Middle School
2026-2027 Student Handbook

Our Mission

The Mission of Central Middle School, a diverse and inclusive Community of engaged learners, is to ensure an innovative environment that inspires growth through a vital system distinguished by:

- A culture of open-mindedness. Integrity, and respect
- Exceptional support for the physical, social-emotional, and mental well-being of each individual
- Creative spaces that spark collaboration and communication
- A fierce and commitment to individual aspirations and inspirations
- Investment in strong partnerships with families and community members



Middle School
2026-2027 Student Handbook

Building Contact Information

Attendance Hotline……651-653-2880
Main Office……651-653-2888
Health Office……..651-653-2955

Table of Contents

- Life at our Middle Schools
- Activities
- Attendance Practices
- Behavior Response Practices
- Bullying, Malicious and Sadistic Conduct, Hazing, Harassment, Discrimination, and Violence
- Chemical Use
- Communication with students and families
- Daily Schedule
- Dress Code
- Food Service
- Hall Lockers
- Health Services
- Pledge of Allegiance
- Restrooms & Locker Rooms
- School Events
- School Safety
- Student Rights and Responsibilities
- Student Support Services
- Technology and Electronic Devices
- Transportation
- Visitors & Volunteers
- Weapons Policy

This handbook is designed to help students and families understand the expectations, opportunities, and resources available at Central and Mariner Middle Schools. While it summarizes many important school procedures, it does not replace School Board Policy. If there is a conflict between this handbook and School Board Policy, Board Policy shall govern. Current Board Policies are available on the White Bear Lake Area Schools website.

Middle School Experience	
Welcome to Middle School	Welcome to an exciting new chapter! Middle school is a time of tremendous growth as students build independence, discover new interests, strengthen friendships, and develop the skills and confidence that will prepare them for high school and beyond. It is a unique time when students transition from the familiarity of elementary school while beginning to explore the opportunities and choices that await them in high school. At Central and Mariner Middle Schools, we are committed to creating a safe, supportive, and engaging learning environment where every student feels connected, challenged, and valued. This handbook is designed to help students and families navigate the school year by providing important information about school expectations, procedures, programs, and resources. We encourage families to stay involved, ask questions, and partner with us as we support every student's academic, social, and personal growth. We're excited to welcome you to middle school and look forward to a great year together!
Academic Success	Middle school is an important time to develop the habits and skills that prepare students for success in high school and beyond. Regular attendance, active participation in class, completing assignments on time, and asking for help when needed are all important parts of academic success. Students are encouraged to establish a regular homework routine, stay organized, and communicate with their teachers whenever questions arise. Homework may include practicing skills, reading, studying, completing projects, or preparing for upcoming lessons. Most students can expect to spend approximately 30–60 minutes each day on homework, although this may vary depending on grade level and individual course selections. When students are absent, they are responsible for making up missed work. Missing assignments may be submitted until the unit's retake window closes. In extenuating circumstances, teachers or administrators may adjust timelines. If a student is absent for three or more consecutive days, a parent or guardian may contact the school to arrange for assignment collection. Students are encouraged to use classroom resources, assignment calendars, and classmates as appropriate to stay current with their learning. **Grades & Academic Recognition** The middle school academic year is organized into three trimesters, and report cards are provided electronically to families.

	Students earning the following grade point averages are recognized for their academic achievement: ● **A Honor Roll:** GPA of **3.667 or higher** ● **B Honor Roll:** GPA of **3.000–3.666** **Grade Scale** **Grade GPA** A 4.000 B 3.000 C 2.000 D 1.000 NG/I 0.000
Advisory/ Homebase/Student Skills for Success	At White Bear Lake Area Middle Schools, students participate in Advisory or Homeroom, either as a dedicated class or with skills embedded in the school day. While the structure may vary between schools, the purpose is the same: to provide students with regular opportunities to connect with peers and a trusted adult while developing the skills needed for success in middle school and beyond. Throughout the year, students engage in learning that supports organization, goal setting, study habits, digital citizenship, character, and other topics that help them navigate the academic, social, and personal responsibilities of middle school. This time provides opportunities for school announcements, community building, and helping students stay informed and connected to their school.
Course of Study	**Required Classes:** ● **Grade 6**: Language Arts, Literacy, Math, Science, Social Studies, Physical Education, Art Design & Modeling, and Music, Band, Choir, Orchestra ○ **Additional 6th grade class electives** ■ AVID ● **Grade 7**: Language Arts, Literacy, Math, Science, Social Studies, Physical Education, Health ○ **Additional 7th grade class electives** ■ Art, AVID, and Music, Choir, Band, Orchestra

	• **Grade 8**: Language Arts, Math, Science, Social Studies, Physical Education
	  ○ **Additional 8th grade class electives**
	  ■ Art, Automation and Robotics, AVID, FACS, Manufacturing Education, Music, Visual Media Design and Art, World Language, Choir, Band, Orchestra

Extra Help	Learning is a process, and everyone needs extra support from time to time. Students are encouraged to ask questions and seek additional help whenever they need it. Teachers are available before or after school, or at other scheduled times, to provide academic support. Students who are struggling or have fallen behind in their coursework may be expected to attend extra help sessions to support their learning and academic success.
Family Partnership	Families play an important role in student success, and we value our partnership with parents and guardians. We encourage families to attend Open House, parent-teacher conferences, concerts, performances, athletic events, and other school activities throughout the year. Schools regularly communicate important information through newsletters, email, and the district website. Volunteers are always welcome and help strengthen our school community. If you are interested in volunteering or becoming more involved, please contact the school office for additional information.
Getting Involved	School is much more than just an education. It is an opportunity to learn, to work, to get along with a variety of students, and to explore a wide-range of activities. Students are encouraged to participate in the many activities offered in Middle School. More information can be found in the student handbook under activities and/or your school's daily announcements and website.
Homework and Make-Up Work	Homework is an important part of the middle school learning experience. It provides opportunities to practice new skills, prepare for upcoming learning, complete projects, read independently, and develop responsibility and time management. Most students can expect to spend approximately 30–60 minutes each day on homework, although the amount may vary depending on individual courses and activities. Students are encouraged to establish a regular time and quiet place to complete homework and to communicate with their teachers whenever they need additional support. When students are absent, they are responsible for making up missed work. Missing assignments may be submitted until the unit's retake window closes. In extenuating circumstances, teachers or administrators may adjust timelines. If a student is absent for three or more consecutive days, a parent or guardian may contact the school to arrange for assignment collection.

