
Victory is now in view.
Fight! Fight! Fight, team fight!
Victory for R.H.S.
..... Fight!
..... Fight!
Up with the colors, the orange and the black.
Fight, Rockford, Fight! Fight!*

<u>MY SCHEDULE</u>	<u>TIME</u>	<u>SUBJECT</u>
1 ST PERIOD	_____	_____
2 ND PERIOD	_____	_____
3 RD PERIOD	_____	_____
4 TH PERIOD	_____	_____
LUNCH	_____	_____
5 TH PERIOD	_____	_____
6 TH PERIOD	_____	_____

NORTH ROCKFORD MIDDLE SCHOOL

DAILY SCHEDULE

2016-2017 SCHOOL YEAR

SCHOOL BEGINS AT 7:40 A.M.

SCHOOL DISMISSES AT 2:30 P.M.

MONDAY, WEDNESDAY, FRIDAY

FIRST HOUR	7:40 - 8:40
SECOND HOUR	8:45 - 9:44
THIRD HOUR	9:49 - 10:48
FOURTH HOUR	10:53 - 12:22
Lunch A	10:48 - 11:18
Fourth Hour A	11:23 - 12:22
Fourth Hour B	10:53 - 11:18
Lunch B	11:18 - 11:48
Four Hour B	11:52 - 12:22
Fourth Hour C	10:53 - 11:52
Lunch C	11:52 - 12:22
FIFTH HOUR	12:27 - 1:26
SIXTH HOUR	1:31 - 2:30

TUESDAY, THURSDAY

INTERVENTION DAILY SCHEDULE

FIRST HOUR	7:40 - 8:34
SECOND HOUR	8:39 - 9:33
<i>INTERVENTION TIME</i>	9:33 - 10:03
THIRD HOUR	10:08 - 11:02
FOURTH HOUR	11:07 - 12:32
Lunch A	11:02 - 11:35
Fourth Hour A	11:37 - 12:32
Fourth Hour B	11:07 - 11:32
Lunch B	11:32 - 12:02
Four Hour B	12:07 - 12:32
Fourth Hour C	11:07 - 12:02
Lunch C	12:02 - 12:32
FIFTH HOUR	12:37 - 1:31
SIXTH HOUR	1:36 - 2:30

Rockford Middle School Calendar 2016-2017

(TENTATIVE SCHEDULE) SUBJECT TO CHANGE

August 29	First Student Day
September 2-5	Labor Day Weekend (No School)
September 27	Late Start for Students at 9:40 a.m.
October 11 & 13	Parent/Teacher Conferences
October 14	Early Dismissal 10:55
November 11	Early Dismissal 10:55
November 23, 24, 25	Thanksgiving Break
December 19 – January 2	Christmas Break
January 3	School Resumes
January 18-20	First Semester Exams
January 25	Late Start - 9:40 a.m.
February 20	Mid-Winter Break
February 28 & March 2	Parent/Teacher Conferences
March 3	Early Dismissal 10:55
March 31-April 7	Spring Break
April 10	School Resumes - Late Start 9:40 a.m.
May 26-29	Memorial Day Weekend (No School)
June 7-9	Second Semester Exams Early Dismissal at 10:55 a.m.

**ROCKFORD MIDDLE SCHOOLS
ROCKFORD, MICHIGAN 49341**

ABSENCE

If a student is absent from school a parent or guardian must call the school, preferably before 10:00 a.m., excusing you from school for that day. If a phone call is not possible, a written excuse is permissible upon your return. If the office has not received a phone call or note within two (2) days of the absence, the student will be unexcused for the day/days absent. This may result in an assignment of an Extended Detention. The note should be written, signed, dated by the parent/guardian and include the dates to be excused. Excused absences will be given for: illness, death in the family, and advanced absence permits. **Students may not attend school activities on days absent from school - unless prior administrative approval is given.** Homework requests can be made on the second consecutive day of absence. This request must be made before 9:00 a.m.

ADVANCED ABSENCE PERMITS

For students that know in advance they will not be in school, advanced absence permits must be picked up in the office and approved by the student's teachers, and then given to the Attendance Secretary. This should be done at least one week prior to the absence. Students are encouraged to complete and turn in all required assignments before leaving school for an extended absence from school. In some instances, this will not be possible; and for each day the student is absent he/she will receive two days to make up work, with a maximum of 10 days. Any assignment turned in after this time will not be accepted.

ATTENDANCE

It is our belief that your child's attendance has a direct impact on his/her success in school. Law in the state of Michigan requires regular and consistent attendance. It is the responsibility of the school officials to report students with excessive absences to the Kent Intermediate School District truant officer. If necessary, a meeting will be held and/or an individual attendance contract for your child will be established. Further non-compliance will result in a report to the truancy officer.

BACKPACKS/ATHLETIC BAGS

Students are NOT allowed to bring backpacks or athletic bags into classrooms. Students are expected to store these items in their lockers. Large backpacks or backpacks with rollers that do not fit into a student locker will not be permitted. For students that repeatedly violate these policies school discipline will be issued.

BICYCLES, SCOOTERS, SKATEBOARDS

Bicycles should be kept in the bike rack at NRMS and should be kept locked. No student will be allowed to use his or her bicycle during the school day. If a student violates this rule he/she will no longer be allowed to ride a bicycle to school. Skateboards, scooters, and mopeds (and bikes at ERMS) or similar types of vehicles are not allowed on school property.

BULLYING

Our policies on bullying directly reflect the policies of Matt's Safe School Law (2012). All students in Rockford Public Schools have the right to be treated with respect by adults and their peers-free from ANY form of bullying or harm, emotionally or physically. Bullying is defined as the repeated intimidation, or emotional abuse of others by the infliction of harm of any kind to the person or property of others whether real or threatened, as transmitted physically, verbally, in writing, or electronically transmitted (often referred to as "cyber bullying") either in or outside of school. Bullying can be, but is not limited to, actions that:

- Are directed at one or more students
- Substantially interfere with educational opportunities, benefits, or programs of one or more students
- Adversely affects the ability of a student to participate in or benefit from the District's education programs or activities by placing the student in reasonable fear of physical harm or by causing emotional distress
- Having an actual and substantial detrimental effect on a pupil's physical or mental health.
- Causing substantial disruption in, or substantial interference with, the orderly operation of the school.

Anyone wanting to report an act of bullying can find a link to the report form on the schools' website under the Announcements and Information section.

Students that do not adhere to our high standards of behavior will have consequences as determined by the principal or assistant principal. (See Board Policy 8260-Bullying)

Rubric for minor mean/ aggressive behavior issues

	First Offense	Second Offense	Third Offense	Fourth Offense
Level I Horseplay <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Play-fighting • Chasing • Grabbing • Tripping • Pushing/Shoving • Name calling • Hood Flipping, Slap Games, etc. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 15 second intervention • Document 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 15 second intervention • Document • Parent contact 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 15 second intervention • Document • Parent contact • Supervised Lunch 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 15 second intervention • Document • Parent contact • After-School Detention
Level II Teasing – Actions that hurt someone emotionally <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Name calling • Insulting remarks • Spreading rumors • Writing mean notes • Playing mean tricks • Planned exclusion Level II behaviors directed at the same individual may fall under harassment or bullying.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 15 second intervention • Document • Parent contact • 1 supervised lunch • Student reflection form or Mutual Respect Agreement 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 15 second intervention • Document • Parent contact • Extended detention • Student reflection form or Mutual Respect Agreement 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 15 second intervention • Document • Parent meeting • 1 day OSS • Behavior contract or Mutual Respect Agreement 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 15 second intervention • Document • Parent meeting • 3 day OSS • Revised Behavior Contract

BUS REGULATIONS

The buses are operated for your convenience and safety. The major consideration in making regulations for those who ride is the safety of all. We want all students to be happy and comfortable while riding. In order to meet these objectives, the following requirements must be observed while riding a bus to and from school, and during any extra-curricular activities:

