

# THATCHER MIDDLE SCHOOL STUDENT HANDBOOK

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## **MISSION STATEMENT**

The mission of Thatcher Middle School is to make students our top priority and to provide an environment that allows students to discover, create, learn, and progress to their maximum potential. This will happen through the cooperative efforts of the administration, parents, community, school board, staff, and the student body.

## **BELIEF STATEMENTS**

**WE BELIEVE** we have the responsibility to provide a variety of educational experiences in the classroom and in extracurricular activities.

**WE BELIEVE** we have the responsibility to provide the students with, at very least, the basic knowledge and skills to function well in society.

**WE BELIEVE** every student can learn and achieve.

**WE BELIEVE** we have the responsibility to teach life skills such as promptness, dependability, self-motivation, discipline, mutual respect, personal pride, and elements of integrity such as honesty and responsibility.

**WE BELIEVE** students can be taught to take responsibility for their own choices and each student should be held responsible for their own behavior.

**WE BELIEVE** each student has the right to attend school in a safe environment.

**WE BELIEVE** no student should be allowed to infringe on the rights of others to gain an education.

## **PHILOSOPHY AND GOALS**

Thatcher Middle School is committed to a school environment that provides a quality education for all students. To do this, we will teach the basic academic disciplines along with a foundation of basic values. We believe the school must:

Provide classroom instruction with high academic standards.

Assist students in developing their physical, emotional, mental, social, moral and creative potential.

Provide resources for students with special needs.

Supervise and enforce a fair system of discipline.

Provide students with activities that develop self-worth.

Recognize the unique problems associated with middle school students and provide counseling to assist with related problems.

Provide a smooth transition for all students from elementary, to middle school, and on to high school.

Encourage all students to strive for the best possible education by maintaining high standards of excellence both in and out of the classroom.

***Work together with parents and the community to provide for the total education of all students.***

***Provide instruction and resources to help align student abilities with state and district academic standards.***

## **CODE OF CONDUCT**

Thatcher Middle School expects exemplary conduct from its students. Positive student behavior is based upon recognizing the inherent dignity of every human being. Students learn effectively in an environment in which the expectations of good conduct are clear and the consequences of unacceptable behaviors are defined. This Code of Conduct applies to any student who is on school property, in attendance at school or at any school sponsored activity. Therefore, it is essential to examine the rules of good conduct at Thatcher Middle School.

## **ACADEMIC DISHONESTY**

It is the fundamental belief at Thatcher Middle School that any work presented by students will be their own. Academic dishonesty, in any form, is inconsistent with the school's philosophy and will not be tolerated.

Cheating on a quiz, test, project, homework, or examination includes any case of assistance sought, received, or offered without prior notification of the teacher. It also includes the possession of an unauthorized test and/or teacher materials that would give the student an unfair advantage.

Plagiarism is defined as borrowing someone else's words, ideas, or facts and passing them off as one's own. Failure to credit the source of those ideas, words, or facts properly constitutes an act of plagiarism.

## **CONTROLLED SUBSTANCE POLICY**

*Thatcher Middle School* maintains a "ZERO TOLERANCE" policy in regards to drugs, alcohol, tobacco, vape/e-cig and/or weapons. Laser pointers will be considered a weapon. This policy is in force on the way to and from school, during the school day and at any school-sponsored activity.

*Thatcher Middle School* prohibits the possession, use, dispensing, selling, and/or giving of any alcohol, drugs, tobacco, vape/e-cig, and/or weapons. If it is established that a student has been transmitting, selling, using, or has in possession any alcohol, drugs, tobacco, vape/e-cig, and/or weapons the following procedure will be followed. The principal will notify the parent and disciplinary action will be taken. A written report will then be sent to the Superintendent and the Thatcher Police will be notified. If, after review by the Principal and Superintendent, a long-term suspension or expulsion hearing is needed, a certified letter will be delivered to the parent describing the charges and the time, place, and date of the hearing. The administration views these actions as very serious, by nature, and recognizes that the student's removal by no means solves their problem. Any student in violation of this policy will be removed from extracurricular activities immediately until the Disciplinary Counsel has determined consequences. Disciplinary Counsel will consist of but not limited to a coach and administrator.

## **DRESS CODE**

At Thatcher Middle School, we respect the right of students to express their individuality; however, we also respect the right of all students to receive an education free from unnecessary distractions and disruptions. Because of this fundamental right, we expect students to express themselves in a way that highlights their uniqueness, yet respects the rights of others to unhindered learning. This is one reason why an effective dress code, and enforcement of that code, is necessary.

Parents are strongly urged to pay particular attention to the cleanliness, modesty, and appropriateness of their child's school attire. The school requires that students dress in such a way as to not distract or disrupt the educational process. The standards listed under this policy will apply equally to all extracurricular activities. The principal will make the final determination as to whether a student's dress or appearance is acceptable. The principal has the authority to allow items for special occasions or special circumstances.

