

Expect the Best!

“Expect the Best” is Canonsburg Middle School’s building-wide theme. As a student, you can expect to receive the best instruction, programs, and environment. The year will be filled with exciting and unique learning opportunities. As a faculty and staff, we expect to see your best academic performance and behavior each day.

Learning at the middle school level encompasses success and growth, not only academically, but also socially, emotionally and physically. Our middle school is staffed with experienced and caring adults who are well-versed in the stages of growth of middle level learners.

We are proud of the program we offer and welcome your input and cooperation as we seek to provide the best possible educational experience for our students.

Welcome to Canonsburg Middle School!

Mr. Taranto
Principal

Mr. Schrag
Assistant Principal



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We're Here to Serve You

At Canonsburg Middle School, we strongly believe in keeping the lines of communication open with our students' parents. Please feel free to contact us with comments or questions.

Canonsburg Middle School

Phone: 724-745-9030

Fax: 724-873-5230

http://cmsd.k12.pa.us/cmsd/cm_canon_middle/
tarantog@cmsd.k12.pa.us
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District Offices

Central Administration: 724-746-2940

Special Education Coordinator: 724-745-8563

Director of Transportation: 724-745-1502

Food Service Manager: 724-746-3488

Introduction

This handbook has been prepared as a source of important information and as an organizational tool for middle school students and their parents. It reflects the procedures, as well as references many policies of the Canon-McMillan School District. ***A complete list of District policies is accessible on Canon-McMillan's home page (www.cmsd.k12.pa.us) under the "Information" tab by clicking on "Forms and Documents".***

Each student in our middle school will be issued a handbook. It is the expectation that the handbook will be thoroughly read and signed by both student and parent/guardian. The signature page is the last page in the handbook and must be returned within one week after having received the handbook. Specific dates will be shared with the students in school. Failure on the part of the student and/or parent/guardian to read the handbook does not excuse them from following the policies, procedures, and regulations addressed therein.

Among our goals is to provide a safe, nurturing, age-appropriate environment for our students. They are encouraged to take responsibility for their actions, to develop self-discipline, and to think before they act. Although our handbook is revised annually, circumstances may necessitate additions, changes, or adaptations. School administration reserves the right to make decisions regarding the health, safety, well-being, and protection of students, staff, visitors, and property.

Canon-McMillan School District

Mission

The mission of the Canon-McMillan School District, in partnership with the community, is to invest in our greatest resource, our students. We strive to teach, challenge and support all students to prepare them for college and careers with the information and skills necessary to compete, achieve and serve as leaders in a global economy as ethical and responsible citizens.

The Canon-McMillan School District is committed to affirmative action to assure equal opportunity for all persons regardless of race, color, religion, natural origin, ancestry, sex, or handicap.

Vision

The vision of the Canon-McMillan School District is to graduate all students with the effective communication, critical and creative thinking skills necessary for success in an evolving global economy.

Canonsburg Middle School

Belief Statement

Canonsburg Middle School is a pivotal point for a diverse community of lifelong learners. Our mission is to provide a positive, safe, educational environment that promotes individual academic achievement, responsibility to school and community, and social maturation. We provide an effective transition that promotes opportunities for future success.

Vision Statement

Canonsburg Middle School will provide an academically excellent and developmentally responsive environment.

Absenteeism Calling Procedure

Canonsburg Middle School uses an automated, computer calling system to communicate student absences to parents/guardians. Therefore when your child is absent from school, you do not need to call the school. When a student is marked absent from school, you will receive an automated phone message sent to your home number informing you that your child is absent from school. At the time, if you should have any questions regarding the absence, contact the school immediately.

Academic Prerequisites

Foreign Languages

Students will have the opportunity to request high school-level foreign language classes provided they meet the following specific criteria in their seventh grade year:

- A. Student must have an A or B in **all** "Introduction to Foreign Language" courses.
- B. Student must have a 3.0 or higher grade average in Language Arts and English.
- C. Student must have an overall grade average of 3.0 or higher.
- D. Student must be Advanced or Proficient on the Reading section of the previous year's PSSA.
- E. A student with an IEP must meet the above criteria (A.- D.) and the IEP team must make a determination regarding entrance into the class.

So that the number of students requesting a foreign language does not exceed the number of spaces available, priority will be given to students with the highest overall grade average.

Students will be notified of their Foreign Language course status by mail no later than August 1st prior to the start of the year.

Mathematics

In eighth grade, we offer four mathematics courses: Math 8, Pre-Algebra, Algebra I, and Algebra II. Algebra I and Algebra II are high school-level mathematic classes that are offered to eighth grade students who meet specific criteria in their seventh grade year.

Algebra II Criteria:

- A. Student must have a 3.00 GPA in Algebra I.
- B. Student must be advanced or proficient on the PSSA.

Algebra I Criteria:

- A. Student must have a 3.50 GPA in Algebra Connections.
- B. Students must demonstrate algebra readiness on the school's algebra readiness assessment.

Academic Social Networking

At times, teachers may incorporate some form of blogging or wiki activity into a lesson or unit. Students and parents are asked to read and sign the "Academic Social Network" contract and read the "Guidelines for Using an Academic Social Network". A copy of the contract and guidelines are found in handbook appendix. Please return the signed form to your child's homebase teacher.

Accident Insurance (Policy No. 211)

Parents or guardians may enroll in an insurance program at the beginning of the year which will cover a child going to and coming from school, within the school building or grounds, or attending a school-sponsored activity. The cost of the program is paid by the parents/guardians. Information concerning this program is made available at the beginning of the school year. Feel free to contact the school office if you wish to participate in this program; purchase of the insurance is optional.

After-School Regulations

No student is to remain in the building beyond the final bell unless under the direct supervision of a staff member. Practices or meetings of any kind are not to be held without first scheduling them with the principal and securing proper teacher supervision. It is the parent's/guardian's responsibility to promptly pick up the student at any designated time.

Animals in the School

Generally speaking, animals are not permitted in the middle school. If bringing an animal to school serves an educational purpose, permission must be sought from both the classroom teacher and the building principal. Upon receiving permission, a parent or guardian must bring the animal to school in an enclosed appropriate space and only for a specific, predetermined length of time. Animals are not to be transported on school buses at any time.

Arrivals

Students are not permitted into their specific, designated location in their building until the designated time posted in their building. Adult supervision is not available before that time. Therefore, please do not bring or send your child to school early as they cannot be supervised, and their safety is one our major concerns. At the designated time, all students must enter the building as they arrive. There is to be no loitering on school property or in the parking lots. Students who are driven to school by a parent/guardian

must be dropped-off at the front (main) entrance of the building, which is on East College Street. Due to student safety, no students are to be dropped off on North Central Avenue or the bus loop entrance.

Attendance (Policy No. 204)

Student Attendance Policy

The attendance policy of the Canon-McMillan School District is based on the premise that regular attendance is necessary if a student is to achieve success in school. No student who is excessively absent during the school year can profit from educational programs and activities offered at the school. There is little chance of continuity of instruction or maintenance of interest when a student does not attend classes regularly. Students with good attendance have greater opportunities to utilize their talents, to increase their self-esteem, and to acquire more self-discipline. The school cannot educate students or provide them with support and assistance if they are absent. Therefore, we believe it is the obligation of the district to require students to attend school regularly in order to receive the full benefits of an education.

State law (The Pennsylvania Public School Code) addresses compulsory attendance and requires attendance by all children of compulsory school age. The state places *on parent/guardians* the responsibility for student attendance, and assigns enforcement responsibilities to the schools. The Canon-McMillan School District shall apply this policy to all students in school, those who attend because of state law or those who attend by choice must follow district regulations.

To be credited with a full day's attendance, middle school students must enter school no later than 11:20 a.m. and leave no earlier than 11:20 a.m.

In the event of a student's absence, a written excuse from the parent, guardian, or physician is required within three (3) school days of the student's return from the absence. The excuse must state the date(s) of absence, explain the reason for absence, and be signed by a parent/guardian. It is the *student's responsibility* to make all necessary arrangements for making up work when absent from school.

All absences beyond fifteen (15) cumulative days shall require an excuse from a licensed physician.

Students have a maximum of two days for every day of legal absence to make up work upon their return to school.

No student will be allowed to participate in any school activity or practice on the day of his or her absence from school.

The number of student absences, along with student attendance patterns during the course of the school year, will be tracked and correspondence, as well as other suitable interventions, will be initiated based upon the Canon-McMillan Student Attendance Policy.

Excused Absences

The Public School Code and the State Board Regulations identify reasons for which the principal or designee may excuse a child from school for all or part of a school day. The reasons are as follows: Illness; Quarantine; Death in family; Family educational trips; Educational tours and trips; Health-related appointments (which cannot be arranged after school hours); Recognized religious holidays and services (restricted by law to a maximum of 36 hours per school year); Court appearances; School-sanctioned absences; Exceptionally urgent reasons (at the discretion of administration).

Unexcused Absences

Absence of enrolled children for any reason other than those outlined above is considered unexcused and constitutes truancy. For children of compulsory attendance age, unexcused absences are also illegal and resulting action will be taken.

Exceptions to the Attendance Policy

The days that are exempt from the attendance policy are: days missed while on out-of-school suspension provided that all class work is made up for each day missed; days missed while on field trips or any school-sponsored or initiated activities; days missed when school bus transportation is unavailable; days on homebound instruction or institutionalization.

Attendance/Perfect Attendance Awards

At the end of the school year, students will be eligible for an attendance award. All students, kindergarten through twelfth grade, having perfect attendance for a given school year shall be awarded a certificate of perfect attendance.

Students who have attained two consecutive years of perfect attendance shall: receive a certificate of perfect attendance denoting the two consecutive years of perfect attendance; be recognized by the Canon-McMillan Board of School Directors and the Superintendent of Schools at the regular meeting of Board of School Directors during the month of August each year.

Bomb Threats (also see Threats)

Part of the Penal Code of Pennsylvania reads, "Any person who furnishes any false information to any official or employee of any public, private, or parochial school concerning the placement or setting of a bomb or other explosive, knowing the same to be false, is guilty of a misdemeanor and shall, upon conviction, be sentenced to pay a fine not to exceed \$5,000 or undergo imprisonment not to exceed five years, or both."

Any student making a bomb threat is also subject to suspension and/or expulsion.

Book Bags / Backpacks

Book bags and backpacks are permitted in school; however, they are not to be carried from class to class (except physical education) and must be kept in the student's locker throughout the school day, unless otherwise indicated by the principal or his designee.

