

LESTER J. GATES MIDDLE SCHOOL



Student/Family Handbook 2021-2022

“Charting a Course for Excellence and Equity”

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Welcome

Dear Families,

Welcome to the Gates community! This student/family handbook is designed to acquaint all members of the Gates community with an overview of the policies and procedures of Gates Middle School; it is not intended to include all aspects of governing the school. Please review this so that you will become familiar with the expectations and policies of the Gates Middle School. Our goal is to provide an engaging, positive, and safe experience for all students and families.

Find below the Gates Middle School Core Values:

We, the members of the Gates community, believe in, embrace, and promote our mutual responsibility to:

- Generate academic excellent

- Appreciate each unique spirit

- Think, create, collaborate

- Empower each other

- Stand up for a safe, positive learning environment

We invite you to become active members of our community and to contribute in a way that is meaningful to you. Welcome to your middle school experience!

Ryan M. Beattie, Principal

MISSION STATEMENT OF THE SCITUATE PUBLIC SCHOOL SYSTEM

The mission of Scituate Public Schools is to graduate well-rounded global citizens with the skills, passion, and confidence to make a positive impact in our world.

Scituate Public Schools

School Committee

Nicole Bradolini
Peter Gates
Janice Lindblom
Michael Long

Superintendent

Mr. William Burkhead

Assistant Superintendent

Ms. Heidi Driscoll

Director of Special Education

Dr. Michele Boebert

Director of Business/Finance

Dr. Robert Dutch

The Scituate Public Schools have a commitment to maintaining an educational environment and workplace where bigotry and intolerance, including discrimination on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, religion, homeless status or disability are not tolerated and where any form of intimidation, threat, coercion and/or harassment that insults the dignity of others and interferes with their freedom to learn or work is unacceptable.

GATES MIDDLE SCHOOL STAFF

Principal: Ryan Beattie
Assistant Principal: Samantha Lesniak
Administrative Secretary: Sue Lowrance
Secretary: Ann McCarthy

Student Support Staff

School Counselor, Grade 6: Nancy Driscoll
School Counselor, Grade 7: Nina Riley
School Counselor, Grade 8: Amy Mahoney
School Psychologist: Cassondra McNamara
School Adjustment Counselor: Lindsay Newton
METCO: Michelle Crawford
ELL: Nancy Molla
Nurse Leader: Kellie Roche
School Nurse: Karen MacDonald
District Nurse: Marnie Sham

Grade 6

Team A

Math: Megan Fahey
ELA: Jim O'Sullivan
Social Studies: John Fitzgerald
Science: Dori Read

Team B

Math: Mary Ellen Gaziano
ELA: Matthew Mulder
Social Studies: Matt Poirier
Science: Allison Guinan

Grade 7

Team C

Math: Karen Smith
ELA: Adele McCarthy
Social Studies: Jen O'Malley
Science: Jean Chambers

Team D

Math: Adam Culbert
ELA: Karen Naylor
Social Studies: Sara Paster
Science: Richard English

Grade 8

Team E

Math: Amanda Kent
ELA: Chelsea Townsell
Social Studies: Brian Robinson
Science: Kim Woodford

Team F

Math: Andy Barlow
ELA: Kerrie Lirosi
Social Studies: Jay Gillespie
Science: Kathy Wilson

Engineering: Cheryl Riedel
Engineering: Robyn Levine
Health/Applied Nutrition: Matt Cherner
Health/Applied Nutrition: Amy Heffernan
Health/Applied Nutrition: Allison Mulvaney
Library Media Specialist: Colleen Simpson
Technology: Beth Niece
Drama: Lindsay Warwick
Math Literacy: Kyle McCarthy
Math Literacy: Kristina Shelley
ELA Literacy: Sara DeMatteo
ELA Literacy: Laura Messner
PE: Gayle Coughlin
PE: Trevor Schattgen
PE: James Flynn
Music: Nadia Davis
Music: Rachel Burke
Band: Greg Lessard
Art: Amanda Glover
Art: Danielle Mihaley
Art: Eileen Rotty

Special Education, Gr. 6: Kathy Richards
Special Education, Gr. 6: Sabrina Daniels
Special Education, Gr. 7: Caitlin Belmarsh
Special Education, Gr. 7: Kate O'Rourke
Special Education, Gr. 8: Shan Morrissey
Special Education, Gr. 8: Tracy Shepard
Special Education: 7/8 and iAchieve: Christine Kane
Special Education: GLC: Heidi Branca
Special Education: LBC: Laurie McCone
Special Education: Therapeutic Learning Program: Siobhan Boudreau
Speech and Language: Meredith Hilditch
Special Education Team Chair 6-12: Deborah Sullivan

Spanish: Gaby Lueck
Spanish: Acadia Jewett
Spanish: Lisa Mavilia
Latin/French: Ani Koziel
French: Megan Carmody
Mandarin: Xi Ouyang

Paraprofessionals

Robbin Baiardi
Lori Desreuisseau
Charlotte Devir
Bryan Fox
Jen Gallerani
Maureen Keys
Michael Lamie
Ellen McAllister
Brenda Replogle
Ann Marie Thompson

Custodians

Gerald Duffey
Mark Dugas
Sandy Manelle
Timothy Whitlock, Senior Custodian
Justin Whyte

Cafeteria

David Stevens, District Food Services Director
Louise Fitzgerald, Manager
Cheryl Fraser
Maureen Kelly
Christina Piaseckyj

District Calendar for 2021-2022

https://www.scituate.k12.ma.us/UserFiles/Servers/Server_893421/File/Calendar/Scituate%20Public%20Schools%20final%20for%20web.pdf

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

❖ Important Dates

Trimester

Trimester 1.....September 8th - December 3rd
Trimester 2.....December 6th - March 17th
Trimester 3.....March 21st - Last Day of School

Report Card

Trimester 1.....December 10, 2021
Trimester 2.....March 24, 2021
Trimester 3.....Last Day of School

AGENDAS

We encourage students to identify a method of tracking and prioritizing assignments that works for each student's specific needs. Students can utilize paper agendas, online agendas, or agenda applications (apps). Students are responsible for documenting (written or electronic) their homework during each class period.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Daily announcements are made during homeroom. Announcements are also posted on our website.

ATTENDANCE

For more information about absences, please refer to School Committee [Policy JH](#)

PHILOSOPHY: The Scituate Public Schools believes that regular and punctual school attendance is critical to academic success and establishing positive lifelong work habits. Despite advances in technology, it is still impossible to adequately replicate the in-class experience for students who are absent from school. Students who are excessively absent are likely to fall behind academically, could experience school failure, and may eventually drop out of school. Parents play a critical role by ensuring their children regularly attend school.

PROCEDURES: Consistent with Massachusetts General Law, Chapter 76, the Scituate School Committee has established [Policy JH](#). A copy of this policy can be found in the Appendix of the student handbook. Each school principal will enforce this policy as follows:

1. To be considered present for school, a student in Grades 6-12 may miss no more than two class periods in a school day. Elementary students must be present for at least ½ of the school day.
2. When a child is going to be absent from school, the parent/guardian is expected to call the school office no later than one hour after the start of the school day. If the school does not receive a phone call from the parent/guardian, the school will attempt to reach the parent/guardian through a personal phone call or other automated means.
3. In all instances where a child is absent from school for any reason, a signed note from a parent/guardian must accompany the child upon return to school. Emailed notes from a registered parent/guardian email address will meet this expectation. Registered is defined as the official parent/guardian email address listed in ASPEN. The note must indicate the date(s) and reason for the absence from school.
4. The following absences are considered excused by the Scituate Public Schools with proper documentation:
 - Short-term illness (less than 5 consecutive days) - Must be verified by a parent note/email upon return to school.
 - Long-term illness (5 or more consecutive days) - Must be verified by a note from the doctor's office upon return to school.
 - Chronic Illness (a recurring, long-term medical illness or condition) - Must be verified by a note from the doctor's office on file with the school nurse stating the nature of the illness/condition and its possible effect on school attendance.
 - Dismissal from school by the school nurse.
 - Medical appointments verified by a note from the doctor's office.
 - Bereavement - Must be verified by a parent note/email upon return to school.
 - School sponsored events such as assemblies, field trips, etc.
 - Court appearances – Must be verified by documentation from the court.
 - Religious holidays - Must be verified by a parent note/email upon return to school.
 - College or private school visits (up to two days per term for high school juniors and seniors and up to two days per year for all other students) – Must submit documentation from the school or college upon return.

- School imposed disciplinary consequences.
 - Extenuating circumstances approved by the principal.
5. A student will be marked tardy to school if he/she does not report to school by the posted start of homeroom period, or by the posted start of the academic day if no homeroom is scheduled. Being tardy to school is always considered unexcused unless a note from the doctor's office is provided upon arrival to school. Parents should attempt to schedule doctor's appointments before or after school hours. Students tardy more than two periods in a school day (grades 6-12) and more than ½ the school day (K-5) will be considered absent according to Massachusetts law. Disciplinary consequences may apply for students tardy to school.
 6. Early dismissal should be avoided if at all possible. The only excused dismissals would be for reasons listed in #4 above. Doctor's appointments should be scheduled when school is not in session. If a student is dismissed early for a doctor's appointment they must return to school the same or following day with a note from the doctor excusing the absence.
 7. Family vacations are not considered excused absences. Parents are asked to schedule vacations at times when school is not in session. In the event a family vacation can be scheduled only while school is in session, the parent/guardian is asked to provide a minimum of two weeks' notice to the principal and classroom teacher(s). Teachers are not required to provide work in advance of a planned family vacation. For school makeup work policies please see below.
 8. Consistent with Massachusetts General Law, when a student has reached five (5) unexcused absences in a school year, the principal, or his/her designee, will set up a meeting with the student and his/her parents in order to develop an action plan to improve attendance.
 9. When a student is absent 10% or more in a marking period, even if the absences are considered excused, the principal, or his/her designee, may set up a meeting with the student and his/her parents in order to develop an action plan to improve attendance. As part of this plan, additional documentation may be required to explain excessive absences.

SCHOOL

Each principal or designee shall meet with any student, and that student's parent/guardian, who has missed five (5) or more unexcused school days (a school day shall be equal to two (2) or more class periods in the same day) in a school year. The meeting shall be to develop action steps to improve student attendance and shall be developed jointly by the principal or designee, the student, and the student's parent/guardian. The parties may seek input from other relevant school staff and/or officials from relevant public safety, health and human service, housing, and nonprofit agencies. This may include a referral to or collaboration with the juvenile district court.

TARDINESS TO SCHOOL

Students will be marked tardy if they have not reported to their homeroom before the 8:00 AM bell. If a student is tardy, an admittance pass must be obtained from the office. Please refer to the above procedures for what is considered an excused v. unexcused tardy. Chronic, excessive tardiness (8+ per trimester) may be referred to the district court for further investigation.

