

GREENWOOD LAKE MIDDLE SCHOOL

***"Greenwood Lake Middle School is a community of responsible learners using 21st Century skills to strive for excellence".***

**Dear Students and Parents:**

Welcome to another exciting year at Greenwood Lake Middle School!

This handbook is designated to give you and your parent's necessary information about your educational opportunities and responsibilities at Greenwood Lake Middle School. I strongly urge you to read and become familiar with the information it contains.

It is my pleasure to welcome you to Greenwood Lake Middle School. Remember, an involved student is a successful student.

In closing, I invite you to become a part of the GWMS family.

Have a great year!

Matthew W. Lawrence, Ed.D., Principal – GLMS

***This agenda belongs to:***

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

HOMEROOM: \_\_\_\_\_

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FACULTY AND STAFF LIST**

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**MIDDLE SCHOOL FACULTY AND STAFF**

Edna Auerfeld	Library Media Specialist
Aimee Bellantone	Special Education, Grades 4 & 5
Kelly Birkett	Special Education, Grade 6
Gregory Brown	Special Education, Grade 7
Beth Buckley	Speech Therapy
Erin Champion	Grade 4
Ellen Casazza	Grade 5
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Allison Chapman	Social Studies, Grades 7 & 8
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Rosemarie DiBernardi	Grade 4
Christopher Ferry	Art
Stacey Gove	Occupational Therapy
Heather Greenberg	School Psychologist
Greggory Huggins	Grade 6
Maureen Joseph	Grade 5

Jackie Kessler	Grade 4
Laura Kroll	Music
Jane Leddy	Grade 6
Joseph Limone	Grade 6
Karen McNamara	RTI, Grades 4-6
Anita Mayfield	Science, Grades 7 & 8
Jackie Minucci	RTI, Grades 4-6
Jennifer Pena	Special Education, Grade 8
Julianne Picarello	RTI/ELA , Grade 8
Victor Pignataro	Project Lead the Way, Grade 5
Christopher Radon	Physical Education, Grades 6-8/ Health, Grade 6
Kate Reilly	RTI ELA, Grade 7
Jessica Robb	Spanish, Grades 6-8
Keith Saltz	Grades 5
Crystal Sanchez	ES/MS Spanish
Stacy Shepard	RTI/Mathematics, Grade 8
Alex Vinelli	Project Lead the Way, Grades 4, 6-8
Tori Wortendyke	RTI/Mathematics, Grade 7
Mary Beth Zrelak	Special Education, Grade 5

### **MIDDLE SCHOOL SECRETARY**

Eileen Christiano

### **DATA SECRETARY**

Shawanna Trautmann

### **MIDDLE SCHOOL NURSE**

Laura LaRoche

### **MIDDLE SCHOOL TEACHING ASSISTANTS**

Cathy Casey  
Elizabeth Leone  
Cheryl Prall

### **MIDDLE SCHOOL RESOURCE PERSONNEL**

Pamela Jennings

### **MIDDLE SCHOOL CAFETERIA STAFF**

Rosemarie Colban  
Kim Gibel  
Carole Norwich-Fiore  
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### **MIDDLE SCHOOL CUSTODIAL STAFF**

Eric Clark  
Alan Lybolt  
James McGuire  
Mary Ofeldt  
Ronald Perez  
Salvatore Rumola

# **GREENWOOD LAKE MIDDLE SCHOOL**

## **MISSION STATEMENT**

**"Greenwood Lake Middle School is a community of responsible learners using 21st Century skills to strive for excellence".**

## **INTRODUCTION**

The Greenwood Lake Union Free School District is committed to maintaining high standards of education for its students. Since the District believes that order and discipline are necessary to achieve high standards, a Code of Conduct has been developed, clearly defining individuals' responsibilities toward that end. The primary purpose of the Code of conduct is to enable our students to become responsible, respectful, and caring citizens within the school and community settings.