1. The driver is in complete command of the bus at all times. The driver's orders are to be respected and followed completely at all times. If there is a misunderstanding at any time, the matter should be brought to the attention of the principal.
2. Students living within the Rockford School District may be required to walk not more than one mile to the bus stop.
3. Once routes are established, the buses will always be within five minutes either way of the published pickup time on the route. Students are to be waiting at their assigned places on time. Except in extreme cases, buses will not wait for students.
4. After boarding a bus, the student will not be allowed to get off prior to arrival at school or home, whatever the case may be. A student will be allowed to get off at another place only if the student presents a note signed by the parent and principal. Students are allowed off the bus for events held at other school buildings (sports practice, etc.).
5. No student will be permitted to ride a different bus without a bus note from the school principal. In order to obtain a bus note, the student(s) involved must each bring a note signed by a parent stating the reason the student needs to ride a different bus. **BUS NOTES WILL ONLY BE ALLOWED FOR FAMILY EMERGENCIES.**
6. While awaiting the bus at school, students should wait until the bus comes to a full stop before moving toward it.
7. Board the bus with care, go directly to a seat, sit down, and remain in that seat until it is time to get off.
8. While on the bus:
 - a. Be reasonably quiet
 - b. Do not take other student's property or indulge in hitting or horseplay with other students
 - c. Remain in your seat at all times
 - d. No food or beverages are to be consumed on the bus
9. When you get off the bus and have to cross to the other side of the street, cross in front of the bus. Students crossing the street **MUST** look at the driver/crossing paddle and in both directions of the road before proceeding across the road.
10. Students who persist in breaking any of these rules, or who make themselves general nuisances endangering people's lives by distracting the driver, will be refused the privilege of riding the bus. Such cases will be handled through the principal's office.
11. Make your bus the best one in the fleet by cooperating with the driver and being thoughtful and courteous to other students.

Student Conduct Report (follow School Board Policy)

- 1st Notice: Warning- student may receive an assigned seat for five days
- 2nd Notice: Student may be suspended from the bus for five days
- 3rd Notice: Student may be suspended from the bus for ten days
- 4th Notice: Student may be suspended from the bus for 30 days

Any further incidents resulting in a bus conduct report may result in a suspension of bus riding privileges for the remainder of the school year.

CUMULATIVE RECORDS

Permanent record folders are kept on each student who attends Rockford Public Schools. The files contain subjects taken and the grades received; attendance records; health records; record of the various schools attended; birth record; and any other pertinent information. Students should note that employers, colleges and others demand the information kept in these files for the acceptance of the student for a job or for admission to colleges and universities.

DISCIPLINE

The discipline of Rockford middle schools is designed to motivate students to make better choices and decisions in the future. If it becomes apparent that one mode of discipline is not effective, alternative plans may be implemented. The first step is teacher contact with the parents involving behaviors of a minor problem. Major discipline problems will be dealt with immediately and contact with parents made after the fact (i.e. smoking, fighting, disrespectful conduct, etc.). Our discipline philosophy is based on three general goals for the building. They are:

- To provide an effective learning environment for all students at Rockford Middle Schools
- To provide our students with a safe learning environment
- To have students show respect for school property, student property and all people at Rockford Middle Schools

Discipline procedures to be used range from parent contact and student/teacher discussions to assignment of lunch detention, after-school detention, extended detentions, and in school and/or out-of-school suspension.

It is important that parents, staff and students work together to maintain a positive, educational atmosphere. Our goal is that each student learns to be responsible for his or her own actions. Every student and staff member has a right to personal safety and freedom to learn. With regard to discipline procedures, consistency for both administration and staff is held as a high priority.

With changing trends in fads and items available on the market, it would be impossible for the administration of this school to list every potential problem that could surface at the school. In cases that for some reason are not listed in the discipline code where behavior is disruptive to the normal school day or endangers the health, safety and welfare of students, please be assured that discipline will be reasonable and just to correct the behavior. There are six (6) basic disciplinary actions available to teachers and administrators, which are listed below with a brief explanation of each. Should the staff decide to make changes, with board approval, parents and students will be notified.

DEMERIT: Behavioral demerits will be given to any 6th grade student who violates minor classroom or school rules. Students who receive three (3) demerits and every third demerit thereafter will be issued a before or after school detention. Demerits accumulate for a nine-week period. Demerit examples: chewing gum, eating candy, cough drops, etc. without permission, locker misconduct, classroom misconduct, cafeteria misconduct, inappropriate hallway behavior, etc.

LEVEL ONE DETENTION: A 30-minute detention may be assigned to any student who fails to comply with school rules. Students are expected to act in a respectful manner. Reporting late to detention, missed detentions or failure to follow the detention rules will result in assignment of a day of in-school or an alternative consequence determined by the administrator.

LEVEL TWO (EXTENDED) DETENTION: Extended Detentions run from 2:35-5:00 p.m. The extended detention will be assigned to students for improper behavior, which warrants this type of disciplinary action or for repeated minor offenses. A student may earn a maximum of two Extended Detentions per nine-week period. Additional violations of school rules **will result in an Out-of-School Suspension**. When a student is assigned an Extended Detention, he/she will report to the assigned detention at 2:35 p.m. and will be required to study until 5:00 p.m. Missing an Extended Detention or arriving late will result in an Out-of-School Suspension.

SNAP SUSPENSION: In accordance with State law and Rockford Board of Education policy, Snap Suspensions may be issued by Rockford Public School teachers in accordance with the following definitions, policies, and procedures. A teacher is authorized to immediately remove and suspend a student from a class, subject, or activity for up to one day for violation of the following inappropriate behaviors as defined by the student discipline code of conduct: 1) harassment and/or sexual harassment; 2) profanity/obscenity; 3) insubordination/insolence; 4) gross misbehavior. Note: All other violations of school policy should be referred to school administration. The following outlines the snap suspension procedure:

1. The teacher must inform the administration of the suspension before the end of the class, subject, or activity.
2. The teacher must send the student being suspended to the office as soon as the student is removed from the class.
3. The teacher will contact the parent/guardian of the student by phone by the end of the day, or in writing within two school days, and may request that the parent/guardian attend a conference to discuss the student's inappropriate behavior. An administrator will be present at the conference if requested. The school counselor, psychologist, or social worker shall also attend this meeting if requested by the parent/guardian or school.
4. The student shall not be returned to the classroom that day unless the teacher and administrator agree that it is appropriate.
5. The teacher will maintain written documentation of the Snap Suspension and place a copy in the student's discipline file.

OUT-OF-SCHOOL SUSPENSION: Out-of-School Suspensions will result for serious misconduct and/or as part of the progressive disciplinary action to help students modify unacceptable behavior(s) when it appears other measures are ineffective. Exclusion from school related activities will occur until student returns from suspension. Homework will be made available.

Automatic In-School Suspension and/or Out-of-School Suspensions are the possible consequences for the following situations: possession of fireworks, possession of, use of and /or sale of drugs, alcohol, tobacco, aggressive behavior, gross misbehavior. These items are listed as examples and do not include every situation in which a suspension may be issued.

In School and Out-of School Suspensions will only be assigned by the principal and assistant principal and may be from one to ten days in duration. Regardless of the length of suspension, all homework must be made up within two days after returning to class. The principal, in extenuating circumstances, may grant more than two days. Student will receive credit for work that is completed.

In cases where suspensions do not change a student's behavior, a recommendation for expulsion from school will be filed with the Superintendent of Schools for presentation to the Board of Education. Students participating in athletics, band, choir, or after school activities will be prohibited from participating/practice until the suspension is served and the student returns to school. In order to provide the best educational environment for students at Rockford Middle Schools, good discipline is essential. Mutual respect between students and school staff is important.

Appeal Procedure

Students receiving a suspension may appeal in writing to the building principal within 24 hours regarding the suspension. A summary of the hearing and action taken will be provided in writing to the student.

Expulsion Procedure

Students who are guilty of continued serious misconduct according to Board Policy may be recommended to the Board of Education for expulsion from all schools in the District, according to the following conditions:

1. The principal of the school with his/her staff shall exhaust all means of bringing about a correction in the misconduct and shall have brought the case before the Superintendent or the Superintendent's delegate.
2. Juvenile authorities and law enforcement agencies shall have been consulted if they are involved.
3. Parents shall have been consulted freely and all possible support from them shall have been secured.
4. The assistant principal, or his/her delegate, shall suspend the student until the time of the next Board meeting, at which time the student's name will be presented to the Superintendent and hence to the Board of Education with a recommendation.
5. The Board of Education will arrange for a review of the case at a closed session with the parents and the principal, and other parties involved and expulsion will be determined by the Board of Education.
6. A complete written record of each case is to be kept and submitted to the Board of Education 48 hours in advance of the Board of Education meeting when this hearing will be held.
7. Expulsion means that the student's relationship with the Rockford Public Schools is terminated. This includes access to school property and school-related events

Reinstatement of the Student - Request

1. Reinstatement following the expulsion can only be granted formally by the Rockford Board of Education, if a formal application for reinstatement is submitted. Requests for reinstatement must be directed to the Assistant Superintendent of Instruction.
2. A reinstatement hearing will be held within 10 school days after receiving the formal application for reinstatement.
3. The Board of Education, after hearing from the parent, student and administrator, will reach a decision whether to reinstate the student or reject reinstatement.
4. Once a decision is made by the Board of Education, the process is complete. If the decision was made to reinstate the student, the administrator will decide on proper placement, educational program and possible behavior plan.

