

Southern Lehigh Middle School
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IN PURSUIT OF EXCELLENCE

Dear Students and Parents,

The Southern Lehigh Middle School administration, faculty, and support staff welcomes you and wishes you a productive, exciting, and successful school year.

This agenda provides you with an important tool to assist you in organizing your school responsibilities. You will note a change this year, the School Board approved student *handbook* can now be found on the Middle School website and will no longer be contained within the agenda book. The handbook contains, in addition to useful information, the approved standards of comportment incumbent upon all students. Parents may use the agenda book to communicate with their child's teacher and to monitor school activities and assignments.

At Southern Lehigh Middle School we are committed to excellence. As we accept the adventures of a new school year, we ask every student, parent, and teacher to work together in striving towards excellence.

Sincerely,

The Southern Lehigh Middle School Administration and Faculty

**Southern Lehigh Middle School
Co-Curricular and Extra-Curricular Offerings**

| Academic Programs |
|--------------------------------------|
| National Junior Honor Society |
| Studio 22 |
| Builders Club |
| Debate Team |
| Student Council |
| Yearbook |
| Odyssey of the Mind |
| PEAK |
| Math Counts |

| Athletic Programs |
|-------------------------------|
| Cheerleading |
| Field Hockey |
| Football |
| Girls Volleyball |
| Boys Basketball |
| Wrestling |
| Girls Basketball |
| Girls Lacrosse |
| Track & Field Club |
| Softball |
| Cross Country |
| Ice Hockey |

| Musical Programs |
|---------------------------|
| Concert Band |
| String Orchestra |
| Jazz Band |
| Solehi Fiddlers |
| Spartan Chorale |
| SLMS Chorus |
| Theater Production |

The following Southern Lehigh School District Policies provide valuable information in regard to student discipline and expectations:

| Policy Description |
|--|
| 103 - Non-Discrimination in School & Classroom Practices |
| 208 - Withdrawal From School |
| 211 - Student Accident Insurance |
| 226 - Searches |
| 237 – Electronic Devices |
| 814 - Copyright Policy |

| Policy Description |
|---|
| 104 - Non-Discrimination in Employment & Contract Practices |
| 209 - Physical Examinations |
| 215 - Promotion Requirements |
| 227 - Controlled Substances |
| 248 - Unlawful Harassment |
| 815 – Acceptable Use |

| Policy Description |
|--|
| 108 - Resource Materials |
| 209.2 - Accidents and Sudden Illnesses |
| 218 - Student Discipline |
| 227.1 - Use of Animals to Search School Property |
| 249 – Bully/Cyberbullying |

| Policy Description |
|--------------------------------|
| 207 - Confidentiality |
| 210 - Use of Medications |
| 218.1 - Possession of Weapons |
| 233 – Suspension and Expulsion |
| 707 - Use of School Facilities |

All School District Policies can be accessed on the district website <http://www.slsd.org/>, and are also available in the Middle School office.

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🔗 Mission and Goals

The purpose of Southern Lehigh Middle School is to provide a transitional experience from childhood to adolescence. This is a unique period of life and only a unique school will do.

The mission of the middle school is to provide opportunities for success for all students. We support our mission through building goals. The major goals that currently direct the efforts of this school are:

- to provide a positive learning environment designed around academic teams of teachers and students. The teams provide integrated educational opportunities and instructional support in a flexible schedule.
- to use technology to enhance instruction and provide students with a sound foundation of computer skills.
- to meet individual student needs through a variety of teaching, learning, and assessment strategies.
- to provide a diverse exploratory arts curriculum to enhance pre-adolescent learning styles.
- to exist in a positive school community with a climate that keeps children at the center of all that occurs.

🔗 Student Services

Counseling and Consultation Services

The services of a school psychologist/counselor are available to all students at the Middle School

and may be of help with concerns such as:

- Adjustment to the middle school
- Development of successful study habits
- Social/personal family adjustment
- Interpretation of ability/achievement levels
- Career information
- Peer pressure

The school psychologist/counselor is available to meet with parents/guardians and serve as coordinator of services between school and outside agencies. Parents/guardians are encouraged to notify the psychologist/counselor if their child is receiving services from an outside agency.

Appointments may be scheduled through the Guidance Office. If the counselor is not available or is in session, a student may request an appointment through a secretary.

Parents/guardians are encouraged to contact a Southern Lehigh Middle School counselor any time between 7:30 a.m. and 3:00 p.m. at 610-282-3700 ext. 6551 to get information or to schedule a team conference. Each team has a meeting schedule when your child's core team of teachers is available to meet with parents.

The Student Assistance Program

From time to time some students need help dealing with problems or conditions that prevent them from being active, successful participants in the academic and social life of the Middle School. The Southern Lehigh Middle School is fortunate to have a group of staff members who have undergone

specialized training in addressing these problems. The Student Assistance Program (SAP) is designed to help the student resolve those problems in order to become a more productive part of the school.

The major goal of the Southern Lehigh Middle School is to provide quality education to our students through excellent educational programs. In order to provide an environment to meet the goal, the social and emotional status of the student must function in a state of well-being. Middle School students are faced with several pressures and changes that positively or negatively affect their self-esteem and decision-making process. Proper guidance, education, and support are extremely important in the development of well-adjusted youth.

In order to develop the skills necessary to cope with the pressures they face, our students must learn to make well-informed, constructive decisions. They must channel their energies and thoughts in positive ways that will benefit their present and future self-perception and actions. The health education curriculum and the interdisciplinary team structure are committed to creating a system of education and prevention, early identification and intervention. In addition, SAP can provide referral and support services.

The initial and most important phase of the SAP process takes place in the classrooms, and with the interdisciplinary teams. This is where a close link between the teacher and

the student is established. Concerns that arise from this student/teacher relationship are identified and shared with other professionals who know and care about the students in their team. We believe that in most cases those staff members who work in close proximity to a specific group of students can provide the most immediate and effective support system for at-risk adolescents and their families.

There may, however, be some students whose needs go beyond that which can be dealt with effectively within our normal procedures. The SAP team will review these cases. This team will serve as a steering committee for student assistance matters. They may recommend the involvement of outside resources or they may refer the case back to the child study team along with recommendations.

The SAP team consists of members of the faculty and staff of the Southern Lehigh Middle School who have been trained to identify and help students with a variety of problems that prevent students from learning effectively in our school. The program provides a means for teachers and school staff to help students through difficult times, but is not designed to be a treatment or a cure. The SAP Team will deal with problem areas such as the following issues:

- * alcohol abuse
- * drug abuse
- * child abuse
- * suicide/depression
- * family concerns
- * pregnancy
- * peer pressure
- * loss/depression
- * eating disorders
- * other related problems

A referral may come from parents, teachers, counselors, administrators, or the students themselves. The SAP team

refers students and their families to experts who assess the problem areas and recommend the best program for help. If you have a concern, please call the Middle School at 610-282-3700 and ask the secretary to direct your call to a SAP contact person. Team interventions occur for the benefit of the students, their families, and the school by relaying factual information. The goal of the intervention is to encourage the student and family to seek assistance to address the problems that face them.

Title I

The Title I program serves to provide support to general education students showing academic need. The program attempts to identify and target student specific academic needs through intense instruction and the use of strategic intervention resources. The goal of the program is to close the gap for students who are experiencing difficulty in meeting grade level benchmarks. Title I is a federally funded program. As required by regulation, the district is required to advise parents of students receiving Title I services of their right to request the certification status of the teacher.

School Safety Tips for Parents

The Departments of Education and Justice prepared an annual report on school safety. The report describes actions schools, parents, and communities can take to address these critical issues.

The following recommendations were provided for parents:

1. Actively communicate with children.
2. Be clear and consistent in disciplining children.
3. Model pro-social behavior – teach children how to interact socially, handle competition and defeat, discuss differences, resolve conflicts, deal with frustration in solving problems and cope with stress and anger.
4. Get involved with school and community organizations and activities – encourage positive activities that promote the child's feelings of competence.
5. Keep guns and other weapons locked up and out of the reach of unsupervised children.
6. Limit children's exposure to and experience of crime and violence.
7. Seek professional help from school staff or community resources if you need assistance in helping your child resolve any problems.

Southern Lehigh Middle School has developed resources to help provide support to students in expressing their feelings, learning appropriate social skills, and dealing with grief. Other areas of concern may arise as well as a result of discussions at weekly team meetings. Please contact our school counselor, Mrs. Cooper, at 610-282-3700 ext. 6551 if you have any concerns or questions.

Health Services

The health suite is open from 7:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Monday through Friday. Health records are kept on each student

and records are maintained in the health suite.

It is very important to update each student's record by receiving current information from the parents/guardians regarding items, such as:

- Change in health status
- Medications a child may currently be taking
- Long-term medication therapy
- Medication that has been discontinued
- Any recent hospitalizations for medical treatment or surgery
- Routine immunization or booster information

If a student becomes ill at school, he or she should obtain a pass from the teacher and report to the nurse's office. **The student is not to call or text home before going to the nurse's office.** No student is permitted to leave school during regular school hours whether for illness or for another cause without the permission of the principal or the nurse.

Students are allowed to receive acetaminophen (Tylenol) and/or ibuprofen (Advil/Motrin) in school without a doctor's note provided prior written approval is received from the parent. Pain reliever permission forms are sent home in the first day packets and are also available in the nurse's office and on the district web site.

If a student becomes ill during the school day, the health room staff may call the designated contact to pick him or her up. Symptoms that may

require a child to be picked up may include: fever, diarrhea, vomiting, or any other illness which may be considered contagious.

Please check our nurses' webpage for up-to-date information [Middle School Nurse - Mrs. Krippe](#)

Medication in School (prescription and non-prescription) *See Board Policy

School nurses may administer medications in accordance with a doctor's order. However, the school nurses are assigned to several schools and are not available to all schools at all times to administer medications. In some cases, when physicians are made aware of the situation, they are able to set up a medication schedule eliminating the need for medication during school hours.

However, should it be necessary for the student to receive medication during the school day, a parent/guardian may come to school and personally administer the medication.

Should you find it necessary for a nurse to administer medication to your child during the school day, you may bring the medication to school consistent with the School District's policy on the administration of medication. You must provide all medication in the original bottle or package directly to a school nurse or other authorized health services personnel. In the absence of a nurse the medication shall be delivered directly to school office personnel.

