

HAMILTON

LOCAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

Hamilton Middle School STUDENT HANDBOOK 2023-2024



“Every Ranger, Every Reason, Every Day”

HAMILTON

LOCAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

Superintendent's Message

To all of our Rangers,

On behalf of our Board of Education, district administrators, faculty, and staff; I would like to welcome you to a new school year in the Hamilton Local School District.

As we make our way through this school year, I ask that you push yourself to do your best every day. It is up to you to give your best effort, show kindness to your classmates and teachers, and have a positive impact while you are in our schools.

Trust the process. Stay engaged. Stay involved. There are many opportunities throughout the year for you to learn and grow as a student through classroom lessons, during district-sponsored extracurricular activities, or by being involved in community service initiatives. It is my hope that every student takes full advantage of programming offered in each of our schools.

Finally, I want to ask that when you have a question or need assistance with something in our district, please communicate with us directly. We are here to help and serve our community. Contact your teacher, building secretary, building principal, or district administrator with any questions or concerns so we can provide the answers directly.

I hope you have a great school year. Go Rangers!

Sincerely,
Mark Tyler, Superintendent

Hamilton Township High School

1105 Rathmell Road
Columbus, OH 43207
Phone (614) 491-8044 ext. 1800
Fax (614) 492-1495
Matthew O'Hearn, Principal
Jessica Wills, Assistant Principal
Allyson Price, Director of Alt. Programs

Hamilton Middle School

755 Rathmell Road
Columbus, OH 43207
Phone (614) 491-8044 ext. 1500
Fax (614) 491-0260
Jeff Endres, Principal
Jennifer Coalter, Assistant Principal

Hamilton Intermediate School

765 Rathmell Road
Columbus, OH 43207
Phone (614) 491-8044 ext. 1600
Fax (614) 492-1059
Kelly Altiers, Principal
Charles McCutcheon, Assistant Principal

Hamilton Elementary School

745 Rathmell Road
Columbus, OH 43207
Phone (614) 491-8044 ext. 1300
Fax (614) 492-1499
Tyler Rush, Principal
Melissa Seiler, Assistant Principal

TABLE OF CONTENTS	Page #
Building Contacts / Introduction	2
General Information	4
Parent Teacher Conferences	4
School Calendar	4
Daily Schedule & Hours	4
Medications	5
Visitors	7
Volunteers	7
Cafeteria / Lunches / Breakfast	8
School Phones	9
Curriculum and Grading	9
Academic Requirements	10
Progress Book	10
Homework	10
Programs/Organizations/Clubs	11
Athletics	11
Student Services and Guidance	11
District Wide Policies	12
Attendance Policy	12
Dress and Grooming Policy	15
Conduct Policy	15
Bus Conduct Policy	20
Emergency Operations Plan	21

GENERAL INFORMATION

School Calendar 2023-2024

Please follow [this link](#) to the Hamilton Local School District 2023-2024 calendar.

Parent-Teacher Conferences

Thursday, August 10th Open House/Schedule Pick-up 4:00-7:30 pm

Thursday, October 12th 4:00 p.m-7:30 p.m.

Thursday, January 18th 4:00 p.m-7:30 p.m.

Thurs., March 21st - 4:00 p.m.-7:30 p.m.

<u>ALMA MATER</u>	<u>RANGER PLEDGE</u>
<p style="text-align: center;">Oh Hamilton, We love your green and gold. Oh Hamilton, We're here to say We know you'll fight 'Til you have victory And all your enemies have gone away. Our loyalty is yours forever more. Our voices sing to you with loudest cheers And as we onward go to victory, We'll sing your name a thousand years.</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Ralph Juniper, Faculty Member 1946</i></p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Everyday I am SAFE, RESPECTFUL and RESPONSIBLE. I will be in charge of my behavior and learning. I am RESILIENT. I will persevere through challenges and setbacks to achieve my goals. I am a RANGER.</p>

School Hours

The school will open at 7:00 a.m. Students who arrive between 7:00 a.m - 7:19 a.m, must remain in the cafeteria. Once you arrive on school property, you are to enter the building and remain on school property.

Daily Schedule

Period	Start	End
HR/1	7:30	8:22
2	8:25	9:13
3	9:16	10:04
4	10:07	10:32
5	10:32	10:57
6	11:00	11:25
7	11:25	11:50
8	11:53	12:41
9	12:44	1:32
10	1:35	2:25

Records/Directory Information

Confidential records contain educational and behavioral information that has restricted access based on the Family Education Rights and Privacy Act ([FERPA](#)) and Ohio law. The Hamilton Local School Board of Education defines the following data in the student records as directory information: name; address; date and place of birth; extracurricular participation, achievement awards or honors; weight and height of members of athletic teams; dates of attendance, and date of graduation. Directory information will be released without the consent of the student or the parent unless the school has been notified *in writing* not to release such information.

Photographic Notification

Periodically, candid group photographs of student activities are taken at Hamilton Local Schools. If parents/guardians do not wish to have their child included in such photographs, they must notify the school office in writing.

School Website

Hamilton Local Schools operate and maintain web sites as valuable information resources for students, parents, staff, and community members. Please visit our web site at www.hamiltonrangers.org. From here you can access individual building web pages, and ProgressBook to monitor your child's academic progress.

Textbooks

Textbooks have been adopted and purchased by the Board of Education to be used in implementing the approved graded courses of study. Students will have the opportunity to use the textbooks by receiving one for personal use for the length of the course, or by use of one of the classroom sets of books. In classes where books are issued to each student, the teacher will make a record of the book number and name in front of the textbooks where it is indicated. Pen should be used to avoid the name being erased and the book being used by another student. The student becomes responsible for any textbook assigned and/or used by him/her during the length of the school year. Issued textbooks must be covered with an appropriate book cover. The cost of repair or replacement will be assessed against the student responsible for the lost or damaged book. Records and grade cards will be withheld from students who do not meet such obligations.

Textbook Repair and Replacement

The following guide will be used to cover repair and replacement costs of damaged and/or lost textbooks.

Normal wear	No charge
Damaged	\$10.00*
Damaged beyond future use or lost	Replacement cost based on condition

*This is a minimum charge that can be adjusted to reflect the actual amount of the damage.

Media Center

Our Instructional Media Center is open during school hours and students are encouraged to make good use of this facility. The media specialist will review procedures for the use of the media center during orientation sessions. All materials checked out from the Media Center must be returned. Lost materials must be paid for or grade cards and/or records will be withheld.

Clinic/Nurse

Parents are responsible for informing the school of their child's specific health concerns, medical diagnoses, and medications. This information should be provided on the emergency contact information at the beginning of each school year and be updated, using the new online portal <https://hamiltonrangers-oh.finalforms.com/> throughout the year as changes arise.

Medications

The majority of medications for students should be administered at home (i.e.-those ordered once, twice, or three times a day). However, there may be instances in which it is necessary for a student to take medication during the school day whether it is scheduled or on an as needed basis. For medications requiring administration at school, the following must be followed:

1. The parent/guardian and the licensed prescriber (physician, dentist, advanced practice nurse, or physician's assistant) must complete the required sections of the Medication Consent Form. A consent form for each medication, prescription or over-the-counter, must be completed and returned to the school before trained school personnel will administer any medication. This form can be obtained in our school's main office and on our district website under the Important Forms & Links or Student Registration sections. **Please note: There is one general form for use with most medications, one form to permit students to carry asthma inhalers, and one form to permit students to carry epinephrine pens.**

2. All medication must be delivered to school by the parent/guardian. Prescription medications must be received in the pharmacy container labeled with the prescribing information matching the information provided on the completed Medical Consent form. Over-the-counter medications must be received in the original, unopened container labeled with the student's name.