DIVERSITY

The Rockford Public School District fosters respect and understanding among all cultures and individuals who learn and work in our school community. We are committed to a philosophy that draws strength from our differences and builds on our similarities in order to:

- Create a positive learning environment free of bigotry and prejudice in which all students can learn free of intimidation, harassment, or prejudice directed at them or others.
- Empower all people to reach their full potential.
- Promote respect and dignity toward all persons.
- Prepare students to function effectively in a multiethnic and multicultural society.
- Everyone in the Rockford Public School District has a right to feel respected, safe, and valued.

DRESS CODE

Students are expected to dress neatly and modestly at all times. The dress code is not an issue of morality or decency, but a policy to promote a safe and orderly learning environment. Students are to reflect a positive, businesslike, learning environment. Students who are not in compliance, and are wearing attire that could possibly cause disruption, must immediately correct the problem (change into something appropriate) or they will be sent home. Parents will be called to provide proper attire if the student is unable to find proper clothing at school. Students who are uncooperative or repeatedly violate the dress code policy are subject to disciplinary action under the Student Code of Conduct.

Inappropriate clothing for school includes, but is not limited to:

- Halter tops
- Tank tops or dresses
- Any top or dress must have material covering the area from the base of the neck to the tip of the shoulder
- Leggings that are deemed too light/ see through
- Clothing with spaghetti straps
- Clothing that exposes the midriff
- Clothing with holes
- Short shorts (inseams must be a minimum four inches)
- Pajamas
- Hats or head coverings
- Spiked jewelry
- Chains (unless functionally attached to a wallet)
- Clothing that promotes tobacco, alcohol, or drugs
- Clothing that depicts violence, hatred, racism, Satanism, sexually suggestive messages, or is gang- related
- Short skirts (mid-thigh as worn)
- Sagging pants

Since it is difficult to predict in advance what the inappropriate dress will be, guidelines will be communicated to students at various times throughout the school year if necessary. Students will be asked to change if an item is deemed inappropriate by a staff member. Also, state law requires that footwear be worn at all times.

ELECTRONIC DEVICES

Rockford Public Schools is not responsible for electronic devices that are brought to school. Students are encouraged to keep these devices at home. Personal electronic devices can enhance the educational experience for our students. However, it can also be detrimental to the learning environment. As a school district, we need to address and embrace the opportunities that these devices bring, which is anywhere/anytime learning, but also safeguard the learning environment. In summary, all students and staff are encouraged to use electronic devices for educational purposes in a safe and reasonable manner.

Guidelines for Student Usage

1. All electronic devices, including cell phones, smart phones, table PC's, mobile presenters, wireless tablets, digital recorders, iPods, MP3 players, texting calculators, video/audio devices, digital cameras or laptops, are not to be used during class unless the teacher authorizes their usage for a class related purpose
 - In particular, cell phones are to be turned off (not in the vibrate mode) and are not to be used during class time.
 - If the teacher gives permission for the use of a personal computer and/or digital recorder for note-taking that is the sole purpose to which these devices should be used.
 - Personal devices may be subject to search.
 - Examples of appropriate instructional use include, but are not limited to, accessing on-line text books, viewing Student Access and use of calendar planner for academic organizations.
2. The use of any electronic device during testing or exams, other than those sanctioned by the teacher in charge of the testing, is strictly prohibited. During the testing session electronic devices are to be stored in a case, book bag, or purse, and may not be in the possession of the student during testing.
3. At no time may electronic devices be used in restrooms or locker rooms.
4. Students may access the internet, utilizing their own data plans (non-district portals) during class for only teacher-authorized, class-related purposes.
5. Students with disabilities or exceptional needs, who require electronic devices for their day-to-day functioning in the classroom, are to coordinate the use of electronics with their teacher, counselor, administrator, and parent.
6. Any activity related to compromising the integrity of the district network will result in disciplinary actions.
7. Students may use electronic devices (not attached to the district's network) during the following time periods:
 - Grades 9-12 - Students may use electronic devices before school, afterschool, during breaks or when directed to do so by the teacher.
 - Grades 6-8 - Students may use electronic devices before school, after school, or when directed to do so by the teacher. **Electronic devices must be locked in the student's locker from 7:40-2:30 unless specifically requested by a teacher for educational purposes. Parents may call the school to get messages to their student.**
8. Inappropriate use of electronic devices can carry over into the other portions of the student code of conduct, such as harassment, threatening statements, etc. as a result, the code of conduct for each of these areas will be enforced.

Rockford Public Schools is not responsible for electronic devices that are brought to school. Students are encouraged to keep these devices locked in a locker when not in use.

EMERGENCY PROCEDURES

Code Red

Code Red is our procedure for a coordinated response to a potentially life-threatening situation in one of our buildings. When students hear the announcement of Code Red, they are to follow the directions of the staff. If a student is out in the hall, he/she should go to the nearest classroom. Students in the restrooms should remain there until given directions. The Code Red procedure will be practiced at least once each school year.

Fire Drills

When the fire alarm is activated, students will follow the direction of the staff. They will move as quickly as possible out of the building and remain together as a class. Teachers will instruct students to the safest exit route. Staff will close classroom doors and turn out lights after everyone has exited the classroom. Teachers will remain with their class. Once outside, teachers are to take roll and advise administration or security if any students are missing. Once the all-clear is given, return to classroom.

Tornado Instructions

If there is a "Tornado Watch" or "Warning", students will be sheltered at school in designated areas as posted throughout the building.

FERPA/DIRECTORY INFORMATION

The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (20 U.S.C. § 1232g; 34 CFR Part 99) is a Federal law that gives parents the right to have access to their children's educational records, the right to seek to have the records amended, and the right to have some control over the disclosure of information from the records. FERPA defines "education records" as "those records, files, documents, and other materials which:

- Contain information directly related to a student; and
- Are maintained by an educational agency or institution or by a person acting for such agency or institution.

The term "education records" does not include student work that is created, used, or kept in the classroom and does not become part of the student's institutional record.

FERPA prohibits the release of educational record to a third party without parental or eligible student consent, except when it comes to student directories. A student directory generally includes the student's name and address (we have chosen not to include items such as phone number, date and place of birth, field of study, participation in officially recognized activities and sports, and other personal information). Photographers for senior pictures, school class ring companies for freshman students, and other vendors such as this may request student directory information. By law, we must inform parents that we will be giving the information stated above (name and address) to vendors, if requested, on a limited basis. By law, parents have the option of "not participating" in the student directory information. If you do not want your son/daughter's name included in the Rockford School student directory, please indicate by putting such in writing and return to the school's front office. If you have any questions or would like additional information, please feel free to contact the school's administration.

GRADES

Philosophy: It is important for students to do the best they possibly can. The grade you earn in a given subject is not the most important thing, what you learn is what really counts. If you do the very best you are capable of doing in each of your subjects, you are likely to receive at least a passing grade. If you are at risk of failing a class, a teacher will consult with you and, when possible, with your parents. It is our business to help you succeed. If you fail, we fail also. Not all students can earn high grades in all subjects, but everyone can do his/her best.

Grading System: Every nine weeks each student in grades 6-8 receives a letter grade in each course. These grades or marks are given so that the student, parents and teachers know where the student stands. This grade is the evaluation of the student's performance for the nine-week period. A final grade is given at the end of each semester. This grade is entered on the student's cumulative record and is available to high schools and other institutions of learning to assist them in determining the merits of the student for entrance to their course of study.

GRADING SCALE	
Grade	GPA
A	4.0
A-	3.7
B+	3.3
B	3.0
B-	2.7
C+	2.3
C	2.0
C-	1.7
D+	1.3
D	1.0
D-	0.7
E	0.0

Note: While a student may receive an A+, it counts as a 4.0 GPA.

GUIDANCE

The Rockford Middle Schools have two full-time guidance counselors to assist students with individual problems in terms of physical, educational, social, emotional and moral needs. Daily or weekly progress reports may be utilized through our counseling office on a needs basis or through parental request.

