

Parent/ Student Handbook

2023 - 2024

READFIELD ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

**84 SOUTH ROAD
READFIELD, MAINE 04355
PHONE: (207) 685-4406
FAX: (207) 685-5521**

Email: jeff_boston@maranacook.com

School web homepage: <http://res.maranacook.org/>

* Please read and discuss this handbook with your child, including the bus rules.



Dear Parents,

We are pleased to welcome your child to another year of education at the Readfield Elementary School.

It is important for parents and the school to have an open avenue of communication so we can all work together to benefit our students. Through this handbook, we hope that you will be better informed about both the staff and the programs offered to your child.

We invite you to visit school often during the year to view firsthand the outstanding educational opportunities provided to the students of Readfield. In addition, please feel free to call at any time. Our phone number is 685-4406. For your information, the office is open from 7:30am - 3:30pm and classes are in session from 8:00am – 2:30pm. The following is a roster of current staff, along with their voice mail extensions (if applicable).

Sincerely,
Jeff Boston, Principal

Readfield School Staff

Principal	Jeff Boston	1301
School Secretary	Amanda Hreben	1302
PreK	Amy Nutting	1334
Kindergarten	Heather Keegan	1309
Kindergarten	Melissa Rooney	1308
Grade 1	Heather Gallant	1312
Grade 1	Veronica Dumais	1311
Grade 2	Heather Lewis	1305
Grade 2	Kelsey Barrett	1338
Grade 3	Troy Alexander	1331
Grade 3	Jamye Winter	1335
Grade 4	Sara St. Laurent	1330
Grade 4	Eric Hathaway	1310
Grade 5	Xavier Trask	1333
Grade 5	Katie Conway	1332
Literacy Specialist	Rachel Boucher	1313
Math Interventionist	Chelsea Gordon	1355
Special Education	Mary Conlon	1307
Special Education	Rachelle Fitzsimmons	1306
Special Education	Chasity Morey	1306
Guidance	Becky Vining	1318
School-Based Clinician		
Speech Pathologist	Andrea Mishou	1339
Librarian	Heather Chalmers	1317
Music		1314
Physical Education	Matt Lajoie	1336
Art	Nicole Blake	1324
Gifted and Talented	Victoria Scott	1319
School Nurse	Jada Clark	1321
Computer	Cynthia Spahr	1324

Educational Tech.'s	Terri Mason	1317
	Jennifer Shaw	1320
	Jessica Dwyer	1320
	Lunara Graham	1323
	Megan Duvall	1323
	Deb Elwell	1334
	Sue Halberstadt	1302
	Kelly Srock	1323
	Chanel Thompson	1323
	Alicia White	1323
	Stephan Farrington	1323
	Chasity Morey	1323
	Evelyn Feagin	1323
	Amber Michaud	1323
	Betsy Delavan	1307
	Tammy Olson	1307
	Alicia D'Angelo	1307
Cafeteria Staff	Melissa Tims	1337
Custodial Staff	Troy Michaud	1350
	Jonathan Norwood	1350
Occupational Therapy	Julie Godin	1315
Physical Therapy	Darcy Sekerak	1315
After School Program	MIKA	207-441-6452

In addition to the staff at Readfield Elementary School, the Central Office personnel would be happy to make themselves available to you for any additional information. Unless otherwise noted below, Central Office personnel can be reached at 685-3336.

Central Office Staff

Superintendent	Jay Charette
Special Education Director	Ryan Meserve
Finance Manager	Mandy Fitzgerald
Technology Coordinator	Diane MacGregor (622-2949 ext. 1618)
Transportation	Kelly Thompson (685-3621)

RSU #38 Board of Directors from Readfield

Brian Tarbuck
brian_tarbuck@maranacook.com

Rebecca Lambert
Rebecca_lambert@maranacook.com

Shawn Roderick
Shawn_Roderick@maranacook.com

The RSU #38 Board, made up of members from all four towns meets monthly to discuss issues related to our schools. All meetings are posted in advance. If you would like to place an item on the agenda, the Superintendent's Office needs to be notified 10 days in advance of the meeting date. All are welcome to attend.

Handbook Purpose

The purpose of this handbook is to inform the entire school community about programs, procedures and policies that we support and adhere to. This handbook should serve as your guide throughout the school year. Please keep it available as a reference tool that you can refer to regularly.

Reservation Clause

Readfield Elementary School's administration reserves the right to change the terms of the handbook at any time, without notice.

NCLB Compliance

Under NCLB (No Child Left Behind) law, every parent who has a student at Readfield Elementary School has a right to request the qualifications of their child's teacher(s). Requests should be directed to the school principal.

Who To See About What...At Readfield Elementary School

The Principal is responsible for the day-to-day operation of the School. The Superintendent of Schools is responsible for the day-to-day operation of the District. The School Committee is the policy-making body.

In order to address questions regarding any situation in an organization, it is best to address the person who had direct supervision over the activity. If the issue is not resolved at that level, it may be appropriate to go to the second level. Often times, the person at the second level will consult or involve the primary person in the resolution of the question or concern.

Buses:

- 1st Driver
- 2nd Transportation Director
- 3rd Principal

Classroom:

- 1st Classroom teacher
- 2nd Principal

Other school concerns:

- 1st Person in charge of the duty for the activity or event
- 2nd Principal

Special Services:

- 1st** Classroom teacher
- 2nd** Case Manager
- 3rd** Principal
- 4th** Special Education Director

Health Related Issues

- 1st** School Nurse
- 2nd** Principal

Facility/Building use Requests

School Secretary

After School Activities-

***School sponsored activities**

- 1st** Person in charge of activity
- 2nd** Principal

***Community Sponsored Activities**

- 1st** Person in charge of activity
- 2nd** Town/Athletic Coordinator (provide names if appropriate)

The following section includes information about several important policies and procedures in place in our RSU 38 elementary schools.

Affirmation of Positive Discipline

The RSU 38 School Committee recognizes and supports the measures taken by staff and administration to resolve disciplinary issues in a positive and productive manner. There has been a concerted effort to address affirmatively all matters that effect the safety and general well being of our students.

We are continually working to create an environment that honors respect, responsibility and high academic achievement. Our high expectations for excellence and good citizenship are reflected in our Belief and Vision Statements. To that end, the School Community is committed to providing our students with a school climate that encourages intellectual and social growth and prohibits acts of disrespect and intolerance.

Student Conduct

We expect students, staff and parents to share responsibility for promoting positive behavior. We emphasize courtesy, cooperation, honesty, responsibility, and respect for others. We believe that all children can develop the skills and attitudes, which promote good choices. There are specific guidelines for behavior to ensure the health and safety of everyone. Violation of these rules will be dealt with by a progression of consequences.

It is the responsibility of each student to adhere to established criteria for behavior and of the school staff to enforce them. This responsibility extends to the student's conduct on buses, on school grounds, and when attending any school function or sponsored activity.

In general, students are expected to conduct themselves in a manner that does not disrupt class routine or school program. Additionally, they are expected to exhibit an attitude of cooperation and courtesy toward faculty and other students. Students are expected to maintain respect for school property and materials supplied by the community.

Infractions of these expectations will be dealt with on an individual basis. The type of penalty to be imposed will depend upon the nature, severity, and frequency of the violations. Repeated disregard or violation of school expectations may lead to suspension or expulsion from the school program. Our hope is to work closely with all parents to avoid recurrences of serious behavior.

