

MEADVILLE R-IV ELEMENTARY



Discipline Policy

2010-2011

MEADVILLE R-IV ELEMENTARY SCHOOL DISCIPLINE POLICY

A STATEMENT OF PHILOSOPHY

The Meadville R-IV School System recognizes that the school cannot operate successfully without procedures, goals, expectations, and satisfied students. Rules, which establish discipline guidelines for students, are necessary and basic to their growth and development. While there are many factors, which affect the learning environment, perhaps the most pernicious is the problem that results from inappropriate conduct and lack of consistent and effective disciplinary response. Thus the Meadville R-IV School System feels it is their responsibility to have a discipline code that reflects the community's standards and expectation for student behavior.

GOAL

Meadville R-IV School System has a responsibility to prepare students for their responsibilities as adults in a democratic society. To accomplish this goal, there must be respect and mutual trust among parent, teacher and student. The discipline code is a tool. Therefore, the discipline code should be consistent and reasonable and should strive to facilitate the development of individual student's self-control and self-discipline. The discipline code should not hold students accountable for the actions of other students. In this regard, the student discipline code becomes an integral component of the educational process and a symbol of the commitment of parents, students, and administrators to the maintenance of an atmosphere where orderly learning is possible and encouraged.

NOTE:

Unless specifically indicated otherwise, the rules defined in this document shall apply to students on all school property, and at all school activities and functions, including, but not limited to, field trips, conferences, and athletic events and competitions. The rules apply to students coming and going to school on the bus and at school bus stops. Students are expected to read the rules thoroughly and be knowledgeable of its contents.

CATEGORY I OFFENSES

Bus or Transportation Misconduct – Any offense committed by a student on transportation provided by or through the district shall be punished in the same manner as if the offense had been committed at the student's assigned school. In addition, transportation privileges may be suspended or revoked.

Cheating -- The claiming of credit, effort, or authorship for activities that are not of the student's origination. Such may pertain to tests, class work, homework, special projects, or other written or constructed materials.

Disrespectful or Disruptive Conduct or Speech -- Verbal, written, pictorial or symbolic language or gesture that is directed at any person and that is rude, vulgar, defiant, in violation of district policy or considered inappropriate in educational settings or that materially and substantially disrupts classroom work, school activities or school functions. Students will not be disciplined for speech in situations where it is protected by law.

Distribution of over-the-counter/prescription drugs -- The conveyance of over-the-counter to another person, either for profit or accommodation.

Dress Code -- Students must refrain from wearing clothes that interfere with the educational mission of the school including clothing that promotes drugs, tobacco

or other illegal activity, or that is lewd, sexual or contains profanity. Students may not wear clothing that is exceptionally short or that exposes the midriff or fails to cover undergarments.

Forgery -- Writing or using the signature or initials of another person for the expressed purpose of misleading the reader.

Gambling – The playing of a game of chance for stakes, (i.e. money, or any item of monetary value).

Public Display of Affection -- Students will refrain from all public displays of affection.

CATEGORY I DISCIPLINARY ACTION

1ST Violation-

Student-Administrator Conference with parent contact, before/after school detention(s) or Saturday detention, or 1-3 days of ISS.

2nd Violation-

Parent-Student-Administrator Conferences with Saturday Detention or 1-3 days ISS or 1-3 days OSS.

3rd Violation-

Parent-Student-Administrator Conferences with 3-5 days ISS or 3-5 days OSS.

4th Violation-

5-10 days OSS

*****Serious or repeated violations of one or several Category I Offenses would suggest a need for additional Parent-Administrator communications, coordination and possible recommendation for suspension for an extended period of time.

CATEGORY II OFFENSES

Beeper/Cell Phones – The use of a beeper, cell phone, or similar portable communication device is prohibited during normal school hours. Students are not allowed to carry or to have in their possession cell phones and/or beepers during normal school hours. Students are not allowed to have cell phones and/or beepers in their lockers during normal school hours.

Bullying – Repeated and systematic intimidation, harassment and attacks on a student or multiple students, perpetuated by individuals or groups. Bullying includes but is not limited: physical violence, verbal taunts, name-calling, and put-downs, threats, extortion or theft, damaging property, and exclusion from a peer group.

