

2022-2023 Student/Parent/Legal Guardian Handbook

Taking Care of Self, Taking Care of Others, and Taking Care of our Community



**John Read Middle School
486 Redding Road
Redding, CT 06896**

**Phone: 203-938-2533
Fax: 203-938-8667**

Website: www.johnreadps.org

The Easton, Redding and Region 9 schools are committed to creating and maintaining a physically, emotionally, and intellectually safe educational environment free from bullying, harassment and discrimination. We define School Climate as the quality of relationships in schools and how we treat one another – physically, emotionally and intellectually.

The Redding School district does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, disability, religion, ancestry, marital status, sexual orientation, gender identity, genetic information or age in its programs and activities and provides equal access to the Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts and other designated youth groups. The following person has been designated to handle inquiries regarding the non-discrimination policies: John Read Assistant Principal.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Section 1: Behavioral Expectations and Related Policies

Board of Education, Administration, Important School Numbers	4
Letter from Administration	5
Superintendent's Letter	6
Faculty and Staff	7
Code of Conduct and Responsibility	8
Academic Honesty	8
Guidelines for Appropriate Attire	8
Cafeteria	9
Cafeteria Rules	9
Hallway Behavior	10
Student Discipline Guidelines	10
Violent and Aggressive Behavior, Bullying	11
Bullying	11
Conduct on School Buses	12
Video Cameras on School Buses	12
Security	12
Smoking/Use of Tobacco Products	12
Substance Abuse	13
Search and Seizure	13
Discrimination and Harassment	13
Electronic Devices	13
Personal Property and Valuables	13
Lockers and School Property	13
Textbooks	13
Computer Usage Guidelines	14
Computer and Internet Use	14
Photography, Audio and Videotaping	15
Fines	15
Participation in Extracurricular Activities	15
Gift to School Personnel	15

Section 2: Academic Information

Homework	16
Report Cards	16
Weighted Grading	16
Awards	16
Parent-Team Conferences	17
Exemption from Instruction	17
Testing Program	17
Homework Center	17
Comparability of Services	17
Field Trips	18
Student Records	18
Directory Information	18
Pledge of Allegiance	18

Section 3: Student Services and Related Policies

School Counseling	19
Special Education Services	19
SIT	19
504 Grievance Policy	20
English Language Learners	20
Migrant Students	20
Title I Parent Involvement	20
Teacher and Paraprofessional Qualifications	20
Promotion/Retention/Placement	20
Enrollment	21
Learning Commons	21

Section 4: School Attendance, Transportation, and Related Policies

Attendance	22
Truancy	22
Tardiness	23
Arrival and Dismissal	23-24
Homeless Students	24
Transportation	24
Phone Calls/Messages	24

Section 5: Health and Safety and Related Policies

School Health	25-26
Student Wellness	26
Safety Drills	27
Asbestos Management Plan	27
Integrated Pest Management	27
Radon Testing	28
Green Cleaning Products in School	28
Psychotropic Drug Use	28
Child Abuse Policy	28
Suicide Policy	28

Section 6: Communication and Related Policies

Board of Education Meetings	29
Specific Communication	29
Survey of Students	29
Student/Parent/Legal Guardian Communication with Faculty	29
Visitors	29

**Redding School District
Board of Education**



Mr. Christopher Parkin, Chairperson
Mr. John Belfatto, Board Member
Mr. Chirag Sadana, Board Member

Mr. Michael O. Hoffman, Vice Chairperson
Ms. Laura Gibbons, Board Member

Ms. Stephanie Oulton, Secretary
Vacant/TBD, Board Member

**Easton, Redding, Region 9 Central Office
645 Morehouse Road
Easton, CT 06612
(203) 261-2513
FAX (203) 261-4549**

The Board of Education meets once a month at 7:00 PM at John Read Middle School.
Meeting dates are posted.

Administration

Dr. Jason McKinnon
Superintendent

Dr. Stephanie Pierson-Ugol
Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum and Instruction

Ms. Sara Scrofani
Director of Finance, Operations and Technology

Ms. Jennifer C. Desmarais
Principal, John Read Middle School

TBD
Assistant Principal, John Read Middle School

Ms. Jennifer Del Conte
Director, Special Services

Ms. Jennifer Hankla
Special Education Supervisor

Important School Numbers:

JRMS	Phone: 203-938-2533 Fax: 203-938-8667
JRMS Website	http://www.johnreadps.org
To Report Student Absences	203-938-2533; Press 4
School Nurse	203-938-2533 Ext. 3306/3307 or 203-938-4982
Special Services	203-938-9026
Board of Education	203-261-2513
First Student Transportation	475-470-0373

WELCOME TO JOHN READ MIDDLE SCHOOL

A LETTER TO OUR STUDENTS

Dear Students,

Welcome to John Read! This year will be filled with many new beginnings. To start, you will be entering a new grade and working with a new team of teachers. A new principal and assistant principal will occupy the front office. You will have opportunities to join new clubs and make more friends. You will be introduced to new ideas and information and asked to use this information to explore, problem-solve, innovate, dream, and create.

Taking Care of Self, Taking Care of Others, and Taking Care of This Place is much more than a gimmicky slogan. These words guide all relationships and actions at JRMS. This means that we, students, staff, and teachers, commit to being the best we can be each day. We treat each other with kindness. We respect others, even those with whom we disagree. We stand up for others when we see a need. We commit to keeping our school clean, safe, and filled with joy.

It is essential for each of you to know that you hold power. The adults in the building respond to your actions. More “freedom” can be granted when our students take responsibility for their actions and are kind to others. More rules get added only after poor decisions get made. Use your power for good. Take care of each other. Realize that what you do plays a significant role in determining the “climate” of the building. School climate is a phrase used to describe how students and adults are feeling about school life.

The information shared in this handbook provides you with a lot of information. We suggest taking the time to review the contents with your family and teachers. Some sections will be more important than others. Spend time looking over the school rules and what to do if you need to be absent or leave school early. Keep this handbook as a resource. It will help you to find answers to questions as they pop up during the year.

One of our primary goals at John Read is to create and maintain strong partnerships with our JRMS families. Middle school is filled with ups and downs. Reach out to your parents, teachers, counselors, advisors, administrators, and coaches when you have questions or need some help. It is important to know how to access resources when in need of help. Your parents are always invited to contact your teachers and administrators. The entire John Read community is ready to support you.

We are looking forward to making 2022-2023 a great year for the entire John Read community.

Sincerely,

Ms. Desmarais



EASTON, REDDING, AND REGION 9 SCHOOL DISTRICTS

654 MOREHOUSE ROAD, P.O. BOX 500 EASTON, CONNECTICUT 06612

OFFICE (203) 261-2513 FAX (203) 261-7936

WEB SITE: WWW.ER9.ORG

July 25, 2022

Dear Parents and Guardians:

I hope this letter finds you well. This is just a reminder that should an emergency situation ever arise in our area while school is in session, we want you to be aware that the schools have made preparations to respond effectively to such situations. If an event occurs during school hours, your student(s) will be cared for at their school. ER9 has detailed emergency operations plans which respond to all hazards. Here are some key points:

Key points to consider during an emergency

- We use an emergency notification system named School Messenger. Most likely you have received a message from this system during a weather delay. The system will phone you, email you, and send a text message to the numbers that you have provided to us through PowerSchool. If you have updated your contact information, please provide this information to the school.
- In order to allow access for emergency vehicles and to maintain the safety of your children, please do not come to the school or telephone the school. We realize this would be your initial instinct. Telephone lines may be needed for emergency communication. You will be notified of a reunification location, if necessary.
- In the event of a serious emergency, students will be kept at their schools until they are picked up by an identified adult as indicated on the school emergency card. You were required to provide this information at the beginning of every school year. You will be notified of the reunification location if your child is relocated. Please be sure you consider the following criteria when you authorize another person to pick up your child at school:
 - o They are 18 years of age or older
 - o They are usually home during the day
 - o They are known to your child
 - o They are aware and able to assume this responsibility
- Impress upon your children the need for them to follow the directions of any school personnel in times of an emergency.
- Students will be released only to parents and persons identified as emergency contacts on the School District Emergency Card. During an extreme emergency, students will be released at designated reunion locations on the school campus or elsewhere if necessary. Please be patient and understanding with the student release process. Please instruct your student to remain at school until you or a designee arrives.
- Because local telephone service may be disrupted, also list an out-of-State contact on the emergency card, as calls may still be made out of the area while incoming calls are affected. When the dangerous incident has subsided, an all-clear signal will be given.

We do not mean to cause any alarm with this letter. It is simply part of our All Hazards Plan to provide this annual notification and reminder. Please discuss these matters with your immediate family. Planning ahead will help alleviate concern during emergencies.

