

# Forsyth Middle School Student Handbook 2026-2027

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# **POLICIES AND PROCEDURES GOVERNING FORSYTH MIDDLE SCHOOL FORSYTH, MISSOURI**

## **Welcome to Forsyth Middle School**

We at Forsyth Middle School are proud to have you as part of our student body. The Forsyth R-III School District would like to welcome you to middle school. Our middle school for fifth, sixth, seventh, and eighth graders is designed for students who are changing from childhood to adolescence. We believe that we have an excellent school, and we invite you to explore the academic and co-curricular opportunities that are made available.

The purpose of this handbook and the enclosures you will find herein is to help you understand the policies and procedures that we follow at Forsyth Middle School. This handbook does not cover every situation which may occur; however, you will find answers to most of the questions that may arise.

Much of this handbook and many of the enclosures are taken directly from the Board of Education Policies and Procedures Manual. The primary purpose of the policies approved by the Board of Education is to help establish and maintain a safe, friendly, and enjoyable school environment at Forsyth Middle School. A copy of the Board of Education Policies and Procedures Manual may be found on our district website in the office of the middle school principal and/or the office of the superintendent of schools or at

[https://simbli.eboardsolutions.com/SB\\_ePolicy/SB\\_PolicyOverview.aspx?S=491&Sch=491](https://simbli.eboardsolutions.com/SB_ePolicy/SB_PolicyOverview.aspx?S=491&Sch=491)

We hope you will become involved in the wide selection of activities that we will be offering this school year. Congratulations on making Forsyth Middle School your school.

Remember- **“THERE’S NOTHING BETTER THAN BEING A PANTHER.”**

Best Wishes for a Great School Year,

*Dr. Sandra J. Goss*

Dr. Sandra J. Goss, Middle School Principal

[sgoss@forsythr3.k12.mo.us](mailto:sgoss@forsythr3.k12.mo.us)

*Ryan Persinger*

Dr. Ryan Persinger, Middle School Assistant Principal

[rpersinger@forsythr3.k12.mo.us](mailto:rpersinger@forsythr3.k12.mo.us)

Forsyth Middle School  
P.O. Box 187  
Forsyth, Missouri 65653  
417-546-6382

**FORSYTH R-III SCHOOL DISTRICT  
AND  
FORSYTH MIDDLE SCHOOL**

**Forsyth R-III School District Mission Statement**

To inspire and equip every student for their next stage in life.

**School Vision Statement**

Supporting student growth for positive future impact.

**Philosophy**

We believe that everybody is somebody. This philosophy requires that there be a mutual respect of the rights of all students to learn without regard to race, creed, sex, religion, or ability. All students have the right to learn, and those that are a part of the learning environment should respect that right. Teachers will provide for individual differences within their curriculum, but the student must put forth the effort to take advantage of the teaching by actively participating in the learning process and not disrupting the learning of other students.

**Communications**

It is important for ongoing communication between school and home among parents/guardians, teachers and administrators. Telephone calls, emails, newsletters, visits or personal notes are appropriate to communicate initial concerns about grades or behavior or to share successes. The school website will have current middle school information posted. We encourage parents to call the FMS office at 417-546-6382 or to stop by and visit with any questions or concerns. We also have a district webpage that has information regarding the district: The school's website address is [www.forsythpanthers.org](http://www.forsythpanthers.org)

**LEGAL NOTICE: FAMILY EDUCATIONAL RIGHTS AND PRIVACY ACT (FERPA)**

If you do not want Forsyth R-III School District to disclose directory information from your child's education records without your written consent, you must notify the District in writing by October of the current school year. Forsyth R-III School District has designated the following information as directory information: student's name, address, telephone listing, electronic mail address, photograph, date and place of birth, major field of study, dates of attendance, grade level, participation in officially recognized activities and sports, weight and height of members of athletic teams, the most recent educational agency or institution attended, and degrees, honors, and awards received (Note – an LEA may, but does not have to, include all the information listed above).



# FORSYTH R-III SCHOOL DISTRICT

## 2026-2027 Calendar

www.forsythpanthers.org

|               |    |    |    |    |  |  |  |  |  |               |    |    |    |    |
|---------------|----|----|----|----|--|--|--|--|--|---------------|----|----|----|----|
| <b>Aug-26</b> |    |    |    |    |  |  |  |  |  | <b>Feb-27</b> |    |    |    |    |
| M             | T  | W  | T  | F  |  |  |  |  |  | M             | T  | W  | T  | F  |
| 3             | 4  | 5  | 6  | 7  |  |  |  |  |  | 1             | 2  | 3  | 4  | 5  |
| 10            | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 |  |  |  |  |  | 8             | 9  | 10 | 11 | 12 |
| 17            | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 |  |  |  |  |  | 15            | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 |
| 24            | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 |  |  |  |  |  | 22            | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 |
| 31            |    |    |    |    |  |  |  |  |  |               |    |    |    |    |
|               |    |    |    |    |  |  |  |  |  |               |    |    |    |    |
| <b>Sep-26</b> |    |    |    |    |  |  |  |  |  | <b>Mar-27</b> |    |    |    |    |
| M             | T  | W  | T  | F  |  |  |  |  |  | M             | T  | W  | T  | F  |
|               | 1  | 2  | 3  | 4  |  |  |  |  |  | 1             | 2  | 3  | 4  | 5  |
| 7             | 8  | 9  | 10 | 11 |  |  |  |  |  | 8             | 9  | 10 | 11 | 12 |
| 14            | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 |  |  |  |  |  | 15            | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 |
| 21            | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 |  |  |  |  |  | 22            | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 |
| 28            | 29 | 30 |    |    |  |  |  |  |  | 29            | 30 | 31 |    |    |
|               |    |    |    |    |  |  |  |  |  |               |    |    |    |    |
| <b>Oct-26</b> |    |    |    |    |  |  |  |  |  | <b>Apr-27</b> |    |    |    |    |
| M             | T  | W  | T  | F  |  |  |  |  |  | M             | T  | W  | T  | F  |
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| 5             | 6  | 7  | 8  | 9  |  |  |  |  |  | 5             | 6  | 7  | 8  | 9  |
| 12            | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 |  |  |  |  |  | 12            | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 |
| 19            | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 |  |  |  |  |  | 19            | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 |
| 26            | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 |  |  |  |  |  | 26            | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 |
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| <b>Nov-26</b> |    |    |    |    |  |  |  |  |  | <b>May-27</b> |    |    |    |    |
| M             | T  | W  | T  | F  |  |  |  |  |  | M             | T  | W  | T  | F  |
| 2             | 3  | 4  | 5  | 6  |  |  |  |  |  | 3             | 4  | 5  | 6  | 7  |
| 9             | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 |  |  |  |  |  | 10            | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 |
| 16            | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 |  |  |  |  |  | 17            | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 |
| 23            | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 |  |  |  |  |  | 24            | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 |
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| <b>Dec-26</b> |    |    |    |    |  |  |  |  |  | <b>Jun-27</b> |    |    |    |    |
| M             | T  | W  | T  | F  |  |  |  |  |  | M             | T  | W  | T  | F  |
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| <b>Jan-27</b> |    |    |    |    |  |  |  |  |  |               |    |    |    |    |
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## ENROLLMENT AT FMS

### New Students Enrolling in School - Transfer Students

The following information is needed from all new students who are enrolling:

1. Up-to-date immunization record (state requirement for enrollment)
2. Transcript and discipline record from previous district (grades, assessments, discipline)
3. Birth Certificate
4. Proof of residency must have physical address
5. Address and fax number of the previous district with the name of the counselor and administrator.
6. Parents must accompany new students upon registration.
7. Parents of students who have attended Forsyth Middle School the previous year will be required to fill out Online enrollment forms yearly.

### Withdrawal from School

Students who must leave the Forsyth R-III District for whatever reason will need to do the following:

1. Complete and leave a "check out" form with the office.
2. Take care of all financial obligations to the district.
3. Return District Issued Laptop
4. Clean out their lockers.
5. Leave their new home address and the address of the district where they will be attending with the Office.
6. Parents are to accompany the student to school at the time of withdrawal.
7. Failure to follow this procedure will cause a delay in sending transcripts to the next school district.

## DAILY OPERATIONS AT FMS

### Telephone Numbers

|                                     |              |
|-------------------------------------|--------------|
| Middle School Telephone Number:     | 417-546-6382 |
| Middle School Fax Number:           | 417-546-6943 |
| Superintendent's Office:            | 417-546-6384 |
| Nurse's Office:                     | 417-546-6381 |
| Bus Barn:                           | 417-546-6606 |
| High School Telephone Number:       | 417-546-6383 |
| Elementary School Telephone Number: | 417-546-6381 |

### School Hours

|                                   |           |
|-----------------------------------|-----------|
| Middle School Building Opens:     | 7:40 a.m. |
| Middle School Classes Begins:     | 8:05 a.m. |
| Middle School Dismisses:          | 3:25 p.m. |
| Middle School Building is Locked: | 4:00 p.m. |
| Middle School Building is Closed: | 4:30 p.m. |

### Arrival at School

Students should arrive at school no earlier than **7:40** a.m. unless specifically requested to do so by a teacher, or unless arrangements have been made through the school office.

Breakfast is served in the cafeteria between 7:40 and 8:00 a.m. All students will go directly to their homeroom. Students who want breakfast will be sent by the homeroom teacher, to get breakfast on the high school side of the cafeteria and then sit on the elementary side of the cafeteria until the 8:00 a.m. bell rings or they are finished eating. If students finish eating prior to the 8:00 a.m. bell, they need to return to their homeroom. Students not in their assigned area will be sent to the office. At 8:00 a.m., students will be allowed to go to their first hour class. **First hour will start at 8:05 a.m.** The district will not be responsible for supervising students outside the stated times of 7:40 AM and 3:25 PM unless prior arrangements have been made between district personnel and parents/guardians of the students.

## DAILY OPERATIONS

### **Regular Schedule**

|                 |                     |
|-----------------|---------------------|
| 1 <sup>st</sup> | 8:05 AM – 8:55 AM   |
| 2 <sup>nd</sup> | 8:59 AM – 9:49 AM   |
| 3 <sup>rd</sup> | 9:53 AM – 10:43 AM  |
| 4 <sup>th</sup> | 10:47 AM – 11:37 AM |
| 5 <sup>th</sup> | 11:40 AM – 12:56 PM |
| 6 <sup>th</sup> | 1:00 PM – 1:50 PM   |
| 7 <sup>th</sup> | 1:54 PM – 2:44 PM   |
| 8 <sup>th</sup> | 2:48 PM – 3:25 PM   |

Students need to utilize the passing periods between classes to use the restroom and water fountain.

### **Pledge of Allegiance**

Senate Bill 638 specifies the Pledge of Allegiance must be recited at least once per school day in schools supported by public funds. The Pledge of Allegiance will be recited daily during 1<sup>st</sup> hour.

### **Arriving Late**

Students need to report to the office with a parent, a note, or a phone call when arriving late, unless there is a bus problem. If there is no contact from a parent/guardian, it will be an unexcused absence/tardy.

### **Student Pickup from School**

Parents who wish to bring or pick up their children will need to go to the middle school main office to sign out their child. Students will only be released to the parent, guardian or designee of the parent or guardian or to other individuals or agencies as permitted or required by law. (Policy JEDB)

### **Visitors**

All visitors are required to report to the middle school principal's office in order to check-in and obtain a visitor's pass upon entering the building or school grounds. Visits for other than school business are not allowed. Parents and Guardians may eat lunch with their student after obtaining a visitor's pass. Students are **not allowed** to bring visitors to school with them during the school day.

### **Students Leaving Together or Taking a Different Bus**

Bus passes will be issued by the office secretary. Both the sending and receiving parents must write a permission slip or call the office prior to 2:45 p.m.

### **School Counseling**

The Forsyth R-III School District offers school counseling services with the hope we may provide each student with individual guidance and counseling. All students will have the opportunity to meet with the counselor and discuss future educational and occupational plans. We urge you to take advantage of this opportunity.

### **Parent/Guardian Conferences**

Anytime you would like to contact a staff member, please call the principal's office at (417) 546-6382 to request a time for a return phone call or conference with a teacher. We would encourage parents/guardians to do so anytime there is a concern.

### **Parent Portal**

Parents may view the progress of their student on the Infinite Campus Parent Login. Instructions will be sent in a link by the district. Parents are able to view grades, discipline, attendance, and other items on the parent portal. Parents are encouraged to communicate with the educational staff.

# ACADEMICS

## Grading System

The FORSYTH R-III School System has adopted the following grading scale:

|           |           |           |           |         |
|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|---------|
| A 94-100% | B+ 87-89% | C+ 77-79% | D+ 67-69% | F 0-59% |
| A- 90-93% | B 84-86%  | C 74-76%  | D 64-66%  |         |
|           | B- 80-83% | C- 70-73% | D- 60-63% |         |

The inadequacy of grades, when used to express the value of achievement and citizenship, are generally recognized. Each student is encouraged to attain his/her highest level of achievement.

Elective courses can potentially be set up pass/fail. Passing is 60% or above, below 60% is failing. Student will be identified if the course is graded pass/fail at the beginning of the course.