Students are not permitted to carry or transport medications with the exception of asthma inhalers and epinephrine pens with the proper consents in place.

3. Parents are responsible for picking up unused medications at the end of the school year. These will not be sent home with the student. Any medications not picked up by the beginning of the next school year will be disposed of.

4. New request forms must be submitted each year and whenever there is any change in the medication order by the licensed prescriber (i.e.- changes in the dose or time).

Contact Information Changes

Parents/guardians are responsible for immediately updating any changes in phone number or address using the online procedure as established by the district. This is necessary to maximize the safety of your child. To access your child's information, visit <https://hamiltonrangers-oh.finalforms.com/>.

If you don't have access to a computer, please stop by our main office (775 Rathmell Road) and we will help get you set up. It's quick and easy. If you have any questions about this system, you can contact our main office at 614-491-8044 ext 1500.

Accidents and Illness

If a child has an accident or becomes ill at school, a parent will be notified to come and get the child. If a parent cannot be contacted, the alternate person on the emergency contact information will be notified. Any student who has a fever of 100.4 degrees or greater, vomiting, diarrhea, or signs and symptoms of a possible communicable disease will be sent home. Please keep students with a possible or known communicable disease home until they are symptom-free or have been treated for at least 24 hours. **Only the persons whose names appear on the emergency card will be permitted to pick up or release a child from school because of injury or illness. Before we will release a child, a photo ID must be presented and the name should match what is on the emergency card. Students under the age of 18 years must be signed out by a person identified on their emergency contact information. No student under the age of 18 years will be permitted to leave school unaccompanied based on a telephone call to the school office, nor without prior written consent of a parent or guardian.**

Student use of mobility assistive devices

The parent/guardian of students that require the use of a mobility assistive device in school, for example, crutches, wheelchair, cane or walker, should provide documentation to the school nurse from a hospital or medical practice. This documentation should include the name of the hospital or medical practice (with contact information) and can be accepted from the following: physician, nurse practitioner, physician's assistant, nurse (RN, LPN), physical therapist, school athletic trainer, other paraprofessionals, case manager, or office manager. To provide a safe environment this documentation (and other related documentation) should include the following:

- Reason for use
- Duration (length) of use (with dates)
- Ability to use stairs
- Any activity restrictions
- Any special instructions

A student with a long-term disability does not require additional documentation each school year unless there is a change in use of their mobility assistive devices.

The school nurse will review the documentation and develop a plan to accommodate the student during the day to include field trips. The parent/guardian must provide the mobility assistive device.

Please contact the school nurse should you have any questions or concerns.

Immunizations

In compliance with the Ohio Compulsory Immunization Law, no pupil shall be admitted to school unless he/she presents written evidence that they have received the required immunizations by such means as approved by the Department of Health, pursuant to the powers granted by the Ohio Revised Code or unless such student presents a written statement from his parents or guardian objecting to such immunization because of medical or religious grounds. However, if an outbreak occurs, the student will be excluded from school. All new students entering the district from a foreign country are required to have a TB test. Immunization clinics are provided by the Franklin County Health Department and the Columbus Health Department for a nominal fee.

Supplemental Student Accident Insurance

The Hamilton Local School District recognizes that students may suffer injuries in the course of attendance at school. Accordingly, the District provides insurance coverage as authorized by Ohio law and makes available to parent's insurance coverage for other incidents. The District is not permitted to use public funds for insurance to cover injuries sustained in the course of attendance at school and is immune from damage as is authorized by Ohio law and Chapter 2744 of the Ohio Revised Code and the Sovereign Immunity Law of the State of Ohio.

The Board provides parents the opportunity to purchase group insurance coverage, at no cost to the Board, for injury resulting from accidents sustained by students in school, on school grounds, at an activity sponsored by the school, while traveling between home and school or in any activity round-the-clock. The purchase of this program is optional. The Board requires, as per Board of Education Policy JHA, that: students participating in interscholastic school athletics must be covered by some type of accident insurance. The insurance may be the accident policy, which has been approved by the Board or a similar policy type acquired elsewhere by the student or his/her parents. The requirements of this policy are contained in the district athletic handbook.

The board maintains insurance coverage for injury resulting from accidents sustained in the course of transportation under the authority of the Board.

Halls

Students should be in the halls only at the beginning and close of school and while moving from one class to another, unless they have special permission or special duties that require them to be there. Students are asked to be courteous at all times and to keep to the right when moving in the halls. Running and shouting in the halls is never permitted. A student must have an approved hall pass in order to be permitted in the hall during class time. Any abuse of pass privileges may result in disciplinary action.

Signs/Advertising

All signs which are to be placed on the outside or inside of school property must be approved by the building administration.

Outside Building

Students are not permitted outside the building or on other school building properties during school hours unless accompanied by a staff member or have written permission from staff or administration.

School Visitors

All adult members of our community are welcome to visit the school. However, an appointment must be scheduled prior to the visit. **State law requires that any person visiting the school report directly to the school office. Once the visitation has been approved, each visitor must sign in.** Each visitor will then receive a school pass that must be worn and remain visible during the visit. This procedure will assist in providing a safe environment for all students. Visitors are not permitted to attend lunch in our cafeteria. Parents are encouraged to keep open communication with classroom teachers. Teachers have regularly assigned times when conferences can be scheduled. Any conference with teachers should be scheduled in advance.

Volunteers

On behalf of Hamilton Local Schools, we appreciate all of our volunteers that work with us. We recognize that parents and other community members are our partners and that our goals are shared ones. Please understand an approved volunteer does not have open access to school buildings and there's no guarantee an approved volunteer will be contacted to volunteer. The volunteer must have approval from an administrator of the building for any activities in which they will participate. Adults who wish to volunteer must complete the following and have it approved by administration: [Volunteer Checklist](#)

Child Custody/Divorced Parents

The school wants to cooperate with the parents of our students, but we must do so according to Ohio laws. Sometimes parents have disagreements and make requests of school personnel regarding releasing children during the day. If custodial arrangements, which have been court ordered, restrict access to the child or his/her records, a copy of that order must be on file in our office. This court-issued document directs the school, not necessarily the wishes of one parent or the other. The adult checking the child out must sign for the child's release. Parents have an obligation to inform the school anytime the custody of a child changes. The school officials will need to see and copy court orders pertaining to a child's custody.

Non-Custodial Parent Record(s) Access

A divorce or change in custody does not change the rights of a natural parent to their child's records. A non-custodial parent may request and receive a copy of the child's report card, the permanent record, and the opportunity to hold a teacher conference. Only the custodial parent has the right to make educational decisions requested by the school. Stepparents have no legal rights to records, reports, or conferences unless these rights are granted by the custodial parent.

School Fees, Course Fees, and Fines

Students attending Hamilton Local Schools are required to pay a \$50.00 student supply fee. In accordance with board policy, report cards and records will be withheld for those students who have not met financial obligations and/or have not returned all school/district property.

THE STUDENT SUPPLY FEE OF \$50.00 HAS BEEN WAIVED BY THE BOARD OF EDUCATION FOR THE 2023-2024 SCHOOL YEAR.

Technology Fee

Students attending Hamilton Local Schools in grades 1 through 12 are required to pay a \$25.00 Technology Fee per year. Families that qualify for free lunch are not required to pay this fee. (See "Lunch Program" below on how to submit for the Federal School Lunch Program.)

Pay to Participate Activity Fees

Waived for the 2023-2024 School Year

Fund Raising and Selling in the School

Students may only participate in school-approved fundraisers when soliciting within the school. Items are not to be brought into the school to be sold. Money and/or merchandise are not to be exchanged between students unless it is part of an approved fundraiser. Fund Raising and selling may be approved for school related activities only. Fund raising, selling or buying without **principal approval** is prohibited.

