



GOVERNOR MIFFLIN SCHOOL DISTRICT

Code of Conduct

2026-2027

The Governor Mifflin School District acknowledges that every student and disciplinary situation is unique, requiring thoughtful consideration of individual circumstances. As such, the District entrusts its administrators with the professional discretion to determine and apply appropriate disciplinary measures. This approach ensures that processes are fair, developmentally appropriate, and aligned with the specific needs and context of each case, while remaining consistent with district policies and the overarching goal of fostering a safe and supportive learning environment.

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Definitions of Misconduct Levels

Level One Misconduct:

Level One Misconduct on the part of the student is misconduct which:

1. Impedes orderly classroom procedure, or
2. Infringes upon the rights of others to learn or teach, or
3. Interferes with orderly operation of the classroom or school.

This misconduct may occur outside of the classroom or school. Level One Misconduct is usually handled by the individual staff member, but may at times require the intervention of an administrator. This misconduct is documented in Skyward.

Level Two Misconduct:

Level Two Misconduct is misconduct which is frequent or serious and disrupts the learning climate of the classroom and/or school. This misconduct may occur outside of the classroom or school. Level Two Misconduct may be addressed by staff or building administrators. This misconduct is documented in Skyward.

Level Three Misconduct:

Level Three Misconduct is misconduct which is directed against persons or property where the circumstance may endanger the health or safety of self or others. This misconduct is documented in Skyward. These acts are considered serious and may also result in intervention by law enforcement.

Level Four Misconduct:

Level Four Misconduct is misconduct which results in violence to another person or property, or which poses a threat to the safety of others, or involves weapons, drugs, alcohol, or tobacco, including look-alike items. This misconduct is documented in Skyward. These actions may be criminal and always require administrative action which may result in the immediate removal of the student from school, intervention of law enforcement, and may include expulsion by the Board of School Directors.



GOVERNOR MIFFLIN SCHOOL DISTRICT

Code of Conduct Matrix

**Governor Mifflin Elementary Schools &
Governor Mifflin Intermediate School (K-6)**

Elementary & Intermediate (Grades K-6)

Level One Misconduct	Disciplinary Consequences
Disruptive Behavior <i>DEFINITION: Any student action that interferes with teaching, learning, or school activities.</i>	Consequences for Level One Misconduct may include the following: • Verbal warning • Personal conference • Involvement with school counselor • Behavioral contract • Loss of privileges • Modified recess • Loss of computer usage in class where infraction occurred • Teacher detention • Telephone call to parent/guardian • Restorative action/measure • Corrective action/measure
Classroom Tardiness <i>DEFINITION: When a student arrives late to class without a valid excuse.</i>	
Disrespectful Speech or Action <i>DEFINITION: Words, gestures, or behaviors that show a lack of respect toward others.</i>	
Profanity <i>DEFINITION: Use of offensive, vulgar, or inappropriate language, gestures, or written words that are disrespectful.</i>	
Leaving Class or Assigned Area without Permission <i>DEFINITION: When a student leaves a supervised space without staff approval, potentially creating safety concerns and disrupting learning.</i>	
Failure to Follow Established Procedures for Schoolwide Expectations <i>DEFINITION: A student's refusal or failure to follow established school-wide rules, routines, or procedures designed to ensure safety, order, and a positive learning environment.</i>	
Refusing Reasonable Staff Requests <i>DEFINITION: When a student willfully ignores or defies directions from school staff that are appropriate, safe, and within school expectations.</i>	
Inappropriate Use of Technology <i>DEFINITION: Using devices, networks, or digital resources in ways that are not permitted, unsafe, or disruptive. This may involve accessing unauthorized sites, playing games without permission, cyberbullying, or damaging equipment.</i>	
Misuse/Damage of School Property <i>DEFINITION: Using school materials, equipment, or facilities in an unsafe or careless manner that may cause harm, defacement, or loss.</i>	
Academic Dishonesty, Cheating, Plagiarism, or Lying <i>DEFINITION: Any act of cheating, plagiarism, or lying to gain an unfair academic advantage or avoid responsibility. This may involve copying work, using unauthorized help, presenting others' work as one's own, or providing false information.</i>	

Level One Misconduct	Disciplinary Consequences
Dress Code <i>DEFINITION:</i> Students are expected to dress in a manner that is appropriate, respectful, and not disruptive to the educational environment. Clothing, accessories, or grooming must not present a safety hazard, interfere with learning, or promote inappropriate or illegal conduct. The school reserves the right to regulate student appearance when it affects health, safety, discipline, or the educational process.	
Violation of Electronic Device Procedures <i>DEFINITION:</i> Student use of personal electronic devices (including phones, earbuds, smartglasses, over-ear headphones, smartwatches, handheld video games, tablets, etc.) during the school day. NOTE: <i>Consequences specific to the Electronic Device Procedures are outlined on page 18 of the Student Handbook. The consequences outlined on this document may be applied in addition to those detailed on page 18.</i>	
Other Minor Infractions of Acceptable Behavior <i>DEFINITION:</i> Low-level behaviors that do not align with school expectations but do not cause significant disruption or harm. These may include off-task behavior, minor rule violations, or behaviors not specifically listed but addressed through classroom management.	

