

2021-2022 McGraw High School Calendar

September 7, 2021.....1<sup>st</sup> Day of School for Students  
October 1, 2021..... Mid-Marking Period  
October 7, 2021..... Interim Reports Mailed  
October 11, 2021..... Columbus Day  
November 5, 2021.....End of 1<sup>st</sup> Marking Period  
November 10, 2021.....3-7 pm Parent/Teacher Conferences  
November 11, 2021..... Veteran’s Day Observed  
November 12, 2021.....Parent/Teacher Conference Day, No School  
November 12, 2021..... Report Cards Mailed  
November 24-26, 2021.....Thanksgiving Recess  
December 10, 2021..... Mid-Marking Period  
December 16, 2021..... Interim Reports Mailed  
December 24-Jan. 2, 2022..... Holiday Recess  
January 17, 2022..... Martin Luther King Day  
January 21, 2022..... End of 2<sup>nd</sup> Marking Period  
January 24, 2022.....Second Semester Begin  
January 25-28, 2022..... Regents Exams  
January 27, 2022..... Report Cards Mailed  
February 21-25, 2022..... President’s Day & Winter Recess  
March 4, 2022..... Mid-Marking Period  
March 10, 2022..... Interim Reports Mailed  
March 21, 2022..... Early Dismissal ½ Day Professional Development  
March 29-31, 2022..... ELA Testing Grades 3-8  
April 1, 2022..... End of 3<sup>rd</sup> Marking Period  
April 7, 2022..... Report Cards Mailed  
April 11-15, 2022..... Spring Recess & Good Friday  
April 26-28, 2022..... Math Testing Grades 3-8  
May 6, 2022..... Mid-Marking Period  
May 12, 2022..... Interim Reports Mailed  
May 27 & 30, 2022..... Memorial Day Recess  
June 6, 2022..... Grades 4 & 8 Science Testing  
June 11-17, 21-23, 2022..... Regents Testing  
June 13(9-12)23(6-8), 2022.....End of 4<sup>th</sup> Marking Period  
June 24, 2022.....Rating Day, Report Cards Mailed Home  
June 24, 2022.....Graduation

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## **Student Handbook**

### **Academic Grading Procedures**

The marking system is numerical, minimum passing grade is 65%. Report Cards are distributed after the close of the four marking periods. Each teacher will have an individual grading procedure for his/her classes. Students will be notified of the procedure during the first week of the school year. Class participation may be used to determine a portion of the grade and is based on participation in classroom discussions, contributions, note taking, preparedness and attendance. Plagiarism on any level may result in a failing grade. It is the student's responsibility to ensure that all exams and quizzes are taken in a timely fashion and that any missed exams and quizzes or labs are made up immediately. Incompletes will be given in extenuating circumstances only. Approval will be made by the building principal.

### **Code of Conduct**

The McGraw District Board of Education ("Board") is committed to providing a safe and orderly learning environment where students may receive and McGraw Central School District personnel may deliver quality educational services without disruption or interference. Responsible behavior by students, teachers, other McGraw Central School District personnel, parents and other visitors is essential to achieving this goal.

McGraw Central School District has a long-standing set of expectations for conduct on school property and at its functions. These expectations are based on the principles of civility, mutual respect, citizenship, character, tolerance, honesty, integrity, and the belief in the educational goals of the organization. The Board recognizes the need to clearly define these expectations for acceptable conduct on McGraw Central School District property, identify the possible consequences of unacceptable behavior, and to ensure that discipline when necessary is administered promptly and fairly. To this end, the Board adopts this Code of Conduct ("code").

Unless otherwise indicated, this code applies to all students, school personnel, parents and visitors when on McGraw Central School District property, when attending a McGraw Central School District function, or (in the case of extracurricular participants), any time or any day.

*The following is an abridged version of the McGraw Central School Code of Conduct. If you would like a copy of the policy in its entirety, please contact the Middle/High school main office.*

### **Student Rights and Responsibilities**

#### **A. Rights**

1. Students have the right to pursue an education in an atmosphere that is safe and conducive to learning.
2. Students have the right to enroll in any available program of study, which best meets their needs and abilities as per the established criteria.
3. Students have the right to be respected on the merits of their attributes as individuals.
4. Students have the right to procedural due process guaranteed by the United States Constitution and New York Education Law prior to disciplinary action taken against them.
5. Students have the right to freedom of speech and expression, which does not interfere with the educational process or infringe upon the rights of others.
6. Students have the right to freedom from discrimination relative to participation in curriculum offerings, athletics and extra-curricular activities.

#### **B. Responsibilities**

1. Students will conduct themselves with respect toward self, fellow students, teachers and others.
2. Students will strive to reach their potential in all areas.
3. Students will follow the directions of faculty and administration at all times.
4. Students will fulfill all classroom obligations.
5. Students will show respect for school property and for the property of others.
6. Students will demonstrate good conduct and positive attitude at all times in all school activities.
7. Students will dress in an appropriate manner for school activities.

### **Student Dress Code**

All students are required to give proper attention to personal cleanliness and to dress appropriately for McGraw Central School District programs and activities. Students and their parents have the primary responsibility for acceptable student dress and appearance. Teachers and all other McGraw Central School District personnel should reinforce acceptable attire, and help students develop an understanding of appropriate appearance in the educational setting.

#### **A student's dress, grooming, and appearance shall:**

1. Be safe, appropriate for a healthy learning environment, modest, and not disrupt or interfere with the educational process. Pajamas and other common sleepwear are not appropriate.
2. Include a top (i.e. shirt, blouse, sweatshirt) and bottom (i.e. pants, shorts skirt) or a dress. All should be of a modest length and ensure undergarments are covered.
3. Exclude extremely brief, tight and see-through garments, such as tube tops, crop tops, muscle shirts, net tops, halter tops, narrow straps (that do not cover undergarments), plunging necklines (front and/or back) shirts, skirts, and shorts of an unacceptable length. Shirts must cover the midriff. Placement of decorative holes, rips or tears in clothing must not expose areas generally covered by undergarments.
4. Not contain offensive illustrations or promote disruptive or demoralizing values. It shall not include items that are vulgar, obscene, libelous, or that denigrate others on account of race, color, religion, ancestry, national origin, gender, sexual orientation, or disability.
5. Not promote and/or endorse the use of alcohol, tobacco, or illegal drugs and/or encourage other illegal or violent activities.
6. Exclude extremely bulky garments to prevent concealing of any item.
7. Include safe footwear at all times. Heeleys with wheels are not permitted in school buildings or on school grounds. Hover-boards are also prohibited in school buildings and on school grounds. Sports cleats may not be worn in the building at any time.
8. Not include the wearing of hats or sunglasses in the school building, except for a medical or religious purpose, or where it is part of a uniform. Hats and other head coverings are to be removed upon entering the building and placed in lockers until the end of the school day.

Each building principal shall be responsible for informing staff, students and their parents of the student dress code at the beginning of the academic year and at any time when revisions to the dress code are made during the academic year.

Any student who violates the student dress code shall be required to modify his or her appearance by removing the offending item and replacing it with an acceptable garment.

Repeat offenders will suffer more extreme penalties

**Prohibited Student Conduct**

Students may be subject to disciplinary action from McGraw Central School District programs when they:

- A. **Engage in conduct that is disorderly.** Examples of disorderly conduct include but are not limited to:
  - 1. Running in hallways.
  - 2. Making unreasonable noise.
  - 3. Using language or gestures that are profane, lewd, vulgar, or abusive.
  - 4. Obstructing vehicular or pedestrian traffic.
  - 5. Engaging in any willful act which disrupts the normal operation of the McGraw Central School District community.
  - 6. Trespassing. Students are not permitted in any McGraw Central School District building, other than the one they regularly attend, without permission from the administrator in charge of the building.

***Disciplinary action will be progressive. Penalties will range from:***

Verbal warning, Lunch Detention, After School Detention, In-School Suspension, Out of School Suspension (detentions/suspensions may vary from 1-5 days) Chronic or severe infractions may result in a referral to a Superintendent's Hearing which may result in an extended Out of School Suspension.

- B. **Engage in conduct that is insubordinate.** Examples of insubordinate conduct include but are not limited to:
  - 1. Failing to comply with the lawful directions of teachers, McGraw Central School District administrators or other school employees in charge of students or otherwise demonstrating disrespect.
  - 2. Lateness for, missing or leaving McGraw Central School District property without permission.
  - 3. Skipping detention.

**Disciplinary action will be progressive. Penalties will range from:** Verbal warning, Lunch Detention, After School Detention, In-School Suspension, Out of School Suspension (detentions/suspensions may vary from 1-5 days) Chronic or severe infractions may result in a referral to a Superintendent's Hearing which may result in an extended Out of School Suspension.

**C. Engage in conduct that is disruptive.** Examples of disruptive conduct include but **are not limited to:**

1. Failing to comply with the lawful directions of teachers, McGraw Central School District administrators or other McGraw Central School District personnel in charge of students.
2. Being late for school or class.
3. Being unprepared for class
4. Use or display of electronic devices such as cell phone, CD player, headset, Palm pilot, PlayStation, DS, I-Pods, MP3 players and hand-held games during school hours. Student possession of such items is strongly discouraged. The security of such electronic devices is the sole responsibility of the owner. **(An exception to this: Students will be allowed to text and/or listen to music during the 3-minute passing between classes, in the senior privilege area and/or during lunch periods as long as the volume is at a level that does not disturb others. (earphones must be used when listening to music) When walking in the hallway—only one earphone should be used for safety reasons.) Also at the discretion of the supervising staff member—music may be listened to during study halls—the volume must not disturb others and the student must be working on academics since study hall time is academic time.**

Students are prohibited to use phones during classes unless the teacher has incorporated cell phone use into the lesson, i.e. calculator, research, etc.

Offenses For Breaking Cell Phone Rules

(Teachers and/or principal have the option of giving warnings when students are cooperative when asked to put an electronic device (i.e. cell phones, etc.) away or take it to the office to be locked up for the remainder of the day). Repeat offenders will have the following consequences.

1<sup>st</sup> Offense—Phone is brought to the main office by the student. Parents are required to pick up the phone in the main office. Student and parent will have a conversation with the principal.

