



Leaders
Accountable
Kind
Engaged
Respectful
Successful

Pymatuning Valley Middle School Student and Family Handbook

2026-2027 School Year

Mrs. Wendy Tisch, Principal
Mrs. Katherine Jernigan,
Guidance Counselor

PO Box 1180
5445 US Rt 6
Andover, OH 44003
Phone – 440-293-6981
Fax - 440-293-7237
www.pvschools.org

**PYMATUNING VALLEY MIDDLE SCHOOL
2026-2027 STUDENT/PARENT HANDBOOK**

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Introduction

Welcome to Pymatuning Valley Middle School! This handbook is a guide to the policies and procedures of Pymatuning Valley Middle School. Please be sure to read through this handbook in its entirety, as changes are made year to year as to stay current with state and federal changes.

PV Middle School's goal is to educate and foster the development of the whole child with rigorous academic content while simultaneously nurturing the social-emotional development of each and every child. Inside this handbook you will find information on our Positive Behavior Interventions and Supports, better known as, PBIS.

Please never hesitate to contact the school with any questions/concerns you may have. It's going to be a great year!

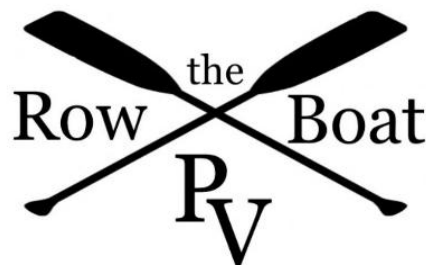
- Mrs. Wendy Tisch
Principal

Mission Statement: The Pymatuning Valley Local Schools prepare students for personal and professional success through scholarship, servant leadership, and community partnerships.

Vision Statement: The Pymatuning Valley Local Schools inspire lifelong learning and responsible citizenship to honor the LAKER PRIDE tradition.

DISCLAIMER

Please note that this student handbook is not intended to be an all-encompassing guidance document. The handbook may be revised/updated as necessary based on any mid-year changes to board policy or state/federal law. If a specific situation is not addressed herein, school officials will make decisions based on professional discretion, applicable board policies and/or state/federal regulations, and in a manner that is consistent with the best interests of the school. School officials are responsible for interpreting the student handbook.



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SCHOOL DAY

The school day takes place from 7:20 am - 2:08 pm.

Doors will open to students at 7:20 and students will report directly to homeroom.

No students shall arrive earlier than 7:20 as they would be unable to enter the building and would be unsupervised.

For safety and planning purposes, **all pick-up arrangements must be made before 1:20 PM.** Students may not call home during the day to request permission to walk uptown after school—a written note from home is required for that request.

Bus riders are expected to board their assigned bus at the middle school. Students are not permitted to walk to the high school to catch a bus.

STUDENT DROP OFF/PARENT PARKING

For the safety of our students, ALL before school drop-offs and after school pickups will take place in the back of the building.

Parents and visitors are asked to park in front of the school in the designated parking lot. All parents and visitors must sign in at the front desk upon arrival. If a parent or visitor will be travelling throughout the school, he or she must wear a visitor's badge, which is issued at the front desk.

VISITATION

Please note that all visitors entering the school building throughout the course of the school day must, by Ohio Revised Code 3313.20 and 2917.211, register in the office where they will be given a visitor's pass. This regulation exists for the protection and safety of each and every child attending school. Parents wishing to meet with a classroom teacher before, during, or after school are asked to contact the teacher first via email or phone to schedule an appointment. This meeting will take place in a designated conference room in the office. Once the appointment is made, the visitor must come directly to the office to sign in to receive a visitor's pass.

EMERGENCY PROCEDURE FORM

An emergency procedure form is to be completed each year for every student. This form provides the information needed to care for your child in the case of illness or injury.

Please notify the office of changes of address, phone number (including cell numbers), or other emergency procedure changes as they occur. Please note, only those identified on the emergency form may pick up your child. This notification is critical for the safety of your child.

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ATTENDANCE

Ohio law requires students to be in attendance each day that school is in session. Therefore, it is the intention of the Pymatuning Valley Local Schools to hold students accountable for their attendance. The Board of Education also believes that good attendance is a vital part of academic success in the high school setting. To this end, it has established a policy whereby any student or parent of a student who is **Habitually Truant** or **Excessively Absent** may:

- Attend a meeting to create an Attendance Intervention Plan
- Be cited to Juvenile Court;
- Be referred to Children's Services;

Habitually Truant is defined as:

- 30 or more consecutive school hours absent without legitimate excuse;
- 42 or more school hours absent without legitimate excuse in any calendar month;
- 72 or more school hours absent without legitimate excuse in a school year;

Excessively Absent is defined as:

- 38 or more hours in absent with or without legitimate excuse in any calendar month;
- 65 or more hours in absent with or without legitimate excuse in any school year;

The following excused absences would contribute to a student's **Excessively Absent** total. In order to be excused, a note signed by a parent or doctor must be sent to the attendance officer or a phone call from home must be made to the school.

1. Student Illness
2. Illness in the immediate family
3. Death in the immediate family (administrative decision for outside the immediate family)
4. Emergency at home (validity determined by the principal/designee)
5. Seasonal farm work which must be performed for the family
6. Medical appointment
7. Driver's license exam
8. Extended vacation
9. Religious reasons
10. Any other reason for not attending must be approved by the principal or superintendent

Prior to any parent/student being cited to Juvenile Court or referred to Children's Services, a mandatory attendance intervention meeting must be held at the school with the parent(s)/guardian(s). The district will make three attempts to contact the parent to attend the meeting. If the parent does not attend, intervention will proceed without parental involvement. If the student fails to comply with the intervention plan, the student/parent may be cited to Juvenile Court or referred to Children's Services.

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ABSENCES/TARDINESS

Please notify the school as early as possible the morning your child is not in attendance. When a student returns to school following an absence, a written explanation for the absence must be provided including the dates of the absence along with a parent or healthcare provider signature.

