



Student Handbook & Information

2021-2022

Instructions: Read through the information, policies and procedures contained in this book. Parents and students, please sign and return the last page.

DISTRICT'S MESSAGE

The entire Rockaway Valley School staff welcomes you to our school and extends its best wishes for a productive and successful year.

The Rockaway Valley has a long and proud tradition of offering a curriculum rich with opportunities that encourage every student to explore new concepts and ideas. We encourage you to be active learners and participants in all areas of the educational process.

We will provide you with a nurturing, orderly and safe environment that fosters respect for self, for others and for authority. This established school atmosphere is designed to promote creativity, discovery, risk-taking and self directed academic discipline in an inclusive stigma free environment.

This Student Handbook has been designed so that each of you can make informed decisions regarding your academic and behavioral conduct.

Since we strongly believe that each child is best served by the partnership of home, community and school, it is expected that all RVS students and their parents/guardians will read and become familiar with our school-wide procedures by reviewing the handbook and signing a confirmation of agreement to adhere to these procedures.

We want your school years to be the best they can be and look forward to helping you prepare for your future.

CITIZENSHIP

It is expected that all students entering this building will demonstrate **SELF-DISCIPLINE** and **COMMITMENT** to their school work and studies, will take **OWNERSHIP** for their behavior and will always be **RESPECTFUL, COOPERATIVE** and **COURTEOUS** to all fellow students and adults. It is important for all students to recognize and acknowledge that **WITH RIGHTS, COME RESPONSIBILITIES**. Have pride in yourself and in your school and everyone will benefit.

ATTENDANCE

According to state law, the Boonton Township Board of Education has an obligation to require that the pupils of this district attend school regularly and on time. As students, you must participate in all scheduled classroom activities in order to receive the maximum benefits of a thorough educational program. The learning process consists of continuity of instruction, classroom participation, and study.

Approved reasons for absences are as follows:

- a. Absence due to illness.
- b. Absence to recover from an accident.
- c. Absence due to a death in one's immediate family.
- d. Absence for approved religious holidays.
- e. Absence due to suspension.
- f. Absence authorized by the administration (for emergencies only).

*All other absences, (including extended vacations) will be considered unexcused. Parents must report an absence by calling the following number by 9 AM: 973-334-4162, press 1

Please do not use the regular office phone for absence information

HOMEROOM

School doors open at 7:30am at which time all students report to their designated Gym. At 7:50am students in grade 5-8 are expected to report to homeroom. Homeroom begins at 7:52 and it is important for students to start their day with morning announcements and the Pledge of Allegiance.

TARDINESS AND EARLY DISMISSAL When you arrive late to school, after homeroom begins, you must stop in the office. The secretary will issue a tardy slip for you to bring to your homeroom teacher. From time to time, compelling circumstances may require that you will be late to school or need to be dismissed before the end of the day. Justifiable reasons for late arrivals and leaving early include:

- a. Medical disability;
- b. Family emergency;
- c. Medical or dental appointments that cannot be scheduled outside of school hours;
- d. Court appearances;
- e. Such good cause as may be acceptable to school administration.

All late arrivals will be documented as tardy on the report card. It is the responsibility of the student to make up missed work as the result of tardiness. This may be accomplished by conferring with the teacher to determine his/her schedule availability. In addition, a student's grade may be affected due to repeated tardiness. The Administration understands that emergencies arise and we have made accommodations for these occurrences. However, after **(15)** tardies, parents will be contacted by an administrator to identify the cause of the repeated tardiness and possible solutions.

The school must be notified in advance of early dismissals by **written** request from your parent/guardian, which should state the time and reason for early dismissal. This note must be brought to the main office after homeroom.

MAKE-UP WORK FOR ABSENCES It is your responsibility to make up work missed as a result of being absent. If you know you are going to be out due to illness, have your homeroom homework buddy collect your assignments for you or check teacher websites. Homework collected will be waiting in the main lobby for pick up until 3:30pm. Ordinarily, you will have one day for each day absent to make up your work. For example, if you are absent for two days, you will have two days to make up any work missed. In cases of prolonged illness, individual arrangements will be made for make-up work.