Hazing – Any activity that a reasonable person believes would negatively impact the mental or physical health or safety of a student or put the student in a ridiculous, humiliating, stressful or disconcerting position for the purposes of initiation, affiliation, admission, membership or maintenance of membership in any group, class, organization, club or athletic team including, but not limited to, a grade level, student organization or school-sponsored activity. Hazing may occur even when all students involved are willing participants.

Destruction or Defacement of Property -- Acts of vandalism, thoughtless defacement, damage, or destruction, and the malicious acts of damage or destruction of public property or property belonging to other persons.*

- Insubordination** -- Intentional failure or refusal to comply with the reasonable requests of teachers, administrators, or other responsible school personnel.
Insubordination acts may be by verbal response of defiance or gross disrespect, defiant action or intentional inaction.
- Obscene Behavior** -- Statements or actions which are obscene in nature-this would include the drawing and/or display of pictures, the writing of unacceptable words or statements on the board, on desks, or on notes, and the wearing of clothing or patches which convey sexually suggestive messages.
- Reckless and/or Improper Use of Vehicles** -- The reckless or careless use of vehicles endangers the physical safety and property of the driver and/or others. Serious or repeated incidents of reckless or careless use of motor vehicles may result in refusing to permit the student to operate vehicles on school grounds.
- Trespassing** -- Any student found on a school campus other than his/her enrolled school may be subject to a trespassing charge. Suspended students not attend any school activities, including athletic events and competitions, field trips, or conferences, until reinstated.
- Theft** – The taking of and selling or converting to personal use property that belongs to the public school system or to other persons.
- Tobacco Products, Use and/or Possession of** -- The use or possession of all tobacco products by students is prohibited in or on the property of all Meadville R-IV Schools and vehicles.
- Truancy** -- Skipping school or skipping one class; excessive non-justifiable absences, even with the consent of parents/guardians.
- Unauthorized Entry** – Entering or assisting any other person to enter a district facility, office, locker, or other area that is locked or not open to the general public; entering or assisting any other person to enter a district facility through an unauthorized entrance; assisting unauthorized persons to enter a district facility through any entrance.
- Vandalism** – Willful damage or the attempt to cause damage to real or personal property belonging to the school, staff or students.*

CATEGORY II DISCIPLINARY ACTION

1ST Violation

Parent-Student-Administrator Conference with 1-3 days ISS or 1-3 days OSS.
Return of or restitution for property. (Cell Phone/Beepers – The cell phone/beeper will be confiscated and kept in the office until a parent/student/administrator conference occurs. Parent must meet with administrator to pick up the cell phone/beeper.

2nd Violation

Parent-Student-Administrator Conference with 3 to 5 days ISS or 3-5 days OSS.
Return of or restitution for property. (Cell Phone/Beepers – The cell phone/beeper will be confiscated and kept in the office until a parent/student/administrator conference occurs. Parent must meet with administrator to pick up the cell phone/beeper.

3rd Violation

Communication with Parent with 5 to 10 days OSS.
Return of or restitution for property. (Cell Phone/Beepers – The cell phone/beeper will be confiscated and kept in the office until a parent/student/administrator conference occurs. Parent must meet with

administrator to pick up the cell phone/beeper.

Serious or repeated violations of Category II Offenses may become grounds for administrative recommendation for long term suspension and/or recommendations for expulsion.

*Student shall be required to pay the costs of repair or replacement of damaged or destroyed property.

CATEGORY III OFFENSES

Extortion -- The use of threats or physical force for the purpose of gaining money, property, or other benefits from another.

Fighting -- Engaging in a (physical) fight, accompanied by blows, irrespective of which participant is the aggressor. Exceptions may result when the evidence clearly supports that a student is assaulted and then acted solely in self defense after having made previous efforts to avoid such confrontation by reporting concerns to the teaching or administrative staff.

False Alarms -- The intentional reporting or activation of alarms for fire or emergency services. This would also include the intentional reporting of false emergencies or disturbances to the police or the news media.

Fireworks -- The possession or use of fireworks on school property.

Possession, Use, Consumption, or Under the Influence of Alcohol -- Having on one's person, or having in one's possession, or attendance at school or at any school activity while being under the influence of or soon after, using, or consuming alcohol or alcoholic beverages.

Possession, Use, Consumption, or Under the Influence of Controlled Drugs -- Having on one's person, or having in one's possession, or being under the influence of, or using, or consuming: any narcotic drug, hallucinogenic drug, amphetamines, barbiturates, marijuana, steroids, or any substance purporting to be a controlled drug, or any controlled drug as defined by state law. Use of a drug authorized by prescription or order of a practitioner while acting in the course of his professional practice shall not be a violation of this rule provided such a prescription drug is used as prescribed and by the person for whom it was prescribed and in a manner and place as directed by the principal.

