

DIGHTON MIDDLE SCHOOL

“LIONS”

2019-2020

STUDENT HANDBOOK



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PRINCIPAL

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English: If you need this, or any other document translated into a different language, please notify the building principal.

French: Si vous avez besoin d'une traduction de ce document ou d'un autre document, veuillez le signaler au directeur du lycée.

Spanish: Si necesita una traducción de este documento u otros documentos, por favor notifique Ud, al director de la escuela.

Portuguese: Se necessita isto, ou qualquer outro documento traduziu numa linguagem diferente, por favor notifica o director de escola

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PERSONNEL

DMS Office 508-669-4200 DMS Fax 508-669-4210 Student Services 508-669-4215

Principal, Richard Wheeler, Ext. 2402

Assistant Principal, Amy Younger Ext. 2411
 School Guidance Counselor, Aaron Andrade Ext. 2305

OFFICE STAFF

Katelyn Boyle – Special Education Secretary, Ext. 2301
 Diane Remy – Office Secretary, Ext. 2403
 Colleen Swanson – Office Secretary, Ext. 2401

<u>Grade 5</u> -	Susan Gaska	2101	<u>Grade 6</u> -	Valerie Cleary	2202
	Andrea Cabral	2102		Thomas Golota	2203
	Kim Furness	2201		Renee Souza	2205
	Tim Cabral	2103		Christine Jackson	2204
				Bethanne Milton	2209

<u>Grade 7</u> -	Amanda Ferreira	2207	<u>Grade 8</u> -	Sarah Javier	2212
	Susan Warren	2208		Thomas Kucia	2213
	Steven Cetenich	2206		Heather Rose	2214
	Carol Richard	2211		William Connolly	2215
				Elaine Silvestre	2210

<u>Special Subjects</u> -	Kathy Clark	P.E./Health	2108
	Kevin Gousie	P.E./Health	2106
	Carl Peterson	STEM	2109
	Deborah Thibeault	Computer Essentials	2217
	Jeff Collard	Art	2216
	Nathan Dressel	Music/Chorus	2107
	Tyler Brundage	Music/Band	2111
	Melanie Hayden	Library Media Specialist	2311

<u>Special Services</u> -	Denise Wilkins, R.N.	School Nurse	2404
	Jenna Deary	Special Ed. Teacher	2209
	Jean Bezner	Special Ed. Teacher	2209
	Jennifer Masterson	Special Ed. Teacher	2209
	Rachel Drouin	Special Ed. Teacher	2209
	Allison Gittus	Psychologist	2304
	Lori Mullin	Paraprofessional (tech)	
	Nanci Prairie	Paraprofessional	
	Lisa Medeiros	Paraprofessional	
	Gayle Woodward	Paraprofessional	
	Ana Correia	Paraprofessional	
	Karianne Caldarone	Paraprofessional	
	James Pauly	Computer Technician	2310

Custodians - 2410 David Arruda, Joseph Borges, Damien Preston, Christian Fredericks

School Physician Dr. Kelly Hoyer

All staff email addresses are first initial, last name, and followed by @drregional.org

School Committee Contact Information

Mrs. Katherine Cooper (Chairperson)	Term Expires 2021 (Rehoboth)
c/o 2700 Regional Road	(h) 774-565-8250
N. Dighton, MA 02769	kcooper@drregional.org
Ms. Rachel Dingus (Vice- Chairperson)	Term expires 2022
2408 Maynard Lane	(h) 401-450-9097
North Dighton, MA 02764	rdingus@drregional.org
Mr. Glenn Jefferson (Secretary)	Term Expires 2021
270 Hillcrest Dr.	(h) 774-872-1031
Dighton, MA 02715	gjefferson@drregional.org
Mr. Anthony F. Arrigo	Term Expires 2020
Rehoboth, MA 02769	aarrigo@drregional.org
Mr. Richard Barrett	Term Expires 2020
238 Rocky Hill Rd	(h) 508-252-9211
Rehoboth, MA 02769	rbarrett@drregional.org
Mr. Craig Chapman	Term expires 2022
110 Homestead Avenue	(c) 774-306-2547
Rehoboth MA 02769	cchapman@drregional.org
Mrs. Eliza Couture	Term Expires 2020
176 Center St.	(h) 508-669-6273
Dighton, MA 02715	ecouture@drregional.org
Mr. Thomas O'Connor	Term Expires 2021 (Dighton)
c/o 2700 Regional Road	(c) 617-877-1424

N. Dighton, MA 02764	toconnor@drregional.org
Mr. George Solas	Term Expires 2021
22 Winterberry Ln.	(h) 508-252-4647
Rehoboth, MA 02769	gsolas@drregional.org
Mrs. Janice Terry	Term Expires 2020
66 Walker St	508-823-1194
North Dighton, MA 02764	jterry@drregional.org

The school committee meets every second and fourth Tuesday of the month, with the exception of the month of July. Meetings are held in the Harrington Media Center at Dighton-Rehoboth High School and start at 6:30 p.m.

Meetings are broadcast live and re-aired via tape delay on Wednesday evenings at 7:00 p.m.

Central Administration Main Number 508-252-5000 Fax: 508-252-5024

Address: 2700 Regional Road, North Dighton, MA 02764

Dr. Anthony Azar	Superintendent of Schools	aazar@drregional.org	ext. 5134
Dr. Kerri Anne Quinlan-Zhou	Assistant Superintendent	kquinlan-zhou@drregional.org	ext. 5135
Paul Kitchen	Business Administration	pkitchen@drregional.org	ext. 5139
Kristin Donahue	Director of Special Education	kdonahue@drregional.org	ext. 5143

EQUAL EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITY

The Dighton-Rehoboth Regional School District complies with the following State and Federal Regulations:

Title I:	Title I of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 prohibits discrimination, exclusion from participation, and denial of benefits on the basis of disability in the areas of employment.
Title II:	Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 prohibits discrimination, exclusion from participation, and denial of benefits on the basis of disability in the areas of educational programming activities.
Title VI:	Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 prohibits discrimination, exclusion from participation, and denial of benefits based on race, color, and natural origin.
Title IX:	Title IX of the Educational Amendment of 1972 prohibits discrimination, exclusion from participation, and denial of benefits in educational programs based on sex.
Section 504:	Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 prohibits discrimination, exclusion from participation, and denial of benefits based on disability
MGL Ch 76, Section 5	Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 76, Section 5, prohibits discrimination in all public schools on the basis of race, color, sex, national origin, religion, and sexual orientation.

In any of the above cases where an act of discrimination is charged, the person affected should refer his/her allegation to the compliance officer:

Kristin Donahue
District Civil Rights Coordinator

Specific policies and procedures of the Dighton-Rehoboth School District may be found in Sections AC, ACA, ACAB, and ACE of our Policy Manual.

District Contact Numbers

Title I Coordinator: Mrs. Elise Dubois, Assistant to the Principal, Telephone (508) 252-5100
Title II Coordinator: Kristin Donahue, District Special Needs Director, Telephone (508) 252-5000
Title IX Coordinator: Kristin Donahue, District Special Needs Director, Telephone (508) 252-5000
Title VI Coordinator: Kristin Donahue, District Special Needs Director, Telephone (508) 252-5000
District 504 Coordinator: Kristin Donahue, District Special Needs Director, Telephone (508) 252-5000
Homeless Liaison: Kristin Donahue, District Special Needs Director, Telephone (508) 252-5000
The address for the above contact is 2700 Regional Road, North Dighton, MA 02764

504 Coordinator, Palmer River Elementary School, Mrs. Elise Dubois, Assistant to the Principal
504 Coordinator, Dighton Elementary School, Ms. Allison Gittus, School Psychologist
504 Coordinator, Beckwith Middle School, Ms. Melissa DiFilippo, Team Chairperson
504 Coordinator, Dighton Middle School, Mr. Aaron Andrade, School Guidance Counselor
504 Coordinator, Dighton-Rehoboth Regional High School

English Language Learners Liaison: Kerri Anne Quinlan-Zhou, Assistant Superintendent, Telephone (508) 252-5000
Superintendent's Office, 2700 Regional Road, North Dighton, MA 02764

District Special Needs Director, Kristin Donahue, Telephone (508) 252-5000

PUBLICATION RELEASE

With the implementation of technology in education, many aspects of our school life will provide us with the opportunity to publish photographs and/or names of students. We have many printed, video and/or computerized publications which showcase all aspects of school life that are made available to the public.

