

MANDEVILLE MIDDLE SCHOOL STUDENT & PARENT HANDBOOK ACKNOWLEDGEMENT FORM

Posted on our school website at <http://mandevillemiddle.stpsb.org> or available in hard copy by request is the *Mandeville Middle School Student and Parent Handbook* for the 2021-2022 school year.

This handbook includes important and helpful information about school operation, procedures, and policies. Please read and discuss the contents with your child. To ensure you have received your handbook and covered it with your child, we ask that you sign and return this sheet to your child's teacher by Monday, August 9, 2021.

As we continue to adapt to the necessary changes within our school system in response to the pandemic, there will be the possibility of modifications throughout the school year to certain aspects outlined within our handbook. We will make parents aware of these changes if/when they are implemented. We appreciate your understanding and cooperation with any changes required to keep your children safe as we adhere to the guidelines we are given by our school system.

Please use the handbook as a quick reference. If you have questions about the handbook, please contact Sherri Barton, Principal, at 985-626-8778 or by email at sherri.barton@stpsb.org.

Student and Parent Handbook Verification

_____ We have read the Mandeville Middle School Student and Parent Handbook and agree to follow the included policies.

Parent/Guardian Signature

Student Signature

Date

Mandeville Middle School

2525 Soult Street
Mandeville, LA 70448

School Phone – 985-626-8778
School Fax – 985-626-1640
Cafeteria – 985-626-5909

<http://mandevillemiddle@stpsb.org>

Sherri Barton, M. Ed, NBCT – Principal
sherri.barton@stpsb.org

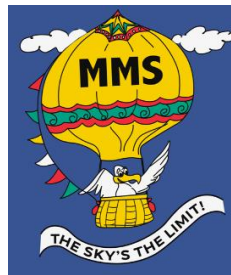
Robin Mitchell, M. Ed. -- Assistant Principal
robin.mitchell@stpsb.org

Tonya Shoupe, M. Ed – Technology Resource Teacher
tonya.shoupe@stpsb.org

School Hours
7:30 – 2:41

School Colors: Navy Blue and Gold
Mascot: Seagull

2021-2022 Theme: *MMS: The Sky's the Limit!*



Dear Parents and Guardians:

The faculty and staff welcome you and your children to Mandeville Middle School for the 2021-2022 school year. At Mandeville Middle School we believe in *Educating the Mind and Reaching the Heart*.

Students, parents, and teachers all share in the educational development of the student. Parental involvement in the process is a key component to providing effective educational opportunities that will allow your child to fully develop his/her potential. We urge you to be involved in our school, talk with your child about what he/she is learning, and communicate with the teachers and me. Your ideas and suggestions can make meaningful contributions toward improving Mandeville Middle School.

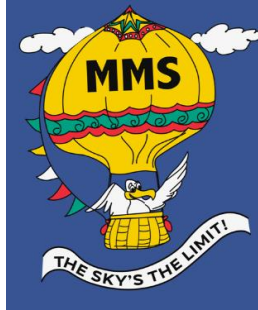
The *Student and Parent Handbook* is designed to provide information about school policies and procedures for helping ensure a safe and caring school environment where all students have the opportunity to learn and grow. Please refer to the handbook throughout the year.

I am eager to work with you and your child. Working hand in hand with you and your child will be exciting and rewarding, and together we can achieve much success. With your cooperation and participation, we will continue to be a school of excellence. Our theme this year, *MMS: The Sky's the Limit!*, reflects what we believe and strive toward for all of our students. We invite you to partner with us in making this your child's best year yet.

If you have questions about this handbook or other school issues during the course of the year please contact me. We strive to maintain open communication with parents and welcome your comments, questions, and involvement.

Sincerely,

Sherri Barton



MISSION STATEMENT

Believing that education helps shape the future, we, the faculty, staff, parents, and community of Mandeville Middle School, dedicate ourselves to professional excellence in education and an exemplary instructional program. We commit ourselves to meeting the intellectual, physical, social, emotional, aesthetic, and technological needs of all our students in a family-centered environment. It is our task to teach in a manner that will educate and motivate all students to reach their maximum potential as life-long learners and productive citizens in the technology-based, global society of the 21st Century.