## **DIGNITY FOR ALL STUDENTS ACT**

All students have the right and responsibility to attend and participate in school regularly, to feel safe, and to treat others respectfully. Administrators, faculty, staff, and students participate in activities designed to support a caring school climate. In accordance with this Act, the District specifically prohibits discrimination, harassment, bullying, taunting, hurtful teasing and cyber bullying that may negatively impact students.

## **STUDENT RIGHTS**

The Greenwood Lake Union Free School District is committed to protecting the rights given to all students under State and Federal Law. Students have the right to:

- Take part in all school activities on an equal basis.
- Be informed of all school rules.
- Have a safe, healthy, orderly, and civil school environment.
- Present their version of relevant events to school personnel who are authorized to impose discipline.
- Receive a challenging, relevant, and comprehensive education.

## **STUDENT RESPONSIBILITIES**

Students have the responsibility to:

- Know and abide by all school policies, rules and regulations pertaining to student behavior.
- Be in regular attendance at school and in class and to be on time for all assignments.
- Maintain behavior that is conducive to learning and show respect to other persons and for both school and personal property.
- Accept responsibility for his/her actions.
- Work to the best of his or her ability in both academics and activities and strive toward the highest level of achievement possible.
- Conduct himself/herself, when participating in or attending school sponsored activities, events and trips, as a representative of Greenwood Lake Union Free School District, and as such hold himself or herself to the highest standards of behavior and sportsmanship as defined in the Code of Conduct.

## **PARENTS AS ESSENTIAL PARTNERS**

Parents, as essential partners have the responsibility to:

- Show an enthusiastic and supportive attitude toward school and education;
- Build a good working relationship between themselves and their child;
- Teach their child self-respect, respect for the law, respect for others and for public property;
- Insist on prompt and regular attendance;
- Listen to the views and observations of all parties concerned;
- Recognize that teachers merit the same consideration and respect that parents expect from their child;
- Encourage their child to take pride in his/her appearance;
- Insist that their child promptly bring home all communications from school;
- Cooperate with the school in jointly resolving any school related problem;
- Inform school officials of changes in the home situation that may affect student conduct or performance;
- Inform and update school officials on medical, legal and other matters that relate to the student in the school setting;
- Set realistic standards of behavior for their child and resolve to remain firm and consistent;
- Help their child learn to deal effectively with negative peer pressure;
- Provide a place conducive for study and completion of homework assignments;
- Demonstrate desirable standards of behavior through personal example;
- Foster a feeling of pride in their child for their school;
- Provide support and positive reinforcement to their child.
- Read, support and help their child to understand this Code of Conduct and school rules.



**MIDDLE SCHOOL BULLYING INFRACTIONS WITH PENALTY REFERENCES**

Definition of Bullying (Olweus)- “Bullying is when someone repeatedly and on purpose says or does mean or hurtful things to another person who has a hard time defending himself or herself.” (See full description of bullying under DASA.)

Step 1- Warning (Oral or Written)\*  
 Step 2 – After-School/Lunch Detention\*  
 Step 3- In-School Suspension\*

Step 4- Out of School Suspension\*  
 Step 5 – Create Individual behavior plan

\*All students will be required to contact a parent/guardian in the presence of a faculty member regardless of the infraction.

<b>INFRACTIONS</b>	<b>1<sup>ST</sup> OFFENSE</b>	<b>2<sup>ND</sup> OFFENSE</b>	<b>3<sup>RD</sup> OFFENSE</b>	<b>&gt;3 OFFENSES</b>
<b>NAME CALLING/ MEAN TEASING</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>2-3</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>PHYSICAL OFFENSE/ HARM</b>	<b>2-3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>EXCLUSION/ RUMOR SPREADING</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3-4</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>TAKING/DAMAGING OTHERS PROPERTY**</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>3-4</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>THREATS/ENDAGERMENT HARASSMENT</b>	<b>1-4</b>	<b>2-4</b>	<b>3-4</b>	<b>5</b>

\*\*All damaged/stolen property will be replaced by the responsible student(s)

**REPORTING CODE VIOLATIONS**

**1. To School District Personnel**

Students, teachers and other District personnel are encouraged to report any violations of the Conduct to the Building Principal or, in his/her absence, the Acting Building Principal. Such individuals are required to report any threat of violence, including but not limited to bomb threats, threats to persons or property, whether by oral, written or electronic means, possession of a weapon, alcohol or illegal substance on school property or at a school function to a teacher, the Building Principal or, in his/her absence, the Acting Building Principal.