	For extended absences of three or more consecutive school days, parents/guardians may contact the school to arrange for assignments and learning materials. Students are also encouraged to use available classroom resources, assignment calendars, learning management systems, and classmates to stay current with their coursework.
Learning Commons	The Learning Commons is a welcoming space where students can read, research, collaborate, and explore new ideas. Students may visit the Learning Commons with their class or with a pass from a staff member. Resources include books, digital materials, online databases, and technology that support classroom learning as well as independent reading and exploration. Most materials may be checked out for two weeks. Students are expected to return or renew borrowed materials on time and are responsible for lost or damaged items before checking out additional resources.
Lost and Found	Students are encouraged to label personal belongings with their name to help ensure lost items can be returned promptly. Lost items may be turned in to or claimed at the school's designated Lost & Found location(s). Families are encouraged to check for missing items throughout the school year. Students should avoid bringing valuable items or large amounts of cash to school. White Bear Lake Area Schools is not responsible for lost, stolen, or damaged personal belongings. Unclaimed items are donated periodically throughout the school year.
Math Placement	Students placed in advanced math classes have qualified by meeting placement requirements: aMath, MCA test scores, end of trimester grades, subject test scores, and recommendations from teachers.
Physical Education	Physical Education is an important part of every student's educational experience. Students are expected to come prepared for class with athletic shoes and clothing that allows for safe and active participation. If a student is unable to participate in Physical Education due to illness or injury, a parent/guardian should notify the school. Extended restrictions on participation may require documentation from a licensed healthcare provider in accordance with school procedures.
Preparing for High School	Middle school is a remarkable time of growth. In fact, after the first few years of life, these are some of the most important years of brain development and personal growth. Students are discovering who they are, building meaningful friendships, learning to think independently, and developing the confidence to take on new challenges.

	At Central and Mariner Middle Schools, students are encouraged to explore their interests, discover new talents, and gradually take greater ownership of their learning. Whether participating in music, athletics, clubs, service opportunities, or challenging themselves academically, every experience helps build the skills, resilience, and character needed for success. By the end of eighth grade, our goal is for every student to leave middle school feeling confident, connected, and prepared for the exciting opportunities that await them at White Bear Lake Area High School and beyond.
Student Recognition	At White Bear Lake Area Middle Schools, we believe it is important to celebrate student growth, achievement, leadership, and positive contributions to our school community. Throughout the year, students are recognized in a variety of ways, including: ● Honor Roll recognition each trimester for outstanding academic achievement. ● Trimester recognition for students who demonstrate positive character, citizenship, and contributions to the school community.
Student IDs	Student IDs are distributed after fall pictures.
WEB	**WEB (Where Everybody Belongs)** is a middle school transition program designed to help sixth-grade students feel welcomed, connected, and confident as they begin middle school. On the first day of school, only sixth-grade students attend, giving them the opportunity to become familiar with the building, meet staff, and build relationships alongside trained eighth-grade WEB Leaders before seventh- and eighth-grade students join on the second day. Throughout the year, WEB Leaders continue to support sixth-grade students and help them feel connected to their school community.

Activities, Athletics, & Facilities	
Contact Information	**Please email sports physicals to:** **Central Middle School** christine.beckers@isd624.org FAx to 651-407-7502 **Mariner Middle School** sue.lenne@isd624.org Fax to 651-773-6215
General Information	School is so much more than just an education. It is an opportunity to learn to work, to get along with a variety of students, and to explore a wide-range of activities offered in Middle School. To participate in a school related activity: ● Be in attendance at school on the day of the activity. This is mandatory for participation in evening activities. ● An activity bus is provided until 5:30 pm. For students involved in after-school activities. For a list of activities, please refer to Central or Mariner's Daily Announcements and school websites.
Activity, Athletic, & Club Offerings	White Bear Lake Area Schools Community Services and Recreation Department offers middle school students a variety of athletic opportunities. All middle school students may participate in any of the activities. Review the Middle School Athletics page for more details. Additional activity opportunities will be shared through your school's daily announcement and school website. Before students are allowed to participate in athletic activities they must have a current MSHSL Sports Physical on file (within the last 3 years), register through SmartSchools, and pay the participation fee.
Activity Bus	An activity bus is available for students participating in after-school activities. The bus picks up students at the middle and high schools and makes designated stops throughout the district. Families should review the activity bus route to identify the stop closest to their home. Current routes and additional transportation information are available on the district Transportation webpage
Attending Middle School and High	Middle school students who wish to attend middle and high school events must be accompanied by an adult.

School Events	
MSHSL Expectations	Students participating in MSHSL Sanctioned Activities must meet Student Eligibility Bylaws. This includes maintaining academic eligibility, adhering to MSHSL Behavior Expectations, and meeting attendance expectations. Regarding attendance expectations, students in co-curriculars are: ● Expected to attend class the entire day of the event to be eligible to participate. Exceptions may include funerals, health, legal, or student safety issues. ● Expected to attend school the day following a co-curricular event.
Facilities Use	Any student who wishes to initiate a meeting under this policy shall apply to the principal of the building at least 48 hours in advance of the time of the activity or meeting. All activities or meetings must comply with existing policies, regulations, and procedures that govern the operation of school-sponsored activities. The activities or meetings are voluntary and student-initiated. Students applying for use of school facilities under this policy must provide the following information to the principal: 1) time and date of meeting; 2) estimated number of students in attendance; 3) special equipment needs; and 4) names of and contact information for adults who are going to supervise the meeting.