PHILOSOPHY

The goal of the faculty and staff of Mandeville Middle School is to meet the intellectual, physical, social, and emotional needs of our students. We are committed to high standards of academic achievement for all students. This commitment extends to all subjects of the core curriculum, including reading, writing, grammar, spelling, mathematics, science, social studies, technology, the arts, and physical education. The development of higher order thinking, with an emphasis on problem solving and creativity, is essential to preparing our students to be productive citizens in our rapidly changing, technological society. Our goal is to teach in a manner that will educate and motivate all students regardless of background, ability, developmental level, or learning style.

Through the implementation of our Positive Behavior Intervention Support program, we encourage our students to become good citizens who are responsible, cooperative, and self-disciplined. In order to affirm each child's sense of self-worth, Mandeville Middle School strives to provide an atmosphere of trust, acceptance, discipline, love, and respect. Our goal is to instill within our students an appreciation for and acceptance of all individuals in a safe haven of learning.

The public school system is the basic institution for the formal education of our youth. The staff of Mandeville Middle School recognizes, understands, and respects both the responsibilities and opportunities that accompany this role. We acknowledge the immeasurable value of strong parental involvement and commit ourselves to joint cooperation with each family. We pledge ourselves to excellence in successfully fulfilling these obligations to the children of our community.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION FOR PARENTS AND STUDENTS

ABSENTEEISM/TARDINESS/CHECK-OUT: All students are required to attend school regularly. According to the Louisiana Department of Education, beginning in the fall of 2010, students are allowed ten absences each school year for elementary students. There are also new rules that apply to these absences. Absences considered **extenuating**, such as personal illness or serious illness in the family, must be validated by a note from a medical practitioner to prevent their being counted within the ten allowed absences. Additional **extenuating** absences include those which occur due to a death in the family, observance of religious celebrations, and mandated court appearances, all of which must be validated by a written excuse note from a caregiver along with appropriate documentation. Other student absences may be validated according to St. Tammany Parish School Board policy with a written excuse note from a caregiver, but these absences are considered **non-extenuating** and will accumulate toward the maximum ten days allowed. Excuse notes for absences must be presented to the school principal or designee **within two days** of the student's return to school.

The guidelines do not allow students to be excused for vacations or other family trips. You will need to make an effort to schedule vacations and necessary appointments during school breaks. The current school year calendar is posted on our website at www.stpsb.org.

School Board officials send letters to parents when absences are a matter of concern. If parents have contacted the school and documented extenuating absences, no other action is necessary.

Students need to make up work missed due to excused absences. The **student** is responsible for making arrangements with the teachers to make up all assignments as soon as the student returns to school. If your child misses only a day or two, the work can be made up upon return to school. If the absence is extended, you will need to contact the school (if the student is able to study at home) and arrange to pick up assignments **24 hours** after contact is made at the end of the following school day. *Google Classroom* provides an additional way for students to keep up with work missed during absences. (Please note that *Google Meet* is not intended for use for each individual student absence nor is there an expectation for teachers to provide such each time a student is absent.)

Chronic tardiness is disruptive and short-changes a student's learning opportunities. Tardiness also establishes poor work habits that can continue throughout life. Therefore, tardiness is treated seriously. State law requires that you have students in school on time. **If you bring your child and you arrive after the 7:30 bell, you must bring him/her to the office to get an admission slip. If your child is excessively tardy within a grading period, you will be contacted for a conference with the administration.**

When a parent finds it necessary to check a student out early from school, the parent must come into the office to sign out the student. The parent also needs to present official identification to the office workers to be verified against the student's emergency information. **Your child will only be released to persons listed on the child's emergency card.** These measures are for the safety of your child. To minimize the loss of instructional time, parents should not call ahead to have a student waiting in the office for check-out. **Parents are strongly encouraged to avoid checking students out after 2:15 p.m.**

Parents requesting a change in their child's transportation home must do so in writing. The request must be submitted to the school office **at least 24 hours in advance**.

BAND, CHORUS & ORFF ENSEMBLE Band, chorus and ORFF are open to fifth and sixth graders. Students may participate in one of these programs only.

