

Goshen Middle School

Handbook

2025-2026



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Principal

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Assistant Principal

Goshen Middle School
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Goshen School District Vision

The vision of Goshen Local school District is to be a district of excellence where students achieve their fullest potential through:

- Highest Quality instruction that ensures all students are career and college ready,
- A state of the art learning environment employing technology and resources to support critical thinking, creativity, and problem solving connected to the community and the real world,
- Strong accountability systems to ensure that we meet the needs of each student.

Goshen School District Mission

The Mission of Goshen Local Schools is to ensure that all students perform at continuously higher levels.

Board of Education Members

Mrs. Deborah Gray, President; Mr. Bill Herrera, Vice President;
Mrs. Melissa Paprocki, Member; Mrs. Lisa Wernke, Member; Mr. Corey West, Member

Central Office Administration

Mr. Brian Bailey, Superintendent; Mrs. Theresa Scherzinger, Assistant Superintendent;
Mr. Tom Turner, Director of Student Services; Mr. Troy Smith, Director of Operations;
Mr. Todd Shinkle, Treasurer; Mr. Mark Slagle, Technology Director;
Mr. Pat Dubbs, Director of College & Career Readiness

School Administrators

Marr/Cook Elementary

Mrs. Chalee Stevens - Principal

Mrs. Amber Huber - Assistant Principal

(513) 722-2224

Spaulding Elementary

Ms. Ashley Andrews - Principal

Ms. Jen Schlosser - Assistant Principal

(513) 722-2225

Goshen High School

Mrs. Stephanie Walker - Principal

Ms. Randi Isaacs-Epstein - Assistant Principal

Mr. Chuck Boothby - Ascend Academy Director

(513) 722-2227

Transportation Department

Mr. Dan Harmon - Supervisor

(513) 722-2229

Petermann Services

Goshen Local Schools Website

www.goshenlocalschools.org

Please note:

Policies revised by the board supersede provisions in this handbook; this handbook includes several references to board policy codes. Students and parents can review the most current board policies online. <https://go.boarddocs.com/oh/goshenlocal/Board.nsf/Public?open&id=policies>



LOGIN INFORMATION

_____firstnamelastname@warriors.goshenlocalschools.org

Pro-Core # _____

TENMARKS user name: _____

Password: _____

NEWSELA user name: _____

Password: _____

Edcite user name: _____

Password: _____

DiscoveryED user name: _____

Password: _____

Schoolology user name: _____

Password: _____

_____ user name: _____

Password: _____

_____ user name: _____

Password: _____

_____ user name: _____

Password: _____

_____ user name: _____

Password: _____

MESSAGE FROM THE ADMINISTRATION

Welcome to Goshen Middle School, home of the Warriors. We are looking forward to you becoming a part of our outstanding tradition and continued improvement to achieve full potential for all students. Our success is a direct result of the interaction and cooperation of all students, parents, and faculty.

Work hard in your classes and take advantage of all the extracurricular activities that interest you. Participation in all aspects of Goshen Middle School life will give you a richer school experience.

In this school agenda, you will find detailed information about the policies, rules, regulations and procedures which govern our day-to-day operations. Please review this information carefully. If you have any questions, please feel free to ask.

GREETINGS FROM THE FACULTY

We, the faculty, would like to welcome each of you to another school year. We will do everything in our power to help make it a successful one, but we expect you to do your part. We are available for you through e-mail, telephone, or conference time. We have planning times during which we meet with parents and students. Because we have high expectations for our students, we set high standards. Please do not be satisfied with less than your best in every subject. Let's make a strong commitment to excellence this year! We believe that teachers, students, parents, staff, administrators, and other members of the Goshen family must present a unified team effort to educate literate, problem solving, productive members of our society.

APPOINTMENTS WITH ADMINISTRATION

Building Administration is always available to meet with parents when necessary. It is important to call 24 hours in advance and arrange an appointment time to ensure availability of a building administrator. Appointments can be scheduled with a building secretary.

NON-DISCRIMINATION

The Board is committed to an environment in which all individuals, including students, staff, job applicants, the general public and individuals with whom it does business, are treated with dignity and respect. The Board prohibits discrimination based on race, color, national origin, ancestry, citizenship status, religion, sex, economic status, age, disability, military status or legally acquired genetic information.

TITLE IX

For Title IX concerns/complaints, contact the Title IX coordinator.

Responsibilities: Coordinates the school's compliance with Title IX and ensures that the school responds appropriately, effectively, and equitably to Title IX issues, including sex- and gender-based harassment and discrimination, which includes sexual misconduct and sexual harassment.

The Board designates the following individual to serve as the District's Title IX Coordinator:

Theresa Scherzinger

Assistant Superintendent

6694 Goshen Road, Goshen, Ohio 45122

scherzingert@goshenlocalschools.org

513-722-2222

Any person may report sex discrimination, including sexual harassment, at any time, including during non-business hours. Such a report may be made in person, by mail, by telephone or by electronic mail, using the contact information listed for the Title IX compliance officer, or by any other means that results in the Title IX compliance office receiving the person's verbal or written report.

GOSHEN MIDDLE SCHOOL A COMMUNITY BASED ON GROWTH MINDSET, **MOTIVATION** & **SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY (GMS)**

G is for **GROWTH MINDSET**

1. Our community will be empowered by having a growth mindset.
2. We can achieve our goals in academics, athletics, after school clubs and many other opportunities.
In our community we will tackle challenges, take risks, and make mistakes creating a focus on making growth through life long learning.

M is for **MOTIVATION**

By maintaining a positive learning environment of respect and value, we provide the opportunity for community members to achieve their goals. Motivation is the desire to engage in learning and the process of focusing attention and energy on meeting both short term and long term goals. Therefore motivation is stimulated most directly through modeling, communication of expectations, and direct instruction or socialization by community members.

S is for **SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY**

Our community will be motivated through healthy relationships between teachers, staff, peers and parents. We will be active participants in creating a safe environment that will allow everyone to learn and thrive. We will demonstrate social responsibility by respecting others, respecting ourselves and respecting our school.

Character Traits of GMS

Growth Mindset	Motivation	Social Responsibility
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Love of learning• Creativity• Curiosity• Judgment• Perspective• Leadership• Perseverance• Bravery	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Teamwork• Gratitude• Sense of Meaning• Forgiveness• Humility• Prudence• Zest• Humor	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Kindness• Fairness• Love• Honesty• Social Intelligence• App. of Beauty• Gratitude• Self Control

STUDENT ATTENDANCE POLICY

School Hours 7:20-2:20

Parents are asked to call Goshen Middle School's office (722-2226) by 8:30 a.m. and report a child's absence each day the student is unable to attend school. This enables us to comply with the Ohio Revised Code in reference to missing and absent children. Following the absence, parents will need to send in a parent or doctor note or email the building's attendance secretary with reason for the absence as required by law.

Goshen Local Schools uses School Messenger as our automated attendance call system. This system automatically calls parents to inform them that their child was reported absent at school by their teacher. These calls are designed to serve as a reminder to those that may have forgotten to call our attendance line to report an absent child. The automated attendance call will go out at approximately 9:00 each day. You may still receive a call through the system even if you have already called the school building.

Please Note: For the 2025-2026 school year, Ohio law requires schools to count absences by hours rather than days. 1 school day = 6.5 hours

The responsibility of regular attendance at school rests with the parent. Irregular attendance is the major reason for poor schoolwork. Unexcused absences will be subject to the Board Adopted Policy JED.

Reasons for which students may be medically excused include, but are not limited to:

1. personal illness of the student;
2. illness in the student's family necessitating the presence of the child;
3. quarantine for contagious disease or
4. emergency or other set of circumstances which constitutes a good and sufficient cause for absence from school, which may include but not be limited to absences due to documented medical, behavioral or dental appointments.

Reasons for which students may be non medically excused include, but are not limited to:

1. death in the family (applies to absences of up to 18 school hours unless a reasonable cause may be shown for a longer absence);
2. observation of religious holidays consistent with the truly held religious beliefs of the student or the student's family;
3. traveling out of state to attend a Board-approved enrichment activity or extracurricular activity (applies to absences of up to 24 school hours);
4. absences of a student of a military family for purposes of visiting their parent, legal guardian or custodian who is an active duty member of the uniformed services that has been called to duty for, is on leave from, or immediately returned from deployment to a combat zone or combat support posting;
5. absences due to a student's placement in foster care or change in foster care placement or any court proceedings related to their foster care status;
6. absences due to a student being homeless or
7. as determined by the Superintendent.

Contact with the parent shall be attempted by phone. If no contact is made with the legal guardian, an attendance card will be mailed.

Each student may receive 65 excused hours (10 days) of absence for the school year (5 days per semester) by presenting a note from a parent/guardian within two days upon his/her return to school after an absence.

The note must contain the following information:

1. Dates student was absent from school,
2. Reason for absence.
3. Parent or guardian signature and phone number. A form will be sent home at the beginning of the year. Please use these forms for students' notes.