It is important to let students know when behavior is inappropriate for the school setting. Behaviors listed below are some examples of those that are unacceptable.

- *Hurtful Words (name calling, teasing, violation of civil rights, etc.)
- * Hurtful Actions (hitting, pushing, kicking, etc.)
- * Unacceptable Language (swearing, violation of civil rights, vulgar language, etc.)
- * Unsafe Behavior (throwing objects, climbing, tipping someone in a chair, etc.)
- * Disrespectful behavior (rolling eyes, rude gestures, etc.)

Student Conduct Positive Behavior Support (PBS)

PBS is a process for creating safer and more effective schools by structuring the learning environment to support the academic and social success of all students. The process supports the adoption of long-term implementation of efficient and effective discipline throughout the school environment. PBS methods are research-based, proven to significantly reduce the occurrence of problem behaviors in schools, and supported by a three-tiered model.

PBS is a proactive approach. The primary goals of PBS are to prevent the development of inappropriate behavior, reduce ongoing patterns of problem behavior, and to increase the likelihood of improved academic performance of all students through teaching and learning time gained when the numbers of inappropriate behaviors are reduced.

As staff members learn how to consistently embed the teaching and monitoring of appropriate social and behavior skills into the school day and curriculum, they also learn to anticipate how to structure school environments so that the appropriate skills will be utilized more often. Families can also benefit from learning how to use similar strategies for teaching and supporting their children's appropriate social and behavior skills.

PBS first establishes strong prevention through employing school-wide systems of actively teaching and recognizing appropriate social skills and behavior, using consistent systems to discourage inappropriate behavior, and educating all staff in how to implement and participate in the process. In addition, staff members are taught how to collect and utilize data for effective decision-making related to the overall culture and climate of the school.

STUDENT CODE OF CONDUCT

Students Rights and Responsibilities

I have a responsibility:

To act with integrity (truthfulness)

To work hard and do my best

To be respectful of others

To be accepting of individual differences

To treat others with kindness

To act safely

I have a right:

To learn

To be respected

To be heard

To be safe

FOOD SERVICE PROGRAM

School meals are free to all students regardless of income eligibility. There will be a charge of \$0.50 for milk when purchased as an a la carte item and not part of a meal.

The Maranacook Food Services program operates on a debit system. Accounts must be in positive standing to make any a la carte purchases. Parents/Guardians may monitor account balances by visiting our website: mcms.maranacook.org Click on the menu icon and select PowerSchool Parents & Students. Here you will be able to login using your individual username and password. Negative lunch balance alerts will be automatically sent each Sunday at 6:30 PM through the District's alert system. If a student's balance reaches negative \$10.00 the account will be frozen until it's been paid in full and is, once again, in positive standing. Please make checks payable to RSU #38 Food Service. Payments may be given directly to food service staff or front office personnel. Credit card payments can be made using E-Funds which can be accessed through our website or you may mail payments to: RSU #38 Food Service % Jen Hall 2250 Millard Harrison Drive Readfield Maine, 04355.

Please contact the school nutrition director, Jen Hall, at jen_hall@maranacook.com if you have any questions

SCHOOL AND HOME COMMUNICATION

Each of our elementary schools works hard to make parents aware of all school and classroom activities. While methods of communication may vary from school to school, teachers and administrators will ensure that parents are well informed about school programming. In addition, all administrative messages and or newsletters, are also posted on our district web page.

NO SCHOOL ANNOUNCEMENTS / SCHOOL CANCELLATIONS

The Office of the Superintendent makes decisions about school cancellations, delays or early dismissals and announcements are made in the following manner.

We use the Instant Alert system to help notify parents of snow days and/or emergency early release days. In addition to this system, bulletins are announced several times over local radio (WABK, WMME) and television stations (channels 6, 8, 13) indicating school closings or delays. Closing, delays, and unplanned early releases are also listed on our district's web site, www.maranacook.org. Listen and watch for announcements about schools in RSU 38.

Occasionally, it is necessary (due to an impending storm, power or water loss, etc.) to close school before the regular release time. Please have a clear understanding with your child(ren) as to what he/she is supposed to do (or where to go) in the event of an early dismissal.

STUDENT ARRIVAL AND STUDENT ATTENDANCE

Students are expected to be in school every day unless they have an illness or an important family commitment that is unavoidable during school time. By the same token, children who are ill should not be sent to school. If a student becomes ill during the school day, we will call you and ask you to make arrangements to pick up your child. As you know, many illnesses affecting children are contagious and we ask that you consider this when making the decision whether or not to keep your child home. When returning to school after an illness, your child should be well enough to participate in all aspects of the school program.

Learning requires both daily attendance and active participation in classes. Material and information lost due to absence or tardiness cannot be fully replaced. Please call the office in the morning to let us know if your child will be absent from school. In the event that you need to pick your child up from school prior to our regular dismissal time, please notify the office in writing the morning of the early dismissal date. Please plan to stop at the office to request that your child be paged out of class and dismissed from the office.

Please note that instruction begins at **7:30** am for Pre-k and **8:00a.m** for K-5. Students need to be here **on time** so lessons are not interrupted by late arrivals.

AFTERSCHOOL EVENT/ACTIVITY ATTENDANCE ELIGIBILITY

Students must be in school by 9:00am to be eligible to participate in an afterschool event (i.e. school concert) are taking place. A student who is unable to attend school and classes on the day of an after school event/activity will not be able to participate in that activity on that day unless permission is granted by the school's administration. Students who leave school early due to an illness, will not be eligible to participate in an afterschool event/activity on that same day.

ATTENDANCE COUNTS!

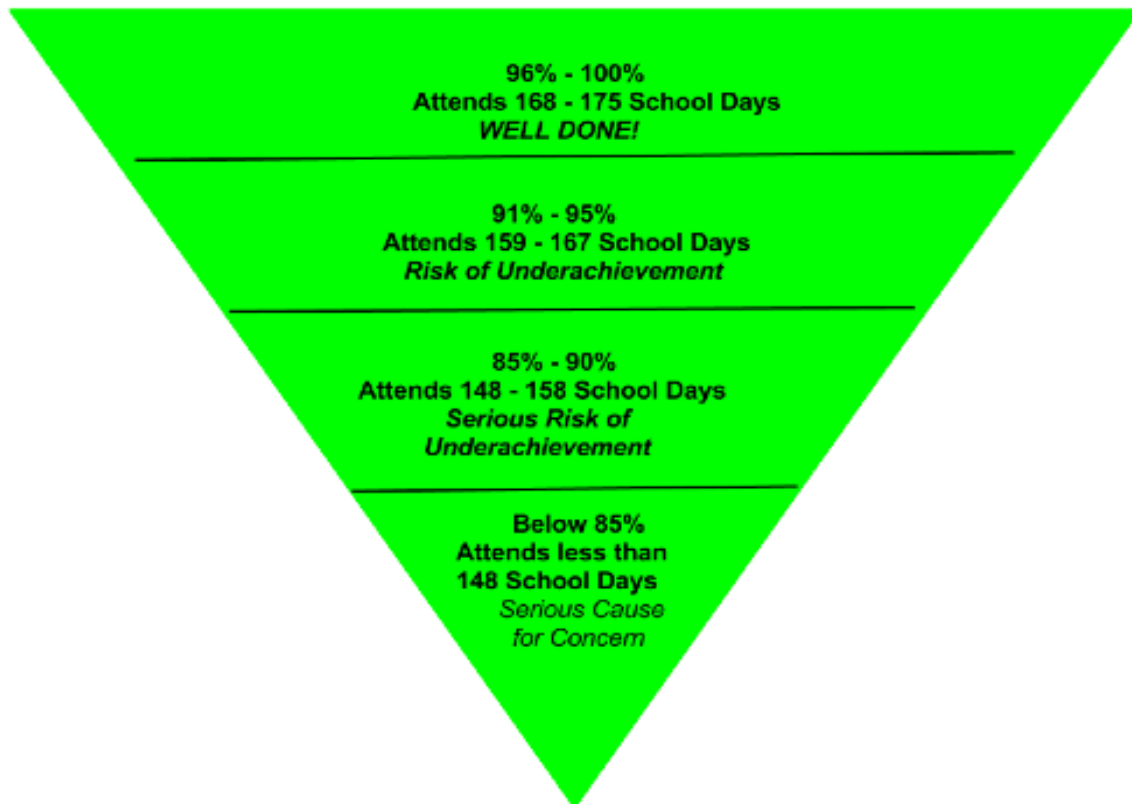
Important facts from www.attendanceworks.org

