

# ***WELCOME TO ANSONIA MIDDLE SCHOOL***

-----Expect Excellence-----  
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## **Ansonia Public Schools Mission Statement**

The Ansonia Public School District is committed to providing high quality educational opportunities for all students. In partnership with families and the community, we strive to ensure that students are ready to succeed in an ever-changing world.

### ***SCHOOL SPIRIT***

School spirit is having pride in your school and self. It is also an internal and external enthusiasm and good feeling about developing friendships and positive mature attitudes, striving for academic excellence and participating in school community activities.

School spirit may be divided into three categories.

1. ***Courtesy*** - the act of being polite and showing respect towards teachers, fellow students, neighbors and all other members of the community.
2. ***Pride*** - the state of being proud and having self-respect for everything our school endeavors to accomplish.
3. ***Sportmanship*** - the ability to win and lose gracefully.

### ***STUDENT RESPONSIBILITIES***

1. To conduct oneself at all times in a manner that does not infringe on the rights of others, respect school personnel and fellow classmates.
2. To be knowledgeable of the rules and regulations of Ansonia Middle School as set

forth in the Ansonia Middle School Student Handbook.

3. To actively fulfill the academic responsibilities of all classes to which the student has been assigned.
4. To show proper respect for all school property and to assume responsibility for damage to or loss of school property.

### ***SCHOOL ORGANIZATION - MIDDLE SCHOOL TEAMS***

All students are assigned to teams. In keeping with the middle school philosophy of teaming and flexible grouping, your child's academic schedule and homeroom assignment will be determined by his/her team. You will be notified by the team if any changes do occur. The main purpose of a team is to provide the opportunity to get to know the students better and for teachers to work cooperatively with the other teachers on the team, to plan special activities, integrate curriculum, coordinate homework assignments, schedule major tests, develop consistent rules and policies and, most of all, discuss ways to help students achieve success.

Students benefit directly from this type of organization by being in a smaller group within a grade. In the team, students have the opportunity to cultivate close friendships as they attend classes together. In special school activities, sports and at lunch, students from all teams come together.

The teachers on each team are interested in building team spirit. Events such as contests and competitions, field trips and special programs combine to help students feel part of their own grade.

A student's successful experience as a member of a team is related to the effort they put into helping their fellow students and supporting the efforts of their teachers. Each team is built on mutual respect. Students are expected to observe school rules, treat staff and other

students with respect, and most of all, work to the best of their ability and be proud of their achievement.

### ***TEAM GUIDELINES***

Team members will develop sets of rules and regulations that will apply to their students. These rules and regulations will be consistent with the ***Ansonia Middle School Handbook and Board of Education Policy***. The Team Rules will be reviewed and given to each student in September.

### ***AGENDA***

The “Agenda” can be a valuable asset to students as well as parents. All students are required to use it to write daily assignments which will help keep them organized and prepared! A key ingredient to promoting academic success for a student is parent involvement in the student’s educational program. We strongly encourage all parents to continually check the assignment pages in this notebook. If an agenda is lost, a replacement will be issued for a cost of \$5.00.

### ***ATTENDANCE***

Regular school attendance is directly related to school success. Even though teachers do provide makeup work for students who miss school through illness, valuable in-class learning experiences are lost. Student attendance is a permanent part of a school record. Good attendance is essential.

If it is necessary for your child to miss school because of illness please contact the secretary (736-5070) before 8:00 a.m. each day of the absence. When calling to report an absence, please request daily work.

Upon the student’s return to school a written note indicating the reason(s) for the absence and the date(s) signed by a parent must be given to the homeroom teacher. If your child is sent home from school, for any reason, this same procedure must be followed.

If you need to take your child out of the building during a school day, call or send a note so that

we may record the information. We will release a student to no one without parent permission.

***If there are any limitations related to child custody, documentation must be provided to the principal.***

Parental cooperation is especially needed in the critical area of attendance. We strongly urge parents to help their children develop life-long habits of dependability and responsibility by regular school attendance.

A student with more than 8 *absences* during a marking period could possibly fail all subjects. A student with more than 20 *absences* during a school year could possibly be retained. Excessive absences and academic eligibility for promotion will be reviewed and determined by the administration.