If you **DO NOT** want your child's photograph or name to be used, please send a letter to the Principal's Office indicating your wishes. Please be sure to include your child's name, grade, and homeroom.

DIGHTON MIDDLE SCHOOL PHILOSOPHY ON BEHAVIOR

We believe that Dighton Middle School is a place where students can learn to become responsible adults by making appropriate choices while understanding all behavior has consequences.

Dighton Middle School recognizes the complexity of problems, which may be associated with student behavior. The foundation of our behavior program is based on respect. Respect evolves from staff and students making a concerted effort to conform to modes of acceptable behavior commonly deemed necessary for social order. The district's concern is for the well-being and best interests of young people at all times, while at the same time recognizing its obligation to the staff, parents, and community to maintain a safe and orderly learning environment. As a part of such an obligation, it is, at times, necessary that various types of disciplinary action, including suspension and/or expulsion, be recommended in cases related to student behavior. All constitutionally protected rights under this program will be followed.

The procedures included below include codes of behavior dealing with student conduct during school, on school transportation, and while students are traveling to and from school.

WE BELIEVE

1. A middle school child is basically good. "No one sets out to be bad."
2. All behavior is purposeful. This means that each person is "doing the best he/she can" to meet his/her needs at this time.
3. A middle school child can learn a better way to meet his needs.

4. A middle school child needs to be able to make choices even in a setting, which limits freedom.
5. A middle school child will not change if there is nothing in it for him/her.
6. By changing behavior, we will change thinking and attitudes.
7. An environment, which reinforces positive behavior, facilitates change more than one which focuses on negative behavior.

HANDBOOK STATEMENT

All students are expected to meet the requirements for behavior as set forth in this Handbook. Chapter 71B of the Massachusetts General Laws, known as Chapter 766, requires that provisions be made for students who have been found by an evaluation team to have special needs and whose programs described in an individualized education plan (IEP). Any special needs student whose condition requires a modification to the regular discipline code will have the appropriate modification stated in his/her individualized education plan (IEP).

Dighton-Rehoboth Regional School District does not discriminate based upon the student's race, color, sex, religion, national origin, sexual orientation, or disability. All students have equal access to admission to school, courses, extracurricular activities and employment opportunities. Students have the right to appeal decisions made in this area and will be informed of the procedures to be followed should a situation arise.

SCHOOL PROCEDURES

ACCIDENTS

Every accident in the school building, on school grounds, or at any after school activity must be reported immediately to the person in charge. Steps will be taken to see that the injured receives proper first-aid treatment. Parents will be notified of any serious injury.

AHERA NOTIFICATION WITHIN A SCHOOL ASBESTOS MANAGEMENT

In compliance with the United States Environmental Protection Agency's Asbestos Hazardous Emergency Response Act (AHERA) and the 40 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) Part 763 Subpart E – Asbestos Containing Materials in Schools, The Dighton-Rehoboth Regional School District is committed to providing a safe and healthy environment for all employees, building occupants, transient occupants, contracted building service workers and the public.

Also, in compliance with AHERA, the District will contract with a licensed and approved Inspector to perform three-year re-inspections of school buildings, along with the maintenance of updated Management Plan materials to be kept on file in the Principals' Office of each District School as well as in the Superintendent's Office of the Dighton-Rehoboth Regional School District, 2700 Regional Road, North Dighton, MA, 02764. Questions regarding the Asbestos Management Plan may be directed to the Superintendent of Schools.

ATTENDANCE POLICY

School attendance and punctuality are closely correlated with success at school. Time in class cannot be replicated by simply giving the absent student work that was missed. Frequent absences can leave gaps in students' education that can affect them for years to come. Please note that any absence, including an absence with a doctor's note provided, is legally considered an absence towards the maximum number of seven absences in any six (6) month period.

The responsibilities of parents/guardians are quoted in the Mass. Law Chapter 76: Section 2 as follows:

"Every person in control of a child described in section one shall cause him to attend school as therein required, and, if he fails so to do for seven (7) day sessions or fourteen (14) half day sessions within any period of six (6) months, he shall, on complaint by a supervisor of attendance, be punished by a fine of not more than twenty dollars."

Excessive Absences

Absences shall be considered excessive when students accumulate more than five (5) unexcused absences in a term or more than fifteen (15) days of total absences during an academic year or fourteen (14) half-day sessions within a period of six months.

Students will receive one day of extended detention until 4:00 pm for each day of unexcused absence beyond five (5) days of unexcused absences within any term (one quarter). Once a student reaches 5 unexcused absences in a term truancy will be filed. Students who accumulate more than fifteen (15) days of unexcused absences in a school year will be asked to attend an extended detention for *each additional* unexcused absence. This is not a substitute for attending school regularly, but will provide an opportunity for students to complete missed work and ask any questions they may have.

The Dighton-Rehoboth Regional School District will uniformly comply with the state school attendance laws by corresponding with those parents whose child(ren) are chronically absent or tardy/dismissed through letter, conference, or a phone call. When necessary, the attendance office **will** take legal action.

Educational Home Services

Under Massachusetts law, any student who is absent for 14 or more consecutive days and obtains a physician's written order that he/she needs to remain at home or in a hospital shall be provided with educational services.

Tardy

All students must be in their homeroom by 8:00 AM. When a student is late after 8:00, he/she must report to the office. Excessive tardiness (5 or more) will result in a letter of notification to the parents. Every tardy after 5 will result in a lunch DT. Every tardy after 10 will result in an after school DT until 3:30.

Notification

On the day that a student is absent, his/her parent must call the school office at 669-4200 before 9:00 A.M. to report the absence.

BICYCLES/Rollerblades/Skateboards

Students may **NOT** ride bicycles to and from school. Also, no skateboarding or rollerblading is allowed to or from school. Roads leading to the school are heavily traveled by high-speed traffic. We are very concerned for the safety and well being of students on such high-speed, heavily traveled roads.

BUSES

Students should have one (1) pick-up location in the AM and one (1) drop-off location in the PM. Changes may only occur if the student has written permission from the school principal or his/her designee and only in the case of emergency or extenuating circumstances. See also Bus Pick-up / Drop-off Policy for Dighton-Rehoboth Regional School District - School Committee Policy. (File EE)

Students who ride busses to school must go home on their assigned bus. At the close of school, students will remain in their assigned rooms until their buses are called. Students who miss their bus must report to the office. Parents will be contacted. (File: EE)

A student who becomes a discipline problem on the bus will be referred in writing to the administration. Persistent offenders may lose the privilege of riding on the bus.

See also Bus Rules for Students and Bus Disciplinary Procedures School Committee Policy - Files: JICC-R (Also EEAEC) EEAEC-R (JICC-R)

COMPUTER NETWORK AND INTERNET ACCEPTABLE USE POLICY

See School Committee Policy - File IJNDB-E-3

CORI/SORI

For those of you who are interested in chaperoning field trips and volunteering to help teachers or help at school events, please remember that you need to have a current CORI/SORI form on file with the Dighton-Rehoboth Regional School District. Your form needs to be completed in person and you will need to present a valid driver's license. Once you have been approved, your form is valid for all the schools in our district for three years.

See School Committee Policy: ADDA

DISCIPLINE <http://www.doe.mass.edu/news/news.aspx?id=7127>

DISCIPLINE VS. PUNISHMENT

For a successful learning environment school/home must:

1. Be a safe place.
2. Consist of people who know the rules.
3. Understand why rules exist.
4. Understand the consequences of not following the rules.
5. And have a say in making the rules.

Discipline is taking natural consequences in order to modify poor behavior.

Punishment is enforcing rules with emotional pain or the threat of emotional pain. The Middle School avoids this method.

Let us develop and offer the kind of home and school where people care about each other because it makes a better community.