BIRTHDAYS / CELEBRATIONS: Birthdays are special times for children and their families and friends. **Cards or invitations, if given, must be given to everyone in the class.** If you wish to send treats, balloons, etc., please coordinate with your child's teacher. Items may be left in the school office for sharing with your child and his/her classmates near the end of the school day. We welcome you to come and enjoy lunch with your child that day. As another alternative, the MMS library has a birthday program in which a book may be purchased and donated to the school library in the child's name. A staff member makes a short visit to the classroom to wish the child a happy birthday and present a special bookmark. Please contact the school librarian about the program if you are interested in making a lasting contribution in your child's name. There will be **one** class social in December just before the Winter Break.

BREAKFAST & LUNCHESES: A full breakfast is available to all students from 7:00 a.m. to 7:25 a.m. daily. Each grade level has its own lunch time:

- 4th Grade 10:55 a.m.
- 5th Grade 11:45 a.m.
- 6th Grade 12:35 p.m.

Parents are welcome to eat lunch with their child; however lunch guests are not allowed at recess. Please check in at the office before going to the cafeteria. **For the safety of our students, anyone joining a student for lunch must be on the child's emergency card.** If you are bringing your child's lunch to school, please place it on the cart in the foyer and write your child's name on the lunch as well as on the white board.

BULLYING-TYPE BEHAVIORS/THREATS: There will be zero tolerance in dealing with bullying-type behavior or threatening words or actions toward students, faculty, or staff. Students need to report to an adult on campus any incidents of this nature because the school cannot address issues of which we are unaware. For further information refer to the *STPSB District Handbook for Students and Parents* and to the School-wide Discipline Plan within this handbook.



BUS: Transportation to and from school by school bus is available to most students. Please refer to the BUS GUIDELINES that will be given to your child by the bus driver. Please help our drivers by returning the attached information form promptly to the driver. In order to help ensure the safety of all students, parents are strongly encouraged to discuss with their child the following bus guidelines and basic rules:

- Arrive at your bus stop in a timely manner.
- Always follow the instructions of the bus driver.
- Remain completely seated and face the front of the bus.
- Keep hands and feet to one's self.
- Talk in a low tone of voice and never use unacceptable language.

To help ensure bus safety and avoid overcrowding, students must have permission to ride a bus other than their assigned bus. *Students who wish to ride another bus must present to the office **at least one day in advance** a dated note signed by a parent/legal guardian. This note must state the rider's name and bus number. Presenting such a note does not guarantee the privilege of riding another bus. This privilege is not to be used to transport children to team practices, lessons, or tryouts. If a bus is at its capacity, students who do not normally ride this bus will not be allowed to ride even with permission from the parent. The student will be allowed to call home to make other arrangements.

If a child's behavior while on the bus is endangering the safety of others or interfering with the driver's safe operation of the bus, the parent will be contacted. Bus removal is a possible consequence.

BUS RIDERS and DISCIPLINE: Please refer to the "Safe Procedures for School Bus Riders" pamphlet for specific safe riding practices. Bus drivers give this pamphlet to students/parents at the beginning of each school year. Bus discipline infractions are submitted to administration by the bus driver. Discipline consequences are assigned based on the student's misconduct. Examples of discipline consequences include: parent contact, detention, recess detention, In-School Support, suspension from bus, suspension, removal from bus.

**Administration reserves the right to suspend a student from riding the bus depending upon the severity of the offense.



CAR LINE / STUDENT PICK-UP and DROP-OFF: The school day at MMS begins at 7:30 a.m. and ends at 2:41 p.m. Students may not arrive on campus prior to 7 a.m. or remain after 2:50 p.m. Students should be checked out no later than 2:15 p.m. All car traffic that enters Mandeville Middle School grounds during the morning drop-off (7:00 a.m. – 7:25 a.m.) and afternoon dismissal (2:41 p.m.) must enter through the Mandeville Middle School front circle entrance on Soult Street. All vehicles should use the center lane as a stacking lane. Vehicles should not block other lanes or driveways as these areas are needed for bus traffic. The car line will begin moving through the front horseshoe after the 7 a.m. bell rings and the duty teacher is on duty. Vehicles should proceed through the horseshoe to drop off or pick up student(s). Students should be ready to exit the vehicle immediately. **No students may be picked up or dropped off in the bus loading and unloading area.** For the safety of everyone, please cooperate with these traffic flow instructions and with the crossing guard. For after school activities, students are to be picked up in the bus circle.