TARDINESS TO CLASS

Any student tardy to class may be assigned a detention by the teacher. Use of lockers or bathrooms may not be accepted as an excuse for tardiness.

DISMISSAL

Early dismissal should be kept to a minimum. The only acceptable reasons for dismissal are those listed above. Students requesting dismissal from school must present a note from home stating the time and reason for the dismissal and the name of the person to whom the student will be dismissed. This note should be brought to the office before school so that the student's name may appear on the attendance bulletin. A parent or authorized adult must sign out students. Identification may be required. Students must remain in class until being called for dismissal.

If a student is not feeling well, that student should report to the school nurse, who will contact a parent/guardian if necessary. Students should not contact parents directly for sick/nurse dismissals.

END OF DAY DISMISSAL

Once the final bell has rung, walkers and car riders report directly to their lockers, gather their belongings, and then exit the building through the front door. Bus riders must return to their homebases and wait for an announcement to be dismissed to their lockers. Bus riders must then report to the dining commons, find the appropriate bus line, and remain in line until they are dismissed to board busses by the supervising adult. Students who do not follow these protocols may be subject to disciplinary action per the Code of Conduct.

TRUANCY (CUTTING CLASS)

If a student is found truant from class, the teacher of that class will not provide make-up work and the administration will enforce the Code of Conduct. Students found truant from class will receive a zero ("0") for the class work missed due to cutting class.

SCHOOL MAKEUP WORK POLICY: No student shall be unduly penalized for excused absences that occur as a result of reasons listed in #4 above. Elementary (K-5) and secondary (6-12) schools will establish their own developmentally appropriate policy for making up school work due to excused and unexcused absences.

ABSENCE DUE TO ILLNESS

When students are absent due to illness, the best way to check for missed work is through ASPEN. Missed work also can be collected by a student's school counselor if the request is made prior to 8:30 a.m. Missed work can be available for pick-up after 2:30 p.m.

In the case of absence due to illness, the student should complete and return all missed work to the teachers within a period of time equal to that of the absence (i.e. One week absent, one week to complete work). Additional time may be granted at the teacher's discretion.

VACATION POLICY/VOLUNTARY ABSENCE

The Gates School administration strongly advises parents to schedule their family vacations to coincide with the school vacations in order that their children not miss daily classroom instruction. In the event that this is not possible, the following procedures must be followed. A vacation absence will be considered unexcused:

- ❖ The parent/guardian must submit a letter to the Gates School administration regarding the planned family vacation two weeks in advance.
- ❖ It will be the teacher's prerogative to give homework and class work assignments in advance to students who will be on vacation during school time. It will be the student's responsibility to make up all assignments within one (1) week of their return to school if vacations are taken during school time.
- ❖ Teachers are not required to give tutorial assistance to students who have missed class time due to a family vacation.

These guidelines are not to be interpreted as permission to be absent from school. Absence should be only for a serious reason. Multiple days of absence create academic consequences. The attendance policy is designed to maintain the integrity of academic excellence at the Gates Middle School.

DROPOUT PREVENTION

No student who has not graduated from high school shall be considered permanently removed from school unless the principal has sent notice to a student, and that student's parent/guardian, who has been absent from school for ten (10) consecutive days of unexcused absence. The notice shall be sent within five (5) days of the tenth consecutive day of absence and shall offer at least 2 dates and times within the next ten (10) days for an exit interview with the Superintendent or designee, the student, and the student's parent/guardian. The notice shall be in both English and the primary language of the home, if applicable. The notice shall include contact information for scheduling the exit interview and shall indicate the parties shall reach an agreement on the date/time of the interview within the ten (10) day timeframe. The timeframe may be extended at the request of the parent/guardian and no extension shall exceed 14 days.

The Superintendent or designee may proceed with any interview without a parent/guardian present, provided the Superintendent has documented a good faith effort to include the parent/guardian.

The Superintendent or designee shall convene a team of school staff to participate in the exit interview and shall provide information to the student and, if applicable, the student's parent/guardian on the detrimental effects of early withdrawal from school and the alternative education programs and services available to the student.

ABSENCE DUE TO RELIGIOUS HOLIDAYS

The Scituate School Committee adopts the following policy in order to accommodate the religious needs of our students who observe religious holidays during the school year. No student shall be penalized because he or she was absent from school for religious observance. Teachers will not give tests or quizzes, or have programs that would place absent students at a disadvantage on religious holidays. Test or quizzes shall not be administered on the day following a religious holidays unless the teacher has provided notice of such a test or quiz at least four (4) school days prior to the religious holidays.

A list of the religious holidays that will include, but not be limited to, Rosh Hashanah, Yom Kippur and Passover (three holy days shall be included on the school calendar each year) shall be provided to each teacher at the start of the school year. This list will include the notation that the Jewish holidays begin at sundown on the day before the holy day.

Scituate Public Schools will consider religious holidays in preparation of the annual school calendar and these days will be listed on the calendar. Every effort will be made to avoid scheduling school-sponsored functions such as "Back to School Night", concerts, plays, school photos and athletic contests on religious holidays.

ATTENDANCE AT SCHOOL EVENTS

A student may be excluded from a school-sponsored event if he/she is absent to school or does not report to school prior to 10:20 a.m. on the day of the event.

AWARDS and RECOGNITION

END OF THE YEAR AWARDS

At the end of the school year, award programs will be held to recognize students in the following categories:

Academic Program Awards

These awards recognize students who have demonstrated a consistent commitment to a class thorough consistent participation, performance, leadership and character and high level of achievement by achieving the highest overall average in that class and on each team. This award is given out for each content areas and for each team.

The Outstanding Student Award

This award is presented to the student who has shown outstanding academic performance in all his/her courses throughout the school year.

MVP Award – Most Valuable Team Player

The teachers give this award to the student(s) who exhibits enthusiastic performance and a willingness to contribute unselfishly to their team throughout the school year.

The Citizenship Award

This award is presented to the student who consistently demonstrates the following attributes: Leadership that directly influences others to be positive, a willingness to render services to others, the highest standards of attitude toward honesty and reliability, cooperation in complying with school regulations,

a willingness to uphold scholarship, courtesy in work and action to those in authority and to fellow classmates, the ability to follow as well as lead, a willingness to perform insignificant services as well as those that win acclaim, and a will to do the right thing.

The Peer Mentor Award

This award recognizes those students who go above and beyond the norm by extending themselves towards others while appreciating the unique qualities of their classmates.

Honor Roll*

This award is presented to those students who have achieved Honor Roll status for all three terms during the current school year.

High Honor Roll*

The award is presented to those students who have achieved High Honor Roll for all three terms during the current school year.

The Dolly Devereaux Award

This award is presented to two students in their 8th grade year who have shown tremendous growth in character during their three years at the Gates Intermediate School. These students may have shown growth in one or more of the following areas: academics, attendance, perseverance, and/or character.

The Lester J. Gates Award*

This prestigious award is presented to those students at Gates who have maintained High Honor Roll status (all A's in all courses) for the entirety of their three years at Gates.

* Students who earn Honor Roll, High Honor Roll, and the Gates Award will be recognized after grades have closed and have been verified by Gates teachers and administrators. School administration will share awards related to grades, but grades do not always close prior to the Grade 8 Promotion Ceremony.

Gates Core Values Awards:

The Gates Core Values Awards are an important way to recognize students for being strong students while also contributing positively to the culture at Gates. Students who exhibit the following values are acknowledged by the Gates staff throughout the year:

- Generate academic excellent
- Appreciate each unique spirit
- Think, create, collaborate
- Empower each other
- Stand up for a safe, positive learning environment

The addition or deletion of awards will be a decision made in concert with School Council, school staff, and building administration.

BICYCLES

Students who ride their bikes to school are expected to practice safe riding habits on their way to and from school. Helmets should be worn at all times. Students are expected to park their bikes in the bike rack as soon as they arrive at school in the morning. They are not to ride around the school property. It is also recommended that students provide a lock for their bikes. Students riding bikes are not to leave the bike rack area until all buses have left the driveway. As with all students' personal property, the school is not responsible for lost or stolen bicycles.

BULLYING PREVENTION ([POLICY JICFB](#))

Students, who believe that they are a target of bullying, observe an act of bullying, or who have reasonable grounds to believe that these behaviors are taking place, are obligated to report incidents to a member of the school staff.

Each school shall have a means for anonymous reporting by students of incidents of bullying. Gates students can anonymously report instances of bullying by completing the [Bullying, Bias, Discrimination, and Harassment Form](#) on the school website: No formal disciplinary action shall be taken solely on the basis of an anonymous report.

Any student who knowingly makes a false accusation of bullying shall be subject to disciplinary action.

Parents or guardians, or members of the community, are encouraged to report an incident of bullying as soon as possible.

A member of a school staff shall immediately report any instance of bullying the staff member has witnessed or become aware of to the school principal or their designee.

BUSSES ([POLICY EEA](#))

STUDENT CONDUCT ON BUSES ([POLICY EEAEC](#))

CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT ([POLICY JLDBD](#) and [POLICY JLDBD-R](#))

COMMUNICATION

ASPEN

The Gates Staff utilizes ASPEN as our student/parent portal. Each student and parent/guardian is provided with a password to this portal. You are encouraged to reference your child's ASPEN account regularly to monitor his/her assignments, progress, and grades. **Teachers are expected to minimally**

update their ASPEN gradebooks every two weeks. ASPEN is a valuable tool and will help keep open the lines of communication between parents and their children regarding their schooling.

SchoolMessenger

The Gates community utilizes this communication software to notify parents and guardians of upcoming events at Gates. ***Please be sure we have your preferred SchoolMessenger phone number and email address in ASPEN.***

COMMUNICATION WITH GATES STAFF

We encourage you to contact any of your child's teachers, school counselor or administrator. Check the Gates website for email links to staff members or call (781) 545-8760 and use the dial by name directory.

TEAM MEETINGS WITH PARENTS/GUARDIANS

It may be beneficial for team teachers, school counselor (and support staff if appropriate) and parents/guardians to meet together to discuss ideas that will support a student who is having difficulties with learning, homework completion, behavior, and/or social interactions. Parents/guardians will be contacted if the need arises. If a parent/guardian would like to request a team meeting for your child, please call the school and ask for your child's school counselor. They will set up a time to meet with your child's team teachers. Communication between home and school is strongly encouraged.

CONCUSSIONS ([Policy JJIE](#))

CORI REQUIREMENTS ([Policy ADDA](#))

CORRIDORS

Students are expected to proceed in a quiet, respectful manner, keeping to the right while passing between classes. Running, pushing, shoving and yelling are not allowed in the corridors. Misbehavior in the hallway will be subject to disciplinary action.

DANCE RULES

The following rules are to be followed by all students so that our dances are a safe place for everyone:

Only students who attend Gates Middle School may attend dances.