The prescribing physician must complete an "[Authorization for Medication During School Hours](#)" form (forms available in the nurse's office, on

the district web site, and in the school office). This includes:

- Name of student
- Diagnosis
- Medication prescribed
- Dosage
- Time schedule
- Name of physician
- Duration of medication
- Any special circumstances

Students are not allowed to carry medication (prescription or over the counter) with them. This would be considered a violation of the drug policy. It is understood there are times when it is necessary for the students to carry their own medication, i.e. inhalers, insulin pumps, etc. If it is deemed medically necessary for a student to be in possession of medication, a meeting between the student, parent, and school nurse is required, and a special form is completed at that time.

Health Testing and Screening Programs *See Board Policy

The Commonwealth of Pennsylvania mandates the following screenings be performed during the school year:

- Height, weight, BMI and vision screenings performed every year on all grade levels.
- Hearing: grades K/1, 2, 3, 7, and 11. Follow-up hearing tests will be conducted on any student that fails the rapid hearing screening. Arrangements can be made for hearing tests on students not in

those grades by parent or teacher request.

- Scoliosis: grades 6 and 7, or as necessary due to physical changes that suggest pathology of the spine. Scoliosis permission forms are sent home in the first day packets, are available in the nurse's office, and on the district web site.

If a student is not to be examined in one of the screening programs, it is the responsibility of each parent/guardian to notify the school nurse in your child's school in writing **by the end of the first week of school**.

Additional exams required by the state include:

- Dental Exams: K/1, 3, 7 and if deemed necessary all new entrants from out of state.
- Physical Examinations: grades K/1, 6, 11, and if deemed necessary on all new entrants from out of state.

If you do not wish to have the exams done on your child by the school, it is the responsibility of each parent/guardian to obtain the exams at your private physician's/dentist's office at your own expense. Permission forms for school physicals and dentals as well as forms for private physical and dental exams are available in the nurse's office and on the district web site.

Student Achievement Grading Procedures

Grades - Grades are to be an evaluation of a student's academic work. Grading might be based on criterion reference

evaluations, as well as intra-group or inter-group comparisons, depending on the subjects taught. Student discipline shall have no effect on grades.

Explanation of Grades:

A – DISTINGUISHED ACHIEVEMENT AND PROGRESS

B - GOOD ACHIEVEMENT AND PROGRESS

C - AVERAGE ACHIEVEMENT AND PROGRESS

D - MINIMUM ACHIEVEMENT AND PROGRESS

F – UNSATISFACTORY ACHIEVEMENT AND PROGRESS

I - INCOMPLETE - Student has not completed the required standards of the course. The student has 20 days to satisfy the requirements of the course. This may result in a failure for the course.

M – MEDICALLY EXCUSED- (Doctor Documentation required) – Doctor Documentation required. This may be used in the rare situation where a student is unable to attend school and/or complete work for the majority of the quarter due to a medical situation.

The standard scale below will be used to calculate grade point average:

A = 93-100 = 4.0

A- = 90-92 = 3.6

B+ = 87-89 = 3.4

B = 83-86 = 3.0

B- = 80-82 = 2.6

C+ = 77-79 = 2.4

C = 73-76 = 2.0

C- = 70-72 = 1.6

D+ = 67-69 = 1.4

D = 63-66 = 1.0

D- = 60-62 = 0.6

F = 00-59 = 0.0

M = Medically Excused

Final Grades are calculated by the student's numeric percentage, not the letter grade value.

** The following procedures will be followed in the grading of the Exploratory Arts Subjects:

Grade 7

- Grades for Art, Family Consumer Science, STEM, and Design 21 will be given at the end of each marking period and are reported when the student has completed the course.
- Grades for the World Language, Physical Education/Wellness and Music cycle will be given at the conclusion of each marking period throughout the year.

Grade 8

- Grades for Art, Family Consumer Science, STEM, Health, and Design 21 will be given at the end of each marking period and are reported when the student has completed the course.
- Grades for the Physical Education, Music, and Applied Technology cycle will be given at the conclusion of each marking period throughout the year.

Learning Support Students - Special grading considerations may be developed by the child study team (psychologist, teacher, and administration) for identified students.

Mid-terms and Finals – All students will participate in mid-term and final assessments for each course. The following percentages will be implemented to calculate final averages for full year courses.

Marking period 1 - 20%

Marking period 2 - 20%

Marking period 3 - 20%

Marking period 4 - 20%

Midterm - 10 %

Final - 10%

All report cards will be posted to the Sapphire portal at the end of each marking period. Parents who wish to receive a paper copy of their child's report card, should send in a written request.

Promotion Requirements *See Board Policy –A passing grade is defined as earning a D- or higher as a final grade for that subject area. A student in the middle school may be retained if he/she fails two or more academic subjects, which include Math, Reading, Social Studies, Science, and Language Arts. If a student fails one or more of these subjects, the student may be required to make up the subject in order to progress to the next level.

Sapphire Community Web Portal

Southern Lehigh School District uses the Sapphire Community Web Portal to provide parents/guardians access to student's grades and attendance information via the internet and is currently available for grades 4-12. Parents who would like access to the

portal may go on to the District website at slds.org and click the link under the Parent tab for the Sapphire Community Web Portal. <http://southernlehigh-sapphire.k12system.com/CommunityWebPortal/Public/DistrictCheck.cfm>

Schedule Change Policy

Parents and Students make selections for the following year's courses during the spring of each year. Any errors, conflicts, or additions to a student's schedule will be resolved as soon as possible.

However, the following guidelines must be followed for other schedule changes requested after **July 1st**:

1. A parent must contact the guidance office concerning the request, either by phone, email or letter.
2. Marking period classes will not be changed /dropped after the second Friday in September
3. Full year courses will not be changed/dropped after the last instruction day in September.

Grade Floor Policy

A grade floor is in place for marking periods 1, 2, and 3. The minimum grade a student can earn in these marking periods is 50%. A comment will be made on the report card, signifying that the grade floor is in use. For the marking period 4, midterm exam and final exam, the grade floor will NOT be used; the student's grade percentage will be used.

Scholastic Honors Information

To recognize those students who have accomplished a high standard of academic performance, the following

"Scholastic Honors" system has been established. Recognition will be given each rating period to students who meet these scholastic standards.

Honors - a student shall attain a 3.25 average in all subjects including Exploratory Arts. (no Ds, Fs, or I's in any subject are permitted).

High Honors - a student shall attain a 3.5 average in all subjects including Exploratory Arts. (no Ds, Fs, or I's in any subject are permitted).

Principal's List - a student shall attain a 4.0 average in all subjects, including Exploratory Arts

National Junior Honor Society

At Southern Lehigh Middle School, we have an active chapter of The National Junior Honor Society for our 8th grade students. This organization promotes recognition for students who reflect outstanding accomplishments in the areas of **scholarship, character, leadership, and service**. The NJHS member exhibits academic achievement (Cumulative GPA of 3.8 or higher), leadership, honorable and admirable character, citizenship, and service that demonstrates the member is willing to use his or her talents and skills for the improvement of society. It is both a privilege and a responsibility to be selected to participate in the National Junior Honor Society.

Seventh grade students are invited to join if their cumulative grade point

average is 3.8 or higher at the end of the third marking period.

Eighth grade students who are new to our school will need to have a 3.8 GPA from their 7th grade year in their previous school, plus demonstrate a 3.8 GPA in their 1st marking period as an SLMS student to qualify for NJHS. If both criteria are met, the student will be invited to join NJHS for the remainder of their 8th grade year.

TESTING INFORMATION

Pennsylvania System of School Assessment (PSSA) -

The purposes of the statewide assessment component of the Pennsylvania System of School Assessment include:

1. Determining the degree to which school programs enable students to achieve and exceed appropriate student learning outcomes and
2. Providing results to school districts for consideration in the development of strategic plans.

Parent/guardian requests for review of the tests are honored. For further information contact the Curriculum Coordinator at 610-282-3121 ext. 5400.

Student Expense Information Cafeteria Procedures

Students can purchase lunch in one of two ways: cash can be used at the time of purchase, or an account can be established for the student. The parent may deposit money into the student's account and an ID card will then be used to debit the account. If necessary, students may borrow lunch money from the cafeteria cashier. When borrowing

lunch money, students must present their student ID card to the cashier. Students are expected to pay back debts **within 5 days**. Students should not ask teachers to borrow lunch money. Debts that are overdue will receive a notice from the cafeteria.

Financial Obligations

Financial obligations that a student could incur would include shop bills, borrowing of lunch money, damage to school property, etc. Students who fail to meet their financial obligations within the time frame announced at the close of each marking period may be required to serve detention.

Family and Consumer Sciences

Foods are provided from school district funds.

Physical Education

Every student is required to wear gym clothes and sneakers. Standard "uniform" is a gray or white T-shirt and blue shorts, provided by the student. A gym lock and locker will be issued to each student. All body piercings and jewelry must be removed prior to participation and shoulder length hair must be tied back. A medical note from a doctor is required when an injury or illness excludes participation in class. One parent note dismissing a student from class is permitted per year.

Student Insurance*See Board Policy

Through a group plan, accident insurance is available to all students at

a low cost. Students are encouraged to take advantage of this service. All students involved in the middle school athletic sports and intramural programs are required to either purchase the student insurance or have a parent sign an insurance waiver indicating that they are insured in a manner satisfactory to them. The cost of the insurance and filing of claims is the responsibility of the individual student and parent. Insurance forms are available in the school office and can only be purchased at the beginning of the year.

Field Trips

Field trips throughout the year may require an additional expense to students. Parents or students with concerns about payment for field trips should contact the school office.

Books, Calculators, School Property

Students are given books to use during the school year. They remain property of the school and students are responsible for their care. Students will be assessed for any damages or loss to schoolbooks, calculators, computers, or other school property.

☞ School Procedures

Student Emergency Information

In case of an emergency, it is extremely important that all demographic information be current. Student demographic information can now be updated through the Sapphire portal.

Visitors and Building Access

For security purposes, the middle school doors are locked during the instructional day (7:45 a.m. through 2:30 p.m.). Visitors may enter our school via the lobby doors by “buzzing” into the office. A secretary will assist you. All guests are asked to state their purpose, sign in, and wear a visitor’s pass.