HOMEWORK POLICY

We believe that homework is an integral part of the educational process that reinforces and enhances learning. Teachers, students and parents need to cooperate to make homework a valuable experience. The following guidelines will help make learning more successful.

Homework for most classes can be found at: Student Access and/or Family Access @ www.rockfordschools.org.

Teacher Responsibilities

1. Provide the students and parents with a written communication of the teacher's policies on homework, including how homework affects the final grade.
2. Assign homework that enhances learning.
3. Demonstrate study skills applicable to the class.
4. Provide opportunity for students to receive feedback on homework.

Student Responsibilities

1. Complete homework as assigned.
2. Complete own work utilizing necessary resources.
3. Manage time to complete work.
4. Understand what their assignment is. (Ask questions!)
5. Have necessary materials to complete homework.

Parent Responsibility

1. Establish homework as a family priority.
2. Provide a quiet study place in the home.
3. Help the child to schedule a regular study session.
4. Provide assistance and encouragement.
5. Monitor homework performance and insure completion of daily assignment.
6. Notify the teacher if persistent problems or difficulties are noticed during study times at home.

Homework Definition

1. Teachers are reminded that homework is not busywork. Homework is that activity which is assigned to be done at home to reinforce and/or extend learning.
2. Homework is that work assigned but not completed during the allotted school time. This work usually is expected to be completed at home and returned the day following its assignment or when it is due.
3. Reinforcement work specifically assigned for completion at home.
4. Special projects and reports which require added efforts at home.
5. Study required in preparation for tests and/or class work.
6. Independent reading.
7. Read aloud activity for elementary students.

Purposes of Homework

1. Extend classroom learning.
2. Provide reinforcement for in-school learning.
3. Assist students in developing study skills
4. Encourage student self-discipline.
5. Provide a link between school and home.
6. Provide opportunity for the teacher to check student mastery of materials.

Homework Guidelines

Grade Level Time Suggested

7 and 8 60 - 80 minutes per night

9 - 12 75 - 120 minutes per night

The above figures are approximations. These figures may vary according to an individual student's test schedules, reports due, etc.

Incomplete Assignments: Teachers are expected to provide a written policy statement to all parents at the beginning of each school year, which outlines procedures, expectations, and policies for missing, incomplete, or unacceptable homework.

HONOR ROLL

In order to be eligible for the “Principal’s Honor Roll”, a student must have a 3.6 GPA or better. Students receiving a 3.3 to 3.59 GPA will be on the “Honor Roll”.

INCOMPLETE ASSIGNMENTS

Teachers are expected to provide a written policy statement to all parents at the beginning of each school year, which outlines procedures, expectations, and policies for missing, incomplete or unacceptable homework.

LIBRARY/MEDIA CENTER

Students may have up to five (5) materials checked out from the Media Center at any one time. Books are checked out for a period of three (3) weeks; magazines for overnight only; and reference books for the school day. Fines are charged on overdue material at the rate of \$.05 each per school day. Books/magazines that are lost must be paid for at the purchase price. Students will be notified weekly of overdue fines/books. Students who have two (2) or more overdue materials will need to return or pay for those materials before they may check out other items. Fines of \$1.00 or more also need to be paid prior to checking out further materials.

LOCKERS

Students will be assigned a locker for their use at the beginning of each school year. Students will be responsible for the contents of the locker and its upkeep. Students are advised that the lockers are owned by the school and are assigned on a temporary basis. The building administration, therefore, reserves the right to inspect the contents of any locker at any time when, in the opinion of the school official, he/she is acting to protect the health, safety, and welfare of the school community, to enforce school rules, and/or there is a reasonable suspicion that the search will produce evidence of a violation of school rules relating to the health, safety, or welfare of the student body or staff. In the event of such an inspection, every effort will be made to have the student present when the inspection takes place. Students **MAY NOT** change or use lockers from those originally assigned without permission from an administrator.

LUNCH/ BREAKFAST PROGRAM

The school food service program provides a planned, well-balanced menu featuring a main dish and ala carte items daily. All of the serving lines are computerized and a debt account can be set up for each student and money deposited in this account any time during the three lunch periods. Students will be able to use this money for food items only and any refund of money in accounts will be sent by check upon request of the parent/guardian. Students must remain in the cafeteria or other designated areas. Students are not to be in the academic or athletic wing during lunch periods. All food or beverages must be consumed in the cafeteria area. Students are expected to clean up after themselves.

MEDICATION PROCEDURES

- Students may not possess medications in school, except in the case of emergency, such as inhalers or epi-pens.
- Parents must submit a medication permission form to the nurse’s office.
- No medications will be administered to a student without written permission from the parent/guardian.
- All medications must be brought to and from school by the parent/guardian.
- All medications must be in the original container and the label must include the student’s name, doctor, medication, and dosage.
- Any changes in the type of drug, dosage, or time of administration should be accompanied by a new physician and parent permission signature.
- All medication must be stored in the nurse’s office.
- In cases where a deviation is necessary (inhaler, epi-pen), arrangements and procedures will be coordinated by the school principal in consultation with the school nurse.
- Unused medications must be claimed by the parents at the end of the school year, or they will be discarded.
- Secondary students participating in after school or away events may self-administer *non-prescription* medication provided all rules/regulations for After School Hours/Out of District are followed, including:
 - Prior written permission from the parent and administrator is obtained;
 - Prior approval must be obtained from coach/advisor/athletic administrator. Permission forms are available in the athletic department or from school advisor.

MONEY AND VALUABLE ARTICLES

Rockford Middle Schools are not responsible for items not locked up. Use lockers in hall or PE locker rooms to protect all valuables. Rockford Public Schools encourages students to not bring valuable to school. Please do not bring large amounts of money to school. All valuable articles should be in possession of the owner at all times. The school cannot accept responsibility for stolen money or other articles, including iPods, MP3 players, cell phones, etc.

NATIONAL JUNIOR HONOR SOCIETY

Any seventh or eighth grade student with a cumulative GPA of 3.7 or higher is invited to join the National Junior Honor Society each spring. Membership requires that you maintain a GPA of 3.7 or higher as well as perform a minimum of two hour of community service each semester.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

(Effective the 2013-14 school year)

All students will have an opportunity to recite the Pledge of Allegiance to the United States flag each day. Flags will be erected or displayed in each classroom or instructional site at which students recite the Pledge of Allegiance.

PROGRESS REPORTS

The purpose of the progress report is to communicate student performance. Parents/students have the ability to view current grades at all times throughout a trimester using Family Access.

PROMOTION/RETENTION POLICY

The staff at Rockford Middle Schools believes that each student must and will have the skills to be a successful life-long learner. Therefore, to qualify for promotion, each student in grades 6-8 must earn the necessary credits per year to pass on to the next grade. Retention will occur only after steps for intervention have been implemented and have not been successful. Each class will be assigned one credit for each nine-week marking period. Students would then earn 4 credits for a yearlong class and 2 credits for a semester class, giving them 24 credits for each year. A student must earn 20 credits per year to pass onto the next grade. In order to receive credit for a course, students must pass their classes with a D- or better. They will have the opportunity to make up failed classes in summer school and receive credit for successfully completing those classes. If a failed class in 7th grade cannot be made up in summer school, failed classes may be substituted for electives in their 8th grade year. In the 8th grade, if failed classes cannot be made up in summer school, that student will be retained.

In grades 6, 7, and 8, students will be considered for retention if:

- They don't receive at least 20 credits.
- They are achieving significantly below ability and grade level.
- Retention wouldn't cause an undue social and emotional adjustment.
- Retention would have a chance of benefiting the child's long-range educational interest.

The decision for promotion or retention will rest with the building principal. A letter recommending retention, signed by the parents and principal, either approving or denying the request for retention would be placed in the student's file.

Parents may appeal the decision of the building principal to 1) the assistant superintendent for instruction, 2) the Superintendent, 3) the Board of Education.

