

Amherst Middle School Mission Statement

AMS will nurture and educate students who are knowledgeable, civic minded, prepared to make ethical decisions, confident, competent communicators, skillful in problem solving, capable of creative thinking, career path minded, and possess the skills to succeed in a multi-cultural global society.

Middle School Philosophy

Amherst Middle School provides a child-centered environment that is focused on both academic and affective student needs. Middle School students have very unique needs and characteristics during the developmental stage called early adolescence. During this period of physical, emotional, intellectual, and social growth, school curriculum will reflect the individuals need to develop a positive personal identity and a healthy value system. We seek a school that will truly bridge the transition from elementary school to high school.

Middle Schools Are Special

Amherst Middle School contains characteristics of both elementary and high school and yet, it is not completely like either. The goal of the middle school is to make the transition less stressful for students from self-contained classrooms at the elementary to the departmentalization of the high school. Teachers provide a variety of educational and social activities for the students. These are designed with preadolescents in mind. The organizational structure is called teaming.

Middle School Expectations

You, as a student at Amherst Middle School, will be expected to:

1. Respect the staff, fellow students, and visitors.
2. Respect individual and school property.
3. Take responsibility for your own actions.
4. Allow teachers the right to teach and students the right to learn.
5. Use common courtesies (Ex: please, thank you, you're welcome, hello, excuse me.)
6. Take pride in yourself, your work, your school, and your community.
7. Come to school and class on time, with proper materials ready to do the best work you can do.
8. Provide an atmosphere free of harassment and aggressive behavior.

IF YOU'RE COOL, YOU FOLLOW THE RULES

WHO'S REALLY IN CHARGE HERE?

WE ARE- principal, teachers, and other staff members! Need we say more?

BE COOL! STAY IN SCHOOL

You must stay on school grounds during school hours and keep out of off-limit areas: parking lot, elementary play equipment, etc.

COMING, GOING, OR STAYING

School begins promptly at 8:00 am. Students are expected to be done at their lockers and to be in their 1st hour class with needed materials at that time. You will be marked tardy if you are not in class by 8:00 am.

YOU SHOULD NOT ARRIVE AT SCHOOL BEFORE 7:30 AM. Once you arrive at school, you may not leave school property. You must go directly to the commons and remain there until 7:45. Locker usage before 7:45 is NOT permitted. If you are tardy, you must report to the office to obtain a tardy slip. A rare tardy will be tolerated with a legitimate written excuse; otherwise you will receive a mark on the blue sheet. If you must leave school during the day, you must have a written note or phone call from your parent.

You must inform the office **BEFORE SCHOOL** if you have plans to leave during the day. **You MUST sign in and out in the middle school office.** If you are going to be absent your parent should call the school by 8:00 am. **A note explaining your absence will be required the next day.** To participate or attend ANY athletic or extracurricular event, you must be in attendance the ENTIRE day. Doctor and dentist appointments along with a limited number of other excused absences are exceptions to the entire day rule. **Being sick and attending the second half of the day will not be acceptable to allow participation.**

Truancy is being absent without permission. If you are truant, you will make up the same amount of time that was missed after school or during an in-school suspension. Schoolwork will be made up during this period. Truancy is a serious offense and by state law is defined by the number of unexcused days missed from school. **After 5 days of absence during a semester or 3 consecutive days, the office will require a doctor's excuse. If the absences continue without a doctor's excuse, you will be considered truant and referred to the district attorney for legal action. This is in accordance with the district policy and state law.**

YOU should be out of the building by 3:15 PM unless participating in a school sponsored activity and **are directly supervised by a teacher/coach.** Student spectators at games/events may not enter the building more than 30 minutes before the game/event is scheduled to start. Once at games, students are expected to watch the games and may only be in the commons during halftime. Exceptions will be made if the weather is inclement. Students leaving the building at any time after the contest starts are forbidden from re-entry into the building.

BE THERE OR BE SQUARE

You are expected to be in your assigned seat when the bell rings. You must have a signed pass if out of the class for any reason.

THIS IS IMPORTANT - MAY I TELL THE WHOLE SCHOOL?

Daily announcements will be read each day during activity period and posted in the office window. All announcements must be to the office by 8:00 am sharp. Announcements and any type of flyers put on lockers or in the halls must be approved by the office prior to distribution.

