

Ring Lardner Middle School

801 N. 17th St.

(269) 683-6610

www.nilesschools.org

Student Handbook

2025-2026



**Behavior Expectations:
Respectful, Responsible and Resilient**

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Welcome to Ring Lardner Middle School

Dear Parents and Students,

On behalf of the faculty and staff, we are pleased and proud to welcome you to Ring Lardner Middle School, home of the Vikings. Whether you're returning this fall or joining us as a new student, we hope you will find RLMS an ideal environment to get involved in a variety of activities to further your educational and personal development.

The content of our handbook is designed to answer many of the commonly asked questions that you may have during the school year and to provide specific information about certain Board policies and procedures. Our handbook is available online at <https://www.nilesschools.org/>. If you have further questions about those procedures and policies, please do not hesitate to call with questions.

Our goal is to ensure that both you and the school benefit from your time here. Just as every student has different needs and goals, we can each make a unique contribution to our learning community. By working together, we can create a positive and supportive learning environment where every student can thrive. We encourage you to become involved in extracurriculars and other activities throughout the year.

If any of the policies or administrative guidelines referenced in this document are revised after June 30, 2024 the language in the most current policy or administrative guideline prevails.

We sincerely wish each and every one of you a successful 2024 - 2025 school year.

Sincerely,

Ring Lardner Middle School
Leadership Team, Faculty and Staff

Mission Statement

Niles Community Schools inspires and prepares all learners through diverse opportunities to challenge the present and enrich the future.

Vision Statement

Niles Community School | Dynamic Learners | Diverse Opportunities | Driven to Succeed

Core Values

I Am Respectful | I Am Responsible | I Am Resilient

Board Of Education

President - Kyle Zelmer
Vice President - Kelly Gaideski
Secretary - Paulette Johnson
Treasurer - Josh Asmus
Trustee - David Fish
Trustee - Dana Daniels
Trustee - Marci Taylor

Dr. Adam Burtsfield
Superintendent

Mrs. Brandy Carrington
Principal

Chad Hershberger
Assistant Principal

Ring Lardner Middle School | 801 North Seventeenth | Niles, Michigan 49120
Phone: 269.683.6610 | Fax: 269.684.9524
Website: <https://rlm.nilesschools.org>

Bell Schedule

<p style="text-align: center;">6th Grade</p> <p>7:30 - 9:05 Core 1 / 2 9:09 - 9:54 RATS 9:58 - 10:43 Core 1 / 2 10:47 - 12:15 Core 3 / 4 12:15 - 12:50 Lunch 12:54 - 1:46 Core 3 / 4 1:50 - 2:31 WIN</p> <p>Half days with RATS 8/25, 11/5, 2/13, 3/27, 6/3</p> <p>7:30 - 8:04 Core 1 8:10 - 8:37 Core 2 8:41 - 9:06 Core 3 9:10 - 9:55 RATS 9:59 - 10:43 Core 4</p> <p>Half days w/o RATS 11/6, 1/16, 2/26, 5/22, 6/4</p> <p>7:30 - 8:06 Core 1 8:10 - 8:46 Core 2 8:50 - 9:23 WIN 9:27 - 10:03 Core 3 10:07 - 10:43 Core 4</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">8th Grade</p> <p>7:30 - 8:15 RATS 8:19 - 9:29 Core 1 9:33 - 10:43 Core 2 10:43 - 11:18 Lunch 11:22 - 12:02 WIN 12:06 - 1:16 Core 3 1:20 - 2:31 Core 4</p> <p>Half days with RATS 8/25, 11/5, 2/13, 3/27, 6/3</p> <p>7:30 - 8:16 RATS 8:20 - 8:53 Core 1 8:57 - 9:30 Core 2 9:34 - 10:07 Core 3 10:11 - 10:43 Core 4</p> <p>Half days w/o RATS 11/6, 1/16, 2/26, 5/22, 6/4</p> <p>7:30 - 8:03 WIN 8:07 - 8:43 Core 1 8:47 - 9:23 Core 2 9:27 - 10:03 Core 3 10:07 - 10:43 Core 4</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">7th Grade</p> <p>7:30 - 8:15 WIN 8:19 - 9:04 RATS 9:08 - 10:17 Core 1 10:21 - 11:30 Core 2 11:30 - 12:05 Lunch 12:09 - 1:18 Core 3 1:22 - 2:31 Core 4</p> <p>Half days with RATS 8/25, 11/5, 2/13, 3/27, 6/3</p> <p>7:30 - 8:04 Core 1 8:08 - 8:16 Core 2 8:20 - 9:05 RATS 9:09 - 9:34 Core 2 9:38 - 10:11 Core 3 10:15 - 10:43 Core 4</p> <p>Half days w/o RATS 11/6, 1/16, 2/26, 5/22, 6/4</p> <p>7:30 - 8:06 Core 1 8:10 - 8:43 WIN 8:47 - 9:23 Core 2 9:27 - 10:03 Core 3 10:07 - 10:43 Core 4</p>	

There is no loitering in the building after school. When in the building after 2:31pm students are to be part of a supervised activity. Any student remaining on school property after dismissal must be supervised by school personnel. At Ring Lardner Middle School all students (with the exception of some who receive special education services) are assigned a team. They spend most of their academic time with their team. A student's day is spent in both Core and Activity Classes.

Staff Directory

Ring Lardner Middle School	Phone	Extension
Brandy Carrington Principal Brandy.Carrington@nilesschools.org	269.683.6610	10253
Chad Hershberger Assistant Principal chad.hershberger@nilesschools.org	269.683.6610	10247
Shelby Doxie Dean of Students shelby.doxie@nilesschools.org	269.683.6610	10250
Grace Portenga Behavior Specialist grace.portenga@nilesschools.org	269.683.6610	10248
Jeanette Klingerman Assistant Secretary jeanette.klingerman@nilesschools.org	269.683.6610	10252
Morgan Bailey Principal Secretary morgan.bailey@nilesschools.org	269.683.6610	10251

GENERAL INFORMATION

Announcements

Each day announcements will be made over the PA system or on TV monitors. Students will be reminded of upcoming events and activities, deadlines, and other news of importance and interest. Daily announcements can be found on our website at <https://rlm.nilesschools.org/> or on the Ring Lardner Facebook or twitter pages. Sign up for emailed daily announcements by contacting the Ring Lardner Middle School Office.

Athletics

The intent of the Middle School policy is to provide a reasonable academic and behavioral standard, and at the same time allow an opportunity for ineligible students to quickly reinstate themselves. All sixth through eighth grade student athletes who begin the school year shall be academically eligible

1. Grades will be pulled every Monday during the season
2. Meetings will be held on Monday with any student receiving 2 or more F's. This meeting will be with the Assistant Principal and following the meeting with the student parents and coaches will be notified.
3. If a student has 2 F's, he or she is automatically ineligible for that week
4. If a student has 1 F, they will be on academic probation for that ensuing week
5. If said student has an F in the same class for two consecutive grade checks, he or she will become ineligible for the week.
6. If that student has the same F for three consecutive weeks, the student will be removed from the roster for the remainder of that season.
7. If a student is assigned out of school suspension (OSS) they will be ineligible for games and practice during the time of their suspension.
8. Ineligible students may be allowed to participate in practices but may not dress or participate in any athletic contests and may be required to attend study tables.
9. Students may not participate in any school activity on the day of any out of school suspension.

Please note that students receiving special education services may have some exemptions to both the Middle School and High School policy depending upon circumstances and the content of their Individual Educational Development (IEP) plan. No student will be allowed to participate in athletic activities or practices if it has been established that the student has not followed the rules set for athletes by Niles Community Schools. Students must have a physical on file in the office before trying out for a sport. Athletic rules will be enforced for each student who participates in an athletic program.

A rules sheet will be given to each student at the beginning of each sport season. Inquiries regarding athletics should be directed to Athletic Director Matt Brawley at the Senior High (684-8683).

The following is a list of athletics sponsored by Ring Lardner:

Basketball (7th-8th), Cheerleading (7th-8th), Cross-Country (6th-8th), Football (7th-8th), Tennis (6th-8th), Track (6th-8th), Volleyball (7th-8th), and Wrestling (6th-8th).

All athletic programs of the District shall comply with the concussion protocols of the Michigan High School Association, the requirements of state law, and Department of Community Health guidelines regarding concussion awareness training and protection of youth athletes.

Class Changes

Classes are scheduled for each student based on the completed request form. Requests to change a schedule must be made through assistant principal and are not guaranteed. Schedule changes are only to take place at the beginning of the semester. There are only five school days after the semester starts to complete this form.

Cafeteria Behavior Expectations

- Be polite to staff and students.
- Talk with appropriate tone and volume.
- Keep food on your plate or in your mouth.
- Clean up after yourself

Complaint Processes

If you are unable to resolve your concern or question after consulting with the teacher you should contact the Assistant Principal if it's a non-classroom matter. Call the office and leave a message with the secretary *"that you would like to speak with or schedule an appointment with the assistant principal."* If a telephone call is not sufficient, you may ask for a conference. During your contact with the teacher or Assistant Principal you should be prepared to thoroughly explain your concerns, and offer any information you believe will be helpful. If at any time you believe you are not getting the appropriate cooperation, you should contact the Principal. If you are unable to resolve your concern or question after your appointment with the principal, you can call the superintendent's office and your complaint will be forwarded to the appropriate official. If your complaint is still unresolved after working with the appropriate official, you have the right to a hearing in front of the board.

Dances

Dances are scheduled over the course of the year. Unless informed otherwise, the dances will begin at 5:00pm and end at 7:00pm. Student behavior at the dances must be appropriate and consistent with that behavior expected during the regular school day. Disruptive students will not be allowed to stay. All students are to leave the dance as soon as it concludes. Parents should plan to pick up their children promptly at 7:00pm. Guests from other schools are not permitted to attend.

Students must be considered to be in "Good Standing" as determined by administration. Any student not attending school regularly up to the day of the event, and/or suspended the day of the function may not attend these events. Administration reserves the right to prohibit attendance at these events for students with chronic misbehavior and chronic or severe chronic attendance.