Dances are held between 7:00-9:00 pm. Students are not allowed to arrive after 7:30 unless they have a signed permission slip from the office.

Students may not leave before 9:00 unless a parent or guardian picks them up. A parent/guardian must come into the dance to notify an administrator.

All bags must be left at the front door.

No running at any time.

Appropriate dancing behavior is expected at all times: no kissing or inappropriate touching.

Harassing, bullying or unkind behavior of any kind may result in being asked to leave the dance.

A student will not be allowed to attend a dance if he/she has been suspended or has had more than three office detentions for behavior issues for the past thirty days.

Students must pay at the door in order to enter the dance.

Students must have a ride arranged for prompt pick up at 9:00.

No parent/guardian is allowed to take any other student home before 9:00 pm unless there is written permission by the parents of the student making the request. The principal prior to the dance must approve this.

Chaperones are there to enforce the dance rules and to help all students enjoy the dance. Please listen respectfully to their suggestions or requests.

DISCIPLINE POLICIES AND PROCEDURES ([School Committee Policy JIC](#))

The atmosphere of a school is a reflection of the attitude of its students and staff toward the school and a function of parental and social attitudes toward education and teachers. It is very important that an atmosphere of order, self-discipline, and mutual respect be encouraged. The administration and staff will work with students to develop the maturity and good judgment to regulate their own behavior and accept the consequences of their decisions and actions.

The Scituate School Committee believes that all students deserve every opportunity to achieve academic success in a safe, secure learning environment. Good citizenship in schools is based on respect and consideration for the rights of others. Students will be expected to conduct themselves in a way that the rights and privileges of others are not violated. They will be required to respect constituted authority, to conform to school rules and to those provisions of law that apply to their conduct.

Each Principal shall include prohibited actions in the student handbook or other publication to be made available to students and parents.

Principals and staff shall not use academic punishment of any form as a consequence to inappropriate behaviors/actions by students.

The Principal may, as a disciplinary measure, remove a student from privileges, such as extracurricular activities and attendance at school-sponsored events, based on the student's misconduct. Such a removal is not subject to the remainder of this policy, law, or regulation.

The Superintendent shall provide each Principal with a copy of the regulations promulgated by DESE and shall have each Principal sign a document acknowledging receipt thereof, which shall be placed in their personnel file.

Suspension

In every case of student misconduct for which suspension may be imposed¹, a Principal shall consider ways to re-engage the student in learning; and avoid using long-term suspension from school as a consequence until alternatives have been tried. Alternatives may include the use of evidence-based strategies and programs such as mediation, conflict resolution, restorative justice, and positive behavioral interventions and supports.

Notice of Suspension:

Except for emergency removal or an in-school suspension of less than 10 days, a Principal must provide the student and the parent oral and written notice, and provide the student an opportunity for a hearing and the parent an opportunity to participate in such hearing before imposing suspension as a consequence for misconduct. The Principal shall provide both oral and written notice to student and parent in English and in the primary language of the home if other than English. The notice shall include the rights enumerated in law and regulation. To conduct a hearing without a parent present, the Principal must be able to document reasonable efforts to include the parent.

Emergency Removal

A Principal may remove a student from school temporarily when a student is charged with a disciplinary offense and the continued presence of the student poses a danger to persons or property, or materially and substantially disrupts the order of the school, and, in the Principal's judgment, there is no alternative available to alleviate the danger or disruption.

Except for offenses referenced in the note at the end of this policy.

The Principal shall immediately notify the Superintendent in writing of the removal including a description of the danger presented by the student.

The temporary removal shall not exceed two (2) school days following the day of the emergency removal, during which time the Principal shall: Make immediate and reasonable efforts to orally notify the student and the student's parent of the emergency removal, the reason for the need for emergency removal, and the other matters required in the notice as referenced in the applicable regulation; Provide written notice to the student and parent as required above; Provide the student an opportunity for a hearing with the Principal that complies with applicable regulations, and the parent an opportunity to attend the hearing, before the expiration of the two (2) school days, unless an extension of time for hearing is otherwise agreed to by the Principal, student, and parent; Render a decision orally on the same day as the hearing, and in writing no later than the following school day, which meets the requirements of applicable law and regulation.

A Principal shall also ensure adequate provisions have been made for the student's safety and transportation prior to removal.

In School Suspension - not more than 10 days consecutively or cumulatively

"Notice of In-School Suspension:

The principal or his/her designee shall inform the student of the disciplinary offense charged and the basis for the charge, and provide the student with an opportunity to dispute the charges and explain the circumstances surrounding the alleged incident. If the principal or his/her designee determines that the student committed the disciplinary offense, the principal or his/her designee shall inform the student of the length of the student's in-school suspension, which shall not exceed ten (10) days, cumulatively or consecutively, in a school year.

On the same day as the in-school suspension decision, the principal or his/her designee shall make reasonable efforts to notify the parent orally of the disciplinary offense, the reasons for concluding that the student committed the infraction, and the length of the in-school suspension.

On the day of the suspension, the principal or his/her designee shall send written notice (by hand-delivery, certified mail, first class mail or email) to the student and parent including the reason and the length of the in-school suspension, and inviting the parent to a meeting if the meeting has not already occurred. The notice shall be in English and the primary language of the home if another language is identified in the home language survey, or by other means, as appropriate.

Parent Meeting:

The principal or his designee shall also invite the parent to a meeting to discuss the student's academic performance and behavior, strategies for student engagement, and possible responses to the behavior. Such meeting shall be scheduled on the day of the suspension if possible, and if not, as soon thereafter as possible. If the principal or his/her designee is unable to reach the parent after making and documenting at least (2) attempts to do so, such attempts shall constitute reasonable efforts for purposes of orally informing the parent of the in-school suspension.

No Right to Appeal:

The decision of the Principal or his/her designee is the final decision for in-school suspensions not exceeding ten (10) days, consecutively or cumulatively during a school year."

The Principal may use in-school suspension as an alternative to short-term suspension for disciplinary offenses.

The Principal may impose an in-school suspension for a disciplinary offense under this provision, provided that the Principal follows the process set forth in regulation and the student has the opportunity to make academic progress as required by law and regulation.

Principal's Hearing - Short Term Suspension of up to 10 days

The hearing with the Principal shall be to hear and consider information regarding the alleged incident for which the student may be suspended, provide the student an opportunity to dispute the charges and explain the circumstances surrounding the alleged incident, determine if the student committed the disciplinary offense, and if so, the consequences for the infraction.

At a minimum, the Principal shall discuss the disciplinary offense, the basis for the charge, and any other pertinent information.

The student also shall have an opportunity to present information, including mitigating facts, that the Principal should consider in determining whether other remedies and consequences may be appropriate as set forth in law and regulation.

The Principal shall provide the parent, if present, an opportunity to discuss the student's conduct and offer information, including mitigating circumstances, that the Principal should consider in determining consequences for the student.

The Principal shall, based on the available information, including mitigating circumstances, determine whether the student committed the disciplinary offense, and, if so, what remedy or consequence will be imposed.

The Principal shall notify the student and parent of the determination and the reasons for it, and, if the student is suspended, the type and duration of suspension and the opportunity to make up assignments and such other school work as needed to make academic progress during the period of removal, as required by law and regulation. The determination shall be in writing and may be in the form of an update to the original written notice.

If the student is in a public preschool program or in grades K through 3, the Principal shall send a copy of the written determination to the Superintendent and explain the reasons for imposing an out-of-school suspension, before the short-term suspension takes effect.

Principal's Hearing - Long Term Suspension of more than 10 days but less than 90 days (consecutive or cumulative)

The hearing with the Principal shall be to hear and consider information regarding the alleged incident for which the student may be suspended, provide the student an opportunity to dispute the charges and explain the circumstances surrounding the alleged incident, determine if the student committed the disciplinary offense, and if so, the consequences for the infraction.

At a minimum, in addition to the rights afforded a student in a short-term suspension hearing, the student shall have the following rights: In advance of the hearing, the opportunity to review the student's record and the documents upon which the Principal may rely in making a determination to suspend the student or not; The right to be represented by counsel or a lay person of the student's choice, at the student's/parent's expense; The right to produce witnesses on his or her behalf and to present the student's explanation of the alleged incident, but the student may not be compelled to do so; The right to cross-examine witnesses presented by the school district; The right to request that the hearing be recorded by the Principal, and to receive a copy of the audio recording upon request. If the student or parent requests an audio recording, the Principal shall inform all participants before the hearing that an audio record will be made and a copy will be provided to the student and parent upon request.

The Principal shall provide the parent, if present, an opportunity to discuss the student's conduct and offer information, including mitigating circumstances, that the Principal should consider in determining consequences for the student.

The Principal shall, based on the evidence, determine whether the student committed the disciplinary offense, and, if so, after considering mitigating circumstances and alternatives to suspension as required by law and regulation, what remedy or consequence will be imposed, in place of or in addition to a long-term suspension. The Principal shall send the written determination to the student and parent by hand-delivery, certified mail, first-class mail, email to an address provided by the parent for school communications, or any other method of delivery agreed to by the Principal and the parent.

If the Principal decides to suspend the student, the written determination shall: Identify the disciplinary offense, the date on which the hearing took place, and the participants at the hearing; Set out the key facts and conclusions reached by the Principal; Identify the length and effective date of the suspension, as well as a date of return to school; Include notice of the student's opportunity to receive education services to make academic progress during the period of removal from school as required by law and regulation; Inform the student of the right to appeal the Principal's decision to the Superintendent or designee, but only if the Principal has imposed a long-term suspension. Notice of the right of appeal shall be in English and the primary language of the home if other than English, or other means of communication where appropriate, and shall include the following information: The process for appealing the decision, including that the student or parent must file a written notice of appeal with the Superintendent within five (5) calendar days of the effective date of the long-term suspension; provided that within the five (5) calendar days, the student or parent may request and receive from the Superintendent an extension of time for filing the written notice for up to seven (7) additional calendar days; and that the long-term suspension will remain in effect unless and until the Superintendent decides to reverse the Principal's determination on appeal.

If the student is in a public preschool program or in grades K through 3, the Principal shall send a copy of the written determination to the Superintendent and explain the reasons for imposing an out-of-school suspension before the suspension takes effect.

Superintendent's Hearing

A student who is placed on long-term suspension following a hearing with the Principal shall have the right to appeal the Principal's decision to the Superintendent.

The student or parent shall file a notice of appeal with the Superintendent within the time period noted above (see Principal's hearing - Suspension of more than 10 days). If the appeal is not timely filed, the Superintendent may deny the appeal, or may allow the appeal in his or her discretion, for good cause.

The Superintendent shall hold the hearing within three (3) school days of the student's request, unless the student or parent requests an extension of up to seven (7) additional calendar days, in which case the Superintendent shall grant the extension.

