

Dear Students,

Welcome to the Great Meadows Middle School. Our entire staff is looking forward to another year with successful educational experiences for everyone. This student handbook portion of the School Agenda was developed to help you become familiar with our school policies, grading procedures, discipline standards, and the guidelines of our school. We all want the opportunity to enjoy learning in a school environment that is friendly, where teachers and students work cooperatively, and where individuals do not violate the rights of others. Please be sure to familiarize yourself with the information contained in this handbook and be sure to carry your Agenda Book to all your classes.

Our challenge and hope for you is that you leave GMMS more successful and more prepared for the future than when you arrived. We will help you toward that goal and hope you will strive to be the best you can be.

- The Administration and Staff of GMMS

**Great Meadows Middle School
Phone Numbers**

School Office, Homework Hotline, School Nurse, School Announcements and Staff Member Phone Extensions: **637-4349**
Emergency Phone Number: **637-4584**
To Report an Absence **637-4349 x206**

**Middle School Staff
Administration & Guidance**

Superintendent – Mr. Bing
Director of Curriculum and Special Services – Mrs. Lishak
Principal – Mr. Nicinski
Dean of Students – Mr. Marmolejos
School Counselor – Mrs. DeKleine
School Nurse – Mrs. Kohl
Middle School Secretary – Mrs. Durna
Office Assistant – Mrs. Ascolese
CST Secretary – Mrs. Berger

Other Staff

BSI – Mrs. Doty
Gifted & Talented – Mr. Nutt

6th Grade Team

LA/SS – Mrs. Holochwost, Mrs. Fancher, & Mrs. Castanien
Math & Science – Mrs. Hornyak, Mrs. Lunden, & Mrs. Miller
Special Education – Mrs. Amundsen
Instructional Aide – Mrs. Caufield

7th Grade Team

LA – Ms. Toussaint & Mr. Rosequist
Math – Mrs. Wilkins
Science – Mr. Shuler
Social Studies – Mr. O'Hara
Math/Special Education – Mrs. Romanczyk
Instructional Aide – Mrs. Wojcicki

8th Grade Team

LA – Mrs. Kumma & Ms. Ritson
Math – Mrs. Exley
Science – Mr. Thorpe
Social Studies – Mrs. Consentino
Math/Special Education – Mrs. Scott
Instructional Aide – Mrs. Case

Encore Subjects

Art/ Life Skills – Mrs. Horsey
Health & Physical Education – Mr. Bechtel, Mrs. Magliaro, & Ms. Pagliaro
Instrumental/Vocal- Music – Mrs. Revak
Media Specialist – Mrs. O'Connor
Performing Arts – Ms. Lockwood
Tech. Ed. & Computers – Mr. Tshudy
World Languages – Mrs. DeJesus, Mr. Marmolejos, and Mrs. Teixeira

Special Education

LDTTC – Mrs. Folger
School Psychologist – Mrs. Conway
School Social Worker – Mrs. Lutz

This list is subject to change. For a current list of faculty members please visit our website.
www.GMRSD.com

GREAT MEADOWS MIDDLE SCHOOL PHILOSOPHY

The Great Meadows Middle School staff is committed to four beliefs and assumptions about the purpose of middle school education, and the unique characteristics and needs of students at this developmental level.

1. Middle school provides successful transition from an elementary curriculum to a largely, content-based high school curriculum.
2. Middle school provides broad exposure and opportunities for exploration to facilitate the development of interests, strengths and future choices. An exploratory component in middle school curriculum is essential in fulfilling this purpose.
3. Middle school develops positive self-concepts at a time of change. Middle school programs and policies are oriented toward inclusion and away from comparison and competition.
4. Middle school creates a positive school climate for all students. The middle school organization recognizes and addresses the unique developmental characteristics that often compete with educational goals. The most significant of these developmental characteristics are:
 - the student's need for affiliation, inclusion, and belonging;
 - a student's preoccupation with physical appearance;
 - a time of rapid physical change;
 - the need for structure and boundaries;
 - and the need for movement and physical activity caused by a higher rate of metabolism.

In order to most effectively meet the needs of the middle school students and to make learning both interesting and enjoyable, as well as challenging and meaningful, the organization of the middle school centers around grade level teams. Each grade level has an interdisciplinary team of teachers that plans and work together to provide a comprehensive program for the students they serve.