The Board authorizes the Superintendent to develop and enforce school regulations prohibiting student dress or grooming practices that:

- A. Present a hazard to the health or safety of the student or to others in the school.
- B. Materially interfere with school work, create disorder, or disrupt the educational program.
- C. Cause excessive wear or damage to school property.
- D. Prevent students from achieving their educational objectives.
- E. Represent membership in a gang.

Obscene language or symbols, or symbols of sex, drugs, or alcohol on clothing are expressly prohibited. Policy: JICA

### **STUDENT DRESS -- (Policy JICA-R)**

It is required that students wear clothes to school that are appropriate for the school setting. The school requires that students do not wear costumes or dress in such a way as to detract, or disrupt school. The District expects students to dress in a manner that, in addition to the following guidelines, takes into consideration the educational environment, safety, health, and welfare of self and others.

1. Any gang apparel, jewelry, hat, or hair ornaments that suggest gang affiliation are strictly forbidden and will be confiscated. Belts and chains are not to hang more than six (6) inches from the waist.

2. Clothing, jewelry, or any other items suggesting identification with the drug culture, having lewd, vulgar, or suggestive statements or pictures, or anything with racist slurs are prohibited.
3. Shorts and skirts are permitted as long as they are no more than five (5) inches above the middle of the knee and the waistline is worn at the proper place. Spandex shorts are not allowed - 5 inch rule applies.
4. Spaghetti straps, tank tops, see-through blouses, short tops, bare midriffs, muscle shirts, and shirts without proper undergarments or designed to be worn as undergarments that are being worn improperly are prohibited. Low, revealing necklines are not appropriate attire for school. Pants/Jeans with excessive holes, shreds, rips or tears five inches above the knee are NOT to be worn. Yoga pants, stretch pants, and leggings may be worn as long as there are no see-through areas in the garment. Shoes are to be worn at all times.
5. Hats, caps, or any headwear may be worn outside the building only. Hats should be removed when entering the building; this includes hoodies. Teachers will have discretion in classrooms. If a hat is confiscated, the THS discipline points system will be followed. Any exceptions to this rule will be approved in advance by the administration.
6. Clothing is to be worn so as not to distract from the learning atmosphere of the school setting. Sagging, with the crotch of the pants near the knees and the waistline across the middle of the buttocks, is not permitted. Pants are to be worn at the waistline (top of the hips). Pants that are excessively baggy and have the back pockets at the back of the thigh are not acceptable.
7. Sunglasses are not permitted inside the building they are for outside use only. Exceptions to this rule will be cleared on special occasions by the administration and the student council.
8. The principal or assistant principal shall have the final say if a student dresses inappropriately. (see note)

**Note.** Students who violate the dress code may be subject to confiscation of the item, warned on the first offense, and sent home to change with an unexcused absence. Repeated violations may result in loss of privilege to wear shorts, or suspension, depending upon the circumstances involved. (A repeated violation occurs on the second offense.) All students who participate in school extra-curricular activities may be expected to follow a stricter dress code. Please contact the coach of that activity. Students who consistently violate rules in the form of discipline referrals and excessive tardies and absences, may lose the opportunity to attend extra-curricular activities and functions.

### **LUNCH TIME RULES**

During lunch, students are to stay away from all classroom areas west and north of the science/woods building. All games and activities that occur during lunch must be safe. "Wall Ball" and any similar games are prohibited. Students need to stay in safe, supervised areas, which includes the cafeteria, courtyard and the main building of Thatcher Middle School.

If a student eats in the cafeteria they are to eat and then return to campus. If a student eats at Eagle's Roost, they are to get their food and return to campus unless accompanied by a parent/guardian. No one will be allowed to "hangout" outside of the gates during their lunch period. Students will be expected to be inside the gates during the lunch period.

### **Maintaining an Orderly Campus**

Students may not be in the gym or classrooms without a teacher present. No bicycles, skateboards, Heely's, scooters or rollerblades or the like, will be allowed on campus, even when school is not in session. Collecting money on campus for any purpose, other than approved fund-raisers, is not allowed. No food or beverages are allowed inside of the school building without principal approval. Chewing gum on campus is not permitted. Unauthorized use of electronic devices will result in its confiscation. Littering on campus will result in community service assignments.

### **PERSONAL RIGHTS OF OTHERS**

Ethnic, racial, religious, and sexual slurs will not be tolerated. Slurs regarding physical differences are likewise banned. Lewd, indecent, or obscene conduct is unacceptable. Bullying, hazing, and intimidation are a serious breach of proper conduct. Foul language will not be tolerated. It is prohibited to knowingly publish or circulate false information which is damaging to another (i.e. spreading false rumors). Fighting will not be tolerated. Threatening physical violence to another student or teacher will not be tolerated.

### **PROPERTY RIGHTS**

Stealing and vandalism of any form, including unauthorized "borrowing" of another's belongings, removal of sporting equipment from the gym, removal of anything from the classroom without the teacher's consent, or the removal of books from the library without signing them out is not permitted.