<table>
<tr><th colspan="2">Attendance Practices</th></tr>
<tr><td>Importance of Attendance</td><td>Students who struggle with chronic absenteeism struggle to find success. Chronic absenteeism is considered missing 10% or more of any class time. For example, in a 5-day week (30 total periods) a chronically absent student misses 3 or more individual periods. Students who have these attendance issues have a difficult time keeping up with their academics, struggle to develop strong relationships with their peers and staff, and find it challenging to maintain social-emotional well-being.

School Board Policy 503 - Student Attendance</td></tr>
<tr><td rowspan="3">Guidance For Students and Families</td><td>How to Excuse an Absence

Four ways for parents/guardians to notify the school of an absence:
• Call the Attendance Line: 📞 651-653-2880
• Email the Attendance Line: 📧 Centralattendance@isd624.org
• Use the ParentVUE App: 📱 Enter the absence directly in the app.
• Send a Note: 📝 Provide a signed note to the attendance office upon your return.

IMPORTANT: Parent/Guardian notification is expected before or on the same day as the absence. After 24-Hrs teacher-marked absences (TA) are automatically converted to Unexcused (UX). To correct a Unexcused mark a parent/guardian must contact the Attendance Clerk within 5 school days.</td></tr>
<tr><td>Leaving School Early

All students leaving campus during the school day for any reason must:
• Bring a parent/guardian note or parent phone call will suffice
• Students that are ill should go to the nurse office and have them contact home if they need to leave because they can not make it through the day
• Check out through the attendance office/ front desk
• Sign back in if returning later that day

Arriving Late or Returning to School

All students arriving late or returning to campus during the school day for any reason must sign in at the front office.</td></tr>
<tr><td>Types of Absences

Excused Absences
• Illness or serious illness of a family member (Note: A medical note may be required after 10+ illness-related absences</td></tr>
</table>

	• Death or funeral of an immediate family member or close friend • Medical, dental, orthodontic, or counseling appointments (including ongoing treatment for a mental health diagnosis) • Religious instruction (up to 3 hours per week) • Physical emergencies (fire, flood, storm, etc.) • School-sponsored activities (e.g., field trips) • School suspension (students may complete make-up work) • Individual needs as approved by the school principal Unexcused Absences • Failure to follow school attendance reporting procedures • Babysitting • Bad weather (unless school is officially closed) • Car trouble or missed the bus • Overslept • Not immunized • Vacation without pre-approval, or if there is an existing attendance concern • Any other reason not listed as excused in district policy Vacations • To report an upcoming vacation of missing 3 or more days of school please send an email to our building's principal, Cathryn Peterson, cathryn.peterson@isd624.org. In general, students should stay home until they have been fever-free, vomit-free, and diarrhea-free for 24 hours without the use of medication. For more information or information related to specific conditions, please review the handout linked below. **"Is My Child Well Enough to go to School?"**
Interventions	If your student has excessive absences or unexcused absences, a student support services staff member might meet with your student to create an Attendance Success Plan. This plan will be shared with the student's family and teachers to support regular school attendance. Our goal is to always partner with you and your student, if there is something that is preventing your student from coming to school let us know. In accordance with Minnesota law, if a student accumulates multiple unexcused absences, Central Middle School is required to report these to the

	appropriate county in which your student resides • Washington County's Truancy Diversion Services • Ramsey County School Attendance Matters (SAM) Program
Truancy Intervention Program (TIP)	WBLAS participates with several counties in the Truancy Intervention Program (TIP). This program is designed to address the problem of truancy with children ages 12-17. Truancy is a problem that has long-term effects on children, families, and communities. TIP is a three-step process involving progressively intrusive interventions to improve a student's attendance. The final step of the process is a petition to juvenile court. White Bear Lake Area Schools remains committed to the belief that interventions by influential adults in students' lives make a positive impact on behavior and school attendance.

Behavior Response Practices	
Discipline	The School Board believes that learning can best take place in a safe environment where students can learn individual and collective responsibility, gain maturity, and exercise responsibility within the school setting. The School District Student Discipline Policy is intended to communicate expectations regarding acceptable conduct in school in order to provide a positive learning environment for all students. The School Board and district administrators will support district personnel who, in dealing with students on disciplinary matters, act in accordance with State Law, State Board of Education Regulations, and School District Policies. Student conduct and behavior are outlined in the Student Discipline Policy. Consequences for violations of the School Student Code of Conduct will be enforced in accordance with district policies as outlined in the student discipline policy, School Board Policy 506
Investigations	Throughout the investigation of a potential violation of school policy, building administrators may hold informal administrative conferences with one or all of the following: alleged victims, witnesses, staff, and the accused. Building administrators may also review security footage and conduct searches when necessary. More information about searches can be found later in this manual. When an alleged school violation also potentially violates state law, a White Bear Lake School Resource Officer (SRO) may become involved in the investigation.
Tennessen Warning	Students may be asked to provide voluntary information as part of an investigation of a potential violation of school policy. Students who knowingly withhold information about a violation of a school policy may be subject to school discipline. In the case that a student fails to cooperate, the school will gather information from other sources. Students who admit to school violations may be assigned school consequences. The information provided may be shared with other people connected to the investigation and potentially law enforcement.
Potential Behavior Interventions	While the practice of progressive discipline is used in White Bear Lake Area Schools, consequences are not necessarily sequential and will also vary depending on the severity of the infraction. Actions are not all-inclusive. Consequences may include, but are not limited to: • Redirect by staff • Informal Administrative Conference • Conference with parent /guardian • Restart Room • Suspension (at home) • AWARE (supervised suspension at a district-run program off-campus) • Expulsion

AWARE	The Accountability With Academics and Restorative Education (AWARE) program provides a structured, short-term educational setting for students in grades 6–12 who are temporarily removed from their regular school environment. While participating in AWARE, students continue their academic work, reflect on the behaviors that led to their placement, and develop strategies to make positive choices moving forward. The program emphasizes accountability, restorative practices, and maintaining academic progress. Transportation and meals are provided for students attending AWARE.
Discipline Complaint Procedures	Students, parents and other guardians, and school staff may file a complaint and seek corrective action when the requirements of the Minnesota Pupil Fair Dismissal Act, including the implementation of the local behavior and discipline policies, are not being implemented appropriately or are being discriminately applied. ● Discipline complaints should be reported to the Building Principal or Assistant Superintendent, Dr. Alison Gillespie. All disciplinary actions will be governed by the White Bear Lake Area School District Policies and applicable Minnesota State Statutes.