2<sup>nd</sup> Offense—Phone is brought to the main office by the student. Parents are required to pick up the phone in the main office. Student and parent will have a 2<sup>nd</sup> conversation with the principal and student will serve one day of ‘In School Suspension’.

**Disciplinary action will be progressive. Penalties will range from:** Verbal warning, Lunch Detention, After School Detention, In-School Suspension, Out of School Suspension—(detentions/suspensions may vary from 1-5 days) Chronic or severe infractions may result in a referral to a Superintendent’s Hearing which may result in an extended Out of School Suspension.

- D. **Engage in conduct that is violent.** Examples of violent conduct include but are not limited to:
1. Committing or **threatening to commit** an act of violence (such as hitting, kicking, punching, biting, cutting, spitting, and scratching) upon oneself, a teacher, administrator or other McGraw Central School District employee, another student, or any other person lawfully on McGraw Central School District property.
  2. Possessing a weapon. It shall be unlawful for any person to knowingly possess any air-gun, spring-gun or other instrument or any item deemed to be a weapon in which the propelling force is a spring, air, piston or CO<sub>2</sub> cartridge upon school grounds or in any District building without the express written authorization of the Superintendent or his/her designee. Any written permission shall be given to a particular individual in relation to a specified weapon. The grant of such permission shall include the serial number of the weapon and shall be for a fixed period of time, which shall not exceed a school year. Additionally, the possession of any weapon, as defined in the New York State Penal Code, on school property or in school buildings is prohibited, except by law enforcement personnel or upon written authorization of the Superintendent/designee. Unlawful possession of a weapon upon school grounds may be a violation of the New York State Penal Law and is a violation of School District policy. (Penal Law Sections 265.01-265.06)
  3. Displaying what appears to be a weapon.
  4. Threatening to use any weapon.
  5. Intentionally damaging or destroying the personal property of a teacher, administrator, other district employee or any person lawfully on McGraw Central School District property, including graffiti or arson.
  6. Intentionally damaging or destroying school district property.



***Disciplinary action will be progressive. Penalties will range from:***

In-School Suspension, Out of School Suspension—(detentions/suspensions may vary from 1-5 days) Weapons, fighting or other violent infractions will follow S.A.V.E. legislation guidelines.

Chronic or severe infractions may result in a referral to a Superintendent's Hearing which may result in an extended Out of School Suspension.

- E. **Engage in any conduct that endangers the safety, morals, health or welfare of others.** Examples of such conduct include but are not limited to:
1. Lying to McGraw Central School District personnel.
  2. Stealing the property of other students, McGraw Central School District personnel or any other person lawfully on school property or attending a school function.
  3. Acts of sexual harassment as defined in the McGraw Central School District sexual harassment policy.
  4. Hazing or initiation into any teams or groups.
  5. Acts of coercion, bullying and verbal or physical harassment of students, staff, and/or visitors.
  6. Selling, using, or possessing obscene material.
  7. The use or possession of a lighter or other incendiary devices.
  8. Smoking or possession of a cigarette, e-cigarettes, vaping devices, i.e. juul, cigar, pipe or using chewing or smokeless tobacco.
  9. The use, possession, sale, gift or consumption of any drug, inhalant, synthetic cannabinoids (incense, herbal mixtures, potpourri, etc.), controlled substance, alcoholic beverage or any instruments for the use of such items or being under the influence of either. "Illegal substances" include inhalants, marijuana, cocaine, LSD, PCP, amphetamines, heroin, steroids, look-alike drugs, and any substances commonly referred to as "designer drugs".
  10. Inappropriate use of or sharing medication (over-the-counter drugs and/or prescription) or nutritional supplements. The nurse is prohibited by law from dispensing medicine except by a doctor's prescription and directions to the nurse. New York State Law requires all medicine must be locked in the health office. Students who need to have access to medication in school are to leave it with the school nurse. The medication must be brought to the school in the original container with the label intact and legible. The school nurse may administer the medication if the parent submits a written request accompanied by the physician's statement indicating the

frequency of the dosage. Students who are in the possession of medication, but have not followed the directions described above shall be warned for the first offense. For succeeding offenses s/he will be disciplined according to the Code of Conduct. Students who distribute such medication to others will be considered as distributing drugs illegally.

11. Acts of public displays of affection while on school property that are excessive and/or found to be offensive.

***Disciplinary action will be progressive. Penalties will range from:***

Verbal warning, Lunch Detention, After School Detention, In-School Suspension, Out of School Suspension—(detentions/suspensions may vary from 1-5 days) Chronic or severe infractions may result in a referral to a Superintendent’s Hearing which may result in an extended Out of School Suspension.

- F. **Engage in misconduct while on a school bus.** It is crucial for students to behave appropriately while riding on McGraw Central School District buses, to ensure their safety and that of other passengers and to avoid distracting the bus driver. Students are required to conduct themselves on the bus in a manner consistent with established standards for classroom behavior. Excessive noise, pushing, shoving and fighting will not be tolerated. Students waiting for buses when not on school property are expected to conduct themselves in accordance with the McGraw Central School District code of conduct.

**Since student behavior on the bus can affect the safety of all students riding and transportation is a privilege given to students, a specific progression of disciplinary action has been set:**

- 1<sup>st</sup> Bus Referral: After School Detention
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Bus Referral: Three Day Bus Suspension
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Bus Referral: Five Day Bus Suspension
- 4<sup>th</sup> Bus Referral: 30 Day Bus Suspension

**G. Cell Phone Use While on School Transportation**

The following guidelines will be implemented on school transportation:

- Cell phones should be kept in the owners backpack or pocket when not in use and not shared with other students
- Cell phones MUST not be in use when walking to and/or from the bus for safety reasons

- No photos, videos, or calls while en-route due to privacy laws. Texting, games, watching videos and listening to music will be allowed as long as it is not causing a disruption or at a volume that would disturb others.
- Headphones (with only one ear covered, so student can still hear directions from the bus driver) may be used to listen to music, play games or watch videos—the volume must be as such to not disturb others
- Any inappropriate use and or content will be deemed as a violation, resulting in confiscation

***Drivers have the option of giving a warning for first time offenders if a student is cooperative and puts the device away when asked.***

**1<sup>st</sup> Offense:** the cell phone will be confiscated until the end of the bus ride and returned to the student

**2<sup>nd</sup> Offense:** the cell phone will be confiscated and given to the Building principal at the end of the bus trip to be placed in the school safe until the parent/guardian is able to come to the school and pick it up; the driver or transportation supervisor will contact the parent/guardian to explain why the phone was confiscated and the safety issues violated. An after school detention will be assigned.

**3<sup>rd</sup> Offense:** the cell phone will be confiscated and it will again be placed in the safe at the end of the bus ride until a parent/guardian comes to pick it up and the student will also be assigned a day of in-school suspension, it may result in a loss of bus riding privileges.

- H. **Engage in any form of academic misconduct.** Examples of academic misconduct include but are not limited to:
1. Plagiarism.
  2. Cheating.
  3. Altering a grade, or other student record, on paper or in electronic form.

***Disciplinary action will be progressive. Penalties will range from:***

Verbal warning, Lunch Detention, After School Detention, In-School Suspension, Out of School Suspension—(detentions/suspensions may vary from 1-5 days) Chronic or severe infractions may result in a referral to a Superintendent’s Hearing which may result in an extended Out of School Suspension.

- I. **Engage in illegal or reckless vehicular practices.** Examples include but are not limited to:
  1. Speeding.
  2. Reckless behavior while driving or riding.
  3. Passing a stopped school bus with red lights flashing.

***Disciplinary action will be progressive. Penalties will range from:***

Verbal warning, Lunch Detention, After School Detention, In-School Suspension, Out of School Suspension—(detentions/suspensions may vary from 1-5 days). Loss of driving privileges on school grounds may occur at any time. Local police authorities will be contacted for situations requiring their assistance. Chronic or severe infractions may result in a referral to a Superintendent’s Hearing which may result in an extended Out of School Suspension.

**Reporting Violations of the Code of Conduct**

Any student observing or having knowledge of a student possessing a weapon, alcohol or illegal substance or potential violent act on McGraw Central School District property or at a McGraw Central School District function shall report this information immediately. This shall be reported to a teacher, a McGraw Central School administrator, or a McGraw Central School District employee. Students withholding this information or providing misinformation will be held accountable for their actions. Any weapons, alcohol or illegal substances found shall be confiscated immediately, followed by notification of the parent of the student involved. Appropriate disciplinary action will be taken and a referral made for prosecution.

The building principal or program supervisor must notify the appropriate local law enforcement agency of those code violations that constitute a crime and substantially affect the order or security of a school as soon as practical, but in no event later than the close of business the day the principal learns of the violation. The notification may be made by telephone, followed by a letter mailed on the same day as the telephone call is made. The notification must identify the student(s) and explain the conduct that violated the code of conduct and constituted a crime.

**Disciplinary Procedures and Penalties**

Students who are found to have violated the McGraw Central School District code of conduct may be subject to the following penalties,

either alone or in combination with one another. The school personnel identified after each penalty are authorized to impose that penalty, consistent with the student's right to due process.

**A. Penalties**

1. Verbal warning – any member of the McGraw Central School District staff
2. Written notification to parent – bus driver, teacher, teacher aide, administrator, McGraw Central School District staff
3. Detention – teachers, principal, superintendent
4. Suspension from transportation – principal, superintendent
5. Short-term or long-term suspension or removal from social or extra-curricular activities – principal, superintendent
6. Suspension of other privileges – principal, superintendent
7. Supervised instruction – principal, superintendent
8. Removal from classroom – teachers, principal, superintendent
9. Short-term (five days or less) suspension from school – principal, superintendent, board of education
10. Long-term (more than five days) suspension from school, superintendent, board of education
11. Permanent suspension from school – superintendent, board of education.

**B. Procedures**

1. Detention: Detention will be imposed as a penalty only after the students' parent has been notified of the penalty and the student has appropriate transportation home following detention.
2. Suspension from transportation: Students who become a serious disciplinary problem may have their riding privileges suspended by the building principal or designated administrator. In such cases, the student's parent will become responsible for seeing that his or her child gets to and from school safely.
3. Suspension from extra-curricular and athletic activities and other privileges: A student subjected to a suspension from extra-curricular activities or other privileges is not entitled to a full hearing pursuant to Educational Law. However, the student and the student's parent or guardian will be provided with a reasonable opportunity for an informal conference with a MCS official to discuss the conduct and penalty involved.