Breakfast Program

Breakfast will be provided each morning for students who wish to purchase breakfast before the beginning of school. A student eating breakfast should report directly to the school's cafeteria upon arrival to school. Once a student has finished eating breakfast, he or she should clean up their area and properly dispose of trash. No food or drink may be taken out of the cafeteria. Only the food and drinks provided for the breakfast program may be consumed at this time. Anyone not following these guidelines and the instructions of the cafeteria supervisors and staff can be permanently excluded from the breakfast program. Your cooperation is expected and appreciated.

Bullying / Cyberbullying (Policy No. 249)

The Canon-McMillan School District recognizes that bullying of students has a negative effect on the educational environment of its schools. Students who are bullied or intimidated by other students may not be able to take full advantage of the educational opportunities offered by the school district. Therefore, the school district strives to offer all students an educational environment free from bullying.

Bullying is unwelcome verbal, written, or physical conduct directed at a student by another student that has the intent and effect of (harming or intimidating) that student.

Cyberbullying is unwelcome (electronic) (written and/or audio and cell phone/camera) information directed at a student by another student that has the intent and effect of threatening, ridiculing, or humiliating that student (must be a nexus) (for an explanation of nexus, see *Nexus* under **Discipline** below).

The school district will not tolerate known acts of bullying/cyberbullying occurring on school district property, at school-sponsored activities scheduled on or off school grounds, or during the time students necessarily spend traveling to and from school or school-sponsored activities. Students may report acts of bullying to their teachers, building principal, or other school employees supervising school-sponsored activities. Parents/guardians may contact the building principal to report acts of bullying.

Consequences for students who are found to have bullied others may include counseling, a parent/guardian conference, detention, suspension, expulsion, loss of school privileges and/or exclusion from school-sponsored activities.

Hazing, or any form of initiation or harassment, as part of a school-sponsored activity, is not condoned or tolerated in any form (Policy No. 247).

Olweus Bullying Prevention Program: Canonsburg Middle School is implementing the Olweus Bullying Prevention Education Program. This research-based program is designed to educate students and teachers on bullying prevention strategies.

Bus Information

Any questions or concerns dealing with transportation should be directed to the district's transportation director by calling 724-745-1502.

Bus Behavior/Conduct

Good behavior is expected on the school bus at all times. Any student not following bus rules will be subject to punishment by the principal or his designee.

Please note: students should arrive at their respective bus stops at least five minutes before bus arrival time. If the bus does not arrive at the prearranged time, all students should wait a minimum of 30 minutes before leaving the bus stop area.

Bus Changes

Students are not permitted to ride a bus other than their assigned bus unless a **written request** is received, in the office, from the parents or guardians stating their permission to do so. (A note is only necessary from the child who is riding a different bus or getting off at a different stop.) The student requesting to ride on a different bus will be issued a bus pass allowing him/her to get on or off at a different stop or ride a different bus. Because we focus on student safety, this procedure will only be implemented **providing there is room on the bus**.

Bus Rules and Procedures

1. Except for ordinary conversation, classroom conduct is expected. Our students will conduct themselves as if they were in a classroom setting. This includes courteous behavior with no

- profane or abusive language. No shoes with cleats or spikes are to be worn on the bus. Personal objects such as pencils and pens must be stored carefully.
2. Do not drink or eat on the bus. Chewing gum is also not permitted.
 3. Keep the bus clean.
 4. Keep the aisle clear. Students will keep the aisle clear of items such as gym bags, projects, instruments, etc.
 5. Stay in your assigned seat. Students are to remain in their assigned seats at all times. Two students in a seat must permit a third student to sit with them. Students will refrain from standing, kneeling or laying in the seats or in the aisles. Every student who rides a bus must get on and off at the assigned bus stop. **Bus passes will only be granted in case of emergency and can be denied due to overcrowding. Passes will be issued at the school office.**
 6. Do not extend any part of the body or object out of the bus window at any time.
 7. Students riding the bus are to be at the bus stop at the regularly scheduled time.
 8. Enter and leave the bus through the front door. Emergency exits are to be opened for emergencies only.
 9. Students are not to damage or deface any part of the bus. Students and/or parents/guardians must repay the cost of repairing any damage and the student may be prosecuted. A student must immediately report to the driver any visible damage to the bus.
 10. All school policy rules and regulations are in effect on buses. Policies on smoking, tobacco, alcohol and drugs, fighting and weapons, as well as all other school policies and rules, will be in effect at all times on bus rides to and from school, activity runs, and field trips. Violation of these policies and rules will result in further disciplinary action by the school.

The driver is in charge of school bus discipline/conduct unless a teacher or administrator is present.

Bus Discipline

Level I offenses start at Step 1 on the Progressive Discipline Penalties. Level I offenses apply to School Bus Rules 1 through 7. Level II offenses start at Step 5 on the Progressive Discipline Penalties. Level II offenses relate to School Bus Rules 8, 9 and 10.

Progressive Discipline Penalties:

- #1 -- Warning
- #2 -- 1 Day After-School Detention
- #3 -- 1 Day In-School Suspension and 1 Day Bus Suspension
- #4 -- 5 Day Bus Suspension
- #5 --10 Day Bus Suspension
- #6 --30 Day Bus Suspension

NOTE: School principals may use any of the more severe disciplinary actions without regard to the student's number of previous violations.

NOTE: Parental permission is required if a student is to be picked up at school by someone other than a parent.

Bus Emergencies/ Parent/Guardian Reunification

In the event that a school bus cannot complete a run (i.e. involved in an accident, engine trouble, etc.), the following plan will be used for parent/guardian/student reunification:

- Only students needing medical assistance will be released from the scene; other students will not be released from the scene.

- If needed, another bus will be dispatched; students will be transported by CM buses to their stop/destination.
- If an accident/incident occurs after school hours or during a weekend, students will be returned to the district's Support Facility (on Boone Avenue); parents (with identification) can pick up their children under the direction of the Transportation Director.

Cancellation of School

In the event that it is necessary to delay or close school, an announcement will be made over the local radio and television stations. If the opening of school is delayed, students are to report to their building one or two hours after their normal reporting time, depending on the length of the delay. It is advisable that families devise a plan to ensure the care and safety of their child(ren).

Card Playing/Gambling

Any and all cards and card playing, collecting or trading are prohibited throughout our middle school. In addition, gambling of any kind is not permitted at any time on school district property or at school events.

Cell Phones (Policy No. 237)

Students are permitted to bring cell phones to school. However, the school accepts no responsibility for lost, damaged, or stolen cell phones.

The primary purpose of allowing students to bring cell phones to school is so they may be used after school hours. Therefore, the **phones must be shut off and kept in a locked locker during the school day**. The cell phone should not be in the possession of the student during the school day. If you do not have a lock for your locker, do not bring your cell phone to school. If the cell phone should ring while in a locker, it will be removed due to it being a distraction to the learning environment.

Students are not permitted to use cell phones in any manner whatsoever during a school day. This includes making or receiving calls, sending or receiving text messages, using phones as calculators or timepieces, playing games on phones, using photographic/audio/video phone functions, or using a phone for any other function it may provide. They must be kept entirely out of sight during the school day.

Students who have a necessity to use a phone during the school day, such as communicating with a parent, may do so by using one of the office phones *during non-instructional times*. Also, **if a student is ill, only the nurse (or main office personnel) is to contact the student's parent/guardian.** In the event of an emergency, a parent/guardian may contact a student by calling the middle school office.

Violation of these guidelines will result in confiscation of the cell phone and disciplinary action. The cell phone will not be returned to the student. A parent/guardian will be required to come into the school and pick the phone up if it is confiscated by the school.

Change of Address or Phone Numbers

Please relay any changes of address or telephone number to our middle school office immediately. In this manner, we can maintain open lines of communication between the home and the school.

Cheating

Cheating is a serious compromise of a student's integrity and will not be tolerated. If cheating (including plagiarism) is discovered, the student's work will be confiscated. Families will be notified and disciplinary action and an alternative assessment will be given.

Computer / Electronic Network Technology / Internet (Policy No. 815)

Student Internet and Network Acceptable Use Policy

At Canon-McMillan School District we believe the Internet offers vast, diverse, and unique resources to our students. Our goal in providing this service to students is to promote educational excellence in schools by facilitating resource sharing, innovation, and communication. The following are examples of services available on Canon-McMillan's networks:

1. Electronic mail (e-mail) communication with people all over the world via an account provided by Canon-McMillan School District
2. Public domain software and graphics of all types for school use
3. Access to many university library catalogs, the Library of Congress, and ERIC, a large collection of relevant information for educators and students
4. Access to thousands of websites via a direct connection to the Internet
5. Discovery Education's United Streaming Multimedia Library access
6. Power Library
7. Net Trekker
8. Various productivity and multimedia applications.

In making decisions regarding student access to the Internet, the Canon-McMillan School District considers its own stated educational mission, goals, and objectives. Electronic information research skills are now fundamental to preparation of citizens and future employees. Access to the Internet enables students to explore thousands of libraries, databases, bulletin boards, and other resources while exchanging messages with people around the world. The district expects that faculty will blend thoughtful use of the Internet throughout the curriculum and will provide guidance and instruction to students in its use.

As much as possible, district-provided access to Internet resources should be structured in ways that point students to resources which have been evaluated prior to use. While students will be able to move beyond those resources to others that have not been previewed by staff, they shall be provided with guidelines and lists of resources particularly suited to learning objectives.

The electronic information available to students and staff does not imply endorsement by the district of the content, nor does the district guarantee the accuracy of information received. The district shall not be responsible for any information that may be lost, damaged or unavailable when using the network or for any information that is retrieved via the Internet.

The district shall not be responsible for any unauthorized charges or fees resulting from access to the Internet.

The district reserves the right to log network use and to monitor fileserver space utilization by district users, while respecting the privacy rights of both district users and outside users.

Students utilizing district-provided Internet access must first have the permission of, and be supervised by, the district's professional staff. Students are responsible for good behavior online just as they are in a classroom or other area of the school. The same general rules for behavior and communication apply.

The Board establishes that network use is a privilege, not a right; inappropriate, unauthorized and illegal use will result in cancellation of those privileges and appropriate disciplinary action.

The Board shall designate an online server that blocks access to visual depictions of obscenity, child pornography, or material harmful to minors.

Definitions

Internet: a massive electronic library connected to databases around the world through the use of a computer.

E-Mail: the sending and receiving of messages through the use of a computer account and password.

Networked Computer: any computer system that is connected to a data network.

Inappropriate Material: any material that contains profanity; obscene comments; sexually explicit material (pornography); expressions of bigotry, racism, or hate; or information intended to cause harm to self or others. Also included is any reference to information on how to consume or manufacture drugs, weapons, or other unauthorized materials, or any reference to information on how to gain unauthorized access to accounts or systems.

The district shall make every effort to ensure that this resource is used responsibly by students and staff.