## Progress Reports/Report Cards

Progress Reports/Report Cards will no longer be sent home via paper copy. Parents may view their student's grade at any time on the Infinite Campus (SIS) by creating an account with an email address. Parents will be notified via district text/email when progress grades and quarter grades are up to date and available for viewing on Infinite Campus. Parents are encouraged to keep their contact information current in Infinite Campus and closely monitor their students' grades, behavior and attendance.

## Honor Rolls

Three levels of scholastic achievement have been set up toward which students are urged to strive. They are as follows:

*Principal's Honor Roll* -- Achievement of 4.0 G.P.A. in all courses attempted

*Panther Honor Roll* -- Achievement of 3.67 - 3.99 G.P.A. in all courses attempted

*Honor Roll* -- Achievement of 3.0 - 3.66 G.P.A. in all courses attempted

At the conclusion of each quarter, the Principal's and Panther Honor Roll will be listed in the middle school newsletter.

## Finals

Comprehensive semester finals will be up to the individual teacher at all grade levels and in all classes. Please note that the semester grade is the average of the previous two-quarter grades.

## Promotion

All **fifth, sixth, seventh and eighth grade** students must pass **the core requirements**: Math, Science, Communication Arts, Reading and Social Studies **per semester** to be promoted to the next grade level. Failure to meet the aforementioned requirements may result in your child being recommended to attend and successfully complete summer school or recommended to be retained. If students fail, at semester, all core requirements throughout the school year, they will be automatically retained and not have the opportunity to attend summer school. If a student is required to attend summer school for academic recovery students may not miss days for summer school.

## Outside/Student Speakers

Outside/Student speakers are speaking as individuals, and their speech does not reflect the endorsement, sponsorship, position, or expression of the Forsyth School District.

## Student Records

Parents and students who are 18 or older shall have access to their student educational records. Student information termed "directory information" may be released unless the school is directed by the parents/guardian not to release such information. This information will include: Name, address, telephone number, date and place of birth, attendance, and grade level.

**Academic Dishonesty**- Cheating on test, assignments, projects or similar activities; plagiarism; claiming credit for another person's work; fabrication of facts, sources or other supporting material; unauthorized collaboration; facilitating academic dishonesty; and other misconduct related to academics. This includes students taking credit for work produced from the use of Artificial Intelligence. Academic dishonesty will result in a consequence.

### Statewide Assessments

The district will implement the components of the Missouri Assessment Program (MAP) in order to monitor the progress of all students in meeting the standards adopted by the Missouri State Board of Education. Any student enrolled in Forsyth Middle School will be required to participate in MAP testing.

### Virtual Courses

Qualifying students may enroll in virtual courses offered at the districts expense. *Policy IGCD*

## SCHOOL ATTENDANCE

### Absent from School

When a student returns to school following an absence, the student is required to bring a note or have a phone call from a parent/guardian explaining the reason for the absence. If the note is received prior to the absence, a second note is not necessary upon return to school. The student absence will be verified in the computer and marked with a V. The student will be allowed to make up work missed during the absence. Students will have one day to make up work for each day they are absent. This does not affect the due date of previously assigned work or tests.

### Leaving School Grounds

Once a student steps foot on school grounds they are considered at school. A student must never leave school before the regular dismissal time without permission from the administration. When a student needs to leave school early, they must present a parental permission note before their first class so the note can be verified if necessary. Students may also have a parent/guardian call the school to leave school early. The parent/guardian will be asked a security question prior to the release of the student. Students may leave only with a person named on the enrollment verification form that is on file in the middle school office. Students must be signed out in the office by the individual picking them up prior to leaving. Students may not return to school that day unless a parent/guardian accompanies the student to the office to sign the student back into school. Students leaving without permission will be considered truant and will be disciplined according to policy.

### FMS School Building Attendance Policy

Regular attendance in each class is necessary for students to reach their full potential. Students who attend school on a regular basis make better grades, have higher levels of achievement, and are better prepared to pursue their careers after high school. For the student with frequent absences, the benefit of regular classroom instruction is lost and cannot entirely be regained even by extra instruction, and generally only mediocre academic success can be achieved. The entire process of education requires continuity of instruction, classroom participation, learning experiences, and study in order to reach the goal of maximum educational benefits for each individual. **The Forsyth Middle School has directed the implementation of the following attendance policy:**

1. Parents/guardians are responsible for notifying the principal's office when their son/daughter is to be absent from school. When a student returns to school after an absence, he/she must present a written statement signed by a parent/guardian indicating the reason for his/her absence. Presentation of a statement signed by someone other than a parent/guardian will result in a disciplinary action. The writer, if another student, is also subject to a disciplinary action.
2. An **unexcused absence** will be recorded for students who are truant or by the lack of written explanation signed by a parent or guardian for the time missed by the student. Students will have one day to make up work for each day they are absent. This does not affect the due date of previously assigned work or tests.
3. Missouri Law requires every parent or guardian, having control or custody of a child between the ages of 7 and 17, to cause said child to attend a school not less than the entire school term of the school which the child attends. Any parent or guardian who violates the provisions of Sections 167.031 to 167.051 RSMO is guilty of a misdemeanor. Parents who do not abide by the compulsory attendance law will be referred to local authorities. As a school we are legally obligated to monitor student attendance and to report any cases that we feel qualify as educational neglect, regardless of whether the absences are excused or unexcused. Therefore, as a student begins to accrue absences, a review of the student's progress will take place. Interventions such as parent conferences, mandating summer school, requiring retention, and notifying the Prosecuting Attorney of Taney County may be considered.

4. School sponsored activities for which the student has been properly pre-excused are exempt from and will not pertain to this policy. However, each student will be required to make up all work missed because of the activity in a timely manner.
5. In-school suspension will not count as an absence from class. Any out-of-school suspension will count as an excused absence in all classes, and such students may not participate in any extracurricular activities during that suspension. Class work missed during OSS must be completed in a timely manner at the discretion of the administration during the suspension unless previous arrangements have been made with administration.
6. A student absent from school may not participate in or attend school sponsored activities unless the student attends at least 4 hours of the school day and checks in with the proper notification or the building principal was notified prior to the absence, and the student was given authorization from a building principal.
7. Extenuating circumstances such as chronic illness or hospitalization may be cause for consideration in exceptions to the attendance policy. The parents/guardians must direct any appeal concerning attendance decisions to the principal. Records for each student's absences will be kept in the principal's office, and it is the responsibility of the parents/guardians to provide accurate and specific information regarding each absence. Prolonged illnesses will require a doctor's verification. In cases of extenuating circumstances such as chronic illness or hospitalization the services of homebound might be available. Please check with the Special Education Director to see if your child qualifies.
8. Attendance Letter Steps- Every student who is absent will receive the following letter as communication from school to home. This letter will be sent after absences: 3,5,7,9,11,15,20,25+  
This letter is to inform you that (students name) has incurred (# of absences) or more days of absenteeism. Included in this letter is an attendance summary which shows the number of days (student) missed. The district is required to enforce the public-school laws of Missouri. Should your child's absences become significant, it may warrant further action, up to and including reporting to local authorities. There is a direct correlation between attendance and school performance. Students need to be in school to gain the full benefits of classroom instruction. Our goal is for all students to succeed and it starts with the foundation of good attendance.  
If you have any questions or wish to discuss this matter further, please contact the Middle School office at (417) 546-6382 during regular office hours.

### **Dismissal of School**

The Superintendent of Schools may dismiss school or notify parents/guardians when Alternative Methods of Instruction (AMI) are being utilized as a result of inclement weather, mechanical failure, or other emergencies that may arise. Parents/guardians will receive a message via phone, text, and email from School Messenger with important information. Parents/Guardians are encouraged to keep their contact information up-to-date so they will receive these notifications. Additionally, the public will be notified of school closure, or AMI, over the following local media outlets and the following television stations: KY3, KOLR and KSPR. If it becomes necessary to dismiss school early, we will send your children home on the bus as usual.

### **Alternative Methods of Instruction (AMI)**

The Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education has given schools the ability to make up school closure for up to 36 hours without having to schedule a makeup day. This plan, called AMI or Alternative Methods of Instruction, will be utilized by the Forsyth School District in the event of inclement weather, health concern, exceptional emergency circumstances, or natural disasters.

The goal of the AMI plan is to provide uninterrupted exposure to concepts and skills that students will use to achieve mastery of objectives and standards. Consistent practice and exposure to skills without interruption is the most effective way to ensure student understanding and mastery of content knowledge.

The Forsyth School District will notify all parents/guardians via school messenger calls/text and social media postings in the event of school closures. **In order for these AMI days to be counted for attendance and not made up, each student will be required to complete the work for that particular day.** The expectations for AMI days will be communicated to the students.

### **Publication Notice**

Parents and Guardians: Throughout the school year photographs and videos of your child and your child's name may be used in various forms (newspapers, class newsletters, etc.) If you do not want your child's names or pictures published please come by the office and sign the No Publication Form.

### **Use of the Building**

Prior arrangements should be made with the Athletic Director for any activities, which may require the use of the building after school hours. Arrangements should be made at least one week in advance and the sponsor of the organization or activity is to make the request. Groups outside the school wanting to use school facilities must submit application through the Superintendent's Office.

## **FOOD SERVICE**

### **Middle School Breakfast and Lunch**

It is very important that you place your child's lunch money in a school-provided envelope with the front completed, detailing to whom and where the money is to be credited. Each student will have a student ID number that will be utilized daily for lunches. If a student has exhausted all funds and has a negative balance of more than 15 dollars, he/she will be provided a courtesy meal until balance is above zero. Arrangements should be made to bring their lunch if the student's account does not have a positive balance. Second lunches will not be available. Forsyth School maintains a "CLOSED" lunch period; therefore, students may not leave school grounds for lunch.

### **Free and Reduced Lunches**

Families may leave an application for free and reduced lunches in the middle school office. After the application has been turned into the office the family will receive notification of the decision of approval or denial. If you have not received this notification within five days, please contact the office.

**Breakfast Prices**

|            |      |
|------------|------|
| Grades 5-8 | 1.35 |
| Reduced    | .30  |

**Lunch Prices**

|            |        |
|------------|--------|
| Grades 5-8 | \$2.65 |
| Reduced    | \$0.40 |

**Extra Milk \$.55**

**Meal Charges**

Unless meals are provided at no charge, the district expects students to pay for meals prior to or at the time of receipt. (Procedure EF- AP1) Please refer to the district's website and Administrative Procedure EF-AP1 on charging meals and nutritional standards.

**Bringing food**

Food that is brought in and served during school hours must meet minimum nutritional standards. (Procedure ADF-AP1)

Only water is allowed outside the cafeteria unless supplied by the school. Energy drinks (e.g., Monster) are banned on campus .

## **EMERGENCY DRILLS**

**Safety Drill Instructions**

A Crisis Response Guide is posted in every classroom. Teachers and students will respond appropriately to the situations described in the guide through a series of safety drills conducted during the school year. Students are to follow the instructions of school personnel during all crisis responses. Crisis response includes evacuation, severe weather and lockdown. (FORSYTH R-III Board Policy Manual, File: EBC)

**Evacuation Drill**

In case of fire or a fire drill, remember these directions and your teacher's directions precisely: an announcement will be made over the intercom by the central office to take the appropriate measures. All windows and doors must be shut. DO NOT use the windows for evacuation unless your classroom door is blocked by fire. Procedures are in place for the evacuation of the school campus if conditions warrant.

**Tornado Drills**

An announcement will be made over the intercom by the central office to take appropriate measures. After the announcement students will be moved to the PAC/Tornado Shelter.

**Earthquake Drill**

In the event of an earthquake or an earthquake drill, students and faculty will get under their desks and assume a protective position with their hands over their heads. (FORSYTH R-III Board Policy Manual, File: EBC)

[https://sema.dps.mo.gov/earthquake\\_preparedness/](https://sema.dps.mo.gov/earthquake_preparedness/)

**Lockdown Drill**

In the event of an intruder entering the building, a procedure has been developed to increase the safety of our students. Teachers will familiarize the students of the steps to be taken if this situation occurs.

## TRANSPORTATION

The school buses are owned and operated by the school district and are under the jurisdiction of the Board of Education. The school administration has the authority to make necessary rules and regulations concerning the use of school buses. Student appreciation for this service can be shown by good conduct on the bus, following the directives of the driver, and by considerate treatment of the bus equipment.

In order to ensure the safest possible environment for ALL students on the bus, the following discipline policy is in effect for ALL students that CHOOSE to ride:

Obey the directives of the bus driver.

Be courteous: no pushing, shoving, swearing, fighting etc.

No illegal substances: tobacco, drugs, alcohol, weapons etc.

Do not eat or drink on the bus.

Do not damage bus or equipment.

Do not litter includes inside and outside the bus.

Stay seated correctly and talk to your neighbors without screaming or shouting.

No pets, balloons, flowers etc. Busses are for transporting students and their school supplies.

Personal electronic devices may be used on the bus as long as they are not disruptive to the driver or surrounding students.

School issued laptops must stay in their protective sleeve and in the student's backpack.

Bus Misconduct includes behaviors such as horseplay, inappropriate language, throwing items, or other violations that create disorderly or unsafe conditions on the bus.

Bus Misconduct will result in the loss of bus riding privileges and/ possible additional disciplinary action. Additional Disciplinary action used for bus misconduct after bus removal could include; Office referral resulting in a written warning, after-school detention, in-school suspension or out-of-school suspension.

