



LaMuth Middle School

**STUDENT HANDBOOK
2026 - 2027**

Through these hallways walk the greatest students in the nation



**6700 Auburn Road, Painesville, Ohio 44077
Main Office: 440-354-4393**

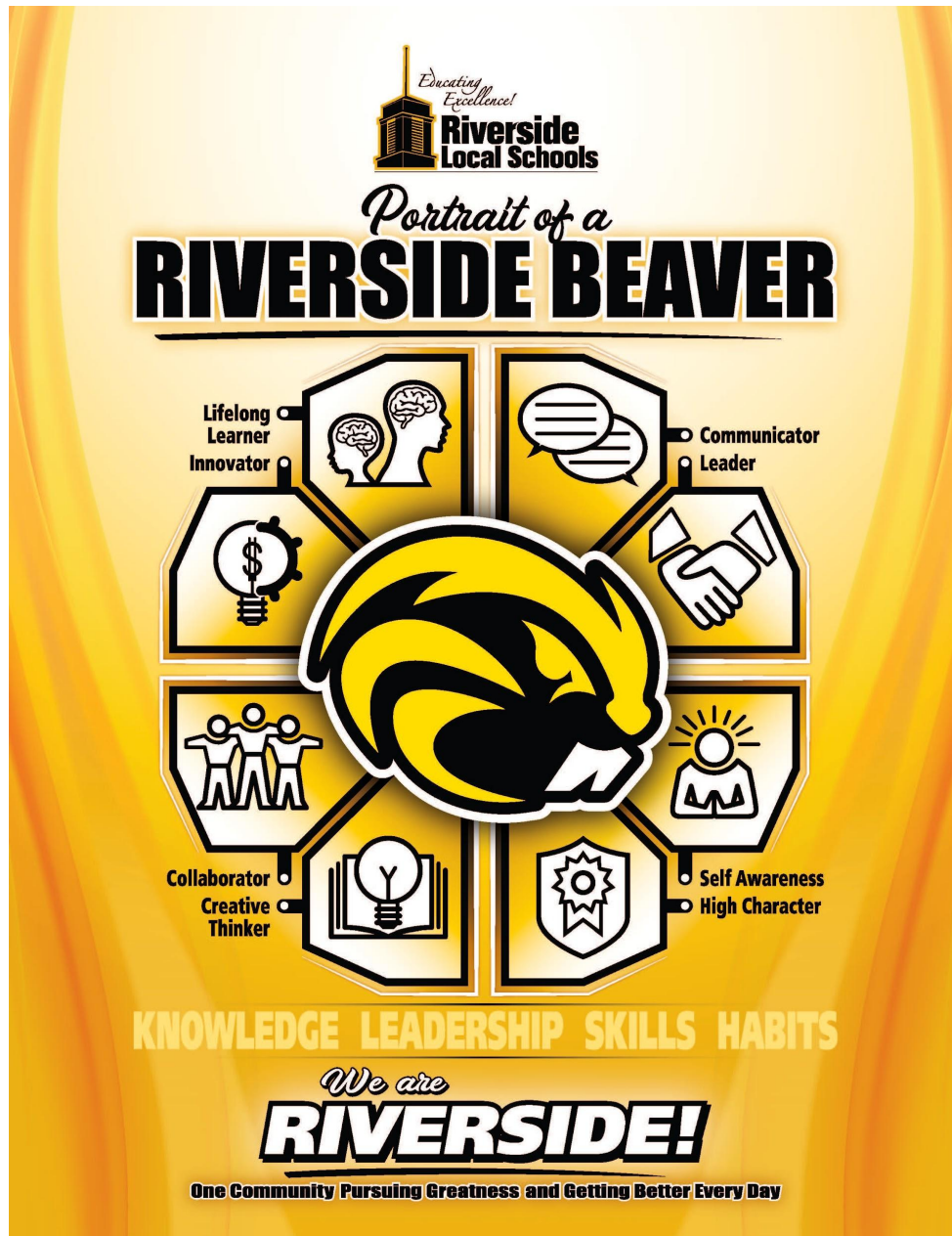
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The contents of this book have been approved by the Riverside Local Board of Education. The Riverside Local Board of Education reserves the right to modify any section or code in this book as necessary for the health, safety, or welfare of our staff, students, and administration. Administrators reserve the right of interpretation with regard to policies and procedures herein. Administrators will enforce the Student Code of Conduct when applicable. Penalties for infractions may include suspension and expulsion if warranted.

Mission Statement

Educating Excellence



One Community, Pursuing Greatness,
Getting Better Every Day.

Riverside Local School District Central Office

Dr. Christopher J. Rateno, Superintendent
Mr. David Leone, Assistant Superintendent
Camille Ritt, Executive Director of Pupil Services
Mallory Aliff, Director of Human Resources
Nick Carrabine, Director of Marketing and Communications

Riverside Local Board of Education

Lori Krenisky, President
Belinda Grassi Vice President
Denise Brewster
Jimmielee Vires
Joseph Audino
Dr. Stephen Thompson - Treasurer
Michael Patrizi - Assistant Treasurer

LaMuth Administration

Kaylee Flynt, Principal
Nick Schussler, Assistant Principal

Counselors

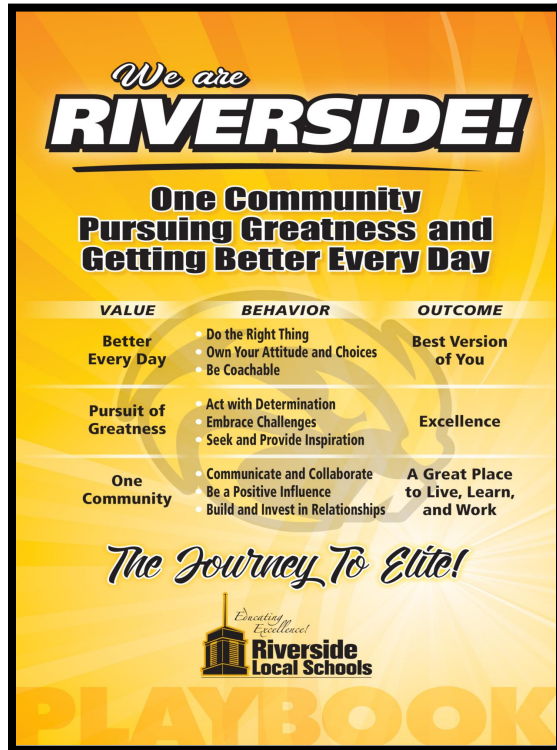
Erin Falvey, students with the last names A through K
Kathy Francis, students with the last names L through Z

LAMUTH MIDDLE SCHOOL BELL SCHEDULE OVERVIEW

7:45am Doors open for student drop off
7:55 - 8:05am Student arrival & breakfast served
8:05am First bell rings
10:18am - 1:30pm Lunch served
3:03pm Car riders & walkers are dismissed
3:08pm Bus riders are dismissed
*Refer to the website for the bell schedule.

RIVERSIDE CULTURE PLAYBOOK

The District has developed a Culture Playbook which focuses on values, behaviors and outcomes.



LaMuth Middle School supports the use of the Culture Playbook through:

- Frequent communication home
- *Positive Behavior* rewards
- Students of the Month awards
- Grade level assemblies
- End of year awards assemblies and celebrations.

The Culture Playbook was developed by the District Leadership Team after years of studying organizational culture. Teachers implement the playbook into their classroom curriculum to encourage students to focus on doing the right thing, owning their attitude and choices, being coachable, acting with determination, embracing challenges, being a positive influence.

The playbook makes values, behaviors and expected outcomes crystal clear, setting a standard and expectations for both students and staff.

The District is committed to growing and maintaining a positive culture with the goal of becoming One Community Pursuing Greatness and Getting Better Every Day.

#WeAreRiverside

GENERAL POLICY & PROCEDURES

School-Wide Classroom Rules

- Be prompt, in your seat, quiet and ready to work when the bell rings at the beginning of class.
- Be prepared, bring needed materials (pen, paper, folder and Chromebook) to class every day.
- Be polite, show respect to teachers and classmates. Be productive, give your best effort at all times.
- Be proud of your effort, behavior, and school.
- Keep your hands, feet and other personal objects to yourself. Cell phones are to remain in lockers for the day unless otherwise directed by administration.
- Students may report to the office (if need be) to communicate with a parent or guardian or use the office phone.
- Communication should not be conducted from the classroom phone unless given permission from the classroom teacher. Promptly follow directions given by your teacher.
- Proper language, whether written or spoken, is to be used at all times.
- Students are responsible for following the specific rules and procedures established in each classroom.
- Students are permitted to use sling bags, however, large book bags must be stored in lockers.

Hallway Conduct

Students should be in the halls only at the beginning and close of school and while moving from one class to another unless they have special permission, a pass, or special duties that require them to be there. Between classes, students will have ample time to pass from one class to another. During class time, students are required to have teacher permission before entering the halls, and should carry a hall pass provided by the classroom teacher. Students will not be permitted to go to their lockers during class time unless special permission has been granted.

Vending Machines

A snack and drink machine is located in the LaMuth gym lobby for use during after school activities. Students are not permitted to access vending machines during school hours.

Visitors

Parents/guardians of a student at LaMuth are welcome to visit the school at any time during the school year. It is required that all visitors report to the office to sign in with ID

and receive a visitors pass. State Statute 3313.20 of the Ohio Revised Code states, "No person shall trespass, loiter, or remain in the building or upon the grounds of any school, in violation of the rules and regulations of the Board of Education or other authority of the school district in which the school is located."

Lockers

Lockers should not contain valuables and should be locked at all times. The school is not responsible for lost or stolen items. Students should, however, report all losses to the office. Lockers are the property of the Board of Education and school officials reserve the right to examine lockers and the contents thereof at any time. Periodic random checks of lockers may be made during the course of the year. Lockers and their contents may also be checked upon reasonable suspicion that the contents may contain evidence of criminal or school rule violations. Lockers must be opened by using the combination each time and should not be pre-set. Opening the locker in other ways may destroy the lock. A fee of \$6.00 or more will be charged if the lock of a child's hallway locker is damaged. Students are not permitted to trade lockers. Don't share your combination with anyone.

Lost and Found

A lost and found is located in the office, locker room and in the cafeteria. Valuables that are found should be turned into one of these locations. All thefts must be reported to the office. All items are donated to charity at the end of each nine weeks.

Clinic

The clinic is equipped to handle emergency first aid care. According to state law, each student must have on file at school an authorized medical emergency form which states the parent's/guardian's direction regarding medical care for the student. Healthcare providers in Ohio cannot treat children under 18 without parental permission, except in life threatening emergencies. Before reporting to the clinic, students need a pass from a teacher or the office, except in cases of extreme emergency. Should the clinic staff not be in attendance, students should report to the office.

To ensure student safety and proper medical evaluation, students who feel unwell must report directly to the school clinic for assessment; texting or calling parents independently to request to be picked up or go home is not permitted.

The following steps are necessary when parents/guardians are unavailable or out of town and students are in school:

1. Write a note clearly stating the child's name and address.

2. State that you are authorizing a person of your choice to act in your place to obtain medical treatment for your child.
 3. Give dates of your absence.
 4. Sign and date the note in the presence of a notary public.
 5. Be sure the school has a copy of the note.
 6. Be sure a valid emergency medical form is on file for the present school year.
- Students are not to contact parents via text message or cell phone without notifying the nurse.

Medication Dispensation

It is the policy of the Board of Education and the administrative staff to require written physician verification of student need for medication during the course of the school day. In turn, written parental permission for school personnel to supervise the consumption of the medication is also required. This policy includes both prescription and over-the-counter medications. Both parents must sign the written release form if they are living with or have custody of the child. If parents are separated and both still retain legal custody of the child, both parents must sign. If students are in a foster home and placement is by an agency that holds custody, the agency must sign. If the student is a ward of the court, the court-appointed guardian must sign. These medication forms may be obtained from the clinic staff.