The Superintendent shall make a good faith effort to include the parent in the hearing. The Superintendent shall be presumed to have made a good faith effort if he or she has made efforts to find a day and time for the hearing that would allow the parent and Superintendent to participate. The Superintendent shall send written notice to the parent of the date, time, and location of the hearing.

The Superintendent shall conduct a hearing to determine whether the student committed the disciplinary offense of which the student is accused, and if so, what the consequence shall be. The Superintendent shall arrange for an audio recording of the hearing, a copy of which shall be provided to the student or parent upon request. The Superintendent shall inform all participants before the hearing that an audio record will be made of the hearing and a copy will be provided to the student and parent upon request. The student shall have all the rights afforded the student at the Principal's hearing for long-term suspension.

The Superintendent shall issue a written decision within five (5) calendar days of the hearing which meets the requirements of law and regulation. If the Superintendent determines that the student committed the disciplinary offense, the Superintendent may impose the same or a lesser consequence than the Principal, but shall not impose a suspension greater than that imposed by the Principal's decision. The decision of the Superintendent shall be the final decision of the school district with regard to the suspension.

Expulsion

Expulsion is defined as the removal of a student from school for more than ninety (90) school days, indefinitely, or permanently as allowed by law for possession of a dangerous weapon; possession of a controlled substance; assault on a member of the educational staff; or a felony charge or felony delinquency complaint or conviction, or adjudication or admission of guilt with respect to such felony, if a Principal determines that the student's continued presence in school would have a substantial detrimental effect on the general welfare of the school.

Any student expelled from school for such an offense shall be afforded an opportunity to receive educational services and make academic progress.

Academic Progress

Any student who is suspended or expelled shall have the opportunity to earn credits, make up assignments, tests, papers, and other school work as needed to make academic progress during the period of his or her removal from the classroom or school. The Principal shall inform the student and parent of this opportunity in writing, in English and in the primary language of the home, when such suspension or expulsion is imposed.

Any student who is expelled or suspended from school for more than ten (10) consecutive days, whether in school or out of school, shall have an opportunity to receive education services and make academic progress toward meeting state and local requirements, through the school-wide education service plan.

The Principal shall develop a school-wide education service plan describing the education services that the school district will make available to students who are expelled or suspended from school for more than ten (10) consecutive days. The plan shall include the process for notifying such students and their parents of the services and arranging such services. Education services shall be based on, and be provided in a manner consistent with, the academic standards and curriculum frameworks established for all students under the law.

The Principal shall notify the parent and student of the opportunity to receive education services at the time the student is expelled or placed on long-term suspension. Notice shall be provided in English and in the primary language spoken in the student's home if other than English, or other means of communication where appropriate. The notice shall include a list of the specific education services that are available to the student and contact information for a school district staff member who can provide more detailed information.

For each student expelled or suspended from school for more than ten (10) consecutive days, whether in-school or out-of-school, the school district shall document the student's enrollment in education services. For data reporting purposes, the school shall track and report attendance, academic progress, and such other data as directed by the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education.

Reporting

The school district shall collect and annually report data to the DESE regarding in-school suspensions, short- and long-term suspensions, expulsions, emergency removals, access to education services, and such other information as may be required by the DESE.

The Principal of each school shall periodically review discipline data by selected student populations, including but not limited to race and ethnicity, gender, socioeconomic status, English language learner status, and student with a disability status in accordance with law and regulation.

LEGAL REFS.: M.G.L. 71:37H; 71:37H ½; 71:37H ¾; 76:17; 603 CMR 53.00

SCITUATE EDUCATION SERVICE PLAN

In accordance with the Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 71, Sections 37H, 37H½, and 37H¾, Scituate Public Schools must provide opportunities for students to earn credit and make up assignments, tests, papers, and other schoolwork as needed to make academic progress during the period of an in-school suspension, short-term suspension (10 days or less), long-term suspension (10 days or more), or expulsion. Any student who is expelled or long-term suspended from school for more than ten (10) consecutive days may select one of the following education service options for the duration of the school suspension:

Access to tutoring services:

Students choosing this option are expected to attend tutoring sessions at a designated public site identified by Scituate where qualified Scituate personnel or contracted providers as assigned by Scituate will assist students with their self-directed academic work. The academic work will be consistent with the academic standards and curriculum frameworks established for all students under M.G.L. c. 69, §§1D and 1F. Student's tutoring schedule is by appointment and prepared weekly; however, based upon the availability of qualified tutors, tutoring services may only be available before or after school hours.

Access to online education:

Students choosing this option are enrolled in the online platform Virtual High School (www.vhslearning.org). Work hours are flexible but daily attendance during the school week is imperative in order to ensure success in the virtual program. The academic work will be consistent with the academic standards and curriculum frameworks established for all students under M.G.L. c. 69, §§1D and 1F.

BEHAVIORS AND CONSEQUENCES

The atmosphere of a school is a reflection of the attitude of its students and staff toward the school and toward each other. As such, a disciplinary code with appropriate progressive discipline is necessary. With progressive discipline, consequences increase upon repeat occurrences. The administration will exercise discretion in determining disciplinary consequences and will reserve the right to increase or decrease the consequences as appropriate based upon individual circumstances.

TIER 1

Penalty: Minimum of 1 office detention; restitution where applicable

- ❖ Disruptive conduct in class or school building, on school grounds or on school buses
- ❖ Disrespectful speech or action done toward any member of the school community in the building or on school grounds
- ❖ Failure to report to a teacher-assigned detention
- ❖ Habitual loitering after school hours
- ❖ Gambling in school or on school grounds
- ❖ Unacceptable social behavior
- ❖ Drinks, other than water, outside of the dining commons (unless permitted by a teacher for a special classroom activity)
- ❖ Failure to return and/or pay for lost or damaged books
- ❖ Repeated violation of dress code
- ❖ Failure to report to the office when tardy to school

TIER 2

Penalty: Minimum of 2 office detentions, up to suspension; restitution where applicable

- ❖ Failure to report to Office Detention
- ❖ Repeated violation of rules outlined in Tier 1
- ❖ Defiance or failure to comply with a request made by any staff member
- ❖ Knowingly lying to a staff member or administrator
- ❖ Failure to report to homeroom, class, or lunch
- ❖ Encouraging or arranging fights
- ❖ Throwing food or objects of any kind
- ❖ Forgery
- ❖ Plagiarism of any type
- ❖ Profanity, obscenity, discourtesy or blatant disrespect toward any staff member
- ❖ Damaging school property or other people's personal property
- ❖ Inappropriate physical contact, including horseplay and "fake-fighting"
- ❖ Making and/or throwing snowballs on school property
- ❖ Misrepresentation or failure to give correct identity when asked by school personnel
- ❖ Creating a safety hazard

TIER 3

Penalty: Minimum of 2 to 10 days suspension and/or referral for expulsion; restitution where applicable; referral to Scituate Police Department where applicable

- ❖ Physical aggression of any nature including, but not limited to fighting
- ❖ Threats of violence, including physical intimidation/aggression
- ❖ Possession of hazardous materials (fireworks, incendiary devices)
- ❖ Chronic defiance or insubordination
- ❖ Repeated violation of rules outlined in Tier 1 or Tier 2
- ❖ Harassment, which is speech or conduct that creates, or contributes to the creation of, an intimidating or hostile environment of a student because of their race, color, religion, national origin, sex, gender identity, sexual orientation, or disability
- ❖ Use of hate symbols, hate speech, or other actions or language intended to target another person's or group's race, color, religion, national origin, sex, gender identity, sexual orientation, or disability

- ❖ Repeated, targeted behavior that harms a student or students and/or disrupts the school environment
- ❖ Hazing – any conduct or method of initiation into any student organization, whether on public or private property, which willfully or recklessly endangers the physical or mental health of any student or other person
- ❖ Possession of weapons or facsimile weapons*
- ❖ Using, possessing, or being in the presence of tobacco products and smoking/vaping products, including cigarettes, cigars, chewing tobacco, vaping liquid, vaporizers, or e-cigarettes ([POLICY JICG](#))
- ❖ Initiating a false fire alarm
- ❖ A bomb threat call
- ❖ Possession, use, or sale of controlled substances, drugs, alcohol*
- ❖ Drug-related paraphernalia*
- ❖ Stealing
- ❖ Defacing school property
- ❖ Leaving school grounds without permission
- ❖ Any disruptive act that significantly interferes with the educational atmosphere of a classroom or of the building
- ❖ Truancy
- ❖ Disruption of any school-sponsored event
- ❖ Spitting at another person
- ❖ Serious violations of the District Acceptable Use Policy

CONTROLLED SUBSTANCE* ([POLICY JICH](#))

School policy and state law forbids the use of, possession of, being in the presence of, or sale/distribution of alcoholic beverages and/ or controlled substances. Students in the presence of others who are using, selling, distributing, or in open possession of these substances may be subject to disciplinary action up to and including the full application of this policy. The regulations are in effect during the school day and at all extracurricular and school functions. Violations of these regulations will result in the following sanctions:

- **Alcoholic Beverages (Use, possession, in the presence of, sale or distribution)**

1st Offense

- Notification of parents.
- Mandatory parent conference.
- Suspension from school for a minimum of five (5) days with a possible recommendation for an additional five (5) days.
- Assessment by school psychologist for counseling.
- Restricted from all school events or co-curricular activities for forty-five (45) school days.
- Student will be required to develop a contract with the building principal or his/her designee to perform twenty-five (25) hours of school-related service beyond the school day. The student will have two weeks to complete the school-related service.
- Students must relinquish any elected or appointed position for the remainder of the year.

2nd Offense

- Notification of parents.
- Mandatory parent conference.
- Suspension from school for a minimum of five (5) days with a recommendation for an additional five (5) days.
- Assessment by school psychologist for counseling.
- Notification of Narcotics Bureau and Police (informally).
- Possible expulsion from school.
- Student will be required to develop a contract with the building principal or his/her designee to perform twenty-five (25) hours of school-related service beyond the school day. The student will have two weeks to complete the school-related service.
- Student will not be allowed to attend or participate in any school events or co-curricular activities for a minimum of sixty (60) school days, or the remainder of the academic year, whichever is longer.
- Students must relinquish any elected or appointed position for the remainder of the year.

- **Controlled Substances (Use of, possession of, in the presence of, sale or distribution of a controlled substance)**

All Offenses

- Notification of parents.
- Mandatory parent conference.
- Suspension from school for a minimum of five (5) days with a possible recommendation for an additional five (5) days.
- Mandatory expulsion hearing (per Education Reform law).
- Referral for counseling.
- Notification of Narcotics Bureau and Police informally.
- Restricted from all school or co-curricular activities for forty-five (45) school days. Student will be required to develop a contract with the principal or his/her designee to perform twenty-five (25) hours of school-related service beyond the school days. The student will have two weeks to complete the school-related service.
- Student must relinquish any elected or appointed position for the remainder of the year.