1. FIRST OFFENSE: - Office referral resulting in warning or 1-day bus removal
2. SECOND OFFENSE: - Office referral resulting in 4-day bus removal
3. THIRD OFFENSE: - Office referral resulting in 8-day bus removal a
4. FOURTH OFFENSE: - Office Referral resulting in 30-day bus removal
5. FIFTH OFFENSE: -Office Referral resulting in 90-day bus removal

**More severe violations, which create unsafe conditions on the bus, safety concerns will be considered, and will result in more severe consequences.** The first safety related driver distraction will result in a minimum three-day bus removal AND parent conference with the school administration and possible additional consequences. We aim to maintain a safe environment for everyone on the bus, so consequences may vary in severity based on the severity of the misconduct.

Additional examples of Bus Misconduct:

- A. Insubordination causing an unsafe bus climate
- B. Vandalism (writing, drawing on bus)
- C. Verbal or physical abuse
- D. Sexual harassment/misconduct
- E. Use or possession of illegal substances
- F. Disrespect towards the bus driver
- G. Distracting the driver

The transportation department wants you to know that we are doing all we can to make sure your child has a safe and enjoyable trip, whether it be to and from school or an activity. With your help, we can achieve these goals. The transportation department phone number is **(417) 546-6606** if you have any questions or comments.

**The bus driver/administration reserves the right to assign seats to students while on the bus.**

**The administration reserves the right to use regular school discipline in addition to or in place of bus discipline. Anything not in the transportation policy will be dealt with on a case-by-case basis.**

### **Walking to and from FMS**

Please notify the school if you are allowing your child to walk to and from school.

### **Bus Passes**

Bus passes will be issued by the office secretary. Both the sending and receiving parents must write a permission slip or call before 2:45 p.m.

### **Activity Bus**

If you are going on an after school activities bus and there are multiple buses for the activity you must go on the first bus unless you are staying for an after school activity. **You may not leave campus and then return to campus to ride a later bus.**

## **WELLNESS**

### **Health Services**

If a student becomes ill during the school day or requires first aid, the student is to be sent to the nurse's office. Ibuprofen, Tylenol, etc., is **NOT** available in the office or from the nurse. Should a student be seriously ill and need to be sent home or to a hospital, parents will be notified. Each student must have an emergency telephone number on file with the school nurse. All students must have permission from the school nurse office **BEFORE** going home for illness. The school nurse is responsible for maintenance of health records, including immunizations for each student. **Students' immunizations must be up to date and current or they will NOT be allowed to attend school.**

### **Student Safety**

On rare occasions students are needlessly hurt during the school year. In most instances, injury could be avoided if students would be more cautious and simply think before acting. To minimize the possibility of injury, students are expected to obey the following rules:

1. Report accidents promptly and accurately to the principal.
2. Inform someone in authority of unsafe practices in the building, school grounds and/or streets.
3. Help keep the school building clean and hazard free.
  4. Remain calm and follow the directions of the principal and school personnel during safety drills and other emergencies.
  5. Students participating in agriculture and lab classes are required to wear safety glasses or goggles and must follow the safety rules set for each class.

### **Health (School) Insurance**

Supplemental insurance is available on a voluntary basis for each student in school. This insurance provides for coverage of injury while at school-sponsored events. Students are not covered under the insurance if they drive or ride with someone to and from school. They must be on the school bus to be covered. All students participating in athletics must be covered by insurance. If a student does not purchase school insurance, a statement from a parent or guardian will be needed to show proof of insurance.

### **MO HealthNet for Kids Program**

Information regarding MO Health Net can be found at <https://www.benefits.gov/benefit/1606>

### **Health Standards**

The school nurse, with the consent of the principal, may require a pupil suspected of having a disease or of being able to transmit a disease to be excluded from school according to school policy for prevention and control of communicable diseases. These students may also be required to be examined by a physician and to provide a written statement of health before returning to school. Any pupil not complying may be excluded from school. Children who become ill at school should be taken to the health office and a decision will be made there as to calling a parent, doctor, etc. The decision regarding medical treatment should always be the responsibility of the parent. Only in cases of emergencies will the school make this decision. Please see communicable disease policy.

### **Communicable Disease Policy**

A student shall not be permitted to attend classes or other school sponsored activities if the student is known to be afflicted with or liable to transmit any contagious or infectious disease, unless the Board of Education, or its designee, has determined, based on medical evidence, that:

1. Student is no longer infected or liable to transmit the disease, or
2. The student is afflicted with a chronic infectious disease which poses little risk of transmission in the school environment with reasonable precautions.

Any student permitted to attend school with a chronic infectious disease must do so under specified conditions. Failure to adhere to the conditions will result in the student being excluded from school. Any student determined to have a chronic infectious disease and who is not permitted to attend school will be provided instruction in an alternative educational setting in accordance with district policy.

Students with a contagious or infectious disease, and their families, have a right to privacy and a need for confidentiality. Only staff members, who have a medical reason to know the identity and condition of such students, will be informed. Willful or negligent disclosure of confidential information about a student's medical condition by staff members will be the cause for disciplinary action.

The district will implement the "Reporting Disease Outbreak Control Measures" in accordance with 19 CSR 20-20.010 through 20-20.060 and 20-28.010.

### **Medication Policy and Procedure for Students**

**All medicines including over the counter and prescription medicines must be brought to the school nurse's office and dispensed by the nurse or designee.**

The diagnosis and treatment of illness and the prescribing of medication are never the responsibility of a school, and should not be practiced by school personnel. It is the expectation of the district that all prescribed medications are administered by the student's parent at home. The district acknowledges, however, that some students may require prescribed medication during the school day. In these cases, medications will be administered according to the law and school administrative procedures which are listed below.

1. Medications must be prescribed by a person licensed by a state regulatory board or otherwise to prescribe medications by state law.
2. The prescription must be in the original container with the directions for administration at school on the container. Parents must bring the medication to school in the original packaging. The district will not administer the first dose of any medication. Medication authorization forms must be completed and signed by the parent. This form must be renewed if there is a change to medication type, dosage, or frequency and at the beginning of each school year.
3. The school nurse (or any other staff member) may not be verbally directed by a parent to administer medication to a student. This includes over-the-counter medications such as Tylenol or Ibuprofen.
4. Over-the-counter medications can be administered at the school if there is written permission from the parent or guardian. This form is available in the nurse's office. Parents must supply medication and bring it to school in the original packaging.
5. Medications (over-the-counter or prescription) **cannot** be transported on the bus.
6. Students are not allowed to dispense any medication (prescription or over-the-counter) to his/her self or to others at any time. Please note that an insulin dependent diabetic may self-administer with the nurse's supervision.

7. No student will be permitted to attend school that has a contagious illness or condition. If the nurse suspects a contagious condition, the parent will be contacted to pick up the student. In some cases, the student must be examined and cleared to return to school. In accordance to STUDENT HEALTH SERVICE REQUIREMENTS Policy JHC, a student in which live head lice have been discovered, the student may not return to school for 24 hours after the discovery of the live head lice. When the student returns to school, he/she will be re-examined by the school nurse. If only nits are discovered and not a live head lice infestation, the parent/guardian will be instructed on treatment options, and the student will be re-examined within five (5) calendar days.
8. The school nurse may offer the following remedies to your child: peppermint candy (soft, quick dissolve used for younger children), Chloraseptic throat spray, menthol cough drops, triple antibiotic ointment, saline eye wash, Calamine lotion, Aloe Vera lotion, bandage adhesives, hydrogen peroxide, topical lidocaine burn gel, muscle rub, TUMS antacid chewable, Orajel/Anbesol (benzocaine) and Carmex/Blistex lip ointment. **If your child is allergic to any of these products or if you would like a specific product to be withheld from your child, please submit a letter addressed to the school nurse listing the remedies listed in #8 to be withheld from your student.**

#### **Epinephrine**

Epinephrine medication is in stock and can be used on any student in an emergency, a notice notifying the district in writing must be signed by parents/guardians if they do not want these medications administered in an emergency. (FORSYTH R-III Board Policy Manual, File: JHCD)

#### **CBD Products**

The district does not permit the possession or administration of marijuana or marijuana-infused products for medicinal purposes on district property or at district events since these products are prohibited under federal law. *Policy JHCD*

#### **Hygiene**

Hygiene should be a matter of personal pride in oneself. Poor hygiene can affect the learning process of the student and the students around him/her. If FMS staff feels a student's hygiene is affecting learning, the student will be sent to the nurse, counselor, or administrator to discuss proper hygiene.

#### **Wellness Program**

The Board recognizes the relationship between student well-being and student achievement as well as the importance of a comprehensive district wellness program. The district will provide developmentally appropriate and sequential nutrition and physical education as well as opportunities for physical activity. For more information on the district's nutrition standards see School Board Policy ADF-AP1.

#### **Influenza and influenza vaccination information**

If the school district provides information on immunizations, infectious diseases, medications, or other school health issues to parents and guardians of students. The included information will be identical or similar to that produced by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention about influenza and influenza vaccinations

# STUDENT RESPONSIBILITIES AND CODE OF CONDUCT

## Daily Announcements

A copy of the daily announcement will be posted on Infinite Campus website. Students are expected to read the bulletin on the Infinite Campus student portal daily.

## Student Handbook

Every parent/student will have access to the student handbook via the internet. The handbook can be found on the school website. The student handbook has the policies and regulations governing the Forsyth Middle School students. <https://forsythpanthers.org/wp-content/uploads/Forsyth-Middle-School-Handbook-2026-2027-Website.pdf>

## Fees and Charges

1) Students desiring to construct special projects in courses, such as art, home economics or social studies, shall pay for needed materials as they are utilized. All required items constructed by the student in such courses might be purchased from the school for the cost of materials used. 2) Clubs and organizations not required for academic credit may charge membership dues. 3) Where the student causes the willful or negligent destruction of property, the school district may assess charges to cover the cost of repair or replacement of property. 4) Fines may be imposed in classes, such as art or band, if items loaned are not returned promptly so other students may use them.

## Physical Education/Weights Class

Students enrolled in physical education class are required to provide their own clothing. The clothing shall be of the type that is necessary for safety, health, or protection of people or property. Soft-soled shoes, socks, a tee shirt/sweatshirt, and shorts/sweatpants are acceptable. Cut-off jeans are not considered acceptable. Students are encouraged to place names on shoes and P.E. clothing. A student who has an illness or disability which necessitates a limited physical education program or one who should be excused entirely from physical education, must have on file with the principal a doctor's statement to that effect. The statement should include the student's name, statement of the problem, and dates during which the student will be unable to participate.

## Lockers

Locker assignments are made at the beginning of school. Students are not to trade or share lockers. ***Items should never be left in a gym locker without a lock, as the school is not responsible for personal property lost or stolen.*** The misuse of a locker will result in loss of the privilege of having a locker. Students are expected to keep lockers neat in appearance and to keep the doors closed when not in use. Students are reminded that lockers are the property of the school and are subject to inspection. Open beverage containers are not allowed in lockers. School issued locks are available in the middle school office upon request. If students loses or does not return the lock a charge of \$10 will be assessed.

## Internet and Computer Access

Forsyth Middle School offers access to networked computer resources to staff and students. The operation of the Internet depends heavily on the proper conduct of its users, who must adhere to strict guidelines. If a district user violates provisions outlined in the acceptable use policy, consequences will follow. Some violations may result in legal action. There is more information outlined under the discipline portion of this handbook.

### **Digital Citizenship**

Digital citizenship can be defined as the norms of appropriate, responsible behavior with regard to technology use. All students are expected to be responsible digital citizens.

### **Care of Books**

All books, which are the property of the school, should be kept in good condition. A fine or replacement cost will be charged for a book that is lost or damaged. Please report all lost and defaced books to the teacher and/or principal.

### **Care of School Property**

It is the responsibility of each student to see that school property is kept in good condition. Vandalism of any sort will not be tolerated. Students will be held responsible for the proper care of all books, computers, supplies, apparatus and furniture furnished by the Board of Education. Pupils who deface or mar school property will be required to pay all damages and will be subject to disciplinary action.

### **Lost and Found**

Students who either lose or find items should report this to the office. Loss of property may be minimized by placing the owner's name on every article and by not leaving personal items unattended. Students are advised to leave valuable items and large amounts of money at home. Lost and found items will be taken to Good Will at the end of each quarter if items are not claimed before that date.

### **Assemblies**

Assemblies are an important part of our school program. The faculty, administration and student organizations will schedule a variety of programs. An attempt will be made to make the programs both enjoyable and educational. One of the educational values of assemblies is training in good audience behavior. It is each student's responsibility to be respectful, courteous and attentive at all times.

### **Conduct in Halls**

The halls are very crowded between classes as well as before and after school. Therefore, it is necessary to observe certain rules so disruptions, confusion or other problems are kept to a minimum. Students are to be courteous to others in the hall. Students are to avoid running, shouting, whistling, slamming lockers and other forms of unnecessary loudness at all times. Do not loiter at lockers or stand in groups blocking the hallways. Please make an effort to keep the halls clean by placing waste and or paper in trash cans or recycle bins.