HOMEWORK

Homework is a necessary and very important part of your educational experience. You are required to complete all assignments and present them to your teacher on the designated due date. It is important to note that homework will be included in your marking period grade.

In grades 5-8, be prepared to spend between 45 minutes and 2 hours per night Monday through Friday doing homework assignments. Long-range assignments or projects, review of text readings and studying for tests may require additional nightly or weekend time.

EXTRA HELP

Teachers will announce their availability for extra help and assistance before and after school hours. During Reinforcement periods, students may also see teachers for extra help.

REPORT CARDS

Report cards are electronically available at the end of each marking period through the parent portal on Genesis. Paper report cards are issued at the end of the year.

- a. Grades are reported through a letter system. Explanations, when necessary, are indicated by accompanying numbers (the legend for which can be found on the report card).
- b. You should carefully analyze report card grades and any accompanying explanations with your parents. This careful review should help you understand and recognize strengths and enable you and your parents to develop a plan for areas needing improvement.
- c. Your parents may request a conference to discuss your academic performance by calling the school to arrange for an appointment with a teacher, a team and/or a guidance counselor.

PARENT PORTAL ON GENESIS

Parents and students can electronically monitor grades in classes by logging into the Parent Portal. Overdue books, lost textbooks or loss/damage of other school property may restrict parent portal access to grades and report cards until the debt is reconciled.

HONOR ROLL

Academic success is encouraged at the Rockaway Valley School. Students who demonstrate academic excellence in all subject areas are distinguished each marking period by placement on the honor roll. Students are eligible for the High Honor Roll by receiving A's in every subject and for the Honor Roll by receiving all A's and no more than two B's in core subjects. Core subjects are **Language Arts, Science, Social Studies, Math and Spanish.**

At Commencement, a Scholastic Excellence Award is given to 8th graders who have achieved Honor Roll or High Honor Status each marking period from 6th through 8th grades.

COUNSELING AND GUIDANCE SERVICES

The goal of the guidance and counseling program at Rockaway Valley School is to help our students socially, emotionally and academically. Activities related to these objectives may take place in classroom guidance lessons and in individual and/or group discussion sessions. You are encouraged to consult with your teachers and/or the school counselor, Mrs. Giarratano, school psychologist, Dr. Brown or Dr. Lendis, Assistant Principal, for any concerns you may have.

LIBRARY MEDIA CENTER

The Library Media Center has a variety of catalogued books, periodicals, media and online resources so students may quickly and easily determine if a resource is available as well as **its location in the Library**.

Computer resources include EBSCO, a periodicals index with full text of magazines, newspapers and selected reference resources, The World Book Web, and a variety of Facts on File databases including, American History Online, World History Online, Science Online, World Geography and Culture Online, Bloom's Literary Reference Online, Health Reference Center and Curriculum Resource Center.

Students in grades 4-8 may visit the library during scheduled Reinforcement periods with the librarian or volunteers available to provide assistance with locating/borrowing resources. All resources must be checked out and may be borrowed for one week and renewed upon request. Students are responsible for lost/damaged materials and cannot check out other materials until books are returned or fines paid. Students and parents may be restricted from accessing the Parent Portal for grades until fines are paid.

CAFETERIA

Students may bring bagged lunches from home or purchase lunch from the Home & School lunch program. Milk money is collected twice a year. A form is sent home on which you may indicate your preference of non-fat skim, low-fat white or low-fat chocolate milk. In addition, a variety of ice cream is sold each day by the Athletic Department.

Remember, all eating takes place in the Lower Gym or possibly in a designated classroom. Food is not permitted to leave the eating area. Students are expected to demonstrate good table manners and talk in low conversational tones at all times. All paper items must be disposed of in the trash containers located throughout the lunch area. Tables and surrounding areas are to be left clean before you leave the lunchroom.