School Lunches

Each school provides the opportunity for students to eat a well-balanced hot meal. The cost for our school lunch for **2023-2024** is \$2.75. An a-la-carte lunch is also available, and the price for each item will be posted. Students bringing their lunch from home will eat in the cafeteria and may buy additional food or drink items, if desired. All food items are to remain in the cafeteria. Hamilton Local Schools participates in the Federal School Lunch Program.

Our online application for this program is made available to you through our new Hamilton Final Forms Parent portal. Visit [Final Forms](#), login to your Hamilton Final Forms account, and click on the Free & Reduced Lunch Application. If you haven't set up an account at this time, please do so as soon as possible and complete your child's forms. If you have any questions about our lunch program, please contact Mrs. Way at 614-491-8044 ext. 1860.

Breakfast Program

We are happy to offer a free, filling and nutritional breakfast for all Hamilton students. Students can choose to pick up a grab-and-go breakfast through the regular cafeteria line. We encourage all students to take full advantage of our breakfast program.

Cafeteria/Fee Payment and Account Systems

EZPay is an easy, convenient, and secure way to pay for school meals and all other fees. Available online via a secure web portal, EZPay allows you to quickly add lunch money to your child's account and pay for all fees that are associated with your child's education or activities. Creating your EZPay account is a very simple process. All you need is a valid email address, your child's student number (contact their school to get it if you don't have it), and a couple minutes to complete the registration process. EZPay allows you to make payments using a debit or credit card. You can access EZPay by clicking on the EZPay logo located on our district or school website home page. You may also access EZPay by searching the keyword "EZPay" in the search box on our website.

Student Dining

Hamilton Local Schools has a closed lunch policy in which no student will be permitted to leave school for lunch. Additionally, parents and/or guests are not permitted to join students for lunch, nor are students permitted to order lunch to be delivered by an outside vendor. Administrative discretion will be used in emergency situations. Students are to report directly to the cafeteria at their assigned time and may go to the restroom or locker with permission from the assigned teacher/supervisor. Student behavior in the cafeteria should be based on courtesy and cleanliness. This means leaving the area in the condition you would like to live in. Students will go through the cafeteria line and pay for their choice of food. Students are to remain in the cafeteria until they have been dismissed. At no time are pupils allowed to take food outside of the cafeteria. Students are not to go into areas where classes are being held during their lunch hour.

Lockers (6th – 12th Grade)

All students will be assigned a locker. Lockers are property of the Hamilton Local Board of Education. Lockers carry no expectation of privacy for the students who occupy them and should not be shared amongst students. Students are responsible for the contents of the locker they have been assigned. Lockers can be reassigned at any time by administration. School lockers and their contents are subject to search by school authorities at any time and without warning.

School Telephone

Student use of the school phone is allowed only after approval by the secretary or principal and will be kept to a minimum. The school reserves the right to refuse the use of its telephone for unnecessary calls. The school secretary will place all approved student-initiated calls. Any charges for directory assistance, line interruption, etc., will be billed to the student's parents/guardian.

Book Bags/Backpacks/Purses/Handbags

Book bags/purses/handbags and backpacks are permitted in the building; however, they must be placed in the student's assigned locker until the conclusion of the day.

Dances

Dances may be scheduled during the school year for students to socialize in a controlled school setting. Dances may be used as fundraisers for school clubs and organizations or as incentives for students. A dance is a school event, which requires the cooperation of all attending. It is the school's way of showing appreciation for good student behavior and adherence to the rules, regulations and attendance policies. Transportation is required promptly at the end of the scheduled dance.

Students may be denied the privilege to attend the dances for reasons including, but not limited to, behavioral, academic, or attendance concerns. **Only current Hamilton Township Middle School students are permitted to attend middle school dances.**—The Student Code of Conduct and Dress and Grooming Policies are enforced during all school-sponsored dances.

Assemblies

At various times during the year the school will conduct assemblies. These assemblies are special activities held during the school day to educate as well as foster student interest and involvement. They are chosen to enrich units of study or provide positive motivational messages. Improper behavior may result in removal from current and future assemblies. Textbooks and other materials are to be left in the classroom unless otherwise instructed. Attendance at non-mandatory assemblies may be denied due to behavior, academic or attendance concerns.

Field Trips

The teachers at Hamilton Middle School may plan extended field trips for students. The purpose of these trips is to extend the curriculum and provide opportunities for students that cannot happen in a regular school setting. Participation in these trips is a privilege students can earn by exhibiting responsible and cooperative behavior throughout the school year. Students may be denied the privilege to participate in these trips due to behavioral, academic, or attendance concerns. Decisions regarding participation are made by the principal with input from teachers.

The Student Code of Conduct and Dress and Grooming Policies are enforced during all school-sponsored field trips.

CURRICULUM AND GRADING

AIM (Advise, Intervene, Motivate)

The purpose of AIM (Advise, Intervene, Motivate) is to help students acquire skills to have a successful transition to middle school, maintain successful habits throughout their middle school experience and prepare them for high school.

Academic Honors

Those students with a G.P.A. of 3.8 to 4.0 will receive the recognition of the Principal's Honor Roll. Those with a G.P.A. of 3.0 to 3.7 will be awarded the recognition of Honor Roll. To calculate grade point average, assign the point value to all grades earned and divide by the total number of classes. A G.P.A. cannot be calculated with any incomplete class.

National Junior Honor Society

Membership in the NJHS is granted only to those students selected by the Faculty Council. The Council consists of five members appointed by the principal. The council is responsible, with input from the general faculty, for selection of new NJHS members. The Council is responsible for issuing warnings and/or dismissing members who do not maintain the standards of the NJHS.

Students interested in membership in the National Junior Honor Society should keep the following in mind:

- Candidates must have a cumulative scholastic average of 3.0 GPA (on a 4.0 scale) or the equivalent standard of excellence. (Average based on the final grades for sixth grade and the first nine-weeks of the seventh grade.)
- Candidates will be evaluated on the basis of leadership, service, character, and citizenship.
- It is required that candidates fill out the Student Activity Information Form completely, including all the activities in which they have been involved.

Grade Reports

At the end of each grading period, Grade Reports will be posted to ProgressBook the week following the end of the quarter. If you have any questions concerning your child's grades please contact your child's teacher(s).

Progress Book: Parent Access

Parents/Guardians have online access to their child's academic progress. Teachers enter daily attendance and grades into ProgressBook (a web-based system for reporting student information) and then parents/guardians can login and view it.

Please be aware, however, that student grades and/or test results may not be entered on a daily basis. Teachers need time to collect, grade, and input the information, so please be understanding. Please contact the teacher directly with concerns.

To access your child's information:

1. From a web browser go to: <https://pa.metasolutions.net/district>
2. Click on the ProgressBook Parent Access icon.
3. Click on the Hamilton Ranger icon.
4. Enter your username and password (contained in the access letter sent home from the office).
5. Please go to the "My Account" tab after you login for the first time and enter your email address in the contact information area. Also, you can change your login name and password (to something easier to remember) and link any of your additional children to the same account.

Homework

Homework may be assigned to pupils to provide additional practice in subject areas, or to give opportunities to work on special projects. Questions regarding homework should be directed to the teacher involved. It is suggested that a place, time, and work area be provided for your student to establish and encourage good study habits. Many assignments are designed to encourage and promote parent/student/school interaction.

Promotion and Retention

The Board of Education recognizes that the personal, social, physical, and educational growth of children will vary and that students should be placed in the educational setting most appropriate to their needs at the various stages of their growth.