4. In-School Suspension: A student subjected to an in-school suspension is not entitled to a full hearing pursuant to Education Law 3214. However, the student and the student's parent will be provided with a reasonable opportunity for an informal conference with a district official to discuss the conduct and the penalty involved. Students on in-school suspension will not be allowed to participate in school activities occurring during the regular school day, such as assemblies, pep rallies and field trips, or any after school activities until 8:00 a.m. of the following school day. When a student is on in-school suspension, parental phone contact will be made by a school district employee in a timely manner.
5. Teacher Removal of Disruptive Students: A disruptive student is defined as a student who, despite previous intervention strategies, has failed to comply with classroom expectations and interferes with classroom instruction and/or learning.
6. Suspension from school: Suspension from school is a severe penalty, which may be imposed upon students who are insubordinate, disorderly, violent or disruptive, or whose conduct otherwise endangers the safety, morals, health or welfare of others.

#### **Discipline of Students with Disabilities**

The Board of Education recognizes that it may be necessary to suspend, remove or otherwise discipline students with disabilities to address disruptive or problem behavior. The Board also recognizes that students with disabilities enjoy certain procedural protections whenever McGraw Central School District authorities intend to impose discipline upon them. The Board is committed to ensuring that the procedures followed for suspending, removing or otherwise disciplining students with disabilities are consistent with the procedural safeguards required by applicable laws and regulations

#### **Student Searches and Interrogations**

The Board of Education is committed to ensuring an atmosphere on McGraw Central School District property and at McGraw Central School District functions that is safe and orderly. To achieve this kind of environment, any school official authorized to impose a disciplinary penalty on a student may question a student about an alleged violation of law or the district code of conduct.

Before searching a student's belongings, the authorized McGraw Central School District official should attempt to get the student to

admit that he or she possesses physical evidence that they violated the law or the district code or get the student to voluntarily consent to the search. Searches will be limited to the extent necessary to locate the evidence sought.

Whenever practicable, searches will be conducted in the privacy of administrative offices and students will be present when their possessions are searched.

- A. Student Lockers, Desks and Other School Storage Places  
The rules in this code of conduct regarding searches of student belongings do not apply to student lockers, desks and other school storage places. Students have no reasonable expectation of privacy with the respect to these places and McGraw Central School District officials retain complete control over them. This means that student lockers, desks and other McGraw Central District storage places may be subject to search at any time by McGraw Central School District officials, without prior notice to students and without their consent.
- B. Documentation of Searches  
The official performing the search shall be responsible for promptly recording the information. The administrator shall be responsible for the custody, control and disposition of any illegal or dangerous item taken from a student. The administrator shall retain control of the items, unless the items are turned over to the police.
- C. Police Involvement in Searches and Interrogations of Students  
McGraw Central School District officials are committed to cooperating with police officials and other law enforcement authorities to maintain a safe school environment. Police officials, however, have limited authority to interview or search students in McGraw Central School District buildings or at McGraw Central School District functions, or to use McGraw Central School District facilities in connection with police work. Police officials may enter McGraw Central School District property or a McGraw Central School District function to question or search a student or to conduct a formal investigation involving students only if they have:
  - 1. A search or arrest warrant
  - 2. Probable cause to believe a crime has been committed on McGraw Central School District property or at a school function, or
  - 3. Been invited by McGraw Central School District officials.Before police officials are permitted to question or search any student, the administrator shall first notify the student's parent to

give the parent the opportunity to be present during any police questioning or search. The principal or supervisor will also be present during the police questioning or search of a student on McGraw Central School District property or at a McGraw Central School District function. Students who are questioned by police officials on McGraw Central School District property or at a McGraw Central School District function will be afforded the same rights they have outside the school.

### **Visitors to the Schools**

The Board encourages parents and other district citizens to visit the district's schools and classrooms to observe the work of students, teachers and other staff. Since schools are a place of work and learning, however, certain limits must be set for such visits. The building principal is responsible for all persons in the building and on the grounds. For these reasons, the following rules apply to visitors to McGraw Central School District property:

1. Anyone who is not a regular staff member or student of the school or program will be considered a "visitor".
2. All visitors to the McGraw Central School District facility must report to the office of the building principal upon arrival at the school. There they will be required to sign the visitor's register and will be issued a visitor's identification badge, which must be worn at all times while in the school or on school grounds.
3. Visitors attending McGraw Central School District functions that are open to the public, such as parent-teacher organization meetings or public gatherings, are not required to register.
4. Parents/guardians and community members must make prior arrangements to:
  - meet with a teacher
  - visit a child's classroom on a special occasion
5. Parents are expected to make appointments to discuss individual matters with teachers.
6. Any unauthorized person on school property will be reported to the building principal. Unauthorized persons will be asked to leave. The police may be called if the situation so warrants.
7. All visitors are expected to abide by the rules for public conduct on McGraw Central School District property contained in this code of conduct.



### **Dignity for All Students Act—Effective July 1, 2012**

Intent: The Dignity for All Students Act amends Education Law to put in place procedures for the creation of school environments free of discrimination and harassment. This law is effective July 1, 2012.

Under the Dignity Act, there are currently 11 protected classes, groups, or characteristics. The Dignity Act prohibits any discrimination based on actual or perceived characteristics. Individuals in Public Schools in New York State are protected from discrimination, harassment and persecution on the basis of actual or perceived:

- Race
- Color
- Weight
- National Origin
- Ethnic Group
- Religion
- Religious Practice
- Sex
- Gender
- Sexual Orientation
- Disability

Protection is not limited to the groups or characteristics listed above. For example, individuals are protected if they are harassed because of their socioeconomic status even though “socioeconomic” is not explicitly listed. An individual harassed for their height in either direction or their accent or speech style would be considered protected even though “height” and “accent” are not explicitly listed. The intent of the Dignity Act is to protect ALL individuals in schools.

**Definition:**

Harassment—The creation of a hostile environment by conduct or by verbal threats, intimidation, or abuse that has or would have the effect of unreasonably and substantially interfering with a student’s educational performance, opportunities or benefits, or mental, emotional or physical well-being. It also includes conduct, verbal threats, intimidation or abuse that reasonably cause or would reasonably be expected to cause a student to fear for his or her physical safety.

**Prohibitions:** On school property and at school functions, the prohibits: Student harassment by school employees or students on school property or at a school function. This prohibition extends to cyberbullying: verbal or written threats through an internet service such as e-mail, chat room, discussion group, instant messaging, or social networking sites on or off school property. Student Discrimination by school employees or students based on a person's actual or perceived race, color, weight, national origin, ethnic group, religion, religious practice, disability, sexual orientation, gender, or sex.

**Reporting Discrimination or Harassment:**

Any person having reasonable cause to suspect that a student has been subjected to discrimination or harassment, who acts reasonably and in good faith in reporting such information or initiates informal or formal proceedings, has immunity from any civil liability that may arise. No school district or employee may take, request or cause retaliatory action against a person who, acting reasonably and in good faith makes a report or initiates informal or formal proceedings.

**Requirements Set for School District:**

Develop policies intended to create a school environment that is free from discrimination and harassment. Include in the school district's code of conduct an age-appropriate version of the policy, written in plain language. Develop guidelines to be used in school training programs to discourage discrimination or harassment. The guidelines must be designed to: Raise the awareness and sensitivity of school employees to potential discrimination or harassment. Enable employees to prevent and respond to discrimination or harassment. Support the development of nondiscriminatory instructional and counseling methods. At least one member of each school's staff must be trained to handle human relations in the areas in which discrimination and harassment are prohibited.

\*Bullying/Discipline rubrics for grades 6-12 are available in the Parent Handbook and the Code of Conduct.

## **ATHLETIC/EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES PARTICIPATION CODE**

Students are encouraged to participate in Athletic and Extracurricular activities at McGraw Jr.-Sr. High School. In order to participate in these activities, a student must be registered in the district. This Participation Code includes, but is not limited to, all clubs, activities, organizations, and athletics. It applies to all students, grades 6 through 12, and remains in effect for all 12 months of the year.

Students who participate in athletic and extracurricular activities should recognize that they have an obligation to themselves, their co-participants and the school community to strive for excellence.

### **Five overall expectations must guide student conduct and eligibility:**

1. Students will demonstrate respect and concern for the rights and feelings of others.
2. Students will behave in a manner, which reflects favorably on themselves, their family, classmates, school, and community.
3. Students will adhere to the District Code of Conduct.
4. Students will abide by the Athletic and Extracurricular Participation Code (see below)
5. Students must maintain Scholastic Eligibility (see below)

### **Participants will not:**

- Use, possess, or distribute tobacco products, e-cigarettes, vaping devices, alcoholic beverages, illegal substances, or drugs;
- Host or attend events where illegal distribution of alcohol, drugs, or other illegal substances is present;
- Steal or damage school or personal property;
- Exhibit personal misconduct, during or after school hours that could lead to the involvement of law enforcement agencies.
- Enter inappropriate postings to the internet i.e. Facebook, Tik Tok, Instagram, YouTube, SnapChat, Etc. accounts such as reference to drugs, alcohol, illicit and violent behavior, inappropriate pictures, videos, bullying, etc. This also includes the use of texting and/or all other types of social media.

### **Student's Rights**

In order to protect student's rights, the following procedures will be followed where suspension from the team/organization for any period of time has been given.

The student will be notified by the coach/advisor of reasons for the suspension.

Parents will be notified of the suspension.

The student has the right to an informal hearing with the high school principal, athletic director (for athletics), coach or advisor and parent. The student may then present his/her side of the situation.

**Disciplinary Action** taken by the coach/advisor for minor problems within the team/group will be handled on an as needed basis. Often student behavior can be corrected in this manner before it becomes an issue that would require suspension. Students and parents can always discuss these issues with the coach, advisor, athletic director (for athletics) and principal. These discussions should **not** take place during or directly after a game or event when other students/spectators are around. Students and/or parents should make an appointment with the coach/advisor to discuss any disciplinary issue or problem in private.