If it is necessary for a student to take medication during school hours, the medication must be left with the school nurse and taken under her supervision. Students should contact the clinic staff to obtain permission to carry prescribed medication dispensed by an inhaler, an emergency anaphylaxis kit (EpiPen), or to carry diabetic equipment. The school will not assume responsibility for application of ointments, change of dressings, or injections except in certain emergency situations. The school will administer oral medication in pill form only. Each student's medication must have affixed a prescription label including his/her name, the name of the drug, directions concerning dosage, and duration of the period of medication.

Insurance

Insurance is offered to students during the first week of school and may be purchased through the school only during the initial enrollment period. You may select one of two plans which gives medical and hospital coverage to certain limits. You may purchase coverage that will offer protection during school hours and all school activities including sports, or you may purchase 24 hour protection. All claims must be reported immediately to the school, but final transactions are between the parents/guardians and the insurance company. Claim blanks are available in the office.

GENERAL POLICY & PROCEDURES

Testing

In accordance with state law, all students at LaMuth Middle School will participate in the statewide Reading and Math Achievement Assessments on the yearly, predetermined testing dates. Students will also participate in MAP testing for Reading and Math in the Fall, Winter and Spring.

School Counselor

The school counseling department offers assistance to students in areas of social, personal, vocational, and educational situations. Should a student wish to see his/her counselor, an appointment is suggested, although emergency items will be handled at any time. Counselors are available through email to request a meeting. The counselor is available for parent/guardian conferences by appointment. It is suggested that any student needing help or personal counseling see his/her school counselor. When a topic is of concern to a number of students, a group may be formed and the problem discussed.

Personal Items

All personal items (binders, purses, brushes, combs, toys of any kind, (this includes stuffed animals, fidgets, and squish toys) are to be stored in the student's locker. Items that are needed for class must be taken out prior to the start of the class period. Personal grooming items such as: brushes, combs, makeup, cologne, perfume and other items may not be used in the classroom. If a violation occurs, items may be confiscated by the teacher or administrator, disciplinary actions may occur, or restrictions may be placed on an individual student (items not permitted at school or items must be stored in a locker).

School Closings/Snow Days

If schools are closed, all school activities including athletic contests, practices and co-curriculars are canceled. There will be no use of buildings by outside groups on days schools are closed. If the Riverside Local Schools are closed, there will be no bus transportation to any school facility. Please make sure parent/guardian phone numbers and emails are up to date to receive notifications.

Change of Address or Phone

If you have a change of student information, such as phone numbers, email, names, addresses, etc., please contact the school office as soon as possible lest an emergency arise and a parent/guardian need to be contacted. Parents and Guardians should make

sure their voicemail is active and accepting messages. Many times calls cannot go through due to voicemail boxes being full.

Recess Guidelines

Students may be offered recess at LaMuth Middle School usually before or after lunch. Students will attend either indoor or outdoor recess and are expected to be dressed appropriately for weather. Recess will be monitored by staff and student Code of Conduct rules will apply.

GRADING POLICY & PROCEDURES

Honor Rolls

Honor roll lists are prepared at the end of each report period. In order to qualify for the honor roll, the following is necessary:

- High Honors requires a 4.00 (no rounding) grade point average.
- Honor Roll requires a 3.50-3.99 (no rounding) grade point average.
- Merit Roll requires a 3.0-3.49 (no rounding) grade point average.

Report Cards, Grading Scale, Promotion

Report cards are issued four (4) times per school year at the end of each nine-week grading period. Grades will be determined according to the following scale:

- A 90% and up - Demonstrates mastery in most standards
- B 80% - 89% - Demonstrates mastery in some standards, proficiency in all standards
- C 70% - 79% - Demonstrates proficiency in most standards
- D 60% - 69% - Demonstrates proficiency in few standards, progressing in other standards
- F Below 60% - Lacks proficiency in most standards.
- I Indicates incomplete work or insufficient evidence to determine proficiency. A failing grade is given for an incomplete that is not made up.
- W indicates the student has withdrawn from the course

Year-end grades are determined by an average of each quarter grade percentage. Each quarter grade will count for 25% of the final grade. If during the course of a year or semester course, a student shows marked improvement, a teacher may determine a final grade by using an alternative measure of central tendency and professional judgment of a student's level of mastery. Students are required to clear up all debts and obligations prior to the end of the school year in order to receive final grades and credit.

Scholarship Club / LaMuth Hall of Fame

The Scholarship Club's purpose is to recognize high academic achievement. In order to qualify, a student must have a GPA of 3.50 (no rounding) for each of the first three grading periods of the current school year. There is an annual awards assembly in the spring where certificates are given to members to commemorate their achievement. A "D" or an "F" in any subject eliminates a student from membership.

The LaMuth Hall of Fame is composed of LaMuth's top scholars. Sixth grade Scholarship Club recipients who maintain a 3.75 (no rounding) or higher GPA for each of the first three grading periods of their seventh grade year will be inducted into the LaMuth Hall of Fame at an awards assembly in the spring. The top seventh grade participant in each extracurricular activity will also be selected by the advisor.

DRESS GUIDELINES

School officials reserve the right of interpretation of the dress code and will make the final decision on inappropriate clothing and appearance. All judgments may be based upon, but not limited to, health, safety, modesty, and general appropriateness.

Current clothing styles, except for extremes, are acceptable. Inappropriate styles include, but are not limited to: bare midriffs, bare backs, bare shoulders, tank tops with less than 2" shoulder straps, tops with low side cuts, see-through clothing, saggy pants, and underclothes and sleepwear worn as outer garments. Pajama pants may not be worn in school.

- Waist portion of the pants, shorts, or skirt must be worn at the student's appropriate waist level. No underwear is to be shown.
- Footwear must be worn at all times. Slippers, flip flops, strapless sandals, heeled shoes or other types of roller skating shoes are not permitted in school for safety reasons. All shoes must have a back. Crocs must be worn in sport mode.
- All buttons, except the top two (2), should be buttoned on shirts and blouses. All shirts, regardless of style, should provide appropriate coverage. Undergarment straps may not be visible.
- Girls' dresses, skirts, culottes, shorts, and other such attire should be of reasonable length and properly fitted. Half shirts are not permitted. Shirts should cover the student's bottom if wearing leggings. Proper length of shorts/skirts should reach the approximate length of a student's mid-thigh. Skin-tight pants, boxer shorts, and skin-tight shorts such as cycling shorts or spandex are not appropriate attire and may not be worn.
- Coats and jackets designed for outdoor wear may not be worn in class or hallways. Hats, hoods, sunglasses, and any other head coverings must remain in the locker during the school day. Coats and hats will only be in the student's possession upon entering or leaving the school grounds.

- Distressed pants or jeans may be worn if the following guidelines are met: Holes may not be above the knees. If distressed areas are above the knee area – the area must have a patch underneath, no skin or underwear can be visible. Holes are inappropriate for school in all other articles of clothing. Patches in suggestive places are prohibited.
- No offensive, vulgar, violent, or obscene painting, pictures, adhesive materials, bandanas, gang-related signs (written or the physical use of gang- related signs), or slogans are to appear on articles of clothing. Pins, patches, jewelry, chains, or articles of clothing with drug/alcohol/tobacco related symbols are not to be worn and will be confiscated. Students are not permitted to write or draw on their skin or clothing articles (or on other individuals).
- A student shall not intentionally attempt to cause a disturbance by wearing items which may be considered provocative (i.e. extreme theatrical items, make-up, or discriminatory articles). Any jewelry (necklaces, piercings,...) that is worn should be school appropriate and not cause a disturbance to the educational process.
- School approved uniforms worn on designated occasions are not in violation of the dress code. All dress code guidelines apply to any school sponsored event (dances, concerts, sporting events, field trips).
- Repeated failure to comply with the dress code will result in disciplinary action under our progressive discipline plan, however, loss of class time should be kept to a minimum when there is a possible violation of the student dress guidelines, students will not be forced to wear clothing that is not theirs, students may call parents/guardians to bring alternative clothing and staff will use reasonable efforts to avoid dress coding students in front of other students.

Lunchroom Guidelines

- ****All students will be given reminders the first two weeks of school of the lunchroom expectations; strictly enforced after that initial period.****
- Students should stop at lockers before lunch, since students will not be permitted to go back to lockers during lunch.
- Each student is allowed to go through the lunch line one time. Students not purchasing anything from the cafeteria should not be in line.
- All students must stay seated. They can raise their hands if they need condiments, silverware, napkins, etc. They must also raise their hands to request permission to use the restroom.
- No food or drink (except water) is allowed to leave the lunchroom.
- Students are released starting approximately 1 minute before the end of the lunch time. All food must be consumed in the cafeteria. Students must wait their turn in any line to select food.

- Students should leave the table clean, place all paper and rubbish in the receptacles, and place their tray in the tray return. An adult will spray cleaner on each table, then one student from each table must wipe the table clean before the students from that table are dismissed.
- Students are not permitted to bring in and consume energy drinks at school (this includes but is not limited to: Red Bull, Monster,...) Students may not share beverages with other students in the cafeteria or other areas of the school during school hours or school sponsored events.

Free and Reduced Lunch Program/Cafeteria Guidelines

Breakfast and lunch are served through the LMS cafeteria. Free and reduced price meal plans are available to any student whose family income qualifies according to the guidelines established by the Federal School Lunch Program. Application for free and reduced meal plans can be made on the District website under Nutrition Services. The cafeteria uses a computerized point of sale system in which students may scan their student I.D. card or manually punch in their 6 digit pupil I.D. (PIN) number into a keypad. The pupil I.D. number is found in the upper right corner of the student schedule and should be memorized. After scanning the card or inputting the PIN, the student's account is displayed to the cashier. Money may be put "on account" so meals or a la carte food may be purchased, or for "meals only" which consist of an entrée, milk, and 2 different sides of fruits or vegetables (one side at breakfast). The cafeteria does not allow "charging."

Meal Charging Policy

There is no charging of breakfast or a la carte (snack) items in any of our cafeterias. We understand that extenuating circumstances occur and a lunch or money may be forgotten. We will extend a courtesy meal to your child with the expectation that those monies would be repaid the next day.

Students in grades 6-12 are only permitted to charge 5 lunches in a row. Re-payment is required before they can charge another meal.

Food, Drink, & Snacks

- Food and drinks may not be purchased and stored in lockers (Example: If a bottled drink is purchased at lunch, the drink must be finished during the student's lunch time).

SAFETY POLICY & PROCEDURES

Fire Drills

- Students must find out which exits to use for each of their classrooms. Teachers will explain the proper location, but exit and location signs are also posted in each classroom on campus.
- When the fire alarm sounds, students are to leave the classroom in a single file line and remain with their teacher.
- Students are to leave books, backpacks, and coats in the building.
- The teacher must see that all windows are closed, lights are out, and the door is closed. Students should walk quickly, quietly, and calmly out of the room at the direction of the teacher.
- If an exit is blocked, the students should be directed by the classroom teacher to another exit from the building.
- The class should stand together at a safe distance from the building.
- Faculty members are to check attendance and report all discrepancies to the administration. Students are to reenter the school in an orderly fashion after the return signal is given.

Tornado Drills

- Students must be aware of which shelter area to use for each of their classrooms. Exit routes and shelter areas are posted near each classroom door.
- When the tornado alert sounds, students are to silently leave the classroom in a single file line and proceed to their assigned shelter area with their teacher.
- All books and other personal belongings are to remain in the classroom.
- When instructed, the students should assume the tornado safety position - a crouched position with head facing the wall and hands finger-locked behind the neck. Faculty members are to check attendance and report all discrepancies to the administration. Students are to return to the classroom in a quiet, orderly fashion after the return signal is given.

Tornado and Emergency Disaster Procedures

- A security drill will be implemented in the face of an outside threat such as a tornado, severe storm, or possible civil defense action. The safest locations in the building will be utilized for the protection of all personnel. These areas are marked "Shelter Areas." During a security drill pupils, teachers, and other personnel will follow the directions on the tornado and emergency disaster procedure cards posted in each room.
- Students are to be escorted to the assigned shelter area.
- Quiet is to be maintained at all times.

- Lights are to be turned off and equipment must be unplugged.
- All individuals are asked to move quickly.
- In the event of impending danger to LaMuth, instructions will be given by the administration via megaphones.
- Faculty members are to check roll and report any discrepancies to the administration. Everyone is to keep away from any outside glass area and face towards the wall inside the building.
- When the all clear bell is sounded, everyone will report back to their assigned rooms.