Administrators, teachers and staff have a professional responsibility to work together to help students develop the intellectual skills necessary to discriminate among information sources, to identify information appropriate to their age and developmental levels, and to evaluate and use the information to meet their educational goals.

Students and staff have the responsibility to respect and protect the rights of every other user in the district and on the Internet.

The building administrator shall have the authority to determine what is inappropriate use.

The Superintendent or designee shall be responsible for implementing technology and procedures to determine whether the district's computers are being used for purposes prohibited by law or for accessing sexually explicit materials. The procedure shall include but not be limited to:

1. Utilizing a technology protection measure that blocks or filters Internet access for minors and adults to certain visual depictions that are obscene, child pornography, harmful to minors with respect to use by minors, or determined inappropriate for use by minors by the Board.
2. Maintaining and securing a usage log.
3. Monitoring online activities of minors.

The district shall provide a copy of this policy to parents/guardians, upon written request.

Guidelines

The purpose of the networks making up the Internet is to support research and education in and among academic institutions by providing access to unique resources and the opportunity for collaborative work. The use of accounts must be in support of education and research and consistent with the educational objectives of the Canon-McMillan School District.

Use of another organization's network or computing resources must comply with the rules appropriate for that network. Transmission of any material in violation of any federal or state regulation is prohibited. This includes, but is not limited to: copyrighted material, threatening or obscene material, or material protected by trade secret. E-mail sent and received, as well as Internet usage through the school district's technology networking system, is the property of the district and the district reserves the right to monitor all e-mail/Internet usage at any time.

Network accounts shall be used only by the authorized owner of the account for its approved purpose. All communications and information accessible via the network should be assumed to be private property and shall not be disclosed. Network users shall respect the privacy of other users on the system.

Prohibitions

Students and staff are expected to act in a responsible, ethical and legal manner in accordance with district policy, accepted rules of network etiquette, and federal and state law. Specifically, the following uses are prohibited:

1. Facilitating illegal activity.
2. Commercial or for-profit purposes.
3. Non-work or non-school-related work.
4. Product advertisement or political lobbying.
5. Hate mail, discriminatory remarks, and offensive or inflammatory communication.
6. Unauthorized or illegal installation, distribution, reproduction, or use of copyrighted materials.
7. Access to obscene or pornographic material or child pornography.
8. Access by students and minors to material that is harmful to minors or is determined inappropriate for minors in accordance with Board policy.
9. Inappropriate language or profanity.
10. Transmission of material likely to be offensive or objectionable to recipients.
11. Intentional obtaining or modifying of files, passwords, and data belonging to other users.
12. Impersonation of another user, anonymity, and pseudonyms.
13. Fraudulent copying, communications, or modification of materials in violation of copyright laws.
14. Loading or using of unauthorized games, programs, files, or other electronic media.
15. Disruption of the work of other users.
16. Destruction, modification, abuse or unauthorized access to network hardware, software and files.
17. Quoting of personal communications in a public forum without the original author's prior consent.
18. Granting Internet or network access to unauthorized persons intentionally or unintentionally.
19. Failing to notify an administrator if you suspect someone of using your password.
20. Posting personal contact information.
21. Posting false or defamatory information.
22. Attempts to disrupt access.
23. Overriding desktop security software and changing system settings.
24. Other as defined by the district.

Security

System security is protected through the use of passwords. Failure to adequately protect or update passwords could result in unauthorized access to personal or district files. To protect the integrity of the system, the following guidelines shall be followed:

1. Employees and students shall not reveal their passwords to another individual.
2. Users are not to use a computer that has been logged in under another student's or employee's name.
3. Any user identified as a security risk or having a history of problems with other computer systems may be denied access to the network.

Consequences for Inappropriate Use

The network user shall be responsible for damages to the equipment, systems, and software resulting from deliberate or willful acts.

Illegal use of the network; intentional deletion or damage to files of data belonging to others; copyright violations; and theft of services will be reported to the appropriate legal authorities for possible prosecution.

General rules for behavior and communications apply when using the Internet, in addition to the stipulations of this policy. Loss of access and other disciplinary actions shall be consequences for inappropriate use.

Vandalism will result in cancellation of access privileges. Vandalism is defined as any malicious attempt to harm or destroy data of another user, Internet or other networks; this includes but is not limited to uploading or creating computer viruses.

Copyright

The illegal use of copyrighted software by students and staff is prohibited. Any data uploaded to or downloaded from the network shall be subject to fair use guidelines.

Safety

To the greatest extent possible, users of the network will be protected from harassment and unwanted or unsolicited communication. Any network user who receives threatening or unwelcome communications shall report such immediately to a teacher or administrator. Network users shall not reveal personal information to other users on the network, including chat rooms, e-mail, Internet, etc.

Any district computer/server utilized by students and staff shall be equipped with Internet blocking/filtering software.

Internet safety measures shall effectively address the following:

1. Control of access by minors to inappropriate matter on the Internet and World Wide Web.
2. Safety and security of minors when using electronic mail, chat rooms, and other forms of direct electronic communication.
3. Prevention of unauthorized online access by minors, including “hacking” and other unlawful activities.
4. Unauthorized disclosure, use, and dissemination of personal information regarding minors.
5. Restriction of minors’ access to materials harmful to them.

School District Internet Use Agreement

I understand and will abide by the above Internet Acceptable Use Agreement. I further understand that any violation of the regulations above is unethical and may constitute a criminal offense. Should I commit any violation, my access privileges may be revoked, school disciplinary action up to and including expulsion and appropriate legal action may be taken.

Adopted: 5/21/07

Internet Safety for Students and their Families

Students and their families must always remain aware of the potential risks associated with using the Internet. The school recommends that students are under the supervision of a parent/guardian while online to avoid accessing inappropriate information, communicating with unknown persons, and engaging in inappropriate conversation (saying things that they might not otherwise say in person).

While at Canonsburg Middle School, students receive instruction about online safety, and are taught the “do’s and don’ts”, as well as how to appropriately handle various situations involving the Internet.

Students and parents seeking more information on internet safety are encouraged to use the Canon-McMillan School District’s “Internet Safety” feature on its webpage, which can be accessed at www.cmsd.k12.pa.us.

Crisis Management/Safety and Security

The Canon-McMillan School District has adopted a Crisis Management – Safety and Security Plan. This plan of action will be implemented in all buildings and all facilities of the school district. Every teacher, principal, and administrator will have a quick reference and detailed plan available. In addition, every building will display the building procedures in the office.

Detailed copies of the plan are available in each building and the Central Administrative Office for your review.

Custody (Policy No. 238)

Parents have the right to share in the education of their children, even when circumstances exist in which both parents do not live together with the child. Unless prohibited by a court order, each parent will be provided access to all records and information concerning their child. Report cards, progress reports, and other educational information will be sent to the custodial parent, and the noncustodial parent shall have the right to review such educational records. In the event your child is affected by a current court order, please make a copy of the court order available to the principal. (Please note: Students are only permitted to be removed from the school by the parent who has physical custody during school hours.)

Discipline (Policy No. 218)

Student conduct is closely related to learning. An effective educational program requires a safe and orderly school environment. The building principal (or designee) has the authority to assign discipline to students, subject to the policies, rules and regulations of the district. Teaching staff and other district employees responsible for students shall have the authority to take reasonable actions necessary to control the conduct of students in all situations and in all places where students are within the jurisdiction of the district, and when the conduct interferes with the educational program of the schools or threatens the health and safety of others.

Behavior Probation Policy

Behavior Probation is the student exclusion from all PIAA contests/activities, as well as extracurricular and school functions during and outside of the regular school day. The following guidelines apply:

- Any two Level II violations (two Level I's equal a Level II) or one Level III violation in 30 consecutive school days equals 20 consecutive (attended) school days of behavior probation.
- During the 20-day period of probation, any major misconduct or violation of behavior probation will result in a new 20-day term beginning on that day.
- After the first term of behavior probation concludes, any single Level II or III may constitute immediate behavior probation.
- The period of behavior probation terminates with the beginning of the 21st school day.
- A student on behavior probation is still permitted to practice until their eligibility is restored.

Consequences and Infractions

Level 1

Possible Consequence:

Conference, warning, phone call, letter, confiscation of item.
ASD, ISS, ISD
Two Level 1's = Level 2

Infraction:

tardiness; minor classroom disturbance; failure to follow classroom rules; possession electronic equipment (1st time); cell phone violation (1st time); dress code violation; arriving in office/nurse/etc. without a pass

Level 2

Possible Consequence:

ASD, ISS, ISDA, OSS,
parent contact, confiscation of item, expulsion from bus, cafeteria, removal from activities, contact authorities;
behavior probation.

Infraction:

abusive language/contemptuous words; obscene language/gestures, gang-related gestures; forgery; cheating/false statements; conflict with student; disrespectful or disruptive behavior; cutting class (staying on school grounds); gambling; wearing gang, cult or other clothing that is

disruptive; truancy; trespassing; failure to report to assigned detention; creating a safety hazard; uncooperative; cell phone violation (2nd time or more); possession of electronic equipment (2nd time or more); possession of lighters and/or matches; insubordination.

Level 3

Possible Consequence:

ISS, OSS, removal from activities, contact authorities, behavior probation, expulsion

Infraction:

fighting on school property; racial comments/slurs; possession of obscene materials; possession and/or using smoking devices; possession and/or use of drugs or alcohol and look-alike substances; inappropriate physical contact; physical or verbal assault of staff member; vandalism; acts of violence; computer tampering; electronic technology violation; tampering with/destroying school property; commission or threat of arson or the causing of an explosion; possession of weapon or look-alike; harassment; extortion; cutting class (leaving the school grounds); stealing; gang-related activity; frequency of referrals; defiance; insubordination; major misconduct; making threats; excessive disruption to the good order and discipline of the school.

ASD = After-School Detention

ISS = In-School Suspension

ISDA = In-School Disciplinary Action

OSS = Out-of-School Suspension

NOTE: The principal has the prerogative to adjust the above plans in the best interest of the school.

Disruption of Class

One of our main goals is academic achievement. Therefore, no student has the right to interfere with the education of other students. It is the responsibility of every student to respect the rights of teachers, other students, administrators, and everyone involved in the operation of the school. Students who continually disrupt the learning process in the classroom will be subject to disciplinary procedures and consequences. Any student who misbehaves continually in one classroom and/or in more than one classroom may receive increased disciplinary consequences as a result of the frequency of the offense. At any time a student may also receive a combination of disciplinary consequences depending on the frequency and severity of the disruption (i.e., after-school detention and removal from activities). The possible consequences include: after-school detention, in-school suspension, removal from activities, and/or out-of-school suspension.