REFERRAL AGENCIES

For all ages, all needs (mental health, food, etc.):

United Way Quick Referral 2-1-1

Family Resource Guide – Kent County Area www.familyresourceguide.info

Hotlines – For Kids Who Need Help

National Hope-line Network 800-784-2433

U.S. Department of Health & Human Services,

Substance Abuse Services Administration 800-662-4357

Poison Control Centers 800-222-1222

National Runaway Switchboard 800-786-2929

National Eating Disorders Association 800-931-2237

Pax Real Solutions to Gun Violence 866-773-2587

Girls & Boys Town National Hotline 800-448-3000

Covenant House Nineline 800-999-9999

General

Network 180 616-336-3909

United Way First Call for Help 616-459-2255

Runaway

Bridge for Homeless Youth Services 616-451-3001

17th Circuit Court/Crisis Intervention Program 616-632-5861

RAP Line (Runaway Assistance Program) 1-800-292-4517

Mental Health

Network 180 616-336-3909

Child and Family Resource Council

Child & Resource Council 616-454-4673

Kent County Department of Protective Services 616-247-6300

Services for Children and Families

- Arbor Circle 616-456-7775
- Bethany Christian Services 616-224-7610
- Child & Family Resource Council www.childresource.cc
- DA Blodgett Services 616-451-2021
- Family Outreach Center 616-247-3815
- Life Guidance Services – lifeguidanceservices.org..... 616-954-1991
- Wedgewood Youth & Family Services 616-942-2110

Substance Abuse

- Al Anon, Ala-Teen 616-257-8089
- Pine Rest 616-242-6400
- Project Rehab: Dakotah/Shilo Treatment Center 616-776-0891
- St. John’s Home 616-361-9564

Suicide Prevention

- Network 180 616-336-3909
- Forest View Hospital 616-942-9610
- Pine Rest Crisis Unit... .. 616-455-9200

SALES AND SOLICITATIONS

All sales and solicitations within the school or school grounds by individuals or groups must have the approval of an administrator. All school club or group fundraisers must have previously completed the fund raising request form and received administration approval. A student may not sell any item(s) to school personnel or another student for individual profit.

SCHOOL SPONSORED ACTIVITIES

Activities sponsored by the school are an opportunity for students to grow into courteous and well-mannered young adults. This includes after school events, roller-skating parties or any other school sponsored activities. The following regulations apply to all students that attend these activities and are designed with the safety of each student in mind. School I.D. will be required.

1. After school activities are generally two hours in length and will be at the end of the school day. (2:30 - 4:30 p.m.)
2. All activities will be chaperoned by teachers and parents. The organization sponsoring the activity will be responsible for obtaining the necessary chaperones.
3. Students attending school-sponsored activities will be required to stay in the building and will not be allowed to leave early. Parents should arrive on time and request their child from the door. Students that do not adhere to designated pick-up times can be placed on social probation. Parents are encouraged to attend as guests or to come early and observe.
4. Only Rockford Middle Schools’ students will be permitted to attend.
5. Dress will be appropriate school clothing.
6. Any student who does not obey these rules will be removed from the activity, their parents will be notified and the students will be put on social probation for an appropriate period of time, meaning the student will not be allowed to attend any school sponsored activities during that time.
7. Students will be prohibited from attending school-sponsored activities while on a suspension and/or until they have served his/her assigned extended detentions. A student’s suspension is completed once they return to school.

SCHOOL TRIPS/SIXTH GRADE CAMP

When school sponsored trips or activities are scheduled students may be denied the opportunity to attend if their social behavior has been disruptive. Sixth grade camp is viewed as an optional extension of the regular Rockford Public Schools curriculum and is made available to all students that have exhibited responsible behavior as Rockford Middle School students.

Students with two suspensions (in or out) during the school year will face a review of their records to determine if they should be permitted to attend the camp or trips, if such an event is scheduled. All students with three or more suspensions will not be allowed to attend the class trip. The experience will also be denied to any student who consistently fails to exhibit responsible behavior as a Rockford Middle School student.

Certain unacceptable behaviors may result in automatic denial of the activity. These unacceptable behaviors include but are not limited to: arson, possession of weapons, alcohol and drug possession or use, assault of school personnel and/or other students, serious acts of aggressive behaviors, gross acts of indecency and/or obscenity, serious acts of insubordination and/or insolence, and excessive disciplinary actions for disrespectful or irresponsible behavior.

SEXUAL HARASSMENT POLICY

Policy Statement

The Rockford Public Schools' sexual harassment policy prohibits sexual harassment of students and staff. Sexual harassment of students disrupts the educational process and interferes with the District's commitment to provide a stable learning environment to its students. All students are expected to conduct themselves with respect for the dignity of others. The Rockford Public Schools, because of its desire to prevent and prohibit sexual harassment of its students and staff, adopts this policy to give notice that sexual harassment of students and staff is wrong and will not be tolerated by the District.

Definition of Sexual Harassment

Sexual harassment includes, but is not limited to, any unwelcome or unwanted sexual advances, requests for sexual favors, or other verbal, written, or physical conduct of a sexual nature that is unwanted by, or unwelcome to, the student, and/or has the purpose or effect of substantially interfering with a student's educational environment. Such conduct or communications may be illegal and will subject the harassing student to appropriate corrective action, including discipline, when such conduct or communication has the purpose or effect of substantially interfering with the other student's education or creates an intimidating, hostile, or offensive educational environment. Sexual harassment of students may take many forms. Examples of conduct prohibited by this policy include, but are not limited to, the following:

1. Verbal harassment or abuse of a sexual nature.
2. Pressure for sexual activity.
3. Repeated remarks with sexual or demeaning implication to students.
4. Unwelcome touching of a sexual nature.
5. Suggestions or demands of sexual involvement that are accompanied by implicit or explicit threats.
6. Sexual name calling, gestures, jokes, and spreading sexual rumors about students.

Reports of Sexual Harassment

The District encourages any student who believes he/she has been subjected to sexual harassment to report his/her concerns directly to any building principal or counselor (they will also explain the complaint procedure). Complaints or reports of sexual harassment shall be handled as confidentially as possible. However, in certain circumstances, the District may be required by the Child Protection Law to report child sexual abuse to the Department of Social Services or other designated law enforcement agency. All reports or complaints of sexual harassment will be promptly investigated by appropriate District representatives. Any student who violates this policy will be subject to appropriate corrective action, including suspension or expulsion. The District prohibits retaliation against students who file or make such complaints. Filing of a complaint or otherwise reporting sexual harassment will not reflect upon an individual's status, nor will it affect a student's grades or work assignments. However, the District will take appropriate action if it finds that a student has deliberately filed a false complaint.

SILENT OBSERVER/OK2SAY INFORMATION

Goals

The goals of these programs is to make the environment in the Middle and High Schools safer by providing an avenue to anonymously report the presence of dangerous weapons, drugs, major thefts, and damage of property within or upon school property; and to give students the opportunity to empower themselves by stopping crime from occurring.

Reporting Procedure

Parties reporting information are to utilize either OK2SAY or Silent Observer at the number below. The caller is to provide the necessary information to OK2SAY or Silent Observer staff.

- OK2SAY – text 65279 – migov/ok2say
- SILENT OBSERVER - 616.773.2345 – silentobserver.com

All tips will be investigated by school and/or police. As a caller or tipster you may never know the outcome of the investigations.

STUDENT ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

A K-12 Student Assistance Program, based within the school, provides a means for schools to continue quality education in the classroom while providing a mechanism for addressing high-risk behaviors in youth that interfere with their academic and/or social development. The objective of such a program is to assist, identify, refer, and follow-up with students experiencing, or at high risk for, problems, depression, suicide, incest, family violence, family problems, or health-related issues. The Program links school systems with local networks or community agencies and resources in providing appropriate assistance to students. If in need of these services, contact your counselor.

Action Steps for Students

There is much students can do to help create safe schools. Talk to your teachers, parents, and counselors to find out how you can get involved and do your part to make your school safe. Here are some ideas that students have tried:

- Listen to your friends if they share troubling feelings or thoughts. Encourage them to get help from a trusted adult, such as a school psychologist, counselor, social worker, leader from the faith community, or other professional. If you are very concerned, seek help for them. Share your concerns with your parents.
- Work with local businesses and community groups to organize youth-oriented activities that help young people think of ways to prevent school and community violence. Share your ideas for how these community groups and businesses can support your efforts.
- Participate in violence prevention programs such as peer mediation and conflict resolution. Employ your new skills in other settings, such as the home, neighborhood, and community.
- Work with your teachers and administrators to create a safe process for reporting threats, intimidation, weapon possession, drug selling, gang activity, graffiti, and vandalism. Use the process.
- Help to develop and participate in activities that promote student understanding of differences and that respect the rights of all.
- Volunteer to be a mentor for younger students and/or provide tutoring to your peers.
- Know your school's code of conduct and model responsible behavior. Avoid being part of a crowd when fights break out. Refrain from teasing, bullying, and intimidating peers.
- Be a role model - take personal responsibility by reacting to anger without physically or verbally harming others.
- Seek help from your parents or a trusted adult, such as a school psychologist, social worker, counselor, or teacher if you are experiencing intense feelings of anger, fear, anxiety, or depression.