THE INDY 500

Observe traffic patterns through halls and doors. Stay to the right! Physical education teachers appreciate your attempts to stay in top racing form all year, but the halls are NOT a place to practice your running. If you run in the halls or classrooms, you face the risk of getting hurt, hurting someone else, or being referred to the office. WALK, DON'T JOG!

ATTENTION FUTURE SALESPERSONS!

There will be no selling of candy or other fund-raising products in school, unless it is school sponsored or approved by the office. Keep your sweets at home, and make your money on your own time!

PUBLIC DISPLAY OF AFFECTION

School is a place to learn. Walking with arms around each other, and/or kissing and fondling is prohibited on school grounds, at school functions, or on buses. Holding hands is permitted, but that's the limit.

DIAMONDS, JEWELS, AND MOOLA

Amherst Middle School is NOT the place to show off your valuables, sports card collections, or tons of money. The school cannot be responsible for any item stolen or misplaced. Any items found will be taken to the office.

EARTH TO STUDENTS...

The use of an iPod or any other electronic devices, (radios, Gameboys, cell phones, etc.) with or without headphones, is NOT permitted at school. Leave them at home or they will be taken to the office to be picked up after school. With permission, Ipods and Gameboys only may be brought on field trips.

CAN I CALL YOU BACK?

Cell phones may be brought to school but MUST remain in your locker and turned off from 7:45 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. If you use it you lose it! The first time for the day, second time your phone will be held until a parent picks it up, and if there is a third time, let's just say you'll be spending some extra time in the office and say goodbye to your phone for some time.

TOYS AND STUFF

Squirt guns, water balloons, games, toys, playing and trading cards, laser pointers, etc, are not allowed in school or on school grounds at any time. Leave them at home or lose them permanently.

I THINK I BROKE MY LEG!

Any boo-boos, owies or other accidents must be reported to your teacher right away. You will be referred to the office for immediate First Aid attention. Parents and/or medical services will be contacted if necessary.

I NEED A TYLENOL

If it is necessary for a student to take prescribed medication while in school, the medication, along with a signed note from a physician with directions for dispensing the medication, must be kept in the office. **MEDICATION MUST BE SENT IN THE ORIGINAL CONTAINER.** If a student needs to take Tylenol during the school day, a parent note must be sent to the office. School personnel will not dispense Tylenol without parent permission.

STICKY SITUATIONS

Gum is allowed in individual classrooms if given the OK by the person in charge. Check it out before you chew it up. A limited amount of food may be kept in students lockers. BEVERAGES of all types will not be allowed in student lockers or available to be purchased during the school day with the exception of items to be consumed with a cold lunch or clear water bottles. Students may purchase or bring non-soda products such as juice or milk to consume with cold lunch, but the product must comply with the district wellness policy. If a milk or juice item is brought from home, it must be stored unopened in a lunch bag or box and be fully consumed while in the cafeteria. Unacceptable items found in lockers will be taken away and not returned. Repeat offenders will be dealt with per the school discipline policy and risks loss of other privileges.

HOMEWORK CLUB

Peer Tutors are available during activity period to help any students struggling with homework or studying for tests. Please see the counselor if you would like a Peer Tutor to help you out.

"MY FRIEND HAS A PROBLEM"

Our counselor is on hand to help with any personal or school-related issues. Please make an appointment to see the counselor during a time that is convenient for you and your teachers. There will also be small groups run throughout the year on topics related to middle school students. Students will be able to sign up for groups during the school year.

SCHOOL THREADS AND STUFF

We know you are checking each other out, but clothing must not detract or interfere with classes or student learning. Clothing which causes disruption or a concern for safety is not allowed. All shirts and tops must be full length and no undergarments may be exposed. **Tank tops, spaghetti straps, short shorts, short skirts, and/or short dresses are not allowed.** Students may not wear pants of any type that have rips above the knee. Mid-thigh shorts are acceptable. If you wear unacceptable clothing (clothing promoting alcohol, tobacco, illegal drugs, profanity, offensive language, or gang-related symbols, and Playboy symbols) you will be required to change. Shirts with double meanings which could be interpreted as sexual meanings will not be allowed.