REGULATIONS AND GUIDELINES ON STUDENT RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES

1. All students must attend school daily, except when excused, and be on time to all classes and other functions.
2. Students share with the administration and faculty a responsibility to develop a climate within the school that is conducive to wholesome learning and living.
3. No student has the right to interfere with the

education of her/his fellow students.

4. Students must be aware of all rules and regulations for student behavior and conduct themselves in accordance with them and the district's code of conduct.
5. Students have the responsibility to assist the school staff in operating a safe school for all students enrolled therein.
6. Students must be aware of and comply with state and local laws.
7. Students must make all necessary arrangements for making up work when absent from school.

ABSENCE FROM SCHOOL

Irregular attendance at school is one of the most common causes of failure. Even though a student may try to "make-up" what has been missed, it is almost impossible to duplicate the experience that occurred as the class discussed its lessons. If a child is absent from school for vacation, it is the responsibility of the child to make up all work after returning to school.

It is a regular practice of the school to call the home of students who have not reported to school.

*Parents can help the school monitor attendance by calling the **school nurse, 637-4349 ext. 206**, if their child is going to be absent.*

In the event a student is absent from school and contact has not been made between home and school, a signed note by the parent or guardian explaining the reason for absence is required.

The state law is very strict in regard to children's absence from school. Sickness of the child, death in the family, religious holidays and extreme emergencies are the only reasons for absence that the state will accept as legal excuses. As per Board of Education policy; parents will be notified by letter, when the number of absences reaches 10 and again when it reaches 15. When absences reach 20 days, the student will be referred to the Warren County Crisis Intervention Unit. Parents will be contacted any time truancy is suspected. Keep tardiness and absences at a minimum, but keep an ill child home. The following absences are non-cumulative with written documentation:

1. Personal illness with a doctor's note
2. Death in the family
3. Exclusion by the Board of Health
4. Religious holiday
5. Required court appearance
6. School sponsored activities

All other absences are classified as cumulative; i.e. "visiting," "went to the city," "shopping," or "helped at home."

Excused From School

Parents are encouraged to schedule all appointments (dentist, doctor, etc.) after school hours. In the event it is necessary to take a student out of school during the school day, the following steps should be taken:

1. The student should bring a written, signed parental request to the office **on the morning of the appointment.**
2. At the time the student will be leaving school, the parent must come into the school to sign the student out.
3. If the student returns to school, she/he should report to the office.

For students to be considered in attendance for a day of school, they must be present for *at least one hour during the morning and at least one hour during the afternoon session.* If a student goes home after 9:10am or arrives to school by 1:10pm, they will be marked absent ½ day. If the student goes home before 9:10am, they are considered absent for the day. Parents/guardians will need to update emergency cards if work or home phone numbers change.

Late to School

Students who arrive late to school should report to the office for a tardy slip before reporting to class. The student must also sign-in, noting the reason for being late to school. The following will be the disciplinary policy regarding unexcused tardies.

- 1-3 Tardies – No Action Taken
- 4th Tardy – Warning
- 5th Tardy – Lunch Detention & Parent Notification
- 6th Tardy – May result in After-School Detention for each subsequent unexcused tardy.

ACADEMIC POLICIES

Failing Grades

A student who fails a subject for a marking period will be ineligible for extracurricular activities until significant and sustained improvement has been demonstrated in the ensuing marking period.

Honor Roll

To attain Academic Honors a student must receive a "B-" (85 average) or better in all subject areas. Students in grades 7 and 8 receiving no grade less than an "A-" (93 average) will attain High Academic Honors. All grades are considered when deciding honor roll (*including physical education, health, band, chorus, and all encore subjects*).

Incomplete

If any work is missing, a student may receive a grade of incomplete on their report card.

Students have **ten days** to turn in the missing work. If the work is not submitted, a zero for the missing work will be used to calculate the final grade.

Progress Reports

All students will be issued a progress report mid way through each marking period.

Report Cards

Report cards are issued at the end of each marking period. They indicate the grade achieved in each subject area for the marking period. A student's progress will be indicated by a letter grade: A+, A, A-, B+, B, B-, C+, C, C-, D+, D, D-, F.

A+	99-100	C+	83-84
A	95-98	C	80-82
A-	93-94	C-	78-79
B+	91-92	D+	76-77
B	87-90	D	72-75
B-	85-86	D-	70-71
		F	69 and Below (Failing)
		I	Incomplete

Report Card Dates (as of 9/05/06)

Please reference the district calendar

Promotion-Retention Policy

Promotion – A full promotion requires satisfactory completion the following major academic courses of study: LANGUAGE ARTS, MATHEMATICS, SCIENCE, SOCIAL STUDIES, HEALTH, AND PHYSICAL EDUCATION.

