



**THE
POSITIVITY
PROJECT**

Cherryland Middle School

**707 E. 3rd Street
Elk Rapids, Michigan 49629**

**Parent/Student Handbook
2026-2027**

Welcome Cherryland Middle School Families,

It is hard to believe the 2026-27 school year is less than a few weeks away! I hope you have enjoyed our beautiful Northern Michigan summer filled with activities, sunshine, and excitement! We are excited about the new school year. Our construction project has finally come to an end and we now have a beautiful school that matches the amazing students, staff and ER community. We have much to look forward to as we welcome our new 6th grade students (Class of 2033!) and welcome back the awesome 7th and 8th grade students. As I enter my 9th year as principal at Cherryland Middle School, I am grateful to serve our talented students, dedicated staff, wonderful supportive families, and community. We are able to provide such a positive learning environment because of collaboration and teamwork.

We are planning to kick off the school year with two events this year. On the 26th we will welcome 6th grade students and families to the 6th grade education night. On the 27th 7th and 8th grade students and families will have an informal open house to find their locker, see their classrooms, and pick up their schedule. Both events will last from 5:00 pm to 7:00 pm. In mid-September, each grade level will have a fall field trip experience to one of our local natural areas. These trips are a great way to extend learning beyond the classroom in a fun and exciting way.

Go Elks!

Josh Haggerty

CMS Welcome Back 6th grade Education Night

We can't wait to welcome our new students and the incoming 6th grade to CMS. We look forward to seeing everyone soon!

When: 5:00-7:00 pm on Wednesday, August 26th. *(6th Grade Students, families and new students and families)*

Purpose: Students will complete a passport of important stops around the school to learn their class schedule, locker, important information, tips, and meet our CMS Team

Food: Hot dogs, chips, popcorn

Who: 6th Grade CMS students and their families - New Students and their families

CMS 7th and 8th Grade Open House

When: 5:00-7:00 pm on Thursday, August 27th. *(7th and 8th Grade Students and Families)*

Purpose: Students will find their locker, receive a class schedule, walk the school to find their classrooms

Who: 7th and 8th Grade CMS students and their families

***If you are unable to attend these events we will have student schedules available online via PowerSchool on Friday, August 28th. New families and families of 6th grade students will have an information sheet delivered in the mail to help you register and gain access to PowerSchool in the coming weeks. If you are in 7th and 8th grade and cannot access PowerSchool please contact the CMS Office.

School Supplies:

Please see the attached PDF of our CMS Supply List to see which supplies would be helpful for your child.

Cellphone Policy:

We had an incredibly successful experience with restricting cell phone use during students' lunch periods beginning two years ago. Seeing students interacting, being creative, and having fun confirmed it was the correct decision. Continuing this year students may still bring a device to school, but will not be allowed to use cellphones during passing time or breakfast and lunch. We do want students to have the opportunity to communicate with their families. To this end, if students need to use a phone, they are welcome to use our office phone or bring their phone to the office to make a call or send a text message. Our discipline policy for cell phone usage outside of the office space remains the same as in previous years.

1st Occurrence: Student receives device at the end of the school day

2nd Occurrence: Parent/Guardian pickup device at their convenience

3rd Occurrence: Parent/Guardian pickup device at their convenience and device is not allowed to return to school or must be checked into the office each morning

Paid and Volunteer Opportunities:

We are always looking for volunteers to support various activities at CMS. Having families involved is important to continue our strong traditions of supporting learning and student growth. If you are interested in possibly volunteering, please reach out to Mr. Haggerty jhaggerty@erschools.com

Paid Positions Available:

- Lunch/Recess Supervisors 11:00-1:00 Daily (On-call basis Available)
 - Let Mr. Haggerty know if you have any questions or interest in either position
- 7th Grade Volleyball Coach
- 2 Paraprofessional Positions (Full Time: 5 Days 7 Hour Work Day)
- Guest Teachers
 - We are always in need of additional guest teachers. Even if you can only commit to a day or two a month.
 - Training and support from Mr. Haggerty and the CMS Team
 - <https://www.erschools.com/district/services/pcmi-willsub/>

CMS Office Hours:

Starting August 18th

Summer Office Hours: 8:00-3:00 (Closed 8/28 - 8/31)

During the school year, Office Hours: 7:00-3:30

Student Medication:

If your child will be taking medications at school parents may pick up and drop off forms and medication at the CMS office. Parents must bring the medication to the school office and fill out the required paperwork.

Parents/Visitors/Item Drops:

After class begins at 7:51 am, all entrances will be locked. Between 7:51 am and 2:43 pm students, staff, and visitors will be required to enter through the main CMS secure entrance which will require a secretary to “buzz”

you in. When dropping items off for students, we will typically ask families to leave items on the table in the entryway and students will be notified to pick them up.

Positivity Project:

We are excited to continue our partnership with the Positivity Project (P2). The Positivity Project is based on extensive research in the field of positive psychology at the University of Michigan and other research institutions. Students have P2 built into their schedule for 18 minutes each day. Each week the students and teachers will study one of 24 different character strengths to learn more about each strength. The model encourages people to use their natural character strengths and rely on the strengths of others to build strong and meaningful relationships and a stronger community. If you want to learn more you can check out the websites below and parents can take the survey to learn more about their own strengths.

Positivity Project www.PosProject.org

Character Strength Survey: <https://www.viacharacter.org/>

(Students will take the survey during the 2nd week of school but we highly encourage family members to take the survey as well)

New Staff Members:

We were incredibly fortunate to add several high-quality educators to our team. We can't wait for them to meet families and students soon!

- Becca Heldreth- 6th Math
- Jesse Lawrence - Pass Program (SpEd)

Family Communication Tools 2026-2027:

CMS Weekly Update: Emailed to all students and family members. Parents, please ensure your correct email is listed in PowerSchool. The CMS Weekly Update will only be delivered if your email is accurate in PowerSchool.

Mrs. Bradberry can help assist and update your email in PowerSchool RBradberry@ERSchools.com

Weekly Class Agenda: All classroom teachers will complete a weekly agenda that outlines what is happening during class each day that week. (Link will be shared closer to the start of the school year)

Facebook: Picture and video highlights <https://www.facebook.com/elkrapidscms/>

Daily School Announcements: The daily announcements read each day at school can be accessed via PowerSchool Daily Bulletin or our school website at

<https://www.erschools.com/schools/cherryland-middle-school/>

School Messenger: This allows for quick communication such as on snow days and other important school events. Families will receive the messages via text message.

Upcoming Events and Important Dates:

8/26/26 CMS 6th grade Education Night 5:00-7:00

8/27/26 CMS 7th and 8th Grade Open House 5:00-7:00

9/1/26 First Day of School (Half Day Schedule) 11:13 Dismissal

9/4-9/7 No School Labor Day Weekend

9/18/26 CMS Fall Field Trips

10/8/26 School Picture Day - Yearbook Order Form

10/16/26 Homecoming

Go Elks!

Josh Haggerty



Cherryland Middle School
Principal

MISSION STATEMENT

We are active lifelong global learners!

FIGHT SONG

Cheer our Elks to victory
Show your E.R. pride
We're the team that can't be beat
So come on Elks get on your feet
And hail the good old Orange and Black
We're gonna win tonight
Fight, fight, go team fight
Victory for E.R. High!!!

CHERRYLAND MIDDLE SCHOOL

Parent/Student Handbook

This handbook lists the school practices and procedures and helpful information which impacts student actions and behavior at Cherryland Middle School.

Within the handbook school regulations & information, student behavior, and student responsibilities are outlined. All students and parents are to be familiar with the information outlined in the handbook. The handbook is subject to updates at any point and should a conflict with a school board policy occur the school board policy will supersede the school handbook.

Board Approval Date: *Pending

ABSENCE FROM SCHOOL

Students are expected to be in attendance at all times during the school day except in case of illness or emergency. Upon returning to school after an absence, students are to report to the office before proceeding to class. If parents have not called the office to excuse an absence, students need to present one in person to the school secretary or receptionist. Emailed absence explanations are also acceptable.

ACADEMIC HONESTY

Academic honesty is defined as a set of intrinsic values and skills that promote integrity in teaching, learning, and assessment. Furthermore, CMS expects that students respect others' intellectual property, and submit work that is of their own creation. If CMS students want to use the ideas of others in their work, they are expected to cite them appropriately, using the Modern Language Association (MLA) format. The use of artificial intelligence (AI) tools or any other technology to generate, complete, or substantially alter assignments is strictly prohibited and is considered a violation of the CMS academic honesty policy.

