

ABINGTON

MIDDLE SCHOOL

STUDENT HANDBOOK



Abington Middle School
2056 Susquehanna Road
Abington, PA 19001
215-884-4700

2022-2023

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WELCOME

Abington Middle School Students:

As we begin this historic 2022-2023 school year, I want to officially welcome everyone as the first group of students to Abington Middle School! This is truly an exciting time!

While entering a new school or a new school year may cause some feelings of uneasiness, I am hopeful that you are very quickly welcomed and feel comfortable as you meet and work with our excellent school staff and your classmates. You will soon see that your teachers care about you, your success, and your continued learning. The middle school offers you very unique opportunities to take classes that are focused on your interests (and others that are required). Regardless of the subject matter, I ask that you do your best and show kindness to everyone you encounter on a daily basis. Our school is definitely a place where you will have MANY learning opportunities, but also a place where we want everyone to feel safe. We depend on each person to do their part, each day, to make our school community excellent.

As the year begins, I ask that you consider taking part in the many school clubs, activities, and sports. These activities provide a fun environment where you get to interact with other students surrounding common interests.

I am looking forward to the beginning of our historic middle school and cannot wait to see your success and contributions to our school in action!

If there is anything you need from any adult in the building, please ask! We are here to support you!

Have a great year!

Mr. File
Principal
Abington Middle School



MESSAGE FROM THE PRINCIPAL

OUR MISSION

Building upon the historical and culturally diverse roots of our community and its proud traditions, and recognizing the uniqueness of each student, the Abington School District promotes excellence as our standard and achievement as the result.



OUR VISION

Abington Schools will be 21st Century, state-of-the-art, innovative learning environments. Promoting student excellence, achievement, and academic exploration will ensure our students are prepared for the nation's fastest-growing industries, and motivate the next generation of global leaders for the challenges of the future.



Questions or Concerns?

Parents/Guardians often wonder where to turn with a question or a concern regarding their child or other school issues. Starting “too high up the ladder” often requires information backtracking and can leave valuable allies out of the loop.

Here are some handy guidelines to use:

Classroom problem?

- 1 Start with your child's **teacher**. They are in the best position to address classroom-related issues. If the problem is outside the teacher's area of expertise or control, the teacher will refer you to the right person.

Not able to resolve your problem with the teacher?

- 2 Go next to the **school principal or supervisor** who usually will be able to resolve your problem or refer you to the right person.

Issue or inquiry is not being resolved at the building level or isn't a building level issue?

- 3 You might be referred to a member of the Abington School District administration. You may also consult our list of **administrative departments** to determine whom would be the most appropriate person to contact, depending on the nature of your inquiry.

Still cannot resolve your problem through the above channels?

- 4 Contact the **Office of the Superintendent***

* If your question involves taxes, check first with the Abington Township Tax Collector at 267-536-1024. If your problem concerning school taxes cannot be resolved there, contact the Abington School District Business Office at 215-881-2541. If you still need help, contact the Office of the Superintendent.

1 **Classroom Teacher**

2 **School Principal or Supervisor**

3 **Administrative Departments**

- Business Office
- Community Relations
- Equity Officer
- Facilities
- Human Resources
- Student Services
- Teaching and Learning
- Technology & Innovation
- Transportation

4 **Office of the Superintendent**

ADMINISTRATIVE CONTACTS

MR. DANIEL FILE
PRINCIPAL

215-884-4700 (Ext. 2201)

MR. RONALD BRISON
8th GRADE ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL

215-884-4700 (Ext. 2206)

MRS. TYHESHIA CARMICHAEL
7TH GRADE ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL

215-884-4700 (Ext. 2208)

MR. SEAMUS SMITH
6TH GRADE ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL

215-884-4700 (Ext. 2203)

DR. MATHEW WEXLER
COORDINATOR OF STUDENT
SERVICES

215-884-4700 (Ext. 2238)

MRS. SIMONE DOCTOR
SCHOOL CLIMATE OFFICER

215-884-4700 (Ext. 2664)

BELL SCHEDULE

Regular Schedule											
Students with A Lunch			Students with B Lunch			Students with C Lunch			Students with D Lunch		
1	8:00	8:42	1	8:00	8:42	1	8:00	8:42	1	8:00	8:42
2	8:46	9:28	2	8:46	9:28	2	8:46	9:28	2	8:46	9:28
Advisory / Workshop	9:32	9:55	Advisory / Workshop	9:32	9:55	Advisory / Workshop	9:32	9:55	Advisory / Workshop	9:32	9:55
3	9:59	10:41	3	9:59	10:41	3	9:59	10:41	3	9:59	10:41
Lunch	10:45	11:10	4	10:45	11:27	4	10:45	11:27	4	10:45	11:27
4	11:14	11:56	Lunch	11:31	11:56	5	11:31	12:13	5	11:31	12:13
5	12:00	12:42	5	12:00	12:42	Lunch	12:17	12:42	6	12:17	12:59
6	12:46	1:28	6	12:46	1:28	6	12:46	1:28	Lunch	1:03	1:28
7	1:32	2:14	7	1:32	2:14	7	1:32	2:14	7	1:32	2:14
8	2:18	3:00	8	2:18	3:00	8	2:18	3:00	8	2:18	3:00

LUNCHES BY TEAMS: A Lunch (Grade 6 Only): Sharks, Dolphins, Sting Rays;
 B Lunch (Grades 6 & 7): Marlins, Bobcats, Bears; C Lunch (Grades 7 & 8): Wolves, Mustangs, Eagles; D Lunch (Grade 8 Only), Cardinals, Hawks, Blue Jays*

*Due to certain scheduling constraints, some students may not have lunch with their assigned team or grade level.

BELL SCHEDULE

2 Hour Late Arrival											
Students with A Lunch			Students with B Lunch			Students with C Lunch			Students with D Lunch		
1	10:00	10:33	1	10:00	10:33	1	10:00	10:33	1	10:00	10:33
2	10:37	11:07	2	10:37	11:07	2	10:37	11:07	2	10:37	11:07
3	11:11	11:41	3	11:11	11:41	3	11:11	11:41	3	11:11	11:41
Lunch	11:45	12:10	4	11:45	12:15	4	11:45	12:15	4	11:45	12:15
4	12:14	12:44	Lunch	12:19	12:44	5	12:19	12:49	5	12:19	12:49
5	12:48	1:18	5	12:48	1:18	Lunch	12:53	1:18	6	12:53	1:23
6	1:22	1:52	6	1:22	1:52	6	1:22	1:52	Lunch	1:27	1:52
7	1:56	2:26	7	1:56	2:26	7	1:56	2:26	7	1:56	2:26
8	2:30	3:00	8	2:30	3:00	8	2:30	3:00	8	2:30	3:00

Early Dismissal (12:00 Dismissal)		
Start	End	Period
8:00	8:30	1
8:34	8:58	2
9:02	9:26	3
9:30	9:54	4
9:58	10:22	5
10:26	10:50	6
10:54	11:18	7
11:22	11:46	8
11:50	12:00	Grab and Go Lunch Pick UP

THE SCHOOL DAY

ARRIVAL, ATTENDANCE. & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Upon arrival to school, students may choose to eat breakfast in Commons A (between arrival and 7:55 AM). Students not eating breakfast should report directly to their first period class. Students are not permitted to be in any other area of the building during this time.

In order to be counted as present and on-time, students are expected to be in their first period classroom by 8:00 AM.

Attendance is taken each class period. During Advisory, teachers check attendance, collect excuse notes and attend to other tasks and activities. The Pledge of Allegiance and student announcements will be made during Advisory.

TRANSITIONS BETWEEN CLASSES

Since students have a limited amount of time to move from one class to another between periods, it is imperative that students follow a few simple rules during transition times in order to maintain safety, and to ensure that every student can get to where they need to be on time:

- MIND THE TRACK! Always make sure that The Track (the red line in the center of the hall) is on your left (see page ___ for more information about The Track). Stay TO THE RIGHT as you move through the halls.
- Be mindful of signs that tell you which staircases are for going UP, and which are for going DOWN. Only use the appropriate staircase to move in either direction.
- Continue moving toward your destination. Do not stop to engage with friends or gather in groups as this creates "traffic jams" and unsafe situations in the hallways.

NEVER push or run in the halls or stairwells.

- Lockers should only be accessed before school, before lunch, and after school.

LOCKERS

Students will be issued two lockers each year- one locker in the corridor for coats and books, and one locker in the gym area. It is the student's responsibility to use the lockers properly. Lockers are not the personal or private property of students; rather, all student lockers are property of the Abington School District. Students are never allowed to share lockers, and students should never share their locker combination with anyone. Only school-issued locks may be used on the lockers.

School authorities may search a student locker without prior warning and- absent reasonable suspicion- may seize any illegal or inappropriate materials. Such materials may be used as evidence against students in disciplinary or legal proceedings. The school is not responsible for personal possessions left in lockers.

Students are only permitted to access lockers before school, before lunch, or at the end of the day. Students are not allowed to access their lockers during class or during their lunch period without the permission of a teacher or staff member.

GYM LOCKERS

Gym lockers are for storing gym clothing, sneakers, socks, etc. The larger vertical lockers in the gym area are to be used to temporarily secure books, bags, etc. during the physical education period. Students should never store possessions on or under the benches in the locker rooms.

LOST LOCKS

Lost gym locks should be reported to your gym teacher, while lost hallway locks should be reported to an administrative assistant in the main office. Students will be charged \$7.00 for the replacement of a lost lock.

LOST AND FOUND

Occasionally, students may misplace or lose a book, jacket or other personal belongings. In such a case, they should inquire at the lost and found which is located outside the Health Suite on the ground floor.

BREAKFAST AND LUNCH

Breakfast is served in Commons A, between student arrival (no earlier than 7:30 AM.) and 7:55 AM.

There are four lunch periods. You will be assigned to a specific commons for lunch by team.

During lunches, each of the three commons has two main serving lines. One line serves hot platters, and the other cold platters, except on special days when both lines serve hot platters. Both lines serve milk, sandwiches, and snacks. Lines should be formed from the sides of each dining area.

After eating, students will deposit waste in the trash cans provided. They will then return to their seats, remain seated, and await the sounding of the dismissal tone. No students are permitted to leave the commons before they are dismissed.

No food is to be taken out of the commons and into any other area under any circumstances. Students are not permitted to buy food during the last five minutes of the period. Unacceptable conduct in the commons will result in the students receiving administrative detentions or other consequences. Every student at a table is responsible for the cleanliness of the table. The adults in charge must be treated with respect at all times. The noise level must be at a reasonable level, and food is NEVER to be thrown.