### **Public Display of Affection on School Grounds**

Students should conduct themselves in a proper manner at all times. This means that there shall be no embracing, kissing, or un-presentable action on school grounds (i.e. holding hands). This also pertains to the hallways and the parking areas. This policy also covers student behavior at any school activity such as ball games, class plays, dances, etc. Students disregarding this policy should expect disciplinary action from the principal.

### **Inappropriate items/non-instructional electronic devices etc.**

The use of personal electronic devices, including mobile phones, smartwatches, MPS players, toys, radios and other non-instructional electronic devices brought to school create too much disturbance in the classrooms and hallways. Such items can be lost or broken at school. Therefore, these items should not be present upon arriving at school. If the items are out after arriving on school grounds, the item(s) will be kept in the office until the end of the day, and a disciplinary action will follow. For the remaining days of the grading progress period that a student receives an electronic device disciplinary notice, the student will have to lock their cell phone in the cell phone office box daily. Refusal to submit the phone daily will result in ISS. If unclaimed at the end of the quarter, the item(s) will be donated to charity. In the event that any of the above-mentioned items are lost, stolen or broken, it is the sole responsibility of the student.

## **Selling and Trading:**

There is to be no giving, buying, selling, or trading of any object at school.

## **Library/Media Center**

The FMS library exists to provide students and faculty with access to information from a variety of sources and to encourage personal development through reading. Materials available for students to use at school and home include books, magazines, newspapers, and CD's. Additional equipment is available during school time such as a copier, a scanner, computers, cameras, camcorders, internet, on-line resources, videos, and more. A library media specialist is able to help students with the collection, organization, and presentation of information through a variety of audio, video, and printed media.

The library adheres to guidelines established by the American Library Association and the Missouri Department of Secondary Education with regard to recommended policies and procedures. The following library policies are in place to provide students with equal access to assorted media. Books may be checked out for a two-week period and repeatedly renewed if not requested by another student. Reference material may be checked out for one hour or overnight. Fines will be charged for materials damaged or not returned on time. Students are encouraged to submit specific requests for the purchase of additional reading material and to maintain an environment conducive to learning. For protection of library materials and equipment, food and drink are not allowed. The library is open from 7:45 a.m. to 3:25 p.m. every day during the normal school year. Students are welcome to use the library after hours by appointment.

## **Student Appearance**

- Student dress and grooming will be the responsibility of the individual and parents/guardians. All aspects of dress and personal appearance are important in developing the best atmosphere for effective education. Proper dress is to be observed at all times during school hours and at all school-sponsored activities.
- Teachers who dress code a student should be responsible for sending them to the office.
- Students may not wear shirts, jackets, or other items with profanity, alcoholic beverage logos, drug references, sexual innuendos, or satanic inferences. Shirts that promote vulgarity/violence are not allowed at school. Gang-related colors, tags, symbols, or apparel will not be permitted. Students may not wear anything that would be considered insensitive to any nationality, ethnic group, or gender.
- Students may not wear hoods over their heads, hats/caps, or sunglasses while in the building. Exceptions may be made for school-sponsored special activities such as School Spirit Week. Blankets cannot be carried or worn as coats or wraps.
- Any apparel, accessories and/or jewelry that could cause injury to self or others will not be permitted. Examples: Wallet chains, extreme rings/necklaces/jewelry or spiked bracelets, etc.
- Face painting and writing or drawing on the skin are considered distracting and not allowed at school. Costumes are not to be worn to school.
- Students must wear footwear designed for public, outdoor use. House shoes and Heelys will not be allowed.
- Any type of extreme dress, or dress that is disruptive or distracting to the educational environment (such as short skirts, mini-dresses, low-cut tops, clothing that is too revealing, sagging pants or shorts, or clothing that is not properly fastened or that contains tears that expose undergarments or an undergarment area) will not be permitted. No spaghetti straps, no midriffs, no crop shirts without an undershirt.
- Additional dress guidelines may be imposed upon students participating in certain extracurricular activities.
- No spandex shorts should be worn as external garments.
- Shirts and hoodies may not cover up shorts. All shorts must be visible at all times.
- When, in the judgment of the principal, a student's appearance or mode of dress does not comply with the above criteria, the student may be required to make modifications.
- Students whose appearance is determined to be inappropriate for school or not in compliance will be required to change to suitable clothing or make the appropriate modifications. Failure to comply with these expectations may result in disciplinary action. The building administration will be the final authority in what is appropriate to wear.
- Students should not wear clothing that distracts and disrupts the educational process. Any article of clothing or adornments that will distract or disrupt the educational process will not be permitted.

Students disregarding this policy should expect disciplinary action from the principal.

### **Use of School Telephone**

The phones in the office are for school personnel use only. Unless it is an emergency, students will not be called out of class to answer the phone. However, **Emergency messages prior to 2:45 p.m. will be delivered to the students. Daily plans need to be made before your child leaves home.** Students must get permission from the principal to use the office phone.

### **Cell Phone and any Unapproved Electronic Devices Recording Policy**

Cell phone, Smartphone and Smartwatch use is prohibited at FMS during school hour's 7:40 AM to 3:25 PM. Cell phone usage disrupts and impairs the teaching process. If your child brings a cell phone to school it shall be turned off or put on silent and placed in the students locker or in the middle school office lock box. If a student is using a cell phone/electronic device or the device is visible or is heard, a disciplinary action will occur. School authorities will confiscate unauthorized devices or prohibited devices. Confiscated devices will be returned to the student at the end of the day. The device will be kept in the office until 3:25 PM it is the students' responsibility to pick up their cell phone at the end of the day. For the remaining days of the grading progress period that a student receives a electronic device disciplinary notice, the student will have to lock their cell phone in the cell phone office box daily. Refusal to submit the phone daily will result in ISS. It is the responsibility of the student to bring their cell phone to the office and put it in the office lock box, for the remaining days of the grading progress after they have received an electronic device disciplinary notice. Cell phone/electronic device use is prohibited upon campus arrival until after 3:25 PM unless prior approval from administration. Any device with a camera, video, or voice recording function shall not be used in any manner which infringes on the privacy rights of any other person. If a student possesses electronic pictures or texts, the district will consider it the same as hard-copy possession of the documents. The school District and employees are not responsible for loss or theft of personal property. Please support our efforts to have a safe, distraction free learning environment. If any devices is unclaimed at the end of the quarter, the item(s) will be destroyed.

### **Drugs/Alcohol**

**Possession or Use of a Controlled Substance:** Including drugs, look-a-like drugs, drug paraphernalia, legal and/or prescription medication, and alcohol within 2000 feet of school property, on school buses, or school activities at home or away. This includes being under the influence. Vapes/e-cigarettes that contain THC are considered a controlled substance. If a student is in possession of a vape/e-cigarette that is suspected of containing THC, the device may be tested using a THC swab kit. First time offenders submitting to a drug and alcohol evaluation (evaluator to be chosen by the school at the student's expense) may have their suspension reduced.

**Sale or Distribution of a Controlled Substance:** Including drugs, look-a-like drugs, drug paraphernalia, legal and/or prescription medication, and alcohol within 2000 feet of the school property, on school busses, or school activities at home or away.

**Tobacco/E-Cigarettes:** The possession or use of any tobacco/e-cigarette product on school property by a student is prohibited. This does include all school activities at home or away. Or on district school busses.

### **Weapons**

Knives, guns, and/or other sharp objects considered dangerous are NOT to be brought to school and will result in a severe disciplinary action. A knife with a 4" blade or bigger will be considered a weapon. All knives will be kept in office until a parent picks them up. At the end of quarter if the item is not collected it will be discarded.

**Weapons and Weapon Threats:** The term “weapon” shall include, but not be limited to: A firearm, a knife with a blade 4 inches or longer, or any object used in a threatening manner, this includes threatening to bring a weapon to school.

**Knife:** A pocket knife with no blade over 4 inches is not considered a weapon unless it is used in a threatening manner; however, it is an inappropriate object and will be confiscated and returned to the parent upon request.

**Bullying/Harassment/Hazing:** In order to promote a safe learning environment for all students, the Forsyth R-III School District prohibits all forms of hazing, bullying, cyberbullying, and student intimidation. The district also prohibits reprisal or retaliation against any person who reports an act of bullying among or against students. (Board Policy JFCF). Students participating in or encouraging inappropriate conduct will be disciplined in accordance with JG-R1. Such discipline may include, but is not limited to, suspension or expulsion from school and removal from participation in activities. Students who have been subjected to, or a witness of hazing, bullying, or cyberbullying are instructed to promptly report such incidents to a school official. Bullying Incident Report Forms will be available for students to record bullying information.

In addition, district staff, coaches, sponsors and volunteers shall not permit, condone or tolerate any form of hazing or bullying or plan, direct, encourage, assist, engage or participate in any activity that involves hazing or bullying. District staff will report incidents of hazing, bullying, or cyberbullying, to a building principal within two (2) school days. The principal who receives the report will investigate all complaints of hazing, bullying and cyberbullying within two (2) school days, and shall administer appropriate discipline to all individuals who violate this policy. The investigation shall be completed within ten (10) school days from the date of the written report of bullying unless good cause exists to extend the investigation. District staff who violate this policy may be disciplined or terminated. Any person who engages in reprisal or retaliation against an employee or student who reports an act of bullying shall be subject to disciplinary action.

The superintendent will provide for appropriate training designed to assist staff, coaches, sponsors and volunteers in identifying, preventing and responding to incidents of hazing and bullying.

The district shall annually inform students, parents, district staff, and volunteers that hazing and bullying is prohibited. This notification may occur through the distribution of the written policy, publication in handbooks, presentations at assemblies or verbal instructions by the coach or sponsor at the start of the season or program. This policy shall also be posted on the District’s web page (as Board Policy) and a copy shall be placed in the District Administrative Office.

*Bullying-* is defined as intimidation or harassment that causes a reasonable student to fear for his or her physical safety or property; substantially interferes with the educational performance, opportunities, or benefits of any student without exception; or substantially disrupts the orderly operation of the school. Bullying may consist of, but is not limited to, physical actions, including gestures, or oral, cyberbullying, electronic, or written communication, and any threat of retaliation for reporting of such acts. Bullying by students is prohibited on school property, at any school function, or on a school bus.

*Hazing* – For purposes of this policy, hazing is defined as any activity, on or off school grounds, that a reasonable person believes would negatively impact the mental or physical health or safety of a student or put the student in a ridiculous, humiliating, stressful or disconcerting position for the purposes of initiation, affiliation, admission, membership or maintenance of membership in any group, class, organization, club or athletic team including, but not limited to, a grade level, student organization or school-sponsored activity. Hazing may include those actions that subject a student to extreme mental stress including, but not limited to, sleep deprivation, physical confinement, forced conduct that could result in extreme embarrassment or criminal activity, or other stress-inducing activities.

Hazing may also include, but is not limited to: acts of physical brutality; whipping; beating; branding; exposing to the elements; forcing consumption of any food, liquor, drug or other substance; forcing inhalation or ingestion of tobacco products; or any other forced physical activity that could adversely affect the physical health or safety of an individual. Hazing may occur even when all students involved are willing participants. Hazing does not occur when a student is required to audition or try out for an organization when the criteria are reasonable, approved by the district and legitimately related to the purpose of the organization.

*Cyberbullying*- means bullying as defined in this subsection through the transmission of a communication including, but not limited to, a message, text, sound, or image by means of an electronic device including, but not limited to, a telephone, wireless telephone, or other wireless communication device, computer, or pager.

**Suicide Awareness and Prevention**

Suicide is a leading cause of death among youths in Missouri and is a public health concern impacting all Missouri citizens. The Forsyth R-III School District is committed to maintaining a safe environment to protect the health, safety and welfare of students. (Policy JHDF) The district has established a Crisis Response Team (CRT) that will be responsible for the implementation of the district’s response plan. If a student is having a suicide crisis, immediately report the situation to the school counselor and/or administration. National Suicide Prevention Lifeline (800-273-8255). Or 988

**Trauma informed schools initiative**- Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education’s Trauma Informed Schools Initiative to parents/guardians. (161.1050, RSMo.) <https://dese.mo.gov/traumainformed>

**Searches by School Personnel**

School lockers, desks, computers and other district property are provided for the convenience of students and, as such, are subject to periodic inspection without notice. Student property may be searched based on reasonable suspicion of a violation of district rules, policy or law. Reasonable suspicion must be based on facts known to the administration, credible information or reasonable inference drawn from such facts or information. Searches of student property shall be limited in scope based on the original justification of the search. The privacy and dignity of students shall be respected. Searches shall be carried out in the presence of adult witnesses and not in front of other students, unless exigent circumstances exist.

Acts of violence and/or serious violations of board policy procedures can be viewed at (FORSYTH R-III Board Policy Manual, File: JGF).

## STUDENT BEHAVIORAL INCENTIVES

At Forsyth Middle School, several incentive programs are offered in order to encourage students to strive for excellence. The following incentives are offered at FMS:

**\*Quarter Event** - Students are able to attend the quarter event if they achieve 1 of the 2 following criteria

1. Are on the honor roll of 3.67-4.0
2. Earn 8 or more blue ribbons in ELA and 4 or more in Math Study Island

The quarter event will be held three times throughout the year.