Bullying, Malicious & Sadistic Conduct, Hazing, Harassment, Discrimination, and Violence	
White Bear Lake's Stance on Safe Schools	It is the responsibility of all in the school community to work together to create safe, nurturing, and inspiring environments. Acts of bullying, malicious and sadistic conduct, hazing, harassment, discrimination, or violence are expressly prohibited on school premises, on school district property, at school functions or activities, or on school transportation.
Definitions	**Bullying** ● Intimidating, threatening, abusive, or harming conduct. ● An actual or perceived imbalance of power exists between the student engaging in bullying and the student being bullied. ● The conduct is repeated or forms a pattern. ● It may interfere with the student's educational opportunities or the ability to participate in school activities.
	Malicious & Sadistic Conduct ● Creating a hostile learning environment by acting with the intent to cause harm by intentionally injuring another or engaging in extreme or excessive cruelty or delighting in cruelty. ● Malicious and sadistic conduct and sexual exploitation by a school district or school staff member, independent contractor, or enrolled student against a staff member, independent contractor, or student that occurs as described above is prohibited.
	Hazing ● Hazing means committing an act against a student, or coercing a student into committing an act, that creates a substantial risk of harm to a person in order for the student to be initiated into or affiliated with a student organization or for any other purpose. ● The purpose of this policy is to maintain a safe learning environment for students and staff that is free from hazing. Hazing activities of any type are inconsistent with the educational goals of the school district and are prohibited at all times. ● No student, teacher, administrator, volunteer, contractor or other employee of the school district shall plan, direct, encourage, aid, or engage in hazing. ● Apparent permission or consent by a person being hazed does not lessen the prohibitions contained in this policy. ● This policy applies to behavior that occurs on or off school property and during and after school hours. ● School Board Policy 526 and MN Statute 121A.11 provide additional details regarding hazing.
Harassment,	It is the policy of ISD 624 to maintain a learning and working environment that

Discrimination, and Violence	is free from religious, racial, or sexual harassment or violence. Minnesota Statute 121A.03. The School District will act to investigate all complaints, either formal or informal, verbal or written, of religious, racial, or sexual harassment or violence, and will take appropriate corrective action. This includes the use of any speech (written or spoken) or behavior that discriminates or belittles a person or group due to their race, religion, ethnicity, gender, or other identifying characteristics. Harassment/bullying includes offensive or intimidating communication that may be verbal, nonverbal, written, or electronic (cyberbullying). A person who engages in an act of bullying, reprisal, or false reporting of bullying or permits, condones or tolerates bullying shall be subject to discipline for that act in accordance with the school district's policies and procedures. Refer to School Board Policy 413 for additional information.
Reporting Procedures	Any person who believes they have been the target or victim of bullying or malicious and sadistic conduct, or any person with knowledge or belief of conduct that may be considered bullying or malicious and sadistic conduct, or conduct prohibited under this policy including, but not limited to, the use of hate speech should immediately report the conduct to the Building Principal or Site Supervisor. Any person may report bullying or other prohibited conduct to the school district human rights officer, Dr. Alison Gillespie, or the Superintendent, Dr. Wayne Kazmierczak. Students may also utilize the Online Bullying Report Form or Student Well-Being Tip Line to report any concerns. Refer to School Board Policy 514 for additional information

Chemical Use	
Chemical-Free Schools	White Bear Lake Area Schools is committed to providing a safe, healthy, and chemical-free learning environment. The use, possession, distribution, or being under the influence of alcohol, controlled substances, vaping devices, or other prohibited substances is not permitted on school property or at school-sponsored activities. Students and staff are encouraged to report concerns regarding chemical use to school administration or a trusted staff member. Reports will be addressed in accordance with School Board policy and the district's student discipline procedures. In addition to appropriate disciplinary action, students may be referred to the district's licensed Chemical Health Specialist or other community resources to provide education, intervention, and support for students and families.
How To Seek Help	Students who struggle with chemical use of any kind, or know someone who does are urged to speak with their school counselor, or our Chemical Health Counselor, or submit their concern through the Student Well-Being Tip Line. **Chemical Health Counselor** Jen Funk, 651-444-6960 or jennifer.funk@isd624.org

Communication with Students and Families	
ParentVue & StudentVue	ParentVue (for parents/guardians) and StudentVue (for students) is a vital tool for both families and students. ParentVue and StudentVue should be checked weekly. Parents/guardians can turn on notifications to be notified regarding attendance and grades. Notifications will be sent via email when a student is absent and a weekly notification will be emailed about grades.
General Communication	The school communicates information to students, parents, and staff in the following ways: ● **Electronic Announcements** - Emailed families on Tuesday and Thursday mornings. ● **Daily Announcements** - Announcements are sent to and reviewed with students each morning. ● **School and District Websites** - You will find information about weekly happenings, the staff directory, school forms, parent conferences, course descriptions, teacher websites, and Family Access to your student's attendance and academic progress. ● **ParentVue** - ParentVue is available for parents to view their student's grades, assignments, and attendance. All parents will be issued a password and may access it through the District website. ● **ParentSquare** - District 624 works with ParentSquare, a service that allows for instant parent notification of emergencies, student attendance, upcoming events, and other school-related matters. This system allows messages to be delivered within minutes to a family's home, cell, and/or work phone as well as via email or text message. This relies on current up-to-date phone numbers and email addresses. ● **District e-Newsletter** - The District sends a Community e-Newsletter to District families and community members every other Friday. Those who are interested in receiving the publication can sign up at www.isd624.org.
Non-School Sponsored Written Material	Persons wishing to distribute non-school sponsored written material on school property must see the building principal. Non-school sponsored material includes all written material except school newspapers, literary magazines, yearbooks, and other publications funded and/or sponsored or authorized by the school. Examples of non-school sponsored materials may include, but are not limited to: leaflets, brochures, flyers, petitions, posters, and underground newspapers, whether written by students or others. For more details review School Board Policy 505.