Earthquake Disaster Procedure

- In the event of a tremor:
- Evacuate immediately if possible, following the fire drill procedures as directed by the classroom teacher.
- During an evacuation, be on guard for falling material.
- Stand clear of the building once outside.
- Students should return in an orderly manner to the school when the all clear signal is given.

Should evacuation be impossible due to falling debris, etc., take the following action:

- Move toward interior supporting walls of masonry construction.
- Do not stay in rooms with high ceilings (e.g. the gyms, auditorium, etc.)
- If possible, take cover in archways of doors or under desks and tables, away from outside walls.
- Use books or hard notebooks to cover heads.
- After the tremor is over, and assuming debris has fallen, wait momentarily until things settle, then exit the building following fire drill procedures as directed by the classroom teacher. Wait for the all clear signal before returning to the building.

Shelter-In-Place Procedure

- In the event of a hazardous chemical spill or a local industry explosion resulting in toxic chemicals becoming airborne, building administration will receive the instruction to Shelter-In Place (SIP). During SIP procedures:
- Teachers will close all windows, and escort their class to the assigned SIP location. Quiet is to be maintained at all times.
- Students, teachers, and all building staff will remain in the SIP location until the all clear is given.
- Return to class once the all clear is given.

Lock Down Procedure

In the event of an unwanted visitor or stranger in the building, an announcement will be made to all students and staff that the building is in "Lock Down". Students and staff will remain in classroom areas, behind locked doors and away from visible sight and windows until the all clear signal is given by office personnel. If directed by the teacher, students will be expected to evacuate the building during a Lockdown/Rapid dismissal drill.

Emergency Evacuation Procedure

In the event of a building emergency (power failure, water main break, heating problems, etc.) students will be bussed to the Riverside Field House. There, they will be supervised by the LaMuth staff, and bussed home as normal.

In the event of a nuclear emergency situation, pupils will follow the instructions given by the principal. Depending on the nature of the emergency, students will:

- be sheltered in the building.
 - be bussed home following normal daily dismissal procedures.
 - be transported to Mentor High School located outside of the disaster area.
- Parents would pick up students from this site.

Search and Seizure

It must be noted that lockers and other assigned storage areas (desks, cabinets, etc.) supplied by the school and used by the students are the property of the Board of Education. Therefore, student lockers and assigned storage areas, as well as the contents of such areas, are subject to random search at any time without regard to whether there is a reasonable suspicion that any locker or its contents contains evidence of a violation of a school rule or criminal statute. Random searches of lockers may include the use of dogs trained to detect the possession of drugs.

Search of a student and his/her possessions and cell phones, may be conducted at any time the student is under the jurisdiction of the Board of Education, if there is reasonable suspicion that the student is in violation of the Code of Conduct. A search may also be conducted to protect the safety of others. Failure to comply with a reasonable search will be considered insubordination.

Surveillance Cameras

For students' safety and welfare, video surveillance cameras are placed throughout the building and school grounds and on buses. Actions recorded on these cameras may be used as evidence in disciplinary action. Any attempt to damage or interfere with the function of these devices will result in disciplinary action by the school and possible referral to the local law enforcement agencies.

ATTENDANCE POLICY

Attendance & Absences

On each morning of an absence the student's parent/guardian must telephone the school before 8:30 a.m. Parents should use the following phone number:

LaMuth Office - (440) 354-4394

Daily attendance and active participation in each class is a critical part of the learning process. A significant role of today's middle school is to help students learn to understand and appreciate the importance of punctuality and regular attendance. The educational program offered to students at LaMuth Middle School is predicated upon their presence in class every day. Evidence points to the fact that regular school attendance has a positive carryover to the world of work. Our policies and procedures established at LaMuth Middle School are designed to help students learn responsibility and increase their potential for success. Attendance is primarily the responsibility of students and parents/guardians. It places a priority on compulsory school attendance and encourages students to establish good attendance habits in order to improve and benefit from the learning opportunities made available to them. During the school day, school officials will attempt to contact parents/guardians of students who are absent and unexcused.

If an absence is unexcused, work missed during the absence can only be made-up for course credit per administrative discretion. Work missed due to out-of-school suspensions should be made up for course credit. If an absence is excused the student must make up the work missed within a period of time equal to the number of days absent, with the exception of a one day absence which will allow two (2) days to complete missed work. The principal may grant additional time if deemed warranted under the circumstances. If a student is absent only on the day on which a previously announced test was given, and has been present in school for the presentation of materials which is on the test, then the student is expected to take the test on the day (s)he returns to school. Parents and students are encouraged to access the Google Classroom for any given teacher with their student issued Chromebook as many, if not all, of the assignments may be accessed online.

If a student is absent from school s/he may not participate in or attend any school function that day or evening and should not come to school at any time during the absence without first contacting an administrator or counselor. A student shall be present for a half day in order to participate in or attend a school function that day or evening.

Students must be in class more than half a period or they will be considered absent for the period. The teacher will keep the official record in the classroom.

When a student of compulsory school age is absent from school with or without legitimate excuse for thirty-eight (38) or more hours in one school month, or sixty-five (65) or more hours in a school year, the attendance officer shall notify the child's parent or guardian of the child's absences, in writing, within seven (7) school days after the date of the absence that triggered the notice requirement. At the same time written notice is given, any appropriate intervention action listed herein may be taken. A doctor's note may be required by the principal to confirm/excuse any future absences. Failure to provide this documentation would result in the absence being considered unexcused. Unexcused absences could result in disciplinary consequences for the student and possible referral to Juvenile Court for violation of compulsory attendance laws.

In accordance with statute, the Superintendent shall require, from the parent of each student of compulsory school age or from an adult student who has been absent from school or from class for any reason, a written statement of the cause for such absence. The Board of Education reserves the right to verify such statements and to investigate the cause of each single absence or prolonged absence.

The Board considers the following factors to be reasonable excuses for time missed at school:

- personal illness (a written physician's statement verifying the illness may be required)
- appointment with a health care provider
- illness in the family necessitating the presence of the child
- quarantine of the home
- death in the family
- necessary work at home due to absence or incapacity of parent(s)/guardian(s) observation or celebration of a bona fide religious holiday
- out-of-state travel (up to a maximum of twenty-four (24) hours per school year that the student's school is open for instruction) to participate in a District-approved enrichment or extracurricular activity. Any classroom assignment missed due to the absence shall be completed by the student. If the student will be absent for twenty-four (24) or more consecutive hours when the student's school is open for instruction, a classroom teacher shall accompany the student during the travel period to provide the student with instructional assistance.
- such good cause as may be acceptable to the Superintendent

- medically necessary leave for a pregnant student in accordance with Policy 5751 service as a precinct officer at a primary, special or general election in accordance with the program set forth in Policy 5725
- college visitation
- The District requires verification of the date and time of the visitation by the college, university, or technical college.
- absences due to a student's placement in foster care or change in foster care placement or any court proceedings related to their foster care status
- absences due to a student being homeless

Attendance need not always be within the school facilities, but a student will be considered to be in attendance if present at any place where school is in session by authority of the Board.

Habitually Truant

A student will be considered habitually truant if the student is of compulsory school age and absent without a legitimate excuse for thirty (30) or more consecutive hours, for forty-two (42) or more hours in one (1) school month, or for seventy-two (72) or more hours in one (1) school year. Legitimate excuses for the absence of a student who is otherwise habitually or chronically truant include but are not limited to:

- the student was enrolled in another school district
- the student was excused from attendance in accordance with R.C. 3321.04 the student has received an age and schooling certificate

Absence Intervention Team

To the extent required by law as determined on an annual basis, within ten (10) days of a student becoming habitually truant, the Principal shall assign the student to an absence intervention team. Within fourteen (14) school days after the assignment of a student to an absence intervention team, the team shall develop an intervention plan for that student in an effort to reduce or eliminate further absences. Each intervention plan shall vary based on the individual needs of the student, but the plan shall state that the attendance officer shall file a complaint not later than sixty-one (61) days after the date the plan was implemented, if the child has refused to participate in, or failed to make satisfactory progress on, the intervention plan. Within seven (7) school days after the development of the plan, reasonable efforts shall be made to provide the student's parent/guardian/custodian, with written notice of the plan.

As part of the absence intervention plan, the Principal may, in his/her discretion, contact the appropriate juvenile court and ask to have a student informally enrolled in any alternative to adjudication described in R.C. 2151.27(G). Each absence intervention

team may vary based on the needs of each individual student but shall include a representative from the child's building, another representative from the child's building who knows the child, and the child's parent or parent's designee, or the child's guardian, custodian, guardian ad litem, or temporary custodian. The team also may include a school psychologist, counselor, social worker, or representative of a public or nonprofit agency designed to assist students and their families in reducing absences.

The members of the absence intervention team shall be selected within seven (7) school days of the student meeting the habitually truant threshold. Within the same period of seven (7) school days, the Principal shall make at least three (3) meaningful, good faith attempts to secure the participation of the student's parent/guardian/custodian, guardian ad litem, or temporary custodian on that team. A good faith attempt to secure the participation of the parent shall include, but not be limited to, contacting (or attempting to contact) the parent by telephone, email, or regular mail. If the student's parent responds to any of those attempts, but is unable to participate for any reason, the Principal shall inform the parent of the parent's right to appear by designee. If seven (7) school days elapse and the student's parent/guardian/custodian, guardian ad litem, or temporary custodian fails to respond to the attempts to secure participation, the attendance officer shall investigate whether the failure to respond triggers mandatory abuse or neglect reporting to the public children services agency. At the same time, the absence intervention team shall continue to develop an intervention plan for the child notwithstanding the absence of the child's parent/guardian/custodian, guardian ad litem, or temporary custodian.

Intervention Strategies

In order to address the attendance practices of a student who is habitually truant, the intervention team may, as part of an intervention plan, take any of the following intervention actions:

- provide counseling to the student
- request or require the student's parent to attend a parental involvement program
- request or require a parent to attend a truancy prevention mediation program
- take appropriate legal action

In the event that a student becomes habitually truant within twenty-one (21) school days prior to the last day of instruction of a school year, the Principal may, in his/her discretion, assign a school official to work with the child's parent/guardian/custodian, guardian ad litem, or temporary custodian to develop an absence intervention plan during the summer.

Reporting Requirements

The attendance officer shall file a complaint in the juvenile court against a student on the sixty-first (61st) day after the implementation of an absence intervention plan or other intervention strategies, provided that all of the following apply:

1. The student is habitually truant
2. The school district or school has made meaningful attempts to re-engage the student through the absence intervention plan, other intervention strategies, and any offered alternatives to adjudication, if applicable
3. The student has refused to participate in or failed to make satisfactory progress on the plan, as determined by the absence intervention team, or any offered intervention strategies or alternative to adjudication

If the student, at any time during the implementation phase of the absence intervention plan or other intervention strategies, is absent without legitimate excuse for thirty (30) or more consecutive hours or forty-two (42) or more hours in one school month, the attendance officer shall file a complaint in juvenile court against that student, unless the absence intervention team has determined that the student has made substantial progress on the absence intervention plan.

In the event that the sixty-first (61st) day after the implementation of the absence intervention plan or other intervention strategies falls on a day during the summer months, the absence intervention team may extend the implementation of the plan and delay the filing of the complaint for an additional thirty (30) days from the first day of instruction of the next school year.

The Superintendent is authorized to establish an educational program for parents of truant students which is designed to encourage parents to ensure that their children attend school regularly. Any parent who does not complete the program is to be reported to law enforcement authorities for parental education neglect, a fourth class misdemeanor if found guilty.

Whenever any student of compulsory school age has sixty (60) consecutive hours in a single month or a total of ninety (90) hours of unexcused absence from school during the school year, s/he will be considered habitually absent under R.C. 3321.13(b)(2). The Board authorizes the Superintendent to inform the student and his/her parents, guardian, or custodian of the record of absences without legitimate excuse as well as the District's intent to notify the Registrar of Motor Vehicles, if appropriate, and the Judge of the Juvenile Court of the student's unexcused absences and habitually absent status.