Teachers and other District personnel shall immediately report violent students to the Building Principal or Superintendent of Schools.

Any weapon, alcohol, illegal substance or similar item (such as synthetic drugs) found shall be confiscated immediately, if possible, maintained in a secure location, followed by notification to the student’s parent and law enforcement as appropriate.

## **2. To Local Law Enforcement Agencies**

The District will report any acts of violence against persons that constitute a crime, , threatened acts of violence, and other violations of the Conduct which constitute a crime and affect the order and security of the school (e.g., theft, destruction of school property, assault, false fire reports; arson, bomb threats, use, possession distribution or sale of drugs (including synthetic drugs) or alcohol, use, possession, distribution or sale of a dangerous or deadly object or a potentially dangerous or deadly object) to the appropriate local law enforcement agency when the actor is over the age of 16, or is 14 or 15 years old and qualifies for juvenile offender status. This report shall be made as soon as practical, but in no event later than the close of business the day the Principal or Acting Principal learns of the violation. When necessary, the District will file a complaint in Criminal Court against the actor.

## **3. To Human Services Agencies**

The District will report any violations of the Code of Conduct, which constitute a crime when the actor is under the age of 16 to the appropriate human services agencies. When necessary, the District will file a juvenile delinquency petition or a person in need of supervision (PINS) petition in Family Court.

## **DISCIPLINE OF STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES**

The Student Code of Conduct provides students with disabilities the rights expressly detailed by federal and state laws and regulations. A manifestation determination IEP meeting must be held prior to the imposition of consequences because of a code of conduct violation. If the violation is determined to be a manifestation of the student's disability, then the IEP Team must conduct and/or review a functional behavior assessment and behavioral intervention plan. If, on the other hand, the IEP Team determines that the violation is not a manifestation of the disability, the student is subject to the same disciplinary procedures applicable to students without disabilities. In the latter case the student must continue to receive educational services during any suspension that may be ordered.

Regardless of the manifestation determination, school officials, may remove a disabled student for 45 school days if the student:

- Carries or possesses a weapon
- Possesses, uses, or sells illegal drugs
- Has inflicted serious bodily injury to another person, while at school, on school premises, or at a school function.

## **STUDENT SEARCHES AND INTERVIEWS**

The Board of Education authorizes the Superintendent of Schools or his/her designee to conduct searches of students and their possessions for illegal matter or matter which may constitute a threat to the health, safety, welfare or morals of other students attending school, if there is reasonable suspicion. Students have no expectation of privacy with respect to their lockers, storage spaces or desks, which means they may be searched at any time by school officials without prior notice and without students' consent.

Any school official authorized to impose discipline may question a student about an alleged violation of the Code of Conduct, without first providing any sort of warning or contacting the student's parents beforehand.

## **VISITORS TO THE SCHOOL**

Since schools are places of work and learning, certain limits must be set for all visitors. Any visitors to school must report directly to the Main Office, sign in, and state the purpose of the visit. All visitors are expected to conduct themselves in a manner that does not disrupt the academic process and in accordance with the law, the District's Civility Policy, and the Code of Conduct (for additional details refer to the complete Code of Conduct).

## **PUBLIC CONDUCT ON SCHOOL PROPERTY**

The primary purpose of the School district is to provide a superior atmosphere for learning. Any action by an individual or group(s) aimed at disrupting or delaying the learning process is prohibited. The Board of Education has the responsibility to protect school property and will take any and all legal action to prevent its damage or destruction. The Board will also seek restitution from, and prosecution of, any person or persons who willfully damage school property.