**Final decisions** concerning any suspension/disciplinary action rests with the high school principal, athletic director (for athletics) and coach/advisor.

### **Participation Code Violations**

Participants who violate the Participation Code will be subject to the following in addition to the consequences dictated by the McGraw Central School Code of Conduct:

1. Any use, possession, receiving a court appearance ticket or being in attendance where there is use by minors, on or off school grounds of illegal drugs, alcoholic beverages or tobacco will result in a suspension\* of:

- 1.) First offense--30 calendar days of the school year\*\*
- 2.) Second offense—60 calendar days of the school year\*\*
- 3.) Any further offense—one calendar year from the date

of infraction

\*A suspension means to be ineligible to play in a league, non-league, or tournament game and or to participate in a club or organization activity.

\*\***Suspensions will be continuous throughout the school year/sports seasons. Example--An athlete that has been given a 30**

day suspension at the end of one season will continue to fulfill the time period during the next season even if the time period extends into the next school year. The time period in between seasons will not count toward the suspension. The principal and AD will determine beginning and ending dates for each season. Suspension time periods for other extracurricular activities that are not active throughout the school year, will be determined by when the activity is active at the discretion of the principal. All other activity suspensions will be dictated by the number of calendar days of the school year.

#### **First Offense and Second Offenses**

- 1.) The student is expected to participate in all practices and /or meetings.
- 2.) During the suspension the student athlete is expected to attend all contests with the team, sit on the bench, but not dress in uniform. In the case of a club or organization the student may be expected to attend all meetings to plan activities, but may not participate in the activity.
- 3.) Upon suspension, parents will be notified in writing outlining the offense and punishments.
- 4.) Student will be encouraged to obtain counseling.
- 5.) During the suspension period the student **will be** eligible to try out or join a new activity, but will not be able to participate (other than during the try-out period) until after the suspension period. Once the suspension is over, the count for the required number of practices/meetings will begin. The student may be required to attend practices or meetings on a watch only basis, prior to the end of suspension in order to be prepared to play/participate after the suspension is over.

#### **Third Offense**

- 1.) The student will be dismissed from all athletic/extracurricular events for an entire calendar year.
- 2.) Parents will be notified in writing outlining the offense and punishments.
- 3.) Student will be encouraged to obtain counseling.
- 4.) Student **will not** be able to try out or join a new sport/activity until the suspension period has been completed.

**Section III Disciplinary Proceedings**—all game/team misconduct disciplinary action will be in accordance with Section III guidelines.

This includes any yellow card, red card, technical, or ejection infractions.

**Students who quit a team, club or organization:**

If a student chooses to quit a team or organization, it is advised that the student discuss the situation and reasons why, with the coach, advisor, and/or athletic director prior to making a final decision. It is also recommended that the decision not be made during a contest/game, practice, event, or meeting and when the student discusses the situation, it is done in a courteous manner. The coach, advisor, and/or athletic director will discuss the situation privately with the student and/or parent at a convenient time for both parties. A contest/game, event, meeting, or practice should not be interrupted for a student to quit or to discuss any such matter. If a decision has been made to quit a team, club, or organization, the student should:

- 1.) Promptly notify the advisor, coach and/or athletic director to discuss the reasons why they no longer want to participate.
- 2.) Return all equipment and uniforms.

Any student who has not returned all uniforms, equipment and/or organization property will be unable to participate in any extracurricular activity, practice or try out for another team until everything has been returned.

**Attendance and Participation**

A student must be in attendance for the entire day (8:10-2:46) in order to participate in any extracurricular activity that day. Students must attend all classes including full participation in PE. For weekend activities, a student must be in attendance for the entire school day prior to the activity. This full-day of attendance requirement may be waived by the principal under extenuating circumstances, or in accordance with the following excused dismissals:

Students will be permitted to participate in extracurricular activities if a portion of a day is missed and a note is provided to excuse the absence from a doctor, dentist, orthodontist, family court clerk, etc. A note indicating the student had an appointment from a parent/guardian will not be accepted.

Students should be in attendance on time the day following a school night activity.

### **Scholastic Eligibility Code**

Parents/legal guardians and students should be aware of the McGraw Central School District Scholastic Eligibility Code to remain eligible to participate in extracurricular activities and school events.

1. If a student is **failing two or more subjects**, the student will be declared ineligible to participate in extracurricular activities; this includes, all sports (as a player or spectator), clubs and organizations. (School dances, prom, concerts, trips, etc.) An exception to this is if the event is a requirement for a class or course grade.
2. An ineligible student who drops a failed course prior to or after the academic report card (interim report or end of marking period) is issued remains ineligible until the next eligibility list is issued.
3. Students will become eligible/ineligible effective on the day grades are due/verified for report cards/interim reports.
4. To determine fall eligibility, the final course grades in June will be used, **not the fourth quarter average**. Students who retake failed courses in summer school and pass will have their eligibility for the fall re-evaluated.
5. Ineligible students will be permitted to try out, but not practice until they become eligible.

### **Athletic and Organization Information**

Schedules, contest sites, Section III regulations and NCAA eligibility are all available on the McGraw Central School website: [www.mcgrawschools.org](http://www.mcgrawschools.org) and/or in the Athletic Office, Guidance Office or Main Office at McGraw High School.

### **Athletic Teams**

Students in grades 7-12 will have the opportunity to participate on various sports teams throughout the school year. The following sports are currently offered, but may change due to student interest and the athletic budget.

Fall—Modified, JV and Varsity Soccer

Winter—Modified, JV and Varsity Volleyball

Modified, JV and Varsity Basketball

Varsity Bowling

Spring—Modified and Varsity Softball; Modified and Varsity

Baseball; Varsity Golf

6<sup>th</sup> Grade students have the opportunity to participate in intramural sports throughout the school year, notification will be sent home periodically when the new sport begins. Intramurals are held at the elementary school.

### **Clubs and Organizations**

All students in grades 6-12 will have the opportunity to participate in various club/organization activities. All students will be considered members of their class organization, which will be determined by class/credits. Some clubs do have certain requirements before a student can be a participant, i.e. grade level, course taken, etc. Most clubs just require an interest to be involved.

- Drama Club—Grades 6-12
- Future Business Leaders of America—Grades 9-12 (must be enrolled in or have taken a Business Class)
- Foreign Language Club—Grades 9-12 (French or Spanish student)
- Jr. Honor Society—Grades 8 and 9 (GPA requirements as well as requirements met for induction which include—Service, Character, Leadership and Academics)
- Sr. Honor Society—Grades 10-12 (GPA requirements as well as requirements met for induction which include—Service, Character, Leadership and Academics)
- Student Council—Grades 6-12
- Yearbook—Grades 6-12
- Environmental Club—Grades 6-12
- Art Club—Grades 6-12
- Clay Trap Shooting Club—Grades 6-12
- Skiing Club—Grades 3-12

### **Transportation Release After Extracurricular Events**

Students can be released after an extracurricular/athletic event to a parent or designated person. Advisors/Coaches have forms that parents can complete prior to releasing the student to designate appropriate release persons during each sports season and/or extracurricular event.

### **Attendance**

All students are required to attend school according to the adopted school calendar for the district. Under New York State Law, every



individual between the ages of six and sixteen must be in regular attendance in school unless he/she has a legal reason for absence. Individuals must attend school until the end of the school year after the individual's sixteenth birthday. According to this law, the only reasons for excused absence are: illness, religious observance, quarantine, court, sickness, or death in the family, impassable roads, hazardous weather conditions, health treatment, or attendance at a clinic. All other absences, unless authorized by the school, are considered unexcused. By law, neither the parent nor the school may excuse students for such activities as hunting, fishing, helping with chores at home, going shopping, or missing the bus. Immediately upon return to school following an absence, the student must present a note from his or her parents/guardians to the school nurse explaining his or her absence. If a student must be excused from school early for medical appointments or other reasons, the student must bring a note to the school nurse prior to the first class of the day. The student must sign out in the Health Office when they leave for the appointment. If the student returns after the appointment, he/she must sign in with the school nurse. Attendance is important; being on time to an assigned location is equally important. Students who are late for school in the morning or who come in during the course of a day, must report first to the health office for a pass. This pass will admit the student to class. Chronic tardiness and/or absence are disruptive to both teachers and fellow students. Missing class time can also be detrimental to a student's academic success. Students are encouraged to attend school on a daily basis. If a student is absent he/she should make every effort to make up the work that has been missed.

#### **Sexual Harassment Policy**

It is policy of the district that all employees and students have a right to work or study in an environment free of discrimination, which encompasses freedom from sexual harassment. The district strongly disapproves of sexual harassment of its employees or students in any form, and states that all employees as well as students at all levels of the district must avoid offensive or inappropriate sexual or sexually harassing behavior at school, on school grounds, at school functions, and on school transportation and will be held responsible for ensuring that such workplace is free from sexual harassment. Specifically, the district prohibits the following:

- Unwelcome sexual advances,

- Requests for sexual favors, whether or not accompanied by promises or threats with regard to the student-teacher, student-student, or employment relationship,
- Other verbal, physical or visual conduct of a sexual nature made to any employee or student that may threaten or insinuate either explicitly or implicitly that any person's submission to or rejection of sexual advances will in any way influence any decision regarding that person's employment, evaluation, wages, advancement, assigned duties, shifts, academic performance, or any other condition of employment, academic or career development,
- Any verbal, physical or visual conduct that has the purpose or effect of substantially interfering with a person's ability to perform the individual's duties,
- Any verbal, physical or visual conduct that has the purpose or effect of substantially interfering with a person's ability to perform the individual's duties,
- Any verbal, physical or visual conduct that has the purpose or effect of creating an intimidating, hostile or offensive working or academic environment.

Such conduct may result in disciplinary action up to and including dismissal or suspension upon instruction.

Other sexually harassing conduct in the workplace, whether physical, verbal or visual, committed by supervisors or non-supervisory personnel or students is also prohibited. This behavior includes but is not limited to, commentary about an individual's body, sexually degrading words to describe an individual, offensive comments, off-color language or jokes, innuendoes, and sexually suggestive objects, books, magazines, photographs, cartoons or pictures. Employees or students who have complaints of sexual harassment by anyone in the school environment, including any supervisors, co-employees, students or visitors are urged to report such conduct to the compliance officer so that the district may investigate and resolve the problem. If the complaint involves the compliance officer, or if the person for any reason is uncomfortable in dealing with the compliance officer, the employee or student may go to the superintendent or a person appointed by the superintendent to handle the complaint.