DIFFERENCES BETWEEN THE TERMS PUNISHMENT VS DISCIPLINE

PUNISHMENT	DISCIPLINE
<ul style="list-style-type: none">expresses power of personal authority.is usually painful and based on retribution or revenge (what happened in the past) is arbitrary.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">should be based on logical consequences.expresses the reality of the social order (rules which must be learned in order to function adequately).should be concerned with what will happen now, the present.
<ul style="list-style-type: none">forces the punisher to assume responsibility. Punishment is imposed (done to someone) on someone.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">allows the individual to assume/accept responsibility.
<ul style="list-style-type: none">limits options for the individual. Options are closed.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">keeps options open so individual can choose to improve his/her behavior.
<ul style="list-style-type: none">is often a teaching process, which usually reinforces failure identity.is essentially negative and short term, without sustained personal improvement.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">is an active teaching process involving close, sustained, personal involvement.emphasizes teaching the student more appropriate ways to act that will result in more successful behavior.
<ul style="list-style-type: none">involves open or concealed anger.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">is friendly, firm but fair.
<ul style="list-style-type: none">is easy or expedient.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">is difficult and time consuming.

To assist students in identifying inappropriate behavior, the administration has listed the most common problematic areas.

PROBLEM AREAS

TERM	DEFINITION
SUBSTANCE ABUSE	Possesses or transmits, or sells alcohol, illegal drugs, or any other controlled substance.
WEAPONS	A weapon is generally something used to injure, defeat, or destroy and may cover many types of instruments, such as, but not limited to, a blackjack, slingshot, billy, metal knuckles, dagger, knife, pistol, revolver, or any other firearm, razor with an unguarded blade, and any metal pipe or bar used or intended to be used as a club, among others.
ELECTRONIC DEVICES	Use or possession of MP3 players, pagers, cell phones, video games, iPods, iPads, etc.
DISRUPTIVE BEHAVIOR	Conduct that presents a danger to persons or property or interrupts the orderly educational procedure of the school.
DEFIANCE OF AUTHORITY	Refusal to comply with reasonable requests of personnel or rude and discourteous behavior.
SAFETY	Engaging in or threatening to engage in behavior which would cause physical or emotional harm; fighting, running, throwing articles, shoving, and roughhousing, etc.
TARDINESS	Arriving late to class or school.
UNEXCUSED ABSENCE	See Attendance Policy (page 4) in handbook. Mass. Law Chapter 76: Section 2.
DEFACEMENT OF PROPERTY	Destroying or mutilating school or personal property.
THEFT	Stealing or attempting to steal.
EXTORTION	Obtaining money or property by force of threats.
SMOKING	The use or possession of tobacco of any kind.
UNAUTHORIZED ARTICLES	Lighters, matches, explosives, drugs, alcohol, weapons, and any disruptive/annoying device, which could cause physical or emotional harm.
FORGERY	Writing or using the signature or initials or another.
OVERDUE OBLIGATIONS	Homework, library books, progress reports, and parental/clerical communications.
INAPPROPRIATE DRESS	Failure to conform to reasonable standards of modesty, cleanliness, safety, and good taste.
GAMBLING	Participating in games of chance for the purpose of exchanging money or personal property.

DISCIPLINARY ACTIONS

Students who may become involved in areas of "problem behavior" will be subject to disciplinary action. Depending upon the incident and the conditions, one or more of the following actions will be taken by school officials.

"INFORMAL TALK"	A staff member will talk to the pupil to reach an agreement regarding future behavior.
"CONFERENCE"	A formal conference with a school official during which the student agrees to correct his behavior.
"TEACHER DETENTION"	The teacher requires that the student report after school to personally satisfy an obligation. Failure to appear will result in a telephone communication to parents by the teacher and may result in an additional detention assignment.
"OFFICE DETENTION"	The student has committed an offense that goes beyond the supervisory limits of the classroom teacher. The duration is at the discretion of the administrators. Failure to appear will result in a parent communication and a double detention assignment. The second incident calls for the imposition of an Extended Detention.
"EXTENDED DETENTION"	After school detention from 2:15 – 4:00.
"LOSS OF PRIVILEGE"	The student may be denied participation in extracurricular activities such as dances, and other extended day activities; may be removed from the cafeteria for an extended period of time for a variety of infractions; may be denied the opportunity to participate in assembly and lecture programs; or may be denied the use of the school bus as noted in the Bus Safety Code.
"IN-SCHOOL SUSPENSION"	The student is closed from one or more classes but remains at school and is expected to complete the day's assignments.
"SATURDAY MORNING DET."	The student reports to school on Saturday morning from 8:00 – 11:00.
"SUSPENSION"	Removal from school for 1 to 10 days. The parent is notified immediately. A letter citing all details is sent to the parent and the School Superintendent. The student is readmitted only after a parent conference.
"EXPULSION"	Defined as any action which prohibits students from attending school for more than (10) days, for the rest of the current school year, or on a permanent basis.

PROBLEM AREAS AND RELATED DISCIPLINARY ACTION

BEHAVIORAL EVENT		ACTION TO BE TAKEN	
Problem Area	Range	First Occurrence	Repeated Occurrence
Disruptive Behavior	Minimum	Informal Talk	Parent Involvement
	Maximum	In-School Suspension	Expulsion
Defiance of Authority	Minimum	Detention	Parent Involvement
	Maximum	Suspension	Expulsion
Safety	Minimum	Detention	Parent Involvement
	Maximum	Suspension	Expulsion
Tardiness	Minimum	Conference	Parent Involvement
	Maximum	Detention	Referral to Court
Unexcused Absence	Minimum	Loss of Privilege	Detention
	Maximum	Extended Detention	Referral to Court
Destruction or Defacement	Minimum	Detention	In-School Suspension
	Maximum	Suspension	Expulsion
Theft	Minimum	Parent Involvement	In-School Suspension
	Maximum	Suspension	Expulsion
Electronic Devices	Minimum	Informal Talk	Parent Involvement
	Maximum	Detention	In-School Suspension
Extortion	Minimum	Parent Involvement	In-School Suspension
	Maximum	Suspension	Expulsion
Forgery	Minimum	Parent Involvement	Detention
	Maximum	In-School Suspension	Suspension
Gambling	Minimum	Informal Talk	In-School Suspension
	Maximum	In-School Suspension	Expulsion
Overdue Obligations	Minimum	Informal Talk	Informal Talk
	Maximum	Detention	Detention
Vaping/Smoking Devices	Minimum	In-School Suspension	In-School Suspension
	Maximum	Suspension	Suspension
ATODS	Minimum	In-School Suspension	In-School Suspension
	Maximum	Suspension	Suspension
Bullying/Harassment	Follow Bullying Protocol Chart	In-School Suspension	In-School Suspension
		Suspension	Suspension

See School Committee Policy File JHD

Disciplining of Students with Special Needs

State and federal regulations provide eligible students with certain procedural rights and protections in the context of student discipline. The Individual Education Program (IEP) for a student must indicate whether the student can be expected to meet the regular discipline code of the school or whether the code should be modified due to the student's disability. Such modifications will be described in the student's IEP.

As provided for in state and federal regulations:

1. Any eligible child may be suspended up to 10 school days in any school year.
 2. After a student with special needs has been suspended for 10 school days in any school year, during subsequent removal, the school district must provide sufficient services for the student to continue to receive a free and appropriate public education.
 3. A suspension of longer than 10 consecutive school days or a series of suspensions that constitute a pattern are considered to represent a change of placement.
 4. Prior to a suspension that constitutes a change of placement, district personnel, the parent and other relevant members of the team will convene a "Manifestation Determination" meeting to review all relevant information to determine whether the behavior was caused by or had a direct and substantial relationship to the disability or was the direct result of the district's failure to implement the IEP.
 5. If the Manifestation Team determines that the behavior was not a manifestation of the disability, then the district may suspend or expel the student consistent with the policies applied to any student without disabilities. The district will, however, provide services to enable the student, although in another setting, to continue to participate in the general education curriculum and to progress towards IEP goals. A functional behavioral assessment and appropriate behavioral intervention services will be provided to lessen the likelihood of the behavior recurring.
 6. If the Manifestation Determination determines that the behavior is a manifestation of the disability, then the team will complete a functional behavioral assessment and behavioral intervention plan. Except when the student is placed in an interim alternative education setting, the student will return to their original placement unless the parents and district agree otherwise.
 7. Regardless of the manifestation determination, the district on its own authority may place a student in an interim alternative education setting (as determined by the team) for up to 45 school days if the behavior involves weapons or illegal drugs, another controlled substance, or the infliction of serious bodily injury on another person at school or school function; or, considered case by case, unique circumstance; or on the authority of a hearing officer if the district provides evidence the student is "substantially likely" to injure himself or others.
 8. These procedural requirements apply to students not yet determined to be eligible for special education if the parent has expressed concern in writing or requested an evaluation, or if staff had expressed concerns about the student's behavior directly to the director of student service or other supervisory personnel.
- ***Disciplining of Students with 504s***
The code of conduct applies to students with and without disabilities; however, students on 504 plans must have an equal opportunity to be successful with classroom rules and behavioral regulations. Section 504 prohibits districts from disciplining students more severely than non-disabled students on the basis of disability. The free and appropriate education (FAPE) requirement of Section 504 provides that appropriate procedures for discipline are designed to meet individual educational needs of students with disabilities as adequately as the needs of non-disabled students are met.