POSSESSION OF WEAPONS*

Many items can be classified as weapons if they are used improperly. Possession of a facsimile weapon or weapon contraband (ie. Bullets, spent or unused) also constitutes a violation of school rules and may result in disciplinary action.

- Notification of parents.
- Minimum of five (5) days suspension.
- Mandatory expulsion hearing.
- Referral for counseling.
- Notification of the police.
- Restricted from all school or co-curricular activities for forty-five (45) school days.
- Student will be required to develop a contract with the principal or his/her designee to perform twenty-five (25) hours of school-related service beyond the school days. The student will have two weeks to complete the school-related service.
- Student must relinquish any elected or appointed position for the remainder of the year.

The administration has the final decision in all disciplinary matters.

DUE PROCESS

The Fourteenth Amendment says no person can be deprived of life, liberty or property without due process of law. The Supreme Court has held that a student's interest in a public education is a property right protected by the due process clause. The essential elements of due process are "notice" and "hearing". This means that a student cannot be suspended unless he/she is informed of the charge against him/her and the basis for the accusation, and unless he/she is given a chance to tell his/her side of the story.

DISCIPLINE OF STUDENTS WITH SPECIAL NEEDS

All students are expected to meet the requirements for behavior as prescribed in this handbook. State and federal special education laws prescribe additional requirements concerning the discipline of students with special needs. Anytime school personnel seek to remove a student from his or her current educational placement for more than ten (10) school days in any school year, this constitutes a "change of placement." A change of placement invokes certain procedural protections under the IDEA, the federal special education law. The student's Team will convene to determine whether the student's misconduct that led to the change in placement was a manifestation of his/her disability. These include, but are not limited to:

- ❖ If the misconduct was a manifestation, the school will conduct a functional behavioral assessment and implement a behavior intervention plan, provided that the school did not already conduct such an assessment before the behavior that resulted in the discipline.
- ❖ If such an assessment was already conducted, the behavior intervention plan will be reviewed and modified as necessary. Additionally, if the behavior was a manifestation, the student will return to the placement from which he/she was removed, unless the school and the parent agree otherwise.
- ❖ If the behavior was not a manifestation, the school may apply the relevant disciplinary procedures to the extent they would be applied to a student not eligible for special education, except that a student eligible for special education who is removed from his/her current educational placement is entitled to continue receiving educational services to enable the student to continue to participate in the general curriculum, although in another setting, and to continue to progress toward meeting the goals set out in the student's IEP.

In special circumstances, the school may move students to an interim alternative educational setting for not more than 45 days without regard to whether the behavior that led to the removal was a manifestation of the student's disability. These special circumstances are when:

- o a student carries or possesses a weapon to or at school, on school premises, or to or at a school function under the jurisdiction of a State or local educational agency; knowingly possesses or uses illegal drugs, or sells or solicits the sale of a controlled substance, while at school, on school premises at a school function under the jurisdiction of a State or local educational agency
- o a student has inflicted serious bodily injury upon another person while at school, on school premises, at a school function under the jurisdiction of a State or local educational agency.

Copies of disability law requirements regarding discipline are available in the Special Education Office.

Similar procedures apply to students with plans under Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1993.

DRESS CODE

Gates Middle School has a dress code that is meant to emphasize the importance of personal dress and appearance that encourages a safe and positive learning environment for all. The following guidelines are meant to encourage that environment:

- Students should dress comfortably for school while wearing clothing that is well-suited for a school environment.
- Clothing will cover torso, midriff and backside, and have sleeves or straps.
- Head and face will be uncovered. Appropriate headgear may be worn for warmth and protection outdoors, and inside for religious reasons or special circumstances.
- Clothing, drawings, and accessories that display or promote negative messages are not permitted. Those negative messages could include drug, weapon, alcohol, gang, or tobacco-related information, obscenities, put-downs, stereotypes, sexual innuendo, or offensive words or graphics.

Gates encourages all students to be proud of who they are and to express themselves appropriately. Violations of the dress code will require a change of clothing. Special circumstances will be considered on a case-by-case basis. The courts have ruled that the schools have authority to regulate students' dress and, in some cases, hair styling. Students who are dressed inappropriately for school will be requested to change their clothing. Parents may be called and requested to bring in appropriate attire for their children. Health regulations require that shoes must be worn at all times in a public building. Students who violate the dress code for the first time will be asked to call their parents to bring in appropriate clothing. **The final decision regarding a particular student's dress lies with the administration.**

DRUG SEARCH

The Gates Middle School will periodically conduct a search of the school, including lockers and desks, for drugs and contraband. Student possessions will be searched when there is reason to believe the student is violating or has violated the law or school rules. When appropriate, the police and the use of trained animals may be used to conduct such a search. Students found intentionally interfering with a search may be subject to disciplinary action.

ELECTRONIC DEVICES ([Policy IJNDB](#))

Scituate Public Schools is a “Bring Your Own Device” district, and students are encouraged to bring devices with a keyboard to school. Such devices, when used properly, are learning tools and help students to collaborate, access research, present work, and stay organized. Students must follow the “Student Responsible Use of Technology” ([Policy IJNDB](#)).

Gates Statement on Using Devices in Pro-Social Ways: Gates Middle School is a community committed to students’ positive academic and social development. As a community, we want to see technology used in ways that facilitates both academic success and the creation of a safe, welcoming, positive social environment. As such, we have developed the following guidelines about the use of electronic devices at school.

Cell Phones: Cell phones may not be used in school between 8:00 am and 2:31 pm and must be kept at home or in student lockers. Students who violate this policy will receive consequences which include having their phone taken away for the day. Students in the school before or after those times may use their phones responsibly, provided that they do so in accordance with the district’s Student Appropriate Use of Technology policy. If a teacher requests that students with phones bring them to class for a specific project, students will be allowed to use them only during class time and only for that specific class. Students without phones will be provided with alternative means for completing those projects.

Consequences for Violations of the Cell Phone Policy:

When a teacher observes a student in violation of the cell phone policy, a teacher will (1) confiscate the phone, (2) notify the student’s parents of the infraction, and (3) return the phone to the student at the end of the day.

When a teacher observes a student in violation of the cell phone policy for a second or subsequent time, teachers will confiscate the phone and turn it into the main office. When a student’s phone is confiscated and turned into the office for the first time, the phone will be held in the office cellphone holder, the student’s parents will receive an email about the violation, and the phone will be returned to the student at the end of the day.

When a student’s phone is confiscated and turned into the office for the second or subsequent times, an administrator will issue additional consequences and develop a plan so that the student’s cellphone will not interfere with the student’s academic and social success at school.

Computers: As a BYOD (“Bring Your Own Device”) school, Gates asks each student to bring a laptop, Chromebook, or similar device with an external keyboard to school each day. These devices are only to be used at the direction of teachers or during student-directed study time (such as during enrichment blocks), and are to be used only for academic purposes.

ENRICHMENT BLOCK

Twice per week, students who are in Chorus and Band will report to their respective classrooms for instruction and practice. Non-music students will participate in an enrichment block class that allows them to do work, read independent reading books, access teachers, work collaboratively with peers, etc.

EQUITY IN THE SCITUATE PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Federal law prohibits discrimination on the basis of race, color or national origin (**Title VI** of the Civil Rights Act of 1964); sex (**Title IX** of the Education Amendments of 1972); or disability (Section **504** of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990) in educational programs or activities receiving federal financial assistance. Pursuant to this, the Scituate Public School System, parents, students, and other interested parties provide the following information for use.

Contact Information

Heidi Driscoll, Assistant Superintendent
District Equity Coordinator (781) 545-8759 x 23313
606 Chief Justice Cushing Highway
Scituate, MA 02066

The complete policy can be found on line at www.scituate.k12.ma.us or a hard copy can be obtained by calling the Superintendent’s Office.

EXTRA HELP

Teachers are generally available for extra help after school Monday through Thursday. During that time, academic help and makeup work are available. At times, teachers may have prior commitments (e.g., faculty meetings, department meetings) and are unavailable to students after school. For this reason, students must check with their teachers in advance to scheduling a time for extra help. Students are encouraged to attend after school extra help sessions to enhance their academic achievement. Any student staying after school must have a specific purpose and must remain with their teacher at all times. Students found loitering in the school or on the school property after school hours may be subject to disciplinary action.

FAMILY EDUCATIONAL RIGHTS AND PRIVACY ACT ([POLICY JRA](#))

FIELD TRIPS

There will be a time when classes, clubs, teams, or other groups will be taking field trips or making visits to other schools to represent Scituate Public Schools in activities. Transportation will be a school bus or commercial transportation, and all students will travel with the group unless there are specific arrangements made in advance through the office of the Principal. Since students will be representing Scituate, it is expected that they will act and dress appropriately for the occasion and in accordance with Gates Middle School's Discipline Policy. In the case of field trips taken during the school day, students will be given a special form to be signed by their teachers and parents. The Administration and/or the student's teacher(s) have the right to approve or restrict a student from participating in a field trip (including overseas trips) based upon that student's tardy, attendance, and behavioral records. It is the student's responsibility to arrange for any class work that may be missed. Students are encouraged to obtain work in advance whenever possible.

FIRE ALARMS (PULLING OF)

Pulling fire alarms and arson are violations of state laws. If students set a fire or pull an alarm, the school will file a court complaint against them in addition to imposing a suspension of up to ten days. If a second offense is committed, the school administration will recommend that the student be expelled from school.

FIRE DRILLS

Safety is the most important issue in any school. The school is required by state law to conduct fire drills. Instructions are posted in each room. Exit from the building or to the assigned indoor location should be rapid and quiet. Listen for instructions after you are outside or in your assigned space. Students must remain with their classroom teachers throughout the drill/evacuation. Students are not allowed to use cell phones or other communication devices during the drill/evacuations. Students who do not follow instructions during a fire drill will be subject to disciplinary consequences. If students are not with a teacher when a fire drill is being conducted, they should go to the nearest exit and report to the first teacher that they see.

FOOD AND DRINK

No food or drink (other than water) should be in the hallways and classrooms or removed from the cafeteria. Students may keep water with them throughout the day. Other beverages, such as sport drinks, coffee, hot chocolate, etc. are permitted in the cafeteria only, not in the classrooms.

HARASSMENT ([POLICY AC](#))([POLICY AC-R](#))([POLICY ACA](#))([POLICY ACAB](#))([POLICY ACAB-R](#))([POLICY ACE](#))

If any Scituate Public Schools student or employee believes, in good faith, that he or she has been subjected to sexual harassment or any other form of harassment or discrimination described in the policies above, the individual has a right to file a complaint with the Scituate Public Schools through the Assistant Superintendent. This may be done verbally or in writing. Teachers or other staff members who observe incidents of harassment involving students should report such incidents immediately to the student's Principal or Assistant Principal. Administrators aware of harassment involving any employee should report such incidents to the Assistant Superintendent. If you wish to file a complaint, you may do so by contacting your immediate supervisor or the Assistant Superintendent in the case of employees; and your teacher, Principal, Assistant Principal or Assistant Superintendent in the case of students.