****For 2021-22, the administration will designate how many students can sit at each table.**

TEXTBOOKS/CHROMEBOOKS

During the first few days of school, teachers may distribute textbooks. You are responsible for the proper care of these textbooks. It is expected that these books will be kept covered at all times. Each book should be labeled with your name. You will be required to pay for any lost or damaged books assigned to you. Grades and report cards will not be accessible on Genesis until the textbook is found or the fine is paid. In grades 5-8, please refer to our Chromebook Agreement that requires you to bring your device fully charged to school daily as well as demonstrate proper handling of your device.

LOST AND FOUND

The Lost and Found is located in a container in the Lower Gym. If you lose anything, be sure to check this area. At the end of each month we donate unclaimed clothing to local charities.

FIRE & SECURITY DRILLS

Fire drills and security drills are held once a month to aid in the orderly and safe evacuation of the building in the event of an emergency.

Signs are posted in each classroom that detail the exits to be used by students in that room when the fire alarm sounds. Teachers will guide you to the proper exit, where you will wait outside the school building. You are to exit your classroom and the building by walking in a silent and orderly manner so that all students may hear the directions given. Any student not adhering to this policy can expect a disciplinary consequence.

Security drills will also be practiced each month. Follow the teacher's instructions for all drills.

HEALTH SERVICES

If you are sick during the school day, you should ask for permission to go to the nurse's office. If you have a fever or serious injury, your parent or guardian will be notified to pick you up. No student will be sent home to an empty house.

All medicines brought to school must be left in the nurse's office. These medications must have a written statement and instructions from your doctor.

STUDENTS MAY NOT CARRY ANY FORM OF MEDICATION unless they have a signed form from the doctor allowing them to self-administer. This is commonly done for inhalers and EpiPens. The nurse may be contacted by calling (973) 334- 4162 extension 361.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION

All students are required by law to participate in Physical Education classes. On your designated Phys. Ed. day, please wear the proper clothing and sneakers as we will not be allowing locker room use for the 21-22 school year.

A parental note is necessary if you need to be excused from physical activity, including recess. An extended excuse of more than 1 week requires a note from your physician, who should also indicate when you will be ready to resume participation in physical activity. These notes should be brought to the school nurse prior to homeroom. The nurse will then write out a PE excuse pass.

LOCKERS

All lockers are property of the school district and can be checked at any time.

Students in 7th and 8th grade will have the responsibility to ensure that all of their belongings are properly secured in their lockers and not on the hallway floor.

REINFORCEMENT PERIODS

This period is designed for students to get extra help, finish tests, or jumpstart their homework. Students in grades 5-8 must report to their homeroom teachers before requesting permission to see another teacher using a written pass system.

FLEx TIME-*Falcon Leadership and Excellence*

In order to promote a safe and positive school, students in grades K-8 participate in 15 minutes of daily character education, social and emotional development and other student leadership activities. Students will report to their homeroom during this

FLEx time.

MONEY AND VALUABLES

It is not wise to bring valuables or **large amounts of** money to school. If it is necessary to do so, ask the secretary in the Main Office to lock them safely away for the school day. The district is not responsible for lost or stolen items.

STUDENT CODE OF CONDUCT

The following guidelines have been established to safeguard the physical and emotional well-being of all members of our school community:

1. Zero Tolerance for Physically/ Verbally Aggressive or Discriminatory Behavior

Rockaway Valley School cannot and will not tolerate the use of physical contact (e.g. fighting, hitting, pushing or shoving), the use of obscenities in language or gestures, sexual harassment or the making of threats or discriminatory remarks based on race, color, national origin, religion, gender, sexual orientation, age or disability. Any student engaging in such behavior can expect to receive immediate disciplinary action. Our school's top priority is to ensure the safety of all students and staff.

2. Classroom Behavior

- a) After passing time, students are seated with appropriate materials, and **are** prepared to work.
- b) Students should use courteous and appropriate language at all times.
- c) Students must respect others' right to work and avoid unnecessary noises or distractions.
- d) Students will be independent and honorable in doing work.
- e) Students must show respect for all school personnel and volunteers including substitute and student teachers.
- f) Students will refrain from writing, reading and passing personal notes.
- g) Students will avoid calling out and speaking with fellow students during class unless instructed to do so.