In addition, shirts with derogatory comments toward another gender such as: "Girls Rule, Boys Drool", "Boys are Great, Every Girl Should Own One" will not be allowed. Students must keep in mind they are required to be in good taste with dress at all times. You will be given 1 chance to reply and then it will be turned over to the principal. Your parents will be notified if you continue not to cooperate.

Hats, bandannas, sports caps, scarves, sunglasses, jackets, chains, etc are not to be worn in the school building and must be taken off at the door and kept in the locker. Pants with rips above the knee are also not allowed. It is the teacher's discretion whether or not hats will be allowed on field trips. Backpacks and bookbags must be left in your locker until the end of the school day. Toys are not allowed in school.

PHYSICAL BRUTALITY TOWARD AN INANIMATE OBJECT

If you beat up your school, it hurts all of us. We can't tolerate that, and besides, the school can't fight back! You will have to pay for the damages, and consequences will follow. Your textbooks **MUST** be cared for...they are your responsibility! Any sign of decay, You Pay! OK?

YOU NEED A LICENSE TO RUN A TATTOO SHOP

We appreciate your love for art but would like to reserve the use of that talent for art class. Marking with pen, pencil, marker, etc on your body, clothes, or another student is not cool.

BRUTAL BEHAVIOR

Hitting, punching, pushing, kicking, grabbing, scratching, throwing, spitting, and pulling hair, etc is wrong! This will not be tolerated. Any behavior of this sort will have immediate consequences.

WHEN YOU GOTTA GO, YOU GOTTA GO

Plan ahead by bringing your planners, then simple trips to the office, bathroom, library, etc. are not a problem. If you don't have your planner, it is at the teacher's discretion as to whether or not you may leave.

MAKE YOUR CHOICE AND STICK WITH IT

In order to give it a fair shot, once you select a class you must stick with it for the entire semester. Changes will only be allowed the first 3 days of the school year and of the 3rd term.

CRUISIN', WHEELIES, AND OTHER MODES OF TRANSPORTATION

Bikes -- When riding bikes to school, you must obey traffic rules and exercise safe riding practices. Bikes must be parked in the bike rack and should be locked.

Skateboards, rollerblades, and scooters - Skateboards, rollerblades, and scooters are fun at the right place and time, but school is not one of those places. Simply put, skateboards, rollerblades, and scooters must be left at home.

Motorized vehicles -- short and sweet, they are not allowed.

MY SPACE

Be good to your locker; it's the only one you'll get. You'll be given a locker to be used for books and coats. Keep your locker clean and organized. Locker jamming or setting is not allowed, and if found your materials will be removed and taken to the office. **KEEP YOUR COMBINATION TO YOURSELF! DO NOT TELL YOUR COMBINATION TO ANYONE! YOU MAY NOT SHARE LOCKERS.** Locker slamming is a NO-NO!

Remember that the locker remains the property of the school. The school reserves the right to search lockers to ensure safety of all Amherst Middle School students. You will be liable for damage caused by abuse to lockers (kicking, head-banging, punching, writing, etc.) Lockers will be checked periodically by school

administration. For sixth grade students desks also fall under the above guidelines.

LOOSE LANGUAGE

Swearing, cursing, and use of bad language is inappropriate and totally unacceptable! This also includes saying unkind or mean things about or to others. So zip your lips! Behavioral discipline notices will be sent home for "loose lips."

BULLIES BEWARE

Harassment will not be tolerated. Name calling, teasing, note writing, intimidating, stalking/following, hanging around, or blocking a person's path, etc, are all considered harassment. Cyber bullies will also be covered under this area. Disciplinary action will take place if convicted. Per school board policy and discipline guidelines, consequences will be dealt with severely if behavior persists. Please see either your school principal or school counselor if you feel you are being harassed.

FAN MAIL

Lack of effort, missing, and incomplete assignments, are good reasons for teachers to send a notice home. Notices can be sent at any time but for sure will be sent due to poor grades at the midpoint of each term.

S. H. - SOCIAL HOUR - NOT!

Contrary to popular belief, the SH on your class schedule does not stand for Social Hour. This time has been given to you as a STUDY HALL; a time to study, complete assignments, and receive extra help when needed.