All visitors after 3:30 p.m. should use the northernmost Soult Street entrance and parking lot. **During morning drop-off and afternoon pick-up of students, however, the northernmost Soult Street entrance is for bus traffic ONLY.**

Note: A form will be sent home with students who walk or ride bikes to and from Quail Creek. Parents will be asked to indicate how they would like their child to get home in the event of severe weather or lightning at dismissal. The parent directives will be followed during inclement weather, and the office will not make phone calls to each parent as in the past. If you would like to call on the day of the inclement weather to change the directive given on the letter, please feel free to do so.

CELL PHONE POLICY: Please review the *STPSB District Handbook for Students and Parents* for information regarding cell phones.

CHROMEBOOKS: Students will be issued a Chromebook and charger at the beginning of the school year once a *Chromebook Use Agreement Form* is signed and turned into the school. Please review the *Chromebook Use Agreement Form* on the STPPS website. [http://www.stpsb.org/forms/Chromebook%20Responsible%20Use%20Agreement%20\(Perpetual\)%20with%20Yearly%20Student%20Device%20Damage%20Coverage%20Form.pdf](http://www.stpsb.org/forms/Chromebook%20Responsible%20Use%20Agreement%20(Perpetual)%20with%20Yearly%20Student%20Device%20Damage%20Coverage%20Form.pdf)

CLASSROOM MANAGEMENT POLICY: Each teacher has a classroom management policy. The expectations, rules, and rewards are posted in each classroom. Also, a classroom management

plan is sent home with each student the first week of school for your signature. Every teacher at Mandeville Middle School follows this procedure.

CONFERENCES: Parent-teacher conferences are helpful to the student and enhance his/her chances for success. The principal and assistant principal are available to all parents. Since much of their time is spent supervising instruction and counseling students, a prearranged appointment will ensure you the opportunity to meet with them. The administration asks that you meet with a teacher prior to requesting a conference with an administrator.

COUNSELOR: Our school has a counselor who provides services as whole class, small group, and individual counseling. Parents may arrange conferences with the counselor by calling the school office and making an appointment.

DRESS: Mandeville Middle School parents followed St. Tammany Parish School Board policy on voting to require Mandeville Middle School students to wear uniforms. The uniform was proposed by the school uniform committee and adopted by parent vote. This uniform follows all guidelines of the St. Tammany Parish School Board Dress Code.

Students are not permitted to wear any uniform tops or bottoms that fit tightly. All uniform tops and bottoms must be traditional fit, not skinny fit nor excessively loose/baggy. We recognize that our students are growing children, and we ask our parents to make any needed uniform purchases with that in mind. For parents, we have included the images below as guides for appropriate *fit* for MMS uniforms. Uniform items meeting the guidelines outlined in the MMS Handbook may be purchased anywhere.

Acceptable Fit Examples



Bottoms: Girls may choose from **pants/shorts/skorts/skirts**. **Leggings or jeggings worn as pants are not part of the adopted MMS uniform and should not be worn except under a skirt, skort or shorts during cold weather.** Boys may choose from **pants/shorts**. Shorts, skorts, and skirts must adhere to fingertip length as stated in the STPSB student dress code. The color is khaki only (no stripes, designs, etc.).

*Students are permitted during cold weather to wear leggings **BENEATH** shorts or skirts. Leggings must be **SOLID** white, black, navy or gray only. This includes the soccer type leggings worn by boys.*

Shoes: Shoes should follow the STPSB Dress Code Guidelines. We encourage students to wear tennis shoes on PE days.

Tops: Shirts - MMS logo or **plain** polo type knit, collared shirt – white or navy long or short sleeves – no logos or emblems other than MMS.

Sweatshirts - MMS logos or **plain** sweatshirts – white, black, navy or gray – no logos or emblems other than MMS

Undershirts – white, black, navy or gray – **plain** – no visible logos or emblems other than MMS.