Directory Information

Under FERPA, the district is authorized to designate certain personally identifiable information contained in education records as "directory" information and to disclose such information without prior consent unless a student objects to such disclosure. The district designates the following personally identifiable information contained in a student's education record as directory information: student name, address, photograph, e-mail address, telephone number, date and place of birth, major field of study, grade level, participation in officially-recognized sports and activities, weight and height of athletic team members, dates of attendance,

Director of Personnel
269-683-6662
One Tyler Street, Niles MI. 49120
dustin.kyncl@nilesschools.org

Student Affairs Coordinator
269-683-0732
One Tyler Street, Niles MI. 49120
jessica.johnson@nilesschools.org

Sexual Assault and Harassment policy

Starting this year, a new Michigan state law mandates that schools provide this important information in our handbook to students and their families to help prevent sexual violence and support those who have been affected. To address this, the Michigan Department of Education (MDE) has developed a [Sexual Harassment and Sexual Assault Information Guide](#) for students in grades 6-12. These materials, created with input from experts and reviewed by students and professionals in education, public health, and sexual violence prevention, must be distributed to all schools serving grades 6-12. The guide includes information on what constitutes sexual harassment and sexual assault, reassurance that victims are not to blame, and resources for those seeking help. Niles School Policy 2266 - NONDISCRIMINATION ON THE BASIS OF SEX IN EDUCATION PROGRAMS OR ACTIVITIES. This policy prohibits adverse action against an individual for reporting sexual assault or sexual harassment.

Field Trips

Field trips are academic activities that are held off school grounds. There are also other trips that are part of the school's co-curricular and extracurricular programs. A student's disruptive behavior will be taken into consideration for a student to participate. No student may participate in any school-sponsored trip without parental consent. See [Board Policy 2340 - FIELD AND OTHER DISTRICT-SPONSORED TRIPS](#)

Food Services

The Board believes the development of healthy behaviors and habits with regard to eating cannot be accomplished by the District alone. The school participates in the National School Lunch Program and makes lunches available to students for a fee. Universal breakfast is free to ALL students and served each morning.

For an application for Free & Reduced service please access the Niles Community Schools Website at: www.nilesschools.org >Family & Students > How Do I? > apply for free and reduced meals?

All menus and prices can be found online at: <https://nilesschools.nutrislice.com/>

Payment Information: Weekly payment is encouraged. Payment should be in an envelope with the following: child's name, teacher's name & date (s) of payment. Specify lunch or milk payment. All checks should be made out to Niles Community Schools. After 3 days of non-payment you will receive a note home.

To set up an account, please go to

<https://www.sendmoneytoschool.com/Dashboard/Login.aspx?ReturnUrl=%2f>

Parents will need their student's ID number to access this function.

Breakfast and lunch are offered each day to all students. In addition to the regular meals, students may choose from a number of ala carte items. Students are encouraged to eat well-balanced meals and parents are urged to discuss this issue with their children. Students are expected to pay as they receive their lunch. Excessive lunch charges may result in loss of school lunch privileges. Checks are accepted for meals with the money applied to the student's account. Change will not be given for checks. Any questions should be directed to JJ Merimonti at 269-684-1144.

After eating lunch, students may remain in the cafeteria, or go outside when the weather permits. Students are expected to behave appropriately and respond as directed by the school staff on duty. Failure to do so may result in students losing the opportunity to go outside during lunch. Students are not to take food or drink into the hallways or to classes unless given special permission. Food will be allowed in the gym only during sporting and special events. Cafeteria food is not to go outside the cafeteria during lunch periods.

Good Standing Criteria

In order to attend certain extracurricular functions, including Dances, students must be in good standing in terms of attendance, academics, and behavior. Any student failing more than one class, not attending school regularly, and/or have had ISS or OSS will be considered not in "good standing". Students suspended the day of the function may not attend these events. Students should not purchase tickets to these functions unless they are considered in good standing.

Students must be considered to be in “Good Standing” as determined by administration. Any student not attending school regularly up to the day of the event, and/or suspended the day of the function may not attend these events. Administration reserves the right to prohibit attendance at these events for students with chronic misbehavior and chronic or severe chronic attendance.

Homebound Instruction

The District shall arrange for individual instruction to students of legal school age who are not able to attend classes because of a physical or emotional disability. Applications must be approved by the Director of Special Education (683-0757). The District will provide homebound instruction only for those confinements expected to last at least five (5) days.

See Board policy [2412 - HOMEBOUND INSTRUCTION](#)

Lockers

Lockers are school property and can be searched at any time. Each student will be issued a locker to secure their belongings and will be expected to adhere to the following requirements:

1. Locks that are damaged may require a payment for replacement.
2. No designs, stickers, etc. are allowed on the outside facing of the locker.
3. Locks are to be kept locked at all times.
4. Students may only use lockers that are officially assigned to them.
5. If there is a problem with a locker or lock, it should be reported to the office.
6. Lockers are for garments and books only. Valuable items should not be stored in lockers.
7. Combinations are issued only to persons assigned to a specific locker. If a student gives their locker combination to another student, they may be subject to disciplinary action.
8. Glass bottles and cans are prohibited.

* Niles Community Schools is not responsible for lost, damaged, or stolen items.

Opening a Locker

To open a locker, follow these directions. In this example, the combination is 32-26-5.

- Step 1: Turn the dial twice in a clockwise direction ([Symbol]). Stop at the second full turn when you get to your first number (32).
- Step 2: Turn the dial in the opposite direction, counterclockwise ([Symbol]) one full turn. After the full turn, stop when you get to the second combination number (26).
- Step 3: Last, turn the dial slowly clockwise ([Symbol]) until you get to the third number (5).

If the lock does not open, repeat the process. Anytime you go past a combination number, you must start over.

Lost and Found

Lost and found items are in a cabinet in the cafeteria hallway. While students are responsible for whatever they bring to school, reports of theft should be made to the office. All unclaimed items will be given to charity at the close of the school year. Lost and found items are in a cabinet in the cafeteria hallway. While students are responsible for whatever they bring to school, reports of theft should be made to the office. All unclaimed items will be given to charity at the close of the school year.

Niles Community Schools Nondiscrimination - Policy and Procedures

It is the policy of the Niles Community School District that no person shall, on the basis of race, color, religion, national origin or ancestry, age, sex, marital status or handicap, be excluded from participation in, be denied benefit of, or be subjected to discrimination, in employment or any of its program or activities.

1. Any questions concerning Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, which prohibits discrimination on the basis of race, color, or national origin, should be directed to Dustin Kyncl or Jessica Johnson, Anti-Harassment/Non-Discrimination Compliance Officers, Niles Community Schools, 1 Tyler Street, Niles, Michigan 49120, 269-683-0732, dustin.kyncl@nilesschols.org, jessica.johnson@nilessschools.org
2. Inquiries related to Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, which prohibits discrimination on the basis of sex, should be directed to Dustin Kyncl or Jessica Johnson,

Anti-Harassment/Non-Discrimination Compliance Officers, Niles Community Schools, 1 Tyler Street, Niles, Michigan 49120, 269-683-0732 dustin.kyncl@nilesschools.org, jessica.johnson@nilesschools.org

3. Questions concerning Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, which prohibits discrimination on the basis of disability, should be directed to Amanda Jackson, Director of Special Education, Niles Community Schools, 1 Tyler Street, Niles, Michigan, 49120, 269-683-0757, amanda.jackson@nilesschools.org

Parent - Teacher Conferences

Parents will be continually informed on student progress throughout the year. However, two times a year, parent teacher conferences are held either in-person or virtually to help us foster family involvement by building a relationship with you, learning more about your expectations for your child and discussing how we can work together to help your child be successful. You may also request a parent teacher conference any time throughout the year.

Parent Volunteer Policy

We encourage volunteers and parent participation in our schools so please do not hesitate to ask! However, to ensure the safety of our students, the following apply to all adults who will be working with our students:

1. Volunteers, including parents, are screened through the administration of the Self Certification Statement and must complete an ICHAT before volunteering on a regular basis. These documents are available in the office.
2. Volunteers must complete the Volunteer Availability and Consent Forms.
3. Volunteers must check in at the office and obtain a visitor's pass.
4. Volunteers using office machines should use them outside of teacher preparation time.
5. All supplies needed should be requested or obtained by the teacher.

Niles Community Schools appreciates your time and assistance

See Board Policy [2112- PARENT AND FAMILY ENGAGEMENT](#)

Parent Grievance Process

See Board Policy [9130-PUBLIC COMPLAINTS](#)

PowerSchool

All students and parents will receive a confidential Access ID number and password at the beginning of the year to access student grades via PowerSchool. Power School allows parents and students to view student information, such as details on class performance, future or missing assignments, test scores and more, anytime via any internet access. To access Power School go to the website address <http://nilespowerschool.berrienresa.org/public> and follow the instructions on the screen.

Preparedness for Toxic and Asbestos Hazards

See Board Policy [8431-PREPAREDNESS FOR TOXIC AND ASBESTOS HAZARDS](#)

Promotion, Placement, and Retention

Promotion to the next level is based on the following criteria and is determined through collaboration with families. Final right of assignment lies with the principal or their designee.

- Current level of achievement
- Potential for success at the next level
- Emotional, physical, and/or social maturity

School Activities

Ring Lardner provides students the opportunity to broaden their learning through curricular-related activities. A curricular-related activity may be for credit, required for a particular course, and/or contain school subject matter. A student's use of a performance-enhancing substance is a violation that will affect the student's extracurricular participation. The Board authorizes many student groups that are sponsored by a staff member.

Authorized groups include: Art Club, Study Tables, National Junior Honor Society, Ring Lardner Television, Science Olympiad, Math Olympiad, Student Council, and Yearbook. All students are permitted to participate in the activities of their choosing, as long as they meet the eligibility requirements.