Defacement of school or personal property will require restitution as well as written apologies and disciplinary consequences. This includes destroying or writing on desks, tables, walls, lockers, chairs, yearbooks, and campaign posters. *"Upon complaint of the Governing Board, the parents or guardian of the student who has injured school property shall be liable for all damages caused by their children or wards." (ARS 15-842)*

Lying to a teacher, another adult, or the principal to avoid punishment for wrongdoing is a serious offense. Forging a parent's signature is a serious offense and will carry disciplinary action. Intentional disruption of school activities will not be allowed. Disorderly conduct of any kind is prohibited. Gambling is prohibited. Using on-line computer services to acquire and/or view sexually explicit material is a serious offense.

### **RESPONSIBILITY AND RESPECT**

Students are expected to demonstrate courteous behavior. In assemblies, students are expected to come to order and give their attention to those presenting the assembly. Students

must behave for, and cooperate with, substitute teachers. Students reported by a substitute teacher for misconduct will receive disciplinary action. Public displays of affection (holding hands, hugging, kissing, etc.) are not acceptable.

Students are expected to speak in positive ways about each other and about the staff of this school. The “golden rule” of communication in our school is in effect: “Don’t talk about someone else in a way that you wouldn’t want them to talk about you.” Too much time is wasted when our staff has to deal with students who verbally backstab one another and the emotional results of this behavior. There are four guidelines we expect our students to adhere to in their conversations:

Don’t say hurtful or offensive things to or about other people.

Don’t repeat harmful or offensive things that other people have said.

Try to ignore what other people say about you; when you react to what they say, you are giving them exactly what they wanted – and they win.

Be honest about your role in any dispute when dealing with a teacher or the principal.

Punctuality is important. Detentions will be issued for tardiness. Bus misconduct will not be tolerated and may result in the loss of riding privileges. Students absent from school may not participate in extracurricular activities that day. (see athletic handbook) This includes sports events, sports practices, music performances, etc.

### **SCHOOL REPRESENTATION**

All students involved with extracurricular activities assume the responsibility to conduct themselves properly while participating. **This is especially important when** traveling to “away” contests. Proper conduct becomes the responsibility of each person while on the bus, at the game, and while in commercial businesses. If the conduct of the student brings a bad name upon them, the team, or the school they will have disciplinary action invoked and possible termination from extracurricular activities. (see athletic handbook for more information)

## **STUDENT POLICIES**

### **ATTENDANCE**

Consistent with state law, Thatcher Middle School holds to the philosophy that parents are responsible for the attendance of their children. Parents have the right to have their child out of school for any reason deemed important, but in exercising that right, they assume the responsibility for the loss of any academic material presented during the absence, and may be responsible for the loss of credit, if absences are excessive. Parents cannot expect the school to educate students, who are not physically in attendance. The school reserves the right to set limits on the number of absences a student may have, beyond which course credit cannot be justified.

All students must be signed out, in the Office, before leaving campus during the school day. If a parent desires to have their student released to another person it must be approved by the principal.

### **ABSENCE**

Each time a student is absent, a parent must notify the school. If unable to call, a note must be sent with the student upon their return to school. The school may call and check on students any

time deemed necessary. Excessive absences without good reason may warrant the school to report to the truancy office to investigate the problem. A student participating in extracurricular activities must be in attendance on the day of the activity unless participating in a school-related activity or absent, with prior approval of the office, for funeral, medical, dental, or other necessary appointments. Doctor excuses must be brought to the office after appointment. If approval is not obtained, the student will not be allowed to participate. This includes sports events, sports practices, dances, music performances, etc. Students who have been absent are to go to the office between 7:40 and 7:45 to turn in appointment verification.

**Excused Absence:** Those caused by reasons such as illness of immediate family, funeral, doctor or dentist appointments, or other emergencies. Each of these absences should be followed by a note or phone call from a parent.

**Unexcused Absence:** Those absences in which the student and parent had a choice. Examples are shopping, pleasure trips, vacations, hunting, etc.

**Thatcher Middle School Absence Policy:** If absences become excessive, greater than 5 unexcused absences or 10 excused, the student will be referred to a court of jurisdiction for further prosecution of the school attendance law concerning habitual truancy. After a student is absent 10 days in one semester a Doctor's note, for verification of illness, will be required for each absence thereafter.

### **ACCIDENTS & INJURIES**

**All accidents and injuries occurring at school must be reported immediately to proper authority. An incident report will be completed and filed in the office. Failure to do this may cause "non-coverage" of some insurance policies.**

### **RE: FRIDAY**

Students will be invited to campus by appointment. The appointment will be determined on the student's academic process during each week. Standard Mastery is the focus for all students. Other situations may occur for students to be on campus for Friday activities and will be communicated through email, phone or other district methods of communication. ALL activities will be under the direction of the inviting teacher.