Undershirts are to be tucked in at the waist at all times and should not be visible beneath the hem of the uniform shirt. As long as the undershirts adhere to guidelines above, the sleeves may extend and be visible beyond the polo length sleeve.

Other school shirts - Student of the Month, band, club, spirit, etc., shirts may be worn on Fridays.

Outer wear: MMS logo or plain jackets or sweaters – white, black, navy or gray – may be worn **indoors**. All other non-MMS dress code heavy jackets, coats, hoodies, or sweatshirts may only be worn **outdoors**.

Please refer to the St. Tammany Parish School Board Dress Code Policy stated in the System handbook.

MMS logo uniform items are available at *School Time* in Mandeville for any parents wishing to purchase. No uniform purchases are made through the school.

DRILLS: FIRE/WEATHER/LOCKDOWN: Emergency evacuation routes and procedures are clearly posted in each room of the school. Employees are familiar with and responsible for making students familiar with emergency evacuation procedures. Drills are conducted in accordance with St. Tammany Parish School Board Policy. Please review with your child the importance of taking all drills seriously in the event a real crisis occurs.

EMERGENCY CARDS: Each student must turn in an emergency information card to the school office during the first week of school. This card will be filed in the school office. The card must include phone numbers (home and cell) to call in case of emergency. No one will be allowed to check out a student unless named on the emergency card. Parents are asked to update information with any changes in case you are needed in the event of an emergency. All changes must be made in person. Students are only allowed to have one emergency card.

FIELD TRIPS: The school may offer educational activities during the year that involve leaving the school grounds. When we have these activities, all school rules are enforced, regardless of the location or type of activity. When such an activity is planned, a letter with the details is sent home

well in advance. **For your child to attend any of these activities, you must sign the permission slip and return it and the cost of the trip to school by the deadline stated in the letter. Handwritten notes cannot be accepted.** If it is not possible for you to send the money for the trip by the deadline, an extension for the money may be granted if you contact the teacher and notify him/her of your intention to pay at a later date. **A permission slip still must be returned by the deadline stated in the letter.** Bag lunches are provided by the cafeteria if the event is held during the lunch period and if requested on the permission slip.

Parents may request to chaperone field trips. **Other children may not accompany parents on the trip.** Students must travel on the school bus on field trips. Chaperones are not allowed to ride on buses. Please remember that as a chaperone your purpose is to supervise a group of assigned students.

Parents wishing to take students home directly from field trips must sign them out in the school office before the trip departs from school. The parent will be given a release form that is to be given to the teacher in order to allow the teacher to release the student. The student may not rejoin the group after leaving the activity.

Cell phones, cameras, and other electronic devices are not permitted on field trips. Chaperones are asked not to use phones while supervising students.



GRADES: Assessment of performance will be done in compliance with School Board policy. Graded papers will be sent home once a week on the day specified by the teacher. If you do not receive papers, contact your child's teacher. The grade recorded in the teacher's grade book is the official grade. If you believe a grade has been recorded erroneously or a paper has a grade error, you must present the relevant paper to your child's teacher.

The following uniform grading policy has been approved by BESE and will be in effect for the school year 2021-2022:

- A 100-93
- B 92-85
- C 84-75
- D 74-67
- F 66-0

Please refer to the *St. Tammany Parish Student and Parent Handbook* for information on pupil progression.

HEAD LICE:

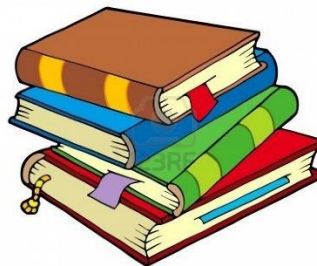
If you should find head lice or nits on your child at home, please notify the school or your child's teacher. School personnel must check students for readmission to school. Please see the St. Tammany Parish School Board policy for more information.

HOMEWORK POLICY: We believe that support from home is critical to student academic success. Homework is meant to be an extension of the day's lessons and to offer students an opportunity to reinforce key skills and concepts. Individual teachers will review homework policies at Open House held soon after school begins.