The schedule for the events will tentatively be as follows: **October 30    January 29    March 24**

**\*Study Island Field Trip** May 21<sup>st</sup>, 2027 - In order to qualify students must complete the entire Math or ELA with Blue Ribbons on Study Island plus earn at least 15 blue ribbons in the other content area they did not complete (Math/ELA only) This field trip will take place in May 21<sup>st</sup> 2027 and will be to The Ozark Community Center. Study Islands must be completed by April 30<sup>th</sup>, 2027 at 11:59 PM to attend field trip.

**\*Positive Office Referrals** - Students can be written up for positive actions around the school. Example: Picking up trash, holding a door for someone with hands full, going above and beyond and demonstrating good character. If a teacher writes you up with a positive office referral you will be called to the office, congratulated, and given a candy bar of your choice. The office referral will be mailed home to your parents and one will be hung on the bulletin board across from the office. You will also be recognized at one of the monthly character education assemblies.

## DISCIPLINE

Discipline is training that enables students to make appropriate choices in a climate of trust and support, always beginning with clear, concise limits that are followed by appropriate consequences. Good discipline is essential to promote an atmosphere conducive to learning. Positive reinforcement of appropriate behavior is an important component of good discipline. Additionally, how we as adults respond to inappropriate behavior provides a model that students follow in their interactions with others.

The principal and assistant principal of the school shall be directly in charge of the discipline along with the constant assistance of all faculty members. Proper order shall be maintained at all times. It is the duty of all teachers to cooperate with and assist the administration in every way with the maintenance of proper study and organized play. Students will show proper respect to all teachers and obey their instructions. Teachers are to maintain control of students both in and out of class. Students may be suspended from school by the principal for continually breaking rules and disrupting classes.

### Methods of Discipline

- |                                                                          |                            |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------|
| *Teacher-student conference                                              | *Time-out in the classroom |
| *Referral to counselor                                                   | *Referral to principal     |
| *Lunch detention                                                         | *After school detention    |
| *Before School Detention                                                 | *Out of School Suspension  |
| *In-School Suspension                                                    |                            |
| *Change of educational placement/alternative program                     |                            |
| *Communication with parent via email, note, telephone, and/or conference |                            |
| *Deprivation of privileges of preferred activities                       |                            |

**Corporal Punishment-** No person employed by or volunteering on behalf of the Forsyth R-III School District shall administer corporal punishment or cause corporal punishment to be administered upon a student attending district schools.

## DISCIPLINE REFERRALS

In the Forsyth Middle School discipline program, one type of referral exists: direct referrals. Below, you will find an overview of the referral.

**Direct Referral** - A direct referral is a situation that requires immediate consequences. Behaviors such as major classroom disturbances, disrespectful conduct or speech, fighting, harassment, threats, etc., will be a direct referral. The staff member should complete a referral form, which is found on the computer, and send the form and the student to the office. The direct referrals will have two (2) copies, one for the student and one for the parent. In the office, the middle school administrator will deal with the situation as needed. The administrator will work with the student to discuss the consequence, communicate with the parent, and monitor completion of the consequences.

### **Due Process**

Students have the right of due process concerning disciplinary actions:

- a. Given oral or written notice of the charges against them.
- b. Given the opportunity to present their version of the incident.
- c. Given oral or written explanation of the proposed disciplinary action(s).
- d. The opportunity to appeal.

**Detentions** – After School Detention (ASD) may be served from 3:30 p.m. to 4:15 p.m. Morning detentions are from 7:00 a.m. to 7:45 a.m. The exact date and time will be assigned at the discretion of the administration. The student will follow all detention guidelines as approved by the District. Changes in assigned detentions can be made only by the parent/guardian with a telephone call **prior** to the scheduled detention. Saturday Detention is held on a designated Saturday from 8 a.m. to Noon. Students must bring academic work to detention.

#### **Detention Guidelines:**

1. Transportation home at the end of detention is the responsibility of the student.
2. Students must work on school assignments or reading materials accessible from the school library.
3. All homework, books and reading materials must be brought with the student when entering detention. Students will not be allowed to go to the library or locker after entering detention.
4. No talking allowed.
5. No visitors allowed.
6. Students are not allowed to take or make telephone calls.
7. No unapproved electronic devices, food or drink will be allowed in detention.
8. Students will remain in an assigned seat and get up only with permission of the supervisor.
9. Any student found writing on the desks will be assigned further discipline.
10. Students kicked out of ASD will be assigned 1 day of ISS. Students kicked out of Saturday detention will be assigned additional consequences in accordance with the infraction.

**In-School Suspension (ISS)** – The student is under the supervision of a teacher the entire day and isolated from the normal school routine. Work completed while in ISS may be made up for credit. Inappropriate behavior while in ISS may result in out-of-school suspension. The suspension will end at midnight of the last day assigned.

**In-School Suspension Guidelines:**

1. The ISS teacher will monitor and help the students with teacher assigned work for the students in ISS. While in ISS students will work on classwork during the time of the day they have the course they are working on
2. Students are to have all materials necessary to complete all assignments when reporting to ISS.
3. There is to be no talking at any time unless a student raises their hand to ask a question about an assignment.
4. Sleeping or putting head down on the desk is not allowed. All four legs of the chair must remain on the floor.
5. Students are allowed one restroom break in the morning, one after lunch, and one in the afternoon. Restroom breaks will be taken when all other students are in class.
6. It is the responsibility of the student to see that all work completed is turned into the teacher. Some assignments or tests may be collected by the supervisor and turned into the teacher immediately.
7. Students are not allowed to eat candy, chew gum, drink soda, etc., while in ISS.
8. Students are responsible for getting and completing all classroom assignments when serving ISS
9. If a student is removed from ISS they will be placed into out-of-school suspension (OSS). Upon return from OSS, the student must complete the remainder of their ISS

**Out-of-School Suspension Guidelines** – The student is to remain out-of-school and not within 1000 feet of campus day and night while suspended. Student may not attend any school activities, home or away, or any practices, while suspended. The suspension will end at midnight of the last day assigned. OSS days will count only when school is in session.

1. Students who are suspended from school are not allowed on school grounds for any reason during the period of the suspension including sporting events and other extra-curricular/co-curricular activities. Any student who violates this will receive additional disciplinary consequence and possible trespass charges.
2. Students on OSS are allowed to turn in classwork during the period of the suspension; however, it is the student's responsibility to contact the teachers via email and must abide by the due dates set by each teacher. Students are responsible to complete all classroom assignments while serving OSS. Assignments that must be completed on paper can be picked up in the office by a parent or guardian, unless prior arrangements have been made with administration
3. In the event school is canceled due to inclement weather those days WILL NOT count towards the suspension period; however, if school is in session as an AMI day, the AMI day(s) WILL count towards the suspension provided the student turns in their AMI assignments for every class.
4. If a student receives OSS the student is not eligible to attend any field trip in the quarter the student receives OSS

**Suspension and Expulsion According to Missouri Law** - A principal may suspend a student for cause for a period not exceeding ten (10) school days. The superintendent may suspend students for ninety (90) school days. Students under suspension are not eligible to represent the school in any activity, nor may a student who is suspended be on school grounds unless accompanied by a parent or guardian with prior administration approval. Any student expelled is not allowed on school grounds during the time of expulsion. After giving notice to a parent or guardian and a hearing upon the charges, the Board of Education may permanently expel a student for conduct prejudicial to good order and discipline, or which tends to impair the morals or good conduct of students. Students who are suspended are allowed to make up their missing homework during the suspension. All missing homework must be finished when student comes back from suspension unless prior arrangements have been made with Administration.

**Classroom Rules** - While it is the responsibility of each teacher to reinforce the set policies found in the middle school handbook, students should recognize that individual teachers and/or grade levels may set policies of their own not covered specifically in this handbook. Students will observe and respect individual classroom rules. Students who disregard classroom policies should expect disciplinary action.

### **Situations Not in Student Handbook**

Situations that might arise that are not addressed in this handbook that endanger the welfare of students and staff, or seriously interrupt the educational process of the school, will be handled at the discretion of the administration. Consequences may be increased or decreased depending on the circumstances of individual situations. Forsyth School District works cooperatively with local law enforcement and notifies law enforcement when a crime occurs on school property.

### **Communication with Parents/Guardians**

Communication with parents or guardians is a vital aspect of any discipline policy. Any disciplinary action documented by teachers or administration will involve contact with the home either by disciplinary report, letter, telephone or conference with parent or guardian.

### **Technology Misconduct**

Attempting, regardless of success, to: gain unauthorized access to a technology system or information; use district technology to connect to other systems in evasion of the physical limitations of the remote system; copy district files without authorization; interfere with the ability of others to utilize district technology; secure a higher level of privilege without authorization; introduce computer viruses, hacking tools, or other disruptive/destructive programs onto or using district technology; evade or disable a filtering/blocking device; or mass emailing.

#### **Technology offenses will be handled as set forth below**

##### **Class I – Minor Offenses**

- A) Unauthorized or inappropriate written/oral communication, use of E-mail, non-educational Google Docs, websites, apps, games, messaging services, chat rooms, or other non-school related activity. Students are not allowed to have external emails or social media on a school issued device.  
School personnel may authorize educational use of the above applications during school hours or otherwise when school is not in session.
- B) Use of non-directed profane, inflammatory, or abusive language.
- C) Downloading, loading, storing, creating, unauthorized files, images, video, music, apps, data, or programs that do not result in damages to person or property
- D) Unauthorized transmission of personal information over the internet.
- E) Activity that may be disruptive to the school environment
- F) Turning off Wi-Fi radio without permission
- G) Cheating

##### **Class II – Intermediate Offenses**

- A) Negligent care of or vandalism such as malicious attempt to harm or destroy any FMS device resulting in damage less than \$200.
- B) Changing software/hardware configurations.
- C) Downloading, loading, storing, or creating unauthorized files, images, video, music, apps, data, programs, or viruses.
- D) Taking pictures, audio, and/or video without subject's or school's permission.
- E) Use of unauthorized anonymous and/or false communications such as, but not limited to Google Chat, MSN Messenger, Yahoo Messenger, Facebook, Instagram, and Skype.
- F) Sending, transmitting, accessing, uploading, downloading, or distributing inappropriate, obscene, offensive, profane, threatening, harassing, pornographic, or sexually explicit materials.
- G) Deletion, examination, copying, or modifying of files/data/device settings belonging to other users including staff, students, and district to include sharing, using, or modifying usernames and/or passwords.
- H) Action violating existing board policy

### Class III – Major Offenses

- A) Any activity that voids the device, service agreement, software license or warranty such as, but not limited to jailbreaking or rooting (process of hacking a device to bypass digital rights management software).
- B) Unauthorized entry to program files/hacking, including Command Prompt and Safe Mode.
- C) Harassment or Cyberbullying/Bullying
- D) Vandalism such as any malicious attempt to harm or destroy a FMS owned device resulting in damages in excess of \$200.
- E) Sending, transmitting, accessing, uploading, downloading, distributing, or publishing obscene, offensive, profane, threatening, harassing, pornographic, or sexually explicit materials that result in personal injury to staff or students.
- F) Use of school/district's Internet or email accounts for financial gain or personal gain, or any illegal activity.
- G) Offenses on multiple occasions that may be disruptive to the school environment.
- H) Any use that violates local, state and/or federal laws or regulations
- I) Unauthorized change of program settings or any behavior or activity that damages or disrupts network performance on school devices
- J) By-passing the FMS Web filter.

## TABLE OF REFERRAL ISSUES AND CONSEQUENCES

| The number and severity of infractions as well as other determining factors will impact the consequence and may warrant additional actions. This decision is at the discretion of the site administrator. Below is a list of possible consequences based on the infraction and the severity |                                                                 |                                                                                   |                                         |                                         |                         |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------|-------------------------|
| Infraction                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  | 1 <sup>st</sup> Offense                                         | 2 <sup>nd</sup> Offense                                                           | 3 <sup>rd</sup> Offense                 | 4 <sup>th</sup> Offense                 | 5 <sup>th</sup> Offense |
| <b>Arson</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                | 1-180 Day Suspension <b>and</b> Notification of Law Enforcement | Immediate Recommendation for Expulsion <b>and</b> Notification of Law Enforcement |                                         |                                         |                         |
| <b>Assault on a Student</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 | 1-180 Day Suspension <b>and</b> Notification of Law Enforcement | 1-180 Day Suspension <b>and</b> Notification of Law Enforcement                   |                                         |                                         |                         |
| <b>Alcohol/Drugs Possession / Sale Distribution Consumption</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                             | 1-180 Day Suspension and Notification of Law Enforcement        | 1-180 Day Suspension <b>and</b> Notification of Law Enforcement                   |                                         |                                         |                         |
| <b>Disparaging And/or Demeaning</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         | -Warning/Conference<br>-ISS or OSS<br>-After School Detention   | -Conference<br>-ISS<br>-OSS<br>-After School                                      | -ISS<br>-OSS<br>-After School Detention | -ISS<br>-OSS<br>-After School Detention |                         |