The district will endeavor to investigate all complaints as expeditiously and as professionally as possible. Where investigations confirm the allegations, appropriate corrective action will be taken.

The district will endeavor to maintain the information provided to it in the complaint and investigation process as confidentially as possible, consistent with the laws of the State and, if applicable, the collective negotiations agreement.

There will be no retaliation against employees or students for reporting sexual harassment or assisting the district in the investigation of a complaint. However, if after investigating any complaint of harassment or unlawful discrimination, the district learns that the complaint is not in good faith or that an employee or student has provided false information regarding the complaint, disciplinary action may be taken against the individual who provided the false information.

#### **Announcements, Signs and Posters**

The announcements for the day are made over the public address system. If you wish to have an announcement made regarding school activities, you must fill out the appropriate announcement form and leave it with a secretary in the main office to be reviewed.

Special signs may be posted in the library, guidance office or on hall bulletin boards, not on any painted surfaces. All notices or posters must be approved by the Principal.

#### **Vehicles**

All students wishing to park in the school parking lot must complete a permission form. Forms are available in the Main Office. Seniors and Juniors are the only students who are eligible for parking places. Seniors will be given priority. Parking places will be assigned on a first come, first served basis for Junior students after Senior spaces have been assigned. Students parking privileges may be suspended at any time for not adhering to the student driving rules and/or regulations, attendance policies and as a reprimand for misconduct in or on school property. The speed limit within the school limit is 15 mph. Students arriving at or after 8:00 AM are expected to park their vehicles and immediately enter the building. Students will not be allowed to go to their vehicles during the school day. At the end of

the school day, all student drivers are to exit after the buses have departed at the end of the day.

At the discretion of administration, students may be required to participate in a safety training course in order to have the privilege of parking on school grounds.

### **McGraw Central School Transportation Policy**

#### **J. Types of Student Transportation to be provided:**

1. Regular Transportation takes public, private, parochial and disabled students to and from their respective schools or vocational training sites.
2. Field Trips for public school students, which are of an instructional nature, organized and supervised by a member or members of the instructional staff, which are conducted during the normal school day, evenings, or holidays.
3. Extracurricular transportation of non-instructional nature for events, which are conducted after normal school hours, during weekends, and holidays.
4. Mandatory special transportation to accommodate certain children with disabilities according to their individualized education plans.
5. Transportation will be provided for students who walk to school when the outside temperature is 15 degrees or colder. There are three designated pick-up/drop-off points: the parking lot on South Street next to the old fire station; the corner of North Street and Church Street; and the parking lot near 14 Spring Street.

#### **II. Eligibility:**

1. The McGraw Central School District will provide transportation to and from school to students residing outside the village limits. In addition, children who reside within the village limits may be eligible for transportation to and from childcare under the provisions of section III.5. All public school students within the district are eligible for transportation for educational activities.
2. Transportation for students attending parochial or private schools may be provided up to 15 miles from each student's home to the private or parochial school. If the district is already transporting other students to the parochial school, it may require at its discretion, that students living more than 15 miles from the school to get themselves to a centralized pick-up point, in order to receive transportation. The distance from the pick-up point to the parochial or non-public school may not exceed 15 miles.

3. In order to be assured eligibility for transportation to a private or parochial school, parents/guardians must submit a written transportation request no later than April 1 of the prior school year, unless the family moves into the district after April 1, in which case the request must be made within 30 days of establishing residency. The filing of a late request may result in the denial of transportation. Criteria to be used by the district when determining whether to accept a late request may include the following:
  4. Whether transportation will require an additional cost, and if so, the reasonableness of the excuse for the late request.
  5. Transportation will not be provided at times or on days when McGraw Central Schools are not in session. The addition of an unreasonable schedule by a private school does not obligate the district to approve special transportation.
  6. Transportation of classified special education students will be provided in accordance with individualized education plans. Except 12-month summer transportation, services will not be provided to students attending programs outside of the district when McGraw Schools are not in session, unless required by law. Transportation will be provided to students who need district approved summer programs in order to reach required educational standards.

### **III. Establishment of Schedules and Routes:**

1. The district will transport resident children in Kindergarten through eighth grade to a childcare provider under the following conditions:
2. The childcare location must be outside of the McGraw Village limits and along an existing bus route within the district. The childcare must therefore be in the zones in which transportation is already provided.
3. The parent or legal guardian must request the consideration in writing to the building principal for approval according to the standards set forth by this policy. Written requests for childcare route changes can be submitted on a daily basis. Route change requests may not be faxed, telephoned or sent via e-mail.
4. If the childcare location were on a route other than that which the child would use to go home, the alternate route must have an available seat on the bus to accommodate the student.
5. If the childcare stop is not a regularly scheduled stop, the child may be required to walk to or from a centralized pick-up point.
6. Transportation of students shall be on assigned routes at assigned times. Transportation requests for purposes other than those

identified in this policy will be denied. Examples of unapproved transportation include, but are not limited to, service, which takes students to meetings, parties, and after school employment.

#### **IV. Student Conduct**

1. Students are expected to be waiting at the bus stop. Student passengers must stand back 15 feet from the road as the bus approaches. Students must wait for the driver's signal before crossing the road.
2. Seatbelts shall be maintained for students to use on a voluntary basis in buses for 16 passengers or more. For smaller buses of 15 passengers or less, seatbelts must be worn at all times.
3. All students are expected to adhere to the Board of Education approved policy on student conduct and discipline. Procedures for bus safety and student behavior will be reviewed annually by the building principals and the head bus driver prior to publication in the student handbook.
4. Children who become a disciplinary problem on the school bus may have their riding privileges suspended by the building principal.

#### **V. Student Transportation in Private Vehicles:**

The transportation of students by district employees in private vehicles is prohibited.

#### **Bus Safety Drills**

There will be at least three Bus Safety Drills held during the school year in order to provide instruction regarding conduct on a school bus and procedures to be followed if it is necessary to evacuate a bus during an emergency. All students, including those who regularly walk or drive to school, are expected to participate.

#### **Bus Safety-Student Conduct Daily Trips**

The conduct of each student while riding on the school buses to and from school is extremely important to the physical safety of everyone on the bus.

1. When dismissed for the day, each student is to leave the building and go directly to the assigned bus. The student is to board the bus and take an assigned seat.
2. Once each student is in the assigned seat, the student is to remain in the seat and not leave it until the bus stop has been reached. The

student should not move around the bus. Bus drivers have the right and will assign students to seats if necessary.

3. No food shall be eaten on the bus.
4. Students should not extend any portion of their body out of the window.
5. Nothing shall be thrown within the bus, or in or out of the windows.
6. Students will not change seats while the bus is in motion.
7. Students shall enter or leave the bus only when the door is fully opened.
8. Students shall avoid pushing when entering or leaving the bus.
9. Students shall keep their feet out of the aisle.
10. Students shall keep their hands off the person and property of others.
11. Students shall keep their books, lunch box, etc. out of the aisle.
12. Students shall avoid loud, boisterous talk and other noises which are distracting to the driver.
13. There should be no swearing, use of inappropriate language, etc., by any student under any condition.
14. Students should never tamper with emergency exits.
15. Students shall not smoke or light matches or other materials on the bus.
16. Students shall consistently observe all rules and respond promptly to the driver's instructions.

#### **Cell Phone Use While on School Transportation**

Please review policy in the Code of Conduct on pages 10 and 11.

The Code of Conduct as well as the above rules apply to all students. Failure to abide by these rules will be viewed as insubordination. While riding on a school bus, the bus driver has the direct responsibility for maintaining order. Therefore, he/she is in charge and each student is required to obey the directions of the bus driver.

#### **Bus Safety-Student Conduct-Field Trips**

On all extra-curricular/co-curricular field trips, all of the above rules shall apply with the exception of eating which shall be at the discretion of the advisor/coach and driver; proper clean-up of the bus by its occupants is expected.

### **Cafeteria/Drinks**

Eating in the cafeteria is a privilege extended to all students. Lunch will be served every day unless you are notified to the contrary. Should you choose to purchase your lunch at school, you are expected to pay for it at the end of the service line. Charging is not allowed. Extenuating circumstances need to be approved by the administration. For those of you who wish to bring your lunch from home, milk, ice cream and other a la carte items will be available. Please make special note, if you bring your lunch, only individual bag lunches are allowed. Buffet style lunches brought from home or lunches “ordered out” are not allowed in the cafeteria. Students may carry a water bottle during the school day, or keep one in their locker as long as it does not become a distraction, or interrupt learning. Other beverages (soda, juices, coffee, etc.) may not be carried during the school day. As a reminder, food and drink are prohibited in certain areas of the building, i.e. library, computer room, science labs, etc. A beverage machine is available in the cafeteria. You may not purchase a lunch elsewhere for consumption in the cafeteria due to its impact on the school lunch program.

All students are expected to enter the cafeteria using the North East doorway and form a line along the North wall to the serving line. You will be served on a first come, first served basis.

While you are eating, you are expected to observe those table manners appropriate at your home or at a restaurant. Please be aware that you may not move any cafeteria furniture without the permission of a cafeteria supervisor.

After you have eaten, you are expected to promptly clear your table and the floor around you (should anything have fallen) and return your tray, placing paper, silverware, plates and trays in the appropriate areas. No food and/or beverage is permitted out of the cafeteria (except in the case of detention or senior privilege).

Failure to follow school and cafeteria rules, damage to equipment, refusing to clean up your area or taking food from the cafeteria will result in disciplinary action.



### **Conferences for Parents**

Parents are encouraged to make appointments for conferences with teachers, counselors or the Principal by telephoning the Main Office (836-3600) or the Guidance Office (836-3610).

### **Homework Request Due To Absence**

When a student is absent due to illness, for two or more days, a parent may request homework for the time missed. This request is to be made prior to 10:00 am. Homework will be available for pick-up in the Guidance Office between 3:15 and 4:00 pm.