3. Hall Behavior Expectations

- a) Students will **walk**, not run in the hallways.
- b) Students will wait to enter classes in ways that allow for all students and staff to pass.
- c) Students will keep the level of their voices in a normal range; no yelling.
- d) Students **cannot cut through the Lower Gym** to access classrooms
- e) Students cannot carry backpacks with them in the halls
- f) To avoid accidents, students **should not drink from water bottles while walking in the hallways.**

4. Recess/Cafeteria Behavior

- a) Students are expected to dress appropriately for recess daily
- b) Students are expected to play safely and fairly on the playground following the rules set forth by the teachers on duty
- c) Electronic devices are not allowed during recess

- d) Students are expected to clean their lunch areas before being dismissed from the cafeteria
- e) Students are expected to stay seated unless throwing out trash or buying snacks.

5. School Dress Expectations

Rockaway Valley School is an educational institution and all students are expected to dress appropriately for this environment. Neatness, cleanliness, safety and good taste are the key factors to keep in mind.

- a) **Short shorts, skirts and pants worn below the hips are unacceptable. It is expected that shorts are fingertip length.**
- b) Coats, jackets, hats, sunglasses, and backpacks may not be worn in the building. Please leave them in your locker during the school day.
- c) Clothing must cover the **front and back and sides** of each student; Therefore, short shirts, halter-tops and tops with “spaghetti” straps are not permitted. Excessively low armholes where student’s sides are exposed are prohibited.
- d) Pajamas and slippers are unacceptable and unsafe.
- e) Articles of clothing that show profanity, promote use of alcoholic beverages, illegal substances or have provocative messages or which symbolize affiliation with gangs, negative or hate groups are not allowed.
- f) Any accessory that can be dangerous, intimidating and/or disruptive or deemed to interfere and be unnecessary with the school learning environment is unacceptable and not to be worn by students.
- g) Appropriate footwear must be worn at all times. Sneakers or running shoes must be worn in Phys. Ed. class.
- h) When possible, students will go outside for recess. Students should dress appropriately in warm weather and cold weather. Coats or jackets should be worn in the winter months.

Students who choose not to comply with our dress code will be warned and asked to change immediately with clothes from the nurse’s office or from parents. **The administration reserves the right to interpret the dress expectations for students on a case-by- case basis if needed. Multiple dress code violations may lead to points.**

6. Dangerous/Destructive Items

The following items are considered dangerous or destructive and **must never be** brought to school. Possession and/or use of any of these items are cause for disciplinary action and/or referral to local police authorities:

- Cigarettes, Vaping devices and other tobacco/vaping products
- Matches and cigarette lighters
- Drugs, alcohol, and other controlled substances
- Fireworks
- Weapons (**any type, size, shape or form**), including but not limited to toy or water pistols, BB guns, and paint guns; knives of any type including pocket knives, xacto or craft knives, common kitchen knives or toys; pepper spray; sling shots/wrist rocket
- Spray paint

- Laser pointers
- Shock devices
- Remote control devices

7. Disruptive Items

The following personal items can be a distraction to the school day and must not be brought to school. They can be confiscated by teachers and/or administrators and returned at a later time.

- Electronic musical/gaming devices, Kindles, iPods, iTouch, iPads, tablets, digital gaming systems
- Novelty items, toys such as fidgeting devices or electronic devices
- Skateboards, rollerblades, Lacrosse/Hockey sticks (unless your parent drives you to and from school)

8. Water Bottles: Students may bring water containers to school. The container must also seal or close properly. No hot beverages such as those in thermos containers are permitted in the halls during school. Students may only drink in classrooms and not in hallways.

9. Cell Phones: Students can use their cell phones before and after the instructional day. However, cell phones cannot be used during the school day. All cell phones must be turned off and kept in **a backpack or in a locker**. If a student uses their cell phone during the school day, it can be confiscated by a staff member and given to the Assistant Principal, Dr. Lendis. Phones can only be released to the parent or guardian. If a cell phone is used again in school and confiscated more than once from the same student, it may result in disciplinary action.

