

MEECE MIDDLE SCHOOL

2010-2011

STUDENT CODE OF CONDUCT

Revised June 2, 2010

Students at Meece Middle School are provided the right to an education in the public schools. It is the responsibility of each student to behave in a manner that does not threaten, interfere with, or deprive other students of their rights to an education.

The following is a list of major behavior infractions and the recommended disciplinary actions for each infraction. This is not a comprehensive listing and the Somerset Independent Schools and the Administration of Meece Middle School shall reserve the right to administer other corrective measures for other offenses that might occur.

Definitions:

**WEBB – (We Expect Better Behavior) THE IN SCHOOL DETENTION PROGRAM AT MMS
DETENTION – 1 HOUR BEFORE SCHOOL ON MONDAY OR WEDNESDAY
FRIDAY SCHOOL –2 HOURS AFTER SCHOOL ON A FRIDAY 3:15 – 5:15 with Administration
ALC – ALTERNATIVE LEARNING CENTER**

***CONDUCT AT SCHOOL EVENTS:** Students are to conduct themselves properly at all school events and should be careful not to create disturbance, which would reflect on the good name of the school or reputation of the student body. Students are to remember that, regardless of where they are, in the public eye they are representatives of MMS. Students should accept this responsibility with pride and conduct themselves at all times as worthy representatives of the school.*

***SEARCH AND SEIZURE:** Refer to district code of conduct pages 52-53 for procedures.*

STUDENT CODE OF CONDUCT

ACADEMIC HONESTY

Purpose and Definition

Meece Middle School students are expected to attend school ready to learn. It is also expected that student behavior will reflect the ability to discern right from wrong. The well being of the school community depends on each student accepting responsibility for personal conduct in both social and academic endeavors. Academic honesty requires that students take responsibility for producing work that is reflective of the student's best effort. Academic dishonesty is evidenced by cheating or plagiarism and involves any attempt by a student to show possession of knowledge and skills that he/she does not possess. For purposes of this policy the following definitions are in effect:

Cheating is:

- Using dishonest, deceptive, or fraudulent means to obtain or attempt to obtain credit for academic work.
- Using notes, aides, or the help of another student on tests in ways other than those expressly permitted by the teacher.
- Looking at another student's tests or answers.
- Copying or allowing another student to copy from one's own test and other course work.
- Tampering with an instructor's record or student grades/scores.
- Unauthorized accessing, deleting, modifying, transferring or using any analog or digital files/programs locally or by remote access.

Plagiarism is:

- Taking the specific substance of another person's work and creating or offering it as one's own work without giving credit to that source.
- Not using quotation marks, indentation, and/or footnotes to denote material that has been directly quoted from another source.
- Paraphrasing an author without giving credit.

1st school wide offense (for the current school year)

Zero for the assignment with the opportunity to make it up in detention for ½ credit

Administration calls parent

After school detention

2nd school wide offense (for the current school year)

Zero for the assignment

Administration calls parent

Friday school

3rd school wide offense (for the current school year)

Zero for the assignment

Administration calls parent

Ineligible for future leadership positions/awards/school activities (for remainder of the current school year)

Plagiarism For 8th Graders

The same steps above that apply to cheating also apply to Plagiarism. However, on the third offense, participation in 8th Grade Activities will not be allowed. These include 8th Grade Dance, 8th Grade Trip, etc.

ACCEPTABLE USE POLICY (AUP): *Every student and staff member is required to read and sign an acceptable use policy, which outlines the do's, and do not's of school computer usage. Any violation of that policy will be handled in the following manner:* **CONSEQUENCE:**

1st Offense – student loses computer privileges until an administrator reviews the AUP and student signs new agreement.

2nd Offense- student loses computer privileges until parent conference to reinstate. Alternate assignments may be given.