### **Extra Help**

You may always seek extra help from your teachers if you do not understand an assignment, if the work is difficult, or if you have been absent and have missed assignments and class discussions. Arrange a conference with your teacher before or after school or at a time convenient to both of you during the day.

A teacher will sometimes request a student stay after school if it is apparent that the student is having difficulty with class work. This is not to be thought of as a punishment, but rather as the desire of the teacher to help you make the progress you need.

### **Fire Alarm System**

You are advised to be very careful in those areas of the school in which there are fire alarm boxes. Please be aware that, if you set off a false fire alarm, you may be charged with a Class A Misdemeanor, Second Degree; and if found guilty, you may be sentenced to from 15 days to one year in jail and/or a \$1000.00 fine. In addition, the District reserves the right to impose its own discipline.

### **Fire Drills**

For your own safety, it is important to familiarize yourself with fire drill instructions. These are posted in every classroom area. Fire drills are required by law. You should exit in an orderly and quick fashion when the alarm sounds without talking. Everyone should exit the building and move to approximately one hundred yards from the building. Under no conditions should roadways and/or doors be blocked.

### **Guidance Office**

The Guidance Office is open throughout the school day in order to give students assistance in making the most of their school opportunities. Our guidance counselors are ready to answer questions on schedules, school and college entrance requirements, occupational trends, job opportunities, and to assist with any other problems that you might wish to discuss. School and college catalogs and various occupational literature is also available in this office. Stop in at the Guidance office prior to your first period class and ask for a pre-signed pass. You will not be allowed to leave your regularly assigned area to go to the Guidance Office without a pre-signed pass.

### **Health Services**

Students becoming ill during the day should report to the nurse. If there is a necessity to go home, the nurse will inform the parent of this, and the pupil will be released from school on an Outside Permit. If the procedure is not followed and the pupil leaves without properly checking out, the pupil will be given a discipline notice for leaving school without permission. Parents of students who are directed by their doctor to take any medicine during the school day are asked to personally contact the School Nurse.

No student is allowed to keep medications in his/her locker or on his/her person. All medications must be kept in the nurse's office, unless otherwise directed by the student's doctor, the school doctor, or the school nurse. If the student has exercise-induced asthma, the student is responsible to chemically medicate themselves, then parents may contact the school nurse or doctor for the necessary written order of "self-carry". All other medications (including inhalers) will be administered in the nurse's office.

If your child has a severe bee allergy, you must send to school a bee sting kit, along with a doctor's order to safeguard your child from a potentially life-threatening situation occurring.

All medications (including inhalers) require a written doctor's order and a signed parental consent before the nurse can administer medications to their child. All medications must be contained in properly labeled containers from the pharmacy.

All psychotropic medications (i.e. Ritalin,/Adderall) must be brought in by parents and picked up by parents at the end of the school year. Any medications left at the end of the school year will be disposed.

At the end of each school year, medication authorization forms will be sent home if your son or daughter has a chronic condition that we might continually chemically manage at school. You may then use the time during summer vacation to have your child rechecked by your doctor and obtain (as needed) new written orders for the next school year.

Any questions or concerns can be handled through the nurse's office at 836-3606.

#### **Lockers**

Lockers are provided for the temporary storage of books and outer clothing. They are the property of the school. Each student is responsible for their locker and its contents. Locker assignments are mailed with the student schedule prior to the beginning of the school year. Each student should memorize the locker number and combination just as soon as it is issued. The combination should not be given to anyone else. A secretary in the Main Office will be glad to help if you forget your combination. The locker should always be locked. If for any reason the locker does not work properly, the difficulty should be reported to the Main Office immediately. Personal locks brought from home may not be used on any school locker. Special lockers are issued in the gymnasium dressing rooms for gym clothes. The above rules apply to these as well. The school reserves the right to inspect lockers and the contents at any time.

It is the student's responsibility to empty the contents of his/her locker on or before the final day of classes of the school year. Contents left after this time will be disposed.

#### **Money, Musical Instruments, Personal Property**

Students who bring money, jewelry, musical instruments and other personal property to school are totally responsible for the security of their property. The school district will not accept any responsibility for the loss or damage of these items.

#### **Electronics**

Cell phones, I-Pods, MP3 and CD Players, video games, or items of similar nature are allowed with limited use during the school day and on school transportation. It is recommended that these items be left

at home. ***(An exception to this: Students will be allowed to listen to music during study halls and/or lunch periods and on school transportation as long as earphones are used and the volume is at a level that does not disturb others.) (See cell phone/electronics exceptions to policy and disciplinary action on pages 7-8 and transportation pages 10-11.)*** The school district will not accept any responsibility for the loss and damage of these items.

#### **Pass Privileges**

1. Students should use the lavatories during the passing time between classes, during study halls, or during the lunch period. In the case of an emergency, a pass may be requested to the Health Office.
2. Students should carefully plan their trips to their lockers in order to be prepared for each class.
3. Students are expected to walk through the halls and to observe all safety rules and regulations.
4. If a teacher asks you to remain after class and you believe this delay will cause you to be late to your next class, you should ask that teacher for a pass to your next class.
5. Passes will not be issued by office personnel for students who are late in going from one class to another.

#### **Passes**

Student passes will be found in the student agenda. All passes should be left intact within the agenda. Passes that may have been removed will not be honored. Students placed on academic probation will have pass restrictions.

Passes:

- Student agendas have a sufficient allotment of passes for the year.
- These passes are to be used to go to the lavatory, locker, the nurse, or main office. Pre-signed passes can be used to go to the guidance office, computer room, library, gymnasium (to make up a class), or to see another teacher.
- Teachers have the right to deny the use of these passes if they feel it is not appropriate for the student to leave class.
- If a student loses his/her book, he/she will lose pass privileges until the student handbook is found, or a replacement purchased.
- Replacements are limited at a cost of \$5.00. All efforts should be made to know the whereabouts of your student handbook/passbook at all times.

- These passes should not be abused. Abuse will result in loss of passes (pass restriction).
- The Planner Handbook with passes is to remain intact for the school year. Passes will not be honored if detached from the Planner. Students are responsible for their planners. If your planner is clearly labeled (with your name) it can be easily returned if it is accidentally left behind.

### **Physical Education**

Physical education is a mandatory part of the State curriculum for public schools. As such, each student is required to participate in the school's physical education program unless excused by school authorities or due to a documented medical condition.

Physical education grades will be determined by class preparedness, participation, skills assessment and written tests. Physical education grades will be included in a student's grade point average.

Due to the nature of the program, particular dress requirements are a necessary integral part of the requirements due to the various kinds of activities and because of the health aspect of the program. Individual lockers will be issued to place personal belongings in. Every individual is responsible for his/her own personal property. When you leave things around in a haphazard manner, do not lock your locker, or you share your combination with others, you jeopardize security for your property.

### **Study Hall Period**

A study hall period is to be used for academic purposes. Homework, reading, visiting teachers for extra help, guidance office matters and teacher approved library and computer room visits are appropriate.

Guidelines:

- All students must first report to study hall. Once attendance is taken, pre-signed and other passes will be issued.
- It is expected that you will bring all necessary books and study material to study hall. Study hall is for completing assignments; it is not to be considered a socializing period.
- A study hall is considered to be a class in regard to expected attendance and behavior.
- No talking during study hall periods to promote a quiet learning environment. However, special permission may be given, at the discretion of the study hall teacher, for students to work on a group activity.

- One male and one female at a time may be allowed to leave study hall to go to the lavatories. Have your passbook signed by the study hall teacher. The time on the passbook should be limited to five minutes.
- During study halls held in the cafeteria, students are NOT allowed to use the vending machines.
- Any student not having a passbook will not be permitted to leave study hall. Inappropriate behavior will be dealt with through the discipline code.
- Students listed on the current 5 week failure list will be restricted to study hall—only pre-signed passes to work with a teacher will be granted.

#### **Textbooks**

All textbooks are the property of the Board of Education and are loaned to students for use throughout the year. A record of the number and the condition of the book, which is issued at the beginning of the year, is maintained by the school. A student will be expected to pay the cost of replacement of a lost or damaged book issued to the student. If this loss or damage occurs during the year, it should be reported immediately to the teacher from whom the book was received. The teacher will notify the student of the charges and arrange for the issuing of a new book. A receipt stating the title, book number, and amount paid will be issued to the student and a copy should be retained by the teacher in case the lost book is later found.

In some courses it may be advantageous for a student to purchase review books or other materials. In all such cases, a letter will be sent to parents outlining the need, the cost, and a request for purchase which can be signed by the student and parent indicating their agreement to purchase and pay for the item.

#### **Telephones**

*Business phones in the offices are used for school business by staff only and are not to be used for personal calls. **Emergency calls may be made by students at the Health Office or Main Office only with permission of school personnel.***

### **Working Papers/Work Release**

Students who wish to work part-time or during vacations should pay careful attention to the legal requirements for doing so.

With very few exceptions, an Employment Certificate is required for anyone to work before they reach the age of eighteen. To obtain an Employment Certificate, you must secure an application, which must be signed by your parent. Before the actual certificate is issued, you must have a medical examination (within the past 6 months), and present proof of age. Applications and employment Certificates are issued in the High School Guidance Office. If you have any questions concerning this matter, please come in and speak to the guidance secretary.

Work release is available to senior students under special circumstances, who are on track to graduate and their schedule allows for the time away from school. Applications are available in the guidance office.

### **Notice of Non-Discrimination Policy**

It is the policy of the McGraw Central School District to provide equal opportunity for all students in educational programs and activities; and to prohibit discrimination on the basis of race, color, sex, religion, national origin, age, handicap or marital status.

### **McGraw Central School District Student Internet Acceptable Use Policy**

McGraw Central School District offers Internet access for students to assist with instruction. This policy complies with the Children's Internet Protection Act which requires public school districts receiving federal funds made available under Title III of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of E-Rate to adopt an Internet Safety Policy. This document contains the Acceptable Use Policy for your use of McGraw Central School District's Technology System.