It shall be the policy of the Board that each student be moved forward in a continuous pattern of achievement and growth that is in harmony with his/her own development. Such a pattern should coincide with the system of grade levels established by the Board and the instructional objectives for each. A student will be promoted to the succeeding grade levels when he/she has demonstrated the degree of academic proficiency and social, emotional, and physical maturation necessary for a successful learning experience in the next grade.

Factors for promotion, placement, and retention:

- Academic grades
- Mental ability
- Age and physical maturity
- Emotional and social development
- State and local assessment results
- Teacher recommendations
- Every effort will be made to work with the student and parents to remediate the student's difficulties before he/she is retained.
- Students who have unexcused absences for more than 10% of the required school attendance days and have failed two or more subjects will be retained unless the principal and the teachers determine the student is academically prepared for promotion.
- The student must successfully complete a majority of the required academic subjects in order to be promoted.
- Parents will be informed of the possibility of retention of a student at a grade level during the first part of second semester.
- Final decisions on student promotion, placement, or retention rest with the building principal.

Academic Requirements

At Hamilton Middle School a 100-point numerical scale (%) is used to report grades to students and parents.

Grade Point Average

To calculate grade point average, assign the following point value to all grades earned:

90-100% (A = 4.00), 80-89% (B = 3.00), 70-79% (C = 2.00), 60-69% (D = 1.00), 0-59% (F = 0).

Quarter Grades are based on the following weights:

Coursework	= 20%
Benchmark Progress	= 60%
CBA	= 20%
Total	= 100%

Year Long Courses	Semester Courses
1st Quarter = 25%	1st Quarter = 50%
2nd Quarter = 25%	2nd Quarter = 50%
3rd Quarter = 25%	Final Grade = 100%
4th Quarter = 25%	
Final Grade = 100%	

STUDENT SERVICES AND GUIDANCE

The school guidance department is staffed with one part time counselor. The school counselor is available to help make the student's years at Hamilton Middle School successful and satisfying ones. Every student and parent is encouraged to take advantage of the services offered through the guidance and counseling department. The counselor provides the following services:

- Confidential help with individual concerns (academic, organizational skills, study skills, issues with friends, family, school, stress management, etc.)
- Group counseling
- Peer mediation and conflict resolution
- Classroom activities that assist teachers
- Consultation on parenting issues
- Assistance and participation in parent-teacher conferences
- Linkage to community resources

Individuals with Disabilities

The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act provide that no individual will be discriminated against on the basis of a disability. This protection applies not just to the student, but also to all individuals who have access to the District's programs and facilities. A student can access special education services through the proper evaluation and placement procedures. Parent/guardian involvement in this process is required. To inquire about special education services and placement, parents/guardians should contact the Special Education Department at the Administration Building at 614-491-8044 ext 1235.

PROGRAMS/ ORGANIZATIONS/ CLUBS

Hamilton Local Schools offers many opportunities for students to participate in programs, organizations, and clubs, such as Ohio Model United Nations (OMUN), Junior National Honor Society, etc. The administration reserves the right to deny participation in these opportunities for reasons including, but not limited to, behavioral, academic, or attendance concerns.

ATHLETICS

Eligibility/Extracurricular

Hamilton Middle School is a member of the Ohio High School Athletic Association. According to the Ohio High School Athletic Association guidelines, only seventh and eighth grade students may participate in interscholastic sports.

In order to play in a game, players must be in attendance for one-half day during the day of the game. The student must be in attendance for the entire day on the day following a contest unless the student has a doctor's excuse or special permission from the principal. Ohio High School Athletic Association policies are the policies adopted and adhered to by Hamilton Middle School. Those requirements for the 2023-2024 school year are as follows:

- Any student that is 15 years old before August 1st of a given school year is ineligible for that school year.
- Middle School students are only eligible for athletics during their first two years of Middle School.
- All seventh-grade students enrolling in that grade for the first time are eligible regardless of previous academic achievement.
- Eighth grade students that pass 75% of their classes the last grading period of the previous school year are eligible for the first grading period of the next school year.
- At the end of the first grading period, a seventh or eighth grade student that is passing 75% of his/her classes is eligible for the second grading period.

- Grading periods three and four follow the same procedures and requirements as the second grading period.
- Changes in athletic eligibility will become effective on the start of the fifth school day after the end of the grading period.

Athletic Conduct Code and Due Process

All students will have access to a copy of the Athletic Conduct Code and Due Process when trying out and participating in a sport at Hamilton Township Middle School.

Sportsmanship

Extracurricular activities are privileges as well as part of the total educational process and the same level of responsibility and behavior is expected at practices and competitions as is expected in the classroom. Should an individual student act in a manner detrimental to the school and student body at any extra/co-curricular activity, either as a contestant or a fan, he/she will lose the right to attend contests and events involving other students and schools and may be subject to further disciplinary action. In addition, all Hamilton Middle School students at home games are to sit on the home team side of the stadium or gymnasium.

The Student Code of Conduct is enforced during all school-sponsored activities.

Photographs and/or Videos During Extra-Curricular Participation

Participating in activities such as band, drama, athletics, and other school related groups may result in photographs and/or videos being taken and appearing in programs, yearbooks, video and print media, and other sources due to the nature of the activity.

ATTENDANCE POLICY

The State of Ohio Revised Code (O.R.C.) 3321.04 of Chapter 3321 School Attendance states that, "Every parent of any child of compulsory age (6 – 18 years) who is not employed under the Age and School Certificate must send such child to a school or special education program that confirms to the minimum standards as prescribed by the State Board of Education. The child must attend full-time when the school program is in session."

Except in cases where a pupil has been properly excused, his/her parent or guardian has the primary responsibility for requiring school attendance (O.R.C. 3321.04/3321.07) and the failure to send a child to school may result in a fine of up to \$500, community service of up to 70 hours, or, if repeated, a jail sentence for the offending parent (O.R.C. 3321.38, 3321.99).

Ohio Revised Code 3313.609 prohibits the promotion of a student to the next grade level if the student has been truant for more than 10% of the required attendance days (178) of the current school year and has failed two or more of the required curriculum subject areas in the current grade unless the student's principal and the teachers of any failed subject areas agree that the student is academically prepared to be promoted to the next grade level.

All Hamilton Local School District students are expected to be in school and to attend all assigned classes every day. Any attendance pattern contrary to this will be investigated. Parents or guardians of students who are truant or habitually tardy from school may be required to attend a parental education or training program and/or an attendance intervention meeting. The failure of a parent or guardian to attend such a program constitutes "parental educational neglect" under the Ohio Criminal Code, which is punishable as a fourth degree misdemeanor. School attendance is closely related to school success; therefore the following attendance regulations will be in effect in the Hamilton Local School District.

A student shall not be absent from school for any portion of the school day without authorization. After arriving on school property, a student may not leave without permission. Students under the age of 18 years must be signed out by a person identified on their emergency contact information. No student under the age of 18 years will be permitted to leave school unaccompanied based on a telephone call to the school office, nor without prior written consent of a parent or guardian. Excessive absenteeism to school or class may result in disciplinary action under the Student Code of Conduct.

THE ADMINISTRATION OF HAMILTON LOCAL SCHOOL DISTRICT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO WITHHOLD PROMOTION FROM A STUDENT MISSING MORE THAN EIGHTEEN (18) CLASS MEETINGS PER YEAR OR NINE (9) PER SEMESTER.