If a student who is habitually truant violates the order of a juvenile court regarding the student's prior adjudication as an unruly child for being a habitual truant, they may further be adjudicated as a delinquent child.

The District shall report to the Ohio Department of Education, as soon as practicable, and in a format and manner determined by the Department, any of the following occurrences:

1. when a notice that a student has been absent with or without legitimate excuse for thirty-eight (38) or more hours in one (1) school month, or sixty-five (65) or more hours in a school year is submitted to a parent/guardian/or custodian;
2. when a child of compulsory school age has been absent without legitimate excuse from the public school the child is supposed to attend for thirty (30) or more consecutive hours, forty-two (42) or more hours in one (1) school month, or seventy-two (72) or more hours in a school year;
3. when a child of compulsory school age who has been adjudicated an unruly child for being a habitual truant violates the court order regarding that adjudication;
4. when an absence intervention plan has been implemented for a child under this policy.

This policy was developed after consultation with the judge of the juvenile court of Lake County with the parents, guardians, or other persons having care of the students attending school in the District, and with appropriate State and local agencies.

Physical Education Class Attendance

A doctor's note is required if a student is to be excused from gym class. To resume participation after the excused absence period is over, a doctor's note is again necessary unless a definite date is noted on the original note. Doctors' notes may be faxed to the LaMuth Middle School office (440-354-8218) marked to the attention of your child's physical education teacher. Please contact the teacher or school nurse when necessary.

Tardiness

A student is considered tardy to school if she/he arrives to class or school after the 8:05 am bell. After 8:05 am, students must sign-in at the LaMuth Middle School office. The office will issue a pass to the student to take to class. Students must report to their appropriate class immediately following check in.

Students missing their bus must make every effort to get to school by their own means. A missed bus, missed ride, or car problems is not a valid excuse for an absence or tardy. Punctual transportation to and from school is a student's responsibility. Excessive tardiness will result in progressive discipline. ***Parents must call the LaMuth Middle School Office (440-354-4394) if a student is going to be tardy to school.***

Vacation

Students are permitted to go on vacation during the school year without penalty (except the week ending each semester). The purpose of this administrative guideline is to accommodate parents who must take their vacations during the school year and the desire to enjoy that time as a family. Whenever a proposed absence-for-vacation is requested, parents must discuss it with the principal. The length of absence should be made clear, and those involved should have an opportunity to express their views on the potential effects of the absence. The District will only approve a student's absence for a vacation when s/he will be in the company of his/her own parent but not other students' parents, unless there are extenuating circumstances deemed appropriate by the principal. If a student is absent for any other type of vacation, s/he will be considered inexcusably absent from school and subject to truancy regulations. The student may be given approximate assignments and materials and pages to be completed. The time missed will be counted as an authorized, unexcused absence, but shall not be a factor in determining grades unless make-up work is not completed.

Early Dismissals

Parents must call the LaMuth Middle School Office 440-354-4394 to arrange for an early dismissal. A student may be given an early dismissal from school for such reasons as medical appointment, court date, or a verified family emergency. A parent/guardian must sign the student out unless otherwise stated at the time of the early dismissal request at the office. If the student is returning to school the same day, the student will sign in at the office. The secretary will issue a pass for the student to return to class. Any medical notes should be dropped off in the office upon returning to school.

Withdrawals

The office should be notified ahead of time of the date of withdrawal from school. All outstanding fees must be paid in order for the withdrawal to be processed. Students who are withdrawn during the summer must have their parent/guardian notify the office. Records will not be forwarded to a new school if there are outstanding fees.

BUS REGULATIONS

Bus Regulations for Students

The school cannot be responsible for students arriving by non-school means prior to 7:45 a.m. If a bus fails to arrive at a bus stop within 15 minutes of the assigned pick-up time in the morning, the students should return home and a parent should call the ***Transportation Office at 440-357-5571.***

Violations of the following bus regulations or the Student Code of Conduct may result in disciplinary action determined by an administrator which may include parental conferences, removal from the bus, detentions, Saturday detentions, out-of-school suspensions, and/or expulsion.

- The Student Code of Conduct applies while the student is at the bus stop and on the bus.
- Students should be at the assigned bus stop five (5) minutes prior to the published time. Buses will depart within five (5) minutes of dismissal time.
- All students who cross the roadway to board or depart from the bus shall wait for the driver to signal them to cross. The student shall then cross and stay at least ten (10) feet from the front of the bus.
- Students will enter and depart from the bus side door only unless the bus driver specifically instructs the students to use the emergency exit.
- Students must exit at their assigned stop.
- When students exit the bus at school, they must immediately enter the school building. The parking lot and/or cars are out-of-bounds.
- Respect the driver and others on the bus. Leave other people's property alone. Objects or actions that are safety risks are not permitted on the bus.
- No talking or other noise at railroad crossings.
- Sit safely in your assigned seat at all times.
- Keep the bus clean; no eating, drinking, or littering.
- Keep your hands, head, feet, and other personal objects to yourself and inside the bus. Possession or use of weapons, drugs, alcohol, and/or tobacco are prohibited. Inappropriate use of electronic devices is prohibited.

Bus Passes

If it is necessary for a student to be transported to another student's home for an acceptable reason, both parents must send notes to the office giving their approval for a bus pass to be issued. BUS PASSES WILL BE ISSUED ONLY IF STUDENTS ARE ALREADY ASSIGNED TO THE SAME BUS (based on bus roster, not ridership). The transportation department will determine if a bus pass request can be honored.

The Transportation Office must be called by the parent at 440-357-5571 to request a permanent change in bus stop assignment or to arrange an extended change in bus assignment.

FEES & FERPA

Fees

- 5th, 6th and 7th grade school fees are \$68.00. School fees are payable to Riverside Local Schools. Additional fees include:
- Locker Damage: \$6.00+
- Lost Gym Lock: \$8.00
- Book Damage: \$5.00+
- Chromebooks- Damage: \$50.00+ (Range based on damage assessment)
Chromebook Replacement \$255+
- Pay to participate in athletics and other activities (TBD)

*Fees subject to change based on cost increase of materials

FERPA and Directory Information

The exception to disclosure of student information without consent is the release of “directory information”. The district will make the information listed below as directory information available upon a legitimate request unless a parent/guardian or student 18 years or older notifies the school in writing by September 15 of each school year that(s)he will not permit distribution of the following information. Under Ohio law, directory information includes the following:

- Student’s name
- Address
- Telephone listing
- Date and place of birth
- Major field of study
- Participation in officially recognized activities and sports
- Dates of attendance
- Date of graduation
- Awards received

The school district follows the guidelines of the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) regarding all student records. Parents who do not want directory information for their child released to colleges, universities and military recruiters should contact the guidance office.

During the course of a day, special student achievements and group activities often occur in our schools. Sometimes these commendable activities merit student recognition, not only by a student’s school, but also through newspaper photographs and possibly specific names. Such recognition could take the form of a student picture and/or identification of the student by their name.

*NOTE: The Riverside Local School District seeks to inform parents/guardians that such special individual or group activities result in student pictures and names being placed in newspaper, brochures and/or on the school's or website UNLESS a student's parents/guardians notify the building principal in writing that the name/picture are not to appear in such public media formats (newspapers, brochures, Internet, etc).

ATHLETIC & ACTIVITIES POLICY

Athletic Eligibility

- The Athletic Director will determine eligibility each grading period.
- For grades 7 and 8, a student who is fifteen (15) years of age prior to August 1 is ineligible to participate in athletics for the school year. This includes ineligibility for participation in contests prior to the opening of the school year.
- For grades 7 and 8, a student must receive a 1.75 grade point average or higher each grading period and receive passing grades in a minimum of five subjects in which enrolled the immediately preceding grading period.
- The eligibility of a student continues until the fifth day of the next grading period. At this time, eligibility is determined by the grades earned during the preceding grading period. An ineligible athlete may not compete in any athletic contest during the period of ineligibility. Every student who is on a team must have passed a physical examination by a doctor. Physical cards may be picked up in the school office. The cards must be filled out by a doctor and returned to the office before the opening day of the sport.
- Athletic participants must carry either school insurance or have a waiver form signed by a parent/guardian.
- Students in grades 7-12 participating in a team sport must pay a Board of Education approved participation fee before the first contest. Fees are subject to change by act of the Board of Education.
- Students must follow all rules and regulations set up by OHSAA, the LaMuth administrators and staff, co-curricular Code of Conduct and the Board of Education.
- Students must demonstrate sportsmanship, ethics, and integrity as a representative of LaMuth Middle School. Extra-curricular participation is a privilege, not a right.

Loss of Privileges

Failure to follow school rules, team rules, or organizational rules may result in non-participation in the sport or activity, and/or progressive disciplinary action. Any type of suspension or expulsion will also result in loss of privileges. Fees will not be reimbursed.

Co-Curricular Code of Conduct

Any student participating in co-curricular activities is subject to the guidelines and regulations as described in Riverside Local School District Co-Curricular Code of Conduct.

Student Activities

The Riverside Local Board of Education recognizes the value of extracurricular activities in the educational process and the values that young people develop when they have the opportunity to participate in an organized activity outside of the traditional classroom. Participants and responsible adults involved in Board approved extracurricular activities are expected to demonstrate the same level of responsibility and behavior at practice and competitions as is expected in the classroom. For a complete listing of extracurricular activities offered at LaMuth, please consult school staff. The Board further encourages the development and promotion of sportsmanship, ethics, and integrity in all phases of the educational process and in all segments of the community, including administrators, participants, adult supervisors, parents, fans, spirit groups, and booster groups. Students may be required to meet academic or citizenship standards to become or maintain membership in an activity. Likewise, a participation fee may be required for membership in an activity.

FIELD TRIP POLICY & PROCEDURES

School Approved Field Trips

A student must submit a field trip form signed by a parent/guardian and have a completed emergency medical form on file before the student is permitted to leave on a school approved field trip. The student must leave and return to the school by means of school approved transportation. Students must follow all school rules for behavior and dress code as documented in the Student Handbook.

Outdoor Education Program

Participation in the Outdoor Education Program is offered to all new 6th graders. Students sign up in the spring and attend camp in May. The requirements for the Outdoor Education Program are:

- Students must be a first time 6th grader.

- Show good school attitude and citizenship.*
- Have an acceptable attendance record.
- Be paid in full and turn in medical form.

*Good citizenship is required for all overnight trip participants, especially in consideration of the trip's itinerary, distance from home, and safety concerns. If a student receives multiple disciplinary consequences throughout the course of the year (Saturday Academies, in-school suspensions, or out-of-school suspension), they may be prohibited from participating in the trip. Students may be precluded from participating per administrator discretion. An effort will be made by the administration/trip director to notify students and parents when a student is in jeopardy of not participating in the trip due to behavior or attendance. Any monies paid will not be reimbursed.

Seventh Grade Field Trip

Participation on the 7th Grade Trip is a privilege considered for all new 7th graders. Students sign up in advance for the trip. Participants need to pay their own way for the trip and are required to complete written paperwork relating to the travel experience prior to departure. Payment must be made online through the tour company. The requirements for the 7th Grade Trip are:

- Student must be a first time 7th grader
- Show good school attitude and citizenship.*
- Have an acceptable attendance record.
- Be paid in full and turn in medical form.

*Good citizenship is required for all overnight trip participants, especially in consideration of the trip's itinerary, distance from home, and safety concerns. If a student receives multiple disciplinary consequences throughout the course of the year (Saturday Academies, in-school suspensions, or out-of-school suspension), they may be prohibited from participating in the trip. Students may be precluded from participating per administrator discretion. An effort will be made by the administration/trip director to notify students and parents when a student is in jeopardy of not participating in the trip due to behavior or attendance. Any monies paid will not be reimbursed.

