



Fairgrounds Middle School  
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VISIT US AT OUR WEBSITE:

<http://www.nashua.edu/FMS/Home>

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## FAIRGROUNDS MIDDLE SCHOOL HANDBOOK INFORMATION YOU NEED TO KNOW

Dear Fairgrounds Middle School Parents/Students:

**The FMS Handbook can be found on the FMS website. Please inform us if you do not have internet capabilities and we will gladly send you a copy of this handbook.** We believe that the following information selected from the FMS Student Handbook is extremely important for students, thus we encourage you to review this information with your child/children.

### ATTENDANCE

#### **Absence**

Parents are asked to call if their child will not be at school. If a call is not received, the student upon his/her return to school must bring a written excuse (containing the date the note was written, the day or days of absence, the reason for absence and the signature of the parent or guardian).. Students may not attend or take part in student activities on the day of absence. See the District Policy on Absences and Extended Vacations.

#### **Dismissal from School**

To be dismissed from school, students must present to the office staff; before or immediately after the entering bell, a written note from their parent or guardian stating the reasons for their dismissal and the time to be dismissed. They will receive a dismissal slip, which they must present to their classroom teacher at the time of their dismissal. Students will then come to the office and sign out prior to being dismissed from the building.

#### **Tardy To School**

Pupils who are not in their **Homeroom/Advisory by 8:00** are considered to be tardy. Students who arrive at school after 8:05 are to report to the office to sign the tardy sheet. Students will be issued an unexcused tardy unless a note or a phone call from the parent or guardian is received within 24 hours. Reasons for excused tardies are detailed in the district attendance policy- NSD Policy JH, JHA and JH-R.

## **BICYCLES AND ALTERNATIVE SCHOOL TRANSPORTATION**

Bicycles should be locked when on school grounds and should be placed in the bike racks that are located in front of the school building. Bicycles are left at the owner's risk. The school will not assume responsibility for bicycle damage or if they are stolen. Students are reminded that they are not to tamper with the bicycles of other students.

## **SKATEBOARDS – SCOOTERS - ROLLERBLADES**

**Skateboards, scooters, and rollerblades should not be ridden on school property. Students must store these items in their lockers or bring them to the office.**

## **BOOKS – DISTRICT POLICY**

Students are expected to take excellent care of all school and library books, materials and equipment that are loaned or assigned to them. All school property should be returned in the same condition, exclusive of wear from reasonable use, in which it is received. Students should report immediately any lost or damaged books, materials and/or equipment to the teacher. Students will be held financially responsible for such loss or damage. The charge to the student will be based upon age and condition of the item at the time of issue. The building principal or designee will determine the amount of the charge. Any non-payment for books will result in the following action. Students failing to reimburse the district for lost or damaged books, materials and/or equipment will be subject to: academic restriction, loss of privileges, disciplinary action and/or possible legal consequences.

## **AFTER SCHOOL DETENTION**

Disobedience of rules and regulations of the school, disrespect for teachers, or other acts that show poor school citizenship may result in at least one or more detentions.

Detention will be held immediately after school and will be dismissed at 3:30 p.m. Students are expected to be productive while in detention and will be required to do school work, reading, or community service. All students must come to detention prepared to work.

If a student is unable to attend the detention on the assigned date, the student must notify the teacher or the administrator, who has assigned the detention, to have the detention rescheduled. Failure to report to the detention may result in the student receiving further disciplinary action.

A late bus will be available for students who do remain after school for either detention, extra-help, or some activities. The bus will be at the school at or around 3:40 p.m.

## STUDENT DRESS

Inappropriate clothing is any clothing that disrupts the educational process, threatens the learning environment or endangers the health/safety of the students or any other persons. Therefore, the following items are not allowed to be worn in school.

- Clothing is unacceptable if it is revealing because of a low neckline or the clothing is overly snug or is see-through. **In addition, shorts that are too short (higher than mid-thigh) are also unacceptable.**
- Pajamas
- Slippers
- Sunglasses
- Hats or headgear (other than religiously affiliated)
- Hoods
- Jewelry with studs
- Chains
- Clothing with obscene pictures/writing, inappropriate pictures/writing
- Gang related attire (including shoelaces in hair and bandanas)
- Basketball jerseys unless they are worn with a sleeved shirt underneath

## FOOD SERVICES

The Nashua School District offers nutritional breakfasts and lunches on a daily basis at minimal fees. Breakfast begins at 7:30 and lunches are scheduled by grade. There are a variety of menu options each day. Applications for free or reduced lunch are made available to students at the beginning of the school year and application forms may be obtained in the main office.

All students are assigned a PIN number for their personal accounts and deposits to the accounts may be made on a regular basis.

