HOME OF THE BLUE DEVILS
OUR SCHOOL COLORS ARE BLUE AND WHITE

340 Aviation Road
Marietta, Georgia  30060
http://msga.marietta-city.org

Main Line .......................................................... 770-429-3115
Administration Fax ................................................ 770-429-3118
Guidance Fax.......................................................... 770-218-3706

STUDENT/PARENT HANDBOOK
2017-2018

Corey W. Lawson, Principal
Miriam Hyppolite, Assistant Principal
Tamara Edwards, School Improvement Specialist/MYP Coordinator
Kerbie Campbell, Guidance Counselor
John Creger , Magnet Guidance Counselor

This Agenda belongs to

Name _____________________________     Team # _____     Bus Route # _____

*Parent Acknowledgement*
I reviewed this handbook with my child on _________________.

Parent Signature: __________________________

All students are expected to have an agenda. If your agenda is lost, you may purchase another one for $5.00 in the Front Office.

Cover photograph taken by Johnny Walker
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We reserve the right to make changes to this handbook as deemed appropriate.
Marietta City Schools is an equal opportunity employer, and does not consider race, color, sex, religion, national origin, age marital or veterans status, disability status or any other legally-protected status in any employment decision or employment practice.
Greetings from Your Principal and Instructional Leader!

Dear Parents, Guardians and Students of the Magnificent Marietta Sixth Grade Academy,

Welcome to the 2017-18 school year! As your principal and instructional leader, I am looking forward to a positive and productive school year. Our school offers distinctive opportunities such as the IB Middle Years Program (IB MYP), Certified Science Technology, Engineering, Mathematics (STEM) Magnet Program, Positive Behavior Interventions and Supports (PBIS), Band, Chorus, Art, Orchestra and Sports programs for middle school level learners that promote collective and individual development and growth. Our overall goal is to help our students make a smooth and productive transition into the middle grades within Marietta City Schools in a safe and caring environment. As a Redesignated Georgia Lighthouse School To Watch (LSTW) National School of Excellence, the faculty and staff at MSGA are continuously focused on Academic Excellence, Developmental Responsiveness, Organizational Supports and Social Equity for ALL of our students.

We are proud of our students, our highly qualified faculty and the community that we serve. We strive to remain at the forefront of middle grades education in our state, nation, and the world.

Middle School can be a challenging time in the life of any child. With so many changes and opportunities happening at once, it is sometimes difficult to know which way to turn. My professional philosophy recognizes this and seeks to support students during this important time of growth and transition. The MSGA faculty and staff take pride in the fact that our small size, expertise and dedication allow us to know students and families on a personal level. Some of the things that make MSGA a magnificent place to learn and grow:

- Our school consists of one grade with approximately 700 students and over 70 faculty and staff members.
- Teachers collaboratively work in grade level teams and departments known as Professional Learning Communities (PLCs) to make sure that students needs are met.
- Our Advisement Program is provided for every student in which a teacher works with small groups of students to hone necessary skills on weekly basis.
- Daily school wide focus and recognition on the following specific positive behaviors: Ready, Respectful, and Responsible
- We highly value the role that data and observation can play in helping us ensure that every student is successful. Teachers, counselors, coaches and administrators use data and direct observation to inform decisions at MSGA in the best interest of the student.

Special Note: Along with the guidance of our teachers, please use this agenda as a tool for organization and home-to-school communications. It is important for students to have their agendas with them at school every day in good condition. Please review the agenda with your child and sign the front page.

I look forward to meeting and working with you throughout the school year. If you have a question, want to share an idea, address a concern or make a comment, please feel free to contact me. I will always do what I can to answer your questions, resolve your concerns and consider your suggestions.

Sincerely yours,

C. W. Lawson
Corey W. Lawson, Principal

“We are what we repeatedly do. Excellence, therefore, is not an act, but a habit.”—Aristotle
Advisement:
Students generally participate in an advisement class every Wednesday for approximately 45 minutes. The purpose of our advisement program is to provide students with the tools they need to successfully transition to the middle grades and ultimately into high school. Along with their advisement teacher, students discuss numerous topics to include the 3 R’s, IB MYP, effective study habits, organizational strategies, goal setting, and individual achievement data (grades, standardized test scores, attendance, etc.). All conferences are held with the advisement teachers during the fall and spring conference weeks.

Assemblies:
At all times the students’ behavior should be refined and courteous. The conduct of the student body at an assembly is an indication of the school’s climate. Whether guests are present or not, each student is personally responsible for the impression made by the school as a whole. Unacceptable conduct would include whistling, uncalled-for clapping, boisterousness, and/or talking during a program.

Attendance/Absences:
Daily attendance is a critical component to the success of an MSGA student. If an unavoidable situation necessitates an absence, it is the parent’s responsibility to notify the school in writing within 2 school days after returning from the absence. Up to 3 consecutive days can be excused with a parent note. All statements will be evaluated by the principal or a designee to determine if the absence is excused or unexcused. An excused absence means that your child is absent for a legitimate reason, for example personal illness, serious illness or death in the family, religious holiday, court appointment, quarantine or conditions rendering school attendance hazardous to health and safety. All other absences will be considered unexcused. Georgia Law requires school action after five unexcused absences or ten tardies. The process begins with parent notification via automated calls or text. After 3 consecutive days, the advisement teacher will contact the parent/guardian. After 3 unexcused days, the parent/guardian will receive written notification.

Students are tardy after 9:15 a.m. (tardy bell rings at this time). After the tardy bell has sounded, students not in class must sign in late at the front office. Students must be in class (not just on campus) to be considered on time. Consequences are provided to students that earn unexcused tardies.

Students are counted present for the day if they arrive before 9:15 a.m. and stay until at least 12:50 p.m. or arrive prior to 12:50 p.m. and stay until 4:00 p.m. Partial attendance of a day is considered a tardy. At the end of the year, awards are presented for perfect attendance. Students who have accumulated 10 tardies for the year or 3 per quarter will not be eligible to receive or participate perfect attendance incentives or awards.