CHROMEBOOK GUIDELINES

Chromebook Program

As part of our commitment to Educating Excellence, Riverside Local Schools continues to empower students through access to technology and resources that support personalized learning. The 1:1 Chromebook initiative is designed to provide all students with tools that enhance engagement, increase academic achievement, and build future-ready skills. Excellence in education today demands that technology be seamlessly integrated into all aspects of the learning experience—not as a separate

subject, but as a dynamic support for personalized, competency-based instruction. The individual use of Chromebooks helps students explore their unique learning paths, collaborate with peers, and take ownership of their growth. Research shows that students in 1:1 learning environments are more organized, more engaged, and develop stronger problem solving and technology skills. Chromebooks serve as a modern learning tool that supports our vision of “One Community, Pursuing Greatness, and Getting Better Every Day.” Please also visit the district website for more information on technology at <https://www.riversidelocalschools.com/Technology.aspx>

To receive a device:

Each student will be issued the following: Chromebook, protective case, a charger. Parents/guardians and students must sign the Student Computer Use Policy and Student Pledge via Infinite Campus. Chromebooks will be labeled per District guidelines (e.g., asset tags). The Chromebook remains the property of Riverside Local Schools and may be inspected at any time. Students have no expectation of privacy on District devices or accounts, in accordance with FERPA and ODE data privacy guidance.

Returning a device:

Chromebooks must be returned immediately when a student transfers out of the School District, is expelled, or terminates enrollment for any reason.

Fines and Liability:

Chromebooks, cases, and chargers will be turned in to the RLSD staff when requested in satisfactory condition. Chromebooks will be inspected for damage. In the case of abuse, neglect, or intentional damage, the student/parent/guardian will be charged a fee for needed repairs, fee schedule below, but not to exceed the replacement cost of the Chromebook. The IT Department will make the final determination of any fees assessed. If a student fails to return the Chromebook, the student/parent/guardian will pay the replacement cost of the Chromebook. Failure to return the Chromebook will result in a theft report filed with the Lake County Sheriff’s Department. In the case of damage to the Chromebook throughout the year, the student/parent/guardian will be charged a damage fee. Damage fees will be posted on the district website under the Technology department page:

<https://www.riversidelocalschools.com/Technology.aspx>

Taking Care of your Chromebook & General Precautions:

Chromebooks must be charged for school each day. This is the student’s responsibility. Avoid applying liquids to the Chromebook. The Chromebook screen can be cleaned with a soft, slightly water-dampened, lint-free, cloth. Avoid getting moisture in the openings. Do not use window cleaners, household cleaners, aerosol sprays, solvents,

alcohol, ammonia, or abrasives to clean the Chromebook. Do not lift, carry, or otherwise grab the Chromebook by the screen. Do not attempt to gain access to the internal electronics or repair a Chromebook. If a Chromebook fails to work or is damaged, report the problem to the school's main Office or the Tech department. There is no altering of system software of this device. Never throw or slide a Chromebook. Cords and cables must be inserted carefully into the Chromebook to prevent damage. Chromebooks and district provided cover must remain free of any writing, drawing, stickers, or labels that are not the property of the School District. Chromebooks have a unique identification number and at no time should the numbers or labels be modified or removed. Chromebooks should be placed vertically in the top locker compartment or in a backpack/book bag to avoid putting any pressure on the screen. Chromebooks must not be left in a vehicle or a location that is not temperature controlled. Chromebooks are assigned to individual students and the responsibility for the care of the Chromebook solely rests with that individual. Students should not lend their Chromebook to another person.

Screen Care:

The Chromebook screens can be damaged if subjected to rough treatment. The screens are particularly sensitive to damage from excessive pressure on the screen. Do not place anything near the Chromebook that could put pressure on the screen. Do not place anything in the carrying case that will press against the cover. Clean the screen with a soft, dry cloth or antistatic cloth. Do not "bump" the Chromebook against lockers, walls, car doors, floors, etc. as it will eventually break the screen.

Using Your Chromebook at School:

Chromebooks are intended for use at school each day. In addition to teacher expectations for Chromebook use, school messages, announcements, calendars and schedules may be accessed using the Chromebook. Students should bring their Chromebook to all classes, unless specifically instructed not to do so by their teacher. When not being carried to class, the Chromebook should always be stored in a secure (locked) location.

Chromebooks Left At Home:

If a student leaves the Chromebook at home, the student is responsible for getting the coursework completed as if the Chromebook were present.

Chromebook Undergoing Repair:

Loaner Chromebooks may be issued to students when their Chromebooks are being repaired by the school. A limited number of "loaner" Chromebooks are available, so having a "loaner" is not guaranteed. Chromebooks must be brought to school each day

in a fully charged condition. Students need to charge their Chromebooks each evening. Repeat violations will result in students losing at home privileges.

Screensavers/Background Photos:

Inappropriate media may not be used as a screensaver or background photo. Inappropriate media includes but is not limited to the presence of guns, weapons, pornographic materials, inappropriate language, tobacco, alcohol, drug, gang related symbols or pictures and will result in disciplinary actions.

Sound, Music, Games, and Apps:

Sound must be muted at all times unless permission is obtained from the teacher for instructional purposes. Earbuds or headphones must be purchased by the student and use is subject to individual classroom rules. Appropriate music is allowed on the Chromebook. Ear buds/headphones may be used in the classroom based upon individual teacher approval. The use of streaming music apps is prohibited. During passing periods, students may not use earbuds/headphones.

Home Internet Access:

It is the family's responsibility to monitor the student's use of the internet outside of the school setting. All students should recognize and guard their personal and private information. While on the Internet, students shall not reveal personal information, including a home address or phone number, or the address or phone numbers of other students. Note: Ohio law generally prohibits a school district or its technology provider from electronically accessing or monitoring: The location tracking features of a school-issued device. The audio or visual receiving, transmitting, or recording feature of a school-issued device. Student interactions with a school-issued device, including but not limited to the keystrokes and web-browsing activity. However, general monitoring is permitted in certain circumstances, and in any year a school district elects to implement general monitoring, parents of enrolled students must be provided notice of such general monitoring. As a result, the District is notifying you that it implements general monitoring when: the activity is limited to a noncommercial educational purpose for instruction, technical support, or exam proctoring, the activity is permitted under a judicial warrant. The device is missing or stolen, the activity is necessary to prevent or respond to a threat to life or safety, and the access is limited to that purpose, the activity is necessary to comply with federal or state law, the activity is necessary to participate in federal or state funding programs.

Software on Chromebooks/Student Google Accounts:

The apps and operating system originally installed by the School District must remain on the Chromebook/Student Google Account in usable condition and be easily accessible at all times. From time to time the school may add additional apps and upgrades. Periodic checks of Chromebooks will be made to ensure that students have not removed required apps or installed inappropriate material. Other apps may be added by the school throughout the school year. Students will be selected at random to provide their Chromebook for inspection. Chromebook use and contents will also be monitored remotely. If technical difficulties occur, the Chromebook will be reset to factory settings. The District does not accept responsibility for the loss of any documents deleted due to the necessity of a reformat and/or reimage.

COMPUTER TECHNOLOGY & NETWORKS POLICY**Computer Technology and Networks Policy**

The Riverside Local School District is pleased to make available to students access to interconnected computer systems within the District and to the Internet, the worldwide network that provides various means of accessing significant educational materials and opportunities.

In order for the district to be able to make its computer network and the Internet available to students, all students must take responsibility for the appropriate and lawful use of these services. While the district's teachers and other staff will make every reasonable effort to supervise student use of the network and Internet access, student cooperation is essential in exercising and promoting responsible use of this access.

The following is the Computer Network and Internet Acceptable Use Policy and Agreement ("Policy") for students of the Riverside Local School District. Upon reviewing and agreeing to this Policy, each student will be given the opportunity to enjoy and benefit from network and Internet access. If a student is under 18 years of age, s/he must also have his or her parent or guardian read and agree to the Policy. The school district cannot provide network/Internet access to any student who, if 18 or older, fails to agree to the Policy to the school as directed or, if less than 18, does not agree to the Policy as directed with the signatures of the student and his/her parent or guardian.

Listed below are the provisions of this policy regarding computer network and Internet use. If you have any questions about these provisions, you should contact your principal or the person that your school has designated as the one to whom you can direct your questions. If any user violates this Policy, the student's access will be denied, if not already provided, or withdrawn and s/he may be subject to additional disciplinary action.

I. Personal Responsibility: By agreeing to this Policy, you are agreeing not only to follow the rules in this Policy, but are agreeing to report any obvious misuse of the network to your principal or a person designated by the school for such reporting. Misuse means any violations of this Policy or any other use that is not included in the Policy, but has the effect of harming another or his or her property.

II. Term of the Permitted Use: A student who agrees to this Policy and follows the Policy to which s/he has agreed will have computer network and Internet access during the course of the current school year only. Students will need to agree to a new Policy yearly while they are students to receive future access.

III. Purpose and Use: The school district is providing access to its computer networks and the Internet only for educational purposes. If you have any doubt about whether a contemplated activity is educational, you may consult with your teacher or another designated person to help you decide if a use is appropriate.

Netiquette: All users must abide by rules of network etiquette when using computers:

1. Be Polite and Courteous. Always use appropriate language. No swearing, vulgarities, suggestive, obscene, belligerent or threatening language. Don't engage in defamation (harming another's reputation by lies). Never make ethnic, sexual preference, or gender related slurs or jokes while on a computer or online. Do not transmit offensive or harassing messages.
2. Be safe. When using the computer network and Internet, do not reveal personal information such as your home address and telephone number to others online. Do not arrange a face-to-face meeting with someone you meet on the computer network or Internet, if you are under 18, without parental permission, and regardless of age, in a secluded place or in a private setting. (Parents...please stress this issue with your student.) Also, never disclose to others your own network user name or password.
3. Be Honest. Do not employ another's password or some other user identifier that misleads others into believing that someone other than you is communicating or otherwise using his/her access to the network or the Internet. Also, to prevent someone else from pretending to be you, do not disclose to others your own network user name or password.
4. Be Lawful. Never offer for sale or use any substance the possession or use of which is prohibited by the school district's Pupil Conduct Code. Never view, transmit or download pornographic, vulgar or otherwise inappropriate materials or materials that encourage others to violate the law. Do not intrude into the

networks or computers of others or download or transmit confidential, trade secret information, or copyrighted materials. Even if materials on the networks are not marked with the copyright symbol, you should assume that all materials are protected unless there is explicit permission on the materials to use them. Never upload or download computer worms, virus', trojans, time bombs, or other harmful programming. Do not damage/vandalize the school's technology resources.

5. Be Aware. It is unlawful to circumvent or attempt to circumvent any district network or Internet security, controls, and/or internet filtering features. Computer, network, and Internet services are intentionally limited and controlled at school and any attempt to infiltrate any unauthorized programs, files, features, and/or services will result in disciplinary action against the student.
6. Be Responsible. All users and their parents/guardians are advised that access to the electronic network may include the potential for access to materials inappropriate for school-aged pupils. Every user must take responsibility for his or her use of the computer network and Internet and stay away from these sites. Parents of minors are the best guides to materials to shun. If a student finds that other users are visiting offensive or harmful sites, he or she should report such use to the principal or the person designated by the School.
7. Be On Task. Access to school computers is provided to enhance educational opportunities. Students are not allowed to sell or buy anything over the Internet while at school. You should never give others private information about you or others, including credit card numbers and social security numbers. Students are not permitted to play online computer games on district-owned computers.

IV. Privacy Network and Internet access is provided as a tool for your education. The school district reserves the right to monitor, inspect, copy, review and store at any time and without prior notice any and all usage of the computer network and Internet access, including student-created files residing on school computers, and any and all information transmitted or received in connection with such usage. All such information files shall be and remain the property of the school district and no user shall have any expectation of privacy regarding such materials.

V. Failure to Follow Policy and Breach of Agreement: The user's use of the computer network and Internet is a privilege, not a right. A user who violates this Policy and breaches his/her Agreement, shall at a minimum, have his or her access to the computer network and Internet terminated, which the school district may refuse to reinstate for the remainder of the student's tenure in the district. Other disciplinary action may also follow. Further, a user violates this Policy and Agreement if s/he permits

another user to use his/her account or password to access the computer network and Internet, including a user whose access has been denied or terminated.