| <b>Language</b>                                                                         |                                                                                                                                                                                         | Detention                                                                                                                                                                                 |                                                                                                                                                                                      |                                                                                                                                                                                |                                         |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------|
| <b>Forgery/Lying</b>                                                                    | -Warning/Conference<br>-ISS or OSS<br>-After School<br>Detention                                                                                                                        | Warning/Conference<br>-ISS or OSS<br>-After School<br>Detention                                                                                                                           | Warning/Conference<br>-ISS or OSS<br>-After School<br>Detention                                                                                                                      | -Warning/Conference<br>-ISS or OSS<br>-After School<br>Detention                                                                                                               |                                         |
| <b>Defiant<br/>Disrespectful<br/>Speech<br/>And/or Conduct</b>                          | -Warning/Conference<br>-ISS<br>-After School<br>Detention                                                                                                                               | -Conference<br>-ISS<br>-1-10 Day OSS<br>-After School<br>Detention                                                                                                                        | 1-180 Day<br>Suspension<br>-ISS<br>-1-10 Day OSS<br>-After School<br>Detention                                                                                                       | -ISS<br>-OSS<br>-After School<br>Detention<br>-1-180 Day<br>Suspension                                                                                                         |                                         |
| <b>Inappropriate<br/>Items/Electronic<br/>Devices/<br/>Cell Phones/Pocket<br/>Knife</b> | -After School<br>Detention<br>-1-10 ISS<br>-Parent must pick up<br>inappropriate items.<br>Students must lock<br>cell phone/electronic<br>device in middle<br>school office lock<br>box | - After school<br>detention<br>- 1-10 ISS<br>-Parent must pick up<br>inappropriate items.<br>Students must lock<br>cell phone/electronic<br>device in middle<br>school office lock<br>box | - 1-10 ISS<br>-Saturday School<br>-Parent must pick<br>up inappropriate<br>items.<br>Students must lock<br>cell<br>phone/electronic<br>device in middle<br>school office lock<br>box | - 1-10 ISS<br>-Saturday School<br>-Parent must pick up<br>inappropriate items.<br>Students must lock<br>cell phone/electronic<br>device in middle<br>school office lock<br>box |                                         |
| <b>Technology<br/>Misconduct Class I</b>                                                | -Warning<br>-ASD/ISS/OSS<br>-Restricted Computer<br>use<br>-Notification of Law<br>Enforcement                                                                                          | -Same options as<br>offense #1                                                                                                                                                            | -Same options as<br>offense #1                                                                                                                                                       | -Same options as<br>offense #1                                                                                                                                                 | -Same<br>options<br>as<br>offense<br>#1 |
| <b>Technology<br/>Misconduct Class<br/>II</b>                                           | -ASD/ISS/OSS<br>-Restricted Computer<br>Use<br>-Notification of Law<br>Enforcement                                                                                                      | -Same options as<br>offense #1                                                                                                                                                            | -Same options as<br>offense #1                                                                                                                                                       | -Same options as<br>offense #1                                                                                                                                                 | -Same<br>options<br>as<br>offense<br>#1 |
| <b>Technology<br/>Misconduct Class<br/>III</b>                                          | -ISS/OSS<br>- Restricted<br>Computer use<br>-Notification on Law<br>Enforcement                                                                                                         | -Same options as<br>offense #1                                                                                                                                                            | -Same options as<br>offense #1                                                                                                                                                       | -Same options as<br>offense #1                                                                                                                                                 | -Same<br>options<br>as<br>offense<br>#1 |
| <b>Extortion</b>                                                                        | -Warning/Conference<br>-ISS<br>-1-10 Day<br>Suspension<br>-Notification of Law<br>Enforcement                                                                                           | -Conference<br>-1-180 Day<br>Suspension with<br>-Notification of Law<br>Enforcement                                                                                                       | -1-180 Day<br>Suspension<br>-Notification of<br>Law Enforcement                                                                                                                      |                                                                                                                                                                                |                                         |
| <b>False<br/>Alarms/Bomb<br/>Threats</b>                                                | -Conference<br>-ISS and/or OSS                                                                                                                                                          | -1-180 Day<br>Suspension                                                                                                                                                                  | -1-180 Day<br>Suspension                                                                                                                                                             |                                                                                                                                                                                |                                         |
| <b>Fighting/<br/>Confrontational<br/>Behavior</b>                                       | -ISS<br>-OSS<br>-Notification of Law<br>Enforcement                                                                                                                                     | -1-6 Day OSS<br>-Notification of Law<br>Enforcement                                                                                                                                       | -1-9 Day OSS<br>-Notification of<br>Law Enforcement                                                                                                                                  | -1-180 Day<br>Suspension with<br>Board Approval<br>-Notification of Law                                                                                                        |                                         |

|                                                                                             |                                                                                                                               |                                                                             |                                                           |                                                           |                                                   |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------|
|                                                                                             |                                                                                                                               |                                                                             |                                                           | Enforcement                                               |                                                   |
| <b>Obscene Behavior</b><br>(Profanity/Gestures/Pornographic/<br>Inappropriate<br>Materials) | -Warning/Conference<br>-ISS<br>-After School<br>Detention                                                                     | -ISS<br>-After School<br>Detention                                          | -ISS or 1-5 Day<br>OSS                                    | -ISS or 5-10 Day<br>OSS                                   | 11 -180<br>Day OSS<br>with<br>Board<br>Approval   |
| <b>Out of Assigned<br/>Area</b>                                                             | -Warning/Conference<br>-ISS<br>-After School<br>Detention                                                                     | -Conference<br>-ISS<br>-After School<br>Detention                           | -ISS and/or 1-3 Day<br>OSS                                | -3-10 Day OSS                                             | -11 – 180<br>Day OSS<br>with<br>Board<br>Approval |
| <b>Physical Assault on<br/>a School Employee</b>                                            | -Immediate ISS<br>-One Calendar Year<br>Suspension<br>-Recommendation<br>for Expulsion<br>-Notification of Law<br>Enforcement |                                                                             |                                                           |                                                           |                                                   |
| <b>Physical Display of<br/>Affection</b>                                                    | -Conference<br>-ISS<br>-OSS<br>-After School<br>Detention                                                                     | -Conference<br>-ISS<br>-OSS<br>-After School<br>Detention                   | -Conference<br>-ISS<br>-OSS<br>-After School<br>Detention | -Conference<br>-ISS<br>-OSS<br>-After School<br>Detention |                                                   |
| <b>Dress Code<br/>Violation</b>                                                             | -<br>Warning/conference/<br>ISS<br>- Issue clothes from<br>counselor                                                          | -Change of clothing<br>-ISS<br>-After school<br>Detention                   | - ISS<br>-OSS                                             |                                                           |                                                   |
| <b>Tardies</b><br>(Quarterly by class<br>period)                                            | - Warning by teacher<br>(no referral)                                                                                         | - Warning by teacher<br>(no<br>referral)                                    | -Direct Referral<br>-After School<br>Detention            | -Direct Referral<br>-After School<br>Detention            | - Saturday<br>School<br>- 1 – 3<br>ISS            |
| <b>Bullying/<br/>Harassment</b><br>(Physical/Verbal<br>Contact)                             | -Warning/Conference<br>-1-10 Day ISS<br>-1-10 Day OSS<br>-After School<br>Detention<br>-Notification of Law<br>Enforcement    | -1-10 Day ISS<br>-1-180 Days OSS<br>-Notification of Law<br>Enforcement     | -1-180 Days OSS<br>-Notification of<br>Law Enforcement    |                                                           |                                                   |
| <b>Theft</b>                                                                                | -Conference<br>-ISS<br>-Return of Goods OR<br>Full<br>Reimbursement of<br>Costs<br>-Notification of Law<br>Enforcement        | -1-180 Days OSS<br>-Notification of Law<br>Enforcement                      | -1-180 Days OSS<br>-Notification of<br>Law Enforcement    |                                                           |                                                   |
| <b>Threatening A<br/>Student</b>                                                            | -1-180 Days ISS<br>-1-180 Day OSS<br>-Notification of Law<br>Enforcement                                                      | -1-180 Days OSS<br>-Recommendation<br>for Expulsion<br>-Notification of Law |                                                           |                                                           |                                                   |

|                                                                                               |                                                                                                                      | Enforcement                                                                                                                                                             |                                                                                                         |                                                   |                                                                 |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Tobacco/E-Cig<br/>(Campus /School<br/>Activity/ Bus)</b>                                   | -Warning/Conference<br>-Destruction of<br>Remaining<br>Product<br>-3 Days ISS<br>-Notification of Law<br>Enforcement | -5 Days ISS<br>-Notification of Law<br>Enforcement                                                                                                                      | -10 Days ISS<br>-Notification of Law<br>Enforcement                                                     | -5 Day OSS<br>-Notification of Law<br>Enforcement | -10 Day<br>OSS<br>Notificati<br>on<br>of Law<br>Enforcem<br>ent |
| <b>Truancy/<br/>Leaving Campus<br/>Without<br/>Permission</b>                                 | -Warning/Conference<br>-1-3 Day ISS<br>-After-School<br>Detention<br>-Notification of Law<br>Enforcement             | -1-5 Day ISS<br>-<br>Parent/Principal/Stud<br>ent<br>Conference<br>-After School<br>Detention<br>-Notification of Law<br>Enforcement                                    | -1-10 Day OSS<br>- ISS<br>-After School<br>Detention<br>-Notification of<br>Law Enforcement             |                                                   |                                                                 |
| <b>Vandalism</b>                                                                              | -Conference<br>-ISS or OSS<br>-Full Payment of<br>ALL Damage Costs<br>-Notification of Law<br>Enforcement            | -1-10 Day ISS/OSS<br>-Full Payment of<br>ALL<br>Damage Costs<br>-Notification of Law<br>Enforcement                                                                     | -1-180 Day<br>Suspension<br>-Full Payment of<br>ALL Damage Costs<br>-Notification of<br>Law Enforcement |                                                   |                                                                 |
| <b>Weapons<br/>(Possession and/or<br/>Use on Campus or<br/>School Related<br/>Activities)</b> | -1-180 Day OSS<br>-Recommendation for<br>Expulsion<br>-Notification of Law<br>Enforcement                            |                                                                                                                                                                         |                                                                                                         |                                                   |                                                                 |
| <b>Missing an After<br/>School Detention</b>                                                  | -1 day of ISS the next<br>school day                                                                                 | Same options as<br>offense #1                                                                                                                                           | Same options as<br>offense #1                                                                           | Same options as<br>offense #1                     |                                                                 |
| <b>Disruptive Behavior</b>                                                                    | -<br>Warning/Conference/<br>ASD<br>-ISS or OSS                                                                       | -After School<br>Detention<br>-ISS or OSS                                                                                                                               | -After School<br>Detention<br>-ISS or OSS                                                               | -ISS<br>-OSS                                      | 1-10 Day<br>OSS                                                 |
| <b>Academic<br/>Dishonesty</b>                                                                | -Loss of credit<br>-Reduction of credit<br><b>AND OR THE<br/>FOLLOWING</b><br>-Warning/Conference<br>-ASD<br>-ISS    | -Loss of credit<br>-Reduction of credit<br><b>AND OR THE<br/>FOLLOWING</b><br>-<br>Warning/Conference<br>-ASD<br>-ISS<br>-Removal from<br>extracurricular<br>activities | Same as offense # 2                                                                                     | Same as offense # 2                               | Same as<br>offense #<br>2                                       |

The previous list is not an exhaustive list. The district reserves the right to discipline a student for any action that is disruptive to the school environment, whether it occurs on or off school property.

# STUDENT ACTIVITIES

## **School Activities**

School sponsored or sanctioned activities (i.e. field trips, interscholastic competition, etc.) are exempt from and shall not count toward the total number of student absences. Students who will be absent from class shall check with the teacher in advance to obtain the work prior to the absence. The student will be responsible for having the work completed by the beginning of the next class or at a date to be determined by the teacher. Activities outside the regular classroom will be considered an extension of the classroom, and all rules and regulations pertaining to the discipline policy will be followed.

## **Sportsmanship**

Forsyth School is committed to the belief that participation in athletics both as players, spectators and coaches, supplements and enriches the students' educational experiences. Such participation, however, is a privilege that carries with it responsibilities to the team, the school, the community and the student. Whether participating as a player or a spectator, athletics should contribute to the student's knowledge, skills, appreciation of fair play and ideals of sportsmanship, thereby making each a better person and citizen. When and where athletics fail to provide these desirable values, they cease to serve their true purpose.

**The First Rule of Sportsmanship Is Courtesy to Everyone Around You-Your Classmates, Visitors, Players, Coaches and Officials.**

### **Rules of Good Conduct and Sportsmanship**

1. No objects of any kind should be thrown onto the court or field. Besides the possibility of inflicting an injury, this shows lack of respect for your school and opponents.
2. No vulgar language or suggestive gestures will be allowed.
3. Booing officials and opposing team members is prohibited. A mature person accepts the game officials' decisions and respects guests (sometimes you are the guest).
4. All yelling, screaming, cheering should be **FOR** your own team and **NOT AGAINST** the opposing team - appreciate a good play, no matter who makes it.
5. Quiet during free throws should be observed for both teams. Any comments, such as "air ball", "rebound", or counting dribbles are in poor taste.
6. Any signs or posters used should be of a positive nature encouraging your team.
7. Only authorized school personnel should be on the floor at any time. No one should block the view of other spectators.
8. Stay in seated area during the game. Go to the lobby, restroom or get refreshments only at half time or between games.
9. Unsportsmanlike conduct on the part of others **SHOULD NOT** be an example for us. We should set the example of good sportsmanship always.
10. Once a student leaves the building or facility, he/she will not be allowed to re-enter without paying admission.
11. Students not following rules at activities will be required to leave and may lose privilege to attend future events.