### ***TARDINESS***

A little late is too late. Students arriving at school after 8:00 a.m. will be marked tardy. Excessive tardiness may result in a detention or an in-school suspension. Six days of tardiness in a marking period is considered excessive. Four unexcused tardies will be equivalent of 1 day absent. If you arrive late to school, you must report to the office for an admittance pass. Students must report to their homeroom teacher prior to going to class. **A parent must sign in students who arrive to school after 8:30.**

If you are detained in the office, or by a teacher, ask for a slip from the person who detained you before going to your next class.

### ***CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT***

Teachers, principals, paraprofessionals and professional school staff are obligated by law, as mandated reporters (C,G,S, 17a-101), to report suspected child abuse or neglect to the Department of Children and Families, Specific procedures governing the reporting of abuse and neglect are in effect, and school personnel receive regular training in their use. Reporting of suspected school abuse and

neglect is a responsibility which is taken seriously. School authorities will work closely with parents and appropriate social services agencies in all cases.

### ***COUNSELORS***

School counselors are available to help students better understand themselves, their abilities, talents and career options in order to make mature, responsible decisions affecting their lives of others. Students may see their counselor by making an appointment before or after class or immediately with teacher permission in an emergency. Counselors may offer focus groups in response to student needs, for example: divorce groups, peer acceptance groups, and study skills programs. Parents are encouraged to contact their child's counselor with any concerns they might have.

### ***SCHOOL VISITORS***

All visitors must report to the office where they will be issued a special visitor's pass. Parent/Guardians are invited to visit our school. Please contact the school office to make an appointment. Student visitors from other schools are generally not permitted.

### ***CLOSING AND LATE OPENINGS***

Severe weather conditions may cause the cancellation of school or a delayed opening. Please know that every attempt will be made to keep school open, yet safety precautions must also be a high priority. Closings or delays are announced on these television and radio stations; WVIT Channel 30 News Snow Alert, WTNH Channel 8, WFSB Channel 3, WICC AM radio station, 99.9 FM, and KC101 FM. If a delay of school opening is announced, it is important to continue listening to the media for a possible later change to a cancellation. If a storm develops during the school day, early dismissal

will be a last resort. Parents should again listen to the media about this possible early dismissal. Please discuss clearly with your middle school youngster a plan of what to do in case of any early dismissal.

### ***MEDIA CENTER***

Students are encouraged to use the Media Center for reference work. There are special rules for reference books, magazines and reserved books. The Media Specialist is available to assist those who need help. The school Media Center is a pleasant place in which to read, study, and use the computers for research. It is open daily.

### ***SCHOOL SUPPLIES***

Students are responsible for bringing the proper supplies and materials to each class daily. Students must provide their own pens, pencils, paper, and notebooks for use in each course. In some instances, students will be loaned school supplies (e.g. graphing calculator; software), which require special attention and responsibility. Any damaged or lost items will require financial reimbursement.

### ***TEXBOOKS, EDUCATIONAL EQUIPMENT AND LIBRARY MATERIALS***

Students are responsible for proper care of books and materials issued to them. Each teacher will record the identifying number of each text before issuing one to the student. Students must return all texts and educational materials in good condition. Students will be required to pay for the replacement of any damaged or lost textbooks, equipment, or materials. In accordance with state law, the school reserves the right to withhold grades, transcripts, or report cards until the student pays for or returns the textbooks, library books, or other educational materials.

### ***INTERNET USE***

Students will have access to the Internet and other electronic resources at various sites in the

middle school, including the library media center. Such resources are to be used for legitimate educational purposes, under supervision of school personnel. Students must complete an *Acceptable Use Form*, have a parent sign this form, and return the form to the homeroom teacher. Mis-use of available technology will be treated as a serious disciplinary issue.

### ***HEALTH SERVICES***

Students who become ill during the school day should request a pass from their teacher to see the nurse. If there is a necessity to go home, the nurse will inform the parent, and the student will be released from school upon parent confirmation. Students may not use cell phones to call parents. They must go the nurse and be released by her. The office and homeroom teacher must be notified of all student dismissals.

Medication of any kind (including Tylenol, aspirin, ointment, over the counter remedies, etc.) must not be carried by students. *Over-the-counter medication and controlled medication will not be administered without a signed physician's form returned to the nurse.* For a more defined explanation of administration of medication, please see the district policy on distribution of medication.

### ***CHANGE OF ADDRESS OR TELEPHONE***

Immediately inform the teacher and office if you change your address or telephone number. Our emergency records must be kept update so that we can notify you in case of emergency.