Students are not permitted to have food delivered to the school using food delivery services (i.e. Uber Eats, Doordash, etc.). Such orders will be confiscated, and continued violations to this policy will result in disciplinary consequences

Free and Reduced Price Lunch Applications

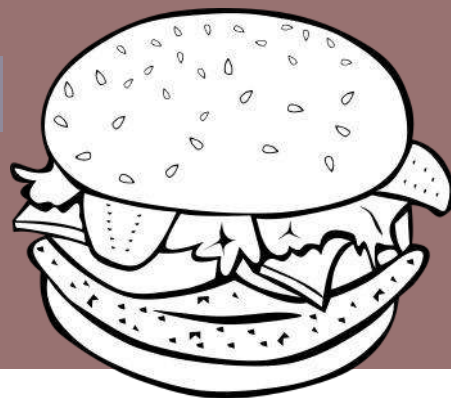
Applications for free and reduced lunch are available in the Principal's Office. Additional information about free and reduced price lunch is available here:

<https://www.abington.k12.pa.us/about-asd/school-lunch-program/>

Translated versions of the free and reduced price lunch application in multiple languages can be found here:

<https://www.fns.usda.gov/cn/translated-applications>

*For questions regarding the status of lunch applications, contact Amanda Knight-Roberts at ext. 2201.



DISMISSAL

After the final bell indicates that the school day has ended, all students should gather their belongings from their lockers, and use the appropriate exits in order to leave the building.

Walkers and car riders should exit the building through the doors in the Little Theater Lobby.

Students that take a bus home from the school should exit the building through the doors at the bottom of the center staircase on the ground floor, or through any of the exits from the Commons area. Students waiting for buses must remain at the numbered location where the appropriate bus will arrive for pick up. For safety purposes, students must stand behind the yellow line on the sidewalk while waiting for the bus.

For safety and security purposes, walkers and car riders are not permitted to enter the bus loop during dismissal. Additionally, students are not permitted to visit or loiter in or around the high school building or any other district property after school hours, unless under the supervision of a school staff member.

Students participating in a school activity or sport should report to the appropriate location immediately after school to meet their coach or staff member.



EMERGENCY DRILLS

Periodic fire drills are a necessary part of the school safety routine. The object of these drills is to clear the building as quickly as possible in an orderly fashion.

When the fire alarm is sounded, all classroom doors are to be closed. Students are to go swiftly and quietly to the exit designated for each room. Once outside the building, move to the location assigned to the room in which the class is meeting.

Fire drills are extremely important because they help students become accustomed to what to do in case of fire. For this reason, running, shoving, pushing, or any other kind of potentially dangerous behavior cannot be tolerated. Also, there is no time to stop for drinks of water.

Additionally, lock down and other safety drills are also conducted to familiarize the students with the procedure in the event of these types of situations.

We are required by the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania's Emergency Management Agency to conduct an annual Weather Preparedness Drill to familiarize students with the procedures to be followed in the event of an actual emergency.

WEATHER EMERGENCIES/SCHOOL CLOSURE/LATE ARRIVAL

Should inclement weather or any other emergency require cancellation of school, this information will be communicated to families via the Skyward phone/email system. Families can also check the Abington School District website and Channel 43.

When a two hour late arrival for a weather emergency coincides with an early dismissal day, the early dismissal is canceled and will be rescheduled.

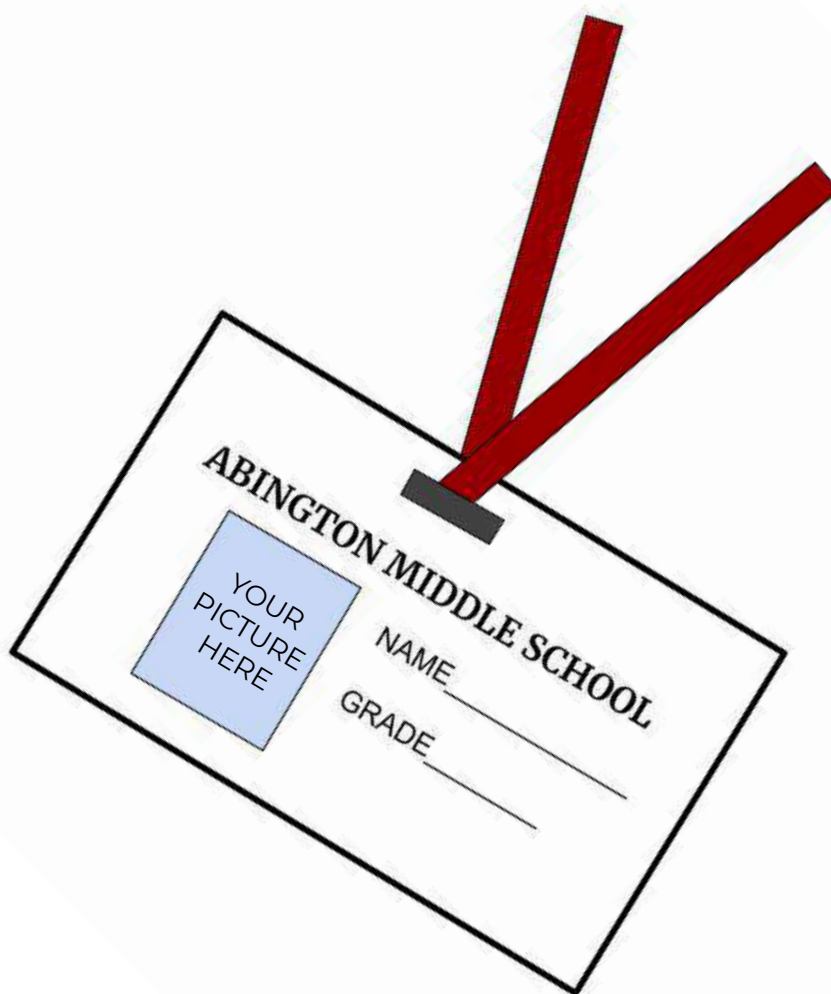
To prepare for the possibility of an unplanned early dismissal, parents/guardians should arrange an alternate place for their children to go in the event that no one is at home.

IDENTIFICATION CARDS

Every year a student identification card is issued to each student. This card will serve as a means of required identification, and must be carried, visible, and on the student's person at all times. A new card will be issued to each student every year. ID Cards are required for students to attend field trips, school sporting events, dances, and other school sponsored activities. Additionally, students must have a visible ID Card, or temporary ID badge in order to receive a hall pass.

LOST IDENTIFICATION CARDS

Should a student lose their ID Card, a temporary ID badge may be issued until the student purchases a replacement ID Card. Replacement ID cards can be obtained for a cost of \$8.00.



INSTRUCTIONAL PROGRAM

Students in each grade level are required to take specific core courses and world languages. Additionally, students may take a number of encore classes. Encores may differ by grade.

REQUIRED COURSES

6th Grade	7th Grade	8th Grade
English Language Arts 6	H-English Language Arts 7 English Language Arts 7	H-English Language Arts 8 English Language Arts 8
Mathematics 6	H-Algebra I H-Pre-Algebra Pre-Algebra	H-Algebra II H-Algebra I Pre-Algebra Part II
Science 6	H-Science 7 Science 7	H-Science 8 Science 8
Social Studies 6	H-Social Studies 7 Social Studies 7	H-Social Studies 8 Social Studies 8
Introduction to Language Learning	French I, Part 1 German I, Part 1 Mandarin Chinese I, Part 1 Spanish I, Part 1	H French I, Part 2 French I, Part 2 French I H-German I, Part 2 H-Mandarin Chinese II H-Spanish I, Part 2 Spanish I, Part 2 Spanish I

REQUIRED ENCORES

6th Grade	7th Grade	8th Grade
Health/Phys. Ed. 6	Health/Phys. Ed. 7	Health/Phys. Ed. 8
Pathway to Success	STEM I	STEM II
Art 6	REQUIRED FINE ARTS (MINIMUM OF 1):	REQUIRED FINE ARTS (MINIMUM OF 1):
Music 6	2D Art & Design	2D Art & Design
Invention Lab	3D Art & Design	3D Art & Design
	Digital Art & Design	Digital Art & Design
	Digital Music	Digital Music
	Voice Lab	Voice Lab
	Instrument Lab	Instrument Lab
	Musical Theater Lab	Musical Theater Lab
	Band	Band
	Chorus	Chorus
	Orchestra	Orchestra

ENCORES

6th Grade	7th Grade	8th Grade
Band	Energy & the Environment	Medical Detectives
Chorus	Personal Development	Family & Consumer Science
Orchestra	Fiction and Film	Fiction and Film
	Literary Adventures	Literary Adventures
	Fitness for Life	Fitness for Life
	Multimedia Technology	Multimedia Technology
	Video Production	Video Production

A DAYS AND B DAYS

At Abington Middle School, students follow a schedule that alternates between “A Days,” and “B Days.” Students will only take certain core courses on either A, or B days. It is important for students to keep track of which classes they take on either day, and to pay attention to whether each school day is an A Day or a B Day.





GRADE SCALE AND REPORT CARDS

Middle school students receive report cards four times a year. Report cards are posted in Skyward. The purpose of the report card is to communicate to the student and parents the level of academic accomplishment, based on the student’s progress in each class. Other factors, such as attitude, study habits, cooperation, homework, and attendance, which may influence a student’s progress, are evaluated as well.

Student grades are based on the following system:

Letter Grade	Scoring Percentage	Definition
A	90-100%	Very good, Superior
B	80-89%	Above Average to Good
C	70-79%	Passing to Fair
D	60-69%	Passing
E	40-59%	Not Passing (See promotion policy)
F	0-39%	Not Passing (See promotion policy)
M		Medical Excuse
P		Passing
W		Grade Withheld or Work Incomplete

The report period schedule for the 2022-2023 School Year is as follows:

REPORT PERIOD DATES		
REPORT PERIOD	PERIOD BEGINS	PERIOD ENDS
FIRST (1)	SEPTEMBER 6	 NOVEMBER 11
SECOND (2)	NOVEMBER 14	 JANUARY 27
THIRD (3)	JANUARY 30	 APRIL 5
FOURTH (4)	APRIL 11	 JUNE 15

PROMOTION POLICY

In grade six, a student will be considered for retention if they are reading one or two grade levels below grade placement, if they score Below Basic on the English language arts and/or mathematics test in the Pennsylvania State System of Assessment (PSSA) and/or have not demonstrated proficiency in a majority of the core subject areas assessed for the Report of Student Progress.