VI. Disclaimer of Liability: The District makes no guarantee that the functions or services provided by or through the computer network and Internet will be error free or without defect. The District will not be responsible for any damage you may suffer including but not limited to loss of data, interruptions of service, or exposure to offensive material. The District is not responsible for the accuracy or quality of the information obtained through or stored on the computer network or Internet. The District will not be responsible for financial obligations arising from the unauthorized use of the system. Due to the nature of electronic communications, it is not possible for the District to guarantee the confidentiality of email sent and received over the computer network and the Internet.

VII. Update: Users, and if appropriate, the user's parents/guardians, may be asked in the future to provide new or additional registration and account information or to agree to a new Policy, for example, to reflect developments in the law or technology. Such information must be provided if the user wishes to continue to receive service.

AI-ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE Acceptable Use Guidelines

LaMuth Middle School recognizes that Artificial Intelligence (AI) can be a valuable educational tool when used responsibly. AI should support student learning, creativity, and productivity, but it should not replace a student's own thinking, effort, or interactions with teachers and classmates.

Students may use AI tools for academic purposes only when specifically permitted by their teacher. Teachers will communicate expectations regarding when AI use is allowed, how it may be used, and any citation requirements. Students are encouraged to ask their teacher if they are unsure whether AI is permitted for a particular assignment.

Students are expected to complete assignments and assessments in a manner that reflects their own understanding and effort. The unauthorized use of AI, including submitting AI-generated work as original work, may be considered plagiarism, cheating, or academic dishonesty and may result in disciplinary consequences in accordance with the Student Handbook.

Students may not use AI to create, share, or distribute content that is harmful, threatening, harassing, inappropriate, misleading, or intended to impersonate another person. The use of AI to create or distribute fake images, videos, audio recordings, or

other representations of students, staff members, or community members without permission is prohibited.

Students should not enter photos, video or personal information into AI tools and should understand that AI-generated information may not always be accurate.

AI tools may be used to support students with disabilities as outlined in a student's IEP, 504 Plan, or other approved accommodations.

Violations of these guidelines may result in the loss of technology privileges, disciplinary action, suspension, expulsion, and/or referral to law enforcement when appropriate.

AI is an Assistant, Not a Replacement

Artificial Intelligence (like ChatGPT, Gemini, or Canva Magic Write) is a powerful tool to help you think, but it is not allowed to do your thinking for you. The goal is to build your brain, not a robot's. The Stoplight Rules:

Green Light (Do this!)

- Brainstorming: Asking AI for project ideas or essay topics when you are staring at a blank page.
- Tutoring: Asking AI to explain a confusing concept (e.g., "Explain how the water cycle works like I'm 12").
- Studying: Having AI generate practice flashcards or a practice quiz before a test.

Yellow Light (Ask your teacher first)

- Research: AI tools frequently "hallucinate" (make up fake facts and fake links). Always double-check information with reliable sources, and check with your teacher before using AI for research.
- Editing: Using AI to check your grammar or rewrite your sentences. Every teacher has different rules for this depending on what they are grading.
- Privacy & Safety: Guard Your Data: Never type your personal information (full name, student ID, passwords, or address) into an AI tool.
- Be Respectful: Using AI to create mean, inappropriate, or bullying content violates the Riverside Local Schools Code of Conduct and will result in disciplinary action.
- Show Your Work: Teachers want to see your learning process. Always be prepared to show your Google Docs version history, your rough drafts, or your notes. If you use AI to help you brainstorm or study, be honest and tell your teacher.

Red Light (Never do this — it is cheating)

- Copy & Paste: Submitting any AI-generated text, code, or art as your own original work.
- The Heavy Lifting: Having AI write your essay, solve your math assignment, or translate a foreign language assignment for you.
- ★ The Golden Rule: If your teacher asked you to explain the assignment you just turned in and you couldn't do it, you used AI too much.

CODE OF CONDUCT

Behavioral Expectations & Rules

Rule 1 – Misconduct

In order to provide an appropriate climate for learning, LaMuth Middle School will not tolerate any disruption of school, building safety and security, or any actions, which disrupt the educational process of a class or school activity (not dressing for gym class constitutes misconduct). Students will not use force, coercion, violence, threat, harassment, or insubordination, which obstructs or disrupts the educational process including all extracurricular activities. Students ejected from extra-curricular activities will be subject to disciplinary action.

Rule 2 - Inappropriate Language / Acts

The use of profane, obscene, vulgar, improper or abusive language is not permitted in any area of school buildings, at school sponsored or related activities or events on or off school property. This includes written or verbal use, gang signs and symbols, drug signs and symbols, and the use of obscene gestures, signs, pictures, or publications either directly or indirectly.

Rule 3 - Racial, Religious or National / Origin Bigotry and Intolerance

No student shall verbalize or display racial, religious or national origin bigotry or intolerance.

Rule 4 - Truancy and Tardiness

Being absent from any portion of the school day without authorization is truancy. Leaving the school building and/or grounds without permission of the administration is truancy. All students are to check in and out with the office. After 8:15 am, all students must sign-in and receive a pass to class.

Rule 5 - Unauthorized Sale or Distribution

Distributing or selling unauthorized materials on school property, or attempting to distribute or sell such items, is not permitted. Only school sanctioned publications may be distributed at school. The administration must approve any other distributed items. Approval must be granted by an administrator prior to the posting of any written materials, signs, or posters in the lobbies or halls.

Rule 6 - Forgery/False Reports/ Lying

Any incident involving the falsifying, forgery or lying of information in any capacity on school forms or any other form of communication is considered a suspendable offense.

Rule 7 – Loitering

Loitering is defined as a student's presence in a restricted area at an unauthorized time and is not permitted under any circumstance. Students may not loiter in areas such as but not limited to the lobbies, hallway or bathroom before or after school, between classes, or during the school day. Students found in restrooms without permission may be considered out of bounds and subject to disciplinary consequences. No more than one (1) person may be in a stall at the same time. No student is to be in the parking lot during school hours without an administrator's permission. Once students arrive at school, they are to remain on school property and enter the building immediately.

Rule 8 - Disrespect

Abuse, verbal or written, to any school employee will not be tolerated. This also includes intimidation, insult and insubordination.

Rule 9 – Insubordination

Insubordination is defined as disobedience or not complying with reasonable requests by school personnel for appropriate behavior of students while on school property or at school activities. Any action judged by school officials to involve misconduct and not specifically mentioned in other sections of this book may be dealt with as insubordination. This includes failure to accept discipline. No student shall refuse to accept discipline from teachers, school officials, teacher aides, or other authorized school personnel.

Rule 10 - Use/Possession of Flame Producing Device

The unauthorized use or possession of matches, lighters, or other flame producing devices or items are not permitted.

Rule 11 – Hazing

The Board of Education believes that hazing of any type is inconsistent with the educational process and thus prohibits hazing of any kind on or off school property where students are engaged in school activities. No administrator, faculty member, or other Board employee shall encourage, permit, condone, or tolerate any hazing activities. No student shall plan, encourage, or engage in any hazing.

Hazing is defined for purposes of this policy as committing any act or coercing another, including the victim, to perform any act of initiation into any class, team, or organization that causes or creates a substantial risk of causing mental or physical harm. Permission, consent, or assumption of risk by an individual subject to hazing shall not lessen the prohibitions contained in this policy.

Administrators, faculty members, and other employees of the Board shall be alerted to possible situations, circumstances, or events which might include hazing. If hazing or planned hazing is discovered, the students involved shall be informed by the discoverer of the prohibitions contained in this policy and shall be ordered to end all hazing activities or planned activities immediately. All hazing incidents shall be reported immediately to the superintendent. Students, administrators, faculty members, and other employees who fail to abide by this policy may be subject to disciplinary action and may be held personally liable for civil and criminal penalties in accordance with law.

Rule 12 – Gambling

Any action of gambling by use of money or materials is prohibited.

Rule 13 - Physical/Verbal/Ethnic Harassment/Bullying**General Policy Statement**

It is the policy of the Board of Education to maintain an education and work environment which is free from all forms of unlawful harassment, including sexual harassment. This commitment applies to all School District operations, programs, and activities. All students, administrators, teachers, staff, and all other school personnel share responsibility for avoiding, discouraging, and reporting any form of unlawful harassment. This policy applies to unlawful conduct occurring on school property, or at another location if such conduct occurs during an activity sponsored by the Board.

Harassment, intimidation or bullying means any intentional written, verbal, graphic or physical act that a student or group of students exhibits toward another particular student(s) more than once and the behavior both causes mental or physical harm to the

other student(s) and is sufficiently severe, persistent or pervasive that it creates an intimidating, threatening or abusive educational environment for the other student(s). Aggressive behavior is defined as inappropriate conduct that is repeated enough, or serious enough, to negatively impact a student's educational, physical or emotional well-being. This type of behavior is a form of intimidation and harassment, although it need not be based on any of the legally protected characteristics, such as sex, race, color, national origin, marital status or disability. It would include, but not limited to, such behaviors as stalking, bullying/cyber bullying, intimidating, menacing, coercion, name-calling, taunting, making threats, hazing, and dating violence.

Ethnic slurs, degrading statements, gestures, symbols, and signs associated with hate groups constitute harassment based on national origin, ethnicity, or on other grounds and are unprotected speech in the school environment. Such symbols and signs include, but are not limited to: Confederate flags, Nazi flags, insignias and salutes and are prohibited in school, at school events, and in school publications. Such prohibited expressions include verbal and written statements, gestures, and electronic and graphic expressions in any form. This includes prohibited expressions being displayed on vehicles driven onto the school property.

Harassment, intimidation or bullying also means electronically transmitted acts (i.e., internet, e-mail, cellular telephone, personal digital assistance (PDA) or wireless hand-held device) that a student(s) or a group of students exhibits toward another particular student(s) more than once and the behavior both causes mental and physical harm to the other student and is sufficiently severe, persistent or pervasive that it creates an intimidating, threatening or abusive educational environment for the other student(s).

Any student or student's parent/guardian who believes s/he has been or is the victim of aggressive behavior should immediately report the situation to the building principal, assistant principal or Superintendent. The student may also report concerns to teachers and other school staff who will be responsible for notifying the appropriate administrator or Board official. Complaints against the building principal should be filed with the Superintendent. Complaints against the Superintendent should be filed with the Board President.

For purposes of this policy, "school district community" means students, administrators, teachers, staff, and all other school personnel, including Board members, agents, volunteers, contractors, or other persons subject to the control and supervision of the Board. For purposes of this policy, "third parties" include, but are not limited to, guests and/or visitors on school district property (e.g., visiting speakers, participants on opposing athletic teams, parents), vendors doing business with, or seeking to do

business with, the Board, and other individuals who come in contact with members of the school district community at school-related events/activities (whether on or off school district property).

REPORTING HARASSMENT/BULLYING

Conduct constituting harassment/bullying may take different forms, including but not limited to the following:

SEXUAL HARASSMENT

A. Verbal:

The making of written or oral sexual innuendos, suggestive comments, jokes of a sexual nature, sexual propositions, or threats to a fellow student, staff member, or other person associated with the District.

B. Nonverbal:

Causing the placement of sexually suggestive objects, pictures, or graphic commentaries in the school environment or the making of sexually suggestive or insulting gestures, sounds, leering, whistling, and the like to a fellow student, staff member, or other person associated with the District.

C. Physical Contact:

Threatening or causing unwanted touching, contact, or attempts at same, including patting, pinching, pushing the body, or coerced sexual intercourse, with a fellow student, staff member, or other person associated with the District.

GENDER/ETHNIC/RELIGIOUS/DISABILITY/HEIGHT/WEIGHT HARASSMENT

A. Verbal:

- Written or oral innuendos, comments, jokes, insults, threats, or disparaging remarks concerning a person's gender, national origin, religious beliefs, sexual orientation, gender identity, etc. toward a fellow student, staff member, or other person associated with the district.
- Conducting a "campaign of silence" toward a fellow student, staff member, or other person associated with the district by refusing to have any form of social interaction with the person.

B. Nonverbal:

Placing objects, pictures, or graphic commentaries in the school environment or making insulting or threatening gestures toward a fellow student, staff member, or other person associated with the District.

C. Physical Contact:

Any intimidating or disparaging action such as hitting, hissing, or spitting on a fellow student, staff member, or other person associated with the District.