### ***LOST AND FOUND***

Students who find lost articles are asked to take them to the lost and found department in the main office.

### ***HALL PASSES***

Students must have a pass to be out of their classrooms during instructional time.

### ***TELEPHONE PASS***

Students may use the office phone for emergencies only. NO cell phones may be used in the building.

### ***BUS TRANSPORTATION***

Bus transportation is a privilege. Students who come to school on the bus should return home on the same bus. Improper conduct on the buses can result in a bus suspension. Parents will then be responsible for the transportation of their child to and from school. Walkers are not permitted to use buses. In an emergency situation, a student may be allowed to change buses provided they have a note from their parent and approval from the school.

### ***HOMEWORK***

The type of homework and the amount of time necessary to complete a homework assignment will vary. Homework is an integral part of the education program at the Ansonia Middle School. Failure to complete assignments may result in lower grades. *(Please refer to the Ansonia 's District policy on Homework).*

### ***SPORTS***

In order to participate in any middle school sports activities, a student must be in good academic standing. The marking period immediately prior to and/or the current marking period will be used to determine eligibility for a students' participation in a particular sport. A team member who is suspended will not participate in practice and/or game for the duration of the suspension.

### ***FIELD TRIPS***

Field trips are designed for educational , cultural or extracurricular purposes. Field trips can enhance and enrich classroom instruction and learning. Students earn the privilege of participating in these activities by displaying proper behavior in school. Any student whose behavior has been unsatisfactory may be barred from field trips by the team and/or the administration. While on the field trip, all students are considered to be "in" school. All

school rules and any rules particular to the field trip, are in effect. Standards for student behavior and dress code will be enforced throughout the field trip. Unacceptable behavior will result in strict disciplinary consequences. Parents will be informed about scheduled field trips and must return a signed permission form prior to the trip. The school nurse will provide the staff with any necessary medical information and guidelines about students.

***DANCES***

Dances are scheduled periodically during the year. Dances are for students attending Ansonia Middle School only. There is an admission charge for each dance. This money goes to various school clubs and organizations and pays for the dance expenses. Students who violate classroom and school rules, can be denied the privilege of attending a school dance and other activities. Any student absent from school on the day of the dance will not be allowed to attend. Parents/Guardians are responsible for prompt pick-up.

***REPORT CARDS***

Report cards will be issued four times a year and are hand carried home by the student. Parents are expected to sign the report card and return it to the school. Students who do not return their report cards signed, will not be given their next report cards until a parent calls the school and speaks with a school counselor, teacher, or administrator.

***GRADES***

A+ 97-100	A 93-96	A- 90-92
B+ 87-89	B 83-86	B- 80-82
C+ 77-79	C 73-76	C- 70-72
D+ 67-69	D 63-66	D- 60-62
F 0-59		
I - IMCOMPLETE		
T - Trying but not meeting standards		

P/F- Pass/Fail

***HONOR ROLL GUIDELINES***

Honor Roll status in grades six to eight encourages students to respect academic achievement. The following are honor roll guidelines:

1. First Honors
  - a. All marks of "A" in all subjects.
  - b. Marks with a minus after them in any area are still acceptable for the honor roll.
2. Second Honors
  - a. All marks of "B" or better in all subjects.
  - b. Marks with a minus after them in any area are still acceptable for the honor roll.

***PARENT CONFERENCES***

Parents are welcomed as partners in their child's educational successes. Formal conferences with parents are scheduled at the conclusion of the first marking period in November. In addition, parents may request conferences as needed by contacting the teachers or the school office.

***PHYSICAL EDUCATION ATTIRE***

Students are expected to bring a change of clothing, (shorts, tee-shirt without logos, sweat pants and/or shirt without logos, sneakers/gym shoes) on physical education days.

***PERSONAL APPEARANCE***

All students are expected to be neat and well-groomed. Thus, any attire or grooming habits that may be offensive and/or disruptive to the educational process must be avoided. If a student is stopped or sent to the office by a professional staff member about his/her appearance, the student will be required to take corrective measures. This may entail the student

having to put on appropriate clothing, calling a parent for a change of clothing, or being sent home.

Additionally, there are certain classes - gym, science etc. - whose programs demand that a certain type of apparel be worn. The dress regulations and the consequences of not complying in those classes will be determined and handled by the classroom teacher. Finally, backpacks and big duffle bags are prohibited throughout the day as part of our safe school program.