- Starting in kindergarten, too many absences can cause children to fall behind in school.
- Missing 10% (or about 18 days) can make it harder to learn to read.
- Students can still fall behind if they miss just a day or two days every few weeks.
- Being late to school may lead to poor attendance.
- Absences can affect the whole classroom if the teacher has to slow down learning to help children catch up.
- Attending school regularly helps children feel better about school and themselves. Start building this habit.

IT'S THE LAW – “Persons 7 years of age or older and under 17 years shall attend a public day school during the time it is in regular session”

(<http://www.mainelegislature.org/legis/statutes/20-a/title20-asec5001-a.html>)

Readfield Elementary School Attendance Goal
All Students Attend 96% - 100% of Student Days



TRUANCY – UNEXCUSED ABSENCES

According to state law, if a student is at least 7 years old and has not finished 6th grade, (s)he is **habitually truant** if (s)he misses 5 school days in a row or 7 school days in one school year. If a student has finished 6th grade and is not 17 years old, (s)he is **habitually truant** after missing 7 school days in a row or 10 school days in one school year.

WHAT HAPPENS IF A STUDENT IS TRUANT

When a student is truant, the administration will request a conference to discuss the student's unexcused absences. If this conference does not work or if the parent/guardian does not attend, the school will develop and implement interventions that will best address the student's truancy. These interventions may include:

- Frequent communication between teacher and family
- Changes in the learning environment
- Student counseling
- Evaluation for alternative educational program
- Attendance contracts
- Referral to other agencies for family services

If the student is still truant, the school will attempt to arrange a second meeting. This meeting will review the plan and a new plan may be written. If a student is still truant, the superintendent or designee will serve the parent/guardian with a written notice. The letter will say that:

- The student is required to attend school
- Parent/guardian has a right to review their child's attendance records

- Failure to get a student to school may be a civil violation
- Local law enforcement or Maine DHHS can be contacted
- A plan was developed – including the specifics of the plan and the steps that were implemented to improve a student's attendance.

MORNING STUDENT ARRIVAL

Students may be dropped off at school **no earlier than 7:30 a.m.** The front door is locked until 7:30 a.m., staff is not required to be at school before that time. If you need to be at work prior to this, please make arrangements for before school care.

STUDENT AND SCHOOL SAFETY

-IDENTIFYING MEMBERS OF OUR SCHOOL COMMUNITY

A major part of keeping school a safe place for students and staff is to maintain a system of identifying those people on school grounds who are known to be here for a legitimate education-related reasons. Several steps are in place to help with this process.

- Between 8:00am and 3:00pm all visitors will have to “buzz in” and be granted entrance into the building.
- All visitors entering the school (including parents and others on school business) must stop at the office, sign in and wear a badge provided by the office staff.
- All staff receives photo ID cards and wear them at all times. This allows students to immediately identify a “safe adult” whom they may approach for assistance.
- Substitute teachers must wear an identifiable badge provided by the office on any day they are working in the building.

If an adult is met within the building who is not identified in one of the ways listed they will be directed back to the office for proper check-in.

EMERGENCY INFORMATION FORMS

Emergency information forms are on file for each child at the school. Parents need to contact the office if any changes in phone numbers, address, or employment take place. Accurate information is necessary for the sake of efficient response to an emergency, which may affect your child.

STUDENT INSURANCE

Student insurance is made available each fall through an outside agency at a minimal cost to the parents. This student insurance coverage is available through the school but is not compulsory. To be covered, one has to apply; students are not automatically covered.

SUPPLIES

We supply our students with a wide range of supplies at the outset of the school year. However, we would appreciate it if parents would monitor the use of consumable supplies such as pencils, crayons, erasers, and notebooks and replace as necessary as the year progresses. Our homeroom teachers provide parents with a list of consumable classroom supplies needed at the beginning of the school year. Students are also responsible for textbooks provided to them and will be charged for books that are lost or damaged.

TOY MONITORING

No Toys! We provide educational materials and opportunities for creative play. Children may use toys on the bus, but may not take them out of their backpacks during the school day.

USE OF THE SCHOOL BUILDING

The community is welcome to use the school facility for public functions when such use does not interfere with the school program or the activities of school sponsored organizations. There is a school policy governing the use of the school buildings. We ask that arrangements be made with the office well in advance of the function to reserve the facility and fill out the appropriate forms. Call the school secretary at each school to make any such arrangements. Necessary information should include: the date requested, the hours needed, the proposed

activity, the number of participants and the name of the person in charge of the activity. An hourly rate may be charged for custodial services. Building use must be that which involves a community meeting or athletic event. Personal or individual use is not allowed.

NOTES FOR ALTERNATIVE TRANSPORTATION

If your child is going to visit a friend after school or be transported in a way other than the usual manner, a note must be sent to school with the parent signature. Students will be released to parents only during and after school unless the parent has authorized the school to release them to someone else.

MEDICATION POLICY

It is the responsibility of the parent and/or student to administer all medication. However, as a convenience for parents, the school will, upon written request, keep medication available for a period of time. Parents shall notify the school in writing (form provided for long term medication) when it is necessary for their child to take medication including type of medication, amounts and times to be administered. In addition, it must be in the original pharmacy container and brought in to school by the parent or another adult. Students may not transport medications. Our school nurse is Jada Clark, RN, please call her if you have questions regarding medication or any other health-related issues.

Meet and Greet and Open House

Meet and greet for grades 1-5 and Open House for grades PK-K, gives parents the opportunity to become familiar with their child's classroom program and the teachers' expectations for the school year. This is usually held during the first few weeks of school in September. We do our best to organize the evening so that parents with more than one child in school can visit with each child's classroom teachers.