Sincerely,

Dr. Jason McKinnon
Superintendent of Schools

Faculty and Staff

Administration

Ms. Jennifer Desmarais - Principal
TBA - Assistant Principal

Ms. Susan Dorenbosch - Administrative Assistant
Mrs. Lori Clement - Administrative Assistant/Registrar

Mrs. Suzanne Dow - Secretary

Grade 5 Team

Mr. Bryan Donnelly - Science
Mrs. Amy Muscarelle - Math
Mrs. Courtney Papallo - Special Education
Ms. Liz Rimkunas* - ILA
Ms. Jessica Steeves - Social Studies
Miss Kate Suba - ILA/Math

Fine and Practical Arts

Mr. Michael Bontempo* - PE/Project Adventure
Mr. Joseph Carollo - PE/Project Adventure
Mrs. Judy Collentine - PE/ Project Adventure
Mr. Kevin Duffy - Band/Strings
Mr. David Ebert - Chorus/Music/Strings
Mr. Nate Indorf - PE/Health/Adaptive PE

Grade 6 Team

Mrs. Brenda Asendorf - Social Studies
Ms. Christine Pimentel - Science
Mrs. Nora Gaydos - ILA
Mrs. Janet Rossi* - Math
Mrs. Heather Sam - Special Education

School Counselors

Ms. Bianca Paoello
Mrs. Joy Squitieri

Psychologists

Ms. Mira Jensen
Mrs. Paula Minor

Academic Specialists

Mr. Lanny Ball* - Literacy
Ms. Rebecca Richards* - Science/Tech
Mrs. Suzen Stewart* - Math
Mrs. Mary Urban - Math Paraeducator
Ms. Eileen Wallace - Math Paraeducator
Mrs. Bernadette Gaynor-Filgate - Literacy Paraeducator

Grade 7 Team

Ms. Meredith Alvarez* - Special Education
Mrs. Michelle Ciuffetelli* - Math
Ms. Sydney Collentine - Science
Mrs. Mary Gallant - Special Education
Mr. Matt Goodwin - Social Studies
Ms. Kristin Hopper* - ILA

Technology

Mr. Damien Russell
Mr. Jaime Bairaktaris

Technology Integration

Ms. Katrina Cronin

Grade 8 Team

Mrs. Christine Antipas - Social Studies
Mrs. Mary Gallant - Special Education
Mr. Bryan Holmes - Science
Mrs. Danielle Lingo* - ILA
Mrs. Sara Pasacreta* - Math
Mrs. Michelle Pranger - Special Education

Library/Media

Mrs. Maria Frederick

World Languages Team

Mrs. Cheryl Cowherd - French
TBA - Spanish
Mr. Victor Santana - Spanish

Custodians

Ana Evaristo
Juan Montesdeoca
Luis Montesdeoca
TBA

Nurse

Mrs. Colleen McLeod

Cafeteria

Mrs. Janet Dyroff
Mrs. Roberta Dance

School Safety Officer (SSO)

Officer Curt Molnar

Special Education

Ms. Jennifer DelConte - Director of Special Services
Mrs. Jennifer Hankla - Supervisor of Special Services
Ms. Kristen Tibbets - Speech & Language Pathologist
Mrs. Kara Flockhart - Social Worker/Gr. 5 PBIS
Mr. Eric Schmidt - Speech & Language Pathologist
Mrs. Diane Eaker - Behavior Therapist
Mrs. Maria Tavares - Behavior Therapist
Mrs. Kristine Viglietta - Behavior Therapist
Mrs. Amanda Wielk - Bases Teacher
Mrs. Rosa Fabiani - Junior Bridges Teacher
Ms. Coral Senes - Behavioral Analyst
Mrs. Carol-Ann Ford - Behavior Therapist
Mrs. Melanie England - Paraprofessional
Mrs. Anne Richards - Paraprofessional
Mrs. Lola Strilowich - Paraprofessional
Ms. Laurean Bresson - Paraprofessional
Ms. Heather Massimo - Paraprofessional
Mr. John Bisceglie - Paraprofessional
Ms. Jennifer Westphalen - Paraprofessional

**Team Leader*

SECTION ONE – BEHAVIORAL EXPECTATIONS AND RELATED POLICIES

CODE OF CONDUCT AND RESPONSIBILITY

Each student is expected to accept responsibility for his/her actions, respect the rights of others, comply with the directions of school staff, and follow the rules and regulations of the school. The responsibility to follow school rules extends to students' conduct to and from school, in and outside of the school building, and during all school-related activities.

Students at John Read Middle School **take care of self, others, and this place** by demonstrating standards of personal conduct and responsibility including:

- Using respectful language when communicating with members of the school community.
- Being courteous.
- Treating others with kindness, compassion, generosity, and a forgiving spirit.
- Respecting and celebrating differences.
- Showing courage by doing the right thing in the face of difficulty. Following my conscience instead of the crowd. Standing up for others.
- Respecting others at all times. Even when it feels like a difficult ask.
- Cooperating with classmates, teachers, staff, and administrators.
- Being responsible and accountable in word and deed. Fulfilling my assigned responsibilities/tasks in a timely manner.
- Being trustworthy. Telling the truth and accepting responsibility for my actions.
- Demonstrating intellectual integrity by submitting only my own work.
- Taking time to think before I respond.
- Pursuing schoolwork with determination and best effort.
- Demonstrating pride in our school.
- Dressing appropriately for school.

ACADEMIC HONESTY

Students at John Read Middle School will **take care of themselves** by demonstrating academic honesty at all times. Cheating and plagiarism have no place at John Read. Cheating is defined as the intentional use of someone else's work as your own. It means copying work from another student. It means looking up an answer on the internet and copying the response as your own without citing where you found the information. Plagiarism is defined as taking the work done by someone else and saying that it is yours. You will learn how to cite information. Pay close attention when learning this skill. You will need it throughout your life.

Students who improperly share their thoughts and materials with others will also be held accountable for their actions. When a teacher recognizes cheating or plagiarism, or even suspects such a case, s/he will take immediate steps in response. Students will receive a zero for work that has been proven to be the result of cheating or plagiarism. The parent, school counselor, and school administrator will be notified, and the teacher and student will have a conference to discuss the matter and take necessary steps to prevent additional incidents.

GUIDELINES FOR APPROPRIATE ATTIRE

The Redding Schools encourage students to dress in a manner that demonstrates pride in themselves and in their school. The school district requires that attire be safe, appropriate to the activity, and not distracting or disruptive of the educational program.

The following guidelines apply to all regular school activities:

- Clothing and jewelry should be safe and free of writing, pictures, or any other insignia which are crude, vulgar, profane, or sexually suggestive or which advocate violence, racial, ethnic, or religious prejudice, or the use of drugs or alcohol.
- No clothing, article of clothing, or manner of wearing clothes that is inappropriately revealing is permitted. Underwear should not be visible.
- Clothing or jewelry which is distracting, or disruptive to the educational program, or which poses a threat to the physical well-being and safety of the student or others, shall not be worn on campus or at school activities.
- Hats may be worn outside of the building.

The principal and staff at each school may establish additional dress and grooming regulations, when necessary, for regular school activities and /or for times when students are engaged in extracurricular or other special school activities. Teachers may impose more stringent dress requirements to accommodate the special needs of certain sports and/or classes.

School-directed changes to a student's attire or grooming should be the least restrictive and disruptive to the student's school day. Any school dress code enforcement actions should minimize the potential loss of educational time.

Appropriate dress will not be restricted on the basis of ethnicity, religion, gender, gender identification, or personal style.

CAFETERIA

Children in grades 5-8 eat lunch in the cafeteria. Menus can be accessed online on the homepage of our school website, www.johnreadps.org. On early dismissal days, lunch *will* be served.

The District participates in the National School Lunch Program and all foods served meet or exceed the Connecticut Nutrition Standards. Chartwells School Dining Services is the vendor used by John Read Middle School to handle our school lunch program. A full student lunch includes a choice of entrée supplying protein and grain, up to three (3) vegetable side dishes, one (1) fruit side dish, and milk. Milk choices include 1% white and skim chocolate.

Free or reduced price lunches are available to qualifying families. Information and forms are available at Central Office by calling 203-261-2513 or downloading the letter and application at the district website, www.er9.org.

Lunch Payment System:

The Easton, Redding & Region 9 food service program uses the NutriKids point-of-sale system in the school cafeterias. All students enrolled in the school are automatically set up with an account in the NutriKids system based on his/her student ID number. Parents may opt out of this system by completing the "Add/Remove Block to Student Account" form on the ER9 website. Parents may also request that restrictions be placed on what their child may purchase. The function of the account is for it to be a pre-paid account ("Dining Dollars"), and the cost of the meals to be deducted from the balance. When the "Dining Dollars" get low, additional funds should be added to avoid a negative balance status. Funds can be prepaid to the account by either sending into school (1) cash, (2) a check made payable to Easton/Redding School Lunch Program, or (3) by using the secure online prepayment service through mySchoolBucks.com and pre-paying the account with a credit card, debit card or e-check payment up to a maximum of \$120 per student. This program is designed to be a convenient and secure tool that parents may use to manage their child(ren)'s school meal account(s). In addition to monitoring your student's balance, you will be able to view a personal history report of your child's purchases, and set up an email notification for when the "Dining Dollars" get low. There is a nominal convenience fee (\$1.95) for each deposit transaction to cover bank charges. Parents making deposits for more than one child will be charged once. Please refer to the registration instructions which may be accessed at www.er9.org and click on "school information" or you may go directly to www.myschoolbucks.com.

If your child's account balance reaches zero, he/she will be permitted to charge up to 3 additional meals or until the balance reaches -\$10. At this point, the parent/guardian will be contacted for payment. The student will receive a "sandwich" lunch – sandwich, fruit and milk in place of the regular/hot lunch. This meal maintains the USDA standards surrounding reimbursable meals and will be charged at full price to the student's account. Snacks, water, juice, and ice cream cannot be charged if there is a zero or negative balance in the account. For further information, visit the ER9 website or our school website. Effective with school year 2017-18, the Connecticut State Department of Education requires that the household pays all delinquent student debts no later than June 30 to ensure that students' accounts are closed. Any delinquent debts that have not been recovered by June 30 will be considered bad debt. Negative balances cannot be carried over to the next school year. Student meal accounts must be at a zero balance for the next school year.

CAFETERIA RULES

Everyone looks forward to lunch and recess! In order to enjoy this time together, **students take care** in the cafeteria by:

1. Finding a seat and remaining in it for the entire lunch period. One may not reserve seats or tables.
2. Bringing lunch money if not using an account. We can't permit borrowing, lending or giving money to classmates.
3. Following directions given by the lunch supervisor, including becoming quiet when the lights are switched off.
4. Finishing all food in the cafeteria. No food is permitted outside the cafeteria unless unopened.
5. Keeping the table and surrounding areas clean. Each student is responsible for putting his/her trash into the trash/recycling containers.
6. Keeping one's voice at a reasonable level. Shouting is not permitted.
7. Waiting for the lunch supervisor to dismiss students by tables. Tables will be dismissed when the table and surrounding area are clean.
8. Eating only the food that was brought from home or purchased. Students may not buy or sell food.