Elementary & Intermediate (Grades K-6)

Level Two Misconduct	Disciplinary Consequences
Repeated Level One Misconduct <i>DEFINITION: Ongoing or frequent minor behaviors that persist despite prior interventions or redirection. When minor infractions become chronic, they may require more significant responses to support positive behavior.</i>	Consequences for Level Two Misconduct may include the following: • Any appropriate disciplinary consequence from Level One • Conference with Administrator • Loss of student activities/privileges • Administrative lunch/recess detention • Administrative after school detention • Telephone call to parent/guardian • Temporary removal from class
Minor Physical Confrontation/Altercation Between Students <i>DEFINITION: A non-serious physical interaction between students that may include pushing, shoving, or other light physical contact without intent to cause serious harm.</i>	
Obscene Gestures or Actions <i>DEFINITION: Any student behavior involving gestures, movements, or actions that are sexually explicit, vulgar, or offensive, and that disrupt the educational environment</i>	
Elopement <i>DEFINITION: When a student leaves a supervised area or assigned location without permission or authorization, potentially placing themselves at risk.</i>	
Failure to Cooperate with a Substitute <i>DEFINITION: Intentional refusal by a student to follow reasonable directions or expectations set by a substitute teacher, including behaviors such as defiance, disruption, or noncompliance, which interfere with the learning environment.</i>	
Leaving School, Assigned Area, or Property, without Permission <i>DEFINITION: The act of a student departing from the school building, designated area, or property, during school hours without prior authorization from school personnel. This behavior violates school attendance policies and may pose safety concerns for the student and others.</i>	
Unauthorized Use or Misuse of Technology <i>DEFINITION: Engaging in activities that violate the school's Acceptable Use Policy, including but not limited to: accessing inappropriate websites, using devices during unauthorized times, sharing personal information online, or using technology to harass or bully others.</i>	
Other Offenses not Listed but Fitting the Definition of Level Two Misconduct as Determined by the Administration <i>DEFINITION: Behaviors not explicitly specified in the Code of Conduct that, upon administrative review, are determined to directly or indirectly cause moderate disruption to the educational setting.</i>	

Elementary & Intermediate (Grades K-6)

Level Three Misconduct	Disciplinary Consequences
Repeated Level Two misconduct <i>DEFINITION: Persistent serious behavioral infractions that continue despite prior interventions or redirection. Such repeated behaviors may escalate the situation, requiring more significant responses to support positive behavior and maintain a conducive learning environment.</i>	Consequences for Level Three Misconduct may include the following: • Any appropriate disciplinary consequence from Level Two • Class schedule change • Administrative loss of computer • In-school suspension • Out-of-school suspension
Fighting <i>DEFINITION: Engaging in a physical altercation with another student, including actions such as hitting, punching, kicking, or other aggressive behaviors, regardless of intent to cause harm.</i>	
Stealing <i>DEFINITION: The act of intentionally taking or possessing property belonging to another student, staff member, or the school without permission. This includes physical items, digital property, or any belongings not rightfully owned by the student.</i>	
Threat Made Towards Others <i>DEFINITION: Any communication or behavior by a student that indicates an intent to cause harm or danger to another individual, including peers, school staff, or others. This includes verbal statements, written messages, gestures, or electronic communications that suggest a threat to the safety of others, regardless of the medium used or whether the threat is direct or indirect.</i>	
Using or Supplying Forged Notes, Documents, or Illegal Excuses <i>DEFINITION: The act of creating, altering, or providing excuse notes, dismissal slips, or other official documents without proper authorization, with the intent to deceive school personnel. This includes forging a parent or guardian's signature, submitting falsified medical notes, or using unauthorized documents to justify absences or early dismissals.</i>	
Vandalism <i>DEFINITION: Refers to any intentional act by a student that damages, defaces, or destroys school property or the property of others.</i>	
Violence, Force, Coercion, and Intimidation <i>DEFINITION: Engaging in behaviors that involve physical aggression, the use or threat of force, compelling others to act against their will, or inducing fear through threats or actions.</i>	

Level Three Misconduct	Disciplinary Consequences
Harassment/Sexual Harassment <i>DEFINITION: Unwelcome conduct that is severe, persistent, or pervasive and is intended to or has the effect of demeaning, intimidating, threatening, or creating a hostile educational environment for another student or staff member. Harassment may be verbal, physical, written, or electronic, and may be based on personal characteristics (e.g., race, gender, disability, religion, sexual orientation), or be general in nature.</i>	
Smoking or Possession of Tobacco or Tobacco-related Paraphernalia <i>DEFINITION: Possessing or using any tobacco product, including electronic nicotine delivery systems (e.g., e-cigarettes, vapes, or lookalike items), or related paraphernalia, on school property, school buses, or at school-sponsored events.</i>	
Transmitting, Viewing, or Receiving Offensive, Obscene, or Pornographic Materials <i>DEFINITION: The act of sending, sharing, accessing, possessing, or receiving any material in digital, printed, or written form, that is lewd, sexually explicit, graphically violent, or otherwise offensive in nature, while under school jurisdiction. This includes use of school or personal devices to access or distribute pornographic content, inappropriate memes or images, or sexually suggestive communications, whether intentionally or through negligent behavior.</i>	
Bullying/Cyberbullying <i>DEFINITION: Bullying is defined as any intentional electronic, written, verbal, or physical act, or a series of acts, directed at another student that is severe, persistent, or repeated and that:</i> <i>1. Substantially interferes with a student's education,</i> <i>2. Creates a threatening or hostile school environment, or</i> <i>3. Disrupts the orderly operation of the school.</i> <i>Cyberbullying includes these same actions when carried out using digital technology such as text messages, social media, email, or any online platform. Bullying may occur on school property, on school vehicles, at bus stops, during school-sponsored activities, or off school grounds if it causes a significant disruption to the school environment.</i>	

