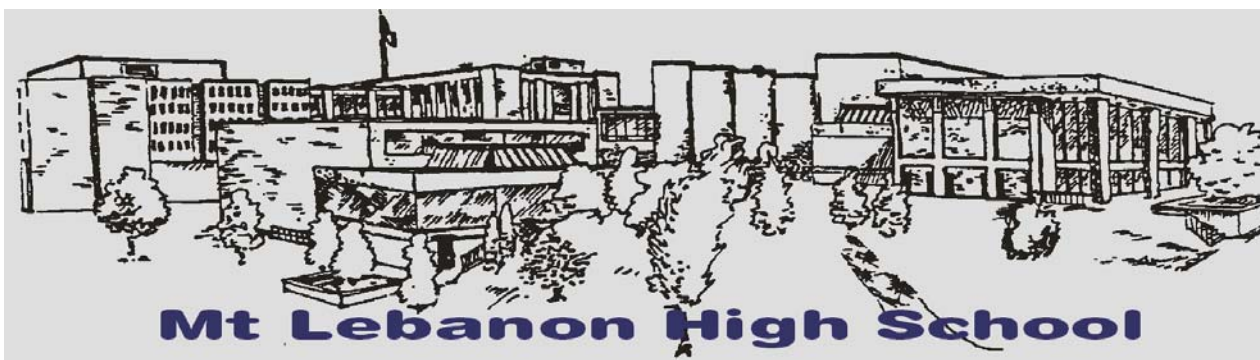




Accredited by the Middle States Association of Colleges and Secondary Schools



### MTLHS HONORS

- \* Three Time U.S. Department of Education Blue Ribbon School of Excellence
- \* Top High Schools in U.S. by Newsweek Magazine
- \* Ranked No. 3 School District, 2010 Pittsburgh Business Times
- \* Top 50 America's High Schools by Redbook Magazine
- \* Top Eight Fine Arts Departments by U.S. Department of Education
- \* **Mt. Lebanon School District named Best 100 Communities for Music Education for 2010**
- \* Devil's Advocate- Keystone-Allstate Award and Gold Medal Winner Columbia Scholastic Press Association
- \* Mt. Lebanon High School National Forensic League Pittsburgh District Championships
- \* **2011 Lebanon Log-Gallery of Excellence Award, Walsworth Publishing Company**
- \* Parent, Teacher/Student Association (PTSA) - Nationwide Outstanding Units
- \* Girls' Basketball 2011 PIAA Champions
- \* Boys' Lacrosse 2011 WPIAL Champions
- \* Boys' Tennis 2011 WPIAL Champions

For ready reference, copy information from the student's schedule/report card into the spaces below.

Student Name \_\_\_\_\_ ID# \_\_\_\_\_

Homeroom Teacher \_\_\_\_\_ Grade/Section \_\_\_\_\_

Unit Principal \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone# \_\_\_\_\_

Counselor \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone# \_\_\_\_\_

Student Name \_\_\_\_\_ ID# \_\_\_\_\_

Homeroom Teacher \_\_\_\_\_ Grade/Section \_\_\_\_\_

Unit Principal \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone# \_\_\_\_\_

Counselor \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone# \_\_\_\_\_

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Counselor \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone# \_\_\_\_\_

Student Name \_\_\_\_\_ ID# \_\_\_\_\_

Homeroom Teacher \_\_\_\_\_ Grade/Section \_\_\_\_\_

Unit Principal \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone# \_\_\_\_\_

Counselor \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone# \_\_\_\_\_

Mt. Lebanon High School  
155 Cochran Road  
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania 15228  
412.344.2000  
www.mtlsd.org

## **Student & Parent Handbook**

### **2011-2012**

Mr. Brian R. McFeeley, Principal

Mr. Douglas Szokoly, Unit I Principal

TBA, Unit II Principal

Mr. Peter Berg, Unit III Dean of Students

#### ALMA MATER

*'Neath cedars stately, midst hills so bold,  
Stands our Mt. Leb'non, realm of blue and gold;  
Radiant with splendor, valor, virtue, and truth.  
Moulder of our destiny, guardian of our youth,  
Ever our praises shall ring,  
Alma Mater to thee.*

*Charles Ruch '32*

## NOTE

This handbook is provided as a general summary of current statutes and district policies, guidelines, rules, regulations and practices applicable to school affairs. It is not intended to be inclusive of all circumstances pertaining to the educational process and is subject to change. If further guidance or reference is desired, consult your school principal.

*Mt. Lebanon School District does not discriminate on the basis of race, age, color, religion, sex, national origin, ancestry, or handicap or disability in the administration of any of its educational programs, services or activities, or with respect to employment. The District adheres to the nondiscrimination provisions of Titles VI and VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, Title IX of the Educational Amendments of 1972, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, the Americans with Disabilities Act, the Age Discrimination in Employment Act, the Pennsylvania Human Relations Act, and all other applicable federal, state and local laws, regulations and ordinances. Inquiries concerning Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act should be directed to the Director of Facilities, Mt. Lebanon School District, 7 Horsman Drive, Pittsburgh, PA 15228, 412.344.2090. Inquiries concerning Title IX and the ADA should be directed to Mr. Steven Scheurer, Director of Human Resources, Mt. Lebanon School District, 7 Horsman Drive, Pittsburgh, PA 15228, 412.344.2080.*

Dear Student:

Best wishes for a stellar year at Mt. Lebanon High School in 2011-12. We are proud to have you as a student. Upper classmen have much to be proud of in looking back to 2010 - 2011. We welcome the new students and freshmen to "Lebo Country" as we move toward a great school year.

It is important that you see high school not just as the day to day business of school, but as preparation for life after high school. Use each day to build academic fitness, physical fitness, and social fitness for a full life. Get involved with as many positive experiences as time permits. Set specific goals and focus your efforts to reach them. You will find that goal setting and hard work pay off. The pathway to success is through rigor.

The high school staff and student volunteers have invested much time and effort to produce this handbook as a current reference to the many school district policies, procedures, guidelines, rules and services that apply to the high school. Be sure that you read it thoroughly, share it with your parents, and file it in a location where it will be available for easy reference when a question arises. You may also want to visit our web site at [www.mtisd.org](http://www.mtisd.org) for further school district information.

We look forward to being with you this year. Let us know any ideas or thoughts you have in making "Lebo Country" a place where we can embrace "Lebo Pride" as we grow in wisdom and stature and favor with others.

Sincerely,

Mr. Brian R. McFeeley  
Principal

## Important School Telephone Numbers

AREA CODE: 412 -- Teacher Voice-Mail 344.2000

**Voicemail for teachers: 412.344.2000; press 9, press 1, enter last name.**

Principal	Mr. Brian McFeeley, Principal	344.2003
	Mrs. Gina Stein, Secretary	344.2003
	Mrs. Lisa Hoffmann, Clerk	344.2067

<b>NEW NUMBER</b>	<b>ATTENDANCE OFFICE</b>	<b>325-8200</b>
Unit 1	Mr. Doug Szokoly, Principal	344.2041
Unit 2	TBA, Principal	344.2061
Unit 3	Mr. Peter Berg, Dean of Students	344.2051

Attendance Office	Mrs. Carol Unger, Unit 1 Secretary	344.2040
	Mrs. Gloria Kaminski, Unit 2 Secretary	344-2060
	Mrs. JoAnn Morgano, Unit 3 Secretary	344.2050

Guidance Counselor	Dr. John Ambrose	344.2066
Guidance Counselor	Ms. Charlene Devlin	344.2055
Guidance Counselor	Mrs. Tara Leja	344.2065
Guidance Counselor	Mrs. Shelly Saba	344.2059
Guidance Counselor	Mr. Chad Johnston	344.2054
Guidance Counselor	Mrs. Beth Schneider	344.2063
Guidance Counselor	Mrs. Kim Cavitt	344.2056
Guidance Office	Mrs. Deborah Clark, Secretary	344.2053
	Mrs. Cyndee Fournier, Clerk	344.2062
	Mrs. Donna Spalla, Secretary	344-2005

Department Chairs	English – Mrs. Sherri Miller	
	Fine Arts – Mrs. Jennifer Rodriguez	
	Guidance - TBA	
	Health/PE – Mr. Ken Wentzel	
	Math – Mr. Jim Willison	
	Practical Arts – Mr. Duane Lewis	
	Science – Mr. Michael Hathy	
	Social Studies/FCS – Mr. Jeff Zeiders	344-2036
	Special Education –Mrs. Jessica Webster	344-2048
	World Languages/Library – Mrs. Nancy Campbell	344-2033
	Mrs. Susan Kordistos, Secretary	344-2023

Activities Director	Mrs. Carlie McGinty	344.2105
Athletic Director	Mr. John Grogan	344.2006
Athletics-Tickets	Mr. Russ Jones	344.2007
Community Service	Mrs. Judith Kolko	344.2114

Attendance Office	325-8200	Library	344.2029
Continuing Educ.	344.2020	Special Education	344.2044
District Rentals	344.2052	St. Support Services	344.2011
Food Services	344.2014	Summer School	344.2020
Health Office/Nurse	344.2031	Tickets-Fine Arts	344.2030

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## In case of emergency...

In partnership with community emergency responders, the Mt. Lebanon School District engages in emergency preparedness on an ongoing basis. Although it is impossible to anticipate every type of crisis that might occur, the district has developed many detailed procedures for use by employees in response to critical incidents. Planning includes:

- Procedures and equipment for emergency internal and external communications;
- Directions for the specific roles and responsibilities of all employees during a crisis;
- Procedures for delayed dismissals, in-place sheltering and internal lock downs;
- Procedures for partial and total building evacuations, including the arrangement of alternate sites to shelter students until the end of the school day.

All necessary procedures are detailed in the *Mt. Lebanon School District Safety & Security Plan* for use by administrators and the crisis response teams. In addition, every employee has a summary of emergency procedures in the *Critical Incident Plan* that is kept at his/her work station.

... parents are asked to:

- Access the district website at [www.mtlsd.org](http://www.mtlsd.org), the Mt. Lebanon School District cable channel 19, or the municipal cable channel 7 for accurate information about the situation. Do not rely on word-of-mouth information or radio and TV news reports which may be inaccurate. The district will communicate with parents through the website, cable TV, the automated phone system and PTSA.
- Remember typically, that students will NOT be dismissed from school before the end of the school day. However, for special situations that will prohibit regular classes for the remainder of the school day, the school will acquire parent permission to release students. School personnel and community emergency correspondents will protect the students in the school setting or safely transfer them to a pre-arranged alternate site until the end of the school day.
- Refrain from coming to school to get your child unless directed to do so by the district on the website and cable channels or automated phone system. Do not call the school for information. These actions interfere with the ability of district personnel to manage the situation and disrupt our communication with the fire and police departments and emergency management services.
- Refrain from calling your child's cell phone. The use of cell phones can seriously limit communication with emergency personnel and greatly threatens the school's efforts to maintain the calm environment that is essential for student safety during a crisis.

## **I. INTRODUCTION FOR PARENTS**

### **Contacting Teachers - e-mail & voice-mail**

Parents are encouraged to contact their child's teachers by e-mail or voice-mail when they have a concern about the child's school performance or wish to share information about the child with the teacher. To establish telephone contact with a teacher through voice-mail, call 412.344.2000, press 9, press 1, enter last name, or press 8, press 1, enter 5-digit extension. Links to teachers' e-mail addresses are available within each department on the high school web page at [www.mtisd.org](http://www.mtisd.org) or through your parent Dashboard.

### **Definition of "Parent"**

Throughout this handbook, the term "parent" is used to designate the student's parent(s) or, in the absence of parents, the student's legal guardian(s).

### **Open House/PTSA Dessert**

During the September Open House and PTSA Dessert, parents may visit their child's classrooms and meet the teachers. Using a copy of the child's schedule, parents spend a few minutes in each class where the teacher provides an overview of the course objectives. Open House does not provide an opportunity for parents to discuss specific concerns about their child with teachers. Parents wishing to speak with teachers should call 412.344.2000 to leave a voice-mail message with the teacher. Before and during the Open House program, the PTSA conducts its annual membership drive, distributes the student directories in Center Court and serves coffee, tea, punch, and cookies.

### **Parent Conferences**

As necessary, parents may call the school to arrange a conference with a teacher, counselor or principal. Call 412.344.2000 to access voice-mailboxes or refer to page 6 (six) for telephone extensions.

Parents and their 9th grade son/daughter are encouraged to attend the Individualized Guidance Planning (IGP) Conference in the fall to discuss a plan for the student's high school career with the counselor. In the spring, parents and their 11th grade student(s) are scheduled to meet with the counselor to update the student's IGP and discuss plans for the student's post-secondary transition.

### **Parent Involvement**

The Mt. Lebanon community endorses a team approach to education and views parents as an important part of that team. There is no more important time for parents to demonstrate care and concern for their child's academic career than during the teen years. Students whose parents participate in volunteer opportunities, PTSA, advisory committees, Band Builders, support groups or other school-related activities tend to perform better academically. Also, the students whose parents are involved in school activities tend to experience fewer social problems such as substance abuse, peer conflicts and inappropriate behavior.

## **Parent Responsibilities**

This handbook is provided so that parents may be familiar with all aspects of the Mt. Lebanon High School Program and assist their children in fulfilling their responsibilities as students. Although school personnel communicate pertinent information to students through as many avenues as possible, it remains the responsibility of parents to review the information in this handbook with their children. Families are encouraged to review each section and to enter information about each child attending the high school on the inside front cover to facilitate ongoing communication with appropriate school staff.

To have the maximum positive impact on their children's education parents should:

- Read all sections of the *Parent-Student Handbook*; know all school rules and regulations and ensure that their children understand the rules and regulations and the reasons for them.
- Become familiar with and share in planning their children's high school curriculum.
- Convey to their children that learning is the primary purpose of attending school and encourage their children to conduct themselves in a manner that promotes teaching and learning.
- Encourage and support their children to participate in their academic, athletic and/or extracurricular activities.
- Treat teachers, counselors, principals, coaches, administrators and other students with courtesy, fairness and respect. In the event of a problem, use the steps described later in this section under "Resolution of Conflicts."

## **Parent-Teacher-Student Association (PTSA)**

Mt. Lebanon High School recognizes values and encourages parental involvement. PTSA provides a strong voice for parents and a support system for students and the high school program. The Mt. Lebanon High School PTSA is one of the largest in secondary schools in Pennsylvania and serves as an important means of acquainting the public with the philosophy and objectives of the high school. The PTSA follows the guidelines set by the National PTA in its mission statement:

- To support and speak on behalf of children and youth in the schools, in the community and before governmental agencies and other organizations that make decisions affecting children;
- To assist parents in developing the skills they need to raise and protect their children; and
- To encourage parent and public involvement in the public schools of this nation.

High school students need parents' involvement in their lives and in their school. It is through shared responsibility and a strong working partnership with the high school that the success of our young people can be assured. Parents find that PTSA is a community within the high school that welcomes everyone and encourages sharing ideas, concepts and concerns. Membership is open to parents, teachers, students and administrators throughout the year. For further information, contact the membership chairperson listed on the high school page of the *Mt. Lebanon School Activities Calendar* or the President of PTSA. Some of the areas in which PTSA is involved include:

Class Activities	Legislation	School Board Reporting
Cultural Arts	Membership	SEA Fund
Drug & Alcohol	Newsletter	Senior Boat Ride
Faculty/Staff Breakfast	Nutrition/Cafeteria	Senior Picnic in the Park
Guidance Liaison	Open House	Student Directory
Health Services	Parent Orientation	Student Recognition
Hospitality	Parent Education	Study Center
Human Relations	Prom & Fashion Show	Teacher Appreciation
Intl. Cultural Day	Reflections	Vision Screening
Juvenile Protection	AT Cards	Volunteer Services

### **Resolution of Conflicts**

The Mt. Lebanon School District endorses a team approach towards education. Each student is a part of a team that includes his or her parents, teachers, guidance counselor and administrative staff. Together, all work to aid in the student's achievement of his or her goals. When a concern arises, every attempt is made to make the student's high school experience run smoothly; the student should first talk with his or her teacher. If the concern continues, parent(s) should call the teacher or make an appointment to discuss the concern with the teacher. If this does not bring resolution, the parent should contact either the child's guidance counselor for a schedule or social issue, the child's unit principal for a discipline or attendance issue, or the subject area supervisor for an academic issue. Only after these steps have been taken should the parent contact the principal.

### **Separated/Divorced Parents**

Mt. Lebanon School District recognizes the wide responsibilities parents have with respect to the education of their children. In instances of separation and divorce, the following procedures govern communication practices with parents:

- The person who enrolls the child in school shall be assumed to be the custodial parent. It will be further assumed that there are no restrictions on the other parent's right to be kept informed of the child's school progress and activities.
- Unless there are court-imposed restrictions, the noncustodial parent may request and receive copies of all progress reports, scholastic records and any other information provided to the custodial parent. Noncustodial parents wishing to receive such materials should contact the Attendance Office which maintains a list for duplicate mailings of student information.

- Should a court order curtail the right of the noncustodial parent, the custodial parent must provide the principal with a certified copy of the court order. If a parent falsely claims restriction of the other parent's rights concerning the child, the non-custodial parent may file with the principal a certified copy of the most recent court order on the matter. At all times, the school system abides by the most recent court order.
- Unless there are court-imposed restrictions, the noncustodial parent is entitled to participate in all school activities to which the custodial parent is invited, but only the parent who has been awarded legal custody by the court has the right to be involved in decisions regarding the education of the child.
- When the court has awarded legal custody to both parents on a shared basis and when no legal custody arrangements have been awarded by the courts to either parent of a disabled child enrolled in special education, both parents are encouraged and permitted to be involved in all educational decisions affecting the child.
- The noncustodial parent may not visit the child during school hours, nor will the child be released to a noncustodial parent unless such visits or releases are specifically permitted by court order and a certified copy of the order is on file with the principal.

### **Visitors to the School**

Parents should note that students are **not** permitted to bring visitors to school during the school day.

### **Web Pages**

The Mt. Lebanon School District website provides extensive information about many high school programs. In addition, many teachers provide information about their courses on the Internet. Teacher web pages can be accessed through the district web page, [www.mtlsd.org](http://www.mtlsd.org).

## II. ACADEMICS & GUIDANCE

### Academic Integrity

A high standard of honesty is expected of students in all phases of academic work at MLHS, including college admissions tests. Academic dishonesty in any form is an offense against the integrity of the entire school community and a threat to the standards of the school and the standing of every student. Students are expected to refrain personally from acts of academic dishonesty and to report to a faculty member any knowledge they have of such acts of others.

In cases where academic dishonesty has been confirmed by the teacher, the student will receive zero points for the assignment with no option for a makeup assignment and notification to the National Honor Society. For any subsequent offense, the student will receive zero points for the assignment and may receive additional disciplinary consequences such as detention, suspension, and/or course failure

In general, academic integrity requires that all work submitted be one's own unless the teacher has granted permission for group work. Specific examples of academic dishonesty that students should avoid are:

- Copying someone's work (homework, lab report, writing assignment, etc.) and submitting it as one's own
- Allowing someone to copy one's work to submit as his/her own
- Obtaining help on assignments from others that exceeds proper limits
- Copying from someone during a quiz, test or exam
- Allowing another student to copy answers
- Looking at notes or other sources during a quiz, test or exam
- Using electronic devices to store test information
- Arranging to give or receive answers by signals
- Asking/giving someone for a test answer
- Passing test questions or answers from an earlier class to a later class
- Obtaining a copy of a test in advance
- Using an "illegal" copy of a test to study
- Exchanging exams so that neighbors have identical test forms
- Not reporting to school on a due date or exam date without a legitimate reason
- Writing a report or computer program for someone
- Plagiarizing

*Merriam Webster's Collegiate Dictionary*, 10<sup>th</sup> Edition, defines plagiarize as "to steal and pass off (the ideas or words of another) as one's own: use (another's production) without crediting the source." Examples of plagiarism include copying passages or visual downloads from the Internet or other texts; not documenting written or oral sources such as teachers, other students, critics; fabricating or manipulating a quotation or source and using free or purchased papers from the Internet or other sources. Students receive instruction about plagiarism in English and other classes and are responsible to discuss their questions and uncertainties with their teachers.

## Accreditation

Mt. Lebanon High School is accredited by the Middle States Commission on Secondary Schools. It is an institutional member of the National and Pennsylvania Associations of College Admissions Counselors, the College Entrance Examination Board and the College Scholarship Service.

## Auditing Courses

Students may apply to audit courses when they wish to attend a course without receiving a grade or credit. To audit a course, a student must (1) be taking five (5) courses for credit, (2) secure the teacher's permission, (3) declare his or her intention prior to enrollment in the course and (4) complete the permission form available in the Guidance Office. See the *Course Catalog* for more information.

## Awards Evening

The high school hosts an awards program in the spring of each year for those students receiving state and national academic awards. Students receiving the awards, and their families, receive a written invitation to the program.

## Quality Point Average (QPA)

The QPA is calculated at the end of each semester and is derived by dividing the total number of quality points (numerical values assigned to grades to determine a numerical average) earned by the total number of eligible credits taken at MLHS. For the non-weighted GPA, all grades receive the same number of quality points regardless of the course level. The 4 point scale is used (A=4, B=3, C=2, D=1 and E=0). Non-weighted GPA is used for honor roll designation. For the weighted QPA, grades receive quality points based upon the level of the course as described in the following chart. The weighted and non-weighted QPA is always included on transcripts. Grades earned in pass/fail courses, physical education and work study are not included in the computation of QPA.

GRADE	AP	HONORS	ACADEMIC
A	5.5	5.0	4.0
B	4.5	4.0	3.0
C	2.0	2.0	2.0
D	1.0	1.0	1.0
E	0	0	0

A value of .05 is added to the weighted QPA of a student during each semester he/she completes the full course load of 6 credits for grades at MLHS. Therefore, students are encouraged to complete a minimum of 6 credits per semester. A value of .01 is added to the weighted QPA each semester a student enrolls in and receives credit for Honors Advanced Pre-calculus.

### **College Admissions Tests**

Mt. Lebanon High School is a test center for most testing dates of the College Board SAT Program, a program of the College Entrance Examination Board (CEEB) and Educational Testing Service (ETS).

The *SAT Reasoning Test* is administered seven (7) times yearly, and the *SAT Subject Tests* are administered six (6) times yearly. The *Preliminary Scholastic Assessment Test (PSAT)* is administered in October to interested sophomores and juniors. The junior year *PSAT* is also used as the National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test.

Although not currently offered at Mt. Lebanon High School, the *American College Test (ACT)* is administered six (6) times yearly at nearby test centers.