### **ARRIVAL AND DEPARTURE**

Unless the student has arranged to meet with a teacher, no student should arrive at school before 7:15 AM. Limited supervision is in place from 7:05-7:30. Students are to leave the school grounds immediately at the end of the day or school sponsored activity.

### **ASSEMBLIES**

An indication of the cultural level of a school is the conduct of students at an assembly. Each student is responsible for the impression made by the school as a whole. Unacceptable conduct would include whistling, boisterousness, and talking during the program. Students who choose to participate inappropriately at assemblies will lose the privilege of attending.



### **BUS POLICY**

Students who are bused to school must conduct themselves properly. If problems occur the bus driver will file an **Incident Report**. If this problem is not corrected the privilege of riding the bus will be suspended and a parent will be responsible for the transportation of the student. Bus misconduct will not be tolerated

### **BICYCLES**

Thatcher Middle School cannot assume responsibility for damage or theft of bicycles/scooters/skateboards. Students who ride to school should lock them securely in the bike racks. Any theft or damage should be reported immediately to the Thatcher Police Dept., as well as the office.

### **CAFETORIUM**

We encourage all students to use the cafeteria. Breakfast, a hot lunch can be purchased at a reasonable rate. Courteous behavior and cleanliness are required in the cafeteria. Parents may pay any amount toward the student's lunch account. Free and reduced lunch applications are available in the office. **At no time are students allowed to take food outside the cafeteria.**

Students whose parent/guardians have given permission to eat at the Eagles' Roost need to be aware that they are off campus, and that the privilege of exercising this exception to the closed-campus policy WILL be revoked if they behave inappropriately or if they litter the campus. Parents should be aware that while the cafeteria is required by law to provide nutritionally balanced meals, the Eagles' Roost is not.

### **CLOSED CAMPUS**

Thatcher Middle School students will observe a **CLOSED CAMPUS POLICY**. During school hours all students will remain on campus. If a student is leaving campus for any reason a parent must come to the office and check the student out and check the student back in at the office upon return. Students who do not follow one of the listed exceptions and are found to be off campus will be subject to disciplinary action. Due to this policy, parents assume full liability and responsibility for their students who leave campus during lunch.

The only exceptions:

If a student resides within the identified area, they may eat lunch at home. A completed form must be on file in the office.

If a student eats lunch at Eagle's Roost, a completed form must be on file in the office.

### **ELECTRONIC DEVICES**

The use of any electronic device in a manner that detracts from the educational process of Thatcher Middle School is prohibited. Student use of electronic devices (including but not limited to cell phones, iPod, electronic games, etc.) during class time is prohibited, unless assigned by a teacher as part of an educational objective or allowed by the teacher. Teachers have the right to ask for any device that is disruptive to the classroom environment or used

inappropriately in any way. Electronic devices may be used in outside areas only. Do not use devices between classes in hallways. Devices should remain in back pack inside the building and/or classroom.

Students need to be cautious of use of electronic devices that may impose on the privacy rights of others; this includes but is not limited to, taking photos to be posted on social media or making comments on social media. Use of social media that takes the form of social bullying will be dealt with under appropriate policies and in conjunction with law enforcement.

Any student using an electronic device on campus in a derogatory way will forfeit that cell phone to the administration for 5 school days. If a student or parent refuses to forfeit the cell phone or electronic device the student will be suspended for 5 school days. More serious discipline will follow on the second offense under defiance of authority.

Each teacher will have domain over their classroom. Rules and procedures for devices will be discussed and followed for each teacher. Before school and during lunch the devices may be used outside of the building. Once a student enters the building the device should be silenced and put away. These devices can be a distraction to students and should not be out unless they are part of a class presentation or project to be used under the supervision and direction of school personnel. The school will not be held liable for any lost or stolen electronic devices. The school reserves the right to confiscate these devices. Any student using an electronic device inappropriately or during class time without teacher/staff consent will forfeit that device and a parent conference will take place This includes but not limited to cell phones, IPODS, CD-players, laser pointers and any other electronic games or electronic communication devices. More serious discipline will follow on the second offense under defiance of authority.

### **EQUIPMENT**

Any student issued school owned equipment is solely responsible for the return of that equipment, in good working condition. When dealing with athletic equipment, a student will not be allowed to participate in another sport until the equipment is returned. Any school owned equipment that is damaged, broken or lost will become the responsibility of the student to pay replacement costs. **School issued equipment is not to be worn outside of team practice or competition.**

### **EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES**

Students who participate in interscholastic athletics will be governed by the Eastern Arizona Junior High Athletic Association (EAJHA). Student athletes must be in school on the day of an event or they will be ineligible for the event. Students must complete the following items before they will be allowed to participate on any *Thatcher Middle School* athletic team:

A physical examination by a licensed physician is on file in the office. In addition, an updated health form must be completed each year on or after April 1st and turned in with the appropriate signatures. Head Trauma form must accompany physical form.

Written permission slips, signed by a parent, are on file in the office.