PARENT / TEACHER CONFERENCES

Parent/Teacher Conferences are held twice a year after the first and second trimesters to discuss your child's academic development. This is an excellent opportunity to discuss programming, student behaviors, homework, and to review your child's progress. Your child's report card will be sent home a few days before the conference to allow you time to look over this important document and discuss this with your child. Conferences are scheduled for twenty minutes. Though the dates and times for these conferences may vary by school, they are generally held in November and March. We use the web-based Pick-A-Time program to schedule your conference time. Please note that although these dates are scheduled around the marking periods, you may contact your teacher at any time.

CALLS TO STUDENTS

Students should not be called from class to accept phone calls. Students are expected to take care of planning after school activities at home before arriving at school. Notes are needed for bus changes; please plan ahead and have your child bring a note to school. Students are not allowed to call home during the school day.

POWERSCHOOL

Powerschool is an online, student information system set up for you to view various aspects of student information such as attendance, foodservice account balances, school bulletins, demographics and current grading for grades PK-12.

To access Powerschool, type in this location in the address field of your browser:

<https://rsu38.powerschool.com/public/home.html>

Type in the Student ID and password that were mailed home to you. If you can't remember this info check with your school secretary in person. We will not send this information via e-mail or over the phone due to confidentiality.

If you do not have Internet access at home and would like to log in, contact the school to make arrangements to use the school computers. Our goal is to promote positive communication between school and home, which

ultimately leads to more effective student programming and outcomes. We hope we have achieved this goal and would appreciate your feedback.

DELIVERIES TO STUDENTS

Flowers...Balloons...It's a nice thought but it can disrupt class time and also may cause an issue with transportation home after school. We ask parents to refrain from having flowers and/or balloons delivered to students during school hours.

DISTRIBUTING INVITATIONS AT SCHOOL

In order to prevent hurt feelings, invitations to home parties should not be distributed at school unless all students in a classroom receive an invitation. Thank you for your cooperation on this matter!

EMERGENCY /CRISIS TEAM

All schools in our district have active Crisis Teams that have been trained to respond to emergency situations. The team usually consists of 7-8 members who come from a variety of staffing positions within the school. The Principal of each school is chair of the school's Crisis Team. This team assembles a couple times a year to review and practice procedures. Staff members are updated annually on procedures.

EVACUATION DRILLS

We practice evacuation procedures 10 times during the year to ensure that everyone is well versed in primary and secondary routes of evacuation from different places of the building. Drills are not announced in advance. Attendance is taken during the evacuation drill to assure the safety of every person within the school building. During Fire Safety Week, our local fire departments and rescue personnel organize activities to reinforce good fire safety practices.

STUDENT DRESS

1. Students must be dressed for the weather. All students are expected to go outside during recess time, weather permitting. Only medical excuses will be accepted.
2. Students should maintain an appearance that is appropriate to the setting - one that promotes a positive and healthy school experience. We do not allow clothes that have inappropriate slogans or those that advertise tobacco or drug products.
3. Students should not wear clothing or accessories that will cause injury to themselves, other students, or damage school property.
4. For safety purposes, students may not wear open-toed shoes or sandals on our playground. If they wear them to school, they should also have a pair of sneakers to change into when they go outside.
5. Students who wear boots should bring shoes to wear while in the building. Wearing heavy boots all day is a poor health practice.
6. Please put your child's name in all outer clothing, backpacks, lunch boxes and boots.

Staff and students at RES are expected to dress in a manner that does not detract from the learning environment.

Unacceptable dress includes, but is not limited to:

- Clothing/accessories that exhibit inappropriate language/message about tobacco/chemical substances, hate messages, firearms or sexual innuendos;
- Clothing that reveals an private anatomy;
- Clothing/accessories that have any sharp objects;
- Undergarments that are showing
- Not wearing footwear

The student may be asked to turn an inappropriate article of clothing inside out. The student may be asked to call home for a change of clothing. Repeated offenses will result in a parent notification of a discipline meeting with the principal.

NO SMOKING POLICY

The School Board has adopted a policy which prohibits smoking anywhere on school grounds, inside or outside. This includes evening and weekend activities. This policy went into effect on August 31, 1994.

READFIELD ELEMENTARY SCHOOL PARENTS ASSOCIATION (REPA)

This interested and involved group of parents meets on a monthly basis to discuss school activities and ways in which they may enrich the educational opportunities at Readfield Elementary School. All parents of RES students are invited/encouraged to attend. Current President of REPA is Emily Roderick.

reparsu38@gmail.com.

FIELD TRIPS

Field trips are scheduled in order to provide our students with enriching experiences that compliment their education. You will receive one permission slip in the fall for all field trips scheduled within district during the year. Field trips outside the district require an individually signed permission form that will come home with the students a week in advance of that planned trip. Please look in the weekly newsletter for information about upcoming events.

It is our preference to have students ride with their classmates on the bus. However, if you choose to drive your child in your car, please let us know the day before as it may make a difference in the way we determine the make-up of our student groups for the day. Also, others students will not be allowed to ride in your car unless their parent accompanies them in your vehicle. Our field trips are planned to enhance the instruction that is taking place in the classroom. **Therefore, it is not appropriate for younger siblings and we ask you NOT to bring them along if you intend to join us for the day. We make all of the above requests for safety and liability reasons.**

VOLUNTEERS

Volunteers are an integral part of the overall instruction in our elementary schools. We encourage each of you to become an active partner in your child's education by volunteering whenever possible. If you would like to assist in any area of school programming, please complete the Volunteer Registration Form. For more information, you may also speak to your child's teacher. We greatly appreciate the time our volunteers give to our students. It is important to remember that, while working with our students, all individuals, both staff and volunteers, must abide by the regulations regarding **student confidentiality**. Prior to working in our classrooms, we are asking all volunteers to sign a form that speaks to this issue. The Volunteer Registration Form and Confidentiality Form are included in the Opening School Packet.

You will find a sign-in station near the front office. After the morning bell, all other outside doors are locked so you must use the front entrance to gain entrance. We would like all volunteers and visitors to sign in and wear a badge during your stay at school. It is important that we all are aware of the purpose of adult visitors to our school and this sign-in station will assist us with this effort.

SCHOOL VISITS

All parents and community members are encouraged to visit school both during the school day to observe classes in sessions and after school for conferences with teachers. Please, however, do not plan to hold an unscheduled conference with a teacher while school is in session. Please call the school before your visit so that the teacher is aware of your plans.

STUDENT RECORDS

All personally identifiable information on students will be held in confidence. Any parent or legal guardian of a student enrolled in RSU 38 may review their student's records by coming to the school office and making a request to inspect educational records.

BOMB THREATS

The RSU 38 School Committee recognizes that bomb threats are a significant concern to our school. Whether real and carried out or intended as a prank or for some other purpose, a bomb threat represents a potential danger to the safety and welfare of students and staff and to the integrity of school property. Bomb threats

disrupt the instructional program and learning environment and also place significant demands on school financial resources and public safety services. These occur even when such threats prove to be false.

Any bomb threat will be regarded as an extremely serious matter and treated accordingly. The RSU 38 School Committee directs the Superintendent to react promptly and appropriately to information concerning bomb threats and to initiate or recommend suitable disciplinary action.