1st Incident:

- Teacher informs student and principal of academic honesty violation
- Principal meets with student, teacher, and contacts family
- Student expected to complete an alternate assignment to demonstrate knowledge

2nd Incident:

- Teacher informs student and principal of academic honesty violation
- Principal meets with student, teacher, and family
- Student expected to complete an alternate assignment to demonstrate knowledge

3rd Incident and Beyond:

- Teacher informs student and principal of academic honesty violation
- Principal meets with student, teacher, and family
- Student expected to complete an alternate assignment to demonstrate knowledge
- No credit received

ADVERTISING OUTSIDE ACTIVITIES

No announcements or posting of outside activities will be permitted without the approval of the Principal. A minimum of twenty-four (24) hours advance notice is required to ensure that the Principal has the opportunity to review the announcement or posting.

ATHLETICS

Information regarding CMS athletics can be located in the CMS Athletics Handbook

ATTENDANCE:

Students who are not present when class begins will be marked absent. Students arriving to class late will be marked tardy when they arrive within the first 15 minutes of class.

EARLY DISMISSAL FROM SCHOOL

No student will be allowed to leave school prior to dismissal time without a written request signed by the parent/guardian. No student will be released to a person other than a custodial parent(s) without written permission signed by the custodial parent(s) or guardian.

Tardy to Class

Students marked tardy 3 or more times in a week (Friday-Thursday Tracking Period) will serve a lunch detention on Friday.

Students marked tardy 6 or more times in a week will meet with Mr. Haggerty and or Ms. Bissell, contact their family, and develop a plan to help ensure they can attend class on time

AWARDS

At the end of the year, students receive award certificates from the school for various accomplishments. These include earning a superior grade point average, having perfect attendance, outstanding citizenship, etc. Certificates are also presented at the end of each season to members of the athletic teams. If you have any questions about end-of-year awards contact the principal.

AWARDS ASSEMBLIES

Cherryland Middle School conducts end-of-year awards assemblies for each grade level. The purpose is to reward and recognize outstanding effort, achievement and citizenry in the ranks of our Elks. Some, though not all of the awards presented at grade levels are perfect attendance, outstanding citizenship, scholarship, achievement, Leadership, band, choir, art, etc. Additionally there may be other awards from year-to-year basis.

BACKPACKS

For reasons of school safety, backpacks, duffle bags, and book bags are to be kept in the student's lockers during the school day. Bags brought to class or left in the hallways will be taken to the office. Students should carry only a binder/organizer/Chromebook and other necessary supplies to classes.

BAD WEATHER NOTIFICATION

In the event of school cancellation because of inclement weather, notification will be broadcast over the following radio and television stations, shared via School Messenger, posted on the Elk Rapids Schools Facebook page, and notification on the ERSchools.com website.

BAND

Students commit to band on an annual basis. Students who choose to sign up for instrumental music (Band) in grades 6, 7, & 8 are committing to a minimum of one complete school year. Class changes may be made during the first two weeks of the school year start. Students with hardship exceptions decided on a case-by-case basis.

BICYCLES

Students may ride bicycles to school. All bicycles must be left in the bike rack during the school day and locked. Bicycles may not be ridden during the lunch hour.

BULLYING5517.01 - BULLYING AND OTHER AGGRESSIVE BEHAVIOR TOWARD STUDENTS

It is the policy of the District to provide a safe and nurturing educational environment for all of its students. This policy protects all students from bullying/aggressive behavior regardless of the subject matter or motivation for such impermissible behavior.

Bullying or other aggressive behavior toward a student, whether by other students, staff, or third parties, including Board members, parents, guests, contractors, vendors, and volunteers, is strictly prohibited. This prohibition includes written, physical, verbal, and psychological abuse, including hazing, gestures, comments, threats, or actions to a student, which cause or threaten to cause bodily harm, reasonable fear for personal safety or personal degradation.

Demonstration of appropriate behavior, treating others with civility and respect, and refusing to tolerate harassment or bullying is expected of administrators, faculty, staff, and volunteers to provide positive examples for student behavior.

This policy applies to all "at school" activities in the District, including activities on school property, in a school vehicle, and those occurring off school property if the student or employee is at any school-sponsored, school-approved or school-related activity or function, such as field trips or athletic events where students are under the school's control, or where an employee is engaged in school business. Misconduct occurring outside of school may also be disciplined if it interferes with the school environment.

Notification

Notice of this policy will be annually circulated to and posted in conspicuous locations in all school buildings and departments within the District and discussed with students, as well as incorporated into the teacher, student, and parent/guardian handbooks. State and Federal rights posters on discrimination and harassment shall also be posted at each building. All new hires will be required to review and sign off on this policy and the related complaint procedure.

Parents or legal guardians of the alleged victim(s), as well as of the alleged aggressor(s), shall be promptly notified of any complaint or investigation as well as the results of the investigation to the extent consistent with student confidentiality requirements. A record of the time and form of notice or attempts at notice shall be kept in the investigation file.

To the extent appropriate and/or legally permitted, confidentiality will be maintained during the investigation process. However, a proper investigation will, in some circumstances, require the disclosure of names and allegations. Further, the appropriate authorities may be notified, depending on the nature of the complaint and/or the results of the investigation.

Implementation

The Superintendent is responsible to implement this policy, and may develop further guidelines, not inconsistent with this policy.

This policy is not intended to and should not be interpreted to interfere with legitimate free speech rights of any individual. However, the District reserves the right and responsibility to maintain a safe environment for students, conducive to learning and other legitimate objectives of the school program.

Procedure

Any student who believes s/he has been or is the victim of bullying, hazing, or other aggressive behavior should immediately report the situation to the Principal or assistant principal. The student may also report concerns to a teacher or counselor who will be responsible for notifying the appropriate administrator or Board official. Complaints against the building principal should be filed with the Superintendent. Complaints against the Superintendent should be filed with the Board President.

Every student is encouraged, and every staff member is required to report any situation that they believe to be aggressive behavior directed toward a student. Reports shall be made to those identified above. Reports may be made anonymously, but formal disciplinary action may not be taken solely on the basis of an anonymous report.

The Principal (or other administrator as designated) shall promptly investigate and document all complaints about bullying, aggressive or other behavior that may violate this policy. The investigation must be completed as promptly as the circumstances permit and should be completed within three (3) school days after a report or complaint is made.

If the investigation finds an instance of bullying or aggressive behavior has occurred, it will result in prompt and appropriate remedial action. This may include up to expulsion for students, up to discharge for employees, exclusion for parents, guests, volunteers and contractors, and removal from any official position and/or a request to resign for Board members. Individuals may also be referred to law enforcement or other appropriate officials.

The individual responsible for conducting the investigation shall document all reported incidents and report all verified incidents of bullying, aggressive or other prohibited behavior, as well as any remedial action taken, including disciplinary actions and referrals, to the Superintendent. The Superintendent shall submit a compiled report to the Board on an annual basis.

Non-Retaliation/False Reports

Retaliation or false allegations against any person who reports, is thought to have reported, files a complaint, participates in an investigation or inquiry concerning allegations of bullying or aggressive behavior (as a witness or otherwise), or is the target of the bullying or aggressive behavior being investigated, is prohibited and will not be tolerated. Such retaliation shall be considered a serious violation of Board policy, independent of whether a complaint of bullying is substantiated. Suspected retaliation should be reported in the same manner as bullying/aggressive behavior.

Making intentionally false reports about bullying/aggressive behavior for getting someone in trouble is similarly prohibited and will not be tolerated. Retaliation and intentionally false reports may result in disciplinary action as indicated above.

Definitions

The following definitions are provided for guidance only. If a student or other individual believes there has been bullying, hazing, harassment or other aggressive behavior, regardless of whether it fits a particular definition, s/he should report it immediately and allow the administration to determine the appropriate course of action.

"Aggressive behavior" is defined as inappropriate conduct that is repeated enough, or serious enough, to negatively impact a student's educational, physical, or emotional well-being. Such behavior includes, for example, bullying, hazing, stalking, intimidation, menacing, coercion, name-calling, taunting, making threats, and hitting/pushing/shoving.

"At School" is defined as in a classroom, elsewhere on school premises, on a school bus or other school related vehicle, or at a school-sponsored activity or event whether or not it is held on school premises. It also includes conduct using a telecommunications access device or telecommunications service provider that occurs off school premises if either owned by or under the control of the District.

"Bullying" is defined as any gesture or written, verbal, graphic, or physical act (including electronically transmitted acts – i.e. internet, telephone or cell phone, personal digital assistant (PDA), or wireless handheld device) that, without regard to its subject matter or motivating animus, is intended or that a reasonable person would know is likely to harm one (1) or more students either directly or indirectly by doing any of the following:

- A. substantially interfering with educational opportunities, benefits, or programs of one (1) or more students;
- B. adversely affecting the ability of a student to participate in or benefit from the school district's educational programs or activities by placing the student in reasonable fear of

- physical harm or by causing substantial emotional distress;
- C. having an actual and substantial detrimental effect on a student's physical or mental health; and/or
- D. causing substantial disruption in, or substantial interference with, the orderly operation of the school.