## **After School Activities**

Students attending ball games or other activities are expected to support their peers in the activity in a display of good sportsmanship. Students who cannot behave appropriately at after school activities will not be allowed to attend further activities.

## **Boys and Girls Club Attendance**

If you are going to the Boys and Girls club you must go straight to the Boys and Girls club with the group or directly after your school activity. You are not allowed to leave campus and then go to the Boys and Girls club.

## **Music Programs**

The music department prepares for and presents several programs throughout the year. These are held at night and are open to the public. In addition, the band and Select Choir perform at various functions and in parades in Forsyth and nearby communities.

### **Regulations for Activities and Organizations**

1. No club or organization may use the building at night without prior permission from the principal or superintendent.
2. In order to avoid conflicts and confusion, all activities must be scheduled in advance with the principal.
3. Requests for school transportation should be made to the principal at least three weeks in advance.
4. Students riding the bus to an event away from Forsyth School may be permitted to ride home with parents after the parent has notified the sponsor. Any other arrangements must be made before the trip and approved by the principal. Otherwise, the student must return on the bus.
5. Every club and organization is to file a list of officers and members with the principal by the end of the first month of school.
6. No club or organization shall hold a meeting without the presence of the sponsor and the approval of the principal.

### **Clubs and Organizations**

It is strongly recommended that students involve themselves in a club or organization when possible. The following list includes clubs and organizations that are already in effect or are in the planning stages for middle school students:

|                   |                                |
|-------------------|--------------------------------|
| Bass Club         | Student Council                |
| Academic Team     | Art to the 3rd                 |
| Character Council | 8 <sup>th</sup> Grade Art Club |
| History Club      | Chess Club                     |
| Choir             |                                |

### **Fundraising**

Any fund-raising promotions by classes, organizations or individuals must have prior approval from the building administration.

### **Field Trips**

Educationally related field trips will be permitted when approved in advance by school administration. Students will observe all school policies when on field trips of any kind. Competitions and performances are not considered field trips.

### **Injuries – Practice/Games**

All injuries should be of great concern to the coach and should be documented and reported to the office. If necessary, and in the judgment of the coach, the parents and/or medical emergency personnel should be called. Student/athletes under the care of a physician must have release from that physician before being allowed to resume practice.

### **Use of Facilities**

Facilities may be used by the general public as outlined by school board policy KB-AP1

### **Good Conduct Rule**

Any student who is observed by a staff member or a law enforcement officer, either on or off school grounds or at a school activity, or admits to, or at a judicial or administrative proceeding is found by substantial evidence to have any of the following below. This rule is cumulative through the student's 7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> grade school sponsored athletics.

1. Possessed alcoholic beverages with knowledge, intent and control thereof;
  2. Consumed alcoholic beverages;
  3. Possessed a controlled substance(s) and/or drug paraphernalia as defined by law, without a prescription, and with knowledge, intent and control thereof; THIS INCLUDES E-CIGARETTES
  4. Used or offered for sale any controlled substance as defined by law;
  5. Committed theft, vandalism, or other serious offenses, including those, which would violate the Missouri code of law, as to make the student unworthy to represent the ideals and standards of this school.
  6. These consequences are in addition to and separate from discipline administered elsewhere in this handbook.
- 6.1. Due process will be afforded students for violations of the Good Conduct Rule.
  - 6.2. A student who has been found to have violated the Good Conduct Rule will be disciplined as follows.
    1. FIRST OFFENSE: The student in violation will be suspended from all activities for a period of 4 games.
      - a. If in the off-season, the suspension shall begin the first day the activity is scheduled to begin.
      - b. Scrimmages, practices and team meetings are not included in the suspension.
      - c. The length of the suspension may be adjusted by the administration if the student agrees to an assessment, at the student's expense, by an approved agency, or voluntarily reports the violation of the Good Conduct Rule.
    2. SECOND OFFENSE: Student in violation will be suspended from all activities for a period of 8 games while school is in session.
      - a. The suspension may carry over from one year to the next.
      - b. The student must complete the entire season in order for the suspension to count.
    3. THIRD OFFENSE: The student in violation will be permanently suspended from all activities.

The effects of the use of all tobacco/e-cigarette products creates a long term danger to the user and should be dealt with differently than alcohol, controlled substances or serious violations of the law. Since the immediate danger of tobacco/e-cigarette products is less, the discipline for the use should not be as harsh.

1. FIRST OFFENSE: Suspension from all activities for a period of 1 game.
  - a. Scrimmages, practices, and team meetings are not included in the suspension.
2. SECOND OFFENSE: Suspension from all activities for a period of 4 games.
  - a. Scrimmages, practices, and team meetings are not included in the suspension.
3. THIRD OFFENSE: Suspension from all activities for a period of 8 games and consecutive offense thereafter will be 8 games.
  - a. Scrimmages, practices, and team meetings are not included in the suspension.

### **Activity Calendar**

An official school calendar is kept in the principal's office. To eliminate conflicts and confusion, teachers, sponsors and students are to schedule events with the office as early as possible. All dates and activities must be approved by the principal before they will be entered on the calendar.

## STUDENT ACTIVITIES - CONTINUED

### **Extra-Curricular and Interscholastic Eligibility**

Forsyth Middle School provides the following interscholastic activities for 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grades:

|                   |                  |               |               |
|-------------------|------------------|---------------|---------------|
| Girls' basketball | Boys' basketball | Boys Baseball | Football      |
| Girls' volleyball | Cheerleading     | Marching Band | Academic Team |
| Girls' softball   |                  |               |               |

Eligibility for extra-curricular activities other than those covered in this handbook will be established by the sponsor and explained to participating students. Failure to meet the criteria will result in student ineligibility. Students must meet the sponsor's standard of conduct and performance. Any student who participates in athletics must have an annual physical exam and insurance prior to any participation, including practices.

Our interscholastic teams compete in the Mid-Lakes Conference. The Forsyth Middle School is a member of the Missouri State High School Activities Association. Students who participate on these teams will participate under the M.S.H.S.A.A. guidelines. Some of these guidelines are as follows:

1. Students who represent a school in interscholastic activities must be creditable citizens and judged so by the proper school authority certifying a list of students for competition. Those students whose character or conduct is such as to reflect discredit upon themselves or their schools are not considered "creditable citizens." Conduct shall be satisfactory in accordance with the discipline standards. (This includes good citizenship throughout the school day).
2. Seventh and eighth grade students participating in interscholastic activities must be currently enrolled in and regularly attending the normal courses for that grade. Students enrolled in a special education program approved by the Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education must make standard progress. To be eligible for athletic participation, students in 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade shall have no more than one grade as an F per quarter. Students found not to be in compliance at the end of each grading period (quarter) will be ineligible until the next grading period. If they are in compliance, then they will regain eligibility. Special education students who fail to make "standard progress" will be under the same policy.
3. Credit earned or completed after the close of the semester shall not count as having been earned that semester, except in the case of illness verified by a physician.
4. A student who competes in interscholastic competition must have entered school within the first ELEVEN days of the semester in which he/she is competing.
5. Seventh and eighth grade students are eligible to compete in interscholastic activities for only two semesters in each of the seventh and eighth grades beginning with the first semester of entrance in each grade. A student who is repeating a grade is not eligible.
6. Age Standards: To be eligible for competition against teams all in a particular grade classification, the student shall not have reached the following ages prior to July 1 preceding the opening of school: Grade 7 = 14, Grade 8 = 15. If a student does not meet the age standard for a particular grade classification, that student may compete on a team of a higher-grade classification.

### **Parent Involvement**

The research overwhelmingly demonstrates that parent involvement in children's learning is positively related to achievement. Further, the research shows that the more intensively parents are involved in their children's learning, the more beneficial are the achievement effects. This holds true for all types of parent involvement in children's learning and for all types and ages of students. Some ways in which parents may get involved at Forsyth Middle School are:

|                             |                               |                            |
|-----------------------------|-------------------------------|----------------------------|
| Activities                  | Character Education Awareness | End of the Year Bash       |
| School Community Committees | Quarter Events                | Parent-Teacher Conferences |

**We encourage parents to be actively involved in your child's education. Please take advantage of these opportunities. If you have any questions about participation in the above activities please call the office.**

## **STUDENT AND FAMILY RIGHTS**

### **Equal Educational Opportunities**

Each individual should be given the opportunity to develop and achieve to the maximum extent possible, being limited only by individual differences. Therefore, the district will foster educational opportunities for all students. Educational programs and services will be designed to meet the varying needs of all students and will not discriminate against any individual for reasons of race, creed, color, sex, national origin, economic status, or handicap. (FORSYTH R-III Board Policy Manual, File: JB)

### **TEACHING ABOUT HUMAN SEXUALITY**

The Forsyth School District recognizes that parents/guardians are the primary source of sexuality education for their children. The Board also recognizes that effective sexuality education, taught in concert with parents/guardians, helps students avoid risks to their health and academic success and prepares them to make informed decisions as adults. Therefore, pursuant to the requirements of state law, any course materials and instruction relating to human sexuality and sexually transmitted diseases shall be medically and factually accurate. (FORSYTH R-III Board Policy Manual, File: IGAEB)

### **Non-Discrimination Policy**

The Forsyth Board of Education has adopted the following policy regarding nondiscrimination:

*Forsyth R-III School District does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, gender, ancestry, or age or disability. This policy pertains to admission/access to, or treatment/employment in its programs and activities. This notice is made to: Applicants for Admission and Employment, Students, Parents, Elementary and Secondary Students, Employees, Sources of Referral of Applicants for Admission and Employment and Union or Professional Organizations holding collective bargaining or professional agreements.*

Missouri school districts are responsible for meeting the educational needs of an increasingly diverse student population by providing a wide range of resources and support to ensure that all students have the opportunity to succeed and be college prepared and career ready. Our school district has programs designed to help meet the

unique educational needs of children working to learn the English language, students who are advanced learners, students with disabilities, homeless students, the children of migrant workers, and neglected or delinquent students.

Any person having inquiries concerning compliance with the regulations implementing Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, is directed to contact: Superintendent of Schools, P.O. Box 187, Forsyth, MO 65653. Interested persons may also contact the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights, U.S. Dept. of Education: 330 “C” St., Washington DC 20202-1242.

### **Trauma-Informed Schools Initiative**

Department of Elementary and Secondary Education website on the Trauma-Informed Schools Initiative to parents/guardians. (§ 161.1050, RSMo.) Website located at <https://dese.mo.gov/college-career-readiness/school-counseling/bullying-suicide-prevention-and-trauma-informed>

### **Electronic Communication between Staff and Students**

Staff members are expected to maintain courteous and professional relationships with students. All staff members have a responsibility to provide an atmosphere conducive to learning through consistently and fairly applied discipline and the maintenance of physical and emotional boundaries with students. These boundaries must be maintained regardless of the student's age, the location of the activity, whether the student allegedly consents to the relationship or whether the staff member directly supervises the student. Maintaining these boundaries is an essential requirement for employment in the district. (*Policy GBH*)

### **Audio and Visual Recording**

Because the district predominantly serves minors, is subject to a number of confidentiality laws, respects parent/guardian and community concerns about privacy, and seeks to minimize disruption to the education environment, the district prohibits audio and visual recordings on district property, district transportation or at a district activity unless authorized in policy KKB.

### **Public Notice**

All responsible public agencies are required to locate, evaluate, and identify children with disabilities who are under the jurisdiction of the agency, regardless of the severity of the disability, including children attending private schools, highly mobile children, such as homeless and migrant children, and /or learning English as a second language, children who are suspected of having a disability and in need of special education even though they are advancing from grade to grade. The public-school district assures that it will provide a free, appropriate public education (FAPE) to all eligible children with disabilities between the ages of 3 and 21 under its jurisdiction. Disabilities include autism, deaf/blindness, emotional disorders, hearing impairment and deafness, intellectually disabled, multiple disabilities, orthopedic impairment, other health impairments, specific learning disabilities, speech or language impairment, traumatic brain injury, visual impairment/blindness and young child with a developmental delay.

The public-school district assures that it will provide information and referral services necessary to assist the State in the implementation of early intervention services for infants and toddlers eligible for the Missouri First Steps program.

The public-school district assures that personally, identifiable information collected, used, or maintained by the agency for the purposes of identification, evaluation, placement or provision of FAPE of children with disabilities may be inspected and/or reviewed by their parents/guardians. Parent/guardians may request amendment to the educational record if they believe the record is inaccurate, misleading, or violates the privacy or other rights of their child. Parents have the right to file complaints with the U.S. Department of Education or the Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education concerning alleged failures by the district to meet the requirements of the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA).

The public-school district has developed a Local Compliance Plan for the implementation of State Regulations for the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA). This plan contains the agency's policies and procedures regarding storage, disclosure to third parties, retention and destruction of personally identifiable information and the agency's assurances that services are provided in compliance with the General Education Provision Act (GEPA). This plan may be reviewed during regular school hours (8 a.m.-4 p.m.) on days school is in session, in the office of the Superintendent of Schools. This notice will be provided in native languages as appropriate.