Registration for all college admissions tests is the responsibility of the individual student. Test dates, sample tests, registration forms and fee information are available in the Guidance Office. Students may also register for SAT and ACT test administrations online at [www.collegeboard.com](http://www.collegeboard.com) and [www.act.org](http://www.act.org). A summary of pertinent information about college entrance tests is mailed to all parents in August.

### **Computer Network/Internet Use**

The district's computer network may be used by students only in support of education and research consistent with the educational objectives of the district. Supervision by instructors and the electronic filter used by the district minimize students' opportunities to use the network inappropriately; however, the district reserves the right to suspend or cancel a student's network privileges following any improper use of the network. The term "Network" shall be interpreted to include any and all District owned computers, servers, and hardware or software, the District's local area network (LAN), municipal area network (MAN), all wireless access points, the Internet, the District Intranet, self contained electronic mail systems, and any other elements of the District's computer, telecommunications or electronic communication/information systems. Please refer to Appendix G regarding Network/Internet Use.

Parents who object to their child's use of the district computer network for instructional activities must notify the principal in writing at the beginning of each school year. All students are required to sign the network agreement before accessing district technology.

### **Course Levels**

Mt. Lebanon High School is a comprehensive high school which offers a demanding college preparatory program supplemented with strong offerings in several elective areas. The three course levels are Academic, Honors and Advanced Placement. The courses within each of these categories meet specific criteria, consistent with high school graduation requirements prescribed by the Pennsylvania Department of Education. Students, therefore, have the opportunity to select courses consistent with their abilities, achievements and interests. Please consult the *Course Catalog* for descriptions, prerequisite courses and screening procedures.

### Academic

Academic courses are demanding college preparatory courses that require average to above-average analytical reading skills. Students can expect regular homework which reinforces concepts developed in class and some material which is challenging at high cognitive levels.

### Honors

Honors courses are rigorous courses which demand a high level of analytical reading ability and often lead to Advanced Placement studies. Students are required to spend a significant amount of time outside of class on course work and may have summer assignments.

### Advanced Placement

AP courses are first year college level courses that follow the College Entrance Examination Board syllabus and prepare students for the AP examinations given in early May. Some colleges will grant credit for high scores on AP tests. AP courses are the most rigorous course offerings and require a significant amount of time outside of class on course work and may have summer assignments.

### **Course Screening and Overrides**

Honors and AP courses are screened. Students wishing to enroll in these courses must apply through the course selection process. This application is done indicating screened course at the time of course selection. To enroll in Honors and Advanced Placement courses, a student must be recommended by a screening committee which considers: 1) criteria for the course, 2) the student's scholastic ability, 3) achievement and performance. 4) evidence of maturity, motivation, interest and industry and 5) previous teachers' recommendations. Parents who wish to override a faculty screening recommendation must do so through completion of a "Parental Override for Student Placement" form. This form may be obtained in the Guidance Office and should be returned by the deadline date, typically mid March. Parental overrides received after the deadline date will only be honored if class size permits an additional student placement.

### **Course Selection**

Students select their courses for the following academic year by completing the on-line course selections form by mid January. If changes to course selections are required, written parental requests must be submitted to the student's guidance counselor by the deadline date indicated. Course selection changes after this date must be approved by the Schedule Change Committee, on a space available basis.

Course planning is individualized, according to each student's interests and goals. Parents are encouraged to participate in their child's course planning by attending the Individualized Guidance Planning (IGP) conferences that are held in both 9th and 11th grades. Additionally, parents should review the child's annual course selections via Dashboard and contact the child's guidance counselor with questions at any time. Information about required courses and sample schedules may be found in the *Course Catalog*.

## **Credit Deficiencies**

Students may resolve credit deficiencies resulting from course failure as follows:

1. Repeat the course the following year.
2. Repeat the course in an approved summer school program.
3. Repeat the course in an approved correspondence program.
4. Substitute 30 hours of tutoring with a certified teacher for a one semester course, upon approval of the principal. The tutor must certify in writing the student's completion of the course work, the letter grade earned and his/her teacher certification number.

## **Cum Laude Society**

The Cum Laude Society is an international organization founded in 1906 with the purpose of according recognition for scholastic achievement at the secondary school level. The Cum Laude society was modeled after the college honor society, Phi Beta Kappa. The eligibility requirements for seniors for the MLHS Chapter are as follows:

1. Students must have earned a minimum of 3.9 quality point average (WQPA), including points added for special circumstances, based on all As and Bs and no more than one C and no grade below a C in any subject on which the WQPA is based. The WQPA for entrance may be higher than 3.9 if the maximum per year allowed by the Cum Laude Charter is reached (20% of the senior class). A group of students with the same WQPA will not be inducted if the number in that group brings the cumulative total of eligible students above 20% of the senior class. For example, in a class of 350 students, where no more than 70 students can be admitted, if 65 eligible students have a QPA of 4.4 and above and 10 eligible students share a QPA of 4.3, the cutoff will be 4.4. **Students must attend induction to be a member of Cum Laude.**
2. Students new to MLHS must have spent at least the full first semester of the senior year at MLHS and must have met the credit and quality point requirements prescribed above during the time spent in MLHS as well as in grades 9, 10, and 11 in any previous schools.

## **Early Admission/Dual Enrollment in College**

For the senior year, an exceptionally able student may attend an approved college on a full-time basis and earn credit toward graduation from MLHS. The student must (1) request approval from his/her guidance counselor by completing the Application for Early Admission, available in the Guidance Office; (2) be accepted on a full-time basis in a program granting college credit toward a degree; and (3) provide to MLHS a college transcript to document successful completion of the courses. Students may also follow items 1 and 3 above for dual enrollment (attending MLHS and college) during the school day. The student is responsible for all costs of external courses.

## **Exemption from Specific Instructional Activities**

District policy provides parents the right to have their child excused from specific instruction which conflicts with their religious beliefs, upon receipt by the school district of a written

request from the parents. Parents have the right to have their child excluded from any research studies or surveys conducted by entities other than the school district unless prior written consent has been obtained. Parents have the right to have their child excluded from instruction regarding the prevention of human immunodeficiency virus (HIV/acquired immunodeficiency syndrome (AIDS) and other life threatening and communicable diseases when the instruction conflicts with the parent's religious beliefs or principles, upon receipt by the school district of a written request for exemption.

According to Act 88, students have the right to decline to participate in an education project involving harmful or destructive use of animals (i.e., dissection, vivisection, incubation, capture, etc.). To be exempted, the student must submit to the teacher a written request from the parent at least one (1) day prior to the activity. A student who chooses to refrain from participation in such an activity will be offered an alternative education project for the purpose of providing the student an avenue for obtaining the factual knowledge, information or experience required by the course of study. If tests require harmful or destructive use of animals, students will be offered alternative tests. Students will not be discriminated against for their decision to exercise this right.

### **External Courses for Acceleration**

Students wishing to accelerate through the required sequence of courses at MLHS may do so by completing one of the many college courses offered for high school students, primarily during the summer. The student must receive prior approval from their school counselor. Credit toward graduation is not granted for completion of such courses. External transcripts should be provided to the student's guidance counselor for college admission purposes.

### **External Courses for Graduation Credit**

Students may earn a maximum of two (2) credits toward graduation through external courses while enrolled at MLHS. The district is unlikely to approve external credit for those science courses which, when completed at the high school, include a sixth period laboratory experience. Grades earned through external courses are not computed for class rank or QPA. The student is responsible for all costs of external courses. The student must receive permission from their guidance counselor prior to beginning a course to ensure the credits will be acceptable for graduation.

### **Correspondence Courses**

To earn external credit through correspondence courses, the student must obtain prior approval from his/her guidance counselor. The correspondence course must be accredited.

### **Internet Courses**

To earn external credit through internet courses, the student must obtain prior approval from his/her guidance counselor. The internet course must be accredited.

### **Final Examinations**

Final examinations are scheduled at the end of each semester in certain subject areas and account for 15% to 25% of the student's semester grade. Classes are not held on days that final examinations are scheduled, and students are responsible to report for the exam at the

scheduled time. When a student must be absent on a final examination day, the parent must call the Attendance office on the morning of the exam to report the student's absence. Without parent verification of an excused absence, the student will not be permitted to schedule a makeup exam and a failing grade will be issued.

### **Graduation Honors**

Graduation honors are computed following the first semester of the senior year, and are based on weighted semester quality point averages for grades 9 through 12.

Highest Honors	4.2 and above
High Honors	3.8 to 4.1
Honors	3.3 to 3.7

### **Graduation Requirements & Commencement Ceremony**

Graduation is based on the successful completion of 42.8 credits in grade 12 and must include the following:

SUBJECT AREA	CREDITS	SUBJECT AREA	CREDITS
English	8	Arts/Humanities	4
Mathematics	6	Physical Education	1 (3 sem.)
Science	6	Health	1
Social Studies	6	Electives	10
Information Tech.	.8 (1 sem.)	Total	42.8

For specific subject area graduation requirements and examples of courses within each subject area, consult the *Course Catalog*.

Commencing with the Junior Class of 2010-2011, in order to be eligible for graduation, a student must demonstrate mastery of the Pennsylvania Academic Standards in Math, Reading and Writing on the culminating 11th grade PSSA, through progress monitoring on a student's Individual Education Plan (IEP), and/or local assessment aligned to the PA Academic Standards. Mastery shall be deemed as attaining a score of Proficient or higher on the 11th grade PSSA or 12th grade PSSA Retest, attaining passing grades on a local assessment aligned to the PA Academic Standards as designed or selected by the District after taking the PSSA and PSSA Retest, or fulfilling requirements of a graduation plan on a student's IEP for the Math, Reading and Writing assessments.

Beginning in 2011-2012, 12<sup>th</sup> grade students who have not demonstrated Proficiency on the PSSA Math, Reading and Writing will be required to remediate through a PSSA Program. Based on the student's Individual Score Report (ISR), the remediation program, in addition to retesting in 12<sup>th</sup> grade, can be satisfied in a number of ways: (1) Obtaining a passing grade in

a summer course following the receipt of PSSA results; (2) Enrollment and successful completion in a course scheduled during the student's school day during the school year; (3) Successful completion of an asynchronous on-line course; (4) a portfolio developed through the student's traditional English/Math courses showing mastery of pre-determined skills and knowledge. Once the student has demonstrated proficiency through the remediation program, the student would meet the PSSA proficiency requirement.

Students must also fulfill a state-mandated graduation project requirement through successful completion of a personal health project in the health course. Students who take health during summer school will begin the project in the summer program and submit it to a health education faculty member for evaluation by the fifth day of the fall semester. Individual arrangements will be made by the guidance counselor for students who have taken the required health course at another high school before enrolling in MLHS.

In order to participate in the commencement ceremony, a student must have fulfilled all academic requirements for graduation prior to the commencement ceremony. **No exceptions are made.** In addition, students must have met all outstanding delinquent obligations. Senior students who have not met graduation requirements on time may still earn the current year's diploma if they fulfill graduation requirements by August 31. Senior students who complete their graduation requirements after August 31 will only be eligible for the following year's diploma.

### **Guidance Homeroom Bulletin**

The Guidance Department publishes a monthly bulletin for posting in each homeroom. It includes information about college entrance test dates, scholarships, visits from college, university, and vocational school representatives, and summer and community educational programs. The bulletin is available on the school web page, as well as through email.

### **Guidance Program**

A guidance counselor is assigned to each student at the beginning of freshman year and remains that student's counselor throughout high school. See the high school web page and the *Guidance Handbook* for information on guidance topics.

### **Honor Roll**

Honor Roll is posted in the auditorium lobby every semester and is based upon non-weighted grades (4.0 System). The levels of the Honor Roll are:

Highest Honors	All A's
High Honors	Minimum of 3.5, with no grade below a B
Honors	Minimum of 3.0, with no grade below a C

### **Incomplete Grades**

At the end of a grading period, a student's grade will be reported as earned to date with a comment that the student is expected to make up missing assignments/tests for the grading period within two (2) weeks. A final grade, for the grading period, will be recorded at the conclusion of this two (2) week period.

### **Independent Study**

Independent study may be applied for by a 12th grade student as a sixth full-time course. The student must design a plan of study on a topic that is an extension of, or an addition to, the regular curriculum, secure a faculty advisor, and submit an application (available in the Guidance's Office, room 527) prior to the semester in which the independent study is initiated. One (1) credit may be earned for each semester of independent study. Refer to the *Course Catalog* for more specific information.

### **National Honor Society**

Sponsored and supervised by the National Association of Secondary School Principals, the National Honor Society (NHS) recognizes students who demonstrate outstanding accomplishment in the areas of scholarship, character, leadership and service. The by-laws and operation of the Mt. Lebanon Chapter of NHS are drawn from the NHS Constitution.

Student membership in NHS is offered to those students selected by the five-member faculty council which is appointed by the principal. To be considered for the NHS, a student must have completed five (5) semesters of high school, at least one (1) of which is at MLHS, have a weighted QPA of 3.8 or higher and meet criteria for leadership, community service and character.

In February of each year, seniors/juniors who have a weighted QPA of 3.8 or higher are invited by letter to submit information verifying their leadership and service experiences and to obtain character recommendations from faculty. An informational group meeting is held to provide students with the necessary forms and information about the NHS goals, expectations, selection process and criteria. With no exceptions, students must submit the completed information packet to the NHS Advisor by the designated date and time. When all of this information is compiled, student names are removed from the verification packet and the faculty council, under the direction of the NHS advisor, reviews each packet anonymously relative to the NHS criteria for service, leadership and character.

Candidates who meet the criteria are inducted into NHS during a ceremony in the spring of the year. Information about the criteria for selection to NHS is described in the MLHS NHS brochure available in the Community Service, Guidance and Student Activities Offices and on the MLHS website. Freshmen and sophomores who aspire to NHS selection should learn about the criteria early in their high school career in order to document their leadership and service to the school and community over time - important NHS criteria. To meet the community service requirements for NHS, the student must complete specific minimum amounts of in-school and out-of-school service each year, and the service must be on record in the Community Service Office before March 1 of the year of application.

## **Parkway West AVTS & ACE**

Parkway West Area Vocational-Technical School and the Alternative Center for Education on Parkway's campus serve students in the southwestern section of Allegheny County. Beginning in 10th grade, students are eligible to attend Parkway for half-day vocational, technical or alternative programs, spending the remainder of the day at ACE or the high school for academic courses and extra-curricular activities. Refer to the *Course Catalog* and *Parkway AVTS Course Description Guide* for specific information about courses.

The Parkway bus departs from MLHS at 7:00 a.m. and returns at 11:10 a.m. The bus for the afternoon session departs at 11:15 a.m. and returns to the high school at 3:00 p.m. School cancellations and delays at Parkway are announced on radio and television and coincide with cancellations and delays at MLHS.

## **Pass/Fail Courses**

Students wishing to explore a curriculum area without earning a specific grade may apply in writing to take a course on a pass/fail basis. The student must submit the application within the first four (4) weeks of the course. Courses that may be taken pass/fail are specified in the *Course Catalog*.

## **Quality Point Average (QPA)**

See the section on QPA earlier in this section.

## **Report Cards and Student Progress**

Report cards are posted on Dashboard four times during the school year - at the midpoint and end of each of the two semesters. (Parents may request a hard copy of their child's report card by calling the Attendance Office.) Only the end-of-semester grades (January and June) are recorded on the student's transcript. The marking system in MLHS represents five levels of achievement and ability to master the concepts presented in the course, as compared with that of others studying the same subject matter. The letter grade at the end of each semester is the result of the effort of each teacher to reach a reliable measure of the student's achievement based on assignments, class participation, projects/activities, daily class work and the semester examination grade. Student's current grades are available on Dashboard.

## **Schedule Changes & Withdrawal from Courses**

Course selections are made each January for the next school year and students may make changes to their course requests through mid-March (space permitting). To request a schedule change after mid-March, the student must complete a Schedule Change Request Form, obtain parental permission and submit the form to the counselor for review by the Schedule Change Committee which uses clearly defined criteria for approving any schedule changes.

Courses may not be added after the first two (2) weeks of the course. A student carrying five (5) full-time courses may not withdraw from a course at any time unless he/she enrolls in another course. A sixth course may not be dropped unless there are extenuating circumstances. A student carrying six (6) full-time courses may apply to the Schedule Change Committee to withdraw from one course. Students withdrawing from courses during the first nine (9) weeks of the semester receive the grade of "W." Those withdrawing during

the second nine (9) weeks receive the failing grade of "E." Students may not request a transfer from honors biology, chemistry or physics to academic biology, chemistry or physics, from AP Environmental Geoscience to academic Environmental Geoscience, from AP US History to academic US History, or from AP Statistics to academic statistics or vice versa after the first four (4) weeks of the first semester. These courses do not follow the same scope and sequence. Students may not request a change from an honors level 4 world language course to an academic level 4 world language course after the first nine (9) weeks. Students may not request a change from an Advanced Placement World Language course to an academic or honors level world language course after the first nine (9) weeks.

If a student withdraws from a course because the level of material is determined to be inappropriate, and enrolls in a different level of the same course, this is considered to be a "change of level," rather than withdrawal from a course. The level change procedure may be initiated by a student, parent or teacher and must be arranged through the guidance counselor. Application to the Schedule Change Committee is not necessary.

Students may only add a new or additional course to their schedule during the first two weeks of the course. Students may not request a transfer from honors chemistry or physics to academic chemistry or physics, from AP US History to academic US History, or from AP Statistics to academic statistics after the first four (4) weeks of the first semester. These courses do not follow the same scope and sequence.

### **Standardized Testing**

An educational testing program is approved by the School Board annually. The results of these tests provide a continuing record of each student's progress and are an aid to teachers in diagnosing individual strengths and weaknesses in order to provide more effective instruction and recommendations for course selection. Scores on standardized tests are maintained in each student's confidential school record. These records are maintained for a two-year period following graduation. Each year, specific dates for administration of standardized tests are listed in the *Mt. Lebanon School Activities Calendar*.

### III. ACTIVITIES

#### **Activities Center**

Located on the sixth floor, the Student Activities Center is the hub of many social and extra-curricular activities at MLHS. The center is staffed by a full-time director and clerk. Seniors may schedule time in the Student Activities Center during their study halls, as approved by the Activities Director. The Student Activities Center telephone number is 412.344.2105 or 412.344.2057. Participation in Activities is a privilege and not an entitlement; therefore a student's participation in any of the activities can be denied due to academic, attendance, or behavioral problems and issues.

#### **Clubs & Activities**

Activities and clubs provide many meaningful ways for students to participate in the life of the school beyond the classroom. Students are encouraged to learn about and join clubs and organizations during the Activities Day that is held in Center Court during lunch periods at the beginning of the fall semester. A list of clubs and activities is also available in the Student Activities Center and on the high school web site.

More than 60 activities are organized and sponsored by the Activities Department and the instructional staff. School-sponsored activities operate under the direction, control and leadership of a sponsor employed by the district and includes programs such as Academic Games, Model United Nations, Principal's Advisory Council for Students, Student Council, MTLN Productions and the student newspaper and yearbook.

*Co-curricular clubs*, such as the art, environmental, history and world language clubs operate under the auspices of faculty members and support instructional activities in specific courses.

*Extra-curricular clubs*, also endorsed and supported by the school, include the outdoors, photography, ski clubs, and SADD.

*Student-initiated clubs*, initiated, directed and led by students, are devoted to subject matter not directly related to the school's curriculum or programs. They are subject to the supervision of the high school, but do not operate under the auspices of or as an endorsed activity of the high school. Students may obtain guidelines and application forms for student-initiated clubs from the activities director or the principal.

#### **Class Rings**

Students may purchase a MLHS class ring at any time by obtaining an order form in the Student Activities Center.

#### **Dances/Prom**

The Homecoming Dance in the fall and the Snowball Dance in mid-February are school-wide dances held at the high school that are open to each student and his/her guest. Students attending the dances must be present by 9:00 pm, with the exception of the prom. Students should be sure to make necessary arrangements accordingly. Students that arrive after 9:00 pm will not be admitted without previous arrangements. **Students must be in grades 9**

**through 12 or no older than 20.** The prom, held at an off-campus location in late May or early June, is open to each senior and his/her guest. Only students age 20 and under can attend the prom. Individual class councils sponsor less formal dances and activities throughout the year. The rules for student conduct described in the Student Conduct section of this handbook apply to all dances, boat rides, and the prom.

### **Executive Council**

Executive Council is comprised of the four class councils - one for each of the freshman, sophomore, junior and senior classes. Each class council is comprised of a faculty sponsor and any interested students from that particular grade. The student body elects eight (8) students each spring to serve as Student Body officers. The Freshmen, Sophomore and Junior Class Councils elect a president, vice president, secretary and treasurer in September from the membership of their respective class council. The Executive Council for each class meets weekly before school to plan activities for the class. Any student can volunteer to participate in Executive Council at any time during the year.

### **Fund-raising**

According to the School Board Policy, students may engage in fund raising activities on behalf of their approved student organizations only after the need for funds has been determined and the principal has approved the request. The Student Activities Center maintains a master calendar, and all fund raising activities must be approved by Student Council and added to the calendar. ***Students may not engage in fund raising activities during school hours.***

### **Homeroom Representatives**

Each semester, every homeroom elects two (2) student representatives to act as liaisons between Student Council and their homerooms. Responsibilities of homeroom representatives include attendance at monthly Student Council meetings, reading the minutes of Student Council meetings to the homeroom, bringing homeroom ideas to Student Council meetings and assuming responsibilities for homeroom projects.

### **Musical Organizations**

*Band* includes concert, marching, jazz bands, and wind ensemble, and requires that students be skilled in playing an instrument. Concert Band and Wind Ensemble are credited, scheduled courses; marching and jazz bands meet only after-school hours. All members of concert band and wind ensemble must participate in marching band. All ensembles require a time commitment outside of the school day. Physical examinations are required for marching band.

*Chorus* includes Concert Choir, a mixed voice ensemble, the Triple Trio, a female auditioned ensemble, and the Men's Ensemble. All vocal ensembles are for any student who enjoys singing and wishes to develop solo and part-singing skills. Concert Choir is a credited, scheduled course; Triple Trio and Men's Ensemble meet only after school hours. All three ensembles require a time commitment outside of the school day.

*Orchestra* is comprised of students who are proficient in the instruments of a symphonic orchestra. Orchestra is a credited, scheduled course; however, the wind and percussion players are selected by audition.

*Percussion Ensemble* is a segment of the band which performs concert percussion. Audition is required. It requires a time commitment outside of the school day.

*Dance Company* is a credited, scheduled course entered through audition. The Dance Company studies, choreographs and presents public performances.

The *All-School Musical* is a yearly presentation of the Fine Arts Department. Auditions are held several months prior to the musical performances.

The *Rockettes* and *Silks* are auxiliary groups of the marching band. Auditions are held in the spring of each year.