A physician's note must verify any additional absences beyond the 32.5 hours(5 days) excused by parent/guardian notes. All absences not meeting these criteria will be considered unexcused and will result in a grade of zero being given for work in each class missed. No make-up work will be permitted.

The Board does not believe that students should be excused from school for vacations and other non-emergency trips. The responsibility for such absence resides with the parent(s), and they must not expect any work missed by their child to be retaught by the teacher. If the school is notified in advance of such a trip, reasonable efforts are made to prepare a general list of assignments for the student to do while he/she is absent.

Absences & Truancy- Ohio Law

Excessive Absenteeism:

Parents receive notification if their child is excessively absent.

A student is excessively absent when he/she:

- has missed **38 or more hours in a single month**, excused or unexcused.
- has missed **65 or more hours in one school year**, excused or unexcused

Habitual Truancy:

Parents receive notification if their child is habitually truant.

A student is habitually truant when he/she:

- has missed **30 consecutive unexcused hours of school**
- has missed **42 unexcused hours of school during one month**
- has missed **72 unexcused hours of school during one school year**

Chronic Absenteeism:

- A student is chronically absent when he/she has missed **10% of days (excused and/or unexcused) over the course of one school year.**
- Chronic Absenteeism negatively affects our school's state report card.

A referral will be filed with Juvenile Court when a student has accumulated unexcused absences of 30 or more consecutive hours, 42 or more hours in one month, or 72 or more hours in a school year. In accordance with the Ohio Revised Code and the Goshen Local School District Board of Education policy, you may be asked to attend an absence intervention team meeting, comprised of Goshen Local Schools staff and possibly a representative from the Clermont County Juvenile Court.

RELEASE/EARLY RELEASE

Any student not riding the bus home from school must have a note from a parent/guardian on file in the office. If a student must be picked up from school early, a *parent or guardian* must come to the office and sign the student out. In emergencies where the parent(s) cannot pick the student up, the person or persons listed on the emergency form are the only person(s) who may sign the student out of school. We do request that appointments be made after school hours whenever possible. **No student will be permitted to walk to any other school building without permission and no student is permitted to walk off of the GMS campus.**

PERFECT ATTENDANCE

Many students strive for perfect attendance each school year. They are to be commended for this goal. Sometimes a student must leave early or arrive late to school because of dental or doctor appointments, etc. This has caused some confusion on whether this is still considered perfect attendance, so the following guidelines have been set. A school day is 6.5 hours long therefore any student who does NOT accumulate 6.5 hours or more during the school year will be considered to have perfect attendance.

EXTENDED PERIODS OF ABSENCE

If a student is going to be absent for three days or more, parents must notify the school at least two school days in advance of the absence unless an emergency exists. The school administration will determine whether the absence is excusable.

LEAVING SCHOOL EARLY

If a parent/ guardian foresees the necessity for a student to leave school early, specific reasons must be given. Students are allowed to leave early (or arrive late) six times each semester. Once all six of his/her excuses are used, all other excuses will be considered unexcused regardless of the reason.

SCHOOL TARDY POLICY

Students are expected to be in the building when the tardy bell rings at 7:20. For every 10 (ten) tardies a student accrues, they will be issued a Friday School or similarly appropriate consequence.

CLASS TARDY POLICY

Students are expected to be in their classroom when the bell rings. The consequences for arriving late to class are:

- 1st tardy - Documented warning
- 2nd tardy - Documented warning
- 3rd tardy - Parent contact
- 4th tardy - Lunch detention, parent notification letter mailed
- 5th tardy - Office Referral

The Class Tardy Policy and consequences are implemented each semester.

ATTENDANCE REWARD POLICY

Students must have a 90% attendance rate in order to attend and participate in any school reward.

MAKE UP WORK

Each student who is absent from school must immediately, upon returning to school, make arrangements with his/her teacher(s) to make up work missed. Students will have the same number of days in attendance equal to the number of days absent for the completion of assignments, homework, and tests. Students who are absent from school for reasons not permitted by State law may, or may not, be permitted to make up work. Each case is considered on its merits by the principal and the respective teacher(s). Students who are absent due to out-of-school suspension are permitted to make up missed classroom assignments.

DRESS CODE

Clothing worn to school should be comfortable and appropriate for school activities. Your clothing must not distract from the learning process. You do not have the right to make a fashion statement. Clothing must cover undergarments and excessive bare skin. A jacket which is an integral part of business-type apparel or other clothing normally considered to be street clothing is permissible. Outdoor coats and jackets are not to be worn while in the building. Any clothing determined to be vulgar, offensive, or contrary to the educational mission of the school will not be permitted.

1. Clothing, bookbags, personal property, jewelry, and/or other materials with writing or designs that depict prejudice, unlawful acts, tobacco, drugs, alcohol, or anything illegal are prohibited. Clothing that makes an inappropriate statement for a school setting is not permitted.
2. Clothing that reveals underwear and/or excessive amounts of bare skin is prohibited. All lower body garments must be worn at or above the waist, with a belt if necessary.
3. "Dog Collars," leashes, chains, pocket chains, spikes, large rings, jewelry, or shoes that may be used as weapons or that may present a safety issue, are not allowed on campus.
4. Clothing or other property that displays gang-related symbols, emblems, or other gang identifiers are prohibited.
5. Hats, hoods, or other inappropriate headgear, including sunglasses may not be worn in the building unless required for medical reasons. Blankets (or similar) are not permitted.
6. Goshen Local Schools is not responsible for personal devices that are broken on school property.
7. Acceptable and safe shoes should be worn by all students.
8. The administration reserves the right to make recommendations for changes in the dress and grooming of students. **Students whose dress or grooming distracts from the educational atmosphere will have an opportunity to comply with appropriate dress requirements. Refusal to do so could result in disciplinary action.**

The goal of Goshen Middle School is to develop spirited and self-disciplined students through positive behavior support. School-wide expectations have been established to govern student behavior in the classroom, hallway, cafeteria, during test taking, and other settings. Our school wide expectation is that **students respect themselves, respect others and respect their environment** at all times.

HAZING AND BULLYING - (File: JFCF) (Harassment, Intimidation and Dating Violence)

Hazing means doing any act or coercing another, including the victim, to do any act of initiation into any student or other organization that causes or creates a substantial risk of causing mental or physical harm to any person.

Throughout this policy the term bullying is used in place of harassment, intimidation and bullying.

Bullying, harassment and intimidation is an intentional written, verbal or physical act that a student has exhibited toward another particular student more than once. The intentional act also includes violence within a dating relationship. The behavior causes both mental or physical harm to the other student and is sufficiently severe, persistent or pervasive that it creates an intimidating, threatening or abusive educational environment for the other student. This behavior is prohibited on school property or at a school-sponsored activity.

Permission, consent or assumption of risk by an individual subjected to hazing, bullying and/or dating violence does not lessen the prohibition contained in this policy.

The District includes, within the health curriculum, age-appropriate instruction in dating violence prevention education in grades 7 to 12. This instruction includes recognizing warning signs of dating violence and the characteristics of healthy relationships.

Prohibited activities of any type, including those activities engaged in via computer and/or electronic communications devices, are inconsistent with the educational process and are prohibited at all times. The District educates minors about appropriate online behavior, including interacting with other individuals on social networking websites and in chat rooms and cyberbullying awareness and response.

No administrator, teacher or other employee of the District shall encourage, permit, condone or tolerate any hazing and/or bullying activities. No students, including leaders of student organizations, are permitted to plan, encourage or engage in any hazing and/or bullying.

Administrators, teachers and all other District employees are particularly alert to possible conditions, circumstances or events that might include hazing, bullying and/or dating violence. If any of the prohibited behaviors are planned or discovered, involved students are informed by the discovering District employee of the prohibition contained in this policy and are required to end all such activities immediately. All hazing, bullying and/or dating violence incidents are reported immediately to the Superintendent/designee and appropriate discipline is administered.

The Superintendent/designee must provide the Board President with a semiannual written report of all verified incidents of hazing and/or bullying and post the report on the District's website.

The administration provides training on the District's hazing and bullying policy to District employees and volunteers who have direct contact with students. Additional training is provided to elementary employees in violence and substance abuse prevention and positive youth development.

District employees, students and volunteers have qualified civil immunity for damages arising from reporting an incident of hazing and/or bullying. Administrators, teachers, other employees and students

who fail to abide by this policy may be subject to disciplinary action and may be liable for civil and criminal penalties in compliance with State and Federal law.

No one is permitted to retaliate against an employee or student because he/she files a grievance or assists or participates in an investigation, proceeding or hearing regarding the charge of hazing and/or bullying of an individual.