Level Three Misconduct	Disciplinary Consequences
Other Offenses not Listed but Fitting the Definition of Level Three Misconduct as Determined by the Administration <i>DEFINITION: Behaviors not explicitly specified in the Code of Conduct that, upon administrative review, are determined to cause significant disruption, emotional harm, or direct or indirect physical harm.</i>	

Elementary & Intermediate (Grades K-6)

Level Four Misconduct	Disciplinary Consequences
Repeated Level Three misconduct <i>DEFINITION: Persistent or repeated serious behavioral infractions that have previously been classified as Level 3, despite interventions or consequences having been applied. These actions continue to significantly disrupt the learning environment or threaten student well-being, and thus require a more comprehensive, structured response.</i>	Consequences for Level Four Misconduct may include the following: • Any appropriate disciplinary consequence from Level Three • In-school suspension • Out-of-school suspension • Expulsion • Alternative school placement • Police involvement • Other Board action which results in appropriate placement
Extortion <i>DEFINITION: When a student demands or takes something (personal item, money, privilege) from another student by using threats—whether verbal, written, or implied. The threat may involve harming the victim, spreading rumors, or other forms of intimidation.</i>	
Threat to School <i>DEFINITION: Any communication or behavior by a student, spoken, written, gestured, electronic, or implied, that indicates an intent to cause harm to school property, staff, students, or to disrupt school operations. This includes threats of violence, bomb threats, or other warnings of planned danger that could impact the safety of the school community.</i>	
Reporting False Emergencies <i>DEFINITION: Deliberately making a false or fabricated claim of a threat to the school, staff, or students, through words, notes, electronic messages, or other means, knowing that no such threat exists, and causing fear, disruption, evacuation, or diversion of school or emergency resources.</i>	
Conspiracy Involving Weapons <i>DEFINITION: When two or more students agree to acquire, carry, use, or threaten to use a dangerous weapon on school premises such as the school building, bus, or during any school-related activity.</i>	
Assault <i>DEFINITION: Assault is any intentional or reckless act, verbal, physical, or gestured, that causes, attempts to cause, or threatens to cause bodily injury, fear of harm, or actual physical harm to another student, staff member, or any individual on school property or during school-sponsored activities.</i>	

Level Four Misconduct	Disciplinary Consequences
Inappropriate Touch or Exposure <i>DEFINITION: Any intentional act by a student involving unwanted, unsolicited, or sexually suggestive physical contact, or the deliberate exposure of private body parts, in a way that violates another person's personal boundaries, sense of safety, or community standards of decency. This behavior is considered serious misconduct, regardless of intent or familiarity between parties.</i>	
Institutional Vandalism <i>DEFINITION: Any intentional act by a student that damages, defaces, destroys, or alters school property, property on school grounds, or property belonging to staff, or the school community. It also includes possession of items with the intent to commit vandalism.</i>	
Theft, Possession, or Sale of Stolen Property <i>DEFINITION: Any intentional act where a student takes, possesses, keeps, gives, sells, or uses property that belongs to another, whether a student, staff, or the school, without permission, knowing or reasonably believing that it has been stolen, with the intent to deprive the rightful owner of it.</i>	
Conspiracy to Commit Theft <i>DEFINITION: When two or more students agree to take property belonging to another student, staff member, or the school, without permission, and take at least one overt step toward achieving that goal</i>	
Arson <i>DEFINITION: Any intentional or reckless act involving the use of fire or explosive devices, such as matches, lighters, fireworks, or other combustible materials, that damages, destroys, or endangers school property, person(s), or operations.</i>	
Disruptions Resulting in Endangerment <i>DEFINITION: Any behavior that significantly disrupts the school environment and results in, or has the potential to result in, harm or danger to the physical or emotional safety of students, staff, or others. This includes intentional or reckless acts that interfere with normal school operations and create an unsafe condition, even if no injury actually occurs.</i> <i>These actions may stem from horseplay, pranks, disobedience, or aggressive behavior but are distinguished by the real or potential risk they pose to people or property.</i>	
Illegal Distribution, Reproduction, or Use of a Copyrighted Software <i>DEFINITION: Any student action involving unauthorized copying, sharing (including peer-to-peer), installing, or using software in violation of copyright law or licensing terms.</i>	