Record of school insurance or a written insurance waiver is on file in the office.

### **GRADING POLICY**

A percentage grading policy has been adopted by the District Governing Board. The following scale is used:

A = 90 - 100%   B = 80 - 89%   C = 70 - 79%   D = 60 - 69%   F = 59 – below

### **HALLS**

Students are to be in class each hour and are not allowed in the halls during class time unless they have a “hall pass” from their teacher. Students who are out of class without a “hall pass” may be subject to disciplinary action.

### **HARASSMENT**

Harassment is any verbal, visual, or physical conduct which is sufficiently severe, persistent or persuasive that it adversely affects, or has the purpose of interfering with the student’s educational program or creates an intimidating, hostile, or offensive school atmosphere. Sexual harassment is defined as unwelcome sexual advances, request for sexual favors, or other verbal, visual or physical conduct of a sexual nature. Harassment whether it is by students, staff or third parties in the school community, is strictly prohibited, and will subject the perpetrator to disciplinary action. Any conduct of this kind will not be tolerated and the police will be involved with each documented case of harassment.

### **HOMEWORK**

It is the philosophy of *Thatcher Middle School* that students should be given homework. Students should manage their time to see that all homework assignments are completed on time. Parents can view grades via ParentVue to check student grades (contact office for info), when an assignment is missing. Teachers and parents are encouraged to work together to make sure that all students turn in all of their assignments. If requesting homework because of illness, the work is expected to be completed when the student returns to school. If not requested, the student will receive one day for each day absent to complete the work.

### **INCENTIVE PROGRAMS**

**POPS (Power of Positive Students)**...Positive way to reward students on a daily basis. This reward earns the student out early for lunch or out early at the end of the day. The students turn their POPS into the library for a drawing at the end of each quarter.

**Student of the Month**...At the end of each month, teachers will nominate students (2) from each grade that best exemplified these standards...

- One absence or less
- No unexcused tardies
- Turned in all homework
- Maintained a grade of 75% or higher
- No major discipline problems

### **LIBRARY**

The library has an outstanding supply of books, magazines, reference materials, and technology. Materials can be checked out for a period of two weeks. Reference materials cannot be checked out from the library. Students must either be with their teacher or have a hall pass to use the library during class time. Fines will be assessed for late returns.

### **LITTER**

Students are responsible for their own trash disposal. Be aware of littering and deposit discarded trash in containers provided throughout the campus. Students observed littering will be assigned trash duty or school service time.

### **LOST AND FOUND**

Thatcher Middle School will not be responsible for any personal items lost or stolen on school grounds or school related activities. Lost items should be reported as soon as possible to the office. Students are expected to bring any valuable items found immediately to the office.

### **MEDICATION**

If it becomes necessary for a student to take any form of medication at school, a medication form must be on file in the office. All medications will be kept and dispensed from the Office. **STUDENTS ARE NOT TO SELF-MEDICATE AT ANY TIME.**

### **NO PASS – NO PLAY**

Students participating in extracurricular activities will be checked for eligibility at one week intervals. Teachers will turn in lists of students at the end of each week. Students with grades **below a 70%** will result in not being allowed to compete the following week (Monday through Monday). Students who are declared ineligible will become ineligible on the following Monday. A student will be required to earn a grade of 70% in every course in which they're enrolled to participate. An "incomplete" will not be considered a passing grade. Ineligibility brought about by an incomplete grade shall be eliminated at the time the incomplete grade becomes a passing grade. Students staffed into Special Education will be graded according to their Individual Education Plan and will be required to pass all classes in which they are enrolled.

### **NUISANCE ITEMS**

Items not directly associated with the educational setting (i.e. cell phones, electronic games, devices or toys, cameras, skateboards, scooters, yo-yos, rubber bands, etc.) are not allowed at school. They become a serious problem when they are stolen or lost. Students found in possession of such items will have the items confiscated and may be subject to disciplinary action. Confiscated items may be returned to the student's parents.

### **PE CLOTHING & LOCKERS**

The school is requesting that all boys and girls wear green or black shorts, a white T-shirt, and tennis shoes to PE. Please mark all clothing and shoes with the student's name. Students will be issued locks to be used in PE only. **BE SURE TO LOCK THE PE LOCKER AT ALL TIMES.**

Do not tamper with another student's locker or lock. If lock is lost a \$5.00 fee will be charged for a replacement.

### **PERFORMANCE ETIQUETTE**

These guidelines are provided to help create an atmosphere conducive to the enjoyment of all those attending fine arts performances:

Quiet conversation is permissible *ONLY* before the start of a performance.

Talking, whispering and other distractions are not appropriate during a performance.

Remain seated during the entire performance or until you are dismissed.

Applause is appropriate and welcome.

Please leave all food outside.

Any person not in compliance will be asked to leave.