As in all of your classes, a seating chart is provided. You are permitted to use the library during study hall if it is open, but you must have your planner available to use as a pass. Passes for other destinations unknown may also be issued. Without a pass, you remain a permanent fixture of the study hall.

If not in use, the computer lab may be available to you to complete assignments with a pass from your classroom teacher. The lab is a privilege. Abuse it and lose it! Use your study hall wisely, and you may just take the "home" out of homework.

CHECK IT OUT!

Media Center Policies:

- The Media Center is open from 7:45 am until 3:00 PM.
- You may check out books for a two-week period with a renewal for another two weeks upon the due date. Reference materials are for 2 days; Audiovisual is 1 week.
- To come to the media center during the day, you need a pass from your teacher or study hall monitor.

- No food or beverages allowed in the media center.
- You are responsible for the books you check out. If any damage or loss occurs to your books, you will be fined. Replacement is expected.
- Media Center privileges will be denied if overdue materials are not returned or if inappropriate behavior is a problem.

CHOW TIME

While at the most popular "subject" of the day, Amherst Middle School students must obey the cafeteria rules during lunch:

1. No food or beverage is to leave the cafeteria.
2. Place garbage in the proper containers.
3. Wait to be dismissed from the lunch room (approximately 12:30)
4. Return your tray to the tray window.
5. You may NOT go back and forth to lockers during lunch.
6. All students must report to the lunchroom.
7. Lunch accounts should be tended to before school.
8. Respect others by staying quiet in the halls, and use appropriate voice level in the lunchroom.
9. All food must be finished in the cafeteria.

YOUR TIME

After eating lunch, you will go outside to socialize or play games during fall and spring. During inclement weather and winter you will be assigned by class to a gym or commons area. Students should pass QUICKLY and QUIETLY through the halls without stopping at lockers.

OUTSIDE RULES: OUT AND ABOUT

1. Stay in the designated area. (DO NOT go on elementary equipment.)
2. Stay clear of the parking lot, classroom windows, the building, and disposal containers.
3. Your cooperation in returning playground equipment is expected.

INSIDE RULES - IN THE GROOVE

1. Cooperation with keeping the commons clean is expected at all times.
2. While in the commons students are expected to stay seated at all times.
3. Loud or unruly noise will not be tolerated in the halls or commons.

DANCE RULES - SWING YOUR PARTNER

1. No running, slam dancing, frog jumping, spinning, moshing, or other dangerous or inappropriate movements which could cause injury to yourself or others.
2. You must remain in the dance area and inside the school building during the dance. Once you leave you are not allowed back in.

3. If you violate school rules your parents will be called to pick you up. In addition, you will not be allowed to attend the next dance.
4. Amherst Middle School students only, unless a guest pass is obtained.
5. This is an extra-curricular activity, which is a privilege, not a right.
6. When slow dancing, proper space needs to be kept between bodies. Guidelines will be set by grade level teachers and the principal.

INFERNOS AND TWISTERS

In the event of fire, tornado, and severe weather drills, you will be advised and instructed by your classroom teacher what safety procedures to follow or which exit to use. You are expected to observe the following procedures in emergency situations:

1. Remain quiet
2. Walk; don't run to the designated area.
3. Stay together as a group in the designated area.
4. Obey your teacher's instructions.
5. LEAVE ALL MATERIALS IN THE CLASSROOM

RIDING THE YELLOW LIMO

Because bus rides are so much fun, you still must follow these rules:

1. Be at your stop on time; wait off of the road.
2. Enter the bus one at a time: no pushing, shoving, horseplay, and take a seat. Food and drinks are not allowed on buses.
3. Keep your head, hands, and other body parts inside the bus at all times.
4. Silence is demanded at railroad crossings.
5. Keep books and other stuff out of the aisles.
6. Respect bus property. You will have to pay for any damage.
7. Respect your bus driver and other students.
8. Remain in your seat until the driver tells you to leave.
9. Depart the bus one at a time.
10. Look both ways when crossing the road, and cross at least 10 feet in front of the bus. Wait for hand signal.
11. Stay clear of the back and side of the bus at all times.
12. If you are getting off at a different stop, you **MUST** have a note from your parents and your friends' parents. Give the office the note and they will give you a bus pass.
13. If you miss your bus at the end of the day, report to the office for assistance.
14. The Bus Driver is in charge at all times and must be given the same respect as any district employee.