Student Surveys	From time to time, students may be asked to participate in surveys that help the district improve educational programs, student services, or school climate. Student surveys are conducted in accordance with School Board Policy 520 and applicable state and federal law. Parents/guardians and eligible students have rights regarding participation in certain surveys, including the right to inspect certain survey materials and, when applicable, opt out of participation. Additional information is available from the school office or district office.

Daily Schedule

2026-2027

6/26/2026

Middle School Schedule

PERIOD	BEGIN	END
1 55 m	9:15	10:10
2 55 m	10:15	11:10
3 65 m	11:15	12:55
(Lunch A) 30 m	11:15	11:45
(lunch B) 30 m	11:50	12:20
(lunch C) 30 m	12:25	12:55

4 55 m	1:00	1:55
Extended Passing Time	1:55	2:05
5 55 m	2:05	3:00
6 55 m	3:05	4:00

Dress Code	
White Bear Lake Area Schools Dress Code	Per School Board Policy 504 Students are expected to be appropriately dressed and acceptably groomed for school. Students dressed inappropriately may be asked to change clothes, go home to retrieve different clothing or have clothing delivered to them at school. Consider the following when back-to-school shopping: ● Clothing that is disruptive to the educational process. ● Clothing bearing a message or image which is lewd, vulgar, or obscene. ● Apparel promoting products or activities that are illegal for use by minors. ● Objectionable emblems, badges, symbols, signs, words, objects, or pictures on clothing or jewelry communicating a message that is racist, sexist, or otherwise derogatory to a protected minority group, evidences gang membership or affiliation, or approves, advances, or provokes any form of religious, racial or sexual harassment and/or violence against other individuals as defined in School Board Policy 413. ● Attire that creates a material and substantial disruption to the educational process, school operations, or a school-sponsored activity; that can reasonably be forecasted to create a disruption; or that reflects aggression, including microaggression, toward any protected class. ● Clothing or accessories with words, pictures, and caricatures, based on stereotypes of a specific gender, race, ethnicity, nationality, religion, sexual orientation, or disability. ● Clothing or accessories with American Indian team names, logos, or mascots that depict stereotypes. ● Any apparel or footwear that would damage school property.

Food Service	
Meal Options	White Bear Lake Area Schools participates in Minnesota's Free School Meals Program, which provides one free breakfast and one free lunch each school day for all students. Additional food and beverage items may be available for purchase. Questions regarding meal accounts or dietary accommodations should be directed to Nutrition Services. Students have access to two meal opportunities each school day: Breakfast: Served before school in the cafeteria. Lunch: Served in the cafeteria according to each building's lunch schedule.
Expectations	Central and Mariner Middle Schools are **closed campuses**. Students may not leave school grounds during the school day, including during lunch. Students are not allowed to have food deliveries made to school (DoorDash, Uber Eats, etc). Items dropped off by food delivery services will not be delivered to students. Students are expected to remain in the cafeteria for the duration of their assigned lunch time. Students should not be in common spaces, flex spaces, or learning commons during their assigned lunch session. Lunches and lunch trays are not allowed to leave the cafeteria.

Hall Lockers	
Obtaining a Locker and Lock	The Main Office will assign hallway lockers and the physical education teachers will assign PE lockers. All 6th grade students get a locker. 7th and 8th grade students have the option of having a locker. New students will be provided a combination Master Lock for the first day of school. Students must use a Master Lock V610 which has a key lock on the back in case they need to be opened quickly due to an emergency. Special education students may have a different lock, please coordinate this request with your special education teacher.
Expectations about Lockers	Locks provide a minimum of security, but students should not keep money or other valuables in their lockers. The school is not responsible for items stored in lockers. Students are expected to keep combinations private and not share lockers with other students. The locker must be clean and functional at the end of the year or a repair fee will be assessed. Student lockers are the property of White Bear Lake Area Schools and are provided for student use during the school year. Students are responsible for keeping their lockers clean, secure, and free of prohibited items. In accordance with Board policy and applicable law, school administrators may conduct reasonable searches of lockers, student property, or vehicles parked on school property. Students should have no expectation of privacy in school-owned lockers. Dangerous or illegal items found in the student's locker will be confiscated by school authorities and held until parents and/or law enforcement authorities are notified. Lockers may be opened at the request of parents or in an emergency. Defacement or damage to student lockers or other school property is prohibited and will result in disciplinary action and/or restitution.

Health Services	
Health Office	**Health Office Staff** Jessica Robens, School Nurse jessica.robens@isd624.org Jackie Lashomb, Health Assistant jackie.lashomb@isd624.org 651-653-2758
	The Health Office is available to support students' health and well-being during the school day. Students who become ill or are injured at school should notify their teacher and report to the Health Office. If a student needs to leave school due to illness or injury, the Health Office will contact a parent/guardian before the student is released. Students who require medication during the school day must have the appropriate parent/guardian authorization and, when required, a healthcare provider's order. Prescription medications must be in their original pharmacy-labeled container, and over-the-counter medications must be in their original manufacturer's container. Health plans, medication authorizations, and healthcare provider orders must be renewed each school year. Students with ongoing health concerns are encouraged to work with the school nurse to develop a plan that supports their health and learning. To help maintain a healthy learning environment for all students, families are asked to avoid sending students wearing strong perfumes, body sprays, colognes, or other heavily scented products, as these may trigger allergies or other medical conditions for students and staff. For questions regarding student health services, medications, or medical accommodations, please contact your school's Health Office.