Bullying can be physical, verbal, psychological, or a combination of all three. Some examples of bullying are:

- A. Physical – hitting, kicking, spitting, pushing, pulling; taking and/or damaging personal belongings or extorting money, blocking or impeding student movement, unwelcome physical contact.
- B. Verbal – taunting, malicious teasing, insulting, name-calling, making threats.
- C. Psychological – spreading rumors, manipulating social relationships, coercion, or engaging in social exclusion/shunning, extortion, or intimidation. This may occur in a number of different ways, including but not limited to notes, emails, social media postings, and graffiti.

"Harassment" includes, but is not limited to, any act which subjects an individual or group to unwanted, abusive behavior of a nonverbal, verbal, written or physical nature, often on the basis of age, race, religion, color, national origin, marital status or disability, but may also include sexual orientation, physical characteristics (e.g., height, weight, complexion), cultural background, socioeconomic status, or geographic location (e.g., from rival school, different state, rural area, city, etc.).

"Intimidation/Menacing" includes, but is not limited to, any threat or act intended to: place a person in fear of physical injury or offensive physical contact; to substantially damage or interfere with person's property; or to intentionally interfere with or block a person's movement without good reason.

"Staff" includes all school employees and Board members.

"Third parties" include, but are not limited to, coaches, school volunteers, parents, school visitors, service contractors, vendors, or others engaged in District business, and others not directly subject to school control at inter-district or intra-district athletic competitions or other school events.

For further definition and instances that could possibly be construed as:

Harassment, see Policy [5517](#);

Hazing, see Policy [5516](#).

MCL 380.1310B (Matt's Safe School Law, PA 241 of 2011)
Policies on Bullying, Michigan State Board of Education
Model Anti-Bullying Policy, Michigan State Board of Education

Adopted 11/8/04
Revised 6/2/14

Confidentiality

To the extent appropriate and/or legally permitted, confidentiality will be maintained during the investigation process. However, a proper investigation will, in some circumstances, require the disclosure of names and allegations.

Notification

Notice of this policy will be annually circulated to and posted in conspicuous locations in all school buildings and departments within the District and discussed with students, as well as incorporated into the teacher, student, and parent/guardian handbooks. State and Federal rights posters on discrimination and harassment shall also be posted at each building. All new hires will be required to review and sign off on this policy and the related complaint procedure.

The Superintendent is directed to develop administrative guidelines to implement this policy. Guidelines shall include reporting and investigative procedures, as needed. The complaint procedure established by the Superintendent shall be followed.

This policy is not intended to and should not be interpreted to interfere with legitimate free speech rights of any individual. However, the District reserves the right and responsibility to maintain a safe environment for students, conducive to learning and other legitimate objectives of the school program.

Policies on Bullying, Michigan State Board of Education, 7-19-01
Model Anti-Bullying Policy, Michigan State Board of Education, 9-12-06

Adopted 11/8/04
Revised 6/25/07

Any type of disrespectful behavior towards another student intended to embarrass, intimidate or create fear is bullying and will not be tolerated. Any type of bullying behavior will be addressed with consequences up to and including suspension. (See Consequence Chart, Appendix C).

BUZZ IN SYSTEM/ENTERING SCHOOL

As part of the Elk Rapids School District's ongoing commitment to school safety, the District installed buzz-in systems at the main entrance at Cherryland Middle School. The buzz-in system includes an intercom and a camera.

Students and visitors to the school will be "buzzed" into the school, which is intended to enhance the safety and security of both students and staff by establishing greater door control at the primary entrance to the school. Once the school day begins, our doors will be locked and visitors will need to press the button to gain entry to the school.

When dropping off items for students we will likely ask families to leave items on the table in the secure entry to limit the number of school visitors. Upon entering the school, visitors will come to the office to receive a visitor's badge. When visitors are ready to leave, they should exit the school building through the main entrance and officially check out.

CARE OF VALUABLES

Students are urged NOT to bring large sums of money or other valuable items to school. The school will not be responsible for the loss of valuables.

CELL PHONES & EARBUDS/BLUETOOTH HEADPHONES (AIR PODS)

Cell phones are permitted at school. However, cell phones may only be used before entering the building or after exiting the building. Cell phones must remain in student lockers until the end of the school day. If a staff member observes a phone or hears a phone, they will take the phone to the office. Bluetooth headphones (example Air Pods) are not permitted for use outside of the classroom and will be confiscated and treated as a cell phone. *(See practice below)*

First offense – students may pick up the phone at the end of the school day.

Second offense – a parent/guardian must pick up the phone.

***at this time, parents will receive the rules for the third offense (to be signed).

Third offense – student phone privilege is suspended. If it is necessary for a student to bring a phone with them to school, it must be turned into the office first thing in the morning and can be picked up at the end of the day.

Chromebooks

Each CMS student is issued a school-owned Chromebook. This device is to be used for school purposes only. For additional information on the care, handling, and best practices of the Chromebook please refer to the technology acceptable use agreement.

CLASS PLACEMENT

At Cherryland Middle School, careful consideration is taken with each placement into a class. It is our responsibility to ensure all students have, as best as possible, viable access to all subject areas; Health and Physical Education, Social Studies, STEM, Language and Literature, Mathematics, Science and The Arts.

In an effort to build language and literature skill and fluency, all CMS 6th and 7th grade students have double block of English Language Arts each day. Conversely, in an effort to prepare our students for the rigor of high school Mathematics expectations, all CMS 8th grade students have two periods of Mathematics education each day.

Cherryland Middle School offers the following accelerated classes to students:

7th and 8th grade Accelerated Math; 7th and 8th Accelerated ELA

With average total class sizes of approximately 85 to 120 students, our cut mark for placement in an accelerated course ranges from 25 to 30 students. Children who have a “matrix” score that ranks in the top 25 to 30 students will be placed in accelerated classes.

(For more information on what elements are included in subject area matrixes contact the CMS Counselor).

Students that have not already been “matrixed in” to accelerated programming and wish to be considered need to meet the following criteria:

- A- or better grade average in the subject matter
- Level 4 on M-STEP subject matter
- 85th percentile or higher NWEA subject matter score
- 85% score or better on end-of-year subject area test (for Math)
- Completed an accelerated class application during the previous academic year

The criteria established to move students out of accelerated placement are if students do not maintain the following:

- B+ or better average grade
- Level 3 or higher on the M-STEP subject matter
- 75th percentile or higher on the NWEA subject matter

If any of these conditions exist, the principal or counselor, (possibly both), will meet with the student to develop a plan for improvement. A timeline for improvement will be established. If the guidelines for improvement are not met, the student will be removed - possibly during the school year - from the accelerated program to an on-level class.

The placement of any new students to the district in an accelerated program class will be based on considerations such as accelerated placement in another district as well as the other criteria considered for all student placement in our programming.

Accelerated scheduling from year-to-year, including the movement of students in and out of accelerated classes, is based on established criteria and available openings. Any other unique student placement aspects will be governed as much as possible by the current guidelines of our building placement decision-making processes.

Accelerated Transitions

Students may transition from CMS accelerated classes to our high school “honors” programs according to the following ERHS recommended guidelines: (Please note that even if students are not in CMS or ERHS honors programs, they can still get into H.S. AP courses in their junior and senior years, based on their performance and seat availability).

Honors English 9 : ERHS guarantees placement of the top 30 students based on minimum expectations/matrix ranking of the following criteria. Beyond 30, a wait list is developed.

- Have a minimum of B+ (87%) in ELA 8th
 - Have PSAT EBRW score range between 370 to 410 or better
 - Have 80th percentile or higher on Reading NWEA (Spring)
 - Writing sample of teacher’s choice, (rank ordered by rubric score)
- PSAT (Preliminary Scholastic Aptitude Test)- given Spring 8th grade year.
 - EBRW (Evidenced Based Reading/Writing)

Geometry 9:

CMS students must have completed high school Algebra I prior to 8th/9th grade (and passed both semesters with 80% B- or higher). Students must also have:

- PSAT Math score range of between 400 to 460 or better.

Biology 9:

ERHS guarantees placement of the top 30 students based on minimum expectations/matrix ranking of the following criteria. Beyond 30, a wait list is developed.

- Have a minimum of B+ (87%) or better average in 8th grade Science
- Have PSAT EBRW score range of between 370 to 410 or better
- Have 80th percentile or higher on Reading NWEA
- Have strong recommendation from 8th grade Science teacher.

Honors US History 9 :

ERHS guarantees placement of the top 30 students based on minimum expectations/matrix ranking of the following criteria. Beyond 30, a wait list is developed.

- Have a minimum of A- (90%) or better average in 8th grade US History
- Have PSAT EBRW score range of between 370 to 410 or better
- Have 80th percentile or higher on Reading NWEA
- Have strong recommendation from 8th grade US History teacher.

COATS, HATS AND HOODS

Students are not permitted to wear coats, hats, hoods overhead, sunglasses and scarves or other outdoor wear during regular school hours, unless they have teacher permission. These items are to be kept in the lockers and not brought to class.

Course Catalog

Below is a list of courses offered through CMS and CMS Virtual. Additional course offerings may be available via Edmentum or Michigan Virtual, please contact the counselor for additional information and questions.