Before School/After School Programs:
Before school and after school programs are coordinated by Marietta Community Schools (770-429-3170 or www.mariettacommunityschool.com) and supervised by certified teachers and paraprofessionals. MSGA students participating in the program are housed at MCAA. Before school hours are 6:30 a.m. until 8:45 a.m. and after school hours are from 4:00 p.m. until 6:30 p.m., and operate each school day. Registration and fee schedules are provided on-line and sent home at the beginning of the year.

Car riders dropped off before 8:45 AM could be placed in the before-school care program at the parent’s expense. School staff will not be available to supervise students until 8:45 AM.

Car riders and/or students that miss their bus and are not picked up by 4:30 PM could be placed in the after-school care program at the parent’s expense. School staff will not be available to supervise students after 4:30 PM.
Birthdays and Other Celebrations:
Birthday treats are limited to the student’s lunch period. We require parents to bring in prepackaged goods instead of food items made at home. If the sharing of food items becomes a distraction, administration can discontinue this practice at any time. Balloon, flower and gift delivery during school is strongly discouraged. No deliveries may be made during class time nor may deliveries be taken on board the school bus. Instructional time is protected for all students and class time will not be interrupted for any delivery or non-emergency message. You can have your child’s name put on the marquee for $5.00. Please contact the parent liaison at 770-429-3115 ext. 6079 for more information.

Bullying:
MSGA students are expected to take responsibility for their behavior and to respect their peers. Bullying of any type is prohibited. Students learn how to identify and report bullying during orientation assemblies. We have a number of bullying boxes throughout our campus where students can report bullying anonymously. The MSGA Guidance Department also sponsors an anti-bullying program.

Bussing:
Bus route information is disseminated during student orientation events at the beginning of the year. If you have a question about a route, you may contact the transportation office at 770-429-3110. Please note that buses and bus stops are considered school grounds and students are required to observe rules listed in the Discipline Handbook. School administrators are authorized by the Marietta Board of Education to suspend the bus riding privileges of any student who has become a disciplinary problem or committed a major infraction. Any student who threatens or endangers the lives of others on a school bus is subject to permanent suspension.

Permission to ride another bus or to get off at another stop requires that a student bring a note signed by a parent (for emergency purposes only). The note must include date, number of bus to be ridden, and the telephone number where parent may be reached for verification. Notes should be turned in to the Front Office in the morning. Students will need to pick-up bus passes during afternoon announcements. No bus passes will be signed in the bus-loading zone.

Cafeteria:
Our lunchroom payment plan is computerized so it is simple to pay for your child's meals. You can pay by week, month, or any amount you choose to send. Simply go on to the Marietta City Schools website and make a payment with your child’s school ID number or visit www.mypaymentsplus.com. The following prices apply:

<table>
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<th>Breakfast-Free</th>
<th>Lunch-$2.15</th>
<th>Reduced Lunch-$0.40</th>
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Free lunch and reduced price lunches are available to qualifying families. Application forms are sent home at the beginning of the year and are available in the office. Only one form is required per family. We encourage you to pay by the week or month so your child does not have to keep up with lunch money each day. Any questions regarding school lunch please contact our cafeteria manager at 770-429-3115 x 6021. *Families bringing in fast food for their children is discouraged.

Change of Address or Phone Number:
It is extremely important that the school have all parents/guardians’ home, work, and cell phone numbers. If any phone numbers change during the year, please notify the Front Office in writing as soon as possible. If there is no phone in the home, the number of a phone where the parent can be reached is necessary. If you move during the school year, you must provide the school with the new information and proof of residency. New bus information will only be given to a student when the proof of residency is provided.
Character Education:
MSGA implements the state mandated character education program. It is coordinated through our school counseling program. The goal of Career Cruising character education initiative is to teach students the meaning of characteristic traits and how to use those traits in life. The character word of the month is presented on our morning news broadcasts and is reinforced with activities during the month. MSGA’s character word of the month calendar is posted on MSGA’s school counseling Aspen age.

Check-In and Check-Out:
Early dismissals are handled by the front office. Students arriving after the tardy bell (9:15 am) must sign-in.

For check-out, the parent or guardian must come in to the front office and sign out the student. Early dismissal will not be permitted after 3:45 p.m. to avoid interruption to instruction and dismissal procedures. Transportation changes must be made by 3:30 p.m. Please be prepared to present photo identification upon request. Students can only be released to individuals listed as an emergency contact in ASPEN.

Clinic (Illnesses):
The clinic at MSGA is located near the Administrative Office and is staffed by a part-time, registered nurse. A student who is injured or becomes ill at school is sent to the clinic. A parent will be notified if necessary. Any medications to be taken during school hours must be accompanied by written permission from the parent and left in the clinic to be taken at the prescribed time. Please review the Medicine for Students section of this handbook.

Club Offerings:
Information regarding club offerings will be communicated in August via Advisement. Potential clubs include: Art, Gardening, Kiwanis Builders, Shape-Up, Yearbook, etc. We strongly encourage all students to participate in extra-curricular activities.

Communication:
Communication is encouraged between teachers and parents. Various forms of communication are used throughout the year to include school E-newsletter, important documents distributed through Advisement, Blackboard Connect phone message system, MSGA Facebook, ASPEN grade book, teacher/school websites, and email. Teachers may receive messages via telephone at 770-429-3115 and by school e-mail. Email addresses are available on the MSGA website. When concerns or questions arise, it is recommended for parents to first speak with their child’s teachers.

Conference Week:
To promote strong home-school communication, Marietta City Schools designates two weeks each year for parent-teacher conferences. Fall conferences will be held the week of October 23rd–27th and Spring conferences will be held the week of March 5th - 9th. School hours are half-day during conference week, with dismissal taking place at 1:30 PM. All conferences are student-led and facilitated through the Advisement teachers.

Counseling Services:
MSGA is served by one full-time counselor and one part-time counselor. Services in the school counseling program are focused on the students’ academic, personal, and social growth. Planning for future educational and career opportunities is also emphasized. Standards for the counseling program are supported by the ASCA (American School Counselor Association) National Standards Model. The goal of interventions done through the counseling program is to assist students in overcoming barriers that may interfere with their academic achievement. Our counselors conduct classroom guidance
lessons, lead small groups, and meet with students individually. They collaborate with our administra-
tors, teachers, staff, and outside community agencies.