Retention – According to Board of Education Policy M5410, "Retention shall be considered when: The pupil is not achieving minimum proficiency levels in basic communication and computation skills (Standardized Achievement Test)

OR

The Pupil is achieving significantly below ability and grade level. (Report card)"

CONFERENCES

Parent-Teacher

The district will announce regularly scheduled parent-teacher conferences at the beginning of the new school year. Individual conferences with a teacher should be set up independently by contacting the teacher at (908) 637-4349 and the teachers' respective extension.

The interdisciplinary team may request a meeting with a parent, or parents may request a meeting with the teachers. Parents should call the team leader or school counselor to set up team conferences.

COMPUTERS NETWORK AND RESOURCES

The Middle School supports access by pupils to the Internet but reserves the right to limit in-school use to materials appropriate for educational purposes.

According to school board policy 2361, unethical, unacceptable, or illegal behavior is just cause for taking disciplinary action, limiting or revoking network access privileges and/or instituting legal action. Serious violations may result in additional discipline sanctions such as administrative detention, suspension, or expulsion.

The Board retains the right to have district personnel monitor network activity, in any form necessary, to maintain the integrity of the network and insure its proper use.

Standards for Use of Computer Networks

Any individual engaging in the following actions when using computer networks and computers shall be subject to discipline or legal action.

- A. Using the computer network/computers for illegal, inappropriate or obscene purposes, or in support of such activities.
- B. Using the computer network/computers to violate copyrights, institutional or third party copyrights, license agreements or other contracts
- C. Using the computer network/computers in a manner that:
 1. Intentionally disrupts network traffic or crashes the network;
 2. Degrades or disrupts equipment of system performance;
 3. Uses the computing resources of the school district for commercial purposes, financial gain or fraud;
 4. Steals data or other intellectual property;
 5. Gains or seeks unauthorized access to the files of others or vandalizes the data of another user;
 6. Gains or seeks unauthorized access to resources or entities;
 7. Forges electronic mail messages or uses an account owned by others;
 8. Invades privacy of others;
 9. Posts anonymous messages;
 10. Possesses any data which is a violation of Board policy; and or
 11. Engages in other activities that do not advance the educational purposes for which computer network/computers are provided.

Consent Requirement

No student shall be allowed to use the computer network and the Internet, without direct supervision, unless they have filed with the principal a consent form signed by the pupil and her/his parents or guardian.

DINING ROOM PROCEDURES

Lunch should be a pleasant experience for both the students who eat in the dining room and the staff who work in and monitor the dining room. **Failure of an individual to abide by the rules will result in disciplinary action.**

- Boisterous/loud behavior will not be tolerated.
- Students have freedom to sit at a table of their choice. However, once seated, students may not relocate to another table unless approved.
- Horseplay, throwing of food or tampering with the food of others will result in a disciplinary action.
- Students who cannot self-discipline themselves during the lunch period will be assigned a seat.
- Upon finishing their lunch, students will bring trays and garbage to the disposal area and then return to their tables.
- Students must be excused by an adult before being dismissed.
- Students will be going outside for recess every day unless there are extreme weather conditions. (Students are reminded to bring their coats with them to lunch)
- Students will not be allowed to go back to their lockers once they are in the dining room.
- In the interest of safety, beverages in glass containers will not be permitted in school.

HOMEWORK POLICY

Homework is assigned at the Great Meadows Middle School. Homework is an extension of the learning experience and is an integral part of the complete educational process. In addition to completing work initiated in class, students learn independence and the ability to organize work. In preparation for class, homework must be completed and notes should be reviewed. Developing good study habits now will have a large impact on future academic success.

Failure to complete assignments on time and the failure to do required homework will result in:

1. A teacher notification to parents.

2. Assignment to supervised study during activity or lunch period.
3. Loss of classroom and school privileges.

If a student does not complete homework assignments, this will have a major impact upon her/his grades for the marking period and for her/his final average.

Students' Role in the Homework Process

- Complete all assignments on time and in a neat and acceptable manner.
- Write down the assignments in your agenda book.
- Budget time, during and after the school day, to complete assignments; students should not wait until the last minute to complete assignments.
- Develop good work habits and study habits.
- Complete all missed assignments.