10. Vandalism

The Board of Education provides students with an environment that stimulates creativity and learning. It has purchased many valuable educational tools and equipment for student use such as computers, calculators, microscopes, research material, lockers, etc., and must maintain the building, its furnishings and the grounds. Students need to be aware that fines and penalties will be imposed when school property is damaged, lost or defaced. Students who are found destroying, damaging or defacing school property will be expected to pay for the damages or cost of repair, replacement or cleaning of the property. Acts of vandalism are reported to the police.

Any activity using the school computers that is not specifically approved by a teacher or administrator is prohibited. Students will be personally responsible for the cost of repairs, replacement parts or technician time when it is required to restore computers to their original settings or to remove unapproved, downloaded information. Students engaging in such activities will lose computer privileges. Any act of cyber bullying committed on school grounds, on school buses or bus stops may be referred to the Boonton Township Police Department.

11. Gang Activity

Membership or affiliation with a gang or group presents a clear and present

danger to the school environment. The use of hand signals, written or oral comments, accessories by virtue of color, arrangement, trademark or symbol that indicates or implies a membership to a gang is prohibited. Any person wearing, carrying, distributing or displaying gang paraphernalia or exhibiting gestures or behaviors that can symbolize gang activity or cause the intimidation or affect the sense of personal safety of another student or staff member will be subject to disciplinary action.

12. Acceptable Use of Technology

Students must adhere to the Terms and Conditions of the District's Acceptable Use Policy (Policy 6142.10). Parents of all students are required to have their child(ren) review the online Internet Acceptable Use Agreement and electronically sign off they have done so. All students in grades 3-8 will be assigned a full Google Suite account unless you choose to opt out of this program.

13. Bus Behavior

Students are under the authority of the Boonton Township Board of Education when riding on a school bus. Therefore, the following procedures must be followed for the wellbeing and safety of all our students:

- ***Oldest students sit towards the back of the bus with younger students towards the front of the bus.***
- You should be at the bus stop 10 minutes before scheduled pick-up time. • Walk to or from the bus.
- Wait on the sidewalk or shoulder, never in the roadway.
- Be respectful of private property at or near the bus stop.
- Do not push or shove while waiting in line to board the bus.
- Wait for the driver's signal before crossing the road.
- Always cross at least 10 feet in front of the bus.
- Never cross the roadway behind the bus.
- You must use the seat belt provided on the bus; it is a state mandate. • Stay in your seat always facing forward.
- Keep head, arms and legs inside the bus at all times.
- Always obey the driver.
- It is unsafe to yell or shout on the bus. The driver needs to be able to hear his dispatcher for instructions. Do not distract the driver.
- Do not deface the bus seats or other equipment.
- There are many students with food allergies, please do not eat or drink on bus.
- Don't leave personal articles on the bus.
- Keep the bus clean.

**YOU MAY RIDE ONLY YOUR ASSIGNED BUS.
You may not ride another student's bus. You
will need a pass from the office to get off at a
different bus stop.**

Students who fail to comply with the above regulations may be deprived of the

privilege of using the bus.

Consequences for Inappropriate Behavior

It is important to understand that your adherence to the Code of Conduct begins the minute you leave home in the morning and continues until the minute you return home. Those who choose not to comply with the RVS Code of Conduct can expect to be required to attend Detention(s), which may be with the teacher or during lunch or recess and may have “points” applied to their record (see below).

Students who repeatedly disregard our Code of Conduct may be excluded from such privileges as participation in **extracurricular** activities, athletic events, class outings/trips and other grade level privileges.

Grade 5 & 6 Point System

RVS has a progressive point system that begins in the fifth grade. This point system will be in effect for 5th and 6th grade from the beginning of the school year. The point system may affect one’s eligibility for attending class trips and participate in year-end activities.