Fighting

Any student who is involved in a disagreement with another person is advised to seek the assistance of a guidance counselor, dean, teacher, or principal in an attempt to resolve a problem rationally and before a fight occurs. If a fight or assault does occur, the following procedure will be followed:

1. Any student involved in a confrontation, whether the incident is a fight or an assault, will automatically be suspended for a minimum of three (3) days. A citation may be issued under Article

F of the Pennsylvania Code. A hearing may be held with the District Magistrate.

2. Parents of students involved in the conflict will be required to have a hearing with the appropriate dean and/or administrator before the offending student may return to school.
3. Repeat/chronic offenders may be required to meet with the Student Assistance Team.
4. An individual(s) who instigates others to fight may receive disciplinary action.
5. The District Magistrate may conduct a hearing at which time code violation determination will be made.

Insubordination

The employees of Canon-McMillan School District have a responsibility to maintain an orderly educational environment. In order to carry out this responsibility, they have the authority to make requests and correct the behavior of students when the need arises. Students have an obligation to comply with the reasonable requests from any and all school personnel. Any student behavior, including disrespect which undermines the authority of school personnel, will not be tolerated. A student found to be insubordinate of an employee's reasonable request may face severe disciplinary consequences.

Nexus

Students are subject to disciplinary action for their conduct during school activities. Additionally, students must be aware that they may be subject to disciplinary action for their conduct out of school, or off school property, if a *nexus* exists. A nexus is a connection between the proximity or timing of the conduct in relation to the student's attendance at school or school-sponsored activities. For example, vandalism of district property or a district employee's property, inappropriate behavior at an athletic contest, or a transaction outside of school that was arranged during school hours.

Dismissal

Students who are getting picked up from school by a parent or guardian should be aware that College Street is closed to traffic from 2:30-3:00p.m. each weekday due to bus dismissal. Parents/guardians should plan for this when picking students up. Students can either 1) get picked up in the lots on North Central Avenue, provided they cross at the crossing guard on College Street 2) have a parent/guardian enter the main office and accompany them to their car or 3) get picked up on College Street at 3:00p.m. Students doing so should report to the office on third bell and wait for the buses to dismiss and their ride to pull in front of the school.

Dress Code (Policy No. 221)

The Canon-McMillan School District recognizes that each student's mode of dress and grooming is a manifestation of personal style and individual preference.

Section 13-1317.3 of the Public School Code of 1949 authorizes the board of directors in any school entity to impose limitations on dress and to authorize dress policies which may be applicable throughout the entire school entity or to one or more school buildings within the school district.

The Canon-McMillan School District believes that the manner in which a student is dressed does not reflect the abilities or qualities of that student, but that attire which is clean, non-disruptive, and in good taste enhances the educational environment and promotes learning. While the Canon-McMillan School

District does not intend to interfere with the right of students and their parents to make decisions regarding their appearance, it is appropriate to do so when their choices affect the educational program of the schools or the health, safety, or security of themselves or others.

Accordingly, the Board of Directors of the Canon-McMillan School District authorizes the Superintendent to enforce school regulations prohibiting student dress or grooming practices which:

- A. Present a hazard to the health, safety, or security of the student himself/herself or to others in the school;
- B. Interfere with school work, create disorder, or disrupt the educational process;
- C. Cause excessive wear or damage to school property;
- D. Prevent the student from achieving his/her own educational objectives because of blocked vision or restricted movement;
- E. Impede the School District's legitimate educational concerns; or
- F. Are plainly offensive.

Students may be required to wear certain types of clothing while participating in physical education classes, technical education, extracurricular activities, or other situations where special attire may be required to ensure the health, safety, or security of the students. The building principal will monitor student dress and grooming in his building to effectively carry out this policy.

Canonsburg Middle School Dress Code Requirements

1. Brief and Revealing Clothing

Students must recognize that brief and revealing clothing are not appropriate apparel in school. The following guidelines on brief clothing are examples and do not cover all situations.

- Students shall not wear tank tops, halter-tops, garments with spaghetti straps, or strapless garments.
- Garments that are "see-through", low-cut, or expose one's midriff are not acceptable.
- Sleeveless garments must extend to the end of the shoulders and fit closely under the arms.
- Skirts and shorts should be modest so they are not too short, too tight, too low-cut or too revealing (skirts and shorts must extend to or past the fingers when arms hang down).
- Undergarments must not be visible (i.e. bra straps, boxer shorts).
- All clothing with revealing holes are not acceptable.
- Pajamas are not permitted to be worn.

2. Sagging Pants

- Students shall not wear pants that, when fastened, sag or fit below the waist.
- All pants must fit around the waist and be properly fastened.
- Belts, if worn, must be worn at the waist and be through belt loops.

3. Hats/Head Coverings

- Students shall not wear hats in the buildings except for a medical or religious purpose. Also, sunglasses and bandanas are not to be worn in school.

4. Vulgar, Offensive Messages

- Students shall not wear clothing items that contain messages that are vulgar, offensive, obscene, or libelous;
- that denigrate others on the basis of race, color, gender, sexual orientation, or disability;
- that promote alcohol or drug use or violence (including gang-related activities or affiliation);
- or that are otherwise contrary to the school's educational mission.

5. **Safety Hazards**

- Students shall not wear items that present a safety hazard to themselves or others. These include, but are not limited to, wallet chains, large/protruding piercings, etc.

6. **Jackets/Coats**

- Students are not permitted to wear jackets or coats during classes.

7. **Face Painting/Spray Hair Color**

- Students are not permitted to wear face paint or body paint.
- Students are not permitted to wear temporary hair color.

Canonsburg Middle School thanks you in advance for your cooperation.

Drugs and Alcohol (Controlled Substances) (Policy No. 227)

The Canon-McMillan School District recognizes and affirms the individual value and potential of each member of its school community. We recognize that chemical abuse and dependency seriously impair the ability of individuals to develop their full potential. We also recognize that problems created by chemical abuse and dependency have an adverse effect on the ability of all members of the school community to achieve personal and district educational goals. Equally important, the use, possession and distribution of drugs and/or alcohol are against the law in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

Controlled substance abuse among students is a serious social problem which threaten the health, safety and welfare of the individual student user, other members of the school population and the educational process. Prompt intervention can be an effective deterrent against the abuse of controlled substances, thus helping the student user and protecting the general school population.

The district prohibits students from using, possessing, distributing, and being under the influence of any controlled substances during school hours, at any time while on school property, at any school-sponsored activity, and during the time spent traveling to and from school and school-sponsored activities.

The following offenses involving illegal or potentially harmful drugs, controlled substances and other chemical substances-will result in a suspension from school and notification to the Board of School Directors for potential additional disciplinary measures, including expulsion:

- possession of alcohol and/or marijuana;
- possession, use or distribution of a drug or controlled substance under circumstances that constitute a violation of any state or federal law;
- other activities which constitute violations of the Controlled Substance, Drug, Device and Cosmetic Act (such as possession of a look-alike drug, drug paraphernalia, etc.).

Controlled substances shall include all:

1. Controlled substances prohibited by federal and state law.
2. Look-alike drugs.
3. Alcoholic beverages.
4. Anabolic steroids.
5. Drug paraphernalia.
6. Any volatile solvents or inhalants, such as but not limited to glue and aerosol products.
7. Prescription drugs, except those for which permission for use in school has been granted pursuant to Board policy.

"Possession" includes drinking alcoholic beverages, smoking marijuana, and consumption of other prohibited substances prior to attendance at a school regulated activity. Distribution (by sale or

otherwise) and possession with intent to distribute, are considered aggravating circumstances.

Once a student has been identified to be in violation of this policy due to a) distribution of drugs and/or alcohol, and b) a second violation of this policy other than distribution of drugs and/or alcohol, a mandatory formal hearing before the Board of School Directors (or, as authorized by the Board, a committee of the Board or a hearing examiner) must be scheduled. The Superintendent will exclude the student from school pending the hearing with the committee of the Board of School Directors. All appropriate legal charges will be filed. Further disciplinary action will be determined by the Board, which may include expulsion.

The district may require participation in drug counseling, rehabilitation, testing or other programs as a condition of reinstatement into the school's education, extracurricular or athletic programs resulting from violations of this policy.

Early Dismissals

Students who wish to be excused from school early must bring in a note from their parent or guardian to the office. The note must include the date of the early dismissal request, the time at which the student is to be dismissed, the reason for the dismissal, and the signature of the parent/guardian. In rare instances, school is dismissed early due to inclement weather or emergencies. Families should be prepared with a plan to deal with this type of event. Students should be aware of any specific courses of action they should take if an early dismissal occurs. Please plan accordingly.

Electronic Equipment (Radios, MP3 Players, etc.) (Policy No. 237)

Students are not permitted to bring MP3 players, radios, audio recorders, video recorders, CD players, hand-held game devices, personal technology devices that provides for wireless, unfiltered access to the Internet, or other electronic equipment to school. They also may not be worn or in use in the halls or other areas of the school. These items are subject to confiscation at the discretion of the principal, dean, or teacher. At the discretion of the administration, a parent or guardian may be required to report to the school to have the item(s) returned. Laser devices are, at no time, permitted on school property or at school events. Any exceptions to this rule can be granted only by the principal and only for a legitimate reason. Also, students should be aware that they are subject to a search and seizure of a personal technology device when the district administration has reasonable suspicion and/or permitted by law that the student has violated school rules, this policy, or state or federal law through the use of his/her personal technology device.

Emergency Information

All students are required to have medical cards filled out for use in emergency situations. Name, address, phone, parents' names, places of work, doctor's name and number are among the items requested. If any of this information changes within the course of the school year, please notify the school office. If you have not received an emergency card to complete at the beginning of the school year, please call the school office so that one may be provided to you.

Extracurricular Activities (Policy No. 122) and Athletic Eligibility (Policy No. 123)

The middle school provides our students with a variety of organizations and athletic teams. Students are encouraged to participate and become involved in one or more areas of interest. However, students must be aware that **every organization and team has specific rules, regulations and by-laws that cover participation and membership.** When joining any group, students should become very familiar with all aspects of the organization's constitution and by-laws. Since specific rules and regulations are somewhat different for each group and team, rules of eligibility apply before any student can become a member.

Extracurricular Eligibility

A student is eligible for extracurricular activities if he/she:

1. Has a cumulative grade point average of 2.0 or better in the equivalent of four (4) full credit subjects during the preceding nine weeks and during the time of participation. For fall activities this means the final quarter of the preceding year.
2. Maintains a 2.0 or better in at least the equivalent of four (4) full credit subjects during the time of participation.
3. Is not currently on Behavior Probation (see *Behavior Probation Policy* under **Discipline** above).
4. Has not missed twenty (20) or more school days during the semester or previous semester. If so, the student will not become eligible until completing sixty (60) days of attendance.
5. Has not been removed from any previous activity or school elective position for lack of attendance or participation.

Please Note: The above items may have more stringent regulations as governed by individual by-laws or constitution.