HAZING AND BULLYING - (File JFCF-R) (Harassment, Intimidation and Dating Violence)

The prohibition against hazing, dating violence, harassment, intimidation or bullying is publicized in student handbooks and in the publications that set the standard of conduct for schools and students in the District. In addition, information regarding the policy is incorporated into employee handbooks and training materials. When the behavior involves allegations of sexual harassment, the Title IX sexual harassment grievance process will be followed, as applicable. When the behavior is sexual harassment, the Title IX sexual harassment grievance process will be followed, if applicable, prior to imposing any discipline that cannot be imposed without resolution of the Title IX process.

School Personnel Responsibilities and Complaint Procedures

Hazing, bullying behavior and/or dating violence by any student/school personnel in the District is strictly prohibited, and such conduct may result in disciplinary action, up to and including suspension and/or expulsion from school. Hazing, bullying and/or dating violence means any intentional written, verbal, graphic or physical acts, including electronically transmitted acts, either overt or covert, by a student or group of students toward other students/school personnel with the intent to haze, harass, intimidate, injure, threaten, ridicule or humiliate. Such behaviors are prohibited on or immediately adjacent to school grounds, at any school-sponsored activity; in any District publication; through the use of any District-owned or operated communication tools, including but not limited to District email accounts and/or computers; on school-provided transportation or at any official school bus stop.

Hazing, bullying and/or dating violence can include many different behaviors. Examples of conduct that could constitute prohibited behaviors include, but are not limited to:

1. physical violence and/or attacks;
2. threats, taunts and intimidation through words and/or gestures;
3. extortion, damage or stealing of money and/or possessions;
4. exclusion from the peer group or spreading rumors;
5. repetitive and hostile behavior with the intent to harm others through the use of information and communication technologies and other Web-based/online sites (also known as “cyberbullying”), such as the following:
 - A. posting slurs on websites, social networking sites, blogs or personal online journals;
 - B. sending abusive or threatening emails, website postings or comments and instant messages;
 - C. using camera phones to take embarrassing photographs or videos of students and/or distributing or posting the photos or videos online and
 - D. using websites, social networking sites, blogs or personal online journals, emails or instant messages to circulate gossip and rumors to other students.
6. excluding others from an online group by falsely reporting them for inappropriate language to internet

service providers.

In evaluating whether conduct constitutes hazing or bullying, special attention is paid to the words chosen or the actions taken, whether such conduct occurred in front of others or was communicated to others, how the perpetrator interacted with the victim and the motivation, either admitted or appropriately inferred.

Teachers and Other School Staff

Teachers and other school staff who witness acts of hazing, bullying and/or dating violence, as defined above, promptly notify the building principal/designee of the event observed, and promptly file a written incident report concerning the events witnessed.

Teachers and other school staff who receive student or parent reports of suspected hazing, bullying and/or dating violence promptly notify the building principal/designee of such report(s). If the report is a formal, written complaint, the complaint is forwarded to the building principal/designee no later than the next school day. If the report is an informal complaint by a student that is received by a teacher or other professional employee, he/she prepares a written report of the informal complaint that is forwarded to the building principal/designee no later than the next school day.

Complaints

1. Formal Complaints

Students and/or their parents or guardians may file reports regarding suspected hazing, harassment, intimidation, bullying and/or dating violence. The reports should be written. Such written reports must be reasonably specific including person(s) involved; number of times and places of the alleged conduct; the target of suspected harassment, intimidation and/or bullying and the names of any potential student or staff witnesses. Such reports may be filed with any school staff member or administrator. They are promptly forwarded to the building principal/designee for review and action.

2. Informal Complaints

Students, parents or guardians and school personnel may make informal complaints of conduct that they consider to be harassment, intimidation and/or bullying by verbal report to a teacher, school administrator or other school personnel. Such informal complaints must be reasonably specific as to the actions giving rise to the suspicion of hazing, harassment, intimidation and/or bullying, including person(s) involved, number of times and places of the alleged conduct, the target of the prohibited behavior(s) and the names of any potential student or staff witness. The school staff member or administrator who receives the informal complaint promptly documents the complaint in writing, including the above information. This written report by the school staff member and/or administrator is promptly forwarded to the building principal/designee for review and action.

3. Anonymous Complaints

Students who make informal complaints as set forth above may request that their name be maintained in confidence by the school staff member(s) and administrator(s) who receive the complaint. The anonymous complaint is reviewed and reasonable action is taken to address the situation, to the extent such action (1) does not disclose the source of the complaint, and (2) is consistent with the due process rights of the student(s) alleged to have committed acts of hazing, bullying and/or dating violence.

4. False Complaints

Students are prohibited from deliberately making false complaints of harassment, intimidation or bullying. Students found responsible for deliberately making false reports of harassment, intimidation or bullying may be subject to a full range of disciplinary consequences.

Intervention Strategies

1. Teachers and Other School Staff

In addition to addressing both informal and formal complaints, school personnel are encouraged to address the issue of hazing, bullying and/or dating violence in other interactions with students.

School personnel may find opportunities to educate students about harassment, hazing, intimidation and bullying and help eliminate such prohibited behaviors through class discussions, counseling and reinforcement of socially appropriate behavior. School personnel should intervene promptly whenever they observe student conduct that has the purpose or effect of ridiculing, humiliating or intimidating another student/school personnel, even if such conduct does not meet the formal definition of harassment, hazing, intimidation or bullying.

2. Administrator Responsibilities

A. Investigation

The principal/designee is notified of any formal or informal complaint of suspected harassment, hazing, intimidation or bullying. Under the direction of the building principal/designee, all such complaints are investigated promptly. A written report of the investigation is prepared when the investigation is complete. The report includes findings of fact, a determination of whether acts of hazing, bullying and/or dating violence were verified, and when prohibited acts are verified, a recommendation for intervention, including disciplinary action, is included in the report. Where appropriate, written witness statements are attached to the report.

Notwithstanding the foregoing, when a student making an informal complaint has requested anonymity, the investigation of such complaint is limited as is appropriate in view of the anonymity of the complaint. Such limitation of the investigation may include restricting action to a simple review of the complaint (with or without discussing it with the alleged perpetrator), subject to receipt of further information and/or the withdrawal by the complaining student of the condition that his/her report be anonymous.

When hazing and/or bullying is based on race, color, national origin, sex, or disability, and the behavior creates a hostile environment, the applicable nondiscrimination grievance procedures are implemented where applicable.

B. Nondisciplinary Interventions

When verified acts of hazing, bullying and/or dating violence are identified early and/or when such verified acts do not reasonably require a disciplinary response, students may be counseled as to the definition of the behavior, its prohibition and their duty to avoid any conduct that could be considered harassing, hazing, intimidating and/or bullying.

If a complaint arises out of conflict between students or groups of students, peer mediation may be considered. Special care, however, is warranted in referring some cases to peer mediation. A power imbalance may make the process intimidating for the victim and therefore inappropriate. The victim's communication and assertiveness skills may be low and could be further eroded by fear resulting from past intimidation and fear of future intimidation. In such cases, the victim should be given additional support. Alternatively, peer mediation may be deemed inappropriate to address the concern.

C. Disciplinary Interventions

When acts of harassment, intimidation and bullying are verified and a disciplinary response is warranted, students are subject to the full range of disciplinary consequences. Discipline procedures will not infringe on any student's rights under the First Amendment to the Constitution of the United States.

Anonymous complaints that are not otherwise verified, however, cannot provide the basis for disciplinary action.

In and out-of-school suspension may be imposed only after informing the accused perpetrator of the reasons for the proposed suspension and giving him/her an opportunity to explain the situation.

Expulsion may be imposed only after a hearing before the Board, a committee of the Board or an impartial hearing officer designated by the Board in accordance with Board policy. This consequence is reserved for serious incidents of harassment, intimidation or bullying and/or when past interventions have not been successful in eliminating prohibited behaviors.

Allegations of criminal misconduct are reported to law enforcement, and suspected child abuse is reported to Child Protective Services, per required time lines.

Report to the Custodial Parent or Guardian of the Perpetrator

If, after investigation, acts of harassment, intimidation and bullying by a specific student are verified, the building principal/designee notifies the custodial parent or guardian of the perpetrator, in writing, of that finding. If disciplinary consequences are imposed against such student, a description of such discipline is included in such notification.

Strategies are developed and implemented to protect students from new or additional harassment, intimidation or bullying, and from retaliation following reporting of incidents.

Reports to the Victim and His/Her Custodial Parent or Guardian

If, after investigation, acts of bullying or hazing against a specific student are verified, the building principal/designee notifies the custodial parent/guardian of the victim of the finding. In providing such notification, care must be taken to respect the statutory privacy rights of the perpetrator.

Bullying matters, including the identity of both the charging party and the accused, are kept confidential to the extent possible. Although discipline may be imposed against the accused upon a finding of guilt, retaliation is prohibited.

School administrators shall notify both the custodial parents or guardians of a student who commits acts of harassment, intimidation, bullying and/or dating violence and the custodial parents or guardians of students against whom such acts were committed, and shall allow access to any written reports pertaining to the incident, to the extent permitted by law.