WEB SITE -- CATCH US ON THE WEB! <http://www.res.maranacook.org>

Updating and improving the Maranacook Area Schools' web site has been a top priority in recent years. Our goal is to create a web site that is relevant, current, and informative. Every computer in the district uses this site as the start page to get on the internet. On our home page you will find a pop down menu that is called Information. These links include the district policies listed according to national code and also searchable by keyword. The district calendar lists all upcoming events and meetings for the whole district. Educational Resources are web resources according to content areas in an attempt to assist teachers, students, and community members in finding relevant educational sites. The school calendar, belief statement, and budget calendar are also just a click away. If you are interested in finding employment in our district, you may want to visit the career opportunities link where available jobs are posted along with all the necessary applications. The Adult Education course catalog is found on this link along with gifted education information. School News contains information listed by school and might include principal notes and news, lunch menus, and upcoming events.

Also from the home page, you can enter into each individual school's web site from the pull down menu called Visit our Schools. This information varies depending on the school but may include general information about the school, lunch menus, photos, curriculum bases web resources, directions to the school, and contact information. If you are a registered First Class e-mail user in the district, you can check your e-mail through a browser from anywhere in the world. No more excuses for not being able to check your e-mail! A list of favorite search engines is the final link on this page along with contact information.

The information that is being posted on this site comes to you through a variety of techniques. Some pages are done in HTML, which is the language of the internet; others are simply e-mail messages that are converted to HTML through our new First Class e-mail system. This allows anyone with the ability to send e-mail to post information on the web. This is a great method for those items that are timely and need to be updated constantly such as weekly school news, weekly lunch menus, teacher newsletters, etc. Many teachers are now beginning to post information in this format as well as designing web sites for use by their students.

We also feature a "Snow Day" page. If school is being canceled due to the weather, the home page will show that information before you will even hear it on the television or radio. We are always striving to make this site the best it can be to meet the needs of the educational community. If you have any suggestions on information that you would like to see included, please feel free to contact Diane MacGregor 622-2949 or diane_macgregor@maranacook.org

HOMEWORK

Homework is an extension of the instructional program and thereby helps students to practice and internalize concepts and skills taught in class. Meaningful homework, assigned by teachers and supported at home, helps provide opportunities for students to develop responsible work habits. A successful homework program will motivate a child to want to learn, as well as help to create a lifelong learner. Policy Procedures note the following Guiding Principles regarding homework: **Guiding Principles:** In order that a level playing field is maintained, any assigned projects should be assessed carefully so that differences in family resources do not greatly affect the outcome. As a means of communication among parents, teachers and children, homework enhances the school-home connection.

With independent practice, homework is intended to reinforce classroom learning. There needs to be a balance between school (homework), family life and other activities, including free play and exercise. The most effective homework meets the individual needs of the student. Homework receives consistent follow-up, recognition, and response.

The Superintendent shall hold each school responsible for developing fair, reasonable, and consistent time parameters for homework. Teachers will inform parents what role homework plays in the classroom and the expectations they have for parents as it relates to homework.

Ten (10) minutes of homework per grade level per night supports the teaching-learning process, e.g., Grade 1 (1 x 10 minutes = 10 minutes of homework); Grade 9 (9 x 10 minutes = 90 minutes of homework.) This model is a guide for homework assignments.

LEGAL CUSTODY

According to the Family Rights and Privacy Act of 1974, "Custody or other residential arrangements for a child do not, in themselves, affect the rights of the child's parents under the Family Education Rights and Privacy Act." Parents who have sole custody rights should file a copy of the court order with the school. Unless the school has such an order on file, we cannot deny either parent from requesting the child be dismissed into his/her custody. Should you have further questions about this matter, please contact the school office.

PHYSICAL EXAMS AND HEALTH SCREENINGS

All kindergarten students will have a physical exam before entering school. Our school nurses will screen for vision and hearing as required by state law. Health records are maintained as part of each student's cumulative folder. Communicable diseases, operations, broken bones, etc., should be reported for the records.

PLAYGROUND RULES

Outdoor recess is a time to release/expend energy, get fresh air, and engage in outdoor activities with their peers. We expect all children to show respect for school property, teachers on duty, and each other.

Playground Rules are primarily safety driven. We strive to be consistent in our enforcement of the rules so students will follow the rules regularly.

- Up the ladder-Down the slide (No walking up the slide)
- Boundaries: Entire playground is open from railroad ties on the left side of the playground area to across the edge of the building on the gazebo side.
- For Afternoon Recess: The area shrinks to the gazebo, but not past it or in it.
- Must ask permission to go inside the school
- Students should not lift or "help" other children onto the equipment
- Walk on the wood chips, no tag in this area
- No jumping off the swings
- Safe closed toe shoes recommended (no flip flops)
- Special awareness needs to be given around the shed areas and the woods, Students should not be in or near the edge of the woods.
- Please have students clean up the toys and line up from recess 2-3 minutes prior to the end of recess so students will be on time for their next class.

Recess R.O.C.K.S. At RES

R= Respect the playground by using the equipment correctly, putting toys away when you are done with them, also keeping the playground materials (wood chips, sand, grass, branches, etc.) where they are.
Respect teachers by listening to them when they are trying to help or correct behavior.
Respect your fellow students by treating them fairly and using kind words to solve recess problems.

O= Own your choices and do the right thing when a teacher asks you to take a break.

C= Cooperate with your fellow students when playing games or sharing toys.
Cooperate with teachers by coming AS SOON as you hear the whistle and line up quietly.

Ks= Keep safe by using the equipment correctly.
Keep safe in the gazebo by sitting on the benches and walking when inside the gazebo.

SNACKS

Students have the opportunity to have a midmorning snack each day. We strongly encourage students to bring healthy, nutritious snacks for the energy boost they need to get them through the morning. We teach nutrition in the classrooms and believe that the children understand what a healthy snack is. Please support our teaching by sending healthy snacks in with your child.

Some examples would be: crackers, cheese, a half of a sandwich, fruit, pretzels, popcorn, nuts, and yogurt. A healthy choice for a drink, if they choose to bring one would be bottled water, 100% fruit juice, or milk. No RED juice drinks please.

BICYCLES (Readfield Elementary School):

Students in grades 4-5 may ride bicycles to school.

A permission slip signed by a parent must be on file in the school office. A blanket permission for the year is permissible.

Maine State law requires that students wear helmets. (Chapter 20, Section 2323)

Additional School Programming

In addition to the core classroom subjects, there are a variety of specialists who design learning opportunities for students to study in the arts and technology.

Technology

All students at Readfield Elementary will receive weekly technology instruction using age-appropriate educational software. Topics will include keyboarding, word processing, using the internet properly, digital citizenship, robotics, and more. Our goal is for each student to enter middle school with solid foundational technology skills. We also want to teach our students to be good digital citizens by using technology safely, respectfully, and responsibly.

All students will receive a device on which to learn. Students in grades K through 4 will receive an iPad (7th generation). Students in grade 5 will receive an 11" MacBook Air laptop.

Physical Education

In physical education, students in grades K through 2 work on motor skills, spatial awareness, laterality (right and left), directionality (forward, backward), manipulative skills (striking, throwing, catching, bouncing), movement concepts (over, far, out), physical fitness, gymnastics skills (jumping, landing, weight transfer) rhythmic activities and creative movement. Physical education is also an important place to reinforce concepts taught in the regular classroom such as numbers, letters, and shapes.