### **Principal's Advisory Council for Students (PACS)**

PACS is a representative group of students that meets with the principal several times a year to discuss school concerns. Each year, there are a limited number of positions to be filled at each grade level, and students may apply by writing a one-page letter to the principal indicating the reasons they would like to take an active role in school.

### **Publications**

Three publications offer students many opportunities for experience in writing, editing, photography and layout. The *Devil's Advocate* is the school newspaper that is published several times throughout the year. Interested students may apply both in the fall and in the spring. *Lebanon Log* is the yearbook published in the spring of each year. *PULSE*, the literary magazine that is published annually, includes student writings, photography and art work. Students are encouraged to contribute to all of these publications and to participate in their development, publication and distribution.

### **Restriction from School Activities: (RSA)**

Participation in co-curricular activities, extra curricular activities, sports and ceremonial events is a privilege and not a right. Activities include, but are not limited to, athletic contests, musical and dramatic performances, school clubs and ceremonial events such as dances, the prom and commencement exercises. These activities may be restricted when a student violates a Mt. Lebanon High School's rule(s), procedure(s), school board policy or the law.

Restriction from participation and attendance at school activities may be assigned by the high school administration. Nothing in this rule shall negate prescribed disciplinary actions such as suspension, detention, the filing of charges with law enforcement officials or other appropriate sanctions. A student and his/her parent(s) or guardian(s) shall be notified in writing by the administration that restriction will be applied. Upon request by the parent, the assigning principal will meet informally to review the issue and afford appropriate due process.

### **Student Council**

Student Council, comprised of the four Executive Councils, homeroom representatives, club representatives and class sponsors, meets monthly to plan school-wide activities, to publicize school events and to promote school spirit. The student body elects the officers of Student

Council and the Senior Class each spring, and these senior elected officers govern Student Council according to its Constitution. Any student who is not already involved in Student Council may participate on a Student Council Committee or place an item on the agenda of a monthly Student Council meeting by contacting the Activities Director.

### **Student Curriculum Advisory Council**

The Student Curriculum Advisory Council is a group of about 35 students that meets with school administrators to discuss the academic program. During their monthly discussions, supervisors of the specific subject areas inform students about upcoming changes in the program and listen to students' concerns, suggestions and ideas. Interested students may apply for membership by signing up at Activities Day or by contacting the Director of Guidance in Room 526.

## **IV. ATHLETICS**

### **Athletic Office**

Located in Room 421, the Athletic Office is open from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. The telephone number is 412.344.2008. For tickets, call 412.344.2007.

### **Athletic Philosophy**

Mt. Lebanon School District believes that a dynamic program of student activities is vital to the educational development of the student. The athletic program of MLHS provides a variety of experiences to aid students in the development of favorable habits and attitudes that will prepare them for adult life in a democratic society. The athletic program functions as an integral part of the total curriculum and offers student's opportunities to serve the school, to assist in the development of fellowship and good will, to promote self-realization and all-around growth and to encourage the qualities of good citizenship.

### **Athletic Awards**

Certificates of participation and letters are awarded to eligible Mt. Lebanon athletes at the end of each season of interscholastic competition according to the criteria established for each sport. Letters are presented throughout the year at sports recognition events organized by the Athletic Department.

### **Attendance**

Students who are tardy or absent from school are not permitted to participate in athletic events, including practice, that day, with the exception of absence due to school-sanctioned events such as field trips, pre-approved absences, or absences due to an emergency or medical situation with prior administrative approval. Students arriving late for medical reasons must provide a valid medical excuse from a doctor in order to participate in athletic events.

### **Class Absences**

In order for students to be excused from classes during the school day for athletic events, they must be present in school from the beginning of the school day. Exact times for athletic early dismissals are established by the athletic office, and students may not leave school before the designated time. Teachers are informed of the dismissal time and names of students to be dismissed through the daily attendance list and update on Power School. These are considered school-sanctioned absences. Students are responsible to make-up all work missed during the absence.

### **Conduct of Spectators at Athletic Events**

Students and all other spectators are expected to demonstrate good sportsmanship and appropriate social behavior during all school athletic events, both at home and away. All rules for student conduct described in the Student Conduct section of this Handbook apply to all Mt. Lebanon High School athletic events.

The Mt. Lebanon School District prohibits spectators from entering the high school stadium with any cups, bottles, glass, cans, or thermos containers during an athletic event.

### **Eligibility for Interscholastic Sports**

Any student who wishes to compete for a position on any athletic team should report to the coach of that team at the beginning of the season. A student must submit a completed permission and release form signed by a parent and must have passed a physical examination.

To be eligible for a team, a student must fulfill the requirements of the Mt. Lebanon School District as well as those of the Pennsylvania Interscholastic Athletic Association (PIAA). The PIAA and school have established eligibility requirements related to curriculum and academic performance, age, attendance and conduct.

Eligibility requirements are summarized below; more specific information is available through the Athletic Director.

#### **Curriculum and Academic Eligibility**

1. A student must pursue a curriculum defined and approved by the principal as a full-time curriculum and must maintain an acceptable grade in the curriculum, as certified by the principal. Eligibility is cumulative from the beginning of a grading period, and is reported on a weekly basis. The student must be passing four (4) full credit subjects to be eligible for the following week.
2. The student must have passed at least four (4) full-credit subjects, or the equivalent, during the previous grading period. Back work may be made up, providing it is in accordance with the regular rules of the school.
3. In cases where a student's work in any preceding grading period does not meet the standards described above, the student shall be ineligible to participate in interscholastic athletics for the first 15 school days of the next grading period.
4. New students must meet eligibility requirements on curriculum. Students who are enrolled for the first time must comply with the requirements of the curriculum rules. The standing required for the preceding grading period or previous year shall be obtained from the records of the last school which the student has attended.
5. At the end of the school year, the student's final grades and credits in his/her subjects, rather than his/her grades and credits for the last grading period, shall be used to determine eligibility for the next grading period.

#### **Age Eligibility**

A student shall be ineligible for interscholastic athletic competition upon attaining the age of 19 years. If the age of 19 is attained on or after July 1, the student shall be eligible by age to compete through that school year.

### **Attendance Eligibility**

A student who has been absent from school during a semester for a total of 20 or more school days shall not be eligible to participate in any athletic contest until he/she has been in attendance for a total of 45 school days following his/her 20th day of absence. Exceptions are made when there is a consecutive absence of five (5) or more school days due to confining injury or other state-approved reasons for school absence. (See Attendance Section of this handbook.)

### **Student Conduct Eligibility**

A student may, at any time, be withdrawn from competition if his/her citizenship is such as to make him/her an unworthy representative of MLHS. Expectations and consequences regarding student conduct are described in the Student Conduct chapter of this Handbook.

### **Equipment**

Every student participating in interscholastic athletics receives the proper equipment, including uniforms. When they join an athletic team, students assume full responsibility for the proper care and timely return of all equipment that has been issued. When a student fails to return equipment, he/she will not be permitted to participate in another sport, the coach will issue a Delinquent Obligation Notice to the school office and school records (including report cards) will be withheld until the student returns the equipment or pays for its replacement. Students with delinquent obligations will not be permitted to graduate.

### **Insurance**

The district maintains a special \$1,000 deductible excess accident policy. If a student receives medical services for a sports related injury, the parent must submit all claims to their personal insurance carrier for payment. Costs in excess of the family's insurance plan that are paid by the family and exceed \$1,000 should be submitted to the plan carried by the district. The claim form to submit these costs can be obtained in the Principal's Office and must be submitted to the insurance carrier within 90 days from the date of injury.

### **Interscholastic Sports**

MLHS is regularly represented by varsity, junior varsity and 9th grade teams in various sports in interscholastic competition. The school is a member of the Western Pennsylvania Interscholastic Athletic Association and the Pennsylvania Interscholastic Athletic Association.

## **Fall Sports (Begins August 15)**

Cheerleading	Boys Golf
Crew (Club)	Girls Golf
Boys Cross Country	Boys Soccer
Girls Cross Country	Girls Soccer
Girls Field Hockey	Girls Tennis
Girls Volleyball	Football

## **Winter Sports (Begins November 18)**

Cheerleading	Boys Swimming/Diving
Boys Basketball	Girls Swimming/Diving
Girls Basketball	Rifle
Ice Hockey (Club)	Winter Track
	Wrestling

## **Spring Sports (Begins March 5)**

Baseball	Boys Tennis
Crew (Club)	Boys Track
Boys Lacrosse	Girls Track
Girls Lacrosse	Boys Volleyball
Softball	

### **Intramural Sports**

A variety of intramural sports programs are available for students. Some of these are flag football, basketball, softball, golf, kayak, weight training and volleyball. Other sports may be organized according to student interests. All students are eligible to participate in intramural sports except the members of the interscholastic squads of the same sport. Students receive information about intramural schedules through homeroom announcements and flyers sent to homerooms.

### **Physical Examinations and Re-certifications**

To be eligible to represent MLHS in any interscholastic athletic contest, a student must be examined (on or after June 1) by a licensed physician of medicine or osteopathy or a certified registered nurse practitioner before his or her first sports season of the academic year. The parent is responsible for this examination, and the student must submit to the Athletic Office a report of the examination on the Comprehensive Initial Pre-Participation Physical Evaluation.

Any students that (a) suffers an illness or injury which renders the student unable to participate in 25% or more of the regular season contests in the immediately preceding sport season and/or (b) suffers an illness or injury which results in absence from school for ten or more days and/or which requires surgery, must, prior to participation in the next sport season, complete and turn in to that student's principal the PIAA Comprehensive Pre-participation Physical Re-Evaluation and Re-certification by authorized medical examiner form.

### **Restrictions During Suspension from School**

Students under suspension from school are also suspended from participation in all extra-curricular activities, including sports, on the dates of suspension, including weekends and breaks within the suspension. Students are prohibited from attending any school activities on or off school property.

### **Steroids and Other Drugs**

School Board policy prohibits students involved in school-related athletics from using anabolic steroids, except for a valid medical purpose. Body building, muscle enhancement, increasing muscle bulk or strength or the enhancement of athletic ability are not considered valid medical purposes. School Board policy also prohibits students from distributing, dispensing, possessing, using or being under the influence of any controlled substance, the definition of which includes anabolic steroids. See Appendix B in this handbook for more information.

### **Student Managers**

Student managers for each team are chosen from a list of students who have made application through the coach, the athletic director or the Student Activities Center. Managers receive the same number of activities points as the participants in the sport, and letters are awarded to those who have served satisfactorily for two (2) seasons.

### **Tickets for Athletic Events**

Tickets for home football games may be purchased in advance of the games for a reduced price within the athletic office. All tickets at the gates are general admission price. There are no student tickets sold at the gates.

### **Travel Release Procedures**

Under certain circumstances, athletes may be excused from riding school transportation to or from an athletic event. To arrange this, students/parents must obtain a Travel Release Form from the Athletic Office and submit the completed form to the athletic director in advance. The athletic director will sign the form and provide a copy to the parent/student. The athlete will be released to the parent or designated adult by the coach upon presentation of a copy of the approved travel release form at the event. Should a parent approach a coach at an away event and request that the child ride home with him/her, the coach shall agree upon receiving written release of responsibility for the athlete by the parent. In no case will an athlete be permitted to ride home with another student.

## V. ATTENDANCE

The following procedures regarding attendance are in accordance with Mt. Lebanon School Board Policy JED (revised June 2004).

ATTENDANCE OFFICE - ROOM 427 – 412-325-8200

<i>To determine student's unit, use grade and section number.</i>	Unit Principal	Secretary
Unit 1 - Sections 101-107	Mr. Doug Szokoly 412.344.2041	Mrs. Carol Unger 412.344.2040
Unit 2 - Sections 201-207	TBA 412.344.2061	Ms. Gloria Kaminski 412.344.2060
Unit 3 - Sections 301-307	Mr. Peter Berg 412.344.2051	Mrs. Jo Ann Morgano 412.344.2050

When a student is absent from or tardy to school, the Attendance Office places a recorded telephone message to the home. This call is informational for the parent. If the parent has questions about the information, he/she should call the Attendance Office. Parents are **not** required to call the school to report a student's absence. In order for a student to receive a full day's credit for attendance at school, he/she must be present a minimum of five (5) periods. Half day attendance will be awarded for students who are present four (4) or fewer class periods.

### **Absence from School/Excuses**

All absences from school, including late entry and early dismissal, fall into one of four categories:

1. excused
2. school-sanctioned
3. unexcused/unlawful (class cut)
4. unexcused due to suspension

According to state compulsory attendance laws and school board attendance policy JED, absence from school may be excused for personal illness, district approved tutorial programs not offered by the district, quarantine, death in the immediate family, traditionally recognized religious holidays, religious instruction (as defined later in this section), pre-approved educational travel (as defined later in this section), approved 4-H/FFA/FHA participation in authorized Pennsylvania agricultural fairs, court appearances, school-sanctioned absences, and other urgent reasons as approved by the district.

Upon returning from an absence (excluding pre-approved and school-sanctioned absences), a parent/guardian's written excuse or other appropriate verification note (including but not

limited to certification by a licensed health care provider of medical reasons for the absence where deemed appropriate by the Principal/Unit Principal) must be presented to the homeroom teacher within ten (10) school days. If the excuse is not given to the homeroom teacher by the tenth day after the return, the absence will be considered unexcused. Only parent or legal guardian written excuses will be accepted with the exception of a legally emancipated minor. The student submits the parent written excuse to the homeroom teacher. If the reason for the absence does not comply with those listed above, the absence is considered unexcused. Students who have been absent for five (5) or more consecutive days must report to the Health Office before homeroom period on the day of their return to school, where the Re-admittance Form will be completed by the school nurse. When a student's absences are excessive, certification by a health care provider of medical reasons may be requested by the school.

### **Absence for Final Examinations and AP Examinations**

When a student must be absent on a final examination day, the parent must call the Attendance Office on the morning of the exam to report the student's absence. Unless the parent reports the student's absence, the student will not be permitted to schedule a makeup examination.

A student scheduled to take an advanced placement examination may be excused from school for the half-day before the exam. That is, for morning examinations, the student may be excused from school the preceding afternoon; for afternoon examinations, the student may be excused from school on the morning of the exam. This does not apply for examinations scheduled for Monday mornings.

### **Attendance Hearings**

Presence and participation in the classroom are essential elements of the learning process. According to school board policy JED, Students absent ten (10) or more days (or their equivalent) in a semester and/or missing ten or more classes (or their equivalent) in a given course, excused or unexcused, in a semester may be denied credit for a course or courses. School sanctioned and pre-approved absences will not be counted towards the 10 days. In addition to the legal proceedings for violation of compulsory attendance laws, disciplinary action for excessive absences up to and including expulsion may also be taken where circumstances warrant, as determined by the district.

Therefore to be eligible for academic credit in a course, a student must have less than 10 absences in each semester of a course. In courses that meet less than five days per week, a student must attend a minimum of 90% of their classes in each semester of a course to receive credit. As a courtesy, the Attendance Office provides written notice to the parent when the student has reached five (5) and eight (8) days of absence from school in a semester. Further, as a courtesy, the classroom teacher notifies the parent when the student accumulates five (5) and eight (8) absences from an individual class.

For any student who exceeds the allowable number of absences (generally [9] nine) in a semester, the Attendance Review Committee(s) will screen attendance records. Following the initial review, the Committee(s) may determine that denial of credit may be warranted, in which case an Attendance Hearing will be automatically scheduled. Generally, if a student's

absences are excused, and the reasons for the absences have been documented, a hearing is not held, and credit will not be denied, if the student meets the academic requirements of the course or courses. If the student has one or more unexcused absences that are not due to suspension, nor due to mitigating circumstances, or if the Attendance Review Committee or classroom teacher(s) have questions or concerns about the nature and/or pattern of the absences, an Attendance Hearing will be scheduled.

For students for whom an Attendance Hearing will be scheduled, a Notice of Attendance Hearing will be sent to the student. Also, a copy of the notice will be sent to the parent/guardian via certified mail. The student is required to attend the hearing and will be given an opportunity to justify/explain why credit should not be denied. The student may submit information the student deems helpful to aid the Committee in rendering a decision. If a student does not attend the hearing, credit will be denied. Attendance Hearings will typically be held near the end of a semester, but may be held at anytime required by the Principal/Unit Principal.

If credit is denied due to failure to meet the attendance requirement of a course, the student will receive a failing grade which will be reflected on the student's transcript. No credit will be given for the course and a 0 (zero) quality point will be assigned to the failing grade. The grade will be included in the determination of quality point average.

A student and/or the student's parent/guardian have the right to appeal the decision of the Attendance Review Committee to the Principal. Appeals to the Principal must be made in writing and received in the Principal's office no later than three school days after post-hearing notification has been made to the student. The decision of the Principal shall be final.

**\*\*Please note that school-sanctioned absences are not calculated in determining the total number of student absences pursuant to this policy.**

### **College Meetings**

Junior and senior students may attend up to five (5) college meetings during the school day each year, pending signed approval by the classroom teacher on the pass that the student obtains through the homeroom teacher.

### **Early Dismissal**

The reasons for excused early dismissal are the same as for excused absences. Students may not use early dismissals for absences resulting from drivers testing, college testing or family trips. These types of class absences must be pre-approved. A student may receive authorization for early dismissal by completing an Early Excuse Permit in the Attendance Office before homeroom period on the day of the early dismissal. The following documentation is required prior to the dismissal:

1. The student must present a written request from the parent (or medical appointment card) that includes dismissal time and reason for the early dismissal AND the parent must call the Attendance Office to confirm the dismissal.

2. Further, failure to check in and out of the office properly can result in disciplinary action. Parents are encouraged to schedule student's medical appointments before or after school hours.

### **Homebound Instruction**

When a student is going to be absent for health reasons for more than ten (10) school days, the parent may apply for homebound instruction. Students receiving homebound instruction for other than disciplinary reasons are considered present. Please note that homebound instruction may be unavailable if the School District is unable to hire or has difficulty locating qualified applicants for homebound instruction positions. Refer to the section on Health & Medical Information in this handbook for details on homebound instruction.

### **Homework for Prolonged Absence**

In most cases, the School District Dashboard website should be checked to determine missed assignments during a student's absence. The Dashboard can be found on the District homepage at [www.mtisd.org](http://www.mtisd.org). In unusual circumstances or during prolonged (minimum of 3 days) absences, the parent or student may request homework assignments by calling the Attendance Office. The homework will be available to be picked up after 3:05 p.m. on the day following the request. When the absence is longer than one week, it works best if the parent returns the student's completed work for the first week and then requests additional work.

### **Hospitalization**

When a student is in a hospital or inpatient rehabilitation program for an extended period of time, the parent should inform the Unit Principal of the hospitalization and request that the student's schoolwork is provided to the parent or the hospital staff. When a student is ready to return to school, the parent should notify the guidance counselor or Unit Principal in advance and a meeting will be scheduled with the parent and student to plan the student's reentry into school.

### **Make-up of Assignments, Quizzes, and Tests**

Students who are absent from school or are attending a school-sanctioned activity are required to make-up the work missed in each class. It is the student's responsibility to make-up work and pursue the successful completion of all class work missed. Please note the following guidelines:

1. Classroom teachers establish guidelines for making up assignments, quizzes, and tests due to absences. Generally, students are expected to make up work within the number of days equaling the number of days of excused absences.
2. It is the student's responsibility to know each teacher's policy for make-up work.
3. For school-sanctioned and pre-approved absences, the student is expected to obtain assignments in advance, submit completed work on time and be prepared to take quizzes and tests on the regularly scheduled date, unless special arrangements have been made with the teacher.
4. Students who miss quizzes and tests during periods of illness should arrange to make up the quiz or test before or after school as soon as possible. For quizzes/tests administered on the day of an absence, students should be

prepared to take the quiz/test immediately upon their return. An alternate test may be given.

5. Make-up work is not permitted if an absence is unexcused or unlawful.
6. An opportunity to make up work is provided to the student in cases of out-of-school suspension.

### **Participation in Evening Activities**

Students who are tardy or absent from school are not permitted to participate in evening activities that day, with the exception of absence due to school-sanctioned events such as field trips, pre-approved absences, or absences due to an emergency situation with prior administrative approval. In order for students to be excused from classes during the school day for participation in an extra-curricular or co-curricular activity, they must be present in school from the beginning of the school day.

### **Physical Education Attendance Requirements**

A passing grade in physical education (PE) is determined solely by the student's attendance and participation in PE classes. Students are required to participate in every PE class unless they have an excuse from medical personnel, an excused absence from school, or a school-sanctioned absence from the class. School sanctioned absences include field trips, athletic competitions and other school-sponsored activities. Students who miss a class because they are in the health office but subsequently do not go home due to illness are responsible to make up the class by making an appointment with the teacher.

Students are expected to dress appropriately for PE classes. Students who forget to bring appropriate clothing will be expected to participate in the class activity. If the teacher determines that clothing or shoes are unsafe, the student will not be permitted to participate and will receive an unexcused absence for the class. To avoid this situation, students should always keep a set of gym clothes in their locker.

Students with nine (9) or more excused absences from class will receive an excused passing grade, reflected on the transcript as "X". This grade means that the student will not earn the .25 credit for the semester but will not have to make up the PE course. School-sanctioned absences and absences due to suspension from school are not counted in this category.

Students with two (2) unexcused absences will receive a failing grade in the course and will be required to make up the course in summer school or the senior spring makeup course. Parents will be informed that the student is in danger of failing after the first unexcused absence.

In accordance with general school rules, students who are late to class three (3) times are charged with one unexcused absence.

### **Pre-Approved Absences**

According to School Board Policy JED, the District recognizes that students may need to travel with parents for valid educational or family reasons. In such cases, pre-approval is required. Students requesting permission for such travel with parents must complete a Pre-Approved Absence Request Form at least five (5) days in advance of the proposed trip. All

trips must have some educational or family value for the student as predetermined by the Principal/Unit Principal in order to be counted as an excused absence.

Up to five (5) days of pre-approved absence may be granted to each student per year for the reasons above. The student must request approval in advance using the form that is available in the Attendance Office. The student must complete the form by obtaining the signatures of a parent/guardian and all of his/her teachers. The completed form must be submitted to the Attendance Office at least five (5) days in advance of the date(s) of absence. Since the parent signs the form, an excuse is not required. Pre-approved absences are considered excused absences. The student is responsible for work missed. Upon returning from a pre-approved absence, the student should have all the work that was assigned completed and be prepared to makeup any quiz or exam that was given during the absence. The student should also be prepared to take any test or quiz which the teacher indicated in advance would be given upon the student's return.

Pre-approved absences are generally not granted for days of standardized testing and semester examinations. If the Principal approves an absence on an examination date, the student must make arrangements with the classroom teacher to complete the missed exam.