Parents' Role in the Homework Process

- If necessary, check the Agenda Book daily and call the **Homework Hotline (637-4349 and the teacher's extension)** when clarification is needed.
- Review schoolwork with your child, and if necessary, sign the agenda book.
- Provide an area for your child to study that is away from the center of activity in your home.
- Set aside a regular study time and help your child organize assignments.
- Be aware of homework assignments and talk to teachers, if necessary, to make sure the work is being done.
- Support your children while they are doing homework by checking in periodically and by being available to help if needed.
- Ask your child questions about what they have learned.
- Accept each child's best work and avoid undue comparison with other children.

Homework and Absenteeism

For any absence of less than three days, a student should get homework from the Homework Hotline or from classmates. To obtain assignments for extended absences (**more than 3 days**) parents should call their child's Team Leader by 8:30 AM and they will coordinate getting the assignments together. Homework may be picked up between 2:30 and 3:30 PM in the main office. For an unexcused absence, the student must get the make-up work from her/his teachers.

LOCKERS

All middle school students will be assigned a locker and will be provided with the lock combination.

Students are to keep their lockers locked at all times. *Remember, for security purposes, combinations should be kept a secret.*

Lockers are the property of the school and the staff will regularly inspect lockers. Students may use only those lockers assigned to them. They may go to their lockers only during designated times. These times are before the start of the school day, at lunchtime, and at the end of the day. A hall pass, provided by a teacher, will be required to access the locker at any other time in the day.

Students are responsible for keeping their lockers neat, clean and free of non-essential articles. This assists them with organization and avoids jammed lockers. Abuse of lockers may result in disciplinary actions. No pictures or paper of any kind should be hung on the inside of the locker using tape.

LOST AND FOUND

Students should turn in any found articles to the school secretary. Any student looking for an item they may have left at school or on the bus should look in the lost and found located in the dining room and outside of the stage entrance before asking the school secretary. Small or expensive items such as rings, jewelry, cameras, or money are kept in the main office until retrieved.

MEDIA CENTER GUIDELINES

The Great Meadows Middle School media center provides students and staff with a variety of print and electronic resources. Families wishing to restrict the access of their children to specific content may contact the media specialist.

Media Center Policies

1. Students are allowed to borrow up to three books and one magazine for two weeks, with unlimited renewals provided there are no reserves on the materials. Exceptions may be made with permission from the librarian.
2. No materials may be taken from the library without being signed out.
3. Reference books, software, current periodicals, and reserved books may not be borrowed for home use. Due to high demand, these materials must stay in the library.
4. Students who abuse their borrowing privileges may earn detention and/or have their borrowing privileges revoked.
5. Students are responsible for all items they sign out. Students who lose or damage library materials are required to pay for the replacement cost of the item(s) before the last day of the current marking period.

Students who fail to clear their library obligations will lose the privilege of borrowing materials.

Replacement costs are as follows:

Books: (minimum of \$5.00 for any hardcover book, \$2.00 for any paperback)
1-5 years old = Full cost of the book
6-10 years old=50% of the cost of the book
Over 10 years old=\$5.00/hardcover book, \$2.00/paperback.

Magazines: \$3.00

PERMANENT RECORDS POLICY

As per the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA), parents have the right to inspect and review any and all records, files, and data directly related to their children. Please call the school office to arrange for an appointment if you wish to review you child's records.

Upon advancement from GMMS, the student's records are delivered to the Hackettstown High School. If your child plans to attend a different high school, please inform the office by June so your records go to the proper school.

THE RULES OF THE GAME

Keep Great Meadows Middle School Safe & Friendly!

The rules you are about to read in this student handbook are in addition to our broad, discretionary authority to maintain safety, order, and discipline inside the school zone. These rules support, but do not limit, our authority.

You are under the authority of the school from the instant you step on the school bus in the morning until you return home at the end of the day. School rules are in effect on your way to school, on your way home, and during all school activities. **Students may not leave the property during any school function.**

Backpacks - Students will be required to leave backpacks and other unnecessary items in their lockers. Students will only be allowed to bring into class the materials necessary for that class.

Bullying/Fighting/Threatening - Help make Great Meadows Middle School safe for everyone. NO rowdy behavior or running in the school. NO disruptive behavior. NO defacing or destruction of school property. NO fighting or pretending to fight with another student. NO threatening other students. NO fooling around in ways that could harm another student.