6th Language
6th Literature
7th Language
7th Literature

7th Language Accelerated
7th Literature Accelerated
8th ELA
8th ELA Accelerated

6th Math
7th Math
7th Accelerated Math
8th Math

8th Math Lab
Algebra 1
6th Science
7th Science
8th Science
6th Geography
7th World History
8th U.S. History
Art 6
Art 7
Art 8

Vocal Music 6
Vocal Music 7
Vocal Music 8
Band 6
Band 7
Band 8
Intervention 6
Intervention 7
Intervention 8
STEM 6
STEM 7

STEM 8
PE/Health 6
PE/Health 7
PE/Health 8
P2/Community Action
Special Education Resource
Family Consumer Science

DANCE RULES

1. Cherryland Middle School students in 6th-8th grade are permitted to attend dances, no guests are allowed.
2. Students must have a ride waiting for them at the conclusion of the dance.
3. Students wishing to leave early may not re-enter the dance and may only leave if a parent or guardian enters the building to pick up the student.

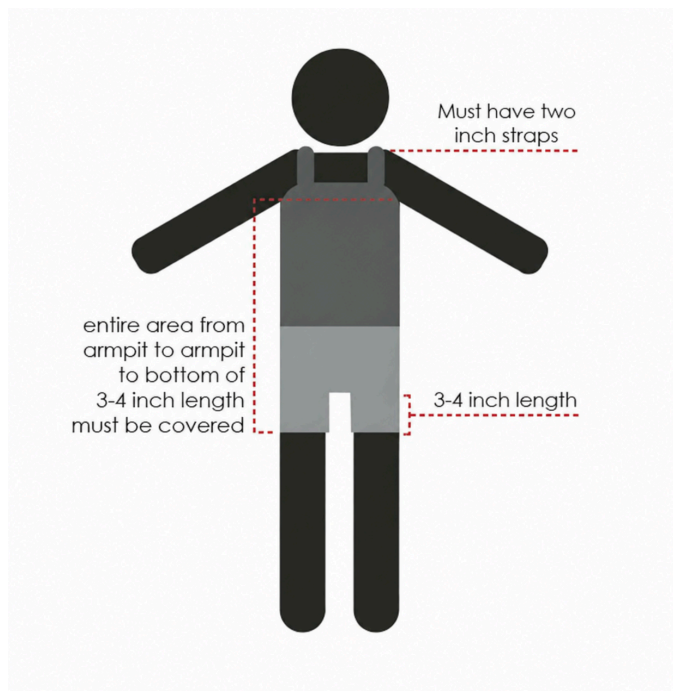
Formal Dances

Girls can wear strapless dresses and spaghetti straps but their dresses have to be fingertip length. If students have questions regarding the modesty level of their clothing, they need to speak with the adult in charge of the dance prior to the event.

DRESS CODE

We are committed to fostering a learning environment and culture in which students can both express themselves as individuals and also be comfortable learning in a professional environment. When selecting new clothes for the 2026-27 school year please use the gender-neutral guide below to ensure you are comfortable and appropriately dressed for success each day.

- Pajama clothing can only be worn on school-sponsored spirit day.



Management of Dress Code Violations

School administrative staff shall enforce dress code violations consistently using the requirements below. The school administration shall not have the discretion to vary the requirements in ways that lead to discriminatory enforcement.

Students will be removed from spaces, hallways, or classrooms as a result of a dress code violation. Students in violation of the dress code will be provided two options;

- Students will be asked to put on their own alternative clothing, if already available at school, to meet dress code for the remainder of the day. Students will also be offered school provided clothing options.
- If necessary, students' parents may be called during the school day to bring alternative clothing for the student to wear for the remainder of the day.

No student should be discriminated against by dress code enforcement because of racial identity, sex assigned at birth, gender identity or expression, sexual orientation, ethnicity, cultural or religious identity, household income, body size/type, or body maturity.

These dress code guidelines shall apply to regular school days and summer school days, as well as any school-related events and activities, such as sporting events, end-of-year trips, special field trips and dances.

ELECTRONIC ITEMS

Students are not permitted to use electronic items during regular school hours unless given specific permission by a staff member to do so. The school is not responsible for any lost or stolen item. The same rules apply for electronic items such as cell phones.

EMERGENCY MEDICAL AUTHORIZATION

The Board has established a policy that every student must have an Emergency Medical Authorization Form completed and signed by the student's parent in order to participate in any activity off school grounds. This includes field trips, spectator trips, athletic and other extracurricular activities, and co-curricular activities. The Emergency Medical Authorization Form is provided at the time of enrollment and at the beginning of each year. Failure to return the completed form to the school will jeopardize a student's educational program.

ENERGY/SUGAR DRINKS

Water is the only drink allowed in our school building. Energy or power drinks high in caffeine and/or sugar for example: (Monster, Red Bull, Arnold Palmer teas, Gatoraid) are not allowed at school or school events, including sports team practices and games. If a medical condition necessitates the need for a drink other than water families should contact the CMS office.

ENROLLING IN THE SCHOOL

In general, State law requires students to enroll in the school district in which their parent or legal guardian resides.

- () unless enrolling under the District's open enrollment policy.
- () unless enrolling and paying tuition.

New students under the age of eighteen (18) must be enrolled by their parent or legal guardian. When enrolling, parents must provide copies of the following:

- A. a birth certificate or similar document;
- B. court papers allocating parental rights and responsibilities, or custody (if appropriate);
- C. proof of residency;
- D. proof of immunizations.

Under certain circumstances, temporary enrollment may be permitted. In such cases, parents will be notified about documentation required to establish permanent enrollment. Students enrolling from another school must have an official transcript from their previous school in order to have credits transferred. The office assistant will assist in obtaining the transcript if not presented at the time of enrollment.

Homeless students who meet the Federal definition of homeless may enroll and will be under the direction of the District Liaison for Homeless Children with regard to enrollment procedures. (See Board Policy 5111.01 – Homeless Students) Students who meet the Federal definition of children and youth in foster care may enroll and will be under the direction of the Local Point of Contact with regard to enrollment procedures. (Board Policy 5111.03 – Children and Youth in Foster Care)

A student who has been suspended or expelled by another public school in Michigan may be temporarily denied admission to the District's schools during the period of suspension or expulsion even if that student would otherwise be entitled to attend school in the District. Likewise, a student who has been expelled or otherwise removed for disciplinary purposes from a public school in another state and the period of expulsion or removal has not expired, may be temporarily denied admission to the District's schools during the period of expulsion or removal or until the expiration of the period of expulsion or removal which the student would have received in the District had the student committed the offense while enrolled in the District. Prior to denying admission, however, the Superintendent shall offer the student an opportunity for a hearing to review the circumstances of the suspension or expulsion and any other factors the Superintendent determines to be relevant.

GRADING SYSTEM

Report cards are issued two times a year. See the school calendar for the end of the 18-week/semester marking periods. Students are graded "A" through "D" (with + or -). A grade "E" will be used for marking period failure.

GRADES- Cherryland Middle School has a standard grading procedure, as well as additional notations that may indicate work in progress or incomplete work. The purpose of a grade is to indicate the extent to which the student has acquired the necessary learning. In general, students are assigned grades based upon test results, homework, projects, and classroom participation. Each teacher may place a different emphasis on these areas in determining a grade and will inform the students at the beginning of the course work. If a student is not sure how his/her grade will be determined, s/he should ask the teacher.

The school uses the following grading system:

- 93 to 100% = A
- 90 to 92% = A-
- 88 to 89% = B+
- 83 to 87% = B
- 80 to 82% = B-
- 78 to 79% = C+
- 73 to 77% = C
- 70 to 72% = C-
- 68 to 69% = D+
- 63 to 67% = D
- 60 to 62% = D-

59 to 0% = E
I = Incomplete

Incomplete Grades: An "I" or incomplete appears on the report card if the student has failed to meet the requirements of the class due to prolonged illness or other justifiable reasons. After the work is made up, a regular grade is given. Students who fail to make up an incomplete grade within two (2) weeks of the marking period will be given a failing grade.

INDIVIDUALS WITH DISABILITIES

The American's with Disabilities Act (ADA) and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act provide that no individual will be discriminated against on the basis of a disability. (Board Policy 2260.01 – Section 504/ADA Prohibition Against Discrimination Based on Disability). This protection applies not just to the student, but to all individuals who have access to the District's programs and facilities. A student can access special education services through the proper evaluation procedures. Parent involvement in this procedure is important and required by Federal (IDEA) and State law. Contact the building principal to inquire about evaluation procedures and programs. (See Board Policy 2460 – Special Education and associated Administrative Guidelines)

The District is committed to identifying, evaluating, and providing a free appropriate public education ("FAPE") to students within its jurisdiction who are disabled within the definition of Section 504, regardless of the nature or severity of their disabilities.