3rd Offense – Loss of computer privileges for remainder of school year

BACKPACKS OR BOOK BAGS AND ANY LARGE COATS: *Are not permitted in the classroom until the last locker break of the day.*

1st Offense – put in a designated area of the room

2nd Offense – one day detention

Habitual (as determined by the teacher) – two days WEBB

BULLYING/HARRASSMENT: *A person is guilty of harassment or bullying when, with the intent to harass, annoy, or alarm another person he/she:*

- Engages in malicious remarks utilizing web pages, text messaging, or other electronic communication.
- Strikes, shoves, kicks, or otherwise subjects another person to physical contact or attempts or threatens to do the same; or
- In a public place makes an offensive, coarse, utterance, gesture or display, or addresses abusive language to any person present; or
- Follows a person in or about a public place or places; or
- Engages in a course of conduct or repeatedly commits acts which alarm or seriously annoy another person and which serves no legitimate purpose.

CONSEQUENCE: One (1) to Three (3) days out of school suspension, referral to counseling services, possible law enforcement notification.

CLASSROOM/SCHOOL DISRUPTION: *Any disruption for which a student is referred to the office, including but not limited to profanity, pornography, and obscene behavior. Conduct and/or behavior which is destructive or disruptive to the orderly educational procedure for the school or scuffling and horseplay which may lead to more serious conflicts, is not allowed in the hall, classroom, on campus, buses, or on the way to and from school; lack of control of voice and limbs. **CONSEQUENCE:***

1st Offense – student removed from the classroom for the remainder of the class and one (1) day detention.

2nd Offense – Friday School, Conference with the parent, teacher, and administration. Discussion of options such as behavior contract, alternative school, success, other.

3rd Offense – *Full day of WEBB.*

CRIMINAL ABUSE: *A person is guilty of criminal abuse in the first degree when he intentionally abuses another person or permits another person of whom he has actual custody to be abused and thereby:*

(a) *Causes serious physical injury; or*

(b) *Places him in a situation that may cause him serious physical injury; or*

(c) *Causes torture, cruel confinement or cruel punishment;*

to a person twelve (12) years of age or less, or who is physically helpless or mentally helpless.

CONSEQUENCE: Up to ten (10) days out of school suspension, court referral, and request expulsion for one calendar year

DEFIANCE OF AUTHORITY: *Any act or behavior in which the student willfully defies the lawful authority to follow reasonable instructions of any school personnel. **CONSEQUENCE:***

1st Offense: One (1)-day detention

2nd Offense: Friday School

3rd Offense: One (1) day WEBB Program.

4th Offense: Two to Five (2-5) days of WEBB Program.

5th Offense: Three (3) days ALC. Reinstated with parent conference.

6th Offense: Three (3) days out of school suspension.

DRESS CODE: No extreme form of personal appearance will be allowed to interfere with the educational process.

- Shirts/blouses must cover midriff, shoulders. No tank tops. Official determination will be administrative discretion. **Modesty is expected.**

- Shorts and skirts must be at or below the finger tips, even if leggings/tights are worn underneath. Official determination will be administrative discretion.
- Students are to wear shoes at all times.

INAPPROPRIATE items include:

- **Any piercings except for ears (per district dress code).**
- Clothing or any item printed with inappropriate language, slogans, or pictures.
- Clothing or any item that contains advertising, promoting or depicting drugs, alcohol, or tobacco.
- Clothing or accessories that makes reference to or identifies with gangs or gang related activity.
- No bandanas are allowed. If worn, these items will be taken and returned only to a parent/guardian.
- Sunglasses are not permitted in the building.
- Sagging pants, shorts or shirts.
- Pants/shorts with cuts, slits, holes, slashes that expose skin in any manner **above the knees.**
- Chain belts and wallet chains.
- **NO HEADWEAR:** Hats, caps, bandanas, scarves, or head coverings, including hoods are not to be worn in the school building. There may be special occasions or designated days on which such items may be worn. Such days will be announced and must have prior administrative approval. In addition, no combs or rollers may be worn in students' hair.

CONSEQUENCE:

1st Offense: Parents will be called to bring clothing, and/or student will be sent to Youth Service Center for clothes; in the event parents cannot be reached, the student will be placed in the WEBB program for the day.

