



Dear Parents/Caregivers:

We are excited to have your student at LMS this year! We are continuing our work with the Building Assets and Reducing Risks program, also known as BARR. This initiative is designed to support your child's emotional growth and learning. It also focuses on building a strong partnerships with parents. We want to ensure that you are aware of your child's work habits, citizenship and presence so that we can work together to help your child reach his/her fullest potential. This year, not only will your student have an advisor, this faculty member will be your point of contact too so you can ask questions and/or share concerns.

We would also like to take this opportunity to share with you our approach toward student behavior. As a caregiver, you are a critical part of supporting your student to be a good citizen. The LMS team has ongoing conversations around our Habits of Work and Citizenship that are used to promote a positive learning community. Your child's core team will meet to discuss how your student is doing in these three key categories:

Habits of Work:

- Focus: Uses class time to focus on and learn concepts.
- Engage: Shows active positive involvement at LMS.
- Drive: Perseveres despite difficulty or delay in achieving success.

Habits of Citizenship:

- Respect: Honors and cares about adults, students and property.
- Own it: Takes responsibility for actions and decisions.
- Speak Up: Advocates for self and others.

Presence:

- Attendance: attends promptly and consistently.

For a quick reference we have outlined our Restorative Practices and some of our associated District Policies on the next page. We also encourage you to visit our website and read our LMS Handbook and for a copy of any policy or all of these policies, please refer to our RSU 34 website. Please keep this outline letter for your reference. If you have any questions or comments, please contact us.

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Restorative Practices With Habits of Work and Citizenship

The behaviors above are the foundation of creating and protecting an exemplary learning community. They also remind us all that our actions, both positive and negative, have consequences. When a student violates our Habits of Work and Citizenship, LMS uses a restorative approach to help a student be accountable and repair the harm done. This practice builds community, empowers students to resolve conflicts, and supports and encourages growth. For example, we respond to a student who exhibits challenging behavior by asking him/her to answer the following questions:

1. What happened?
2. What were you thinking at the time?
3. What have you thought about since?
4. Who has been affected by what you have done? In what way?
5. What do you think you need to do to make things right?

As citizens, we are expected to create strong working relationships and face mistakes (intentional or not) in a positive and productive way. To help students work through conflict we use these questions in a variety of ways: a reminder of our school wide behavior expectations; one-on-one conversations; having students write their responses ; or in a restorative conference. A restorative conference is a structured conversation that involves adults who provide support and mediation, the student(s) who made an inappropriate choice, and the student(s) harmed by their actions. The purpose is not to judge someone as good or bad but provide him or her with a chance to make it right. Victims also have the opportunity to be included in the conference if they choose. Both of the students work toward resolving the issue, repairing the harm done, as well as creating a plan for how to treat each other in the future.

RSU #34 Policies

The LMS Plan with Habits of Work and Citizenship were developed so that expectations around behavior are clear, consistent and provide students with positive support to help teach expected behaviors. There are times when accountability for a student's behavior may go beyond conferencing. This is when a student may lose privileges that are part of a school day and/or time spent away from their classmates. In addition to our plan, we also have district policies in place to support the health and safety of ALL RSU 34 schools. The highlighted policies/codes in this letter are designed to address severe behaviors pertaining to:

- **Harassment (policy ACAA, ACAA-R)** The school board has defined harassment very clearly as any behavior that deliberately causes emotional suffering, embarrassment or pain.
- **Weapons in school (policy JICIA)** The school board believes that students and staff are entitled to learn and work in an environment free of violence, threats and disruptive behavior. Students are expected to conduct themselves with respect for others and in accordance with Board policies, school rules, reasonable unwritten behavior expectations, and applicable state and federal laws.
- **Possession/use/distribution of tobacco products in school or, on school property (policy ACD)** Smoking in the building or on the school grounds is strictly prohibited according to RSU 34 Board Policy ADC. This includes vaping.
- **Possession/use/distribution of alcohol/drugs in school, or, on school property (policy JICH)** No student shall distribute, dispense, possess, use or be under the influence of any alcoholic beverage, malt beverage, fortified wine or other intoxicating liquor. Nor shall a student manufacture, distribute, dispense, possess, use or be under the influence of any narcotic drug, hallucinogenic drug, amphetamine, barbiturate, marijuana, anabolic steroid, any other controlled substance defined in federal and state laws/regulations, any look-alike substance, or any substance that is represented to be a controlled substance.