HOMEBOUND INSTRUCTION

The District shall arrange for individual instruction to students of legal school age who are not able to attend classes because of a physical or emotional disability. Parents should contact the school administration regarding procedures for such instruction. The District will provide homebound instruction only for those confinements expected to last at least five (5) days.

Applications for individual instruction shall be made by a physician licensed to practice in this State, parent, student, or other caregiver. A physician must: certify the nature and existence of a medical condition; state the probable duration of the confinement; request such instruction; and/or present evidence of the student's ability to participate in an educational program.

(See also Board Policy 2412 – Homebound Instruction Program and associated Administrative Guidelines.)

HOMEWORK

All classes at CMS will have a Google Classroom to view daily objectives, assignments, and assessments. Families will not be able to access the complete Google Classroom from their personal accounts but will be able to register for a daily summary. Also major assignments, projects, essays, and assessments will be posted in advance of their due date on each grade levels public Google Calendar.

IMMUNIZATIONS

Students must be current with all immunizations required by law or have an authorized waiver from State immunization requirements. If a student does not have the necessary shots or waivers, the Principal may remove the student or require compliance with a set deadline. This is for the safety of all students and in accordance with State law. Any questions about immunizations or waivers should be directed to the building.

LEAVING SCHOOL GROUNDS

No student is to leave the Cherryland Middle School grounds during the school day without permission from the principal's office.

LOCKERS

Each student is assigned a locker and must follow these rules:

1. Do not change lockers without the permission of the principal.

2. Do not hit, kick or otherwise mistreat any locker.
3. Do not write or mark on any locker.
4. Do not attempt to enter another person's locker or try to get another student's combination.
5. Do not use an empty locker or another person's locker to store your personal items.
6. A fee will be assessed for any damage or misuse.

If a locker does not work properly, it should be reported to the office. At the end of the school year, you are responsible for cleaning your locker out. This includes removing all pictures, stickers, writing, and the like. The school retains ownership of the lockers and inspections may be held at any time. The principal or other school officials will also check a locker at any time if there is a suspicion of illegal or dangerous content. This will be done with or without the students' and parents' consent or knowledge.

LOCKS

Students may rent locks from the school if they want a lock. The cost is \$5.00. If the lock is returned in good condition, \$5.00 will be refunded. A lock may be rented from the office at any time during the year. Students are not permitted to bring their own locks from home to put on their lockers.

LOST AND FOUND

The lost and found area is in the cafeteria. Students who have lost items should check there and may retrieve their items if they give a proper description. Unclaimed items will be given to charity periodically during the school year and near the end of the school year. Students will be encouraged to look at items in the lost and found before the donations occur.

LUNCH CHARGES

All regular breakfast and lunch charges are included at no cost to families for the 2026-27 school year. Students will not be allowed to charge money to accounts for a la carte purchases, students must have funds available to purchase these extra items. For more information or questions, call Food Service Director, Rob Payne at 264-6077.

LUNCHROOM

When students have finished their lunch, they are required to clean their table area, including items dropped on the floor. Students will wait to be dismissed and then help with any general cleaning or maintenance of lunch tables. There is a separate lunch hour for each grade level.

MEDICATION

Before any prescribed medication or treatment may be administered to any student during school hours, the school shall require the written prescription from the child's physician accompanied by the written authorization of the parent. Both must also authorize any self-medication or treatment. The School Board shall require the prior written consent of the parent along with a waiver of any liability of the district for the administration of the medication. Medication must be in its prescribed bottle.

MICHIGAN YOUTH IN GOVERNMENT

MYIG is a real-world experience in the fields of government and public policy-making. CMS students will have the option of applying to participate in the legislature, debate, or political compromise portions of the program for this trip to Lansing, MI, and our State Capitol Building. The trip will include five meals, 2 MYIG t-shirts, transportation to and from Lansing, MI, lodging in Lansing, and CMS teacher advisors/chaperones. Applications occur in early September. For more questions contact MYIG coordinator Mr. Joe Macaluso at jmacaluso@erschools.com

MONEY

Students are not to bring large sums of money to school and are advised not to loan money to others. The school is not responsible if money or other valuable items are lost or stolen. During gym class, please give valuables to your physical education teacher for safekeeping until class is over.

NONDISCRIMINATION POLICY

Cherryland Middle School (CMS) does not discriminate on the basis of religion, race, color, national origin, sex, disability, age, height, weight, marital status, or any other legally protected characteristic, in its programs, activities or employment opportunities.

Notice of the CMS policy on nondiscrimination shall be available in the school, published in any CMS statement regarding the availability of educational services, and in student and staff handbooks.

OUTDOOR ACTIVITIES

Students are to use the area between the arts wing and the gym of the school for outdoor activities. Students are not to go into the service drive along Glowicki Field. No unsupervised activities are allowed in the area north or east of the school.

PASSES

No student may be out of an assigned class without having a pass issued by a staff member. Students must give the pass to the teacher when they return to class. Students are issued new passes during each quarter.

PHYSICAL/HEALTH EDUCATION

All students are expected to participate in Physical Education activities during 1 of the two semesters, unless excused by a doctor or some other mandated reason. Students are required to wear suitable clothing during gym class. As determined by the teacher. Failure to be prepared for class or refusal to dress as directed by the teacher will result in removal from the class for that day along with a failing grade for the day.

POWERSCHOOL

PowerSchool is an online student data management system used by Elk Rapids Public Schools. Aside from major test data (for example: NWEA), all other critical student data is logged in this system. PowerSchool also provides a parent access component. In this way, parents can check their child's grades on a daily basis if desired. Parents are also able to view our daily school announcements via PowerSchool.

PowerSchool website <https://pselkrapids.northwested.org/public/>

To obtain your personal username and password please contact the CMS office.

RELATIONS WITH PARENTS

The Board of Education believes that the education of children is a responsibility which it shares jointly with parents of the school community and that a strong program of communication and cooperation between home and school is essential to ensure that the best interests of the child are served.

In order to encourage parent-school cooperation the Board directs that the following activities be implemented:

- A. Parent-teacher conferences, which permit two (2) way communication between home and school.
- B. Open Houses in District schools, which shall provide parents with opportunities to see school facilities, meet faculty members and personally sample programs. Each District school shall hold an Open House at least once each school year.
- C. Meetings of parents and staff members designed to allow free explanation and discussion of matters regarding child-school, child-home or child-school-home relationships.
- D. Special events of a cultural, ethnic or topical nature which are of general interest to the schools and/or the community and which involve the cooperative effort of students and parents. Such programs may be initiated by parent groups.

Right of Expression

The School recognizes the right of students to express themselves. With the right of expression comes the responsibility to do it appropriately. Students may distribute or display, at appropriate times, nonsponsored, noncommercial written material and petitions; buttons, badges, or other insignia; clothing, insignia, and banners; and audio and video materials. All items must meet the following school guidelines:

- A. A material cannot be displayed if it:
 - 1. is obscene to minors, libelous, indecent and pervasively or vulgar,
 - 2. advertises any product or service not permitted to minors by law,
 - 3. intends to be insulting or harassing,
 - 4. intends to incite fighting or presents a likelihood of disrupting school or a school event.
 - 5. presents a clear and present likelihood that, either because of its content or manner of distribution or display, it causes or is likely to cause a material and substantial disruption of school or school activities, a violation of school regulations, or the commission of an unlawful act.
- B. Materials may not be displayed or distributed during class periods, or during passing times between classes. Permission may be granted for display or distribution during lunch periods and after school in designated locations, as long as exits are not blocked and there is proper access and egress to the building.

Students who are unsure whether or not materials they wish to display meet school guidelines may present them to the principal twenty-four (24) hours prior to display.

REPORT CARDS

A copy of your child's report card will be mailed home to each family after the 1st and 2nd semesters.

REVIEW OF INSTRUCTIONAL MATERIALS AND ACTIVITIES

Parents have the right to review any instructional materials being used in the school. They also may observe instruction in any class, particularly those dealing with instruction in health and sex education. Any parent who wishes to review materials or observe instruction must contact the Principal prior to coming to the School. Parents' rights to review teaching materials and instructional activities are subject to reasonable restrictions and limits.

SCHOOL BUSES

Students who are riding to and from school on transportation provided by the school are required to follow all basic safety rules. This applies to school-owned buses as well as any contracted transportation. The driver may assign seating or direct students in any reasonable manner to maintain transportation safety. Students must comply with the following basic safety rules:

Each student shall:

- be on time at the designated loading zone 10 minutes prior to scheduled stop);
- stay off the road at all times while walking to and waiting for the school transportation;
- line up single file off the roadway to enter;
- wait until the school transportation is completely stopped before moving forward to enter;
- refrain from crossing a highway until the driver signals it is safe to cross;
- go immediately to a seat and be seated.

Drivers will not wait for students who are not at their designated stops on time. The driver will not discharge students at places other than their regular stop at home or at school unless the driver has proper authorization from school officials.