Police and Child Protective Services

In addition to, or instead of, filing a complaint through this policy, a complainant may choose to exercise other options including, but not limited to, filing a complaint with outside agencies or filing a private lawsuit. Nothing prohibits a complainant from seeking redress under any other provision of State law or common law that may apply.

The District must also investigate incidents of hazing, bullying and/or dating violence for the purpose of determining whether there has been a violation of District policy or regulations, even if law enforcement and/or the public children's services are also investigating. All District personnel must cooperate with investigations by outside agencies.

BULLYING

How to Differentiate Between Bullying and Other Peer Conflicts and Teasing

What is Bullying? Bullying is defined as a deliberate, repeated act with intention to hurt, insult or threaten another person in school, on school grounds, in school vehicles, or at school events. Bullying consists of an imbalance of power.

Friendly Teasing	Hurtful Teasing	Peer Conflicts	Bullying
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Equal power/Neutral• Purpose is to be	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Unequal power• Sensitive topic• Purpose is to	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Equal power• Occurs occasionally	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Imbalance of power• Occurs

playful <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Joins relationships • Funny to both parties 	upset <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Excludes • Sarcastic 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Accidental • Negotiations and options • Withdrawing and options • Relationship is valued • Effort to resolve 	repeatedly <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Intentional and serious • Seeks to gain power • Victim is vulnerable • No remorse • No effort to resolve
Friendly Teasing: One student comments to another that he should turn his/her jersey inside out because his favorite team lost last night.	Hurtful Teasing: One girl comments to another girl that she looks chubby in the outfit she is wearing.	Peer Conflicts: Two students have a disagreement in the cafeteria about which student will sit next to another student.	Bullying: One student repeatedly threatens another student that if he walks down a specific hallway he will get “beat up”. Another example is one student repeatedly calling another student a name regarding his sexual orientation.

Three questions guide GMS administration to determine when a behavior constitutes bullying:

1. Were the alleged bullying behaviors repeated and deliberate?
2. Did the alleged bullying behaviors inflict harm or suffering?
3. Is there an imbalance of real or perceived power between the alleged victim and alleged author of the behavior?

TOBACCO USE BY STUDENTS (File: JFCG)

Tobacco includes all nicotine or tobacco products—whether smoked, vaped, chewed, or inhaled—including cigarettes, cigars, pipes, e-cigarettes, vapes, dip, chew, snuff, and related items (e.g., lighters, rolling papers, wraps, and vape liquids).

Use or possession is prohibited at all times—including non-school hours:

- In any school building, vehicle, or facility owned, leased, or used by the District,
- On school grounds, athletic fields, or parking lots,
- At any school-sponsored event, on or off campus.

Students possessing or using tobacco products including electronic cigarettes may receive a 10-day suspension with a recommendation for expulsion from school after a due process hearing.

[Adoption date: June 13, 1988]

[Re-adoption date: October 10, 1988]

[Re-adoption date: August 14, 2006]

[Re-adoption date: February 13, 2012]

[Re-adoption date: February 10, 2014]

[Re-adoption date: May 12, 2025]

LEGAL REFS.:The Elementary and Secondary Education Act; 20 USC 1221 et seq.

Goals 2000: Educate America Act; 20 USC 6081 through 6084

ORC 3313.66; 3313.661; 3313.751

3794.01; 3794.02; 3794.04; 3794.06

OAC 3301-35-02; 3301-35-04

CROSS REFS.: JFA, Student Due Process Rights
JFC, Student Conduct (Zero Tolerance)
JGD, Student Suspension
JGE, Student Expulsion
Student Handbooks

STUDENT CONDUCT (File: JFC)

Zero Tolerance

Students are expected to conduct themselves in a way that exhibits respect and consideration for the rights of others. Students of the District must conform with school regulations and accept directions from authorized school personnel. The Board has “zero tolerance” of violent, disruptive, harassing, intimidating, bullying or any other inappropriate behavior by its students.

A student who fails to comply with established school rules or with any reasonable request made by school personnel on school property and/or at school-related events is subject to approved student discipline regulations. Students are also subject to discipline, as outlined in the student code of conduct for misbehavior that occurs off school property when the misbehavior endangers the health and safety of students within the District or adversely affects the education process.

At the beginning of each school year or upon enrolling during the year, students and parents receive information on the rules and regulations to which they are subject while in school or participating in any school-related activity or event.

If a student violates this policy or the student code of conduct, school personnel, students or parents should report the student to the appropriate principal. The administration cooperates in any prosecution pursuant to the criminal laws of the state of Ohio and local ordinances.

A student may be expelled for up to one year if he/she commits an act that inflicts serious physical harm to persons or property if it was committed at school, on other school property or at a school activity, event or program.

The Superintendent is authorized to expel a student from school for a period not to exceed one year for making a bomb threat to a school building, or to any premises at which a school activity is occurring at the time of the threat. Any expulsion under this provision extends, as necessary, into the school year following the school year in which the incident that gives rise to the expulsion takes place.

Matters which might lead to a reduction of the expulsion period include the student’s mental and/or physical characteristics or conditions, the age of the student and its relevance to the punishment, the prior disciplinary history of the student and/or the intent of the perpetrator.

Any student engaging in the following types of conduct either specifically or generally like the kinds of conduct listed below is subject to expulsion, suspension, emergency suspension, removal or permanent exclusion from curricular activities. This Code of Regulations applies while a student is in the custody or control of the school, on school grounds or closely proximate thereto, while at a school-sponsored function or activity or on school-owned or provided transportation vehicles. In addition, the Student Code of Conduct governs students at all times, on or off school property, when such student conduct is reasonably related to the health and safety of other students and/or school employees, or such conduct would unreasonably interrupt the educational processes of the District.

The types of conduct prohibited by this code of regulations are as follows:

Rule 1. Damage or destruction, or misuse of school property, property of school employees or property of other students, on or off of school premises.

Rule 2. Damage or destruction, or misuse of private property on school premises or in areas controlled by the school.

Rule 3. Assault on a school employee, student or other person.

Rule 4. Harassment of school personnel or other students during school and/or nonschool hours.

Rule 5. Fighting.

Rule 6. Hazing (to persecute or harass or humiliate another student and/or employee).

Rule 7. Chronic misbehavior which disrupts or interferes with any school activity.

Rule 8. Disregard of reasonable directions or commands by school authorities including but not limited to school administrators and teachers.

Rule 9. Abuse of another. No student shall use or direct to or about a school employee, or student, words, phrases or actions which are considered to be slanderous or degrading in nature, words or phrases which could be considered threatening, menacing or indicate an intent to cause harm to person or property, and/or words or phrases which are obscene or profane as defined by the majority of our society. Name calling and negative, uncomplimentary and offensive remarks related to physical handicaps or defects, mental handicaps, race, religion, nationality, appearance or other reason is prohibited.

Rule 10. Disrespect to a teacher or other school authority.

Rule 11. Refusing to take detention or other properly administered discipline.

Rule 12. Skipping detention.

Rule 13. Falsifying of information given to school authorities in the legitimate pursuit of their jobs.

Rule 14. Forgery of school or school-related documents.

Rule 15. Cheating or plagiarizing.

Rule 16. Gambling.

Rule 17. Extortion of a student or school personnel.

Rule 18. Theft or possession of stolen goods.

Rule 19. Arson or other improper use of fire.

Rule 20. Possession of matches or lighters or other similar devices.

Rule 21. Possession or use of dangerous weapons or ordnance or objects which look like weapons or ordnance, including, but not limited to, guns, firearms, ammunition, knives, grenades, sling shots, bows, arrows, machetes, brass knuckles, chains, studs, etc.; or possession or use of objects which may render physical harm to another if improperly used, including, but not limited to, axes, hatchets, hammers, saws, ice picks, screwdrivers, knives, etc.

Rule 22. Buying, selling, transferring, using or possessing any substance containing tobacco, including, but not limited to, cigarettes, cigars, a pipe, a clove cigarette, chewing tobacco, snuff and dip, or using tobacco in any other form.

Rule 23. Buying, selling, transferring, using, possessing or being under the influence of any controlled substance (drugs, narcotics, marijuana, etc.) OR INHALANTS (i.e. e-cigarettes), or buying, selling, using, possessing or being under the influence of any counterfeit controlled substance. Any substance that is made to look like a controlled substance, or is represented to be a controlled substance, or that is believed to be a controlled substance.

Rule 24. Buying, selling, transferring, using, possessing or being under the influence of any drug, medication,

inhalant or other controlled substance which can be taken internally where the students involved cannot show a legitimate health or other reason for the use of such substances.

Rule 25. Buying, selling, transferring, using, or possessing any drug or alcoholic paraphernalia to include instruments, objects, papers, pipes, containers, etc.

Rule 26. Possession of electronic devices, electronic communication devices and/or an electronic laser pointing device or electronic light emitting device without the expressed written permission of administration. Students are not permitted to possess cellular telephones, smartphones, CD players, mp3 players or any other related electronic devices.