Morning Arrival/Homeroom Procedures

Upon arrival in the morning, students are to wait in the designated area until 7:32 a.m., at which time students are to report to their lockers and then directly to homeroom. Students arriving after 7:32 a.m. are to report to their lockers and then directly to homeroom. Students arriving after 7:45 a.m. must report to the **tardy desk** for a late pass to class. If the **tardy desk** is closed, students should report to the office. Students desiring to go to other areas of the building for approved business must get a homeroom pass. Students should take care of all office business (getting forms, paying debts, reporting early dismissals, etc.) before and during homeroom.

- **Students are not permitted to carry containers of food or beverage into the building. Open containers are permitted in the cafeteria only.**

- **All cellular devices must be turned off when entering the building.**

Parent Pick Up Procedures

Parents who wish to pick up their students at the end of the day should send a note in with their student to give to their homeroom teacher. Students who are scheduled for parent pick up at the end of the day are permitted to leave school at the 2:35 bell.

Permission For Early Dismissal

Regular medical and dental care appointments should be arranged so they do not conflict with school hours; however, the principal may permit students to have medical and dental appointments on school time if absolutely necessary.

A parent/guardian **written request** that the student be permitted to leave school must be presented to the office secretary before or during the homeroom period that morning. Early dismissal slips are then given to the student before the start of school and is to be signed by the teachers from whose class the student will be absent. The student must then report to the office at the appropriate time and return the slip before leaving the building. Parents are to meet students in the office and sign out with a secretary.

Library

The library program is designed to encourage student growth, create confident researchers and lifelong learners. Students use the middle school library for a variety of reasons; to learn the skills required to use library resources

efficiently, to apply library skills in the academic/arts areas, and to find the right book for personal reading pleasure.

Books and magazines/journals are available in a wide range of interest and reading levels for research and leisure reading. Materials may also be borrowed from other PA libraries through the ACCESS PA resource-sharing program.

Online resources for students include: Destiny Quest, ACCESS Power, Electric Library, Overdrive, Gale Virtual Reference Library, Book Exchange Wiki, SIRS Knowledge Source, Study Island, World Book Online, Newsela, BrainPop, Canvas, Discovery Education, Global Issues in Context, Opposing Viewpoints in Context, and US History in Context. Many of these resources are also available to students from home.

The library offers the following exciting technologies: 18 kindles, 100 playaways (mp3 books), flash drives, flip cameras, digital cameras, tripods, MacBook chargers and SLR digital cameras.

Technology

The Middle School is now a 1:1 environment, providing each student and teacher with a MacBook Air laptop for individual use. Students who have purchased insurance and have parent permission may take their laptop home for education purposes. The Middle School also provides the following technology tools for students/teachers: 1 computer lab, LCD projectors in every classroom,

Redcat sound systems in every classroom, document cameras and Apple TV's in many classrooms, 2 Flip camera classroom sets, 2 videoconferencing units, green/blue screens, 60 Bamboo writing tablets, podcasting microphones, and a classroom set of handheld GPS units.

Applications provided include:

Microsoft Office, iLife, and iWorks suites. Students are also provided a Google for Education account, which provides unlimited online storage and access to internal email.

Students utilizing technology are expected to:

- Be responsible and comply with the SLSD Acceptable Use Policy
- Use secure account passwords and keep them confidential
- Bring their laptop fully charged to school each day
- Carefully transport their laptop throughout the day
- Know the whereabouts of their laptop at all times

Student Passes

Student passes are provided on each agenda page, which allows teachers to see the student's history of the day; this may influence a teacher's decision if they will allow the student to leave their class. Passes and agendas are non-transferable. The student is required to get a teacher signature before leaving the area in which he/she is scheduled to be present.

Lateness to Class

Students are expected to be in class when teams have indicated the start of their instructional block. If a student has a legitimate excuse for lateness, he/she must obtain a signed note from the responsible staff member. This note should be given to the teacher whose class the student is reporting to.

Fire and Emergency Drills

Students should become familiar with fire exit routes from each of their classes. During a fire drill, students will leave the classroom in a quiet, orderly manner. The route and exit is designated on the fire exit sign. In the event of a building evacuation requiring another site, students are required to remain with their assigned class under teacher supervision. Orderly, cooperative and calm behavior is required for safety.

Telephone Use

The public telephones are for student use before and after school hours. In cases of illness or emergency, students should go to the nurse or office before calling home. Students **will not** be excused from class to make or receive a call. Social arrangements should be made **before** coming to school. Phone calls seeking parent permission to accompany a friend home that afternoon is not considered an emergency.

Students will be permitted to use the office phone for important phone calls between the hours of 7:30 a.m.

through 8:00 a.m., during the first 10 minutes of their lunch periods, and 2:00 p.m. through 2:30 p.m.

Accidents and Injuries Information

If a student becomes ill, involved in an accident, or injured, they should immediately tell the teacher/adult in charge. This is necessary so that the responsible adult may decide what action should be taken. This is also necessary in order to file school insurance claims. *See Board Policy

Attendance Information and Rules

A parent may report a student absent by calling the school. Please leave a voice mail on the attendance line (610-282-3700 selection #1).

So that students can get the most from each school day and to limit interruptions, students are expected to arrive to school on time. If students are late, they must report to the **tardy desk** or the main office before attending class. Each time a student accumulates three lates to school, he or she will serve one after school detention, and may receive further consequences through the discipline code.

If students have been absent from school, they must return a parental excuse for their absence upon their return; State law requires a written excuse. Blank absentee forms are provided by the homeroom teachers. Usually, this excuse blank from a parent is sufficient; however, if a student is absent for 10 days or more, an excuse from a family physician may be required for each absence. Failure to submit an excuse from a family physician at this point will

be documented as an unexcused and illegal absence(s). **These procedures are in accordance with Pennsylvania's Compulsory Attendance Requirements (24 PS 13-1327)**

As described in the school code, excuses will be labeled as:

Excused Absences

1. Illness
2. Quarantine
3. Death in the immediate family
4. Funeral attendance
5. Religious holiday
6. Educational travel (approved in writing in advance by the principal and/or assistant principal.)

Educational trip request forms are available in the Middle School office and online. It is the responsibility of the student to make up all work and tested missed due to and educational absence.

Unexcused - Unlawful

1. Truancy
2. Parental neglect
3. Missed bus
4. Slept in

When a student is charged with three (3) days of unlawful absence, the parents are liable to legal action under the laws of the State of Pennsylvania. The three-day period shall not be interpreted to mean that students are entitled to three days of illegal absence, even one-half is breaking the law.

Unexcused – Lawful

A student suspended from school is charged with an unexcused but lawful absence.

Closing Of School Information

When it becomes necessary to close the schools of Southern Lehigh School District, several mediums are used to communicate the information to our community. The District uses **Blackboard Connect**, an automated alert system for important community announcements. This system enables the District to send voice, email and text notifications to select numbers and email addresses provided by parents. Parent should update their information as needed in their Blackboard account <http://www.slsd.org/parents.cfm?subpage=430888>.

The District also alerts the local television and radio stations to make broadcasts. Among the first stations announcing school closings are WAEB - 790, WHOL - 1600, WGPA - 1100, WKAP - 1320, WSAN - 1470, WFMZ - 2101, WEEX - 1230, Q-100, WLEV - 96. The District web page will be updated to relay this information, and phone and email notification will occur for those who participate. All after school activities are cancelled when school has been closed due to weather conditions. This practice is also followed with early dismissals due to inclement weather. Information will also be available on the district website www.slsd.org.

Alternate Busing

Students who wish to board a bus other than the one they are assigned to must obtain a special bus pass prior to requesting permission. The forms are available at each school and on the District website, www.slsd.org. This bus pass must be **completed and signed by a parent/guardian** before the office can approve it and must be submitted at the bus table before or during homeroom.

Keep in mind that buses are on scheduled routes; therefore, a situation may occur when a student's request may not be granted.

Student Transfer and Withdrawal Information *See Board Policy

Parents should notify the school of a pending transfer and/or withdrawal of a child. Please contact Southern Lehigh Middle School two or more days in advance of the withdrawal. After receiving notification, a withdrawal authorization can be prepared and student obligations (school equipment and book return) can be resolved prior to leaving. The student's permanent record, as well as reading and standardized test scores, will be sent upon receipt of a student transfer card from the new school.

Special Deliveries

Parents often deliver forgotten student needs (lunch money, homework, etc.) during the school day. Students will be paged in

between classes to retrieve items dropped off in the school office.

Lost And Found

Students are expected to assume the responsibility of caring for their own possessions, and are advised to keep expensive, valuable items at home. A Lost and Found area is outside of the cafeteria and should be checked regularly for lost items. Consult with office secretaries for valuables such as watches, purses, and jewelry. Personal belongings such as purses, wallets and monies should be kept with each individual student at all times. Never place valuable items in areas of open access.

Working Papers Information

Students wishing to acquire working papers must accompany a parent or guardian to the Southern Lehigh High School Guidance Office (610-282-4546) and present some type of proof of age, such as a birth certificate.

Bicycles

Bus transportation is provided for all middle school students. Because of the highway and personal safety hazards involved, students are not encouraged to ride their bicycles to school. Those parents who permit their children to ride their bikes to school should note that the school is not responsible for loss or damage to the bike or accessories. A letter should be on file in the main office that verifies permission from a parent/guardian for a student to ride their bike to school. Student bikes should be parked in the rear of the building by the fence that surrounds the track and

stadium. Students must provide their own locks and/or chains if desired.

Administration reserves the right to deny this privilege in cases of unsafe practices on or around school property.

Parental Transportation

Parents who bring their children to school should do so at the designated pick up/drop off area located along the curb in the **rear** parking lot of the building. This practice prevents students from crossing in front of the buses and among cars moving in and out of the parking lot. Students should enter the building through the doors near Room 138. Pay attention to posted signs, and to custodial staff who will direct you through these procedures. Parents, please be aware of pedestrian traffic in the rear parking lot. **Please yield to afternoon bus traffic as they adhere to their schedule.**

Homework Request

If a student is absent for 1-2 days, please have the student utilize their own sources for attaining missed assignments.