Students with 504 plans may be excluded from their programs, as can students without disabilities. If students are suspended or expelled, they are entitled to oral or written notice of charges and an appeal for the opportunity to tell their side. Expulsion or suspensions of 10 or more days are considered a change of placement and must follow the procedures designated by the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA).

When students with 504 plans are excluded from their program for more than 10 school days in the school year, it must be determined if the behavior was a result of the students' disability (manifestation determination). If it is determined that the behavior was related to the disability, students may not be excluded from the current educational placement until a new plan is written. The behavioral intervention services and modifications in the plan should address the behavior violation so that it does not recur.

If the student's misconduct is determined not related to his disability then the district may discipline in the same way as other students would be disciplined. 504 students do not have to be provided with a free and appropriate public education (FAPE) during expulsion or suspension for behavior not related to the disability. Students currently engaged in drug or alcohol abuse are not protected under Section 504.

When the placement of students with disabilities is changed for disciplinary reasons, the students and parents are entitled to the procedural protections required by Section 504 and the ADA. (A school district may employ due process procedures that meet the requirements of IDEA to comply with the Section 504 and ADA requirements for procedural safeguards.) These protections include appropriate notice to parents or guardian, an opportunity for their examination of records, an impartial hearing with the participation of parents or guardian and an opportunity for their representation by counsel and a review procedure. Thus, if, after a reevaluation of an initial placement decision, the parents disagree with the determination regarding the relationship of the behavior to the disability or with the subsequent placement proposal in those cases where the behavior is determined to be caused by the disability, they may request an impartial hearing.

A school district is not prohibited from employing its normal, reasonable procedures short of a significant change in placement for dealing with 504 students who are endangering themselves or others. When students present an immediate threat to the safety of others, school officials may promptly adjust the placement or suspend the students for up to 10 school days, in accordance with rules that are applied evenhandedly to all children.

- ***Due Process***

The discipline code of the school is administered within the guidelines set by the U.S. Supreme Court with regard to due process for students. The Supreme Court holds that the Due Process Clause of the Fourteenth Amendment to the United States Constitution requires that a student facing temporary (up to ten days) suspension from a public school be given oral or written notice of the charge(s) against him or her. Explanation for the basis for the accusation(s) and an opportunity to present his or her version of the facts is given. In addition, the Court holds that unless the student's continued presence at school endangers persons or property or "threatens disruption of the academic process," the hearing must precede rather than follow his or her suspension. The Court points out that due process does not require that hearings in connection with suspension be trial-like in nature. Therefore, school officials are not required to give the student an opportunity to secure counsel, to confront and cross examine witnesses supporting the charges, or to call his or her supporting witnesses.

- ***Felony Complaint or Conviction of a Student; Suspension; Expulsion; Right to Appeal – MGL Chapter 71 Section 37H1/2***

Notwithstanding the provisions of Section 84 and Sections 16 and 17 of Chapter 76:

1. Upon the issuance of a criminal complaint charging a student with a felony or upon the issuance of a felony delinquency complaint against a student, the principal or headmaster

of a school in which the student is enrolled may suspend such student for a period of time determined appropriate by said principal or headmaster if said principal or headmaster determines that the student's continued presence in school would have a substantial detrimental effect on the general welfare of the school. The student shall receive written notification of the charges and the reasons for such suspension prior to such suspension taking effect. The student shall also receive written notification of his right to appeal and the process for appealing such suspension; provided, however, that such suspension shall remain in effect prior to any appeal hearing conducted by the superintendent.

The student shall have the right to appeal the suspension to the superintendent. The student shall notify the superintendent in writing of his request for an appeal no later than five (5) calendar days following the effective date of the suspension. The superintendent shall hold a hearing with the student and the student's parent or guardian within three (3) calendar days of the student's request for an appeal. At the hearing, the student shall have the right to present oral and written testimony on his behalf, and shall have the right to counsel. The superintendent shall have the authority to overturn or alter the decision of the principal or headmaster, including recommending an alternate educational program for the student. The superintendent shall render a decision on the appeal within five (5) calendar days of the hearing. Such decision shall be the final decision of the city, town or regional school district with regard to the suspension.

2. Upon a student being convicted of a felony or upon an adjudication or admission in court of guilt with respect to such felony or felony delinquency, the principal or headmaster of a school in which the student is enrolled may expel said student if such principal or headmaster determines that the student's continued presence in school would have a substantial detrimental effect on the general welfare of the school. The student shall receive written notification of the charges and reasons for such expulsion prior to such expulsion taking effect. The student shall also receive written notification of his right to appeal and the process for appealing such expulsion; provided, however, that the expulsion shall remain in effect prior to any appeal hearing conducted by the superintendent.

The student shall have the right to appeal the expulsion to the superintendent. The student shall notify the superintendent in writing of this request for an appeal no later than five (5) calendar days following the effective date of the expulsion. The superintendent shall hold a hearing with the student and the student's parent or guardian within three (3) calendar days of the expulsion. At the hearing, the student shall have the right to present oral and written testimony on his behalf and shall have the right to counsel. The superintendent shall have the authority to overturn or alter the decision of the principal or headmaster, including recommending an alternate educational program for the student. The superintendent shall render a decision on the appeal within five (5) calendar days of the hearing. Such decision shall be the final decision of the city, town or regional school district with regard to the expulsion.

3. Upon expulsion of such students, no school or school district shall be required to provide educational services to such students.

- ***Restraint***

Maintaining an orderly, safe environment conducive to learning is an expectation of all staff members of the Dighton-Rehoboth Regional School District. Further, students of the district are protected by law from the unreasonable use of physical restraint. Physical restraint shall be used only in emergency situations after other less intrusive alternatives have failed or been deemed inappropriate, and with extreme caution. School personnel shall use physical restraint with two goals in mind:

1. To administer a physical restraint only when needed to protect a student and/or member of the school community from immediate, serious, physical harm; and
2. To prevent or minimize any harm to the student as a result of the use of physical restraint.

Only school personnel who have received training pursuant to 603CMR 46.00 shall administer physical restraint on students. Whenever possible the administration of physical restraint shall be administered in the presence of at least one adult who does not participate in the restraint. A person administering physical restraint shall only use the amount of force necessary to protect the student from injury or harm. A member of the School Committee or any teacher or any employee or agent of the school committee shall not be precluded from using such reasonable force as is necessary to protect pupils, other persons or themselves from an assault by a pupil.

Physical restraint is prohibited as a means of punishment, or as a response to the destruction of property, disruption of school order, a student's refusal to comply with a school rule or staff directive, or verbal threats that do not constitute a threat of imminent, serious physical harm to the student or others.

In special circumstances, waivers may be sought from parents of students through the Individual Education Program (IEP) process or from parents of students who present a high risk of frequent, dangerous behavior that may frequent the use of restraint.

Suspensions- Standards and Procedures

1. Suspensions are assigned for offenses such as listed in the student code of conduct.
2. During suspensions, students may not participate or attend any extracurricular activities.
3. All suspensions can be appealed and students have due process rights.
4. Parents will be notified of all suspensions.
5. Habitual offenders may be referred to proper juvenile authorities.
6. The Dighton Police Department or the Rehoboth Police Department will be notified of any student suspensions involving criminal offenses.

POLICIES RELATIVE TO CONDUCT OF TEACHERS OR STUDENTS; STUDENT HANDBOOKS; MGL

Chapter 71. Section 37H.