Athletic Eligibility

A student is eligible to compete in interscholastic sports if he/she:

1. Has a cumulative grade point average of 2.0 or better in the equivalent of four (4) full credit subjects during the preceding nine weeks and during the time of participation. For fall athletes this means the final quarter of the preceding year.
2. Maintains a 2.0 or better in at least the equivalent of four (4) full credit subjects during the time of participation.
3. Has not missed 20 or more school days during the current year.
4. Has a doctor's certificate and his/her parent's/guardian's consent on file with the Athletic Director.
5. Is not currently on Behavior Probation (see *Behavior Probation Policy* under **Discipline** above).

FERPA / Confidentiality and Disclosure of Student Records

The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) affords parents and students over 18 years of age ("eligible students") certain rights with respect to the student's education records.

These rights are:

1. The right to inspect and review the student's education records within 45 days of the day the school receives a request for access. Parents or eligible students should submit to the school principal (or appropriate school official) a written request that identifies the record(s) they wish to inspect. The school official will make arrangements for access and notify the parent or eligible student of the time and place where the records may be inspected.

2. The right to request the amendment of the student's education records that the parent or eligible student believes are inaccurate or misleading. Parents or eligible students may ask the school to amend a record that they believe is inaccurate or misleading. If the school decides not to amend the record as requested by the parent or eligible student, the school will notify the parent or eligible student of the decision and advise them of their right to a hearing regarding the request for amendment. Additional information regarding the hearing procedures will be provided to the parent or eligible student when notified of the right to a hearing.
3. The right to consent to disclosures of personally identifiable information contained in the student's education records, except to the extent that FERPA authorizes disclosure without consent. One exception, which permits disclosure without consent, is disclosure to school officials with legitimate educational interests. A school official is a person employed by the school as an administrator, supervisor, instructor, or support staff member (including health or medical staff and law enforcement unit personnel); a person serving on the School Board; a person or company with whom the school has contracted to perform a special task (such as an attorney, auditor, medical consultant, or therapist); or a parent or student serving on an official committee, such as a disciplinary or grievance committee, or assisting another school official in performing his or her tasks. A school official has a legitimate educational interest if the official needs to review an education record in order to fulfill his or her professional responsibility. Upon request, the school discloses education records without consent to officials of another school district in which a student seeks or intends to enroll.
4. The right to file a complaint with the U.S. Department of Education concerning alleged failures by the school to comply with the requirements of FERPA. The name and address of the office that administers FERPA are:

**Family Policy Compliance Office
U.S. Department of Education
400 Maryland Avenue, SW
Washington, DC 20202-4605**

Fire Drills and Alarm System

Fire drills are necessary for the safety of the students and staff. Everyone should know the specific directions for reaching a point of safety from those areas of the school building in which she or he may be. The middle school practices safe and appropriate evacuation procedures to ensure the absolute safety of our students and staff.

The fire alarm system is intended for emergency purposes only. Any student who tampers with any part of the alarm system may be subject to three or more days of out-of-school suspension. Any information regarding the tampering of the fire alarm system will be filed with Civil Authorities for violations of the Pennsylvania Criminal Code, when deemed necessary by school officials.

Flag Salute (Policy No. 807)

Students are responsible for demonstrating proper respect for the country and the flag. If they choose not to participate in the flag salute, they must maintain a respectful silence and attitude.

Food Allergies (Policy No. 209.2)

The Canon-McMillan School District is committed to providing a safe and healthy environment for all students and staff, with the understanding that the district cannot guarantee that a student will never

experience an allergy-related event while at school. The district provides the following guidelines:

Expectations for all Students

1. Never take food allergies lightly. Students should not joke or tease other students about allergies.
2. Never try to trick someone into eating food they are allergic to.
3. Never share food with food allergic friends.
4. Always wash hands before and after eating.
5. Help allergic classmates by knowing items the classmate is allergic to and by checking labels to make sure items do not contain those foods.

Expectations for Students with Food Allergies

1. Never trade food with other students or eat any food with unknown ingredients.
2. Notify an adult immediately should s/he believe contact with the food has occurred or medical attention is needed.
3. Agree to be active in the care and management of his/her food allergy.

Parents/Guardians of Students with Allergies

1. Contact the school nurse each year to complete and/or update all medical records including specific information pertaining to any and all known allergies.
2. Provide written documentation from the attending physician to the school nurse regarding the specific allergy, severity and treatment.
3. Provide the school with a list of the food contacts to be avoided.
4. Follow the district medication policy in providing medications for allergic reactions (see **Medication**).

All Parents

When providing food for school events (provided there is approval from the building principal or his designee), consideration should be given for students with food allergies. If food is provided, it must: be purchased at the store; be in the original package; have ingredients listed.

An individual health care plan may be developed, as needed, by the school nurse, with input from the parent/guardian, school personnel and building principal. As part of the plan, if appropriate and necessary, may be procedures agreed to by the school and parent/guardian regarding concerns of student contact (with the allergen) throughout the school day. The plan and procedures will vary depending on the individual circumstances. Regardless of the allergy, the district will not support a complete ban on specific foods in the cafeteria that may contribute to the student's allergy unless approved by the Board.

Food/Drink

All food and drink (including containers of water and other beverages) must remain in the cafeteria during school hours. The vending machines inside the cafeteria are only to be used during scheduled lunch periods. The vending machines outside of the cafeteria may be used only after dismissal. Generally, there is to be no food or drink in classrooms, hallways, or other areas of the building. In cases where the request for food and/or drink in the classroom is necessary, permission must be given by the office.

Freedom of Expression

Students have the right to speak or publish and distribute their opinions. However, they have the responsibility to observe the following whenever speaking or writing:

- Do not be obscene, lewd, or vulgar, or possess pornographic materials.
- Do not promote alcohol use, drug use, or violence (including gang-related activity).

- Do not ridicule a person.
- Do not injure a person's reputation.
- Do not cause disruption of the school operation.

The principal will review any material considered for distribution to see that legal standards are met and that approved areas for posting are utilized. Students are also responsible for cleaning any litter related to their publications. Students may also hold their own meetings in the school because they have the right to peaceful assembly. To do this, permission must be requested from the principal. To obtain permission, an agreement must be made to take proper care of the building and not disrupt other school activities.

Grading Policy (Policy 212)

Grades will be determined according to the following percentages in all subjects:

90-100% = A (4 points); 80-89% = B (3 points); 70-79% = C (2 points); 60-69% = D (1 point); 59% and below = F (0 points). Final grades will be an average of the four nine weeks grades (A=4, B=3, C=2, D=1, F=0). However, students must have at least three (3) points to pass a course, **one of which must be in the second semester.**

The student must make up any incompletes ("I") before the end of the school year it was given. A student will not be promoted to the next grade if he or she has not made up the incomplete work.

- Physical education grades will be included to determine if a student makes the Honor Roll.
- Progress reports are provided for any student with a **D or F** average at mid-marking period.
- The grading scale for special education students, if different, will be determined by the student's IEP.
- Courses taught at both the high school and middle school (example: Spanish I) will follow the high school grading procedure.
- To make the Honor Roll, a student must have a 3.2 GPA (3.7 for High Honors; 4.0 for Distinguished Honors) and **no D's, F's or I's.**

Guidance Services

Guidance services are available for every student in the school. Due to the developmental complexities surrounding middle school students, communication with a guidance counselor is appropriate. A student must first report to his assigned area and receive a pass there for the guidance office.

Gum

Students are not permitted to chew gum in our middle school.

Hall Passes and Sweeps

Students are not permitted to be in the hall unless they have a hall pass and have signed out. Hall passes are issued by the teacher. Students should be in the halls the least amount of time possible. Hall sweeps will be conducted periodically. Any students in the hall at that time without a pass will be subject to disciplinary action deemed appropriate by the principal and/or his designee.

Harassment (Policy No. 248)

All students have the right to be educated in a safe, comfortable environment in which people treat one another with respect and dignity. Without doubt, most of our students show respect, friendliness, kindness and compassion. Remember, though, that no one has the right to harass you personally, sexually, racially, religiously, ethically, because of a handicap, or in any other way.

Harassment of any type is prohibited. For instance, it is unfair and wrong for anyone to:

- verbally harass or abuse you;
- pressure you for any unwanted reason;
- repeatedly make remarks to you with sexual or demeaning implications;
- touch you in a manner that is unwelcome.

Any student who experiences any type of harassment should promptly report it to a guidance counselor, dean, nurse, teacher, or principal.

Any student who engages in harassment of any kind is subject to disciplinary action in accordance with the Canon-McMillan School District Harassment Policy, up to and including expulsion. Anyone who retaliates against someone who has reported harassment taking place, or knowingly makes a false complaint, is subject to the same penalties.

Health Office

The nurse has her own office. Directions can be obtained from the main school office. If a student desires to see the nurse, he or she must obtain a hall pass from the classroom teacher. No student will be admitted to the nurse's office without a pass unless it is an emergency. In the event a student arrives at the office and the nurse is not present, the student must report to the main office where appropriate action will be taken.

No student is to stay in the hallway, restroom, stairwell, classroom or any other school area instead of seeking the nurse when ill or injured.

If it is determined that the student cannot remain in school, **only the nurse (or main office personnel) is to contact the student's parent/guardian** to make arrangements to be dismissed. Students using a cell phone to contact a parent will be subject to disciplinary consequences as listed in the Cell Phone and Discipline sections above.

Homework Non-Compliance

Homework is an integral part of a student's successful learning experience. Therefore, the following steps and consequences will be applied in the event of homework non-compliance:

- The first offense for not completing an assignment will result in a warning from that classroom teacher. The warning will be documented. An indication will be made to complete the assignment.
- The second offense for not completing an assignment will result in a second warning from the same classroom teacher and an indication to complete the work.
- The third offense will result in the same classroom teacher contacting the parents. A conference may be warranted to resolve this problem.
- The fourth offense will result in a disciplinary referral and after-school detention will be assigned by the classroom teacher according to the procedure determined by the building principal.
- After five or more offenses, a parent conference is strongly recommended. In addition, the classroom teacher may assign additional after-school detention.
- Each classroom teacher maintains the right to develop classroom homework formats, provided they remain within the guidelines of the school district grading policy. (All such procedures must be approved by the principal.)

Homework Requests

If a student is absent from school for two or more consecutive days due to illness, surgery, etc., the parent/guardian may call the middle school office between 7-8am to request missed assignments. The work can then be picked up at the end of the day. Please allow ample time, as teachers must be individually contacted and given time to prepare the assignments. If additional days are missed, this process can be repeated, but only for two day increments (work will not be sent home one day at a time).