If a student is absent **2 or more days**, call the student absence line, choose #1, and provide the following information to voicemail:

- Student name
- Reason for absence
- Student's teaching team
- Dates that homework is requested for

-Date and time when work will be picked up; keep in mind that **you must allow 24 hours for requests to be completed.**

- Pick up work in the guidance office
- If you have arranged for work to go home with another student, be sure you have notified that student.

Voice Mail

Middle School faculty and staff can receive messages directly through voice mail. When the office is contacted the caller will be directed to the building menu from which you can select the desired extension.

Email

Middle School faculty and staff can receive messages directly via email. Teacher email addresses can be found through the staff directory on the District website or on their teacher webpage.

Lockers and Desks

Hall, gym lockers and desks will be assigned to students. These are to be kept neat and orderly. Both lockers and desks are the property of the Southern Lehigh School District and may be opened and/or searched by authorized school district personnel (refer to Board Policy regarding Searches pg. 2). Please use discretion with the amount of money and/or valuable items that are carried by students. Students are urged to keep electronic equipment such as cell phones, ipods, mp3 players and other valuables at home. To prevent personal belongings from being stolen, lockers should be kept locked at all times. **Southern Lehigh**

School District does not assume responsibility for lost or stolen items.

Students should not disclose their personal combination to other students and may not share lockers.

Locker Procedures

Students may go to their lockers before homeroom and at team designated times. Teachers may allow students at their lockers during the day, but must issue a pass.

STEM Safety Standards

All students and observers are to wear approved safety goggles and footwear in the STEM lab. Shoulder length hair must be pulled back and all shirts and blouses must be tucked in. In addition, students are given further safety instructions as an introduction to each unit. These safety rules are to be observed at all times.

Physical Education Safety Standards

Due to the potential safety hazards involved with the misuses of physical education equipment, students are not permitted to use equipment unless they have been given direct permission of the instructor, and are under his/her immediate supervision. Physical Education safety instruction is given at the beginning of each unit. Failure to comply with these safety rules will result in a disciplinary referral to the administration.

Student Activities

Student Council

The Student Council of Southern Lehigh Middle School is a strong organization of elected student representatives. The council's main goal is to establish itself as an effective student voice in developing a healthy school atmosphere both academically and socially.

The council serves the school and the student body in many capacities. It helps to:

1. Provide varied social functions,
2. Act as a connecting link between administration and the student body,
3. Sponsor various activities and promotions to provide an interesting and functional school environment,
4. Maintain a harmonious school atmosphere, and
5. Guide the student body in acceptable school roles.

Dances

School dances sponsored by the Student Council are designed for enrolled students and are not open to the general public. Unless otherwise stated, all school dances will start at 7:00 p.m. and promptly end at 9:00 p.m. Parents are reminded to pick up children at 9:00 p.m. promptly.

The Student Council has the responsibility of approving fund raising projects and solicitation for funds with the approval of the building principal.

School Store

The school store is operated to provide students with the opportunity to purchase necessary school supplies such as paper, pencils, notebooks, etc. School

spirit items are also on sale. Items are sold at prices close to cost. The school store is open from 7:40 a.m. until 7:55 a.m. Monday – Wednesday-Friday. Students should get a pass from their homeroom teacher if they wish to go to the school store.

Intramural Programs

Many Extra-Curricular activities are held after school. Students may sign up for and participate in any activity offered. A listing of activities is provided on page 2.

Sports/ Athletics

The Middle School offers an increasing number of interscholastic sports programs. Each season, students may try out for a chosen sport. Students selected play a limited series of games both at home and away against teams from other area schools.

Students participating either as players or as spectators in an athletic event involving our school are accountable to the school for their conduct. They should always display good sportsmanship, courtesy, and respect to reflect credit upon our school.

Southern Lehigh Middle School is a member of the Pennsylvania Interscholastic Athletic Association and the Colonial League. Bangor, Catasauqua, Moravian Academy, Northern Lehigh, Northwestern, Notre Dame, Palisades, Palmerton, Pen Argyl, Salisbury, Saucon Valley, Southern Lehigh and Wilson are members of the Colonial League. As

such, we must adhere to the rules and regulations thereof.

Before participating in any athletic activity, practice or contest, the student must turn in an insurance waiver and parental permission form. The athlete must pass a physical examination by a licensed physician. If the examination is completed by the school physician, a fee will be charged. The coach and the school administration reserve the right to determine the eligibility for participation.

Hazing

The practice of hazing in connection with any District sport, club or activity sponsored by or affiliated in any way with the Southern Lehigh School District is strictly forbidden.

Music Program

Concert Band - Concert Band is open to all students in seventh through eighth grades as a graded course 717 or 718. At least two or more years of experience are necessary for membership in this group. Six to eight weeks before each performance students will have required after-school rehearsals on Thursdays.

Students also meet in like-instrument groups every three days for instrument techniques classes on school time.

String Orchestra - String students in seventh through eighth grade may participate in the String Orchestra as graded course 727 or 728. At least two years of experience are necessary for full membership. Six to eight weeks before each performance students will have required after-school rehearsals on Tuesdays.

Students also meet in like-instrument groups every three days for instrument techniques classes.

Jazz Band and Solei Fiddlers –

Membership in these two ensembles is by audition. Auditions are held at the end of December. The ensembles meet once a week before or after school during the spring semester.

Southern Lehigh Middle School

Chorus - Membership is open to all 7th and 8th grade students (register for graded course 737 or 738). Small group classes will meet every third day throughout the school year.

Attendance is required at large group rehearsals held each Tuesday during Activity Period. Students enrolled in Concert Band may choose to participate in SLMS Chorus.

Attendance is also required at after-school rehearsals on Mondays from 2:45-4:00 pm beginning 6-8 weeks before the Winter and Spring Concerts.

Spartan Chorale - This choral group is an auditioned small ensemble.

Membership is open to SLMS Chorus and String Orchestra participants.

Singers will be invited to audition for this select group at the start of each semester. Attendance is required at large group rehearsals held each Thursday during Activity Period.

Requirements for Participation in Extra-curricular Activities and Athletics

1. In order for a student to participate in any athletic or extra-curricular activity, including practice, he/she must be in

attendance at school before 9:00 a.m. on the day of the activity. Pre-approved educational trips and medical/dental appointments are exceptions to this rule. A student who is absent from school may attend an activity as a spectator if the activity is open to the public.

2. If the student has a doctor's appointment first thing in the morning, they need a doctor's excuse when coming into school and signing in at the office.
3. If the student has a doctor's appointment later in the day, and can at least attend first period, the student should report to school on time.
4. A student who is out of school on suspension is not eligible to participate in school activities from the time the disciplinary action starts through the suspension and probation period.
5. A student who is failing two or more subjects may not participate. Failing students will be reported on a weekly basis by the faculty. A student will remain ineligible until a teacher verifies that he/she is no longer failing more than one course. **All courses taken are included in the evaluation.**
6. If there is any other reason that the student will not be attending the full day of school, please call 610-282-3700. A student who is absent from school may attend an activity as a spectator if the activity is open to the public.

Health Curriculum

Our health curriculum contains units on human sexuality, sexual abuse and AIDS. Should you have any questions or concerns about the units, please feel free to contact the guidance counselor or administration at 610-282-3700.

Adapted Physical Education Program

There is an adapted Physical Education Program available at Southern Lehigh Middle School, in addition to regular physical education classes. This program has been designed to meet the needs of those individuals who have specific physical limitations or problems for which a physician recommends specific physical education activity. This program is not designed to rehabilitate short-term injuries. Should you need additional information on the specialized program, please contact the Middle School at 610-282-3700.

Student Behavior

The goal of the Southern Lehigh Middle School is to educate each student to the best of his or her ability. To reach this goal, it is necessary that the school function within a disruption-free environment. These school rules shall govern student conduct on school property, on school buses, and at any school-sponsored event including extracurricular and co-curricular activities or while representing Southern Lehigh School District.

The primary means by which the Middle School can provide a disruption-free environment is to alleviate the causes of misbehavior in efforts to prevent its occurrence. Every attempt will be made by the Middle School administration and staff to take such steps as necessary to prevent the occurrence of misbehavior in every way possible.

Teachers will strive to solve classroom discipline problems themselves. Some interventions include: after school detention, loss of classroom privileges, parent phone notification and parent conferences.

Student Dress Guidelines

Specific types of clothing/jewelry that are not permitted in school include:

1. Coats are not to be worn during the school day.
2. Hats, caps, bandanas or other head coverings are not to be worn or displayed **at any time** in the building. Hats and head coverings should be removed upon entry into the building - this applies to male and female students. Hats or other head covering apparel worn for religious or medical reasons will be excused by the building level administration on a case by case basis.
3. Chains, wallet chains, or similar types of jewelry, which may be in violation of the Southern Lehigh School District Weapons Policy, are not to be worn in the building.
4. Gloves, belts, bracelets, necklaces, or other types of clothing that have metal spikes.

5. Clothing/jewelry that makes reference to or promotes drugs, alcohol, or tobacco use.
6. Clothing/jewelry that makes reference to or promotes cult or satanic activity.
7. Clothing/jewelry that makes reference to or promotes violence, sex, gangs or ethnic/racial prejudices.
8. Clothing/jewelry that makes reference to or promotes profanity or obscene/suggestive writing, pictures or gestures.
9. Clothing that is revealing and/or causes a disruption to the educational process, skin tight or exposes shoulders must be covered by another article of clothing. This includes leotards, see-through clothing, spaghetti straps, halter tops, tube tops, mesh sweaters, muscle shirts, half shirts, or any other type of shirt that permits bare midriffs.
10. Spandex shorts when worn alone, boxer shorts, running or biking shorts are not permitted.
11. Revealing skirts/shorts are not permitted.
12. Pants that are worn below the waist may not expose any bare skin or type of undergarments, including boxer shorts.
13. Footwear must be worn. However, slippers or shoes with cleats or wheels are not permitted.
14. Sunglasses may not be worn in the building.

Damage to School Property and Equipment

Damage to school property or equipment due to student carelessness, negligence, disobedience, or similar fault is the responsibility of the student. Charges for the repairs or replacement will be levied accordingly.

Skateboarding, Roller Blading, & Similar Uses

Skateboarding, rollerblading, and similar uses are not permissible on School District's owned property. The operation of unlicensed motor vehicles, including but not limited to, mini-bikes, snowmobiles, ATV's and similar vehicles, are not to be permitted on School District property. Licensed vehicles may be operated only on road surfaces and parking lots provided for that purpose, unless otherwise approved by the Director of Building and Grounds.