Additional days of pre-approved absence may be approved at the discretion of the Principal/Unit Principal on a limited basis when the student is absent from school for educational purposes and has been absent less than ten (10) school days during the semester.

A Principal/Unit Principal may deny requests for pre-approved absences where the Principal/Unit Principal determines, with input from professional staff, that the student's grades and/or attendance or disciplinary record indicate that the request to miss class for the pre-approved absence should not be granted.

**\*\*Please note that college visits must be pre-approved.**

### **Reduced Schedule**

When a student is recovering from a serious illness, it may be appropriate to establish a reduced schedule, e.g., partial day attendance or attendance every other day. Arrangements for a reduced schedule should be made with the Unit Principal.

### **Release Time for Religious Instruction**

According to Section 1546 of the *Pennsylvania School Code*, students may be released from school for up to 36 hours per year to attend classes for religious instruction. In advance, the parent or a person acting in loco parentis (usually the director of the religious education program) must identify and describe the instruction and the dates and hours for which the release time is requested. The parent must, following each such absence, furnish in writing to the superintendent, a statement attesting that the child did in fact attend the instruction and the dates and hours upon which such attendance took place. Release time for religious instruction is considered an absence. The student is responsible for making up the work, quizzes, or test missed during the release time.

### **School-Sanctioned Absences (Field Trips, Sports, etc.)**

Students may be released from school for approved participation in school-sponsored field trips, performances, co-curricular or extra-curricular activities. The student is responsible for making up the work, quizzes, and/or tests during the released time. Students who, with approval, are participating in school sponsored activities are considered **present for the purposes of the procedures described in the section on Class Attendance Requirements and Attendance Hearings**. A Principal/Unit Principal may deny requests to attend school sanctioned activities where the Principal/Unit Principal, with input of the professional staff, determines that the student's grades and/or attendance record indicate that the request to miss class for the activity should not be granted.

Students are expected to obtain assignments in advance and submit completed work on time. If a student or parent is concerned about the academic impact of school-sanctioned absences, he/she should discuss this with school personnel. Class attendance and academic performance should be the student's first priority.

For field trips, performances, and extra-curricular activities (not athletics), students must have Form 2A, School Sanctioned Absence Form, signed by appropriate teachers and submitted to the sponsoring teacher in advance of the trip. Blank copies of Form 2A are available in the Attendance Office. Students who fail to follow procedures for school-sanctioned absences will either (1) be denied the opportunity to participate in the activity or (2) accumulate unexcused absences in the missed classes.

### **Study Hall Attendance**

Students absent from assigned study halls without excuse are reported to the Unit Principal and issued detention for each study hall cut. Students who plan to be excused from study halls on a regular basis (e.g., to work in the Student Activities Center or on the Medical Squad) should submit a written request to the Attendance Office for a schedule change. Students must follow the procedures described in the General Information section of this handbook to be excused from a study hall to go to the library, the Medical Office, etc.

### **Tardiness to Class**

If a student arrives late to class without excuse and is absent for more than half of the class period, an unexcused class absence is recorded. With any unexcused absence, students are not eligible to make up assignments administered earlier in the class period but are responsible for the content discussed. Three (3) unexcused tardies to a class results in the teacher completing a parent notice Form 45, contacting the parent and assigning detention. Subsequent tardies to class will be handled by the unit principal and could result in detention, Saturday detention, out-of-school suspension, and possible course failure.

### **Tardiness to School**

A student who enters school after the homeroom period has begun must report to the 4<sup>th</sup> floor cafeteria until 8:15 a.m. and the Attendance Office thereafter and complete a tardy form for admittance to school. The reasons for excused and unexcused tardiness are the same as for excused and unexcused absences, and a written excuse from the parent is required at the time of entry or the tardy will be automatically considered unexcused. However, a valid written excuse will be accepted by the tenth (10<sup>th</sup>) day of the student's return to school or the

tardiness will be considered permanently unexcused. Tardiness is treated as a disciplinary matter, and may result in academic and/or disciplinary consequences. Detention will be assigned following the third unexcused tardy in a semester. Subsequent tardiness to school could result in Saturday detention, out-of-school suspension, temporary/permanent loss of parking privileges, and a referral to the District Magistrate.

### **Unexcused Class Absences (Class Cuts)**

All unexcused absences that are not due to suspension are considered class cuts. For any unexcused class absence, a student receives a failing grade for the class work of the day and is not permitted to make up written work or tests missed. Also, detention(s)/Saturday detention will be assigned. When a student accumulates three (3) class cuts in a semester, he/she fails to meet the attendance requirements of the course and could be withdrawn from the class.

Class cuts occur when a student:

1. is present in the building, but does not attend class,
2. is absent from school without excuse,
3. is tardy to school without excuse and misses class(es),
4. has an unexcused early dismissal from school and misses class(es),
5. leaves school early without authorization and misses class(es),
6. leaves a class early without permission of the teacher,
7. is late to class without excuse, and more than half of the class is missed,
8. fails to follow procedures for school-sanctioned or pre-approved absences
9. is absent without excuse as determined according to the discretion of the teacher and Principal/Unit Principal
10. fails to follow proper check-in procedures to school

Teachers notify parents of unexcused class absences by completing and mailing an Absence Report. Please refer to the section **Attendance Hearings** for additional details.

### **Unlawful Absences-Truancy**

In Pennsylvania, parents of children between the ages of 7 and 17 years are required by the compulsory attendance law to ensure that their children attend school. After a student is unlawfully absent for three (3) days, the Unit Principal must send a certified notice to the parents, listing the dates of absence. If there are additional unlawful absences, the Unit Principal must report the unlawful absences to the Magistrate who schedules a hearing with the parent and school personnel to determine the penalties for failure to comply with the compulsory attendance laws. The district cooperates with the Mt. Lebanon Police Department in reporting students who are truant.

### **Withdrawal from School**

A student who is withdrawing from MLHS is asked to obtain and complete the Withdrawal Form that is available in the Attendance Office. The student should obtain the parent's signature, the signatures of all current teachers and the signatures of other school personnel listed on the form. The completed form is to be returned to the Attendance Office prior to the date of withdrawal.

## **VI. GENERAL SCHOOL PROCEDURES**

### **Admission of Resident and Non-Resident Students**

Children who are residents of Mt. Lebanon are eligible to attend the Mt. Lebanon School District. A child is considered a resident of the school district in which his/her parents or legal guardian reside. A child whose parents are separated or divorced must reside with the parent who lives in Mt. Lebanon to be eligible to attend the Mt. Lebanon School District. When a resident of the school district keeps in his/her home a child of school age, not his/her own, supporting the child gratis as if it were his/her own, such child is entitled to all free school privileges accorded to resident school children of the district, including the right to attend MLHS. Before accepting such child as a student, the Mt. Lebanon School Board requires such resident to file with the secretary of the Board a sworn statement that he/she (1) is a resident of the district, (2) is supporting the child gratis, (3) will assume all personal obligations for the child relative to school requirements and (4) intends to so keep and support the child continuously and not merely through the school term. Children placed by the court in the home of a resident or an association, agency, or institution having the care of neglected and dependent children, are considered residents of the district.

A senior student whose parents move from the school district during the final year may elect to complete the senior year and graduate from MLHS as a tuition student if the move occurs during the first semester of the senior year or tuition free if the move occurs during the second semester of the senior year. (Students who are tuition students prior to their last semester are not eligible under this section.)

Non-resident students may be admitted to the high school as described in Board policy. Contact the Superintendent's Office for specific criteria.

The district will honor and continue to impose all unfinished suspensions and/or expulsions that were imposed by other school districts on any new entrant into the district.

### **Announcements (P.A. System)**

Student announcements are made daily during homeroom period. Announcements include important information about academic, extra-curricular and athletic activities. Dates and times for testing, college admissions visits and sign-ups for clubs and athletic programs are some of the topics covered. Students may submit announcements by completing the form available in the Principal's Office, obtaining a teacher or sponsor signature on the form and turning it in at the Principal's Office before 7:50 a.m. Students are expected to be quiet and listen to all announcements.

### **Automobile Parking & Driving**

Students must register vehicles, obtain a district permit and display the permit on the vehicle's rear view mirror in order to park in the student parking lot during the school day. Permits are issued only to seniors and juniors with a valid driver's license and a completed application by lottery. Students must apply for a new permit at the beginning of each year. Students who have delinquent obligations for lost or damaged school property, will not be issued their parking permit until all obligations are satisfied. At registration, students must present a

driver's license, a copy of the vehicle registration certificate and proof of insurance for the car(s) they will be driving and their student schedule. Only one permit will be issued per student. If the student will be driving different family vehicles, each vehicle must be registered with the district and the student will be expected to transfer the parking permit for display in the vehicle in use for the day. Students without a parking permit who experience extenuating circumstances, e.g., illness or injury, may apply for a temporary parking permit in Room 426.

Parking permits are non-transferable. Only the student owning the permit may use it. Students who give their permit to others or use another student's permit will be subject to discipline which may include temporary or permanent loss of the permit.

Students may only park in the designated student parking area which also includes several specially designated spaces in the Commissioner's parking lot near the recreation center and the Dixon parking lot. Students may not park in the staff parking lot, non-designated spaces in the Commissioner's lot or the metered parking spaces on school property. Violation of district and municipal parking regulations will result in the issuance of a Mt. Lebanon Municipal parking fine. Parking tickets, once issued, will not be adjusted by the district. Any appeals must be made to the District Magistrate's Office.

Student vehicles parked on District property are subject to search by the District and/or law enforcement authorities at any time for any reason, with or without notice. General and random searches (including canine sniff searches) are authorized. Students should have no expectation of privacy as to vehicles on District property. Parking is a privilege, not a right, and student parking permits will be issued only where students and/or parents consent to such searches. Refusal to cooperate in such searches may result in loss of parking privileges as well as disciplinary action.

Students are not permitted to be in the parking lot or their cars during the school day. All traffic signs must be obeyed. The 15 MPH speed limit in the parking lot and on Horsman and Stadium Drives must be followed and is strictly enforced. The district will rescind permits from students who violate or abuse parking privileges and/or traffic regulations. Students attending Parkway West School are not permitted to drive without principal's approval.

### **Cafeteria and Lunch**

Students have a full class period (46 minutes) for lunch during periods 4, 5 or 6. All students must remain on school grounds during lunch unless permission to leave the grounds is granted by the unit principal or principal. A lunch pass may be issued to students wishing to go home for lunch at the request of parents who live within the area bounded by Cedar Boulevard, Washington Road and Mayfair Drive.

All students are required to remain in the cafeteria during their lunch period. Students wishing to use the library or another resource area after eating lunch must present a signed pass to the cafeteria supervisor to be excused from the cafeteria.

Students who are outside the cafeteria without authorization during their lunch period will be subject to disciplinary action.

Students are responsible for the cleanliness and behavior exhibited at the cafeteria table at which they sit. Directives from any staff member must be followed by all students in the cafeteria. This includes, but is not limited to, cleaning an area and/or providing information related to behavior. Failure to comply with directives will result in disciplinary action, including extended cleaning in the cafeteria.

### **Cell Phones**

In order to maintain an environment conducive to learning, the use of cell phones is prohibited during the school day. Students are permitted to use cell phones before and after the school day, but cell phones must be turned off and not visible, regardless of the reason, during school hours. Any cell phone that is visible during the school day will be confiscated. In addition, students will be assigned detention for the first offense, two detentions for the second offense, and Saturday detention for subsequent offenses.

### **Change of Address and Telephone Number**

Students and/or parents should notify the Attendance Office and the Health Office of any change in the home address or home and work telephone numbers.

### **Classroom Visitation**

In the absence of a court denying unsupervised visitation rights to a parent, both custodial and non-custodial parents may schedule visits to their child's classes. All requests for classroom visitation shall be made in writing to the principal of the building in which the child's classes are located at least three days prior to the scheduled visit. The principal will consult with the teacher(s) involved and may grant the request or suggest a more convenient time for a visit. Requests by parents to visit classes may be denied by the principal if the principal determines that the visit would result in disruption to the learning process. The District reserves the right to determine when the visitation will be scheduled based upon the best interests of the District and its students. The District also reserves the right to cancel a visit in the event of an unforeseen circumstance. The principal or another administrator designated by the principal shall be present during all classroom visitations.

No more than two people shall be permitted to visit the child's classrooms at any time. A parent or guardian may designate an advocate or other professional to observe the child's classroom. Any parent seeking to bring a non-parent visitor to observe the student shall notify the District of that request and shall identify any non-parent visitor at least three days prior to the scheduled visit.

In the event that the District has made a recommendation that a child be transferred to another classroom, the child's parent and/or a non-parent advocate or professional shall be permitted to observe the other classroom prior to the transfer.

All visitors to the classroom shall follow the rules set forth herein:

1. *Time.* The maximum length of visitation shall be two hours. At its discretion, the District may grant an extension of time for a visit if the circumstances warrant.
2. *Number of Visits per year.* Classroom visitation shall be limited to one visit per semester for each child unless the District, at its discretion, determines that more frequent classroom visits are in the best interests of the student and the District.

3. *Interaction with teacher or students.* Visitors to the classroom shall have no interaction during class with the teacher or with any students, including the child who is being observed. It is vital that teachers are able to provide instruction to their students without disruption. Teachers shall have the right to terminate any classroom visit in the event that the teacher determines that the visit has become disruptive to the educational process.

4. *Non-parent professional visitors.* If a non-parent professional makes a classroom visit, that professional shall meet with District personnel after the visit in order to discuss the professional's observations. Additionally, any notes or reports generated from the professional's observations shall be shared with the District.

5. *Confidentiality.* All visitors, whether parents, guardians or non-parent professionals, must maintain the confidentiality of any information that they learn or observe during a classroom visitation that relates to any other students, including but not limited to the identify of other students in the class.

Any person who visits the school pursuant to this policy shall also be subject to the Policy KK ("Visitors to the Schools") and any related Administrative Procedures developed by the District.

### **Closed Campus - Leaving School Property/Building**

Students are permitted to leave school campus only with an early dismissal permit. All others must remain on campus. Refer to [Early Dismissal](#) in the Attendance Section of this Handbook for specific directions. Disciplinary action will be taken against students who are outside the building and/or leave school property without authorization during the school day.

### **Copies of Student Schedules**

A copy of each student's schedule is mailed to each home in August, and students receive copies of their schedules on the first day of each semester. Students may purchase additional copies at the Attendance Office for a cost of \$.25.

### **Dashboard/Email**

You can access teachers' and staff email through your dashboard account or through our website [www.mtlsd.org](http://www.mtlsd.org).

### **Deficiencies**

Students will be issued deficiency notices for any unpaid library fines, fines for lost text books and/or athletic equipment. Any unserved detentions or suspensions will also result in deficiencies. Students' report cards and/or diplomas will not be released until all deficiencies have been satisfied and cleared. These records are kept in the Attendance Office.

### **Electronics**

**Use of any electronic device that is not directly related to the educational curriculum without pre-approval is strictly prohibited in academic areas and hallways.**

In other words, students are not to use walk-about radios and tape/disc players, I-pods, etc. in the building while in an academic setting or the hallway. They are also not permitted to use pagers or beepers during the school day. The use of universal remote control devices and laser pointers is prohibited.

### **Elevator Use**

Only authorized students with physical limitations may use the school elevator. Students with a doctor's excuse should report to the Medical Office, Room 403. When the nurse completed the proper permission form for an elevator key, the student may obtain the elevator key in Room 405. A thirty dollar fine will be due for keys that are not returned on their due date.

### **Emergency Closing of School**

When emergencies such as weather conditions or power failures require the delay or closing of school, notice is given as early as possible on most major radio stations(e.g., KDKA, KQV, WWSW, etc.), cable television (Channels 7 and 19A), and the automated phone system. Students should rise early on days with predicted bad weather to listen for an announcement. Calling the school is discouraged. Normally, when school is canceled, athletic practices or other student activities are not conducted at the high school, and Mt. Lebanon teams do not travel to away games. Cancellation of continuing education programs, South Hills/Pitt classes, Carnegie Travel Films series, etc. are announced by school personnel by 1:00 p.m. Parkway cancellations and delays are announced on radio, television, also posted on home web page.

### **Field Trips**

Parent permission is required for students to participate in school-sponsored field trips. Field trips are considered school-sanctioned absences, and students must follow all procedures for School Sanctioned Absences described in the Attendance section of this handbook. Parents have the option to withhold permission for a field trip and may choose to do so if the student has had many absences from school and should, in the judgment of the parent, attend classes rather than the field trip.

### **Fire Alarm/Drills**

Ten (10) fire drills are held each year to acquaint students with emergency procedures. An evacuation plan is posted in each room; students should be familiar with these plans. Under teacher supervision, students must leave and re-enter the building in a quick, orderly, quiet fashion. The signal consists of a series of bells which identifies the location of the fire. All groups will move as directed until all persons are beyond all wings of the building. When these distances have been reached, lines will halt, face about, and wait in position for the return signal. On the signal to return, all will follow the same route and return to their classrooms.

Students with disabilities will leave the room at the first sound of the fire alarm and go to the designated spot on each floor (the north stairwell in "B" building). ("B" building is the front building that parallels Cochran Road; the north stairwell is the one closest to Lebanon Road.) The students are to remain at the stairwell until their class returns from the fire drill. Severe weather and lock-down drills are held as needed.

### **Food and Beverages in School**

Students must keep all food and beverages in the cafeteria, including products from the vending machines and food or beverages from home. Food or beverages that are dropped or

spilled in the building create serious litter and health problems. Students are not permitted to order food and have it delivered to the school.

### **Free and Reduced Lunch Program**

Families may qualify for free or reduced price school lunches through the MLSD Lunch Program. Applications may be obtained in the Attendance Office.

### **Hall Passes and Classroom/Study Hall Sign-out**

Students must obtain a hall pass to be excused from any class. A student who during a study hall, wishes to work in the library, study center, writing lab, etc., must obtain a pass before school in order to be released from study hall. Students report to the assigned study hall, sign out with the pass and remain in the special area for the entire period. Students may also be excused from study hall if they present the study hall teacher with an authorized pass from a school staff member.

### **Homeroom Period**

Students are assigned alphabetically to the same homeroom for all four years. Students are to be in their homeroom by 8:00 a.m. for opening exercises, announcements, homeroom business and daily attendance. Homeroom period is a closed period. Students should not request to be excused from homeroom to go to their locker, the Writing Lab, other classes, etc. Teachers may assign seating.

### **Library**

The library hours are Monday through Thursday from 7:30 a.m. to 3:35 p.m. and Friday to 3:05. The library is open to students with a library pass during each period of the school day. A pass can be obtained each morning from 7:30 to 7:55 a.m. in the 4th floor cafeteria or library. Teachers may give an individual pass to a student who needs to do research work during a study hall. Students may also come with a classroom teacher for class work. The librarian and clerical staff will give any necessary help. Students and teachers should not hesitate to ask for assistance.

Students may check out books from the library. Books are checked out for two (2) weeks. Some library materials go out overnight only and should be returned before homeroom period the following day. Fines are 5 cents per school day on each overdue book. Fines are 10 cents per day for overdue overnight materials. Books and magazines are to be used with care. Students are held financially responsible for lost and/or damaged materials.

Reference books, magazines and new encyclopedias are to be used in the library. Magazines, pamphlets and some reference materials may be taken out overnight. There is a photocopy machine available for student use. This is a coin-operated machine, with a per page charge.

Twelve computers are Online Public Access Catalog (OPAC) ready. One is wheel chair accessible. Also students and staff may search an index of magazine articles (MAS) on these same computers. Twelve additional computers have Internet access, provide word processing software and networked CD-ROM programs including SIRS, CD Newsbank and Discovering Authors.

### **Lockers – School or P.E., and Searches**

Each student in the high school is provided with the use of a locker. Lockers are assigned by the unit principal to each homeroom. Homeroom teachers maintain a confidential record of locker number assignments and lock combinations for each student. Students should not inform others of their locker combination. Students are not permitted to use any locker other than their own. In addition, no student should change lockers without receiving permission from his/her homeroom teacher or unit principal. Students are to report any locker problems to the homeroom teacher or unit principal immediately. Students are responsible for keeping their lockers clean and locked at all times.

Physical Education lockers are used by students in the gym areas. **Students should bring their own lock to secure the locker.** Students may also leave valuables with their physical education teacher to be locked in the office.

Refer to the Student Conduct section of this handbook for information on the school administration's right to search student lockers.

### **Loss or Damage of School Property**

Students who lose or damage any school property (including books, athletic equipment, uniforms, etc.) will be held financially responsible for replacement or repair. Students are notified of their debts to the district through receipt of a Delinquent Obligation Notice (Form 56). A copy of these notices is maintained in the Attendance Office should the student or parent require details about the debt. Students with outstanding obligations will have their school records (including report card and transcript) held until payment is made. Students with outstanding obligations will not be permitted to graduate or apply for a parking permit. Students must pay the full price for a lost school-owned book that is not more than two (2) years old. If the text is more than two (2) years old, full price less \$1.00 must be paid. A replacement text will not be issued, except for classroom use, until the student has paid for the lost book. Students may pay for lost books at the Attendance Office only. When the student has paid for lost books that are subsequently found, the district issues a refund to the parent.

### **Lost and Found**

Students should check the Lost and Found area in the Student Activities Center on the 6th floor for missing items. Although the school is not responsible for student property that is lost or stolen in the building, students should report lost or stolen items to the Attendance Office. All lost property should be sent to the Student Activities Center.

### **Photographs and Videotapes of Students**

The instructional staff, audiovisual department, TV Production students and Video Club members photograph and videotape numerous school activities throughout the school year. Parents who do not wish to have their child photographed or videotaped should notify the principal, in writing, of this request at the beginning of each school year.

### **School Hours**

The student day begins at 8:00 a.m. and concludes at 3:03 p.m. Students may not enter the building before 7:15 a.m. unless admission is approved by a teacher or administrator. All students are expected to remain in school until 3:03. No student is permitted to leave the building at any time without an early dismissal permit. Students are expected to leave the building 15 minutes after dismissal unless they are under the direct supervision of a staff member. Loitering on school grounds is not permitted.

### **Student Identification Numbers**

Each student receives a seven-digit student identification number. It is imperative that students memorize their student identification number. This number may be obtained from a student's schedule, report card, the Guidance Office or the Attendance Office. This number is required information on many forms including early dismissals, sports applications and medical office permits, and for library usage.

### **Student Photographs and Senior Pictures**

Photographs of all students in grades 9, 10 and 11 are taken in the school each year for optional student purchase. Seniors who wish to have their photograph included in the yearbook must follow the procedures (photographer, deadlines, etc.) described to them at the end of their junior year. Because ample time is available in the summer for the taking of senior pictures, students are not excused from school for this activity.

### **Study Halls**

Students are expected to come prepared to assigned study halls to engage in academic work and to comply with general school behavior guidelines.