### **SCHOOL DANCES/ACTIVITY NIGHT**

School activities will be held on a scheduled basis. All school rules are in effect. In addition, the following rules will be enforced:

- Activities will be planned in advance and calendared with dates and times of each event.
- Students with discipline points given the week of activity will not be eligible to attend activity.
- ***Parents need to pick-up their child promptly at the end of the activity.***
- If a student leaves early, they will not be allowed to re-enter.
- There will be no loitering on the grounds outside.
- Inappropriate conduct or dancing will not be tolerated.
- Dress standards are the same as those used for normal school attendance.

### **SCHOOL INSURANCE**

Parents have the option of purchasing low-cost insurance from a school-authorized carrier, or to maintain insurance from some other source. The insurance coverage and processing all claims are solely between the insurance company and parents. The school maintains no health coverage on its students. Questions about insurance can be answered at the school office.

### **STUDENT COUNCIL**

Student Council serves as a training experience for both leaders and followers, gives students a share in the management of the school, develops high ideals of personal conduct, acts as a clearing house for student activities, seeks to interest students in school affairs and helps solve problems that may arise. Members of Student Council are representatives of the school and as such are held to a higher level of responsibility.

### **VISITORS**

All visitors are to report to the Office upon entering the building. Anyone wishing to spend time visiting the school must pick up a visitor's pass at the office. Students may not bring their friends to attend school with them. Parents are welcome to spend time in classrooms at any time. While school is open, we do require that all visitors abide by all school policies.

### **PROMOTION PARADE**

**Promotion will be held on the last day of school! The student council will set the program outline. Each student must be in good standing with teachers and office to participate. This includes; grades, fees, discipline and any other situational events. All students will receive a matching class t-shirt to be worn on the day of promotion.**

Parents will be notified when their student's progress is deficient.

In November a notification to parents for students who could be in jeopardy of retention. A plan will be devised to help students be successful. Another notification in February for plan modification and progress. In April final decisions for retention or promotion will be determined by the team.

Parents will be notified of their student's grades and progress in deficient classes. If a student fails to meet the standards in a core subject (Math, Science, Social Studies, English) the team will determine if retention or summer school is necessary before a promotion certificate is awarded. Eighth grade students wishing to participate in the promotion assembly should meet the requirements by the last full week of the school year. Administration has the final say in a student's participation in the promotion assembly. Behavior and attendance can be reasons for loss of privilege to promotion assembly.

# **FOUNDATION OF RESPECT**



It is expected that all students, teachers, staff members, and Thatcher Middle School associates will embrace, internalize and practice the universal principle of **RESPECT**.

**RESPECT** will drive all decisions and behaviors.

**RESPECT** for self, **RESPECT** for others, **RESPECT** for community, **RESPECT** for country, and **RESPECT** for school.

Each teacher, staff member, student, and parent will embrace high **EXPECTATIONS** for themselves and those with whom they work and serve. We truly believe all students can achieve and progress leading to a happier and more fulfilling future.

Through research and evidence we concede that manipulation, coercion, anger, and humiliation does not motivate students to greatness. Belief in oneself, excellent teachers, a foundation of consistently reinforced corrective **CONSEQUENCES**, and the overarching ability to **CHOOSE** will improve motivation, achievement, and innovation.

**STUDENTS CHOOSE THEIR CHOICES. THEY DO NOT CHOOSE THE CONSEQUENCES!**

**To help students increase their capacity for success the following structure will be followed by all students and staff at Thatcher Middle School:**

Each student engaged in one of the following unwanted behaviors will be sent to the office to speak with the principal or designated authority. The principal and student will

discuss the violation of the foundational principle RESPECT. They will discuss corrective behaviors and possible interventions. The student will then earn Discipline Points based on the chart below as a consequence structured to change future behavior. Each column of points increases with each repeated behavior. **Should a student be engaged in multiple violations throughout an incident, the violation designated with the most points will be used as the defining consequence to deter.**

Once a student accumulates 100 discipline points during one semester, they will have the following options:

- Be referred to the Superintendent of Schools for long-term suspension from school.
- Be referred to the Governing Board for possible expulsion from Thatcher Unified School District.
- Withdraw from Thatcher Middle School.

### **Discipline Points System at Thatcher Middle School.**

#### **Category 1**

4 Unexcused Tardies	3	3	5	5	10	10
Skateboards, Scooters, Rollerblades or like	3	3	5	5	10	10
Disrespect for School Property, Littering	3	3	5	5	10	10
Violation of Food and Drink Rule	3	3	5	5	10	10

#### **Category 2**

Dress Code Violation	5	5	10	10	15	15
Horseplay/ Injury Prone or Unsafe Behavior	5	5	10	10	15	15
Profanity, Vulgarity & Obscene Gestures	5	5	10	10	15	15
Public Display of Affection	5	5	10	10	15	15
Cell Phone/Electronic Device/ Disruptive Object	5	5	10	10	15	15