Pledge of Allegiance	
WBLAS Expectations Regarding the Pledge	The Pledge of Allegiance will be read weekly at the start of the day on Mondays. Minnesota Statute 121A.11 mandates that “Anyone who does not wish to participate in reciting the pledge of allegiance for any personal reason may elect not to do so. Students must respect another person’s right to make that choice.”
Pledge of Allegiance	I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, One Nation Under God, Indivisible With liberty and justice for all

Restrooms and Locker Rooms	
Expectations	Central and Mariner Middle Schools are committed to providing safe, respectful, and supervised restroom and locker room environments. These spaces exist for personal hygiene, changing for physical education or athletics, and other essential needs. Student conduct in these areas should reflect respect, responsibility, kindness, and consideration for others while contributing to a safe and positive learning environment.
Restroom Expectations	To maintain privacy, safety, and access for all students: ● **One person per stall at all times.** Multiple students may not enter or occupy a single stall for any reason. ● Respect personal privacy and boundaries. No photographing, recording, opening stall doors, or invading privacy in any way. ● Restrooms are not social spaces. Students should use the restroom and return to class promptly — no loitering, hanging out, vaping, or misuse of space. ● Students must follow all school behavior and electronics expectations while in restrooms. ● Facilities should be kept clean. Flush, dispose of trash properly, and report vandalism or maintenance needs to staff. ● If it is determined that violations may be happening or that student safety is at risk staff reserve the right to gain entry to the restroom in question. Staff will provide warnings prior to entry. ● Violations may result in progressive disciplinary action consistent with school discipline procedures.
Locker Rooms Expectations	Locker rooms are supervised spaces intended for changing, storing items, and preparing for class or athletic participation. **Locker Room Doors should never be propped open, unless supervised by a staff member or coach.** To ensure student safety and privacy: **PE Locker Rooms** ● Operate on a scheduled timer and are supervised 3 minutes before and 3 minutes after the bell. ● Students wishing to change for class must do so in the PE locker room. ● Only authorized students may enter; no students may be in the space unsupervised. ● Students with athletic lockers must still bring shoes/gear daily or use a PE locker if needed. **Athletic Locker Rooms** ● Students may not enter without adult supervision. ● Coaches supervise before and after practices/games.

Privacy, Safety, & Prohibited Behaviors	The following behaviors are not permitted in restrooms or locker rooms: ● Multiple students in a single stall ● Recording, photographing, or filming of any kind ● Vaping, smoking, drug use, or possession of related devices ● Horseplay, harassment, hazing, or intimidation ● Destruction, vandalism, or misuse of equipment ● Propping doors or entering locker rooms without authorization/supervision Behaviors in violation of expectations will follow progressive discipline procedures.

School Events	
Expectations	Students attending school-sponsored events, on or off school grounds, are subject to all rules and regulations of White Bear Lake Area Schools and Minnesota State Law. Students who violate any school rules or state law while attending an event or participating in an event are subject to school discipline, MSHSL disciplinary action as applicable, or legal action. School-sponsored events may include but are not limited to class field trips, athletic competitions, dances, or any other school-sponsored event.
School dances/social and athletic events	School dances and social events are an opportunity for students to connect with classmates, build school spirit, and have fun in a safe, welcoming environment. To help ensure a positive experience for everyone: ● Attendance is limited to students enrolled at the school hosting the event unless otherwise approved by school administration. ● Students are expected to follow all school expectations, including the student dress code and behavior expectations. ● Students who are absent from school without an approved reason, suspended, or otherwise ineligible under school expectations may not attend school-sponsored events.(This includes events being held at the high school.) ● Students are expected to remain at the event unless a parent/guardian has made prior arrangements with the school. ● Food and beverages may be available for purchase at selected events. School administration reserves the right to remove students from an event or restrict future participation if behavior does not meet school expectations.

School Safety	
Camera Surveillance	All staff members make every effort to maintain a safe learning environment for our students. Please be aware that Central and Mariner Middle Schools make use of electronic monitoring devices throughout the interior and exterior of the building to aid us in this mission.
Closed Campus	Students may not leave the school building after they arrive until the end of the school day, unless they have parent/guardian permission and have signed out in the Main Office.
Building Access	We take student safety and security very seriously. With that in mind please be follow the expectations below: **Exterior Building Access** ● All exterior doors are locked during the school day ● All visitors and students are expected to enter the school building through the Main Entrance on Division Avenue. ○ Visitor Parking can be found in front of the Main Entrance on Division Avenue ● Students are instructed to refrain from opening exterior doors to allow known or unknown individuals into the building. Doing so creates a significant security risk for the entire building. ● Students are not allowed to leave the building and re-enter without permission, which includes (but is not limited to) leaving the building to purchase lunch, coffee, or run an errand. ● Student Supervisors work both inside and outside of the school building to provide support and maintain a safe learning environment. ● Students should never be in possession of building keys or keycards. **Interior Access** ● Students are expected to refrain from entering “Staff Only” areas such as staff lounges, storage areas, equipment rooms, or other locked spaces ● Excluding privacy restroom stalls, no student should ever be in a locked room. ● If it is determined that a student’s safety may be at risk staff reserve the right to gain entry to into a restroom or privacy restroom stall. Staff will provide warnings prior to entry. ● Students should never be in possession of building keys or keycards.
Emergency Response Protocol	White Bear Lake Area Schools use the Standard Response Protocol developed by the I Love You Guys Foundation. Five standard response protocols are utilized: Hold, Secure, Lockdown, Evacuate, and Shelter. Each classroom has the Standard Response Protocol posted. The protocols are reviewed with students periodically throughout the year and a total of five