Tips for Parents

Parents can help create safe schools. Here are some ideas that parents have tried:

- Discuss the school's discipline policy with your child. Show your support for the rules and help your child understand the reasons for them.
- Involve your child in setting rules for appropriate behavior at home.
- Talk with your child about the violence he/she sees on television, in video games, and possibly in the neighborhood. Help your child understand the consequences of violence.
- Teach your child how to solve problems. Praise your child when he/she follows through.
- Help your child find ways to show anger that do not involve verbally or physically hurting others. When you get angry, use it as an opportunity to model these appropriate responses for your child and talk about it.
- Help your child understand the value of accepting individual differences.
- Note any disturbing behaviors in your child. For example, frequent angry outbursts, excessive fighting and bullying of other children, cruelty to animals, setting fires, frequent behavior problems at school and in the neighborhood, lack of friends, and alcohol or drug use can be signs of serious problems. Get help for your child. Talk with a trusted professional in your child's school or in the community.
- Keep lines of communication open with your child, even when it is tough. Encourage your child to always let you know where and with whom he/she will be. Get to know your child's friends.
- Listen to your child if he/she shares concerns about friends who may be exhibiting troubling behaviors. Share this information with a trusted professional, such as the school psychologist, principal, or teacher.
- Be involved in your child's school life by supporting and reviewing homework, talking with his/her teacher(s), and attending school functions such as parent conferences, class programs, open houses, and PTA meetings.
- Work with your child's school to make it more responsive to all students and to all families. Share your ideas about how the school can encourage family involvement, welcome all families, and include them in meaningful ways in their children's education.
- Encourage your school to offer before-and-after school programs.
- Volunteer to work with school-based groups concerned with violence prevention. If none exist, offer to form one.
- Find out if there is a violence prevention group in your community. Offer to participate in the group's activities.
- Talk with the parents of your child's friends. Discuss how you can form a team to ensure your children's safety.
- Find out if your employer offers provisions for parents to participate in school activities.

STUDENT IDENTIFICATION

Rockford Middle Schools' students will be issued a photo identification card at Orientation. This card is required for media center, cafeteria, and school activities. Rockford Middle School students will be required to provide proof of their ID when asked.

TARDINESS

All students with excused, pre-arranged (doctor, dental, etc.) tardies to school must report to the attendance office upon arrival at school. **Excused calls must be received before student's arrival at school.** All students arriving after 8:00 A.M. must report to the attendance office.

Tardy Policy

1. Students will be allowed **two free tardies for each class** each trimester. Teachers will record tardies and keep track of accumulated tardies.
2. On the **third tardy**, the teacher will contact the student's parents and assign a 30-minute after-school detention to be served with the teacher.
3. The **fourth, fifth, sixth, and all successive tardies** will result in an after-school detention assigned by the principal. A behavior referral will be completed by the teacher.
4. On the **seventh tardy**, the principal will schedule a meeting with the student, the student's parent and the student's teacher. The student will not be allowed to return to class until this meeting takes place.
5. On the **eighth tardy**, the student's driving privileges on school grounds will be revoked for the rest of the trimester.

The following is a partial list of what are considered unexcused tardies:

- Oversleeping or the alarm not going off.
- Missing the bus.
- Car problems of any kind. A bus is provided for your transportation. If you choose to drive or ride with someone else, be prepared to be unexcused for vehicle breakdowns.
- Bad road conditions, unless the administration excuses you. Again, if you choose to drive yourself or ride with someone else, give yourself enough time to arrive to school on time and safely.
- Riding with another student who forgets to pick you up. It is your responsibility to get to school on time, not someone else's.

Tardiness Between Classes

If a teacher has detained you and made you tardy to your next class, that teacher will give you a slip that will admit you to the class without penalty. If, however, you are tardy for any other reason, you must account to the teacher to whose class you are tardy, and that teacher will admit you or penalize you as the case may warrant. **No tardy slip will be issued by the office in these cases.** Teachers may assign detention for students who are tardy to class, per the schedule above.

Continual tardiness to class may result in a behavior referral to the assistant principal and an after-school suspension being assigned.

TECHNOLOGY USE

District Policy

The network is provided for students to research and communicate with others. Access to the network is given to students who agree to act in a considerate and responsible manner. Users of the Rockford Public School Network are responsible for their behavior and communications over those networks. It is presumed that users will comply with district standards. Network storage areas may be treated in a similar fashion to school lockers. Network administrators may review files and communications to maintain system integrity and ensure users are using the system responsibly. Users should not expect that files stored on district servers would always be private. Here are some guidelines to keep in mind when students use the district's network:

- Use of the network is only for the purpose of education and research.
- The district will not be responsible for any damages the student may experience such as: delays and interruptions, non-delivery of files/documents or loss of data that is caused by the student's errors or omissions or otherwise.
- The district has a filtering program available through the network. Though the district will make efforts to block inappropriate material, students may be exposed to inaccurate or offensive material. The district makes continuous efforts to block student access to inappropriate material but even the best filtering software cannot guarantee total blockage.
- The student knows that the network belongs to the district and that the district in accordance with district policy, may examine all information stored on the network.

TITLE IX, SECTION 504, AGE DISCRIMINATION ACT AND TITLE II

The government has made legal provisions to insure that no person is discriminated against on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, age, disability, religion, height, weight, or marital status. In order to protect these rights and assure compliance, the Rockford School District has appointed Dr. Douglas VanderJagt, Assistant Superintendent for Human Resources, as Coordinator of Title VI, Title IX, Section 504, the Age Discrimination Act, and Title II. Inquiries concerning the application of, or grievances for, any of these regulations should be addressed to: Dr. Douglas VanderJagt, Assistant Superintendent for Human Resources, Rockford Public Schools, 350 N. Main Street, Rockford, Michigan 49341. Phone: 616-863-6554. Any person, who feels that the rights of an individual have been misused in relationship to the provision of equal opportunity in any educational programs and activities, or in employment, may contact Dr. Douglas VanderJagt.

WEAPONS-FREE SCHOOL ZONE POLICY

The Board of Education of Rockford Public Schools, as both an employer and a public school district, is concerned with and interested in protecting the health, safety and welfare of students, employees, and visitors. The Board recognizes that school buildings, facilities, vehicles, grounds, and other school property are best utilized in the educational process in the absence of threats to physical well-being and safety, by individuals possessing weapons and/or dangerous articles.

In this interest, and under the terms of this policy, Rockford Public Schools shall be designated a Weapons-Free School Zone. No person shall possess a weapon on school property unless:

1. They are serving in the capacity of a peace officer; or
2. They are a person with prior permission from the Superintendent or his/her designee that a weapon may be possessed for educational or safety purposes; or
3. They are otherwise exempt under Michigan law.

Furthermore, the Board of Education of the Rockford Public Schools (or the Superintendent) shall permanently expel a student from attending school in the District if the student possesses a weapon or dangerous article on District grounds or at District or school events. Such expulsion is mandatory unless the student establishes in a clear and convincing manner at least one of the following:

1. That the object or instrument possessed by the student was not possessed for use as a weapon, or for direct or indirect delivery to another person for use as a weapon.
2. The weapon or dangerous article was not knowingly possessed by the student.
3. The student did not know, or have reason to know, that the object or the instrument possessed by the student constituted a weapon or dangerous article; or
4. That the weapon or dangerous article was possessed by the student at the suggestion, request, or direction of, or with the express permission of school or police authorities. Expulsions mandated under this policy shall be imposed in accordance with the procedures for student discipline as established by the District, and as set forth in the student handbook or other appropriate documents.

2016-2017 DISCIPLINE CODE OF CONDUCT

The Rockford Board of Education does hereby establish the following categories of misbehavior that may result in suspension or expulsion from school of any student regardless of age, under its jurisdiction. The student may be referred to the Student Assistance Program for referral to an appropriate support agency. This list is offered as an example of unacceptable behavior and is not intended to be all-inclusive. These policies are applicable to all school-related activities and also apply while the student is on school property, before or after school, and en route to and from school on District-provided transportation.