HALLWAY BEHAVIOR

Students take care of self, others and this place all at once by their behaviors in the hallway! To keep everyone safe and ensure timely arrival to the next class, all students need to cooperate by doing the following. Walk on the right side of the hallway or staircase. Running, pushing, and shouting are not safe behaviors and not permitted. Litter should be disposed of in classroom wastebaskets to keep our halls clean. Displays of affection, including hand holding, are not permitted as they can interfere with the safe and timely flow of traffic.

STUDENT DISCIPLINE GUIDELINES

Policies, procedures and rules of the school are expected to be followed at school, at school-sponsored activities, and on the bus. The primary goal of a disciplinary response is to bring about a positive change in a student's behavior. There are several types of disciplinary responses ranging from a warning, conference with student or student and teacher, phone call to parent, detention, school community service, removal from class, loss of privilege, or suspension in or out of school.

Teachers may deal with discipline in their classroom. However, students may be called to the office for further discussion. If the matter is serious enough to warrant a suspension, all due process rights will be maintained:

1. An informal hearing will be held (unless an emergency exists) and the student will be informed of the problem and given an opportunity to explain what occurred.
2. If a suspension is forthcoming, the student and parent/legal guardian will be informed verbally and in writing.
3. There is a right to appeal.
4. Students have the opportunity to make up all missed work (including tests and quizzes) during a suspension.

The following examples of behavior may lead to discipline, including suspensions and expulsion. **The conduct listed below is provided for informational purposes and is not an inclusive list, nor is it in any particular order. Please refer to the Redding Board of Education website for a comprehensive list of board policies related to students. The policies are also linked [HERE](#).**

1. Willfully striking or assaulting others.
2. Theft of property of the school, staff, student, or others.
3. The use of profane or obscene language or gestures.
4. Disruptive behavior.
5. Blackmailing, threatening, or intimidating behavior.
6. Possession, sale, or use of tobacco or a nicotine "vape".
7. Possession, sale, or use of alcohol or drugs. This includes, but is not limited to alcohol, marijuana, cocaine, LSD, inhalants, barbiturates, stimulants, "look-alike drugs," hallucinogens, and anabolic steroids. *
8. Possession, sale, or use of weapons. This includes, but is not limited to pistols, revolvers, rifles, shotguns, deadly weapons, dangerous instruments, knives, or martial arts weapons. *
9. The destruction or threat of destruction of real or personal property, i.e., cutting, defacing, or otherwise injuring property in any way.
10. Possession, sale, or use of fireworks, explosives, or other incendiary devices. *
11. Refusal to follow school rules or the authority of teachers, supervisors, or administrators.

* May also result in police referral and recommendation for expulsion.

A meeting of the Crisis Team and a psychiatric/psychological evaluation of a student may also be required in some of the aforementioned situations.

VIOLENT AND AGGRESSIVE BEHAVIOR, BULLYING

Behaviors that are violent and aggressive will not be tolerated and shall result in immediate action by the school system. Please refer to the Redding Board of Education for Board of Education Policy #5131, 5131.21(a), 5131.7, 5131.9 [Violent and Aggressive Behavior](#), [Bullying](#).

BULLYING

The Board of Education is committed to creating and maintaining an educational environment that is physically, emotionally and intellectually safe and thus free from bullying, harassment, and discrimination. In accordance with state law and the Board of Education's Safe School Climate Plan, the Board expressly prohibits any form of bullying behavior. Discrimination or retaliation against an individual who reports or assists in the investigation of an act of bullying is likewise prohibited.

"Bullying" means an act that is direct or indirect and severe, persistent or pervasive, which (A) causes physical or emotional harm to an individual, (B) places an individual in reasonable fear of physical or emotional harm, or (C) infringes on the rights or opportunities of an individual at school. "Bullying" shall include, but need not be limited to, a written, oral or electronic communication or physical act or gesture based on any actual or perceived differentiating characteristic, such as race, color, religion, ancestry, national origin, gender, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, socioeconomic status, academic status, physical appearance, or mental, physical, developmental or sensory disability, or by association with an individual or group who has or is perceived to have one or more of such characteristics;

Consistent with the requirements under state law, the school district will:

1. Enable students to anonymously report acts of bullying to school employees;
2. Enable parents or guardians of students to file written reports of suspected bullying;
3. Require school employees who witness acts of bullying or receive reports of bullying to notify the safe school climate specialist.
4. Require the safe school climate specialist to investigate or supervise the investigation of all reports of bullying and ensure that such investigation is completed promptly after receipt of any written reports made under this section;
5. Require the safe school climate specialist to review any anonymous reports, except that no disciplinary action shall be taken solely on the basis of an anonymous report;
6. Include a prevention and intervention strategy for school employees to deal with bullying;
7. Provide for the inclusion of language in student codes of conduct concerning bullying;
8. Require each school to notify parents or guardians of students who commit any verified acts of bullying and the parents or guardians of students against whom such acts were directed not later than forty-eight hours after the completion of the investigation;
9. Require each school to invite the parents or guardians of a student who commits any verified act of bullying and the parents or guardians of the student against whom such act was directed to a meeting to communicate to such parents or guardians the measures being taken by the school to ensure the safety of the students against whom such act was directed and to prevent further acts of bullying;
10. Establish a procedure for each school to document and maintain records relating to reports and investigations of bullying in such school and to maintain a list of the number of verified acts of bullying in such school and make such list available for public inspection, and annually report such number to the Department of Education and in such manner as prescribed by the Commissioner of Education;
11. Direct the development of case-by-case interventions for addressing repeated incidents of bullying against a single individual or recurrently perpetrated bullying incidents by the same individual that may include both counseling and intervention;
12. Prohibit discrimination and retaliation against an individual who reports or assists in the investigation of an act of bullying;
13. Direct the development of student safety support plans for students against whom an act of bullying was directed that address safety measures the school will take to protect such students against further acts of bullying;
14. Require the principal of a school, or the principal's designee, to notify the appropriate local law enforcement agency when such principal, or the principal's designee, believes that any acts of bullying constitute criminal conduct;
15. Prohibit bullying (A) on school grounds, at a school-sponsored or school-related activity, function or program, whether on or off school grounds; at a school bus stop; on a school bus or other vehicle owned, leased or used by a local or regional board of education; or through the use of an electronic mobile device owned, leased or used by the ER9 Boards of Education, and (B) outside of the school setting if such bullying (i) creates a hostile environment at school for the student against whom such bullying was directed, (ii) infringes on the rights of the student against whom such bullying was directed at school, or (iii) substantially disrupts the education process or the orderly operation of a school;
16. Require, at the beginning of each school year, each school to provide all school employees with a written or electronic copy of the school district's safe school climate plan; and
17. Require that all school employees annually complete the training described in Conn. Gen. Stat. §10-220a.

CONDUCT ON SCHOOL BUSES

Students transported by bus are expected to **take care of self, others, and this place** by being courteous to bus drivers and peers. Your safety is your driver's priority. Distracting and unsafe behavior may lead to unsafe conditions. All school rules are in effect on the ride to and from school. The bus driver has a teacher's authority and responsibility over all students on the bus. School transportation privileges are extended to students conditional upon satisfactory behavior on the bus. Disciplinary actions will result from misconduct on the bus and may include withdrawal of bus-riding privileges. **Specifically, students take care on the bus by:**

1. Arriving at the bus stop on time and waiting for the bus in a safe place.
2. Entering the bus in a safe and orderly manner.
3. Following the instructions of the bus driver.
5. Remaining seated with a seatbelt, facing forward, when the bus is in motion.
6. Keeping head and arms inside the bus.
7. Keeping aisles clear at all times.
8. Keeping the bus clean.
9. Being alert to traffic when approaching or leaving the bus.
10. Riding the assigned bus and exiting at the regular stop.
11. Eating is not allowed on the bus.

In case of emergency: students will listen for instructions from the driver and will not touch emergency equipment unless told to do so.

In an emergency situation it may be necessary to exit through the emergency door, students should:

- Be careful (duck head, flex knees).
- Get away from the bus - others are following.
- Have hands free. Leave backpacks, instruments, etc. on the bus.

In the event of a bus accident, stay on the bus until other instructions are given.

Do not exit the emergency door unless told to do so.

ANY DAMAGE DONE BY A STUDENT TO THE BUS MUST BE PAID FOR BY THE STUDENT/STUDENT'S FAMILY.

A written request signed by a parent/legal guardian is required in order for any student to be dropped off anywhere but his/her regular bus stop.

Please refer to the Redding Board of Education website for Board of Education Policy #5131.1, [Bus Conduct](#); 3541.35, [Bus Driver Safety](#).

VIDEO CAMERAS ON BUSES

Video cameras are installed on school buses. Video recordings of students may be used by school administrators to verify complaints about student behavior on the buses.

SECURITY

Buildings and parking lots may be under video surveillance.

SMOKING/USE OF TOBACCO PRODUCTS, INCLUDING VAPING/USE OF VAPING PRODUCTS

JRMS maintains a smoke-free environment. The Board of Education policy prohibits smoking or the use of tobacco products by anyone on the JRMS campus. This includes staff, students, or visitors to JRMS.

Please refer to the Redding Board of Education website for Board of Education Policy #5131.61, [Smoking and the Use of Tobacco](#).

SUBSTANCE ABUSE

It is the policy of the Board of Education to prevent and prohibit the possession, use, and/or distribution of any drug (except as duly authorized through the nurse), or drug paraphernalia at any time on school property, at school-sponsored events or on school-provided transportation. This means students should not have any medication on their person. All medication must be given by our nurse when taken on school grounds or during a school activity.

All violations of this policy will be dealt with in accordance with the Policy #5114 and #5131.6, which can be located on the Redding Board of Education website under [Student Discipline and Due Process](#). Disciplinary procedures should be administered according to the situations described in the regulations.

SEARCH AND SEIZURE

Please refer to the Redding Board of Education website for Board of Education Policy #5145.12 regarding [Search and Seizure](#).