Third and fourth grade physical education tasks are more complex versions of those for younger students. We use the same skills, but at a higher level. Child or teacher-created games emphasizing particular skills, aerobic

games, class challenges requiring teamwork and positive risk-taking, and lifetime activities are the emphasis in these grades. Students monitor their progress with skills tests and self-evaluations.

In order to enjoy physical activity throughout their lives, students must attain a level of fitness and skill, which will enable them to remain active. This is a major focus in grades 5. Our physical education instructors will work with students in grade 5 to refine skills as well as to learn new ones that may be a little more difficult or require more attention to safety (floor hockey, badminton with longer racquets). There are lots of group challenges requiring planning and teamwork (such as crossing the tar pit using only the equipment provided). Some games begin to resemble team sports, but are modified to afford as much participation as possible.

Physical fitness is emphasized at all levels, with a portion of class devoted to fitness development. Students in grades 2-6 take fitness tests in fall and in spring, with their objective being to score better than the last time. At all levels, activities sometimes integrate what is happening in the classroom into physical education (states and capitals game). Students are not pitted against one another - everybody wins.

If a student is injured, please notify us of the injury and your child's limitations. Having him/her miss physical education entirely is not necessary. We will modify the tasks so that your child can participate as fully as possible in the class.

Vocal Music

Our vocal music program ensures that our students will have the opportunity to study and experience many different areas of music. Some of those included are: singing, listening, playing instruments, movement, and music theory/history. By incorporating all of these areas of music into the program, we can be assured that the children can successfully understand and appreciate how music is written and performed.

Students will have the opportunity to listen to many varied styles of music and to learn about the lives of composers, thus developing their appreciation of many different kinds of music. In addition, students will have first hand experiences by performing vocally and instrumentally, thus opening the door to the world of music.

Students in grade 4 are introduced to the Suzuki Recorder, and for the first time, are able to create the energy of musical sound as a class. For many, it is the first type of learning that involves processing motor skills for individual fingers, breath control, posture, and finally a performance at the end of the year. Music practiced includes many familiar folk tunes...which leads to some students singing, while others perform musical accompaniment of their instruments. This component is in addition to the regular general music class.

In grade 5, the process continues with more challenging music from a variety of styles taken from around the world. Students have the opportunity to choose an instrument and to pursue their skills with time, some choosing to learn more than one instrument in the process. Sectionals and full grade level bands meet weekly, with small and large group performances taking place throughout the year. Computer technology and music is also offered to students wishing to reinforce their musical knowledge, listening skills and composing.

The foundation of our art program, is a discipline-based art education model. It is a comprehensive approach to art education that integrates content from art production (the making of art), art criticism (responding to and making judgments about art), art history (the contributions of art in culture and society), and aesthetics (the nature, meaning, and value of art).

Our program uses paintings, drawings, sculpture, and architecture to enhance our lessons. We also include but are not limited to fine, applied, craft, and folk arts such as ceramics, weaving and other textile arts, advertising, and kinetic art.

Guidance

Emotional well-being is important for optimal learning to take place. The guidance program will encourage children to learn more about themselves, how they respond to others and how to cope with the stresses that occur in their lives.

The guidance counselor and school nurse regularly visit the classrooms with information on self-awareness, self-care, stress management, and career awareness. The guidance and health programs emphasize respect for others and responsibility for actions and words. Students participate in activities that stress the use of communication and problem solving skills.

The guidance counselor also offers small group opportunities for students to explore topics such as friendship, study skills or changing families. Smaller groups can often provide a more comfortable environment for feelings to be shared.

At any time an individual child may request to visit with the counselor or nurse. Children, parents and teachers are all encouraged to use these services when questions or concerns arise regarding a student's educational experience.

Library

Scheduled and "Open" Media Center time focuses on literature appreciation and library book selection. A variety of classic and contemporary books and poems are shared during read-aloud activities designed to encourage reading, improve language skills, and spark imaginations. Authors, books, and genres are introduced and interests explored. Students in grades 3 - 5 are encouraged to participate in the Kennebec Valley Book Award program. Those who read and comment on at least four titles participate in the district celebration and vote in the statewide contest.

All students learn about library technology by using the media center's online catalog and automated circulation system. Their information skills are developed and reinforced as individual students and classes are assisted in the research process. Third grade students, in small groups, receive additional library skills instruction on a rotating basis.

Media Center personnel are available to answer any questions that you may have concerning the program in the Media Center. Please feel free to call on them for assistance.

Literacy Specialist

Supplemental reading is provided by school's literacy specialist in order to assist struggling readers. The instructor works with individuals or small groups needing lengthened reading instruction. The focus is to improve reading instruction to meet grade level expectations. The major areas of teaching within her program include phonemic awareness, phonics, vocabulary, fluency and comprehension. Instructors also guide students to make connections between reading, writing, and oral communication. We choose literature that encourages children to read material within their comfort range.

Special Education

Our special education personnel work with students, parents and staff in the development of an Individual Education Plan (IEP) for every student identified through the special education process. There are innumerable reasons why a student might benefit from services outside the regular classroom. Some of them include remediation of academic difficulty, extension or enrichment activities, speech services or physical therapy. These services are available to any student who needs them in order to successfully meet the goals outlined on his/her IEP. For more information about services in this area, please contact the school's special education instructor.

Occupational Therapy

Another area of service that might be considered is Occupational Therapy. Needs that are most frequently addressed by Occupational Therapy Practitioners in school systems are:

- fine motor/coordination skills

- handwriting and underlying developmental skills
- visual motor and perceptual skills
- sensory integration issues
- functional life skill
- adaptations, modifications, positioning and equipment needs, and assistive technology

Occupational therapy uses a holistic approach to looking at and treating the physical, psychological, cognitive, social and sensory needs of the child. Functional skills and activities are used to remediate problems and help children participate and achieve in the regular classroom to the best of their ability. The evaluation process generally involves observation, screening, discussions with parents and teachers, and administration of standardized and non-standardized tests. Referrals for evaluations can come from teachers, parents or other school staff.

Speech and Language

The Speech and Language Program serves students having difficulty producing speech sounds, understanding and using language, speaking clearly and fluently, and/or abusing their vocal structures. Speech/Language screening and rechecks occur for certain students each year. Evaluations and individual programs are developed through the I.E.P. process. Students are seen individually or in small groups 1-4 times per week depending on the severity of their needs. Consultation with teachers and home suggestions for parents are provided as well

Gifted and Talented

Our district's gifted and talented education program is a K-12 program that strives to provide a challenging range of courses, experiences and extracurricular activities, which recognize the needs, interests, and abilities of students. At the elementary level, we work to meet the needs of students through a variety of avenues. Depending on the student, opportunities could include some of the following: whole class enrichment, small group enrichment, differentiated curriculum and instruction, accelerated placement, problem solving groups, poetry groups, Junior Great Books literature groups, individualized programs or mentors.

Our screening process begins at the end of 2nd grade, although we do provide limited services for K-2 students. We believe that identification is not about labeling but about decision-making, so we gather a variety of information from standardized tests and report cards to teacher and parent questionnaires and student work. Once all the data is gathered, the screening team determines the optimal match between the student's profile and the available or needed educational services or interviews.

RSU 38 Preschool Programs for students age 4 by October 15.

Program Goals

-Provide an educational program that supports the social-emotional, cognitive, language and physical development of our four year old children through child centered activities that recognize that children learn individually, sequentially and at their own pace.