### **Telephone Messages and Use**

Students cannot be called to the telephone during the school day, but emergency messages from parents will be taken in the Attendance Office and conveyed to the student as soon as possible. Students are not permitted to use the office phones, but may use the pay telephones throughout the building to make necessary calls during their free time.

### **Visitors**

All adult visitors must enter Entrance C28 (across from the tennis courts) before entering the high school during the school day. Students are not permitted to bring visitors to school.

### **Work Permit**

Once employment is secured, every student under the age of 18 who has not graduated must obtain a work permit. Apply for a work permit in the Guidance Office, Room 527.

## VII. HEALTH & MEDICAL INFORMATION

OFFICE	LOCATION	NURSE	SECRETARY
Grades 9, 10, 11, 12	Room 404	TERI JOSEPH 412.344.2031	BARBARA DREW 412.344.2031

### **Child Abuse**

The Child Protective Services Law in Pennsylvania requires all school employees to report suspected child abuse. When the principal and the school nurse have reasonable cause to suspect that a child may have been abused, the principal must notify the Childline and Abuse Registry and Allegheny County Children and Youth Services. It is not the responsibility of school officials to determine if there has been abuse or neglect. The principal may permit authorized personnel from the Department of Public Welfare or Child Protective Services to interview the student at school without prior parental consent if the suspected abuser is unknown or may be the parents. If the student has suffered injuries so severe that immediate medical attention is needed, the principal will call the police and/or paramedics to take the child to the hospital and will notify the parent.

### **Emergency Information for Sudden Illness or Injury**

The health office maintains an Emergency Information Card for each student. This information facilitates the care of the ill or injured student. Only those persons indicated on the card will be contacted and can give permission for the student to leave the building. It is essential that parents keep this information current. If a parent's routine is permanently or temporarily changed, be sure that the child and school office has accurate information as to where the parent can be contacted. Facilities are available for temporary care only. Parents should develop a plan that would allow their child to be picked up from school within a half hour of notification of an illness or an injury. Updated emergency card information is requested annually.

### **Food and Environmental Allergies**

Because of the increasing number of children with nut allergies, parents who are providing snacks/treats for school should provide foods that do not contain nuts or peanuts. A health and safety procedure is established for all students with life threatening allergies. Foods sold in the cafeterias are clearly labeled. Students are responsible for choosing their food purchases.

### **Head Lice**

All cases of head lice should be reported to the school nurse so that the required examination procedures may begin. The student is not permitted to return to the classroom until the proper treatment has been completed and the student has been checked by a member of the health office staff. Any student found to have nits after treatment will be excluded from school until found to be nit free. The positive action of reporting to the school an incidence of head lice cannot be overstated. Parents who treat their child for lice, yet do not report it to the

school, risk the infestation of others and/or the re-infestation of their own child. All reports are kept confidential and when classes are checked by the health office staff, no student is singled out.

### **Health Insurance**

If your child does not have health insurance, free or low cost coverage is available through Pennsylvania's Children's Health Insurance Program, (CHIP). CHIP is administered by the Pennsylvania Insurance Department, but the coverage is for quality medical services through regular health insurance companies. Applications for CHIP are available in all the school health offices or you may call 1-800-986-KIDS.

### **Health Office Location and Hours**

The health office is located on the fourth floor of the high school. The day begins at 7:45 a.m. and ends at 3:45 p.m., Monday through Thursday, and at 3:05 p.m. on Friday. The health office is closed for lunch daily at 2:11 until 3:03, and only emergencies are treated. The function of the health office is to perform state-mandated procedures, to conduct first-aid and to serve as a teaching/learning site.

### **Homebound Instruction**

When lengthy illness (more than 10 days) prevents a student from attending school, homebound instruction may be requested by the parent. The parent must obtain a written statement from a physician describing the need for homebound instruction. When approved, the school arranges for certified teachers to instruct a student at home or in the hospital for five (5) hours per week. During homebound instruction, the student is considered present in school for attendance purposes. Forms to request instruction are available in the principal's office. Homebound instruction is intended for short term absences of a month or less. Absences exceeding three months must be reviewed and the application for homebound instruction must be updated.

### **Illness or Injury**

Emergency care is available in the health office for any illness or injury that is sustained during school hours. The nurse cannot address injuries that occur at home. By law, a nurse is not permitted to make a diagnosis or prescribe treatment. Students are excluded from school if they have a known or suspected communicable disease, an elevated temperature, vomiting or diarrhea. If the school nurse suspects or learns that a student has a contagious illness, she will instruct parents to follow guidelines established by the Allegheny County Health Department for the child's re-admittance to school. The ACHD Guide Book to Infectious Diseases/Conditions for Elementary, Middle and High Schools is located in every school health office.

The district maintains a policy of Universal Precautions (procedures that are designed to reduce the risk of transmission of blood-borne pathogens regardless of the presumed infection status of the individual) to insure the health, safety and welfare of our students and staff. Students are taught about possible disease transmission through exposure to blood/body fluids. Students are to report any blood or body fluid spill to a teacher and never to touch or clean-up another person's blood/body fluid.

We are not equipped to provide advanced emergency care. Students needing urgent medical attention will be transported to an emergency care facility by Medical Rescue Team South Authority Ambulance Service. Please notify the school nurse if your child has any health concerns that could result in the need for emergency services, or that need to be communicated to emergency personnel.

### Immunization

Pennsylvania law requires that all children show proof of immunization before attending any school in the Commonwealth. The following immunizations are required:

	Students entering school for first time (K or 1st grade)	Students entering grade 7	Students presently enrolled in school
Diphtheria Tetanus (1 dose on or after 4 <sup>th</sup> birthday)	4 doses	4 doses	4 doses
Polio (Oral or injected)	3 doses	3 doses	3 doses
Measles (one dose on or after 1st birthday)	2 doses	2 doses	2 doses
Mumps (1 dose on or after 1st birthday)	2 dose	2 dose	2 dose
Rubella (1 dose on or after 1st birthday)	1 dose	1 dose	1 dose
Hepatitis B (3 doses properly spaced)	3 doses	3 doses	3 doses
Chicken Pox Vaccine or Proof of Immunity	2 doses	2 doses	2 doses
Tdap	N/A	1 dose	1 dose
Meningitis	N/A	1 dose	1 dose

\*\* Varicella (chicken pox) immunity may be proven in **ONE** of the following ways:

- 2 doses of varicella vaccine. The first dose must have been on or after the 1<sup>st</sup> birthday.

- History of having had chicken pox (written statement by a doctor giving the date or age the child had the disease).
- Laboratory testing results proving immunity.

Students entering the district from other countries or other states may attend school provisionally if evidence is provided that the child has received at least one (1) dose of each vaccine and a plan is provided to complete the remaining doses within 8 months of entrance to school. If requirements are not met, suspension procedures will be taken.

If immunization is against your religious beliefs, or you have a strong moral or ethical conviction similar to a religious belief, you must sign the immunization record stating the reason you will not immunize your child. If immunization is not medically advisable at this time, a physician (M.D. or D.O.) must sign the medical exemption section of the immunization card.

If a child is exempt from immunizations, he/she may be excluded from school during an outbreak of the above diseases.

Immunizations are available free of charge through the Allegheny County Health Department by calling 412-578-8060

### **Mandated Procedures**

Pennsylvania law mandates the following screenings:

- Vision - Grades K to 12, annually
- Hearing - Grades K to 3, 7 and 11. Also parent or teacher referrals and students with known hearing loss
- Height, weight, and BMI% - Grades K to 12, annually

Pennsylvania law mandates the following examinations:

- Physical - Grades 1, 6, 11

Parents are encouraged to have the physical/dental examinations performed by their child's health care provider, since they are aware of their child's health history and status. These examinations are to be submitted on Form 435 (Private Physician Report of Physical Exam) and Form 412 (Family Dental Report), which can be obtained from the health office or downloaded from the web page [www.mtisd.org](http://www.mtisd.org). These exams are at the parent's expense. If you prefer, the school doctor or dentist will complete these examinations during the school year at the expense of the district.

### **Medication (prescription & non prescription)**

The administration of student medication, both prescription and non prescription, during school hours is strongly discouraged as there are safety concerns about students forgetting to take the medication, having a reaction to the medication or other students taking the medication. If a physician deems it medically necessary for a student to take medication, either prescription or non-prescription during the school day, the Authorization for Medications Form and Authorization for Release of Medical Information (Form 440), signed by the parent and completed by the physician, must be returned to the health office with the medication in a

pharmacy labeled container. A new form is required for each medication change, dose change, time change and for each school year. It is the responsibility of the student to report to the health office for his/her medication. Please remember your child may not receive his/her medication if these procedures are not followed. These procedures apply to all medications, including inhalers for asthma, Epi-pens, and over-the-counter medication. Medication Form #440 may be obtained from the health office or downloaded from the web page at [www.mtisd.org](http://www.mtisd.org).

### **Pass to Health Office**

If students become ill or suffer an injury at school, they must obtain a Medical Service Permit from their teacher or cafeteria monitor, if they are in lunch, and report to the health office. Between classes, students must obtain a permit from the teacher of the class to which they are going. When possible, students should go to the health office at the beginning of a class period, rather than at the end. When the student leaves the health office, the nurse will give him/her a copy of the Medical Service Permit which should be kept as verification of having been in the health office. If the nurse determines that further treatment is necessary or that the student should leave school due to illness/injury, she contacts the parent or other person listed on the Emergency Information Card to make arrangements for the student to leave school.

Eighteen year old students may not leave the building through the Health Office without parent permission either by phone or by confirmed written permission on file in the permanent health record.

Under no circumstances are students to make their own decision to call a parent or leave school because he/she feels ill or is injured. Students are not permitted to report to a location other than the health office when ill or injured. If a student leaves class or school without following these procedures, he/she will be subject to the penalty for unexcused class absences.

### **Physical Education Medical Excuses**

Physical education classes are mandatory and excuses from physical education are only accepted from an M.D., D.O., P.T., C.R.N.P., or chiropractor. Students should submit a physician's excuse to the school nurse who will inform the Physical Education Department of the nature of the excuse. Gym excuses will be dated from appointment date to appointment date, unless M.D., D.O., P.T. C.R.N.P., or chiropractor states a beginning and ending date on excuse. When the excuse has expired, the student is expected to return to physical education class. If the student has a lengthy excuse from physical education, he/she should request assignment to a study hall. A student with a disability that requires a permanent excuse from physical education must submit a physician's statement at the beginning of each school year. Adaptive physical education will be considered for such a student. All P.E. excuses are accepted for the current school year only.

### **Re-admittance After Five (5) Days of Absence**

After five (5) or more days of absence, students are required to re-enter school through the health office. The nurse will obtain information pertinent to the student's Pennsylvania Health Record and will submit the completed readmission form to the attendance office. A parent's

written statement for a school absence related to illness is generally all that is required, however, in special circumstances; a physician's statement may be requested. Parents are encouraged to notify the nurse of any illness or injury which results in a long absence from school. Currently, students missing 10 or more days a semester may not receive credit for their classes.

### **Special Medical Conditions**

Parents are encouraged to report any health problem to the school nurse. Certain information may be shared with other staff members when the nurse deems it necessary for the health and safety of the student. Otherwise, information shared with the school nurse will be considered confidential.

### **Student Support Services**

A psychologist, an emotional support counselor and a consulting psychiatrist are employed by the district to provide service to our students

## **VIII. STUDENT CONDUCT**

### **STUDENT RESPONSIBILITIES**

According to the policy of the Mt. Lebanon School District, the following acts on school premises or activities are punishable by withdrawal of privileges including but not limited to extracurricular activities and other disciplinary action and by suspension and/or possible expulsion from school. In addition, students are prohibited from engaging in any conduct or activity contrary to, or in violation of, the Pennsylvania Crimes Code, the School Code, ordinances of Mt. Lebanon, published policies or regulations of the School District, or any other applicable statutes, regulations, ordinances, policies or rules.

No student has the right to interfere with the education of fellow students. It is the responsibility of each student to respect the rights of teachers, students, administrators and all others who are involved in the educational process. Students should express their ideas and opinions in a respectful manner.

It is the responsibility of students to conform to the following:

1. Be aware of all rules and regulations for student behavior and conduct themselves in accord with them. Students should assume that, until a rule is waived, altered or repealed in writing, it is in effect.
2. Provide information in matters relating to the health, safety and welfare of the school community and the protection of school property.
3. Dress and groom to meet fair standards of safety and health, and not to cause substantial disruption to the educational process.
4. Assist the school staff in operating a safe school for all students enrolled therein.
5. Comply with Commonwealth and local laws.
6. Exercise proper care when using public facilities and equipment.
7. Attend school daily and be on time at all classes and other functions.
8. Make up work when absent from school.
9. Pursue and attempt to complete satisfactorily the courses of study prescribed by Commonwealth and local school authorities.
10. Report accurately and not use indecent or obscene language in student newspapers or publications.

### **BEHAVIOR GUIDELINES**

According to the policy JFC of the Mt. Lebanon School District Board of Directors, the following acts on school premises or in relation to school premises or activities are punishable by withdrawal of privileges and other disciplinary action and by suspension and/or possible expulsion from school. Students are prohibited from engaging in any conduct or activity contrary to, or in violation of the Pennsylvania Crimes Code, the School Code, ordinances of Mt. Lebanon or published regulations of the School District, or any other applicable statutes, regulations, ordinances, policies, or rules.

### **Abuse/Bullying/Harassment**

Students are prohibited from engaging in violent, aggressive or abusive behavior, physically abusing an individual, or harassment of an individual, including sexual harassment through conduct or communications. Students are prohibited from intimidation or bullying, including physical or verbal behavior. Incidents of bullying shall be reported by students, school personnel and parents to a school official. The principal or designee shall interview students or others involved, undertake an investigation, and then contact parents. If the investigation results in a substantiated finding of bullying, the principal will administer disciplinary actions which may include but is not limited to: mediation, referral to guidance services, detention, suspension and/or recommendation for expulsion.

### **Bomb Threat/Fire Alarm**

Students are prohibited from turning in a bomb claim, false fire alarm, or any other false safety-related claim or report, or otherwise improperly causing or risking panic, injury, damage to property or disruption of school activities. State and federal laws could result in expulsion and/or criminal prosecution.

### **Defacement/Destruction/Theft of School or Private Property**

Students are prohibited from littering, defacing school property, causing or attempting to cause willful destruction of school or private property, vandalism or attempted vandalism, theft or attempted theft of school or private property on school grounds.

### **Drug & Alcohol Use**

Students are prohibited from distributing, dispensing, possessing, using or being under the influence of any alcoholic beverage, malt beverage or fortified wine or other intoxicating liquor or unlawfully manufacturing, distributing, dispensing, possessing or using or being under the influence of any narcotic drug, hallucinogenic drug, amphetamine, barbiturate, marijuana, anabolic steroid or any other controlled substance, either before, during or after school hours in any school building or on any school premises, on any school-owned vehicle or in any other school-approved vehicle used to transport students to and from school or school activities, off school property at any school sponsored or school-approved activity, event or function, such as a field trip or athletic event where students are under the jurisdiction of the school district. Students who fail to follow proper procedures for possession/use of medications are subject to discipline under Appendix B. See Appendix B of this Handbook for a more complete summary of district policies and guidelines.

### **Off-Campus, Non-School Related Drug and Alcohol Offense**

Students will be restricted from School Activities for a prescribed period of time for any of the following conduct that is confirmed to have occurred off-campus at a non-school related function: Use, possession, sale, distribution, or procurement of any amount of alcohol, drugs, other controlled substances (other than legally prescribed medications) or drug paraphernalia or being under the influence of alcohol, drugs or other controlled substances (other than legally prescribed medications). Confirmation of such conduct may originate through information lawfully received by the district from law enforcement or judicial sources, such as notice of the issuance of a citation, through the student's own admission, or the student's parent(s)/guardian(s) through acknowledgment. This policy is applicable to all School Activities.

This policy is in addition to, and not in lieu of, any School District policies, codes of conduct, student handbooks, or other rules concerning discipline and restriction from School Activities for drug and alcohol offenses occurring on School District property or at school related events. This policy shall not apply to religious events or ceremonies or circumstances where the student's use, possession or consumption of alcohol or drugs is not in violation of the law.

### **Fire/Explosion**

Students are prohibited from carrying or possessing explosives, or from intentionally starting a fire or causing an explosion and thereby recklessly placing a person of danger of death or bodily harm, or intentionally frightening persons, or with the intention to destroy or damage property. Consequences include 10 days out-of-school suspension, police contact, and possible expulsion hearing.

### **Food/Beverages**

Students are prohibited from consuming food or beverages outside of the cafeterias or from taking food or beverages from the cafeterias.

### **Gambling**

Students are prohibited from gambling on school property, including betting pools, card playing, pitching coins, etc.

### **Hazing**

Students are prohibited from organizing, soliciting, aiding, or participating in any type of hazing for any class, school-sponsored club, activity, or athletic team. Hazing is any intentional knowing or reckless act directed against a student for the purpose of being initiated into, affiliation with, holding office or maintaining membership in any class, school-sponsored club, activity, or athletic team. Hazing is any activity expected of someone joining or belonging to a group that humiliates, degrades, abuses, or endangers, regardless of the person's willingness to participate. Students are required to report any known or suspected form of hazing to a principal immediately. Disciplinary action including, but not limited to, permanent removal from the class, club, activity, or athletic team, may be taken against any students who organize, participate in, and/or fail to report a hazing rite.

### **Insolence/Disrespect**

Students are prohibited from showing insolence or callous disrespect, including indecent or obscene language to a member of the faculty, staff or other school district employee, guest of the school district, or other persons with whom the student has contact in connection with a school-related event. The consequence would result in out-of-school suspension.

### **Insubordination/Defiance**

Students are prohibited from insubordination or defiance relating to directions from faculty, staff or other school district employee, guest of the school district, or other persons designated to be in a position of authority for school-related events.

**Leaving School Grounds**

Students are prohibited from leaving school grounds during the school day without administrative approval.

**Loitering**

Students are prohibited from loitering in the restrooms, halls or stairwells at any time during the school day, including the lunch periods.

**Slurs**

Students are prohibited from racial, ethnic or religious slurs or other such comments that are insulting, disparaging or derogatory, whether made directly or by innuendo, regarding a person's race, ethnic origin or religion.

**Stalking**

Students are prohibited from stalking or persistently following, contacting, watching or any other such threatening actions that compromise peace of mind or personal safety.

**Threats**

Students are prohibited from engaging in conduct constituting a terroristic threat or terroristic Act. See Appendix F for more information.

**Tobacco Use and Possession**

Students are prohibited from smoking or the use of smokeless tobacco in any form before, during or after school hours at school or in any other school district location or during activities under the direct supervision of the school district. School district location means in any school building or on any school premises, on any school-owned vehicle or in any other school-approved vehicle used to transport students to and from school or school activities. Possession of a cigarette, cigar, pipe, smokeless tobacco, or smoking equipment is also prohibited. The consequence would result in out-of-school suspension.

**Unexcused Absence/Tardiness**

Students are prohibited from incurring an excessive number of unexcused absences or of late attendance which shall include failure to report to assigned classes, study halls, or homeroom on time and as scheduled. Consequence would include detention, Saturday detention, out-of-school suspension, loss of parking privileges, and possible course failure.

**Vehicle Searches**

Student vehicles parked on District property are subject to search by the District and/or law enforcement authorities at any time for any reason, with or without notice. General and random searches (including canine sniff searches) are authorized. Students should have no expectation of privacy as to vehicles on District property. Parking is a privilege, not a right, and student parking permits will be issued only where students and/or parents consent to such searches. Refusal to cooperate in such searches may result in loss of parking privileges as well as disciplinary action.

## **Weapons**

It is the policy of the School Board that possession of a weapon by students is prohibited in any Mt. Lebanon School District building, on any grounds of the district, by a student on his or her way to or from school, in any vehicle providing authorized transportation to or from any Mt. Lebanon School District building or district sponsored function, activity or event and at any school function, activity or event whether or not held on Mt. Lebanon School District grounds. See Appendix D of this handbook for more information.

**NOTE: Students are prohibited from aiding or abetting any of the foregoing, and/or impeding an investigation by the administration of any of the foregoing.**

## **GENERAL SCHOOL RULES**

**Delivery of food to school** is prohibited unless under the supervision of a staff member. Students are not permitted to sell food in school unless the sale is part of an administratively approved fund-raising activity.

**Skateboarding, rollerblading and bike riding on school property**, including sidewalks, roadways, parking lots and building interiors, is prohibited 24 hours a day. Skateboards that are held by employees may be returned only to a responsible adult. Students who use skateboards on school property may be cited by the Mt. Lebanon Police Department for defiant trespassing.

**Students shall identify themselves properly** and courteously when requested to do so by school personnel on school grounds or at any school sponsored activity.

**Throwing snowballs** on school grounds is prohibited.

**Keys** belonging to teachers or other school staff may not be in the possession of students. Students who find themselves in possession of a staff member's keys must return them to the principal immediately.

**Public displays of affection** are not appropriate in the school setting.

## **CHEATING AND PLAGIARISM**

Refer to the section on Academic Integrity in Chapter II. Academic & Guidance.

## **COMPUTER NETWORK/INTERNET**

The district's electronic communications system (network) is available for instructional use by students under the supervision of instructors. Access to the network is a privilege and not a right. Users of the network are responsible for their behavior and communications over the network and may not use the network for obscene, pornographic or offensive matter; vulgarity, harassment, or misrepresenting one's identity; use for commercial or illegal purposes or any other use deemed inappropriate by the district. In addition to suspension or

cancellation of network privileges, inappropriate use of the network may result in disciplinary action up to and including suspension or expulsion.

Any and all material or information placed in any file on the network becomes district property. The district reserves the right to review, monitor, record or log network use. In order to protect the network, users may not use outside discs or programs on the network or transfer files, programs, shareware or software from information services, electronic bulletin boards, or any other external source without permission of the network supervisor. Please refer to Appendix F for additional information.

### Administrative Procedures for Network and Computer Usage

For the purposes of these procedures, "Network" shall be interpreted to include any and all District owned computers, servers, any hardware or software, printers, SMART Boards, the District's local area network (LAN), municipal area network (MAN), all wireless access points, the Internet, District Intranets, self contained electronic mail systems and any other elements of the District's computer, telecommunications or electronic communication/information systems.

### Expectations for Network Usage

The Network should only be used to support the functions of the Mt. Lebanon School District, its curriculum, the educational community, projects between schools, and communication and research for school district administrators, teachers and students.

### Use of Computer Labs

Each individual computer lab, including the library, has specific requirements for gaining admission. It is the responsibility of the student to become familiar with each lab's procedures. In order for study hall students to use a computer lab in the high school, students must obtain a pass from the computer lab teacher in advance. It is the student's responsibility to check in with his or her study hall teacher for the purpose of attendance.