DISCRIMINATION AND HARASSMENT

Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 states that no person shall, on the basis of sex, be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any education program or activity receiving Federal financial assistance.

Title VI of the Education Amendments of 1972 requires that the district promote nondiscrimination and have an environment free of harassment based upon an individual's race, color, religion, sex, sexual orientation, national origin, disability, marital status or age of any other persons with whom the individual associates. Please refer to the JRMS website (www.johnreadps.org) for Board of Education Policy #0521.

Sexual harassment is against state and federal laws. It is defined as unwelcome sexual attention from peers, teachers, staff or anyone with whom the victim may interact. Any person who believes that he or she has been subjected to sexual harassment should report the alleged misconduct immediately to a trusted adult.

Please refer to the Redding Board of Education website for Board of Education Policy #4118.1 (a-d), [Prohibition of Discrimination and Harassment](#). Please refer to the Redding Board of Education website for Board of Education Policy # 5145.51, [Sexual Harassment](#).

CELL PHONES/ELECTRONIC DEVICES

Handheld video games or toys of any kind are not allowed in school. Students' personal devices such as cell phones and iPads are to be locked in their lockers or kept within a backpack at all times during the school day, except when expressly permitted by a teacher for an educational purpose. Students in violation will have their device confiscated. Parents may be called to pick up the device from the main office at the end of the school day. Students who violate this policy are subject to disciplinary action including but not limited to detention. Repeat offenders will also require a parent/school conference.

PERSONAL PROPERTY/VALUABLES

Students must use their lockers to protect personal property and **should not** come to school with excessive amounts of money or valuables. Therefore, we advise the utmost care be taken with personal property, the property of other students, the staff and the school. Skateboards are prohibited on school property. Such items will be confiscated and brought to the office and parents will be asked to retrieve items.

LOCKERS AND SCHOOL PROPERTY

Corridor lockers may be used between classes or at other times as designated by teachers. During class, a teacher's permission is required to go to a locker. It is the responsibility of the student to keep his or her locker neat and clean and in good repair. Locker doors should be closed quietly and securely. It is also the student's responsibility to keep his/her locker locked at all times. Lockers may be inspected if the administration has reason to suspect that materials that are illegal or potentially injurious to members of the school community are kept on school property. Students are not permitted to open or use another student's locker or a vacant locker.

TEXTBOOKS

All textbooks are the property of the Town of Redding and are expected to be given proper care. Each student is responsible for his/her assigned books. Students defacing school property will be responsible for replacement costs and subject to disciplinary action.

COMPUTER USAGE GUIDELINES

Guidelines for ethical use of computers at John Read Middle School are based on guidelines from the Easton/Redding/Region 9 District Policies and from the Computer Ethics Institute's suggestions for schools. All students at JRMS will be issued a Google Chromebook. Students are expected to take great care of their device. Any damage to these devices or any device at school by a student will bear the financial responsibility of the student, parent or guardian.

Every student and his/her parent or legal guardian is required to sign an Acceptable Use Agreement found in PowerSchool. Failure to adhere to this policy will result in restriction of access to the Internet and/or disciplinary actions. This policy applies to all computer use in the building, whether the technology is school or personally owned.

Please refer to the Redding Board of Education website for Board of Education Policy # 6141.321, [Acceptable Use in School of the Internet and Other Networks](#).

Students show consideration and respect in computer use as follows. For a complete list, refer to the Acceptable Use Agreement.

- Do not drink or eat near computers/chromebooks.
- Respect security systems in place on computers and the network – do not attempt to bypass security or tamper with other student's files.
- Passwords may not be shared.
- ONLY software provided by the school may be used on school computers.
- Avoid damaging hardware, software or peripheral equipment, including speakers, headphones, mice, printers, keyboards or any other accessories that are used for accessing computers or networks.
- Preferred methods of transporting student work between home and school is by Google classroom or drive.

COMPUTER AND INTERNET USE

Computers should be viewed as an educational tool similar to books, videos, CD-ROMs, periodicals and other information sources. Because it is impossible to predict or contract what information might be accessed, it is the responsibility of students and staff to adhere to this Acceptable Use Policy.

Responsible use of the computer and Internet includes, but is not limited to:

- Research
- Instructional activities
- Electronic mail, including use of student email accounts. Students may contact individual classmates for assignments, but may NOT use the system to send grade or school wide email blasts to all users.

Irresponsible use includes, but is not limited to:

- Any illegal activity
- Using electronic mail to harass others
- Using the Internet for monetary gain
- Vandalism of hardware or software
- Using inappropriate or abusive language/behavior
- Unauthorized access to network, files or Internet
- Misusing and abusing passwords
- Violating copyright law or engaging in plagiarism
- Pornography
- Video games

The professional staff will supervise Internet access. Failure to adhere to this policy will result in restricted computer access, including total loss of privilege, and/or disciplinary action.

PHOTOGRAPHY, AUDIO- AND VIDEOTAPING

If, for any reason, parents/legal guardians do not want their child to be filmed or recorded, please indicate this via the appropriate link in PowerSchool, as was requested at the start of the school year.

Parents who take photographs/videos of JRMS students and/or staff in school and at school activities should check with school officials prior to sharing such materials in order to honor those families who do not wish for this material to be shared.

Students may not take photos or record others in school or at school events without permission of school officials who have direct knowledge of parental preferences.

FINES

Students are responsible for returning all books, materials, and equipment issued to them in appropriate condition. Fines will be issued for any lost, missing, overdue or damaged items.

PARTICIPATION IN EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

Participation in extracurricular activities is intended to complement the academic experience. If the activity will in any way jeopardize or negatively impact the student's academic or disciplinary record, participation will not be permitted.

GIFTS TO SCHOOL PERSONNEL

It is the Redding BOE policy that employees should not accept or receive any money or monetary gift having the value of \$25.00 or more.

SECTION TWO – ACADEMIC INFORMATION

HOMEWORK

Homework is an important component of a student's education. Students are responsible for knowing what assignments need to be done and are required to use them to write down daily and long-term assignments. Students are provided planners at the start of the school year. Parents can check these planners to help monitor their child's homework. Homework assignments are also posted on Google Classroom.

Parent assistance is needed to ensure a quiet time and study area for their child as well as to monitor homework assignments on a regular basis. If concerns regarding homework arise, parents are encouraged to contact the team leader or individual teachers.

The following are **guidelines** for the amount of homework that middle school students should expect:

- Grade 5: 30-60 minutes 3-4 times weekly
- Grade 6: 60-75 minutes daily
- Grade 7: 60-90 minutes daily
- Grade 8: 75-120 minutes daily

Please note that these are simply guidelines. Each student works at his or her own pace, and individual time spent on homework may vary. Refer to the attendance section of this handbook for guidelines regarding make-up work due to absence.

Please refer to the Redding Board of Education website for Board of Education Policy #6154, [Homework](#).

REPORT CARDS

Parents are able to monitor their child's academic progress at all times via the Parent Portal system in Power School. **Quarterly report cards will also be available in the Parent Portal.** If a parent wishes to receive a hard copy, please contact Administrative Assistant, Lori Clement lclement@er9.org

WEIGHTED GRADING

Grades are not weighted for any purpose in the Easton and Redding Schools.

Please refer to the Redding Board of Education website for Board of Education Policy #6146, [Weighted Grading](#).

AWARDS

- The Scholar Leader Award is given to two eighth-grade students who have distinguished themselves with outstanding scholarship and leadership in school and the community. The students are selected by members of the faculty and are given at an annual banquet sponsored by the Connecticut Association of Schools.
- CT Association of Schools Leadership Award is given to two eighth-grade students who are nominated as students of the year.
- The Western Connecticut Superintendents' Association Award goes to two eighth-grade students chosen by the faculty. Criteria for this award include scholarship, leadership, and service to school.
- Additional grade 8 awards include:
 - the State of Connecticut Citizenship Award
 - the Town of Redding Citizenship Award
 - the Student Leadership Award
 - the Patricia Tuzzio Memorial Writer's Award
 - the Redding Garden Club Environmental Award
 - the Redding Education Association Scholar Award
 - the Laurie Anderson Memorial Award
 - the Scholar-Leader Award
 - the Superintendent's Award
 - the Lena Green Award
- The Beacon Award is awarded twice a year to two students at each grade level for leadership, scholarship and citizenship.
- The Wingman Recognition is awarded twice a year to staff or students who go above and beyond.

PARENT-TEAM CONFERENCES

Conferences are held in the fall for all students. Parents will be notified when scheduling for these begins. Parents may call the school counselor or team leader to set up a team meeting at any other time during the school year.

EXEMPTION FROM INSTRUCTION

A student will be exempted from instruction on Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome (AIDS), Bilingual Education or Family Life and Sex Education upon receipt of written request for such exemption from his/her parent or legal guardian.

Please refer to the Redding Board of Education website for Board of Education Policy #6144.1, [Exemption from instruction](#).

TESTING PROGRAMS

Each spring the Smarter Balanced Assessments are administered to all students in grades three through eight. These assessments are designed to provide valid, reliable, and fair measures of students' progress toward the attainment of knowledge and skills as outlined by the Common Core State Standards in Math and English Language Arts. To assess student growth in science, fifth and eighth grade students will take the Next Generation Science Standards Test during the second semester. It is important for students to be present for all testing sessions. Parents should plan vacations and/or medical appointments around the school calendar to avoid students missing testing sessions.

Please refer to the links here for Board of Education Policy #6162.3

Common Benchmark Assessments

Students are assessed throughout the year using a series of Common Benchmark Assessments including, but not limited to NWEA MAP testing.

Each fall and spring the Preliminary Scholastic Aptitude Test is administered to eighth-grade students.

THE HOMEWORK CENTER

The Homework Center provides a place where students can do homework, study for upcoming tests and quizzes, work on long term projects, and get assistance with all of their tasks. Teachers will be present to help students organize materials, check homework agendas, assist in understanding the subject matter, and prepare for tests by helping to create study guides and quizzing students on the material. Students must sign up and submit a signed permission slip. The Homework Center is offered three times a week after school.