Southern Lehigh Middle School Discipline Codes

BUS CODE OF CONDUCT

Buses

It is a privilege to ride buses to school. Standards of conduct while on the bus are under the supervision of the school authorities. Bus drivers will report any cases of misconduct and the offenders will be dealt with under the School District Bus Discipline Code.

Students are expected to ride to and from school on their assigned bus and get off the bus at the assigned bus stop, unless permission has been granted to do otherwise by the building principal. If a

student misses the bus, it is the responsibility of a parent/guardian to arrange transportation.

If the temperature is below freezing, or if there is precipitation, a student may return home when the bus has not arrived within fifteen (15) minutes after its scheduled time. If the temperature is above freezing and there is no precipitation, a student should wait forty-five (45) minutes.

Purpose

Appropriate behavior on the buses, which provide transportation for students, is important for two reasons:

- First, inappropriate behavior can result in safety hazards not only for the individual student but also for other students on the bus;
- Second, socially unacceptable behavior can infringe on the rights of other individuals. This Bus Discipline Code has been developed with these two purposes in mind.

School Bus Safety Policy prohibits placing items in the aisles or area near exits. Only those items that can be held on a student's lap are permitted on the bus.

The following musical instruments and equipment are NOT permitted on a school bus:

| | | |
|--------------|-----------------|-----------|
| Trombone | Bass Drum | Marim |
| Drum Sets | Sousaphone | Tuba |
| All Bassoons | Vibraharp | Amplifier |
| String Bass | Electric Pianos | |
| Xylophone | Bass Amplifier | |

Systems Music Stands (non-foldable)

The administration of this bus discipline code will reflect the level of social maturity of the individual student. At the elementary level, disciplinary action may be tempered as appropriate to the maturity level of the child. At the secondary level, Middle School and High School, the code will be administered as written.

The use of audio/video recording devices on school buses for reasons of safety and to monitor student misconduct for disciplinary purposes has been approved by the Directors of Southern Lehigh School District has authorized the use

Appropriate behavior on the buses, which provide transportation for students, is important because inappropriate behavior can result in safety hazards for students. Additionally, socially unacceptable behavior can infringe on the rights of other individuals.

Typical infractions have been divided into five categories with corresponding levels of disciplinary action aligned with the Code of Conduct which follows this section of the handbook.

The definitions of typical infractions are listed below.

Offenses listed are typical and representative but, by no means, comprise a complete list.

Level I

1. Littering on the bus.

**See Level I Procedures pg. 23 for disciplinary action to be taken.

Level II

1. Climbing over seats.
2. Spitting.
3. Tussling.
4. Failure to comply with the reasonable request of the driver.
5. Abusive language to other students.
6. Use of water pistols or other water propellants.
7. Throwing things on the bus or out of the bus, which do not interfere with the safety on the bus.
8. Being on the wrong bus or getting on or off at the wrong stop without proper authorization.
9. Moving from seat to seat or in the aisles when the bus is in motion.

** See Level II procedures pg. 24 for disciplinary action to be taken.

Level III

1. Abusive language to the driver
2. Minor vandalism (Restitution is required.)
3. Insubordination
4. Fighting
5. Behavior in a manner which would distract the driver, such as yelling, pounding on walls, floors or ceiling of the bus.
6. Harassing or aggravating other students.
7. Possession of a lighter or matches.
8. Putting head or another part of the body outside of the bus.

** See Level III Procedures pg. 25-26 for disciplinary action to be taken.

Level IV

The following offenses represent behaviors that constitute safety concerns of a serious nature. In cases of criminal activity or serious safety concerns, the administrator in charge may suspend a student from bus privileges immediately. See Level IV procedures p. 22 for disciplinary action to be taken. These offenses include, but are not limited to, the following:

1. Hitting the driver with a thrown object or throwing an object that constitutes a safety hazard.
2. Tampering with or operating the emergency door except in cases of emergency.
3. Leaving or entering the bus via the emergency exit.
4. Behavior that constitutes a safety concern of a serious nature.
5. Smoking
6. Major Vandalism (Restitution is required)

Level V

The following offenses represent behaviors, which constitute safety concerns of a serious nature. In cases of criminal activity or serious concerns, the administrator in charge may suspend a student from bus privileges immediately. See Level V procedures p. 27 for disciplinary action to be taken. These offenses include, but are not limited to the following:

1. Consumption, sale, distribution, transfer, or being under the influence of drugs or alcohol.
2. Possession of drugs or alcohol.
3. Physical attack on the bus driver.
4. Tampering with the bus controls.
5. Possession or use of a weapon.
6. Any other violation of the Criminal Code.

For the protection and safety of all students, video and audio recording devices may be utilized on school buses. Behavior and communication of students, while riding school buses, may be used for purposes of student discipline under provisions of the School District's Bus Transportation Policy, Student Discipline Code, and the Public School Code.

Academic Honesty Policy

Rationale:

The purpose of academic honesty procedures is to foster and maintain an academically honest environment, as such, honest and accurate assessment of student achievement and progress requires honest work by each learner.

Definition:

Academic dishonesty occurs when students obtain or assist others in obtaining credit for work which is not their own.

Procedures:

At the beginning of each course, teachers will inform students of

procedures and practices related to homework, assessments, laboratory reports and class work. Teachers will guide students in understanding when collaborative efforts are appropriate.

Students are responsible for maintaining their own academic honesty and must hold themselves to the highest standards of personal and academic integrity. Work that a student submits for credit must represent the student's original thoughts and understandings. When a student wishes to borrow the thoughts and ideas of others, he/she must realize that those thoughts and ideas represent intellectual property; therefore it is the student's responsibility to properly cite their source(s). When students have a question about this policy, it is the student's responsibility to ask questions of their teacher in order to receive clarification. In addition, students should adhere to the following guidelines in order to minimize the risk for academic dishonesty:

1. Schedule an appropriate amount of time to complete work
2. Refrain from giving other students their work to copy or use
3. Ask teachers for clarification, especially with proper citations

Students must also realize that they live in a society with increasing technological advancements. As the level and capability of these technologies advance, it is important that students remain committed to academic honesty. Using technology to misrepresent one's work is considered dishonest and will be handled using the consequences listed below.

Consequences:

Administration will be fair and consistent when dealing with academic dishonesty. The consequences are cumulative in nature over all courses and are applicable during one school year. Aggravating or extreme circumstances may result in additional discipline or acceleration through the following consequences:

First Offense: Student receives a zero for the assignment. One Saturday detention is assigned and parents are notified. Student is suspended three days from extra-curricular activities.

Second Offense: Student receives a zero for the assignment. Student is suspended for 1-3 days and receives an additional 5-day suspension from all extra-curricular activities. Parents are contacted and the parents may request a conference.

Third Offense: Student is suspended for 1-3 days and receives an additional 10-day suspension from all extra-curricular activities. Parents are contacted to schedule a conference.

Examples:

Examples of academic dishonesty include, but are not limited to:

Plagiarism – Plagiarism is the act of taking and using, whether intentional or unintentional, as one's own work another's published or unpublished thoughts, ideas and/or

writings. The definition includes computer programs, drawings, artwork and all other types of work, which are not one's own. Types of plagiarism include word-for-word, mosaic (rearrangement or rewording without proper documentation) and indirect (paraphrasing without proper documentation).

Cheating

- Use of a "cheat sheet" or "crib" notes
- Copying another's assignments or homework
- Looking off another's test or quiz
- Use of unauthorized materials during an assessment or assignment
- Inappropriate collaboration
- Unauthorized use of technology (such as: cell phones, calculators, etc.)
- Removal of assessment(s) or assessment answers from a classroom in an unauthorized manner

Technology Specific Disciplinary Actions

Possible infractions have been divided into five categories with corresponding levels of disciplinary action aligned with the Code of Conduct.

The definitions of typical infractions are listed below. Offenses listed are typical and representative, but by no means, comprise a complete list.

Level I

1. The unauthorized use of computer and/or Electronic Communications Systems equipment (as defined in

policy #815 AUP) beyond the main lobby from 7:30AM- 2:30 p.m. (including after school detention and Saturday detention).

2. Failure to sign in to the network when using a laptop.
3. Abuse of computer equipment.
4. Revealing personal account and password information to others.
5. Failure to properly secure school district issued laptops throughout the school day.
6. Possession of a cellular phone or other electronic device during the school day

Level II

1. Attempting to circumvent network firewall and/or network filtering.
2. Using a laptop that was not assigned to the student in class.
3. Signing in to the network using someone else's ID and password.
4. The use of a cellular phone or other electronic device or having a cellular phone turned on during the school day. This includes text messaging.

5. Playing games on the internet.
6. Using school district devices for non-educational or disruptive purposes. (playing games, music, taking photographs)
7. Misuse of student email accounts. This includes but is not limited to the sending and receiving of inappropriate messages on school district issued laptops.

Level III

1. Interfere with, damage, modify in an unauthorized manner or disrupt computer or network users, services or equipment.
2. Loading or installing software.
3. Possession of pager/beeper by a student at school or any school activity is illegal.*
4. Circumventing the network firewall and network filtering.

***NOTE:** These items will be held by an Administrator and returned to a parent. Exceptions include any student who serves as a volunteer fireman/ambulance person, family emergencies/illness and has prior approval by an administrator.

Level IV

1. Circumventing the network firewall or network filtering and interfering with the operation of the computers, the

network or the school's Internet connection.

2. Attempting to acquire materials that include but not limited to libelous, obscene, pornographic, promote the use of violence, contain personally embarrassing private information unrelated to any proper educational or public purpose, contain defamatory or untrue statements damaging the reputation of any student or staff member, or contain abusive or prejudicial content.
3. Use of a media device to tape or record a student or teacher without prior consent.

Level V

1. Participate in the acquisition, creation or distribution of but not limited to advertising, computer "worms" or "viruses", "chain letters", "spam" or other messages/files which could cause congestion, interference or failure of the system or any computing equipment, whether attached to the system or not.
2. Creating, viewing, storing or transferring materials that include but are not limited to libelous, obscene, pornographic, promote the use of violence, contain personally embarrassing private information unrelated to any proper educational or public purpose, contain defamatory or

untrue statements damaging the reputation of any student or staff member, or contain abusive or prejudicial content.