The superintendent of every school district shall publish the district's policies pertaining to the conduct of teachers and students. Said policies shall prohibit the use of any tobacco products within the school buildings, the school facilities or on the school grounds or on school buses by any individual, including school personnel. Said policies shall further restrict operators of school buses and personal motor vehicles, including students, faculty, staff and visitors, from idling such vehicles on school grounds, consistent with section 16B of chapter 90 and regulations adopted pursuant thereto and by the department. Copies of these policies shall be provided to any person upon request and without cost by the principal of every school within the district.

Each school district's policies pertaining to the conduct of students shall include the following: disciplinary proceedings, including procedures ensuring due process; standards and procedures for suspension and expulsion of students; procedures pertaining to discipline of students with special needs; standards and procedures to assure school building security and safety of students and school personnel; and the disciplinary measures to be taken in cases involving the possession or use of illegal substances or weapons, the use of force, vandalism, or violation of a student's civil rights. Codes of discipline, as well as the procedures used to develop such codes shall be filed with the department of education for informational purposes only.

In each school building containing grades nine to twelve, inclusive, the principal, in consultation with the school council, shall prepare and distribute to each student a student handbook setting forth the rules pertaining to the conduct of students. The school council shall review the student handbook each spring to consider changes in disciplinary policy to take effect in September of the following school year, but may consider policy changes at any time. The annual review shall cover all areas of student conduct, including but not limited to those outlined in this section.

Notwithstanding any general or special law to the contrary, all student handbooks shall contain the following provisions:

(a) Any student who is found on school premises or at school-sponsored or school-related events, including athletic games, in possession of a dangerous weapon, including, but not limited to, a gun or a knife; or a controlled substance as defined in chapter ninety-four C, including, but not limited to, marijuana, cocaine, and heroin, may be subject to expulsion from the school or school district by the principal.

(b) Any student who assaults a principal, assistant principal, teacher, teacher's aide or other educational staff on school premises or at school-sponsored or school-related events, including athletic games, may be subject to expulsion from the school or school district by the principal.

(c) Any student who is charged with a violation of either paragraph (a) or (b) shall be notified in writing of an opportunity for a hearing; provided, however, that the student may have representation, along with the opportunity to present evidence and witnesses at said hearing before the principal.

After said hearing, a principal may, in his discretion, decide to suspend rather than expel a student who has been determined by the principal to have violated either paragraph (a) or (b).

(d) Any student who has been expelled from a school district pursuant to these provisions shall have the right to appeal to the superintendent. The expelled student shall have ten days from the date of the expulsion in which to notify the superintendent of his appeal. The student has the right to counsel at a hearing before the superintendent. The subject matter of the appeal shall not be limited solely to a factual determination of whether the student has violated any provisions of this section.

(e) When a student is expelled under the provisions of this section, no school or school district within the commonwealth shall be required to admit such student or to provide educational services to said student. If said student does apply for admission to another school or school district, the superintendent of the school district to which the application is made may request and shall receive from the superintendent of the school expelling said student a w **Chapter 71 Section 37H1/2.**

STUDENT CONDUCT SECTION

All students must behave in a manner that is conducive to learning. Students' conduct is regulated by both school policy and Massachusetts General Laws. Pertinent information is found in the School Committee Policy Files JK, JIC, JIC-R, ADBE, JBA, JHD, JICFA, JICFA-E, ACAB which are available online. Some areas of emphasis include the following:

"Bullying" for the purposes of requirements related to Chapter 92 of the Acts of 2010 legislation is Defined as the following:

The repeated use by one or more students (aggressors) of a written, verbal or Electronic expression or a physical act or gesture or any combination thereof, directed at a target that: (i) causes physical or emotional harm to the target or damage to the target's property; (ii) places the target in reasonable fear of harm to him/herself or of damage to his/her property; (iii) creates a hostile environment at school for the target; (iv) infringes on the rights of the target at school; or (v) materially and substantially disrupts the education process or the orderly operation of a school. For the purposes of requirements related to this law, bullying shall include cyber-bullying. See section 5 of the legislation for more details on the definition of cyber-bullying and more.

- **Bullying/Harassment**

Dighton Middle School recognizes the right of all students to attend school in a safe and comfortable environment that is free of bullying and harassment. Verbal, physical, and sexual harassment of others will not be tolerated.

Students who bully and/or harass others will be subject to disciplinary measures that may include suspension from school. Students who feel they are being harassed should report the incident immediately to a teacher, guidance counselor, adjustment counselor or administrator. See School Committee Policy File JICFB.

The principal or designee will investigate promptly all reports of bullying or retaliation and, in doing so, will consider all available information known, including the nature of the allegation(s)

and the ages of the students involved. The principal or designee will remind the alleged aggressor, target, and witnesses that retaliation is strictly prohibited and will result in disciplinary action. To the extent practicable, and given his/her obligation to investigate and address the matter, the principal or designee will maintain confidentiality during the investigative process. Procedures for investigating reports of bullying and retaliation will be consistent with Dighton-Rehoboth Regional School District policies and procedures for investigations.

* The full Dighton-Rehoboth Regional School District Bullying Prevention and Intervention Plan can be obtained on District website at <http://www.drregional.org/drregional/>

Racial harassment is included in this area. When a student comes forth with a complaint that he/she has been the subject of racial harassment, the procedures set forth under the policy 1480.5, Appendix G, Procedures for Responding to Complaints, will be followed.

Sexual harassment is also included in this area. When a student comes forth with a complaint that he/she has been the subject of sexual harassment, the procedures set forth in the School Committee Policy on Sexual Harassment will be followed. Consequences for students are a verbal warning; reprimand; a written warning/reprimand entered into the student's file; suspension; expulsion; an apology to the victim; a written paper on the topic; learning about sexual harassment; referral for psychological assessment; parental/student/school administrator conference; police involvement; community service; other sanctions deemed appropriate by the school administrator.

- **Cheating**

All studying and homework must be done independently unless otherwise allowed by the teacher. Cheating of any type is not acceptable. Some of the common variations of cheating may include but are not limited to:

1. Looking at another student's paper during a test or quiz.
2. Carrying information into a test.
3. Copying or using another student's work.
4. Plagiarism.
5. Providing information or materials for another student to copy.
6. Electronic exchange of information.

- **Drugs and Alcohol**

The use, possession, sale or distribution of drugs, inhalants or alcohol is forbidden. Severe penalties exist for students who violate this policy. Please see School Committee Policy Files JK, JIC-R, JHD, and ADBE.

- **Fighting**

Fighting in school or on school grounds is never acceptable. Students involved in fighting will be sent to the office for disciplinary action.

- **Fireworks**

Fireworks are extremely dangerous and possession of them is a violation of Massachusetts Law. They are never to be brought to school. Offenders will be suspended. In all instances the Office of the Superintendent of Schools and the Rehoboth Police will be notified.

- **Plagiarism**

Plagiarism is using another person's words or ideas without giving credit to the other person. The Internet provides easy access to information and it is very easy for students to copy text into a word processing document for a school assignment. To do this without giving proper credit to the author of the information is plagiarism. Also, the school continues to be concerned about more traditional forms of plagiarism such as when information is copied directly from a book or article in print.

The school values academic honesty and students will not receive credit for work that is plagiarized.

- **Smoking**

It is against Massachusetts state law to smoke on school property. No one is permitted to smoke at any time in the school building, on school grounds, or within the area surrounding the school grounds. This applies to all activities held on school grounds. Students are not allowed to bring tobacco products or other smoking materials onto school property. Student violators will be sent to the office for disciplinary action.

- **Tobacco**

The possession/use of tobacco within school buildings, facilities, on school grounds, and on school buses is prohibited by any individual by the Massachusetts General Laws, Section 36, Chapter 71 of the Acts of 1993. Therefore, the possession/use of tobacco within school buildings, facilities, on school grounds and on school buses is prohibited under the jurisdiction of the Dighton-Rehoboth Regional School District. Violators of this regulation will be tended to severely and referred to individuals or agencies in an effort to provide them with a smoking cessation program (when available).

- **Weapons**

Any student who is found on school premises or at school-related events, including athletic games, in possession of a dangerous weapon, including, but not limited to, a gun, a knife, or ammunition, may be subject to expulsion from school, under Massachusetts General Law, Chapter 269, and Regional School District Policies, Files JK, JIC, JIC-R.

DISMISSALS

If a student is being dismissed during the school day, the parent or other authorized adult must come into the office to sign for their student. Students will not be released to anyone who is NOT listed on their contact information.