BUS CONDUCT REPORTS

Bus conduct reports will result in the following disciplinary actions:

First Offense - Warning (unless it is a severe violation)

Second Offense - One-Five day loss of riding privileges

Third Offense - Five days loss of riding privileges and the students' name is referred to the district administrator for possible expulsion from the bus.

CHEATING? WHO ME?

Cheating is for chumps and if you're caught be prepared to take your lumps.

Don't ask for a buddy's work, do your own. It's honest and it has its perks.

There is a difference between cheating and collaborating. Collaborating between fellow students is a partnership of effort each enriching the work being pursued. Cheating is when a student supplies answers while the receiving student puts forth no input or effort. Cheating is dishonest; therefore, students guilty of supplying or receiving answers will have a written notice sent home, a call will be made to his/her parents, and no credit will be given for the work.

PLAGIARISM POLICY

It's easy to do, even if you don't intend to. Simply using a direct quote and forgetting to credit the author is an act of plagiarism. However, trying to save time by copying and pasting information off the Internet is plagiarism as well, and it's much more serious than you think. While it may be a simple way to finish a difficult paper, plagiarism is actually very easy for teachers to detect. Since most plagiarism is a result of students copying and pasting from the Internet, teachers can use one of many websites designed to catch plagiarism. Also teachers know your writing style. If they come across part of a paper that sounds like a college student wrote it, it's pretty obvious that the words aren't their students work. If you decide to allow a friend to copy your paper, you're just as guilty as they are. Your friend wouldn't have been able to copy your paper if you hadn't allowed them to. Here at Amherst teachers deal with plagiarism by giving the guilty student a discipline referral and a zero on the assignment that was plagiarized.

YOU GET WHAT YOU EARN

Grades are based on achievement, effort, and cooperation. A student who makes a maximum effort will seldom fail a class. Grades of A, B, C, D, F, including pluses (+) and minuses (-), will be used and will be given based on the standard 100% scale unless otherwise noted in the teacher's individual course syllabus. Term and semester grades will be reported to the office and the following grade points will be given:

A	4.0	B+	3.333	C+	2.333	D+	1.333	F	0
A-	3.667	B	3.0	C	2.0	D	1.0		
		B-	2.667	C-	1.667	D-	.667		

YOU DESERVE TO BE RECOGNIZED

You might receive a POPS card, which is mailed home and will be included in weekly and quarterly drawings for prizes. Look for these special extras you will earn when we "Catch You Making a Positive Contribution."

Honor cards will also be given to students earning a "B" average or above during the nine weeks. Some Portage County businesses will give discounts at their establishment for your hard work. In addition you will be listed in the local newspaper if you earn a "B" average or above during the nine weeks.

FIELD TRIPS

Field Trips are a privilege, NOT a right. Various trips will be taken through your middle school career; however, you must hold up "your end of the deal" by making sure your work is complete and you have been displaying appropriate behavior. Otherwise...you may not be enjoying a "day out of school."

REWARDS - ANYONE?

The middle school discipline will be linked to a positive reward system for the 2001/2002 school year. Rewards, trips, and events will be scheduled to reward appropriate behavior. If a student's behavior is unacceptable, he/she will not be allowed to participate. The positive reward system will be linked to attendance, completion of class assignments, and failing grades. Upon teacher or administrative recommendation a student may be restricted from participation in the reward. The Classroom Behavior Chart that will be used with this system is shown below. Each grade level will establish the amount of marks/points that will determine if a student qualifies.

A = Be Prompt and Prepared

1. Come on time.
2. Come with needed materials.
3. Come with assignments complete.

B = Respect Authority

1. Listen to authority.
2. Follow directions promptly.
3. Accept responsibility for behavior.

C = Respect Rights of Others

1. Use appropriate voice and language.
2. Listen to speaker.
3. Respect opinion and points of others.

D = Respect Property

1. Respect property of others.
2. Respect own property.

E = Display a Concern for Learning

1. Remain on Task.
2. Allow others to remain on task.

F = Display Appropriate Social Skills

1. Cope (disagreement, teasing, failure)
2. Display courtesy and tact.
3. Interact with others properly.

G = Display Appropriate Character

1. Display positive character.

4. Refrain from harassment.

2. Display productive character.

PAST REWARD ACTIVITIES

YMCA DAY - Students enjoyed a day of swimming, basketball, pool and more.