	lockdown and/or secure drills are completed each year.
Environmental Health & Safety	White Bear Lake Area Schools maintain safe learning environments through ongoing monitoring and maintenance of school facilities. This includes: ● Asbestos management ● Lead in drinking water testing ● Required pesticide notifications ● Indoor environmental health practices Additional information is available upon request from the district.
Fire/Tornado Drills	The State Fire Marshall requires periodic fire drills. When the alarm sounds, leave your classrooms as quickly as possible via the posted exit designated for the room. Tornado drill and protective procedures are posted in each classroom.
Medical Emergencies	In the event of a medical emergency, students or staff witnessing the event should check on the person experiencing the emergency and then call out for help as loudly as possible. Staff will respond and render aid.
Notification of a Violent Student	Please be aware that White Bear Lake Area High School is bound by state statute to notify the appropriate staff of a student's history of violent behavior. Parents of a student who is identified as such will be informed before such notification is distributed to staff.
Public Displays of Affection	In order to create an appropriate learning environment where all students feel safe, excessive public displays of affection including, but not limited to intimate kissing, cuddling, and touching are not allowed.
Searches (including Breathalyzers)	Per School Board Policy 502 and School Board Policy 527 school administration may conduct searches of students, lockers, and vehicles should there be reasonable suspicion that the search will uncover a violation of law and/or school policy. Searches may include the use of metal detectors and/or breathalyzers. Students may not use, possess, or store the following on school grounds (this list is not exhaustive): tobacco products, products designed for inhalation of nicotine or other substances (for example, electronic cigarettes), illegal or prescription drugs, drug paraphernalia, alcohol, explosives, and weapons. Possession of look-alike items is also not permitted. See district discipline policy for additional details.
Student Records & Privacy	White Bear Lake Area Schools maintain educational records for each student. Parents/guardians, and eligible students who are 18 years old or older, have rights regarding these records under federal and state law.

	These rights include the ability to: ● Review educational records ● Request correction of inaccurate information ● Consent to most disclosures of personally identifiable information ● Request limitations on directory information Questions regarding student records may be directed to the building principal or district office.

Student Rights and Responsibilities

Students have the right to:

- Learn in a safe, respectful, and welcoming school environment.
- Be treated with dignity, fairness, and respect.
- Receive high-quality instruction aligned with district curriculum and Minnesota academic standards.
- Express concerns respectfully and seek support from school staff.
- Participate in school programs, services, and activities free from discrimination, in accordance with district policy and applicable law.

Students are expected to:

- Treat others with respect, dignity, and kindness.
- Follow school expectations, School Board policies, and directions from staff.
- Attend school regularly, arrive on time, and come prepared to learn.
- Respect and care for school property and the property of others.
- Contribute to a safe, positive, and inclusive learning environment for all.

Non-Discrimination	White Bear Lake Area Schools is committed to providing an educational environment free from discrimination, harassment, intimidation, and retaliation. The district does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, creed, religion, national origin, sex, disability, age, marital status, sexual orientation, gender identity, or other protected status as provided by law. Questions or concerns may be directed to the district's designated compliance officers.

Student Support Services	
Staff	School Counselors: Jill Bristow: Student Last Names A-G Calli Moreau: Student Last Names H-N Karen Schmitz: Student Last Names O-Z School Social Worker: Ally Lohse, School Psychologist: Emma Perreira Chemical Health Specialist: Jennifer Funk
Support Hub	The Support Hub serves as a place for families and community members to access information they may need for essential services. This support provides important information regarding crisis services, basic needs, mental health and well-being, physical health, social emotional learning and more. ● Bullying Prevention Resources ● Culturally Specific Resources ● Mental Health Resources ● Student Discipline Resources
Well Being Resources	Well-Being Resources ● Bear Care Health and Wellness Clinic ● Community Resources ● Crisis ● Physical Health ● Dental Health
Well-Being Tip Line	Student Well-Being Tip Line is an electronic form to report concerns regarding a student's well-being: mental health, chemical use, social isolation, bullying, harassment, etc. Students may also report concerns in person to an administrator, counselor, social worker, or teacher. The form can be submitted anonymously, however, the more information provided the better we can investigate and support the student regarding the concern. Knowingly making a false report is a violation of school policy. All submissions will be taken seriously and addressed during school hours. The Student Well-Being Tip Line **is not a crisis line**. Please note that reports received during the summer may not be addressed in a timely manner.

Technology and Electronic Devices	
District Technology & Internet Use	District technology is provided to support teaching and learning. Students are expected to use technology responsibly, safely, and ethically. Students should: ● Protect passwords and personal information. ● Use technology for educational purposes. ● Respect others when communicating online. ● Follow copyright and academic integrity expectations. Improper use of district technology may result in disciplinary action and/or loss of technology privileges.
Photographs & Recordings	Video imaging equipment, including cell phones and other technology with the ability to take digital images, is prohibited in bathrooms and locker rooms. Anyone found taking photos or making recordings in such spaces will be subject to disciplinary action as determined by building or district administration. Recording video, audio, or taking photos/images of any student or staff in any other areas without the individual's or group's permission is not allowed. Anyone found recording and/or distributing recordings without consent will be subject to disciplinary action as determined by building or district administration. Altering videos, audio recordings or images of students or staff is also prohibited without their express permission.
District Computer and Chromebook Use Guidelines	**Chromebooks** Central Middle School is a 1:1 Chromebook school. Each student is issued a Chromebook at the start of grade 6, retains it for the duration of middle school, and returns it at the end of grade 8. Students are expected to: ● Bring Chromebooks to school fully charged every day ● Take reasonable care to protect the Chromebook from damage or loss ● Report any theft, loss, or damage (accidental or otherwise) immediately ● Demonstrate responsible digital citizenship while online ● Follow the rules of the acceptable use policy **District Computer Use** Computing and information systems serve a large number and variety of users – students, faculty, staff, and community members. Students are expected to use all equipment and software in a positive, ethical, and respectful manner and to remain only in authorized locations on the network. Unacceptable use of these resources may result in suspension or revocation