Level Four Misconduct	Disciplinary Consequences
Using, Providing, Selling, or Possession of Over-the-Counter Medication PLEASE NOTE: All medication must be dispensed by the school nurse DEFINITION: Any unauthorized use, possession, distribution, or attempted sale of non-prescription (over-the-counter) medication by a student on school property, during school hours, or at any school-sponsored event. Over-the-counter medications include, but are not limited to, products such as pain relievers (e.g., Tylenol, Advil), antihistamines, cold and flu medications, cough drops, ointments, or dietary supplements.	
Sale/Possession/Use of a Controlled Substance DEFINITION: Possessing, using, being under the influence of, selling, or distributing a controlled substance (illegal drug) or related paraphernalia during the school day, school property, school bus/transportation, bus stop, or at school-sponsored events.	
Possession of a Weapon DEFINITION: Possession or use of any weapon, such as a firearm, knife, or any object capable of causing serious harm, on school property, during school events, on school transportation.	
Possession or Use of Firecrackers, Smoke Bombs, or Stink Bombs DEFINITION: Possession, ignition, use, or distribution of devices such as firecrackers, smoke bombs, stink bombs, or similar pyrotechnic or chemical-effect items on school grounds, during school activities, or within school transportation, regardless of intent or age.	
Other Offenses Violating the PA Crimes Code DEFINITION: Any student behavior that constitutes a violation of the Pennsylvania Crimes Code, even if not specifically named elsewhere in the Code of Conduct. These acts may include, but are not limited to, behaviors that result in harm to persons or property, cause significant disruption, or reflect criminal intent or recklessness while on school property, during school-sponsored events, or while under school jurisdiction.	
Other offenses not Listed but Fitting the Definition of Level Four Misconduct as Determined by the Administration DEFINITION: Any student behavior that is not specifically named in this Code of Conduct but is determined by school administration to be consistent with the severity, danger, intent, or impact of Level Four Misconduct. These behaviors involve serious threats to the safety, welfare, or orderly operation of the school community and may require immediate administrative intervention, removal from school, and/or involvement of law enforcement.	



GOVERNOR MIFFLIN SCHOOL DISTRICT

Code of Conduct Matrix

Governor Mifflin Middle and High School (7-12)

GMMS & GMHS (Grades 7-12)

Level One Misconduct	Disciplinary Consequences
Academic Cheating or Plagiarism <i>DEFINITION: Any deliberate act of deception or misrepresentation in academic work, assessments, or assignments, intended to gain an unfair advantage or misrepresent original authorship. This includes the unauthorized use of another person's ideas, words, work, or intellectual property and the use of prohibited aids or collaboration during assessments or assignments.</i>	Consequences for Level One Misconduct may include the following: • Verbal warning • Restorative conference • Involvement with the school counselor • Behavioral contract • Loss of privileges • Loss of computer usage in class where infraction occurred • Teacher detention • Telephone call to parent/guardian • Student Assistance Program (SAP) Referral
Cutting Class <i>DEFINITION: A student is considered to be cutting class when they intentionally fail to report to an assigned class, study hall, lunch period, intervention period, or scheduled instructional activity without prior approval from a school staff, and without a legitimate excuse as defined by district attendance policy.</i>	
Dishonesty or Lying <i>DEFINITION: Any act in which a student knowingly provides false information, misrepresents facts, or withholds truth in order to deceive staff, avoid responsibility, gain unfair advantage, or interfere with school operations. Dishonesty may occur verbally, in writing, digitally, or through nonverbal acts.</i>	
Disrespectful Speech or Actions <i>DEFINITION: Verbal, written, nonverbal, or physical behavior directed at any school staff member, peer, or visitor that demonstrates rudeness, defiance, mockery, or intentional disregard for authority or community norms. This includes words, tone, gestures, body language, or actions that are disruptive, dismissive, insubordinate, or insulting, even if not threatening or profane.</i>	
Failure to Cooperate with a Substitute Teacher <i>DEFINITION: Any behavior that demonstrates intentional noncompliance, defiance, or disruption when under the supervision of a substitute teacher. This includes refusing to follow directions, disregarding classroom expectations, challenging authority, or engaging in behaviors that undermine the substitute's ability to manage the classroom or maintain a safe and orderly environment.</i>	
Failure to Follow Established Procedure for the Schoolwide Expectations <i>DEFINITION: A student's intentional or repeated failure to comply with clearly communicated school-wide behavioral, safety, or procedural expectations. This includes disregarding rules and routines designed to ensure safety, order, and respect.</i>	

Level One Misconduct	Disciplinary Consequences
Late to Class <i>DEFINITION: A student is considered late to class (or “tardy”) when they arrive in the classroom after the bell or scheduled start time without a valid pass or excused reason, as defined by district policy. This applies to all academic classes, homeroom, study halls, lunch periods, and school-assigned locations (e.g., intervention, counseling sessions).</i>	
Leaving Class or Assigned Area without Permission <i>DEFINITION: When a student intentionally leaves their assigned classroom, instructional setting, or supervised area without the knowledge or permission of the supervising staff member. This includes walking out of class during instruction, exiting the building, or being found in areas of the school without proper authorization or pass.</i>	
Minor Disruptive Behavior: <i>DEFINITION: Student behavior that interferes with classroom instruction, learning, or the orderly operation of the school, but is not aggressive, threatening, or dangerous.</i>	
Minor Peer Conflict <i>DEFINITION: A non-threatening disagreement, misunderstanding, or interpersonal issue between students that may cause tension or mild disruption but does not involve physical aggression, harassment, bullying, or ongoing intimidation.</i>	
Profanity <i>DEFINITION: The use of vulgar, obscene, or offensive language, gestures, or symbols by a student in verbal, written, digital, or nonverbal form, regardless of intent. This includes profanity used casually, directed at others, or expressed publicly in a way that disrupts the educational environment or violates community standards of respect and civility.</i>	
Refusing Reasonable Staff Requests <i>DEFINITION: When a student intentionally fails or refuses to comply with a reasonable and lawful directive from any school staff member, particularly when the request is made to ensure safety, order, or the learning environment. This behavior demonstrates defiance of authority and undermines the functioning of the school.</i>	
Throwing Food or Other Objects <i>DEFINITION: Engaging in the intentional act of throwing food, supplies, or any object in a school setting such as the cafeteria, classroom, hallway, or bus, that has the potential to cause disruption, damage, injury, or safety concerns. The behavior may be playful or aggressive, but it violates expectations for safety, order, and respectful conduct.</i>	