Rule 27. Buying, selling, transferring, using, possessing or being under the influence of any alcoholic beverage or intoxicant of any kind.

Rule 28. Cursing.

Rule 29. Use of indecent or obscene language in oral, written or other form.

Rule 30. Publication of obscene, pornographic or libelous material.

Rule 31. Placing of signs and slogans on school property without the permission of the proper school authority.

Rule 32. Distribution on school premises of pamphlets, leaflets, buttons, insignia, etc., without the permission of the proper school authority.

Rule 33. Demonstrations by individuals or groups causing disruption to the school program.

Rule 34. Truancy.

Rule 35. Tardiness.

Rule 36. Leaving school premises during school hours without permission of the proper school authority.

Rule 37. Upon initial arrival, leaving school property without permission.

Rule 38. Presence in areas during school hours or outside school hours where a student has no legitimate business without permission of the proper school authority.

Rule 39. Failure to abide by reasonable dress and appearance codes set forth in student handbooks or established by administration or the Board. This includes the prohibition of all clothing, jewelry, signs, etc., which at the discretion of the administration is reasonably related to or represents gang or gang like activity.

Rule 40. Improper or suggestive dress.

Rule 41. Indecent exposure.

Rule 42. Engaging in sexual acts, displaying excessive affection or other inappropriate behavior with a person of the same or opposite gender.

Rule 43. Turning in false fire, tornado, bomb, disaster or other alarms.

Rule 44. Making a bomb threat to a school building or any premises at which a school activity is occurring at the time of the threat.

Rule 45. Presence on school property with a communicable disease.

Rule 46. Failure to abide by rules and regulations set forth by administration for student parking.

Rule 47. Disobedience of driving regulations while on school premises.

Rule 48. Convey, attempt to convey or knowingly possess a deadly weapon or dangerous ordnance onto any property owned or controlled by or to any activity held under the auspices of the Board.

Rule 49. Sell, offer to sell, or possess a controlled substance on school premises or at a school related function (trafficking in drugs).

Rule 50. Carrying concealed weapons.

Rule 51. Aggravated murder.

Rule 52. Murder.

Rule 53. Voluntary manslaughter.

Rule 54. Involuntary manslaughter.

Rule 55. Felonious assault.

Rule 56. Aggravated assault.

Rule 57. Rape.

Rule 58. Gross sexual imposition.

Rule 59. Felonious sexual penetration.

Rule 60. Any disruption or interference with school activities.

Rule 61. Willfully aiding another person to violate school regulations.

Rule 62. Commission by a student of any crime in violation of the Ohio Criminal Code, Ohio Traffic Code or the Ohio Juvenile Code.

Rule 63. Any other activity by a student which the student knows or should know will disrupt the academic process or a curricular or extracurricular activity.

Rule 64. Failing to report the actions or plans of another person to a teacher or administrator where these actions or plans of another person, if carried out, could result in harm to another person or persons or damage property, when the student has information about such actions or plans.

Rule 65. Violation of any Board rule, regulation or policy.

Rule 66. Repeated violations of the Student Code of Conduct and/or any other Board rule, regulation or policy.

Rule 67. Violation of the Board's Internet/Network Acceptable Use Policy.

Rule 68. Violation of the Board's Harassment, Intimidation and Bullying policy. Harassment, intimidation or bullying behavior by any student and/or school personnel is strictly prohibited. Harassment, intimidation or

bullying means any intentional written, verbal, graphic or physical act including electronically transmitted acts by a student to a group of students towards other students and/or school personnel with the intent to harass, intimidate, injure, threaten, ridicule or humiliate.

(Approval date: June 13, 1988)

(Re-approval date: February 12, 1990)

(Re-approval date: February 9, 1998)

(Re-approval date: March 13, 2000)

(Re-approval date: August 14, 2006)

(Re-approval date: May 12, 2008)

(Re-approval date: March 14, 2011)

(Re-approval date: April 14, 2014)

CONSEQUENCES FOR BEHAVIOR 2025-2026

If a student chooses not to meet an expectation, the following consequences may occur:

I. GOSHEN MIDDLE SCHOOL DISCIPLINARY PLAN

The Goshen Middle School Disciplinary Plan has been constructed for all stakeholders to work together, review and understand Goshen Middle School's vision where students achieve their fullest potential socially, emotionally, and academically.

II. GRADING PERIOD CONSEQUENCES

The Goshen Middle School Disciplinary Plan breaks down behaviors into different levels and uses Positive Behavior Intervention Strategies (PBIS) within its framework along with consequences when necessary.

III. POSSIBLE CONSEQUENCES

A. DETENTION

1. Detentions may be held at the discretion of the teacher or the students' team of teachers. Detentions may be held during lunchtime, during encore classes, or begin at 2:20 and conclude with the arrival of the elementary bus. A bus pass may be issued with the afternoon detention. Tardiness to detentions will not be tolerated. If tardiness occurs, another detention will be issued. If a student does not attend detention, and in the event of a bonafide emergency, other arrangements may be made, or consequences may occur, at the discretion of the building administration.

B. ALTERNATIVE PUPIL PLACEMENT (APP)

1. APP is an in-school consequence that removes a student from their regular schedule and puts them in a very small group setting that is monitored by a staff member. Students still have access to their classwork via Google Classroom and teachers also have access to students in APP if necessary.
2. Students behaving in an inappropriate manner as referenced in the Code of Conduct may be assigned to APP. Repeated violations or refusal to attend APP may result in additional APP assignments, Friday School, suspension from school or expulsion from school.

C. FRIDAY SCHOOL

1. Students behaving in an inappropriate manner as referenced in the Code of Conduct may be assigned to Friday School. Repeated violations or failure to attend Friday School may result in additional Friday Schools, Alternative Placement, suspension from school or expulsion from school.
2. Friday School is held in the Goshen Middle School Library from 6:00 until 9:00 on Friday evenings. Students are expected to arrive promptly, enter the door in the back of the building, and bring enough work to remain engaged the entire time. If any

disciplinary issue arises while a student is serving Friday School, parents are contacted to pick up their child immediately.

D. SUSPENSION OFFENSES

1. **Drugs/Alcohol** - Students in possession of and or using drugs or alcohol on school property may receive a 10 day suspension with the recommendation for expulsion after a due process hearing. The Goshen Police will also be notified.
2. **Weapons** - Students in possession of a dangerous weapon or facsimile on school property may receive a 10 day suspension with the recommendation for expulsion after a due process hearing. The Goshen Police will also be notified.
3. **Verbal/Written Threats to School Personnel or Students** - Students threatening a teacher, school personnel or their property, or another student may receive a 10- day suspension from school with a recommendation for expulsion from school after a due process hearing. The Goshen Police will also be notified.
4. **Physical Assault on School Personnel** -Any student who physically assaults a teacher or any school personnel or their property may receive a 10 day suspension from school with a recommendation for expulsion from school after a due process hearing. The Goshen Police will also be notified.
5. **Repeated/Chronic Violations** - Repeated and chronic violations of the Student Code of Conduct may result in suspension from school after a due process hearing.
6. **Other Suspendable Offenses** -The Student Code of Conduct lists the types of conduct prohibited as adopted by the Board of Education pursuant to section 3313.661 of the Ohio Revised Code. A violation of the code may result in a suspension from school. Suspensions will be as follows:
 - a) First Offense - 3 day suspension
 - b) Second Offense - 5 day suspension
 - c) Third Offense - 10 day suspension
 - d) Fourth Offense - 10 day suspension with the recommendation for expulsion
 - e) **Serious violations of the Code of Conduct will move directly to the ten day with recommendation level. Any student suspended or expelled from school will not be permitted on school grounds for any activity.**

IV. REWARDS

- A. Students who exhibit exemplary positive behavior within any grading period may be eligible for Good Behavior Rewards. Many rewards are offered to students at the discretion of their teachers. Activities based on good behavior may include picnics, parties, movies, team activities, school trips, assemblies, dances, etc.

CELL PHONES/PERSONAL ELECTRONIC DEVICES

Students are not permitted to use cell phones during the school day. This policy also applies to wireless audio devices (such as earbuds, headphones, and AirPods) and smartwatches (e.g., Apple Watches). Exceptions may be made only when use is authorized through a student's IEP, 504 Plan, or for documented medical needs.

If a parent or guardian needs to reach a student during the school day, they should contact the school office. The student will be notified through the appropriate school communication channels.

The consequence for violating cellphone guidelines:

- 1st offense (Classroom) - warning provided and parent contacted by teacher
- 2nd offense (Strike 1 in Office) - phone sent to office, parent contacted, and student can pick up phone from office at the end of the day
- 3rd offense (Strike 2 in Office) - phone sent to office, device must be picked up by the

- parent/guardian, and conversation is had about the repercussions if a student earns Strike 3.
- 4th offense (Strike 3 in Office) - phone sent to office, device must be picked up by the parent/guardian, and device is not permitted to return to the school building for a designated amount of time up to and including the rest of the school year.
- Chronic abuse of cell phone privileges will result in appropriate disciplinary measures up to and including suspension from school.