Any teacher or staff member may write up Conduct Referrals. Administration will assign all points. Examples of infractions that warrant points are:

- a) One point for any Student Conduct Referral. Conduct referrals will be issued for disrespectful behavior, inappropriate behavior, defiant acts, etc.
- b) One point for a referral from a *substitute* teacher.
- c) Four points for an in-school suspension.
- d) Six points for an out-of-school suspension.
- e) Points for any other infractions, based on multiple Teacher Action Reports (TAR) will be assigned on a case-by-case basis.

If a student accumulates six (6) or more points, they may not attend field trips or other special events. Points do not accumulate from 5th to 6th grade. If a student has accumulated points, he/she can reduce points by not receiving a “Conduct Referral” or misbehaving in school. Each month of positive reports from the students’ teachers, results in a reduction of negative points.

Grade 7 & 8 Point System

A second point system takes place in the seventh grade. Any student who has accumulated **7 points by April 30th** may not be allowed to participate in 8th grade activities including overnight field trips, any end-of-the-year activities, including Dorney Park. Any fees that have been collected for these events may not be refunded. All points accumulated in Grade 7 carry over and are applied to Grade 8.

Examples of infractions that warrant points are:

- a) One point for any Student Conduct Referral. Conduct referrals will be issued for disrespectful behavior, inappropriate behavior, defiant acts, etc.

- b) One point for a referral from a *substitute* teacher.
- c) Four points for an in-school suspension.
- d) Six points for an out-of-school suspension.
- e) Points for any other infractions, based on multiple Teacher Action Reports (TAR) will be assigned on a case-by-case basis.

If a student has accumulated points, he/she can reduce points by not receiving a “Conduct Referral” or misbehaving in school. Each month of positive reports from the students’ teachers, results in a reduction of negative points.

Discipline

Students must follow the teacher’s rules and expectations. For minor or less serious and repetitive infractions, Teacher Action Reports (TARS) are issued. Teachers may assign their own detention before referring students to the office. Based on administrative discretion, repetitive Teacher Action Reports can lead to a Blue Conduct Referral and points. Each conduct referral equals one or more points that will affect the 8th grade trip for 7th/8th grade students and other privileges for 5th and 6th graders. Repetitive referrals to the administration for any disciplinary reason may result in further consequences. Severe infractions may result in an in- or out-of-school suspension and police notification as required by law.

Offenses at any grade level that result in injury to another student will be referred to the Principal’s Office immediately.

The objective of our school discipline code is to curtail and prevent inappropriate behavior. This should be done in a partnership between the school and home. Please begin by first contacting your child’s teacher(s) if you have any concerns about his/her behavior in school. If you are still concerned after discussing the problem with the teacher(s), contact the Assistant Principal, then the Principal to arrange a conference.

While there are consequences for infractions, students who behave appropriately will be rewarded with praise, positive reinforcements and a favorable school climate in which to learn and interact with peers and staff. The “**Falcon of the Month**” award and **STAR** (Show Tolerance and Respect) award are just two of the programs that encourage and reward responsible and desirable behavior.

General Behavior Guidelines:

Infraction Possible Consequence

Assembly disruption.....	Miss next assembly/assigned seat
Bullying/Harassment (HIB).....	Detention/suspensions/contact police
Cyber-bullying.....	Detention/suspension/contact police
Cheating/Copying work.....	Grade of “0” or as determined by teacher
Classroom disruption.....	Contact parents/Teacher Detention
Fighting/Assault.....	Detention/suspension/police
Inappropriate language/gesture.....	Detention/suspension
Disrespect to authority.....	Contact parents/Detention/suspension
Lunchroom disruption.....	Lunch Detention/reverse lunch/assigned seat
Tardiness.....	Letter sent home/Detention

Theft.....Contact police/Suspension
Vandalism.....Suspension/paid restitution
Violent, terroristic threats..... Out-of-school suspension/police notification

The school reserves the right to determine consequences for any misbehavior or infraction. Severe infractions may result in an in- or out-of-school suspension and police notification as required by law.

EXTRA-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

The academic program at RVS is supplemented by extra-curricular activities that give students an opportunity to expand their areas of interest. These programs are held after school and under adult supervision. They provide an environment of social growth and promote positive attitudes among our students.