### Expectations for computer use:

1. The network may not be used to engage in or to facilitate illegal activities.
2. The network may not be used to engage in or to facilitate behavior that violates Mt. Lebanon's standards of academic integrity.
3. Food and drink are not permitted near district computers.
4. Intentionally altering the files or desktop settings on the district network computers or copying district software is prohibited.
5. Installing software or files, uploading, creating, or intentionally transmitting viruses is prohibited.
6. Gaining unauthorized access to resources, databases or other users' files is prohibited.
7. Vandalizing hardware, software, data, files, or email of another user is prohibited.
8. Sending, saving, displaying, or copying offensive or inappropriate messages or pictures is prohibited.

9. Harassing, insulting or attacking others, or using obscene language is prohibited.
10. The network may not be used for fraudulent copying, communications, or modifications of materials in violation of copyright.
11. Students may not use the network to disrupt the work of others.
12. Any network user who receives threatening or unwelcome communications shall immediately bring information to an administrator.
13. Use of the network for chat programs, text messaging, access to personal email accounts, or playing games is prohibited.
14. Students are prohibited from connecting their personal computers/laptops to the district network.
15. The use of the network for any purpose not related to the mission of the Mt. Lebanon School District is prohibited.

#### Consequences for Violation of Prohibited Activities:

Failure to follow District policy or procedures established by individual labs may result in loss of network privileges. Other appropriate disciplinary procedures may take place, as needed.

#### Writing Lab Procedures

In addition to all District policies, the following procedures apply in the Writing Labs, Rooms 517 and 519:

1. Passes are limited by the number of computers available. English classes have first priority in using the lab. Students should get passes in the morning before school, or, at least, before the period they want to use the lab.
2. When students come to the writing lab, they must sign in, indicating where they have come from and which computer they will use.
3. Students may not come to the lab mid-period without a pass from the writing clinician or a phone call from their teacher.
4. When students finish their work, they may go back to their study halls.
5. Students may not save on the hard drives. They may save on the network drive, on disks, or on memory sticks. Disks are available in the Writing Lab for \$1. Work saved to the network will be deleted after 45 days of inactivity.
6. Students must request access from the writing clinician for to use the Internet for school-related work.

### **CORPORAL PUNISHMENT & USE OF REASONABLE FORCE**

Corporal punishment, namely physically punishing a student for an offense, is prohibited in the Mt. Lebanon School District. Administrators and teachers may use reasonable force to quell a disturbance, to obtain possession of weapons or dangerous objects, for the purpose of self-defense or for the protection of persons or property.

## **FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION**

Students have the right to express themselves unless such expression materially and substantially interferes with the educational process, threatens immediate harm to the welfare of the school or community, encourages unlawful activity or interferes with another individual's rights.

Students have the responsibility to obey laws governing libel and obscenity and to be aware of the full meaning of their expression. Students have the responsibility to be aware of the feelings and opinions of others and to give others a fair opportunity to express their views.

Students wishing to post signs or announcements in the building must first have the written or stamped approval of the building principal. Signs must be no larger than 8.5 x 11 inches and may only be posted on the Student News Bulletin Boards. The following are prohibited:

1. Signage deemed to be in poor taste (profanity, obscenity, insult, double meanings, etc.);
2. signs promoting any religion, theology or specific moral code;
3. signs advertising outside fund-raising events;
4. signs soliciting members for a specific religion or any part of such improvements of its program; or
5. Signs promoting profit-making events of agencies.

## **LOITERING ON COCHRAN ROAD AND LEBANON AVENUE**

Student safety is often jeopardized by the manner in which students cross Cochran Road before and after school. Some students ignore the crosswalk and cross in the middle of the block. They also congregate on the corner of Cochran Road and Lebanon Avenue, blocking the sidewalk, spilling into the street and congesting the entire area. The school receives numerous complaints from residents in the area and from parents who drive through the area while transporting their children to and from school. The Mt. Lebanon police consider this a serious problem area and issue students citations for jaywalking and loitering. Both before and after school, students are encouraged to use school grounds to meet with friends, rather than congregating on the corner of Cochran Road and Lebanon Avenue.

## **PERSONAL APPEARANCE & DRESS GUIDELINES**

Personal appearance should not disrupt the educational process, call undue attention to the individual, violate federal, state, or local health or obscenity laws, or affect the welfare of the student or his/her classmates. Specific dress rules include the following:

1. Clothing is prohibited which makes reference to the following: profanity, violence, drugs, weapons, alcohol, tobacco, or sexual activity.
2. Low-cut tops and abbreviated tops that expose any area of the torso, back and/or display décolletage are prohibited. These may include:
  - Revealing undershirts that expose the back or midriff area
  - Halter tops, tube tops, and spaghetti straps

- Any top that exposes underwear or undergarments
- 3. Low-cut pants or pants with holes, either of which expose any area of the torso or underwear, are prohibited.
- 4. Shorts and skirts should be at least mid-thigh length as indicated by the tip of one's finger tips when standing upright with arms down at sides.
- 5. The wearing of wallet chains or spikes on wrist bands or collars are prohibited due to their potential use as weapons.

Students are required to wear specific types of clothing for physical education classes. They may also be required to wear certain types of clothing while participating in labs, extra-curricular activities or other situations where special attire may be required to ensure the health or safety of the student.

Students have the responsibility to keep themselves, their clothes and their hair clean. School officials may impose limitations on participation in the instructional program where there is evidence that lack of cleanliness constitutes a health hazard.

### **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

As part of the opening exercises of the school day, all students are requested to participate in the Pledge of Allegiance or to stand quietly while the pledge is presented. Participation is voluntary.

### **SCHOOL VIOLENCE, TERRORISTIC THREATS AND TERRORISTIC ACTS**

The District is committed to providing education in a safe, secure and caring environment and therefore strictly prohibits Terrorist threats and terrorist acts, as well as violent, aggressive or abusive conduct because such conduct is known to lead to and/or is likely to cause physical attacks resulting in serious physical injury and even death.

Frequently, terrorist threats or acts are preceded by warning signs or rumors which, if promptly reported, investigated and addressed, may result in avoidance of tragedy. Accordingly, staff members and students are required to immediately inform the building principal regarding any knowledge relevant to an actual, potential or rumored terrorist threat or terrorist act, or any prohibited act of violence or violent, aggressive behavior.

See Appendix F of this handbook for additional important information about school violence, terrorist threats, and terrorist acts.

### **SEARCHES**

School lockers and other storage spaces are school property. School authorities may search a student's locker and seize any illegal materials. Such materials may be used as evidence against the student in disciplinary proceedings.

Students shall not expect privacy regarding items placed in school lockers because school property is subject to search at any time by school officials. Random, periodic or sweeping

searches of all lockers may be conducted by school officials without regard to any individualized suspicion.

Students are responsible for the contents of the locker assigned to them. It is essential that students keep their lockers locked and not give other students access to their locker. The school does not assume responsibility for the loss or theft of personal items stored in lockers.

Any vehicle parked by a student on the school grounds may be searched by school authorities to protect the health, safety, and welfare of students. There should be no expectation of privacy for any vehicle driven to school or school activities.

Student vehicles parked on District property are subject to search by the District and/or law enforcement authorities at any time for any reason, with or without notice. General and random searches (including canine sniff searches) are authorized. Students should have no expectation of privacy as to vehicles on District property. Parking is a privilege, not a right, and student parking permits will be issued only where students and/or parents consent to such searches. Refusal to cooperate in such searches may result in loss of parking privileges as well as disciplinary action.

### **SEXUAL HARASSMENT OF OR BY STUDENTS**

The District is committed to safeguarding the right of all students/ employees within the District to an education and work environment that is free from all forms of sexual harassment and sexual abuse, including sexual harassment of or by students. The District strictly prohibits all unwelcome behavior of a sexual nature including, in particular, unwelcome conduct of a sexual nature which is either designed to extort sexual favors from a student or employee as a term or condition of education or employment or which has the purpose or effect of creating a hostile, intimidating or offensive educational or work environment. Sexual harassment may occur from student to student, staff to student, student to staff, male to female, female to male, male to male or female to female. Examples of prohibited conduct of a sexual nature which may constitute prohibited sexual harassment include: unwelcome touching of an individual's body or clothing in a sexual way; unwelcome leering, staring, sexual flirtation, propositions or pressure for sexual activity; unwelcome sexual slurs, epithets, threats, verbal abuse, derogatory comments or sexually degrading descriptions; unwelcome graphic verbal comments about an individual's body or overly personal conversation; unwelcome sexual jokes, stories, drawings, pictures or gestures; unwelcome spreading of sexual rumors; cornering or blocking an individual's normal movement in a sexual way; displaying sexually explicit materials or suggestive objects in the educational environment; and repeated remarks to a person with sexual or demeaning implications. The District also condemns and prohibits any retaliatory behavior against any complainants or witnesses of such prohibited sexual misconduct. The District further prohibits intimate or sexual relations between any and all District employees and students. This specifically includes intimate or sexual relations between an administrator, teacher, counselor, coach, advisor, program director or any District staff member and a student. Any student who believes that he or she has been subjected to sexual harassment should immediately report the incident to any principal, unit principal, guidance counselor, teacher, school nurse or psychologist, and an investigation by trained district staff members will be conducted. Students who are found to

have engaged in sexual harassment of others will be subject to discipline. See Appendix E of this Handbook for additional important information about sexual harassment of or by students.

## **CONSEQUENCES FOR STUDENT MISCONDUCT**

One or more of the following consequences may be issued to students for violation of school board policy, administrative guidelines or general school rules. Although some consequences are prescribed for specific actions, disciplinary consequences are determined on an individual basis consistent with the student's past behavior, special needs, etc.

### **Warning or Verbal Reprimand**

A teacher or principal may issue a verbal warning or reprimand to a student for misconduct.

### **Notification to Parent**

The teacher, counselor, principal or other school official may contact the parent to report inappropriate student conduct. A meeting with the parent may be requested.

### **Loss of Privileges**

A student may lose certain privileges, e.g., parking permit, hall pass, library pass. A student may also be restricted from participation in extra-curricular or co-curricular activities.

### **Detention**

Detention is time a student is required to spend in school, beyond the regular school day, for disciplinary reasons. Teachers may assign a student detention for violation of a classroom rule. Teacher-assigned detention is served in the teacher's classroom; the amount of time is determined by the teacher. A student who fails to report for teacher-assigned detention is referred to the unit principal for further disciplinary action. For violation of school rules and regulations, students may be assigned by principals to the school-based detention program. The detention program is the assignment of a student to a quiet, supervised area in the school for a specific amount of time beyond the regular school day. When assigned to detention, students are expected to report on time, bring materials, sit in the seat assigned by the supervisor, refrain from eating, drinking, sleeping and talking with others, and remain in the detention room for the duration of the assigned detention. Failure to serve detention as assigned will result in further disciplinary action and may include suspension from school.

### **Administrative Intervention**

Students may be required to participate in a disciplinary conference with school officials. Behavior management plans, contracts for student conduct, or other appropriate interventions may result from such conferences.

### **Community Service**

Students may be required to complete a specific number of hours of community service as a consequence for misconduct. School personnel offer students suggestions for community service activities and a form on which the community service can be verified.

### **Suspension**

Suspension is the exclusion of a student from school and all school-related activities and functions for a period of one (1) to 10 days. When the suspension is three (3) days or less, the student is given an opportunity to respond to the reasons for the suspension, unless it is clear that the health, safety or welfare of the school community is threatened. The parent is informed of the suspension in writing. When the suspension exceeds three (3) days, the parent is informed of the suspension in writing, and the student and parent are given an opportunity to attend an informal hearing with the principal. At this hearing, school personnel explain the reason for the suspension, and the student is given an opportunity to respond to the accusation of misconduct. (See Restrictions during Suspension/Expulsion from School.

### **Cumulative Suspension Program**

After a student has been suspended for six (6) days in a given school year, the student and his/her parent may be required to meet with an administrative committee. The administrative committee will then make appropriate recommendations so that the student may modify his or her behavior. If a student has been suspended for nine (9) or more days in a school year and has not complied with the recommendations of the administrative committee, the student and his/her parent(s) may be required to have a formal hearing with the Superintendent.

### **Expulsion**

Expulsion is exclusion from school for a serious offense or a series of offenses for a period exceeding 10 school days. Expulsion may be permanent. If a student is to be excluded from school for a period exceeding 10 days, he/she is entitled to a formal hearing before the School Board before any action is taken.

### **Restrictions during Suspension/Expulsion from School**

Any student who is suspended from school may not attend or participate in any school sponsored activity including athletic practices or competitions and are not permitted on school grounds for the duration of the suspension, including weekends and breaks within the suspension.

### **Restriction from School Activities: (RSA)**

Participation in co-curricular activities, extra curricular activities, sports and ceremonial events is a privilege and not a right. Activities include, but are not limited to, athletic contests, musical and dramatic performances, school clubs and ceremonial events such as dances, the prom and commencement exercises. These activities may be restricted when a student violates a Mt. Lebanon High School's rule(s), procedure(s), school board policy or the law.

Restriction from participation and attendance at school activities may be assigned by the high school administration. Nothing in this rule shall negate prescribed disciplinary actions such as suspension, detention, the filing of charges with law enforcement officials or other appropriate sanctions. A student and his/her parent(s) or guardian(s) shall be notified in writing by the administration that restriction will be applied. Upon request by the parent, the assigning principal will meet informally to review the issue and afford appropriate due process.

**Restitution**

Students who deface, willfully destroy, vandalize or steal school property shall be required to provide restitution for damages and/or non-recovered stolen property including the current replacement cost of said property and cost of labor incurred in the repair and/or replacement of said property. The parent/guardian may be held liable for any and all damages to school property and/or any and all non-recovered stolen property for which the student himself/herself does not provide restitution.

**Referral to Alternate Education Program**

Students with severe attendance, behavior or academic problems may be recommended for placement at the Alternative Center for Education located at Parkway West School where they may earn credits toward graduation.

**Referral to Mt. Lebanon Police Department**

Under the Crimes Code, school officials are required to report violations of law and certain other serious offenses to the Mt. Lebanon Police Department. When it is necessary for police officers to interview a student or to take a student into custody during school hours, school officials follow established procedures to protect the rights and interests of students and to assist police in the performance of their duties. School officials make every attempt to notify the parent or legal guardian of the situation, except in matters involving allegations of child abuse when the parent is the alleged offender.

## **IX. STUDENT SUPPORT SERVICES**

### **Meeting the Needs of All Students**

Mt. Lebanon School District provides support for students with a broad range of educational needs. The majority of students are educated without any modifications to the regular education program. A small percentage of students may need minor accommodations to enable them to progress in the regular classroom. Other students may need more extensive support offered through a special education program. For additional information, contact the building principal, 412.344.2003, or the Supervisor of Special Education, 412.344.2044.

### **Student Support Services**

#### **Guidance Department**

Guidance counselors are available to assist students with course planning which is individualized according to each student's interest and goals. Parents are encouraged to participate in their child's course planning by attending Individualized Guidance Planning (IGP) conferences held in the ninth and eleventh grade. Counselors also assist students as they transition to college, post-secondary training, employment, or military service.

#### **Student Assistance Team**

This program is designed to identify high risk students who are experiencing learning difficulty due to problems such as alcohol or drug use, mental health problems or other concerns. The Student Assistance Team (SAT) is comprised of trained school professionals who receive referrals from parents, teachers, students, and other school staff. After gathering information to assess the nature and extent of the concern, the SAT develops an action plan which may include meeting with parents and/or the student and referral to school or community support services, if appropriate. For more information, contact Supervisor of Guidance, 412-344-2004.

#### **Psycho-educational Evaluations**

School psychologists conduct psycho-educational evaluations according to state and federal requirements for students to determine need for special education services. Standardized testing, state mandated testing, group achievement and ability testing is also coordinated through school psychologists.

#### **Health Services**

The Health Office maintains emergency information for each student. A school nurse or first aid certified adult is available to address student medical needs.

#### **Crisis Intervention**

Professional school personnel are trained and available to provide short-term counseling and support to students, parents and school staff in the event of a crisis.

### **Special Education Services**

Special education consists of services and programs designed to meet the educational needs of students who meet state and federal eligibility criteria. The district secures parental permission to conduct a multi-disciplinary evaluation. Parent(s) may request their child be evaluated by contacting the building principal. Parent(s) input is secured and included in the evaluation report. To qualify for special education services, students must demonstrate mental giftedness and/or the presence of a disability and also demonstrate the need for specially designed instruction. Appropriate school staff and parent(s) use the evaluation report to develop a program to address the student's needs. Students are included in the general education curriculum to fullest extent appropriate. Modifications and adaptations to the curriculum are provided according to each student's individual needs.

### **Mentally Gifted Program**

The High School offers mentally gifted students appropriate educational opportunities within the regular education curriculum. A student may qualify for the mentally gifted program based on established group ability and/or achievement test scores. When a student qualifies for gifted programming, school staff and parent(s) develop a program to address the student's needs. The team, assisted by the gifted coordinator, work together to provide the student with differentiated instruction, enrichment, acceleration, special academic events, independent study, and advanced topical study to address the student's needs.

### **Emotional Support Program**

The Emotional Support program is designed to meet the needs of students with social, emotional, and behavioral needs that have an adverse impact on their learning. Direct instruction in social skills is provided according to individual student need. Academic support and/or direct instruction in content areas are also provided as needed.

### **Learning Support Program**

Learning support services are provided to students who demonstrate a disorder in understanding or in using language (spoken or written), reading, writing, and/or mathematics. Accommodations and modifications may be provided in the regular education classroom and/or the student may receive direct instruction and/or academic support within the learning support program.

### **Life Skills Support Program**

The life skills support program provides specially designed instruction to students who may need a functional academic curriculum, self-care skills, social skills, language and communication, and perceptual motor skills.

### **Speech and Language Support**

Students attending the high school who demonstrate a need in articulation, fluency, language and auditory processing development, and voice receive speech and language support. Students are scheduled for individual and/or small group sessions according to age as well as the type and severity of the disorder.

**Occupational Therapy**

Occupational therapy focuses on the functional performance of the student in educationally relevant activities, such as self-help, sensory, fine motor and postural skills. Individual and/or small group therapy sessions as well as consultative services are provided according to student need.

**Physical Therapy**

Physical therapy focuses on the natural opportunities for the students to develop motor competence in routine educational activities.

**Adapted Physical Education**

Adapted physical education is small group instruction designed to meet the special needs of students. The physical education teacher screens all primary children, new enrollees, and physically handicapped, and former participants early each year in the areas of ball skills (throwing, catching, dribbling), locomotion (skipping, hopping, running), eye-hand and eye-foot coordination, and abdominal, arm, and leg strength. Adaptive physical education is offered in addition to or in place of the regular physical education class. For students whose physical condition prohibits safe and meaningful participation in physical education, adaptive physical education is available.

**Protected Handicapped Students**

The district provides protected handicapped students an equal opportunity to participate in and benefit from the school program and extracurricular activities, to the maximum extent appropriate to the students' abilities, by offering the services and accommodations they need. In order to qualify as a protected handicapped student, a child must be of school age and have a physical or mental disability which substantially limits or prohibits his or her participation in or access to a part of the school program. These related aids are provided without discrimination or cost to the students or their families.

## **X. STUDENT SUPPORT**

### **Accommodations for Students with Disabilities**

When a student has a disability that substantially limits or prohibits participation in or access to an aspect of the school program, but is not eligible for or in need of special education, the district provides those related aids, services or accommodations that are needed to afford the child equal opportunity to participate in and obtain the benefits of the school program and extracurricular activities without discrimination and to the maximum extent appropriate to the student's abilities. To ensure that an eligible student has full access to the educational program at MLHS, school personnel cooperate with parents to develop a service agreement that describes the necessary accommodations, aids and supports. For more information, contact Supervisor of Special Education at 412.344.2012.

### **Accommodations for Students with Physical Impairment**

Special arrangements can be made for a student with a physical injury or condition that impairs mobility. The student may obtain an elevator key in Room 405. Teachers will be alerted that the student may be arriving to class late or may need to leave class early to travel safely to the next class. To plan arrangements, contact the student's unit principal.

### **Adaptive Physical Education**

For students whose physical condition prohibits safe and meaningful participation in physical education, adaptive physical education is available. A certified physical education teacher provides individually designed physical education in a small group setting. For more information, contact the student's guidance counselor.

### **Community Service**

The Community Service Office is located on the 6th floor and is a resource for the many students in Mt. Lebanon who choose to perform community service. Students may meet with the Community Service Coordinator to learn about community service opportunities that exist in the school, in other schools in the district, in the community and in the broader region. Students may also take advantage of a reporting system that records the amount and type of service they perform. Such information is then available when school personnel are writing employment and college recommendations for students. Throughout the year, students may volunteer to participate in a variety of community service activities that are coordinated through the school. For more information about community service call 412.344.2114.

### **Educational Support Groups**

Throughout the year, staff from the Counseling and Student Support Services Departments provides education support experiences for small groups of students. The groups can be preventive, dealing with adjustment and transition issues for students at risk; interventive, such as drug and alcohol aftercare sessions or topic-specific, on areas such as grief and loss, parental divorce, etc. The groups have an educational and interactional focus. For information, contact Supervisor of Guidance at 412.344.2004.

### **English as a Second Language (ESL)**

ESL instruction is available to students with limited proficiency in speaking, listening to, reading or writing English due to their status as immigrants, refugees, foreign exchange

students or American born children from non-English speaking homes. Parents of children who may require ESL instruction should alert the guidance counselor when enrolling the child in the high school. The counselor will refer the student for an ESL evaluation and, if eligible, the student will be scheduled into the program. For further information, contact the Jefferson Middle School Assistant Principal at 412.344.2034.

### **Math Lab**

The Math Lab in Room 556 provides enrichment opportunities and tutorial services. Staffed by a mathematics teacher, the Lab is open daily before school from 7:15 a.m. Students may get help from the teacher or use the technology available to reinforce their learning. Direct questions about the Math Lab should be directed to the supervisor of mathematics, at 412.344.2035.

### **Student Staffing**

When a student is experiencing academic, social or emotional difficulties in school, the parent, teacher, counselor or principal may request that a staffing be scheduled. Held before or after school at the convenience of the parent, the staffing allows all involved with the student to share information and plan interventions to facilitate the student's improved school performance. To request a staffing, the parent should call the student's counselor.

### **Study Center**

The Study Center is a drop-in center for students who obtain passes from their study halls. Trained parent volunteers provide assistance in study skills, note taking and test preparation. Subject area tutoring is provided by members of the National Honor Society. The Study Center is located in Room 558 and is open from 7:50am to 3:30pm, Mondays through Thursdays and until 3:15pm on Friday.