Notification of absence from school - The following notification of Absence Procedures has been adopted by the Hamilton Local Board of Education in accordance with requirements of the Missing Child Act. In the event that a student is absent from school the parent or guardian is required to contact the school, either by phone or in person during the first two (2) hours of school. Absences of students, which are not verified by parent contact with the office within three (3) days, will be viewed as unexcused. A student's absence from school is excused by parent notification for a maximum of sixty-five (65) hours if the absence falls within the excused absence guidelines. Once a student reaches sixty-five (65) hours of absences, excused or unexcused, doctor verification is required for additional absences to be considered excused.

Hamilton Middle School Attendance Line – Parents calling in to inform the school of a student absence must contact the attendance line directly and speak with or leave a voice message for the attendance secretary with student name, grade, date(s) of absence, reason for absence, and any additional pertinent information.

HMS ATTENDANCE LINE – (614) 491-8044 ext. 1599

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

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

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

1. Needed at home to perform necessary work directly and exclusively for parents or legal guardians for a limited period of time when approved in advance by the Superintendent (applies to students over 14 years of age only when all statutory obligations have been met for such excusal)
2. Death in the family (applies to absences of up to 18 hours unless a reasonable cause may be shown for a longer absence)
3. Observation of a religious holiday consistent with the truly held religious beliefs of the student or the student's family
4. Traveling out of state to attend a Board-approved enrichment activity or extracurricular activity (applies to absences of up to 24 school hours)
5. College visitation
6. Pre-enlistment reporting to military enlistment processing station
7. Absences of a student of a military family for purposes of visiting their parent, legal guardian or custodian who is an active duty member of the uniformed services that have been called to duty for, is on leave from, or immediately returned from deployment to a combat zone or combat support posting
8. Absences due a student's placement in foster care or change in foster care placement or any court proceedings related to their foster care status
9. Absences due to a student being homeless
10. As determined by Superintendent

Make-up Work

Each student who is absent must immediately, upon return to school, make arrangements with his/her teacher(s) to make up work missed. Students who are absent from school for reasons not permitted by State law may, or may not, be permitted to make up work. Each case is considered on its merits by the principal and the respective teacher(s). If a student is made aware of a test or assignment before they are absent, they must make up the test or assignment immediately upon returning to school unless other arrangements have been made. Parents may request student work to be picked up in the office after 2:30. Failure to obtain make-up work is no excuse for not doing the work.

Doctor, dentist or counselor visits or appointments - Parents are encouraged to schedule their child's appointments with doctors, dentists and counselors during non-school hours. If the student consults a doctor, he/she must supply a statement from the doctor to that effect immediately upon returning to school.

Unexcused absences - If unexcused absences are not resolved in three (3) school days, the absence will be recorded as unexcused. The final decision as to the acceptability of an excuse will rest with the building administration.

Parent notification of absence - When the student becomes habitually truant or excessively absent, an Absence Notification Letter will be mailed home to the parent or guardian. When a student's absences surpass the threshold for habitual truant, the student will be assigned to an absence intervention team and an intervention plan will be implemented.

Tardy/Early Dismissal - A student's absence from school is excused by parent notification for a maximum of sixty-five (65) hours if the absence falls within the excused absence guidelines. Once a student reaches sixty-five (65) hours of absence, excused or unexcused, doctor verification is required for additional absences to be considered excused. Unexcused tardies and early dismissals from school may result in disciplinary action under the Student Code of Conduct. All students arriving late to school must be signed in at the front office. Any person signing a student out of school, must be listed on the student's Emergency Medical Form and provide a photo I.D. To avoid instructional interruptions, tardies and early dismissals should be kept to a minimum. **Students will not be called to the office from class until an adult is present in the office to sign the student out.**

Extracurricular Events/Activities – A student who is absent without excuse or due to illness cannot attend after school extracurricular events/activities.

Vacations - Vacations are defined as an extended absence from school with the immediate family. Excused vacations will be limited to thirty-three (33) hours per year, unless specific approval is given by building administration. Approved vacation requests will count as parent notified absences and are limited to sixty-five (65) hours per year. Vacation request forms must be obtained in the office. These forms must be completed and returned to school no later than three (3) days prior to the scheduled vacation. Additionally, vacation requests will not be approved during district required assessments or during mandated state testing. The decision to grant or deny vacation requests rests with building administration, and requests may be denied due to academic or other concerns.

Truancy – Ohio Law defines Truancy and Excessive Absences:

- Habitual truant – A child who has been absent without a legitimate excuse for 30 or more consecutive hours, 42 or more hours in a school month, or 72 or more hours in a school year. Habitual truancy is an unruly offense, unless a child has been previously ruled a habitual truant; then the offense is a delinquency.
- Excessive Absences – A child who is absent with or without a legitimate excuse for 38 or more hours in one school month, or 65 or more hours in one school year.
- Medically Excused Absences- Absences that are properly excused by a doctor, dentist, counselor, etc. will not be counted toward Habitual Truant or Excessive Absence thresholds.

Absence Intervention Team

Parents or guardians of a truant or habitually absent student may be required to attend an educational program designed to encourage parental involvement in compelling the attendance of the child. Refusal or nonattendance by parents or guardians shall be punishable as a fourth-degree misdemeanor (RC 3313.663(B), RC 2919.222).

Upon the failure of the parent or guardian to cause the child to attend school, the District is required to either initiate prosecution against the parent or guardian in the Franklin County Courts, or if so directed by the Superintendent, send a notice requiring such person's attendance at a parental education program.

Loss of Driving Privileges: Under Ohio law, high school students who fail to attend school without a legitimate excuse for more than 60 hours during a school month or a total of at least 90 hours during a school year, may be required to forfeit their driving privileges until they reach the age of 18 or receive a diploma.

Therefore, as per Board Policies JED and JECE, along with sections 3321.13 and 4510.32 of the Ohio Revised Code, the Superintendent and/or designee shall give notice of the habitual absence to the Registrar of Motor Vehicles for the State of Ohio and the Franklin County Juvenile Judge. **The registrar shall suspend the driver's license or temporary permit of the student. If the student has not yet been issued a license or permit, the Registrar must deny such issuance.**

The suspension will remain in effect until the student attains the age of 18, is issued a diploma, or until the Superintendent informs the Registrar that the student has completed at least one semester since the notification and is no longer considered "habitual truant".

Student withdrawal from school - If it becomes necessary to withdraw a student during the school year, please notify the school office at least five days in advance. This gives the school an opportunity to prepare documents necessary for transfer. It also allows for school loaned materials to be collected. A withdrawal/release form should be completed prior to leaving the district.

School closings and delays - Hamilton Local School District utilizes an automated phone notification system to inform our students/parents/guardians of closings, cancellations, unexcused absences, and any other emergency alert information concerning our district buildings or property.

Our automated notification system utilizes a call list that is generated by importing each student's primary contact phone number linked to his or her student record. At any time, if your child's primary contact number is changed please make certain one of our building secretaries is made aware of the new contact number so they can update the record to display current, valid contact information. Once our district's Superintendent has determined if we will be closed or operating on a two-hour delay, our automated notification system will contact you within minutes.

If school is canceled or delayed for two (2) hours due to inclement weather the following local television and radio stations will carry the announcement:

TV Stations: WCMH - NBC 4 WSYX - ABC 6 WBNS – 10 TV WTTE – Fox 28
Radio Stations: WTVN – 610 AM WCOL – 92.3 FM WNCI – 97.9 FM WCKX – 107.5 FM

You can also visit our district web site www.hamiltonrangers.org for school closing, delay, or emergency information.

The district may make-up calamity days by utilizing one of these options: Increasing the length of the school day, providing access to online lessons, or distributing blizzard bags.