SCHOOL VISITORS

Visitors, particularly parents, are welcome at the school. In order to properly monitor the safety of students and staff, each visitor must report to the office upon entering the school to obtain a pass. Any visitor found in the building without a pass shall be reported to the Principal. If a person wishes to confer with a member of the staff, that person should call for an appointment prior to coming to the School, in order to schedule a mutually convenient time. Students may bring visitors to school provided approval is received from the principal at least 24 hours prior to the visit. The visitor must be of middle school age.

SEARCH AND SEIZURE

Search of a student and the student's possessions may be conducted at any time the student is under the jurisdiction of the Board of Education, if there is a reasonable suspicion that the student is in violation of law or school rules. A search may also be conducted to protect the health and safety of others. All searches may be conducted with or without a student's consent.

Students are provided lockers, desks, and other equipment in which to store materials. It should be clearly understood that this equipment is the property of the school and may be searched at any time if there is reasonable suspicion that a student has violated the law or school rules. Locks are to prevent theft, not to prevent searches. Anything that is found in the course of a search that may be evidence of a violation of school rules or the law may be taken and held or turned over to the police. The school reserves the right not to return items which have been confiscated. In the course of any search, students' privacy rights will be respected regarding any items that are not illegal or against school policy.

All computers located in classrooms, labs and offices of the District are the District's property and are to be used by students, where appropriate, solely for educational purposes. The District retains the right to access and review all electronic, computer files, databases, and any other electronic transmissions contained in or used in conjunction with the District's computer system, and electronic mail. Students should have no expectation that any information contained on such systems is confidential or private.

Review of such information may be done by the District with or without the student's knowledge or permission. The use of passwords does not guarantee confidentiality, and the District retains the right to access information in spite of a password. All passwords or security codes must be registered with the instructor. A student's refusal to permit such access may be grounds for disciplinary action.

SELLING ITEMS

Students may not sell items in school without the permission of the principal. This includes personal items as well as group "fundraising" items.

SEXUAL HARASSMENT - ANTI HARASSMENT (Ref. Board Policy 5517)

The Board of Education has adopted specific guidelines for the sexual harassment of students. A copy of this policy may be obtained in either the Middle School office or the Superintendent's office.

[MDE Sexual Harassment Information](#)

<http://go.boarddocs.com/mi/elk/Board.nsf/goto?open&id=C5RQ5Q66E982>

SKATEBOARDS/ROLLER BLADES/LONGBOARDS/WHEEL BASED SHOES

Students who bring skateboards or rollerblades to school must leave them in the principal's office during the school day. They may not be used during school hours. Wheel based shoes will not be allowed.

STUDENT ELIGIBILITY

Athletics/Snowchasers/MYIG

In order to be eligible for participation

- Students must have at least a D grade in all classes. Grades from the 1st semester will determine participation for the entire season.
- Students must not be suspended. First Suspension: 30 days (calendar) of ineligibility, Second suspension: 60 days (calendar) of ineligibility, Third Suspension: Student is no longer eligible.

In-School events: Camp/Assemblies/Field Trips

In order to be eligible for participation

- Students must not be suspended. First Suspension: 30 days (calendar) of ineligibility, Second Suspension: 60 days (calendar) of ineligibility, Third suspension: Student is no longer eligible.

CMS Musical:

- Students must not have any failing grades at the end of the 1st-semester to participate in the musical

FUN REWARD DAYS/DANCES

In order to be eligible for participation

- Students must have at least a D grade in all classes.
- Students must not be suspended. First Suspension: 30 days (calendar) of ineligibility, Second Suspension: 60 days (calendar) of ineligibility, Third Suspension: Student is no longer eligible.

For further information on Athletic eligibility refer to the CMS Athletics Handbook.

STUDENT LEADERSHIP

Middle school is a time when students are learning how to grow their influence as young future leaders of America. At CMS, we believe students should be given many opportunities to express themselves in leadership and at the same time have just enough adult supervision to ensure maximized success of project missions. The CMS model of leadership is expressed with the acronym SLAM (Student Leadership Achieves More). Students in each grade will come together to lead their classmates to accomplish fundraising, school dances, and other motivational activities.

For further information on SLAM please visit the Cherryland Middle School Website.

<https://www.erschools.com/schools/cherryland-middle-school/enrichments/student-leaders-achieve-more/>

STUDENT CONCERNS

The school is here for the benefit of the students. The staff is here to assist each student in becoming a responsible humans. If a student has suggestions that could improve the school, the student should feel free to offer them. Written suggestions may be presented directly to the Principal or to the SLAM (Student Leadership Achieves More).

When concerns or grievances arise, the best way to resolve the issue is through communication. No student will be harassed by any staff member or need fear reprisal for the proper expression of a legitimate concern. Any suggestions, concerns, and grievances may be directed to the Principal or to SLAM (Student Leadership Achieves More).

A student may have the right to a hearing if the student believes they have been improperly denied participation in a school activity or has been subjected to an illegal rule or standard. A student may not petition to have a change in grade.

STUDENT RECORDS

The School District maintains many student records including both directory information and confidential information.

Other than directory information, access to all other student records is protected by (FERPA) and Michigan law. Except in limited circumstances as specifically defined in State and Federal law, the School District is prohibited from releasing confidential education records to any outside individual or organization without the prior written consent of the parents, or the adult student, as well as those individuals who have matriculated and entered a postsecondary educational institution at any age.

Confidential records include test scores, psychological reports, behavioral data, disciplinary records, and communications with family and outside service providers.

Students and parents have the right to review and receive copies of all educational records.

Individuals have a right to file a complaint with the United States Department of Education if they believe that the District has violated FERPA.

The Family Policy Compliance Office in the U.S. Department of Education administers both FERPA and PPRA. Parents and/or eligible students who believe their rights have been violated may file a complaint with:

Family Policy Compliance Office
U.S. Department of Education
400 Maryland Avenue, SW 20202-4605
Washington, D.C.
www.ed.gov/offices/OM/fpc

Informal inquiries may be sent to the Family Policy Compliance Office via the following email addresses:

FERPA@ED.Gov; and
PPRA@ED.Gov.

STUDENT FEES, FINES, AND SUPPLIES

CMS charges specific fees for the following noncurricular activities and programs. Such fees or charges are determined by the cost of materials, freight/handling fees, and add-on fees for loss or damage to school property. The school and staff do not make a profit.

The District will provide all basic supplies needed to complete the required course curriculum. The student and/or the student's family may choose to purchase their own supplies if they desire to have a greater quantity or quality of supplies, or desire to help conserve the limited resources for use by others. The teacher or appropriate administrator may recommend useful supplies for these purposes.

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Cherryland Middle School charges specific fees for the following noncurricular activities and programs. Such fees or charges are determined by the cost of materials, freight/handling fees, and add-on fees for loss or damage to school property. The school and staff do not make a profit.

The District will provide all basic supplies needed to complete the required course curriculum. The student and/or the student's family may choose to purchase their own supplies if they desire to have a greater quantity or quality of supplies, or desire to help conserve the limited resources for use by others. The teacher or appropriate administrator may recommend useful supplies for these purposes. Fees may be waived in situations where there is financial hardship.

Students using school property and equipment can be fined for excessive wear and abuse of the property and equipment. The fine will be used to pay for the damage, not to make a profit. Late fines can be avoided when students return borrowed materials promptly. Their use may be needed by others. Failure to pay fines, fees, or charges may result in the withholding of grades and credits.

STUDENTS WITH LIMITED ENGLISH PROFICIENCY (LEP)

Limited proficiency in the English language should not be a barrier to equal participation in the instructional or extracurricular programs of the District. It is, therefore, the policy of this District that those students identified as having limited English proficiency will be provided additional support and instruction to assist them in gaining English proficiency and in accessing the educational and extracurricular program offered by the District. Parents should contact the building principal at 264-8991 [telephone number] to inquire about evaluation procedures and programs offered by the District.

SUBSTITUTE TEACHERS

Guest teachers will be treated with respect and courtesy. Failure to give them their best behavior and effort will result in immediate discipline, reflection, and contact with the student's family.

USE OF PHONE

Students may use the teacher's classroom phone with the teacher's permission; however, if a student becomes ill the student must use the phone in the office.

WEAPONS (Ref. Board Policy 5610)

Students are not permitted to bring weapons of any kind to school or on the school bus. A copy of this policy may be obtained in either the Middle School office or the Superintendent's office.

<http://go.boarddocs.com/mi/elk/Board.nsf/goto?open&id=BZVN6Z5E33CD>

STUDENTS' BEHAVIOR IN CLASS

Students are expected to manage their behavior while in class. When they do not, it is necessary for them to receive a measure of discipline.

Discipline for minor misconduct is handled by the teacher. The following are identified as minor misconduct:

1. Disruptive classroom behavior
2. Minor backtalk
3. Disruptive hall/restroom/playground behavior
4. Tardiness to class except 1st hour
5. Pushing or shoving
6. Public displays of overt affection
7. Swearing, other than to an adult
8. Violations of other stated classroom or school regulations

*Repeated minor misconduct will result in discipline handled by the Principal; parents will be notified.