### **Suicide Assessment/Prevention**

Occasionally, a student may experience feelings so intense that he or she considers suicide. When students, parents or faculty members indicate concern about a student in this regard, an immediate pre-assessment of risk is performed by a counseling or Student Support Services professional. The parent is contacted and the student is then referred to a facility equipped to more thoroughly assess the degree of risk and provide treatment. The student is also referred for follow-up by the Student Assistance Team. For more information, contact Supervisor of Guidance at 412.344.2004.

### **Writing Lab**

The Writing Lab is a full-service, computerized writing center providing writing-across-the-curriculum activities for students and faculty. Staffed by a full-time writing clinician, the lab provides classroom instruction and individual tutoring in any aspect of the writing process - from brainstorming and pre-writing exercises to polishing papers for publication. Along with classes, students use the lab on an individual basis for assignments, personal writing and conferences with the writing clinician. Students also schedule appointments for assistance with college essays, college applications, scholarship applications and writing contest submissions. The Writing Lab is open before school, after school, throughout the school day and during most lunch periods. For more information, contact Supervisor of English, at 412.344.2032.

## **APPENDIX A**

### **Student Records Policy**

#### **Student Records Policy - Annual Notification of Rights under FERPA**

Mt. Lebanon School District maintains a cumulative student record for each child. This information is kept in order to assist in the day-to-day operation of the educational programs and to meet the requirements of federal and state laws. The information regarding each child includes student identification and attendance data, information on academic progress and performance and results of standardized group achievement and cognitive ability tests. Records of standardized tests taken by secondary students on a voluntary basis, usually for college entrance purposes, are also recorded. Disciplinary records, certain juvenile history record information and student health records also are maintained as required by state law.

The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) affords parents and students over 18 years of age (eligible students) certain rights with respect to the student's education records. They are:

1. The right to inspect and review the student's education records within 45 days of the day the District receives a request for access.

Parents or eligible students should submit to the school principal a written request that identifies the record(s) they wish to inspect. The principal will make arrangements for access and notify the parent or eligible student of the time and place where the records may be inspected.

2. The right to request the amendment of the student's education records that the parent or eligible student believes is inaccurate or misleading.

Parents or eligible students may ask the District to amend a record that they believe is inaccurate or misleading. They should write the school principal, clearly identify the part of the record they want changed, and specify why it is inaccurate or misleading.

If the District decides not to amend the record as requested by the parent or eligible student, the District will notify the parent or eligible student of the decision and advise them of their right to a hearing regarding the request for amendment. Additional information regarding the hearing procedures will be provided to the parent or eligible student when notified of the right to a hearing.

3. The right to consent to disclosures of personally identifiable information contained in the student's education records, except to the extent that FERPA authorizes disclosure without consent.

One exception which permits disclosure without consent is disclosure to school officials with legitimate educational interests. A school official is a person employed by the District as an administrator, supervisor, instructor, or support

staff member (including health or medical staff); a person serving on the School Board; a person or company with whom the District has contracted to perform a special task (such as an attorney, auditor, medical consultant, or therapist); or a parent or student serving on an official committee, such as a disciplinary or grievance committee, or assisting another school official in performing his or her tasks. A school official has a legitimate educational interest if the official needs to review an education record in order to fulfill his or her professional responsibility.

Upon request, the District discloses education records without consent to officials of another school district or educational agency in which a student seeks or intends to enroll.

4. The right to file a complaint with the U.S. Department of Education concerning alleged failures by the District to comply with the requirements of FERPA.

The name and address of the Office that administers FERPA is: Family Policy Compliance Office, U.S. Department of Education, 400 Maryland Avenue, SW, Washington, DC 20202-4605.

### **Disclosure of Directory Information - Public Notice**

Under FERPA, the District also may disclose without consent a directory information concerning a student. For example, directory information may be included in publications such as sports programs, newspapers, radio and television news releases, awards and graduation programs, yearbooks, alumni directories, musical and play programs and other school publications. Directory information is information not generally considered harmful or an invasion of privacy if disclosed, including but not limited to the student's name, photograph, date and place of birth, major fields of study, participation in officially recognized activities and sports, weight and height of members of athletic teams, dates of attendance, degrees and awards received and other similar information. Parents who wish to have their children exempted from publication or other disclosure of directory information may do so by letter to the school principal. The letter must be received by the school principal at least thirty (30) days prior to the date of publication or other disclosure of information.

## **APPENDIX B Drugs and Alcohol Policy**

### **Alcohol and Other Drugs - Policies & Guidelines**

Mt. Lebanon School District is committed to the maintenance of an academic environment free from all forms of drug and alcohol abuse and has prescribed various educational and counseling programs and disciplinary action to implement achievement of this goal.

The Board believes that although final authority must rest with parents or guardians of students, school personnel at all levels c with the best interest of the students in mind-- should make every effort through education, counseling and/or referral to prevent or abate abuse of controlled substances.

#### **Summary of Board Policy on Drug and Alcohol Curriculum and Program**

It is the policy of the Board that a comprehensive, coordinated, preventive drug and alcohol education program will be provided to all students of the District. A program of early intervention by identification and referral for treatment will be provided for students. A support program will be provided to assist returning dependent students in making maximum use of the educational setting. The District shall support appropriate community efforts directed toward solving problems connected with student misuse of drugs and alcohol.

#### **Summary of Board Policy on Student Drug and Alcohol Offenses**

It is the policy of the Board that this Drug and Alcohol Policy and administrative procedures will be disseminated so that students will realize the consequences of their behavior.

No student shall distribute, dispense, possess, use, or be under the influence of any alcoholic beverage, malt beverage, fortified wine or other intoxicating liquor or unlawfully manufacture, distribute, dispense, possess, or use or be under the influence, except for a valid medical purpose, of any narcotic drug, hallucinogenic drug, amphetamine, barbiturate, marijuana, anabolic steroid or any other controlled substance as defined by law, before, during or after school hours at school or in any other school district location. School district location means in any school building or on any school premises, on any school-owned vehicle or in any other school-approved vehicle used to transport students to and from school or school activities, off school property at any school-sponsored or school-approved activity, event or function such as a field trip or athletic event, where students are under the jurisdiction of the school district. The above prohibition also applies to drug paraphernalia, see Policy JICH

A student who violates the terms of this policy may be disciplined, suspended or expelled from school, at the discretion of the School Board in accordance with prescribed school policies, guidelines and regulations applicable to student offenses.

In addition to all other prescribed disciplinary action by the school district, a student who violates the terms of this policy may be directed to satisfactorily participate in a drug abuse assistance or rehabilitation program. If such student fails to satisfactorily participate in such program, the student may be suspended or expelled from school, at the discretion of the board.

### **Summary of Board Policy on Use of Steroids**

Any student involved in school-related athletics is prohibited from the use of anabolic steroids, except for a valid medical purpose. Body building, muscle enhancement, increasing muscle bulk or strength or the enhancement of athletic ability is not a valid medical purpose. See Situation IX below.

### **Administrative Guidelines**

The following guidelines have been established to provide a consistent means for effectively responding to drug related situations that may occur at school or school-sponsored events or during travel time to and from the same. Professional judgment shall be used by all school personnel when responding to drug related situations. The potential and current use, possession or distribution of drugs may include the withdrawal of privileges and other disciplinary actions, suspension and/or expulsion from school, as well as referral to the appropriate law enforcement agencies. The Board reserves the right to use any additional measure deemed necessary to control drug abuse.

### **Definition of Terms**

The following definitions will apply throughout this policy and these guidelines unless the context otherwise requires:

#### **Drug**

Any alcoholic beverage, including malt beverages, and/or any controlled substances including but not limited to narcotics, hallucinogenic drugs, inhalants, amphetamines, barbiturates, marijuana and derivatives thereof, and any prescription medication not used by the patient as intended by the prescribing physician, and any other intoxicant or any other ~~controlled substance~~ as now or hereinafter defined by the Controlled Substance, Drug, Device and Cosmetic Act and similar laws.

#### **Distribution**

The giving, sharing, selling, soliciting, delivering, or procuring of any substance prohibited by this policy.

#### **Paraphernalia**

Any device, such as roach clips, pipes, syringes, etc. which is reasonably associated with the use of any drug.

#### **Police**

Includes any appropriate law enforcement agency or office.

## **SAT**

The Student Assistance Team is a team of professionals within the school who are trained to provide assistance and support for students who are experiencing or thought to be experiencing drug and alcohol and/or mental health problems.

## **SAT File**

A confidential file on students referred to SAT due to drug/alcohol or mental health problems.

## **SITUATION I**

**The possible use of drugs by a student is indicated, but there is no obvious evidence of violation of law or school regulation. This situation may involve:**

- a. the student who is suspected of using drugs but does not show extreme behavior changes and is not found in possession of drugs,
- b. the student who contacts a teacher in regard to the drug use of a friend or another student, or
- c. the student who volunteers information about personal drug use.

**Immediate Action** - A teacher may approach the student in regard to behavior, classroom performance or general health.

**Investigation** - the student should not be accused of drug use, possession or distribution. If possible, an attempt should be made by a pupil services staff member or administrator to discuss the situation in a positive manner. The student will be referred to the SAT.

**Notification of Parents** - A parent may be contacted at the discretion of the principal or his/her designee. Any contact will concern the student's actual behavior, not suspicion of drug use, possession or distribution.

**Confidentiality** - Information will be limited to the appropriate staff member or administrator involved, pupil services staff member, SAT and parents, if necessary. In those cases that may require notification of parent, a conference with the principal will be held. The principal has the option of inviting other involved school personnel.

**Disposition of Substance** - Not applicable.

**Hearing** - Not applicable.

**Discipline** - None is mandated.

**Notification of Police** - Not applicable.

## SITUATION II

**A student demonstrates symptoms of possible drug use (including, but not limited to, staggering, slurred speech, dazed appearance, incoherence, inability to respond). This situation shall be handled as a health problem and potential emergency.**

**Immediate Action** - the teacher will escort the student to the nurse's office or, if not possible, summon the nurse immediately. The principal will be contacted immediately. The nurse will make a determination, based upon physical examination, of the necessity of immediate hospitalization.

**Investigation** - Investigation may include examination by nurse or doctor. The principal or his/her designee will question the student and will request that the student empty his/her pockets and/or purse and volunteer all drug-like substances. A witness will be present. The student's locker, desk and all personal property will be searched according to policy. The student will not be left alone; SAT will be notified.

**Notification of Parents** - the principal or his/her designee will notify a parent immediately of appropriate action recommended. The parent will be informed of police involvement and the right to be present during police questioning.

**Confidentiality** - Information will be limited to the appropriate staff member and administrator involved, pupil services staff member, SAT, parents and appropriate law enforcement authorities if necessary. An anecdotal record will be placed in the SAT file.

**Disposition of Substance** - Substances will be sealed, documented and turned over to the appropriate agency by the principal or his/her designee with a request for analysis and possible use in further proceedings.

**Discipline** - Action taken will depend on evidence and symptoms. For additional disciplinary action, refer to the appropriate situation below.

**Notification of Police** - the police will be notified if necessary.

## SITUATION III

**A student is discovered possessing and/or using drugs for the first time and is cooperative with the investigation.**

**Immediate Action** - the staff member discovering the violation will summon the principal or escort the student to the principal's office.

**Investigation** - The principal or his/her designee will question the student and will request that the student empty his/her pockets and/or purse and volunteer all drug-like substances. A witness will be present. The student's locker, desk and all personal property will be searched according to policy. The student will not be left alone. SAT will be notified.

**Notification of Parents** - A parent will be contacted, the situation will be described completely and an immediate conference will be arranged. The parent will be informed of police involvement and the right to be present during police questioning.

**Confidentiality** - Information will be limited to the parents, appropriate staff members, pupil services staff member, principal and appropriate law enforcement authorities. An anecdotal SAT record will be placed in the SAT file.

**Disposition of Substance** - Substances will be sealed, documented and turned over to the appropriate agency by the principal or his/her designee with a request for analysis and possible use in further proceedings.

**Hearing** - the student will be offered the opportunity for an informal hearing with the principal or his/her designee within the first five (5) days of the suspension.

**Discipline** - any student found to be in violation will be suspended for a minimum of ten (10) school days. Proof of assessment and establishment of a treatment plan by a certified drug and alcohol agency or licensed individual will be required. The treatment plan may include counseling and/or an educational program, and drug testing by a certified drug and alcohol agency or licensed individual. In addition, the student will be on Restriction from School Activities (RSA) for a minimum of 30 calendar days.

**Notification of Police** - the police will be notified.

COMMENT - the use of these procedures depends upon the cooperation of the student including, but not limited to, giving statements and information about the involvement of others. The superintendent, in his/her sole discretion, shall determine whether the student has been Acooperative@ for purposes of this section.

#### **SITUATION IV**

**A student is discovered possessing and/or using drugs for the first time and is uncooperative with the investigation.**

**Immediate Action** - the staff member will summon the principal or escort the student to the principal's office.

**Investigation** - The principal or his/her designee will question the student and will request that the student empty his/her pockets and/or purse and volunteer all drug-like substances. A witness will be present. The student's locker, desk and all personal property will be searched according to policy. The student will not be left alone. The SAT will be notified.

**Notification of Parents** - A parent will be contacted, the situation will be described completely and an immediate conference will be arranged. The parent will be informed of police involvement and the right to be present during police questioning.

**Confidentiality** - Information will be limited to the parents, appropriate staff member, principal, superintendent, pupil services staff member, SAT and appropriate law enforcement authorities. An anecdotal record will be placed in the SAT file.

**Disposition of Substance** - Substance will be sealed, documented and turned over to the appropriate agency by the principal or his/her designee with a request for analysis and possible use in further proceedings.

**Hearing** - the student will be offered the opportunity for an informal hearing with the principal or his/her designee within the first five (5) days of the suspension.

**Discipline** - any student found to be in violation will be suspended for ten (10) days and the superintendent will recommend expulsion to the Mt. Lebanon School Board. If the student, at any time in the future, is permitted to attend any school within the Mt. Lebanon School District, proof of assessment and establishment of a treatment plan by a certified drug and alcohol agency or licensed individual will be required. The treatment plan may include counseling and/or an educational program, and drug testing by a certified drug and alcohol agency or licensed individual. In addition, the student will be subject to Restriction from School Activities (RSA) as determined by the high school principal.

**Notification of Police** - the police will be notified.

## **SITUATION V**

**A student is discovered again possessing and/or using drugs and/or alcohol.**

**Immediate Action** - the staff member will summon the principal or escort the student to the principal's office.

**Investigation** - The principal or his/her designee will question the student and will request that the student empty his/her pockets or purse and volunteer all drug-like substances. A witness will be present. The student's locker, desk and all personal property will be searched according to policy. The student will not be left alone. SAT will be notified.

**Notification of Parents** - A parent will be contacted, the situation described completely and an immediate conference will be arranged. The parent will be informed of police involvement and of the right to be present during police questioning.

**Confidentiality** - Information will be limited to the parents, appropriate staff members, principal, superintendent, pupil services staff members and appropriate law enforcement authorities. An anecdotal record will be placed in the SAT file.

**Disposition of Substance** - Substance will be sealed, documented and turned over to the appropriate agency by the principal or his/her designee with a request for analysis and possible use in further proceedings.

**Hearing** - the student will be offered the opportunity for an informal hearing with the principal or his/her designee within the first five (5) days of the suspension. A formal hearing before the School Board or a committee thereof will be held where expulsion is considered.

**Discipline** - any student found to be in violation will be suspended for ten (10) days and the superintendent will recommend expulsion to the Mt. Lebanon School Board. If the student, at any time in the future, is permitted to attend any school within the Mt. Lebanon School District, proof of assessment and establishment of a treatment plan by a certified drug and alcohol agency or licensed individual will be required. The treatment plan may include counseling and/or an educational program, and drug testing by a certified drug and alcohol agency or licensed individual. In addition, the student will be subject to Restriction from School Activities (RSA) as determined by the high school principal.

**Notification of Police** - the police will be notified.

## **SITUATION VI**

**A student is discovered distributing drugs.**

**Immediate Action** - the teacher will summon the principal or escort the student to the principal's office.

**Investigation** - The principal or his/her designee will question the student and will request that the student empty his/her pockets or purse and volunteer all drug-like substances. A witness will be present. The student's locker, desk and all personal property will be searched according to policy. The student will not be left alone. SAT will be notified.

**Notification of Parents** - A parent will be contacted, the situation will be described completely and an immediate conference will be arranged. The parent will be informed of police involvement and of the right to be present during police questioning.

**Confidentiality** - Information will be limited to the parents, appropriate staff members, administrator, pupil services staff member, SAT and appropriate law enforcement authorities. An anecdotal record will be placed in the SAT file.

**Disposition of Substance** - Substance will be sealed, documented and turned over to the appropriate agency by the principal or his/her designee with a request for analysis and possible use in further proceedings.

**Discipline** - any student found to be in violation will be suspended for ten (10) days and the superintendent will recommend expulsion to the Mt. Lebanon School Board. If the student, at any time in the future, is permitted to attend any school within the Mt. Lebanon School District, proof of assessment and establishment of a treatment plan by a certified drug and alcohol agency or licensed individual will be required. The treatment plan may include counseling and/or an educational program, and drug testing by a certified drug and alcohol agency or licensed individual. In addition, the student will be subject to Restriction from School Activities (RSA) as determined by the high school principal.

**Hearing** - the student will be offered the opportunity for an informal hearing with the principal or his/her designee within the first five (5) days of the suspension. A formal hearing before the School Board or a committee thereof will be held where expulsion is considered.

**Notification of Police** - the police will be notified.

## **SITUATION VII**

**A student is discovered in possession of paraphernalia.**

**Immediate Action** -School personnel will confiscate the paraphernalia and deliver it to the principal.

**Investigation** - the principal or his/her designee will summon the student to the office. The student will empty his/her pockets or purse and volunteer all drug-like substances. A witness will be present. The student's locker, desk and all personal property will be searched according to the policy. The student will not be left alone. SAT will be notified.

**Notification of Parents** - A parent will be contacted, the situation will be described completely and an immediate conference will be arranged. The parent will be informed of police involvement and the right of parent to be present when questioning occurs.

**Confidentiality** - Information will be limited to the parents, appropriate staff members, administrator, superintendent, pupil services staff member, SAT and appropriate law enforcement authorities. An anecdotal record will be placed in the SAT file.

**Hearing** - the student will be offered the opportunity for an informal hearing with the principal or his/her designee within the first five (5) days of the suspension. A formal hearing before the School Board or a committee thereof will be held where expulsion is considered.

**Disposition of Substance** - Paraphernalia will be turned over to the appropriate agency by the principal or his/her designee and tested for drug residue and possible use in further proceedings.

**Discipline** - If drug residue is found, discipline from the appropriate category will occur. If no residue of drugs is found, the student will be suspended for a minimum of five (5) days. In addition, the student will be on Restriction from School Activities (RSA) for a minimum of 15 calendar days.

**Notification of Police** - Police will be notified.

## **SITUATION VIII**

**A student is found to be in possession of and/or using drugs when attending any non-classroom school sponsored function.**

**Immediate Action** - the chaperon will summon the group advisor or accompanying administrator.

**Investigation** - the administrator or his/her designee will request that the student empty his/her pockets or purse and volunteer all drug-like substances. A witness will be present. All of the student's property will be searched according to policy. The student will not be left alone. SAT will be notified.

**Notification of Parents** - A parent will be contacted immediately and the situation described. The parent will be notified of the immediate action taken against the student, of the involvement of police and of the right to be present during police questioning.

**Confidentiality** - Information will be limited to the parents, appropriate staff member, administrator, superintendent, pupil services staff, SAT and appropriate law enforcement authorities. An anecdotal record will be placed in the SAT file.

**Disposition of Substance** - Substance will be sealed, documented and turned over to the appropriate agency by the principal or his/her designee with a request for analysis and possible use in further proceedings.

**Hearing** - the student will be offered the opportunity for an informal hearing with the principal or his/her designee within the first 5 (five) days of the suspension.

**Discipline** - Out of the local area, the student can be sent home immediately at the parent's expense if the group supervisor or accompanying administrator finds this to be an appropriate action. In the local area, the student will be sent home. He/she will be detained at the function until the parent can accompany the student. If this cannot be arranged, the police may be asked to assist with the situation. Subsequently, the student will be disciplined as provided in this Policy.

**Notification of Police** - the police will be notified.

## SITUATION IX

**A student involved in an interscholastic sport is discovered or suspected of possessing/using anabolic androgynous steroids.**

**Immediate Action** - the staff member/coach will summon the principal/athletic director or escort the student to the principal's office.

**Investigation** - the principal or his/her designee will request that the student empty his/her pockets or purse and volunteer all steroid-like substances. A witness will be present. The student's locker, desk and all personal property will be searched according to policy. The student will not be left alone.

**Notification of Parent** - A parent/guardian will be contacted, the situation described completely and an immediate conference will be arranged. If it is determined that an anabolic androgynous steroid is being taken for medical reasons, an official document (prescription and medical reason for which the drug is prescribed) must be submitted to the

principal/principal designee. If this is not possible, the parent will be informed of police involvement and the right to be present during police questioning.

**Confidentiality** - Information will be limited to the parents, appropriate staff member, principal, superintendent, pupil services members and appropriate law enforcement authorities.

**Disposition of Substance** - If substance is available, it will be sealed, documented and turned over to the appropriate agency by the principal or his/her designee, with a request for analysis and possible use in further proceedings.

**Hearing** - the student will be offered the opportunity for an informal hearing with the principal or his/her designee within the first five (5) days of the suspension.

**Discipline** - The following minimum penalties will be enforced for any student in violation of this policy, which may be concurrent or cumulative with any disciplinary action imposed by violation of this or other policies, rules and regulations of the school district.

- a. for a first violation, suspension from school athletics for the remainder of the season;
- b. for a second violation, suspension from school athletics for the remainder of the season and for the following season;
- c. for a third violation, permanent suspension from school athletics.

The student shall remain ineligible to participate in school athletics unless there has been a medical determination that no residual evidence of a steroid exists. Participation in a drug counseling rehabilitation, testing or other program as a condition of reinstatement into a school athletic program may be required.

**Notification of Police** - the police will be notified.

## **APPENDIX C**

### **NON-SCHOOL RELATED DRUG AND ALCOHOL VIOLATIONS**

#### **Background**

The Mt. Lebanon School District recognizes the value of interscholastic athletics and extracurricular activities as an integral part of the total school experience for all students and as a conduit for community involvement. The District believes that high standards of conduct and citizenship are essential for students and considers participation in extracurricular/interscholastic activities, which include but are not limited to interscholastic, club and intramural athletics, student organizations, attendance at school functions such as sporting events, dances, musical and theatrical performances, activities office, and participation in commencement ceremonies ("School Activities") to be a privilege and not a right. The District recognizes the importance of students making healthy and safe choices, when in a position to make a decision about risky social behaviors. The Mt. Lebanon School District has the right to adopt and enforce reasonable rules and regulations regarding participation in extracurricular/interscholastic activities.