-Connect parents to school in a partnership to establish a foundation for success through early childhood education.

-Support parent education for developing skills that will enable parents to help their child be successful in school.

Registration: Parents provide a copy of the child's birth certificate and current immunization records with application to the program.

Selection/Who may attend: Our Preschool classroom will consist of up to 16 children with a teacher and an ed tech, all who are four years of age on or before October 15.

Screening: Staff will conduct vision, hearing and developmental (ESI-P) screenings with parent permission.

Staffing: A certified teacher with a Bachelor's degree and experience teaching young children will manage the program with assistance from an experienced and qualified ed tech.

Program: The program will run Monday-Thursday from 8:00am -11:00 am (morning session) and 12:00pm – 3:00pm (afternoon session) with a curriculum that includes individual goals for children that are based on

results of ongoing assessment and each family's interests, cultural background and sense of community. The children will also have the opportunity to participate in library and music education classes.

Meals: Children will be expected to participate in the school breakfast and lunch program for which there is a minimal fee for those students not eligible for free or reduced lunch.

Transportation: Parents of our preschoolers will have the opportunity to use the regular bus system to transport their 4 year old to and from school.

SECTION 504

Section 504 is part of the Federal Rehabilitation Act of 1973. It provides as follows: "No otherwise qualified individual with a disability in the United States shall, solely by reason of her or his disability, be excluded from the participation in, be denied the benefits of or, be subjected to discrimination under any program or activity receiving federal financial assistance." To be considered a person with a disability the following criteria must be met: A person who has a physical or mental impairment, which substantially limits one or more of such person's major life activities. The school has an obligation to provide services and accommodations to students who qualify for Section 504.

RSU #38 Section 504 Childfind Notice

RSU#38 has a duty to locate, evaluate and identify any child residing in the district, and any child attending the public schools, who may require Section 504 accommodations or services.

Children eligible for Section 504 accommodations or services include those children who have a physical or mental impairment that substantially limits a major life activity.

If you suspect your child has a disability and may need 504 accommodations, or if you would like additional information, please contact your child's teacher, their building principal or call the 504 coordinator, Nancy Harriman at (207) 685-3336.

Section II

District and School

Updated Policies, Forms and Procedures (For a complete listing of policies visit our website.)

Student Transportation

The transportation system places a high priority on **safety** and the well being of all children. Safety considerations may include such factors as speed, visibility, road condition, and flow.

The driver is responsible for the safe operation of the bus and has the authority to govern the conduct of riders consistent with the administrative regulations. In emergency situations, the driver is authorized to deviate from regulations, subject to review by the administration of the action taken; but under no circumstances is the driver to leave the bus when there are students in it, except in accordance with Maine law. As another safety consideration, no buses shall drive on private roads or roads where the Transportation Director and/or the bus driver have determined that conditions are considered unsafe or impassable.

In addition to safety, the transportation system shall also have a goal toward efficiency. Bus routes will be determined by the Director of Transportation. Bus stops will be consolidated for efficiency wherever possible. Students riding a regular afternoon bus run may be driven in the same route sequence as the morning pickup run to ensure fairness to all students in terms of "time in transit." These decisions will be dictated by the characteristics of the individual routes, and will be determined by the Director of Transportation.

Within the above considerations for safety and for efficiency, the RSU 38 School Committee will provide transportation to the schools of RSU 38 for the following students residing within the boundaries of RSU 38 and in accordance with Maine Statutes:

a. All resident students in **Grade Kindergarten through Grade 5** who reside more than one-quarter mile from school to which assigned. However, these same students may be required to walk up to one-quarter mile to a regularly established school bus route or predestined bus pickup before boarding the bus.

In addition, a designated adult must be in view to pick up or drop off a Kindergarten child. Kindergarten children without a designated adult for drop-off will be returned to their school until a designated adult arrives.

b. All resident students in **Grade 6 through Grade 12** who reside more than one-half mile from school to which they are assigned. However, these same students may be required to walk up to one-half mile to a regularly established school bus route or predestined bus pickup before boarding the bus.

c. Students within these limits will be transported where the Superintendent of Schools has established routes due to unusually hazardous conditions. Such determinations may include, but need not be limited to, consideration of age of student, location and safety of bus stop, road conditions, and traffic speed. Exceptions to the established walking distances may also be made in cases of a child with a permanent or temporary disability.

d. Limited late bus service to each town shall be provided following after-school activities to encourage co-curricular participation at the RSU 38 school. The School Committee authorizes the administration to suspend bus riding privileges when behavior warrants. Action to suspend will be consistent with administration regulations. It is the intent of the School Committee that disciplinary measure taken be appropriate to the transgression, and that the severity of disciplinary measures shall increase for continued inappropriate behavior. Provided, however, that in cases of very serious behavior transgressions, the student may be immediately denied riding privileges and, as appropriate, may be reported to or released to the custody of law enforcement officers by a bus driver, chaperone, or administrator. In these cases, the parent or guardian shall be notified as soon as possible.

Appeal Process

If any parent/guardian would like to appeal compliance with our Transportation Policy, they could put in their request in writing, addressed to the Director of Transportation, RSU 38, Millard Harrison Drive, Readfield, ME 04355. Please include a daytime phone number and address where you can be reached. Within 10 working days of our receipt of this request, the parent/guardian will receive an opportunity to present their position in person to the Appeals Committee. A final decision will be sent to the parent/guardian with 7 days of this presentation.

GUIDELINES FOR SCHOOL BUS SAFETY

The School Bus is an extension of the classroom, and riding the school bus is a privilege. While on the bus, students are expected to conduct themselves in a manner consistent with established guidelines for student behavior. The bus driver is responsible for the safety and well being for all who ride the bus and, in this regard, students are expected to comply with his/her requests at all times.

The following guidelines have been established for the safety of all who ride the bus. Violation of these guidelines may result in the loss of privilege to ride the bus.

All students are assigned to a bus and should ride that bus to and from school unless the Transportation Department has been advised of other circumstances.

BUS PASS PROCEDURE

Students are assigned a bus number at the start of the school year based on their home address. Bus seating is at capacity. Bus passes (to ride a different bus) are only given out for emergency reasons (such as daycare) and

require permission from the Parent/Guardian & Transportation Office. **If you wish to have your child go to a friend's house after school for a non-emergency reason, please arrange for parent pickup.**

Notify the Office by phone or note of any after school transportation change that you have arranged. Students will not be released to an adult who is not authorized in writing to pick up the student.

BEFORE RIDING THE BUS

1. All students should be at his/her bus stop at least five minutes before the scheduled arrival of the bus.
2. Students should stay out of the road at all times while waiting for the bus.
3. Students should wait for the bus to stop completely and let the door open before moving to load the bus.
4. If it is necessary to cross the road to board the bus, wait until the bus driver signals it is safe to cross. Students must stay 12 feet in front of the bus at all times when crossing the road.