DRESS CODE

Students should appear in school dressed appropriately for a learning environment. Students wearing inappropriate clothing are a disruptive influence to the learning environment. Appropriate attire applies to all school functions. What is considered appropriate is determined by designated school personnel.

EARLY DISMISSAL – LATE START – NO SCHOOL

On occasion, in the best interest of the safety of our students, we may dismiss school early. On those occasions, local radio and television stations will be notified and they will carry the announcement. The OneCallNow system will notify parents/guardians of school cancellations, delays, early dismissals, or other emergency, as necessary. We will also post early dismissals on our website at www.drregional.org.

If the early dismissal is the result of inclement weather, the high school will be dismissed first, followed by the middle school, and then the elementary school.

In the event we must close one school early because a health/safety problem at that school, we will limit the dismissal to the students in that school.

Parents need to have arrangements in place in the event of an early dismissal.

Announcements relative to “No School” or “Late Start Day” are carried by the following stations beginning at 6:00 a.m.

WPEP (1570)	WARA (1320)	WSAR (1480)
WJAR (TV10)	WPRO (630)	WSNE (93.3)
WPRO (92.3)		

It is always possible that there could be a “Late Start Day” followed later by a “No School Day” announcement. Therefore, students should continue to listen to the radio after any announcement of a “Late Start Day.”

ELECTRONIC DEVICES/CELL PHONES

It is recommended that all electronic devices, including but not limited to cell phones, are kept at home during school hours. If a student does bring in an electronic device it must be turned off and put away in their locker. If a parent needs to contact their child, they should call the school phone and any message will be given to their child. Students will be able to use the office phone during their lunch times to relay any messages at that time. Students who violate this rule will have the device taken away. Parents/guardians will be contacted and the device will be returned to a parent/guardian, not the student. Repeat offenses will result in progressively stronger disciplinary action including possible suspension. The school is not responsible for any lost or stolen devices.

ELEVATOR POLICY

The elevator at DMS is strictly off limits to all students except for medical reasons. The school nurse will grant permission to use the elevator upon receipt of a written note from a physician indicating the need for the student to not climb stairs for a specified period of time. The principal and nurse will review unusual circumstances individually. Students with permission to use the elevator will be assigned an "elevator partner" to ride with them. Any Student using the elevator without permission will be subject to consequences.

EMERGENCY PROCEDURES

Students are to follow the direction of the principal or staff. See Fire Drill on page 18 and Lock Down Drill on page 22.

Ambulance Procedures – The procedures outlined below are followed, without exception, in providing ambulance services for students

1. In all life-threatening medical and trauma emergencies, the Dighton Fire Department Ambulance will transport to Morton Hospital in Taunton
2. In all other emergencies (non life-threatening) the ambulance shall be dispatched according to the parent's requested destination.

ENGLISH LANGUAGE LEARNERS (ELL)

In an effort to educate each child individually, it is important to consider how each child can best learn. English language learners (ELL) or limited English proficient students (LEP) are provided with the opportunity to be proficient in English and provided with full access to the academic, non-academic, and extracurricular activities as English speaking students. Some students do not have a strong base of literacy or fluency in their first language and need to develop essential skills in listening, speaking, reading, and writing in English. In order to accomplish these goals, English language learners will receive sheltered English instruction in English classrooms in accordance with state and federal laws. Sheltered instruction addresses the concepts and skills as defined in the curriculum and assists students with language development.

If parents do not want their child to participate in an ELL program, a waiver may be granted.

EXTRA CURRICULAR ELIGIBILITY

In order to participate in any extracurricular activities, including sports activities, students must maintain a certain academic standard. A student who receives an "F" in any subject that meets daily or receives an "F" in any two other subjects is automatically ineligible until the next report card or progress report, whichever comes first. A student who receives two "D" in any subject that meets daily or receives a "D" in any two other subjects will be on probation. Coaches and advisors will review grades to ensure compliance. The guidance department monitors the individual situation and informs administration. Students may be prohibited from participating in extracurricular activities by the coach/advisor and administration due to disciplinary infractions.

A student marked "absent" from school for the day is not eligible to participate in after-school or evening activities on that day unless a legitimate excuse is approved by administration. A student must be in school and attend a minimum of 3 hours in a day to be recorded as present.

EXTRA HELP

Extra help is always available for those students who may need it. The student or parent should notify the teacher at the first sign of difficulty. Arrangements will then be made to help the student. A teacher will sometimes request that a student stay after school if it is apparent that the student is having difficulty with work. This is not to be thought of as a punishment but rather as the desire of the teacher to help the student make progress. When a student is kept after school, we expect that the student made previous arrangements with his/her parents for transportation.

FIRE DRILLS

Fire drills may begin with the sounding of the fire alarm or of an announcement on the P.A. system. At this signal, all activities are to stop. Students will follow the directions given by the teacher and leave the building as quickly and quietly as possible. Students out of class during a drill are to leave the building via the shortest route and join their teacher and class outside.

GRADING SYSTEM

Report cards are issued four times during the year. Mid-term reports are also issued four times during the year and can be found on the parent portal at www.drregional.org

A+ 100-97	B+ 89-87	C+ 79-77	D+ 69-67	P 64 and above
A 96-93	B 86-83	C 76-73	D 66-65	M Medical
A- 92-90	B- 82-80	C- 72-70	F 64-0	I Incomplete

GRIEVANCE PROCEDURE

A grievance is a complaint brought by a student, or group of students, who feel that a provision of school regulation has been misinterpreted, applied inequitably or unjustly. When a grievance is alleged, the following procedures should be followed:

1. The aggrieved party should attempt remediation through a conference with the teacher involved. Should this prove unsatisfactory or undesirable, the grievance may be taken to the guidance counselor (if applicable).
2. The aggrieved party, if dissatisfied, may present his/her grievance to the principal, who after hearing the facts and after consultation with the teacher, may take any action he/she thinks is necessary.
3. If aggrieved party feels the solution/decision is not agreeable, he/she may appeal to the superintendent, who, after consultation with the principal, may take any action deemed necessary.
4. Still dissatisfied, the aggrieved party may present the case to the School Committee.

GUIDANCE

Dighton Middle School counselors are available to meet the needs and challenges presented by today's middle school population. Our counselors implement a comprehensive counseling program by providing emotional and social support, individual and group counseling, transition planning, consultation and collaboration with students, staff, parents, and the community. Guidance services are available for every student in the school. These services include the following: grouping assignments, assistance with educational planning, interpretation of test scores, occupational information, career information; and study strategies. Help with home, school and/or social concerns is also available.

GUM CHEWING

The chewing of gum is **not** allowed in the school building, on school grounds, or on school buses. This is for reasons of safety and maintenance. Accommodations are made when appropriate.

HAZING LAW

AN ACT PROHIBITING THE PRACTICE OF HAZING

Chapter 269 of the General Laws is hereby amended by adding the following three sections

Section 17 – Whoever is a principal organizer or participant in the crime of hazing as defined herein shall be punished by a fine of not more than \$1000.00 or by imprisonment in a house of correction for not more than 100 days, or by both such fine and imprisonment.

The term “hazing” as used in this section and in sections 18 and 19, shall mean 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. Such conduct shall include whipping, beating, branding, forced calisthenics, exposure to the weather, forced consumption of any food, liquor, beverage, drug or other substance, or any other brutal treatment or forced **physical activity** **which is likely to adversely affect the physical health** or safety of any such student or other person, or

which subjects such student or other person to extreme mental stress, including extended deprivation of sleep or rest or extended isolation.

Section 18 – Whoever knows that another person is the victim of hazing as defined in Section 17 and is at the scene of such crime **shall, to the extent that such** person can do so without danger or peril to himself or others, report such crime to an appropriate law enforcement official as soon as reasonably practicable. Whoever fails to report such crime shall be punished by a fine of not more than \$1,000.00.

Section 19 – Each secondary school and each public and private school or college shall issue to every group or organization under its authority or operating on or in conjunction with its campus or school, and to every member, plebe, pledges or applicant for membership in such group or organization, a copy of this section and sections 17 and 18. An officer of each such group or organization and each individual receiving a copy of said sections 17 and 18 shall sign an acknowledgment stating that such group, organization or individual has received a copy of said sections 17 and 18.

