

[HOME](#)

Walnut Street School

“HOME OF THE DELANCO DRAGONS”

Student Handbook 2011-2012

Director of Curriculum/Building Administrator
Brenda Thomas, Secretary

411 Walnut Street
Delanco, NJ 08075

TELEPHONE: 461-0874
ABSENTEE NUMBER: 461-0874
EMERGENCY SCHOOL CLOSING NUMBER: 677

WALNUT STREET SCHOOL MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of Walnut Street School is to provide each child with a challenging educational experience serving the unique needs of each student. We provide the optimum learning environment where safety, confidence, and respect are the norm. Our parents and our community work with us to develop independent and self-sufficient contributors to society.

This agenda belongs to:

Name _____

Homeroom _____

Address _____

Phone # _____



411 Walnut Street
Delanco, NJ 08075
856-461-0874

Dear Parents and Students:

On behalf of the Walnut Street faculty and staff, I'd like to welcome you to our school for the 2011 – 2012 school year! Delanco is a special place, and likewise, its schools are special in that they offer our students an opportunity to learn and grow within a very caring and supportive environment. We look forward to working collaboratively with you throughout the school year. In order for your children, our students, to achieve their very best, it's incredibly important that we communicate with one another on a frequent basis. Please never hesitate to call or email our teaching staff or me should you have any questions or concerns. **Contact information for every teacher is listed on our district's website** (www.delanco.com). Simply double-click on the link labeled "**Personnel Directory.**"

At the Walnut Street School, we have a culture of learning where hardworking and respectful students are rewarded. We have a Behavior Modification Plan at our school, and students can lose and earn back points based upon their behavior. Students who have a sufficient amount of points are rewarded by being permitted to participate in grade level field trips, club-oriented field trips, and fun end-of-the-month assemblies and activities. Furthermore, our diligent and hardworking students who make the honor roll for the first three marking periods of the school year are also treated to a special reward (again, provided that they have also proven themselves to be respectful and well behaved per our Behavior Modification Plan).

In addition to working hard and being respectful, our students must also be organized and responsible in order to be successful at the middle school level. We are providing all of our students with student planners because we **require** our students to use them constantly throughout the school year. First and foremost, our school expects our students to use their planners to record their homework assignments on a daily basis. Additionally, our students are required to record the date, time, and their intended destination in a designated space in their planners if they wish to ask a teacher for permission to leave the classroom. Only after a teacher puts his/her initials next to this information is the student permitted to leave the room. As you will find in the pages that follow, students who lose their planners will face disciplinary consequences.

Please review the Student Handbook very carefully. In addition to making you aware of important school rules and policies, it also highlights valuable information regarding the services that our school provides.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have a question or a concern.

We are looking forward to a great year!

Sincerely

Director of Curriculum/Building Administrator
Delanco Township Public Schools

Welcome

This parent/student handbook has been arranged as a reference source to ensure uniformity in the operation of the school. Remember that your success in the Walnut Street School will be directly proportioned to your efforts.

Walnut Street School Hours

Jazz Band will take place from **7:30 a.m. – 8:10 a.m. on Mondays and Wednesdays; Concert Band** will take place from **7:30 a.m. – 8:10 a.m. on Tuesdays and Thursdays.** If your child does not participate in Band, please do not send him/her to school before 8:15 a.m. At 8:15 a.m., students will be permitted to enter the school building, and they will report to the auditorium until homeroom.

Parents with Questions

There may be occasions when parents have questions about their children's educational programs or other school-related matters. This course of action should be followed:

1. Discuss the question with the teacher involved. If there are still questions, then:
2. Make an appointment to discuss the question with the building administrator. If there are still questions, then:
3. Ask to see the Superintendent of Schools. If there are still questions, then:
4. Present them to the Board of Education during a public meeting. Board meetings are held on the second Wednesday of each month in the cafeteria at Pearson School at 7:30 p.m.

Bell Schedule

Full Day

*BAND 7:30 – 8:10 a.m.
HR 8:28 – 8:38 a.m.
1 8:40 – 9:20 a.m.
2 9:22 – 10:02 a.m.
3 10:04 – 10:44 a.m.
4 10:46 – 11:26 a.m.
Lunch 11:28 – 12:08 p.m.
6 12:10 – 12:50 p.m.
7 12:52 – 1:32 p.m.
8 1:34 – 2:14 p.m.
9 2:16 – 2:56 p.m.
HR 2:58 – 3:00 p.m.