#### **Category 3**

Cheating (Plus Mandatory Zero for Assignment)	15	20	20	25	25	30
Disruptive Behavior	15	20	20	25	25	30
Defacing School Property (With Reparations)	15	20	20	25	25	30
General Bus Disruption	15	20	20	25	25	30
Failure to Comply with a Reasonable Request	15	20	20	25	25	30
Out of Class without Permission	15	20	20	25	25	30
Fighting (Defender)	15	20	20	25	25	30
Incitement	15	20	20	25	25	30



**Category 4**

<u>Defiance, Disrespect, Insubordination</u>	<u>20</u>	<u>25</u>	<u>25</u>	<u>30</u>	<u>30</u>	<u>35</u>
<u>Inappropriate Use of Computers</u>	<u>20</u>	<u>25</u>	<u>25</u>	<u>30</u>	<u>30</u>	<u>35</u>
<u>Truancy/Ditching</u>	<u>20</u>	<u>25</u>	<u>25</u>	<u>30</u>	<u>30</u>	<u>35</u>
<u>Profanity/Vulgarity/Obscenities Directed at Staff</u>	<u>20</u>	<u>25</u>	<u>25</u>	<u>30</u>	<u>30</u>	<u>35</u>
<u>Possession of a knife</u>	<u>20</u>	<u>25</u>	<u>25</u>	<u>30</u>	<u>30</u>	<u>35</u>

**Category 5**

<u>Theft</u>	<u>25</u>	<u>30</u>	<u>30</u>	<u>30</u>	<u>35</u>
<u>Vandalism/Destruction of School Property</u>	<u>25</u>	<u>30</u>	<u>30</u>	<u>30</u>	<u>35</u>
<u>On Campus without Permission</u>	<u>25</u>	<u>30</u>	<u>30</u>	<u>30</u>	<u>35</u>
<u>Operating Vehicle on Campus without Permission</u>	<u>25</u>	<u>30</u>	<u>30</u>	<u>30</u>	<u>35</u>

**Category 6**

<u>Use/Sharing of Pornographic Material/Images</u>	<u>35</u>	<u>35</u>	<u>35</u>	<u>40</u>
<u>Fighting (Mutual)</u>	<u>35</u>	<u>35</u>	<u>35</u>	<u>40</u>
<u>Fighting (Aggressor)</u>	<u>35</u>	<u>35</u>	<u>35</u>	<u>40</u>
<u>Harassment, Bullying, Cyberbullying</u>	<u>35</u>	<u>35</u>	<u>35</u>	<u>40</u>
<u>E-cigarettes, Chemical Inhalation Devices ,Tobacco</u>	<u>35</u>	<u>35</u>	<u>35</u>	<u>40</u>
<u>Threats, Verbal Abuse or Written Abuse</u>	<u>35</u>	<u>35</u>	<u>35</u>	<u>40</u>
<u>Public Display of Affection (Sexual Contact/Groping)</u>	<u>35</u>	<u>35</u>	<u>35</u>	<u>40</u>

**Category 7**

<u>Assault of a Student</u>	<u>50</u>	<u>50</u>
<u>False Fire Alarm/911 call</u>	<u>50</u>	<u>50</u>
<u>Under the Influence of a Controlled Substance</u>	<u>50</u>	<u>50</u>
<u>Alcohol Violation</u>	<u>50</u>	<u>50</u>
<u>Indecent Exposure</u>	<u>50</u>	<u>50</u>
<u>Operating a Vehicle on Campus in a Reckless and Dangerous Manner</u>	<u>50</u>	<u>50</u>
<u>Sexual Harassment</u>	<u>50</u>	<u>50</u>
<u>Intentional battery of a Student</u>	<u>75</u>	

**Category 8**

<u>Bomb Threat</u>	<u>100</u>
<u>Severe Vandalism/Destruction of school property</u>	<u>100</u>
<u>Possession of a Controlled Substance or Drug Paraphernalia</u>	<u>100</u>
<u>Possession of an Explosive</u>	<u>100</u>
<u>Assault of a District Employee</u>	<u>100</u>
<u>Possession of a Weapon, Dangerous Device or a Firearm</u>	<u>100</u>
<u>Arson</u>	<u>100</u>
<u>Aggravated Assault of a Student</u>	<u>100</u>

**NOTE:**

*All Category 2-4 infractions may include minimum 1 day in school suspension in addition to points.*

*All Category 5 infractions may include minimum 1 day out of school suspension in addition to points.*

*All Category 6 infractions may include minimum 3 days out of school suspension in addition to points.*

*All Category 7 infractions may include minimum 5 days out of school suspension in addition to points.*

*All Category 8 infractions may include minimum 9 day out of school suspension in addition to points.*

**PARENTS**

Parents will be notified when their student has been referred to the office for a handbook infraction. A parent conference may be scheduled when their student has a total of 50 points.