In grades seven and eight, a student will be considered for retention if they earn an E in three or more required core subjects (English, mathematics, science, social studies), earn an E in one or two of the required core subjects and does not earn a passing grade in those courses in summer school, or earn an F in one or more of the required core subjects.

A grade of "F," which is received when a student's average falls below 40% in a required course, may not be made up in summer school. A grade of "F" in a required course presumes remediation needs which are beyond that which can be met in five weeks of summer school instruction.

A student will be retained should one of the following occur:

- (a) The student does not attain a passing grade in summer school.
- (b) The student fails one or more subjects with a final grade below 40%.
- (c) The student fails three or more subjects at the conclusion of the school year.

*Exceptions to the promotion policy may be made by the building principal.

SUMMER SCHOOL

Abington Middle School's summer school program is remedial in nature. Offerings are limited to those subjects required for progression to the next grade level.

Participation in the summer school program assumes that the student has familiarity with the course content. In order to register for any course, a student must have attained at least an average of 40% for the final grade during the regular school session. In courses where final examinations are administered, students must have taken that examination. Students who do not meet these criteria will not be permitted to enroll in summer school.

It is impossible to provide in twenty-five days the same learning experience provided over a 184-day period. Because of the abbreviated nature of summer school make-up courses, compared with those taught during the school year, a "C" is the highest grade attainable in summer school. Students may repeat courses in summer school in order to raise their grade. Both grades will be reported on the permanent record card and the Official School Record of Abington School District.

TEST & ASSESSMENT SCHEDULING

Team teachers will work together to coordinate test and assessment dates and times in a manner that is as balanced and manageable as possible.

WEIGHTED GRADE PROCEDURES (FOR ANY SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL COURSES)

The following chart shows the factors presently in use for all courses, and the weighted factors used for Honors, and for Advanced Placement courses. Weighted grades appropriately recognize the significant workload undertaken by students in the honors and AP courses.

WEIGHTED GRADE PROCEDURES (FOR ANY SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL COURSES)

GRADE	COLLEGE PREP COURSES	HONORS/DUAL ENROLLMENT IN 2-YEAR COLLEGE COURSES (X1.15)	ADVANCED PLACEMENT/DUAL ENROLLMENT IN 2-YEAR COLLEGE COURSES (X1.25)
A	4.0	4.6	5.0
B	3.0	3.45	3.75
C	2.0	2.3	2.5
D	1.0	1.0	1.0
E	0	0	0
F	0	0	0

GIFTED SUPPORT SERVICES

Students are determined to be eligible if they meet multiple criteria. A Gifted Individual Education Program (GIEP) is developed for eligible students. For more information, please contact the Coordinator of Student Support Services, School Counselor, or Principal.

HOMEWORK

The purpose of homework is to strengthen basic skills, to extend and reinforce classroom instruction, to stimulate further interest, to reinforce independent study skills, to develop life-long skills of time management and self-direction, and to learn responsibility. The type of homework assignment varies by the subject. For example, world languages and mathematics require out-of-class practice for mastery. English, science, and social studies require reading preparation for the day's discussion and/or lecture. All subjects use extension assignments such as projects, problem solving, or individual research.

Time allotted to homework should increase gradually from grade to grade. At the middle level, the following general guidelines apply to the total time to complete daily homework for all students – Grade 6: 60-75 minutes; Grades 7 & 8: 60-90 minutes. Caregivers should check to see that all homework is completed.

The content of homework assignments will vary, but will be linked to the skills and concepts that the student is learning in the classroom. Self-selected reading, practice of basic skills and a review of notes, when needed, should be a regular part of daily study. Honors courses may require more time in which to complete

homework assignments. The extension assignments, such as research papers, are often in addition to the daily preparation assignments. Homework assignments will also be made available on Skyward and Google Classroom. It is the student's responsibility to know what is due and when it is due.

NATIONAL JUNIOR HONOR SOCIETY

Please read the following information carefully. It pertains to membership in the National Junior Honor Society (NJHS). Please share this information with your parents / guardians.

During the 2022-23 school year, 7th graders will not be considered for membership for the National Junior Honor Society. Current 8th grade students will be eligible based on their 7th grade performance during the 2021-22 school year. If you have any questions about NJHS, please contact the teacher sponsors or the Principal's Office. Membership in the NJHS is an honor given to those students who have excelled in the areas of scholarship, citizenship, character, leadership and service.

For fall 2022 induction, the scholarship requirement is partially met by achieving a 3.70 (or above) cumulative grade point average during their seventh grade academic year. Students achieving this average and fulfilling activity points will be notified by letter that they are eligible for membership. A total of four activity points are required for consideration for membership in the honor society. The guidelines, along with a list of activities with their assigned points, will be mailed home to all eighth grade students at the beginning of this school year. Please note that membership alone in any activity does not guarantee the awarding of any points. Full participation for the duration of the activity is required. Points are awarded on the basis of the level of participation as determined by the activity sponsors.

Current sixth and seventh grade students who will be considered for the fall 2023 induction class for the National Junior Honor Society must meet the following eligibility requirements during the course of the 2022-23 school year: (1) a cumulative unweighted grade point average of 3.7 or higher; (2) full participation in a minimum of two school based activities; (3) completion of a minimum of 10 service learning hours.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION

Students may use the physical education equipment only when the instructor is present. Because of the physical activity involved in these classes, the following procedures and rules are to be followed:

Gym apparel will consist of:

- Athletic shirt
- Gym shorts, and
- Athletic socks and sneakers.

The school provides a combination lock for each student's gym locker. Students should avoid bringing anything valuable to PE class.

As a safety precaution, bracelets, earrings, rings, watches, chains, and necklaces may not be worn. Long hair should be secured.

SCHOOL PUBLICATIONS, NEWSPAPER, ELECTRONIC MEDIA, & DISTRICT WEBSITE

The Abington School District is sincere in its commitment to keep the public informed of the programs, activities, and events that are taking place in our schools. The district typically offers descriptive accounts and photographs in release intended for publication and distribution.

School publications, such as student handbooks/curriculum guides, yearbooks, school activity programs, websites, and other forms of electronic communications may contain student information and/or pictures related to participation in the activity. If parents do not wish to have their child's name, picture, and/or other information relating to the activity appear in the media, they should advise the principal in writing.

ABOUT THE GUIDANCE PROGRAM

The guidance program is designed to help all students develop their educational, social, and personal strengths. Students are encouraged to explore individual interests, abilities, and goals with their school counselor. The primary goal of the guidance program is to promote and enhance student learning in order to maximize student achievement. The range of services and activities offered by the Counseling Department is modeled to meet the diverse needs of our student population. They include:

- Academic reviews
- Counseling sessions
- Team meetings: Service Agreement, special education, case conferences, Child Study Team
- Topical class lessons
- Consultation (administrators, teachers, parents, referral agency personnel)
- Peer tutoring
- Crisis Prevention and Intervention
- Bullying prevention
- Psychological evaluations
- Social services
- School-wide educational testing
- Student Assistance Program (SAP)



GUIDANCE OFFICE CONTACTS

GUIDANCE OFFICE (GENERAL): 215-884-4700, Ext. 2238			
Dr. Wexler, Coordinator of Student Services			Ext. 2233
Dr. George, Psychologist			Ext. 2551
Ms. Reich, Psychologist			Ext. 2239
Ms. Thome, Counselor	Grade 6	Last Name Ending: A-Jon	Ext. 2477
Ms. O’Gara, Counselor	Grade 6	Last Name Ending: Joo-Tan	Ext. 2603
Ms. Pierce, Counselor	Grade 6	Last Name Ending: Tat-Z	Ext. 2329
Ms. Finesmith, Counselor	Grade 7	Last Name Ending: A-Iu	Ext. 2237
Mr. Johnson, Counselor	Grade 7	Last Name Ending: Iv-St	Ext. 2235
Ms. Pierce, Counselor	Grade 7	Last Name Ending: Su-Z	Ext. 2329
Ms. Adam, Counselor	Grade 8	Last Name Ending: A-Ca & Mu-Z	Ext. 2418
Ms. Haynes, Counselor	Grade 8	Last Name Ending: Cen-Mot	Ext. 2471

SCHOOL-BASED COUNSELING GROUPS

The counselors often offer school-based counseling groups during the school year. These are time-limited experiences for students to learn new skills, practice more adaptive behavior, and share ideas, thoughts, feelings, and interests on specific topics. The focus of the group is tied to a clearly defined set of school-related goals.

SCHOOL PSYCHOLOGISTS AND SOCIAL WORKER

The school psychologists are available to support students and families. The school psychologists are members of the Child Study Team that reviews the progress of students. The psychologists are available to meet with students on an as needed basis, and they provide consultative services to parents/guardians, administrators and staff.

The school Social Worker is available to provide support to families in the form of access to community linkages and to assist with the handling of obstacles to a student’s ability to progress in school.

STUDENT ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (SAP)

The SAP team wants to help you and your friends. You may be concerned about a friend because he or she is using drugs or alcohol, seems to be unhappy, or is showing some other warning signs. You may be having difficulties yourself. You are not alone. Why not share your concerns with a member of SAP? If you feel more comfortable talking to someone else (such as another teacher, counselor, or a family member), ask that person to contact the Student Assistance Team for you.

Please feel free to contact any SAP member or teacher to refer a friend or yourself.

STUDENT ASSISTANCE TEAM		
Team Member	Location	Extension
Dr. Wexler, Coordinator of Student Support Services	Guidance	Ext. 2233
Ms. Demko, SAP Liaison	Guidance	Ext. 2234
Ms. Adam	Guidance	Ext. 2418
Ms. Finesmith	Guidance	Ext. 2237
Ms. Haynes	Guidance	Ext. 2471
Ms. O'Gara	Guidance	Ext. 2603
Ms. Thome	Guidance	Ext. 2477
Mr. Zucker	S-102	Ext. 2487
Ms. Jacobs	Guidance	Ext. 2178

HOMELESSNESS ASSISTANCE

If you or your family are experiencing hardship, and you lack a fixed, regular, or adequate nighttime residence, you may qualify as homeless under the McKinney-Vento Homeless Act. Please let us know so that we can offer supports, including academic, social-emotional, transportation, and community. Please reach out to our Homeless Liaison, Dr. Rob Rosenthal, 215-881-2552.

SCHOOL RESOURCE OFFICER

Our school resource officer (SRO), Abington Police Officer Joseph Marrero, is also available to help students and parents. His extension is 2493.