Students arriving late must come to the office to sign in and receive a pass to class. Excessive tardiness to school will result in disciplinary action. Students are counted tardy to school if they are not in their classroom by 7:30 AM. Students are also expected to be in class on time.

Regular attendance is essential to academic success and being part of the full middle school experience. Excessive absences — whether excused or unexcused — may impact a student's eligibility to participate in field trips, reward days, and other special events. These events are privileges that recognize effort, responsibility, and commitment to learning. While we understand that absences sometimes cannot be avoided, consistent attendance helps ensure students do not miss out on the fun!

FAMILY VACATION POLICY

Daily school attendance is important to the academic success of the student; therefore, vacations and absences should be limited to the shortest number of days possible. Time missed for vacation counts towards the maximum hours allowed within the attendance policy. A student may be excused from school to accompany his/her parents on a vacation during the school year providing the following criteria are met.

- a. The student must be passing all credit-granting courses.
- b. The student must obtain a form from the office or print out the one online to be given to his/her teachers one week prior to the absence and submitted to the administration for approval.

ATHLETE ABSENCES

Unless ill and absent from school, each athlete is responsible for communicating with his/her coach when they will miss a practice or event. If an athlete is not in school by 10:30 on a practice or game day, the athlete will not be able to participate in practice or in the game. Exceptions will be made for an official doctor's visit with signed doctor's excuse or prior-approved excused absence.

STUDENT ILLNESS AT SCHOOL/SCHOOL SANCTIONED ACTIVITIES

If a student becomes ill at school, the child will be attended to in the school clinic. The office will contact the parent, or the designated alternate, if a child needs further care. If a child appears to be ill at a school sanctioned activity, the school designated supervisor will contact the parent/guardian and/or the proper medical authorities. Any student with a fever greater than 100 will be sent home. They will be asked to stay home until fever free for 24hrs without the use of fever reducing medications. Anyone sent home for vomiting is asked to stay home for 24hrs from the last emesis.

MEDICATION (Prescription AND Over-the-counter)

Medications can only be given at school with the completion of the appropriate medication paperwork available in the office, which requires both parent AND physician signature. Once the appropriate forms have been filled out, the medicine must be transported to/from the

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school by a parent/guardian only (NOT the student), and will be kept in the office in a safe place. The medication will be administered to the student in the safety of the office. Prescription medications are prohibited to be carried by any student unless otherwise stated by a doctor's note.

Ibuprofen or Acetaminophen can be given to a student with parent permission. Permission can be kept on file in the nurses clinic. One dose per school day, not more than 2 days consecutively without a doctor's note.

HEARING AND VISION SCREENINGS

Hearing and vision screens will be completed for grades 5&7 per Ohio guidelines. Any parent who wishes to not have their child screened must provide in writing the refusal to the District Nurse.

VACCINATIONS

The Ohio Department of Health requires all students entering the 7th grade must have a **booster dose of Tetanus/Diphtheria/Pertussis (Tdap) and Meningococcal**. A copy of the vaccination must be submitted to the office for placement in the student's file. If a student does not provide a copy of the updated immunizations within the first 10 days of school, that student will not be allowed to attend school until proper immunizations have been documented.

SCHOOL DELAY/CANCELLATION/EARLY RELEASE

The superintendent has the option of delaying the start of the school day by two hours if there is inclement weather. That two-hour delay, however, may become a cancellation if the weather does not improve. This means that parents may need to make special arrangements for their children until the bus comes or the building opens at 9:20 a.m. Dismissal time will remain the same. It is imperative that children have contingency plans in case it is deemed necessary to send students home early.

School delays/cancellations will be announced on: WREO FM-97.1, WFUN AM-970, WKBN AM-570, WVCC FM-100.3, WZOO FM-102.5, and TV Channel 3, 5 and 8. Households with students will also receive an automated call/text from a school official announcing the delay or cancellation.

PERSONAL PROPERTY

Please mark your children's clothing in case it becomes lost. Hundreds of articles of clothing are donated yearly to charitable organizations because students refuse to claim them.

Students are not to bring to school any unnecessary money or articles from home, such as any type of trading cards and toys of any type. We strongly discourage bringing any electronic devices: i.e. cellphones, earbuds, headphones to school. If brought to school, these items must be turned off and remain in the student's locker during school hours otherwise these items may be confiscated and kept in the office until a parent can claim them. **Electronic devices are common items damaged and stolen during the school year. The school is not responsible for the theft, loss or damage of these items.**

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LOST AND FOUND

Articles found in the building, on the grounds, or on the bus are brought to the lost and found cupboard in the office where the students should claim them. All unclaimed items will be donated to charitable organizations periodically throughout the year.

TELEPHONES/CELL PHONES

Only office and classroom telephones (not student cell phones) are to be used in case of sickness and emergencies (e.g. cancellation of an extracurricular activity). When calling home for any reason, permission must be granted by a staff member.

CELL PHONE POLICY

Students shall keep their cell phones in a secure place, such as the student's locker, a closed backpack, or a storage device provided by the district, at all times when cell phone use is prohibited.

Consequences

- First Offense: Verbal warning from the teacher.
- Second Offense: Phone will be confiscated for the day and the student's guardian must pick up the phone from the administrator.
- Third Offense: Student will be assigned school community service.
- Subsequent Offenses: Administration will administer in-school suspension.

By adhering to this policy, we aim to foster a productive educational atmosphere that minimizes distractions and encourages academic success.

LOCKERS

Each student is assigned his/her own locker. Students should limit their locker usage to the beginning of the school day, middle, and end of the school day. **There is no sharing of lockers. Each locker has a unique combination. Students are not to share this combination with fellow students as their privacy may be compromised.** Lockers are the property of the school district and are subject to random searches per ORC 3313.20.

BREAKFAST/LUNCH

All PVMS students are eligible to receive free breakfast and lunch every school day—no forms, no cost, just good food to fuel learning. We strongly encourage all students to take advantage of this opportunity to stay energized, focused, and ready to learn. A healthy meal is a great start to a great day!

Please note, students are not permitted to bring soda pop or energy drinks from home as part of their breakfast or lunch.