See Board Policy [2430 - DISTRICT-SPONSORED CLUBS AND ACTIVITIES](#)

School - Extracurricular Activities

Extra-curricular activities do not reflect the school curriculum, but may be made available to students to allow them to pursue additional worthwhile activities. Non-school-sponsored student groups organized for religious, political, or philosophical reasons may meet during non-instructional hours. The application for permission can be obtained from the principal. All school rules will still apply regarding behavior and equal opportunity to participate.

Examples include: Chess Club, Girls on Track and Soccer Club.

Non- district-sponsored organizations may not use the name of the school or school mascot.

See Board Policy [5730 - EQUAL ACCESS FOR NON DISTRICT-SPONSORED, STUDENT CLUBS AND ACTIVITIES](#)

All students are permitted to participate in the activities of their choosing, as long as they meet the eligibility requirements.

Student Assistance Team Process

Our primary goal is to develop successful students in academic and behavioral areas. If your child is having significant learning or behavioral problems, the general education teacher will have been in touch with you, and together you have probably worked on possible solutions for your child's success. If continued support is needed, a Student Assistance Team (SAT) is activated. This team is composed of multiple educators and educational support personnel; it is an "in house" problem solving team to help students be successful. If at any time you are concerned about your child's progress, please begin discussion with his or her teacher, and you are always welcome to bring your concern to the principal.

Student Information Updates

We ask you to keep our staff informed of any new or ongoing changes of address, phone numbers, those responsible for picking up your child, and health concerns that may arise during the year.

Student Records

See Board Policy [8330- STUDENT RECORDS](#)

NILES COMMUNITY SCHOOLS ACCEPTABLE COMPUTER USE

Introductions

Niles Community Schools (NCS, or Schools) strongly promotes the use of electronic information technologies in educational endeavors. Schools provide access to information resources in a variety of electronic formats, which allows students to access resources, communicate in a technologically rich environment, make informed choices, and become self-directed, responsible, and accountable life-long learners.

Definitions (Information Resources)

- **Network** includes, but is not limited to, all voice, video and data systems.
- **Equipment** includes, but is not limited to, network infrastructure, computers, disk drives, keyboard & mice, scanners, video and audio players/recorders, cameras, and telecommunications.
- **Software** includes, but is not limited to, local applications (code, script, or service), network applications (code, script, or service).
- **Materials** include, but are not limited to, files, pictures/images (still or motion), sounds, and text or dialogues.
- The **Internet** is a global network connecting millions of computers. More than 100 countries are linked together, exchanging news and opinions.

The purpose of this document is to identify and communicate standards that will assist in ensuring students benefit from their use of the Schools' network and the Internet.

The Internet is a place for the exchange of information and ideas on a wide range of subject matter. An emphasis on **Digital Citizenship** is crucial to the development of 21st Century Skills. With access to computers and people all over the world, there also comes the availability of materials that may not be considered an educational value in the context of the school setting.

While NCS implements Internet filtering, it is impossible to control all materials on a global network. As such, students may encounter materials that are personally considered obscene, abusive, or otherwise offensive. NCS firmly believes that information and the interaction available through the network outweighs the risk that students may access materials that are not consistent with the educational goals of NCS.

Use of the NCS Network

Use is ultimately governed or supported by Board Policies:

- [7540 - COMPUTER TECHNOLOGY AND NETWORKS](#)
- [7540.03 - STUDENT NETWORK AND INTERNET](#)

ACCEPTABLE USE AND SAFETY

- [7542 - ACCESS TO DISTRICT TECHNOLOGY](#)

RESOURCES FROM PERSONAL COMMUNICATION DEVICES

- [5136 - PERSONAL COMMUNICATION DEVICES](#)
- [5500 - CODE OF CONDUCT](#)
- [5513 - CARE OF DISTRICT PROPERTY](#)
- [5517 - ANTI-HARASSMENT](#)
- [5517.01 - BULLYING AND OTHER AGGRESSIVE BEHAVIOR TOWARD STUDENTS](#)
- [5600 - STUDENT DISCIPLINE](#)

The use of the Schools' network is a privilege, not a right. Students who fail to comply with the Schools' policies and guidelines while using the network may lose the privilege to access the network. Students may also lose the privilege to use equipment provided by the School or to bring their own computerized devices to school. Additionally, students may be subject to other disciplinary action or financial liability as appropriate based upon the nature and severity of the violation.

All students who are granted access to Internet resources through the School, whether on or off of Schools' property, will have read, signed and accepted the Student Acceptable Use Policy agreement with the School. This will typically occur as a function of the Student Handbook process. The School will revoke network and Internet access to any student who does not have a properly signed agreement on file with the School. In the case of students under the age of 18, parental consent and signatures will be required before access will be granted.

All account holders ("users") of the NCS network will be granted access to select services the network offers based on grade-level and curriculum needs. The following persons may hold accounts:

Students: Students who are currently enrolled in the district may be granted an individual network account or access to a shared account following agreement to the terms and conditions of this policy.

All accounts, software and materials created or stored on NCS equipment or within the NCS network are the property of Niles Community Schools. Users should have no expectation of privacy regarding documents, files, e-mail or other media created or stored using technology of Niles Community Schools, and understand that all items may be reviewed at any time without knowledge or consent of the user.

General Rules

The scope of this agreement extends to all NCS network, equipment, software and materials whether being used on or off of Schools' property. Furthermore, the user(s) of technology:

- Should have appropriate experience or instruction before using the technology.

- Are to use the network, software and materials during instructional time only for facilitating learning and enhancing educational information exchange consistent with the purposes of the School.
- Are responsible for the reasonable care of technology, including hardware and software while in their possession or while they are using it. Failure to maintain reasonable care may result in a financial liability to the student or student's parent/guardian.
- Will report any damage or problems with equipment, software or materials immediately upon discovery to the teacher or building principal.
- Are responsible for the security of their account. Passwords should be considered confidential and not shared with anyone else.
- Are discouraged from leaving their account logged in and unattended.
- Are expected to have all media (e.g. CD/DVD, USB drives) scanned for contamination which might endanger the integrity of Schools' network, equipment or software before they are used.
- Shall adhere to specific rules established for the use of network, equipment and software in School Labs.

Acceptable Uses

Technology may be used:

- To further instructional goals and mission of the district;
- In the creation of files, digital projects, videos, web pages and podcasts using network resources in support of education and research;
- To participate in video conferencing, weblogs, wikis, bulletin boards and groups with the creation of content for podcasts and webpages that support education and research or to enhance educational information exchange;
- With parental consent, for online publication of original educational material, curriculum related materials and student work.

Unacceptable Uses

To attempt or:

- Cheat, plagiarize, or in any way violate Schools' Code of Conduct
- Violate copyright, or use another person's intellectual property without his/her prior approval or proper citations
- Knowingly access, possess, share, upload, download or distribute pornographic, obscene, or sexually explicit materials
- Annoy, harass, discriminate, intimidate, or threaten any person or organization
- Vandalize, deface, damage, or disable the property of another person, organization or School
- Endanger the integrity of a computer on the Schools' network or the data stored on the network or Internet, including introduction of malicious software (e.g. viruses, worms, trojan horses, etc)
- Circumvent the Schools' Internet security measures and/or filters
- Log on to the network using another person or group's name and password or to otherwise misuse a name or password
- Access or manipulate another person's network, equipment or materials, without the implied or direct permission of that person
- Falsely represent oneself in any network communication
- Transmit information that is false or defamatory or violates the privacy of another person
- Transmit unsolicited emails (e.g., chain letter emails, spamming emails) to any of the Schools' distribution lists without permission of a teacher or Schools' administrator
- Utilize peer-to-peer file-sharing applications or Internet social media without authorization of a teacher or Schools' administrator
- Play, download or install games, entertainment software, or copyrighted material without permission of a teacher or Schools' administrator
- Remove, disable or modify any Schools' installed software

- Engage in commercial (private or for-profit) activity, product advertisement, or political lobbying
- Interfere with with the authorized investigation or lawful activities of any person, business, or organization in any manner
- Violate any local, state or federal statute, or any rule, regulation, or policy of the School.

School District Responsibilities

Niles Community Schools is responsible for the management of the network, equipment and software that the Schools' use to access information technologies for educational purposes. These responsibilities include:

- Enforcing this Acceptable Use Policy
- Selecting resources that support the mission of the school district
- Selecting software that the network will support
- Defining the rights and responsibilities of technology users
- Creation or removal of user's accounts on the network(s)
- Maintaining network and equipment
- Providing training opportunities on the use and application of information technology
- Filtering and/or restricting materials not intended within the purposes of the Schools and to maintain compliance with State and Federal Law.

In accordance with its obligations under the Children's Internet Protection Act, NCS has undertaken efforts to educate students about appropriate online behavior, including cyberbullying awareness and interactions with individuals on social networking websites.

During classroom activities, it is the responsibility of the classroom educator/teacher/facilitator to supervise student Internet use in a manner that is consistent with the educational objectives of the School and this policy.

Student Responsibilities

Use of the Internet by students must be in support of education and research and must be consistent with the educational objectives of the corporation.

Network etiquette expects that the student abide by the following guidelines. These guidelines include, but are not limited to:

- Students are expected to be courteous and respectful. The use of vulgar, obscene, lewd, and otherwise inappropriate language is prohibited. Students shall not engage in cyberbullying.
- While the Internet itself has virtually boundless resources, the availability of local communication and storage resources is limited. Since list servers and mail servers can generate a significant amount of data to be stored, students are expected to “clean up” their files or mailboxes at appropriate times so as to not create a storage problem on the host server.
- All communications and materials obtained via the network or the Internet should be assumed to be intellectual property subject to federal copyright law.
- Any attempt to compromise network security is prohibited. Any student identifying a possible breach in security must notify a school administrator, teacher or the district’s Technology Director.

If a student is uncomfortable or feels harassed, intimidated, or threatened by information or materials that s/he receives over the Internet, s/he should tell a teacher, principal, or other school administrator immediately. Likewise, if a student is asked by another Internet user to stop emailing or contacting them, the student must stop all contact immediately.