Bullying

Bullying means an intentional electronic, written, verbal or physical act or series of acts directed at another student or students, which occurs in a school setting and/or outside a school setting, that is severe, persistent or pervasive and has the effect of doing any of the following:

1. Substantial interference with a student's education.
2. Creation of a threatening environment.
3. Substantial disruption of the orderly operation of the school.

Bullying, as defined in this policy, includes direct, indirect, or cyber bullying.

Direct bullying - A negative action when somebody hits, pushes, kicks, pinches, or restrains another by physical contact. Direct bullying can also be carried out by words (verbally), by threatening, taunting, teasing, and calling names.

Indirect bullying - Making faces or dirty gestures, intentionally excluding someone from a group, spreading rumors, or refusing to comply with another person's wishes.

Cyber-bullying - Using electronic device mediums such as but not limited to computers, cell phones and pagers to bully others through methods such as posting comments or pictures on blogs or

websites, text messaging, instant messaging and email. This cyber-bullying behavior is not to be confused with terroristic threats, which can be communicated through similar methods.

Each student shall be responsible to respect the rights of others and to ensure an atmosphere free from bullying. A student who violates this policy shall be subject to appropriate disciplinary action consistent with the School Code of Conduct as stated in the Student Handbook, which may include:

- Counseling within the school.
- Parental conference.
- Loss of school privileges.
- Transfer to another school building, classroom or school bus.
- Exclusion from school-sponsored activities.
- Detention.
- Suspension.
- Expulsion.
- Counseling/Therapy outside of school.
- Referral to law enforcement officials.

SCHOOL CODE OF CONDUCT

All Middle School teachers will enforce school rules in the halls, lavatories, and other less directly supervised areas. A standard utilization of the discipline code in these areas will give uniformity to student expectations in these less directly supervised areas.

When a teacher's classroom disciplinary methods are ineffective and in cases when student misconduct occurs in halls, lavatories, and other less directly supervised areas, the Middle School Discipline Code will be utilized.

The discipline code frames and defines examples of misconduct and assigns points/consequences for inappropriate actions. The primary purpose of our discipline system is the education of the student.

The following listing of definitions and examples are not all-inclusive or encompassing. Student behavior is unique and individual; therefore, no list can be all encompassing. The following are put forth as examples in order to give students and parents a clear idea of both appropriate and inappropriate behavior of students.

LEVEL I

1.0 Poor Judgment – Student displays lack of good judgment without malice.

1.1 Fooling Around - Bodily contact with another person in a jesting manner (stepping on other's heels, knocking people's books down, spit balls, etc.).

1.2 Late- Arrival to any assigned place late (late to class or late to school). Late to school will apply when a late to school excuse is not provided by the parent, or when tardiness occurs frequently.

1.3 Spitting - Spitting water or any substance on or around school property.

1.4 Littering -The intentional or unintentional dropping/throwing of items, when student fails to clean it up.

1.5 Boisterous Behavior - Overly loud or obnoxious acts or sounds (yelling in the halls).

1.6 Running - Anything other than natural walking in the building or on school grounds.

1.7 Gum Chewing - No gum chewing or eating candy.

1.8 Possession of Food/Drink – Possession of food/drink outside the cafeteria.

1.9 Possession of Electronic - Possession of any electronic device during the school day without permission. (iPod, iPad, cell phone etc.)

1.10 Equipment Negligence -failure to properly secure school district issued laptops throughout the school day.

LEVEL I PROCEDURES

Level I misbehaviors are offenses which will be handled by individual teachers and/or team of teachers.

It is the responsibility of the referring adult to prepare a discipline referral and, when instructed by the administration, to call the parent/guardian and make them aware of the situation. If attempts to reach parents at home or at work by phone are not successful, teachers may send a letter or email describing the difficulty and request parental contact.

DISCIPLINE

Teachers will strive to solve classroom discipline problems

themselves. Some interventions include: after school detention, loss of classroom privileges, parent phone notification and parent conferences.

Persistent Level I offenses will be discussed with the Assistant Principal, and a joint decision will be made to handle the situation. If a Level I referral is written, the parent/guardian will receive written notification of the offense.

- a. Each Level I written referral to the office will result in 1 demerit.
- b. Accumulation of 4 referral/demerits advances the student to a Level II offense.

LEVEL II

2.0 Non-Compliance of Directions – Failure to comply with procedures or directions.

2.1 Cafeteria Misconduct- Failure to follow posted behavior expectations.

2.2 Tussling - Shoving, pushing, tripping, or grabbing another student.

2.3 No Pass - A student must have a pass at all times except at class passing times. A student has the responsibility of securing a pass from the teacher. (Student leaves room with teacher permission but does not take pass.)

2.4 Loitering - The unassigned use of an area (roaming the halls, cutting across the cafeteria or prolonged stays in the lavatory, violation of the locker policy.)

2.5 Projectiles – Throwing any object(s) (food, paper, snowballs, rubber bands, coins, etc.)

2.6 Detention Skipping - Failure to be present at assigned detention.

2.7 Disruption - Words, actions, and/or non-compliance with directions, which cause interference with the normal classroom routine and/or school routine.

2.8 Non-Completion of a Disciplinary Assignment – Failure to complete, in an accurate or prescribed manner, any assignment resulting from a disciplinary incident.

2.9 Non-Compliance with Probation Procedures – Failure to follow probation procedures.

2.10 Public Displays of Affection
Affectionate interactions between students are not permitted at the middle school.

2.11 Inappropriate Attire – Refer to student dress guidelines.

2.12 Use of Electronic Device – Use of any electronic device during the school day without permission. (iPod, iPad, cell phone etc.)

2.13 Misuse of School District Issued Laptop – any violation of the school district’s acceptable use policy.

LEVEL II PROCEDURES

Level II misbehaviors are offenses which will be handled by individual teachers and/or teams of teachers. Persistent offenses and offenses that are deemed a safety issue will be dealt with by a joint effort of the referring teacher and the Assistant Principal. When a Level II offense occurs that warrants a written

discipline referral, the following steps will be followed:

1. The Assistant Principal shall counsel with each student referred for a Level II offense. The purpose of this counseling shall be to:

- (a) make the student aware of the seriousness of an office referral and the student's place in regard to the discipline code;
- (b) cause the student to understand the reason for the referral;
- (c) cause the student to plan courses of behavior which will prevent further office referrals;
- (d) determine if any parental or professional referrals might be necessary to aid the student to modify his or her behavior.

2. The teacher and/or the Assistant Principal will notify Parents/guardians.

3. Each office referral for a Level II misbehavior will result in the crediting of two points to the student's discipline record.

4. Each accumulation of four Level I points shall also result in the student being credited with one Level II offense.

5. Each sequence of three Level II offenses will result in a Level III offense.

DISCIPLINE

- A. Each Level II offense will result in one after school detention and 2 demerits.

- B. Accumulation of three Level II offenses (6 demerits) will result in a Saturday Detention and advances the student to a Level III offense

LEVEL III

3.1 Petty Vandalism - Vandalism that has no permanently damaging effects, or creates no excessive mess.

3.2 Aggressive Physical Contact – Hitting, punching, kicking, slapping or bullying another student.

3.3 Disobedience – Refusing to follow directions or procedures.

3.4 Improper Language – Written/Verbal cursing, derogatory remarks, vulgarities, or inappropriate gestures.

3.5 Forging Signatures - Signing or causing to be signed any unauthorized signature, signing any document with a signature other than one's own.

3.6 Disrespect - Socially unacceptable words or actions directed toward another individual(s) (to include mumbling remarks under a student's breath).

3.7 Skipping Class - Non-attendance to an assigned area, using a pass for other than designated reasons, leaving a classroom without permission of the teacher.

3.8 Harassment of Others - Any violation of another student's rights (improper oral and/or written communication, physical contact, or mishandling of other people's property).

3.9 Aiding and Abetting - Encouraging, assisting, or covering up inappropriate behavior.

3.10 Safety Concern - Thoughtless acts that could endanger one's self or others.

3.11 Lying - Deliberately providing incorrect information.

3.12 Disorderly Conduct – Outbursts of misbehavior of a serious nature involving a disturbance of public peace and decorum.

3.13 Possession of Inappropriate Material- Possession of tobacco products, lighters, e-cigarettes, suggestive material (pornographic magazines, pictures), "whoopie cushions", etc.

3.14 Unauthorized Sale/Distribution of Materials/Products - Selling candy, food, or other materials/products in school for personal gain without prior approval from school personnel.

3.16 Saturday Detention - Failure to be present, and/or cooperative during Saturday morning detention.

3.17 Minor Theft - Unauthorized removal, concealment, possession, or use of property other than one's own. Item did not leave school property and was returned undamaged.

3.18 Bullying - A student is being bullied or victimized when he or she is exposed, repeatedly and over time, to negative actions on the part of one or more other students. It is a negative action when someone intentionally inflicts, or attempts to inflict, injury or discomfort upon another (see PDE definition of

bullying, pg. 24). Depending on the degree of the offense and amount of time it has existed, this may advance to a Level IV offense, similar to harassment.

3.19 Destruction of School Property – actions that lead to the damage or destruction of school district property. These actions can result in restitution to the school district for the destroyed property.

LEVEL III PROCEDURES

Level III misbehaviors are considered to be progressively serious offenses. Level III offenses shall be treated in the following manner:

1. Classroom teachers will be required to phone parents concerning referrals from the classroom, assembly programs, bus duty or cafeteria duty for Level III offenses. Referring teachers may, and in all probability will, be asked to write a statement describing the circumstances. Teachers may be asked to be present at parent conferences, hearings, or other meetings concerning Level III offenses.
2. Each accumulation of three Level II offenses shall also result in the student being credited with one Level III offense.
3. Each sequence of two Level III offenses shall result in movement of a student to Level IV.

DISCIPLINE

- A. A Level III offense will result in 4 demerits and one Saturday Detention.
- B. The second Level III offense will result in 4 demerits, two (2) Saturday Detentions, an in-school suspension, or an out-of-school suspension, at the discretion of the administration.
- C. Accumulation of 12 demerits will result in three (3) Saturday Detentions or two days out-of-school suspension, at the discretion of the administration.
- D. Accumulation of five (5) Level III offenses (20 demerits) will advance the student to a Level IV offense.