**Activity on the System will be monitored to ensure appropriate use. Emails will be subject to monitoring at all times. Any student who breaks any rule listed below will be subject to disciplinary action and possible loss of Internet Privileges.**

### **A. Educational Purpose**

1. MCSD System has been established for educational purposes. The term “educational purpose” includes classroom activities, career development, and limited high-quality self-discovery activities.
2. MCSD System has not been established as a public access service or a public forum. The District has the right to place reasonable restrictions on the material accessed or posted through the system. Students are also expected to follow the rules set forth in MCSD Code of Conduct and the law.
3. Students may not use the System for commercial purposes. This means that services may not be offered, provided, or purchased through the System.
4. Outside groups using District internet will conform to this policy. Use by student clubs and organizations is governed by this policy and is:
  - limited to those times when Internet access points are not in use for instruction
  - limited to educational purposes

### **B. Student Internet Access**

1. All students will have access to Internet World Wide Web information resources through the classroom, library, or school computer lab.
2. Students and their parents must sign an Account Agreement form prior to the student being granted an individual e-mail account on the System. This Agreement must be renewed on an annual basis. Parents can withdraw their approval at any time.
3. Students may create a personal Web page on the System. All material placed on the Web page must be pre-approved by the building principal and must relate to school and career preparation activities.
4. Students may not use a non-district computer to access the System.
5. Students will not be permitted to use an instant messenger service or program, Internet relay Chat or other forms of direct electronic communication.
6. Students will not be permitted to access any web site normally blocked by the MCSD Tech System.

### **C. Unacceptable Uses**

The following uses of MCSD Tech System are considered unacceptable.

1. **Personal Safety**
  - a. Students will not post personal contact information about self or others to the Internet. Personal contact information includes



address, telephone, school address, work address, credit card information, etc.

- b. Students will promptly disclose to the teacher or another school employee any message received that is inappropriate or makes one feel uncomfortable.
- c. Students shall not access, transmit or retransmit any information which is harmful to minors. This means students will not transmit any picture, image, graphic image file of a sexual nature depicting nudity, sex or excretion.
- d. Students will not generate access, transmit or retransmit any material that could be deemed offensive, slanderous or hurtful to anyone. Such material may be considered Cyber-Bullying.
- e. Students will not transmit e-mail through an anonymous remailer.

## **2. Illegal Activities**

- a. Students will not attempt to gain unauthorized access to the System, to any other computer system through the System, or go beyond their authorized access. This includes attempting to log in through another person's account or attempting access to another person's files. These actions are illegal.
- b. Students will not make deliberate attempts to disrupt the computer system, destroy data by spreading computer viruses, so-called hacking, or by any other means within the school district or any network connected to the Internet. These actions are illegal.
- c. Students will not use the System to engage in any illegal act.

## **3. System Security**

- a. Students are responsible for their individual account and should take all reasonable precautions to prevent others from use of their account. Under no condition should a password be given to another person.
- b. Students will immediately notify a teacher or the technology coordinator if they have identified a possible security problem. Do not go looking for security problems because this may be construed as an illegal attempt to gain access.
- c. Students will not disable or attempt to disable the MCS D Internet filtering software. Filtering software may be adjusted to allow sites for bona fide research or other lawful purposes when approved by the building principal. Written permission must be submitted to the technology coordinator.
- d. Students will not use encryption software from any access point within the school district.

**4. Inappropriate Language**

- a. Restrictions against inappropriate language apply to public messages, private messages, and material posted on Web pages.
- b. Students will not use obscene, profane, lewd, vulgar, rude, inflammatory, threatening, or disrespectful language in any digital form.
- c. Students will not post information that could cause damage or a danger of disruption.
- d. Students will not engage in personal attacks, including prejudicial or discriminatory attacks.
- e. Students will not harass another person. Harassment is persistently acting in a manner that distresses or annoys another person. If told by a person to stop sending those messages, it must stop.
- f. Students will not knowingly or recklessly post false or slanderous information about a person or organization.

**5. Respect for Privacy**

- a. Students will not post private information about another person.

**6. Respecting Resource Limits**

- a. Students will use the system only for educational and career development activities.
- b. Students will not download large files without teacher consent.
- c. Students will check e-mail frequently, delete unwanted messages promptly, and stay within the e-mail quota of 15 e-mails.

**7. Plagiarism and Copyright Infringement**

- a. Students will not plagiarize works found on the Internet. Plagiarism is taking the ideas or writings of others and presenting them as your own.
- b. Students will not use or possess illegal copies of software. Illegal software means any software which has been downloaded or is otherwise in the user's possession without the appropriate registration of the software, including the payment of any fees to the owner of the software.

**8. Inappropriate Access to Material**

- a. Students will not use the System to access material that is profane or obscene (pornography), that advocates illegal acts, or that advocates violence or discrimination towards other people (hate literature).
- b. A student who mistakenly accesses inappropriate information should immediately tell the teacher or another District employee. This will protect the student from a claim that s/he intentionally violated this policy.

#### **D. Student Rights and Responsibilities for Using Personal Electronic Devices**

1. **The student who possesses a personal electronic device shall be solely responsible for its care.**
2. **Student possession of personal electronic devices on all school campuses, including athletic fields, and school buses, at school-sponsored activities and while the student is under the supervision and control of school district employees shall be permitted.**
3. **These devices shall be kept out of sight and powered off or silenced during the school day and during any school-sponsored activity meeting or practice held. The requirement that personal electronic devices be turned off may not apply in the following circumstances when the student obtains prior approval from the principal or his/her designee:**
  - a. The student has a special medical circumstance for self or family member.
  - b. The student is using the device for an educational or instructional purpose with the teacher's permission and supervision.
  - c. Students shall not use personal electronic devices on school property or at a school-sponsored activity to access and/or view internet websites that are otherwise blocked to students at school. Blocked sites include, but are not limited to, social networking sites and You Tube.
  - d. Student use of personal electronic devices that disrupt the instructional day may result in disciplinary action, including the loss of privilege to use the personal electronic device, and/or confiscation of the personal electronic device. When a personal electronic device is confiscated, it shall only be released and/or returned to the student's parent/legal guardian. It is the student's parent/legal guardian's responsibility to retrieve the device according to school procedures.

#### **Unauthorized Use**

Unauthorized use of personal electronic devices includes, but is not limited to, the following:

1. Possessing, viewing, sending or sharing video or audio information having sexual, violent or threatening content on school grounds, school events or school busses shall be

- prohibited and may result in disciplinary action and/or confiscation of the personal electronic device.
2. Transmitting school materials for unethical purposes such as cheating.
  3. Any activity which may be in violation with the McGraw Central School District Bullying Prevention policy and procedural directive.

### **Corrective Action**

Corrective action shall be determined by the number of previous acts, the nature of the act, and the context in which the alleged act occurred. Consequences may range from positive behavioral interventions to suspension and expulsion for repeated and/or severity of the violations.

### **E. Your Rights**

#### **1. Free Speech**

The student's right to free speech, as set forth in the MCSD Code of Conduct, applies also to communication on the Internet. The System is considered a limited forum, similar to a school newspaper, and therefore the District may restrict the student's speech for valid educational reasons. The District will not restrict the student's speech on the basis of a disagreement with the opinions.

#### **2. Search and Seizure**

- a. Students should expect no privacy in the contents of personal files on the System. The situation is similar to the rights one has in the privacy of a school owned locker.
- b. Routine maintenance and monitoring of the System may lead to discovery that a student has violated this policy, the MCSD Code of Conduct, or the law.
- c. An individual search will be conducted if there is reasonable suspicion that a student has violated this policy, the MCSD Code of Conduct, or the law. The investigation will be reasonable and related to the suspected violation.
- d. A student's parents have the right at any time to request to see the contents of a student's e-mail files or data files.

#### **3. Due Process**

- a. The District will cooperate fully with local, state, or federal officials in any investigation related to any illegal activities conducted

through the System.

- b. In the event there is a claim that a student has violated this policy or the MCS D Code of Conduct in the use of the System, the student will be provided with a written notice of the suspected violation and an opportunity to be heard in the manner set forth in the MCS D Code of Conduct.
- c. If the violation also involves a violation of other provisions of the MCS D Code of Conduct, it will be handled in a manner described in the MCS D Code of Conduct. Additional restrictions may be placed on a student's use of their Internet account.

**E. Limitation of Liability**

No guarantee is made by the District that the functions or the services provided by or through the District system will be error-free or without defect. The District will not be responsible for any damage a student may suffer, including but not limited to, loss of data or interruptions of service. The District is not responsible for the accuracy or quality of the information obtained through or stored on the system. The District will not be responsible for financial obligations arising through the unauthorized use of the system. The District does not guarantee or imply that access to the Internet will always be available. The opinions, advice, services, and all other information expressed on line are those of the online authors and not of the District.

**F. Personal Responsibility**

When students are using the MCS D Technology System, one may feel that s/he can more easily break a rule and not get caught. This is not true because whenever something is done on a network, little "electronic footprints," are left so the odds of getting caught are the same as in the real world.

The fact remains that to do something or think of doing something without being caught does not make it right to do. Even if one doesn't get caught, there is always one person who will know and that person is you. Use of the Internet can be a mirror that will show the character of a person.

**Detention-After School**

A student and parent/guardian will receive notification or a one-day prior notice of the student's assignment to after school detention. The parent will receive a telephone call and/or a written discipline notice indicating the infraction and detention.

After school detention will begin immediately after school. Students who arrive late will serve that detention and be assigned to another detention for their tardiness. Students are encouraged to bring work with them to do during the detention period since they will not be permitted to talk, move about the room, or be excused from the detention room. A student who is disruptive or does not attend a scheduled detention will be considered insubordinate. The school considers after school detention time, academic time. School related work is to be tended to during this time.

#### **High Honor and Honor Rolls**

Each marking period students earning high grades are honored by being included on either the High Honor or Honor Roll. To qualify for this honor, a student's term grades are averaged. To be placed on High Honor Roll, a student's term average must be at least 89.5% and to be placed on Honor Roll, a student's term average must be at least 84.5%. In addition, the student's report card must not show any grades below 65% or any mark of 'Incomplete'. Students must also be carrying a minimum of 6 classes including physical education. The High Honor and Honor Rolls will be highlighted at school as well as reported in the local newspaper.