DRESS AND GROOMING POLICY

The Hamilton Local School District recognizes that each student's manner of dress and grooming is a manifestation of personal style and individual preference. The District will not interfere with the right of students and their parents to make decisions regarding their appearance, except when their choices affect the education program of the District. This dress and grooming policy has been developed to promote a safe and healthy school setting and to enhance the educational environment. The district expects each student to dress cleanly and neatly, and practice good personal hygiene.

The administration of the Hamilton Local School District and each building reserves the right to evaluate and rule upon any dress or grooming that is not consistent with a safe, non-distracting educational program that may or may not be contained in this policy. This would include, but is not limited to, new trends or fads in fashion, which may be unknown at the time of the development, approval, and printing of this policy.

General Guidelines

No article of clothing, accessory, or appearance shall:

1. Distract or disrupt the educational process.
2. Discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, gender, gender identity, disability, age, sexual orientation, or religion.

Unacceptable Clothing, Accessories, or Appearances

All clothing should be within the bounds of decency and good taste as appropriate for school. Items that are not permitted include, but are not limited to the following:

1. Hats, hoods, or anything that obstructs the face or eyes (Except for religious purposes, health concerns or with permission from administration)
2. Sunglasses (Unless prescribed by a physician and/or approved by administration)
3. Blankets
4. Footwear must be worn at all times. Footwear that may damage school property or present a safety concern may not be worn in the building (examples include, but are not limited to, athletic cleats and shoes with wheels)
5. Strapless clothing (i.e. tube tops)
6. Visible undergarments (All clothing should be within the bounds of decency and good taste as appropriate for school)
7. Clothing or accessories that advertise alcohol, tobacco or other drugs; contains gang-related symbolism; is suggestive, offensive or profane; has sexual connotations; promotes, puts down, insults, threatens, or harasses any member of the school staff or student body based upon issues such as gender, sexual orientation, race, religion or disabilities; or creates a hostile, intimidating, harassing or offensive learning environment.

In the interest of safety, sponsors and teachers of some programs and classes may require alternative standards regarding dress and appearance for participants in their program or activity. Students found to be in violation of the Dress and Grooming Policy will not be permitted to return to class until they are in compliance with the Dress and Grooming Policy. Absence from school or class due to Dress and Grooming Policy violations will be deemed as unexcused. Repeated violations of the Dress and Grooming Policy will not be tolerated. Such repeated offenses may result in more severe consequences up to and including out of school suspension and/or recommendation for expulsion.

CONDUCT POLICY

By order of the Hamilton Local School District Board of Education in compliance with Ohio Revised Code 3313.66 and 3316.661 and as adopted by the Hamilton Local School District Board of Education: All violations of school rules and regulations, during the time a student is properly under the auspices of school personnel or involved in any school activity, may result in disciplinary action. This includes, but is not limited to, school buses and property under the control of district authorities, and while at interscholastic competitions, extracurricular events, or other school activities or programs.

The administration of Hamilton Local School District reserves the right to prohibit and discipline any behavior or conduct that is not consistent with a safe, non-distracting educational program that may or may not be contained in this policy.

In addition, this Conduct Policy includes misconduct by a student that, regardless of where it occurs, is directed at a district official or employee or the property of an official or employee.

The right of every Ohio resident between the ages of six and twenty-one to a free public education has been undeniably established time and time again by Ohio law and the Ohio courts. Irrespective of race, color, creed, or sex, all youngsters are entitled to equal

opportunities to obtain an education conforming to minimum standards prescribed by the State Board of Education. At the same time, however, the courts have also held that each student in the Ohio Public School System has the responsibility to act in such a way as not to interfere with the rights of others in their same educational opportunities. A student may forfeit his rights when his conduct is such that it substantially disrupts the educational process and thereby deprives others of their rights. It is the philosophy of the Hamilton Local School District Board of Education and the administrative staff to provide students with their rights and require them to accept responsibility for their actions. The intent is not to list all rules and acts of misconduct, but to provide guidelines that must be followed to maintain a quality educational program. The disciplinary actions to be taken are believed to be fair, but may be prudently altered by the administration to meet the specific needs of each individual student. Teachers may have specific rules pertaining to their classroom that are approved by the administration and must be adhered to by the students under the direction of the teacher. Students will be afforded all rights as required under due process and the provisions of the Amended Substitute House Bill 421 of the State of Ohio

Conduct Policy Violation Consequences

Consequences for any violation of the Student Conduct Policy may result in the following, but are not limited to:

- Community Service
- Detention
- Emergency removal
- Expulsion
- Extended Day
- Forfeiture of property
- Loss of bus privilege
- In School Alternative Discipline
- Out of School Suspension
- Parent-principal conference
- Parent contact
- Parent Involvement Program
- Referral to guidance counselor
- Referral to law enforcement agencies
- Student-principal conference
- Verbal or written warning or reprimand
- A combination of consequences of consequences

Conduct Policies

Academic Dishonesty/Cheating: Presenting someone else's work, as one's own in order to obtain a grade is considered to be cheating. This includes, but is not limited to, copying other's assignments, quiz or test answers, plagiarism, and unauthorized access. Allowing others to copy work is also a violation covered in this policy. Students who violate this policy may receive zero credit for assignments or work involved. The parent will be notified that an offense may bring automatic suspension from school and/or removal from class/course.

Detention

An individual classroom teacher may assign an after-school, recess or lunchtime detention. After-school detention will be held at designated times. Detention, as a means of disciplinary action, gives the student the opportunity to correct behavior and improve skills before administrative intervention is necessary. Failure to attend may result in disciplinary action under the Student Conduct Policy. Transportation is the responsibility of the parent/guardian.

Emergency Removal

If a student's presence poses a continuing danger to persons or property or an ongoing threat of disrupting the academic process, they may be removed from school premises.

Extended Day

Extended day detentions will be held at designated times. Students must bring school related materials to extend the day and may not sleep. Students who skip assigned extended days may receive additional extended days, PLUS or ISS. Attendance on assigned days is mandatory. Transportation is the responsibility of the parent/guardian. Work responsibilities or lack of transportation may not be considered an excused absence.

In School Alternative Discipline

In School Alternative Discipline may be used as an alternative to Out-of-School Suspension (OSS). Students will be assigned In School Alternative Discipline at the discretion of the administration. Students may not be allowed to participate or attend any school activities or contests, or be present at activities controlled by the school until the day following the last day of In School Alternative Discipline.

Out-of-School Suspension (OSS)

Students may be suspended from school for violations of the Student Conduct Policy. Students are not allowed to be present on school property, participate in or attend any school activities or contests, or be present at activities or on property controlled by the school until the day following the last day of the suspension. In addition, the student must be in the custody of his/her parent or guardian during school hours. Students are required to obtain, complete, and return all assignments missed during an Out-of-School Suspension.

Excessive suspensions may result in expulsion.

Expulsion

Expulsion is the removal of a student for more than ten days but not more than one year. At times the behavior of a student can be considered so serious as to justify total removal from the educational program for a prolonged period of time. Actions meriting expulsion are outlined in the student Conduct Policy. Only the Superintendent or his designee may expel a student. Students are not allowed to be present on school property, participate in or attend any school activities or contests, or be present at activities or on property controlled by the school until the day following the last day of expulsion. Only the Superintendent or his designee may make exceptions to this policy. If necessary, we reserve the right to carry student expulsions into the following school year.

Attendance Policy: Students shall not violate the Hamilton Local School District Attendance Policy as detailed in the Attendance Policy section of this handbook.

Bus Regulations: The Hamilton Local School District Board of Education provides transportation in recognition of the special geographic and transportation problems noted in its district. Students who fail to cooperate with bus drivers and/or students who fail to comply with basic safety regulations may be denied the privilege of bus transportation and may receive additional disciplinary action. (Parents are responsible for supervising their child until such time as the student boards the bus and after the student leaves the bus at the end of the school day.)