BULLYING PREVENTION

AMS Students:

1. Will not bully others,
2. Will try to help students who are bullied,
3. Will make it a point to include students who are easily left out,
4. Will tell an adult at school and at home when someone is being bullied.

Abington Middle School uses a variety of anti-bullying programs to serve as educational tools, as well as tools for reporting and intervening with incidents of bullying, cyberbullying, or harassment. Students receive information related to this topic in Advisory classes, announcements, assemblies and from other school activities. Reports related to bullying and harassment (including hazing and cyberharassment) should be reported to a staff member who will refer the matter to administration. For additional information on the Abington School District policy, go **to www.abington.k12.pa.us**.

WEB (WHERE EVERYBODY BELONGS)

The transition to middle school is a significant event in the life of a young person, and can be both challenging and exciting at the same time. WEB, which stands for "Where Everybody Belongs" is a middle school orientation and transition program that welcomes the incoming class and makes them feel comfortable throughout the first year of their middle school experience.

Built on the belief that students can help students succeed, the program trains mentors from the 8th grade class to be WEB Leaders. As positive role models, WEB Leaders are mentors and student leaders who guide the new students to discover what it takes to be successful during the transition to middle school, and help facilitate their success. WEB consists of four main components and activities. These include a school-wide orientation day, academic follow-ups, social follow-ups, and WEB Leader initiated contacts.

Each year, rising 8th grade students will be invited to apply to be a WEB Leader.

For more information about the program, please contact Ms. Finesmith or Ms. Nguyen.



SCHOOL COMMUNITY EXPECTATIONS

As a student at Abington Middle School, you are part of a community of learners. As such, everyone in our school community is expected to adhere to a set of shared values. This year, the Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports (PBIS) team has created a new acronym to represent each of these values: SRK. This stands for Safety, Responsibility, and Kindness.

In addition to understanding these shared values, every student in every location at Abington Middle School will conduct themselves in accordance with a set of behavior expectations that are related to Safety, Responsibility, and Kindness. The Abington Middle School Values Matrix defines these expectations for each location within the building:

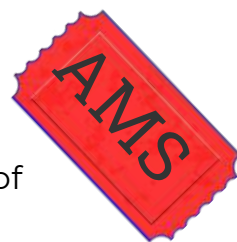
Abington Middle School VALUES							
	Schoolwide Expectations	Classroom	Hallway/ Stairways	Commons	Restroom and Locker Room	Assemblies	Bus
We are SAFE. We...	Report unsafe situations to an adult Wear school ID and follow the dress code Follow all emergency procedures	Arrive to class on time Use classroom materials as directed Think before we act/react	Always <u>walk</u> on the right side of our direction of travel in hallways and follow arrows in stairwells Keep moving towards our destination	Stay seated in our assigned lunch area unless getting food Use a quiet inside voice when speaking	Safely store possessions during gym class Wash our hands for at least 20 seconds	Enter in a quiet orderly manner and sit where our teacher directs. Keep walkways clear	Follow bus etiquette Follow all directions from the driver
We are Responsible. We...	Keep our hands, feet, and objects to ourselves Keep cell phones stored in our backpack Follow adult directions	Raise our hands to speak or stand Maintain academic integrity Stay on task and complete our work	Use our locker before school, after school and during lunch. Hold our pass in our hand when traveling in the hallways	Ensure our table and floor are clean before dismissal Put trash and trays away appropriately Take all belongings after our lunch period	Respect school property Return to class promptly after use	Use our active listening skills Stay seated until dismissed	Sit facing forward while bus is in motion Refrain from eating on bus
We are Kind. We...	Use appropriate language and tone Are inclusive and accepting Show empathy to others	Encourage others to do their best Work collaboratively Respect the opinions of others	Politely greet others Use inside voices and keep the peace Give others space to move through the hallway and 'Mind the Track'	Include all tablemates in conversations Take our turn in the lunch line Thank the staff members	Honor the privacy of others Tell an adult if we see someone who needs help	Keep our eyes on the speaker/show Remain quiet so others can hear the presentation	Thank our bus driver Speak with an inside voice Make room for others to sit

POSITIVE BEHAVIOR ACKNOWLEDGMENT SYSTEM

SRK (SAFE, RESPONSIBLE, KIND) TICKETS

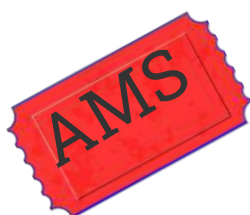
Throughout each school day, students can earn SRK tickets when they are caught demonstrating any of the behaviors in the The Abington Middle School Values Matrix. School staff members may also issue tickets to students for demonstrating ANY positive behavior deemed worthy of rewarding. When a school staff member gives a ticket to a student, the student will need to write their own name on the back of the ticket. Students will have the opportunity to use their tickets to enter into a variety of raffles in which a number of different prizes can be won. Each week, raffle winners will be announced, and prizes will be distributed. Prizes may include, but are not limited to:

- Pizza lunch/special lunch with a friend
- Game time with a friend
- Tickets to various school-sponsored events
- Tickets, gift cards, and discount cards redeemable at a number of businesses and locations around the community



HALLWAYS AND "THE TRACK"

In alignment with the school value of SAFETY, Abington Middle School students must pay attention to The Track when traveling through the halls. The Track is a red line that runs through most of the hallways in the building. Students MUST walk to the RIGHT side of the halls, always keeping The Track to your left. Students should not cross The Track until arriving at their classroom or appropriate destination. Use of The Track not only helps students to stay safe while traveling through the halls, but it also ensures that everyone can get to their location quickly without being late to class, and without getting stuck in a “traffic jam.” Remember to always “Mind the Track!”



VOICE VOLUME SYSTEM

As you enter into different areas in Abington Middle School, you may notice “Voice Volume” charts and signs displaying a numerical volume level for that specific area:

NOISE LEVEL	EXPECTATION
0	SILENT. PLEASE DIRECT YOUR ATTENTION TO THE TASK AT HAND OR THE PERSON SPEAKING.
1	QUIET CONVERSATION. ONLY THE PEOPLE IN YOUR IMMEDIATE AREA SHOULD HEAR YOU.
2	NORMAL VOICE. THIS IS THE VOICE YOU USE WHEN YOU ARE CALMLY SPEAKING TO FRIENDS.
3	LOUD VOICE. THIS IS ONLY ALLOWED OUTSIDE OR DURING CERTAIN EVENTS.

HALLWAYS/STAIRS
VOICE VOLUME

1

These charts will help you to determine the appropriate voice level for different areas of the building.



ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

All students at Abington Middle School are expected to adhere to the highest standards of academic excellence. Instances of cheating* or plagiarism* are taken very seriously, and any student that has been found to have engaged in cheating or plagiarism may face serious disciplinary and academic consequences.

On the other hand, students who exemplify academic excellence at Abington Middle School may be rewarded with special privileges, academic awards, and of course, praise from their teachers, principal, and staff members.

*Cheating includes, but is not limited to: lying; copying from another’s test, talking while testing unless such discussion is specifically authorized by the instructor, taking or receiving copies of an exam without the permission of the instructor, using or displaying notes, using “cheat sheets,” or other information devices inappropriate to the prescribed test conditions, and/or allowing someone other than the officially enrolled student to represent same.

*Plagiarism is defined as: a piece of writing that has been copied from someone else and is presented as being your own work; taking someone’s words or ideas as if they were your own.

BULLYING/CYBERBULLYING & HARRASSMENT POLICY

In alignment with Abington Middle School's shared values of Safety, Responsibility, and Kindness, instances of bullying, cyberbullying, or harassment of any kind will not be tolerated. In fact, the entire Abington School District prohibits all forms of bullying by district students. A student who is found to have engaged in any form of bullying may be subject to a number of consequences up to and including a referral to law enforcement officials.

Bullying shall mean: an intentional electronic, written, verbal, or physical act or a series of acts:

- a. directed at another student or students;
- b. which occurs in a school setting;
- c. includes any written, verbal or physical act. For example:

- (1) Written messages or threats
- (2) Verbal comments
- (3) Gestures
- (4) Physical contact
- (5) Threats/Implied threats
- (6) Social Isolation

- d. that is severe, persistent, or pervasive; and
- e. that has the effect of doing any of the following:

- (1) substantially interfering with a student's education;
- (2) creating a threatening environment; or
- (3) substantially disrupting the orderly operation of the school; and "school setting" shall mean in the school, on school grounds, in school vehicles, at a designated bus stop, or at any activity sponsored, supervised, or sanctioned by the school.



NON-DISCRIMINATION POLICY

Abington School District is committed to complying fully with all Federal and state laws banning discrimination on the basis of race, color, national origin/ethnicity, veteran status, gender, age, disability, sexual orientation, gender identity/expression, or religion with regard to instructional programs, extracurricular activities, and employment practices. For more information see the Pennsylvania Human Relations Act at the following: PHRC Website.

Any person who believes they are a victim of discrimination by the school district should refer the matter to the attention of the building principal and/or area supervisor, and the District Equity Officer. If the matter is not resolved satisfactorily, it should be brought to the attention of the Superintendent of Schools. The following person has been designated to handle inquiries regarding the nondiscrimination policies:

Dr. Kristopher Brown, District Equity Officer
970 Highland Avenue, Abington, PA 19001
215-881-2519; equity@abington.k12.pa.us

VISITOR POLICY

To ensure a safe environment, all visitors must report to the receptionist's desk for permission to visit our school. If the visitor is approved, a visitor's pass, obtained from the receptionist, must be worn at all times while on school property. All visitors must enter the school through the Administration Office entrance.

Students from other school districts, as well as those from other schools in the Abington School District, will not be permitted to visit during the school day. Students should not bring a friend or relative to visit. In an effort to reinforce students' personal responsibility, we ask that parents/families keep "drop offs" (such as projects, lunch money, and homework) to a minimum and for emergencies only.

STUDENT RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES

Students share with the administration and faculty a responsibility to develop a climate within the school that is conducive to wholesome living and learning. No student has the right to interfere with the education of his/her fellow classmates. It is the responsibility of each student to respect the rights of other students and adult staff who are involved in the educational process.

RESTORATIVE PRACTICES

Whenever possible, teachers, staff members and the administrative team at Abington Middle School will attempt to address conflicts between students, or individual student behavioral issues through the use of restorative practices. Restorative practices are a means of handling student behavior concerns through mediated discussion, and the teaching of problem solving and decision making skills in order to build, improve, or repair relationships throughout the school.