LUNCHROOM PROCEDURE

Upon entering the cafeteria students will enter the assigned line, walk to the serving area, receive the tray or extra milk, and exit by the center doorway. Students are expected to:

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1. Stand in line and wait their turn.
2. Keep the table areas clean.
3. Return trays and refuse.
4. Use good table and eating manners.
5. Aid in cleaning tables as needed.
6. Pop and energy drinks are not allowed anywhere in the building. The people in charge give specific rules for each lunch period.

Students are to refrain from talking when the lights are out during cafeteria dismissal.

Stealing items from the cafeteria will result in a Saturday School, ISS or OSS pending the administrative decision

BETWEEN CLASS CHANGES

Hall Traffic: Teachers will supervise the movement of students through the hallway. Traffic should move quickly and quietly without pushing, running, or any other type of horseplay. There are no open food/drink containers allowed in the hallway. Food items will be confiscated and thrown in the garbage can.

STUDENT CONDUCT

Pymatuning Valley Middle School is pleased to be using Positive Behavior Intervention Support (PBIS). There are 6 school wide expectations. These expectations are posted throughout the building. Rules have been established for the cafeteria, hallways, restrooms, morning gym, the playground, the bus and the Laker Learning Lounge.

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Successful

What is PBIS?

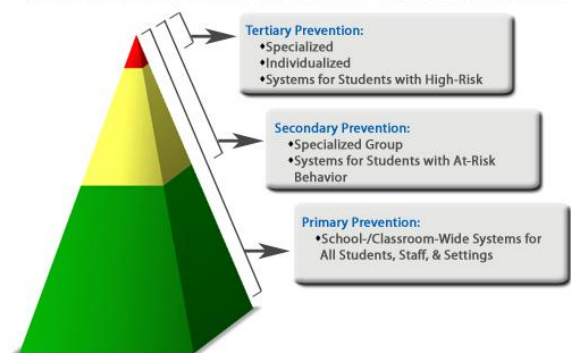
PBIS (Positive Behavior Interventions and Supports) is an organized, data-driven system of interventions, strategies, and supports that positively impact school-wide and individualized behavior planning. Using the most current best practices, strategic teams are trained to positively impact behavior at three key behavioral tiers: Universal or primary (whole school); Secondary (individual child or group of at-risk children); and Tertiary or Intensive (children with complex needs and behaviors that severely impact the child, school and/or community functioning).

Why is it so important to focus on teaching positive social behaviors?

Frequently, the question is asked, "Why should I have to teach kids to be good? They already know what they are supposed to do. Why can I not just expect good behavior?" In the infamous words of a TV personality, "How is that working out for you?"

In the past, school-wide discipline has focused mainly on reacting to specific student misbehavior by implementing punishment-based strategies including reprimands, loss of privileges, office referrals, suspensions, and expulsions. Research has shown that the implementation of punishment, especially when it is used inconsistently and in the absence of other positive strategies, is ineffective. Introducing, modeling, and reinforcing positive social behavior is an important step of a student's educational experience. Teaching behavioral expectations and rewarding students for following them is a much more positive approach than

Continuum of School-Wide Instructional & Positive Behavior Support



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waiting for misbehavior to occur before responding. The purpose of school-wide PBIS is to establish a climate in which appropriate behavior is the norm.

NATIONAL SUICIDE AND CRISIS LIFELINE

At PVMS, we care deeply about the emotional well-being of every student. If you or someone you know is experiencing a mental health crisis or needs someone to talk to, help is always available. Students / families can call or text the National Suicide and Crisis Lifeline at 988 to receive free, confidential support 24/7.

Pymatuning Valley Middle School Behavior Matrix

	Hall	Classroom	Bathroom/Locker Room	On the Bus	Cafeteria	Morning Gym	On the Playground	Laker Learning Lounge
Leaders	Walk on the right	Guide and model positive behaviors.	Inform staff of issues or concerns.	Demonstrate safe behavior.	Demonstrate good table manners.	Start with positive conversations.	Are inclusive.	Remind others of the rules.
Accountable	Have a purpose and arrive on time to their destination. Keep hallways clean.	Have materials, completed assignments and be on time.	Flush toilet and wash hands.	On time.	Keep food on table.	Take their belongings with them. Stay in the designated area.	Return equipment to designated area.	Return books and computers to the appropriate places.
Kind	Keep hands/feet to themselves and pick up dropped items.	Help others.	Maintain a clean facility.	Treat students and teachers well.	Use kind words and are inclusive.	Say nice things, help others and are inclusive.	Take turns and share.	Help others to find materials they need.
Engaged	Are aware of surroundings.	Participate.	Focus on the task at hand.	In your seat and using quiet voices.	Eat mindfully while sitting.	Take hats off and put electronic devices.	Lakers exercise.	Work on the task at hand.
Respectful	QUIET when classes are in session.	Listen.	Be courteous others' privacy.	Allow the driver to focus on driving.	Lakers clean up after themselves.	Use conversational voices	Keep equipment and tables clear of graffiti.	Use whisper voices. Respect the equipment.
Successful	Be a LAKER and succeed in the hallway.	Be a LAKER and succeed in the classroom.	Be a LAKER and succeed in the bathroom.	Be a LAKER and succeed on the bus.	Be a Laker and SUCCEED in the cafeteria.	Lakers SUCCEED in the morning gym.	Be a LAKER and SUCCEED on the playground	Be a Laker and SUCCEED in the LLL.

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STUDENT CONDUCT CODE

Violation by a student of any one or more of the following rules, on school grounds, or at school activities and events on or off school grounds may result in disciplinary action, including suspension, emergency removal from class at school, expulsion, and/or court citation. The administration reserves the right to use its discretion in enforcing rules and consequences. Due to a broad range of behaviors, mitigating circumstances, and a sincere desire to modify misbehavior rather than simply assign predetermined consequences, the administration will use discretion as it sees fit.