Students can make an appointment to see the counselor by filling out an appointment request or going
by the counselor’s office to make an appointment. If a student needs an emergency appointment, he/she
can notify a teacher or staff member or come by the counselor’s office.

Parent conferences can be scheduled by contacting their student’s teacher, our parent liaison at ext.
6079, the counselor for Teams 1-4 and 6 (Kerbie Campbell, ext. 6031), or the counselor for Team 5
(John Creger ext. 6026)

Dances:
School dances are scheduled periodically throughout the year. Attending dances is considered a privi-
lege and only MSGA students may attend. While attending a dance, students must adhere to the dis-
trict’s dress code policy. Students who demonstrate poor behavior, which includes but is not limited to
inappropriate dancing, will lose their privilege to attend dances.

Electronic Devices-Refer to pages 30-31/MCS Parent Information Guide and MSGA BYOT
Agreement form page 17:
MSGA is a BYOT (Bring Your Own Technology) school. All families must sign and submit the
BYOT agreement prior to use of devices. Students and parents/guardians will receive the full agree-
ment for all rules and procedures related to BYOT. Signed MSGA BYOT Agreement forms must be
returned before students can participate (page 17). Students must take full responsibility for their devic-
es. The school and staff are not responsible for the security of personal technology. Devices cannot be
used during any assessments. Students can only use their devices in the classroom setting, under the
supervision of an adult. Devices are not to be used in the restroom, at lunch, or in the hallway between
class periods. IMPORTANT: Devices improperly used may be confiscated and held for up to 24 hrs.
and/or may require parent pick-up.

Emergency Closing of School:
For information on school closings or late openings, please listen to radio channel WSB 750 AM or
check the Marietta City Schools’ website. (Please note: The Marietta School system is listed separately
from the Cobb County School system.) If the school closes early, the After School Program and other
after school activities are cancelled. Be sure your child knows where to go if school closes early. It is
extremely important that you keep the school up-to-date with any changes in emergency contacts.

Emergency Preparedness Plan:
A school emergency plan is maintained in the school office and one copy is filed in the system office.
This file lists duties/persons responsible should an emergency occur requiring school-wide measures.

Field Trips:
Teachers are encouraged to schedule field trips to enrich a particular unit of study or class project. To
attend, a student must have written permission from his/her parent or legal guardian. This permission
slip is sent home along with all information regarding each field trip. Younger siblings/friends are not
permitted to attend MSGA field trips. Students assigned an ISS or OSS during the quarter of a field
trip, will not be able to attend. Once field trip fees have been paid by the school on behalf of the stu-
dent, NO REFUNDS will be processed. Only exception: if the field trip has to be canceled, then all
paid students will receive a refund.

Gifted Services:
At MSGA, gifted services are delivered through the Advanced Content Model. Students in grades K-
12 who demonstrate a high degree of intellectual, academic, and/or creative abilities may be nominated for evaluation to determine eligibility to participate in the program for gifted students. Referrals for consideration may be made by teachers, parents or guardians, counselors, administrators, peers, self, and other individuals with knowledge of the student’s abilities. The State Board of Education determines eligibility criteria for placement in this program. For a summary of those criteria or for further information about Marietta City’s program for gifted students, please contact Dr. M. Forrester ext. 5141, MSGA Gifted Coordinator.

**Grading:**
When checking grades on ASPEN please refer to the following grading scale and grading weights:

- **A** 90 – 100 (Excellent)
- **B** 80 - 89 (Good)
- **C** 73 - 79 (Average)
- **D** 70 - 72 (Passing)
- **F** 69 and below (Failing)

Marietta City Schools offers an opportunity for parents to stay up-to-date on their child’s daily academic progress and absences/tardies. ASPEN can be accessed online with a parent’s specific security code. Visit the Marietta City Schools website to download the paperwork needed to set up your login and password. This paperwork can also be obtained from our front office. You may access ASPEN with any computer that is connected to the internet. A computer is located in the Parent Resource Center for parent use.

**Hall Passes:**
Students should be in the halls only at the beginning and close of school and while moving from one class to another unless they have special permission. Students in the halls during class time must have a pass. Students must adhere to the MSGA Voice Level policy (page 18) and be courteous at all times and to keep to the right when moving in the halls. Running or loitering in the halls is not permitted.

**Homework:**
Homework activities play a supportive role in reinforcing the skills/standards taught during in-class instruction. The amount of time a student spends on homework may differ according to individual needs. For more information, please check your child’s agenda and his/her teachers’ ASPEN pages.

**Instructional Program (MYP & STEM Magnet):**
MSGA students participate in a relevant and rigorous academic program. IB MYP—All 6th grade students receive this instructional program. STEM Magnet Program—Qualified students only. Please see pages 12 & 14 for more information.

**Lockers:**
Within the first month of school, each student will be issued a locker to help keep books and personal items organized. Only items belonging to the assigned student should be in his/her locker. Large book bags must be kept in the locker during the school day. The combination should not be given to classmates or friends. Locker problems should be reported to the Advisement teacher.

**Lost and Found:**
Lost and found items are located outside of the cafeteria. Items not claimed are donated to charity organizations. Confiscated items turned in by teachers are kept in the Administrative Office.

**Materials and Supplies:**
Materials and supplies vary with each class. The teacher will provide information. Students will be required to pay for all lost and damaged books and materials. This includes library and textbooks as well as other materials. A general supply list can be found on the school website. All students will receive a copy of the supply list at Meet & Greet and/or during the first week of school.
**Media Center:**
MSGA’s media center provides a variety of services to students, parents and staff. The media center staff assists students in locating and using research materials, magazines, books, and audio-visual materials and equipment.

Students may check out two books for class work and/or pleasure reading. The check out period is two weeks. Some reference books may be checked out overnight. If a book is damaged or lost, the student is expected to pay the replacement cost of the book. Our check out system is computerized on Follett’s Circulation Plus. The catalog is automated. Each student has a personalized barcode for checking out materials from the MSGA media center.