These rules govern the conduct of students, parents, faculty and other staff, other visitors, licensees, and all other persons, whether or not their presence is authorized, upon District property, and also upon or with respect to any other premises or property (including school buses) under the control of the District and used in its instructional programs, administrative, cultural, recreational, athletic, and other programs and activities, whether or not conducted on school premises.

All persons named above are expected to conduct themselves in accordance with the law, the District's Civility Policy, and the District Code of Conduct (for additional details refer to the complete Code of Conduct).

## **DISSEMINATION AND REVIEW**

The Board of Education and Superintendent will work to ensure that the community is aware of this Student Code of Conduct by:

- Providing copies of this summary of the code to all students at the beginning of each school year.
- Making copies of the code and a summary of the code available to all parents at the beginning of the school year.
- Providing all current teachers and other staff members with access to or a copy of the code and a copy of any amendments to the code as soon as practicable after adoption.
- Providing all new employees with access to or a copy of the current code of conduct when they are first hired.
- Making copies of the code available for review by students, parents and other community members.

The Code of Conduct and summary will be reviewed every year and updated as necessary. In conducting the review, the Administration will consider how effective the Code's provisions have been and whether the Code has been applied fairly and consistently.

## **ATTENDANCE (As per Comprehensive Student Attendance Policy #7110)**

Good scholarship and success in school are dependent upon regular attendance. The Main Office should be called by 9 a.m. to report a child's absence. It is our intent to call parents/guardians each day their child is absent, except in an instance of extended absence where the school has been notified in advance. After an absence from school, students are required by law to present an excuse in writing from the parent/guardian. This note should contain the student's full name, date(s) of absence(s), reason for absence(s), and must be signed by a parent/guardian. All students who are absent from school must submit a written excuse upon returning even if an absence call was placed. If a child is absent due to sickness for three or more days, a doctor's note is required to return to school. Written excuses can be turned into the child's classroom teacher. A blank absence form can be downloaded from the District's website at [www.gwlufsd.org](http://www.gwlufsd.org).

For students in grades 4-8, each student's attendance will be taken during homeroom and again during each assigned class. If a student misses more than half of the school day due to tardiness or early dismissal, he/she will be marked absent for the day.

Absences and tardiness will be recorded on the child's report card. If absences and/or tardies exceed 10 in any given quarter, a notification letter will be sent home to parents.

New York State law states that legal reasons for absence/lateness for a minor include **ONLY** the following:

- Sickness
- Death in the Family
- Religious Observance
- Required Court Appearance
- Medical Appointments
- Inclement Weather/Impassible Roads due to weather

## **ABSENCE FOR FAMILY VACATION**

We understand that some parents may have no choice but to take vacation time that includes some school days. We are, however, REQUIRED by state regulations to record such absences as "Unexcused".

The student is responsible for all work missed. Teachers will inform students about the general area of instruction during their anticipated absence, but cannot provide detailed instructional plans. Upon return, it is the student's responsibility to contact the teacher for make-up of assignments or tests. Teachers will assist students and provide reasonable time to meet requirements.

## **TARDINESS**

Coming to school on time develops positive school habits and routines for children. It also allows the teacher to maximize on-task learning time for students without significant interruption. Students arriving after the start of school need to report with parent/guardian to the

greeter desk or Main Office to be signed in and student will be issued a “pass” to enter class. Repeated instances of tardiness will result in a notification letter sent home to parents, and a referral to the school social worker and/or principal.

## **RETENTION AND SUMMER SCHOOL (MIDDLE SCHOOL)**

Students in Grades 6 – 8 who fail two (2) or more \*core courses for the school year must attend summer school. Upon successful completion of the courses, the student will be promoted to the next grade level. If the student fails the courses in summer school, or does not attend summer school, the student is subject to retention in the current grade level. Student retention is at the ultimate discretion of the building principal.

*\* core courses are defined as math, science, social studies, and English language arts*

## **ACADEMIC ELIGIBILITY**

GWLMS provides a very comprehensive experience for our students. Each year the students have the opportunity to participate in any number of extracurricular activities and modified sports. Although we encourage student participation in our activities and sports, it is important to note that these activities are not required and are considered a privilege extended by the school to eligible students.