- 1. DISRUPTION IN SCHOOL:** A student will not, by the use of violence, force, coercion, threat, harassment, insubordination, or repeated acts of misbehavior cause disruption or obstruction to the educational process, including all curricular and extracurricular activities
- 2. DESTRUCTION OF SCHOOL OR PRIVATE PROPERTY:** A student will not cause or attempt to cause willful destruction or defacement of school or private property (including vehicles owned by the BOARD). This would include deletion of computer files as well as knowingly introducing a computer virus to any school program or misuse of the computer and the internet. Students will be asked to pay damages for willful destruction or defacement of school or private property.
- 3. FIGHTING, ASSAULT AND/OR THREAT:** A student will not physically attack or threaten to attack any person.
- 4. DANGEROUS WEAPONS, INSTRUMENTS AND OBJECTS:** A student will not possess, handle, transmit or conceal any object, which might be considered a dangerous weapon or instrument capable of harming another person.
- 5. NARCOTICS, ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES AND DRUGS:** A student will not possess, use, transmit, conceal, or be under the influence of any alcoholic beverage, dangerous drug, narcotic or any substance that is classified as a look-alike drug or that causes physical or mental change.
- 6. TOBACCO USE:** Students shall not be in possession of tobacco, including tobacco vapor, at school or any school function. Students will not be permitted to smoke, chew or vape in school buildings on school grounds or at any school-related activity.
- 7. PROFANITY AND/OR OBSCENITY:** A student will not, by written, verbal, gesture, or other means, annoy or humiliate others or disrupt the educational process by using profanity or obscenity.
- 8. INSUBORDINATION:** A student will comply with the directions of authorized school personnel during any period of time the student is properly under the authority of the school.
- 9. INAPPROPRIATE DRESS:** A student will not dress or appear in a fashion that:
 - A. Interferes with the student's health or welfare or that of others or

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B. Causes disruption or directly interferes with the educational process.

10. EXTORTION: A student will not obtain or attempt to obtain another person's property, whether by implied or expressed threat.

11. FORGERY: A student will not falsify in writing the name of another person, times, dates, grades, addresses or other data on school forms, or correspondence directed to the school. This also includes computer hacking or other unauthorized entry into computers or information databases.

12. TRESPASSING OR LOITERING: A student will not be present in a school building or on school grounds at unauthorized times when the presence may cause disruption of an activity, function or the educational process.

13. FALSE IDENTIFICATION: A student will not use or attempt to use false identification to mislead school personnel.

14. BREAKING AND ENTERING: A student will not break and enter, or attempt to break and enter, school or private property on school grounds.

15. THEFT: No student while on school property or in attendance at any school-sponsored activity shall steal or attempt to steal either private property or school property.

16. MISSED DETENTION OR MISSED SATURDAY SCHOOL: All students who are assigned detention or Saturday School must report on time and follow all rules and regulations. If a detention is missed, the student will serve the detention following day. If a Saturday School is missed, that student may be suspended for 3 days upon returning to school.

17. PUBLIC DISPLAYS OF AFFECTION: A public display of affection is distasteful to most people and generally unacceptable. Students using poor judgment in this matter will be subject to disciplinary actions.

18. HARASSMENT, SEXUAL HARASSMENT, RACIAL SLURS, INTIMIDATION, BULLYING:

Any intentional written, verbal, nonverbal or physical act that a student has exhibited toward another particular student more than once and the behavior both (1) causes mental or physical harm to the other student, and (2) is sufficiently severe, persistent, or pervasive that it creates an intimidating, threatening, or abusive educational environment for the other student. All instances will be documented.

19. Improper Use of Personal or District Technology:

Any improper use of technology, either personal or district owned is a violation of the acceptable use policy and agreement.

STUDENT SUSPENSION PROCEDURE

In all instances of student behavioral problems, school personnel are encouraged to work in a positive manner in bringing about desirable behavior by the student. Recognizing that in some instances the student's behavior exceeds tolerable limits, action by school officials must be taken for the general good of the school operation.

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Students not in compliance with the adopted Board Policy of the Students' Conduct Code may be suspended by the principal or superintendent for not more than then (10) school days.

Prior to suspension, the principal or superintendent shall give the pupil written notice of the intention to suspend him/her and the reason for the intended suspension, and provide the pupil an opportunity of appeal at an informal hearing before the principal, assistant principal, superintendent and challenge the reasons for the intended suspension or otherwise to explain his actions.

On decisions to suspend, the superintendent or principal shall within twenty-four (24) hours after the time of the pupil's suspension, notify in writing the parent, guardian, or custodian of the pupil, and the Clerk of the Board of Education of such suspension. The notice shall include the reasons for the suspensions and shall also include notification of the right of the pupil or his parent, guardian, or custodian to appeal such action to the Board of Education or its designee, to be represented in all such appeal proceedings, to be granted a hearing before the Board or it's designee in order to be heard against such suspension, and to request that such hearing be held in executive session.

A pupil or his parent, guardian, or custodian may appeal his/her suspension by a superintendent or principal to the Board of Education or its designee. Such pupil or parent, guardian, or custodian may be represented in all such appeal proceedings and shall be granted a hearing before the Board or its designee in order to be heard against the suspension. At the request of the pupil, or his parent, guardian or custodian, or attorney, the Board or its designee may hold the hearing in executive session but shall act upon such suspension only at a public meeting. The Board may, by a majority vote of its full membership or by the action of the designee, affirm the order of suspension or may reinstate such pupil, or otherwise reverse, vacate, or modify the order of suspension.

The Board of Education or its designee shall make a verbatim record of the hearings held. The decision of the Board or its designee may be appealed under Chapter 2506 of the Ohio Revised Code.

In the rare occurrence that school is cancelled on a day that a student is suspended, the student's return date remains unaffected, and the day counts as being suspended.

STUDENTS' RIGHTS PHILOSOPHY

The Board of Education of the Pymatuning Valley Local School District believes that it is the Board's responsibility to encourage the student body of all its schools to take full advantage of the educational programs, the school facilities and talents of the school personnel, to develop the individual's full mental and physical abilities.

It is essential that in accomplishing this goal, every student is protected by the First Amendment to the United States Constitution within certain limitations; the right of free speech, symbolic speech, freedom of assembly, right of privacy and person appearance. The development of a STUDENT CONDUCT CODE provides the necessary restraints so as to not frustrate the good intentions of the majority of the student body. NOTE: All students are required to have due process before penalties are imposed.