Hotline (Safety and Security)

We encourage open communication in each of our schools. In the event a student has information related to the safety and security of our children, he/she should seek out an adult in the school and relay this input. If, for some reason, this is not possible, the following hotline number serves this purpose: 724-873-5244

Integrated Pest Management

The school district will annually notify parents and guardians of the procedures for requesting notification of planned and emergency applications of pesticides in school buildings and on school grounds. Information regarding pest management activities shall be available to the public at the district's administrative office.

Lockers/Searches (Policy No.226)

Students are assigned lockers, without charge, for their convenience. Student lockers are the property of the Canon-McMillan School District, and the District retains exclusive control of these lockers, including the right to inspect a locker and its contents for reasons of health, safety, and protection of property. Periodic general inspections may be conducted. In accordance with District Policy, school authorities may inspect lockers at any time without notice, without student consent, and without a search warrant.

It is strongly recommended that students have a lock on their lockers and are required to give the combination or duplicate key to the locker to their homebase teacher. Furthermore, valuables should not be brought to school and/or stored in a student's locker. Valuables taken from a locker are not the responsibility of the school.

Students are responsible for the contents of the locker assigned to them. Therefore, students are not permitted to share their locker or give the combination to another student. (Each grade level may be required to use different locker schedules to alleviate confusion in the halls.)

Students are expected to keep their locker clean and free of damage. When not utilizing the locker, both doors must be closed. Any damage to the locker should be reported to the office immediately.

Lost/Damaged Books/Materials

Students have a responsibility to maintain and secure school property issued to them. Consequently, textbooks that are new, one, or two years old will be assessed at full replacement cost or (if damaged) actual repair cost. Textbooks three years or older will be assessed at 70% of replacement cost or (if damaged) actual cost of repair. Library books and audio/visual materials will be assessed at full replacement cost regardless of their age.

Lunch/Cafeteria

Every student is assigned to one lunch period; therefore, students are to be in the cafeteria only during their assigned time. All students must eat their lunches in the cafeteria whether or not they purchase or

bring all or part of their lunch unless special arrangements have been made in advance with the principal or his designee.

During lunchtime, students are expected to be courteous and mannerly, as if they were dining in the home of a friend. All students are expected to cooperate with the instructions of the cafeteria supervisors. After a student has completed his/her lunch, the table is to be left clean, waste paper is to be placed in the proper containers and trays are to be returned to the dish washing area.

Some behaviors in the cafeteria are less desired than others. Throwing food in the cafeteria will not be tolerated and will be dealt with in a decisive manner. Other inappropriate behaviors may include: creating a disturbance, taking food out of the cafeteria, rudeness, leaving a mess, leaving without permission, fighting or roughhousing, or any other behavior that may be deemed inappropriate. Possible consequences for inappropriate behavior may include: assigned seating, after-school detention, removal from the cafeteria, out-of-school suspension, citation with the local police/law enforcement.

As with any consequence, a student may lose his/her privilege to attend after-school activities/functions. Additionally, any student who is assigned a seat as a consequence may be left in that assignment for a period of time dependent upon the discretion of the supervisor/administrator who applied the consequence.

Students must be in the cafeteria on time and remain there until the end of the period.

Charging

Middle school students are not permitted to charge any extra items. Students who do not have money in their account will be provided with a bagged lunch. Students without ID cards will go to the end of the serving line which keeps the serving line moving.

Prices

For the 2010-2011 school year, cafeteria prices are as follows:

Breakfast \$.95

Lunch \$1.60

Premium Lunch \$2.10

Make-Up Work

Because our focus is student achievement, it is the student's responsibility to make all necessary arrangements for making up work when absent from school. Students have the right to make up all class work missed due to absences or suspensions. Arrangements for making up class work missed due to a previously announced, approved student activity or educational trip must be made by the student with the classroom teacher before the absences occur.

- Students will be allotted two (2) days for each day absent in order to make up missed work.
- Students on suspension will be given the number of days equal to the number of days of suspension to make up work.
- Failure to make up work results in a zero (0) grade for all assigned work, including exams.

Students who fail to turn in larger assignments, projects, or papers may be assigned to stay for After-School Make-Up Work sessions. The session will be arranged by the teacher that assigned the work, and will be scheduled to run from 3-4:00 PM. Students report to the designated classroom to complete

missed/incomplete work under the supervision of a teacher. Sessions will be assigned until the project is completed. Failure to attend an assigned session will result in after-school detention.

Medication

The school nurse is not to be used instead of the family physician. For the most part, students' medications should be administered at home. Students are not permitted to carry medication of any kind while in school (prescription or non-prescription/over-the-counter).

Under certain circumstances, medication prescribed by a physician may be administered by school personnel in compliance with Canon-McMillan School District Policy No. 210 (Use of Medications) and 210.1 (Possession of Asthma Inhalers). Any student who needs to take medicine at school must report to the nurse or her designee. **Written instructions signed by the parent and the physician will be required.** Necessary forms may be obtained in the school's/nurse's office. A copy is also provided for your use in the *Appendix* of this handbook. Upon written request, a student may self-administer medication, provided s/he can do the following: Respond to and visually recognize his/her name; Identify his/her medication; Measure, pour and administer the prescribed dosage; Sign his/her medication sheet to acknowledge having taken the medication; Demonstrate a cooperative attitude in all aspects of self-administration. The parents/guardians of the child must assume responsibility for informing the school nurse of any change in the child's health or change in medication. Also, the school district retains the discretion to reject requests to administer medication.

Also, a form necessary for possession of asthma inhalers is provided for your use in the *Appendix* of this handbook.

MyLunchMoney.com

Canon-McMillan is a member of "MyLunchMoney.com," which is an on-line credit card prepayment service to allow parents to prepay for their child's school breakfast and lunch purchases using their credit card. Now parents can go into their student's account and see their meal history. You do not have to use MyLunchMoney to fund your child's account to use these features. You just need to enroll!

For those of you using MyLunchMoney to fund your child's account, e-mail notifications are sent out when the account balance gets low. This will really help to keep your child's account current and working without interruption. If you have more than one child using MyLunchMoney, you can fund their accounts at the same time. We want to make your MyLunchMoney experience as easy and efficient as possible.

Basic Overview of the Program:

- **Easy:** Enrolling and funding is simple and completed online.
- **Convenient:** Once your account is established, you can check balances and fund the account from your computer, phone or fax for free.
- **Secure:** Your personal and payment card information is protected by the most advanced internet security.
- **Never have to worry about doing it again:** With our recurring payment option, money will always be in your child's account. When a low balance is reached, money is automatically deposited.
- **Cost:** There is a \$1.95 fee per transaction. For example, if you deposit \$25.00 in your child's account, you will be charged \$1.95 for a total charge of \$26.95 for the transaction. (Again, there is no fee to access your child's account to check the balance.)

Visit www.cmsd.k12.pa.us and select the parent link for more information or go to www.myLunchMoney.com.

Parent/Family Involvement (Policy No 917)

The Canon-McMillan School district recognizes that both the school and family share in the responsibility for each child's education during the entire period the child spends in school. To support the goal of having students successfully achieve the academic standards, the schools and parents/guardians must work together as involved partners.

Although parents are diverse in culture, language, and needs, they share the school's commitment to the educational success of their children. The district and the schools within its boundaries, in collaboration with parents/guardians, shall establish programs and practices that enhance parent/family involvement. These programs will also reflect the specific needs of students and their families.

In compliance with the federal law, the district supports the development, implementation and regular evaluation of a parent/family involvement program in each school, which will involve parents/guardians at all grade levels.

The parent/family involvement programs will be comprehensive and coordinated in nature. They will include but not be limited to the following components of successful parental/family involvement programs:

1. Communication between home and school occurs in a variety of ways, is ongoing, meaningful, and is centered on the success of the child.
2. Responsible parenting is promoted and supported.
3. Parents/Guardians will play an integral role in assisting student learning.
4. Parents/Guardians will be welcomed into the school, and their support and assistance will be actively encouraged.
5. Parents/Guardians will be fully included in the decisions that affect children and families.
6. Community resources will be made available to strengthen school programs, family practices, and student learning.

The district supports professional development opportunities for staff members to enhance understanding of effective parent involvement strategies. The district also recognizes the importance of administrative leadership in setting expectations and creating a climate conducive to parental/family participation.

In addition to programs at the school level, the district supports the development, implementation, and regular evaluation of a program to involve parents/guardians in the decisions and practices of the school district, using, to the degree possible, the components listed above. Engaging parents/guardians is essential to improved student achievement. The district shall foster and support active parental/family involvement.

Adopted: June 18, 2007

Parent/Guardian Relations (Policy No. 908)

The district believes that the education of students is a joint responsibility that is shared by parents/guardians. Also, the district feels that it is the parents/guardians who have the ultimate responsibility for their children's behavior in school. During school hours, the Board acts in loco parentis (or in place of the parents/guardians), through its designated administrators. Parents/guardians are requested to keep the school staff apprised of changes in the home situation that may affect a student's conduct or performance.

The Board directs that the following activities be implemented to encourage parent-school cooperation:

1. Parent-teacher conferences to permit two-way communication between home and school.
2. Open houses in district schools to provide parents/guardians the opportunity to see the school facilities, meet the faculty, and witness school programs.
3. Special events that are initiated by parent groups; involved the cooperative effort of students, staff and parents/guardians; and are of general interest to the schools or community.

The Board believes that parents/guardians have a responsibility to support and encourage their child's career in school through the following actions:

1. Require that students comply with district policies and school rules and regulations and accept responsibility for their behavior.
2. Send students to school with proper attention to their health, personal cleanliness and dress.
3. Maintain an active interest in the student's daily work and provide appropriate supervision for completion of assigned homework.
4. Read, sign and return promptly all communications from school, when requested.
5. Attend conferences for the exchanged of information on the student's progress in school.
6. Participate in school activities, when appropriate, and special functions.

Parent/Teacher Conferences

A parent/teacher conference can be arranged at any time during the school year. Team conferencing, where all involved instructors work together with parents to solve problems, may also be available. (Conferences of this type must occur at specifically designated time periods due to scheduling commitments.) If you desire a conference, please feel free to call the school to arrange an appointment.

Pictures/Photographs/Video

Photos/videotape footage of Canon-McMillan students involved in school-related activities are often used in district publications, video productions, newspapers, yearbooks or television, and the district website. If for any reason you do not want photographs or videotapes of your child(ren) used in this manner, please complete the "Photo Refusal" section on the "Handbook Acknowledgement Form" in the *Appendix* of this handbook and **return it to your child's principal by the end of the first week of school.** If you have questions regarding this matter, please call the school.

PowerSchool

Students' grades are able to be viewed using an online grading program called PowerSchool. PowerSchool is an excellent resource for both students and parents to monitor student progress and work completion.