The disciplinary action identified for the various types of unacceptable behavior enumerated in the student disciplinary code of conduct states the minimal disciplinary action. The District reserves the right and discretion to impose more severe disciplinary action, up to and including expulsion, for unacceptable behavior regardless of whether it is the first offense. Additionally, when appropriate, school administration reserves the right to deny any student that receives disciplinary action the privilege of attending school activities such as roller skating, dances, athletic contests, etc.

UNACCEPTABLE BEHAVIOR	RANGE OF DISCIPLINARY ACTION
<p>1. Academic Dishonesty: Students found to be guilty of “cheating” or plagiarism.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Notify Parent • Student will receive zero credit on assignment, paper, quiz, and/or test • After-school detention for minor offense • One to three- day suspension for major offense
<p>2a. Aggressive Behavior: (student to student)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Any form of physical violence such as hitting, shoving, tripping, kicking, spitting, pinching, poking. • Interfering with, hiding, damaging, extorting, or stealing another’s property. • Offensive, insulting, or obscene gestures with hands, fingers, or face. • Name-calling; put-downs; humiliating or demeaning remarks; taunting; offensive graffiti, notes, text messages, e-mail, or Facebook messages; implied or explicit threats of emotional or physical harm; demeaning sounds such as animal noises; insulting a person’s family, religion, ethnicity, or disability • Undermining the person’s relationship with others by arranging social exclusion and shunning; spreading rumors; setting a person up to be publicly humiliated; revealing private and confidential information to embarrass others; sabotaging a friendship; forcing others to act against their will • Any form of racial, cultural, ethnic, religious disability, or sexual harassment • Any form of hazing that has the purpose or effect of causing injury, discomfort, fear, suffering, or exclusion from a group. <p>2b. Aggressive Behavior: (student to district employee, volunteer, contractor, or any visitor) No student shall engage in, or threaten to engage in, physical action upon an individual.</p> <p>Note: The Rubric for minor aggressive or mean behavior is located on page 21.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Notify Parent • 1st Offense: Up to three-day suspension and/or expulsion • 2nd Offense: Five-day minimum suspension and/or expulsion • 3rd Offense: Ten-day suspension and/or expulsion <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Notify Parent • Refer to police (at principal’s discretion) • 1st Offense: Five-day minimum suspension and/or expulsion • 2nd Offense: expulsion

<p>3. Alcohol and Drugs: Possession of, use of, under the influence of, transferring of, sale of, or delivery of alcoholic beverages, narcotics, unauthorized prescription drugs, including look-alike drugs, synthetic substance or what is represented as a drug or alcohol, including other related paraphernalia.</p> <p>3a. Over-the-Counter Drugs/Medication: Unauthorized possession, or transferring, of Tylenol or similar over-the-counter medication including look-alike over-the-counter drugs, or what is represented as a drug. Possession of, use of, transferring of, or under the Influence of:</p> <p>3b. Prescription Drugs: Any student in possession of prescription drugs for his/her use must immediately register them in the nurse's office. Failure to comply will result in disciplinary action.</p>	<p>Possession of, Use of, or Under the Influence of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Notify parent • Refer to police (at principal's discretion) • Referral to counselor/Student Assistance Team • 1st Offense: Ten-day suspension and/or expulsion • 2nd Offense: Expulsion <p>Over-the-Counter Drugs/Medication: Delivery, transferring, or sale of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Notify parent • Refer to police (at principal's discretion) • 1st Offense: Up to five-day suspension and/or expulsion • 2nd Offense: Ten-day suspension and/or expulsion • 3rd Offense: Expulsion <p>Prescription Drugs: Delivery, transferring, or sale of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Notify parent • Refer to police (at principal's discretion) • 1st Offense: Up to five-day suspension • 2nd Offense: Five-day minimum suspension
<p>4. Arson: Purposefully setting fire to school property, people, or belongings for the purpose of doing damage or injury.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Notify Parent • Refer to Police (at principal's discretion) • Expulsion • Seek payment of damages
<p>5. Assault, Physical (student to district employee, volunteer, contractor, or any visitor): Causing or attempting to cause gross or serious harm to another through intentional use of force or violence.</p> <p>5a. Minor Assault: Intentionally causing or attempting to cause physical harm to another through force or violence with circumstances that warrant consideration.</p> <p>5b. Assault, Physical (student to student): Major Assault: Intentionally causing or attempting to cause gross or serious physical harm to another through force or violence.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Notify Parent • Refer to Police (at principal's discretion) • 1st Offense: 5-day suspension and/or Expulsion <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Notify Parent • Refer to Police (at principal's discretion) • 1st Offense: Suspension (1-day minimum) or short term expulsion (up to 10 days) or expulsion • 2nd Offense: Short term expulsion (up to 10 days) and/or expulsion <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Notify Parent • Refer to Police • 1st Offense: Expulsion

UNACCEPTABLE BEHAVIOR	RANGE OF DISCIPLINARY ACTION
<p>6. Bullying: Behavior that is directed at one or more students and is intentional and/or repeated.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Substantially interferes with educational opportunities, benefits, or programs; • Adversely affects the ability of a student to participate in or benefit from the District’s educational programs or activities by placing the student in reasonable fear of physical harm or by causing emotional distress; and • Is based on a student’s actual or perceived distinguishing characteristic (i.e., race, color, religion, ancestry, national origin, gender, physical features, sexual orientation, gender identity and expression, a mental, physical, or sensory disability or impairment, or by any other distinguishing characteristic), or is based on an association with another person who has, or is perceived to have, any of these characteristics. <p>Cyber Bullying: Willful and/or repeated harm inflicted through the use of computers, cell phones, and other electronic devices and/or social networking sites. Could include the development of a website used to promote and disseminate defamatory content.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Notify Parent • Refer to police (at principal’s discretion) • 1st Offense: Up to three-day suspension and/or expulsion • 2nd Offense: Three to five- day suspension and/or expulsion
<p>7. Computer Misconduct:</p> <p>Computer Piracy: Having possession of and/or use of unauthorized software that was copied, downloaded, transferred, or transmitted from a legal source. Includes MP3 files.</p> <p>Computer Misconduct: Logging in as another student, circumventing security software, destruction of files (deletion and modification), unauthorized access (network, network modems and computer stations), physical destruction of computer equipment, disassembling of computer, peripherals or network cables.</p> <p>Inappropriate Use of Internet: Viewing, printing or copying materials of an inappropriate, profane, sexual, or unethical nature.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Notify Parent • Loss of internet and/or computer usage • Up to three- day suspension and/or expulsion <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Notify Parent • Loss of computer usage • Payment of damages • Up to three- day suspension and/or expulsion <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Notify Parent • Loss of computer usage • Up to three- day suspension and/or expulsion

UNACCEPTABLE BEHAVIOR	RANGE OF DISCIPLINARY ACTION
<p>8. Electronic Devices – Unauthorized use or possession during the school day (7:40 a.m. – 2:30 p.m.)</p> <p>NOTE: Electronic devices used to violate other policies, will be disciplined accordingly</p>	<p>1st Offense</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Verbal warning or after-school detention ▪ After-School Detention ▪ Device will be returned at administrator’s discretion ▪ Suspension of device privileges on school property (unless unwarranted) <p>2nd Offense</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ After-School Detention ▪ Parent contact ▪ Device will be returned at administrator’s discretion ▪ Suspension of device privileges on school property (unless unwarranted) <p>3rd Offense</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Up to three-day suspension ▪ Parent, student and administration meeting required before device is returned ▪ Suspension of device privileges on school property (unless unwarranted)
<p>9. Extortion: Taking money or items of value through “strong arm” tactics.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Notify Parent • Refer to police (at principal’s discretion) • Up to five-day minimum suspension and/or expulsion
<p>10. False Alarm: <u>Fire Alarm:</u> Activating</p> <p><u>Deliberate breaking of glass in fire alarm or removal or discharge of fire extinguisher:</u></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Notify Parent • Refer to Police (at principal’s discretion) • One-day minimum suspension and/or expulsion • Payment of damages <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Notify Parent • Refer to Police (unless unwarranted) • One to five- day suspension and/or expulsion • Payment of damages
<p>11: Forgery: Fraudulent use of school related documents or equipment, including false phone calls to the attendance office.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Notify Parent • 1st Offense: Up to three-day suspension and/or expulsion • 2nd Offense: One to five- day suspension and/or expulsion
<p>12. Gambling: Student involvement in betting or wagering</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Notify Parent • One to five- day suspension and/or expulsion
<p>13. Gang Related Activity: Zero tolerance. Rockford Public Schools will not tolerate any gang related activities, clothing, “flashing-signs”, graffiti, strong-arm tactics, etc.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Notify Parent • Refer to police (at principal’s discretion) • Five-day minimum suspension and/or expulsion
<p>14. Gross Misbehavior: Deliberate or willful conduct detrimental to the normal functioning of any school activity, for example: throwing food, use of items of torment, spitting, and unapproved sale of goods or services, false reporting, etc.</p> <p>Endangerment: Any conduct that jeopardizes the health or safety of other persons by means of an intentional act</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Notify Parent • 1st Offense: Up to three-day suspension and/or expulsion • 2nd Offense: Three to five- day suspension and/or expulsion
<p>15. Habits or Bodily Conditions detrimental to the school: Conditions under which the student is suspected of having a communicable disease or who have persistently neglected personal hygiene to the point where it is disruptive.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Notify Parent • Notify school nurse • Student may be sent home until the condition is corrected.