### ***REQUIRED ATTIRE***

The Ansonia Board of Education recognizes the need to maintain order and decorum in the educational environment and to provide an atmosphere conducive to learning. The conduct and dress of students which is acceptable and proper after school hours (recreation and home) may not be acceptable and proper for the school environment. Therefore, a dress code has been required by the Ansonia Board of Education and is required for all students at the Ansonia Middle School. A copy of the Ansonia Board of Education's dress code policy # 5132.1 is available upon request.

### **RELIGIOUS AND HEALTH ACCOMMODATIONS:**

Where the bona fide religious beliefs or the health need of a student conflicts with the school required attire policy, the school will provide reasonable accommodations. Any student desiring accommodation shall notify the school principal in writing including the factual basis for the request. Approved coverings worn as part of a student's bona fide religious practices or beliefs or health need shall not be prohibited under this policy.

### **ACCOMMODATION OF FREE EXPRESSION:**

An approved item containing an expressive message is permitted (i.e., a button supporting a

political candidate may be worn.) However, expressive items are prohibited if, in the reasonable judgment of school officials, they may tend to disrupt or interfere with educational interests, (i.e., racist message, sexist messages, gang insignia, messages promoting drug or alcohol abuse, and profane or pornographic messages or illustrations.)

### **CLOTHING ASSISTANCE:**

It is the policy of the Board of Education that no student will be denied an education due to bona fide financial inability to obtain clothing that complies with the Required Attire Policy. Any student for whom compliance with the school attire policy poses a financial burden, may submit a written request for clothing assistance to the school principal specifying the clothing needed together with a statement of financial need.

### **COMPLIANCE:**

Students are required to abide by the required attire. School administrators and teachers are encouraged to use positive reinforcement to obtain compliance with school attire requirements. School personnel, including substitutes, should also serve as role models for proper attire in the educational setting.

### **ADMINISTRATIVE REVIEW:**

Any student who believes that the school has not reasonably accommodated his or her bona fide religious, health, or financial needs or right of free expression, may submit a written statement of such to the Ansonia Board of Education. The Board, or its designee, will review the matter and respond in writing to the student's concerns.

**Administration may permit exemptions from required attire on designated days.**

### ***STANDARDS OF BEHAVIOR***

The Ansonia Board of Education has specific policies regarding student removal/suspension and expulsion. The Ansonia Middle School rules conform to those board policies.

The following are not permitted at the *Ansonia Middle School*:

1. Disrupting a class / inappropriate behavior / obscenities
2. Sexual harassment / bullying
3. Inappropriate clothing (see dress code.)
4. "White Out".
5. Beepers, pagers, cell phones ( in classes), electronic games, cameras, cassettes, tape recorders, boxes, toys, etc. unless authorized by a teacher. Anything confiscated will be returned at the end of the day. On the second offense, it will be returned to a parent only. On the third offense, it item may be kept until the end of the school year.
6. Disrespect and open defiance of team and school rules.
7. Gum.
8. Students leaving the building without proper authorization.
9. Theft.
10. Threatening or intimidating acts.
11. Inappropriate behavior on school bus.
12. Tobacco / Alcohol / Controlled substances / counterfeit substances (*use of or possession of*)
  - A student who deliberately damages any school property (**vandalism**) may be suspended from school. The student and his/her parent or guardian will be required to make full restitution for the act of vandalism. The student could also be referred to Juvenile Officer for further action.
  - Any student caught **starting a fire** or pulling a **false alarm** must have his/her name turned over to the police department. The result could be a conviction and a fine that the

student's parents or guardian would be responsible for paying.

### ***IN-SCHOOL SUSPENSION***

- Students can receive in-school suspension from the administration, for violating school rules. The supervisor will work with the students on any assignments. Students assigned in-school suspension cannot participate in school activities .

### ***SUSPENSION FROM THE ANSONIA MIDDLE SCHOOL***

The following infractions are not permitted at the Ansonia Middle School, and may result in a minimum of one day suspension/parent notification/possible expulsion and/or possible police notification.