LEVEL IV

4.1 Theft - Unauthorized removal, concealment, possession, or use of valuable property other than one's own to include library and textbooks not properly signed out. Item was removed from school property.

4.2 Fighting/Assault - Bodily contact which does or has the potential to cause bodily injury. Under extenuating circumstances, self-defense may be justified as determined by the administration after a thorough investigation.

4.3 Vandalism - Vandalism that has permanently damaging effect, creates an excessive mess, is of a socially unacceptable nature, or destruction of property that results from misbehavior.

4.4 Contraband Materials - Use, possession, or sale of materials, which are dangerous to the health, safety, and/or welfare of the school society, or have that potential.

4.5 Insubordination and/or Abusive Language - A belligerent and/or abusive act or statement directed at any employee of the school district. It is not simple refusal but aggressive, insulting, profane, disruptive verbal or written abuse.

4.6 Smoking - A student lighting a cigarette, in possession of a lit cigarette, in possession of/using an e-cigarette, in the process of disposing of a lit cigarette, and/or in the process of exhaling smoke on school property (buildings, grounds, etc.) or on a school sanctioned trip.*See Board Policy

4.7 Safety - Actions that endanger the health, safety, and/or welfare of the individual student or others, failing to comply with established safety procedures and regulations, or use of physical education equipment without teacher supervision or direction.

4.8 Harassment/Bullying of Others - A serious violation of another student's or staff members rights (physical, sexual and/or verbal harassment, online harassment and/or bullying, serious mishandling other person's property, intimidation of other students, and/or threats).

4.9 Misuse of the Internet – Printing and distributing suggestive material,

such as pornography, downloaded from the Internet, circumventing the district firewall and filtering system, interfering with computing equipment and district system. *See Board Policy

4.10 Implied/Suggestive Threats – Drawings, oral communications, or writing which indicate violent acts.

4.11 Willful Destruction of School Property – intentional destruction of school district property. Restitution will result from actions that intentionally damage or destroy school property.

LEVEL IV PROCEDURES and DISCIPLINE

Level IV misbehaviors are considered major offenses. Level IV offenses shall be treated in the following manner:

1. The first Level IV violation will result in 20 demerits and 1-3 days out of school suspension, and 20 days probation.
2. The second Level IV violation will result in 20 demerits and 3-5 days out-of-school suspension, and 25 days probation. A parent conference with administrators will be held to conduct an informal and/or formal hearing per due process guidelines.
3. Each subsequent Level IV violation will result in 20 demerits and 5-10 days out-of-school suspension, and 30 days probation. A parent conference with administrators will be held to conduct an informal and/or formal hearing per due process guidelines.
4. Notwithstanding anything contained above, the administration, in its absolute discretion, may accelerate

any of the foregoing offenses from Level IV to Level V and recommend referral for an expulsion hearing due to aggravating circumstances or the seriousness of the offense.

LEVEL V

- 5.1 Controlled Substance - Possession, use, transfer, or sale of drugs, alcohol, or drug related material or paraphernalia. *See Board Policy.
- 5.2 Weapons – Possession of weapon(s). *See Board Policy
- 5.3 Possession of Look-Alike Drugs/Weapons/Explosive Devices - *See Board Policy
- 5.4 Arson - Starting or assisting in igniting a fire.
- 5.5 Setting off the Fire Alarm – Accidental or intentional tripping of fire alarm system.
- 5.6 Assault on a School District Employee – Any physical attack against a school district employee.
- 5.7 Extortion – Obtaining property, money, or information from another by coercion or intimidation.
- 5.8 Indecent Exposure – A lewd display offensive to public moral values.
- 5.9 Terroristic Threats – Any threat of harm or violence directed to an individual or the school entity.
- Whenever the behavior of a student threatens the health, safety, and/or

welfare of school students and/or employees, the police will be notified.

5.10 Any other Violation of the Criminal Code

Whenever the behavior of a student is in violation of the criminal code, the police will be contacted.

LEVEL V PROCEDURES and DISCIPLINE

Level V misbehaviors are considered severe offenses.

1. The first Level V violation will result in 50 demerits and 5-10 days out-of-school suspension (5.1 **Controlled Substance** minimal 10 days out-of-school suspension), and 35 days probation. A parent conference with administrators to conduct an informal and/or formal hearing per due process guidelines, and a possible expulsion hearing.
2. Each subsequent Level V violation will result in 50 demerits and ten (10) days out-of-school suspension, and 40 days probation. A parent conference with administrators to conduct an informal and/or formal hearing per due process guidelines, and a possible expulsion hearing.

The entire Code of Conduct applies anywhere on the School District property (inside and outside the building). It also applies to all school activities (on or off school property). Examples include athletic events, field trips, class trips, and dances.

In addition to a Code of Conduct with 5 levels, there is also a progressive disciplinary response as it relates to the

accumulation of demerit points. Each student's total demerits are kept because it helps to indicate how serious a discipline problem he/she has been. **These steps are suggestions of interventions; other actions may be implemented. Disciplinary actions are at the sole discretion of the administration.**

Step 1 (12 demerits)

- (a) Three Saturday morning detentions or an out-of-school suspension, at the discretion of the administration;
- (b) Probation (10 days); restricted social privileges;
- (c) Team conference to determine cause and means to correct student misbehavior. Student, parental, and school responsibilities will be determined;
- (d) Counseling sessions on "decision making" with a counselor.

Step 2 (24 demerits)

- (a) Four Saturday morning detentions or 1-3 days out-of-school suspension, at the discretion of the administration;
- (b) Probation (20 days); restricted social privileges;
- (c) Multi-Disciplinary Team (teachers, counselors/psychologist, parents, and administration) conference to design behavior contract.

Step 3 (36 demerits)

- (a) Five Saturday morning detentions or 3-5 days out-of-school suspension, at the discretion of the administration;
- (b) Probation (25 days); restricted social privileges;
- (c) Guidance referral - ongoing counseling to help students determine and maintain acceptable modes of behavior;
- (d) Psychological referral will be requested to seek specific recommendations to aid student's adjustment to school and for specific recommendations to aid school to deal with student;
- (e) Conference with the assistant principal in which the student and parent/guardian will be required to attend.

Step 4 (48 demerits)

- (a) Three to ten days out-of-school suspension;
- (b) Probation (30 days); restricted social privileges;
- (c) The principal will convene a team of staff members to assess the appropriate course of action with those students whose problems are severe and may fall outside the scope of the discipline code;
- (d) Conference with principal in which the student and parent/guardian is required to attend.

Step 5 (60 demerits)

- (a) 10 day suspension;
- (b) Probation (35 days); restricted social privileges;
- (c) Hearing with a central office administrator and/or incorrigibility hearing through the judicial system. Student and parent/guardian will be required to attend.

Step 6 (72 demerits)

10 days out of school suspension with a recommendation to the Superintendent of Schools for an expulsion hearing before the Board of School Directors or courts.

Miscellaneous

Each office referral shall result in the following to be sent home:

1. A statement notifying the parent of the office referral and the student's placement in relation to the discipline code;
2. A copy of the office referral form filled out by the teacher;
3. Teachers will be instructed by the administration to call parents, whenever deemed appropriate;
4. A suspension letter, if necessary. Suspension includes exclusion from all extracurricular activities.

The list of misbehaviors and actions listed in the discipline code are minimum guidelines for disciplinary action. The list is not all-inclusive. Other misbehaviors will be dealt with as they occur. Misbehaviors not

specifically identified will be treated in the same manner as those to which they are most similar. Methods of dealing with misbehavior, as well as application of the disciplinary code, will be utilized as needed. This can include immediate removal of a student from school property in extreme situations.

Special circumstances may also result in immediate progression to the final steps of the disciplinary code, or immediate referral to outside agencies in conjunction with the policies of the Southern Lehigh School Board. For example, due to aggravating circumstances or the seriousness of a particular offense, the administration in its absolute discretion may accelerate an offense from the one level to another level and recommend a greater action of discipline, including referral to an expulsion hearing.

TERMS

Detention - In compliance with the discipline code, students may be required to remain after school for detention. During this time, students will be expected to copy the discipline code or do another assigned disciplinary task. Students will not be permitted to do homework, to sleep, or to do nothing during detention.

It is the student's responsibility to notify their parents of the date and reason of the detention. Detentions are held Monday through Thursday after school, as needed. Whenever possible, students will serve detention the day of the offense.

Disciplinary Probation - Under circumstances described in the disciplinary code, a student will be placed on disciplinary probation. During this time period, a student:

1. may not attend any extra- or co-curricular activities, including dances, special team, grade level, or school events, and
2. may be required to acquire their teachers' reviews of their behavior on a daily basis by getting each of their teachers to initial their probationary card indicating acceptable behavior. Detention will be assigned for failure to comply with probation procedures.

During the probation period, the parents/guardians of the student may be requested to attend a parental conference. Each day of complete compliance with the student's probationary requirements will advance the probation period by one school day. Subsequent discipline referrals may extend the probationary period.

Saturday Morning Detentions –

In compliance with the discipline code, students may be required to attend Saturday morning detentions. Saturday morning detentions will be from 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. at the Middle School. Transportation will not be provided. Students are expected to be on time.

Students, who fail to attend an assigned Saturday morning detention

or are uncooperative during the detention, may be assigned an out-of-school suspension.

Suspension and Expulsion –

Disciplinary action will be taken as required to maintain an environment where a quality education can be provided for all students. Individual student behavior in conflict with the student responsibilities listed in the School Board Policy Suspension/Expulsion #233 will be considered as cause for disciplinary action. A suspended student is not permitted to be on school grounds at any time during their suspension including after school activities.

Concerns

Should there be any questions or concerns about actions taken with a student which fall within the discipline code, the student and/or parent should first contact the teacher or Assistant Principal, whoever is most directly involved. If the problem is not resolved, the procedure would be for a student's parents to discuss the situation with the principal and then, if need be, with the Superintendent of Schools, and if still necessary, with the Board of School Directors.

Complaint Procedure

Any parent, resident or community group that has a complaint with regards to district personnel, programs or operations of the district, should refer to School Board Policy 906 for our district's complaint procedure.