Level One Misconduct	Disciplinary Consequences
Dress Code <i>DEFINITION:</i> Students are expected to dress in a manner that is appropriate, respectful, and not disruptive to the educational environment. Clothing, accessories, or grooming must not present a safety hazard, interfere with learning, or promote inappropriate or illegal conduct. The school reserves the right to regulate student appearance when it affects health, safety, discipline, or the educational process.	
Violation of Electronic Device Procedures <i>DEFINITION:</i> Student use of personal electronic devices (including phones, earbuds, smartglasses, over-ear headphones, smartwatches, handheld video games, tablets, etc.) during the school day. NOTE: Consequences specific to the Electronic Device Procedures are outlined on page 18 of the Student Handbook. The consequences outlined on this document may be applied in addition to those detailed on page 18.	
Other Minor Infractions and Unacceptable Behavior <i>DEFINITION:</i> Student actions that, while not specifically listed elsewhere in the Code of Conduct, are considered inappropriate, disruptive, or disrespectful to the school environment. These behaviors do not pose a direct safety threat or rise to the level of serious misconduct but interfere with teaching, learning, order, or school operations.	

GMMS & GMHS (Grades 7-12)

Level Two Misconduct	Disciplinary Consequences
Repeated Level One Misconduct <i>DEFINITION: A pattern of ongoing minor infractions that continue despite redirection, classroom interventions, and warnings from staff. While individual behaviors may not be severe, the frequency, persistence, or refusal to respond to correction results in disruption to the learning environment and demonstrates defiance of school expectations.</i>	Consequences for Level Two Misconduct may include the following: • Involvement with school counselor/social worker at administrative discretion • Conference with administrator • Restorative conference • Loss of student activities/privileges • Administrative lunch detention • Administrative after school detention • Parent/guardian contact • In-school suspension • Student Assistance Program (SAP) Referral • Threat assessment • Any appropriate disciplinary/restorative action from Level One
Major Disruptive Behavior <i>DEFINITION: Any student behavior that significantly interferes with instruction, the operation of the school, or the safety of others, and cannot be effectively managed by classroom-level interventions. These actions are intentional or intense enough to require immediate administrative involvement and may involve verbal, physical, or technological disruption.</i>	
Instigation/Promotion of Inappropriate Behavior <i>DEFINITION: The act of encouraging, provoking, pressuring, or facilitating another student's misconduct, whether through words, actions, or digital communication. This includes inciting peers to break rules, join in disruptive conduct, or escalate conflict. Instigation may occur in person or online and contributes to the breakdown of school order and safety.</i>	
Obscene Gestures or Actions <i>DEFINITION: Any student behavior, verbal, physical, written, or digital, that includes lewd, vulgar, or sexually explicit gestures or actions intended to offend, shock, or provoke others. This includes actions that violate norms of decency and may disrupt the school environment, demean others, or create an unsafe or uncomfortable atmosphere for students or staff.</i>	
Late to School <i>DEFINITION: A student is considered late to school when they arrive after the official start time without a valid excuse recognized by the school's attendance policy. Unexcused lateness may result in disciplinary action and can contribute to truancy concerns if it becomes habitual.</i>	
Theft (under \$50 value) <i>DEFINITION: The unlawful taking or possession of property belonging to another person, the school, or a staff member without permission, where the item(s) taken have a total value of less than \$50. This includes theft of money, personal belongings, school materials, or items from lockers, classrooms, or common areas, etc.</i>	

Level Two Misconduct	Disciplinary Consequences
Leaving School or Assigned Area without Permission <i>DEFINITION: When a student exits the school building, campus, or any assigned instructional/supervised area without the knowledge and approval of school staff. This includes unauthorized departure during the school day, failure to sign out when required, or being in off-limits areas without supervision or purpose.</i>	
Physical Confrontation/Altercation Between Students <i>DEFINITION: A non-mutual or mutual physical encounter between students that involves pushing, shoving, grabbing, or other physical contact intended to provoke, intimidate, or harm, but which does not escalate to a sustained fight.</i>	
Destruction of Property (under \$150 value) <i>DEFINITION: The intentional or reckless damaging, defacing, or destroying of school property, personal belongings of others, or public property while under school jurisdiction, where the estimated cost of repair or replacement is less than \$150. This includes minor vandalism, graffiti, and damage caused through careless or defiant behavior.</i>	
Forgery or Alteration of Grades, Excuse Notes, or School Documents <i>DEFINITION: The act of falsifying, altering, or forging written or electronic documents with the intent to deceive or mislead school staff, gain unauthorized access or credit, or avoid disciplinary or attendance consequences. This includes the unauthorized creation, modification, or submission of official school records, including grade reports, attendance notes, disciplinary documents, and digital records.</i>	
Misuse of Technology <i>DEFINITION: Any inappropriate, unauthorized, or non-educational use of school-owned or personal technology that violates district policies, disrupts instruction, compromises digital safety, or disrespects others.</i>	
Other Offenses Fitting the Definition of Level Two Misconduct as Determined by the Administration <i>DEFINITION: Behaviors not explicitly listed in the Code of Conduct that the administration determines to be moderately serious in nature, disruptive to the educational environment, or violative of student conduct expectations, but do not rise to the level of endangering others or constituting criminal acts.</i>	