Cafeteria Procedures: A student shall not intentionally fail to follow cafeteria procedures, fail to comply with the request of the cafeteria supervisor, or behave in any manner, which could interfere with the smooth operation of the cafeteria.

Cellular Phones/Electronic Equipment: A student may possess a cellular telephone or other electronic communication devices in school, on school property, at after school activities and at school-related functions. Use of cellular phones/electronic equipment are permitted during the school day with permission of school personnel. Use of this equipment must be non-disruptive and appropriate for school. Use is interpreted as using any device function or feature. Using electronic devices to record other students or staff, without consent of school personnel is strictly prohibited. Unauthorized use of such devices shall be grounds for confiscation and disciplinary action. Contents of electronic devices may be searched if there exists a reasonable suspicion that it may have been used in an activity that violates the code of conduct. The District assumes no investigative or financial responsibility should the devices be lost, damaged, traded, or stolen.

Contraband: Property that is illegal for a person to acquire or possess under statute, ordinance, rule, policy, or that the District determines to be illegal to possess by reason of the property's involvement in an offense shall be considered "contraband." Such contraband is subject to forfeiture to the District under the District Conduct Policy and applicable Ohio Revised Code.

Deception/Withholding Information: A student shall not withhold, distort, forge or falsify any information to a school official relevant to an event, which falls within the jurisdiction of the school.

Displays of Affection: A student shall not participate in displays of affection (kissing, embracing, holding hands, etc.) on school grounds or at school activities.

Disruption of School/Class Proceedings: A student shall not exhibit behavior that is deemed by the teacher or staff member to be disruptive to the normal operation of the class/school. Such behavior may result in detention, extended day, in or out of school suspension and/or expulsion.

Dress and Grooming Policy: Students shall not violate the Hamilton Local School District Dress and Grooming Policy as detailed in the Dress and Grooming Policy section of this handbook.

Drugs and Alcohol Abuse: Any student who intentionally sells, purchases, gives, possesses, uses, or is under the influence of illicit drugs, counterfeit drugs, narcotics, steroids, alcohol, or drug paraphernalia in or on school property, including buses, or at any district-sponsored activities/events home or away may be (1) suspended or expelled from school and (2) reported to the appropriate law enforcement agencies for possible legal action. Written or verbal communication concerning drugs or alcohol and/or the use thereof is also prohibited.

The prohibitions above include prescribed and non-prescribed medicines, chemical preparations, inhalants, plants, seeds, or derivatives thereof, as well as hallucinogens, barbiturates, or amphetamines. These prohibitions also include any substance or counterfeit for the aforementioned substances.

Ethnic Intimidation: Harassment or intimidation of a person or group through the use of profanity, racial or religious remarks, obscene gestures, and other conduct of this type is prohibited. Other forms of ethnic intimidation might be, but is not limited to, fighting, vandalism, threats, etc.

Extortion: No student will obtain or attempt to obtain money, items of value, or special favors from anyone by implied or expressed threats or intimidation and/or attempt to sell any property on school grounds.

False Alarms: The act of initiating a fire alarm or initiating a report warning of a fire or an impending bombing or other catastrophe or emergency situation without cause is prohibited.

Fighting: A student shall not attempt to resolve a conflict through active physical means.

Fire, Unauthorized use of: The unauthorized use of fire on district property or while in attendance at any district sponsored activity is prohibited.

Gambling: A student shall not gamble for money or valuables, buy, sell, or trade items, or exchange money with other students while under the jurisdiction of authorized school personnel. No student, while involved in any portion of the school day and/or school activity, shall possess or use any gambling devices.

Harassment /Verbal Abuse: A student shall not harass, persecute, or participate in any act that injures, degrades, or disgraces any student, staff, or school employee. A student shall not display, possess or use words, phrases, or illustrations, which are offensive to any ethnic, racial, or religious group. Also, students shall not make reference to sexual activity, attitudes, physical attributes or characteristics, which could be considered offensive, lustful, indecent, or lewd.

Harassment (Gender / Sexual Identity): Gender / Sexual Identity harassment may be any behavior, verbal or physical, which is imposed by a student, because of another student's gender or sexual identity, which is intimidating, offensive, abusive, threatening or unwelcomed and which causes or contributes to a hostile environment. Harassment toward a student based on their gender or sexual identity is prohibited.

Harassment (Racial/Ethnic): Racial/ethnic harassment may be any behavior, verbal or physical, which is imposed by a student, because of race or ethnic background, which is intimidating, offensive, abusive, threatening or unwelcomed and which causes or contributes to a racially/ethnically hostile environment. Racial/Ethnic harassment is prohibited.

Hazing/Bullying: Hazing/Bullying activities of any type are inconsistent with the educational process and shall be prohibited at all times. No student, including leaders of student organizations, shall plan, encourage, or engage in any hazing/bullying. Hazing is defined as doing any act or coercing another, including the victim, to do any act of initiation unto any student or other organization that causes or creates a substantial risk of causing mental or physical harm to any person. Bullying is defined as an intentional written, verbal or physical act that a student has exhibited toward another person more than once, causes both mental and physical harm to the other student and is sufficiently severe, persistent or pervasive that it creates an intimidating, threatening or abusive educational environment for the other student. The intentional act also includes violence within a dating relationship. Permission, consent, or assumption of risk by an individual subjected to hazing/bullying and/or dating violence does not lessen the prohibition in this policy.

Indecent/Lewd Behavior: A student shall not by any means, including verbal, written, gesture, or dress/appearance behave in a manner, which could be considered immodest, lustful, indecent, or lewd while under the jurisdiction of the district.

Inducing Panic: A student shall not by any means create an atmosphere to provoke fear or endanger the safety and welfare of any student, staff member, or any other person.

Insubordination/Disrespect: No student shall willfully disobey a reasonable request or fail to comply with discipline, punishment, or consequences issued by teachers or administrators. Also, no student should be disrespectful to any employee or student of the Hamilton Local School District.

Intimidation/Aggressive Behavior: A student shall not by means of physical contact (touching or pushing), invasion of personal space, loud voice, or aggressive language attempt to influence the behavior or attitude of a fellow student, school employee, or any other person.

Language - Profane, obscene, or inappropriate: A student, while on school property under the authority of school personnel, shall not use profane, obscene or inappropriate language, either written or oral. This would include obscene gestures, signs, pictures, or publications.

Loitering/Unauthorized Areas: A student shall not be in any unscheduled or unauthorized area of the school building or grounds without the express permission of a member of the school staff or administration. Nor shall a student loiter (Remain in an area for no

obvious reason, hang around or lag behind) in any part of the school building (i.e., restrooms, hallways, etc.) or on school grounds at any time.

Personal Property: The school will not be responsible for any items lost, stolen, traded, or damaged that a student brings to school. Parents should supervise what their child brings to school. All personal property should be marked with your child's name.

Physical Assault: A student shall not cause or attempt to cause physical injury or intentionally behave in such a way as could reasonably be anticipated to cause physical injury to a fellow student, school employee, or any other person.

Physical Confrontations: A student shall not engage in fighting, physical confrontation, or acts of violence. An individual whose deliberate behavior directly leads to a physical confrontation or act of violence between other parties shall be considered a participant, and may receive disciplinary action.

Pornography: A student shall not, by any means, possess pornographic materials in any form. This shall include, but is not limited to, writing, reading, electronic, or drawing pornographic material. This policy includes sexting (the act of sending sexually explicit messages or photos electronically, primarily between cell phones).

Reckless Behavior/Negligent Injury or Damage: A student shall not behave in a reckless or negligent manner, which could reasonably be anticipated to result in injury to himself or herself, another person, or property.