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DISCIPLINE OF STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES

The use of positive behavioral interventions and supports (PBIS) must be considered for students with disabilities whose behavior impedes their learning or that of others, and whether a Behavior Intervention Plan (BIP) is appropriate for proactively mitigating and/or responding to adverse behavior. Unsatisfactory behavior committed by students with disabilities including crimes and/or violations of the student code of conduct will be handled individually and with consideration of the student's unique circumstances, IEP or 504 Plan, and if applicable, their Functional Behavior Assessment (FBA) and/or Behavior Intervention Plan (BIP).

The IEP team will consider these factors when determining whether a change of placement is appropriate for a student with a disability who violates the student code of conduct. Similarly, the IEP team will convene to hold a manifestation determination review (MDR) when discipline results in a change of placement beyond 10 school days. FBAs and BIPs are required when the IEP team determines that a student's conduct was a manifestation of his or her disability. If a child's misconduct has been found to have a direct and substantial relationship to his or her disability, the IEP team will need to conduct an FBA of the child, unless one has already been conducted. Similarly, the IEP team must write a BIP for the child; if a BIP already exists, the IEP team will review and revise the plan as necessary to address the behavior.

The administration may conduct a hearing to remove the student to an interim alternative educational placement (IAEP) if maintaining the current placement is substantially likely to result in serious bodily injury to the child or others in accordance with Sec. 300.530(i)(3). The child's IEP team determines the appropriate IAES to enable the child to continue to participate in the general education curriculum, although in another setting, and to progress toward meeting the goals set out in the child's IEP. If the removal is for weapons, drugs, or serious bodily injury, the child may remain in an IAES, as determined by the child's IEP team, for not more than 45 school days, regardless of whether the violation was a manifestation of his or her disability.

STUDENT EXPULSION PROCEDURE

Students not in compliance with the adopted Board policy of the Student Conduct Code may be expelled by the superintendent for a period of time as determined by the superintendent within the guidelines of the law. No pupil shall be expelled unless prior to his/her expulsion the superintendent:

1. Gives the pupil and his parent, guardian, or custodian written notice of the intention to expel the pupil and
2. Provides the pupil and his parent, guardian, custodian, or representative an opportunity to appear in person before the superintendent to challenge the reasons for the intended expulsion or otherwise to explain the pupil's actions.

The notice in (1) above shall include the reasons for the intended expulsion, notification of the opportunity of the pupil and his parent, guardian, custodian, or representative to appear before the superintendent to challenge the reasons for the intended expulsion or otherwise to explain the pupil's actions and notification of the time and place to appear. The time to appear shall not be earlier than three (3) nor later than five (5) days after the notice is given, unless the superintendent grants an extension of time at the request of the pupil, his parent, guardian,

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custodian, or representative. If an extension is granted, the pupil and parent/guardian /custodian will be notified of the new time and place to appear.

The superintendent shall, within twenty-four hours after the decision to expel a student, notify in writing the parent, guardian, or custodian of the pupil, and the clerk of the Board of Education of such expulsion. The notice shall include the reason for the expulsion and shall also include notification of the right of the pupil or his parent (et al), to appeal such action to the Board of Education to be represented in all such appeal proceedings, to be granted a hearing before the Board in order to be heard against such expulsion, and to request that such hearing be held in executive session.

DRESS CODE

We know that grooming effects the learning environment and overall school climate. Students should present themselves in a positive manner. No one can wear clothing with profanity, violent/sexual images, any illegal item, drugs, alcohol or hate speech. Hats/hoodies may no longer be worn inside the school building. Drawing or writing on oneself is not permitted.

Students must wear:

- A shirt (with minimum of a 1-inch strap and fabric in the front, back and sides immediately under the armpit and without baring the midriff. AND
- Pants/jeans or the equivalent (for example: sweatpants, opaque leggings or shorts) OR
- A dress, shorts or skirt, AND
- Shoes (appropriate for the environment and activity)
- No clothing that would be considered too revealing or an indecent exposure of private body parts. No see-through material, appropriate coverage of body when standing, sitting or bending over.

The administration reserves the right to intercede in cases where the health, mental health, welfare and safety of students and others are affected. Students will be asked to change clothing that deems a violation of the dress code policy.

ASSEMBLIES/FIELD TRIPS/ATHLETIC EVENTS

Assemblies, field trips, and athletic events are important parts of the school experience — times when our students are “on view” and representing Pymatuning Valley. The impression others have of our school is shaped by how we act during these events.

Participation in these activities is a privilege, not a right. Students are expected to demonstrate respectful behavior, follow school rules, and maintain positive academic performance.

In addition to conduct and grades, regular attendance is also required to be eligible for these experiences. Excessive absences (excused or unexcused) may result in a student becoming ineligible to attend. Being present and engaged in school is part of what earns access to the fun stuff!

Students may lose the opportunity to participate in these events due to poor behavior, academic concerns, or attendance issues throughout the year.

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GUIDANCE SERVICES

The guidance counselor is available to discuss with parents their concerns about each child's academic and social growth. Conferences must be arranged by calling the office and scheduling an appointment directly with the guidance department.

CURRICULUM

Students in the elementary grades (5-6) study language arts, mathematics, science, and social studies. The homeroom teacher or another teacher on that grade level will teach these classes.

Seventh grade students have language arts, math (& math lab), social studies, science, computers, physical education and a choice of electives.

Students in eighth grade have classes in language arts, social studies, science (science 8 or physical science 9), math (math 8 or Algebra I), physical education, independent living and an elective.

Algebra in 8th grade is an accelerated pathway that is based on their math performance throughout middle school. Criteria to be considered for Algebra includes, Accomplished/Advanced on Math OST and STAR Assessments, Classroom Performance, Algebra Readiness Data and Teacher Recommendation. Students who meet the criteria for Algebra in 8th grade will receive written notification in May and be placed on a Written Acceleration Plan for 8th grade.