D. Bullying: See definition above.

DATING VIOLENCE

Dating violence is defined as a pattern of behavior where a person uses or threatens physical, sexual, verbal, or emotional abuse to control the person's dating partner. A dating partner is any person, regardless of gender, involved in an intimate relationship with another person primarily characterized by the expectation of affectionate involvement whether casual, serious, or long-term.

Any student who believes that s/he is the victim of any of the above actions or has observed such actions taken by another student, staff member, or other person associated with the district should make contact with one of two or three persons selected by each building principal with whom the students would most likely be comfortable in discussing a matter of this kind. The report can be made to the student's teacher, guidance counselor, and/or assistant principal.

The student may make contact either by a written report or by telephone or personal visit. During this contact, the reporting student should provide the name of the person(s) whom s/he believes to be responsible for the harassment and the nature of the harassing incident(s). A written summary of each such report is to be prepared promptly on Form 5517 F1 and a copy forwarded to the principal.

Each report received by a designated person shall be investigated in a timely and confidential manner. While a charge is under investigation, no information is to be released to anyone who is not involved with the investigation, except as may be required by law or in the context of a legal or administrative proceeding. No one involved is to discuss the subject outside of the investigation.

The purpose of this provision is to:

- A. Protect the confidentiality of the student who files a complaint
- B. Encourage the reporting of any incidents of sexual or other forms of harassment
- C. Protect the reputation of any party wrongfully charged with harassment

Staff Member Harassment of a Student

If a student reports that they are being harassed by a member of the staff, the matter is to be reported immediately to the principal who shall then contact the superintendent. If

deemed necessary, the superintendent shall arrange promptly for a proper investigation by an agency that is experienced in such investigations. In addition, the principal, upon receiving the complaint from a minor student or his/her parents shall determine if the harassment may constitute child abuse and, if so, follow the child-abuse reporting procedure described in AG 8462.

Investigation of a complaint will normally include conferring with the parties involved (may include parents), and any named or apparent witnesses. All students and others involved are to be protected from coercion, intimidation, retaliation, or discrimination for filing a complaint or assisting in an investigation.

If the investigation reveals that the complaint is valid, then prompt, appropriate remedial and/or disciplinary action will be taken immediately to prevent the continuance of the harassment or its recurrence.

The district recognizes that determining whether a particular action or incident is harassment or, conversely, is reflective of an action without a discriminatory or intimidating intent or effect must be based on all of the facts in the matter. Given the nature of harassing behavior, the district recognizes that false accusations can have serious effects on innocent individuals. Therefore, all students are expected to act responsibly, honestly, and with the utmost candor whenever they present harassment allegations or charges against fellow students, a staff member, or others associated with the district. This guideline does not negate the requirement for reporting suspected child abuse to the proper authorities in compliance with AG 8462.

Rule 14 – Threatening Behavior / Intimidation

A student shall not threaten with physical violence or coerce by any means any student, teacher, or other school employee or visitor. A student shall not urge another student or person to threaten or coerce with physical violence by any means any student, teacher, or other school employee or visitor. Intimidation shall include, but is not limited to, threats used to extort money or any other item of value from another person or student.

Rule 15 - Public Display of Affection / Lewd or Lascivious Acts

Students are prohibited from demonstrating a public display of affection at school or at school sponsored events. Included in the prohibition shall be any display of affection, such as kissing, embracing, fondling, and sex acts.

Rule 16 - Vandalism and/or Destruction of School Property

All campus rooms, books, equipment, computers, and apparatus must be used with care. Students and their parents/guardians may be held financially responsible for any

damage to school property due to abuse or neglect on the student's part. Students who deface school property or the property of other people may be responsible for restitution, repair, replacement, and/or restoration. Writing on desks, walls, lockers, computers, or other technology equipment is prohibited.

Rule 17: Electronic Devices Policy/ Personal Communication Devices

Riverside Local School District is committed to providing educational environments that support students fully engaging with classmates, teachers, and instruction. Use of personal communication devices ("PCD") (this term shall also include an "electronic communication device" as referenced in R.C. 3313.753) shall be prohibited during the instructional day in accordance with Board of Education policy.

Personal communication devices ("PCDs") are electronic communication devices powered by batteries or electricity that are capable of receiving, transmitting, or receiving and transmitting communication between individuals or groups that are not issued by the District for the purpose of instruction. Examples of PCDs include computers, laptops, tablets, e readers, cellular telephones, and smartphones gaming devices, smartwatches, Bluetooth headphones/ear buds and other wearable technology, and other web-enabled devices used to communicate. R.C 3313.753

Nothing prohibits a student from using a PCD in accordance with the student's individualized education plan ("IEP") or Section 504 plan. The school shall also permit a student to use a PCD to monitor or address a health concern if the school receives a written statement from the student's physician requiring such use.

Students are prohibited from using a PCD except when the Principal authorizes a student to use a PCD for educational purposes during instructional time.

Students are prohibited from using PCDs in a manner that infringes on a person's reasonable expectation of privacy. This includes using PCDs in locations and circumstances where a student may be changing clothes or in any stage of undress, such as gymnasiums, locker rooms, shower facilities, and restrooms/bathrooms. The building principal is authorized to determine other specific locations and situations where the use of a PCD is absolutely prohibited.

Except as authorized by an administrator, IEP team, or Section 504 plan, students are prohibited from using PCDs to capture, record, and/or transmit the words or sounds (i.e., audio) and/or images (i.e., pictures/video) of any student, staff member, or other person during school hours, on school property, or during school-related events and functions. Using a PCD to capture, record, and/or transmit audio and/or pictures/video

of an individual without proper consent during the instructional day, where there is a reasonable expectation of privacy, or as outlined above, is considered an invasion of privacy. This action may also be deemed as a potential violation of the Federal Education Records Privacy Act (FERPA) and is not permitted.

Students are expressly prohibited from using covert means to listen-in or make a recording (audio or video) of any meeting or activity at school. This includes placing recording devices, or other devices with one- or two-way audio communication technology (i.e., technology that allows a person off-site to listen to live conversations and sounds taking place in the location where the device is located), within a student's book bag or on the student's person without express written consent of the Superintendent. Any requests to place a recording device or other device with one- or two-way audio communication technology within a student's book bag or on a student's person shall be submitted, in writing, to the Director of Pupil Services. The District representative shall notify the parent(s), in writing, whether such request is denied or granted within five (5) days.

Students may not use a PCD in any way that would constitute bullying or harassment or other violations of the Student Code of Conduct, or in a way that might reasonably create in the mind of another person an impression of being threatened, humiliated, harassed, embarrassed, or intimidated. See Policy Board 5517.01 - Bullying and Other Forms of Aggressive Behavior. In particular, students are prohibited from using PCDs to: (1) transmit material that is threatening, obscene, disruptive, or sexually explicit or that can be construed as harassment or disparagement of others based upon their race, color, national origin, sex, (including sexual orientation/transgender identity), disability, age, religion, ancestry, or political beliefs; and (2) engage in "sexting" - i.e., sending, receiving, sharing, viewing, or possessing pictures, text messages, e-mails, or other materials of a sexual nature in electronic or any other form. Violation of these prohibitions shall result in disciplinary action. Furthermore, such actions will be reported to local law enforcement and child services as required by law.

Students also are prohibited from using a PCD to capture, record, and/or transmit test information or any other information in a manner constituting fraud, theft, cheating, or academic dishonesty. Likewise, students are prohibited from using PCDs to receive such information.

Students may not use PCDs to access and/or view Internet websites that otherwise are blocked to students while in school, on school property, or at a school-sponsored activity.

When the use of PCDs is prohibited, all PCDs must be powered off completely (i.e., not just placed in vibrate or silent mode) and stored out of sight.

When the use or possession of PCDs is permitted, all PCDs must be placed in silent mode unless otherwise required by an IEP or Section 504 plan to monitor/address a health concern, or as permitted by a principal or teacher for learning purposes. Students permitted to use a PCD for these limited reasons are expected to use the approved device only as authorized. PCDs must be stored out of sight when directed by the administrator, teacher, bus driver, adult supervising an extracurricular or school event, or sponsor and must be stored out of sight when directed by the administrator or sponsor.

Students shall have no expectation of confidentiality with respect to their use of PCDs while at school or on school property, including school buildings, other facilities, and school vehicles.

Students are permitted to possess a PCD on their person as long as they remain powered off and stored out of sight and are not used except when permitted by this policy or the emergency management plan. Students are encouraged to leave the device stored in a locker, backpack or purse and are not permitted to use the device except when permitted by a school administrator. Possession of a PCD by a student during the instructional day, school hours and during school-related events and functions, is a privilege that may be forfeited by any student who fails to abide by the terms of this policy, or otherwise abuses this privilege.

Violations of this policy may result in the following disciplinary measures:

- Issue a verbal warning and require the student to store the PCD appropriately. Confiscate the PCD and store it securely in a staff-controlled location for the duration of the class or period.
- Confiscate the student's PCD and store it in the office for the remainder of the school day.
- Confiscate the student's PCD in the facility's central office to be picked up by the student's parent or guardian.
- Schedule a conference with the student's parent or guardian to discuss the student's PCD use.
- Requirement for the student to check in their device at the start of each school day or loss of privilege to bring a PCD to school for a designated length of time or on a permanent basis (unless required for medical reasons or in accordance with an IEP or Section 504 plan).

If the violation involves an illegal activity (e.g. child pornography, sexting), the school official will also refer the matter to law enforcement or child services. The PCD will be confiscated and may be turned over to law enforcement if a violation involves potentially illegal activity.

School officials will not search or otherwise tamper with PCDs in District custody unless they reasonably suspect that the search is required to discover evidence of a violation of the law or other school rules. Any search will be conducted in accordance with Board Policy 5771 - Search and Seizure.

A person who discovers a student using a PCD, recording device, or other device with one or two-way audio communication technology in violation of this policy is required to report the violation to the Principal. Students are personally and solely responsible for the care and security of their PCDs. The district assumes no responsibility for theft, loss, or damage to, or misuse or unauthorized use of, PCDs brought onto its property. Parents/Guardians are advised that the best way to contact their child during the school day is by calling the school office.

Rule 18 - Out-of-Bounds

Out-of-bounds is defined as any place where the student is not supposed to be unless the student has been given an authorized pass. Cutting class is an example of out of bounds. Specifically, out-of-bounds may include, but is not limited to the following:

- Outside, except with teacher supervision. This includes outside during extracurricular activities held at school (including but not limited to sporting events, dances, plays, and other activities).
- Entrances and lawn areas.
- Any unattended classroom(s), office, or storage area.
- Library during unscheduled times.
- Loitering in the stairway, entrances to the building, and restrooms.
- Any hallway area in which the student does not have a class.

Rule 19 – Extortion

While under the jurisdiction of the school, students are prohibited from borrowing or attempting to borrow any money or object of value from any person unless both parties enter into the agreement freely and without the presence of either an implied or expressed threat.

Rule 20 – Theft

A student shall not cause or attempt to take into possession the public property or equipment of the school district or the personal property of any other student, teacher, employee of the district, or any other person while under the jurisdiction of the school.

Rule 21 – Fireworks / Explosive Devices, etc.

Possession or use of explosive materials, fireworks, stink bombs or any product that can endanger or harm individuals is forbidden.

Rule 22 - False Alarms / Bomb Threats / Other Threats

Falsely setting off the fire alarm, calling or communicating a bomb threat or other similar threats, and/or calling 911 without reason and a valid purpose; and/or falsely communicating an emergency is prohibited. This behavior endangers individuals and may result in a ten-day suspension, court referral, and a recommendation for expulsion.

Rule 23 - Dangerous Weapons and Instruments

Possession, sale, distribution, concealment, conveyance, or use of deadly weapons or dangerous ordinances (as defined in Sections 2923.11-2923.122 of the Ohio Revised Code), including guns, knives, chains, deadly explosives, pepper spray (or similar products) or anything that may harm someone may result in a ten (10) day suspension, recommendation for expulsion, and/or referral to law enforcement authorities as a felony. For the purposes of this policy, a "knife" shall mean either of the following:

- A sharpened object having a blade or similar cutting or penetrating surface three inches or more in length
- A sharpened object which extends mechanically in the nature of a switchblade, regardless of its length.