Hearing/Right of Appeal:

Informal Hearings - Any student subject to suspension of more than 3 days will be given an informal hearing before an appropriate school official to explain the circumstances surrounding the event(s) for which the student is being suspended, to demonstrate that there is a case of mistaken identity or to show that there is some compelling reason why the student should not be suspended.

At the informal hearing, the following due process requirements will be observed:

1. Notification of the reasons for the suspension in writing, given to the student and/or parent or guardian;
2. Sufficient notice of the time and place of the informal hearing; and
3. The right to question any witnesses present at the hearing; and
4. The student's right to speak and produce witnesses on his/her own behalf.

Appeal - The student and/or the student's parents/guardians may appeal any ruling by a school official to that official's immediate supervisor. Appeals to the Superintendent of Schools and Board of School Directors must be made in writing, on a form available in the school office, and addressed to the Supt. of Schools. Appeals must be made promptly, usually within 48 hours. An appeal to the Superintendent will be heard within fifteen (15) days of receipt of

the appeal forms. Should the parent/guardian be dissatisfied with the Superintendent's decision, they may present their appeal to the Board of School Directors. This appeal must be heard at the next regularly scheduled school board meeting unless other arrangements have been mutually agreed upon. Failure of the parent or guardian to present their appeal to the Board within forty-five (45) days will nullify the appeal.

Formal Hearing - Students facing expulsion from school for more than ten days must be afforded all appropriate elements of due process. Part of the due process rights is a formal hearing before the Board of School Directors or a duly authorized committee of the board. The hearing committee's decision is advisory to the school board where expulsion is recommended. A majority vote of the entire school board is required to expel a student.

At the formal hearing the following due process requirements are to be observed:

1. Notification of the charges in writing, sent to the parents or guardian by certified mail, and to the student.
2. Sufficient notice of the time and place of the hearing.
3. The right to an impartial tribunal.
4. The right to be represented by counsel.
5. The right to be presented with the names of witnesses against the student, and copies of the statements and affidavits of those witnesses.

6. The right to request that any such witnesses appear in person and answer questions or be cross-examined.
7. The student's right to testify and produce witnesses on his own behalf.

A record must be kept of the hearing, either by a stenographer or by a tape recorder. The student is entitled, at the student's expense, to a copy of the transcript. The proceeding must be held with all reasonable speed. The hearing shall be held in private, unless the student or the student's parents request that the hearing be held in public.

Appeal - When the student is dissatisfied with the results of the hearing, recourse can be had to the appropriate state court. If it is alleged that a constitutional issue is involved, the student may file a claim for relief in the appropriate federal district court.

Drug and Alcohol Procedures and Guidelines Chart

Refer to page 34 of the Student Handbook.

Special Education Notice

In compliance with state and federal law, notice is hereby given by the Southern Lehigh School District that it conducts ongoing identification activities as a part of its school program for the purpose of identifying students who may be in need of special education and related services.

If your child is identified by the District as possibly in need of such services, you will be notified of applicable procedures. Individualized services and programs are available for children who are determined to need specially designed instruction due to the following conditions:

1. Autism/pervasive development disorder
2. Neurological impairment
3. Blindness or visual impairment
4. Deafness or hearing impairment
5. Physical disability
6. Developmental delay
7. Serious emotional disturbance
8. Mentally gifted
9. Specific learning disability
10. Mental retardation
11. Speech and language impairment
12. Other health impairments

If you believe that your school-age child may be in need of special education services and related programs, or young child (age 3 to school-age) may be in need of early intervention, screening and evaluation processes designed to assess the needs of the child and his/her eligibility are available to you at no cost, upon written request. You may request screening and evaluation at any given time, whether or not your child is enrolled in the District's public school program. Requests for evaluation and screening are to be made in writing to the middle school principal, middle school psychologist, or one of the middle school counselors. For further information on the rights of parents and children, provision of services, evaluation and screening you may contact in writing the

person listed above or any building principal.

Title IX

Southern Lehigh School District shall not discriminate in their educational programs, activities or employment practices based on race, color, national origin, sex (including sexual harassment), sexual orientation, disability, age, religion, ancestry or any other legally protected classification. This policy is in accordance with state and federal laws, including Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, Sections 503 and 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, the Age Discrimination Act of 1975, the Americans with Disabilities Act of

1990 and the Pennsylvania Human Relations Act.

For further information, contact Southern Lehigh School District, Title IX officer, 5775 Main Street, Center Valley, PA 18034, 610-282-3121.

**AHERA
Asbestos Hazard Emergency Response Act**

**Parent / Student Handbook Notification – September 2012
To All Parents, Guardians and Employees**

In compliance with the notification and record keeping requirements of EPA's 40 CFR, Part 763.93 (g) (4) Asbestos-Containing Materials in Schools Law (more commonly known as AHERA-(Asbestos Hazard Emergency Response Act), Southern Lehigh School District is notifying organizations and families of the availability of the Asbestos Management Plans. A copy of each building's Management Plan is available in the office of the building, and a master copy of all Management Plans is maintained in the Support Services Department.

The management plan includes: inspections and physical assessment reports, training requirements for the custodial and maintenance personnel, plans and procedures to minimize disturbance of any asbestos-containing materials, and if applicable at your school, a program for regular surveillance and inspection of asbestos-containing materials. Also, every three years, and asbestos re-inspection of the district will be conducted to comply with the AHERA law.

Southern Lehigh School District is complying with all regulations in regards to any ACBM (Asbestos Containing Building Material) and there is no need for safety or health concerns relative to asbestos exposure.

Sue Knoll
Designated Person / Asbestos Coordinator

FERPA

Southern Lehigh School District Notification of Rights under FERPA for Elementary and Secondary School

The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) affords parents and students over 18 years of age ("eligible students") certain rights with respect to the student's education records. These rights are:

The right to inspect and review the student's education records within 45 days of the day the School receives a request for access. Parents or eligible students should submit to the School Principal [or Superintendent] a written request that identifies the record(s) they wish to inspect. The School official will make arrangements for access and notify the parent or eligible student of the time and place where the records may be inspected.

The right to request the amendment of the student's education records that the parent or eligible student believes are inaccurate or misleading. Parents or eligible students may ask the School to amend a record that they believe is inaccurate or misleading. They should write the School Principal [or Superintendent], clearly identify the part of the record they want changed, and specify why it is inaccurate or misleading. If the School official decides not to amend the record as requested by the parent or eligible student, the School official will notify the parent or eligible student of the decision and advise them of their right to a hearing regarding the request for amendment. Additional information regarding the hearing procedures will be provided to the parent or eligible student when notified of the right to a hearing.

The right to consent to disclosures of personally identifiable information contained in the student's education records, except to the extent that FERPA authorizes disclosure without consent. One exception, which permits disclosure without consent, is disclosure to school officials with legitimate educational interests. A school official is a person employed by the School as an administrator, supervisor, instructor, or support staff member (including health or medical staff and law enforcement unit personnel); a person serving on the School Board; a person or company with whom the School has contracted to perform a special task (such as an attorney, auditor, medical consultant, or therapist); or a parent or student serving on an official committee, such as a disciplinary or grievance committee, or assisting another school official in performing his or her tasks. A school official has a legitimate educational interest if the official needs to review an education record in order to fulfill his or her professional responsibility. Upon request, the School discloses education records without consent to officials of another school district in which a student seeks or intends to enroll.

The right to file a complaint with the U.S. Department of Education concerning alleged failures by the School to comply with the requirements of FERPA. The name and address of the Office that administers FERPA are:

**Family Policy Compliance Office
U.S. Department of Education**

**400 Maryland Avenue, SW
Washington, DC 20202-5901**

Commitment to Parent Involvement

We at SLMS are committed to the belief that all children can learn and acknowledge that parents share the school's commitment to the educational success of their children.

We recognize that a child's education is a responsibility shared by the school and family and agree that to effectively educate all students, the teachers and parents must work as knowledgeable partners.

We define parent and family involvement as an on-going process that assists parents and families to meet their basic obligation as their child's first educator, promotes clear two-way dialogue between home and school, and supports parents as leaders and decision makers at all levels concerning the education of their children.

Because of this, a written plan for parent involvement that establishes practices to enhance parent involvement and reflects the needs of students and families was jointly developed by parents and the school staff. This plan is a school-parent compact. SLSD would like to thank you for reading the compact with your child and discussing its importance.

Because the policy is a work- in-progress that requires periodic changes, we welcome your suggestions and comments.

The Southern Lehigh Middle School will:

Provide high quality curriculum and instruction in a supportive and effective learning environment that enables the participating children to meet the State's student academic achievement standards.

- All lessons will be supported and enhanced by academic standards
- Provide students with authentic assignments with pertinent and timely feedback
- Students will be provided access to cutting edge technology that will enhance curricular experience
- Cyclic review of curriculum

Hold parent-teacher conferences during which this compact will be discussed as it relates to the individual child's achievement. Specifically, those conferences will be held during the 1st semester each year.

Provide parents with frequent reports on their children's progress. Specifically, the school will provide reports as follows:

- Progress reports
- Report cards
- Access to web-based reporting systems

Provide parents reasonable access to staff. Specifically, staff will be available for consultation with parents as follows:

- Email
- Phone conversations
- Pre-scheduled conferences

Provide parents opportunities to volunteer and participate in their child's class, and to observe classroom activities, as follows:

- Parent-Teacher Group membership
- Serve as activity chaperones

Parent Responsibilities

We, as parents, will support our children's learning in the following ways:

- Monitoring attendance
- Making sure that homework is completed
- Monitoring amount of television their children watch
- Participating, as appropriate, in decisions relating to my children's education
- Promoting positive use of my child's extracurricular time
- Staying informed about my child's education and communicating with the school by promptly reading all notices from the school or the school district either received by my child or by mail and responding, as appropriate
- Serving, to the extent possible, on policy advisory groups, such as being the Title I, Part A parent representative on the school's School Improvement Team, the Title I Policy Advisory Committee, the District's Policy Advisory Council

Student Responsibilities

We, as students, will share the responsibility to improve our academic achievement and achieve the State's high standards. Specifically, we will:

- Do my homework every day and ask for help when I need to
- Read at least 30 minutes every day outside of school time
- Give to my parents or the adult who is responsible for my welfare all notices and information received by me from my school every day