If a student inadvertently identifies or is presented inappropriate materials on the Internet while doing legitimate research, the student is expected to notify the teacher, principal, or other Schools' administrator.

Outside of school, families bear responsibility for the same guidance of Internet use as they exercise with information sources such as television, telephones, radio, movies and other possibly offensive media.

Laptops and Personal Computing Devices

Assignment of District-Owned technology [1-to-1] (Care of District Property):

Students or their parents/guardians are responsible for the proper care of technology equipment at all times, whether on or off Schools' property, including any costs associated with repairing or replacing the equipment if student is deemed negligent of reasonable care. Purchase of optional insurance is recommended.

Checkout of technology for non-classroom use must be in accordance with building and Board Policy (Lending of District-Owned Equipment):

Students or their parents/guardians are responsible for the proper care of technology equipment at all times, whether on or off Schools' property, including any costs associated with repairing or replacing the equipment if the student is deemed negligent of reasonable care. Check with your home insurance carrier for applicable coverage.

Use of personal computing devices must be in accordance with Board Policy (Personal Communication Devices):

Additional Guidelines for Use :

- Personal computers and other personal communication devices in use on the NCS network are subject to inspection by a teacher or administrator at any time.
- Students may only use personal laptops or other personal communication devices in accordance with Schools' Acceptable Use Policy and applicable Board Policy.

Restrictions and Disclaimers:

- Schools accepts no responsibility or financial liability for personal laptops or other personal communication devices that are brought to school by students.
- Personal computers or other personal communication devices that are lost, stolen, or damaged are the responsibility of the student and his/her parents/guardians, regardless of how the loss, theft, or damage occurs.
- Students are advised to take steps to guard against damage, loss, or theft, including the optional purchase of appropriate insurance.
- Schools' technology department will not provide technical support for any personal laptop or other personal communication device.
- Finally, student and his/her parents are responsible for compensating the Niles Community Schools for any losses, costs or damages incurred by the school district for violations of Board Policies/Administrative Guidelines and school rules while the student is using Schools' technology network, equipment or software, including the cost of investigating such violations. The school district assumes no responsibility for any unauthorized charges or costs incurred by a student while using equipment or 3rd-party Computer Services. The student and his/her parents/guardians are similarly responsible if the student takes any action with network, equipment or software that has the purpose or effect of voiding any warranty in effect covering such equipment or of providing students access to software that are available other than at the software source authorized for use by the school.

Consequences of Inappropriate Use of Technology, Computer(s) and the Network

- The building administrator will determine inappropriate use based on this Acceptable Use Policy. Their decision is final. The building administrator may close an account at any time.
- Any person who does not comply with the Acceptability Use Policy may lose or have restricted privileges of use. Repeated or severe infractions of the policy may result in permanent termination of privileges.

- Users violating any of these rights and responsibilities may face additional disciplinary action deemed appropriate in keeping with policies as stated in the student code of conduct, student handbook or policies of The Board of Education.

Support Staff

Support staff is on duty at Ring Lardner before school begins and remains on duty until late afternoon. Their responsibilities are defined by the Assistant Principal and include supervising behavior outside the classroom and monitoring and assisting anyone entering the building. The Support Staff have a great deal of authority in the building and are to be responded to accordingly.

Textbook and Supplies

It is the responsibility of every student to come to class with the proper supplies to be successful. This includes textbooks, approved school devices, paper and writing implements. Required textbooks are furnished free of charge to students. In many cases, an individual copy will be issued to each student by the teacher, while in other classes, a set of books or a variety of materials will be available to be shared with others.

Students will be held responsible for all materials issued to them. If a book is lost during the school year, it will be necessary to make arrangements immediately to purchase another school-issued replacement.

At the close of the school year, books are to be returned and damage or wear beyond normal usage will be charged to the student. A fine list is recorded in the main office.

Materials and equipment loaned to the students, such as laptops, calculators, tools, safety glasses, locks and rulers are to be returned in good condition and any loss or damage will be charged to the student.

Any student found with materials improperly checked out from the Ring Lardner Middle School library or taken from a classroom is subject to disciplinary action.

Title I

We receive Title I federal funds to assist us with providing quality programming for our students. Please accept this is as your notification that:

- You have the right to request specific information about the professional qualifications of your child's classroom teacher and about any paraprofessional (instructional assistant) who provides Title I services to your child. You may request this information from: Brooke Brawley, Director of Curriculum 1 Tyler Street, Niles, MI 49120
- If your child has been assigned a teacher who does not meet applicable State certification or licensure requirements, you will be notified in writing if that teacher has taught your child for more than four consecutive weeks. In this situation, notification will be made no later than the end of the fourth consecutive week and will be provided to you in an understandable format and, to the extent practical, in a language that you can understand.
- Niles Community Schools must prepare and distribute to parents an annual report card. The report card is available on the NCS web site at www.nilesschools.org.
- If a Title I school is identified for improvement, the district must provide all students who attend that school the option to transfer to another public school in the district. Also, supplemental educational services (SES) are tutorial services for Title I low-income students in schools in improvement.

Federal regulations require that each district adopt procedures for receiving and resolving disputes pertaining to the Title I program. Please contact the Niles Community Schools Curriculum Office at 269-683-0736 for further information regarding the district's disputes resolution policy.

See School Compact (section VI)

Traffic Flow / Parking

The safety of your child is top priority. In an effort to maintain safety, we are asking that you adhere to the traffic flow patterns below. It is important for us to separate bus traffic, parent drop off traffic, and parent parking/drop off. These procedures will only be in effect during drop off and pick up times.

- All bus traffic will be in front of the building.
- Car traffic will enter the parking lot north of the building (off of 17th Street) and pull as far forward as possible (towards the gym). Car traffic should loop around staff parking and exit to 17th Street.

MORNING DROP OFF: You may drop your child off at the back of the building (near the gym) and proceed to loop around and exit. Students being dropped off will enter the building through the doors closest to the gym starting at 7:20.

AFTER SCHOOL PICK UP: All parent pick up will be at the doors closest to the gym. Pick up will begin at 2:31 P.M. Please follow the same traffic pattern as morning drop off.

EARLY PICK UP: If you have a scheduled appointment and know you will be picking up your student before dismissal at 2:31 P.M., please inform the office no later than 2:00 P.M. so we can have your child ready in the office for pick up. Please park in the front of the building and come to the office to sign your student out. After 2:00 P.M., we ask that all students remain in the classroom until dismissal.

Transportation - First Student

Together First Student and the Niles Community Schools have developed standards of student conduct that we believe will assure each child a safe bus ride each day. The following provides guidelines on acceptable and unacceptable behavior and possible disciplinary actions: [8600- TRANSPORTATION](#)

School Bus Rules and Regulations

1. Students must listen to the driver and follow the driver's directions. The driver has the authority of a classroom teacher.
2. Students are to conduct themselves on the bus in such a way that will not distract the driver. Distracting the driver puts everyone on the bus at risk.
3. If crossing the street to board the bus, students MUST look both left and right for cars, make sure the RED lights are flashing, and wait for the driver's *signal to cross*. Always cross the street in *FRONT* of the bus.
4. Before boarding and after exiting the bus, students must keep a safe distance from the bus. Keep at least 10 FEET away from the bus.
5. Students are to enter the bus promptly, immediately take their seats, and remain in their assigned seat whenever the bus is moving..
6. Students must *remain properly seated* at all times. (Back to Back; Bottom to Bottom; Book bag on the lap)
7. Outside of ordinary conversation in a normal tone, classroom conduct is to be observed when on the bus. The driver has authority to prohibit any conversation.
8. Students are not to touch the emergency equipment on the bus (emergency doors, windows, roof hatches, body fluid/first aid kits, 2-way radios, etc.) except as directed by the driver or during an actual emergency.
9. The bus windows should not be opened without permission from the driver.
10. Students are to keep all body parts inside the bus. (Hands, arms, head, hair, etc.)
11. Students are to keep *their hands and feet* to themselves. (No fighting; horseplay poking or pinching)
12. Students are not to eat or drink while on the bus.
13. No spraying of cologne, perfume or body spray while on the bus.
14. Students are not to throw objects of *any kind* either inside the bus, out of the bus, or around the bus.
15. Students should help keep the bus clean, sanitary, and orderly. They must not damage or abuse bus seats or equipment.
16. Students are *not* to use abusive language or profanity, obscene or rude gestures, or spit while on the bus.
17. Students may *not* bring large musical instruments, any animals, balloons, glass containers or objects, or large school projects onto the bus unless this has been prearranged.
18. Students are not to leave the bus without the driver's permission, except on arrival at their assigned bus stop or at their assigned school.
19. No parents, grandparents or guardians are allowed on buses, without permission or prior approval has been received by Niles Community Schools and First Student.
20. Students are prohibited from using PCD's to capture, record or transmit the words (i.e. audio) and or images (i.e.picture/videos) of any student, staff members or bus driver/aide.

21. By riding the bus, it is implied that all students and parents understand these rules and will abide by them. Stating that they did not know the rules does not excuse a student from mis-behavior or infractions of the rules.

Following the Bus Safety Rules and Regulations will ensure safety, prompt arrivals and departures of buses, and positive attitudes on the part of students. Violations of these rules may result in the suspension of bus privileges.

Conduct and Discipline

Students are expected to behave in a respectful manner toward the driver and other students while waiting for and riding the bus. Fighting, bullying, bickering, horseplay and boisterous activities are not allowed. Drivers will try to prevent and resolve behavior problems as they arise by working directly with students. In cases of repeated misbehavior or serious misconduct the driver may issue a misconduct report to be taken to the parent/guardian. The misconduct report will contain a brief description of the inappropriate behavior. Please take this opportunity to discuss the inappropriate behavior with your child. Please sign and return the misconduct report to the driver with your child. If you have questions or concerns about the misconduct report please contact either the Manager or Supervisor at the Transportation Office at 269-684-1420.