COMPARABILITY OF SERVICES

It is the policy of the Board of Education to ensure comparability of services funded by state and local sources in both Title I project schools and non-project schools. Please refer to the Redding Board of Education website for Board of Education Policy #6161.3, [Comparability of Services](#).

FIELD TRIPS

School trips for educational purposes will occasionally be sponsored by grade-level teams or individual teachers in the school. For any off-campus trip, a student will receive a permission slip, which must be signed by a parent/legal guardian and returned by the date specified. School administrators reserve the right to consider students' academic and disciplinary record before allowing participation on trips, to ensure the health and safety of all those attending. **All school rules and regulations apply to students attending field trips.**

Parents are encouraged to contact the principal with any related financial concerns. Students will not be denied the opportunity to participate in any class or school-sponsored activity because of inability to pay for material fees, transportation costs, admission prices, or any other related expenses. Any student who needs financial assistance for school activities should contact the principal to request confidential assistance.

Please refer to the Redding Board of Education website for Board of Education Policy #6153, [Field Trips](#).

STUDENT RECORDS

The district complies with state and federal regulations regarding confidentiality and access to student records. Both custodial and non-custodial parents have access to student records unless the school is in possession of a court order stating otherwise. The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) requires that eligible students and parents have the right to:

1. Inspect the student's education records.
2. Request amendments to those records if they are believed to be inaccurate, misleading, or otherwise in violation of the student's privacy acts.
3. Consent to disclosures of personally identifiable information contained in the student's records, except to the extent that the law allows disclosure without consent. FERPA specifically authorizes the district to forward school records to school officials of a district where the student seeks or intends to enroll without the permission of the parents or an eligible student.
4. File a complaint with the U. S. Department of Education that the district is not complying with the FERPA law.
5. Obtain a copy of the district's policies for student education records. Copies of these policies are located in the office of the superintendent of schools, in the principal's office of each school in the district, and on the Redding Board of Education website: Board of Education Policy #5125 (a-d), [Student Records](#). You can also follow this link to all policies related to students: [Click Here](#)
6. School Records Request for applying school/transfers will be processed with a two-week turnaround time.

DIRECTORY INFORMATION

The middle school will release directory information from student records if appropriate. Directory information means one or more of the following items: student's name, address, telephone number, date and place of birth, major field of study, participation in officially recognized activities and sports, photograph, grade levels, electronic mail address, weight and height of members of athletic teams, dates of attendance, degrees and awards received, and the most recent previous public or private school attended by the student.

Except in the cases cited in BOE policy, no personally identifiable information will be disclosed from a student's education records without the prior written consent of the student's parent/legal guardian or an eligible student.

Please refer to the Redding Board of Education website for Board of Education Policy #5125(b), [Student Records – Confidentiality](#).

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Please refer the Redding Board of Education website or click the link for Board of Education Policy #6115 regarding the [Pledge of Allegiance](#).

SECTION THREE – STUDENT SERVICES AND RELATED POLICIES

SCHOOL COUNSELING

Counselors at John Read Middle School assist students and parents in making a successful adjustment to middle school and in developing the necessary skills to make the transition to high school. Counselors are trained to talk with students about a variety of issues and concerns. These may be of a personal, academic or social nature. Often, these areas intersect so that our counselors use a whole child philosophy in their work with our students. Students who are experiencing any problems or concerns are encouraged to seek the aid of the school counselor. Parents are also encouraged to contact the school counselor to help them navigate through this exciting period in their child's development.

Both Mrs. Squitieri and Ms. Paolello subscribe to the code of ethics determined by the American School Counselor Association. These standards dictate that counselors keep information confidential unless disclosure is required to prevent imminent harm to the student or others or when legally necessary.

SPECIAL EDUCATION SERVICES

The Special Education Department at John Read Middle School provides a range of programs and services for students who have been identified as having special education needs according to federal and state guidelines. The continuum of available services includes, but is not limited to, consultation with classroom teachers, assistance in the regular classroom, and small group or individualized instruction within the special education setting.

Parents and teachers who believe a child has a disability and requires special education and related services should contact Jennifer Del Conte, the Director of Special Services at 203-938-9026 so that a referral to special education can be made.

Prior to a referral being made for special education, an individual student may receive general education interventions in the area(s) of concern. Once a referral to special education has been received, a Planning and Placement Team ("PPT"), which includes professional staff members and the child's parent(s), will convene to review the student's referral to special education. The team will determine whether any assessments or evaluations are needed to determine whether the child qualifies for special education and related services under federal and state law.

Through this PPT process, a wide range of services, assessments and evaluations may be offered by the school psychologist, special education teachers, the social worker, the speech and language therapist, occupational therapist, physical therapist and/or other appropriate staff members in order to assess the student's needs, determine whether the student is eligible for special education and plan an appropriate educational program if the student is found eligible for services. Once the evaluations and assessments are completed, the PPT will review the evaluations at a PPT meeting and make the determination of whether the student qualifies for special education and related services. If the student is found eligible for special education services, the PPT will develop an appropriate individualized education program for the student that addresses his or her needs.

SIT (Student Intervention Team)

The SIT program at John Read Middle School provides support and instruction to children who are experiencing learning difficulties. This support is based on classroom assessments, district-wide assessments and/or state assessments. This process is most commonly used in addressing needs in the areas of reading, math, and behavior. A "continuum of support" has been developed to meet students' needs.

Interventions are provided for students in learning strategies and organizational skills as well as specific academic skills. These are designed to support students who need reinforcement of specific skills and concepts in order to meet grade level academic expectations; however these are not special education services.

Please contact the assistant principal at 203-938-2533 ext. 3303 if you would like more information about this program.

504 GRIEVANCE POLICY

Section 504 of the Federal Rehabilitation Act of 1973 ensures that no individual will be discriminated against based upon a disability, as that term is defined by the law. The statute also provides that any student with a disability who qualifies under Section 504 and needs or is believed to need accommodations, modifications or services not available through the regular education program is entitled to receive a free appropriate public education. The Redding Public Schools have adopted procedures allowing for individuals with disabilities and their parents or guardians to request accommodations for public meetings and other events, as well as grievance procedures for individuals who wish to file a complaint with the district under Section 504.

Complaints about facilities or services offered by the Redding Public Schools may be filed with Bianca Paoello (Grades 5 & 7) or Joy Squitieri (Grades 6 & 8), the Section 504 Coordinator. The following information is required when completing a complaint: name(s) of person(s) or group making the complaint, whether the person(s) represents an individual group, whether the person(s) making the complaint has discussed the problem with the site administrator, and a summary of the complaint and suggested solution(s).

If you have any questions about this grievance procedure or would like more information, please feel free to contact your school principal. A complete copy of the grievance procedures under Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act is also available at [504 Procedure Manual](#).

ENGLISH LANGUAGE LEARNERS (ELL)

The Board of Education recognizes the need to provide equal educational opportunities for all students in the district. Therefore, if the inability to speak and understand the English language excludes a student from effective participation in the educational programs, the school shall take appropriate action to rectify the English language deficiency in order to provide the students with equal access to its programs. Students who have "limited English proficiency" will be identified, assessed, and provided appropriate services.

Please refer to the Redding Board of Education website for Board of Education Policy #6141.311(a), [Programs for Limited English Proficient Students](#).

MIGRANT STUDENTS

The district has a program to address the needs of migrant students. A full range of services will be provided to migrant students, including applicable Title I programs, special education, vocational education, language programs, counseling and elective classes. Parents/legal guardians of migrant students will be involved in and regularly consulted about the development, implementation, operation, and evaluation of the migrant program.

TITLE I PARENT INVOLVEMENT

Parents/legal guardians of a child in a Title I funded program will receive a copy of the district's parental involvement policy, including provisions of an annual meeting and involvement of parents in the planning, review, and implementation of Title I programs.

Please refer to the JRMS website (www.johnreadps.org) for Board of Education Policy #6172.4(a) and 6172.4(b), Title I Parent Involvement.

TEACHER AND PARAPROFESSIONAL QUALIFICATIONS

Parents/legal guardians have the right to request information about the professional qualifications of their child's teacher(s). They can receive information regarding the teacher's licensing and qualifications as it pertains to the grade levels and subject areas in which the teacher provides instruction, whether the teacher is teaching under emergency or provisional status through which state qualification or licensing have been waived, and the baccalaureate degree major of the teacher and any other graduate certification or degree held by the teacher as well as their field of discipline. Parents may also ask if their child is being provided services by a paraprofessional and, if so, his/her qualifications.

PROMOTION/RETENTION/PLACEMENT

Students enrolling at JRMS will be placed by the administration at the grade level best suited to them academically, socially, and emotionally. Students shall progress through the grade levels by demonstrating growth in learning and by meeting grade level standards of expected student achievement. Exceptions may be made when, in the judgment of the certified staff, retention or acceleration is in the best interest of the student involved. If an exception is made, there will be prior notification and explanation to the student's parent(s) or legal guardian(s), but the final decision will be that of the principal.

Please refer to the Redding Board of Education website for Board of Education Policy #5123, [Promotion/Acceleration/Retention](#).

ENROLLMENT

Each child entering the district schools for the first time must present a birth certificate or offer legal evidence of birth data as well as proof of a recent physical examination and required immunizations.

Students enrolled in a school identified for school improvement pursuant to federal law may transfer to another public school within the district that has not been identified for school improvement. The transfer will be allowed in accordance with the law. This district will provide transportation.

Please refer to the Redding Board of Education website for Board of Education Policy #5111(a), [Admission/Placement](#).

LEARNING COMMONS - The Library

The JRMS Learning Commons hours are 8:00 a.m. to 3:40 p.m. for student and staff use. Students are encouraged to use the Learning Commons during school hours with the permission of their teachers. The circulation desk is open from 8:00 a.m. to 3:40 p.m. for checking out materials. Classes are also scheduled in the Learning Commons for research projects throughout the year.