(Staff member reports offense to administrator by referral in writing or email and student goes to office immediately.)

2nd Offense: WEBB Room for remainder of day plus one additional day.

3rd Offense: WEBB Room for remainder of day plus two additional days.

4th Offense: WEBB ROOM two to five (2-5) days, parent conference, possible referral to services.

ELECTRONIC DEVICES: While on school property during the instructional day, students shall be permitted to keep unpowered personal telecommunication devices as defined by law and other related electronic devices in their locker. The instructional day shall be defined as one-half (1/2) hour prior to the beginning of instruction and lasting until the designated time of school dismissal – ***when students exit the building at the end of the day.***

CONSEQUENCE:

1st Offense: Items will be turned into the office with a written referral, student may pick up at the end of the school day.

2nd Offense: Parents/guardians can pick it up at the end of the day of the offense or any time during the following day.

3rd Offense: WEBB assignment

EMERGENCY EQUIPMENT (FIRE ALARM): The act of tampering with emergency equipment so as to falsely alert emergency services, or school, to a non-existent emergency; and/or to tamper with other emergency equipment (fire extinguisher). **CONSEQUENCE:** Five (5) days ALC and court referral and possible expulsion request.

EXTORTION: The solicitation of money, or something of value, from another student, regardless of the amount, in return for protection, or in connection with a threat to inflict harm. **CONSEQUENCE:** Five (5) days ALC and restitution.

FAILURE TO ATTEND OR LATE ARRIVAL TO DETENTION: The willful absence from a Monday detention assignment without notifying a principal. **CONSEQUENCE:**

1st Offense: Friday School.

2nd Offense: Three (3) days of WEBB. An additional day WEBB for each time missed.

FAILURE TO ATTEND WEBB PROGRAM: *The willful absence from the WEBB program.* **CONSEQUENCE:** One day at ALC and make up the assigned WEBB.

FIGHTING: *The willful engagement/participation in physical contact, between two or more students, with the purpose of inflicting harm.* **CONSEQUENCE:**

1st Offense: Three (3) days WEBB and mandatory mediation or counseling session. In the event that it is determined a student is acting in self-defense, One (1) day WEBB.

2nd Offense: Students who willfully participate in a second fight shall be at ALC 3-5 days and possibly a court referral filed against the student.

3rd Offense: Three to five (3-5) days out of school suspension.

FIREWORKS (POSSESSION, USE, IGNITION): *The willful possession, use, or ignition of fireworks.*

CONSEQUENCE: Three (3) days WEBB for each offense.

FOOD/DRINKS/GUM: *Food and drinks are not permitted in the classroom. Gum upon teacher discretion.*

CONSEQUENCE: Items will be discarded. Habitual (as determined by teacher) one day detention.

GROSS/HOSTILE PROFANITY: *Using profane language, such as the f-word.* **CONSEQUENCE:** Three day WEBB. If language is directed toward staff member, possible five day suspension and court referral.

HABITUAL BEHAVIOR INFRACTION: *The student shall be considered "Habitual" after accumulating any combination of ten (10) non-law violation behavior infractions, which have been referred to the office.*

CONSEQUENCE: One to three (3) days ALC and parent and principal conference will be scheduled. Juvenile Court referral for Behavior Out of Control on the next office referral.

INTIMIDATION OF A WITNESS: Any physical or verbal intimidation of any witness to any school behavioral infraction.

CONSEQUENCE:

1st Offense: Three (3) days detention

2nd Offense: Three (3) days WEBB Program

3rd Offense: Three (3) days ALC.

LEAVING SCHOOL GROUNDS WITHOUT PERMISSION (SKIPPING SCHOOL): *Willfully leaving school premises without permission (skipping, no sign-out, etc.).* **CONSEQUENCE:** Three (3) days WEBB Program.

KNIFE POLICY: *No knives of any kind are allowed at school.* **NOTE:** Any knife over 2.5" in length or any knife used in a threatening manner is considered a **DANGEROUS WEAPON** (see WEAPONS).