### **2018-19 Breakfast/Lunch Prices**

School Lunch (includes milk)	\$2.75
Reduced School Lunch (includes milk)	.40
School Breakfast	1.50
Reduced Breakfast	.30

## HARASSMENT/BULLYING

Fairgrounds Middle School strongly believes that all students should be able to achieve an education without harassment of any kind. Students involved in sexual, racial, or ethnic harassment in particular should be referred to the administration for investigation and the appropriate action in accordance with the Nashua School District's Policy on Harassment/Bullying and the Student Behavior Standards.

## HEALTH SERVICES

If students feel ill, receive any cuts, bruises, or other injuries in school, they are to notify the teacher in charge. The teacher, in turn, may send students to the nurse's office, where a nurse is available to treat the ailment.

Students **must** receive a pass from the teacher before reporting to the nurse, unless there is an emergency. Students who report to the Nurse with minor ailments are merely preventing the Nurse from performing her essential duties. Please cooperate by recognizing the true function of the Nurse and the limits to the effectiveness in dealing with students who are not seriously ill.

Any student who finds himself involved in substance or child abuse and desires assistance in this area may refer themselves to the school nurse or a guidance counselor. Assistance in obtaining counseling as well as peer support groups will be provided in confidence and without reprisal.

### Medications

Any student required to take medication may be assisted by the Nurse only under the following conditions:

- A written statement is received from a licensed physician who prescribes the medication detailing the amount and method of taking the dosage prescribed and the time schedule to be followed.
- Written authorization from the parent indicating the desire that the school Nurse assist the pupil, a "hold harmless" release must be signed and submitted to the Nurse and filed with the student's health record. These are State Laws and no medication can be given unless these stipulations are met. We ask that you cooperate with these requirements.

## HOMEWORK POLICY – DISTRICT POLICY

### I. Definition

Homework is a constructive tool in the teaching/learning process when geared to the needs, learning styles, and abilities of students. Purposeful assignments not only enhance student achievement but also develop self-discipline and associated good working habits. As an extension of the classroom, homework must be planned and organized, must be viewed as purposeful to the students, and should be evaluated and returned to students in a timely manner.

Teachers will give homework to students to aid in the students' educational development. Homework should be an application or adaptation of a classroom experience and should not be assigned for disciplinary purposes.

Teachers shall carefully explain to their students the desired outcome of homework assignments and how homework assignments relate to the grading system.

## **II. Guidelines for Teachers**

1. All teachers/team will regularly assign homework.
2. All teachers/teams should determine/coordinate the length and nature of homework assignments based on the ability level of the students and/or the academic level of the course.  
Homework assignments should not exceed, on average, one and one-half hours total, per night, with the exception of reading assignments or when additional practice is needed for an individual student.
3. Homework assignments should not be due on the day immediately following a one-day school holiday, a school vacation, or a nationally recognized holiday.
4. Long-term assignments (two or more weeks) may be given in all subject areas. Long-term assignments should not be made due following a one-day school holiday, a three-day weekend, a school vacation, or a nationally recognized holiday. However, long-term assignments may span any of the school vacation periods listed.
5. Teacher/teams should assist students in becoming aware of the need to budget their time so that these assignments are gradually completed over the span of time set by the teacher.
6. At the beginning of the term, the teacher should always make clear to the students and parents his/her policy regarding the grading of homework and its effect on the final grade.
7. Teachers need to be sensitive to students' availability and access to resources outside of the school setting, which may be necessary for the completion of homework and/or long term assignments.
8. Group homework assignments are an important learning tool that shall only be assigned when the teacher is willing to closely monitor the group dynamics and provide guidance on group interactions to the greatest extent possible. School facilities should be utilized to complete group assignments.

## **III. Guidelines for Parents**

1. Establish and maintain a positive attitude toward education in the home by making the completion of homework assignments a priority in your child's daily routine.
2. Provide a quiet area in the home, which is conducive to helping the student study and complete assignments.
3. Provide a quiet area in the home, which is conducive to helping the student study and complete assignments.
4. Provide your child with necessary materials, e.g., paper, pens, pencils, dictionary, reference books, etc. Computer access is encouraged.
5. Help your child if he/she is having difficulty but do not do the assignment for him/her.
6. Become informed about the teacher's requirements and expectations for daily and long-range homework assignments.
7. Become informed about before- and/or after-school academic support that may be available for your child.
8. Homework will not be given in advance for extended vacations.