In addition, every eighth grade student must complete a job shadowing activity. We believe that this has been one of the most valuable academic experiences our 8th grade students have over the course of the year. This assignment is generated through our independent living/career exploration course. It is a semester course and the final grade will be an incomplete until the activity is done. If a student does not complete the activity, the final grade for the course will be an F.

STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES AND CHILD FIND NOTICE

Students with disabilities are served by federal programs: Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and the Individuals with Disabilities Education Improvement Act (IDEIA) of 2004. Section 504 prohibits discrimination on the basis of disability. This protection applies to all individuals who have access to the district's programs and facilities. IDEIA requires schools to provide eligible students with disabilities a free appropriate public education (FAPE) in their least restrictive environment (LRE). Services can be accessed through formal evaluation and eligibility determination procedures. Active parent participation is required and encouraged.

The Pymatuning Valley Local School District observes Child Find, which is an intensive campaign to locate, identify, and evaluate children with disabilities who may need special education or related services. The purpose of Child Find is to: promote public awareness of disabilities; alert parents, professionals, and the general public to locate children who may have special needs; assist school districts in finding children who may have disabilities and who otherwise may not have come to the district's attention; and enable children and families to receive the special education and related services that are needed.

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If you are aware of a child aged 3-21 years residing within the district who may be in need of special education services, please contact the Director of Pupil Services at (440) 293-6488.

EXTRA CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

At the Middle School, students may select a variety of activities/sports. Elementary students may participate in band, drama, and intramural athletics. Junior high students may join band and/or choir, become a library or office aide, be a cafeteria helper, and participate in basketball, volleyball, wrestling, football, track, cross country and/or cheer.

ATHLETIC ELIGIBILITY

All 7-8th grade students MUST be enrolled in and earn passing grades in a minimum of five courses each and every grading period to have continuing eligibility. All 7th grade students entering 7th grade for the first time are eligible to participate in fall sports.

TEXTBOOKS

During the first week of school, textbooks will be given to students, free of charge, for use during the school year. A student is responsible for the books issued. If books are damaged, lost, or stolen, the student will be required to pay for them. **All textbooks should be covered.**

HOMEWORK

Homework is an integral part of the learning process. Teachers assign homework to reinforce, supplement, and enrich skills taught in class. Points may be taken off for any assignment not completed on time.

MAKE-UP CLASS WORK

All students may make up work missed because of an excused absence. Full credit for make-up work will be given if the work is done in the designated time allowed. The time limit for make-up work shall be one day for each day of absence.

Student assignment sheets will not be provided for less than TWO DAYS of absence. Students are encouraged to call a friend for assignments. Parents are asked to call for assignments by 10:00 A.M.

LAKER LEARNING LOUNGE

All students are encouraged to use the learning lounge for both research and recreational reading. Materials may be checked out for two weeks and they may be renewed. No reference book, encyclopedia, or magazine may leave the Learning Center at any time. Any lost or damaged material must be replaced at the expense of the borrower.

COMPUTER NETWORK AND INTERNET ACCEPTABLE USE POLICY AND AGREEMENT

Computers are an integral learning tool. The appropriate use of computers, the internet, and the school's computer network is critical to the overall educational process. To that end, each student and parent must sign and return the computer network and internet acceptable use policy and agreement. Students knowingly violating the acceptable use policy will face

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disciplinary action ranging from the loss of computer privileges, to detention, Saturday School, ISS or OSS.

CHROMEBOOK POLICY

Each student is issued a school-owned Chromebook for educational use throughout the school year. With this privilege comes responsibility.

Students are expected to:

- Bring their Chromebook to school every day, fully charged and ready for use.
- Take proper care of their Chromebook at all times—this includes avoiding damage, keeping it clean, and storing it safely.
- Never loan their Chromebook to another student or use it for non-school purposes.

Families are financially responsible for any loss, damage, or repairs needed due to neglect or misuse. This includes broken screens, missing chargers, and other physical damage.

Students who repeatedly forget or fail to bring their Chromebook charged may face disciplinary consequences, as it disrupts learning and classroom instruction.

Take care of your tech—it's your tool for success!

R.S.V.P. Program

Each spring, Catholic Charities presents their Responsible Social Values Program or "R.S.V.P." to our 6th, 7th and 8th grade students. This is a one-week program which is scheduled this year school in March. R.S.V.P. is a program that promotes healthy relationships focusing on sexual risk avoidance and other adolescent behaviors including alcohol and other drug use, dating violence, and the perils of human trafficking. This program has been presented to PVMS students for the past sixteen years by Catholic Charities (Catholic Charities does not promote religion in any way before, during, or after the presentations). We feel that this program addresses very important health issues for developing adolescents. Due to the sensitive nature of the issues addressed, we will communicate to families prior to the program starting if they wish for their child not to participate to contact the school. Please contact the school with any questions.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION

All students are required to participate in physical education classes. Students should wear jogging pants or shorts, a tee shirt, socks and gym shoes.

A student may, when necessary, be excused from gym class when a parent requests it in writing. If, however, the child needs to be excused for a period of time, a note from a physician will be necessary.

STUDENT PLANNERS

Every student will be issued a student planner to document all assignments.

BUS REGULATION FOR PUPILS BY ORDER OF PYMATUNING VALLEY BOARD OF EDUCATION

1. Immediately upon entering the bus, pupils shall take their assigned places.
2. Pupils shall not be loud or use improper language at any time.
3. Windows and vents shall not be adjusted without the permission of the driver.
4. No pupil shall attempt to get on or off the bus until it comes to a full stop.

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5. Pupils should be ready when the school bus approaches.
6. Pupils should not stand in the middle of the road while waiting for the school bus.
7. Pupils should not talk to the driver unnecessarily while on the route.
8. Pupils shall conduct themselves on the bus approximately as they would in the classroom, except that reasonable visiting and conversation are permissible.
9. The driver has the same authority over passengers on the school bus as the teacher has over students in the classroom.
10. Waste paper and rubbish should never be dropped on the floor of the bus.
11. Never throw anything within or out of the bus.