#### **Objective**

It is the objective of this policy to establish fair, reasonable and nondiscriminatory rules and regulations regarding off-campus, non-school related conduct for all students and provide the student and his/her parent/guardian with notice that such off-campus, non-school related conduct will be subject to discipline by the School District in the form of restrictions from School Activities.

#### **Policy**

Students will be restricted from School Activities for a prescribed period of time for any of the following conduct that is confirmed to have occurred off-campus at a non-school related function: Use, possession, sale, distribution, or procurement of any amount of alcohol, drugs, other controlled substances (other than legally prescribed medications) or drug paraphernalia or being under the influence of alcohol, drugs or other controlled substances (other than legally prescribed medications). Confirmation of such conduct may originate through information lawfully received by the district from law enforcement or judicial sources, such as notice of the issuance of a citation, through the student's own admission, or the student's parent(s)/guardian(s) through acknowledgment. This policy is applicable to all School Activities.

This policy is in addition to, and not in lieu of, any School District policies, codes of conduct, student handbooks, or other rules concerning discipline and restriction from School Activities for drug and alcohol offenses occurring on School District property or at school related events. This policy shall not apply to religious events or ceremonies or circumstances where the student's use, possession or consumption of alcohol or drugs is not in violation of the law.

### **First Offense**

1. Use, possession, sale, distribution, or procurement of any amount of alcohol, drugs, other controlled substances (other than legally prescribed medications) or drug paraphernalia or being under the influence of alcohol, drugs or other controlled substances (other than legally prescribed medications) by a student off-campus at a non-school related function results in a restriction from School Activities for 30 calendar days.
2. The balance of the consequence will be rescinded for the first offense ONLY if the student undergoes a drug and alcohol evaluation by a licensed drug and alcohol counselor, which shall not be at the District's expense.
  - a. Upon written confirmation that the drug and alcohol evaluation was completed and satisfactory evidence is provided that the student has complied/will comply with all recommendations contained within the evaluation, the student can resume participation in extra-curricular activities and events.
  - b. Satisfactory evidence from the licensed drug and alcohol counselor must indicate that the student has complied with and/or made arrangements to comply with all treatment recommendations resulting from the assessment (i.e., counseling sessions, inpatient treatment, etc.).
3. Prior to rescinding the restriction from school activities, the student will need to complete a minimum 3 hour community service project as determined by the coach/club sponsor (if applicable) and the Principal, or his/her designee.

### **Second Offense**

1. Use, possession, sale, distribution, or procurement of any amount of alcohol, drugs, other controlled substances (other than legally prescribed medications) or drug paraphernalia or being under the influence of alcohol, drugs or other controlled substances (other than legally prescribed medications) by a student off-campus at a non-school related function results in a restriction from School Activities for 30 calendar days.

### **Subsequent Offenses**

1. Use, possession, sale, distribution, or procurement of any amount of alcohol, drugs, other controlled substances (other than legally prescribed medications) or drug paraphernalia or being under the influence of alcohol, drugs or other controlled substances (other than legally prescribed medications) by a student off-campus at a non-school related function results in a restriction from school activities for 60 calendar days excluding summer break.

### **Procedures**

1. Timely, factual communication between the sponsors (where applicable) and school administration is critical. If a coach, club sponsor, activities/athletic director, or administrator is informed of a drug and/or alcohol offense, he/she will inform the

Principal, or his/her designee. If the information is provided to the Principal or his/her designee, the administrator will inform other involved parties (unit principal, athletic/activities director, coach, club sponsor).

2. The Principal or his/her designee will schedule a meeting with the parent(s)/guardian(s) and student to discuss the consequence(s) as it relates to the offense and afford the appropriate due process as reasonable determined by the Principal or his/her designee.

## APPENDIX D

### Weapons Policy & Guidelines

It is the policy of the Board that possession of a weapon by students, employees or visitors is prohibited in any Mt. Lebanon School District building, on any grounds of the district, by a student on his or her way to or from school, in any vehicle providing authorized transportation to or from any Mt. Lebanon School District building or district sponsored function, activity or event and at any school function, activity or event whether or not held on Mt. Lebanon School District grounds. This policy does not apply to police and licensed and approved security personnel in the performance of their duties, weapons possessed and/or used in conjunction with a lawful supervised school activity or course, instruments or implements possessed and used by authorized maintenance and construction personnel in conjunction with performance of their duties, or weapons possessed and/or used with appropriate permission in connection with ceremonial events occurring on school property.

Further, in accord with Act 26 of 1995, it is the policy of the district that in the event any student is determined to have possessed a weapon on any school property, at any school-sponsored activity or on any public conveyance providing transportation to or from school or a school-sponsored activity, the student shall be expelled from school for not less than one year, provided that the superintendent may recommend discipline short of such expulsion on a case-by-case basis. In the case involving an exceptional student, the superintendent shall take all steps necessary to comply with the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act. Any student determined to have possessed a weapon on any school property, at any school-sponsored activity or on any public conveyance providing transportation to or from a school or school-sponsored activity shall be referred to the appropriate criminal justice or juvenile delinquency system.

The term **Weapon** shall include, but not be limited to, any knife, razor, razor blade or other cutting instrument or cutting tool, sharpened wood, sharpened metal, nun-chuck stick or other martial arts device, brass or metal knuckles, club, metal pipe, blackjack, chemical agent such as mace, tazer, shocker or stun gun, any explosive or incendiary device, firearm (including pellet guns and B.B. guns), gun, slingshot, bow, arrow or any other similar device from which a projectile may be discharged, including a firearm or other weapon which is not loaded or which lacks a component or device necessary to render it immediately operable, and/or any other tool, instrument or implement capable of inflicting serious bodily injury. The term **weapon** shall include **weapon look alike**, including any instrument or implement designed to look like a weapon.

**Possess** and **possession** shall mean being at any time on the person of any student, employee or visitor or in a person's motor vehicle, locker, or otherwise under his or her control.

## **Administrative Guidelines**

The following guidelines have been established to provide for effectively responding to the possession of weapons by students and to weapon-related situations described above. These guidelines have been written with due consideration for the legal rights and responsibilities of school personnel, students and parents who may find themselves involved in such situations. The district reserves the right to use any additional measures deemed necessary under the circumstances to control the presence of weapons on school property or at school-related events.

### **SITUATION I**

**The school district has reason to believe that a student is in possession of, threatens to use and/or uses a weapon or weapon-like instrument in school.**

**Immediate Action** - The staff member in possession of the information will summon the principal or escort the suspected student to the principal's office.

**Investigation** - The principal or designee will question the student and request that the student empty his/her pockets and/or purse and volunteer all weapons or weapon-like instruments. A witness will be present. The student's locker, desk and all personal property will be searched in compliance with district guidelines. The student will not be left alone while the investigation is conducted.

**Notification of Parents** - An immediate attempt will be made to notify a parent and arrange a conference. The parent will be informed of any involvement by police and of the right to be present during police questioning.

**Confidentiality** - Information will be limited to the parents, principal, other staff members on a need-to-know basis and the police. An anecdotal record will be placed in the student's file.

**Disposition of Weapon or Weapon-like Instrument** - The weapon or instrument will be confiscated, sealed, documented and turned over to the police by the principal or designee.

**Hearing** - The student will be offered the opportunity for an informal hearing with the principal or designee within five (5) days of the violation.

**Discipline** - Any student found to be in violation of this policy will be expelled according to Act 26 and district policy as described above.

**Notification of Police** - The police will be notified as appropriate.

### **SITUATION II**

**A student is found to be in possession of, threatens to use and/or uses a weapon or weapon-like instrument when attending any non-classroom, school-sponsored function.**

**Immediate Action** - The teacher, chaperon or staff member in charge will notify the group advisor or accompanying administrator and contact the police immediately.

**Investigation** - The administrator or designee will instruct the student to empty his/her pockets or purse. All of the student's property will be searched in compliance with district guidelines. A witness will be present. The student will not be left alone during the investigation.

**Notification of Parents** - An immediate attempt will be made to contact a parent to describe the situation. The parent will be notified of the action taken against the student, of the involvement of police and of the right to be present during police questioning.

**Confidentiality** - Information will be limited to the parents, principal, other staff members on a need-to-know basis and the police. An anecdotal record will be placed in the student's file.

**Disposition of Weapon or Weapon-like Instrument** - The weapon or instrument will be confiscated, sealed, documented and turned over to the police.

**Discipline** - Out of the local area, the student may be sent with the police or may be sent home immediately at the parent's expense if the group supervisor or accompanying administrator finds this to be an appropriate action. In the local area, the student will be sent with the police or sent home. If sent home, he/she will be detained at the function until the parent can accompany the student. Subsequently, the student will be disciplined as provided in this policy.

**Hearing** - Refer to appropriate guidelines.

**Notification of Police** - The police will be notified as appropriate.

## **APPENDIX E**

### **Sexual Harassment of or by Students**

Mt. Lebanon School District is committed to safeguarding the right of all students and employees within the District to an education and work environment that is free from all forms of sexual harassment and sexual abuse, including sexual harassment of or by students.

The District strictly prohibits all unwelcome behavior of a sexual nature including, in particular, unwelcome conduct of a sexual nature which is either designed to extort sexual favors from a student or employee as a term or condition of education or employment or which has the purpose or effect of creating a hostile, intimidating or offensive educational or work environment. The District also condemns and prohibits any retaliatory behavior against any complainants or witnesses of such prohibited sexual misconduct.

Prohibited sexual harassment includes, but is not limited to, unwelcome sexual advances, requests for sexual favors, sexually motivated physical contact and/or verbal, visual or physical conduct of a sexual nature ( including electronically communicated conduct) when:

1. Submission to the unwelcome conduct is explicitly or implicitly made a term or condition of a student's academic status or progress;
2. Submission to or rejection of the unwelcome conduct by a student is used as a basis for any academic decision affecting the student;
3. Submission to or rejection of the unwelcome conduct by a student is used as a basis for any decision affecting the student regarding benefits and services, honors, programs or activities available at or through the District; or
4. The unwelcome conduct is sufficiently severe, persistent or pervasive that it has the purpose or effect of substantially interfering with academic or work performance or creates an intimidating, hostile or offensive learning or working environment.

Sexual harassment may occur from student to student, staff to student, student to staff, male to female, female to male, male to male or female to female. Examples of prohibited conduct of a sexual nature which may constitute prohibited sexual harassment include, but are not limited to:

1. Unwelcome touching of an individual's body or clothing;
2. Unwelcome sexual advances, propositions, flirtations, requests or pressure for sexual favors or activity;
3. Unwelcome leering or staring;
4. Graphic or suggestive comments about an individual's dress or body, or overly personal conversation;
5. Vulgar statements, sexual innuendoes or references to sexual activities;
6. Sexual slurs, epithets, sexually degrading words to describe an individual, verbal abuse or derogatory comments, including by electronic means;
7. Unwelcome sexual jokes, stories, drawings, photographs, pictures, or gestures;
8. Displaying or circulating (including by electronic means) sexually explicit materials or suggestive objects;

9. Spreading or circulating sexual rumors; and/or
10. Cornering or blocking an individual's normal movement in a sexual way.

Any student who believes that he or she has been subjected to sexual harassment should immediately report the incident to any principal, assistant principal, guidance counselor, psychologist, teacher or school nurse. The student will be asked to prepare a statement, in his or her own words, describing the alleged incident of sexual harassment. If the student declines to prepare a statement, the person receiving the report of the incident will prepare a report. Upon receipt of a student's statement alleging sexual misconduct or a report of alleged sexual misconduct, trained district personnel will conduct a prompt, thorough and impartial investigation in a manner that respects the privacy of all parties concerned to the extent permitted by law and to the extent practical and appropriate under the circumstances. The nature and extent of the investigation will vary by case according to the circumstances involved, the nature and severity of the alleged conduct, the existence and number of witnesses and the existence of disputed facts.

Any parent or guardian who believes that his/her child may have been subjected to sexual harassment should immediately report the incident to the principal.

The initiation of a complaint of alleged sexual harassment or reporting an incident of alleged sexual harassment will not reflect negatively on the student who initiates the complaint or makes a report nor will it affect the student's academic standing, rights or privileges.

Occurrences of prohibited and/or inappropriate conduct of a sexual nature which are not within the legal definition of sexual harassment, or otherwise do not rise to the level of and/or constitute sexual harassment, will be addressed pursuant to applicable consequences for student misconduct.

Whenever it is found that a student has engaged in sexual harassment of another individual during or relative to school and school sponsored activities, the student will be subject to disciplinary action including but not limited to suspension or expulsion.

False allegations of sexual harassment will result in disciplinary action.

## **APPENDIX F**

### **School Violence, Terrorist Threats and Acts**

Mt. Lebanon School District recognizes that physical safety of students, employees and visitors is essential to the proper operation of the school and for the establishment of a positive learning environment that develops the qualities of self-esteem and a respect for self and others. The District is committed to providing education in a safe, secure and caring environment and therefore strictly prohibits all employees and students from communicating terrorist threats or committing terrorist acts or engaging in conduct constituting violent, aggressive or abusive behavior, whether such conduct occurs in an individual or group setting. The District further strictly prohibits students and staff from aiding, abetting or encouraging others to engage in improper prohibited conduct. A Terrorist threat@ means a threat to commit violence communicated with the intent to terrorize another person, to cause evacuation of a building, place of assembly or facility of transportation, or cause serious public inconvenience or in reckless disregard of the risk of causing such terror or inconvenience. A Terrorist act@ means an offense against another person or property, or involving danger to another person. Examples of prohibited violent, aggressive or abusive conduct which may constitute a terrorist threat or act or which may lead to or result in a terrorist threat or act include, but are not limited to:

Possession of, threat with or use of a weapon as defined in Policy GBGB/JICI. See Appendix C

Physical assault. Physical assault is the act of striking or touching a person or that person's property with a part of the anatomy or any object, with the intent of causing injury or harm.

Verbal Abuse and Harassment. Verbal abuse and harassment shall include but are not limited to swearing, screaming, obscene gestures; racial, ethnic or religious slurs; or threats when directed in a threatening or intimidating way intended to frighten the recipient. Such threatening or intimidating communication may be either orally, including by telephone, or in writing and includes communications directed at an individual, his/her family or a group.

Intimidation. Intimidation is an act intended to frighten or coerce someone into submission or obedience.

Extortion. Extortion is the use of verbal or physical coercion in order to obtain financial or material gain from others.

Bullying. Bullying is the use of physical or verbal coercion to obtain control over others or to be habitually cruel to others who are weaker.

Gang Activity. Gang activity is behavior exhibited by groups of youths who share common beliefs, attitudes and/or attire and who associate with each other for unlawful purposes for mutual protection and/or profit.

Any act similar to any of the foregoing categories of prohibited conduct which violates any applicable law, ordinance, regulation, policy or rule concerning actual or threatened harm to persons or property.

Staff members and students are required to immediately inform the building principal regarding any knowledge relevant to an actual, potential or rumored terrorist threat or terrorist act, or any prohibited act of violence or violent, aggressive or abusive behavior.

Parents are strongly encouraged to promptly report to the building principal or superintendent any information they receive regarding any actual, potential or rumored terrorist threat or act or prohibited violent, aggressive or abusive behavior.

Because such incidents and/or reports of actual or potential terrorist threats, terrorist acts, or violent aggressive behavior frequently arise under emergency situations, the building principal shall have discretion to make an initial assessment of the situation and act immediately to diffuse/de-escalate the situation, preserve or restore peace and to preserve the safety of students and staff.

Where appropriate, the building principal may act immediately to exclude the involved or suspected students from school either for their own safety or the safety of others. The parents/guardians of the students will be contacted and advised to pick up the students. Such exclusion for purposes of safety shall not be deemed as a suspension and will not be so reflected on the student's record unless investigation later reveals that the excluded student engaged in prohibited activities.

In addition, the building principal may immediately suspend the student. Based on further investigation, as may be necessary, the building principal and/or superintendent may report the student to law enforcement officials, as may be appropriate. If the incident involves a weapon, law enforcement officials will be contacted immediately. The building principal, superintendent or designee, shall undertake an investigation of the incident as may be necessary and impose appropriate disciplinary measures which may include notification of parents/guardians, counseling, detention, suspension or recommendation for expulsion.

If a student is suspended or expelled for violation of this policy, the Board may require, prior to readmission, that the student be evaluated by one or more of a school counselor, the building principal, a Mt. Lebanon police officer, school psychologist or other designated administrator or consultant to determine whether the student is experiencing psychological, emotional or substance abuse problems and whether the student poses a risk of harm to others. If it is determined that counseling, training or substance abuse treatment is needed, the student and his/her parent must agree to the counseling, training or treatment at parental expense before the student is permitted to return to class.

A student suspended or expelled for violation of this policy who is permitted to return to school shall be subject to random searches.

## **APPENDIX G**

### **Network Usage Policy**

#### **Definitions**

The term "Network" shall be interpreted to include any and all District owned computers, servers, any hardware or software, the District's local area network (LAN), municipal area network (MAN), all wireless access points, the Internet, the District Intranet, self contained electronic mail systems, and any other elements of the District's computer, telecommunications or electronic communication/information systems.

The Network may be used only as a tool to support and advance the functions of the District and curriculum and educational program. Access to the District's Network is a privilege and not a right. Users of the Network are responsible for their behavior and communications over the Network and access to Network services will be provided only to those staff and students who agree to act in a considerate and responsible manner and in accordance with the District's rules and regulations as may be adopted and amended from time to time. All staff and students (and/or the students' parents, depending upon the age of the student as specified by administrative procedures) who wish to use the Network must sign one or more Network agreements whenever requested by the District.

Students may use the Network only in support of education and research consistent with the educational objectives of the District. Faculty and staff may use the Network primarily in support of education and research consistent with the educational objectives of the District. Faculty and staff may access the Network for limited personal use but not for any commercial or business use; however such personal use may not violate any applicable rules and regulations or applicable administrative procedures or interfere with job performance. Use of the Network must be in compliance with applicable laws, including the copyright law, and all materials on the Network should be presumed to be copyrighted.

#### **Inappropriate Use and Activities**

The District reserves the absolute right to define inappropriate behavior or improper use of the Network, adopt rules and regulations applicable to Network use, determine whether an activity constitutes inappropriate use of the Network, and determine the consequence of such inappropriate use. Network use shall not involve obscene, pornographic or offensive matter; vulgarity, harassment, intimidation, insult or ridicule of another; damage or waste of property; use of another's password or misrepresenting one's identity; use for commercial purposes or illegal purposes, or any other use deemed inappropriate by the District, or in violation of any other District policy, administrative procedure, or code of conduct. Inappropriate use of the Network may result in suspension or cancellation of Network privileges. In addition to suspension or cancellation of Network privileges, inappropriate use of the Network may result in disciplinary action up to and including suspension or expulsion from school, in the case of a student, or suspension or termination of employment in the case of an employee. Where circumstances warrant, inappropriate use of the Network may be referred to law enforcement authorities.

## **Protection and Filtering**

The District shall employ appropriate technology protection measures during use of computers with Internet access by students. Such technology shall be designed to block or filter access to visual depictions that are obscene, pornographic or harmful to minors. In addition, the Network may not be used to access, use, disclose or disseminate personal identification information regarding students or staff. The District may also use blocking or filtering technology to screen out inappropriate text. The District will endeavor to keep the blocking and filtering technology up-to-date, but it is not possible to guarantee that all inappropriate content will be successfully blocked or filtered.

In order to protect the Network, users may not connect non-District computers, personal laptop computers, or other personal computing devices or peripherals to the Network. In addition, users may not use personal software programs on the Network or transfer files, programs, shareware or software from information services, third-party Networks or websites, or any other external source without the permission of the Network supervisor. Data discs, memory sticks, and other temporary file storage devices may be used with District computers for the sole purpose of transferring user data files, for appropriate school-related work, but not for personal use.

## **Ownership and Retention**

Any and all material or information placed in any file on the District's Network becomes District property. The District reserves the right to access any such material or information on the Network, including personal and electronic mail files, and to dispose of any material or information contained therein without prior notice. The District further reserves the right to monitor online activities and review, record or log Network use. The District also reserves the right to limit content of District websites to District-approved information related to District curriculum and program.

## Bell Schedules

### REGULAR BELL SCHEDULE

Period	Start	End	Length
Homeroom	08:00 am	08:10 am	10 mins
Period 1	08:15 am	09:02 am	47 mins
Period 2	09:07 am	09:54 am	47 mins
Period 3	09:59 am	10:46 am	47 mins
Period 4	10:51 am	11:37 am	46 mins
Period 5	11:42 am	12:28 pm	46 mins
Period 6	12:33 pm	01:19 pm	46 mins
Period 7	01:24 pm	02:11 pm	47 mins
Period 8	02:16 pm	03:03 pm	47 mins

### 2 hour delay / 10 am Start

Period	Start	End	Length
Homeroom	10:00 am	10:10 am	10 mins
Period 1	10:15 am	10:47 am	32 mins
Period 2	10:52 am	11:24 am	32 mins
Period 3	11:29 am	12:01 pm	32 mins
Period 4	12:06 pm	12:38 pm	32 mins
Period 5	12:43 pm	01:15 pm	32 mins
Period 6	01:20 pm	01:51 pm	31 mins
Period 7	01:56 pm	02:27 pm	31 mins
Period 8	02:32 pm	03:03 pm	31 mins

### 2:00 pm Dismissal

Period	Start	End	Length
Homeroom	08:00 am	08:10 am	10 mins
Period 1	08:15 am	08:54 am	39 mins
Period 2	08:59 am	09:38 am	39 mins
Period 3	09:43 am	10:22 am	39 mins
Period 4	10:27 am	11:06 am	39 mins
Period 5	11:11 am	11:50 am	39 mins
Period 6	11:55 am	12:34 pm	39 mins
Period 7	12:39 pm	01:17 pm	38 mins
Period 8	01:22 pm	02:00 pm	38 mins

### US History/Pitt Calculus

Period	Start	End	Length
Test/ Period 1	8:00 am	9:10 am	70 mins
Homeroom	9:15 am	9:25 am	10 mins
Period 2	9:30 am	10:13 am	43 mins
Period 3	10:18 am	11:01 am	43 mins
Period 4	11:34 am	12:12 pm	38 mins
Period 5	12:17 pm	12:55 pm	38 mins
Period 6	01:00 pm	01:38 pm	38 mins
Period 7	01:43 pm	02:21 pm	38 mins
Period 8	02:26 pm	03:03 pm	37 mins



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