## INCLEMENT WEATHER – DISTRICT POLICY

### Weather Announcements

It is the intent of the Board of Education to keep the schools in session under most weather conditions. If school is going to have a delayed opening or will be canceled for the entire day, please listen to radio station announcements on WFEA (1370 on your AM dial), WZID (95.7 on your FM dial), WGIR (101.1 on FM and 610 on AM dial), and on the following television stations: WMUR (Channel 9), WBZ (Channel 4), WCVB (Channel 5), and WHDH (Channel 7). In addition, families will receive a computerized call from the Nashua School District with information when school is cancelled or when there is a “late start”.

Parents of young children, or those in unusual situations are expected to use discretion in sending their children to school on a stormy day. Age of students, location within the city, availability of sidewalks, and distance from school are all factors which vary for each family. Each family, therefore, should judge whether to send children to school on days when weather conditions are questionable, though not severe enough to close schools.

### Delayed Opening

Announcement will be carried by the radio; television stations, and computerizes calls as listed above.

### Inclement Weather Policies and No School Information

A 2 hour delayed school opening is an option that may be used on days when weather and street conditions are projected to improve during the morning hours. All schools will start 2 hours later than on a regular school day and buses will also follow a 2 hour delayed schedule covering their routes. The school day will end at the regular time.

### Early Dismissals

Announcements will be carried by radio and television stations as listed under the INCLEMENT WEATHER. It is extremely important that you make arrangements for your child's care in the event school is dismissed early when you are not at home, and it is important that your child knows what he/she should do if that happens. Severe weather conditions may develop after school is in session and may warrant an early dismissal. Should a decision for early dismissal be made, buses will be ready to begin taking some students home approximately 30-35 minutes after a decision is made, and the general order of dismissal will be consistent with the regular order of dismissals. Conditions could cause the interval between these dismissal times to be lengthened.

### LOCKERS

Students are provided with a locker in which they may keep their books and school materials. The number and location of students' lockers will be given to them by their Home Room teacher. Students are reminded that lockers are school property and the school has the right to inspect them or reclaim them. General or specific searches of school property may be conducted at any time the administration sees fit. In addition, **students are highly encouraged to provide locks for their gym locker.**

## **LOST AND FOUND**

Any article which has been lost and found should be turned into the Main Office. If students have lost any article, they are urged to inquire at the main office at the opening of school, during lunch, or after school.

## **MAKE-UP/TUTORING**

Afternoon sessions are held to provide students with the opportunity of making up work or receiving extra help. Pupils should make a supreme effort to take advantage of these opportunities. Teachers will select one day per week for afternoon session.

## **PERSONAL PROPERTY**

Students who leave valuables in their desks, lockers, coats, or in other places in the building do so at their own risk. The staff and the administration cannot accept responsibility for the loss of money or other valuables unless these valuables have been turned over to the teacher or to the office for safekeeping.

In physical education class, pupils are encouraged to give their valuables to the teacher before class.

Students involved in after school athletic activities are to leave their clothes in a locker, which is then locked.

Although the students are responsible for their own personal property, any losses are to be reported to the classroom teacher after they are discovered to be missing. The taking of a person's property without permission will be considered stealing and will be subject to school discipline and possible police action.

## **PHONE / ELECTRONIC EQUIPMENT**

Students may use the office phone in the case of an emergency.

Students are prohibited from using:

- Cell phones during the school day unless it is for instructional purposes. (This rule includes "text messaging.")
- CD players
- IPOD's
- Headphones
- Hand held video games
- All other electronic devices

Electronic devices are strictly prohibited and will be confiscated from students.

Any phones or electronic items confiscated will be sent to the office for student pick-up after the first offense and parent pick-up after the second offense. Repeated offenses will result in disciplinary consequences from school administration.

**Important Message for Parents: Please do not call your child's cell phone during the school day. If the phone rings, your child's phone will be confiscated. Please call the Fairgrounds Middle School office if you need to reach child during the school day. We will either take a message or we will locate your son/daughter for an emergency call.**

## **REPORT CARDS AND PROGRESS REPORTS**

Report cards are distributed three times a year. The letter grades A, B, C, D and F are used to indicate student's progress. A more detailed explanation of the values of these letter grades will be found on the report cards.

Conduct marks may be entered upon your report card by any teacher in the school or by the office.

An incomplete grade (Inc.) indicates the student has not completed all necessary work for the marking period at the time marks closed. Arrangements for make-up must be made with the subject teacher. It is recommended that the incomplete be made up by the middle of the following marking period.

### **PROGRESS REPORTS**

These reports are given to all students approximately six (6) weeks into each new marking period. These reports assist parents, students, staff and administration in monitoring student performance and behavior.

In addition, a parent may request individual progress reports from teachers to indicate student improvement by contacting the Guidance Office at 966-3990.

Parents are encouraged to use the "Aspen Family Portal" to review their student's progress. The "portal" is updated every two weeks by the teachers.