If you have questions regarding transportation, please contact:

First Student

1740 Lake Street

Niles, Michigan 49120

269-684-1420

Bus Procedures

Permission from home and school is necessary for the following:

1. Getting off the bus at other than the regularly assigned bus stop.
2. Riding a bus other than the one assigned.

Students must adhere to guidelines established by the transportation director. Written requests are to be submitted to the attendance office before school or during lunch period.

Transfer Out of the District & Withdrawal

Parents must notify the office about plans to transfer their child to another school. If a student plans to transfer, the parent must notify the enrollment secretary. School officials, when transferring student records, are required to transmit disciplinary records including suspension and expulsion actions of the student.

Valuable Items

With the exception of designated days approved by teacher or principal, students are encouraged not to bring items of value to school. Items such as jewelry, expensive clothing, electronic equipment, and the like, are tempting targets for theft and extortion. The school cannot be responsible for their safe-keeping and will not be liable for loss or damage to personal valuables.

Visitors

Visitors, particularly parents, are welcome at the school. In order to properly monitor the safety of students and staff, classroom visits need to be arranged 24 hours in advance. Each visitor must report to the office upon entering the school to register with the office and obtain a pass. If a person wishes to confer with a member of the staff, she/he should call for an appointment prior to coming to the school, in order to schedule a mutually convenient time.

- Students may not bring visitors to school without prior written permission from the Principal.

Visitor and Volunteer Expectations

- Always sign in and wear a nametag; sign out when you leave.
- Weapons are prohibited on school property
- Appropriate attire must be worn. Please know that you are a role model to our children.
- No profanity written on clothing.
- Shorts or skirts need to be at an appropriate length.
- No pajamas.
- Any rips in clothing must not be revealing.
- Appropriate language must be used in the building.
- Have your cell phone on vibrate and limit the use so that your attention is on the children.
- Videotaping or otherwise recording classroom activity without permission of the principal is prohibited.

Pre-approval of siblings joining your volunteer time is expected.

No smoking or tobacco use on school property.

Have a great time, enjoy the students and share your positive attitude.

Work Permits

Offer of Work and Request for Working Permit forms are available in the office. This form must be completed by the employer and student and returned to the office. A work permit will then be completed by office personnel once it is signed by the student and employer; it can then be returned to the employer. A work permit may be revoked if poor school attendance results in a level of school work lower than prior to beginning employment. A minor who has a work permit revoked by the school shall be informed of an appeal process.

ACADEMICS

Academic Reports

Grades are available at any time through PowerSchool. Information on how students and parents can access PowerSchool is provided to families each fall and available upon request. In addition, parent/teacher conferences are held in the fall and spring. A conference with a teacher(s) can be requested at any time.

Curriculum K - 8

Our curriculum is unique to each program, and developmentally appropriate for each student. Small groups and differentiated instruction ensure that every student is successful in meeting the objectives for the student's specific program and/or individual student plan. Niles Community Schools maintains a curriculum that:

- Supports each child's rate of development;
- Provides the foundation for school readiness and later school success;
- Integrates health, mental health, and nutrition into school activities;
- Helps children develop emotional security and social skills; and
- Balances activities to enhance all areas of a child's development

Grades

Grades are issued four times a year. To be included on the Honor Roll, students must have a cumulative grade point average of 3.25 or higher. Please remember the pluses and minuses are factored into grade point averages. In an effort to ensure grades accurately reflect what students know and are able to do, important non-academic behaviors like readiness to learn, organization, work ethic, classroom conduct and social responsibility will not be factored into the end of marking period grades. However, feedback pertaining to these very important elements will be provided as part of the student report card.

Grading Scale		
Grading Scale	Letter Grade	GPA Weighting
97-100	A+	4.00
93-96	A	4.00
90-92	A-	3.67
87-89	B+	3.33
83-86	B	3.00
80-82	B-	2.67
77-79	C+	2.33
73-76	C	2.00
70-72	C-	1.67

67-69	D+	1.33
63-66	D	1.00
60-62	D-	0.67
59 and below	F	0.00

Promotion, Placement, and Retention

Promotion to the next level is based on the following criteria and is determined through collaboration with families. Final right of assignment lies with the principal or their designee.

- Current level of achievement
- Potential for success at the next level
- Emotional, physical, and/or social maturity

Review of Instructional Materials and Activities

Parents have the right to review any instructional materials being used in the school; they also may observe instruction in any class. Any parent who wishes to review materials or observe instruction must contact the principal prior to coming to the school. Parents' rights to review teaching materials and instructional activities are subject to reasonable restrictions and limits.

Scheduling and Assignment

Schedules are provided to each student at the beginning of the school year or upon enrollment. Schedules are based on the student's needs and available class space. Any changes in a student's schedule should be handled through the Principal or his designee. Students may be denied course enrollment due to a lack of available space or the need to pass prerequisites. Students are expected to follow their schedules. Any variation should be approved with a pass or schedule change. Final right of assignment lies with the principal or their designee.

Student Assessments

Each student's proficiencies and needs will be assessed by staff members upon the student's entrance into the District and annually or more frequently, as required by law, thereafter. Procedures for such assessments will include, but need not be limited to, teacher observation techniques, cumulative student records, student performance data collected through standard testing programs and/or diagnostic reading assessment systems, student portfolios, and physical examinations.

- the Michigan Student Test of Educational Progress (M-STEP), the Michigan Merit Examination ("MME") (or other readiness assessment program approved by the State Superintendent), the PSAT, and MI-Access Alternate Assessments administered each year in accordance with the schedule established by statute and the State Department of Education;

M-STEP includes summative assessments designed to measure student growth effectively for today's students. English language arts and mathematics will be assessed in grades three (3) through eight (8), science in grades four (4) and seven (7), and social studies in grades five (5) and eight (8). It also includes the Michigan Merit Examination in 11th grade, which consists of the SAT with essay, ACT WorkKeys, and M-STEP summative in science and social studies.

- criteria-based written and oral examinations which include use of alternative questions, demonstrations, writing exercises, individual and group projects, performances, portfolios, and samples of best work;
- selection of assessment instrument, data, and other District criteria that will be used to assess educational achievement of each student in grades one (1) through five (5);

Students who do not meet the District's and State's established assessment criteria may be offered the opportunity to attend summer school.

All eleventh grade students shall participate in the Michigan Merit Examination unless excluded under the guidelines established by the State Department of Education.

A student who wants to repeat a State-approved readiness assessment (other than the Michigan Merit Examination and any component) may repeat the assessment in the next school year or after graduation on a date when the District is administering the assessment. Only this type of repeat assessment testing will be without charge to the student.

The District shall administer the complete Michigan Merit Examination to a student only once and shall not administer the complete Michigan Merit Examination to the same student more than once if the student has valid scores in some or all MME components. If a student does not take the complete Michigan Merit Examination in grade eleven (11), the District shall administer the complete Michigan Merit Examination to the student in grade twelve (12). If a student chooses to retake the college entrance examination component of the Michigan Merit Examination, the student may do so through the provider of the college entrance examination component and the cost of the retake is the responsibility of the student unless all of the following are met:

- A. the student has taken the complete Michigan Merit Examination;
- B. the student did not qualify for a Michigan promise grant based on the student's performance on the complete Michigan Merit Examination;
- C. the student meets the Federal income eligibility criteria for free breakfast, lunch, or milk;
- D. the student has applied to the provider of the college entrance examination component for a scholarship or fee waiver to cover the cost of the retake and that application has been denied;
- E. after taking the complete Michigan Merit Examination, the student has not already received a free retake of the college entrance examination component paid for either by the State of Michigan, or through a scholarship or fee waiver by the provider.

Any high school student who wishes to test-out of a course in which the student is not enrolled may do so by taking the final examination for the course and receiving a grade of at least C+ or by demonstrating mastery of the subject matter as determined by the assessment used in lieu of a final examination. Credit for a course earned by a student through this process may be used to fulfill a course or course-sequence requirement and be counted toward the required number of credits needed for graduation but may not be used to determine the student's GPA.

Students may receive credit toward high school graduation who successfully completes, prior to entering high school, a State mandated curriculum requirement, provided the course meets the same content requirements as the high school course, and the student has demonstrated the same level of proficiency on the material as required of the high school students.

Vocational and interest surveys may be given to identify particular areas of student interest or talent. These are often given by the guidance staff. Students will not be required, as part of the school program or District curriculum, to submit to or participate in any survey, analysis, or evaluation that reveals information of a personal nature in accordance with Board policy and Federal guidelines.

Depending on the type of testing and specific information requested, parent (or student) consent may need to be obtained. _____ [school name] will not violate the rights of consent and privacy of a student participating in any form of evaluation. (See also Board Policy 2623 – Student Assessment, Board Policy 5460 Graduation Requirements, and associated Administrative Guidelines.)

ATTENDANCE

The Board of Education, as an agency of the State, is required to enforce the regular attendance of students. The Board recognizes that the presence in the classroom enables the student to participate in instruction, class discussions, and other essential learning activities. As such, regular attendance and classroom participation are integral to instilling incentives for the student to excel. Regular attendance means being absent no more than 5% of school days in session. For example, in a 180 day school year, regular attendance is equal to 0-9 days absent. Absences greater than 10 days put your child at risk academically.

Board Policy - [5200- ATTENDANCE](#)

- **ABSENCES:** All absences must be reported by telephone or through written notification to the school. Office hours are 7:00 A.M. – 3:30 P.M. You will receive a phone call any time your child has been marked absent during a school day. The parent should send a note to the teacher when the child returns explaining the child's absence if not reported by phone. In the event that your child will be absent for three or more days (e.g. family vacations, childhood diseases), homework assignments

will be provided upon request. Please give the teacher 24 hours of advance notice for homework requests.

- The school reserves the right to ask for verification (i.e., doctor's notes) for the cause of any absences. If, at any point during the school year, your child's absences are considered chronic, he or she will be referred to an attendance intervention program.
- We believe regular attendance is essential to school success.