Our guidelines are designed to **increase accountability, improve performance** and foster a **stronger understanding** of the **importance** of the **GWLMS academic program**.

### *I. Academically Eligible Students Are Students Who:*

- *attend school regularly;*
- *pass all classes;*
- *are good citizens of the GWL MS community.*

### *II. Students Can Become Ineligible By:*

#### **Violating the Code of Conduct (In/Out of School Suspension)**

- Students who serve an in-school suspension may not attend any school related events either on or off school property on the day(s) of their suspension.
- Students who are suspended out-of -school may not be on school property on the day of their suspension or attend any school events that are off school property.

#### **Student Attendance (attending school after 10AM)**

- Students who come to school after 10AM are considered absent from school.
- Students will not be permitted to participate in extracurricular activities or attend any school related events- unless otherwise approved by school administration

## II. Students Can Become Ineligible For a 5-Week Period By:

### A. Failing Courses/Academic Performance

- **Report Card Grades-** Students who fail two (2) or more courses for the quarter are ineligible for any extracurricular activity and modified sports team until the next progress report is issued (5 weeks). If the student is not failing two (2) or more classes as evidenced by their teachers on the five-week report, they will be eligible.
  - A failing grade is considered a grade lower than a 65%.
  - Students who are in danger of failing at least two (2) courses as noted on his/her progress report for the quarter will be notified of their pending ineligibility by the building principal and the parents will be contacted in writing.

### B. Chronic Absenteeism: Student reaches a 10% absenteeism rate at any given point during the school year.

## III. Reinstatement & Appeals

### **Students Will Be Reinstated To Full Eligibility When The Student:**

- is no longer failing two (2) or more courses on the report card,
- has met attendance goals over a 5 week period as determined by the building principal.

### **Appeals:**

Students may appeal ineligibly in writing to the Building Principal. The Principal will discuss the rationale for the appeal with the student and parent(s). The Principal will make the final decision with input from the faculty regarding the eligibility.

## IV. Special Education

Any student with a disability, receiving services under IDEA or section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act, may be placed on academic probation or declared ineligible. Prior to this decision, the following will be reviewed by the Building Principal with the special education faculty:

- A. The student's IEP is appropriate.
- B. The student's IEP has been properly implemented.
- C. The student's failing grades are not related to his/her disability.

### **FIELD TRIP INELIGIBILITY:**

- Students who are failing two or more subjects for the year, WILL NOT be permitted to attend school field trips.

- Students who are chronic disciplinary offenders or have a major code of conduct violation during an given academic year WILL NOT be permitted to attend school field trips.

The building principal has the authority to review student field trip eligibility. The final decision regarding field trip participation rests with the building principal.

### **HOMework DURING ABSENCES**

Assignments missed during short-term absences can be made up upon returning to classes. Homework is not sent home for one-day absences. However, for excused absences of **two days or more**, the parent/guardian should call the office before **9:30 a.m.** to request written homework from the school. **Homework assignments may be picked up from the Main Office after 3:00 p.m. (Elementary School) and after 3:20 p.m. (Middle School) on the day of the request.**

### **GRADING**

Grades 6-8 have posted their grading policies on their websites, including policy on late work, homework, projects, etc. Parents are encouraged to use E-school Parent Portal to review grades and report cards.

### **DRESSING AND GROOMING**

Students are expected to dress and groom themselves in an appropriate manner. Students must be dressed in appropriate clothing and protective equipment as required for Physical Education classes, participation in athletics, and science laboratories. ***Any student found in violation of the Student Dress Code will be required to report to the school nurse to change clothes and/or contact a parent/guardian.***

The following are considered to be inappropriate dress, grooming, and appearance, and are prohibited in school or at school functions:

- Any dress or appearance which constitutes a threat or danger to the health and safety of students (e.g., heavy jewelry or jewelry with spikes which can injure the student or others);
- Any dress or appearance which is vulgar, lewd, obscene, indecent, profane or which exposes to sight the private parts of the body (e.g., t-shirts with a phallic symbol and message consisting of sexual metaphors; see-through garments, extremely plunging necklines or waistlines, shirts that expose the midriff or tank tops with straps less than one inch wide);
- Any dress or appearance which encourages or advocates the use of illegal drugs, alcohol and/or tobacco;
- Any dress or appearance which advocates or encourages any illegal or violent activities;
- Any dress or appearance which advocates discrimination or denigrates others based upon race, color, creed, religion, national origin, gender, sexual orientation or disability;
- The wearing of hats in the classroom as they are a sign of disrespect (unless worn for religious, medical reasons, or during designated school spirit days);

- Any shoes that impede safe navigation of hallways and stairs, including flip flops (on playground or during gym), stilettos, shoes with heels greater than two inches; other shoes at the discretion of administration;
- Any dress or appearance, that constitutes a disruption to the educational process.

### **LOCKERS (MIDDLE SCHOOL)**

Students will be assigned individual lockers in their homeroom area. 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade students will be issued a school combination lock for lockers. Students may **not** supply their own locks. **Any lock other than a school lock will be removed.** Locks must be returned at the end of school. There will be a charge of \$7.00 for each lock that is not returned.

Students are permitted access to their lockers 4 times daily.

1. Once at homeroom (pick up morning class materials).
2. Once before lunch (return books, pick up lunch).
3. Once after lunch (pick up afternoon class materials).
4. Once at homeroom at the end of the school day.

These are the only times students will be permitted to go to their lockers.

### **LOCKER SEARCH**

Lockers are school property; therefore, School Officials may search lockers without student or parental consent.

### **SEXUAL HARASSMENT**

Sexual harassment is a precisely defined illegal form of differential treatment based on sex and/or gender. Legally it is described as unwelcomed sexual favors and other verbal or physical conduct of a sexual nature when any of the following conditions exist:

- Submission to such conduct is made either explicitly or implicitly a term or condition of an individual's employment, education, or welfare or
- Submission or rejection of such conduct by an individual is used as the basis for employment or education decisions affecting such individuals, or
- Such conduct has the purpose or effects of creating an intimidating, hostile, or offensive educational or employment environment.

Disciplinary measures range from reprimand to a Superintendent's Hearing, with possibilities of legal charges being filed. Sexual harassment can originate from a person of either sex against a person of the opposite or same sex. Sexual harassment may occur from student-to-student, from staff-to-student, from student-to-staff. Prohibited conduct can be verbal, non-verbal, or physical (the latter may qualify as criminal sexual assault). Examples of sexual harassment include, but are not limited to, the following:

1. Verbal abuse or ridicule, including innuendoes, stories and jokes, which are of a sexual nature and/or gender-related. This might include inappropriate sex-oriented comments on appearance, including dress or physical features.
2. Direct or indirect threats or bribes for unwanted sexual activity.
3. Asking or commenting about a person's sexual activities.

4. Unwelcome and unwanted physical contact of a sexual nature including, but not limited to, physical acts such as assault, impeding or blocking moving, offensive touching, or any physical interference with normal work or movement.
5. Displaying or distributing pornographic or other sexually explicit materials, such as magazines, pictures, Internet material, cartoons, etc.
6. The use of profanity and/or other obscenities that is sexually suggestive or degrading in nature.
7. Demanding sexual favors, insinuating that refusal to participate in such favors will adversely affect a student.
8. Unwelcome staring, leering, or gesturing, which is sexually suggestive in nature.
9. Unwelcome and/or offensive public displays of sexual/physical affection.
10. Clothing that reflects sexually obscene and/or sexually explicit messages, slogans, or pictures.
11. Any other unwelcome and unwanted sexually oriented and/or gender-based behavior, which is sexually demeaning, belittling, intimidating, or perpetrates sexual stereotypes and attitudes.

Behavior shall be considered unwelcome and unwanted if the student did not initiate, request or invite such conduct or communication and/or regarded such conduct or communication as undesirable or offensive.