GMMS & GMHS (Grades 7-12)

Level Three Misconduct	Disciplinary Consequences
Repeated Level Two Misconduct <i>DEFINITION: The ongoing or repeated engagement in behaviors classified as Level Two misconduct, despite prior interventions, consequences, and redirection. These repeated violations indicate a pattern of defiance, disregard for school rules, or refusal to modify behavior and may disrupt the educational environment or pose a safety concern.</i>	Consequences for Level Three Misconduct may include the following: • Temporary removal from class • Class schedule change • Administrative loss of computer usage • Administrative after-school detention • In-school suspension • Out-of-school suspension • Safety plan • Citation • Restitution • Student Assistance Program (SAP) Referral • Threat assessment • Any appropriate disciplinary/restorative action from Level Two
Harassment/Sexual Harassment <i>DEFINITION: Unwelcome conduct that is severe, persistent, or pervasive and is intended to or has the effect of demeaning, intimidating, threatening, or creating a hostile educational environment for another student or staff member. Harassment may be verbal, physical, written, or electronic, and may be based on personal characteristics (e.g., race, gender, disability, religion, sexual orientation), or be general in nature.</i>	
Fighting/Group fighting <i>DEFINITION: Mutual physical aggression between two or more students involving hitting, punching, kicking, or any other form of violent contact with the intent to harm or intimidate. Group fighting refers to the same behavior involving three or more students, often prearranged or incited, and may create a significant disruption to school safety or operations.</i>	
Theft (over \$50 value) <i>DEFINITION: The unlawful taking, possession, or attempted possession of property belonging to another individual, the school, or a staff member, without consent, where the value of the stolen item(s) exceeds \$50. This includes theft of personal belongings, money, school equipment, or digital property, regardless of intent to return.</i>	
Threat to Others <i>DEFINITION: A threat to others is any verbal, written, physical, or digital expression of intent to harm another person, whether made seriously or as a joke, that causes fear, disrupts the school environment, or raises concerns for the safety or well-being of students, staff, or others. Threats may be direct or indirect, and include statements or gestures implying violence, retaliation, or intimidation.</i>	
Violence, Force, Coercion, or Intimidation <i>DEFINITION: Any act or attempted act that involves the use of physical power, threats, manipulation, or fear to control, dominate, or harm another individual or to interfere with school operations. This includes physical aggression, threats of harm, or pressure to engage in unwanted acts, regardless of whether physical contact occurs.</i>	

Level Three Misconduct	Disciplinary Consequences
Smoking or Possession of Tobacco or Tobacco-related Products/Paraphernalia <i>DEFINITION: The use, possession, distribution, or sale of tobacco or tobacco-related products, including electronic nicotine delivery systems such as vapes, e-cigarettes, or any related paraphernalia, by students on school grounds, during school-sponsored events, or while under the jurisdiction of the school. This includes all forms of smoking, vaping, and possession, whether the product contains nicotine or not.</i>	
Transmitting or Receiving Offensive, Obscene, or Pornographic Materials <i>DEFINITION: The act of sending, sharing, accessing, possessing, or receiving any material in digital, printed, or written form, that is lewd, sexually explicit, graphically violent, or otherwise offensive in nature, while under school jurisdiction. This includes use of school or personal devices to access or distribute pornographic content, inappropriate memes or images, or sexually suggestive communications, whether intentionally or through negligent behavior.</i>	
Destruction of Property (over \$150 value) <i>DEFINITION: The intentional or reckless damage, defacement, or destruction of school property, the personal property of others, or public property while under school jurisdiction, where the estimated repair or replacement cost exceeds \$150. This includes both physical and digital property, and may result in serious disciplinary action and legal consequences.</i>	
Using, Providing, Selling, or Possessing Over-the-Counter Medications PLEASE NOTE: All medications must be dispensed by the school nurse <i>DEFINITION: The unauthorized possession, use, distribution, or sale of over-the-counter (OTC) medications including but not limited to pain relievers, cold medicine, allergy tablets, energy pills, or supplements, on school property, at school-sponsored events, or while under school authority. Regardless of intent, all medication must be stored and administered through the school nurse, in accordance with district policy and Pennsylvania school health regulations.</i>	