### **Public Notice of ADA Requirements**

The Forsyth R-III School District does not discriminate on the basis of disability in admission to, access to, or operation of its programs, services or activities. The Forsyth School District does not discriminate on the basis of disability in its hiring or employment practices. This notice is provided as required by Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990. Questions, concerns, complaints, or requests for additional information regarding the ADA may be forwarded to the Forsyth School District's designated ADA Compliance Coordinator:

Dr. Grant Boyer, Superintendent

Forsyth R-III School District

P.O. Box 187

Forsyth, Missouri 65653

Phone: (417) 546-6384

Days/Hours Available: Tuesday through Friday 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Individuals who need auxiliary aids for effective communication in programs and services of the Forsyth R-III School District are invited to make their needs and preferences known to the ADA Compliance Coordinator.

This notice is available in large print, on audiotape and in Braille, from the ADA Compliance Coordinator.

### **FORSYTH R-III SCHOOL DISTRICT - GRIEVANCE PROCEDURE - TITLE VI, TITLE IX, SECTION 504**

Students, parents of students or employees have the right to file a formal complaint alleging noncompliance with regulations outlined in Title VI of the 1964 Civil Rights Act, Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973.

*Level One* – Principal or Immediate Supervisor (Informal and Optional – may be bypassed by the grievant) – Employees with a grievance of nondiscrimination on the basis of sex, race, national origin or disability may first discuss it with their principal or immediate supervisor, with the objective of resolving the matter informally. A student or parent with a

complaint of discrimination on the basis of sex, race, national origin or disability may discuss it with the teacher, counselor or building administrator involved.

*Level Two* – Title IX and Section 504 Coordinator(s) – If the grievance is not resolved at level one and the grievant wish to pursue the grievance, they may formalize it by filing a written complaint on a Compliance Violation Form, which may be obtained from the Title IX and Section 504 Coordinator. The complaint shall state the nature of the grievance and the remedy requested. The filing of the formal, written complaint at level two must be within fifteen (15) working days from the date of the event-giving rise to the grievance or from the date of grievant could reasonably become aware of such occurrence. The grievant may request that a meeting concerning the complaint be held with the Title IX and Section 504 Coordinator who shall investigate the

Complaint and attempt to solve it. A written report from the Compliance Office regarding action taken will be sent within fifteen (15) working days after receipt of the complaint.

*Level Three* – Superintendent – If the complaint is not resolved at level two, the grievant may proceed to level three by presenting a written appeal to the Superintendent within ten (10) working days after the grievant receive the report from the Title IX and Section 504 Coordinator. The grievant may request a meeting with the Superintendent or his/her designee. The Superintendent or his/her designee has the option of meeting with the grievant to discuss the appeal. The Superintendent or his/her designee will render a decision within ten (10) working days after receiving the written appeal.

*Level Four* – Board of Education – If the complaint is not resolved at level three, the grievant may proceed to level four by presenting a written appeal to the President of the Board of Education within ten (10) working days after the grievant receive the report from the Superintendent. The grievant may request a meeting with the grievant to discuss the appeal. A decision will be rendered by the Board of Education at their next regularly scheduled meeting. The grievant will be notified in writing of their decision within (10) working days after the Board of Education action. This procedure in no way denies the right of the grievant to file formal complaints with the Missouri Civil Rights Commission, the Office for Civil Rights, or other agencies available for mediation or rectification of rights grievances, or to seek private counsel for complaints alleging discrimination.

Title VI, Title IX, Section 504 Coordinator

Dr. Jarad Rinne , Asst. Superintendent

P.O. Box 187Forsyth, MO 65653

Phone: (417) 546-6384

The Forsyth R-III School District does not discriminate on the basis of sex in admission to or employment in its education programs or activities. Inquiries to recipients concerning the application of Title IX and its implementing regulations may be referred to the Title IX coordinator or OCR.

**TITLE VI COMPLIANCE VIOLATION, RACE FORM**  
**TITLE IX COMPLIANCE VIOLATION, GRIEVANCE FORM**  
**SECTION 504 COMPLIANCE VIOLATION, GRIEVANCE FORM**

I, \_\_\_\_\_, am filing this grievance because:

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Attach additional sheets if necessary).

Describe incident or occurrence as accurately as possible:

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Attach additional sheets if necessary).

What remedy are you requesting?

\_\_\_\_\_  
Grievant Signature Principal’s Signature Date of Filing

**SECTIONS 504 OF THE REHABILITATION ACT**

**PARENT/STUDENT RIGHTS IN IDENTIFICATION, EVALUATION AND PLACEMENT**

Please keep this explanation for future reference (Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973). The following is a description of the rights granted by federal law to students with disabilities. The intent of the law is to keep you fully informed concerning decisions about your child and to inform you of your rights if you disagree with any of these decisions. You have the right to:

1. Have your child take part in, and receive benefits from public education programs without discrimination because of his/her disability;

2. Have the school district advise you of your rights under federal law;
3. Receive notice with respect to identification, evaluation, or placement of your child;
4. Have your child receive a free appropriate public education. This includes the right to be educated with non-disabled students to the maximum extent appropriate. It also includes the right to have the school district make reasonable accommodations to allow your child an equal opportunity to participate in school and school-related activities.
5. Have your child educated in facilities and receive services comparable to those provided nondisabled students;
6. Have your child receive special education and related services if he/she is found to be eligible under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (PL94-142) IDEA or Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act;
7. Have evaluations, educational, and placement decisions made based upon a variety of information sources, and by persons who know the student, the evaluation data, and placement options;
8. Have transportation provided to and from an alternative placement setting at no greater cost to you than would be incurred if the student were placed in a program operated by the district;
9. Have your child be given an equal opportunity to participate in non-academic and extracurricular activities offered by the district;
10. Examine all relevant records relating to decisions regarding your child's identification, evaluation, educational program, and placement;
11. Obtain copies of educational records at a reasonable cost unless the fee would effectively deny you access to the records;
12. A response from the school district to reasonable requests for explanations and interpretations of your child's records;
13. Request amendment of your child's educational records if there is reasonable cause to believe that they are inaccurate, misleading or otherwise in violation of the privacy rights of your child. If the school district refuses this request for amendment, it shall notify you within a reasonable time, and advise you of the right to a hearing;
14. Request an impartial due process hearing related to decisions or actions regarding your child's identification, evaluation, educational program or placement. You and the student may take part in the hearing and have an attorney present for you;
15. Ask for payment of reasonable attorney fees if you are successful on your claim; and,
16. File a local grievance.

\* (Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act statute and regulations: 29 U.S.C. 706(7), Section 794; 34 C.F.R. Part 104, the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act statute and regulations: 20 U.S.C. Section 1232g; 34 C.F.R Part 99) The person in this district who is responsible for assuring that the district complies with Section 504 is Dr. Grant Boyer, telephone number: (417) 546-6384.

### **Surrogate Parent Program**

Pursuant to the requirements of state law, the State Board of Education is required to appoint a surrogate parent at such time as it becomes evident that a child with a disability does not have a parent or a person acting as a parent to participate in matters dealing with the provision of special education. For purposes of surrogate parent appointment, "parent" is defined as a biological parent, a guardian, or a person acting as a parent of a child including, but not limited to, a grandparent, a step-parent, or a foster parent with whom the child lives. The term does not include the State if the child is a ward of the State. The term does not include a person whose parental rights have been terminated. The local school district is given the responsibility to determine when a child with a disability who requires special education and who resides in the district is without a parent. The district must notify the Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education of the need to appoint a surrogate parent. Training for persons serving as surrogate parents will be provided by the Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education and the District. If you are interested in volunteering to serve as a surrogate parent, more information can be obtained from the district's Director of Special Services at 417-546-6384.

### **Annual Notification to Parents and Employees**

Dear Parents and Employees;

Asbestos is an issue we have been dealing with for many years. The Asbestos Hazard Emergency Response Act of 1986 (Referred to as AHERA) was enacted by Congress in 1987. AHERA was enacted to determine the extent of and develop solutions for any problems schools may have with asbestos.

To give you some background, asbestos has been used as a building material for many years. It is a naturally occurring mineral that is mined primarily in Canada, South Africa, and USSR. Asbestos properties made it an ideal building material for insulating sound absorption, decorative plasters, fireproofing and variety of miscellaneous uses. There have been over 3,000 different products made using asbestos materials. EPA began action to limit uses of asbestos products in 1973 and most uses of asbestos products as building materials were banned in 1978.

We continuously have our facilities inspected by our LEA Rep., as required by AHERA. Soon our facilities will be reinspected by qualified asbestos Inspector/Management Planner as required by AHERA every three years. The inspectors inspect all areas that were classified or assumed to be asbestos. The inspectors inspect all areas that were classified or assumed to be asbestos. The inspections to this date revealed no changes and that all areas were in good condition.

A copy of the asbestos management plan is available for your inspection in our administrative offices during regular office hours. Our Asbestos Program Manager will answer all inquiries regarding the plan. We will continue to implement the asbestos management plan. We are intent on not only complying with, but exceeding federal, state, and local regulations in this area. We plan on taking whatever steps are necessary to insure your children and our employees have a healthy, safe environment in which to learn and work.

### **Notice of rights pursuant to PPRA**

PPRA affords parents of elementary and secondary students certain rights regarding the conduct of surveys, collection and use of information for marketing purposes, and certain physical exams. (FORSYTH R-III Board Policy Manual, File: JHDA)

### **Public Notice Information Required by State and Federal Laws**

The Forsyth School District operates by following board approved policies and procedures. A full listing can be found at [forsythpanthers.org](http://forsythpanthers.org). The following is a specific list of these board policies that are required to be distributed by the Forsyth School District according to state and federal laws. Next to the name of the policy you will find the associated board policy code and a hyperlink to see the full policy. If you wish to have a tangible copy of this information, please contact the Forsyth School District Central Office at 417.546.6384 located at 178 Panther Drive, Forsyth, Missouri 65653

### **Concerns and Complaints Regarding Federal Programs**

The Forsyth R-III School District receives funds under the federal Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) and is required to follow federal statutes and regulations regarding the programs governed by the ESEA. If any individual or organization (person) has a complaint or is concerned that the district may be violating these laws, the Board wants the superintendent or designee to immediately investigate and address the issue. For that reason, the Board has adopted this policy to address specific allegations of violations of federal statutes and regulations governing Title I, Parts A, B, C, D; Title II; Title III; Title IV, Part A; or Title V of the ESEA.

#### **Process**

The district will use the following process to address specific allegations that the district has violated a federal statute or regulation regarding a program under the ESEA:

1. The person with the complaint ("complainant") must present a written complaint to the superintendent or designee that specifies the federal law or regulation alleged to have been violated and the facts supporting the allegation. Alternatively, the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) will forward a complaint from a complainant to the district for resolution.

The superintendent or designee will investigate and provide a written response to the complainant within five business days of receiving the complaint unless additional time is necessary to investigate or extenuating circumstances exist. The superintendent or designee is authorized to contact the district's private attorney for assistance in determining whether a violation has occurred.

2. If the complainant is not satisfied, he or she may request that the issue be placed on the Board agenda at the next Board meeting, using the process outlined in Board policy.

The superintendent or designee will notify the complainant of the Board's decision and will provide the complainant a copy of DESE's Every Student Succeeds Act of 2015 (ESSA) Complaint Procedures.

3. If the Board does not hear the issue or if the complainant is not satisfied with the Board's response, the complainant may appeal the issue to DESE in accordance with DESE's complaint procedures.

### **Title 1 Funds**

#### **Personal Records/ Parent/Guardian Access**

In accordance with federal law, at the beginning of each school year the district will notify the parents/guardians of each student attending any school receiving Title 1 funds that they may request information regarding whether the:

Student's teacher is certified to teach in the grade levels and subject areas in which teacher provides instruction.

Student's teacher is teaching under emergency or other provisional certification status.

Students provided services by a paraprofessional and, if so, the qualifications of the paraprofessional. (Policy GBL)

### **District & School Report Card**

The Forsyth R-III School District is required, by law, to produce annually, a school accountability report card for the district, and each school building within the district. The report card shall satisfy state and federal requirements for the disclosure of statistics about students, staff, finances, academic achievement, and other indicators. The purpose of the report card shall be to provide educational statistics and accountability information for parents, taxpayers, school personnel, legislators, and the print and broadcast news media in a standardized, easily accessible form. The Missouri department of elementary and secondary education (MODESE) has developed a standard Report Card for each school in the state. The information included on the Report Card includes: the district's most recent accreditation rating, enrollment, rates of pupil attendance, high school dropout rate, graduation rate, the number and rate of suspensions of ten days or longer, the expulsions of pupils, the district ratio of students to administrators and students to classroom teachers, the average years of experience of professional staff and advanced degrees earned, student achievement as measured through the assessment system developed pursuant to section [160.518](#), student scores on the ACT, along with the percentage of graduates taking the test, average teachers' and administrators' salaries compared to the state averages, average per-pupil current expenditures for the district as a whole and by attendance center as reported to the department of elementary and secondary education, the adjusted tax rate of the district, assessed valuation of the district, percent of the district operating budget received from state, federal, and local sources, the percent of students eligible for free or reduced-price lunch, data on the percent of students continuing their education in postsecondary programs, information about the job placement rate for students who complete district vocational education programs, whether the school district currently has a state-approved gifted education program, and the percentage and number of students who are currently being served in the district's state-approved gifted education program.

The District's most recent Report Card is available on the MODESE website under the **Report Card** tab