<p>Data Point 1: (40 days)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Regular = 0-2 days absent • At risk = 3 days absent • Chronic = 4 or more days absent • Severe Chronic = 8 or more days absent 	<p>Data Point 2: (80 days)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Regular = 0-4 days absent • At risk = 5-7 days absent • Chronic = 8 or more days absent • Severe Chronic = 16 or more days absent 	<p>Data Point 3: (120 days)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Regular = 0-6 days absent • At risk = 7-11 days absent • Chronic = 12 or more days absent • Severe Chronic = 24 or more days absent
<p>Data Point 4: (160 days)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Regular = 0-8 days absent • At risk = 9-15 days absent • Chronic = 16 or more days absent • Severe Chronic = 32 or more days absent 	<p>Data Point 5: (180 days)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Regular = 0-9 days absent • At risk = 10-16 days absent • Chronic = 17 or more days absent • Severe Chronic = 34 or more days absent 	<p>Excessive tardiness may result in unexcused absences.</p>

- The Board may report to the Intermediate School District infractions of the law regarding the attendance of students below the age of sixteen (16). A truant officer will be notified when 10 or more unexcused absences have occurred.
- Written notification will be sent home after a student has been absent 10 days. A second letter will be mailed home after 15 days. To participate in any extracurricular school activity, the student must be in school by noon on the day the activity takes place. This includes attending as a spectator.

Tardy Policy

Students are expected to be on time for every class. Students will receive a verbal warning for their first tardy. A lunch detention will be given for a fourth (4th) tardy. Any student who exceeds four (4) tardies may receive an after school detention, in-school restriction, or other consequences determined by administration. Tardies will reset at the start of each quarter. Skipping lunch detentions will result in further consequences. Frequent late arrivals to school requiring an office pass to class, will be brought to the attention of the assistant principal and the appropriate consequences will apply.

Truancy

Unexcused absences from school (truancy) is not acceptable. After 10 days of absences a student will be considered an "habitual truant" which can result in:

- Assignment to an alternative placement with loss of participation in school activities and events.
- A poor work-ethic grade, which will become a part of the student's permanent record.
- A hearing before a judge in a court of law.
- A report to local authorities concerning lack of parental responsibility in providing proper care and supervision of a child.

STUDENT CONDUCT - DISCIPLINE

Behavior Expectations

Students at Ring Lardner are expected to behave appropriately at all times. Careful consideration has been given to establishing rules and regulations reflecting the standards for student behavior set by the Ring Lardner Staff. In addition to the information in this handbook, teachers may also have expectations specific to their classrooms. These expectations will be communicated to students at the beginning of each marking period. It is extremely important that all students are familiar with all issues addressed in this handbook. Failure to comply with the rules will begin a progression of consequences. Offenses unresolved by the teaching or support staff will result in a written referral to the office, and will be recorded in a disciplinary file. Consequences will be issued with consideration given to the circumstances surrounding the infraction, the severity of the infraction, and the student's history of misbehavior.

Bullying and Harassment

The District shall provide, and all administrators, school employees, contracted employees and volunteers who have significant contact with students will undertake annual training on preventing, identifying, responding to, and reporting incidents of bullying and other aggressive behavior.

Bullying is intentional behavior initiated by one or more students directed toward other student(s). Bullying exists when a student with more social and/or physical power deliberately dominates and harasses another with less power. Bullying is unjustified and typically repeated. Bullying/Harassment of students is prohibited, and will not be tolerated. Any student that believes she/he has been/or is the victim of bullying/harassment should immediately report the situation to the teacher, the principal or assistant principal, or may report it directly to the Superintendent at 269-683-0732. All reports of bullying will be investigated. Consequences for bullying will range from a warning to expulsion, depending on the severity and number of previous offenses.

Code of Conduct

The Board of Education of the Niles Community School District, as both an employer and a public school district, is concerned with and interested in protecting the health, safety, and welfare of students, employees, and visitors. The Board recognizes that school buildings, facilities, vehicles, grounds, and other school property are best utilized in the educational process in the absence of threats to physical and emotional well-being and safety.

The primary objectives of requiring appropriate student behavior and self-discipline is to produce a positive and safe learning atmosphere in which there will be no interruption of the teaching-learning environment. All students will assume personal responsibility for their behavior and actions, develop appropriate self-control, exhibit self-discipline, and accept the responsibility and consequences of any inappropriate behavior. To accomplish this objective requires a cooperative effort from students, staff, and parents.

The responsibility to implement the Code of Conduct rests with the building principal.

All students shall:

A.	Respect the educational process through the display of appropriate language, attitude, and physical behavior.
B.	Respect and honor the rights of other students to learn in an environment free of intimidation or harassment.
C.	Maintain satisfactory attendance.
D.	Comply with the dress code.

Consequences and interventions for noncompliance for the above expectations shall include, but not be limited to the list below. The severity or the repetitive nature of a student's behavior will be given consideration when determining appropriate consequences.

A.	Community or school service
B.	Detention
C.	Denial of participation in school activities
D.	Denial of privileges
E.	Intervention by professional school staff
F.	Parent contact or conference
G.	Referral to an administrative panel
H.	Referral to appropriate law enforcement or other governmental agency
I.	School probation
J.	Warnings
K.	Peer mediation
L.	Participation in restorative justice practices

The severity or the repetitive nature of a student's behavior will be given consideration when determining appropriate consequences.

Discipline

Because the health and safety of Ring Lardner students is our primary concern, inappropriate student behavior will not be tolerated. Students/Parents are reminded that the rules apply on school property, at school-sponsored events, or while using school transportation.

Noon Detention

Noon detention has been established as the primary consequence for being tardy to class. If a student is issued a tardy slip, they automatically have to serve noon detention. Rather than go to lunch as usual, the student will report to the noon detention room where they will be monitored while sitting quietly. The last 10 minutes of the period will be spent in the cafeteria where the detention students will eat their lunch as a group. Failure to report may result in further disciplinary action.

After School Detention

Students subject to disciplinary action may be given after school detention time as a consequence. Students will be given 24 hours advanced notice in person and in writing. Students are to report to the detention room by 2:36pm. There they will be monitored and expected to sit quietly until 3:31 pm. At the conclusion of their detention they are to immediately leave the building. Students must have their own transportation home. Failure to report for detention may result in a suspension. If a student is absent on the day of an assigned detention, the detention is to be served the day they return to school.

In School Restriction (ISR)

In-school restriction is an in-house program to which a student may be assigned for a period of time in lieu of an out of school suspension. Academic time can continue without interruption instead of the student being suspended from school. Students are to report to the ISR room with all books and supplies needed for the day. Parents will be notified.

Suspension

Students being considered for suspension or expulsion are entitled to an informal hearing with the building administrator, prior to the removal, at which time the student will be notified of the charges against him/her and given the opportunity to make a defense. If a student is suspended, the parents may appeal the suspension, in writing, to the Assistant Superintendent at 1 Tyler Street, Niles, Michigan 49120.

Expulsion

When a student is being considered for expulsion, a formal hearing is scheduled with the Board of Education and the parents will be given written notice of the hearing and will be expected to attend. The Superintendent then takes testimony and determines if a recommendation to expel is to be made to the Board of Education. This decision may also be appealed. In the case of expulsion, the student remains out of school during the appeal period. Work missed during an expulsion cannot be made up and usually results in loss of credit.

Students being considered for long-term suspension or expulsion may or may not be immediately removed from school. A formal hearing is scheduled with the Director of Alternative Programs during which the student may be represented by his/her parents, legal counsel, and/or by a person of his/her choice. Within two (2) days after notification of a long-term suspension or expulsion, the long-term suspension or expulsion may be appealed, in writing, to the Director of Alternative Programs. The appeal will also be formal in nature with sworn testimony before official(s) designated by the Board of Education. The appeal will be heard in an open session unless the student or the student's parent or guardian requests a closed session. Again, the right to representation is available. All opportunity to earn grades or credit ends when a student is expelled.

Ring Lardner makes a sincere effort to have disciplinary actions take place that will allow the student to remain in school. If a disciplinary action does not result in removal from school, it is not appealable. Should a student or parent have questions regarding the propriety of an in-school disciplinary action, they should contact the superintendent.

If a student commits a crime while at school or a school-related event, he/she may be subject to school disciplinary action as well as to action by the community's legal system. These are separate jurisdictions and do not constitute double jeopardy.

Discipline - Student Behavior Consequences

Bullying / Threatening Behavior / Harassment

Bullying is defined as repeated, persistent, harmful behavior, where an imbalance of power exists, intended to cause fear, distress, or harm to another person's body, emotions, self-esteem or reputation, that substantially interferes with a student's ability to benefit from the educational environment. Bullying exists when a student with more social and/or physical power deliberately dominates and harasses another with less power. For more information, see NCS board policy [5517.01- STUDENT RECORDS](#)

- up to 1 day ISS/OSS
- up to 2 days ISS/OSS
- up to a minimum 3 days OSS/behavior plan/administrative hearing

Cheating / Plagiarism

Includes but is not limited to intentionally using or attempting to use unauthorized materials, information, or study aids in any academic exercise; copying from another student's work; representing material prepared by another as one's own work; allowing others to copy from or use work not their own.

1st offense

- parent contact by teacher
- no credit for assignment

2nd offense

- parent contact by administrator
- Possible nine week grade of "F"
- up to 1 day ISS/OSS

3rd or more offense

- parent meeting with administrator

- Possible nine week grade of “F”
- up to 1 or more days of ISS/OSS

Unauthorized Use of PCDS

1st offense

- Confiscated and returned to student at the end of the school day

2nd offense

- Confiscated and parent must retrieve at the end of the school day
- Excessive unauthorized use of PCDs may result in further disciplinary action as determined by administration.
- Refusal to surrender an unauthorized PCD may also result in further disciplinary action as determined by administration.

* All confiscated PCDs will be stored in a safe location in the school office.

Displays of Affection

Intimate public displays of affection are not allowed. This includes, but is not limited to, kissing, prolonged hugging, caressing, hand holding or inappropriate touching.

Dress Code Violation

To be determined by the dean of students or assistant principal. When appropriate, students violating the dress code will be allowed to call home to request suitable clothing. Staff may also be able to offer temporary garments. Any student refusing to comply with the dress code may be suspended.