HAZING ([POLICY JICFA-E](#))

HEALTH SERVICES

HEALTH INFORMATION

School Physician: Dr. Stephen Lane, MD

School Nurses: Karen MacDonald, BSN RN NCSN, Maryanne Sham, BSN RN CCRN

IMMUNIZATIONS

The Massachusetts Department of Public Health has strict immunization guidelines that we must adhere to. Mandatory school immunizations are as follows:
By 7th grade entry every student must have:

Grades Kindergarten – 6[†]

In ungraded classrooms, Kindergarten requirements apply to all students ≥5 years.

DTaP	5 doses; 4 doses are acceptable if the fourth dose is given on or after the 4 th birthday. DT is only acceptable with a letter stating a medical contraindication to DTaP
Polio	4 doses; fourth dose must be given on or after the 4 th birthday and ≥6 months after the previous dose, or a fifth dose is required. 3 doses are acceptable if the third dose is given on or after the 4 th birthday and ≥6 months after the previous dose
Hepatitis B	3 doses; laboratory evidence of immunity acceptable
MMR	2 doses; first dose must be given on or after the 1 st birthday and second dose must be given ≥28 days after first dose; laboratory evidence of immunity acceptable
Varicella	2 doses; first dose must be given on or after the 1 st birthday and second dose must be given ≥28 days after first dose; a reliable history of chickenpox* or laboratory evidence of immunity acceptable

Massachusetts School Immunization Requirements 2021-2022[§]

Requirements apply to all students including individuals from another country attending or visiting classes or educational programs as part of an academic visitation or exchange program. Requirements apply to all students, even if over 18 years of age.

Grades 7 – 12[‡]

‡ In ungraded classrooms, Grade 7 requirements apply to all students ≥12 years.

Tdap	1 dose; and history of DTaP primary series or age appropriate catch-up vaccination. Tdap given at ≥7 years may be counted, but a dose at age 11-12 is recommended if Tdap was given earlier as part of a catch-up schedule. Td or Tdap should be given if it has been ≥10 years since last Tdap
Polio	4 doses; fourth dose must be given on or after the 4 th birthday and ≥6 months after the previous dose, or a fifth dose is required. 3 doses are acceptable if the third dose is given on or after the 4 th birthday and ≥6 months after the previous dose
Hepatitis B	3 doses; laboratory evidence of immunity acceptable. 2 doses of <u>Hepilisav-B</u> given on or after 18 years of age are acceptable
MMR	2 doses; first dose must be given on or after the 1 st birthday and second dose must be given ≥28 days after first dose; laboratory evidence of immunity acceptable
Varicella	2 doses; first dose must be given on or after the 1 st birthday and second dose must be given ≥28 days after first dose; a reliable history of chickenpox* or laboratory evidence of immunity acceptable

Meningococcal Requirements

Grade 7-8	1 dose; 1 dose <u>MenACWY</u> (formerly MCV4) required. Meningococcal B vaccine is not required and does not meet this requirement.
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Prescription medication to be administered during the school day - Prescription medication *must be delivered to the school by a parent or guardian. Students are not allowed to carry prescription medication to school, with the exception of inhalers and Epipens.* A written physician's order and a written parent consent form must accompany the medication. It must be in the original container and be labeled with the child's name, medication name, dose, directions, and prescribing physician's name. Per the Massachusetts Department of Public Health, no prescription medication shall be administered without all of the above being present. Medication consent forms are available in the nurse's office. We are not allowed to store prescription medication in the school over the summer. Therefore, it must be picked up by the last day of school or it will be discarded. (please see School Committee Policy JLCD)

Non-prescription medication to be administered during school hours:

Every September, non-prescription medication consent forms are sent to families to be completed. This includes permission for medications such as Tylenol, Ibuprofen, Benedryl, etc. Please be advised that the only medications that will be administered to your child are those that are designated by the parent/guardian on the form. **Medications will not be administered without this consent form.** The form is updated on an annual basis only, so please inform the nurse if at any time during the school year you would like to make any changes to it.

ASTHMA INHALERS

Middle school students will be allowed to have possession of their own inhalers provided the physician's order and parental consent forms have been completed and indicate that (a) the parent and physician agree that the student should retain custody of the asthma inhaler and warrants that the student has been instructed in the safe and proper use of the inhaler and that (b) the parent holds the school department harmless from any incident involving the availability of ultimate use of the asthma inhaler. It is recommended that an extra inhaler be kept in the health office for emergency purposes. In the event that school personnel become aware that an asthma inhaler is being improperly utilized, the inhaler will be placed in the custody of the nurse or principal, and parents will be notified immediately.

HEALTH CONSIDERATIONS

It is School Committee policy that home injuries are not to be treated by the school nurse. Please inform the school nurse of any health considerations your child may have. This includes student medications, allergies, asthma, diabetes, vision or hearing difficulties or any information that would be helpful for us to provide the best care possible for your student. Please inform the nurse immediately if your child has any food/insect/other allergy in order to provide the safest possible environment at school. The information received will be shared with pertinent staff members to develop an emergency care plan to better accommodate your student.

HEALTH UPDATES

In order to provide the best care possible for your child during school hours, please inform the nurse of any health concerns your child may have, including any changes in his or her health that may arise during the school year. Communication between home and school is vital to your child's well-being.

Updated medical forms, especially immunization records, are always appreciated if your child has a physical exam during the school year. Physicians will provide families with a copy of immunizations and physicals when requested.

HEALTH SCREENINGS

2021-2022 Health screenings during the COVID-19 Pandemic: Per DESE/DPH Fall 2021 guidance: Districts should consider prioritizing screenings for selected students at greatest risk. Therefore, SPS will prioritize screenings throughout the 2021 - 2022 school year. SPS nurses will conduct health screenings as feasible, and will be conducted in a location that protects confidentiality, minimizes distractions from other students, allows for safe distancing, and follows COVID-19 health and safety guidance.

State mandated postural (back) screenings are done in 6th grade. Hearing, vision, height, weight and postural (back) screenings are done in 7th grade. Postural (back) and SBIRT screenings (substance use screening and education) are done in 8th grade.

These are merely screenings, not diagnostic exams. If your student is found to have any problems in any of these areas, you will receive a letter home stating the findings, and asking you to take your student to the appropriate healthcare provider for follow up. **If you would prefer your student does not participate in these screenings, a written request to that effect must be sent to school.**

ABSENCES/DISMISSALS

Understandably, parents (and usually students) do not want class absences. However, when your student is ill, please keep them home. Students with a temperature of 100 degrees or greater, those with vomiting, diarrhea or other illnesses, should always remain home until all symptoms have been absent for 24 hours. Students that are prescribed antibiotics for any reason need to be taking them for 24 hours before returning to school. Students must be fever-free for 24 hours before returning to school. In the event that your student becomes ill during the day, a parent or guardian will be contacted to pick up the student. With parental permission, the student may be dismissed to another family member or friend, provided proper identification is shown. If the school is unable to reach the parent, the emergency contact will be called to pick up the student. Please note that COVID-19 guidance will be provided at the beginning of the school year, and guidance for COVID-19 symptoms or illness will be provided by school nurses at that time, and may be revised ongoing, during the school year.

HOME INSTRUCTION

Scituate Public Schools continues to respect the right of parents to educate their children at home. Home instruction is subject to the prior approval of the Superintendent following specific procedures. Further information may be obtained from the Office of the Assistant Superintendent.

HOMEBOUND INSTRUCTION ([POLICY IHBE](#))

HOMELESS STUDENTS: EDUCATION OF ([POLICY JEABD](#))

HOMEWORK

The term "homework" refers to an assignment to be prepared during a period of supervised study in class or outside of class. The purposes of homework are to improve the learning processes, to aid in the mastery of skills, and to create and stimulate interest on the part of the student. Homework is a learning activity which should increase in complexity with the maturity of the student. With increased maturity, learning should become an independent activity. This

should be established through consistent assignments which encourage students to investigate for themselves and to work independently as well as with others.

Homework is an extension of the student's daily instructional program and is assigned in order to meet the following educational goals and activities:

- ❖ To positively and meaningfully review, reinforce, and refine the skills and concepts that are taught in the classroom.
- ❖ To pursue independent or enrichment studies of the classroom curriculum.
- ❖ To develop in each student a sense of responsibility and accountability.
- ❖ Homework assignments should not include skills or concepts that have not been taught previously.

HOMework GUIDELINES

Homework should be assigned in increasing amounts from grades one through twelve. It is recommended that the total time for all subjects fall within the following time guideline: Grades 6-8: An average of less than two hours per night.

Homework should be evaluated for completion, accuracy and content. Homework assignments that have been evaluated should be included when determining a student's quarterly grade average. The homework component should not exceed the following guideline: Grades 6-8: No more than 25%.

Students and parents should be made aware of each teacher's grading philosophy during the first few weeks of each school year. Academic grouping levels in the higher grades can have an effect on the frequency, length and grading policies regarding homework assignments.

These policies are recommended as guidelines to establish consistency within the school system. They are not to be interpreted as a constraint upon a teacher's academic freedom nor upon any departmental policies regarding homework, which would refine and clarify these policies. However, homework assignments should not be given for punitive reasons.

Homework assignments missed through absenteeism due to illness, family emergencies, and vacations taken during school time must be made up. It must be understood that extra help and make up sessions do not take the place of being present for the regular daily instruction.

Parental involvement in the homework process is strongly encouraged. It is recommended that parents provide a setting conducive to doing homework and a definite time period during which homework must be done. Parents can also act as a resource person to their children when requested. By assuming this role, parents are able to check their child's progress and the quality of their homework assignments.

It is recognized that long-term assignments increase a student's homework load over and above the normal time recommendations. Therefore, teachers should make every effort to avoid concurrent long-term assignments. If this is not possible, due dates for the assignments should be staggered.

It should be understood that a take home exam differs from regular homework assignments especially in terms of the grading process.

HONOR ROLL

High Honors – Students must receive A's in all academic and exploratory subjects (Music, Health/Wellness, Art, Engineering, Technology, Physical Education, Band and Chorus).

Honor Roll – Students must receive A's or B's in all academic subjects and exploratory subjects (Music, Health/Wellness, Art, Engineering, Technology, Physical Education, Band and Chorus).

HUMAN SEXUALITY EDUCATION ([POLICY IHAMA](#))

LIBRARY MEDIA COLLECTION

The library collection is an essential component of the learning experience for students at Gates Middle School. The use of resources is critical to providing the best possible education. The collection thrives due to the support of the administration and the utilization and cooperation of the staff. Books are organized by genre, can be found throughout the shelves of the building and the community can find information such as description and location through our Destiny online catalog. Destiny can be accessed as a guest or login through firstnamelastname and password (student pin code).