Discipline for major misconduct is usually handled by the principal and may result in the student being placed in detention or suspended from school. When it is necessary for the principal to severely discipline a student, the student's parents are notified.

The following are identified as major misconduct:

1. Use of drugs
2. Use of alcohol
3. Use of tobacco
4. Physical assault on a teacher
5. Fighting
6. Stealing, extortion
7. Leaving school grounds without permission
8. Abusive language to staff/or students
9. Major insubordination
10. Destruction of school property
11. Violation of state and local ordinances
12. Continued minor misconduct, and three classroom removals may result in a parent conference
13. Weapons
14. Threats
15. Possession of tobacco products (i.e. rolling papers, lighters)

BEHAVIOR REFLECTION PROCESS

Behavior is most often a form of communication of students' needs. Our goal is to ensure classrooms are places of learning, collaboration, and clear expectations.

1. Reflection sheets will be given at the discretion of the teachers for classroom behaviors that disrupt learning including, but not limited to:

- Continuous Verbal Disruptions
- Inappropriate Language
- Disrespect Toward the Teacher, Guest Teacher, or Peers
- Defiance and insubordination

- Horseplay
- Throwing Items
- Disrupting learning
- Misuse of school equipment

2. When a student receives a reflection sheet they will go to a neighboring classroom, where they fill out the reflection sheet.

3. The teachers will fill out a "teacher note" section where they explain the circumstances surrounding the reflection sheet.

4. Each reflection sheet would be scanned or taken a picture of and the reflection sheet would be emailed home by the teachers for a parent's signature or email acknowledgment the next morning to the teacher who gave the reflection sheet.

5. The teacher will complete a Google spreadsheet indicating what happened and send an email home to parents, letting them know that they can expect a reflection sheet coming home that they need to sign and return to school.

6. When students don't complete the reflection sheet a follow-up from the principal will occur.

Reflection Consequences:

1. Reflections Reset at the semester break
2. Consequences based on amount of reflections received:
 - 3 reflections - Parent Meeting
 - 5 reflections - Parent Meeting and 1/2 day ISS,
 - 7 reflections - Parent Meeting and Full Day ISS

STUDENT DISCIPLINE CODE

The Board of Education has adopted the following Student Discipline Code. The Code includes the types of misconduct that will subject a student to disciplinary action. The Board has also adopted the list of behaviors and the terms contained in the list.

It is the school staff's responsibility to provide a safe and orderly learning environment. History has shown that certain student actions are not compatible with a "safe" and "orderly" environment. Discipline is within the sound discretion of the School's staff discipline and administration. Due process ensures that disciplinary action is imposed only after review of the facts and/or special circumstances of the situation.

Cherryland Middle School Aggression-Consequence Rubric
Revised 7/21/2026
Code of Conduct

<i>All behaviors below will be documented</i>			
<i>Disrespect to a guest teacher or other adults is a violation of the code of conduct and will be handled on a case-by-case basis and may also result in after-school detention</i>			
Behavior	1st Referral	2nd Referral	3rd Referral
LEVEL 1: Mild Harassment or Teasing, or Misconduct: Repeated name-calling, insults, derogatory comments, or other harassment after correction, starting or spreading rumors (true or false-meant to hurt or embarrass). Repeated disruptive behavior in/around building-during school hours, for example: running or shouting in the hallways, disrupting class/other classes, Public displays of affection, for example: hand holding, groping, prolonged hugging, arms around each other. Telling others not to be friends with someone. Technology violation, for example: gaming during work time, minor destruction of school property.	Communication with Family Warning from staff	Communication with Family Two lunch detentions Reflection with CMS Counselor Counseling (optional) Technology Removed for a day	Communication with Family Four lunch detentions Reflection with CMS Counselor Counseling Parent Conference Technology removed for a to-be-determined time period after parent conference.
LEVEL 2: Moderate Harassment/Physical Contact or Misconduct: Slapping, grabbing, pushing and shoving with intent to harm, repeated shouldering and running into others roughly, threatening comments or gestures. Cyberbullying, racial, ethnic, or religious slurs/comments, swearing/profanity other than to an adult. Overt public displays of affection, for example: kissing, hands on another's private parts. Plagiarism/cheating Not following basic rules that govern CMS and HS sporting events.	Communication with Family Two lunch detentions or ½ day ISS Reflection with CMS Counselor Counseling (optional)	Communication with Family Four lunch detentions or a full day of ISS Reflection with CMS Counselor Counseling Parent conference (optional)	Communication with Family Out of School Suspension Reflection w/ CMS Counselor before Return Behavioral Contract Counseling Parent conference

Skipping class and excessive tardies (9+ tardies in a quarter) Technology violation, for example: cheating, inappropriate use AI, inappropriate content			
LEVEL 3: Severe Harassment/Physical Contact or Misconduct: Fighting, punching, kicking, or other dangerous physical aggression aimed to injure others. Threats of serious violence, touching/grabbing private body parts, sexual comments, racial or ethnic comments meant to hurt. Stealing, destruction of property. Use or possession of drugs, alcohol, or tobacco. Attempting to harm a staff member. Leaving school grounds without permission. Swearing/profanity to an adult.	Communication with Family Out of School suspension (up to 5 days) Reflection w/ CMS Counselor before return Counseling Behavioral Contract Community service hours (optional)	Communication with Family Out of School Suspension (up to 10 days) Reflection w/ CMS Counselor before return Mental Health evaluation and clearance (opt.) Parent Conference & Behavioral Contract Anger management classes Community service hours (optional)	Possible expulsion for the remainder of term or year. Before Return: - Anger Management classes - Mental Health Evaluation and clearance - Reflection w/ CMS Counselor And Counseling - Parent Conference & Behavioral Contract
In certain cases, the rules governing out-of-school suspensions/expulsions may be superseded by the requirements of school board policy, state and/or federal law.			

PUBLIC DISPLAYS OF AFFECTION (PDA) – Displays of care or affection are not to occur at school between students. Examples of PDA include; hand holding, kissing, groping, prolonged hugging, and arms around each other. PDA incidents will be dealt with following our Code of Conduct guidelines.

I. SCHOOL WIDE RULES

While not in class, the following rules are in effect in the various areas of the school.

Everywhere

1. Follow directions the first time given.
2. Don't do these things:
 - a. litter
 - b. hit, push or fight
 - c. call names, tease or use bad language or signs
 - d. use or have tobacco, tobacco products (i.e.; rolling papers, lighter) alcohol or any illegal drug
 - e. damage the school's or another person's possessions
 - f. take things that belong to others – without permission

Hall Rules

1. Walk on the right side of the hall
2. Walk at a normal pace
3. Speak in a normal voice and don't make unnecessary noise
4. Don't slam your locker door or try to get in another person's locker

Multi-purpose Room/Lunch Line Rules

1. Speak in a normal voice
2. Clean up around where you sit and dispose of your garbage
3. Move at a normal pace
4. Don't take cuts in line
5. Don't throw food or other things

Restrooms/Locker Rooms

1. Respect other's privacy
2. Talk in a normal voice
3. Keep the area clean
4. Pick up all your belongings and don't leave valuables in the locker room
5. No horseplay and don't fool around with any of the equipment
6. Don't hang around without a reason

Play Areas

(Gym, bleachers, outdoors)

1. Use equipment the right way and put it away when finished with it
2. Outdoors, stay in the designated play area
3. Refrain from horse play or anything that could hurt someone
4. Don't leave the school grounds without permission

Office

1. Come to the counter
2. Wait your turn and respect the work of the adults
3. Speak in a normal voice and use common courtesies
4. Come in by yourself
5. Refrain from any behavior that will disrupt office work

II. SUSPENSIONS

Factors to be Considered Before Suspending or Expelling a Student

- A. the student's age
- B. the student's disciplinary history
- C. whether the student has a disability
- D. the seriousness of the violation or behavior
- E. whether the violation or behavior committed by the student threatened the safety of any student or staff member
- F. whether restorative practices will be used to address the violation or behavior
- G. whether a lesser intervention would properly address the violation or behavior

The Board will exercise discretion over whether or not to issue long term suspensions or expel a student. In exercising that discretion for a suspension of more than ten (10) days or expulsion, there is a rebuttable presumption that a suspension or expulsion is not justified unless the Board can demonstrate that it considered each of the factors listed above. For a suspension of ten (10) days or fewer, there is no rebuttable presumption, but the Superintendent will still consider these factors in making the determination.

Restorative Practices

The Board and/or Superintendent shall consider using restorative practices as an alternative to or in addition to suspension or expulsion. If the District determines that it will utilize restorative practices in addition to or as an alternative to suspension or expulsion of a student, it will engage in restorative practices which emphasize repairing the harm to the victim and school community caused by the student's misconduct.