Possession of Paraphernalia -- Having on one's person or having in one's possession drug paraphernalia as defined by state law.

Threats -- Verbal, written, pictorial or symbolic language or gestures that create a reasonable fear of physical injury or property damage.

Category III Disciplinary Action

1st Violation

Parent-Student-Administrator Conference with a 3-10 day suspension and the suspension of all extra-curricular activities for 30 days.

2nd Violation

Parent-Student-Administrator Conference with a 10-20 day suspension and possible recommendation for a 180-day suspension and loss of all extra-curricular privileges.

Serious or repeated violations of Category III Offenses may become grounds for administrative recommendation for long term suspension and/or recommendations for expulsion and necessitate notification of law enforcement officials and documentation to the student's discipline record.

CATEGORY IV OFFENSES

Aggravated Assault -- Attacking any person in any manner which reflects an intentional effort to use physical force or violence to do bodily harm to that person or to inflict serious injury on another. Such action may or may not involve the use of a weapon and includes sexual assault.

Arson -- A person commits the crime of arson when he or she knowingly damages a building or inhabitable structure by starting or attempting to start a fire or causing or attempting to cause an explosion. Arson is class B felony unless a person has suffered serious physical injury or has died as a result of the fire or explosion set by the defendant in which case arson is a class A felony.

Bomb Threats -- The intentional false report of a bomb or other explosive device to school officials, police or emergency services, or the news media. This would include the conveyance of such information in writing, via telephone, or verbally.

Distribution or Intent to Distribute Alcohol or Controlled Drugs -- The conveyance of alcohol, any narcotic drug, hallucinogenic drug, amphetamine, barbiturate, marijuana, or any other controlled drug or any substance purporting to be a controlled drug as defined by state law to another person, either for profit or accommodation, or the possession of such quantities of a controlled drug or substance purporting to be a controlled drug as to indicate an intent to distribute.

Distribution of over-the-counter drugs, herbal preparations or imitation drugs or herbal preparations -- The conveyance of over-the-counter drugs to another person, either for profit or accommodation.

Sexual Harassment -- Use of unwelcome verbal, written or symbolic language based on gender or of a sexual nature that has the purpose or effect of unreasonably interfering with a student's educational environment or creates an intimidating, hostile or offensive educational environment. Examples of sexual harassment include, but are not limited to, sexual jokes or comments, request for sexual favors and other unwelcome sexual advances.

CATEGORY IV DISCIPLINARY ACTION

All Violations

Initiation or recommendation of legal action and immediate suspension with a recommendation for expulsion, notification to law enforcement officials and documentation to student's discipline record.

CATEGORY V OFFENSES

Possession of a Weapon (other than a firearm) -- Having on one's person, or retaining in one's possession any instrument which may be used in any type of assault. This shall include but not be limited to knives, metal combs, razors,

slingshots, metal knucks, blackjacks, pipes, and clubs.

Possession/Brandishing/Use of a Firearm or any Object Appearing to be a Firearm

Having or retaining on one's person or property, or brandishing/using any object which appears to be a firearm or is purported to be a firearm and its presence or use may induce fear in the mind of another.

CATEGORY V DISCIPLINARY ACTION

Disciplinary Action:

Suspension for not less than one year or expulsion for a weapons violation, notification to law enforcement officials and documentation to student's discipline record.

Superintendent may modify suspension on a case-by-case basis.

Any felony or act which if committed by an adult would be a felony, that is committed on school property, on any school bus or at any school activity must be reported by the appropriate school administrator to the appropriate law enforcement agency as soon as reasonably practical.

Readmittance/Enrollment of Suspended or Expelled Students

1. Mandatory Conference
 - a. Before readmitting or enrolling a student properly suspended/expelled, must have conference to review conduct that was the basis of the disciplinary action and to discuss media/preventative measures.
 - b. Conference must include appropriate school officials including involved teacher, pupil, parent or guardian or agency.
 - c. School Board must, in writing, notify the parents and other parties in writing of the conference, of a student who has been suspended for more than 10 days.
 - d. Failure of any party to attend the conference shall not preclude holding the conference.
2. This conference also required before enrolling students on suspension/expulsion from other school districts.