Any student using their cell phone to record and/or take pictures of any inappropriate behavior will be subject to extended loss of privilege for electronic devices. Chronic abuse of this policy will result in appropriate consequences.

PROHIBITED ITEMS

Guns, knives, weapons, look-alike weapons, unapproved electronic devices, laser pointers, unapproved toys, lighters, matches, firecrackers, smoke devices, metal chains, and/or any other items that could cause a disruption to the academic process are not allowed on the school premises. *Administration reserves the right to ban any other item deemed a safety issue.*

LOCKERS

Each student is assigned a locker for books and clothing. Lockers are automatically assigned to all students, however are not always desired by students. For safety reasons and so administration knows which lockers are in use, students can request a locker in the main office at any time during the school year.

It is the student's responsibility to see that his/her locker is kept clean and in order at all times. Student lockers should be locked at all times, however, to ensure safety of belongings, students are encouraged to leave valuable articles at home. Bags and jackets/outerwear of any kind may be kept in lockers as needed for safety purposes. The school cannot be responsible for lost items. **Lockers are the property of the Goshen Board of Education and are subject to search at any time.**

BUILDING and GROUNDS SECURITY

Goshen Schools has the responsibility to maintain order and discipline on school property and in school vehicles. Recognizing the value of electronic surveillance systems in monitoring activity, Goshen Schools has surveillance cameras both inside and outside of buildings and on school vehicles to assist in the security of students, staff and property.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION

Goshen Middle School students may be required to take Physical Education each day for one quarter. **Students are required to have gym shoes, socks, shorts or warm-up pants, and t-shirt.** It is suggested that gym clothes be taken home each week. Students are required to dress out for gym class each day even if they do not take gym that day. Students can be excused from Phys. Ed. class for a day for injury or illness with a note from a parent or guardian. If a student cannot take Phys. Ed. for an extended period of time, a doctor's excuse will be required.

MEDICATION

Students needing medication are encouraged to receive the medication at home, if possible. Medication will be kept in the clinic. Medication, whether prescription or non-prescription, will only be administered to students at school with a completed Medicine Authorization Form signed by both the doctor and the parent. Medicine Authorization Forms can also be obtained in the office or on Final Forms. The following are

required for medication to be administered at school:

- The person or persons designated to administer medication receives a written request, signed by the parent(s) having care or charge of the student, that the prescription drug be administered to the student.
- Each person designated to administer prescription drugs receives a statement, signed by the physician or other person licensed to prescribe medication, which includes all of the following information:
 - the name and address of the student;
 - the school and class in which the student is enrolled;
 - the name of the prescription drug and the dosage to be administered;
 - the times or intervals at which each dosage of the prescription drug is to be administered;
 - the date on which the administration of the prescription drug is to begin;
 - the date on which the administration of the prescription drug is to cease;
 - any severe adverse reactions which should be reported to the physician and one or more telephone numbers at which the person who prescribed the medication can be reached in case of an emergency and
 - special instructions for administration of the prescription drug, including sterile conditions and storage.
- The parent(s) agree to submit a revised statement signed by the physician who prescribed the drug if any of the information provided by the person licensed to prescribe medication as described above changes.

Any medication brought to school must be brought to the office and will be kept in a lockable cabinet. It is the student's responsibility to come to the office at the proper time to take the medicine.

STUDENT BICYCLE USE and WALKING

GMS students are not permitted to ride bicycles to school. This policy was readopted by the Board of Education on August 14, 2006

Additionally, due to safety concerns, GMS students are not permitted to walk to and from school.

MEDIA CENTER

The overall objective of the Goshen Middle School Media Center is to provide our students with choices of media for information and enjoyment. To help achieve this goal, our Media Center is open from the time students arrive at school until the time school is dismissed for the day.

All Language Arts classes are scheduled into the Media Center for one class period every other week. During this scheduled time each student is given the chance to check out two books and/or one magazine. Any checked out material may be kept for a time period of up to two weeks. If the child finishes with the material, he/she may return it and exchange it for other material. Overdue fines will be charged for those materials kept out longer than the allotted time.

SUPPLY FEES

The supply fee for all 6th, 7th and 8th grade students is \$45.00/student. The fee covers the cost of various learning tools, workbooks, supplies, etc. Fees should be paid to the office by September 20. The supply fee may be paid on the installment plan if necessary. Grade cards will be released if \$15.00 is paid during the first nine week grading period, \$25.00 at the semester, \$35.00 at the end of the third nine week period, and the full \$45.00 by the end of the year.

CAFETERIA INFORMATION

Breakfast and lunch will be served each day that school is in session. Students are expected to bring their lunch money and pay for their lunches as they go through the line or use money from their account (see details below). **NO CHARGES ALLOWED.**

1. **Student Breakfast & Lunch are FREE**

2. **Adult Lunch Prices:** \$5

3. **Milk:** \$.60

4. **A la carte Items:** Price Varies

5. **Menus** can be found online at: www.goshenlocalschools.org

Free and reduced price meals are available for eligible students. An application is required to be filled out for each family. All family members should be reflected on one application.

These forms are essential to the district for funding. Whether you are considering free/reduced options or not, please return all applications to the school office.

Goshen Local Schools utilize a computerized cafeteria system called My Payments Plus. Each child in the district has a meal account that is accessed with a personal identification number (PIN). Information regarding this system is given to each child at the beginning of the school year. The four-digit PIN will remain the same for each child throughout their education in Goshen Schools so be sure to keep it handy in case your child forgets their number.

PARENT INFORMATION REGARDING MY PAYMENTS PLUS:

1. Make payments online www.mypaymentsplus.com or by phone at 1-866-220-3971 using a credit or debit card.

2. Also, you can check your child's balance in their account at www.mypaymentsplus.com.

3. There is a fee when depositing money into the account using My Payments Plus.

While using My Payments Plus is fast and convenient, you may also send cash or a check with your child to school for lunch accounts. Keep in mind; however, that any amount you send will be credited to your child's account. At GMS, there is a "no change" policy. Any amount left over will be credited to the student's account. Refunds from MyPaymentsPlus are available when a student graduates or moves. If this happens, we require a parent name and address where the refund can be mailed. Call the Food Service Department at 513-728-7991 if you have any questions.

FIRE DRILLS

Fire drills at regular intervals are required by law and are an important safety precaution. A fire evacuation map is posted in each room. Students and teachers are to study the map and become familiar with it.

1. Students will stand and immediately file out the proper exit per teacher instructions.
2. Walk rapidly but no running.
3. No talking is permitted during a fire drill.
4. The first student to reach the outside door is to hold it open for others.
5. The last student to leave the classroom will turn off the lights and close the classroom door.
6. Once outside, students are to line up quietly and orderly for an attendance check.
7. Teachers will place the names of any missing students from their class on the absence list.
8. The teacher will choose a student to run the list to the appropriate designee.
9. Should a fire alarm occur at lunch, cafeteria students should exit to the grass on the far side of the bus loop. The 4th/5th period teachers will meet their students there for an attendance check.
10. Students should remain outside until the signal is given to return to the building.

TORNADO DRILLS

Tornado drills are required by law three times per year during the tornado season. An auditory signal is used in this building to indicate an alert.

When the tornado alert is sounded, teachers and students are to observe the following:

1. Line up in a single file.

2. Go to the assigned shelter area as indicated on the tornado drill map.
3. Close all doors and windows.
4. When in a shelter area, draw knees up under you, and cover the back of your neck with your hands.
5. Do not move or speak until the all clear signal is given.

DISTRICT MANAGED TRANSPORTATION - STUDENT CONDUCT AND REGULATIONS (File: JFCC, JFCC-R)

Students will:

1. Be careful in approaching bus stops, walk on the left facing oncoming traffic, be sure that the road is clear both ways before crossing the highway and wait in a location clear of traffic;
2. Arrive at the bus stop before the bus is scheduled to arrive in order to permit the bus to follow the time schedule;
3. Wait in an area clear of traffic and refrain from exhibiting behavior at the bus stop that threatens life, limb or property of any individual;
4. Sit in assigned seats (drivers have the right to assign a student to a seat);
5. Go directly to their assigned seat without disturbing or crowding other students and remain seated while the vehicle is moving;
6. Observe classroom conduct, or the bus conduct established by administrators and transportation personnel, and obey the driver promptly and respectfully;
7. Keep the vehicle clean and free of trip hazards;
8. Refrain from eating and drinking on the bus except as required for medical reasons or as permitted by the District for non-routine trips when supervised by an appropriate chaperone, school administrator or school personnel;
9. Refrain from using profane language and from loud talking or laughing (unnecessary confusion diverts the driver's attention and might result in a serious accident);
10. Remain seated keeping aisles and exits clear, keep head, arms and hands inside the vehicle at all times and not throw or pass objects on, from or into the vehicle;
11. Be courteous to fellow students and to the driver;
12. Treat equipment as one would treat valuable furniture in their home (damage to the school vehicle is strictly forbidden);
13. Refrain from using nicotine products on the vehicle or possessing alcohol or drugs on the vehicle except as prescription medications may be required for a student and
14. Carry on the vehicle only items that can be held in their laps or can otherwise be stored on the vehicle in accordance with State law.

