



HOME OF THE BLUE DEVILS
OUR SCHOOL COLORS ARE BLUE AND WHITE

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STUDENT/PARENT eHANDBOOK 2021-2022

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Victoria Hunter, Parent Liaison
Tootie Berniard, Principal's Secretary

Name _____ Team # _____ Bus Route # _____

****Parent Acknowledgement****

I reviewed this eHandbook with my child on _____
Date

Parent Signature: _____

Please return this form

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We reserve the right to make changes to this handbook as deemed appropriate. Marietta City Schools is an equal opportunity employer, and does not consider race, color, sex, religion, national origin, age marital or veterans status, disability status or any other legally-protected status in any employment decision or employment practice.

Greetings from Your Principal and Instructional Leader!

Dear Parents, Guardians and Students of the *Magnificent Marietta Sixth Grade Academy*,

Welcome to the 2020-21 school year! I am looking forward to a positive and productive school year and we connect, partner and build magnificent experiences. Our theme this year is #TEAMMSGA. On a deeper level we are committing to excellence that will involve: **T=Together**, **E=Everyone** inclusive of students, parents/guardians, faculty, staff and the community, **A=Achieves** **M=More**. Our school offers distinctive opportunities such as the IB Middle Years Program (**IB MYP**), **STEM and STEAM**, Positive Behavior Interventions and Supports (**PBIS**). We believe in growth mindsets and the whole child approach by offering engaging electives such as Band, Chorus, Art, Theatre/Drama and Orchestra. Our student-athletes have the chance to perform in sports programs for middle school level learners that promote collective and individual development and growth. Our overall goal is to help our students make a smooth and productive transition into the middle grades within Marietta City Schools in a safe and caring environment. As a Redesignated II Georgia Lighthouse School To Watch (**LSTW**) National School of Excellence, the faculty and staff at MSGA are continuously focused on *Academic Excellence, Developmental Responsiveness, Organizational Supports and Social Equity* for ALL of our students. We strive to remain at the forefront of middle grades education in our state, nation, and the world.

Middle School can be an awesome yet challenging time in the life of any child. With so many changes and opportunities happening at once, it is sometimes difficult to know which way to turn. My professional philosophy recognizes this and seeks to support students during this important time of growth and transition. The MSGA faculty and staff take pride in the fact that our school's size, expertise and dedication allow us to know students and families on an individual level. Some of the things that make MSGA a *magnificent* place to learn and grow:

- Our school consists of one grade with approximately 700 students and 70+ faculty and staff members.
- Teachers collaboratively work in grade level teams and Professional Learning Communities (PLCs) to make sure that students needs are met.
- Our Advisement Program includes the Blazing Blue Block (M-T/Th-Fr) and is provided for every student in which a teacher works with small groups of students to hone necessary skills on weekly basis.
- Daily school wide focus and recognition high academic achievement and the following specific positive behaviors: Ready, Respectful, and Responsible
- We highly value Multi-Tiered Support Systems and the role that data and observation can play in helping us ensure that every student is successful. Teachers, counselors, coaches, coordinators, specialists and administrators use data and direct observation to inform decisions at MSGA in the best interest of the students.

I look forward to meeting and working with you throughout the school year. If you have a question, want to share an idea, address a concern or provide feedback please feel free to contact me. I will always do what I can to answer your questions, resolve your concerns and consider your suggestions.

Sincerely yours,

C. W. Lawson

Corey W. Lawson, Principal



Advisement: Students generally participate in an advisement class on several Wednesday's for approximately 45 minutes. Student will also participate in the 30 minute Advisory program called Blazing Blue Block 4 days per week for small group work. The purpose of our advisement program is to provide students with the tools they need to successfully transition to the middle grades and ultimately into high school. Along with their advisement teacher, students discuss numerous topics to include the 3 R's, IB MYP, effective study habits, organizational strategies, goal setting, and individual achievement data (grades, standardized test scores, attendance, etc.). All conferences are held with the advisement teachers during the Fall conferences.

Assemblies: At all times the students' behavior should be refined and courteous. The conduct of the student body at an assembly is an indication of the school's climate. Whether guests are present or not, each student is personally responsible for the impression made by the school as a whole. Unacceptable conduct would include whistling, uncalled-for clapping, boisterousness, and/or talking during a program.