Bully Hotline – Have you been called names or feel threatened by another student? Do you know someone who has? Call the bully hotline and leave an anonymous message on the bully hotline by calling (908) 637-4349 ext. 900

Cheating – Cheating takes on different consequences as a child matures. Therefore, grade level teams will designate appropriate grade level consequences. This may result in a zero for the assignment, test, or project. This is also possible for the person offering or volunteering the information.

Plagiarism – Students are expected to read and interpret information from books, magazines, Internet, etc. for research assignments and are required to submit information in his/her own words. Copying word-for-word, simply changing a few words from its original source, or attempting to pass the work from someone else as your own is plagiarism. **Plagiarism is cheating and will not be tolerated.** Appropriate documentation will be expected in the form of internal citations and works cited depending on the grade level and specific teacher requirements. Exact quotes are acceptable when proper credit is given within the body of a research paper and quotation marks used. If a student plagiarizes, the teacher has the option of assigning a grade of zero.

Electronics – NO student radios, walkman, CD players, or tape recorders on the school campus or on the school buses. Exceptions may be made by teachers or bus drivers for field trips and other special occasions. Also, pagers, beepers, and cell phones may not be used during school hours. The use of personal electronics is not authorized for any purpose during the school day.

Gum - Gum chewing is **NOT ALLOWED** in the classroom, on the bus, or anywhere on our school campus. Careless disposal of gum and candy in drinking fountains, on furniture and floors presents sanitation and cleaning problems.

Hall Passes - Students leaving a classroom must sign out/in on the appropriate sheet and record the time and destination. Students must also record this information in their Agenda Book and have their teacher sign it and use it as a hall pass. A student must have a signed Agenda Book to be in the hallways at any time other than when classes are changing.

Late To Class – If a student is late for class, a note from the teacher of her/his previous class must be obtained. If the student does not have a note and the tardiness is due to loitering, she/he will be reported to the office as being late and may result in disciplinary actions.

Loitering - NO loitering on the school grounds after school. Students on campus after school must be involved in a school sponsored activity. Skateboarding, roller-blading, and unsafe cycling are prohibited on school grounds.

Littering – NO littering! Trash at lunch and during the day must be put in trash cans. Do your part to keep our school clean.

Public Display Of Affection – Inappropriate displays of affection are not allowed in school. (i.e. kissing, hugging)

Profane Or Vulgar Language - Common courtesy must be observed at all times and in all situations. There is no exception to this rule. NO profane or vulgar language. Disrespect to teachers, students, and/or visitors will result in disciplinary action. We have a zero tolerance for disrespect.

Possession Of Weapons – NO possession of anything that might be considered dangerous, or appear to be dangerous to yourself or others. Anything that might be considered a weapon or imitate a weapon, and any type of laser, is strictly forbidden.

Stealing - You are responsible for all items in your possession. Never leave purses, books, or personal property unattended. Never bring more money to school than is needed for the day. The school cannot be responsible for loss or damage to items, including loss of money that students bring to school.

Use Of The Restrooms – School staff will regulate the use of restroom facilities so as to maximize student participation in classroom activities. Students are expected to keep the restrooms and everything therein clean and in good condition. Any student misusing the lavatories will be required to clean up any mess that she/he creates. If any damage occurs, the student responsible will have to pay the cost of the repair. Students will not use the lavatories during the changing of classes unless given expressed permission by a teacher.

Controlled Substances – Possession of tobacco products, alcohol or drugs at school or at any school activity is forbidden. **IT'S THE LAW!** In an effort to enforce its policy of Zero Tolerance for drugs, the district may use specially trained non-aggressive dogs to sniff out and alert staff to the presence of substances prohibited by law and district policy. The above inspections shall be unannounced. Any student, who is identified as being in possession of or under the influence of an illegal substance, shall be referred immediately to the office. Parents and police will be notified

immediately. Due process procedures will be implemented.

SCHOOL DISCIPLINE POLICIES

Pupils are expected to come to school with the understanding that rules and policies of the school are to be observed and followed.

Minor Misconduct

Each classroom teacher handles minor types of pupil misconduct. Consistent misconduct by a pupil may be brought to the attention of the assistant principal. A phone call or note to a parent will be made when problems persist. For discipline referred to the administration, a letter of consequences is issued to the student's parents to be signed by the parent and returned. This is not a permission slip. It is merely a notification of an administrative detention, in-school suspension or out-of-school suspension.