Level Three Misconduct	Disciplinary Consequences
Bullying/Cyberbullying <i>DEFINITION: Bullying is defined as any intentional electronic, written, verbal, or physical act, or a series of acts, directed at another student that is severe, persistent, or repeated and that:</i> 4. <i>Substantially interferes with a student's education,</i> 5. <i>Creates a threatening or hostile school environment, or</i> 6. <i>Disrupts the orderly operation of the school.</i> <i>Cyberbullying includes these same actions when carried out using digital technology such as text messages, social media, email, or any online platform. Bullying may occur on school property, on school vehicles, at bus stops, during school-sponsored activities, or off school grounds if it causes a significant disruption to the school environment.</i>	
Other Offenses Fitting the Definition of Level Three Misconduct as Determined by the Administration <i>DEFINITION: Behaviors not specifically listed in this Code of Conduct that are deemed by school administration to meet the criteria for Level Three Misconduct based on their seriousness, frequency, or impact on the school environment. These behaviors may be disruptive, disrespectful, or unsafe, but fall short of Level Four violations involving weapons, drugs, or extreme threats.</i>	

GMMS & GMHS (Grades 7-12)

Level Four Misconduct	Disciplinary Consequences
Repeated Level Three Misconduct <i>DEFINITION: Engaging in the same or similar Level Three behaviors multiple times, even after disciplinary actions, interventions, or behavior contracts have been implemented. This pattern demonstrates a refusal or inability to change unsafe, disruptive, or defiant behavior, and significantly affects the learning environment or school safety.</i>	Consequences for Level Four Misconduct may include the following: • In-school suspension • Out-of-school suspension • Expulsion • Alternative school placement • Police involvement • Safety plan • Restitution • Student Assistance Plan (SAP) referral • Threat assessment • Other board action which results in appropriate placement • Any appropriate disciplinary/restorative action from Level Three
Unauthorized Entry into School Property <i>DEFINITION: Entering, remaining in, or attempting to access any school building, classroom, office, storage area, or other restricted space without proper permission, supervision, or legal right to do so. Unauthorized entry may occur during or outside school hours and includes entering through unauthorized doors, windows, or secured areas.</i>	
Sale/Possession/Use of a Controlled Substance <i>DEFINITION: Possessing, using, being under the influence of, selling, or distributing a controlled substance (illegal drug) or related paraphernalia during the school day, school property, school bus/transportation, bus stop, or at school-sponsored events.</i>	
Extortion <i>DEFINITION: Extortion is the act of obtaining or attempting to obtain money, property, services, or favors from another person through threats, intimidation, coercion, or misuse of authority or power. This includes threatening harm, damage to property, or public embarrassment unless specific demands are met.</i> <i>Extortion may occur in person, through writing, or electronically and is a serious violation that can result in criminal charges.</i>	
Gang Affiliation <i>DEFINITION: Gang affiliation includes participation in or promotion of a group, organization, or association, whether formal or informal, that engages in or advocates disruptive, illegal, threatening, or violent behavior. This includes displaying gang symbols, recruiting others, using hand signs, wearing specific colors or clothing to intimidate, or engaging in conduct associated with gang activity while on school property or at school-related events.</i>	

Level Four Misconduct	Disciplinary Consequences
Threat Toward the Student Body or School <i>DEFINITION: A verbal, written, physical, or electronic expression or action that directly or indirectly communicates an intent to harm, intimidate, or endanger the student body as a whole or a significant portion of it. This includes threats of violence, mass harm, school shootings, bombings, or any act that causes widespread fear, disruption of the educational environment, or prompts emergency safety procedures.</i>	Consequences for Level Four Misconduct may include the following: • In-school suspension • Out-of-school suspension • Expulsion • Alternative school placement • Police involvement • Safety plan • Restitution • Student Assistance Plan (SAP) referral • Threat assessment • Other board action which results in appropriate placement • Any appropriate disciplinary/restorative action from Level Three
Conspiracy Involving Dangerous Weapons <i>DEFINITION: An agreement between two or more individuals to plan, assist, or participate in the use, possession, distribution, or concealment of a dangerous weapon on school grounds, during school activities, or under school jurisdiction. A conspiracy does not require that the weapon be present or used, only that there is intent and planning toward a weapons-related offense.</i>	
Assault <i>DEFINITION: Assault is any intentional or reckless act, verbal, physical, or gestured, that causes, attempts to cause, or threatens to cause bodily injury, fear of harm, or actual physical harm to another student, staff member, or any individual on school property or during school-sponsored activities.</i>	
Institutional Vandalism <i>DEFINITION: Any intentional act by a student that damages, defaces, destroys, or alters school property, property on school grounds, or property belonging to staff, or the school community. It also includes possession of items with the intent to commit vandalism.</i>	
Reporting False Emergencies <i>DEFINITION: The act of intentionally reporting or triggering a false emergency, such as a fire, bomb threat, active shooter situation, or other urgent danger, when no actual threat or emergency exists. This includes falsely activating fire alarms, making prank 911 calls, or spreading false emergency messages through verbal, written, or electronic means.</i>	
Disruptions Resulting in Endangerment <i>DEFINITION: Any behavior that significantly disrupts the school environment and results in, or has the potential to result in, harm or danger to the physical or emotional safety of students, staff, or others. This includes intentional or reckless acts that interfere with normal school operations and create an unsafe condition, even if no injury actually occurs.</i> <i>These actions may stem from horseplay, pranks, disobedience, or aggressive behavior but are distinguished by the real or potential risk they pose to people or property.</i>	