PUPIL AND PARENT BUS RESPONSIBILITIES

1. Parents and pupils must assume that school bus transportation is a privilege to the student, not a right.
2. Pupils will ride on assigned buses. Parents must request in writing to permit deviation from this rule. Request shall be made to the principal and/or transportation supervisor.
3. Pupils will ride their assigned bus both to and from home to school unless a written request asking permission to be let off the bus at some other stop is represented to the bus driver and signed by parents and countersigned by the building principal.
4. Parents are responsible for the safety of pupils while going to and from pick-up points and for their meeting the bus on schedule.
5. Buses operate on a time schedule as outlined by the transportation supervisor.
6. Parents will be responsible for any damage to a bus by their children.
7. Eating and littering are not permitted on buses.
8. Noise on a bus shall be kept to a minimum at all times to assure safety of operation.
9. Absolute quiet must be maintained at railroad crossings or other danger areas.
10. Nothing shall be thrown out of the bus, nor anything held so it extends out the window.
11. All parts of the pupil's bodies shall be kept inside the bus at all times.
12. Pupils shall be waiting at the curb side of the road to board the bus for morning pick up.
13. Pupils shall sit three to a seat and no standing shall be allowed as long as seats are available. Seats are assigned by the driver to maintain order and for evacuation purposes.
14. Band instruments or special equipment which blocks the aisle of the bus are not permitted on a bus.
15. Knives, animals, dangerous articles, etc. are not permitted to be on the bus.
16. The driver has the authority to enforce the above regulations. The pupils shall conduct themselves on the school bus as they would in the classroom except that reasonable visiting and conversation are permissible. Continued disorderly conduct or refusal to submit to the authority of the driver shall be sufficient reason for refusing transportation service to any student. When it becomes necessary to refuse transportation to a pupil due to misconduct the school administration (transportation supervisor) shall notify the parents of such refusal in writing with a full explanation for this action. The bus driver then shall not permit the pupil to board the bus at his or her home until the parent gives assurance future good conduct on the part of the pupil.

PTO-PARENT/TEACHER ORGANIZATION

The PTO is very helpful and supports the growth of the middle school. Our school profits in many ways because of the leadership and activities of this great organization. We encourage all parents to become active members of the PTO. To find out more information about PTO or meeting dates, please contact the office.

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NEWSLETTER AND CALENDAR OF EVENTS

A newsletter and calendar of events is published at the end of each month to notify the parents of current activities and programs occurring at the Middle School during the month. The newsletter will also be posted on the website and Pymatuning Valley Middle School Facebook Page

DISTRICT/SCHOOL WEBSITE

Please visit our district/school website and explore the links for additional resources and up to date information. www.pvschools.org. The middle school link is on the left hand portion of the page under the "schools" tab.

FIRE, TORNADO, AND LOCKDOWN DRILLS

We have at least one safety drill per month. The teacher gives specific instructions to each class regarding procedures and/or exit routes. These drills are crucial for the safety of all our students and staff. Students who do not following directions or disrupt during these drills will receive school consequences.

PARENT ACCESS SYSTEM

The Parent Access system allows parents the opportunity to track their children's progress throughout the school year. From attendance to grades, specific assignments and homework, the Parent Access system also allows communication with teachers and more. This system also lets you create your own username and password. Pymatuning Valley Local Schools is pleased to provide the links below to take advantage of the Parent Access system:
<https://progressbook.neomin.org/ParentAccess/>

Please contact the school if you need a registration key at 440-293-6981.

TITLE IX

Title IX Compliance Officers

Mrs. Wendy Tisch, Pymatuning Valley Middle School Principal

Email: wendy.tisch@pvschools.org

Phone: 440-293-6981

Mr. Mark Mollohan, Pymatuning Valley High School Principal

Email: mark.mollohan@pvschools.org

Phone: 440-293-6263

Title IX complaints and reports can be submitted in writing, through email, or via telephone call 24/7 to the compliance officers. Training for Compliance Officers was conducted by Ennis Britton Attorneys at Law.

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TITLE I SCHOOLWIDE PROGRAM

Title I, Part A of the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) of 2015 provides supplemental funding to help low-income schools improve the academic achievement of educationally disadvantaged students. All of the Pymatuning Valley Schools qualify as Title I Schoolwide Programs. This means that Title I funds may be utilized to support improvement efforts that benefit the entire educational program, rather than target specific students. All students attending Pymatuning Valley Local Schools who demonstrate need are eligible to receive supplemental support based on educational need without consideration of family income. Students in grades K-8 participate in universal screening multiple times per year to determine the level of support and intervention or enrichment warranted to reach grade-level benchmarks. Students may be served by classroom teachers, intervention assistants, or a literacy specialist through a combination of push-in classroom support or small-group instruction outside the regular classroom setting based on students' and groups' needs.

The District gathers input from all stakeholders through the school improvement process, back-to-school open house and meet-the-teacher, twice annual parent-teacher conferences, annual surveys, and special events. The district also evaluates the effectiveness of its instructional program through an examination of student performance data, which includes attendance, conduct, and results of state and district assessments. These data inform the district's Comprehensive Needs Assessment process.

NOTICE OF PARENTS RIGHT TO KNOW

Parents at any time may request from the Superintendent information regarding the professional qualifications of their child's teacher(s). In addition, the District is required to provide parents with timely notice if your child has been assigned, or has been taught for 4 or more consecutive weeks, by a teacher who does not meet applicable State licensure requirements at the grade level and subject area in which the teacher has been assigned. For more information, please contact your child's principal or the office of the Superintendent at (440) 293-6488.

NOTICE OF STATE AND DISTRICT ASSESSMENTS

The District administers the Kindergarten Readiness Assessment-Revised (KRA-R) to Kindergartners within their 20th day of instruction. The District administers Ohio's State Tests (OSTs) for English Language Arts (ELA) and Math in grades 3-8, as well as Science in grades 5 and 8. The District administers the following high school end-of-course exams: Algebra I in grade 8 or 9; ELA, Biology, Geometry, and American History in grade 10, and American Government in grade 11. Additionally, the District administers Readiness Assessments for the state-tested subjects to monitor student progress early in order to promote student growth.