UNACCEPTABLE BEHAVIOR	RANGE OF DISCIPLINARY ACTION
<p>16. Indecency: Offending acts against recognized standards of propriety and good taste (as interpreted by this building's administration). This may include items of clothing that the administration determines to be inappropriate (dress code violations included).</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Notify Parent • 1st Offense: Up to three-day suspension and/or expulsion • 2nd Offense: Three to five- day suspension and/or expulsion
<p>17. Insubordination/Disrespect: Defiance of authority. Attitudes or behavior insulting or contemptuous. Non-compliance of a reasonable request from school personnel.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Notify Parent • 1st Offense: Up to three-day suspension and/or expulsion • 2nd Offense: three to five- day minimum suspension and/or expulsion <p>**Note: Being uncooperative or insubordinate during an emergency situation or drill receives up to a ten-day suspension and/or expulsion.</p>
<p>18. Leaving School Building/Designated Areas (unauthorized): Students may not leave school building/designated areas without authorization.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Notify Parent • 1st Offense: After-school detention • 2nd Offense: Up to three-day suspension and/or expulsion <p>**NOTE: Unauthorized leaving during K-9 searches receives 10-day suspension and/or expulsion.</p>
<p>19. Nuisance Items: Possession or use of any item that is disruptive to the educational process will not be allowed. Examples: laser pens, eggs, hats, hoods, hacky sacks (in the building), lighters, matches, shaving cream, squirt guns, etc.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Notify Parent • After-school detention for minor offenses • 1st Offense: Up to three- day suspension and/or expulsion • 2nd Offense: Three to five- day suspension and/or expulsion
<p>20. Pan Handling: Soliciting, begging, or mooching money from other students</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Notify Parent • After-school detention for minor offense • One to three- day suspension for major offense and/or expulsion
<p>21. Profanity/Obscenity: The use of inappropriate or offensive language, whether written or spoken, action or gestures or vulgarity.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Notify Parent • 1st Offense: Up to three-day suspension and/or expulsion • 2nd Offense: Three-day minimum suspension and/or expulsion. <p>**NOTE: Profanity/obscenity directed at staff members will result in a minimum three-day out-of-school suspension</p>
<p>22. Public Display of Affection, Inappropriate (i.e., hugging, kissing, etc.): Students are expected to conduct themselves as ladies and gentlemen.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Notify Parent • 1st Offense: Up to three-day suspension and/or expulsion • 2nd Offense: Three to five- day suspension and/or expulsion
<p>23. Pyrotechnics: The use and/or possession of any explosive smoke, or odor-producing device is prohibited in or on school property.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Notify Parent • Refer to Police • Five-day minimum suspension and/or expulsion
<p>24. Sale of Goods/Services: All unapproved sale of goods or services on school grounds</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Notify parent • 1st Offense: Up to three-day suspension and/or expulsion, snap suspension and/or expulsion • 2nd Offense: Three to five-day suspension and/or expulsion

UNACCEPTABLE BEHAVIOR	RANGE OF DISCIPLINARY ACTION
<p>25. Sexual Harassment: Includes, but is not limited to, any unwelcome or unwanted sexual advances, requests for sexual favors, or other verbal, written, or physical conduct of a sexual nature that is unwanted by, or unwelcome to, the student and/or has the purpose or effect of substantially interfering with a student's educational environment</p> <p>25a. Sexting: Act of sending or possessing sexually explicit messages or photographs electronically.</p> <p>25b. Sexual Misconduct: Constitutes consensual or mutual acts of sexually inappropriate behavior (touching, tampering with clothing, obscene gestures, indecent exposure, or physical conduct of a sexual nature.)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Notify Parent • 1st Offense: Up to five-day suspension or expulsion • 2nd Offense: Five-day minimum suspension and/or expulsion <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Notify Parent • Contact Police (at principal's discretion) • 1st Offense: Up to five-day suspension and/or expulsion • 2nd Offense: Five-day minimum suspension and/or expulsion <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Notify Parent • Contact Police (at principal's discretion) • 1st Offense: One to ten-day suspension and/or expulsion • 2nd Offense: Ten-day suspension and/or expulsion
<p>26. Theft: Stealing (or in possession of stolen property) or taking from another without right or permission, and usually in a secret manner</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Notify Parent • Notify police (at principal's discretion) • 1st Offense: One-day minimum suspension and/or expulsion • Return of item or restitution • 2nd Offense: Same as above except five-day minimum suspension and/or expulsion • 3rd Offense: Same as above except ten-day suspension, and/or expulsion
<p>27. Threats, Bomb: A threat or act against property, to commit violence, to cause evacuation of a building, or to cause serious public inconvenience.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Notify Parent • Refer to Police • 1st Offense: Expulsion
<p>28. Threats, Verbal (student to district employee, volunteer, contractor, or any visitor): Any willful verbal threat to inflict injury upon another person, under such circumstances which create a reasonable fear of imminent injury, coupled with an apparent intent and ability to inflict injury.</p> <p>Threats, Verbal (student to student): Any willful verbal threat to inflict injury upon another person, under such circumstances which create a reasonable fear of imminent injury, coupled with an apparent intent and ability to inflict injury.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Notify Parent • Refer to Police (at principal's discretion) • 1st Offense: Up to ten-day suspension and/or expulsion <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Notify Parent • Refer to Police (at principal's discretion) • 1st Offense: Short term expulsion (up to 10 days) and/or expulsion
<p>29. Threats, Written: Any written or implied threats to school personnel or students.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Notify Parent • Refer to Policy (at principal's discretion) • Five-day minimum suspension and/or expulsion

UNACCEPTABLE BEHAVIOR	RANGE OF DISCIPLINARY ACTION
<p>30. Tobacco, Electronic Cigarette Liquid: Possession or use of tobacco or electronic cigarette liquid in any form is prohibited on school property or at any school-sponsored event, regardless of location.</p> <p>Smoking Related Offense – Smoking on campus or possession of any item related to smoking; in addition to cigarettes, this includes e-cigarettes and/or chargers, vapor pens, lighters, matches, rolling papers, etc.</p> <p>**Sale or transfer of any of these items:</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Notify Parent • 1st Offense: Three-day suspension • 2nd Offense: Five-day suspension • 3rd Offense: Ten-day suspension and/or expulsion <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Notify Parent • Refer to Police (at principal’s discretion) • Up to 10 day suspension and/or expulsion
<p>31. Trespassing: The unauthorized entry to Rockford Public School’s grounds, buildings, classrooms, and other property.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Notify Parent • Refer to Police • 1st Offense: Up to five-day suspension and/or expulsion • 2nd Offense: Minimum five-day suspension and/or expulsion.
<p>32. Truancy: Skipping classes or school</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Notify Parent • Referral to truant officer • Skipping class 1st offense: After-school detention • Skipping day 1st offense: After-school detention and/or suspension • <u>Chronic Truancy:</u> One to five- day suspension and/or expulsion. Parent meeting required before student may return.
<p>33. Vandalism: Defacing or destroying school property, staff/student personal property or tampering with security equipment.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Notify Parent • Notify Police (at principal’s discretion). • Payment of damages • Up to three- day suspension or expulsion
<p>34. Weapons: Possession, using, threatening to use, or transferring any weapon or instrument capable of inflicting harm or considered dangerous by school administration (e.g. tazers). Includes look-alike weapons. Certain weapons as defined under state law, require mandatory expulsion.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Notify Parent • Refer to police (at principal’s discretion) • 1st Offense: Five-day suspension and/or expulsion • 2nd Offense: Ten-day suspension and/or expulsion