ILLNESS AT SCHOOL: The parent will be contacted if the child shows any sign of illness. In cases involving any injury to the neck or head, the parent will be contacted immediately and the decision to pick up the child is left to the parent. **In terms of pre-existing injuries that have already received attention, parents are encouraged to remind children there is no need to seek additional care from the school office.** Many students use this as an excuse to leave class, causing them to miss valuable instructional time.

JPAMS STUDENT PROGRESS CENTER: Our parent portal – The Student Progress Center – is a website designed to help parents and guardians keep track of their child's attendance, conduct, discipline, grades, progress reports and high school transcript information. This information can be found at <https://jpams.stpsb.org/jpweb>. This system is also used to send recorded messages to you as reminders or in case of an emergency. Individual teacher web pages are available through JPAMS. Teachers post overviews, assignments and other information weekly on their webpages.



LIBRARY: A library media fine of five (5) cents per school day up to \$1.00 is charged for reserve and overnight books. Five (5) cents per day is also charged for regular circulation materials that are overdue. The purpose of library fines is twofold--(1) to establish a sense of responsibility in

the students and (2) to defray the cost of lost or damaged books. Payment for lost books is based on the **current list price** of books in print. If a student has an overdue book, he/she may not check out additional books from the library until the fine is paid and the book returned.

Library check-out privileges are restored when students have either paid the fines, returned lost books, or negotiated a settlement with the librarian and/or principal.

The librarian makes written notification regarding overdue or lost books to the parents of students. Written notifications are given at least once each nine weeks when report cards are sent home. The notification may accompany the report card or it may be mailed separately.

LOST AND FOUND: Lost articles should be sent to the Lost and Found. Students should also check with their classroom teachers. Unmarked articles usually go unclaimed. Parents and students should see that everything a student brings to school is clearly labeled. The student is responsible for his own belongings. Books, book bags, and purses should NOT be left unattended on the playground. Students should NOT bring valuable items to school. The school will not be responsible for items lost or stolen at school.

MANDATED CHILD SEXUAL ABUSE PREVENTION EDUCATION AND REPORTING PROGRAM: As mandated by the St. Tammany Parish School Board, students in grades K-8 receive instruction on the topic of Child Sexual Abuse Prevention, Education and Reporting. All materials that are used in the instruction may be previewed by contacting the school administration. We encourage you to talk with your child about this topic, as well as other general safety issues.

MC KINNEY-VENTO ACT: The McKinney-Vento Act is a federal law passed in 1987 to help people experiencing homelessness. The Act requires states and school districts to make sure students in homeless situations can attend and succeed in school. The McKinney-Vento Act applies to all children and youth who do not have a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence, including children and youth who are living in the following situations:

- Doubled-up housing with other families or friends because they lost their home or their family is having temporary financial problems;
- Living in a motel/hotel because of economic hardship or loss of housing;
- Living in an emergency or transitional shelter, domestic violence shelter, or in a runaway/homeless youth shelter;
- Living in a vehicle of any kind; trailer park or campground without running water and/or electricity; abandoned building; substandard housing; bus/train station;
- Awaiting foster care placement;
- Abandoned in a hospital.

Children and youth in homeless situations have the right to the following:

- Attend and succeed in school no matter where they live or how long they have lived there;
- Enroll in school despite the lack of a permanent address or lack of school and immunization records or birth certificates and other documents;
- Receive services comparable to those offered to non-homeless children and youth;
- Get transportation to school;
- Access educationally related support services;
- Make sure that disagreements between students and schools are resolved quickly.

MEDICATION IN SCHOOLS: Students are not allowed to have prescription or non-prescription medications of any kind in their possession on the school grounds. This includes cough drops, eye drops, etc. If medication of any kind is found on the student, administration will take disciplinary action.

To assure school attendance for students who must use medication in the treatment of chronic disabilities or illness, the parent is responsible for notifying the school of any abnormalities in the health of their children. When such a condition exists, the following policies will be followed.

- A. Any student who is required to take medication during the regular school day must comply with school regulations.

These regulations include at least the following:

1. Written statement from physician and/or parent detailing the name of drug, dosage, and time intervals medication is to be taken.
2. Written request and permission from the parent or guardian of the student requesting that the school district comply with the physician's order.
3. Medication must be brought to school by the parent in a container appropriately labeled by the pharmacy or physician.
4. Over-the-counter medications (non-prescription medications) are to be handled in the same manner as prescription medications.