Attendance/Absences: Daily attendance is a critical component to the success of an MSGA student. If an unavoidable situation necessitates an absence, it is the parent's responsibility to notify the school in writing within 2 school days after returning from the absence. Up to 3 consecutive days can be excused with a parent note. All statements will be evaluated by the principal or a designee to determine if the absence is excused or unexcused. An excused absence means that your child is absent for a legitimate reason, for example personal illness, serious illness or death in the family, religious holiday, court appointment, quarantine or conditions rendering school attendance hazardous to health and safety. All other absences will be considered unexcused. **Georgia Law requires school action after five unexcused absences or ten tardies.** The process begins with parent notification via automated calls or text. After 3 consecutive days, the advisement teacher will contact the parent/guardian. After 3 unexcused days, the parent/guardian will receive written notification.

Students are tardy after 9:15 a.m. (tardy bell rings at this time). After the tardy bell has sounded, students not in class must sign in late at the front office. Students must be in class (not just on campus) to be considered on time. Consequences are provided to students that earn unexcused tardies.

Students are counted present for the day if they arrive before 9:15 a.m. and stay until at least 12:30 p.m. or arrive prior to 12:30 p.m. and stay until 4:00 p.m. Partial attendance of a day is considered a tardy. At the end of the year, awards are presented for perfect attendance. **Students who have accumulated 10 tardies for the year or 3 per quarter will not be eligible to receive perfect attendance incentives or awards.**

Before School/After School Programs: Before school and after school programs are coordinated by Marietta Community Schools (770-429-3170 or www.mariettacommunityschool.com) and supervised by certified teachers and paraprofessionals. MSGA students participating in the program are housed at MCAA. Before school hours are 6:30 a.m. until 8:45 a.m. and after school hours are from 4:00 p.m. until 6:30 p.m., and operate each school day. Registration and fee schedules are provided online and sent home at the beginning of the year.

Car riders may not be dropped off before 8:45 AM. School staff will not be available to supervise students until 8:45 AM.

Car riders and/or students that miss their bus must be picked up by 4:30 PM. School staff will not be available to supervise students after 4:30 PM.

Birthdays and Other Celebrations: Birthday treats are limited to the student's lunch period. We require parents to bring in prepackaged goods instead of food items made at home. If the sharing of food items becomes a distraction, administration can discontinue this practice at any time. Balloon, flower and gift delivery during school is strongly discouraged. No deliveries may be made during class time nor may deliveries be taken on board the school bus. Instructional time is protected for all stu-

dents and class time will not be interrupted for any delivery or non-emergency message. You can have your child's name put on the marquee for \$5.00. Please contact the parent liaison at 770-429-3115 ext. 5813 for more information.

Bullying: MSGA students are expected to take responsibility for their behavior and to respect their peers. Bullying of any type is prohibited. Students learn how to identify and report bullying during orientation assemblies. We have a number of bullying boxes throughout our campus where students can report bullying anonymously. The MSGA Counseling Department also facilitates an anti-bullying program.

Bussing: Also refer to **MCS Safe Rider Contract** Bus route information is disseminated during student orientation events at the beginning of the year. If you have a question about a route, you may contact the transportation office at 770-429-3110. Please note that buses and bus stops are considered school grounds and students are required to observe rules listed in the Discipline Handbook. School administrators are authorized by the Marietta Board of Education to suspend the bus riding privileges of any student who has become a disciplinary problem or committed a major infraction. Any student who threatens or endangers the lives of others on a school bus is subject to permanent suspension.

Permission to ride another bus or to get off at another stop requires that a student bring a note signed by a parent (for emergency purposes only). The note must include date, number of bus to be ridden, and the telephone number where parent may be reached for verification. Notes should be turned in to the Front Office in the morning. Students will need to pick-up bus passes during afternoon announcements. No bus passes will be signed in the bus-loading zone. Bus changes will not be allowed after 3:30 p.m. Please use the MCS Ride360 app for bus pick up and drop off information.

Cafeteria: Our lunchroom payment plan is computerized so it is simple to pay for your child's meals. MCS has been approved again to provide free lunch and breakfast to all students. *Families bringing in fast food for their children is discouraged. The MSGA Cafeteria Manager is Ms. D. Moseley, msgafood@marietta-city.org

Change of Address or Phone Number: It is extremely important that the school have all parents/guardians' home, work, and cell phone numbers. If any phone numbers change during the year, please notify the Front Office in writing as soon as possible. If there is no phone in the home, the number of a phone where the parent can be reached is necessary. If you move during the school year, you must provide the school with the new information and proof of residency. New bus information will only be given to a student when the proof of residency is provided.

Character Education: MSGA implements the state mandated character education program. It is coordinated through our school counseling program. The goal of character education is to teach students the meaning of characteristic traits and how to use those traits in life. The character word of the month is presented on our morning news broadcasts and is reinforced with activities during the month. MSGA's character word of the month calendar is posted on MSGA's school counseling Aspen page.