Half Day

*BAND 7:30 – 8:10 a.m.
HR 8:30 – 8:35 a.m.
1 8:36 – 9:04 a.m.
2 9:05 – 9:33 a.m.
3 9:34 – 10:02 a.m.
4 10:03 – 10:31 a.m.
5 10:32 – 10:42 a.m.
Lockers
6 10:43 – 11:11 a.m.
7 11:12 – 11:40 p.m.
8 11:41 – 12:09 p.m.
9 12:10 – 12:40 p.m.

*Jazz Band = 7:30 a.m. – 8:10 a.m. on Mondays and Wednesdays; Concert Band = 7:30 a.m. – 8:10 a.m. on Tuesdays and Thursdays.

Behavior Modification Plan

We have a Behavior Modification Plan at the Walnut Street School. Students can earn or lose points based upon their behavior. This system is in place to make it clear to our students that positive behavior results in achievable rewards.

Walnut Street School 2011-2012 School-Wide Behavior Modification Plan

1. Each student starts September with 25 points.
2. Points are subtracted for:
 - Suspension [per offense] 5 points
 - After school detention [per day] 2 points
 - Lunch detention [per day] 1 point
 - Late to school [per day] 1 point
 - Sent out by sub 3 points
 - Sent out by teacher 2 points
 - Use of handheld electronics during school hours 1 point

Students will be notified when points are deducted. **Students who are excessively late to school will be subject to additional administrative consequences.**

3. **Activity Restriction** – Students with less than the required number of points are restricted from the activities listed on the next page according to the following schedule:

<u>Month</u>	<u>Minimum points</u>
September	23
October	20
<u>Month</u>	<u>Minimum points</u>
November	18
December	15
January – June	10
8 th grade trip	6
8 th grade Dance	2

4. **Achievement Incentive** – Students who are unable to participate in activities will be directed to a classroom. There, the students will have an opportunity to earn back **2 points** for completing assignments and behaving well. All assignments will be tied to specific courses. All work completed during this time will be graded, and the scores earned will be factored into the students' final grades in those courses.
5. **Improvement Incentive** – A student can earn back **1** point for going **5** school days without getting points deducted.
6. Initial parent notification will be provided at the start of the school year.
7. Additional notification gets mailed (or e-mailed) when students have lost 5, 10, 15 or 20 or more points.
8. Other ground rules
- If a teacher sends a student to the office and designates that it is for a “time out” no points will be deducted.
 - Records of deducted points will be maintained by the building administrator
 - If two or more penalties could be applied to the same act of misbehavior, the higher point deduction will be applied. [Ex. A student is sent out of a class and is then suspended.]
 - This policy does not apply to participation in Band, Chorus, Sports, Drama or other extra-curricular activities.
8. Activities to be missed by students on point restriction include (but are not limited to);
- Field trips [students must have required points **one week** before any trip]
 - Evening activities as spectators
 - Dances
 - Entertainment assemblies
 - Monthly “fun” activities

Achievement Rewards Program

We administer benchmark assessments to our students in Mathematics throughout the school year. Each benchmark assessment is a cumulative test designed to measure how well our students have mastered all of the topics and concepts taught to them up until the time of the benchmark.

In our Achievement Rewards Program, students will be permitted to participate in a special reward (**pizza party, ice cream party, etc.**) each time they earn an “A” or a “B” on a benchmark assessment and/or increase their score by 5% from one benchmark assessment to the next.

Student Attendance Regulations

NJ revised Statutes **require** all children between the ages of six and sixteen to attend school **all the days and hours that school is in session**. Absences from school disrupt the instructional process, thereby jeopardizing a student's chances for success.

If an absence is for five (5) consecutive days or more, a note of explanation from the child's doctor stating that the child is fully recovered and capable of participating in the school program must be brought to the main office.

Early dismissal is permitted only in the event of an emergency. The child must present a note to the office stating the reason (Board Policies 5200 & 5210). We encourage all parents to schedule doctor and dental appointments at a time other than during regular school hours.

Punctuality is of the utmost importance. A child who is tardy starts the day with a definite handicap. He/she must also present a note of explanation from his/her parent to the main office.