	of privileges as well as discipline or monetary consequences.
Central Middle School Cell Phone Plan	**Expectations** Students will silence cell phones and store them in their backpacks or locker during the school hours 9:15am-4:00pm. Students may use their cell phones appropriately before and after school, during passing time and lunch. Students who need to be in contact with their family can ask permission from a teacher to use one of our school phones and/or communicate during one of the aforementioned times. Parents are encouraged to contact our main office if there is a message that needs to be relayed immediately. Cell phone use of any kind is not permitted in locker rooms or bathrooms. See full cell phone policy on CMS website.
	Enforcement General consequences for students using a cell phone during unapproved times (depending on how the phone is used, additional school consequences, including suspension, may apply): ● 1st Offense: Phone is held in office for the remainder of the day ● 2nd Offense: Phone is held in office for the remainder of the day and a parent/guardian is contacted. ● 3rd Offense: Phone is held in office for the remainder of the day. Cell phone plans will be created with students, parent and administrator.
	Medical Exemption Students who use their cell phones to monitor a medical condition (i.e. diabetes, epilepsy) must meet with Health Office Staff to receive an exemption. Students with an exemption will be given a laminated card indicating the exemption and teaching staff will be notified by the Health Office. Students with this exemption may have their cell phone with them and turned on at all times, but are expected to silence rings and tones. Phones should only be used for medical purposes during class. Non-approved use will result in an administrative referral.

	Other Unique Circumstances Parents or guardians are asked to contact their student's Associate Principal if there is a different essential reason that their student needs their phone on and accessible in class during academic time. Depending on a student's unique personal situation, a student may access their phone during class with teacher permission. Students or parents/guardians must communicate temporary individual needs, (e.g. have a family emergency, personal crisis, etc.) with their counselor and teachers so we can accommodate the student.

Transportation	
Bikes	Students may ride bikes to school. Bikes must be parked in the racks and locked when not in use. Students should wear helmets. Students are responsible for the security of their bikes on school grounds. The school is unable to guarantee the security of bikes parked on our grounds.
Busses	School bus transportation is a privilege provided to safely transport students to and from school and school-sponsored activities. Riding the bus and waiting at bus stops are considered extensions of the school day, and all school expectations apply. Students are expected to: ● Follow the directions of the bus driver and school staff. ● Remain seated while the bus is in motion. ● Ride only their assigned bus unless prior approval has been granted. ● Demonstrate safe, respectful, and responsible behavior that supports a positive environment for everyone. Failure to follow bus expectations may result in disciplinary action and/or the loss of transportation privileges. Serious safety violations, including dangerous behavior, vandalism, or misuse of emergency equipment, may result in immediate suspension of bus privileges and additional school or legal consequences, as appropriate.
E-bikes & E-scooters	Electric-assisted bicycles are not allowed to be used for transportation to and from Mariner or Central Middle Schools in compliance with Minnesota law (statute 169.011 subd.71). Minnesota law requires e-bike riders to be at least 15 years old and e-scooter riders to be at least 12 years old. All e-scooters must be parked in designated bike racks or approved parking areas. All e-scooter riders must wear a helmet. Students must ride bikes, scooters, and e-scooters in a manner safe for pedestrians on school grounds. Riding on sidewalks, plazas, athletic facilities, parking lot pedestrian areas, or other designated pedestrian spaces on campus is prohibited. Modified e-bikes, electric motorcycles (e-bikes without functional pedals), or devices that do not meet Minnesota's definition of an electric-assisted bicycle or e-scooter are prohibited on school property. Violations may result in disciplinary action, including but not limited to parent/guardian conferences, restriction from bringing an e-bike or e-scooter onto school property, required parent/guardian pickup of the device, or referral to local law enforcement.

Skateboards	Students must walk their skateboards once they enter school grounds. Riding on sidewalks, plazas, athletic facilities, parking lot pedestrian areas or other designated pedestrian spaces on campus is prohibited.

Visitors & Volunteers	
Visitors	To help maintain a safe and secure learning environment: ● All visitors must enter through the Main Entrance on Division Avenue. ● Visitors are required to sign in using a valid driver's license or state-issued identification and wear a visitor badge while in the building. ● Students who are not enrolled at the middle school are not permitted on campus during the school day unless authorized by school administration. ● Individuals who are on school property without authorization or who refuse to follow school procedures may be asked to leave and may be issued a trespass notice.
Volunteers	Volunteers play an important role in supporting our students and schools. In addition to following visitor procedures, all volunteers must: ● Sign in using a valid driver's license or state-issued identification each time they visit. ● Complete the district's required background check process before volunteering in roles that involve working with students. Please contact the Main Office if you are interested in volunteering or have questions about visitor or volunteer procedures.

Weapons Policy	
Definitions	School Board Policy 501 details the White Bear Lake Area Schools weapons policy. In short, a weapon is defined as any object, device, or instrument designed as a weapon or through its use is capable of threatening or producing bodily harm or which may be used to inflict self-injury. Being in possession of a weapon means having a weapon on one's person or in an area subject to one's control in a school location. Examples include, but are not limited to lockers and vehicles.
Examples	Items identified as weapons include, but are not limited to: ● Any firearm, whether loaded or unloaded ● Air guns ● Pellet guns ● BB guns ● Stun guns (Taser, etc) ● Ghost guns ● All knives and blades ● Clubs ● Metal Knuckles ● Fireworks or other explosives ● Mace (and other propellants) ● Ammunition ● Arrows ● Chains ● Toy guns (including Nerf guns) ● Any objects that have been modified to serve as a weapon
Consequences	Students found possessing a weapon will be immediately suspended from school and all school activities. The weapon will be confiscated and given to the School Resource Officer. The School Resource Officer will investigate and determine any potential legal charges. Parents will be notified. A Disciplinary Review Board will be convened to review the case and recommend final consequences, which may include expulsion.