### ***Reporting of Complaints***

Complaints of sexual harassment will be investigated thoroughly, promptly and impartially in accordance with applicable law and regulations.

Any student who believes that he or she has been subjected to sexual harassment or who is made aware of and/or witnesses any possible occurrence of sexual harassment shall report such complaint as soon as possible after the alleged incident occurs to the District's Title IX Officer in order to help the District effectively and promptly investigate and resolve the complaint. In order to assist in the investigation, victims and/or witnesses should document the harassment as soon as it occurs, providing as much detail as possible. (See "Sexual Harassment Complaint Form," located in the back of the handbook.

### ***Mediation***

Where appropriate, the Complaint Administrator may suggest mediation as an alternative means of resolving the complaint. The use of mediation is not intended to replace but, rather, is a supplement to utilization of the District's informal/formal complaint procedures. If mediation is requested and agreed to by the victim and the accused, the School will use qualified mediators to help resolve the complaint.

## **HIGH SCHOOL SELECTION PROCESS**

High School Options: Warwick Valley High School and Chester Academy.

In order to assist students and families to make an informed decision on choosing their high school, Greenwood Lake Middle School will collaborate with both high schools to arrange on

site tours and question and answer sessions. Parents are encouraged to go to all orientations to become well informed. Please see our guidance counselor for specific high school questions.

### **HONOR ROLL (GRADES 6-8)**

Beginning in Grade 6, students may attain Honor Roll status each marking period. Students must attain a GPA of 90 or above with no failing grades. For High Honor Roll status students must attain a GPA of 95 or above with no failing grades. Each quarter will be calculated on an individual basis. Cumulative averages will be used only for NJHS consideration and eighth grade graduation achievements, such as valedictorian, salutatorian, and honor graduates.

### **ACCELERATED COURSES**

The Greenwood Lake Middle School Advanced program is rigorous and demanding. Many aspects of a student's life, in and out of school, should be considered before applying for admission to the program. The program is comprehensive in scope and faster in the pace of instruction. Students are expected to maintain high standards of performance at all times. The middle school Math and Science Advanced classes culminate in Regents exams at the end of grade 8. Students who are successful in Math and Science Advanced can earn high school credit. It should be noted, however, that all 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade classes are aligned with Common Core and NYS Learning Standards and are part of a challenging program that leads to the applicable Regents exams in high school. Applications are sent home to grade 6 parents each spring and are posted on the website.

Math and Science advanced classes are designed to have students complete the equivalent of three years of math and science instruction within a two year period and earn high school credit for these courses at the end of their 8<sup>th</sup> grade year. Grade 8 students in this program will take the Common Core Algebra I Regents Exam and the Living Environment Regents Exam in June.

Our Advanced courses are rigorous and require students to devote more time to study. Students are expected to be strong, motivated, independent learners. A student's placement into these courses will be taken under careful consideration. All students who are placed into 7<sup>th</sup> grade Advanced courses must maintain an 85 average to continue these courses in 8<sup>th</sup> grade.

### **ATTENDANCE AND CO-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES**

Any student wishing to participate in any after school activity such as, dances, athletic events, meetings, club activities, trips, must be academically eligible and in regular school attendance on the day of an activity. Any student who arrives after 10 a.m. or leaves prior to the end of the school day, unless he/she have a valid, written medical/legal excuse or is absent from school on the day of an activity, is not eligible to participate in that activity.

### **ATHLETIC POLICY AND PRACTICES (GRADES 7 AND 8)**

The Modified (7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade) Interscholastic Athletic Program provided by Greenwood Lake Middle School is a competitive extension of our Physical Education Program. We hope that participation in this program will enable our athletes to value competition, exhibit self-discipline, and to exercise good sportsmanship and mature judgment. To encourage this development, each athlete is expected to accept responsibility for his or her behavior, both in and out of school. We

expect that athletes will strive for excellence in this obligation to themselves, their teammates, and the school community.