Restorative practices should be the first consideration to remediate offenses such as interpersonal conflicts, bullying, verbal and physical conflicts, theft, damage to property, class disruption and harassment, and cyberbullying.

If the Board and/or Superintendent decides to utilize restorative practices as an alternative to or in addition to suspension or expulsion, the restorative practices may include victim-offender conferences that:

- A. are initiated by the victim;
- B. are approved by the victim's parent or legal guardian or, if the victim is at least fifteen (15), by the victim;
- C. are attended voluntarily by the victim, a victim advocate, the offender, members of the school community, and supporters of the victim and the offender (the "restorative practices team");
- D. would provide an opportunity for the offender to accept responsibility for the harm caused to those affected, and to participate in setting consequences to repair the harm, such as requiring the student to apologize; participate in community service, restoration of emotional or material losses, or counseling; pay restitution; or any combination of these.

The selected consequences and time limits for their completion will be incorporated into an agreement to be signed by all participants.

STUDENT RESPONSIBILITIES

Students are expected to accept many responsibilities as part of their obligation to the school. Some of the important student responsibilities are:

- 1. To know and obey all school rules
- 2. To report major violations of school rules
- 3. To discourage others from violating school rules
- 4. To treat all persons courteously
- 5. To respect the property of others
- 6. To pick up litter
- 7. To care properly for money and other valuables
- 8. To make up work missed while absent
- 9. To not disturb classes in session

TRANSFER OUT OF THE DISTRICT

Parents must notify the Principal about plans to transfer their child to another school. If a student plans to transfer, the parent must notify the Principal. Transfer will be authorized only after the student has completed the arrangements, returned all school materials, and paid any fees or fines that are due. School records may not be released if the transfer is not properly completed. Parents are encouraged to contact the office assistant for specific details.

School officials, when transferring student records, are required to transmit disciplinary records including suspension and expulsion actions against the student.

WELLNESS

As required by law, the Board of Education establishes the following wellness policy for the District. The Board recognizes that good nutrition and regular physical activity affect the health and well-being of the District's students. Furthermore, research concludes that there is a positive correlation between a student's health and

well-being and his/her ability to learn. Moreover, schools can play an important role in the developmental process by which students establish their health and nutrition habits by providing nutritious meals and snacks through the schools' meal programs, by supporting the development of good eating habits, and by promoting increased physical activity both in and out of school. The Board, however, believes this effort to support the students' development of healthy behaviors and habits with regard to eating and exercise cannot be accomplished by the schools alone. It will be necessary for not only the staff, but also parents and the public at large to be involved in a community-wide effort to promote, support, and model such healthy behaviors and habits.

The Board sets the following goals in an effort to enable students to establish good health and nutrition habits:

A. With regard to nutrition education, the District shall:

1. Nutrition education shall be included in the Health curriculum so that instruction is sequential and standards-based and provides students with the knowledge, attitudes, and skills necessary to lead healthy lives.
2. Nutrition education standards and benchmarks shall be age-appropriate and culturally relevant.
3. Nutrition education shall include opportunities for appropriate student projects related to nutrition, involving, when possible, community agencies and organizations.
4. Nutrition education shall extend beyond the classroom by engaging and involving the school's food service staff.
5. Nutrition education posters, such as the Food Pyramid Guide, will be displayed in the cafeteria.
6. The school cafeteria shall serve as a learning lab by allowing students to apply the knowledge, attitudes, and skills taught in the classroom when making choices at mealtime.
7. Nutrition education shall reinforce lifelong balance by emphasizing the link between caloric intake (eating) and exercise in ways that are age-appropriate.
8. Nutrition education benchmarks and standards include a focus on media literacy as it relates to food marketing strategies.
9. Nutrition education standards and benchmarks promote the benefits of a balanced diet that includes fruits, vegetables, whole grain products, and low fat and fat-free dairy products.
10. Staff responsible for providing instruction in nutrition education shall regularly participate in professional development activities designed to better enable them to teach the benchmarks and standards.

B. With regard to physical activity, the District shall:

1. **Physical Education**

- a. A sequential, comprehensive physical education program shall be provided for students in K-12 in accordance with the standards and benchmarks established by the State.
- b. The physical education curriculum shall provide sequential instruction related to the knowledge, attitudes, and skills necessary to participate in lifelong, health-enhancing physical activity.
- c. Physical education classes shall provide students with opportunities to learn, practice, and be assessed on developmentally appropriate motor skills and social skills, as well as knowledge.
- d. The sequential, comprehensive physical education curriculum shall stress the importance of remaining physically active for life.
- e. The sequential, comprehensive physical education curriculum shall provide students with opportunities to learn, practice, and be assessed on developmentally appropriate knowledge, attitudes, and skills necessary to engage in lifelong, health-enhancing physical activity.

- f. Planned instruction in physical education shall be sufficient for students to achieve a proficient level with regard to the standards and benchmarks established by the State.
- g. The K-12 program shall include instruction in physical education as well as opportunities to participate in competitive and non-competitive team sports to encourage lifelong physical activity.
- h. Planned instruction in physical education shall require students to be engaged in moderate to vigorous physical activity for at least fifty percent (50%) of scheduled class time.
- i. Planned instruction in physical education shall teach cooperation, fair play, and responsible participation.
- j. Planned instruction in physical education shall meet the needs of all students, including those who are not athletically gifted.
- k. Planned instruction in physical education shall be presented in an environment free of embarrassment, humiliation, shaming, taunting, or harassment of any kind.
- l. Planned instruction in physical education shall include cooperative as well as competitive games.
- m. Planned instruction in physical education shall take into account gender and cultural differences.
- n. Planned instruction in physical education shall promote participation in physical activity outside the regular school day.

2. Physical Activity

- a. Physical activity and movement shall be integrated, when possible, across the curricula and throughout the school day.
- b. Schools shall encourage families to provide physical activity outside the regular school day, such as outdoor play at home, participation in sports sponsored by community agencies or organizations, and in lifelong physical activities like bowling, swimming, or tennis.
- c. The school shall provide information to families to encourage and assist them in their efforts to incorporate physical activity into their children's daily lives.
- d. All students in grades 7 - 12 shall have the opportunity to participate in interscholastic sports programs.
- e. Schools shall offer a wide range of physical activities outside the regular school day that meet the needs, interests, and abilities of all students, including males, females, students with disabilities, and students with special healthcare needs.

C. With regard to other school-based activities the District shall:

- 1. The schools shall schedule mealtimes so there is minimum disruption by bus schedules, recess, and other special programs or events.
- 2. The school shall provide attractive, clean environments in which the students eat.
- 3. Students and staff are encouraged to stay appropriately hydrated throughout their school day.
- 4. Students, parents, and other community members shall have access to, and be encouraged to use, the school's outdoor physical activity facilities outside the normal school day.
- 5. The schools may use environmentally friendly practices, such as the use of locally grown foods and non-disposable tableware and dishes.
- 6. The schools may provide opportunities for staff, parents, and other community members to model healthy eating habits by dining with students in the school dining areas.
- 7. Schools in our system utilize electronic identification and payment systems, therefore, eliminating any stigma or identification of students eligible to receive free and/or reduced meals.
- 8. Students are discouraged from sharing their foods or beverages with one another during meal times, given concerns about allergies and other restrictions on some students' diets.

Furthermore, with the objectives of enhancing student health and well-being, and reducing childhood obesity, the following guidelines are established:

- A. In accordance with Policy [8500](#), entitled Food Service, the food service program shall comply with Federal and State regulations pertaining to the selection, preparation, consumption, and disposal of food and beverages as well as to the fiscal management of the program.
- B. As set forth in Policy [8531](#), entitled Free and Reduced Price Meals, the guidelines for reimbursable school meals are not less restrictive than the guidelines issued by the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA).
- C. The food service program will strive to be financially self-supporting; however, if it is necessary to subsidize the operation, it will not be through the sale of foods with minimal nutritious value.
- D. The food service program will provide all students affordable access to the varied and nutritious foods they need to be healthy and to learn well.
- E. All food service personnel shall receive pre-service training in food service operations.
- F. Continuing professional development shall be provided for all staff of the food service program.
- G. Classroom snacks shall comply with USDA Dietary Guidelines for Americans.
- H. In the future all buildings will not sell artificially sweetened and carbonated drinks during the school day.

The Superintendent shall develop administrative guidelines necessary to implement this policy, including, but not limited to, the manner in which the implementation of this policy shall be regularly evaluated by the principal of each school. The Board designates the Superintendent as the individual(s) charged with operational responsibility for verifying that the District meets the goals established in this policy.

The Superintendent shall report on the District's compliance with this policy and the progress toward achieving the goals set forth herein when requested to do so by the Board.

Review of this policy shall occur every three (3) years, by a committee appointed by the Board, consisting of a representative(s) of the Board, the administration, the food service provider, the parents, the students, and the public. The committee shall provide the Board with any recommended changes to this policy.

42 U.S.C. 1751, Sec. 204
42 U.S.C. 1771

Adopted 12/7/06