- B. For the well-being of the child, effective communication among the school, parents, school nurse, and physician is very important. Parents are urged to maintain close contact with the school **during** the child's illness.

MENTAL HEALTH PROVIDER: Our school has a full-time mental health provider who is available to assist students and parents with the challenges of and adjustments to middle school, as well as other needs. The MHP works closely with the counselor and provides individual and small group support. The MHP may be contacted by calling the school office and leaving a message.

MESSAGES: Parent calls to students are forwarded only in emergencies. Students will not be called out of class to speak on the telephone without permission of an administrator.



PARENTAL INVOLVEMENT: It is the philosophy of Mandeville Middle School that we are partners, along with all of our stakeholders, in the education of our students. We encourage and expect parents to be an active part of the school culture and to maintain frequent, ongoing communication with teachers and administration. Numerous opportunities are available to assist teachers and staff as a volunteer, serve on school committees, serve as resource speakers or otherwise be actively involved in the everyday function of MMS. We invite parents to be a part of our PTA and join in the meetings held throughout the school year. There are many opportunities for parents to get involved in their child's education and participate in numerous events scheduled throughout the year.

POSITIVE BEHAVIOR INTERVENTION SUPPORT/PBIS

Mandeville Middle School, in an effort to promote school-wide positive behavior, has developed a schoolwide plan that will benefit all students and staff. This plan was developed by the Positive Behavior Intervention Support Committee and includes measures to recognize appropriate behavior, as well as, preventative measures to make our school safe and enjoyable. Our number one goal is safety, while also promoting a positive learning environment where all students feel safe and secure.

Mandeville Middle School practices the FISH Philosophy. The rules and expectations for all areas of the school are based on this philosophy. The 4 basic principles of the FISH Philosophy are:

- Make Their Day
- Be There
- Choose Your Attitude
- Have Fun.

PBIS Rewards and Recognition:

Classroom Rewards:

Each teacher maintains a classroom management plan with specific rules, routines, rewards and consequences.

School-Wide Student Rewards and Reinforcements:

A variety of rewards and recognition will be used school-wide to acknowledge students following the FISH Philosophy. These include:

- ✚ **Seagull Slips:** Seagull slips are used school-wide and can be earned anywhere on campus or on the bus by anyone on campus as acknowledgement of students making good choices and following the FISH philosophy.
- ✚ **Quarterly PBIS Celebration:** Students demonstrating positive behavior that meets established criteria during the nine weeks will be invited to attend the PBIS Celebration held during the last week of each nine weeks. Students may use Seagull Slips at these celebrations to purchase snacks and enter drawings to win prizes.
- ✚ **Principal and Assistant Principal's Award:** Students are recognized by their administrators for excellent behavior and academic success. Students will enjoy a breakfast with the principal and assistant principal and receive a certificate.

PETS: Students are not allowed to bring pets or other animals to school at any time due to health and safety concerns.

RESTROOM POLICY:

For the safety of students, adults must use the office restrooms only. Any incidence of this policy being ignored should be reported to the school administration immediately.

SCHOOL WITHDRAWAL PROCEDURES:

When withdrawing a student from Mandeville Middle, please check to see what library books and textbooks your child has signed out in his/her name. Please contact the school office several days prior to withdrawing the child, as this allows the staff and teachers time to complete the necessary paperwork. Student Chromebooks and chargers must also be returned or parents are responsible for full payment for a replacement. Your cooperation will save you time and money in avoiding lost fees and it ensures that records can be sent without delay.

SECURITY:

Security cameras are currently installed throughout our campus. The cameras have been installed in strategic areas and monitor our school campus 7 days per week / 24 hours per day.

STUDENT RESPONSIBILITIES: At Mandeville Middle School, we believe that our students must learn to be responsible for their own belongings. Any class assignments, materials, Chromebooks (fully charged) and textbooks are to be brought to class on time. Chromebooks are to be charged at home each night to ensure they will be in working condition for the school day. If the Chromebook is charged overnight, the charge should last the entire school day. To support us in our effort to teach responsibility to our students, parents are not allowed to bring work, books, etc. to students during the school day. Make-up work must be completed when returning from any absence. Students will be allowed three days following their return to school to turn in make-up work.