MOVIE - Students went to the movie in Stevens Point

ICE CREAM SOCIAL - Students built their own sundaes.

SUPERBOWL IN PLOVER ~ students enjoyed volleyball and bowling.

ICE CREAM TREATS - Students enjoyed ice cream treats and soda with free time.

SURVIVOR @ LAKE EMILY ~ Students spent the day competing in different events that are based on the TV show.

PARENT NOTES

The Amherst Middle School office is open daily from 7:30 AM to 3:30 PM. The school telephone number is 824-5524. You may call and leave a message at any time on our voice mail. When you reach the main office message, choose #3 for the Middle School. If your child must leave school during the day, he/she must sign out to leave school and sign in to return to class.

ATTENDANCE

Students of middle school age are required by law to attend school regularly unless the child has a legal excuse. Legal causes for absence include student illness, parent in the hospital, death in the immediate family, religious retreat or family vacation. Please be aware that absence(s) for reasons other than these are unexcused and will be considered truant.

When a student is absent, it is NECESSARY for parents to phone the school in the morning (824-5524) no later than 8:00 am **PLEASE!** You may also call at anytime and leave a message on our voicemail system. At this time parents need to state the reason for the absence(s) and make any requests for homework. To participate or attend ANY athletic or extra-curricular event, a student must be in attendance the ENTIRE day. If a student is absent more than 3 days in a row, it is required that **PER TRUANCY GUIDELINES they bring in a doctor's note** stating the reason for the absence. **STUDENTS MUST GET AN ADMIT SLIP FROM THE OFFICE BEFORE RETURNING TO CLASS.**

PARENT INVOLVEMENT

It is our belief that parents are the primary educators of their child. Thus, we encourage open and frequent communication with parents during these years of their child's rapid development. Informal meetings for parents by grade are

offered frequently to give parents the opportunity to meet with staff members and discuss current issues involving their child.

LAWS OF THE LAND

Specific disciplinary procedures are in place for those students who are having difficulty following the reasonable rules and regulations of the school. In order to be consistent, violations are applied to the scale below. The purpose of a suspension is to place the responsibility for the student's action in the hands of the parents since the student's problem resulted from an inability to accept the normal mode of control expected of students. Suspension is never considered as a convenient means of punishing a student or denying the student the right to an education, but only as a corrective tool.

GENERAL VIOLATIONS

- Disrupting Class
- Disrespect to Teacher
- Disrespect to Student
- Inappropriate Behavior
- Improper Check-In Procedures
- Leaving Room without Permission
- Excessive Tardies
- Swearing
- Throwing Items
- Bus Disruption
- Insubordination
- Property Damage
- Miscellaneous Actions

Violation

1 st and 2 nd	Consult with principal
3 rd	1 day in-school suspension
4 th	Consult with principal, conference with parents
5 th	1 day out-of-school suspension
6 th	Consult with principal, conference with parents
7 th	2 day out-of-school suspension
8 th	consult with principal, conference with parents
9 th	3 day out-of-school suspension
10 or more	3-5 day suspension from school, possible expulsion

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- Excessive tardies will be dealt with by sitting 30 minutes in after school detention. Detention will be held Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday. Assigned students must sit that day or the time will be doubled. Each team will set up the grade level policy for the year. Students will receive 24 hours notice of the detention day and will be responsible for arranging their own transportation.
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SEVERE VIOLATIONS

- Disorderly Conduct
- Use/Possession of Alcohol
- Use/Possession of Tobacco
- Fighting or Provoking a Fight
- Leaving School without Permission
- Use/Possession of Controlled Substance
- Theft
- Vandalism
- Harassment
- Weapon in School
- Severe Disrespect
- Miscellaneous Actions

Severe violations will result in an immediate suspension and possible expulsion with disregard to the number of previous violations. Suspension may be up to five days and include possible referral to the police department. A conference with the parents and principal will be scheduled prior to reinstating the student. Repeated refusal or neglect to

obey school rules, to include accumulation of 10 or more violations between general and severe, may also result in expulsion.