Each secondary school and each public or private school or college shall file, at least annually, a report with the regents of higher education and in the case of secondary schools, the board of education, certifying **that such institution has complied with the** provisions of this section and also certifying that said school has adopted a disciplinary policy with regards to the organizers and participants of hazing. The Board of Regents, and in the case of secondary schools, the Board of Education, shall promulgate regulations governing the content and frequency of such reports, and shall forthwith report to the attorney general any such institution which fails to make such a report.

HEALTH SERVICES

Students who become ill in school should report to the nurse. If the nurse is not in, students are to report to the office. A pass from a teacher is necessary whenever a student reports for health services.

Physical Services

The following information should help parents understand the scope and importance of the ongoing health services available to their children in the school setting. The school health service staff consists of:

1. The school physician (part-time). The physician is available to the school nurse for consultation on school health related issues.
2. The school nurse (full-time). The nurse is a registered professional nurse.

STANDARD SCREENING PROGRAMS AND MANDATED HEALTH SERVICES IN THE DIGHTON SCHOOLS ARE:

- | | |
|---|--|
| 1. Auditory | 4. BMI Screening |
| 2. Vision Screening | 5. Hair and Scalp Inspections (when necessary) |
| 3. Physical Examination
(by private physician) | 6. Scoliosis Screening |

Physical Examinations

Chapter 71, Section 57 of the Mass. General Laws and the Department of Public Health Regulations mandate that each school system adhere to the following:

Physical examinations be performed on all students upon entering school and thereafter every 3-4 years. In our school district, this is done prior to entering school, grade 4, grade 7, and grade 11. These physical examinations are not provided by the school. These exams must be completed by the student's personal physician, and the required form must be returned to the school. Students who do not receive a physical at the required time will be reported to the Department of Health.

Immunizations and boosters are required at regular intervals.

Families not able to afford medical care due to lack of health insurance or any other reason should contact the school nurse.

Medication Policy

See School Committee Policy - File: JLCD

Related Services

The school nurse is responsible for keeping an ongoing record of each student's health information. Communicable disease control is another area for which school personnel are partly responsible. Students are required to have immunization against Polio, Diphtheria, Tetanus, Whooping Cough, Measles, Mumps, and Rubella before school entrance. Students entering seventh grade are required to receive a second immunization against Measles, Mumps, and Rubella and three doses of Hepatitis B and adult DTaP vaccine. Keep students at home who have severe colds and coughs, elevated temperatures, questionable skin eruptions, discharges from eyes or ears, sore throats, swollen glands, etc. The school nurse tries to help parents with plans for good medical follow-up for their children when needed, but preparation as a registered professional nurse excludes diagnosis and prescription of specific treatment. **Students may only be dismissed for illness or other medical reason by the nurse or designee.**

See School Committee Medication Policy - See file JLC

SPORTS - Physicals:

All student athletes are required to have a current physical on file with the school nurse. The Massachusetts Interscholastic Athletic Association, the Massasoit Interscholastic League (for sports) and the Dighton-Rehoboth Regional School District require that all participants have a valid physical examination PRIOR to tryouts. All such examinations must be documented on the Medical Examination Form provided by the athletic department or the physician's own form with a current signature and date within the 13 months prior to participation in any sport.

Sports Head Injury Law MGL, Chapter 111, Section 222.

(a) The department shall direct the division of violence and injury prevention to develop an interscholastic athletic head injury safety training program in which all public schools and any school subject to the Massachusetts Interscholastic Athletic Association rules shall participate. Participation in the program shall be required annually of coaches, trainers and parent volunteers for any extracurricular athletic activity; physicians and nurses who are employed by a school or school district or who volunteer to assist with an extracurricular athletic activity; school athletic directors; directors responsible for a school marching band; and a parent or legal guardian of a child who participates in an extracurricular athletic activity.

(b) The department shall develop forms on which students shall be instructed to provide information relative to any sports head injury history at the start of each sports season. These forms shall require the signature of both the student and the parent or legal guardian thereof. Once complete, the forms shall be forwarded to all coaches prior to allowing any student to participate in an extracurricular athletic activity so as to provide coaches with up-to-date information relative to an athlete's head injury history and to enable coaches to identify students who are at greater risk for repeated head injuries.

(c) If a student participating in an extracurricular athletic activity becomes unconscious during a practice or competition, the student shall not return to the practice or competition during which the student became unconscious or participate in any extracurricular athletic activity until the student provides written authorization for such participation, from a licensed physician, licensed neuropsychologist, certified athletic trainer or other appropriately trained or licensed health care professional as determined by the department of public health, to the school's athletic director.

(d) A coach, trainer or volunteer for an extracurricular athletic activity shall not encourage or permit a student participating in the activity to engage in any unreasonably dangerous athletic technique that unnecessarily endangers the health of a student, including using a helmet or any other sports equipment as a weapon.

HOME EDUCATION

See School Committee Policy - File IHBG

HOMELESSNESS

The Dighton-Rehoboth Regional School District must "ensure the educational rights and protections for children and youth experiencing homelessness" and remove barriers for enrollment and retention as set forth in the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act (2002). Also refer to School Committee Policy JFABD.-(Appendix M, Pg. 35)

Definition of homelessness (Section 725(2)): Individuals who lack a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence or have a primary nighttime residence in a supervised shelter, and institution that provides temporary residence, or a public or private place not designated or ordinarily used as regular sleeping accommodations for human beings. Included in this definition are:

- Children and youth sharing housing of others; living in motels, trailer parks, cars, parks, public spaces, abandoned buildings, emergency or transitional shelters; abandoned in hospitals; or awaiting foster care placement.
- Unaccompanied youth who are not in the physical custody of a parent/guardian or state agency.

Parents who lack fixed housing can be assisted by the school principal, guidance or adjustment counselors, school psychologist, or the district's homeless liaison, Mr. Kyle Riley, Director of Special Education, 2700 Regional Road, North Dighton, MA 02764 or 508-252-5000.

HOMEWORK

Home study is a necessary part of each student's educational program. Each student must be expected to spend some time in addition to scheduled class instruction to achieve satisfactory work. Some assignments are long range in nature and require planned study time for their completion. Planned study eliminates the necessity of spending too much time in completing an assignment the day before it is due.

Homework Policy

1. The amount of homework and the length of time available to the student to complete the assignment should be appropriate to the age and maturity of the student.
 - A. Grades 5 and 6: Homework will be assigned on a regular basis.
 - B. Grades 7 and 8: Homework assignments are a necessary part of the learning process. It is recognized that not all subjects lend themselves to profitable out-of-class work, but in those that do, homework will be given on a regular basis. An assignment should be planned for an average of 30 minutes per subject.
2. Students should not be given homework assignments which require resources and references which are not accessible to them.
3. Homework shall never be given to an individual student or class for disciplinary reasons.

After 3 consecutive days of absences, requests for assignments should be made to the office by 9:00 a.m. to ensure that teachers have time to prepare them. Assignments missed due to absence may be given as homework. When this occurs, the deadline for the work to be completed will be written on a note from the teacher.

Failure to Complete In-class Assignments

Homework can be given when a student has failed to complete an in-class assignment. When a student brings home an assignment to complete, he/she has had ample time to finish it in school but has failed to do so. A note will be attached to this work which must be signed by a parent and returned to school.

Homework Missed Due to Absences

Student absences for family vacations scheduled at times other than the weeks or days identified in the school calendar are strongly discouraged. Due to the challenging content of the required curriculum, these absences create significant teaching and learning problems. Effective instruction in standards-based education requires discussion, group activities, and in-school practice. Many classroom activities are designed to address the readiness, interests, and learning styles of students through grouping and differentiation of instruction. These learning opportunities cannot be replicated for students who have been absent.

Parents/guardians who insist on taking students out of school for vacations at times other than those designated on school calendars, should understand that teachers will not provide school work in advance and that students returning to school after such an absence will be expected to participate fully in all class activities, including scheduled examinations. Upon request, graded assignments and/or tests, will be provided to students when they return to school. Assignments and/or tests that are not completed within one calendar week of a student's return or learning expectations that have not been mastered will adversely affect academic progress and report card performance levels.

ASSIGNMENTS REGULATIONS

See School Committee Policy – File:JHA-R

HONOR ROLL

High Honors: A in **all** subjects. Effort and conduct must be excellent or satisfactory.