Students must remain seated until the vehicle stops, then promptly unload and wait in their designated place of safety until the vehicle leaves. Students who must cross the street to reach the residence side of the street must wait for the signal from the driver and cross in front of the vehicle after also checking for traffic themselves.

Policies and procedures for student conduct on District managed transportation are designed to ensure the safety and welfare of all passengers. Failure of a student to follow these regulations may result in the student forfeiting the right of transportation on District managed transportation.

When discipline problems with individual students arise on district managed transportation, the driver should resolve the problem if possible. When the driver is unable to resolve the problem, he/she should report it to the transportation supervisor. The transportation supervisor will confer with school administration as needed. Discipline is imposed as necessary. Problems that cannot be resolved by measures specified above are referred to the Superintendent.

Shared Parenting Transportation

In order to design our routes we need families with shared parenting that results in a need for alternate transportation to fill out the shared parenting form located on the transportation website. Once the form is

completed the transportation department will review route changes and communicate the necessary details. Custody paperwork will be required for the shared parenting transportation to be approved.

Emergency Bus Pass

Students are able to request a temporary bus pass for special/emergency situations. To obtain a temporary bus pass, parents must complete an emergency form located on the transportation website 24 hours in advance explaining the reason. If approved and space is available, the student will be given a temporary bus pass that will allow them to board the receiving bus. If the student does not have a pass they will not be permitted to ride the desired alternative bus. This is for student safety and will allow us to practice consistent safety regulations.

Title VI-B Funding

Title VI-B is a federally funded program which makes funds available to school districts based upon the number of students with identified handicaps as reported on December 1 of each year. Funds are used to provide additional equipment, materials, and staff as well as to underwrite excess cost of handicapped services. Direct service to handicapped children is a top priority for these expenditures.

GOSHEN MIDDLE SCHOOL GRADE SCALE

- A 90-100
- B 80 - 89
- C 70 - 79
- D 60 - 69
- F 0 – 59

PROMOTION/RETENTION POLICY (File: IKE)

The promotion of each student in the Goshen Local School District will be determined individually. The decision to promote or retain a student in a grade will be made on the basis of the following factors which the teacher takes into consideration: reading skill, mental ability, age, physical maturity, emotional and social development, social issues, home conditions and grade average.

Promotion procedures demand continuous analysis and study of the cumulative student case history records. Administrative guidelines must be developed, reviewed and may include the following elements:

1. A student receiving passing grades in the core courses is promoted.
2. A student having failing grades in the core courses at the end of the year is evaluated by the teachers, guidance counselor, and building principal for placement.
3. No conditional promotions are permitted.
4. A student having failing grades may be assigned to the next higher grade with the discretion only with the approval of the principal
5. A student having passing grades, "D" or above, throughout the year is failed.
6. No student should be retained more than once in elementary grades, kindergarten through eighth grade.
7. Documentary and anecdotal evidence shall be available to justify retention.

Any student who is truant for more than 10% of the required attendance days of the current school year and has failed two or more of the required curriculum subject areas in the current grade is retained, unless the student's principal and the teachers of the failed subject areas agree that the student is academically prepared to be promoted to the next grade level. "Academically prepared," as used in this policy, means that the principal, in consultation with the student's teacher(s), has reviewed the student's work and records and has concluded that, in his/her judgment as a professional educator, the student is capable of progressing through and successfully completing work at the next grade level.

Beginning with students who enter third grade in the 2013/2014 school year, any student who does not receive the minimum level of achievement on the Third Grade English Language Arts Assessment will not be promoted to fourth grade unless one of the following applies:

1. The student is a limited English proficient student who has been enrolled in United States schools for less than two full school years and has had less than two years of instruction in an English as a second language program.

2. The student is a child with a disability entitled to special education and related services under Ohio Revised Code Chapter (RC) 3323 and the student's Individualized Education Program (IEP) exempts the student from retention under this division.

3. The student demonstrates an acceptable level of performance on an alternative standardized reading assessment as determined by the Ohio Department of Education.

4. All of the following apply:

A. The student is a child with a disability entitled to special education and related services under RC 3323.

B. The student has taken the third grade English language arts achievement assessment prescribed under RC 3301.0710.

C. The student's IEP or 504 plan shows that the student has received intensive remediation in reading for two school years but demonstrates a deficiency in reading.

D. The student previously was retained in any of grades kindergarten to three.

5. The student received intensive remediation for reading for two school years but still demonstrates a deficiency in reading and was previously retained in any of grades kindergarten to three. Students promoted under this section continue to receive intensive reading instruction in grade four. The instruction includes an altered instructional day that includes specialized diagnostic information and specific research-based reading strategies for the students that have been successful in improving reading among low-performing readers.

Intervention services are offered to students who are not making satisfactory progress toward the attainment of the statewide academic standards for their grade level.

Any student who has been retained because of results on the third grade English language assessment and who demonstrates during the academic year that he/she now is reading at or above grade level is promoted to the fourth grade pursuant to the District-level midyear promotion policy.

[Adoption date: June 13, 1988]

[Re-adoption date: November 17, 1997]

[Re-adoption date: December 13, 1999]

[Re-adoption date: May 15, 2002]

[Re-adoption date: March 14, 2005]

[Re-adoption date: August 14, 2006]

[Re-adoption date: September 10, 2012]

[Re-adoption date: June 10, 2013]

[Re-adoption date: October 14, 2013]

[Re-adoption date: May 12, 2025]

LEGAL REFS: ORC 3301.07; 3301.0710; 3301.0711; 3301.0712; 3301.0715

3313.608; 3313.609; 3313.6010; 3313.6012

3314.03

OAC 3301-35-04; 3301-35-06

CROSS REFS.: AFI, Evaluation of Educational Resources

IGBE, Remedial Instruction (Intervention Services)

IGBEA, Reading Skills Assessments and Interventions (Third Grade Reading Guarantee)

IGCD, Educational Options (Also LEB)

THIS IS A REQUIRED POLICY

PROGRESS REPORT AND REPORT CARD DATES

September 12	Interim Reports
October 9	Parent Teacher Conferences
October 16	Parent Teacher Conferences
October 16	End of 1st Quarter
October 24	Report Cards Available in ProgressBook
November 14	Interim Reports
December 19	End of 2nd Quarter
January 9	Report Cards Available in ProgressBook
February 6	Interim Reports
February 5	Parent Teacher Conferences
February 12	Parent Teacher Conferences
March 13	End of 3rd Quarter
March 20	Report Cards Available in ProgressBook
April 10	Interim Reports
May 21	Students Last Day
May 29	Report Cards Available in ProgressBook

Report cards are provided to parents/guardians four times per year at the completion of each grading period. These will be reported via ProgressBook and an email will be sent to parents. Interim reports are also required for students in danger of failing. Direct notification of parents by telephone is encouraged. Conferences with parents are used as an integral part of the reporting system. Please contact the main office if you need ProgressBook login information or assistance.

COMPUTER/ON-LINE SERVICES (File: EDE, EDE-R) (Acceptable Use and Internet Safety)

Technology can greatly enhance the instructional program, as well as the efficiency of the District. The Board recognizes that careful planning is essential to ensure the successful, equitable and cost-effective implementation of technology-based materials, equipment, systems and networks.

Computers and use of the District network or online services support learning and enhance instruction, as well as assist in administration. Computer networks allow people to interact with many computers; the Internet allows people to interact with hundreds of thousands of networks.

All computers are to be used in a responsible, efficient, ethical and legal manner. Failure to adhere to this policy and the guidelines below will result in the revocation of the user's access privilege. Unacceptable uses of the computer/network include but are not limited to:

1. violating the conditions of State and Federal law dealing with students' and employees' rights to privacy, including unauthorized disclosure, use and dissemination of personal information;
2. using profanity, obscenity or other language that may be offensive to another user or intended to harass, intimidate or bully other users;
3. accessing personal social networking websites for non-educational purposes;
4. reposting (forwarding) personal communication without the author's prior consent;
5. copying commercial software and/or other material in violation of copyright law;
6. using the network for financial gain, for commercial activity or for any illegal activity;
7. "hacking" or gaining unauthorized access to other computers or computer systems, or attempting to gain such unauthorized access;
8. accessing and/or viewing inappropriate material and
9. downloading of freeware or shareware programs.

The Superintendent/designee shall develop a plan to address the short- and long-term technology needs and provide for compatibility of resources among school sites, offices and other operations. As a basis for this plan, he/she shall examine and compare the costs and benefits of various resources and shall identify the blend of technologies and level of service necessary to support the instructional program.