BULLYING, CYBERBULLYING, & HARASSMENT

In alignment with Abington Middle School's shared values of Safety and Kindness, instances of bullying, cyberbullying, or harassment of any kind will not be tolerated. In fact, the entire Abington School District prohibits all forms of bullying by district students. A student who is found to have engaged in any form of bullying may be subject to a number of consequences up to and including a referral to law enforcement officials. See page 29 of this handbook for the AMS Bullying, Cyberbullying, & Harassment Policy, and page 24 for information on how to report an incident.

HALL PASSES

Students are required to have a hall pass any time that they are traversing the halls during instructional time. Passes must be issued by the teacher that is in charge of supervising the student at that specific time. If a student is given a pass ahead of time to report to a specific department or location at a later time, that student must report to their class, and present the pass to their teacher before reporting to the location on the pass.

CELL PHONE POLICY

Maintaining Integrity of the learning environment is the top priority. While students are permitted to have cell phones in their possession throughout the school day, they must secure them in their lockers or backpack during the day.

- Students MUST have their cell phones turned off during the school day; cell phone use shall cause no distractions or disruptions.
- Cell phones will be out of sight during the school day (inside and outside of classrooms). This includes classrooms, halls, restrooms, commons, and all other areas of the building.
- Cell phone charging is not allowed on school grounds.
- Fire drills, assemblies, or other school evacuations are considered cell phone blackouts.
- Students are not permitted to take photos or videos in the building or on District transportation. Failure to follow this rule may lead to disciplinary consequences.

CONSEQUENCES FOR CELL PHONE POLICY VIOLATIONS

First Offense: Teacher issued warning with review of cell phone policy.

Second Offense: Confiscation of device to be returned to student at the end of the school day, with parent notification (parent/guardian will be informed of further consequences in the event of further violations).

Third Offense: Confiscation of device to be returned to parent and office detention issued.

Subsequent Offenses: Progressive consequences will be issued as determined by a school administrator.

PARENT SUPPORT

With the increasingly pervasive use of cell phones in all areas of life, it is important that we work together to ensure that students adhere to school

policies, and are able to get the most out of their education with as few distractions as possible. With this in mind, we ask that you please refrain from texting or calling your student on their cell phone during school hours. **In the event of an emergency, please contact the office at 215-884-4700, ext. 2214.**

Additionally, please ensure that your child knows to come to the office if they need to contact you, and to report to the health suite if they are feeling unwell. A school nurse will then contact you to determine next steps.

Staff and Administrators at Abington Middle School are not responsible for lost, stolen, or damaged personal devices including cell phones and headphones. School staff and administrators are not required to conduct searches for missing electronic devices.

PERSONAL ITEMS

Students are strongly discouraged from bringing personal electronics, and personal items of value to school. Electronic devices should be powered off and all items of value should be kept secured while at school. Any electronic device which is carried and used by the student during the school day may be confiscated by school staff. Because we discourage students from bringing these items to school, the school will not be responsible for the loss or damage of these personal articles.

CARE OF BOOKS

Abington School District provides textbooks at no cost to students; however, students are responsible to pay for damaged, lost, or stolen books, or if the assigned books are not returned to the school.

When any teacher issues a book, students are to be sure that there is an imprint for their name and the book number inside the front or back cover. If there is none, the student should ask for one. Students should immediately write their name, in ink, along with any other information requested by the teacher. This will assist students if the book is lost or misplaced. Students should handle books carefully and protect them with book covers. Students should not write in the pages of books, highlight, or underline unless otherwise directed by a teacher.

STUDENT DRESS CODE

Student dress or appearance that interferes with the educational process, threatens the school or community, depicts or encourages unlawful or otherwise prohibited activity, or interferes with another student's rights is not permitted. Clothing bearing or depicting messages, images, or advertisements relating to drugs, alcohol, or tobacco is not permitted. Clothing depicting violent or sexually explicit messages or images is also prohibited.

Any required face coverings will be considered part of the students' clothing.

Students whose clothing violates the school dress code will be asked to put on appropriate clothing, using clothing available at school, or by contacting the student's parent/guardian and asking them to bring appropriate clothing to school. Students with questions about the dress code or the appropriateness of particular attire/appearance should direct such questions to the building principal/assistant principal. Serious or repeated violations of the dress code will be subject to disciplinary action.

POSSESSION OF WEAPONS

No weapons are permitted on any Abington School District property unless used in connection with the instructional or student activity program under supervision of a staff member. The term "weapon" includes, but is not limited to, any knife, cutting instrument, cutting tool, chain, nunchaku, firearm, shotgun, rifle, and any other tool, instrument or implement capable of inflicting serious bodily injury. The prohibition applies to anyone on District property and is in effect twenty-four hours a day, seven days a week. The intent of this policy is to prohibit all weapons, whether or not a permit or license has been issued with respect to such weapon, and with respect to all persons except police officers. Any student who brings a weapon onto school property, to any school-sponsored activity, or onto any public conveyance providing transportation to and from school or school-sponsored activity may be expelled from school.

VAPING, SMOKING, AND TOBACCO USE

Student possession or use of tobacco products in school buildings, on school vehicles, and on school property is prohibited. A student who possesses or uses tobacco products including, but not necessarily limited to, a lighted or unlighted cigarette, cigar, pipe, or other lighted smoking product, smokeless tobacco, and electronic smoking products (including vape products) in any form in school buildings, in school vehicles, or on school property is subject to criminal penalties and school-based discipline.

If a student is determined to have possessed or used tobacco products in school, on school property, or on a school bus, then the appropriate administrator may (1) notify the School Resource Officer, who shall initiate appropriate proceedings before the local magisterial district judge charging the summary offense for possession or use of tobacco, the penalties for which are set forth below, and (2) impose the appropriate school-based discipline as set forth below:

CRIMINAL PENALTIES

Under the Criminal Code of Pennsylvania, Title 18, Section 6306.1, possession of tobacco products is a summary offense. Upon conviction, the violator may be sentenced to a fine of not more than \$50 for the benefit of the School District as well as payment of court costs. When a pupil is charged with this offense, the court may admit the offender to an adjudication alternative as authorized under 42 PA.C.S. §1520 (relating to adjudication alternative program) in lieu of imposing the fine, and:

SCHOOL-BASED PENALTIES

First Offense: Five detentions, parent contact

Second Offense: Mandatory Cessation Program attendance (Saturday), parent contact.

Third Offense: Progressive interventions and consequences as determined by school administrator.

DRUG, ALCOHOL, AND SUBSTANCE ABUSE

The following Board Policy Statement makes clear the procedures used in the Abington School District in regard to “Students and the Use of Drugs, Alcohol and Other Unauthorized Substances”:

The Board of School Directors of the Abington School District recognizes the seriousness of drug, alcohol, and/or unauthorized substance abuse. The schools must play a role in attacking this problem. In recognition of this responsibility, the Abington School District will implement programs and activities based upon the following principles:

1. The schools at all levels will present through the regular classroom and through special programs, a comprehensive educational program aimed at preventing drug, alcohol, and substance abuse, using materials and activities appropriate to the age and maturity of the pupil.
2. The administrative and teaching staffs will do all within their power to ensure that unauthorized drugs and substances and/or alcohol are not available in school buildings or on school grounds.
3. The school district will cooperate fully at all times with the law enforcement agencies, following guidelines that have been developed cooperatively by those agencies and school administrators.
4. The school will provide referral services to students with drug, alcohol and substance abuse problems who are interested in obtaining professional assistance that lies beyond the jurisdiction of the school.
5. Students who are detected in the process of buying, selling, giving, receiving, transferring, possessing and/or using unauthorized drugs and substances and alcohol in school or on school property will be suspended and referred to the Abington Police Department. Any student who violates this is subject to a 45 day expulsion from school and school activities.
6. The basic welfare and health of the student body will be the primary consideration in any readmission of any student to school who was suspended for using unauthorized drugs and substances and/or alcohol.

7. The use of anabolic steroids by any student in school related athletics is prohibited except for a valid medical purpose. Body building, muscle enhancement, increasing muscle bulk or strength or the enhancement of athletic ability is not a valid medical purpose.

Abington School District, in conjunction with the Abington Police Department, reserves the right to consider the use of locker searches, dogs trained to detect drugs, and other investigative activities as deemed appropriate by the Abington Police Department. Our intent is not to entrap students, but to deter the use and sale of drugs in the Abington School District.

STUDENT OFFENSES AND DISCIPLINE PROCEDURES

Offenses committed on school grounds, in school vehicles or while participating in school-sponsored activities on or off school premises or that have some other legally-recognized nexus to the school that are considered to be of an extremely serious nature and may result in either suspension or expulsion, include but are not limited to, the following:

1. Buying, selling, giving, receiving, transferring, possessing, using, or being under the influence of unauthorized drugs or other substances and/or the possession of drug paraphernalia in school, on school property, or at any school-sponsored activity
2. Use, possession, or being under the influence of an alcoholic beverage in school, on school property, or at any school-sponsored activity
3. Harassment, Bullying or Hazing
4. Possession of a weapon in school, on school property, at any school-sponsored activity or a public conveyance providing transportation to and from a school or school-sponsored activity. This includes carrying an item which could be considered a weapon of which is dangerous in nature in accordance with State law
5. Fighting
6. Stealing
7. Disrespectful speech or actions
8. Obscene conduct or language
9. Habitual detentions or refusal or failure to serve assigned detentions
10. Forgery

11. Vandalism of any nature, including defacing, damaging, or destroying school property or the property of any school employee, student, or visitor on school grounds
12. Unauthorized entry into a school building or other District property
13. Leaving school or school property without permission
14. Refusal to leave school or school property upon direction
15. Possession of tobacco products, smoking of tobacco products, and any use of tobacco products by a student is prohibited in school buildings, on school buses and on school property owned by, leased by, or under control of the Abington School District. This includes smokeless tobacco in any form and electronic smoking products
16. Setting off a false fire alarm; Student will also be referred to the fire marshal's office
17. Motor vehicle violations on school property including speeding and reckless driving. All provisions of the Pennsylvania Motor Vehicle Code will apply to the operation of vehicles on school property
18. Possession of laser pointers or improper use of electronic devices in school, on school grounds, in school vehicles and/or while participating in school-sponsored activities on or off school premises
19. The use of any race, color, national origin/ethnicity, veteran status, gender, age, disability, sexual orientation, gender identity/expression, or religion based slurs
20. Conduct adversely affecting the school routine or otherwise endangering the safety, morals, health or welfare of others
21. Inappropriate physical contacts or verbal threats or attacks or other retaliatory conduct directed at students or school staff members, their property, or their families including actions which reasonable could be considered a threat to the health, safety, or welfare of other students, school employees, school visitors or school property
22. Chronic infraction of school rules, Board Policy or any applicable Student Handbook or Code of Conduct
23. Chronic insubordination

Procedures for the exclusion of students are provided in the Superintendent's Administrative Procedure regarding Student Offenses and Discipline Procedures in this section.