1. Fighting, threatening, unnecessary physical contact, out of control and/or inappropriate behavior, etc.
2. Use of obscene, profane and /or inappropriate language.
3. Dangerous weapons / Drugs / Alcohol.
4. Physical attack on staff member

### ***SEARCH OF STUDENT PROPERTY***

Designated school personnel may search a student's locker and bag and may require that a student empty his/her pockets if they have a reasonable suspicion to believe that the student is in violation of school rules or the law by possessing objects or chemicals which may endanger the health, safety and welfare of himself/herself and/or others. Such searches shall be made in the presence of at least one witness, and those conducting the search shall make a written report dated and signed, of the contents of any property that is searched.

### ***LOCKERS***

Each student is assigned a locker for his/her use only. For security purposes, a master system of locks and keys for lockers is maintained. .

Replacement of a lost key or lock must be made at the student's expense and must be obtained from supplies located at A.M.S. The replacement cost for a lock is \$5.00.

A SECURITY SYSTEM IS ONLY AS EFFECTIVE AS THE PERSONS RESPONSIBLE FOR IT. STUDENTS **MUST** LOCK THEIR LOCKERS AND ARE ENCOURAGED TO USE THEIR OWN LOCKERS ONLY.

**THE SCHOOL RESERVES THE RIGHT TO INSPECT STUDENTS' LOCKERS AT ANY TIME.**

**The school is not responsible for lost or stolen items.**

### ***SCHOOL DISCIPLINE***

School personnel will make every effort possible to treat discipline problems and will involve parents and other people in order to find a solution. Teacher responses will include the following steps:

1. Making students aware of the responsibility and policies which they must observe while in the school or in classrooms.
2. Teacher detention(s) or other attempts at behavioral modification.
3. Meeting with student to discuss behavior and expectation with student.
4. Contacting parents.
5. Referring student to guidance, if necessary, so that a conference can be arranged to gain support and an understanding of problems that may cause inappropriate behavior.
6. Referral to administration with documentation of above intervening steps outlined.
7. Inappropriate behavior, excessive and

repetitive disciplinary interventions such as detentions, classroom removals and/or suspensions can result in loss of privilege to participate in school sponsored activities.

NOTE: *BEHAVIOR SO INAPPROPRIATE THAT IT MAY CAUSE HARM TO THE STUDENT OR OTHERS SHOULD BE REPORTED TO AN ADMINISTRATOR IMMEDIATELY.*

Administrative responses include:

1. In-school suspension
  - referrals after teacher intervention
  - excessive tardiness
  - wandering the halls without a pass
  - forging or tampering with any kind of pass
2. Out of school suspensions
3. Parental conference

### ***Community /School Service***

On occasion, students who disregard school rules will be assigned to our school community service. They will be given tasks to improve the physical appearance of the school and school grounds.

### ***RESPONSIBILITY OF THE ADMINISTRATION***

Irrespective of the preceding guidelines, the Administration of the Ansonia Middle School will examine all disciplinary matters on an individual basis.

*We are extremely proud to report that our faculty is comprised of experienced professionals with an average of 20 years of teaching and of newly training teachers who*

possess enthusiasm and expertise in their content areas. More than 95% of our staff have earned their master degree or beyond, Many have trained for the BEST (Beginning Educator Support & Training) Programs as Mentors, Assessors and Cooperating Teachers. A number of our staff have also participated in the PIMMS Scholar program and others have been nominated and selected as Teacher Of The Year.

Music Club  
Book Fair  
Art Club  
Field Day  
Multicultural Club  
Student of the Month  
Honor Roll/Recognition Ceremony  
Academic Enrichment & Other Activities  
PTSO  
A.M.S. Summer School

**Academic Subjects /Services**

Language Arts  
Math  
(Reading, spelling, literature, writing)  
Algebra  
Science  
Social Studies  
(Earth, Physical, Life, Health)  
Ancient History  
American History  
World History  
Physical Education  
Art  
Music  
Life Skills  
Project Explore  
Special Education  
Counseling  
ESL  
Consumer/Business Economics

Our staff is committed to providing your child with the best educational experience possible. We are also cognizant of the fact that educational, physical, moral and ethical development cannot take place without a parent/teacher relationship. We strongly urge each parent to take an active role in their child's education. We also invite you to call if you have any concerns, visit, to see us in action, and volunteer to improve the quality of life in our schools.

**Activities / Sports / Clubs/ Organizations**

**Sports**

Boys Basketball  
Girls Basketball  
Boys Baseball  
Girls Softball  
Science Club  
Drama  
Chorus  
Band

**After School Academy**

**Other Activities / Organizations**

Homework Club  
Student Government  
Math Counts  
Peer Mediation