An accumulation of unexcused absences will be dealt with according to NJ State Statutes regarding truancy (Board Policy 5230). Prolonged or repeated absences, excused or unexcused from school or from class, deprive the pupil of the classroom experience deemed essential to learning and may result in retention at grade level. A warning notice shall be given to any student who has excessive absences.

We encourage you to plan vacations to coincide with school holidays. Thank you for your support and cooperation in this area.

Lateness

Students are expected to arrive to school on time. Punctuality is a quality that will be important to our students later in their lives when they enter the working world. A pupil will be considered late when he/she is not in his/her assigned room when the late bell rings. If a child is late, he/she must report to the office for a late pass.

Procedures for School Absences

We expect students to be in school, except in the event of illness. When children will be absent, the parent is to call the school at 856-461-0874 and press #1 to report the absence. Identify yourself, state the name of the child, and the child's teacher, and give the reason for the absence. These calls should be made either the evening before the absence or **before 8:45 a.m.** on the morning of the absence.

Generally it is not necessary to procure homework for a one-day absence. However, when the child returns to school, it shall be his/her responsibility to make up any missed assignments. If a child is expected to be absent several days, please give the office at least a one day notice so that work can be prepared to be sent home.

Admission of Pupils into the School Building

Unless they are in Band, pupils are to report to school no earlier than 8:15 a.m. They will be permitted to enter the building at the sound of the first bell and will report to the auditorium until they are dismissed.

School Telephone

One of our goals is to teach our students responsibility. Please encourage your children to come to school prepared for lunch, gym, and other activities that apply. Also, encourage your children to remember their homework.

Students will not be permitted to use the office phone to call home for items they have forgotten, including homework.

Student Planners

Students are **required** to have their planners with them everyday. Students need their teachers to sign their planner in order to leave the classroom for any purpose. Students who do not have their planner will be sent to the main office. At this time, students will have an opportunity to purchase a substitute planner or to receive a pass from the office for the day. In either case, any student who does not have a planner will be subject to administrative consequences.

Inclement Weather School Closing Information

In the event of a severe storm or other emergency, which would force the closing of school, special announcements will be made over the local radio and TV stations. The school will notify Philadelphia Emergency Headquarters and the information will be sent to all Philadelphia broadcasters. **Our school closing number is 677.** Parents will receive a Global Connect phone call with pertinent information regarding a delayed opening or an emergency closing. Please make sure we have updated contact numbers.

Affirmative Action Assurance

The Delanco Public Schools, in accordance with Title IX of the Educational Amendments of 1972 and the New Jersey Administrative Code 6:4 and U.S. Section 504 Rehabilitation Act of 1973, guarantees each student equal education opportunity regardless of race, physical or mental impairment, color, creed, religion, sex, ancestry, national origin, or social or economic status (Board Policies 1510, 1530, & 1550).

In addition, all persons shall have equal access to all categories of employment in the public education system of New Jersey. If you have any questions or concerns, please see Mr. Cogan, the Director of Curriculum, as he is the Affirmative Action Officer for the district.

Harassment, Intimidation and Bullying

The Board of Education prohibits acts of harassment, intimidation, or bullying. A safe and civil environment in school is necessary for pupils to learn and achieve high academic standards. Harassment, intimidation, or bullying, like other disruptive or violent behaviors, is conduct that disrupts both a pupil's ability to learn and a school's ability to educate its pupils in a safe environment; since pupils learn by example, school administrators, faculty, staff, and volunteers should be commended for demonstrating appropriate behavior, treating others with

civility and respect, and refusing to tolerate harassment, intimidation or bullying. **A copy of Delanco Schools Board Policy 5512.01, Harassment, Intimidation, and Bullying is published on the school's web site.**

Mrs. Meslin is our district's Anti-Bullying Specialist. She chairs our School Safety Team, leads investigations of reported HIB incidents and acts as the primary school official responsible for preventing, identifying, and addressing incidents of HIB in school. Furthermore, we the School Safety Team works to develop, foster, and maintain a positive school climate. All of our teachers and staff members have been trained in preventing HIB.