However, it is strongly recommended that parents/students do not visit PowerSchool more than once every two weeks to check overall grade status. Individual scores should not become the focus of daily discussion or used for micromanagement of the learning process. Rather, individual scores are a piece of the overall big picture, or pattern of performance. PowerSchool should be accessed on a regular basis to view students' progress in completing homework assignments. Also, it is expected that different teachers/classes have various methods of grading, and the number of assignments may vary based on course content and individual teaching style. All teachers are required to adhere to the district's grading policy (Policy No. 212).

PowerSchool may be accessed through the district's website (www.cmsd.k12.pa.us) under the "Parent Links" tab by clicking on "PowerSchool." For instructions on using PowerSchool, an online tutorial and

“Q&A” section are also available under the Parent Links. To access students’ grades, parents are provided with a unique username and password (near the start of the school year) that should be kept confidential. Usernames and passwords remain the same if a student has been issued one. If a student loses his/her password, please contact the school’s office for assistance.

Disclaimer

PowerSchool is provided as a convenience. Grades and other information provided by this system are not official records and may not be accurate due to human or technical error. Neither this institution nor Pearson School Systems accepts any responsibility for information provided by this system and/or for any damages resulting from information provided by this system. Official grades will be distributed on a nine-week basis on the student’s report card.

Public Show of Affection

In rare circumstances, middle level learners—in their quest for maturity and self-expression—choose to act in manners that may not be age-appropriate. Therefore, middle school students are discouraged from any public showing of affection. Obviously, good taste and common sense require that you keep any show of affection private anyway. Most people find it very embarrassing to be subjected to the public demonstrations of others. Displays of affection are not permitted in school and students failing to respect this request face disciplinary consequences.

Release from School for Trips

Parents or guardians who wish to obtain the release of their children from school for family trips, family business, or other family activities must request **PRIOR** permission from the principal by completing the appropriate form (one copy of this form is in the *Appendix* of this handbook). Parents must define the nature of the activity, duration and purpose.

According to school policy, only those activities which are an emergency or which are educational in nature will be excused. It is the student’s responsibility to obtain his/her work before leaving for the trip. A written excuse is still necessary upon returning to school. **All excused absences will count toward a student’s attendance record/total.**

Right to Request Teacher Qualifications

As a parent of a student in the Canon-McMillan School District, you have the right to know the professional qualifications of the classroom teachers who instruct your child. Part of the **No Child Left Behind** law allows you to ask for certain information about your child’s classroom teachers and requires us to give you this information in a timely manner if you ask for it. Specifically, you have the right to ask for the following information about each of your child’s classroom teachers:

- Whether the Pennsylvania Department of Education has licensed or qualified the teacher for the grades and subjects he/she teaches;
- Whether the Pennsylvania Department of Education has decided that the teacher can teach in a classroom without being licensed or qualified under the state regulations because of special circumstances.
- The teacher’s college major, whether the teacher has any advanced degree and, if so, the subject of the degree; and
- Whether any teacher’s aides or similar paraprofessionals provide services and, if they do, their

qualifications.

If you would like to receive any of this information, please contact the principal of your child's school. Thank you for your concerns and commitment to your child's education.

School Emergencies / Parent Reunification Plan

In the event students and staff must be relocated due to an emergency, the following assembly areas have been designated as primary locations. Circumstances of an emergency could cause these locations to change. The district's "Alert Now" communication system will be used to notify parents in the event of an emergency. Parents with identification can sign out and pick up their child(ren) under the direction of the principal or his designee.

CMS: Primary On-site Reunification area - Auditorium
Primary Off-site Reunification area - Stadium

Search and Seizure (Policy 226.1)

In accordance with district policy, when there is "reasonable suspicion" to believe that a student is in possession of contraband and/or illegal or prohibited items, the principal or his designee may authorize a search of the student's person, including a search of the student's clothing, handbag, backpack, wallet, locker, etc., for the purpose of removing such items, in order to maintain a positive and healthy school environment. Those individuals found to be in possession of narcotics, contraband and/or illegal or prohibited items, face disciplinary consequences. See also Lockers/Searches and Electronic Equipment above.

Selling Items

Students are not permitted to sell items such as packs of gum, candy bars, hoagies, etc., during school hours. Items not related to C-M activities are not permitted at any time.

Smoking and Use of Tobacco Products (Policy No. 222)

Smoking has been identified as the number one health problem in the United States. It is the leading cause of premature death, of diseases, and of chronic disability in our country. Chewing tobacco and snuff, the leading causes of oral cancer and gum disease, also pose a health hazard.

Senate Bill 1315 (which became Act 145) defines possession or use of tobacco products or smokeless tobacco by a student in a school building, on a school bus, or school property owned by, leased by or under the control of a school district, as a summary offense. School districts must initiate prosecution. Student tobacco possession and use is prohibited at any time in a school building, on school property, on school district vehicles, and at school-sponsored activities held off school property.

Tobacco products include cigarettes (lit or unlit), cigars, and pipes; other lighted smoking product; and smokeless tobacco in any form. Note, too, that students may not carry lighters or matches while on school district property or at school-related events. Students in possession of tobacco products, tobacco look-alike products, lighters, and matches are subject to disciplinary action as well as confiscation of the item(s).

As a result of the aforementioned law, the following consequences will result for students found in violation of Act 145:

First Offense: One day of in-school suspension and referral to the smoking awareness class.

Second Offense: One day of out-of-school suspension and the student will be cited (fine plus court costs).

All Subsequent Offenses: Three days of out-of-school suspension and the student will be cited (fine plus court costs)

Student Assistance Program

The Student Assistance Program (SAP) is a team made up of teachers, counselors, and administrators to respond to students' problems in or out of school. Specifically, the SAP team is designed to use school resources to remove barriers to learning and, when a problem is beyond the scope of the school, to assist the parent/guardian and student with information to access services within the community. If you in need of support or assistance with some physical, academic, emotional, social, legal, medical, family, alcohol, or chemical use problem, or just feel the need to talk or for someone to understand, please contact the administrators, counselors, nurse or a teacher for a referral to the program. A confidential container labeled Student Assistance Program is located in the Guidance Office and Nurse's Office. You may wish to drop in a note if you or one of your friends might need assistance with a particular problem. All records and discussions of personal problems are kept confidential.

Student ID (Identification) Cards

Student ID cards must be carried at all times while on school property and presented upon request to school district officials. Lost, damaged, or stolen cards must be reported to the school secretary. A replacement fee of \$5.00 will be charged. The building principal will decide how the cards will be used in his specific building.

Student Planners

All middle school students are issued one free planner to assist them with their study habits, homework habits, and system of organization. All students are required to utilize their student planners. Lost or misplaced planners can be purchased for \$5.00.

Student Records

Parents have the right to inspect and review their child's educational records. The maximum amount of time required by law for a parent to wait for access after such a request is made is 45 days. In the event a parent feels the records are in any way inaccurate or misleading, that parent has the right to request an amendment of that child's record. If the District does not amend the record as requested by the parent, the District is to notify the parent of the decision and advise them of their right to a hearing regarding the request for amendment.

At a parent's request, a professional employee will be available to explain items in the record. Although a fee not to exceed duplicating costs may be imposed, copies of the records will be provided to the parent upon request.

Student Responsibilities

It is the responsibility of students of the Canon-McMillan School District to:

- Be aware of all rules and regulations for student behavior and conduct themselves accordingly;
- Be willing to volunteer information in matters relating to the health, safety and welfare of the school community and the protection of school property;
- Dress and groom themselves so as to meet fair standards of safety and health, and so as not to

cause substantial disruption of the educational processes;

- Assume that until a rule is waived, altered, or repealed it is in full effect;
- Assist the school staff in operating a safe school for all students enrolled therein;
- Be aware of and comply with federal, state, and local laws;
- Exercise proper care when using facilities and equipment of the Canon-McMillan School District;
- Attend school daily, except when excused, and be on time at all classes and other school functions;
- Make all necessary arrangements with classroom teachers for making up work when absent from school;
- Pursue and attempt to complete satisfactorily the course of study prescribed by state and local school authorities;
- Avoid inaccuracies in student newspapers or publications and indecent/obscene language.

Student Valuables and Care of School Property (Policy No. 224)

Students, not the school, are responsible for their personal property. Therefore, students are cautioned not to bring large amounts of money, cell phones, MP3 players, cameras, radios, or other valuables to school. Remember, it is the student's obligation to obtain a lock for your locker and to give the combination or a duplicate key to the homebase teacher.

Students are responsible for the proper care of all books, supplies, and furniture supplied by the school. If a student disfigures property, or damage school property or equipment, s/he will be required to pay for the damage or replace the item. See also Lost/Damaged Books/Materials. The student will also be subject to disciplinary measures, including notification to local law enforcement.

Tardiness

Students should make every possible effort to be on time for school or class. Tardiness disrupts room work. If you are tardy to school, you must report to the office for an admittance slip. Tardiness due to reasons stated in the Public School Code (i.e. medical/dental appointments which cannot be arranged after school hours, court appearance, impassable roads) will be counted as excused (See "Attendance- *Excused Absences*"). Tardiness due to "sleeping in", "missing the bus", etc. will be counted as unexcused. Any unexcused tardies after the third, per semester, will result in disciplinary consequences.

Threats/Terroristic Threats (Policy No. 218.2)

The making of threats to anyone while on school grounds, or while representing the Canon-McMillan School District and not on school grounds, is strictly prohibited. Our students, staff and visitors deserve respect and safety.

A **terroristic threat** is defined as a threat to commit violence communicated with the intent to terrorize another; to cause evacuation of a building; or to cause serious public inconvenience; in reckless disregard of the risk of causing such terror or inconvenience.

The following guidelines are consistent with Board Policy and will be enforced:

Students who threaten physical harm to another student or staff member by any means (including verbal, written, or digital) are subject to the following consequences:

- Out-of-school suspension;
- Notification to the Superintendent's office, with the possibility of additional consequences, including expulsion;
- Filing of charges with law enforcement officials;
- Referral to appropriate county agencies and/or juvenile office;
- Loss of extracurricular privileges;
- Expulsion

Students whose threats are deemed less severe are subject to the following consequences:

- Out-of-school suspension;
- Referral to SAP or IST team;
- Loss of extracurricular privileges;
- Notification to the Superintendent's Office;
- Possible filing of charges.

Threats must be taken seriously, and students are warned not to say anything they do not mean. Excuses such as, "I did not really mean it" or, "I was only kidding" are not acceptable.

Tobacco (See Smoking and Use of Tobacco Products)

Walking to School

Due to the proximity of the school to housing, many students walk to Canonsburg Middle School. Students who walk to school are to follow the same procedures as students riding a bus (see "Arrivals" in this handbook). Students should not arrive to school early as they cannot be supervised, and there is to be no loitering on school property or in the parking lots. Since safety is of highest importance, all students that cross North Central Avenue and/or College Street must do so using the crosswalk and crossing guards at the intersections.