Honors: B- or higher in **all** subjects. Effort and conduct must be excellent or satisfactory.

The report card takes into account a student's progress. It is very important that communication between the home and the school be ongoing. The report card is part of that communication system. Discussion of concerns, alternatives, clarifications, etc. needs to be part of the parent-teacher conferences. Scheduled parent-teacher conferences are also an integral part of this communication system.

INTEGRATED PEST MANAGEMENT PLAN

All schools in the Dighton-Rehoboth Regional School District, in compliance with the Act Protecting Children and Families from Harmful Pesticides, have filed Indoor and Outdoor Pest Management Plans with the Massachusetts Department of Agricultural Resources (MDAR). These plans, about pest management and pesticide use policy, are accessible at the MDAR website, <http://massnrc.org/ipm/>, in the principal's office of each school and at the District office.

LOCK DOWN DRILLS

Lock down drills may occur during the school day. This will begin with an announcement over the P.A. system. At the signal, all activities are to stop. Students will follow the directions given by the teacher and will remain quiet throughout the drill.

LUNCH PROGRAM

Our hot lunch meets the requirements of the Bureau of Nutrition Education and School Food Services. Complete lunches may be purchased for \$2.55, extra portions for \$1.25 (subject to change), milk for 50 cents. It is expected that students conduct themselves in an acceptable manner to maintain a pleasant dining atmosphere.

1. Good table manners, quiet talking, and respect for others present, are necessary.
2. Each student is responsible for cleaning up his/her area.

Cafeteria Charges

Students are expected to bring lunch money to school each day. Any charges are expected to be paid the following day in the cafeteria during lunchtime. You may use www.mealpayplus.com to prepay your child's account.

Meal Charge Policy File: EFDA

OUT OF DISTRICT VOCATIONAL TECHNICAL SCHOOL

April 1st is the date by which the Chapter 74 Vocational Technical Education Program Nonresident Tuition Student Application from student/parent/guardian/receiving district must be received by the superintendent of the district of residence.

PARENT ADVISORY COUNCIL FOR SPECIAL EDUCATION

The PAC is a group of parents of children with special needs and other interested parties. The purpose of the PAC is to build support for special education programs and to advise the school committee on matters that pertain to the education, health, and safety of students with special needs. The PAC serves as a vehicle for parents to become involved in their school's special education programs and to address key issues concerning the implementation of Chapter 766. The PAC meets on the third Thursday of each month at 7:00 P.M. at the High School.

RESIDENCY POLICY

See School Committee Policy – File: JFAA and File JFAA-E.

RESTROOM PROCEDURE

Restrooms may be used at any time during the school day. Permission to use the restroom must be obtained from a person in charge. If for any medical reason your child needs to make frequent use of the restroom, please notify his/her teacher and the school nurse.

RETENTION

At the first indication of problems, which could lead to retention, the Guidance Counselor will be notified by the teacher. At that point, the parents will be notified. Students who fail two major subjects (Language, Math, Science, Reading, Social Studies, and Foreign Language) are subject to retention.

SCHOOL COUNCIL

The Massachusetts Education Reform Act of 1993 requires each school in the commonwealth to establish a school council. The council will consist of the school principal, who shall co-chair the council; parents of students attending the school who shall be selected by the parents of students attending such school who will be chosen in elections held by the local recognized parent teacher organization under the direction of the principal; teachers who shall be selected by the teachers in such a school; other persons, not parents or teachers of students in the school, drawn from various community groups. The school council shall meet regularly with the principal of the school and shall assist in the identification of the educational needs of the students attending the school, in the review of the annual school budget, and in the formulation of a school improvement plan.

SCHOOL PROPERTY

Students are expected to properly care for school equipment (e.g., books, desks, chairs, lockers, etc.). Students are required to keep all textbooks covered and free from unnecessary papers. Students who lose or damage books will be required to pay the replacement cost. Books must not be covered with any adhesive-type material.

- **Vandalism**

The School Committee will take appropriate measures to protect school facilities, equipment, and other property against vandalism, and, if necessary, will resort to its legal rights to prosecute vandals.

Individuals and their parents/guardians who damage, either maliciously or unintentionally, any school property or the property of school employees or members of the School Committee shall be held monetarily responsible for repair or replacement of the damages. In addition, where appropriate, complaints will be sought in the criminal courts against those who damage such property.

- **Types of Vandalism**

Malicious - The individual(s) deliberately or purposefully damage school property, deface school property, or the property of staff or School Committee members.

Unintentional - Accidental damages arising out of an otherwise innocent activity or the result of carelessness. For example, children playing on school grounds after school may unintentionally damage school property or the property of another. Such acts, nevertheless, still entail financial responsibility.

SCHOOL SEARCHES

A student search by a public school official will be found reasonable under the U.S. Supreme Court standard if there are reasonable grounds for suspecting that the student has violated or is violating either State or Federal law or rules of the school. The search itself will be conducted in a manner reasonably related to its objectives and not excessively intrusive in light of the age and sex of the student and the nature of the infraction. "Reasonable grounds" for student search may include, for example, a school official's personal observation that the student possesses contraband material on school premises, or the official's receipt of a report to the effect from a teacher, another school employee, student, or some other reliable source.

Search of student lockers, backpacks, pocketbooks and cars on premises: Certain items (including, but not limited to weapons, illegal drugs, alcoholic beverages, tobacco products, stolen property, and so on) may not be stored in lockers, backpacks, pocketbooks or cars.

The school retains the right to periodically inspect lockers, backpacks, pocketbooks, and students' cars (on the premises) for compliance with these rules.

All school and state laws included above have the purpose of ensuring that school remains a safe haven and students are provided the optimum conditions to learn.

SCHOOL SECURITY

Dighton Middle School has instituted several procedures designed to tighten building security and to keep unauthorized persons out of the school building:

1. After all buses have arrived and students are in homerooms, all of the doors in the school are locked.
2. Any student tardy to school, or anyone visiting the school, must ring the buzzer located at the main entrance to the school, identify themselves, and report to the main office. Tardy students must sign in and secure a pass from the office. Visitors must secure a visitor's pass from the office.
3. Anyone seeing a stranger in the building without a visitor's pass is to notify the main office.
4. No one may open an outside door to allow someone to enter, not even a known friend.
5. A camera at the main entrance has been implemented for further security.

SEX EDUCATION NOTIFICATION

As required in the school committee policy on sex education, parents are hereby notified of their right to exempt their child (children) from specific units and/or lessons related to human sexuality or human sex education. Procedures to follow are specified in the School Committee policy in File: IHAMB

STUDENT RECORDS

Parents' and students' rights are ensured regarding confidentiality, inspection, amendments, and destruction. Students' records are accessible to school authorities and to parents of middle school students. A complete copy of Chapter 603 CMR 23 of the Massachusetts General Laws dealing with student records is available in the main office. Specific changes in the law can be found in School Committee Policy File: JRA.

SUSPENSION

Students who are suspended from school, whether that suspension is an in-school or out-of-school suspension, are ineligible to participate in or to attend any extracurricular activity until the first day they return to school. For example, if a student's suspension runs through close of school on Friday, that student is not eligible to participate or to attend any school sponsored activities, whether they are on or off school property, until the student has re-entered school on Monday. Furthermore, if a student's suspension runs through the close of school on Friday and a vacation period or school cancellation follows, that students are not eligible to participate in or to attend any school sponsored activities, on or off campus, until the student has re-entered school.

TELEPHONES

The telephones in the office and classrooms will be used for emergencies only. Please have a plan in place with your child prior to their arrival to school. If there is a change of plans that happens within the school day students will be allowed during their lunch times to call their parents to make them aware.

VISITORS

The administration encourages parents to visit the school at any time to share in a specific activity that takes place during the course of a regular school day. Visitors, however, are asked to notify the office (669-4200) at least one day prior to the visit. School friends or relatives of the student body are not allowed to visit school for the purpose of attending classes for part of or the entire school day. *All visitors are required to report to the school office whenever they enter the school, sign in and obtain a visitors pass.*

Appendix of School Committee policies as requested:

- Added – updated Residency Policy, File JFAA/JFBA
- Added – Curriculum and Instruction, Access to Electronic Media, File IJND
- Added – Security Cameras in Schools, File ECAF
- Added – Social Networking, File: IJNDD