Any scholastic work missed by a student while on suspension may be made up within a reasonable time of the student's return to school. It is the student's responsibility to secure this work.

ASD POLICY ON RESPONSIBLE INTERNET USE

Abington School District's intent is to make internet and telecommunication access available to further educational goals and objectives while in compliance with the Children's Internet Protection Act (CIPA), however, students may find ways to access materials which may be inappropriate. The district believes that the benefits to students from access to the internet, in the form of information resource and opportunities for collaboration, exceed any disadvantages. Use of the district network is a privilege, not a right. Access to this information system requires that students, parent/guardian, and staff members read and sign the Responsible Use Policy prior to gaining independent access to the district network system.

The following actions are abusive, are not permitted, and are a violation of Abington School District standards:

- Using obscene language
- Procuring or disseminating defamatory, threatening, racially-offensive sexually oriented, or illegal material
- Harassing, insulting, or attacking others
- Sharing confidential information
- Employing the network for commercial purposes or for political or religious proselytizing
- Damaging computers, computer systems, or computer networks
- Violating copyright laws
- Using others' passwords
- Trespassing in others' folders, work, or files
- Intentionally wasting limited resources
- Other actions deemed inappropriate by the principal or supervisor

For further information regarding the responsible use of district technology resources please see the Abington School District Student Technology Handbook at:

ASD STUDENT TECHNOLOGY HANDBOOK

ATTENDANCE

Abington students are expected to maintain a good attendance record in order to gain the most from their courses. However, it is sometimes necessary for students to be absent for a period of time. The rules listed in this section are not all inclusive. We are governed by the School Code of Pennsylvania, and even though all of the laws pertaining to attendance are not listed in this handbook, students are still accountable for them. A student's attendance may be checked by his/her parent through Skyward.

To visit the Attendance page on the Abington School District Website, click here:

<https://www.abington.k12.pa.us/family-resources/attendance-information-child-check/>

The following definitions may assist students in understanding school attendance regulations:

Absence - Absence is the nonattendance of a student on those days and half days when school is in attendance.

Compulsory Attendance – Compulsory school age refers to the period of a child's life from the time the child enters school, which may be no later than eight years of age, until the age of seventeen or graduation from a high school, whichever occurs first. If a parent voluntarily elects to enroll their child in a public kindergarten program, the kindergarten student will be subject to the state's compulsory attendance laws.

Excused Absence - Excused absence includes the absence of a student for any one of the reasons listed below in the section titled "Excused Absences."

Person in Parental Relation - as used in this procedure, this refers to a custodial biological or adoptive parent; a noncustodial biological or adoptive parent; guardian of the person of a child; or a person with whom a child lives and who is acting in a parental role of a child.

Lateness - The student arrives later than the starting time of the scheduled instruction or supervised activity.

Unexcused Absence - Unexcused absence is the absence of a student for any reason that does not qualify as an excused absence, as defined herein. These absences are recorded as unlawful for a student of compulsory school age (kindergarten to age 17).

Excused Lateness - Lateness of a student that is due to any of the reasons that may be excused for full day absence.

Unexcused Lateness - Lateness resulting from any reason that does not qualify as excused lateness. The accumulation several instances of lateness may result in a notice of unexcused absence.

Unlawful Absence - Unexcused absence for a student of compulsory school age (kindergarten to age 17).

Truant – Means having incurred three (3) or more school days of unexcused absences during the current school year by a child subject to compulsory school attendance.

Habitually Truant - Means having incurred six (6) or more school days of unexcused absences during the current school year by a child subject to compulsory school attendance.

School Attendance Improvement Conference - Schools must make meaningful attempts to encourage parent participation in attendance improvement conferences by advance written notice and attempts to communicate via telephone. The school must hold the conference even if the parent declines to participate or fails to attend. There is no legal requirement for either the child or parent to attend an attendance improvement conference. The school must document the outcome of any attendance improvement conference in a written attendance improvement plan. Schools may not take further legal action to address unexcused absences until after the date of the scheduled attendance improvement conference has passed.

A student may be absent for any one of the following reasons: illness, quarantine, death in immediate family, medical or dental appointments, authorized school activities, exceptionally urgent reasons, required court attendance, religious holidays observed by a bona fide religious group, and religious instruction up to 36 hours per school year.

EXCUSED ABSENCE

Parents of middle school students are asked to call the attendance office on the morning of their student's absence, or report the absence via Skyward to notify the school that the student will not be in attendance. If a call is not received, staff and/or the attendance clerk will call to verify that the absence is for a legitimate reason. In the case of an excused absence, an excuse card or a note from the parents must be signed by a parent and presented by the student upon his/her return to school. Absences may also be reported in Skyward.

In the case of an absence of three or more consecutive days, the student will be requested to return the absence card accompanied with a note from a licensed healthcare provider. These notes must be given to the school nurse who will approve the absence by signature. The nurse will forward the note to the attendance office for record keeping.

In the case of chronic irregular absences (10 days cumulative lawful absences), a medical excuse from a licensed health care provider will be required in place of a parental note. This can be made mandatory, if necessary, for the remainder of the school year. The principal will inform the attendance officer, who will notify the parent or guardian in writing of the change in absence excuse procedure and why this measure is necessary. Once this process is in place, any future absence that is not excused by a licensed health care provider will be considered unlawful and then be addressed by way of the first and second offense process.

UNEXCUSED ABSENCE

The state attendance procedures indicate that the mere fact that a parent has sent a written explanation to the teacher does not necessarily mean that the absence is excused. Such reasons for absence as "visiting," "away from home," "had to go to the store," or "overslept" are to be considered as a result of parental neglect. They should never be recorded as excused.

Absence due to family trips will always be recorded as unexcused. When a family notifies the school in advance that a student will be absent because of a trip or vacation, it is incumbent upon the principal to notify the family that such absence is in violation of the compulsory attendance laws as a result of action taken by a parent.

An accumulation of absences could result in a hearing before the District Justice and a possible fine. Students will not be given detention or any other form of punishment in the case of a family trip since compliance with the attendance laws is the responsibility of the parent or guardian. Assignments will be provided if parents/guardians make such a request.

The accumulation of three unexcused absences will result in an Official Notice of Truancy and may initiate the development of a School Attendance Improvement Plan (SAIP). Following this, the next unexcused absence will result in a Second Offense from the district attendance officer who will refer the case to the magisterial district judge, unless a SAIP has not already occurred. Future absences will be referred to the local justice or a community based attendance improvement program. The local justice will then proceed to take appropriate legal action against the parents/guardians and/or the student for violation of the Public School Code regarding compulsory school attendance. Failure to comply with the provisions of the Public School Code regarding compulsory attendance is a summary offense.

In cases that are classified as “truancy,” it is appropriate that the school administrator assign some form of consequence. The exact nature of this consequence may vary, depending upon age, grade level, and other considerations. Decisions regarding the classification of questionable absences are to be made by the principal.

PENALTIES FOR ATTENDANCE REQUIREMENT VIOLATIONS

The Pennsylvania School Code of 1949 defines truancy and the guidelines to be followed. Please refer cases of truancy to the attendance officer who will initiate this procedure.

A. A parent who fails to comply with the provisions of the Public School Code regarding compulsory attendance could be ordered to pay a fine not exceeding \$300.00 and to pay court costs, or to be sentenced to complete a parenting education program offered and operated by a local school district, medical institution or other community resources.

B. If a parent does not pay the fine and costs or complete the parenting program, a parent could be sentenced to the county jail for a period not exceeding five days.

C. In lieu of or in addition to any other sentence, the district justice may order the parent, guardian or person in parental relation to perform community service in the school district in which the offending child resides for a period not to exceed six months.

D. If a parent, guardian or person in parental relation is not convicted of a summary offense because he or she took every reasonable step to ensure attendance of a child at school, any child who has attained the age of 13 years who fails to comply with the compulsory attendance provision of this act and is habitually truant shall, upon conviction, be sentenced to pay a fine not exceeding \$300.00 for each offense or shall be assigned to an adjudication alternative program.

E. For any child who has attained the age of 13 years who fails to pay the fine or to comply with the adjudication alternative program, the district justice may allege the child to be dependent under 42 PA Consolidated Statutes §6303(a)(1). A child who is convicted of violating Section 1333, Pennsylvania School Code of 1949, shall be required to have his/her driving privilege suspended for a period of 90 days by the Department of Transportation. Upon a second or subsequent conviction, the Department must suspend the child's vehicle operating privilege for six months.

PARTICIPATION IN ATHLETICS/ACTIVITIES

If a student is absent from school, they are not permitted to participate in sports, music activities, social events, or other after school functions taking place on the day of the absence.

FIELD TRIPS AND OTHER GROUP ABSENCES

There will be times when classes, clubs, teams, or other groups will be taking field trips, excursions, visits to other schools, or representing Abington in competition. Such trips will be arranged by the teacher, sponsor, coach, or faculty representative in charge with the approval of the principal.

Transportation will be provided by the school bus or commercial transportation, and you will travel with the groups unless there are special arrangements made in advance due to some specific reasons.

Since you will be representing Abington, it is expected that you will dress appropriately for the occasion and will conduct yourself in a manner above criticism. Appropriate dress will be determined by the sponsor.

Written parent permission is required prior to the trip except for teams or other groups who are designated as such and whose names are listed and in the hands of teachers before the season or series of trips. No permission slips will be required for students being bused to activities to other Abington schools or fields, but parents will be notified of the visit.

The Abington Board of School Directors has adopted a policy prohibiting any commercial tour to use the name of, or claim sponsorship by, the school district. That policy also prohibits any staff member from publicizing a commercial travel tour during the school day or soliciting students for participation in such activities.

MAKING UP WORK MISSED DUE TO ABSENCE

Students are responsible for making up any work missed due to absences. Students who miss work on a prolonged or recurring basis shall be responsible for providing a medical excuse when the nurse and the assigned assistant principal feel that the absences have been excessive. A "W" grade will be issued in medical cases and held over until the teacher indicates that the student has had sufficient time to make up the work.