To minimize disturbances to the educational environment and to ensure a safe and secure learning environment, the following guidelines will be used by building principals to determine what action will be taken relative to student dress:

- Clothing, patches, buttons, jewelry, bags and any other personal items should be appropriate.- Any item containing or depicting obscenity, profanity, weapons, ads for illegal substances, or symbols found to be offensive and/or disruptive to the educational environment, including but not limited to the Confederate flag, swastika and/or gang affiliations, are **not** acceptable.
- Jewelry or body adornments considered to be disruptive or dangerous are not acceptable.
- Revealing, sheer, strapless and/or low-cut clothing will not be allowed. All shirts, tank tops, and/or blouses must have straps and cover undergarments and the entire torso.
- Hats, sunglasses, and hoods cannot be worn inside the building. Headphones and/or earbuds may not be worn in the building. Head coverings for religious purposes are permitted.
- Shorts, pants, skirts, leggings, torn or altered clothes should cover all undergarments and the buttock and private areas should not be visible while standing, bending, sitting or laying down.
- Sagging pants riding below the waist that may expose skin or any garment worn under the pants are not allowed.
- Coats or lined jackets are to be left in lockers, not worn to class.
- Book bags, backpacks, purses, laptop bags, and duffels are to be left in lockers except for use in gym class only.
- Excessive make-up and/or face paint, costumes, or accessories that are distracting to instruction or unsafe are not allowed.
- Any other item or appearance deemed inappropriate by administration.

When appropriate, students violating the dress code will be allowed to call home to request suitable clothing. Staff may also be able to offer temporary garments. Any student refusing to comply with the dress code may be suspended.

Explicit Materials

To attempt or knowingly access, possess, share, upload, download, or distribute pornographic, obscene, or sexually explicit materials.

- administrative hearing

Fighting

Is defined as physical contact in which two or more parties are active participants, which does or could cause bodily harm. Physical contact refers to but is not limited to hitting, shoving, pushing, tripping, pinching, or spitting. Police action may also be taken by the district police liaison officer in addition to any school discipline. Spitting on another individual will result in out-of-school suspension.

- up to 5 days OSS
- administrative hearing

Forgery of School Documents

- up to 1-hour detention/reflection room
- up to 1 day ISS
- up to 1 day OSS

Inappropriate Behavior in School

Behavior and/or conduct and/or incitement to action that results in disruption of the learning process and orderly school environment or endangers the safety of the school, students, and/or personnel.

- up to ½ hour detention/reflection room
- up to 1-hour detention/reflection room
- up to 1 day ISS/OSS
- up to 2 days ISS/OSS
- up to a minimum 3 days OSS/behavior plan/administrative hearing

Incitement

Promoting or inciting a disagreement or conflict between others, which could result in a disruption of the school processes; this includes, but is not limited to: making accusations or threats; recording, repeating or transmitting gossip or rumors; or encouraging physically, verbally, electronically or in writing a conflict which could result in a disruption.

- up to ½ hour detention/reflection room
- up to 1-hour detention/reflection room
- up to 1 day ISS/OSS
- up to minimum of 2 days OSS / administrative hearing

Indecent Exposure / Sexual Harassment / Sexual Misconduct Michigan state law requires schools to provide students and families with important information to help prevent sexual violence and support those affected. As part of this effort, the Michigan Department of Education (MDE) has developed a Sexual Harassment and Sexual Assault Information Guide for students in grades 6-12.

This guide, created with input from experts and reviewed by students and professionals in education, public health, and sexual violence prevention, includes:

- Definitions of sexual harassment and sexual assault
- Reassurance that victims are never to blame
- Resources for those seeking help

Additionally, Niles School Policy 2266 - NONDISCRIMINATION ON THE BASIS OF SEX IN EDUCATION PROGRAMS OR ACTIVITIES strictly prohibits retaliation against anyone who reports sexual harassment or sexual assault.

For more information or to access support resources, students are encouraged to reach out to a trusted staff member or visit the school office.

Insubordination / Disrespect

Refusal to comply with request of school authorities or disrespect to school personnel

- up to ½ hour detention/reflection room
- up to 1-hour detention/reflection room
- up to 1 day ISS/OSS
- up to 2 days ISS/OSS
- up to a minimum 3 days OSS/behavior plan/administrative hearing

Physical Assault

Physical assault is different from fighting because it does not involve at least two active participants. Macing a person is viewed as an assault

- administrative hearing; referral to police liaison

Possession or Use of Fireworks, Explosive Materials or Noxious Substances

- up to 5 days OSS
- administrative hearing

Profanity

Use/access/distribution of obscene or profane language in oral or written form in pictures, caricatures, gestures, on clothing or through technological devices.

- up to ½ hour detention/reflection room
- up to 1-hour detention/reflection room
- up to 1 day ISS
- up to 1 day OSS (**Profanity directed at any adult in the building starts at this step**)
- up to a minimum 3 days OSS/behavior plan/administrative hearing

Technology Violations

Inappropriate use of technology: use during a prohibited time; recording, taking, posting and/ or distributing video or photos of staff or students without their permission at a school related event; inappropriate searches on Chromebooks; recording and or sharing videos of inappropriate activity at school related events; circumventing monitoring software.

- up to 1 hour detention
- restricted tech privileges / penalty box
- loss of privilege to have device at school
- up to 5 days OSS
- up to Code of Conduct Hearing

Theft or Possession of Stolen Property

- up to 3 days OSS plus restitution
- up to administrative hearing
- up to possible police contact

Vandalism

Significant misuse/destruction/defacing school property and/or personal property caused by the result of inappropriate behavior. All consequences include full payment of labor and replacement costs of applicable restitution and possible police contact

- up to 1 day ISS/OSSS
- up to 2 days ISS/OSS
- up to Minimum 3 days OSS/behavior plan/administrative hearing
- up to administrative hearing

Vaping - Possession or Use of Vape, E-Cigarette, Etc.

1st offense

- minimum out of school suspension of 5 days

2nd offense

- Second offense, up to 10 days OSS, administrative hearing

Due Process

The Board of Education recognizes the importance of safeguarding a student's constitutional rights, particularly when subject to the District's disciplinary procedures.

To better ensure appropriate due process is provided a student, the Board establishes the following guidelines:

A.	Students subject to short-term suspension:
	Except when emergency removal is warranted, a student must be given oral or written notice of the charges against him/her and the opportunity to respond prior to the implementation of a suspension. When emergency removal has been implemented, notice and opportunity to respond shall occur as soon as reasonably possible. The principal or other designated administrator shall provide the opportunity to be heard and shall be responsible for making the suspension decision. An appeal may be addressed to the Assistant Superintendent at 269.683.0736. His decision will be final.
B.	Students subject to expulsion and permanent expulsion:
	A student and his/her parent or guardian must be given written notice of the intention to expel and the reasons therefore, and an opportunity to appear with a representative before the Board to answer the charges. The student and/or his/her guardian must also be provided a brief description of the student's rights and of the hearing procedure, a list of the witnesses who will provide testimony to the Board, and a summary of the facts to which the witnesses will testify. At the student's request, the hearing may be private, but the Board must act publicly. The Board shall act on any appeal, which must be submitted in writing, to an expulsion (Policy 5610 and/or Policy 5610.01) to a request for admission after being permanently expelled from another district (Policy 5610.01).

The Superintendent shall establish procedures so that all members of the staff use the above guidelines when dealing with students. In addition, this statement of due process rights is to be placed in all student handbooks in a manner that will facilitate understanding by students and their parents.

Summary

The listed penalties are a possible range of consequences. The administration has the right to invoke any disciplinary measure necessary to ensure the positive operation of the school. Referrals to police and juvenile authorities will be made when appropriate, necessary, or required by law.

- Regulations covered in this handbook are in effect at school or at any school approved activity on or off school property
- Any student who is under suspension will not be allowed to attend or participate in any school activity and is not permitted on school property. Any student who has excessive disciplinary incidents may also not be allowed to attend or participate in any school activity.
- Any student accumulating 10 or more in-school restriction days through the course of the school year will receive OSS for every day thereafter.

- Administration may convene an administrative hearing against a student whenever, in his/her judgment, the documented behavior pattern of the individual or the seriousness of the offense is opposed to the process of formal education within the Niles Community Schools.
- Consequences assigned for one school year that are not served by the end of that school year may be addressed and transferred to the following school year.

Non-Negotiables

The following behaviors are considered unacceptable by Niles Community Schools and may result in suspension and an administrative hearing. The administrative hearing panel will be composed of three district administrators. The student and his/her parents will be informed of the time, place, and purpose of the hearing. At the hearing, all parties will present information pertinent to the case. School officials and the student may invite other individuals to participate in the hearing. After the panel has heard all the parties, they will excuse the student and parents to determine the appropriate disciplinary action. If expulsion is recommended, the recommendation will be forwarded to the board of education. The panel will also recommend conditions for re-admittance to the Niles Community Schools. The behaviors listed below apply to actions on school property and school sponsored activities.

1. Any purposeful action toward another student that results in serious and observable injury requiring medical attention.
2. Use or possession of a weapon, explosive, look-alike weapon, or anything that is used as a weapon.
3. Possession of any drug (including alcohol, tobacco and e-cigarettes/"vapes" as [defined in Board Policy 5512](#).)
4. Use, possession, or distribution of drug items defined in Board Policy [5530](#) and any paraphernalia associated with them.
5. Use, or being under the influence, of drugs or alcohol.
6. Intentionally causing, or attempting to cause, physical harm to any school staff or school representative through force or violence.
7. Verbal assault against any school staff or school representative (any intentional threat or offer to do bodily injury to another by force, under circumstances which create a well founded fear of actual harm, coupled with the apparent ability to carry out the act if not prevented).
8. Acts of arson, bomb threats, false fire alarms, or any serious threat to school property or activities.
9. Willful destruction of school property (in excess of \$200).
10. Acts of stalking (repeated or continuing harassment of another individual that causes a reasonable person to feel terrorized, frightened, intimidated, threatened, harassed, or molested).