CONSEQUENCE:

1ST Offense: Knife is confiscated and returned to parent; One (1) day of WEBB.

2nd Offense: Knife is confiscated and forfeited to the District; One day Friday School plus three (3) days WEBB.

3rd Offense: Knife is confiscated and forfeited to the District; Five (5) days suspension.

4th Offense: Thirty (30) School days ALC and expulsion hearing.

PUBLIC DISPLAY OF AFFECTION: *Any overt act that is not deemed to be socially acceptable. This includes inappropriate touching of others, kissing, fondling, etc.* **CONSEQUENCE:**

1st Offense: Referral written and parents are notified

2nd Offense: One-day detention

3rd Offense: One day WEBB program

SEXUAL HARRASSMENT: *Unwelcome sexual behavior, including advances, language, gestures, etc. that create a hostile or offensive environment.* **CONSEQUENCE:**

1st Offense: 1-5 day suspension; refer to counseling

2nd Offense: 10 day suspension and possible expulsion request

SKIPPING CLASS: Willfully missing class time but not leaving school grounds. **CONSEQUENCE:**

1st Offense: One (1) day detention.

2nd Offense: One (1) day Friday School.

3rd Offense: Three (3) day WEBB.

4th Offense: To be determined by Administrator.

STALKING: A person is guilty of stalking in the first degree,

(a) When he intentionally:

1. Stalks another person; and

2. Makes an explicit or implicit threat with the intent to place that person in reasonable fear of:

a. Sexual contact as defined in KRS 510.010;

b. Serious physical injury; or

c. Death; and

(b) 1. A protective order has been issued by the court to protect the same victim or victims and the defendant has been served with the summons or order or has been given actual notice; or

2. A criminal complaint is currently pending with a court, law enforcement agency, or prosecutor by the same victim or victims and the defendant has been served with a summons or warrant or has been given actual notice; or

3. The defendant has been convicted of or pled guilty within the previous five (5) years to a felony or to a Class A misdemeanor against the same victim or victims; or

4. The act or acts were committed while the defendant had a deadly weapon on or about his person.

CONSEQUENCE: Up to ten (10) days out of school suspension, court referral, and request expulsion for one calendar year

TARDINESS: A student is considered tardy when he/she is not in his/her classroom at the proper time.

CONSEQUENCE:

1st Referral - (3rd unexcused tardy) One (1) day detention.

2nd Referral - (7th unexcused tardy) One (1) Friday School.

3rd Referral - (10th unexcused tardy) Three (3) days WEBB and mandatory mediation or counseling sessions.

4th Referral- (11th unexcused tardy) For each repeating offense after ten (10) tardies three (3) days WEBB will be assigned.

TRUANCY: The intentional and willful absence from a class or school without the consent or knowledge of a parent or guardian or school administrator. "Habitual Truant" means any student who has been reported as truant two (2) or more times during a school year. **CONSEQUENCE: Truancy Charges.**

UNAUTHORIZED AREAS: A student is guilty of being in an unauthorized area (i.e. faculty work room, lounge, maintenance areas, mechanical room, parking lots, etc.) without legitimate reason or permission.

CONSEQUENCE:

1ST Offense: One (1) day detention

2nd Offense: One (1) day Friday School

VIOLATION OF CONDITIONS IN THE WEBB PROGRAM: Any willful violation of the conditions of the In-School Alternative Classroom Program.

CONSEQUENCE:

1st Offense: Repeat assigned day of WEBB

2nd Offense: Additional two to five (2-5) days of WEBB

3rd Offense: Five (5) days ALC

VIOLATION OF CONDITIONS OF SUSPENSION: Any willful violation of the conditions of the out of school suspension assignment. **CONSEQUENCE:** The student shall be suspended out of school for an additional length of

time equal to that of the initial out of school suspension.