Weapons (Policy No. 218.1)

The district recognizes the importance of a safe school environment relative to the educational process. Possession of weapons in the school setting is a threat to the safety of students and staff and is prohibited by law.

"Weapon" shall mean any instrument for the infliction of or capable of inflicting bodily injury which serves no common lawful purpose, including but not limited to, any knife, razor, razor blade, cutting instrument, cutting tool, sharpened wood or metal, nun-chuck stick or other martial arts device, brass or metal knuckles, club, metal pipe, blackjack, chemical agents such as mace, tazer, shocker or stun gun, explosive devices (including fireworks), slingshot, bow, arrow, or any similar device from which a projectile may be discharged, firearm, shotgun, rifle, replica of a weapon, and/or any other tool, instrument, or implement capable of inflicting bodily injury. The term "weapon" shall include "weapon look-alikes," including any instrument or implement designed to look like a weapon.

"Possess" and "possession" shall mean being on the person of any student; in the student's locker; under his/her control while on school property, on property being used by the school, at any school function or activity, at any school event held away from the school, or while the student is coming to or from school.

A student who violates this policy or assists in the violation of this policy will be subject to one or more of the following actions depending on the specific violation and intent:

- suspension from school;
- mandatory hearing before the Board of School Directors (or, as authorized by the Board, a committee of the Board or hearing examiner). The Superintendent may exclude the student from school pending the hearing. The standard penalty will be expulsion from school.

In all cases, parents will be notified, students will be reported to the local and/or state police, and legal charges, where applicable, will be filed.

2010-2011 Student Handbook Appendix

This appendix contains the following information:

1. *“Authorization for Medication During School Hours” Form*
(Prescription and Non-Prescription Medication - feel free to tear this form out and use it.)
2. *“Asthma Inhalers – Self-Administration by Students” Form*
3. *“Request for Excused Absences From School for Pre-Approved Trip” Form*
(Feel free to tear this form out and use it.)
4. *“Guidelines for Using an Academic Social Network”*
5. *“Handbook Acknowledgment” Form (with “Photo Refusal” Section)*
(This form must be filled out and returned to school within one week.)
6. *“Academic Social Network Contract” (on reverse of “Handbook Acknowledgment” Form)*

**Canon-McMillan School District
One North Jefferson Avenue
Canonsburg, PA 15317**

AUTHORIZATION FOR MEDICATION DURING SCHOOL HOURS

Date: _____ Grade _____

_____ (full name of student) must receive the following prescribed medication during school hours in order to maintain sufficient health to participate in the school program. All medication must be in the original manufacturer's container or the pharmacy labeled bottle.

Name of Medication: _____

Prescribed dosage: _____

Time schedule: _____

Length of time (days/weeks): _____

Reason for administration: _____

Possible side effects: _____

Possible necessary emergency response: _____

Regarding asthma inhalers, the child (check only one) ___ is ___ is not able to self-administer the medication. If the student can self-administer, s/he has permission to carry the inhaler.

I do hereby release, discharge, and hold harmless the Canon-McMillan School District, its agents and employees, from any and all liability and claims whatsoever arising from the administration of or lack of administration of the above medication to my child/ward which I hereby expressly authorize.

Signature of Physician

Signature of Parent

-----**OR**-----

My child/ward _____ (full name of student) must receive the following non-prescription medication during school hours. All medication must be in the original manufacturer's container or the pharmacy labeled bottle.

Name of non-prescription medication: _____

Dosage: _____

Time schedule: _____

Reason for administration: _____

I do hereby release, discharge, and hold harmless the Canon-McMillan School District, its agents and employees, from any and all liability and claims whatsoever arising from the administration or lack of administration of the above medication to my child/ward which I hereby expressly authorize.

Date: _____

Signature of Parent: _____

Grade: _____

Telephone: _____

ASTHMA INHALERS – SELF-ADMINISTRATION BY STUDENTS

Student's Name

Grade

Date

To self medicate, the student must be able to: (check all that apply)

- _____ 1. Respond to and visually recognize his/her name.
- _____ 2. Identify his/her medication.
- _____ 3. Demonstrate the proper technique for self-administering his/her medication.
- _____ 4. Able to verbalize understanding of physician's instructions.
- _____ 5. Sign his/her medication sheet to acknowledge having taken the medication.
- _____ 6. Demonstrate a cooperative attitude in all aspects of self-administration of medication.

Name of Medication

Dosage

Frequency

The above named student has demonstrated the ability to self-administer the physician-prescribed asthma medication, as indicated by the criteria above.

Date

Signature of Certified School Nurse or Nursing Staff

As the parent/guardian of above named student, I relieve the school district and its employees of any responsibility for the benefits and consequences of the above listed medication when it is physician-prescribed and parent/guardian authorized. I further acknowledge that the school bears no responsibility for ensuring that the medication is taken. I am aware that any improper use/sharing of the above named medication will result in the immediate confiscation of the inhaler and loss of privilege to self-administer if the medication policy is violated.

Date

Parent / Guardian Signature

I agree to be solely responsible for my asthma inhaler and to follow the directions for its use as ordered by my physician, as well as the district's medication policy. I am aware that the asthma inhaler is only for my use and that I will notify the school nurse immediately following each use of the inhaler. I am aware that any abuse of this privilege will result in the confiscation of my inhaler.

Date

Student Signature

Request for Excused Absences from School for a Pre-Planned Educational Tour or Trip

Canon-McMillan School District Canonsburg Middle School

Date of Application _____

Student's Full Name _____ Grade _____

Date(s) of Proposed Absence _____ through _____ No. Days Absent _____

Person directing/supervising student during above absence:

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____

The district procedure of pre-approved absences is as follows:

1. Parent/Guardian will submit requests for excused absences on an approved district form to the principal two weeks prior to the tour/trip dates.
2. All school work missed during the approved tour/trip shall be made up on the initiative of the student.
3. All pre-approved absences will be recorded as excused absences. This approval does not supersede the District Attendance Policy.

Describe experience that will be a substitute for schooling:

Signature of Parent/Guardian

Phone

Date

Date received in the school office: _____

Principal's Initials: Approved _____ Not Approved _____

(If not approved, a copy will be returned to parent/guardian.)

Date: _____

Copy of request sent to Superintendent _____

Canon-McMillan School District

Guidelines for Using an Academic Social Network

When posting comments to a teacher's Wikispace or blog, you must adhere to the following guidelines:

- **DO NOT** give out personal information about yourself. Do not use first and last names of your peers, teachers, administrators, family members, places, addresses (streets or emails), phone numbers, etc., when posting to a Wikispace. Your teacher will be using a "Private" Wikispace, but Internet safety rules must still be followed. *Username* will be created for each student by the teacher. *Username* will include the student's last name or first name only for assessment purposes. A student's full name will not be used.
- Use school-appropriate language. Inappropriate includes but is not limited to: slang, vulgar language, derogatory comments, obscene comments, swearing, etc.
- Write with appropriate grammar in mind without "text" slang or abbreviations. You should use complete sentences; all responses are to be written using conventional English. Posting and responding to discussions will help strengthen skills associated to the writing process.
- When you disagree with someone, do it in a polite, respectful and constructive manner. Talk about topics, not people. Cyberbullying is unacceptable and will constitute discipline action.
- Always focus on the learning topic presented by the teacher. This is not a forum to digitally socialize with your peers about items outside of the learning topic. Do not use the profile link to message to your peers.
- Wikispaces should represent authentic learning experiences. References from the internet **MUST** be cited. Plagiarism is unacceptable.

The teacher is the administrator of his/her Wikispace or blog. This means--

If you write/post something inappropriate, the teacher will delete the entire comment, without discussion and you will receive an alternative assignment.

The teacher has the right to make comments within your posts, pointing out positive or negative aspects in a constructive manner. The teacher might comment on your ideas to provide feedback. Conversely, the teacher might comment on what your post is lacking and how to go about strengthening your response. The overall purpose in doing either of these is to facilitate learning and further your experiences with the learning topic.

Canonsburg Middle School Handbook Acknowledgement Form & Information Sheet

Please complete the information below and return this form to our middle school *within one week*.

Student's Name _____ Grade _____ Date of Birth _____

Address _____

Cell Phone _____ Home Phone _____

Father/Guardian _____ Mother/Guardian _____

Employer _____ Employer _____

Phone _____ Phone _____

Please indicate with whom this student lives by placing a checkmark in only **ONE** space:

Both Parents _____ Father _____ Mother _____ Guardian _____

Divorced parents should file a copy of custodial papers in the school office.

In case of an emergency, please complete the following information:

Contact Person/Relationship/Phone _____

The following signatures indicate that both parent and student have read, reviewed, and discussed the Canonsburg Middle School Handbook. Failure to sign and return this form does not preclude the student from adhering to the contents herein.

Signature of Parent/Guardian

Date

Signature of Student

Date

Photo Refusal Form

Complete this section **ONLY** if you refuse any publication of your child's photo.

I DO NOT WANT photographs/videotapes of my child(ren) used in Canon-McMillan publications, productions, yearbooks, or other media uses. _____

(Signature & Date)

Canon-McMillan School District Academic Social Network Contract

This class will be utilizing a blog or wiki in conjunction with a discussion board. It will also serve as a tool to engage in collaborative projects and peer to peer sharing. As a student, you must adhere to following items to be acknowledged as an active participant while responding to questions on my Wikispace:

- + I will not use inappropriate language.
- + I will not use fighting words or provoke anyone.
- + I will not use “chat” language.
- + I will try to use correct grammar and spelling.
- + I will only give constructive criticism.
- + I will only use the name assigned by the teacher.
- + I will not give out any personal information about myself or anyone else.
- + I am responsible for anything posted in my name.
- + I will not plagiarize.
- + I will not edit my teacher’s page unless instructed to do so by the teacher.
- + I will not send messages via the profile link unless instructed to do so by the teacher.

I recognize that breaking any of these rules could lead to any of the following consequences depending on severity and repetition:

1. Warning
2. Deletion of some or all of the post
3. Temporary/permanent loss of class Wikispace privileges
4. Disciplinary referral to administrative office

The Wikispace or blog created by your teacher is considered a virtual extension of your classroom; therefore, all Canon-McMillan School District policies and regulations apply to you while using the website.

I acknowledge that I have received the “Academic Social Networks Contract”.
I am aware that violation of any of these rules may be referred to the School Administration.

(Print Name) _____

(Student Signature) _____

(Parent Signature) _____

(Date)_____

The bottom portion of this form must be submitted to your child’s classroom teacher in order for him/her to participate in online discussions at Canonsburg Middle School.