**Medicine for Students:**
If prescription medication is required, fill out a form in the school clinic. The following criteria as outlined in Marietta Board of Education Policy JGCD must be met:

1. The medicine is in a container issued by a pharmacy and the store label is attached.
2. The container label shows a recent date on which the prescription was filled.
3. The container label states the name of the student to whom the medicine is to be administered.
4. A prescription number is on the label.
5. The label contains adequate directions indicating the proper amount and method to administer the medicine.
6. The prescribing physician’s name is shown on the label.

Please call the clinic at 770-429-3115 ext. 6020 for more information.

**Messages:**
Personal messages are delivered to students only under special circumstances. Teachers’ instructional time is protected for all students and class will not be interrupted unless deemed an emergency by the school administration. Messages regarding unexpected changes in transportation are generally maintained in the front office for students to pick up at the end of the day and must be received by 3:30 p.m.

**Parent Involvement:**
We welcome parent volunteers. Assistance is occasionally needed in the media center, offices, and PTSA school store. Let us know how you would like to help. Parent volunteer hours are maintained electronically in the Front Office. Simply check-in as a volunteer when you come to the school. Your ID will be scanned at this time for safety measures. Please contact our Parent Liaison at 770-429-3115 ext. 6079 and watch for communications about parent involvement opportunities.

**Partners in Education:**
The Partners in Education Program is a collaborative effort among businesses in the community, MSGA, and the Cobb Chamber of Commerce. We are always looking to increase our partners in education. Our partners assist with staff and student incentives, student mentorship, guest speaking, the donation of goods and services, etc. Our current partners in education are listed on the school website.

**PBIS:**
MSGA has implemented the Positive Behavior Intervention and Supports system, which encompasses a school wide conduct plan. This plan allows students opportunities to be recognized for academic and behavioral achievements throughout the school year by demonstrating Ready, Respect, and Responsibility. Quarterly Zero Discipline Referral Celebrations are held for students. We also host an End of The Year Zero Discipline Referral Celebration.
Physical Education (P.E.):
Physical Education is a required class. Students must wear appropriate footwear to participate in activities. If a student is unable to participate, a written statement is required from a parent. A written statement from a physician is required if a chronic problem exists.

PTSA:
Studies have shown that children are more successful in school when their parents are involved with their education. We have an active PTSA with an excellent staff of officers. Our PTSA is a combined effort between MSGA and Marietta Middle School (MMS). We encourage all of our families and business partners to become members. The cost of PTSA membership is $5.00. The Marietta Middle Grades (MMG) PTSA meetings begin at 6:30 pm unless otherwise indicated (executive session begin at 6:00 pm).

Recognition Programs:
Recognizing student achievement is an important aspect of the MSGA culture. We do this in a variety of venues.

**Blue Devil News (BDN6)**
The student-produced morning news show will showcase student accomplishments throughout the year.

**Blue Devil of the Month**
On a monthly basis, students are recognized for demonstrating outstanding achievement and/or character.

**Town Hall Meetings**
Town Hall quarterly meetings, are held to recognize student achievement, such as Students of the Month, competition winners, academic accomplishments, community service, etc.

Parents are encouraged to participate.

**Honors Day Programs**
The year culminates in a Honors Day Programs by Teams. Students will be honored in all academic areas as well as citizenship, responsibility and accomplishments in fine arts. In addition, all A and all A/B awards (including conduct) will be given. Details will be forthcoming as the year progresses.

Report Cards/Progress Reports:
Report cards are published on Aspen every nine weeks. Progress reports are published on Aspen at the midpoint of each nine-week period. All report cards and progress reports contain all subject grades and conduct grades. The purpose of the progress reports is to inform the parent and the student of how the student is performing. The grades indicated on progress reports are not permanent. **Parents are encouraged and expected to check the Aspen Student/Parent portal to see student assignments and grades.**

Safety & Security:
To ensure the safety of MSGA staff and students, a secure environment is maintained. A School Resource Officer (SRO) is periodically available to assist with security. Please note the following security procedures:

1. No unauthorized persons will be allowed in the building without administrative permission.
2. Students may not bring other students to visit in classrooms without administrative approval.
3. Students may not remain after school or on campus, unless they are under the direct supervision of a teacher or staff member.
4. All visitors must report to the **FRONT OFFICE** when visiting the school for any reason, including teacher/parent conferences. The individual’s ID may be requested during check-in. At
the conclusion of the visit, visitors must also check-out.
5. Students may not have peer visitors or “shadowing” without the prior written approval of the Principal at least one week in advance.
6. Parent may request to shadow their student with a 24 hour notice and approval of administration.

School Governance Team (SGT):
The MSGA School Governance Team is comprised of teachers, community members, and teachers. The team provides input into various school level decisions such as the expenditure of grant funds, school improvement initiatives, field trips, and school policies/procedures. All meetings are open to the public and will be held on the MSGA campus. SGT meeting dates are posted on our school website. Nominations for the SGT are held at the beginning of the year.

School Day Hours:
Students may enter the building starting at 8:45 a.m. through the front 6-3/6-4 doors (car riders and walkers) and rear of the cafeteria (bus riders). The school day begins at 9:15 a.m. Students arriving after 9:15 am are considered tardy. Dismissal is at 4:00 p.m. Car riders and walkers exit out of the 6-3/6-4 doors. Bus riders exit out the building according to their route.

School Store:
The school store is open before school from 8:45 a.m.-9:15 a.m. Students may purchase school supplies, uniform shirts, sweatshirts and long sleeved shirts in room 44. Students must have a pass to visit the store.

Standardized Testing:
Standardized test results are used to help track student progress and to guide instruction. MAP is administered three (3) times a year, fall, winter and spring. In the spring, the GA Milestones End of Grade will be administered. The GA Milestones (EOG) gives information to teachers, parents, and students about how well the students have learned the GSE in all core subject areas. The purpose of the MAP is to measure individual student growth and used to see how the performance of students in Marietta City Schools compares with that of students across the nation. MAP data is also used in student course placement.

Student Conduct:
Students are expected to conform to a high standard of conduct at all times. Unacceptable conduct which prohibits learning and which disrupts other students will not be tolerated. Students who misbehave at school will be disciplined in accordance with the district’s code of student conduct. The cooperation of parents is an important element in modifying behavior that is unsatisfactory. Student behavior will be reflected in the conduct grade on each report card. Please refer to the district's student discipline handbook for detailed guidelines.