Medication Policy

The dispensing of medication in school is discouraged except when the student's health may be jeopardized without it. The following rules (Board Policy 5530) must apply:

1. Any medication, prescribed or over the counter, must be accompanied by a doctor's note with dosage.
2. The medicine must be in the original container.
3. If it is a prescription, the container must include:

The patient's name

The name of the medication

Dosage

Time to be administered

4. If any of the above conditions cannot be met, the medicine will not be administered.
5. All parental notes and related records will be maintained by the nurse or the building administrator.
6. No student is to carry any medication in school or have any medication on school property, such as aspirin, cough drops, etc., with the exception of life threatening illnesses when self-medication has been approved.

Injury or Illness at School

If a pupil becomes ill or sustains an injury after his or her arrival at school, he/she should report to the school nurse. Under no circumstances is a student to leave the classroom or school premises without proper permission. Parents will be informed by the school nurse whether outside medical attention is needed.

Health Services

As part of our health services to our pupils, the district provides vision, auditory, and scoliosis screening. Any questions that parents may have regarding our health services should be directed to our school nurses, Mrs. Wenner or Mrs. Rafanello, or to the building administrator (Board Policy 5310).

Lockers

All lockers made available for student use on the school premises, including lockers in the hallway and locker room are the property of the school. There will be periodic locker checks and general cleaning of lockers to ensure that they are being used appropriately (Board Policy 5770).

Students are required to store their books in their lockers. Individual combination locks will be issued to each pupil. All lockers are to be kept locked at all times. Students will not be permitted to go to their lockers during and/or in between class unless they have permission from a staff member or the office.

At the end of the year, all locks are to be turned in to the homeroom teacher. The serial number on the lock must match the number that was assigned at the start of the school year or a fine will be issued.

Care of Books

Each student is responsible for his/her textbooks and will be required to reimburse the school for damage beyond the normal wear or for loss of books (Board Policy 5513). Book covers must be kept on books at all times. Any payments for fines must be paid in cash according to school policy. Failure to settle any school debts will result in the withholding of the child's report card and/or diploma.

Crossing Guards and Safety Patrol

There is nothing that our school takes more seriously than the safety of your children. It is a school rule that Walnut Street students are **only permitted to cross Burlington Avenue at the corner of Walnut Street and Burlington Avenue.** At this corner, we have a crossing guard who can ensure that our students are able to cross the street safely.

Crossing guards are provided by the township for those children who must cross Burlington Avenue, Coopertown Road, or Willow Street. All children who cross these streets to get to the school must do so at these intersections and under the direction of the crossing guard.

A school safety patrol, made up of students and directed by a teacher, is on duty daily while school is in session. Since this is a student organization, it needs the full support of all parents if it is to effectively safeguard children (Board Policy 5860). Parents are requested to encourage their children to obey the Safety Patrol and to cooperate with them fully.

Fire and Lockdown Drills

By law, schools are required to conduct fire and lockdown drills. During a fire drill, everyone will hear a continuous pulsating ring of the alarm bell. All students and staff are to walk silently to their designated areas outside the building on Chestnut Street. All staff members are required to bring their roll books with them and report any missing students. Everyone will remain in line awaiting the signal to reenter the building. Pupils must maintain quiet during the drill. (Board Policy 1401). During a lockdown drill, an announcement will be made over the PA, and students and staff are expected to follow the appropriate procedures for the drill.

School Lunch

Lunch menus will be issued each month. Students may buy their lunch in the lunchroom or they may bring bagged lunches from home. All pupils must eat their lunch in the lunchroom. No one is permitted to leave the school grounds during the lunch period. Should lunch money or lunch be forgotten, students may charge their lunch **two times**. Payment must be received in cash before additional charges are added.

Snacks will be available on a daily basis. However, only those students buying/ bringing a lunch will be allowed to purchase them.

Grade Reports

Report cards will be issued four times a year, approximately every nine weeks. We use a numerical system in reporting most grades. Students are also marked "O" for outstanding, "S" for satisfactory, "N" for needs improvement and "U" for unsatisfactory, where applicable. Students are retained at Walnut Street if they fail three or more of our core courses (Language Arts, Science, Math, Social Studies, and Physical Education) in any particular year.

Grading Scale (Board Policy 2624)

A	93-100	C	75-84	F	0-68
B	85-92	D	69-74		

Honor Roll

To achieve honor roll status, pupils in grades 6, 7, and 8 must attain A's, B's, O's, or S's in all subject areas.