Materials

- Over 16,000 books and magazines in print
- E-Book collection of fiction and non-fiction books
- Audiobooks
- Online and print reference collection
- Online databases accessible from school or home
- Chromebooks
- Ipads

The JRMS Learning Commons includes 5 collaborative workstations with display monitors and white boards for student use, a makerspace, a main seating area with space for 30 students, a classroom area with an interactive touchscreen display, a video and audio recording studio, and a reading room with a periodical collection and seating for 25.

SECTION FOUR– SCHOOL ATTENDANCE, TRANSPORTATION AND RELATED POLICIES

ATTENDANCE

REPORTING ABSENCES

Parents/legal guardians must notify the school's voicemail or send an email to jrmsnotes@er9.org the evening before or by 9:00 AM on the day of any student absence. This can be done by dialing the school's voice mail at 203-938-2533, and pressing 4. If the school receives no notice within the above timeframe, all days missed will be counted as unexcused absences from school. If parents/legal guardians are going to be away overnight or for an extended period of time, they must designate in writing a guardian to act on the student's behalf. The school will inform individual teachers whether absences are excused or unexcused. This will include absences for the full day or part of the day. Students with excused absences from school or class will be given an appropriate opportunity to make up whatever work they have missed in order to complete curriculum requirements.

EXCUSED ABSENCES

In accordance with the regulations from the Connecticut State Board of Education, excused and unexcused absences have been defined and a verification requirement for the tenth illness absence and beyond has been included.

For excused absences, the regulations specify that:

1. For absences one through nine, a student's absences from school are considered excused when the parent/guardian approves such absences, reports the absence to the school and submits appropriate documentation.
2. For the tenth absence and all absences thereafter, a student's absences are considered excused for the following reasons:
 - Illness verified by an appropriately licensed medical professional
 - Religious holiday
 - Death in the family or other emergency beyond the family's control
 - Mandated court appearances
 - Lack of transportation that is normally provided by a district other than the one the student attends
 - Extraordinary educational opportunities pre-approved by district administrators (and in accordance with Connecticut State Department of Education guidance.)

For unexcused absences, the regulations specify that:

A student's absence from school shall be considered unexcused unless it meets the definition of an excused absence and/or unless it results from school or district disciplinary action.

Any requests for excused absences which are not included in the above lists must be made in writing to the assistant principal five (5) school days before the date of the planned absence so that the request can be reviewed and processed. Requests after this deadline will not be honored, and the absences will be recorded as unexcused.

Please understand that family vacations are not considered a valid reason for absence. While teachers will allow students to make up missed assignments, tests and quizzes, the loss of classroom participation and instruction is difficult to recoup and may adversely affect a student's performance and grade. Teachers are not required to prepare work in advance for vacation related absences or to re-teach concepts when the student returns from vacation. Parents are encouraged to schedule vacations when school is not in session.

ABSENCES AND HOMEWORK

A student with an illness of brief duration should obtain assignments from another student, refer to the weekly homework log, and/or refer to the teacher's Google Classroom for updated homework listings.

It is the responsibility of the student to make up all assignments missed during the absence within time constraints delineated by the teacher. Usually the student will have three days from the day of return to complete assigned work. In the case of a prolonged absence, special arrangements must be made with the teacher.

CHRONIC ABSENTEEISM

School personnel address the issue of chronic non-attendance by referral to the SIT team to determine causes and make recommendations for intervention. Please refer to the Redding Board of Education website for Board of Education Policy #5113 (a), [Attendance, Excuses, Dismissal](#).

TRUANCY

It is the intent of the Board of Education that district personnel work cooperatively with students and parents/legal guardians to remedy any instances of poor attendance or truancy. Only when all local resources are exhausted is referral to legal authorities recommended.

A "truant" means a child under the age of sixteen (16) who has four (4) unexcused absences in one month, or ten (10) unexcused absences in one academic year. A "habitual truant" means any such child who has twenty (20) unexcused absences within a school year. Please refer to the Redding Board of Education website for Board of Education Policy #5113.2 (a), [Truancy](#).

TARDINESS

Time is a resource, and there is a definite correlation between a student's time spent on learning and academic achievement. The following regulations apply in cases of tardiness.

TARDINESS TO SCHOOL

Arrival after the beginning of the first period will be excused only if a late arrival has been previously arranged by a parent/legal guardian by telephone, letter, or personal conference with a school administrator on the preceding school day or, in a medical emergency, on the day of occurrence. A medical emergency requires medical verification.

A note from the parent/legal guardian will not excuse a tardy. Oversleeping, missing the bus, family needs, etc. though unforeseen, are not emergencies and, therefore, are unexcused tardies.

Students are required to be on time for all classes and lunch. Tardiness to classes or lunch will be handled by the teacher in charge. Chronic problems in tardiness will be referred to the school administration and may result in disciplinary action and/or be addressed through the SIT process.

ARRIVAL AND DISMISSAL

Our normal school day at John Read Middle School is from 8:55 AM to 3:40 PM.

Our early dismissal school day is from 8:55 AM to 1:40 PM unless otherwise announced.

EARLY DISMISSAL

In general, early dismissals should be avoided, particularly if they require a student to miss any instructional time. All requests for early dismissal should be made via email to jrmsnotes@er9.org

Parents may have their child submit a signed written request to the school office prior to the start of the school day. Email communication in these instances is preferred. Phone calls may only be accepted in true family emergencies.

Students who are ill and who wish to be picked up early may only be excused through the nurse's office. The school nurse will contact the parent for pickup.

EARLY ARRIVAL

A student may **NOT** be dropped off at JRMS before 8:00 AM unless enrolled in the early morning paid program, is signed up for an early morning program, or has an appointment with a teacher or staff member.

Daily temporary supervision is provided at no charge after 8:00 AM.

Students who walk or ride bikes to or from school are to have written permission signed by a parent. Administration, for safety concerns, strongly discourages walking or bike riding to and from school.

DEPARTURE AT 3:40 PM DISMISSAL TIME

JRMS does not provide supervision for students after school beyond the bus dismissal time, unless students are participating in an official after school activity. Parents should send a note to jrmsnotes@er9.org on those days when their children will be picked up from the 5th grade wing exit ("Walkers Area"), indicating who will be the driver in those instances. Students are to be picked up between 3:37 and 3:45 PM.

PERMANENT WALKER'S PASSES

Permanent Walker's passes can be obtained by sending an email to jrmsnotes@er9.org or by writing a note which will remain on file in the office. This should indicate the specific day/days of child pick up and who the child is being picked up by on the given day(s). Students will be given a pass that must be permanently and visibly displayed on the student's backpack.

DELAYED OPENING/EARLY DISMISSAL/SCHOOL CANCELLATION

Messages will be sent home through the school communication system which may include email, text messaging and voice messaging.

Delayed openings will generally be 2 or 3 hours later than the normal start time. If a student normally gets the bus at 8:30 AM, the bus will come at 10:30 AM on a 2 hour delayed opening day. On delayed openings, afternoon dismissals are at the normal time. Please be considerate of the situation should bad weather develop or be predicted to develop during the course of the school day. Students are encouraged to ride the bus home should inclement weather develop during the school day.

In the event of a delayed opening, all before-school activities are canceled with the exception of the paid morning program. The paid morning program will follow the same time delay.

HOMELESS STUDENTS

Homeless students, as defined by federal and state statutes, residing within the school district shall be entitled to free school privileges. Students residing in a temporary shelter are entitled to free school privileges from the district in which the shelter is located or from the school district where they would otherwise reside if not for the placement in the temporary shelter. The local liaison for homeless children is the Director of Special Services.

Please refer to the Redding Board of Education website for Board of Education Policy #5118.1, [Homeless Students](#).

TRANSPORTATION

Bus transportation is provided for all students by First Student. Refer to page 14 of the student handbook for issues related to student conduct on the bus.

Students who are transported to and from school by a parent/legal guardian or other adult must follow the route for drop-off/pick-up along the side of the school near the cafeteria entrance, **NOT** at the front door or front parking lot. Students should not arrive any earlier than 8:45 AM unless they have a planned before-school activity.

Any complaints regarding bus transportation should first be made to First Student, 475-470-0373. The contact at the Central Office for transportation issues is Deena Robushi, the business operations manager, 203- 261-2513.

CHANGE IN TRANSPORTATION PLANS

Information about bus routes and approximate pick-up times can be accessed by logging into the PowerSchool parent portal and clicking on Transportation. If you need to reach the bus company, please call First Student at 475-470-0373. Parents/guardians may complete an Opt-Out form if your child does not require transportation for morning only, afternoon only or for morning and afternoon. The Opt-Out form is available on the ER9 website or by clicking [Opt-Out Form](#) here.

The Redding Board of Education voted to end the practice of providing transportation to groups after school beginning September 2002. The Board took this action because of the following:

- Safety of all children
- Crowding on the buses
- Length of the routes
- Punctual adherence to bus routes
- Additional administrative responsibilities

In emergency situations, parents may call the office no later than 2:00 PM to inform the school of a change in transportation arrangements. Parents/legal guardians must be prepared to confirm their identity in these instances.

PHONE CALLS/MESSAGES

Students are permitted to use office telephones to contact their parents during their lunch period. **Parents should discuss all appointments and after school arrangements with their children before they leave for school. Please do not text your child during the school day as use of student cell phones is prohibited during school hours.**

The office staff is not able to interrupt classes to relay routine messages to students. Only in the event of an emergency will messages be relayed to students while they are in class.

John Read Middle School does have a voice mail system which can be accessed by calling the school phone number 203-938-2533. The main office is staffed to take calls between 8:00 AM and 5:00 PM, Monday through Friday on days school is in session.

SECTION FIVE – HEALTH AND SAFETY AND RELATED POLICIES

SCHOOL HEALTH

During regular school hours, the Health Office personnel or designee (a school administrator or an assistant school administrator) will be available to render first aid when accidents occur at school and when children become ill after arrival. To reach the JRMS Health Office, dial 203-938-4892 or 203-938-2533. For general information, you may access the Health Office website via the School Resources tab on the JRMS website.