CONSEQUENCES

IN-SCHOOL SUSPENSION

A student may be required to serve a suspension in the school suspension room. The student is removed from the regular school day to a designated suspension room. These will not exempt the student from completing the days missed assignments. The student must obey the following rules:

1. Student will be confined to a room in the principal's office for the entire day.
2. Work will be brought to the student.
3. Student will lose all school privileges, which includes the use of the cafeteria.
4. Student will eat lunch in the office.
5. Student will be allowed bathroom privileges with the permission of the principal or designee.
6. Students are also suspended from ALL after school or evening activities or practices, including games.

OUT-OF-SCHOOL SUSPENSION

A student may be excluded from attending school for a designated period of time. However, the student is still responsible for making up the missed assignments or tests. Students suspended out-of-school are also suspended from after school and evening activities for that day.

SUSPENSION / EXPULSION

Suspension and expulsion procedures will be initiated when other approaches have failed to bring about an acceptable change in behavior, or in extreme instances when school authorities believe that there is a danger or a threat of danger to the health, property or safety of students or school employees. Suspension and expulsion are serious matters and the previous list of infractions/causes for the implementation of possible disciplinary actions. The example of conduct listed does not limit this policy.

ASSIGNMENTS FOR ABSENT STUDENTS

When students are absent from school you may call the office (824-5524) before 8:00 am to request assignments they have missed. Homework may be picked up in the middle school office after 2:00 PM.

Students must make up all work missed because of absence or suspension, whether the absence was excused or unexcused. It is the student's responsibility to

contact teachers regarding any make-up work that needs to be completed. Time allowed for completing make-up work will be one day for each day absent when the absence is related to illness **and if the assignment is due the next day. For an absence on Tuesday when the assignment is due on Friday - the due date will not be changed.** If the absence is because of a family vacation or deer hunting, the teacher may require all work, with appropriate notice, to be completed before the trip or directly after arriving back at school. Individual teachers or grade level teams may give more time if they see the need due to the circumstance.

Please feel free to contact Mrs. Warner, our Middle School Secretary, at any time through email for any communication regarding absences, appointments, homework requests, lunch inquiries, or other questions at kwarn@amherst.k12.wi.us.

HOME/SCHOOL COMMUNICATION

Parents can expect regular newsletters and flyers providing information about middle school happenings. Parents are always encouraged to call the office with questions. We will also try to get messages to students about appointments or changes in plans.

CO-CURRICULAR / ACADEMIC POLICY

It is the position of Amherst Middle School that involvement in co-curricular activities is a privilege with accompanying responsibilities and expectations. It is the interest of the school and community that equitable standards for participation be established and administered. These standards include: academic performance and personal behavior at all times. Any student participating in any co-curricular activity must read and sign the district Co-Curricular Code. This code must be signed by the participant and parent and filed in the office. The following is a list all co-curricular activities: Football, Boys Basketball, Girls Basketball, Wrestling, Cheerleading, Volleyball, Cross Country,

- Participation requires that a current physical examination or alternate year card along with insurance/insurance waiver be on file in the office.

- * Student Athletic Participation Fees for grades 6-8 are as follows:
 - REGULAR: \$25 per sport, maximum \$50 per student, per year
(maximum of \$150 per family per year) * ALL FAMILY MEMBERS GRADES 6-12
 - REDUCED: \$12.50 per sport, maximum \$25 per student, per year
(maximum of \$75 per family per year)
 - FREE: \$5 per sport, maximum \$10 per student, per year
(maximum of \$15 per family per year)

Other activities that all students can be involved with that do not require physical exams but require Co-Curricular Code signatures are: FCCLA, FFA, Student Council,

National Geography Bee, Yearbook, Band, Choir, Field Trips, Solo/Ensemble Competition, CESA 5 Spelling Bee, Peer Helpers, Spirit Squad

* Students failing a class will not be excused early for athletic contests until the grade is up. If not allowed to go on the bus, the student may not participate in the event.

To participate in ANY EXTRA CURRICULAR event a student MUST BE in attendance the ENTIRE DAY of the event. Absences must also conform to the school's attendance policies. If students have an excused appointment (doctor, dentist, funeral) they should be in attendance a minimum of 50% of the school day.