LAW VIOLATIONS

ALCOHOL, DRUGS, AND/OR “LOOK ALIKE” SUBSTANCES (Law Violation): Use, possession, or state of being under the influence of alcohol, marijuana, illegal drugs, or substances represented or believed by the student to be a controlled substance or illegal drug.

CONSEQUENCE:

1st Offense: student suspended for up to 10 days with local law enforcement notified and appropriate charges filed. Request for expulsion. Following suspension period student may be placed in alternative setting.

AGGRESSIVE MISBEHAVIOR TOWARD ANY SCHOOL EMPLOYEE (Law Violation): Any physical contact or threat of physical contact toward any school employee with the intention of doing bodily harm by a student or group of students. **CONSEQUENCE:**

Threat:

1st Offense – Immediate removal from the area to WEBB for the remainder of that day plus two (2) additional days, followed by a Threat Assessment to be completed by witnessing school personnel, counselor, administrator, and parent.

2nd Offense – Three (3) days ALC

3rd Offense – Three (3) day suspension and an Expulsion Hearing

Physical Contact –

1st Offense - Threat assessment completed and three (3)-day suspension

2nd Offense – Ten (10)-day suspension

3rd Offense – Expulsion Hearing

ARSON (Law Violation): The starting of fire within the school, on buses, or on school grounds, for any purpose that results in destruction or disruption. **CONSEQUENCE:** Ten (10) days out of school suspension, court referral, and possible expulsion request.

ASSAULT (Law Violation): Any physical attack of one student or group of students upon another student or others who do not wish to engage in the conflict. Any provocation (verbal or physical) may be considered a mitigation of the charge. **CONSEQUENCE:**

1st Offense – five (5) days ALC and mandatory anger management.

2nd Offense – three (3) days out of school suspension, court referral.

3rd Offense – five (5) days out of school suspension, placement at ALC for thirty (30) school days.

4th Offense – Expulsion Hearing

BOMB THREAT (Law Violation): To falsely alert emergency services, or school to a non-existent bomb.

CONSEQUENCE: Ten (10) days out of school suspension, court referral, and expulsion request, police notified

BURGLARY (Law Violation): A person is guilty of burglary when, with the intent to commit a crime, he/she knowingly enters or remains unlawfully:

1. In a dwelling on school campus/ grounds.
2. In a building, and when in effecting entry or while in the building or in the immediate flight there from, he/she or another participant in the crime:
 - a. Is armed with explosives or deadly weapons: or
 - b. Causes physical injury to any person who is not a participant in the crime,
 - c. Uses or threatens the use of a dangerous instrument against any person who is not a participant in the crime.
 - d. With the intent to commit a crime, he knowingly enters or remains unlawfully in an uninhabited building.

CONSEQUENCE: Ten (10) days out of school suspension, court referral, possible expulsion request, restitution, notify police.

DISORDERLY CONDUCT (Law Violation): Includes – affray, unlawful assembly, disturbing the peace, disturbing meetings, blasphemy, profanity, obscene language, desecrating the flag, refusing to assist an officer, all attempts to commit any of the above. **CONSEQUENCE:** Three (3) days out of school suspension, possible court referral, notify police.

DRUG DISTRIBUTION OR TRAFFICKING (Law Violation): The distribution of an alcoholic beverage, marijuana, or illegal drug, or substance represented or believed to be a controlled substance. **CONSEQUENCE:** Ten (10) days out of school suspension, local law enforcement notified and appropriate charges filed, and expulsion request shall be filed against the student.

DRUG RELATED PARAPHERNALIA (Law Violation): Possession of paraphernalia as related to the use of a controlled or illegal substance. **CONSEQUENCE:** Five (5) days out of school suspension and court referral. During or at the end of the suspension, he/she, along with parents/guardians, must have a conference with the counselor, principal, and superintendent. At this conference, the student and parents/guardians will sign a “First Time Offender Policy Contract.”

FORGERY (Law Violation): The act of falsely using the name of another person, falsifying documents or correspondence (examples - absences, excuses, bus notes, permission to leave school, and agendas).