A student who has been sick at home should not return to school until there is **complete** recovery. A student must be **24-hours fever-free and 24-hours free of vomiting or diarrhea *without the use of medications to control these symptoms*** before he/she returns to school. Students who are absent from school may not participate in after school activities.

Guidelines For Keeping A Child Home From School:

Fever > 100 degrees - Must be fever-free for 24 hrs. before returning to school
Nausea and/or vomiting - Must not have vomited within 24 hrs. prior to returning to school
Diarrhea - Must not have had diarrhea within 24 hrs. prior to returning to school
Confirmed Strep Throat, Conjunctivitis ("pink eye") - Until treated for 24 hours.
Mononucleosis – As advised by the physician (usual considerations: fever-free for 24 hours, rested, eating normally and able to sustain at least a half day of academic activity).
Varicella (Chicken Pox) - Children with chickenpox are contagious for 1-2 days before the rash appears and continue to be contagious until all the blisters are crusted over (usually 6-8 days).
Pediculosis (Head Lice) - Up to the discretion of school personnel (school nurse & principal)

Reporting an Absence: Parents/legal guardians must notify the school's voicemail or send an email to jrmsnotes@er9.org of any student absence before the school day begins. The number to call is 203-938-2533. **THE REASON FOR THE ABSENCE MUST BE GIVEN**, as the information is vital in our efforts to assess, monitor and make recommendations for school and community wellness.

Emergency Contact Form: Each student must have an "Emergency Medical Authorization and Demographic Confirmation" form on file in the Health Office. Parents/legal guardians are given information on how to complete this form prior to the start of each school year. If an illness or serious injury occurs, the nurse or nurse designee will first contact the parents/legal guardians and, if unable to reach the parents/legal guardians, will then contact the emergency backup person(s) listed. **Please make sure that this information is kept up-to-date.**

Emergencies

911 will be called in a health or mental health emergency for immediate transportation of a student to the hospital. Public Act 14-176 requires the administration of epinephrine as emergency first aid to students experiencing allergic reactions, even if the student does not have parental authorization or the order of a qualified medical professional. In the absence of the school nurse, the administration of epinephrine may be done by a qualified school personnel who has completed required training. Please notify the school nurse in writing annually if you do not wish your child to receive epinephrine as emergency first aid by qualified school personnel in the absence of a school nurse.

Leaving School Because of Illness or Injury

The school nurse or nurse designee will ask a parent/legal guardian to pick up any student who becomes ill or injured during school hours who, in their judgment, needs to be observed at home or assessed by a medical doctor. **If a parent/legal guardian is contacted by their child directly via cell phone because of illness or injury, they should instruct their child to go to the Health Office.** Parents/legal guardians are encouraged to discuss the reason for the child leaving school with the school nurse or nurse designee prior to signing their child out of school.

Coming Back to School After an Injury

All students attending school with a cast, sling, splint, immobilizer, or on crutches must:

1. Report to the nurse upon arriving at school.
2. Present written orders from a physician specifying injury, any restricted activity, the duration of restriction and if a wheelchair or elevator is needed while in school.

Appropriate Use of the Health Office

Parents are encouraged to remind students that frequent and/or inappropriate use of the health office will be communicated to the parent, team leader, and administrative staff by the school nurse.

Medications: As mandated by Connecticut General Statutes, Section 10-212a, medications (both prescribed and over-the-counter) may only be administered by the school nurse or designated/trained staff member. An *Authorization for Administration of Medication by School Personnel* form must be on file and completed by an authorized practitioner (physician, dentist, advanced practice RN, physician's assistant, optometrist, and for athletic events only, a podiatrist) for both prescribed and over-the-counter medications. The form is available in the Health Office and on the JRMS website. Medications are kept in the Health Office and must be brought to school by the parent/legal guardian/other responsible adult and must be delivered directly to the school nurse or nurse designee. No student may carry or have any medication, including over-the-counter medications, in their locker without the permission of the school nurse. In the event that a student requires self-administration of medication, parents/legal guardians should consult the school nurse. A parent or responsible adult must pick up medication left at school within 3 days after the last day of school or it will be disposed of by the school nurse.

Health Assessment Requirements

In accordance with Connecticut General Statutes, Section 10-206, the Board of Education requires each sixth-grade student to have a health assessment **during the sixth-grade year**. This mandated health assessment must be performed between June 30th immediately following the fifth-grade year and June 30th immediately following the sixth-grade year. It must be performed by a legally qualified practitioner of medicine (MD or DO) who is licensed in CT or another state, or by an advanced practice registered nurse or physician assistant licensed to practice in CT. **Completion of the signed health assessment is required for entry into seventh grade.** The health assessment must be documented on the State Department of Education's required Health Assessment Record (HAR-3) or "blue form," and must include, but is not limited to, all the items designated by an asterisk. The form is available in the Health Office and on the JRMS website.

If a mandated immunization is contraindicated for medical reasons, the "CT Department of Public Health Medical Exemption Certification Statement" form and a written statement from the health care provider, including the reason for deferment, must be submitted to the school nurse by June 30th immediately following the sixth-grade year. The form is available in the Health Office and on the JRMS website.

Screenings

School nurses provide screenings for middle school students, as required by CT General Statutes, Section 10-214 if not already screened by a legally qualified practitioner of medicine within a year of the school screening.

Vision and Hearing: Students in Grade 5. *Posture:* Female students in Grades 5 and 7, and male students in Grade 8.

The parents/legal guardians of students who need further evaluation by a physician will be notified. Parents/legal guardians should return the referral form to the school nurse after it has been completed by a physician.

Parents/legal guardians may notify the school nurse if they do not wish their child to participate in these screenings.

Communicating with the School Nurse Concerning a Student's Health

Parents/legal guardians must notify the school nurse if their child has a health condition that may require individualized planning for safety, emergency care, health care services, or evacuation. The school nurse should be notified of changes in a student's health status and of illness, injury, hospitalization or a change in treatment or medication. A physician's note is required to excuse a student from gym for more than three days. A physician's note is also required to resume participation after an injury when gym has been excused by a physician. Parents/legal guardians should also notify the school nurse immediately if they anticipate that their child may be absent from school for medical reasons for more than three days. The school nurse will obtain the necessary medical information and initiate the process for school/team decision-making and planning, as indicated.

Students with Special Health Care Needs

Redding Public Schools are committed to ensuring that students who have special health care needs due to chronic and acute health conditions receive the support and services necessary to remain safe and, to the extent possible, maintain their baseline health status during school. "Students with special health care needs" refers to those students who have a medically diagnosed chronic health condition such as asthma, diabetes, life-threatening food allergy, cardiac abnormality, juvenile arthritis, celiac disease, migraine headache, seizures, or a significant acute illness or injury requiring treatment and a period of recovery, such as concussion, mononucleosis, Lyme disease, or fractured arm or leg. For students with such conditions, the school team collaborates with the family and student's health care provider to identify school-based needs and develop an appropriate plan of care to meet those needs. For students at high risk for a health or safety emergency in school, an Emergency Health Care Plan ("EHCP") is developed. Parents/legal guardians who have a child with special health care needs are encouraged to speak with the school nurse regarding the appropriateness and process for developing an EHCP. These plans may be incorporated into a student's individualized special education program (IEP) or Section 504 plan if eligible.

STUDENT WELLNESS:

The Easton, Redding and Region 9 School Districts strive to make a significant contribution to the general well-being and the education of each student. It is the conviction of the boards of education that good health optimizes student performance and leads to richer lives. The ER9 School Districts, therefore, support the maintenance of an environment where students learn healthy habits, participate in regular physical activity, and receive proper nutrition as part of their total educational experience. Federal and state standards will be met pertaining to all foods and beverages available for sale to students. A sequential program of physical education is provided. Please refer to the Redding Board of Education website for Board of Education Policy #6142.101, [School Nutrition and Physical Activity \(Student Wellness\)](#).

Food Practices in the Classroom and School Environment

The Easton and Redding Wellness Policy states that teachers and parents should be encouraged to limit the frequency of celebrations that include high-sugar, low-nutrient food items. The promotion of non-food alternatives is strongly encouraged.

In addition, our districts have adopted measures to limit exposure of allergens to students with life-threatening allergies:

- All classrooms are designated as peanut and tree nut free areas.
- In the cafeteria, tables are cleaned before and after each lunch period with a product known to effectively remove food proteins.
- Teachers and staff promote hand-washing practices before and after meals.
- Students are encouraged to engage in safe practice in the cafeteria, which includes refraining from sharing or swapping meals and snacks.
- Students are prohibited from eating on the bus.
- Non-food alternatives and provisions for allergy-free foods are encouraged for school celebrations, such as curriculum based activities, school parties, holiday events, and birthdays.
- Foods made at home or purchased and brought into school to be shared with students must be accompanied by the original packaging so that ingredients can be checked.

SAFETY DRILLS:

The school conducts fire and other safety drills ten times per year, in compliance with state requirements. Students and staff are familiarized with expected protocols such as exiting the building quickly and quietly and all are expected to comply. Our school safety building team regularly assesses drill protocols and makes adjustments as necessary to ensure the health and safety of everyone here at JRMS.

ASBESTOS MANAGEMENT PLAN

Formal asbestos management programs have been in place at Regional School District No. 9 and the Public Schools of Easton and Redding since 1987. The purpose of these programs is to identify any Asbestos-Containing Material (ACM) that may be in our schools and to take steps to make sure this material does not present an exposure hazard to the students, faculty, or staff.

The asbestos management program is implemented through asbestos management plans. Separate plans have been developed for each of the following facilities:

Joel Barlow High School
Helen Keller Middle School
Samuel Staples Elementary School
John Read Middle School
Redding Elementary School

These management plans identify the locations of the ACM in our schools and detail our ongoing management program. The management plans also include descriptions of previous asbestos inspections and plans for repair or removal of damaged asbestos-containing materials.