When a "W" grade is received on a report card, action shall be taken to make up the missed work within three weeks after the conclusion of the report period. If the "W" grade is not made up within this period, it will be replaced automatically with a failing grade.

It is the student's responsibility to inform the teachers or counselor in those cases where work has been missed and cannot be made up for valid reasons. Arrangements to respond to these circumstances will be made on a case by case basis.

The request for homework assignments is submitted to teachers through the office of the assigned counselor. One day is required for processing requests for homework assignments of more than two days duration.

TARDINESS/LATENESS

An important habit which must be learned is the habit of being punctual and keeping appointments. Ample time is allowed for you to arrive to your first class and to pass between classes. You are to report to your first period class by 8:00. If you arrive to class after 8:00 without a pass, you will be considered late and may receive disciplinary consequences. You should be aware of the following regulations which cover instances of lateness:

To school in the morning.

- If you are tardy to school and arrive after 8:00 a.m., you must report to the Attendance Office in the administrative wing of the building with a note from your parents. If the tardiness is excusable, you will be admitted to your classes. If you fail to bring an excuse note or if the tardiness is not excusable, you will be admitted to your classes, but an administrative detention may be assigned.
- If you fail to bring an excuse note or if the lateness is not excusable, you will be admitted to your classes. However, habitual unexcused lateness will be considered as habitual truancy and will result in the development of a Student Attendance Improvement Plan (S.A.I.P).
- If students are late due to the arrival of an Abington school bus, the lateness will be excused. The late bus arrivals will be communicated to teachers, and students should report to the attendance secretary depending upon the time of your arrival.

To class during the day

- Adequate passing time is allowed for students to pass between classes provided they move along in a business like way and do not loiter in the halls or block stairways. If a problem develops regarding lateness to class, an attempt should be made first with the teachers concerned to resolve the problem.

- If a teacher detains students, as an individual or as a class, and students feel that they will not be able to get to their next class in time, they should request a student pass to the next teacher. Failure to secure a pass may result in consequences.

EARLY DISMISSAL

There may be times when it is necessary for students to request an early dismissal from school; however, such instances are rare. Doctor and dental appointments should be arranged after school hours when at all possible. When it is necessary to leave school, students must present a written request, signed by a parent, to the attendance secretary in the Records Room by 8:00 a.m. on the day they wish to be excused.

For an early dismissal for a medical appointment, a request should include physician's name, address, phone number, and time of appointment.

Students who return from an early dismissal before the end of the day are expected to check in through the attendance secretary in the Records Room.

If students become ill during the day, they should ask for a student pass from the current teacher. Then, they should go to the health suite to see the nurse. After an examination by the nurse, a decision will be made whether or not the student is to be excused to go home and will make the proper arrangements, which includes contacting the parents.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS/WITHDRAWAL FROM SCHOOL

If a student's family moves to another address within the Abington School District, a parent must bring proof of residency to the Records Office to change registration information. Call the Records Office for information.

If a student's family moves from the Abington School District, or if for some other reason a student wishes to withdraw from Abington Middle School, the parent must withdraw the student by contacting the Records Office and provide the address of the new home and school. All obligations, such as the return of school-issued laptops and textbooks, must be met before a transcript will be forwarded to another school.

LIBRARY SERVICES

The Library currently subscribes to numerous database packages such as ABC-Clío, ProQuest, Power Library, and World Book. The Library also subscribes to NoodleTools, which offers students a streamlined and organized system for creating Works Cited Pages, annotations, notecards, and outlines.

DIGITAL RESOURCES

AMS Library uses the Destiny platform for its circulation program and online catalog. The Library has a collection of over two hundred eBooks and audiobooks accessible through our Library Catalog, Destiny Discover. The Library also has a handful of Lightbox titles in the collection, which are interactive eBooks that are accompanied by a corresponding print book. Destiny Discover also offers Destiny Collections, which are packages of curated information from a variety of sources such as books, database articles, and websites. All of the digital resources are available to students outside of the building using ClassLink. Links to these digital tools may also be found on the AMS Google site under the Research tab.

In addition to Destiny, the AMS Library subscribes to MackinVIA and Overdrive (Sora). MackinVIA and Overdrive (Sora) offers students access to over two thousand eBooks and audiobooks. Students can access MackinVIA and Overdrive (Sora) through ClassLink both at school and from home. MackinVIA, Overdrive (Sora), and Destiny Discover offer an app that students can download onto their devices to make reading and listening to digital books easier.

LIBRARY VISITATION, USE, AND BOOK BORROWING

Students may visit the library at various times to work on projects or to borrow materials. During the day, a pass signed by a teacher is required to visit the Library. After school, students may come to the library with a pass from a teacher, and should report to the library by 3:15 pm to be admitted. Student IDs are required to enter the Library at all times.



PHYSICAL EXAMINATIONS

Examinations are required by law upon original entry into school and in the sixth and eleventh grades. Reports of these examinations are due at the opening of school in September.

A test for tuberculosis is required on original entry and in other grades upon the direction of the Pennsylvania Department of Health. A special examination may be required at any time. Parents unable to have examinations completed to secure medical care should contact the school nurse for assistance.

Temporary or permanent health problems should be reported to the school. The school will report to the parents in writing or by phone any deviations from normal health that are discovered or suspected in school.

IMMUNIZATIONS

Pennsylvania Department of Health regulations require that all students attending school must be fully immunized. Students who are not fully immunized will be prevented from entering school. The only exceptions to these regulations are those students for whom immunization is not medically advisable or those for whom immunization is contrary to religious or moral convictions.

HEALTH CONFERENCES

Students in all grades are screened for vision, height, and weight. Students in Seventh grade also receive hearing screenings, while eighth graders have their blood pressure checked. Students in all grades are screened for scoliosis. Written reports of any findings that deviate from the norm are sent home to the parent. Parents are asked to contact the nurse by note or by phone after the student has been evaluated by a doctor.



FIRST AID & EMERGENCY CARDS

No care will be given in school beyond first aid in accidents and illness under written orders of the school physician. Emergency cards with written authorization for further care and names of physicians and other persons to be called in an emergency are on file in each school. Parents are requested to arrange necessary transportation when a student needs to go home, to the family doctor, or to the hospital. The school will immediately summon a physician (the family physician if possible) or an ambulance in cases of serious emergency.

Students may not leave the school for health reasons without prior authorization of the principal, designee or health service staff.

MEDICATION POLICY

SUPERINTENDENT'S ADMINISTRATIVE PROCEDURE

Medication Use by Students:

Medication(s) should be given at home before and/or after school. However, when this is not possible, prior to medication being administered to a student during the school day, the parent/guardian or responsible adult must personally deliver to the school nurse the following:

1. Written orders from a qualified health care provider giving the child's diagnosis and the dosage and frequency of its administration for each prescribed medication.
2. Written permission from the parent/guardian for the school to comply with the qualified health care provider's order.
3. An explanation of the reason the medication(s) must be taken during school hours.
4. Medication in its original container properly labeled by the pharmacy or qualified health care provider or the over-the-counter medication in its original container as purchased.

School personnel may only administer medication prescribed by a qualified health care provider.

RULES FOR THE HEALTH SUITE

Students must obtain a pass from a teacher in order to visit the health suite during school hours. When passing between classes, students should report to the next class before going to the health suite. This applies except for emergency situations. The Health Suite will contact parents/guardians regarding illnesses or concerns during the school day. Students should not call or text parents/guardians for an early dismissal.

STUDENT ACCIDENT MEDICAL INSURANCE

Parents and guardians have the option to purchase private Student Accident Medical Insurance. This opportunity for student accident medical insurance is available to all Abington School District students. Please inquire with the Business Office at 215-881-2541 to obtain a brochure regarding the available coverage and enrollment/purchase information.

MEDICAL EXCUSES REQUIRED

All students restricted from school activities, including physical education, must present a note from a physician describing the condition and advising the length of restriction. All excuses must be renewed at the opening of school each year. If out of gym, students may not participate in sports.

CONTROLLING COMMUNICABLE DISEASES

The list below indicates the time period which students should remain home from school when having contracted any of the following communicable diseases:

CHICKENPOX: Six days from appearance of rash

IMPETIGO: Until judged non-infective by school nurse or child's physician

PEDICULOSIS (LICE): Until judged non-infective by school nurse or child's physician. Proof of treatment must be brought to the nurse upon return (i.e. the package the treatment came in).

ACUTE CONJUNCTIVITIS (PINK EYE): 24 hours from the start of appropriate therapy.

RESPIRATORY STREPTOCOCCAL INFECTIONS (INCLUDING SCARLET FEVER AND TONSILLITIS): Not less than 7 days from the onset or 24 hours from the start of appropriate therapy.

RINGWORM (ALL TYPES): Until judged non-infective by school nurse or child's physician.

SCABIES: Until judged non-infective by school nurse or child's physician.

Students returning to school after recovery from any of the above diseases should present a note from the attending physician. Students excluded because of suspicion of a disease requiring isolation may be readmitted if a physician certifies that they are not suffering from the disease.

Information and resources regarding COVID-19 can be found in the Coronavirus Resource Center on the Abington School District Website at:

<https://www.abington.k12.pa.us/coronavirus-resource-center/>

Information related to county-wide disease control and general public health can be found at the Montgomery County Department of Public Health Website at:

<https://www.montcopa.org/513/Public-Health>

ATHLETIC PROGRAM



INTERSCHOLASTIC ATHLETICS

The Interscholastic Athletic Program offers competitive play with other schools for students in grades seven and eight. Team members are selected for participation. For additional PIAA information and student athletic program policies, please contact one of the athletic directors or ask individual coaches for the Abington Middle School's School Athlete's Handbook. Seventh and eighth, grade students may participate in the following sports programs:

FALL SPORTS	
7th Grade	8th Grade
Soccer	Soccer
Field Hockey	Field Hockey
Middle School Football	Middle School Football
Tennis (Girls)	Tennis (Girls)
Volleyball (Girls)	Volleyball (Girls)

WINTER SPORTS

7th Grade

8th Grade

Basketball

Basketball

Wrestling

Wrestling

Cheer

Cheer

SPRING SPORTS

Baseball

Baseball

Softball

Softball

Track

Track

Lacrosse

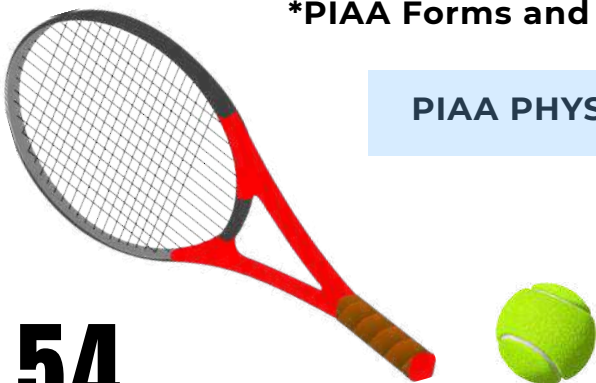
Lacrosse

Tennis (Boys)

Tennis (Boys)

***PIAA Forms and information can be accessed at:**

PIAA PHYSICAL FORMS AND INFO



TEAM EXPECTATIONS

- Student athletes are not permitted to attend practices or contests if they are absent from school on that day.
- If it is necessary to miss team time (practice or contest), the student athlete must personally contact the coach with the reason for the team absence. Team absences may result in limited or no playing time for the next contest.
- Student athletes should be on time to practice (times to be determined by coaches).
- A positive attitude and good sportsmanship should be exhibited at all times (this includes during bus trips and interaction with opposing teams).
- Uniforms and equipment should be worn and used properly.
- Disciplinary consequences such as detentions and suspensions may impact team participation.