TEXTBOOKS: All textbooks at Mandeville Middle School are the property of the State of Louisiana. Any loss or damage will result in a monetary fine. If a textbook is lost, the student must pay the original price for it before a new textbook is issued. Writing in a textbook constitutes damage to it. Most new textbooks cost in excess of \$50.00, so extra care should be taken. The student should check the textbook for damage when received and make the teacher aware of any damage found.

TOYS: Toys of any type are not allowed on campus at any time. This includes fidget spinners, Pokémon cards, slime, and all other items that can be considered a toy.



VISITOR AUTHORIZATION POLICY: Mandeville Middle School welcomes parents and others to visit our school campus. The procedures below are intended to ensure that such visitations not interfere with the smooth operation of the school and the safety of students and personnel, and that visitors comply with state laws governing visitors on school grounds. Parental visits to the school help the positive growth of MMS. **For security reasons, we do require anyone visiting our school to check in at the office upon entering the school.** Visitors will be asked to show their driver's licenses for check-in. If the person does not have the appropriate identification, the student will not be released. Anyone wishing to observe in a classroom must receive permission from Mrs. Barton and be willing to sign a confidentiality statement. **All visitors** must be listed on the particular child's emergency card.

- **No one** is allowed on school grounds without authority of the principal or designee.
- **All** visitors must report to the administrative office immediately upon arrival. The purpose of the visit and destination within the building must be stated to the principal or designee. The principal or designee may/may not grant permission to visit within the school building.
- **All** visitors will be asked to show identification and will be given an official visitor identification badge.
- Visitors will report only to those areas of the school for which permission has been granted. This includes grandparents' day, awards nights, etc.
- **All** visitors must return the official visitor identification badge to the administrative office upon leaving.
- **All** visitors must depart the building and grounds as soon as their official business is completed.
- Because of the high priority we place on school security, we ask that all visitor procedures be followed. Failure to comply with these procedures may result in the penalties provided by the La. Ref. State. 17:416.8

WALKERS AND BIKE RIDERS:

Students who live in Quail Creek have the opportunity to walk or ride bikes to and from school. Entrance is through the back gate. Students enter in the morning by walking or walking their bikes through the rear gate and across the rear yard to the area where students gather. In the afternoon, a duty teacher monitors students exiting. The duty teacher leaves the area once all students are off of school property. Due to safety issues, no other students may walk or ride bikes to and from school.

WEAPONS POLICY: Students found using, possessing and/or concealing a knife (including pocket knives), a firearm, a weapon which may discharge a projectile, or other dangerous instruments which may cause bodily harm **shall be immediately suspended and recommended for expulsion. We will notify police immediately. Students using, possessing, and/or concealing any look-alike object that may have the appearance of a weapon or dangerous instrument will be immediately suspended from school and recommended for expulsion.** Upon the recommendation for the expulsion, the Superintendent or his designee will conduct a hearing. Students in grade five or lower who are found, in the hearing process, to have used, possessed, and/or concealed a weapon or look-alike weapon shall be disciplined according to the decision made by the Superintendent or his designee. The Superintendent will refer any case involving a student in grade five or lower found in possession of a firearm on school property to the School Board with a recommendation for action. Students in grades six or higher who are found, in the hearing process, to have used, possessed, and/or concealed a weapon, or look-alike weapon will be expelled from the school system for a period of not less than 12 calendar months.

WEBSITES: Our school website can be found at <http://mandevillemiddle.stpsb.org>. Important dates, events, lunch menus, etc. may be found here. Links to other educational sites can also be found on our webpage. Noted here are two important resources the state has asked us to include for you.

State Library of Louisiana: <http://homeworkla.org/>

St. Tammany Parish Library: https://www.sttammanylibrary.org/learning-tools/homework-help/?_ga=2.213714388.1722592516.1611175009-1152565700.1580405775

Please refer to the STPSB District Handbook for Students and Parents for additional information on policies and procedures.