CONSEQUENCE

1st Offense: One to three (3) days of detention

2nd Offense: three (3) days WEBB.

3rd Offense: 1 to three (3) days ALC.

GAMBLING (Law Violation): Participation in games of chance for the purpose of exchanging money (cards, betting, dice, flipping, etc.). **CONSEQUENCE:** Three (3) days detention or WEBB program.

ROBBERY (Law Violation): A student is guilty when, in the course of committing a theft, he/she uses or threatens the immediate use of physical force upon another student or school personnel with the intent to accomplish the theft. **CONSEQUENCE:** Ten (10) days ALC, court referral, and possible expulsion request.

SEXUAL MISCONDUCT (Law Violation): A person is guilty of “sexual misconduct” when he/she engages in any act of sexual activity while subject to school supervision. **CONSEQUENCE:** Ten (10) days out of school suspension and request for expulsion.

THEFT (Law Violation): Taking the property of others (teachers, students, visitors, etc.) without their consent; or possession of stolen property, or possession without the owner’s permission, or selling of school property. **CONSEQUENCE:** Three (3) days out of school suspension, restitution, and possible court referral.

TERRORISTIC THREATENING (Law Violation): A student is guilty of terrorist threatening when:

- He/she threatens to commit a crime likely to result in the death or serious physical injury to another student or likely to result in substantial property damage to another student or school personnel; or
- He/she intentionally makes false statements for the purpose of causing the evacuation of a building, place of assembly, or facility or public transportation.

CONSEQUENCE:

Five (5) to ten (10) days out of school suspension, possible court referral, and possible expulsion request.

TOBACCO (Law Violation): The possession or use of tobacco or illegal products, on school grounds or bus is prohibited. Smoke detectors have been installed in the restrooms and breath analyzers are available for use if a student is suspected of, but denies, using tobacco products. **CONSEQUENCE:**

1st Offense: One (1) day of Friday School

2nd Offense: One (1) day Webb and referral to Tobacco Cessation classes.

3rd Offense: Five (5) days WEBB. Reinstate with parent conference.

4th Offense: Three (3) days of ALC. Reinstate with parent conference, and court referral.

VANDALISM (Law Violation): *The deliberate defacing of school property at any school sponsored activity.*
CONSEQUENCE: Three (3) days WEBB program, or one to three (3) days ALC or out of school suspension, parent conference, restitution, possible court referral. (Possible law enforcement referral.)

WANTON ENDANGERMENT (Law Violation): *A person is guilty of wanton endangerment in the first degree when, under circumstances manifesting extreme indifference to the value of human life, he wantonly engages in conduct which creates a substantial danger of death or serious physical injury to another person.*
CONSEQUENCE: Up to ten (10) days out of school suspension, court referral, and request expulsion for one calendar year

WEAPONS (POSSESSION/FIREARMS) (Law Violation): *The possession of a firearm (loaded or unloaded) on school premises, either in one's immediate possession or within one's locker.* **CONSEQUENCE:** Ten (10) days out of school suspension, court referral, and expulsion for one calendar year (Federal Goals 2000)

HOUSE BILL 91 (ANTI-BULLYING BILL) *Under House Bill 91 (HB91), the Anti-Bullying Bill, students committing any of the following felony offenses under KRS Chapter 508*

1. While on school premises, or
2. While on school transportation, or
3. At a school sponsored event

will be reported by any employee of the school district who identifies the offense to the building principal, who will then cause a report to be made with local law enforcement, Kentucky State Police or the County Attorney:

1. Assault in the 1st – 3rd degrees
2. 3 or more assaults in the 4th degree
3. Wanton endangerment in 1st degree
4. Terroristic threatening in 1st and 2nd degree
5. Criminal abuse in 1st and 2nd degree
6. Stalking in 1st degree

Legal descriptions of these offenses can be found at <http://www.lrc.ky.gov/KRS/508-00/CHAPTER.HTM>

Anonymous reporting (oral or written) of incidents will be accepted from employees and students of the school district. There is no reprisal for reporting an incident in good faith.