**Students having a semester total of 70 points or more will NOT be allowed to participate in any extracurricular activities. This includes athletics, music programs, school sponsored trips and attendance at school activities/dances.**

**POINTS OF CLARIFICATION**

**All procedures will be in accordance with Thatcher Unified School District Board Policy. Any act that violates the law or is not specifically covered in these policies will be dealt with by the administration. Any extreme violations, in any category, will be dealt with more severely than the policy prescribes. Police will be notified if an infraction is also a legal matter.**

**HANDS-OFF POLICY**

It is the policy of Thatcher Middle School to strictly enforce a hands-off policy. Students are not to push, shove, trip, slap, or otherwise strike another student either in play or anger.

1. A discipline referral may be written for a **Violation of the Hands-Off Policy** when a student has feigned or actually made physical contact as previously defined. Consequences for violations of the Hands-Off Policy shall be:

2. A discipline referral may be written for ***Physical Assault*** when a student violates the Hands-Off Policy and there is intent to cause physical harm or injury and/or strike with anger or malice. ***Police may be contacted for any physical assault incident.*** Consequences for physical assault shall be:

3. A discipline referral may be written for ***Fighting*** when two or more students have jointly violated the Hands-Off Policy and there is intent to cause physical harm or injury and/or strike with anger or malice. ***Police may be contacted for any fighting incident.***

4. A discipline referral may be written for ***Incitement*** when a student has made threats of physical harm or injury, harassed or intimidated another student, acted or promised to act as “back-up” to a fight, and/or promoted or supported a fight between other students through verbal or physical actions which may include congregating at the scene of a fight when directed by school employees to leave the scene.

**All procedures will be in accordance with Thatcher Unified School District Board Policy. Any act that violates the law or is not specifically covered in these policies will be dealt with by the administration. Any extreme violations, in any category, will be dealt with more severely than the policy prescribes. Police will be notified if an infraction is also a legal matter.**

#### **CONSEQUENCES FOR POINT ACCUMULATION:**

1-10 points-warning

11-16 points- 30 min. community service

17-24 points- 90 min. community service

25-34 points-1 day ISS

35-44 points-3 days ISS

45-54 points-1 day OSS

55-66 points- 2 days OSS

67-77 points-3 days OSS

78-89 points-5 days OSS

90-99 points-8 days OSS

100+ points-Referral for long term suspension plus 9 days OSS

### **Positive Behavior Incentives**

Throughout each year varying positive consequences for both outstanding and improved behaviors will be developed and utilized by teachers, administrators, and student leaders.

In addition to these positive consequences, students may remove discipline points during each semester by doing the following:

**COMMUNITY SERVICE: A student may remove discipline points based by serving community service hours after school or during Friday School.**

**GOOD CONDUCT/BEHAVIOR: A student may remove discipline points by displaying good behavior for a prescribed period of time without a referral to the office.**

**BEHAVIOR CONTRACT OR PLAN: Student discipline may be modified by the administration by creating a behavior contract agreed upon by the student and parents. This may include enrollment in diversion course that will be prescribed and assigned to students for various handbook infractions. A student may have a reduction of points one time for completing a prescribed diversion course. If a student commits the infraction again, discipline points will be assessed without an opportunity for reduction**

**Appeals to the process outlined in this section are made through the Superintendent.**

**POSSIBLE ADDITIONAL CONSEQUENCES OF MISCONDUCT (LIST IS NOT ALL INCLUSIVE)**

- **Behavioral Contract:** The student is placed on a contract that lists the disciplinary consequences that will be used for future behavior problems. This contract is signed by the principal, student, and parent.
- **Counseling:** The student will be referred, with parent approval, to a Guidance Counselor.
- **Expulsion:** The student will be referred to the Thatcher Unified School District Governing Board for permanent removal from the school environment.
- **In-School Suspension (ISS):** The student is suspended from one or more classes, but remains at school during these class periods. Class assignments will be sent to the office for the student to complete.
- **Long-Term Suspension:** The student will be referred to the Superintendent for removal from the school environment for a period of time longer than ten (10) school days.
- **Out-of-School Suspension (OSS):** The student will be removed from the school environment for a period not to exceed nine (9) school days. During out-of-school suspensions, the student is not allowed on campus or at any school related function.
- **Parent Conference:** A conference conducted between the student, their parent and appropriate school personnel. This conference will be documented.
- **Parent Notification:** Parents are notified by telephone, e-mail, personal contact, or letter regarding disciplinary infractions on a timely basis.
- **Removal from Extracurricular Activities:** The student is informed by the principal that they will not be permitted to participate in athletics, band, and/or school sponsored activities.
- **Required Parent Conference (RPC):** The student will be suspended until a parent or guardian is able to meet with the principal.
- **Restitution:** The student is informed that they are liable for replacement, repair, or monetary reimbursement for the damage to property.
- **Student Conference:** A formal conference held between the student and one or more school official. During this conference the student must agree to his/her behavior. This conference will be documented.
- **Work Detail:** The student will be given a work assignment (sweeping sidewalks, picking up trash, raking, etc.) in place of suspension, or as a disciplinary consequence.