*This definition does not preclude other similar objects from being considered "weapons" for the purposes of the Student Code of Conduct, (Weapon Free Act, 1994/Board Policy 5610). "Look-alike" guns, knives, or weapons are prohibited due to their potentially disruptive and provocative effect and may be subject to discipline consequences under the Student Code of Conduct.

The Board of Education prohibits students from possessing, storing, making, or using a weapon, including a concealed weapon, in a school safety zone and any setting that is under the control and supervision of the Board for the purpose of school activities approved and authorized by the Board including, but not limited to, property leased, owned, or contracted for by the Board, a school-sponsored event, or in a Board-owned vehicle.

The term "weapon" means any object which, in the manner in which it is used, is intended to be used, or is represented, is capable of inflicting serious bodily harm or property damage, as well as endangering the health and safety of persons. Weapons

include, but are not limited to, firearms, guns of any type whatsoever, including air and gas-powered guns (whether loaded or unloaded), knives, razors, clubs, electric weapons, metallic knuckles, martial arts weapons, ammunition, pepper spray (or similar products) and explosives. This policy does not preclude other similar objects from being considered "weapons" for the purposes of the Student Code of Conduct, (Weapon Free Act, 1994/Board Policy 5610)

Policy exceptions include:

- A. items pre-approved by the building principal as part of a class or individual presentation under adult supervision, if used for the purpose and in the manner approved (working firearms and any ammunition will never be approved as a part of a presentation);

- B. theatrical props used in appropriate settings.

Students shall report any information concerning weapons and/or threats of violence by students, staff members, or visitors to the principal. Failure to report such information may subject the student to disciplinary action.

This policy shall be implemented through the Code of Conduct/Student Discipline Code, Policy 5610, and Policy 5610.01, and through administrative guidelines. The Superintendent is authorized to establish instructional programs on the weapons and the requirement that students immediately report knowledge of weapons and threats of violence by students and/or staff to the building principal. Failure to report such knowledge may subject the student to discipline.

The Superintendent will refer any student who violates this policy to the student's parents or guardians and to the criminal justice or juvenile delinquency system. The student may also be subject to disciplinary action, up to and including expulsion.

Rule 24- Physical Contact

A student shall not intentionally cause or attempt to cause physical injury or intentionally behave in such a way that could reasonably cause physical injury. This would include pushing, shoving, slapping, or general horseplay where physical contact is made.

Rule 25 - Fighting/Assault/Unauthorized Touching

A student shall not intentionally cause or attempt to cause physical injury by fighting or otherwise intentionally behave in such a way, as could reasonably cause physical injury to oneself or others. This policy covers students on or near school property, school activities, or while in transit to and from school. Legal authorities will be notified. If directed at a teacher, administrator, or school personnel, a student may face expulsion along with a possible court referral and/or suspension.

Rule 26 – Menacing

School safety and security are a vital aspect of our educational process. A student faces disciplinary action and possible court referral for actions that incite panic or visibly threaten or endanger the health and safety of anyone at LaMuth.

Rule 27 - Drug Paraphernalia

A student shall not possess, use, transmit, or conceal any item which is designed for use with any illegal substance or legal substance used in an illegal way while on school property, in transit to or from school/school sanctioned events, or in attendance at any Board of Education sponsored or supervised activity.

Rule 28 - Counterfeit/Controlled Substances/Drugs/Narcotics/Inhalants/Over-the Counter Medications (OTC's)

A student will not possess, use, transmit, conceal, sell, purchase or entice others to use any alcohol, controlled substances, drugs, narcotics, OTCs or inhalants on school property, Board of Education owned vehicles, or at any Board sponsored or supervised school activity. Violators will be subject to the following:

- Legal authorities will be informed.
- The substance will be turned over to legal authorities.
- The student will be suspended and/or expelled from school.
- The student may need to seek an outside agency for an assessment, the cost of which will be assumed by the student and his/her parents/guardians. If this assessment is in conjunction with the 5/10 suspension option, then the student must follow through with the assessment recommendations.

Rule 29 - Use and/or Possession of Tobacco / Vaping

The use of any tobacco product by students is prohibited. This applies to all extracurricular activities both on school property and away from school. Use includes possession. Smoking is defined as holding a tobacco product, whether lit or unlit, or having held it and tossed it aside, or any obvious sign, such as exhaled smoke, etc. This includes but is not limited to items such as nicotine gum, e-cigarettes, vape pens, Juul, or other similar devices. Minors may be referred to the authorities according to Ohio law.

Rule 30 - Alcohol/Controlled Substances/Drugs/Narcotics/Inhalants

A student will not possess, use, transmit, conceal, sell, purchase or entice others to use any alcohol, controlled substances, drugs, narcotics, OTCs or inhalants on school

property, Board of Education owned vehicles, or at any Board sponsored or supervised school activity.

Violators will be subject to the following:

- Legal authorities will be informed.
- The substance will be turned over to legal authorities.
- The student will be suspended and/or expelled from school.
- The student may need to seek an outside agency for an assessment, the cost of which will be assumed by the student and his/her parents/guardians. If this assessment is in conjunction with the 5/10 suspension option, then the student must follow through with the assessment recommendations.
- Rule #28 Violations are cumulative and a 5/10 option will only be granted once. A second infraction will result in a recommendation to the Ohio Bureau of Motor Vehicles for termination of driving privileges under the provisions of Section 4507.061, 3321.13 of the Ohio Revised Code.

First Offense: Possession, use, enticing others to use, and/or being under the influence of alcohol or drugs

- 5/10 Option* OR
- 10 Days Out-of-School Suspension AND/OR
- Recommendation for Expulsion AND
- Possible Referral to Legal Authorities

Second Offense: Possession, use, enticing others to use and/or being under the influence of alcohol or drugs

- 10 Days Out-of-School Suspension AND/OR
- Recommendation for Expulsion AND
- Possible Referral to Legal Authorities

First offense: Sale or distribution of alcohol or drugs

Expulsion AND Criminal Charges Filed (The school official indicating that the school wishes to press charges will complete a police report)

*The 5/10 option is offered at the principal's discretion. This is NOT available if the student is selling/distributing drugs, including alcohol, inhalants, OTC's or illegal paraphernalia. Should a student and his/her parents/guardians choose the 5/10 option, the student is given five (5) days out-of-school suspension. The remaining five (5) days are held in abeyance pending documentation of a professional alcohol/drug assessment. The assessment appointment must be made, and its cost assumed, by a parent/guardian during the five (5) days of

suspension. Written documentation from the assessing agency/individual must be received by the school upon the student's return or another suspension will be assigned to the student (for failure to comply with school rules) for the additional five (5) days, which would have been assigned if the 5/10 option had not been selected. Both the student and the parent/guardian must agree to fulfill all of the requirements of the alternative consequences. Failure to fulfill all of the conditions of the alternative consequence within the specified time frame will result in another suspension being assigned (for failure to comply with school rules) for the additional five (5) days, which would have been assigned if the alternative consequence had not been selected.

Rule 31 - Computer Technology and Networks Policy

Any willful damage, destruction, or misuse of Chromebook, computers, sites, databases, files, network, or all other technology will be subject to disciplinary action, fines, and/or legal referral. The building administrators may include loss of computer privileges or suspension and expulsion if warranted as they enforce the Student Code of Conduct. (See [Computer Technology and Networks Policy](#) Pages 29-31 and [RLSD Chromebook Procedures and Information document](#).)

Rule 32 - Cheating/Academic Dishonesty

Presenting someone else's work as one's own in order to obtain a grade or credit is considered to be cheating. This includes, but is not limited to, copying others assignments, quiz or test answers, and plagiarism. Students who violate this policy may receive academic and/or disciplinary consequences for assignments or work involved and their parents will be notified. Upon the second offense, the student may be referred to an administrator for disciplinary actions. Teachers will discuss the plagiarism policy at the beginning of each course. Teachers will make it clear that plagiarism will not be tolerated.

Rule 33 – Instigating/Coercion/Complicity

Instigation, coercion or complicity of any violation of the Code of Conduct is expressly prohibited and subjects the offender to discipline.

Rule 34 - Repeated Violations

Repeated violations of student rules may result in suspension, expulsion, and/or Juvenile Court referral. This includes, but is not limited to repeated violations of the handbook rules, attendance policy, dress code, driving privileges, and bus misconduct.

Rule 35 – Identification

All students must promptly, upon request, correctly identify themselves to authorized personnel in school buildings, on school grounds, on school buses, or at school sponsored events.

DISCIPLINARY PROCEDURES

LaMuth Middle School has a progressive behavioral discipline code. School officials reserve the right of interpretation for all misconduct. Consequences may vary based on the severity of each infraction or the repeated violations of misconduct. Penalties are cumulative for any offense during the current school year. ***A violation of any rule may result in disciplinary action, including conferences, warnings, lunch detentions, after-school detentions, Saturday Academy, in-school suspension, out-of-school suspension, referral to Juvenile Court, and/or expulsion. The Student Code of Conduct applies wherever the school has authority to regulate student conduct, which includes school property, school transportation, and school activities wherever and whenever held.***

The behavior management of a student is the teacher's and administrator's responsibility. Referral of a student to the administration is used after teachers have exhausted all other appropriate preventive and corrective measures, including parent contact. Once a student is referred to the office, the administration will reserve the right of interpretation and will take disciplinary action as they see appropriate at the time of misconduct. The case will be dealt with as soon as possible.

Students assigned a Lunch Detention will be required to spend their designated lunch period in a specified detention area for the entire lunch block. During this time, students are expected to work on academic tasks, such as completing classwork, homework, or make-up assignments. Students may bring their own lunch or purchase one from the school cafeteria. Failure to follow lunch detention guidelines may result in the loss of recess privileges or additional consequences.

To receive a 1 hour after-school detention means that on the day(s) of the detention(s) a student spends the assigned date from 3:15 p.m. to 4:15 p.m. in a specific room on the Campus. Failure to attend or comply with the after-school detention may result in further disciplinary actions.

To receive a day in the Saturday Academy means that on the day(s) of the Academy(s) a student spends the assigned Saturday Mornings(s) from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. in a specific room on the Riverside High School Campus. Failure to attend or comply with

Saturday Academy rules may result in an out-of-school suspension for a duration to be determined by an administrator.

A student may be removed from class for minor disciplinary reasons and sent to the LaMuth Office for the duration of the class period. Students sent to the office may receive a lunch detention, and an accumulation of office referrals may result in further disciplinary consequences.

During an out-of-school suspension, the student may not attend classes, participate in or attend school activities, or visit the school grounds. A student who is suspended shall be permitted to complete any classroom assignments missed because of the suspension and receive credit. The missed assignments must be made up outside of normal class time.

When a student is suspended, a parent/guardian will be contacted by mail, phone, or conference by an administrator in order to inform them of the rule violation and suspension hearing results. The administrator will determine the duration of the suspension. The student may also be charged in court for any violations of the Student Code of Conduct. With the accumulation of an excessive number of suspensions or other actions in violation of the Student Code of Conduct, the principal shall forward the student's records to the superintendent for review and consideration for expulsion from school for the remainder of the semester/year. The pupil and his/her parent/guardian may appeal an out-of-school suspension or expulsion. Appeals must be made within five (5) school days to the Principal.

*Note: The offenses listed should not be interpreted as the only offenses for which a student may be suspended or otherwise disciplined. Other incidents are subject to the principal's judgment.

Scope

This code of conduct shall apply to the following situations:

1. On school property during and immediately before or after school hours
2. On school property at any time when the property is being used by a school-sponsored group
3. Off school property at any school-sponsored function or on school buses provided by the Riverside Local Schools for transporting students, and in private vehicles used for the same purpose
4. The authorization of student codes of conduct to include discipline for misconduct which occurs off school property to the extent that (1) the misconduct is connected to activities or incidents which have occurred on property owned or controlled by the board of education, and (2) misconduct by a pupil that, regardless of where it occurs, is directed at a district official or employee, or the property of such official or employee.



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