**A. SIGNATURE FORMS:**

The following forms must be completed and returned to your child's coach before athletes may participate in try-outs:

1. Athletes' Participation and Parental Approval Form, including signature of parent/guardian on medical release section
2. Athletes' Bus Regulations
3. Equipment and Uniform Promise

**B. SPORTS PHYSICAL**

1. A "sports participation" physical by the school physician or your own doctor is required for all athletes before they may attend tryouts.
2. If injury or illness occurs during the school year, another sports physical may be required for a return to athletic participation.

**EQUIPMENT AND UNIFORMS**

1. All equipment and uniforms issued by the school are the property of the school. Uniforms are to be used by the athlete for G.L.M.S. games only.
2. The athlete/parent is responsible for the replacement costs of all lost/abused equipment or uniforms.
3. All uniforms and equipment must be returned to the P.E./Athletic Department within five school days of the final contest. If the uniform or equipment is not returned or replacement cost is not satisfied, the athlete would not be allowed to participate in another sport.

**D. TRAVEL**

1. All team members will travel to and return from contests with their team and coach on the transportation provided by the School District. However, athletes may be released directly to their parent/guardian only after the following: Parents must notify the office, in writing, of the day and date they will be picking up their child. Prior to taking the child home, the parent must sign the child out with the coach.
2. If extenuating circumstances arise, the athlete must have written permission from his/her parent/guardian to go home by other means. The note must be signed by the Principal/Athletic Director and given to the coach.
3. All normal school bus regulations must be followed.

**E. COMMITMENT CLAUSE**

Students who make a commitment to a team are expected to complete their season. Any student who quits a team for reasons other than academic or medical, may not participate on another team for the remainder that season.

## **F. PHYSICAL EDUCATION CLASS**

1. All students must wear appropriate clothes (6<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> Grade students must change) and participate in all Physical Education classes.
2. Athletes who are not prepared for Physical Education class or do not participate will not be permitted to practice or play in the game the day of the infraction.
3. If an athlete has a medical excuse for Physical Education class, he/she will not participate in practice or a game on the day(s) of the medical excuse.

## **G. TRAINING AND PRACTICE RESPONSIBILITIES**

1. Athletes shall not use tobacco products, alcohol, intoxicants, or any illegal drugs. Any violation of this rule will result in immediate dismissal from the team.
2. Excessive unexcused absences from practices or games will result in dismissal from the team.
3. Athletes must be present at practice the day before a game in order to participate in the game.
4. Athletes must be present in school the day after a game, unless a legal excuse is presented, in order to participate in the next game.
5. Proper athletic attire and footwear are to be worn during all practices and games.
6. Athletes are expected to be neat and clean and show pride in their appearance on game days.
7. Coaches may require additional responsibilities for their team(s).

## **H. GENERAL BEHAVIOR**

A student athlete is a representative of their school during all competitions, classes, school functions and out in public. Therefore, recurring discipline problems or disruptive behavioral problems will not be tolerated.

1. After School Detention (ASD) - The athlete will not practice on these days. Continuous ASD will result in dismissal from the team.
2. In School Suspension (ISS) - The athlete will not practice on these days nor play in the next game. Continuous ISS will result in dismissal from the team.
3. Out-of-School Suspension (OSS) -The athlete will not practice on these days nor play in the next two (2) games. A second OSS will result in dismissal from the team.
4. Coaches have the authority to suspend players from game participation for disciplinary reasons and disruptive/disrespectful behavior. Coaches may also recommend athletes to the Principal and Athletic Director for dismissal from the team, following Due Process Rights.

## **I. NON-SCHOOL ACTIVITIES**

All school team practices and games take precedence over any other non-school athletic event, unless agreed upon ahead of time by the coach. In the best interest of the team, the athlete's commitment should be made to one team to avoid conflicts.

### **CLUBS**

The Middle School offers a variety of clubs to students throughout the school year. These clubs will be posted on the District Website in the Fall and students can register to enroll in these clubs. Please adhere to the club times and dates. Participation is contingent on student academic eligibility.