Student Records:
It is the school’s policy to send educational records without parental permission upon request from another school. Student records may be made available to either natural parent unless a legal document instructs the school otherwise. Please give a 24 hour notice for the requests.

Technology:
MSGA is equipped with a wealth of technological resources. Students and teachers have access to wireless laptop computing. Numerous rooms are equipped with interactive white boards. Teachers integrate these resources into their lessons on an ongoing basis. It is expected that all students will use technology resources appropriately and responsibly. Failure to do so can result in loss of privileges. Online research is often required for homework, projects, and class work. Our policy at MSGA is to
cite a source for ALL information attained through the Internet. Plagiarism can result in disciplinary consequences to include lowering a student’s grade. Students must also follow all guidelines outlined in the District’s Technology Usage Directive. Parents and students must complete and sign the technology use form each school year.

**Unified Student Dress Code:**
The MSGA community believes the wearing of clothing that is uniform in appearance promotes a positive and safe school atmosphere, as well as, diminishes numerous challenges with purchasing, selection, and acceptance of clothing options.

Administration reserves the right to handle all dress-code violations on a case by case manner.
The administration reserves the right to deem other types of dress inappropriate even if it is not described here.

MSGA students are required to adhere to the following uniform requirements:

**Shirt Options:**
- Uniform polo-style embroidered shirts with the MCS logo (can be ordered from Uniform-Source)
- Navy middle grades t-shirt; short or long sleeved (can be purchased in the school store from the middle grades PTSA for $7.00 for short sleeved or $10.00 for long sleeved)
- Marietta City spirit wear (Fridays only – any MCS spirit wear t-shirts can be worn including the Class of 2024 shirts).

**Pants, Shorts, & Skirts:**
- Solid color khaki, tan, navy blue, black or gray pants/shorts/skirts with no designs or embellishments including designer holes.
- Plain navy blue or black solid denim jean pants/shorts/skirts with no designs or embellishments.
- Shorts or skirts should be at least knee length and should be of the appropriate size.

**Jackets/Other:**
- MCS sweatshirts and hoodies are available for purchase from the PTSA school store.
- Students may also wear non-MCS solid/plain navy blue, black, white or gray jackets, but they must be able to show the uniform shirt.

- Students may wear plain navy blue/black/gray/white visible underclothing.
- Hoods can’t be worn on your head while in the building. If a student does not comply, this is considered a dress code offense.
- **Students may wear non-MCS coats to and from school during cold weather months; however, these coats may not be worn during the school day (unless the requirements above are met) in order to protect the integrity of the uniform.**

NOTE: Parents/guardians are free to purchase uniform items from whatever vendor they choose as long as it meets the guidelines of MSGA Unified Dress Code.

The consequences for students not in appropriate dress code violation could include yet not limited to:

*Notification Letter sent home, Loaner clothing given (if parent can not come in), Parent Contact/Phone or Email, Lunch Detention, Discipline Referral, ISS warning letter for Dress Code Non-compliance, Student placed in ISS for portion of the day*

**Unified Student Dress Code Addendum:** Standard for all MSGA students, including those students who have opted-out.
Non-Permitted Clothing and Apparel Items:
This is not intended as a comprehensive list of non-permitted clothing and is subject to change ANY ATTIRE OR GROOMING DISRUPTIVE TO THE INSTRUCTIONAL PROCESS which may include, but is not limited to:

⇒ Tank tops or dresses with straps narrower than 2” or single strap tops
⇒ Sheer/see-through blouses and skirts
⇒ Bare midriffs and halter tops
⇒ Short shorts/micro mini dresses/skirts or high slit sides
⇒ Leggings or Jeggings
⇒ Sweatpants
⇒ Sunglasses
⇒ Clothing which allows underwear/undergarments to be exposed
⇒ Extremes in hair styles, psychedelic colors (hot colors)
⇒ Painted faces, stick on skin tattoos (unless linked to a school spirit event)
⇒ Any open toed shoes to included flip flops and sandals
⇒ Knee style shoes or boots with more than 12 holes for laces
⇒ No frayed pants/clothing with designer holes, monikers or other markings
⇒ Low cut shirts
⇒ Clothing with writing/messages unless it is MCS
⇒ Hats, headgear or hoods during the school day (unless linked to a school spirit event)
⇒ Chains, spiked rings, spiked bracelets or long earrings
⇒ Bandanas/scarves
⇒ Overalls and Overalls with straps unbuckled
⇒ Web, untied or dangling belts
⇒ Combat-type boots (12 holes or more) and flight jackets worn concurrently with combat boots
⇒ Suspenders
⇒ Any combination of clothing including certain colors which law enforcement agencies currently consider gang related
⇒ Any coat longer than the knees, i.e., trench coats
⇒ Wallet chains

Due to the nuances associated with dress codes, administration or designee reserves the right to handle all dress code violations on a case by case manner and deem other types of dress inappropriate even if it is not described specifically in this policy.

Visitors to School:
We welcome visitors to our school. According to Georgia State law, all visitors must go to the front office first. If you need to bring anything to your child during the day, please bring it to the front office. To maximize classroom instruction and minimize daily interruptions, all classroom visitations should be scheduled with the classroom teacher in advance (24 hours).

Withdrawal/Transfer:
Parents must notify the Front Office in writing when a student is to be withdrawn from school. Textbooks and library books need to be returned to school prior to withdrawal. Your notification to the Front Office that your child will be withdrawing will enable us to complete his/her school records and provide you with necessary documentation for entry into his/ her next school.
Marietta Sixth Grade Academy is an authorized IB MYP School. The aim of all IB programs is to develop internationally minded people who, recognizing their common humanity and shared guardianship of the planet, help to create a better and more peaceful world.

What does this mean for our students?

- We help students to develop the skills needed to think critically and independently, to work collaboratively, and to take a disciplined approach to studying.
- We seek to give students an international perspective.
- We strive to foster a commitment to help others and to act as responsible members of the community.

The IB learner profile represents 10 attributes valued by IB World Schools. We believe these attributes, and others like them, can help individuals and groups become responsible members of local, national and global communities.