Because access to online services provides connections to other computer systems located all over the world, users (and parents of users who are under 18 years old) must understand that neither the school nor the District can control the content of the information available on these systems. Some of the information available is controversial and sometimes offensive.

The Board does not condone the use of such materials. Employees, students and parents of students must be aware that the privileges to access online services are withdrawn from users who do not respect the rights of others or who do not follow the rules and regulations established. A user's agreement is signed to indicate the user's acknowledgment of the risks and regulations for computer/online services use. The District has implemented technology-blocking measures to prevent students from accessing inappropriate material or materials considered to be harmful to minors on school computers. The District has also purchased monitoring devices which maintain a running log of Internet activity, recording which sites a particular user has visited.

"Harmful to minors" is defined as any picture, image, graphic image file or other visual depiction that:

1. taken as a whole and with respect to minors appeals to a prurient interest in nudity, sex or excretion;
2. depicts, describes or represents, in a patently offensive way with respect to what is suitable for minors, an actual or simulated sexual act or sexual contact, actual or simulated normal or perverted sexual acts or lewd exhibition of genitals or
3. taken as a whole, lacks serious literary, artistic, political or scientific value as to minors.

The District will educate minors about appropriate online behavior, including interacting with other individuals on social networking websites and in chat rooms and cyberbullying awareness and response. The Superintendent/designee will develop a program to educate students on these issues.

Annually, a student who wishes to have computer network and internet access during the school year must read the acceptable use and internet safety policy and submit a properly signed agreement form. Students and staff are asked to sign a new agreement each year after reviewing the policies and regulations of the District. The District reserves the right to amend policies and regulations as necessary throughout the school year. Users are notified of the updated policies and regulations and must comply with the updated requirements. These policies and regulations also apply to use of District-owned devices, or accessing of District intranet and software programs off District property. All users using platforms established for e-learning regardless of whether the student or employee is using a personal or District-provided device must be used in accordance with the standards for conduct outlined in this policy and the accompanying regulation. Users in violation of this policy or the accompanying regulation may be subject to discipline.

Monitoring of School-Issued Devices

For the following provisions, "school-issued device" means hardware, software, devices and accounts that a school district, acting independently or with a technology provider, provides to an individual student for dedicated student use. "Technology provider" means a person who contracts with a school district to provide a school-issued device for student use and creates, receives or maintains education records pursuant or incidental to its contract with the District. "Technology provider" does not include a county board of developmental disabilities, educational service center, information technology center, assessment provider, curriculum provider, or city, local, exempted village or joint vocational school district that enters into a service contract with a school district that includes issuing school-issued devices to students. In compliance with State law, the District and technology providers in contract with the District are prohibited from electronically accessing or monitoring the following except when otherwise authorized by law:

1. location-tracking features of a school-issued device;

2. audio or visual receiving, transmitting or recording features of a school-issued device;
3. student interactions with a school-issued device, including, but not limited to, keystrokes and web-browsing activity.

These prohibitions on electronic access and monitoring of school-issued devices do not apply in the following circumstances:

1. where limited to a noncommercial educational purpose for instruction, technical support or exam-proctoring by District employees, student teachers, staff, a vendor or the Ohio Department of Education and Workforce (ODEW);
2. the activity is permitted under a judicial warrant or subpoena unless otherwise prohibited by State or Federal law;
3. the District or provider is notified or becomes aware that the device is missing or stolen;
4. the activity is necessary to prevent or respond to a threat to life or safety and access is limited to that purpose;
5. the activity is necessary to comply with Federal or State law;
6. the activity is necessary to participate in federal or state funding programs.

In any year the District or a technology provider elects to generally monitor a school-issued device under any of these circumstances, the District must provide notice to all parents of enrolled students. If access or monitoring of a student's school-issued device occurs due to a judicial warrant or subpoena, a missing or stolen device, or in response to a threat to life or safety and the school district initiates responsive action, the District must notify the parent of the student within 72 hours of access and provide a written description of the triggering circumstance, including which features of the device were accessed and a description of the threat, if any. This notice is not required when the notice itself would pose a threat to life or safety.

Maintenance of Education Records by Technology Providers

Technology providers in contract with the District must comply with State law provisions related to the collection, use and protection of data as if it were a school district. Education records created, received, maintained or disseminated by technology providers are solely the property of the District. Technology providers in contract with the District must comply with the following:

1. if education records maintained by the technology provider are subject to a breach, the technology provider will disclose to the District all information necessary to comply with State law following discovery of the breach;
2. unless renewal of a contract with the District is reasonably anticipated, the technology provider will destroy or return all education records created, received or maintained to the District within 90 days of the expiration of the contract;
3. the technology provider cannot sell, share or disseminate education records, except as part of a valid delegation or assignment under the contract with the District, unless otherwise allowed by State law;
4. the technology provider cannot use education records for any commercial purpose other than the services contracted for by the District.

A contract between technology providers and the District must ensure appropriate security safeguards for education records, including, but not limited to:

1. a restriction on unauthorized access by the technology provider's employees or contractors;
2. a requirement that the technology provider's employees or contractors may be authorized to access education records only as necessary to fulfill the official duties of the employee or contractor.

Notice and Inspection of Technology Provider Contracts

The District must provide parents and students annual notice by August 1 of any curriculum, testing or assessment technology provider contract affecting a student's education records. The notice can be by mail, electronic mail or other direct form of communication and must do all of the following:

1. identify each curriculum, testing or assessment technology provider with access to education records;
2. identify the education records affected by the curriculum, testing or assessment technology provider contract;

3. include information about the contract inspection;
4. provide contact information for a school department that can answer parent and student questions or concerns regarding programs or activities that allow a technology provider access to education records.

Acceptable Use and Internet Safety Policy

The following guidelines and procedures shall be complied with by staff, students or community members who are specifically authorized to use the District's computers or online services.

1. Use appropriate language. Do not use profanity, obscenity or other language that may be offensive to other users. Illegal activities are strictly forbidden.
2. Do not reveal your personal home address or phone number or those of other students or colleagues.
3. Note that electronic mail (email) is not guaranteed to be private. Technology coordinators have access to all messages relating to or in support of illegal activities and such activities may be reported to the authorities.
4. Use of the computer and/or network is not for financial gain or for any commercial or illegal activity.
5. The network should not be used in such a way that it disrupts the use of the network by others.
6. All communications and information accessible via the network should be assumed to be property of the District.
7. Rules and regulations of online etiquette are subject to change by the administration.
8. The user in whose name an online service account is issued is responsible for its proper use at all times. Users shall keep personal account numbers and passwords private. They shall use this system only under the account numbers issued by the District.
9. The system shall be used only for purposes related to education or administration. Commercial, political and/or personal use of the system is strictly prohibited. The administration reserves the right to monitor any computer activity and online communications for improper use.
10. Users shall not use the system to encourage the use of drugs, alcohol or tobacco nor shall they promote unethical practices or any activity prohibited by law or Board policy.
11. Users shall not view, download or transmit material that is threatening, obscene, disruptive or sexually explicit or that could be construed as harassment, intimidation, bullying or disparagement of others based on their race, color, national origin, ancestry, citizenship status, sex, sexual orientation, age, disability, religion, economic status, military status, political beliefs or any other personal or physical characteristics.
12. Copyrighted material may not be placed on the system without the author's permission.
13. Vandalism results in the cancellation of user privileges. Vandalism includes uploading/downloading any inappropriate material, creating computer viruses and/or any malicious attempt to harm or destroy equipment or materials or the data of any other user.
14. Users shall not read other users' mail or files; they shall not attempt to interfere with other users' ability to send or receive electronic mail, nor shall they attempt to read, delete, copy, modify or forge other users' mail.
15. Users are expected to keep messages brief and use appropriate language.
16. Users shall report any security problem or misuse of the network to the teacher, his/her immediate supervisor or building administrator.

[Adoption date: March 25, 2002]

[Re-adoption date: August 14, 2006]

[Re-adoption date: November 15, 2010]

[Re-adoption date: May 12, 2025]

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF HANDBOOK RECEIPT

I acknowledge that the Goshen Middle School Handbook for 2025-2026 is available to me on the Goshen Middle School website. I understand that the handbook contains information that my child and I may need during the school year. I also understand that all students will be held accountable for their behavior and will be subject to the disciplinary consequences outlined in this handbook. An electronic signature in Final

Forms will serve as Acknowledgement of Handbook Receipt in lieu of this form. Teachers will cover this handbook in Tribe Time at the beginning of the school year.

Name of the Student: _____ Date: _____

Signature of Student: _____ Tribe Time Teacher: _____

Signature of Parent/Guardian: _____

SCHOOL-SPONSORED TRIP PERMISSION NOTICE

I give permission for my child to take all school-sponsored academic, athletic and extra-curricular trips during the 2025-2026 school year.

Name of Student: _____ Date: _____

Signature of Parent/Guardian: _____

Complete and return to school within 10 days.