Sports Teams Interscholastic 6th-8th Grade

Boys' and Girls' Soccer, Boys' and Girls' Basketball, Boys' and Girls' Track & Field, Boys' Baseball and Girls' Softball
Cross Country (boys & girls)

Clubs, Organizations/Activities 5th-8th Grade

Yearbook, Student Council, Broadcasting Club, Band, Select Chorus, Service Squad, Forensics/Debate Team, Ski Club, Student Voice, Podcast Club

4Kids After School Enrichment Classes

After-school enrichment classes are offered various times during the year. Sponsored by the Boonton Township Education Foundation, these classes offer a unique opportunity to try out a skill or hobby or learn about a new, fun subject. Notices are sent home prior to the beginning of each session. There is a fee to participate.

ASSEMBLIES

Assemblies take place periodically during the school year. They are intended for educational purposes as well as supplementing and enhancing the curriculum.

Students will go to all assemblies with their class and sit as a group with their teacher. Entering and departing from the auditorium should be done quickly and quietly. Students are expected to be attentive and courteous at all times during the presentation.

In the event that a sibling is involved in a **group performance only** during a student's normally scheduled class time, a parent or guardian inform office in advance of requesting the sibling be able to attend the performance and escort the student wishing to attend that assembly. The parent or guardian should report to the office prior to the assembly and request that their child be allowed to attend the sibling's program. At that point, it will be up to the discretion of the teacher as to whether or not the student may leave the class after considering test/quiz administration or group presentations. These students will need to sit with their parent or guardian during the program and return to class immediately after it is over.

Search and Seizure

School lockers remain the property of the District even when used by students. Lockers are subject to administrative search in the interests of school safety, sanitation, discipline, and enforcement of school regulations and to search by law enforcement officials on presentation of a proper warrant. Students and their parents/guardians shall be informed of this policy when lockers are assigned.

A Student's person and possessions may be searched by a school official provided that the official has reasonable grounds to suspect that the search will turn up evidence that the student has violated or is violating either the law or the rules of the school. Under no circumstances shall a search be conducted based solely upon an anonymous tip and/or a rumor that contraband is present. The extent or scope of the search shall be reasonably related to the objectives of the search and not excessively intrusive in light of the age and sex of the student and the nature of the infraction. A physical search may only be conducted by a staff member of the same sex as the student. Before instituting such a search, except in cases of emergency, the principal shall try to inform the parents/guardians and request their presence.

School personnel shall not conduct strip searches or body cavity searches of any students under any circumstances.

Searches for Controlled Dangerous Substances/Drug Paraphernalia/Alcohol/Firearms/Other Deadly Weapons

Searches conducted by staff when there is suspicion that laws and policies on safe and drug free schools are being violated shall be based on the reasonable grounds required by this policy. When law enforcement officials conduct the search, the more stringent grounds required by law must be applied. See policies 5131.6 and 5131.7

Date: September 12, 1985
Readopted: February 4, 1993
Revised: March 8, 2007

Legal References:

N.J.S.A. 2A:4A-60 et al. Disclosure of juvenile information; penalties for disclosure
N.J.S.A. 18A:11-1 General mandatory powers and duties
N.J.S.A. 18A:36-19.2 Student lockers or other storage facility; inspection; notice to students N.J.S.A. 18A:37-6.1 Strip and body cavity searches prohibited
N.J.S.A. 18A:54-20 Powers of board (county vocational schools)
N.J.A.C. 6:29-10.1 et seq. Safe and drug free schools

State in interest of T.L.O., 94 NJ 33 (1983); New Jersey v T.L.O., 469 U.S. 325, 53 (1985) Verona School

District 47 Jv. Acton et ux., Guardians ad litem for Acton, U.S., 115 S.Ct. 2386 (1995) The New Jersey School

Search Policy Manual, New Jersey Attorney General (1998)

A Uniform State memorandum of Agreement Between Education and Law Enforcement Officials (1999 Revisions)

- 15 -