As IB learners, we strive to be: inquirers, knowledgeable, thinkers, communicators, principled, open-minded, caring, risk-takers, balanced, and reflective.
IB learner profile

The aim of all IB programmes is to develop internationally minded people who, recognizing their common humanity and shared guardianship of the planet, help to create a better and more peaceful world.

As IB learners we strive to be:

INQUIRERS
We nurture our curiosity, developing skills for inquiry and research. We know how to learn independently and with others. We learn with enthusiasm and sustain our love of learning throughout life.

KNOWLEDGEABLE
We develop and use conceptual understanding, exploring knowledge across a range of disciplines. We engage with issues and ideas that have local and global significance.

THINKERS
We use critical and creative thinking skills to analyse and take responsible action on complex problems. We exercise initiative in making reasoned, ethical decisions.

COMMUNICATORS
We express ourselves confidently and creatively in more than one language and in many ways. We collaborate effectively, listening carefully to the perspectives of other individuals and groups.

PRINCIPLED
We act with integrity and honesty, with a strong sense of fairness and justice, and with respect for the dignity and rights of people everywhere. We take responsibility for our actions and their consequences.

OPEN-MINDED
We critically appreciate our own cultures and personal histories, as well as the values and traditions of others. We seek and evaluate a range of points of view, and we are willing to grow from the experience.

CARING
We show empathy, compassion and respect. We have a commitment to service, and we act to make a positive difference in the lives of others and in the world around us.

RISK-TAKERS
We approach uncertainty with forethought and determination; we work independently and cooperatively to explore new ideas and innovative strategies. We are resourceful and resilient in the face of challenges and change.

BALANCED
We understand the importance of balancing different aspects of our lives—intellectual, physical, and emotional—to achieve well-being for ourselves and others. We recognize our interdependence with other people and with the world in which we live.

REFLECTIVE
We thoughtfully consider the world and our own ideas and experiences. We work to understand our strengths and weaknesses in order to support our learning and personal development.

The IB learner profile represents 10 attributes valued by IB World Schools. We believe these attributes, and others like them, can help individuals and groups become responsible members of local, national and global communities.
The Middle Grades STEM Magnet Program housed at Marietta Sixth Grade Academy (grade 6) is an extension of the STEM Magnet program offered at Marietta Center for Advanced Academics (grades 3-5). There are common links between the elementary and the middle grades magnet that provide a seamless and streamlined academic program.

For example, all magnet students participate in enhanced and/or accelerated coursework in math, English/language arts and science. All students work in a one-to-one computing environment with access to and use of advanced technology applications. In addition, magnet students (grades 3-8) participate in a digital science fair project, complete thematic based reading projects/presentations, and showcase their work in the form of digital portfolios.

The STEM Magnet program emphasizes building the problem solvers of tomorrow while using engineering concepts as the common thread throughout all disciplines/subjects. Students learn through an interdisciplinary approach in a project based learning environment. All middle grades students complete quarterly capstone projects that are unique to the magnet program.

At the middle grades level, students are afforded the opportunity to continue their experiential learning in STEM education (science, technology, engineering and mathematics). At MSGA, students begin their journey into comprehensive and rigorous instructional program is based on the Georgia Standards of Excellence (GSE), connected through integrated, inter-disciplinary units of instruction, and focused on the design process. By using a balance of text and technological resources, we provide an education that is challenging at higher levels and faster-paced than traditional middle school learning environments.

Students interested in entering the magnet program must complete an application found on the Marietta City Schools website. Please contact the Front Office for additional information.
<table>
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<tr>
<th>Classrooms</th>
<th>Hallway</th>
<th>Cafeteria</th>
<th>Bus Arrival &amp; Departure</th>
<th>Classroom Expectations</th>
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Voice Level ZERO - VL0
Absolute silence. No talking

Voice Level 1 - VL1
Whisper. Only 1 person can hear.

Voice Level 2 - VL2
Small group talk.

Voice Level 3 - VL3
Normal conversation in a group.

Voice Level 4 - VL4
Presenting voice...On the stage.
No student will be permitted to use personal technology devices unless the agreement is signed and returned.

Bring Your Own Technology (BYOT) Agreement at MSGA

Students who choose to participate in the Bring Your Own Technology (BYOT) initiative for academic activities must adhere to the Marietta City Student Code of Conduct, as well as all Board policies, particularly the Student Behavior Code (JCDA), Internet Acceptable Use Policy (IFBG) and Student Acceptable Use Guidelines (IFBG-E1). Students who fail to adhere to these rules may face disciplinary measures and lose the privilege of using or possessing personal technology for instructional or personal use.

MSGA Parent/Guardian - Please read this agreement carefully with your child. Initial each statement once you have both read and understand the requirements.

Students must take full responsibility for their devices and accessories (such as cases, headphones, charges, etc.). The school and staff are not responsible for the security of personal technology. By choosing to bring devices onto school grounds, students accept the risk of potential loss or damage to personal technology. Personal devices cannot be left on campus before or after school hours. Students should not allow other students to take possession of their devices.

________Student initials ________Parent initials

Devices cannot be used during tests or assessments, unless otherwise directed by a teacher.

_________Student initials ________Parent initials

Students must immediately follow with teachers’ requests to shut down devices or close the screen. Devices must be put away when asked by teachers. Devices must always be in silent mode while on school campuses and while riding school buses.

_______Student Initials ________ Parent initials

Students are not permitted to take, send, post pictures or images/videos while in class or at school.

______Student Initials ________Parent initials

Students will only use devices to access files or sites relevant to classroom curriculum. Games and other non-instructional purposes, such as making personal phone calls or messaging via text or social media*, are not permitted. Devices may not be used for cheating on assignments or tests.

_______Student Initials ________Parent Initials

Students should have no expectation of charging or plug-in capabilities. Personal devices should be charged prior to bringing them to school.

_______Student Initials ________Parent Initials

To ensure appropriate network filters, students will only use the BYOT wireless connection in school and will not attempt to bypass the network restrictions by using an outside network. Students have no expectation of privacy in any work transmitted on the school network and understand that staff may collect and examine their personal device to determine if a violation of school rule or law has been committed.