The District conducts universal screening and progress monitoring for foundational reading skills using the Dynamic Indicators of Basic Early Literacy Skills (DIBELS) in grades K-8. DIBELS scores are used for the Third Grade Reading Guarantee's reading diagnostics and progress monitoring, as well as for dyslexia screenings. Star 360 (reading and math) is available for teachers of grades 3-12 to assist with standards-based instruction, and may be utilized in combination with curriculum-based assessments. The ACT is offered for all 11th graders. Gifted screenings for superior cognitive, creative thinking, and specific academic ability are also conducted.

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The District provides parents/guardians with score reports from State and District assessments as they become available for state testing results. In addition, upon request and in a timely manner, the District will provide information regarding any State or District policy regarding student participation in any assessments mandated by section 1111(b)(2) and by the State or District, including a policy, procedure, or parental right to opt the child out of the assessment, where applicable.

For more information about state and district assessments, please contact your child's principal or the Director of Pupil Services at (440) 293-6488.

PARENT AND SCHOOL COMPACT

At Pymatuning Valley Local Schools, we believe student success happens through a strong partnership between home and school. This compact outlines shared responsibilities among staff, families, and students to support learning and help every student meet Ohio's Learning Standards.

School Responsibilities

We will:

- Provide a safe, respectful, and supportive environment with high-quality instruction aligned to Ohio's Learning Standards.
- Support students' academic and behavioral needs with care and consistency.
- Share student progress every 9 weeks, with updates regularly posted in ParentAccess. Students at academic risk will receive mid-term reports every 4.5 weeks.
- Maintain open communication with families through email, phone, planners, or scheduled meetings.
- Offer opportunities for families to visit, volunteer, and attend events—with advance scheduling and check-in procedures in place for safety.
- Host two parent-teacher conferences each year to review progress and strengthen the home-school connection.

Fall: Oct. 7 (4–7 PM) & Oct. 8 (8 AM–12 PM)

Spring: Feb. 11 (4–7 PM) & Feb. 12 (8 AM–12 PM)

Family Responsibilities

We will:

- Monitor grades through report cards and ParentAccess:
<https://studentparentportal.neomin.org/district>
- Attend parent-teacher conferences and communicate with staff as needed
- Set a routine for homework and encourage effort, responsibility, and goal-setting
- Ensure regular, on-time attendance
- Read with our child and practice basic math regularly
- Promote healthy tech habits and limit recreational screen time
- Support and attend school events and activities when possible

Student Responsibilities

As Lakers, we will be Leaders, Accountable, Kind, Engaged, and Respectful by:

- Completing and turning in classwork on time

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- Asking for help when needed
- Listening to teachers and participating in class
- Showing respect to others and staying kind
- Reading at least 15 minutes each day outside of school
- Bringing home school communications and notices
- Taking care of our bodies and our school

2026-2027 School Year Acknowledgements TO BE COMPLETED ON FINAL FORMS

- I have read and agree to my responsibilities for fulfilling the Title I School-Parent Compact.
- I have been informed of the Title I Schoolwide Program designation of my child's school, how students are served by Title I, how the school gathers input, and Notice of the Parent's Right to Know regarding the qualifications of my child's teacher(s).

ACADEMIC HONESTY

At Pymatuning Valley Middle School, academic honesty is essential to learning and character development. As technology evolves, students and staff must uphold integrity in all academic work.

Academic dishonesty includes:

- Cheating – submitting work that isn't your own
- Collusion – helping someone else cheat (e.g., sharing your answers)
- Plagiarism – using someone else's words or ideas without proper credit
- AI Use – using artificial intelligence (e.g., ChatGPT) to complete assignments is considered plagiarism. This will result in a zero and may lead to tech restrictions (like completing work by hand).

Teacher Responsibilities

Teachers will:

- Define academic honesty and their classroom expectations
- Give clear guidelines for group/partner work
- Teach proper citation methods
- Address incidents with students and contact parents as needed

Student Responsibilities

Students will:

- Follow directions about collaboration and academic honesty
- Cite all sources used in assignments
- Keep their own work private and report dishonesty
- Ask for clarification if unsure what's allowed

Consequences

1st Offense: Zero on the assignment. Parent contacted. Retake/redo may be allowed at teacher's discretion.

Repeated Offenses: Zeros issued. Parent and administration conference held. Further disciplinary action may follow.

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PROGRESS REPORTS

Report cards are a way of keeping parents informed about each child's progress. The Pymatuning Valley school year is divided into four-nine week grading periods.

The grading scale is:

- 90 – 100 A
- 80 - 89 B
- 70 - 79 C
- 60 - 69 D
- 0 - 59 F

HONORS SWIM

Students who consistently demonstrate academic excellence and positive behavior may qualify to attend the PVMS Honors Swim at the end of the year. To be eligible, students must:

- Maintain a 3.5 GPA or higher for each of the first three grading periods
- Achieve 90% or better attendance
- Have no disciplinary referrals or behavior incidents

This special event celebrates our Lakers who go above and beyond in academics, attendance, and character!

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TO BE COMPLETED ON FINAL FORMS

2026-2027 PVMS HANDBOOK

STUDENT and PARENT AGREEMENT

I have received the PVMS Student/Parent Handbook and understand that it is my responsibility to read and follow the rules that are explained within the handbook. It is also my responsibility to give the handbook to my parent or guardian.

If I fail to follow any of the rules/regulations in the Pymatuning Valley Student Handbook then I understand the penalties that will be enforced by the administration of the school district.

2026-2027 School Year Acknowledgements TO BE COMPLETED ON FINAL FORMS

- I have read and agree to my responsibilities for fulfilling the Title I School-Parent Compact.
- I have been informed of the Title I Schoolwide Program designation of my child's school, how students are served by Title I, how the school gathers input, and Notice of the Parent's Right to Know regarding the qualifications of my child's teacher(s).

Please sign in Final Forms by Friday, September 4, 2026.

Student Name (Print)

Student Name (Signature)

Parent/Guardian (Signature)