#### **National Honor Societies**

Membership in the National Honor Societies is an honor and a responsibility. Students selected for membership are expected to continue to demonstrate the qualities of scholarship service, leadership, character and citizenship, which led to their selection. Selection for the National Honor Society is open to Sophomores, Juniors and Seniors, while 8<sup>th</sup> graders and Freshmen may be selected for membership in the National Junior Honor Society. To be eligible, a student must have a cumulative weighted average of 90% or above for Junior Honor Society (since 8<sup>th</sup> grade classes are not weighted, they must have a cumulative 8<sup>th</sup> grade class average of 90% or above) and a cumulative weighted average of 92% or above to be considered by the faculty council for the National Honor Society, and have attended the McGraw Junior-Senior High for at least one semester. A faculty council, appointed by the administrator/designee, makes the selection based on information provided by the students and input from the whole faculty. The advisors will be glad to answer

questions or discuss the selection procedures with any interested students or parents.

#### **Senior Privilege**

Senior privileges including the senior lunch dismissal privilege will be reviewed each year.

#### **Dance Rules and Procedures**

Dances held at McGraw Central School or as a McGraw Central School function, regardless of the sponsoring organization, must be conducted according to the following regulations; including but not limited to fundraisers, Junior Prom and Senior Ball.

#### **Chaperone:**

1. There will be at least three faculty chaperones.
2. First time chaperones are to arrive one half hour prior to the start of the dance for a brief meeting with the administrator or designated faculty in charge of the activity.

#### **Chaperone Responsibilities:**

1. Chaperones are responsible for the continuous supervision of the gym, (or dance location) hallways and boys' and girls' bathrooms.
2. Chaperones are expected to monitor students as specified below.
3. If a student violates one of the student rules, he/she is to be reported to the administrator or designated faculty in charge of the activity. If a student from McGraw Central is expelled from the dance, his/her parents are to be notified at that time by telephone to arrange for them to pick him/her up. If parents cannot be contacted, the student will be kept under the direct supervision of a chaperone until the end of the dance. Any discipline problems are to be reported to the administration on the next school day.

#### **School Conduct:**

1. No one attending a dance will be allowed to leave the designated area.
2. All food and drinks must be consumed in the hallway.
3. There is to be no congregating near the entrances. This is in compliance with fire regulations.
4. Discretion is to be used in actions toward the opposite sex during the dance.
5. Under no circumstances is anyone to leave the dance. If anyone leaves the dance for any reason he/she must leave school property and not return.
6. There will be no smoking. Smoking is against the law on school property.

7. Clothing is to be appropriate for the occasion. Protective covering must be worn on the feet.

**Drugs and/or Alcohol:**

1. There will be no drinking of alcoholic beverages by anyone in the building or on school grounds.
2. Persons showing evidence of drinking, such as smelling of alcohol, will not be admitted.
3. Persons showing evidence of being under the influence of drugs will not be admitted.
4. Suspicion of alcohol or drug use is to be reported to the administrator or designated faculty in charge.
5. All school policies pertaining to alcohol and drugs will be enforced.

**Loitering:**

1. Loitering on school property will not be permitted. Students are to enter the dance upon their arrival and leave school property following the dance.
2. No pupils are to be in the parking area, in or out of cars, except as they are entering or leaving the school grounds. The parking area will be checked periodically. Pupils who are loitering in the parking areas are to be sent off the school grounds immediately.

**Attendance Restrictions:**

1. Dances will be restricted to McGraw students and their approved guests unless otherwise stipulated.

**Guests:**

- All guests must be enrolled in an educational program at the time of the dance.
  - Guest sign-ups will take place during lunch periods two days prior to the dance. All guests must be signed up by the day prior to the dance.
  - Administration will make determination of guest approval, after calling each student's home school. Guests must be in good standing at their home school and in attendance the day of the dance, or the day prior to if the dance takes place on a Saturday or during a vacation.
2. No one will be permitted to enter a dance after 9:00 PM. Any exceptions must be approved in advance by the principal.
  3. A student must be in attendance a minimum of four hours the day of a dance in order to attend. For a weekend or holiday dance a student must be in attendance a minimum of four hours the day prior to the dance. (Attendance means attending and participating in classes.)



4. Guests must be enrolled in the 7<sup>th</sup> grade and not older than the age of 21.
5. Juniors and Seniors are the only students allowed to bring a past McGraw graduate.
6. Junior Senior Prom attendees will be required to attend school the entire day of the event, if the event is on the weekend, they are required to attend school the entire day prior to the event. Attendance will include full participation in all classes. Medical appointments or other legal excuses must be pre-approved. Extenuating circumstances may be considered.

#### **Field Trip Regulations**

In order to provide for the development of educationally appropriate field trips, the following rules have been established to assist teachers, students, parents and others involved.

1. All requests for field trips of over 50 miles one-way or of overnight duration shall be submitted for approval to the Building Administrator, Superintendent of Schools and Board of Education. All other field trip requests shall be submitted for approval to the Building Administrator and Superintendent of Schools and may be approved at their discretion.
2. All requests must be presented for approval at least six weeks in advance of the proposed trip date and tentative approvals received before the trips may be discussed with students. Trips should not be used as rewards or bait to involve more students in an activity.
3. All field trip requests are to be on the proper forms. Each trip, other than the Senior Class Trip, shall be related to a curriculum area, the educational value of the trip stated as well as the itinerary, all cost estimates and financial support available. When possible, trips requested which are of substantial cost to the student may be requested by more than one organization by combining their interests in the itinerary and using student profit sharing to help defray expenses. Trips should be limited in cost to what is financially practical and justifiable and students may not be offered varying itineraries, meals or lodging accommodations based on cost. If, as a result of these considerations, it may take several years for an organization(s) to raise enough money to finance a trip, then that is what should be done.
4. The Senior Class Trip must be approved by the Board of Education at their December meeting.

5. A minimum of one chaperone for every 25 students must be maintained on all one-day trips. A minimum of one chaperone for every 10 students shall be maintained on each multiple day and/or overnight trip. Efforts should be made to include parents as chaperones. Parents will provide their own transportation, since school district transportation is for students and staff. All chaperones must be approved by the administration.
6. All rules found in the School Conduct and Discipline Policy and Regulations are in effect during a trip. Therefore, there will be no use of alcoholic beverages or drugs by either students or chaperones during the entire trip. Luggage may be inspected before and during any trip at the discretion of the advisor or chaperone in charge. Parents may be asked to sign a form verifying contents of luggage. Students are not permitted to smoke during these trips.
7. The advisor or chaperone in charge shall be the final authority on any matter which arises, emergency or other, for example, the establishment of curfew.
8. Students who violate any rule found in this regulation will be subject to school authority and legal authority if appropriate. While on a trip of over 50 miles one way or overnight, parents will be called collect to inform them of their child's violation, and, if necessary, to require parent supervision of the child's return home should the trip be in progress.
9. Parents will be informed of the trip's purpose, itinerary, costs, and so on through the use of a parent permission slip which they must sign and which the advisor must file with the building administrator at least two weeks in advance of departure.
10. Since a field trip is an enriching experience, a non-participation on the part of a student will not lower the student's achievement level.
11. Any student while on suspension from school may not participate on a field trip.
12. The advisor is required to prepare a Trip Report prior to departure. This report must include all pertinent information, i.e., itinerary, key telephone numbers, parent permission slips, etc. This report must be delivered 2 days in advance of leaving.
13. The advisor is required to prepare a post-trip report, which will indicate the acceptability of the itinerary as educationally appropriate, and costs were equal to benefit. Any student behavior problems will also be cited for appropriate follow-up in relation to School Conduct and Discipline Policy Regulations.

14. A student's trip may be cancelled due to circumstances deemed reasonable by the administration. If the administrative staff believes that a student's attendance on a field trip will be a detriment to the student, other student's or put unnecessary stress/responsibility on the chaperones, the student will not be allowed to attend. Any monies expended will likely be forfeited. A refund will be attempted, but pre-payments are often non-refundable and therefore a refund is not guaranteed.

#### **Parents' Bill of Rights For Data Privacy and Security**

The McGraw School District is committed to protecting the privacy and security of student data and teacher and principal data. In accordance with New York Education Law Section 2-d and its implementing regulations, the District informs the school community of the following:

- 1) A student's personally identifiable information cannot be sold or released for any commercial purposes.
- 2) Parents have the right to inspect and review the complete contents of their child's education record.
- 3) State and federal laws protect the confidentiality of personally identifiable information, and safeguards associated with industry standards and best practices, including but not limited to encryption, firewalls, and password protection, must be in place when data is stored or transferred.
- 4) A complete list of all student data elements collected by New York State is available for public review at the following website <http://www.nysed.gov/student-data-privacy/student-data-inventory> or by writing to the Office of Information and Reporting Services, New York State Education Department, Room 865 EBA, 89 Washington Avenue, Albany, New York 12234.
- 5) Parents have the right to have complaints about possible breaches of student data addressed. Complaints should be directed in writing to Privacy Complaint, Chief Privacy Officer, New York State Education Department, 89 Washington Avenue, Albany, New York 12234. Complaint may also be submitted using the form available at the following website <http://www.nysed.gov/student-data-privacy/form/report-improper-disclosure>.

**\*\*The McGraw Central School District reserves the right to update codes and policies as needed throughout the school year. These updates will be initiated following Board approval and/or public hearing.**

**Emergency Closing**

Emergency closing of school within the district may be necessary during the school year particularly due to ice or snow storms. Such information will be announced over the following radio/television stations:

**Radio/Television**

WXHC ..... Homer  
WTVH-5Channel 5 ..... Syracuse  
WSTM-3Channel 3..... Syracuse  
WIXT-9Channel 9 ..... Syracuse  
News 10 Now Channel 10..... Syracuse  
Cayuga Radio Group:  
96.7 The Vine; 110Iconic Rock; Lite Rock 97.3; Pure Oldies 94.1;  
Q Country 103.7; Rewind 107.7; The Buzzer 96.3; WHCU News Talk  
870 AM; Z95.5

School Messenger is also available with your phone number that is associated with School Tool.

**Alma Mater**

When the first red beams of sunrise  
Dawn the eastern sky  
Stands our noble Alma Mater  
Neath the hilltops high.  
Lift the chorus; speed it onward  
Loud our praises call.  
Hail to thee, our Alma Mater,  
Hail, O Hail, McGraw!

Tune: Far Above Cayuga’s Waters

**School Colors**  
Maroon & White

**School Nickname**  
The Eagles

