ELIGIBILITY RULES

Students who wish to take part in extra-curricular activities must be eligible to participate. All students must sign a code of conduct and follow stated guidelines of eligibility on a year round basis.

PEER HELPERS

Peer Helpers are students who are trained to assist other students in learning about, developing and maintaining coping strategies to live a healthy lifestyle. Peer Helpers are in charge of many drug prevention and wellness activities throughout the school year. This is open to students in grades 7 and 8. Peer helpers are chosen in the spring through an application process.

SPIRIT CLUB

The purpose of the Spirit Club is to promote a positive environment throughout the Middle School by building unity among students, faculty and parents. Some of the activities the Spirit Club sponsors are spirit wear sales, Homecoming week, various spirit days during the school year and parent/teacher appreciation days. Any six through eighth grade students wishing to be in the spirit club will be able to join at the beginning of the school year through a sign up procedure.

PEER TUTUORS

Peer Tutors are available for extra help during activity period. Peer Tutors are students who feel strong enough in their own school work that they can share their knowledge with others. Students can be referred to the Peer Tutor program by a parent, teacher or other staff member. They may also refer themselves.

"SOMEBODY STOLE MY..." LOST AND FOUND

The lost and found is located in the office. Please encourage your child to check in the lost and found or at the office before reporting an item stolen. Numerous items are unclaimed at the end of each quarter. The unclaimed items will be discarded or given to the Goodwill.

SPECTATORS

Students must be in attendance at school the day of an event in order to be a spectator. It is expected that all students who attend either home or away events will be on their best behavior. This means that all coaches, officials, visiting team members, and others will be treated with courtesy and respect. Heckling of participants, use of noisemakers, booing, stomping on bleachers, or throwing items onto the playing areas are strictly prohibited. As a courtesy to participants please stay off the playing area at all times, and remain seated during the activity, moving only during intermissions or breaks.

VISITOR POLICY

No student visitors are allowed. However, as a parent, you are always welcome. Please report to the office upon arrival.

WHAT IS A TEAM?

Each grade level is a team consisting of a group of students with the core teachers. All of the team's teachers have a weekly common planning period when the team meets as a group. At these meetings, they can plan integrated units, create special lesson plans, and discuss successful methods of instruction for specific students. During the common period, the students are at "specials" classes for art, music, Spanish, etc.

Non-Discrimination Policy - Title IX

The Tomorrow River School District is committed to providing equal education and employment opportunity regardless of sex, marital or parental status, race, color, religion, age or national origin. Title IX of the Educational Amendments of 1972 prohibits discrimination on the basis of sex for any grant, contract or loan. Title IX of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 is similar in its prohibition of discrimination on the basis of race, color or natural origin. Equal educational opportunity includes admission, recruitment, extra-curriculum programs and activities, housing facilities, access to course offerings, counseling and testing, financial assistance, employment, health and insurance services and athletics. The Tomorrow River School District is also committed to equal opportunities for physically or mentally handicapped, in compliance with federal regulations.

THE LEARNING CENTER PROGRAM

Since the passing of legislation at the federal level and because of programming needs for the special education student, consultative teaching models and services have gained much attention, recently. The Learning Center (LC) is such a model that advocates uniting the expertise of regular and special educators to provide the best education possible for disabled students.

The LC is designed to assist identified LC students achieve to their maximum potential in the mainstream. There are two underlying principles of the program that are essential to its success: (1) LC students can learn and succeed in the mainstream with appropriate accommodations and support. (2) To be successful in the mainstream, the LC student may need special help in all subject areas - not just reading and/or math.

The LC model is a problem solving model, constantly analyzing student performance in the mainstream. The Special Education Teacher works with the regular education teacher to match the demands of the class with the skills of the student.

The LC program is more than "a little extra help." The LC is proactive, obtaining lesson plans, materials, etc., ahead of time to plan a quality support system for both the regular education teacher and the student. Increased stimulus variation is offered to students by utilizing as many difference strategies as necessary to teach an objective.

The Learning Center offers a wide variety of services to the regular classroom teacher which provides the academic support necessary for LD students to master curriculum objectives.