_______Student Initials ________Parent Initials

Students understand that introducing a virus, Trojan, or any program designed to damage, alter, destroy, or provide access to unauthorized data or information in the network is in violation of the Acceptable Use Policy and Behavior Code, and will result in disciplinary actions. The school district has the right to collect and examine any device that is suspected of causing problems or is the source of an attack or virus infection.

_______Student Initials ________Parent Initials

Students realize that processing or accessing information on school property related to “hacking,” altering, or bypassing network security policies is in violation of the Acceptable Use Policy and Behavior Code, and will result in disciplinary actions. Students can only access files on the computer or Internet sites which are relevant to the classroom curriculum and suggested by a teacher.

_______Student Initials ________Parent Initials

Students realize that printing from personal devices is not permitted at school.

_______Student Initials ________Parent Initials
### MEGA Course Offerings

**IB Middle Years Programme**

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Language Arts</th>
<th>Mathematics</th>
<th>Science</th>
<th>Social Studies</th>
<th>Electives &amp; Foreign Language</th>
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<tr>
<td>Reading Connections</td>
<td>Math Connections</td>
<td>Science 6</td>
<td>Social Studies 6</td>
<td>Art</td>
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<tr>
<td>REP Reading</td>
<td>REP Math</td>
<td>Enhanced Science 6</td>
<td>Enhanced Social Studies 6</td>
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<td>ELA 6</td>
<td>Math 6</td>
<td>MILE Social Studies</td>
<td>Orchestra</td>
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**IB Middle Years Programme - STEM Magnet**

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<th>Language Arts</th>
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**Definition of Terms**

**Traditional**—Curriculum is focused on the 6th Grade GSE (Georgia Standards of Excellence).

**Enhanced**—Curriculum extends the 6th Grade GSE.

**MILE**—Curriculum extends the 6th Grade GSE through advanced content classes (SS & ELA only) and addresses the standards for gifted learners.

**English Learners**

MSGA has a complete ESOL (English to Speakers of Other Languages) program for English Learners (EL). We serve EL students throughout a 3-tier progression: (1) intensive, (2) intermediate, and (3) monitored.

**Special Education**

The needs of students of all abilities are served. Special education students are instructed in their least restrictive environments through a continuum of services to include small group, team taught, and enhanced settings.
### MSGA Daily Rotating (per quarter) Schedules

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><em>Quarter</em></th>
<th>Regular</th>
<th>Advisement</th>
<th>Conference</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday</td>
<td>Wednesday Advisement or Clubs</td>
<td>Conference Week Early Release</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5 1 3 5</td>
<td>1:57 – 2:58</td>
<td>1:27 – 2:16</td>
<td>12:23 – 12:52</td>
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<tr>
<td>6 2 4 6</td>
<td>3:02– 4:00</td>
<td>2:20– 3:11</td>
<td>12:56 – 1:30</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

*Quarters 1 and 4 the period order will be 1,2,3,4,5,6

*Quarter 2 the period order will be 3,4,5,6,1,2

*Quarter 3 the period order will be 5,6,1,2,3,4

#### Breakfast & Lunch Schedule

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Breakfast</th>
<th>8:45-9:15 every morning</th>
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<tr>
<td>Lunch</td>
<td>Regular</td>
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<td>C</td>
<td>12:23 – 12:50</td>
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# 2017-2018 Important Dates

| GRADING QUARTERS | 1st: August 03- October 11  
|                  | 2nd: October 12- December 20  
|                  | 3rd: January 05 - March 16  
|                  | 4th: March 19 - May 25  
| PROGRESS REPORTS | 1st: September 12  
|                  | 2nd: November 29  
|                  | 3rd: February 15  
|                  | 4th: May 4  
| *Published in ASPEN |  
| REPORT CARDS | 1st: October 19  
|                  | 2nd: January 5  
|                  | 3rd: March 27  
|                  | 4th: June 4 (mailed)  
| *Published in ASPEN |  
| CONFERENCE WEEKS | Fall: October 19 - 23  
|                  | Spring: February 22 - 26  
| STANDARDIZED TESTING | ACCESS for ELLs: January  
|                  | GA Milestones: April  
|                  | MAP: August, December, May  

**PBIS Mission** - Making a positive difference  
Success in every student  
Going the extra mile  
Academically centered  

**PBIS Vision** - To create a positive learning environment where our students feel safe to share their ideas
Non-Discrimination Statement
The Board of Education of the City of Marietta does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, national origin, age, disability, or gender in its employment practices, student programs and dealings with the public.

Below is a list of individuals designated to handle inquiries regarding the District’s nondiscrimination policies:

Title VI Compliance Officer/Alternate Title IX Compliance Officer
(Issues of discrimination on basis of race, color, or national origin, gender, sexual harassment)
Director of Federal Programs
Central Administrative Offices
250 Howard Street, Marietta, GA 30060
770-422-3500

Title IX Compliance Officer
(Issues of discrimination on the basis of gender or sexual harassment)
Director of Athletics
Marietta High School
1171 Whitlock Avenue, Marietta, GA 30064
770-429-3154

Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act and Section 504 Compliance Officer
(Issues of discrimination on the basis of disability)
Assistant Superintendent, Special Services
Central Administrative Offices
250 Howard Street, Marietta, GA 30060
770-422-3500

Employment Issues
(Issues of discrimination on the basis of any category listed in policy GAAA)
Director of Human Resources
Central Administrative Offices
250 Howard Street, Marietta, GA 30060
770-422-3500

Complaints may also be filed directly with the Office of Civil Rights at the address below:

The U.S. Department of Education
Atlanta Office for Civil Rights
61 Forsyth St. S.W., Suite 19T70
Atlanta, GA 30303-3104
(404) 562-6350

Sexual Harassment

Any student who believes he or she has been the victim of sexual harassment should report the incident to the Title IX Compliance Officer or to an administrator, counselor, or teacher at the school he or she attends.