The objectives of the *Gates Library Collection* are to provide:

- Opportunities for students to browse, explore, and utilize all resources available.
- Opportunities for staff to incorporate resources for instruction into the curriculum
- Assistance to students in completing resource-based learning assignments and activities
- Resources for teachers to supplement their instruction and curriculum

Books may be kept for a period of two weeks after which time they should renew or return the item. If a book is lost or damaged, patrons will be billed an amount equal to the replacement cost of the book.

The Gates Library Media Specialist ensures equitable access to information and resources both at school and online. The school Library Media Specialist can assist teachers and students in the effective use of technology while providing information tools, resources, data, and supportive systems that increase teaching and learning opportunities.

As both the manager of the library collection and a teacher librarian, the Library Media Specialist also incorporates a student-centered approach designed to help all students develop skills including thinking critically, utilizing information to solve complex problems, working collaboratively, communicating effectively, and developing lifelong skills for accessing and assessing information.

LIFE THREATENING ALLERGIES ([POLICY EFAB](#))

The Scituate Public Schools will work in cooperation with parent/guardians, students and physicians to minimize risks and to provide a safe educational environment for all students. Any student with a diagnosis by a physician that the child is at high risk of a life threatening allergic reaction and/or a medication order containing indications for the administration of epinephrine will be included in this policy. The focus of allergy management will be prevention, education, awareness, communication and emergency response. This policy and protocol will assist students to optimize full participation in educational programs and school-sponsored activities. Procedures shall be in place at school to address food allergy issues in the classrooms and gym, food services/cafeteria, for art, science and mathematics projects, crafts, outdoor activity areas, school buses and vans, field trips and before and after school activities and school sponsored events. The complete Life Threatening Allergy policy can be found on the district website.

“LOCKDOWN” and “STAY-IN-PLACE” ORDERS

The school will periodically conduct a “Lockdown” drill or issue a “Stay-in-Place” order. Students are expected to follow instructions of teachers and administration. Students must remain with their classroom teachers throughout the lockdown or stay-in-place order. Students are not allowed to use cell phones or other communication devices during lockdown or stay-in-place order. Students who do not follow instructions during a lockdown or stay-in-place order may be subject to disciplinary action.

LOCKERS

Each student will be assigned a locker for storing coats, hats, books, cell phones, iPods and other electronic devices as well as other personal belongings. The need to go to a locker does not excuse a student for being tardy to class. Students will be issued a locker to use for the year. Students are expected to keep their lockers closed and secure at all times. If a locker is left unlocked, the school cannot be responsible for the items. Lockers are school property and school administration reserves the right to conduct locker searches for legal, health or safety reasons. Students who vandalize lockers will be subject to disciplinary action. Students are not allowed to keep their belongings in other students’ lockers or on top of their lockers. Students found violating this rule will be subject to disciplinary action.

LOST OR DAMAGED BOOK

Lost or damaged books must be paid for by the end of the year. Students' parents will be notified of outstanding bills. Report cards may be held until obligations are fulfilled.

LOST AND FOUND

Lost and found articles are put in a box in the lunchroom. In cases of jewelry or eyeglasses, students are asked to bring these items to the main office. The school will not assume responsibility for lost or stolen articles.

LUNCH PROGRAM ([POLICY EEC](#))

A class "A" Federal Lunch is served daily in the cafeteria. Students may bring their own lunches if they wish. Sandwiches, fruit, cookies, and ice cream may be purchased separately. Parents are encouraged to send their children to school with healthy food choices. All food is to be eaten in the cafeteria at lunchtime. Students should report to the cafeteria immediately after the bell rings for the start of lunch. **Students are expected to follow these cafeteria rules:**

- ❖ Talk quietly to students at your table.
- ❖ Stay seated at your table except for when disposing of trash.
- ❖ Ask permission from a teacher or administrator if you need to leave the cafeteria for any reason.
- ❖ Do not cut in the lunch line.
- ❖ Do not ask or pressure other students for food or money.
- ❖ Do not use another student’s account for lunch charges.
- ❖ Make sure you check under the tables and remove any trash or food that may have been spilled. Dustpans and brushes are available.

Violation of cafeteria rules may result in the assignment of a new table, lunch detentions, office detentions, community service or removal from the cafeteria for a period of time.

MARKING SYSTEM

Student grades at Gates Middle School are reported as letter grades on report cards. Each letter grade represents a range of numerical grades as follows:

- A+ 97 and above
- A 93.0 - 96.9
- A- 90.0 - 92.9
- B+ 87.0 - 89.9
- B 83.0 - 86.9
- B- 80.0 - 82.9
- C+ 77.0 - 79.9
- C 73.0 - 76.9
- C- 70.0 - 72.9
- D+ 67.0 - 69.9
- D 63.0 - 66.9
- D- 60.0 - 62.9
- F 59.4 and below
- P Pass
- I Incomplete *

*Under normal circumstances, incomplete grades must be made up within five school days of the issuance of the report cards.

MASKS AND FACE COVERINGS

All students are required to comply with District policies and rules relative to masks/face coverings, including Scituate's Policy EBCFA Face Coverings. Any student who does not comply with the District's face covering policies and rules will be considered not in a condition to attend school. As such, the building principal or designee will work with the parent/guardian and student to develop a plan for the student to meet the conditions required for attendance. Students who refuse to comply with face covering/mask policies or procedures may be subject to the full range of discipline, in the discretion of the building principal.

MOSQUITO SPRAYING

The Town of Scituate does spray school grounds for the control of mosquitoes on occasions. The school community will be notified of mosquito spraying via postings to the Scituate Public Schools website.

NATIONAL JUNIOR HONOR SOCIETY

Election to the National Junior Honor Society is an important honor. The Satuit Chapter of the society was granted a charter in 1962. Students who are selected to be members are expected to demonstrate the five pillars of NJHS: scholarship, citizenship, service, leadership and character. The flaming torch, the symbol of learning, is the insignia on the gold pins worn by members of the society. **Qualifications for membership in the National Junior Honor Society are as follows:**

- ❖ A student must be a member of *Gates Middle School* for a period equivalent to two marking periods before the selection process.
- ❖ A student must have a cumulative scholastic average of at least 3.60 based on all of grade six, all of grade seven, and the first two trimesters of grade eight, including exploratory courses and physical education.
- ❖ A student who meets the academic requirements will be evaluated by the Faculty Council on the basis of service, leadership, character and citizenship.
- ❖ Students who meet the academic requirements and are voted in by the Faculty Council must maintain the 3.60 average through term three in grade eight to be inducted.

A *National Junior Honor Society* induction ceremony is held annually in May or June. A reception for new members and their families will follow. Students must continue to uphold the standards listed above. Violation of any tenets of the society may be cause for dismissal from the society.

NO SCHOOL NOTIFICATION/SCHOOL CLOSING

There may be days on which school is closed or the opening of school is delayed due to inclement weather. Families who have provided phone numbers and email addresses will be notified through SchoolMessenger. Local television and radio stations may also announce this information. In the event that there is a storm or an emergency that develops during the school day that necessitates closing the school, there will be an early dismissal. Should this occur, parents are advised to have a plan in place directing their child or children where to go when there is no one at home.

OUTDOOR EDUCATION PROGRAM

Every year, the sixth graders may participate in the Outdoor Education Program, which is a privilege and not a right. The purpose of the program is two-fold: to increase the students' awareness of the natural world and to provide students with a chance to live together in an environment where they will learn to appreciate friends' abilities and talents more than they normally would within a regular school setting. Every year, a fundraiser is held to reduce the per pupil cost. The Gates PTO and school staff give generously of their time and energy to make this program an annual success.

PHYSICAL EXAM OF STUDENTS ([POLICY JLCA](#))

PHYSICAL RESTRAINT ([POLICY JKAA](#))

PLAGIARISM

According to the American Heritage Student Dictionary, to plagiarize is "to take ideas or written passages from another and use them as one's own". Plagiarism occurs when a student uses a few sentences, paragraph, phrases, artistic creations, or ideas without giving proper citation or credit. Plagiarism also includes copying another student's homework, as it involves taking ideas and passing them off as one's own. Regardless of the form, plagiarism is cheating, and is an academically dishonest offense. Teachers will support academic honesty through instruction and reinforcement of these concepts. Examples of plagiarism include but are not limited to:

- o Using sentences from a source (web site, book, article, etc.) and not giving credit to that source
- o Copying another student's homework
- o Allowing another student to copy your homework
- o Passing in work that is not one's own (i.e., written by a parent, sibling, or anyone other than the student)

First offense: Student may earn an F for the assignment. Parent or guardian will be contacted.

Second offense: Student will not earn credit for the assignment. Student also will receive two office detentions. Parent or guardian will be contacted. .

Third offense: Student will earn a 0% for the assignment. Parent or guardian will be contacted.

PROMOTION POLICY

In order to be eligible for promotion to the next grade, a student must pass both English and math. In addition, he/she must also pass at least one other major subject. Major subjects include English, Math, Science, Social Studies, and Foreign Language. Students who fail English, Mathematics, or more than one

other major subject must successfully make up these courses. A student may not make up more than two subjects in summer school. Private tutoring may take the place of summer school with the written permission of the principal. All costs for summer school and/or private tutoring are the student's responsibility.

A promotion review committee composed of administrators and counselors will discuss those students who have not met the promotion requirements. Students considered to be poor candidates for retention for a variety of reasons may be recommended for social promotion to the next grade if it is in their best interest. These recommendations will be referred to the superintendent for a final decision.

For more information on summer school options, please contact your school counselor.

P.T.O.

The P.T.O. at Gates Middle School is committed to fostering and encouraging excellence and equity in the educational environment by promoting communication among students, teachers, parents/guardians and administrators. Members of the Gates P.T.O. volunteer their time and energy to raise funds, host events, and research opportunities for improving education at the middle-school level through events that directly involve and benefit the entire Gates community. Through the cultural enrichment program, student and staff teaming events, parent/teacher socials, the teacher support program, and others, the Gates P.T.O. provides a tremendous opportunity for all parents/guardians, students, teachers, and administrators to work toward creating a valuable partnership in education.

RESPONSIBLE USE POLICY ([POLICY LJNDB](#))

SCHOOL COUNCIL

The **Gates School Council** is a representative school building-based committee composed of the principal, two parents, two teachers, one school committee representative and one community member. Each year, there will be an election. Council meetings are usually held monthly; dates and times of meetings are posted at Town Hall. Parents, staff, and students are encouraged to attend these meetings. The Gates School Council develops a *School Improvement Plan* each year.