Detention

If a student fails to serve an office detention, two additional office detentions will be issued. If a child misses two office detentions in a row, she/he will be required to return to school with a parent for a conference. Detention is held after school for the duration of 60 minutes.

Suspension

When detention does not result in a positive change in behavior, or if a child accumulates an excessive number of detentions, the assistant principal may find it necessary to assign in-school suspension or suspend out of school. Of course, these are drastic actions and are only used when necessary.

Offenses warranting Internal or External Suspension include:

1. continued and willful disobedience;
2. commission of a crime or act of delinquency;
3. disorderly conduct;
4. open defiance of the authority of a teacher;
5. use of profanity or obscene language;
6. abuse of school property;
7. smoking or possession of smoking material or tobacco products;
8. use, sale, transfer, or possession of controlled dangerous substances including alcohol;
9. bullying/fighting – actions that cause possible physical harm to self or others;
10. snowball throwing;
11. possession of any type of weapon or laser in school;
12. threatening another person verbally or threatening violent actions.

Students under suspension will be given an opportunity to do, to the extent possible, all

classwork and homework; and to make up all quizzes, tests, etc. that are missed as a result of the suspension.

When students are suspended, either in or out of school, they are ineligible for any after-school activities for the duration of the suspension.

School Trips

School field trips are a privilege that may be taken away from individual students who have habitual discipline offenses or participate in offenses that result in in-school or out-of-school suspension.

Police Involvement

Per an agreement made between Warren County schools and the Prosecutor's Office, the police will be notified when students are involved in activities that prompt suspension, such as violence or threats.

STUDENT CONDUCT AND BEHAVIORAL CONSEQUENCES

Disciplinary actions will be determined by the nature and circumstances of the problem. Another factor used to determine disciplinary action will be the frequency of the problem and previous actions that have been taken. Some of the disciplinary actions that may be taken include the following:

- Warnings will be documented
- Loss of special activity privileges
- Loss of bus riding privileges
- Parental contact
- Disciplinary notice/parental notification
- Detention
- Parent conference
- Referral to principal
- In-school suspension
- Out-of-school suspension
- Formal hearing (appearance before Board of Education)

In any case of student misbehavior, or involvement in circumstances that may lead to misbehavior, the assistant principal or principal may suspend her/him from school and/or school related activities. Habitual offenders or extreme incidents may be referred to the Superintendent, the Child Study Team, the Board of Education, or to other agencies or authorities for actions deemed necessary.

Abuse of School Property

Students shall not misuse or abuse the school building, equipment or grounds. This includes school property indoors and outdoors, as well as personal property of others on the school grounds.

Classroom Guidelines

Students are to follow established classroom rules and limits as set forth by the teacher. Teachers shall notify students of expected behaviors in their classrooms.

Dress Standards

The Great Meadows Middle School Dress Standards are designed to provide a broad guideline for student attire. Parents and students are reminded that the primary focus of our school is to facilitate learning and, therefore, clothing should be appropriately suited to this goal. Additionally, students are reminded that their clothing should reflect a positive image of themselves and of the school.

Students wearing clothing that, in the judgment of school personnel, presents the potential to disrupt the learning environment or that the administration deems inappropriate will be asked to change into proper clothing. **Students may receive disciplinary consequences for violating the dress code policy.**

Some general guidelines to follow are:

1. Clothing designed for beachwear, lounging, or picnic activities should not be worn to school. (These include, but are not limited to, tank tops, bandanas, cut-off shirts, bare midriffs, enlarged armholes, plunging necklines, etc.)
2. Sneakers or shoes must be worn at all times. Laces must be tied as a safety factor. Flip-flops, platform shoes, and other hazardous footwear are not acceptable due to bus safety policies.
3. Hats will not be worn inside the school.
4. Any buttons or other insignia that are judged by an adult authority as obscene or intended to mock, ridicule, or demean others must be removed or covered if so directed by an administrator or teacher.
5. Trousers must be worn at waist level and underwear must not be exposed.
6. Students may not wear:
 - Hanging accessories that could cause a safety hazard (including belt chains and wrist spikes).
 - Skirt length must be no shorter than 3 inches above the kneecap and shorts no more than 4 inches above the kneecap.
 - Clothing imprinted with vulgar, profane, and double-meaning pictures or slogans.
 - Clothing that has been intentionally torn, cut, or ripped in a fashion that displays skin.
 - Spandex garments without additional

- outer clothing.
 - See-through garments.
 - Exposed undergarments.
7. Students participating in any school function or trip where they act as representatives of the Great Meadows Regional School District are expected to abide by the dress regulations as established by the adult authority or chaperone.
 8. Some outside activities or weather conditions may necessitate the modification of dress regulations and will be left to the faculty to set the dress regulations for the particular circumstance.