Investigations involving allegations of sexual harassment allegations will be handled per Board of Education of the City of Marietta Policy JAEB, Student Sexual Harassment. This policy and the Report of Harassment form can be found on the Legal Information webpage at www.marietta-city.org or by contacting the school.
MCS SAFE RIDER CONTRACT

Dear Parent/Guardian:

The safety of your children is our number one concern and “The Safe Rider Program” is a student management program which promotes and teaches proper school bus safety. The core of the program promotes personal accountability as it relates to bus safety because unsafe choices endanger the safety of all passengers.

How the Program Works

The program promotes instant accountability for unsafe behavior as shown below. The program also includes a defined and graduated discipline plan. The concept does not stop here. We have also developed a Safe Rider Class that employs several different ways of empowering the student to correct unsafe behavior. Some of those techniques include role play, videos and class work which will be scheduled to not interfere with the student’s academic work.

Unsafe Behavior on the Ride Home

➢ If unsafe behavior occurs before the bus leaves the school; the student will be provided with two options: (1) Correct the behavior and continue home (behavior documented) or (2) be removed from the bus and taken to MCAA with staff supervision until a parent or guardian can pick up the student (behavior documented.)

➢ If unsafe behavior occurs after the bus leaves the school the driver will contact their Dispatch. Transportation staff will assess the situation and if necessary, a staff member will remove the student from the bus to return the student to MCAA to remain under staff supervision until a parent or guardian can pick the student up.

➢ If either of the above instances occurs, the graduated discipline plan will be in effect.

MCS Policies for students supersede the Safe Rider Program.

We need your partnership as we move forward in making Marietta City School buses safer and more enjoyable part of the student’s day. Please review the Safe Rider Policies and Regulations with your student. Please complete and sign the Safe Rider Contract / Emergency Form with your child and return to your bus driver within 5 days to continue bus rider privileges and to insure your child’s assigned seat.

GRADUATED DISCIPLINE PLAN

• 1st Offense – Driver Student Conference & Parent Contacted. (Courtesy Notice.) Student on probation and re-assigned to the front of Bus for 1 week.
• 2nd Offense – Driver Student Conference & Parent Contacted. (Courtesy Notice.) Student on probation and re-assigned to the front of Bus for 2 weeks.
• 3rd Offense* – Referral submitted, 3 Days Bus Suspension. Upon return student placed on probation and re-assigned to the front of Bus for 1 week. *Safe Rider Class and Behavior Contract Required.
• 4th Offense* – Referral submitted, 5 Days Bus Suspension. *Conference required before returning to the school bus.
• 5th Offense – Referral submitted, Transportation Director recommends Bus suspension for the remainder of the year.
MCS SAFE RIDER CONTRACT

Safe Rider Behavior Policies and Regulations

1. Students must show respect for school bus drivers at all times and follow the "The Safe Rider Program."
2. All students shall comply with reasonable directives of a Marietta City Schools Employee. Failure to do so is considered an act of insubordination.
3. NO student shall refuse to identify one's self upon request of any Marietta City Schools Employee.
4. Students must be standing at the bus stop AT LEAST FIVE (5) MINUTES prior to the scheduled pick-up time. Students are to wait at the school bus stop in an orderly manner.
5. Students must WAIT for instructions (hand signals or otherwise) from the school bus driver EVERY TIME when crossing the street to board the bus or when exiting the bus. Students must be able to maintain eye contact with the school bus driver and cross in full view of the school bus driver.
6. Students must board the bus as soon as school is dismissed and not loiter in the courtyard and on the sidewalk. Once on the bus at dismissal time, the student will need the approval of an administrator to depart the bus, while at school.
7. Students MUST remain SILENT and STILL at ALL railroad crossings until the school bus crosses railroad tracks completely.
8. Elementary and Middle school students will be assigned a seat assignment on the school bus. (High School at driver's discretion)
9. Students MUST remain seated properly in the seat at all times unless otherwise directed by the school bus driver. (BACK to BACK -- BOTTOM to BOTTOM)
10. Unnecessary noise is prohibited. Students must talk at a low volume level - NO loud voices.
11. Students shall not talk on a cell phone. No other electronic devices can be used without use of headphones and must not be heard by others. Students may not have any type of head phones or ear buds on their ears when boarding or exiting the school bus. Students must be able to hear bus driver at all times. Students may not use any electronic device to video or audio record while on the school bus.
12. Due to allergic reactions and the possibility of choking - food, gum, and/or drinks are not to be consumed or opened on the school bus.
13. Name calling, harassment, intimidation, threats and bullying is prohibited on the school bus.
14. Obscene language and gestures are prohibited.
15. Fighting, pretend fighting, roughhousing or horseplay is NOT permitted.
16. NO objects are to be thrown on, in, out or at the school bus.
17. Destruction or defacing any part of the school bus is prohibited. Replacement cost at parent's expense.
18. Emergency doors, windows, and hatches are to be opened ONLY at the direction of the school bus driver.
19. Students must keep all body parts inside the school bus at all times.
20. Students shall not use mirrors, lasers, flashing lights, flash cameras, or any other lights or reflective surfaces as it may interfere with the operation of the school bus.
21. Weapons (or objects that look like and/or could be used as weapons) are NOT permitted at bus stop, on the school buses or school grounds.
22. Tobacco, illegal drugs and/or alcohol is NOT permitted at bus stop, on the school buses or school grounds.
23. Objectionable and/or dangerous items are NOT allowed on the school bus. Such as; glass items, lighters/matches, animals, balloons, flowers/plants, skateboards, perfume/cologne, aerosol cans, plastic bags, insects, straight or safety pins, sharp objects, large toys or objects that cannot easily fit on the student's lap or any other item of a questionable nature that might present a safety hazard.
24. Band instruments, sporting equipment and school projects can be transported ONLY if there is enough space for all students' seating requirements. Items may be placed in the seat or lap to whom they belong. This is left to the bus driver's discretion.
25. Students must board and exit the school bus at their designated bus stop ONLY. Alternate arrangements must be pre-approved using a MCS Bus Pass which has been completely filled out by Parents/Guardian and with a school administrator approval (in writing). This written permission must be given to the school bus driver when boarding the school bus. (Bus Pass can be denied if school bus is at capacity or if the student has a history of bus behavior offenses or becomes an offender)

Any Behavior that is considered disruptive or unsafe by the school bus driver will be handled through the use of the Safe Rider Program.