Academic Honesty Policy

All students need to be responsible for completing their own assignments in order to learn the material which is being taught. Copying of homework, cheating on tests, and plagiarizing reports will not be tolerated. Teachers may give a warning the first time a student is caught, but the penalty for cheating will be a zero on the assignment and disciplinary consequences determined by the building administrator.

Extra-curricular Activities

Pupils are encouraged to participate in extra-curricular activities sponsored by the school. Some of our activities include: Field Hockey, Baseball, Basketball, Safety Patrol, Student Council, Impact Club, and Drama Club.

To participate in any extra-curricular activity, the student must be present in school on the day of the activity. If detained after school for a disciplinary detention for which advance parental notification was provided or suspended from school, a student may not participate in the activity that day. A second suspension will result in a two-week ineligibility period (Board Policy 2430).

Inter-Scholastic and Intramural Activities Eligibility

Following are the eligibility requirements for each type of extra-curricular activity (Board Policy 2430):

1. **Inter-scholastic Activities:** In order to be considered for participation, a student must possess a current average of "C" in all subject areas. During the course of activity, the "C" average must be maintained in all major subject areas except that one "D" in any subject will be permitted at the time the activity begins.
2. **Intramural Activities:** In order to be considered for participation, a student must be passing all subjects. During the course of the activity, if a student falls to an "F" in any subject area, the grade must be raised to above failing the next marking period or the student will be excluded from the activity.
3. **Attendance:** To participate in any extra-curricular activity, the student must be present in school on the day of the activity.
4. Any student suspended for disciplinary reasons will be excluded from participation in any extra-curricular activity during the course of the suspension. A second suspension will result in a two-week ineligibility period for any extra-curricular activity.
5. Students who serve disciplinary detention for which advance parental notification was provided shall be ineligible to participate in extra-curricular activities on that day.

Visitors

Visitors are most welcome in the Walnut Street School. When you visit school for any reason, please stop and sign in at the main office. We will be glad to assist you in any way possible. Our building is locked at all times. Please ring the bell at the main entrance (on Walnut Street) to enter.

Backpacks and Gym Bags

Along the main hall, wall hooks are provided for the pupils to hang backpacks and gym bags. Backpacks and gym bags will not be permitted to be placed on top of one's lockers and/or carried into the classrooms. All books and materials needed for morning classes are to be hand-carried to each class. The same procedure will be followed during the afternoon session. We believe that the above procedure will help eliminate the increasing problem of students and teachers tripping and will help maintain order in the classroom and hallways.

After School Pupil Arrangements

Parents should see that children come directly home from school before going elsewhere, unless previous arrangements have been made between the parent and the child. If you give your child permission to go anywhere but home after school, we request that you notify the school in writing. There is to be no loitering on school property.

Teachers will notify parents of bus students, a day in advance, of any after school tutoring or detentions, or seek same day permission by phone.

If a youngster regularly attends an after school activity, i.e. music lessons, CCD, karate, dance lessons, etc., parents should inform the homeroom teacher by note at the beginning of the school year.

Child Study Team

Special services are provided to children experiencing serious difficulties in school through the Child Study Team (Board Policy 2460).

The team consists of the following members:

Charles Weisberg	Child Study Team Director
Joann Troso	School Psychologist
Myrna Bookbinder	Social Worker
Celeste Wilden	Learning Disabilities Consultant

The team investigates referrals from teachers and makes recommendations for programs for students.

Intervention & Referral Services (I&RS)

The Intervention & Referral Services (I&RS) is a school-based group selected to assist staff members with intervention strategies for meeting the learning needs of our students. The committee seeks creative ways to maximize the use of available school/district resources and offers staff members a means of drawing on these resources. Because students learn in different ways, I&RS offers teachers the opportunity to explore the resources and services to benefit their students.

Student Enrichment Program (S.T.E.P.P. –Striving to Enhance Potential Program)

The program is a pull out program and eligibility is based on the following criteria (Board Policy 2464).

1. A total I.Q. score of at least 120 achieved on the standardized test in use in the district
2. Standardized tests scores on NJ ASK of advanced proficient in a minimum of one core area (math, science, language arts literacy)
3. Report card grades for the year in all major subjects shall be at least a "B" or above. No pupil with a failing grade shall be considered for the program.
4. Teacher recommendation shall be required for enrollment in the program.