Level Four Misconduct	Disciplinary Consequences
Illegal Distribution, Reproduction, or Use of a Copyrighted Software <i>DEFINITION: Any student action involving unauthorized copying, sharing (including peer-to-peer), installing, or using software in violation of copyright law or licensing terms.</i>	
Using the Data Networks for Illegal Activity, Commercial, or Profit-making Purposes <i>DEFINITION: The use of school data networks, internet access, computers, or personal devices connected to school systems to engage in activities that are unlawful, profit-driven, or violate the district's Acceptable Use Policy (AUP). This includes but is not limited to selling items or services, conducting business, promoting outside commercial interests, downloading pirated software, or engaging in online fraud, hacking, or identity theft while using school digital infrastructure.</i> <i>Such conduct poses a risk to network security, student safety, and district liability, and is treated as a serious violation of technology use policies.</i>	
Possession of a Weapon <i>DEFINITION: Possession or use of any weapon, such as a firearm, knife, or any object capable of causing serious harm, on school property, during school events, on school transportation. This includes the inside of a student vehicle on school property.</i>	
Inappropriate Touch or Exposure <i>DEFINITION: Any intentional act by a student involving unwanted, unsolicited, or sexually suggestive physical contact, or the deliberate exposure of private body parts, in a way that violates another person's personal boundaries, sense of safety, or community standards of decency. This behavior is considered serious misconduct, regardless of intent or familiarity between parties.</i>	
Possession or Use of Firecrackers, Smoke Bombs, or Stink Bombs <i>DEFINITION: Possession, ignition, use, or distribution of devices such as firecrackers, smoke bombs, stink bombs, or similar pyrotechnic or chemical-effect items on school grounds, during school activities, or within school transportation, regardless of intent or age.</i>	

Level Four Misconduct	Disciplinary Consequences
Other Offenses Violating the PA Crimes Code <i>DEFINITION: Any student behavior that constitutes a violation of the Pennsylvania Crimes Code, even if not specifically named elsewhere in the Code of Conduct. These acts may include, but are not limited to, behaviors that result in harm to persons or property, cause significant disruption, or reflect criminal intent or recklessness while on school property, during school-sponsored events, or while under school jurisdiction.</i>	
Other Offenses not Listed but Fitting the Definition of Level Four Misconduct as Determined by the Administration <i>DEFINITION: Any student behavior that is not specifically named in this Code of Conduct but is determined by school administration to be consistent with the severity, danger, intent, or impact of Level Four Misconduct. These behaviors involve serious threats to the safety, welfare, or orderly operation of the school community and may require immediate administrative intervention, removal from school, and/or involvement of law enforcement.</i>	

Gang Violence and Involvement

The Governor Mifflin School District will not tolerate gang activities and/ or involvement in gangs on any school campus or school sponsored event. Students who do not comply will be subject to disciplinary action in accordance with our Code of Conduct. Gangs and gang-related activities pose a serious safety threat to students and staff, which disrupt the educational process. Any information regarding gangs or gang related activity, should be immediately reported to school administration and can also be reported to our Office of School Schools at 610-775-1461 X7019.

Referrals to the Police Department

Some of the behavior infractions in the code of conduct are also considered crimes according to Pennsylvania state law. The Governor Mifflin School District has a relationship with the local Police Department that explicitly states which crimes may be reported to the local Police Department. The crimes that may be reported to local Police Department are as follows:

- ***Abductions and Attempts***
- ***Assaults***
- ***Bomb Scares***
- ***Burglary***
- ***Drug & Alcohol Offenses***
- ***Fire & False Alarms (Arson)***
- ***Graffiti (if racial or threatening in nature)***
- ***Child Abuse***
- ***Hate Crimes***
- ***Morals Offenses (sexual in nature)***
- ***Property Damage***
- ***Robbery***
- ***Theft***
- ***Trespassing***
- ***Weapons Offenses***

The Superintendent, or designee, shall immediately report required incidents and may report discretionary incidents involving possession, use or sale of controlled substances on school property, at any school-sponsored activity, or on a conveyance providing transportation to or from school or school-sponsored activities, to the local police department that has jurisdiction over the school's property, in accordance with state law and regulations, the procedures set forth in the memorandum of understanding with local law enforcement and Board policies.

Students eleven (11) years old and younger will not be subject to arrest unless they have committed one of the enumerated crimes listed in the memorandum of understanding. Parents or guardians of victims and suspects should be contacted immediately about their child's involvement and attempts to contact parents should be documented

The information in this handbook may be updated during the course of the school year

The latest version is available on Governor Mifflin School District's website:

www.GMSD.org

For copies in languages other than English, please contact Governor Mifflin Education Center at phone number 610-775-1461.

The Governor Mifflin School District does not discriminate in employment or education programs or activities based on race, creed, color, national origin, religion, ancestry, age, marital status, sexual orientation (known or perceived), gender identity expression (known or perceived), sex, handicap, disability, nationality, citizenship, union membership, or limited English proficiency. This policy of non-discrimination extends to all other legally protected classifications.

Publications of this notice are in accordance with state and federal laws including Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 and Sections 503 and 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973.

Governor Mifflin Education Center

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