Selling or buying: Selling or buying without principal approval is prohibited. Authorized items for selling and/or buying shall include but are not limited to lunch items sold in the school cafeteria, school store, school supply machines provided by the office, approved fundraisers, and activity concessions.

Stolen Property, Possession of: A student shall not be in possession of any property belonging to anyone other than himself or herself without the specific permission of the owner.

Technology, Improper use of: All students are required to complete an "Acceptable Use Policy" agreement prior to using school computers. Improper use of computer technology includes equipment and its use. The school has the right to review material stored in files to which all users have access, and will edit or remove material, which is considered unlawful, abusive, or otherwise objectionable. The school has the right to revoke a student's privilege to use the Internet and electronic mail (e-mail) for abusive conduct by the student. Such conduct includes, but is not limited to, sending, receiving, or storing illegal, obscene, abusive, or otherwise objectionable programs, text, graphics, video, or audio files on the school network system. **This includes altering any part of the student email account or profile.**

Technology, Improper Use of Internet/Social Networking: While it is the parent or guardian's responsibility to monitor their child's activities during non-school hours, if inappropriate actions or comments posted to social networking sites or via email or text are deemed disruptive or to pose a danger to school related activities, Hamilton Local Schools will work in partnership with our community and law enforcement officials to prosecute individuals violating state or federal law. These actions may also be subject to school discipline.

Theft: A student shall not steal or attempt to steal or have unauthorized possession of stolen property, any school or private property, or the personal property of other students or school personnel, either on school grounds or during a school-related activity, function, or event off the school grounds.

Threat/Coercion: A student shall not by threat of violence, force, intimidation, or fear attempt to influence the behavior or attitude of a fellow student, school employee, or any other person. This includes, but is not limited to, verbal or written threats.

Tobacco: Ohio law and District policy prohibits the smoking, use or possession of tobacco in any form including, but not limited to, cigarettes, cigars, clove cigarettes, chewing tobacco, snuff and any other forms of tobacco in any area under the control of the District or at any activity supervised by any school within the District. This ban extends to all items commonly utilized in the use of tobacco products, which includes, but is not limited to lighters, matches, "look a likes," counterfeits, alternative nicotine products, electronic cigarettes, etc. Students may receive out of school suspension for not abiding by this law.

Truancy and Tardiness: A student shall not refuse or fail to comply with state and local attendance laws and policies, including late arrival to school.

Truancy/Leaving Class without Permission: A student shall not be absent from any class or properly assigned area without proper school authorization. After arriving on school property or to a scheduled class, a student shall not leave without proper school authorization.

Unauthorized Touching: A student shall not knowingly or with reckless disregard cause physical injury or threaten to cause physical injury to any person.

Vandalism and Property Damage: A student will not cause or attempt to cause damage to private property, including that of other students, teachers, administrators, or other school employees. Students who destroy or vandalize school property will be required to pay for losses or damages. If students willfully destroy school property, suspension and subsequent expulsion may be necessary. If a student should happen to damage something by accident, he/she should report it to a teacher or the office immediately.

Weapons or Dangerous Instruments: Any student, who possesses guns or knives, sells or uses weapons or other devices which may inflict bodily harm on school property may be suspended or expelled from school and reported to appropriate law enforcement agencies for possible legal action. This ban includes any object that is indistinguishable from a firearm. This ban extends to all “look a likes” and counterfeits of dangerous weapons or instruments and includes all toys and replicas of such devices.

Other Violations: It should be noted that other examples of conduct reaching the gravity of the above examples might also serve as grounds for disciplinary action.

Seizure, and Forfeiture

The administration of Hamilton Local School District reserves the right to search the assigned locker, desk, person, and personal property of a student on district grounds, in district vehicles or at any district activity when it is reasonably necessary for the maintenance of order, discipline and safety in the supervision and education of students. At the beginning of the school year, students will be informed that their assigned lockers, desk, persons and personal belongings including but not limited to: purses, athletic bags, and articles of clothing in the locker are subject to search for items prohibited by Conduct Policy or Dress and Grooming Policy, contraband, harmful or dangerous substance.

The Board of Education and District administration authorizes the use of trained canines in detecting the presence of drugs or drug paraphernalia. The canines may be used to patrol the district facilities and grounds, including the lockers and parking areas. Use of trained canines may be unannounced and random. If a trained canine alerts to a particular vehicle, locker or other container, it shall create reasonable suspicion to search that vehicle, locker or container in accordance with this policy.

Equal Education Opportunity

Hamilton Local Schools is an equal education opportunity and an equal employment opportunity institution, in compliance with Title VI and VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, the Equal Pay Act of 1967, the Age Discrimination and Employment Act of 1976, and Title IX of the Educational Amendment of 1972 and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973.

A formal complaint may be filed with the Title IX Coordinator in person, by mail, by electronic mail to:

Title IX Coordinator:

Dr. Josh Conley

Assistant Superintendent

775 Rathmell Road

Columbus, Ohio 43207

(614) 491-8044 Ext: 1239

Email: jconley@hlsd.org

BUS CONDUCT POLICY

The Board furnishes transportation in compliance with Ohio law. **This fact does not relieve parents of students from the responsibility of supervision until such time as the student boards the bus and after the student leaves the bus at the end of the day. Students on a bus are under the authority of and directly responsible to, the bus driver.** The driver has the authority to enforce the established regulations for the bus conduct. Disorderly conduct or refusal to submit to the authority of the driver is sufficient reason for refusing transportation services or suspending transportation services to any student once proper due process procedures are followed.

Bus Rider Expectations

Many of our students are transported to and from school by bus. Our primary concern is the safety of all students. All students will be assigned a seat, and as they board the bus they are to go directly to their seat sit down, keep their hands and feet in their own space, and talk quietly with whom they are sitting. If all students follow these procedures, there should be no problems and the bus ride should be safe for all children. A student may lose transportation privileges for violating any part of the student code of conduct. Transportation will then become the parents' responsibility.

Changes in Transportation to / from School

If a parent wishes to pick up a child after school or wants a bus rider to walk home with a friend, both students must send a note to the office. Students will be sent home on the bus as usual if a note has not been received prior to 2:15 pm. If a parent has made arrangements to pick up a student at the end of the day and they are not at school at dismissal time, we will send the student home on the bus as usual.

EMERGENCY OPERATIONS PLAN

The protocols in our Emergency Operations Plan are the result of a procedure designed to comply with Ohio revised Code 3313.536. This plan contains protocols for emergency situations that may develop in our high school.

Each staff member is issued a Emergency Operations Plan at the beginning of each school year. Administrators, staff, and students are instructed on the various procedures to follow in the case of an actual emergency. Our Emergency Operations Plan includes the following protocols:

Homeland Security Red Alert Information

As defined by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security, a Threat Level of Red is declared when there is a severe risk of terrorist attacks. Under most circumstances, the Protective Measures for a Severe/Red condition are not intended to be sustained for substantial amount of time.

If the Franklin County Red Alert School Team determines that the threat is a potential danger to Franklin County, the following procedures will be followed:

If a Red Alert is issued before or after school hours:

Then, normal school operations will cease based upon the Red Alert School Team's recommendations and will remain closed until advised by the Red Alert School Team to reopen. All school activities and events scheduled will be canceled until notified by the Red Alert School Team.

If a Red Alert is issued during school hours:

Then, school buildings will be secured and remain open until regular dismissal time, unless otherwise advised by the Red Alert School Team. Students will be sent home by normal transportation means or released to parents pursuant to district policy. All after-school activities and events will be canceled, unless otherwise advised by the Red Alert School Team.