Students meeting the above requirements will be placed on a matrix. Students will be selected for the program based on their total matrix score. Students with the highest matrix score will be eligible to join the program prior to students with a lower matrix score. Students will be selected for either Academic or Music enrichment. Any questions you may have regarding S.T.E.P.P. can be directed to the building administrator.

Basic Skills Program

This program provides remedial instruction to students who fall below state standards on standardized and state tests. It is a state-mandated program and funded by Title I monies. Parents are notified if their child is in need of remedial services.

Testing Program

Standardized tests are given regularly to determine students' strengths and weaknesses. The results are also used by the staff to assess program and curriculum needs. The NJ ASK (Assessment of Skills and Knowledge) is given to all middle school students.

Computer Usage

Internet access is available to students and teachers. Our goal in providing this service is to promote educational excellence in the district by facilitating resource sharing, innovation, and communication. Students are responsible for good behavior on the school computer networks, just as they are in a classroom, or school hallway. Access is a privilege, not a right. Inappropriate use will result in disciplinary action. Users are expected to abide by generally accepted rules of network etiquette and conduct themselves in a responsible, ethical, and polite manner while online.

Cell Phones and Other Electronic Devices (iPods, MP3 players, electronic games, etc.)

Cell phones must be **turned off when students are in school**. Students are to keep their cell phones in their **lockers** during the school day. Any students caught using a cell phone or any other electronic device will have it taken away and receive points deducted as per the Behavior Modification Plan. (The phone/electronic device will be returned to the student at dismissal). If the student has the phone/electronic device taken away three or more times it will only be returned to the student's parent or guardian.

Bikes, Scooters, Skateboards

Students may ride bikes to school. Students are not permitted to ride skateboards and scooters to or from school. **NJ STATE LAW REQUIRES CHILDREN 14 AND UNDER TO WEAR BICYCLE HELMETS WHEN RIDING. THEREFORE, ANY STUDENT RIDING A BIKE TO SCHOOL MUST WEAR A HELMET.**

Fines

It is the administrative policy of the school to withhold all records (report cards, diplomas, etc.) until all books are returned at the end of the school year and/or all debts to the school are paid. (Board Policy 5513)

Parent Liability for Damages

The parents or guardians of any minor who shall damage any public or nonpublic school property shall be liable for the amount of damages to be collected by the Board of Education of the district or the owner of the premise in any court of competent jurisdiction, together with the costs of suit (Reference: N.J.S.A. 18A:37-3).

Dress Code

The Dress Code is designed to establish guidelines that assist students in making responsible decisions as they select attire that is appropriate for school. It is important for both parents/guardians and students to understand that the attire one selects has a direct effect on their attitude and behavior. Although the school recognizes the prerogative of students and parents in determining appropriate dress and grooming, certain styles of dress and grooming are not considered appropriate for the public school. In making the determination of appropriate school attire, the administration has considered three important areas of **modesty, cleanliness, and safety**.

Examples of inappropriate school attire include, but are not limited to the following:

- Clothing with crude meaning or phrases or imprinted with drawings or slogans which appear to promote or condone the use of alcohol, tobacco, drugs, or display profanity or sexual references. Any gang related articles of clothing.
- Shirts, blouses, dresses, etc. that display underwear, bare back, or midriffs, or that have "cut out" sections.
- Ripped or torn clothing.
- Inappropriately short shorts, dresses, or skirts (**In order to be considered of appropriate length, these items must meet or extend beyond a student's fingertips when she holds her arms against her body.**)
- Tube tops, halter tops, thin strapped or strapless tops, or tank tops.
- Excessively tight or short clothing and excessively baggy clothing.
- Underwear worn as outerwear or baggy pants exposing underwear.
- Hats, bandanas, headscarves, or sunglasses.
- Outdoor jackets are not to be worn in the school building.
- Chain, link, or metal belts.
- Pajamas, slippers, or lounging pants
- Flip flops/slides and **high heels**

Final determination of what is acceptable and not acceptable will be made by administration. Students dressed inappropriately for school will be asked to call their parents for other clothing. If students are inappropriately dressed more than once, they may face disciplinary action.

