



Manistee Area PUBLIC SCHOOLS

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Superintendent: Ronald J. Stoneman
Business Manager: Howard J. Vaas

Chips Lead!

December 17, 2018

Dear MAPS families;

The MAPS administrative team, and each member of our staff, are invested in providing every student with the support and guidance needed to have a pleasant, safe, and successful educational experience. Unfortunately, as they learn and grow, it is not uncommon for students to become involved in conflicts with which they may lack the skills to resolve. Sometimes these conflicts will cause the student to test certain behaviors, resulting in inappropriate action.

We are fully aware that it is our job, as leaders in our learning environment, to help guide our students away from unproductive or dangerous behaviors that may cause harm. Please be assured that we take very seriously any reports of aggression or bullying.

Our standard procedure for investigating reports of aggression or bullying is strictly followed. The procedure includes identifying all involved parties, interviewing of witnesses, discussing options for resolution, notifying parent/guardian, applying appropriate disciplinary action, and involving law enforcement when warranted. In all instances we immediately work to reach resolution, so all students are safe and not at risk for negative outcomes. We encourage you to read our policies and procedures for handling conflict and defining, investigating, and responding to aggression or bullying.

MMHS: <https://chipslead.org/manistee-middle-high-school/mmhs-handbook/>

Kennedy: <https://chipslead.org/kennedy/kennedy-handbook/>

Jefferson: <https://chipslead.org/jefferson/jefferson-handbook/>

In addition to protecting our students from physical harm, we are also responsible for protecting their privacy. The details of any incident that occurs within the district are strictly protected by federal law through the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act, 34 CFR 99.3. When an incident occurs that could affect the greater student body, our district is committed to sharing the appropriate information with our families. However, please understand that we are also held to required limitations for information sharing as directed by state and federal law for the protection of all students.

In order to establish a standardized expectation for communication, the MAPS Administrative team has worked in conjunction with the volunteers of the Student Safety Advisory Committee to develop a Communication Matrix. This matrix provides an outline of communication expectations with regard to safety related events throughout the district. The Communications Matrix has been attached for your review.

Every student is encouraged, and every staff member is required, to report any situation that they believe to be aggressive behavior directed toward a student. We ask that our MAPS families, students, and staff work together to provide the support needed for all students to thrive. It is through the identification of these behaviors and the support that is provided, both at school and at home, that we can help all students to learn and grow into productive citizens of our community. Refer to the attached guide to learn more about identifying and preventing potentially harmful behaviors in students.

Sincerely,

Ronald Stoneman, Superintendent
Manistee Area Public Schools