RIDING THE BUS

1. When students exit school, they should go directly to their assigned bus, load immediately, and remain on the bus unless given permission to exit by the driver.
2. Students must obey the driver at all times. This is necessary to ensure the safety of all students. Students are not to engage the bus driver in a discussion or argument with respect to the driver's expectations or directions. Drivers are expected to be on time and to maintain safety at all times. Therefore, students who challenge the bus driver's decisions or argue with the bus driver will be dealt with in a serious manner.
3. Students shall go directly to their seats without crowding or pushing and remain seated. Students are expected to remain seated and should not change seats unless given permission by the bus driver.
4. Students shall not throw anything out the windows; extend arms, legs, head or feet out of the bus at any time. Students must face forward while the bus is in motion to avoid injury should the bus make a quick and/or unexpected stop.
5. Students shall not damage any part of the bus. Payment for damage is the responsibility of the student/parent.
6. Students shall not create any safety hazard by tampering with fire extinguishers, emergency exits, or loosening seats.
7. Students shall not create a disturbance on the bus which may distract the driver. Those actions include, but are not limited to: shouting, gesturing, standing, spitting, throwing objects in or from the bus, etc.
8. The aisles must be clear at all times. Store backpacks, school bags, musical instruments, and other large objects under the seat, on the lap or as otherwise directed by the driver. All athletic equipment must be secured in a container or travel bag.
9. Littering on the bus is prohibited. It is the responsibility of all students to dispose of litter properly.
10. Due to safety issues, glass containers, animals dead or alive, and the consumption of food will not be allowed on the bus.
11. Alcohol, tobacco, drugs, or other substances which are in violation of Maine State Law are prohibited on the bus.
12. Tools and sleds are prohibited on the bus.
13. No weapons, ammunition, fireworks of any kind, flares, explosives, knives, or other materials which may cause injury are allowed on the bus.
14. Physical abuse, verbal and emotional harassment of any kind will not be tolerated.
15. Due to allergic reactions, NO spraying perfumes, deodorant, hairspray, etc. and/or using hand sanitizer on the bus.
16. Cell phones or cameras will not be used for any purpose on the school bus unless the student has received permission from the bus driver.
17. iPad & laptop use is prohibited on the bus.

18. Students may use ipods responsibly while riding the bus; however, earbuds/headsets or devices may not be shared across the aisle. These devices are personal property. The school is not responsible for loss, theft, or damage. Should safety issues arise with the use of any device, the driver has the authority to ask the student to discontinue use.
19. Each student is assigned a seat on the bus and must sit in that seat until the driver has assigned a different seat. Students are responsible for that particular seat.

LEAVING THE BUS

1. Students must remain seated until the bus comes to a complete stop and the door is opened.
2. When it is necessary to cross the road after leaving the bus, cross at least 12 feet in front of the bus, but only after the driver has given the signal to do so.
3. Students who are not crossing the road shall move a safe distance away from the bus and remain there until the bus has left the area.
4. Students should not stop and pick up mail from roadside mailboxes when leaving the bus.
5. Due to school liability, students shall not be permitted to leave the bus at places other than their regular bus stop unless proper written authorization has been given in advance by the parent and/or school official.

INAPPROPRIATE BUS BEHAVIOR

(This process is followed throughout RSU 38 for the safety of all children)

STEP ONE – Written Warning Report

These warnings are issued by the bus driver to the student when verbal warnings have not been successful. The purpose is to communicate to the student that his/her behavior is a concern. Specific disciplinary action may not be taken at this time, depending on the incident. The white copy of the warning will be sent home with the student, to be signed by the parent and returned to the bus driver the next school day. If a copy is not returned to the bus driver the next school day, the parent will receive a call from the Transportation manager. A copy of the warning will be given to each administrator and put on file.

STEP TWO - 1st Bus Conduct Report

This reports inappropriate action by a student to the administrator. The administrator will meet with the student, along with the transportation manager, to discuss the problem. The parent will be notified by phone and a copy of the report will be sent home. Consequences will vary depending on the incident.

STEP THREE - 2nd Bus Conduct Report

With the second bus conduct report, the student is automatically suspended from the bus for a period not to exceed two weeks. The parent will be notified by phone and a copy of the report will be sent home. Additionally, a meeting must be held with the administrator, parent(s), student, transportation manager, and the bus driver (if needed) before the student can return to the bus. This suspension includes all buses of RSU #38, and covers all sports and field trips.

STEP FOUR - 3rd Bus Conduct Report

This is the final step. A student receiving a third bus conduct report will be suspended from all RSU #38 buses for the remainder of the school year. Administrators will notify parents in writing and by phone when this occurs. This suspension includes all buses of RSU #38, which covers all sports and field trips. Severe violation of these guidelines may result in the suspension of bus riding privileges at any time. Questions concerning this procedure can be addressed to the building administrator.

RSU 38 BUS DISCIPLINARY PROCEDURE

Step One: Written Warning: This warning is issued by the bus driver to the student. The purpose is to communicate to the student that his/her behavior is becoming a concern. Specific disciplinary action may not be taken at this time, depending on the incident. Copies of the warning will be given to each administrator and a copy will be sent home to the parents through their child.

Step Two: First Bus Conduct Report: This report is issued by the bus driver to the building administrator regarding inappropriate behavior by the student. The administrator will meet with the student to discuss the problem and a written copy of the report will be mailed home to the parent. Consequences will vary depending on the incident.

Step Three: Second Bus Conduct Report: The procedure for handling this report is the same as step one, except the parent is notified of the incident by phone and in writing.

STUDENT EDUCATION RECORDS AND INFORMATION

RSU 38 shall comply with the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (“FERPA”) and all other federal and state laws and regulations concerning confidentiality and maintenance of student records and information.

Directory Information

RSU 38 designates the following student information as directory information: name, participation and grade level of students in recognized activities and sports, height and weight of student athletes, dates of attendance in the school unit, honors and awards received, and photographs and videos relating to school attendance and participation in school activities. RSU 38 may disclose directory information if it has provided notice to parents (and eligible students over 18) and has not received timely written notice refusing permission to designate such information as directory information.

Military Recruiters/Higher Education Access to Information

Under federal law, military recruiters and institutions of higher education are entitled to receive the names, addresses and telephone numbers of secondary students and RSU 38 must comply with any such request, provided that parents have been notified of their right to request that this information not be released without their prior written consent.

Information on the Internet

Under Maine law, RSU 38 shall not publish on the Internet any information that identifies a student, including but not limited to the student’s full name, photograph, personal biography, e-mail address, home address, date of birth, social security number and parents’ names, without written parental consent.

Transfer of Student Records

As required by Maine law, RSU 38 sends student education records to a school unit to which a student applies for transfer, including disciplinary records, attendance records, special education records and health records (except for confidential health records for which consent for dissemination has not been obtained).

Administrative Procedures and Notices

The Superintendent is responsible for developing and implementing any administrative procedures and parent notices necessary to comply with the applicable laws and regulations concerning student education records and information. Notices shall be distributed annually to parents and eligible students concerning their rights under these laws and regulations. A copy of this policy shall be posted in each school.

Legal Reference: 20 U.S.C. § 1232g; 34 C.F.R. Part 99
 20 U.S.C. § 7908
 20-A M.R.S.A. §§ 6001, 6001-B
 Maine Department of Education Rules, Chapters 101 and 125

Cross Reference: JRA-E – Annual Notice of Student Education Records and information Rights
 JRA-R – Education Records and Information Administrative Procedure

ILD – Student Surveys and Marketing Information

I'm a good citizen when I am -

Trustworthy

Responsible

Honest

Respectful

Tolerant

Compassionate

Hard Working