PLEASE NOTE: Outerwear is not to be worn inside the building.

For student clarification, we have attempted to list all unacceptable attire. As styles change, this becomes a difficult task. The staff and administration retains the right to ask students to change anything we deem inappropriate for school.



School Bus Conduct

The school bus is an extension of the school property. Students are expected to conduct themselves on the bus as if they were in the school building. This is essential for the safety of all who ride the bus. Misconduct on the bus will result in suspension of bus riding privileges.

Students are not allowed to ride a different bus to or from school. The number of students riding on a bus is carefully formulated and additional students cannot be seated. If the student needs to go home on a different bus for **emergency reasons**, a note from both sets of parents must be presented to the school secretary for approval on the morning of the change. Drivers will not allow an additional student on the bus without a signed note from the school. All students should conduct themselves as follows:

1. Obey your bus driver and treat her/him with respect.
2. Remain seated facing forward at all times during the entire trip.

3. Talking quietly is permissible, but excessively loud noises or voices are not allowed.
4. Eating or drinking is not allowed.
5. Throwing any object in, from, or at a bus is not allowed.
6. Spitting is not allowed.
7. For safety reasons, windows may be lowered one-third of the way while on school property. Windows may be lowered more, with permission of the driver, once you have left school property.
8. Keep all parts of your body to yourself and inside the bus.
9. Keep your bus clean.
10. Live animals are not allowed on the bus.
11. Glass or other breakable objects are not allowed on the bus.
12. Tobacco, drugs, matches, lighters or any other such objects are prohibited.
13. Any act that would endanger the safety of any persons is prohibited.
14. Items that cannot be secured such as a skateboard, bat, large radio boom boxes or any large items are not allowed.
15. A walkman, laser pointer or other electronic devices are not to be brought on the bus.

The following will be the disciplinary action policy for students that receive bus referrals:

1st offense- Principal warning.

2nd offense-Disciplinary action may occur.

* Additional offenses may result in severe disciplinary action, including bus suspension.



TELEPHONES

Telephones in the classroom and school office are for emergency purposes only. Use of cell phones and pagers are not permitted during school hours.

VISITORS

Any person visiting the school must report to the Main Office upon entering the building. For security purposes, visitors are asked to enter through the front/main lobby door only. Visitors will be asked to sign in and to wear an identification badge while they are in the building.

WEB SITE

Upcoming school events and other middle school and district information can be obtained by visiting the district web site at www.gmrtd.com.



School Cancellations and Delays

Information regarding school cancellations and delays due to inclement weather or other emergency situations may be obtained by calling the school information hotline number at 637-4349, or checking the district's website www.gmrtd.com. In addition, announcements will be made on local TV & Radio stations: WRNJ am 1510, and WFMZ-TV channel 69 & Comcast channel 18.

2007-2008 SCHOOL YEAR CALENDAR

September 2	Teacher In-service
September 3	1 st Day for Students
October 13	School Closed Teacher In-service
November 6-7	School closed NJEA Convention
November 26	Early Dismissal
November 27-28	School Closed Thanksgiving
December 23	Early Dismissal
December 24-Jan. 2	School Closed Winter Recess
January 5	School Reopens
January 19	Martin Luther King Day School Closed
February 13-16	School Closed Presidents' Weekend
March 25	Early Dismissal Teacher In-Service

April 3	Early Dismissal
April 6-10	School Closed Spring Break
April 13	School Closed Easter Monday
May 11	School Closed Teacher in-service
May 25	School Closed Memorial Day
June 17, 18, 19	Early Dismissal
June 19	Last Day

All dates are tentative due to the possibility of emergency closings. Four (4) snows have been built into the calendar. If not used, days will be given back starting with: June 19, June 18, June 17, and June 16. Last three (3) days are early dismissal days. If additional days are necessary, the last 3 days will be early dismissal days. The previous days will be full days.

Parents and students please sign below indicating that you have read pages 3 – 12 of this agenda book. Mutual understanding of our responsibilities will ensure success in achieving our goals.

Student Signature _____

Parent Signature _____

Date _____