A violation of the Niles Community Schools Code of Conduct will result in the following sequence of events:

A.	The student shall be suspended from school.
B.	The building principal will convene an administrative panel composed of three administrators.
C.	The student and his/her parents will be informed of the time, place, and purpose of the administrative hearing.
D.	At the hearing, all parties will present information and arguments pertinent to the case. School officials and the student may invite other individuals to testify at the hearing.
E.	After the panel has heard all the parties, they will excuse the student and parents to determine a recommendation for the Board of Education.
F.	The recommendation will include the offense and recommended disciplinary actions. If expulsion is recommended, the panel will also outline the conditions for acceptance back into the Niles Community Schools.

Non-Retaliation and False Reporting

Making intentionally false reports about bullying/aggressive behavior for the purpose of getting someone in trouble is similarly prohibited and will not be tolerated. Retaliation and intentionally false reports may result in disciplinary action. Giving false information when asked to identify oneself may result in disciplinary action.

OK2SAY

OK2SAY is an anonymous hotline that students, staff and community members can use to report, and help stop harmful behavior. The goal of OK2SAY is to stop these behaviors before they occur by encouraging anyone to report threatening behavior to caring adult authorities who can help. OK2SAY encourages Michigan residents to confidentially submit tips 24/7 using the OK2SAY mobile app, online, email, texting, or by calling trained program technicians. Upon receipt of a tip, specially trained OK2SAY technicians address the immediate need and forward the information to the appropriate responding law enforcement agency or organization. Tips go to schools, local law enforcement agencies, community mental health agencies or the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services.

Personal Communication Devices

Personal Communication Devices (PCDs) must be powered off (i.e. not just placed on vibrate or silent mode) and stored in the locker during the school day. For the purpose of this policy “personal communication devices” includes computers, tablets (e.g. iPads and similar devices), electronic readers, cell phones, smartphones, telephone paging devices (e.g. beepers or pagers), and/or other web-enabled devices of any type.

Search and Seizure

See Board Policy [5771- SEARCH AND SEIZURE](#)

Student Expression

The School recognizes the right of students to express themselves. With the right of expression comes the responsibility to do it appropriately. Students may distribute or display, at appropriate times, non sponsored, noncommercial written material and petitions; buttons, badges, or other insignia; clothing, insignia, and banners; and audio and video materials. All items must meet the following school guidelines:

A. A material cannot be displayed if it:

1. is obscene to minors, libelous, indecent, and pervasive or vulgar,
2. advertises any product or service not permitted to minors by law,
3. intends to be insulting or harassing,
4. intends to incite fighting or presents a likelihood of disrupting school or a school event.
5. presents a clear and present likelihood that, either because of its content or manner of distribution or display, it causes or is likely to cause a material and substantial disruption of school or school activities, a violation of school regulations, or the commission of an unlawful act.

B. Materials may not be displayed or distributed during class periods, or during passing times between classes. Permission may be granted for display or distribution during lunch periods and after school in designated locations, as long as exits are not blocked and there is proper access and egress to the building.

Students who are unsure whether or not the materials they wish to display meet school guidelines may present them to the Ring Lardner Administration Twenty-four (24) hours prior to display.

STUDENT HEALTH

Blood and Body Fluids

We have special policies to follow when a child has been bleeding or has any bodily fluids on his/her clothing. ****Bodily fluids are vomit, diarrhea and blood.** Michigan law requires that a child that has bodily fluids on his/her clothing cannot be exposed to other children. The home will be contacted for a change of clothes, if one has not been provided [8453.01- CONTROL OF BLOOD BORNE PATHOGENS](#).

Control of Non-Casual-Contact Communicable Diseases

see Board Policy 8453 - DIRECT CONTACT COMMUNICABLE DISEASES

Head Lice and Bed Bugs

- If a child is found with head lice, the parent will be called to come pick up his/her child. Form 8450A F1 and the cover letter (Form 8450A F2) shall be provided to the parents/legal guardians of the student.
- An informational handout is given to the parent on how to treat the lice and information on re-entry back into school. **Before a child can return to the classroom or community expert location, he/she must be examined by the school. If a student has no live lice, but has nits closer than one quarter inch from the scalp, they may return to school. The child shall be rechecked for lice and nits on each school day until no live lice and no nits closer than one quarter inch of the scalp are found.** The parent will bring him/her to the office or designated staff member to be checked.
- If a bed bug is found in a classroom, parents of students in the classroom will be notified, the classroom will be inspected and licensed pest control specialists will treat the classroom.

Immunizations

Students MUST be current with all immunizations required by law or have an authorized waiver from State immunization requirements. If a student does not have the necessary shots or waivers, the principal may remove the student or require compliance with a set deadline. This is for the safety of all students and in accordance with State law. Any questions about immunizations or waivers should be directed to the building secretary. See Board Policy 5320 - IMMUNIZATION

Injury and Illness

While we make all attempts to ensure the safety of your child while in our care, occasionally accidents happen. Parents will be notified in writing, via phone, or in person of all injuries to children on the day of the injury. Should your child require immediate medical attention, all attempts will be made to notify you via phone or one of your emergency contact persons prior to transporting your child to the closest and most appropriate facility.

A student who becomes ill during the school day should request permission to go to the office. An appropriate adult in the office will determine whether or not the student should remain in school or go home. No student will be released from school without proper parental permission.

For your child's well-being and to prevent the spread of communicable diseases, please do not send your child to school if she/he has one or more of the following symptoms:

- Fever (within the past 24 hours)
- Vomiting (within the past 24 hours)
- Diarrhea (within the past 24 hours)
- Heavy nasal discharge (especially green or yellow)
- Reddened eyes and/or discharge
- Persistent cough
- An unidentified rash

Symptoms of Other Communicable Diseases:

Chickenpox (Varicella)	Exclude until lesions are dry and crusted.
Conjunctivitis (Pink Eye)	Exclude until 24 hours of treatment or symptoms are resolved.
COVID-19	Exclude following current health department guidelines.

Diarrhea: Non specific, Rota-virus and most Salmonella	Exclude when diarrhea cannot be contained or presence of fever.
Salmonella Typhi	Exclusion until permission from the health department to return.
Shigella	Exclusion until permission from the health department to return.
Fifth Disease (erythema infectiosum)	Exclusion not required.
Hand-Foot-Mouth Disease	Exclusion not required.
Hepatitis	Until approved by health care provider
Impetigo*	Exclude until 24 hours of antibiotic treatment.
Lice	Exclude following *school policy.
Mononucleosis	Exclusion not required.
Pertussis (whooping cough)	After (5) days of treatment
Ringworm*	Exclusion not required. (should be treated)
Scabies*	Until treated
Strep Throat	After 24 hours of treatment
Tuberculosis	Until Physician's advisement
Upper Respiratory Infection	When fever is gone
IF YOUR CHILD IS BEING TREATED FOR ANY COMMUNICABLE DISEASE, PLEASE INFORM THE SCHOOL OFFICE IMMEDIATELY.	

Student Well-Being

Student safety is a responsibility of the staff. All staff members are familiar with emergency procedures such as fire, lock down and tornado drills and accident reporting procedures. Should a student be aware of any dangerous situation or accident, she/he must notify a staff member person immediately. State law requires that all students must have an emergency medical card completed, signed by a parent or guardian, and filed in the School office. A student may be excluded from school until this requirement has been fulfilled. Students with specific health care needs should deliver written notice about such needs along with proper documentation by a physician, to the School office.

Use of Medications

A Doctor must complete and sign the Medication Permission and Instruction form available in the school office for prescription medication required during school hours (or use the link below). The doctor should be very specific about instructions for administration of medication. "As needed" is NOT specific enough. Medicine CAN NOT be dispensed without required forms.

See Board Policy [5330-USE OF MEDICATIONS](#)

- Prescription medication MUST be in its original container labeled with a date, the child's name, and the exact dosage.
- Medication should never be transported to and from school by the child. An adult must bring the medication, along with the completed permission/instruction form directly to the school office.
- Children with ASTHMA must have an "asthma action plan" on file, signed by a physician.
- Children with DIABETES must have a "diabetes action plan" on file, signed by a physician.

No staff member will be permitted to dispense non-prescribed, over the counter (OTC) medication to any student. Parents may authorize the school to administer a non-prescribed medication using a form which is available at the school office. A physician does not have to authorize such medication but all of the other conditions described above will also apply to non-prescribed medications. The student may be authorized on the request form by his/her parent to self-administer the medication in the presence of a school staff member. No other exceptions will be made to these requirements.

Any student who distributes a medication of any kind to another student or is found to possess a medication other than the one authorized is in violation of the school's Code of Conduct and will be disciplined in accordance with the drug-use provision of the Code.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF HANDBOOK RECEIPT

I have received a copy of the Ring Lardner Middle School Handbook for the 2025-2026 school year. I understand the handbook contains information that my child and I will need during the school year. I also understand that all students will be held accountable for their behavior and are subject to the disciplinary consequences outlined in the handbook.

Name of Student (please print)

Signature of Parent/Guardian

Date

Signature of student

TECHNOLOGY POLICY

I have read and agree to adhere to the Acceptable Use Policy of the Niles Community found on pages 13 - 18

Signature of Parent/Guardian

Date

Signature of student

SCHOOL SPONSORED TRIP PERMISSION NOTICE

I give permission for my child to take all school sponsored academic, athletic, and extra-curricular trips, during the 2025-2026 school year.

Signature of Parent/Guardian

Date

Signature of student

IMAGE and COMMENT RELEASE FORM

I hereby grant permission to Ring Lardner Middle School to use my likeness and/or voice in photograph(s), video or audio recordings in any of its publications, on any of its online sites, online sites utilized by these entities including social media, and in any or all other media without further consideration.

I also grant permission to Ring Lardner Middle School to interview me and use my comments in any of its publications, on one of its online sites, and in any or all other media without further consideration.

Signature of Parent/Guardian

Date

Signature of student

Please tear out page and return to your Core 1 teacher by September 12, 2025