SCHOOL COUNSELING

Every student will be assigned a School Counselor who will work with students in an entire grade for three years. This "looping" practice allows for counselors to build positive relationships with their students and their families. School counselors are available to assist students in the process of successfully navigating their middle school years. Students are encouraged to meet with their counselors about any problem or issue that is interfering with their ability to succeed academically or socially. School counselors design programs to meet the needs of all their students; these activities focus on career exploration, positive peer relationship development, and study skills. Counselors also meet with those students individually who need assistance with a variety of issues including, but not limited to: improving peer relationships, managing increasing independence and taking responsibility for their own learning. Counselors may also make referrals to a school psychologist, social worker and/or outside agencies as necessary. Private and vocational school applications are processed through the School Counseling Department as well. Parents are encouraged to contact their child's counselor with any concerns.

SCHOOL HEALTH SERVICES: ADMINISTRATION OF MEDICATION ([POLICY JLCD](#))

SCHOOL HOURS

Gates Middle School hours for the 2021-2022 school year are 8:00-2:31. On half days schools will dismiss at 10:30.

SEARCHES ([POLICY JIH](#))

Lockers, lab tables, desks and other equipment and facilities are the property of the school and are subject to search at any time for any reason. When appropriate, the police and the use of trained animals may be used to conduct such a search. A student's person, personal belongings and automobile/bicycle/other form of transportation are subject to search when there is reasonable suspicion to believe that the student is in possession of contraband, drugs, weapons or, if there is reason to believe there is an immediate physical threat to the school and/or students, or if there is reason to believe that the student has violated or is violating the law or school rules.

SECTION 504

Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 is an Act which prohibits discrimination against persons with a handicap in any programs receiving federal financial assistance. The Act defines a person with a handicap as anyone who:

1. Has a mental or physical impairment which substantially limits one or more of such person's major life activities which include functions such as:

- Caring for one's self
- Performing manual tasks
- Walking
- Seeing
- Hearing
- Speaking
- Breathing
- Learning
- Eating
- Sleeping
- Standing
- Lifting
- Reading

- Concentrating
 - Thinking
 - Communicating
 - Working
 - Bending
 - Operation of major bodily function
2. Has record of such an impairment
 3. Is regarded as having such an impairment

In order to fulfill its obligation under Section 504, the Scituate Public Schools recognize a responsibility to avoid discrimination in policies and practices regarding its personnel and students. No discrimination against any person with a handicap will knowingly be permitted in any of the programs and practices in the school system.

The school district has specific responsibilities under the Act, which include the responsibility to identify, evaluate, and if the child is determined to be eligible under Section 504, to afford access to appropriate educational services. If the parent or guardian disagrees with the determination made by the professional staff of the school district, he/she has a right to a hearing with an impartial hearing officer.

SECTION 504/BEHAVIOR

All students are expected to meet the requirements for behavior as prescribed in this handbook. Additional requirements concerning the discipline of a student on a section 504 Plan are as follows:

When it is known that a student on a Section 504 Plan is likely to be excluded from his/her program for more than 10 cumulative days in a school year, the Section 504 Team will convene to determine whether the student's misconduct that leads to the change in placement is a manifestation of the student's disability.

If the conduct was a manifestation, the school may conduct or review a functional behavior assessment and implement a behavior intervention plan. If such an assessment was already conducted, the behavior intervention plan will be reviewed and modified as necessary. Additionally, if the behavior was a manifestation, the student will return to the placement from which he/she was removed unless the school and parent agree otherwise.

If the behavior was not a manifestation, the school may apply the relevant disciplinary procedures to the extent they would be applied to a student not eligible for Section 504.

Additional information concerning Section 504 including the right to receive an evaluation, the procedural protections afforded to parents and students, a more detailed description of the special rules relating to suspension and expulsion, and access to Section 504 records may be obtained from the **District Section 504 Coordinator**:

Ms. Tammy Rundle
 Scituate Public Schools
 606 Chief Justice Cushing Highway Scituate, MA 02066
 781-545-8750

SECURITY CAMERAS ([POLICY ECABB](#))

SPECIAL EDUCATION/IDEA: 603 CMR 28.00 (Formerly known as Chapter 766)

The provisions of state and federal special education law (MGL Chapter 71B and 603 CMR 28.00, formally Chapter 766 and the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, or "IDEA") are designed to help eligible students between the ages of 3 and 22 years of age who have not yet received a high school diploma and who are not making effective progress in regular education due to the existence of a qualifying disability.

The purpose of special education is to help children who have qualifying disabilities make effective progress in school in the least restrictive setting. In accordance with the provisions of the state and federal special education laws, after receiving parental permission, an evaluation is conducted to determine whether a child has a special need that requires special education and, if so, what form will that special education take. The following questions must be answered as part of that evaluation:

- Does the student have one or more documented disabilities?
- Is the student not making effective progress in school as a result of the disability or disabilities
- Does the student require special education (specialized instruction) in order to make effective progress?

Those services are described in an Individual Education Plan (IEP) for that student. Additional information may be obtained from the Director of Special Education.

SPECIAL EDUCATION/BEHAVIOR

All students are expected to meet the requirements for behavior as prescribed in this handbook. State and Federal Laws require that additional provisions be made for students who have been found by an evaluation team to have special needs and whose program is described in an Individual Education Plan (IEP). State and federal special education laws prescribe additional requirements concerning the discipline of a student with special needs.

When it is known that a student with special needs is likely to be excluded from his/her program for more than 10 cumulative days (or less than 10 if there is a pattern), in a school year, the TEAM will convene to determine whether the student's misconduct that leads to the change in placement is a manifestation of the student's disability.

- If the misconduct was a manifestation, the school may conduct or review a functional behavior assessment and implement a behavior intervention plan. If such an assessment was already conducted, the behavior intervention plan will be reviewed and modified as necessary. Additionally, if the behavior was a manifestation, the student will return to the placement from which he/she was removed unless the school and the parent agree otherwise or special circumstances exist.
- If the Behavior was not a manifestation, the school may apply the relevant disciplinary procedures to the extent they would be applied to a student not eligible for special education, except that a student eligible for special education, who is removed from his/her current educational placement, is entitled to continue receiving educational services to enable the student to continue to participate in the general education curriculum, although in another setting, and to make progress toward meeting the goals set out in the student's IEP.

In special circumstances, the school may move students to an interim alternative educational setting for not more than 45 days without regard to whether the behavior that led to the removal was a manifestation of the student's disability. These special circumstances are:

- A student carries or possesses a weapon to or at school, on school premises, or to or at a school function under the jurisdiction of a State or local educational agency
- A student knowingly possesses or uses illegal drugs, or sells or solicits the sale of a controlled substance, while at school, on school premises, or at a school function under the jurisdiction of a State or local educational agency
- A student has inflicted serious bodily injury upon another person while at school, on school premises, or at a school function under the jurisdiction of a State or local educational agency.
- Additional information concerning special education including the right to receive an evaluation, the procedural protections afforded to parents and students, a more detailed description of the special rules relating to suspension and expulsion, and access to special education records may be obtained from the Director of Special Education.

STUDENT ACTIVITIES

The Gates Community believes that involvement in student activities has many advantages for middle school students. Through their active participation in clubs and organizations, students become connected to their school and their peers. Clubs may be added or deleted based upon interest, supervision, and funding. **Students pay an activity fee of \$100 for wrestling, field hockey, cross country, or golf.** Students do not pay more than one activity fee per school year, i.e. \$100 cap. Fees should be directed to the main office.

STUDENT DIRECTORY INFORMATION

The Scituate Public Schools may release directory information without the consent of the eligible student or parent, provided that the school gives public notice of the types of information it may release and allows eligible students and parents a reasonable time after this notice to request that this information not be released without the prior consent of the eligible student or parent.

The Scituate Public Schools designates the following items as Directory Information: student's name, address, telephone listing, date and place of birth, major field of study, dates of attendance, weight and height of members of athletic teams, class, participation in officially recognized activities and sports, degrees, honors and awards, and post-high school plans. The Scituate Public Schools may disclose any of these items without prior written consent, unless the School Principal is notified in writing to the contrary by October 1st of each school year.

STUDENT RECORDS ([POLICY JRA](#))

SUBSTANCE MISUSE PREVENTION POLICY ([POLICY JICH](#))

The purpose of the Scituate Public Schools Substance Misuse Prevention Policy is to ensure that our entire school community is aware of the district's comprehensive, evidenced-based approach to prevent the use of substances, and intervene early to support students and families considered at risk.

School staff plays a key role in identifying and referring students with substance use related problems and working with their families. Educators and school counseling personnel will work in collaboration with substance use counseling professionals and mental health specialists to meet the needs of those students most at risk. Collaboration between schools and community behavioral health providers address student-specific issues, including interventions such as small group, individual supports, and school re-entry plans. These efforts support school staff including consultation on general, as well as student-specific, challenges and plans for school and community provider responses when necessary. District involvement with the community prevention coalition, Scituate FACTS, the regional collaborative South Shore FACTS through South Shore Health System's Youth Health Connection, and the Plymouth County Suicide Prevention Coalition, provide these critical networks.

SUPPORT TEAM

The Support Team is a team of educators, with varied backgrounds, who have been trained in a proactive and systematic problem solving approach to address the needs of our students. These teams are focused on creating, monitoring, and refining individualized instructional and behavioral interventions to students in the regular education setting. All teacher teams, including specials teachers, special education teachers, and world language teachers, meet bi-weekly to plan and track interventions. This data is used as part of the Support Team process. More information regarding the Support Team may be obtained by contacting the principal or assistant principal.

TELEPHONE USE

Students are welcome to use the student telephone in the main office if they need to contact a parent/guardian during school hours.

TOBACCO-FREE SCHOOLS ([POLICY JICG](#))

Massachusetts State law 37H prohibits the use of any tobacco products on school grounds by any individual. The Scituate Public Schools enforce this law.

VALUABLES AT SCHOOL

Students should not carry large amounts of money or other valuable articles to school. If an exception arises, leave the money or article in the office for safekeeping until the end of the day.

VISITORS ([POLICY KI](#))

All visitors must enter the building through the front entrance on First Parish Road. Visitors must buzz in and identify themselves for admittance and sign in at the front office and sign out when leaving the building. Visitors will be issued a pass that must be worn while in the building and returned to the office when leaving. Teachers who are expecting visitors will meet them in the office and escort them to their destination.

WEBSITE

Click on to the Gates website for the staff directory, PTO news, virtual backpack forms, daily announcements, school council updates, bus information, teacher pages, program of studies, student handbook, school calendar and more! [Gates Middle School website](#)

WELLNESS ([POLICY ADE](#))

WORKING CERTIFICATES

In the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, every individual from fourteen to eighteen years of age who engages in work must have a working certificate. All individuals applying for a working certificate must present a birth certificate. Validated school records may be used for students of Scituate High School. A working certificate may be obtained from the Scituate High School Main Office.