Under our asbestos management program, the ACM listed in the management plans is inspected every six months to assure early detection of problem areas. Furthermore, each building is completely re-inspected once every three years by a Connecticut licensed asbestos inspector to make sure that ACM is properly identified and that the asbestos management plans are up to date.

An asbestos management plan is maintained in each school office. Additionally, a complete set of management plans is maintained in the Superintendent's office at 654 Morehouse Road, Easton, Connecticut. These plans are available for review during normal business hours.

Regional School District No. 9 and the Public Schools of Easton and Redding have designated the Director of Finance and Operations as the person responsible for ensuring that the requirements of our asbestos management program are properly implemented. Mr. Reiss can be contacted through the Superintendent's office at 203-261-2513.

INTEGRATED PEST MANAGEMENT

The Easton, Redding and Region No. 9 Boards of Education have adopted an integrated pest management (IPM) policy for pest control within the school buildings and on the grounds. IPM utilizes all available pest control methods such as sanitation, structural maintenance and exclusion, maintaining proper soil pH, fertility and moisture, trapping and/or biological controls along with the judicious use of pesticides, when warranted, to maintain pest populations at or below an acceptable level while decreasing the unnecessary use of pesticides. The primary goal of IPM is to reduce the amounts of pesticides applied by alternate methods of pest control. Pesticides may be applied if a pest population has been identified through periodic monitoring, and alternative methods of control have not been effective. The least toxic pesticide would be used first.

Pesticide applications will not be performed within any building or on the grounds of the school during regular school hours or during planned activities unless an emergency application is necessary to eliminate an immediate threat to human health. When this occurs, all children and staff will be removed from the area and not allowed to return until it is safe to do so according to the pesticide label.

In accordance with state statute, parents, guardians and staff may request notification prior to any pesticide application at the school. If you would like to be notified, please send a letter to the school office requesting to be notified. Please include your email address, if you have one, as we are planning to use email as one way of notifying interested people.

Registrants will be notified of pesticide applications on or before the date of application. Notification will include (1) the name of the active ingredient of the pesticide being applied, (2) the location of the application on school property, (3) the date of the application, and (4) the name of the school administrator or a designee who may be contacted for further information. Registrants will be notified of any emergency pesticide applications that are made to eliminate an immediate threat to human health.

Notice will be sent to any person who registers to be notified if there is any revision or modification to the integrated pest management (IPM) plan. A copy of the record of each pesticide application at the school shall be maintained for a period of 5 years.

RADON TESTING IN CT SCHOOLS

Per CT General Statute 10-220(d), all schools shall be evaluated for radon levels in air and water prior to January 1, 2008 and every five years thereafter. All schools in the Easton, Redding and Region 9 school districts were evaluated for radon in December 2007, November 2012, and November 2017. The next evaluation will be in November 2022. Parents, guardians, and staff will be notified.

GREEN CLEANING PROGRAM IN SCHOOLS (CT PUBLIC ACT 09-81)

The State of Connecticut is requiring that each local and regional Board of Education implement a green cleaning program for all school buildings and facilities in its district. The Easton, Redding and Region 9 Boards of Education are committed to the implementation of this law by providing the staff, and upon request, the parents and guardians of each child enrolled in each school with a written statement of the school district's green cleaning program as well as making it available on its website annually. The statement will also be distributed to new staff hired during the school year, and, upon request, to parents or guardians of students transferring in during the school year.

1. Green cleaning program means the procurement and proper use of environmentally preferable cleaning products as defined by the Department of Administrative Services (DAS) for all state owned buildings, schools and facilities. DAS currently requires that environmentally preferable cleaning products be independently certified by one of two third party certified organizations: ***Green Seal or Eco Logo.***
2. By July 1, 2011 and thereafter no person shall use a cleaning product in a public school unless it meets the DAS standard.
3. The types of cleaning products covered in this legislation include: general purpose, bathroom, and glass cleaners, floor strippers and finishes, hand cleaners and soaps.
4. Disinfectants, disinfectant cleaners, sanitizers or antimicrobial products regulated by the federal insecticide, fungicide and rodenticide act are not covered by this law.

NO PARENT, GUARDIAN, TEACHER OR STAFF MEMBER MAY BRING INTO THE SCHOOL FACILITY ANY CONSUMER PRODUCT WHICH IS INTENDED TO CLEAN, DEODORIZE, SANITIZE OR DISINFECT.

The implementation of this program requires the support and cooperation of everyone, including administrators, faculty, staff, parents, guardians, and facilities staff.

PSYCHOTROPIC DRUG USE

School personnel are prohibited from recommending the use of psychotropic drugs for any student enrolled within the school system. School nurses, nurse practitioners, district medical advisors, school psychologists, school social workers, and school counselors may recommend that a student be evaluated by an appropriate medical practitioner.

CHILD ABUSE

All professional school staff, including but not limited to paraprofessionals, are obligated by law to report suspected child abuse, neglect, and/or if a child is placed in imminent danger of serious harm to the Connecticut State Department of Children and Families Services. Specific procedures governing the reporting of abuse and neglect are in effect, and staff receive yearly training in their use. Child abuse is defined as any physical injury inflicted by other than accidental means or injuries which are not in keeping with the explanation given for their cause. Improper treatment such as malnutrition, sexual abuse, sexual exploitation, deprivation of necessities, emotional abuse, cruel punishment, or neglect is also considered child abuse/neglect.

Please refer to the Redding Board of Education website for Board of Education Policy #5141.4(a), [Reporting of Child Abuse/Neglect](#).

SUICIDE

The Board of Education recognizes that suicide is among the three leading causes of death among young people and, consequently, is a concern to this school system and the community it serves. This district wishes to take a proactive stance in preventing the problem of youth suicide. It is the Board's policy to actively respond in any situation where a student verbally or behaviorally indicates an intent to attempt suicide or to do physical harm to himself/herself.

Please refer to the Redding Board of Education website for Board of Education Policy #5141.5, [Suicide Prevention](#).

SECTION SIX – COMMUNICATION AND RELATED POLICIES

BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETINGS

The Board of Education meets the first Tuesday of each month at 7:30 PM in the Community Room at John Read Middle School. Parents, students, and other community members are encouraged to attend. Meeting dates are posted by the PTA and on the ER9 website.

SPECIFIC COMMUNICATION CHANNELS

To promote student success and help our students develop socially and emotionally, it is important for students, teachers, and parents/legal guardians to communicate throughout the school year. Both formal and informal means of communication are encouraged at John Read Middle School.

- **Open House** - This evening program, which usually occurs early in the school year, is designed to familiarize parents with curricular goals at each grade level and expectations for student performance.
- **Parent-Team Conferences** – These scheduled conferences occur in the fall.
- **PTA Peek at the Week** – This bi-weekly publication will highlight specific team and school events, interdisciplinary projects, student and teacher accomplishments, and important school news. The *Peek at the Week* can be found on the JRMS website and it is sent by Listserv.
- **Progress Reports and Report Cards** - These are available via the PowerSchool Parent Portal, which can be accessed in the Quick Links on the [JRMS website](#), quarterly.
- **Personal Contact by phone or email** - Teachers will initiate personal communications via the telephone or email when they are concerned about any aspect of a student's performance. A parent/legal guardian, teacher, student conference or team-parent/legal guardian and/or student conference may be arranged when warranted.
- **JRMS Home Page** – (<http://www.johnreadps.org>) Our website contains up-to-date information about our school as well as the JRMS Handbook and Related Policies.
- **PTA** – The PTA is an active group of parents who volunteer their time and talents to enhance the student's educational experiences at John Read Middle School through a variety of cultural events. Please contact the PTA president(s) for more information.
- **Principal ListServ** - Periodic messages from the principal sent to all families via ListServ email.

SURVEY OF STUDENTS

No student may take part in a survey, analysis, or evaluation that reveals specific personal or family information without parental consent. Please refer to the Redding Board of Education website for Board of Education Policy #6162.51, [Survey of Students \(Student Privacy\)](#).

STUDENT/PARENT/LEGAL GUARDIAN COMMUNICATION WITH FACULTY

Students are encouraged to advocate for themselves and communicate with their teachers and parents/legal guardians, and in doing so will:

- Discuss school successes and challenges with parents/legal guardians openly and honestly.
- Request assistance in a subject area, when needed, directly from the teacher. When you encounter social difficulties, seek assistance from the guidance counselor.
- Keep scheduled appointments with the teacher/school counselor.
- Request a conference with the teacher to discuss academic progress.

Parents/legal guardians are encouraged to communicate with their children, their children's teachers, and school officials, and in doing so will:

- Discuss feelings about school and progress in school with your child on a regular basis.
- Support and encourage your child to learn to the best of his/her ability.
- Promote the development of personal responsibility by setting clear expectations for homework completion and school behavior.
- Support the rules of the school and expectations for student performance and behavior set by teachers.
- Sign all letters, progress reports, and other communications requiring your signature and have your child return them to school within the allotted time.
- Attend school-sponsored meetings, support the PTA, get involved in creating positive change for our school.
- If concerns arise, discuss them directly with your child's teacher(s) or the guidance counselor.
- In communicating with your child or his/her teachers, model a positive attitude about school, one that reflects a home and a school working together to benefit our students.
- Communicate with the principal if issues are not satisfactorily resolved after communication with teachers or the school counselor.

VISITORS

A "visitor" to JRMS is anyone who is not an officially registered student or employee at JRMS. Visitors will report to the main office upon entry; a driver's license is required for our security system. Visitors will then be issued a visitor's badge to be worn for the duration of time in the building. This will be turned back into the office at the end of the visit.

- Visitors are not permitted in the classroom at any time of day except by permission of the classroom teacher and the building administrator.
- Students are not permitted to bring guests to school. Graduates of JRMS who wish to visit former teachers may do so only after 3:40 PM dismissal.
- Unauthorized visitors may face a misdemeanor charge of trespassing.