Failure to adhere to any of these expectations may result in dismissal from an athletic team, pending Administrative review.

ACADEMIC REQUIREMENTS

Each week of every sports season, an athletic eligibility report is generated. Students failing any class with less than a 60% are ineligible to participate in practices or contests for a period of one week. Students failing a class for the marking period are ineligible for a period of 15 school days.

HAZING

Any hazing activity, whether by an individual or a group, shall be presumed to be a forced activity, even if a student willingly participates. Any form of hazing that is a part of a school-sponsored activity is prohibited. No student, coach, sponsor, volunteer, District employee, administrator, representative, agent, or contractor shall plan, direct, encourage, assist, engage in, tolerate, condone, ignore, or fail to properly report or investigate any known or reported instances of any hazing activity. Students who have been subjected to hazing are

encouraged to promptly report such incidents in accordance with the accompanying Superintendent's Administrative Procedure. Students, administrators, coaches, sponsors, volunteers, District employees, representatives, agents, and contactors shall be alert to incidents of hazing and shall promptly report such conduct in accordance with the accompanying Superintendent's Administrative Procedure. The Superintendent or designee will promptly investigate all complaints.

6TH GRADE INTRAMURAL SPORTS

These activities are primarily designed for students in sixth grade. Opportunities for involvement in intramurals will be shared at the beginning of each season (fall, winter, spring). The athletic opportunities will vary each season and year.

SPORTS & ACTIVITIES COMMUNICATIONS

Daily announcements keep students informed of specific details regarding participation in activities. Information is also regularly placed on the Middle School webpage. All athletic activities are supervised by Abington School Board approved adults and are monitored by the School District Athletic Director, Abington Middle School Assistant Athletic Director and Administration.

FUNDRAISING (ALL SPORTS AND ACTIVITIES)

The Board of School Directors policy specifies that students may not sell or solicit door-to-door for funds to support clubs or organizations operating within the school. **Students must not sell anything during the school day.** All fundraising activities must be approved by the building principal or his/her designee. Fundraising activities should reflect club/team/group organizational goals.

STUDENT ACTIVITIES & CLUBS

Students have the opportunity to participate in a variety of extracurricular activities/clubs. Students and parents should note that the sponsors of

individual clubs/activities may indicate specific grade and/or behavior criteria for all prospective members for participation. Most activities are open to all students. For more information, view the Activities tab on the Abington Middle School website at:

AMS ACTIVITIES WEBPAGE

If a group of students wishes to organize a new club, the group should:

- Have ten or more interested students,
- Find a faculty sponsor,
- Present a proposal to the Student Council and Middle School Principal,
- Be approved by a two-thirds vote of the Student Council and approved by the Principal.

SCHOOL SOCIAL ACTIVITIES

Various recognized organizations sponsor student functions during the school year. The following are rules associated with these activities:

- Except where noted with special procedures for identification, all school social activities are “closed” affairs. To attend, students must be enrolled in Abington Middle School. Students should have their IDs to participate in an activity. Other events are specific to a grade level (ex. - 8th Grade Dance is open only to AMS 8th grade students.)
- Dress should be appropriate to the occasion.
- Any serious infraction of good behavior at a school social function such as drinking, smoking, profanity, vulgarity, and so on, will result in suspension from school of the individual offenders.

AFTER SCHOOL ACADEMIC SUPPORT

AMS students may take advantage of academic support opportunities held before and after school. Referrals to these programs may come from teachers, guidance counselors, or requests from parents. Parents should speak with teachers or guidance counselors to arrange for participation. For additional information and program policies, please contact the faculty sponsor of the program or organization.

TRANSPORTATION

BUS TRANSPORTATION

Transportation is provided for students residing one and a half miles or more from the school unless, in the opinion of proper authorities, a major traffic hazard exists along the route traveled by the student.

The student identification card will serve as the daily, official bus pass for those who are eligible for bus transportation. The ID card/bus pass must be displayed to gain admittance to the 3:00 p.m., 4:15 p.m., or 5:15 p.m. bus. Sports and Activity buses leave at 4:15 p.m. and 5:15 p.m. Students who misbehave on the bus will be asked to surrender their pass to the driver and will be subject to disciplinary action.

Students who lose their identification card may obtain a one day temporary pass in the office prior to 2:30 p.m. or after 3:30 p.m. Temporary passes will be limited to three issuances per school year. After that time, a charge of \$8.00 will be made for a replacement card.



ACTIVITY AND SPORTS BUSES

The 4:15 PM activity buses and the 5:15 PM sports buses are provided to transport students who are required to stay beyond the regular dismissal time because they are participating in a school-related activity (athletics, supervised clubs/activities).

These buses will not transport students who elect to stay on campus for their own personal reasons. Their transportation is the responsibility of their parents. Students must have the appropriate sports sticker on their ID or activity ticket to ride these buses. Students who are waiting for the 4:15 p.m. activity buses to depart are expected to wait behind the yellow line on the bus loading platform. Students who voluntarily leave school property or a school-sponsored activity will not be permitted to return and ride the buses home.

The 4:15 p.m. and 5:15 p.m. activity and sports bus trips depart from the commons bus circle.

TRANSPORTATION REGULATIONS

Riding the bus is a privilege. These rules help ensure safe bus transportation for students and bus drivers.

It is expected that reasonable behavior will be observed during the time students are riding school buses. Infractions which jeopardize the safety of the bus and of the other students will not be permitted. It is the duty of the bus driver to report to the aide or administrator on bus duty any instances of student misbehavior on the buses. From this point, the information will be turned over to the assistant principal for further action. There are times when some students engage in behavior that constitutes a danger to themselves and others.

Students who violate these safety regulations may be excluded from riding the bus. In those instances, the administrative staff is prepared to revoke transportation privileges for a period of one to ten days. Revocation of transportation for more than ten days will be recommended by the Office of the Superintendent at an appropriate hearing before the Board of School Directors. Parents are responsible for transporting their child to and from

school if the child has been excluded from bus transportation.

The school district has installed video surveillance equipment on buses to assist drivers in monitoring behavior. When appropriate, the district will use video material in disciplinary cases arising from unacceptable bus behavior. All Abington School District Board Policies and Pennsylvania Department of Transportation regulations will be enforced. The following regulations will be enforced/observed:

1. Students will not be permitted to get on or off the bus anywhere other than their assigned stops unless they have obtained permission from the transportation department or proper school authority. (For example, a student may not ride another bus home to go to a friend's house.)
2. The school bus driver is in charge of the students while they are riding the bus. The driver will assign seats when required. Students will follow the direction of the driver.
3. The school bus driver will not allow book bags, band instruments or any objects to be placed in aisles or areas near exits. Items of this nature must be held on the student's lap.
4. The use of tobacco, electronic vaping devices, alcoholic beverages or controlled substances while on the school bus is prohibited. Lighted matches, electronic, or open flames are not permitted.
5. Trash is not to be thrown in or around the bus, nor are any articles to be thrown out of the bus windows. Throwing objects (snowballs) at the school bus from the outside is not permitted.
6. Fighting and physical contact are not permitted.
7. Students must take a seat as soon as they board the bus. They must not leave their seat while the bus is moving. They must face the front of the bus at all times and stay seated until it stops. Standing and pushing are not permitted. Extremities must be kept inside the school bus at all times.
8. Use of profanity or the verbal abuse of other students or the bus driver will not be permitted. Students must speak at moderate levels. Excessive noise will not be allowed. Quiet is required when the bus approaches a railroad crossing.
9. Live animals, glass containers, firearms, weapons of any kind, explosives, or any objectionable items will not be permitted on the bus.
10. Acts of vandalism or willful destruction to the school bus are prohibited.
11. Students will be responsible for repair costs of all damages.
12. Students are to ride on their assigned bus and must produce an I.D. card when requested.

13. Students are not permitted to run after or hang onto the buses
14. Students are expected to be at their assigned bus stop ten minutes prior to scheduled pickup.

OTHER TIPS ON HOW TO BE A GOOD BUS RIDER...

- Be considerate of private property. Stay off of the lawns of homes near the bus stop.
- Stay off of the road while waiting for your bus.
- Wait until the bus comes to a complete stop before trying to get aboard or approach your bus.
- Do not push or crowd when getting on the bus.
- If you are late, never run after a moving bus.
- Share your seat with others. If the bus is filled, ride three to a seat.
- Always cross the street in front of the bus where the driver can see you.
- Stay a safe distance away from the side of the bus.

PARENT TRANSPORTATION OF STUDENTS

If parents drive students to school either regularly or occasionally, they are requested to drop students off in the Little Theatre parking lot. This will protect both students and cars and will avoid congestion during periods just before and after school.

BICYCLES

Students may ride bicycles to school if they wish; however, students should keep them locked during the day and use the racks provided. Racks are located by the administrative office. Students should know and obey all traffic laws. These are the same laws that govern the operator of an automobile under the Pennsylvania Motor Vehicle Code.

STUDENT PRESENCE ON SCHOOL PROPERTY

Once students arrive on school property, they may not leave the grounds without prior request from a parent or guardian and approval by the office. Students who leave at dismissal may not return to school to ride the late buses. Students who stay after school must be under the direct supervision of a teacher or an adult activity sponsor. No students are permitted to stay on school grounds unless they are participating in a school-sponsored event or sport. Unsupervised students on school property may be cited for trespassing.

