**North Bethesda Middle School
Discipline Policy**

The NBMS discipline policy has been developed to help create and maintain an environment in which optimum learning can take place. An effective school discipline policy encourages a positive learning environment and minimizes the potential for disruptive behavior. Discipline focuses on the development of attitudes in students, which lead them to respect the necessity for regulations and the desire to conform to them. The discipline policy is also intended to improve students’ abilities to be responsible citizens at school and in the greater community. School discipline requires the partnership of parents, students, and staff to work together. Students, staff, and the community need to be aware of the school’s expectations for student behavior and the consequences if these expectations are not met. This policy defines the students’ rights and responsibilities.

Every student at North Bethesda Middle School has three basic rights:

* The right to be safe
* The right to feel safe
* The right to learn

To ensure that all students enjoy these rights, each student must expect the best of oneself, challenge his/her mind, accept responsibility for his/her actions, and respect all staff, peers, and the environment.

**General Disciplinary Infractions.** General disciplinary infractions are divided into four categories of behavior:

1. Behavior that will physically hurt anyone, including self, such as fighting, pushing, shoving, running in the school halls, throwing objects, carrying dangerous objects, and inappropriately using materials or equipment
2. Behaviors that hurt another person’s feelings (psychological hurt) including: name calling, putdowns, intimidation, group isolation, sexual harassment, and other behaviors that are designed to devalue or hurt another person
3. Behavior that damages, destroys, or causes the loss of personal or school property including the following examples: the irresponsible use of instructional materials (as well as use of computers and the Internet), theft, malicious destruction or defacement, and manipulating locks or lockers other than your own
4. Behavior that interrupts the instructional program, including: failure to bring the necessary materials for class such as books, paper, pen/pencils, and the P.E. uniform; bullying, clowning, excessive attention-getting and off-task behaviors, flagrant tardiness, speech that contains profanity or obscenities, play fighting, or inciting a fight.

At all times, cooperative and appropriate behavior is expected in both classroom and non-classroom activities such as assemblies, athletic events, cafeteria, and other activities. The following procedures are typically followed when inappropriate behavior is observed:

* Student’s first behavioral problem in the classroom results in a teacher-student conference.
* A second minor incident may result in a teacher-student conference, followed by a second consequence such as a before school, lunch, or after-school detention. Teachers will notify parents whenever students are retained after school. Teachers will document inappropriate behaviors in writing and when necessary notify other staff members. A conference with the counselor may be scheduled.
* Serious or repeated behavior problems will be referred to an administrator. Written documentation and/or a student referral form will accompany students who are sent to the office. The administrator will determine consequences, which could include lunch detention, after-school detention, and in or out of school suspension. The administrator will notify parents by telephone, and a parent conference may be necessary. The teacher will be notified of the action taken.
* When in-school alternatives are not successful, a conference will be arranged that usually involve the student, parents, counselor, and a school administrator. During the conference, parents will be made aware of the resources available through the school system as well as outside agencies that might be called upon for assistance. Specific infractions and the assigned consequences for each infraction follow. *The MCPS Student Rights and Responsibilities* and the *MCPS Policies and Regulations Handbook* will be enforced before, during, and after school, and during all school-related activities.

**Sexual Harassment And Bullying Policy: NBMS has zero tolerance for sexual harassment and bullying.**

* Sexual harassment is repeated unwelcome behavior of a sexual nature, requests for sexual activities, and/or other inappropriate verbal, written, or physical conduct of a sexual nature. Examples of these behaviors include inappropriate touching, grabbing, pinching, displaying of sexual pictures/objects, spreading rumors of a sexual nature, or commenting about sexual behavior.
* Bullying is intentional verbal, physical, or written conduct that creates a hostile environment and substantially interferes with educational benefits, opportunities, or performance, or with a student’s physical or psychological well-being and is motivated by an actual or perceived personal characteristic, or is threatening or seriously intimidating. The minimum consequence for sexual harassment and bullying is an administrative detention.

**Parents will be notified about student administrative detentions, suspensions, and as expulsion requests.**

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| **Infraction** | **Description** | **Consequences May Include:** |
| Academic dishonesty, cheating, plagiarism | Taking and using another’s findings, interpretations, or texts and presenting them as one’s own without proper attribution. Using another’s work or answers. Unauthorized use of notes or study guides during testing. | Zero for task, parent notification, administrative detention |
| Cell phones/ electronic devices, other items | Possession and/or use during the instructional school day of devices including, but not limited to cell phones, iPods, CD players, radios, electronic games, toys, iPads, etc. | Confiscation of device, parent notification, return to parent, Detention |
| Bomb threats/ possession | False information or possession of explosives, destructive substances or bomb facsimiles. | Suspension with recommendation for expulsion, expulsion, police notification |
| Bullying | Unwelcome statements, harmful gossip and rumors, verbal, written, or physical threats that create a hostile environment. | Administrative intervention, parent notification, suspension |
| Bus misbehavior | Inappropriate behavior at the bus stop, riding, or unloading the bus. | Administrative intervention, parent notification, bus suspension |
| Class cutting | Failure to report to class or assigned area. | Detention, In-School Intervention |
| Computer abuse | Inappropriate use of computer facilities. | Loss of computer network use, parent notification, administrative detention |
| Weapons | Carrying or storing, possessing firearms, knives, or any other implement which could be used in a lethal way (to self or others). Toy or look-alike weapons are included in this policy. | Parent notification, conference, expulsion with police notification |
| Disruptive behavior | Any behavior that interferes with the education or safety of others, or distracts or disrupts. | Staff intervention, parent notification, suspension |
| Dress and grooming | Any style of dress or grooming that causes a distraction or disruption of school activities, endangers health or safety, is associated with weapons, is sexual, or promotes the use of tobacco, alcohol, drugs, or weapons. | Staff intervention, parent notification, change of clothing, administrative detention |
| Extortion | Any act or attempt to secure money, property, or other gain through threat or physical harm. | Administrative detention, parent conference, suspension |
| Failure to report to detention | Failure to serve assigned detention. | Detention is doubled, parent notification, administrative detention |
| False fire alarm | Vandalism/activation of the fire alarm. | Suspension, Fire Marshal notification, suspension, police notification |
| False official statement | False accusation, written or spoken. | Administrative referral, parent notification, administrative detention |
| Fighting | Students pushing, shoving, or hitting others, including “play” fighting. | Detention, suspension |
| Forgery | Producing counterfeit documents, including but not limited to, parent’s signature on any document for school. | Staff intervention, parent notification, administrative detention |