Submission of Pupils to Authority

Pupils in the public schools shall comply with the rules established in pursuance of law for the government of such schools, pursue the prescribed course of study and submit to the authority of the teachers and others in authority over them (Reference: N.J.S.A. 18A: 37-1).

Authority of School Officials

When a child is in trouble and disrupting the educational process, the parent is the person with the least authority. Only while the parent is in control of the child, and society does not have an overriding governmental interest, is the parent's authority superior. In the administration of a school, the parent must yield to the needs of the institution. When the child violates the rules of the institution, the investigation and imposition of sanctions is not subject to parental veto. School officials' source of authority is the constitutional mandate to educate the child, which carries with it the implied power to do all reasonable things to maintain safety, order and discipline in school. This authority, known as constitutional empowerment, is the authority set forth in *New Jersey v. T.L.O.* (1985) 105 S Ct 733 and *Veronia v. Acton* (1995) S Ct 2386 and does not depend on parental cooperation and overrides parental fiat.

School Behavior

Learning thrives in an atmosphere of mutual respect. As a member of our school community, students are expected to conduct themselves as responsible individuals. In the classroom, students should be respectful of other students and staff.

Good behavior goes beyond the classroom. In the halls and other public areas, students are expected to be orderly and courteous. Students must ask permission to leave or enter a classroom and must sign in and out. In the lunchroom, students must sit with their grade unless they receive permission to move. Students must ask permission to use the restroom or leave their seat for any reason. Students should eat their own lunch and not touch classmates' food. They should clean up their area including the table and the floor. They need to stay in their seats until dismissed.

Also, these expectations apply on the way to and from school, during school hours and in all activities and programs supervised by the school, including field trips, clubs, athletic events, dances, and social activities.

Behavior Outside of School

School officials' authority to discipline clearly extends to field trips and to school-sponsored activities both on and off-site. School officials do not generally have authority over, or responsibility for, student misbehavior off school grounds when not attending school-sponsored events or after hours. However, under N.J.S. 18A:25-2, they do have the authority to impose school-based punishments (e.g. detention, suspension, or expulsion) for such conduct when they find it to be detrimental to the safety of students and staff, discipline or property. *Board of Education of Palmyra v. Hansen*, 56 N.J. Super. 567, 153 A.2d 393 (1959); *R.R. v. Board of Education of Shore Regional High School District*, 109 N.J. Super. 337, 263 A.2d 180 (1970); *F.G. v. Hamilton Township Board of Education*, 1982 S.L.D. 382. Student Codes of Conduct: A Guide to Policy Review and Code Development; New Jersey State Department of Education; PTM 1370.00; fall 1995.

BEHAVIOR INTERVENTION STRATEGIES

INFRACTION

- Violation of a teacher's classroom rules
- Minor bus/walker misconduct
- Repeatedly chewing gum in school
- Using locker at unscheduled times without teacher permission
- Removal from classroom for refusal to work or misbehavior
- loitering on school grounds before or after school and /or refusing to obey school staff, crossing guard or safety
- Use and/or possession of items that distract from educational process
- Foul or obscene language
- Hallway misbehavior - yelling, running, general horseplay, mistreating lockers
- Repeated classroom misbehaviors without improvement
- Misbehavior for substitutes
- Violation of cafeteria rules
- Bullying or harassing another student
- Open defiance of a teacher or another person with authority over the student
- Posing a danger or injuring another student, teacher or school employee

CONSEQUENCES

Teacher Detention

Office Detention

Office Detention and/or Suspension

(determined by severity and frequency of misbehavior)

Immediate

- Stealing another student's property
 - Damaging school property
 - Truancy
 - Possession of drugs, tobacco, alcohol, or a weapon/ Terroristic Threats
- Suspension**
- Immediate
Suspension & Police
Notification**

*Continued misbehavior and failure to follow school rules may result in suspension and exclusion from school activities (see **Behavior Modification Plan on pages 3 and 4**).

**THIS LIST IS MEANT TO SERVE AS AN EXAMPLE AND IS NOT ALL -INCLUSIVE. ANY BEHAVIOR WHICH WOULD BE DISRESPECTFUL, DISRUPT THE LEARNING PROCESS, OR POSE A SAFETY THREAT IS FORBIDDEN. PENALTIES MAY BE CHANGED DEPENDING UPON THE SITUATION.