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| Gambling | Betting, wagering, or gambling on any game, including, but not limited to, cards. | Parent notification, confiscation, administrative detention |
| Gum chewing | Chewing gum in the school building. | Staff intervention, administrative Detention |
| Harassment | Persistent and unwelcome verbal, written, or physical statements or threats. | Administrative detention, suspension |
| Hazardous materials | Any dangerous or incendiary devices, including, but not limited to, mercury, fireworks, smoke bombs, matches, lighters, snappers. | Suspension, police notification, expulsion, police notification |
| Horseplay | Rough or boisterous actions. | Staff intervention, administrative detention |
| Insubordi-nation | Refusing to carry out a reasonable request of a staff member, or to give one’s name when requested. | Staff intervention, administrative detention |
| Intimidation, physical/ verbal threats | Provoking fear in another. | Detention, parent notification, suspension |
| Intoxicants, distributing | Passing or selling alcohol, illegal drugs, or medication. | Suspension with expulsion request, police notification, expulsion, police notification |
| Intoxicants, possession or use | Possession of any alcohol, illegal drugs, medication. | Suspension, police notification |
| Leaving school, unauthorized | Leaving school grounds without express permission. | Administrative referral, administrative detention |
| Locker infractions | Sharing a locker, tampering with or entering any locker other than one’s own assigned locker. | Staff intervention, administrative referral, administrative detention |
| Over-the-counter drugs | Use of OTC drugs during school without health room supervision. | Parent notification, administrative detention |
| Physical attack | Physical assault of a staff member or student with intent to do bodily harm, on school grounds or in conjunction with any school-related activity. | Detention, suspension, police referral |
| Profanity, obscenity | Using profane, obscene, or vulgar language, drawings, gestures, etc. | Staff intervention, detention, suspension |
| Public display of affection (PDA) | Kissing, holding hands, embracing.  | Staff/counselor intervention, administrative detention |
| Sexual harassment | Repeated unwelcome sexual advances, request for sexual favors, and/or any other inappropriate verbal, written, or physical conduct of a sexual nature. | Administrative detention, suspension |
| Sexual offenses | Physical sexual attacks, inappropriate behavior of a sexual nature, including but not limited to, indecent exposure, consensual sexual, any activity not identified as sexual harassment. | Suspension, police notification,expulsion, police notification |
| Smoking | Smoking, possession or use of any tobacco substance on school grounds or in conjunction with a school related activity. | Administrative detention, suspension, police notification |
| Tardiness | Arriving to school, class, or detention, after the assigned time. | Staff intervention, administrative detention |
| Theft/ burglary | Taking or possession of something that belongs to another. | Administrative detention, restitution,suspension, police referral,  |
| Truancy | Illegal absence from school. | Staff intervention, administrative detention, referral to Pupil Personnel Worker |
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| **Infraction** | **Description** | **Consequences May Include:** |
| Vandalism/ graffiti | Destruction or defacement of school property; writing or drawing on anything that belongs to another. | Detention, restitution, community service, suspension, police notification |
| Verbal abuse | Insulting or verbally abusing another; racial, ethnic, gender, and religious slurs are included in this policy. | Administrative detention, suspension, police Referral |

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| **MCPS Countywide Violations Non-Discretionary Expellable Offenses\***from *A Student’s Guide to Rights and Responsibility in Montgomery County Public Schools* |
| **Infraction** | **Minimum** | **Maximum** | **Additional References** |
| Bomb or Facsimile Possession or Bomb Threats | Suspension with recommendation for expulsion, police referral | Expulsion, police referral | Reg. EKC-RA, *Bomb Threats/ Explosive Devices on MCPS Property* |
| Distribution of Intoxicants | Suspension with recommendation for expulsion, police referral | Expulsion, police referral | Reg. COF-RA, *Intoxicants on MCPS Property* |
| Firearms | Suspension with recommendation for expulsion, police referral | Expulsion, police referral | Reg. COE-RA, *Weapons on MCPS Property* |
| Violent Physical Attack on a Staff Member | Suspension with recommendation for expulsion, police referral | Expulsion, police referral | Reg. JFA-RA, *Student Rights and Responsibilities* |
| Weapons Used to Cause Bodily Harm/Injury | Suspension with recommendation for expulsion, police referral | Expulsion, police referral | Reg. COE-RA, *Weapons on MCPS Property* |