Check-In and Check-Out: Early dismissals are handled by the front office. Dismissal changes require written notification from the parent or guardian listed in student information system. Students arriving after the tardy bell (9:15 am) must sign-in the front office.

For check-out, the parent or guardian must come into the front office and sign out the student. Early dismissal will not be permitted after 3:30 p.m. to avoid interruption to instruction and dismissal procedures. Transportation changes must be made by 3:30 p.m. Please be prepared to present photo identification upon request. Students can only be released to individuals listed as an emergency contact in ASPEN.

Clinic (Illnesses): The clinic at MSGA is located near the Administrative Office and is staffed by Nurse R. Keeton, full-time, registered nurse, ext. 5817. A student who is injured or becomes ill at school is sent to the clinic. A parent will be notified if necessary. Any medications to be taken during

school hours must be accompanied by written permission from the parent and left in the clinic to be taken at the prescribed time. Please review the *Medicine for Students* section of this handbook. Contact Mr. Lawson and Nurse Keeton for COVID 19 related questions. Communications may be sent to COVID19Results@marietta-city.org

Club Offerings: Information regarding club offerings will be communicated in September via Advisement. Potential clubs include: Art, Gardening, Kiwanis Builders, Shape-Up, Yearbook, etc. We strongly encourage all students to participate in extra-curricular activities. MSGA Clubs occur during the school day on designated Wednesdays each month.

Communication: Communication is encouraged between teachers and parents. Various forms of communication are used throughout the year to include school E-newsletter, important documents distributed through Advisement, Blackboard Connect phone message system, MSGA Facebook, ASPEN grade book, teacher/school websites, and email. Teachers may receive messages via telephone at 770-429-3115 and by school e-mail. Email addresses are available on the MSGA website. When concerns or questions arise, it is recommended for parents to first speak with their child's teachers.

Conference Week: To promote strong home-school communication, Marietta City Schools designates one week and two days each year for parent-teacher conferences. Fall conferences will be held the week of October 25th –29th and Spring conferences will be held in March *primarily for students at risk for retention* in 6th grade. School hours are half-days during Fall conferences, with dismissal taking place at 1:30 PM. All Fall conferences are student-led and facilitated by the Advisement teachers.

Counseling Services: MSGA is served by two full-time counselors. Services in the school counseling program are focused on the students' academic, career, and social-emotional growth. Planning for future educational opportunities is also emphasized. Standards for the counseling program are supported by the ASCA (American School Counselor Association) National Standards Model. The goal of interventions done through the counseling program is to assist students in overcoming barriers that may interfere with their academic achievement. Our counselors deliver core curriculum lessons, lead small groups, and meet with students individually. They collaborate with our administrators, teachers, staff, and outside community agencies.

Students can make an appointment to see the counselor by filling out an appointment request or going by the counselor's office to make an appointment. If a student needs an emergency appointment, he/she can notify a teacher or staff member or come by the counselor's office.

Parent conferences can be scheduled by contacting their student's teacher, our parent liaison, Victoria Hunter at ext. 5813, the full time counselor (Kerbie Marc ext. 5811), or the part time counselor (Seryna Muhammed ext. 5812).

Dances: School dances are scheduled periodically throughout the year. Attending dances is considered a privilege and only MSGA students may attend. While attending a dance, students must adhere to the district's dress code policy. Students who demonstrate poor behavior, which includes but is not limited to inappropriate dancing, will lose their privilege to attend dances.

Electronic Devices-Refer to MCS Parent Information Guide and the MSGA BYOT Agreement on page 19: MSGA is a BYOT (Bring Your Own Technology) school. All families must sign and submit the BYOT agreement prior to use of devices. Students and parents/guardians will receive the full agreement for all rules and procedures related to BYOT. Signed MSGA BYOT Agreement forms must be returned before students can participate (page 17). Students must take full responsibility for their devices. The school and staff are not responsible for the security of personal technology. Devices cannot be used during any assessments. Students can only use their devices in the classroom setting, under the supervision of an adult. **Social media (i.e. Snapchat, Instagram, Facebook, HouseParty, etc.) is prohibited and not allowed.** Devices are not to be used in the restroom, at lunch or in the hallway between class periods. **IMPORTANT:** Devices improperly used may be confiscated and held for up to 24 hrs. and may require parent pick-up.

Emergency Closing of School: For information on school closings or late openings, please check for district or school emails or Blackboard calls and listen to radio channel WSB 750 AM or other reliable local news and check the Marietta City Schools' website. (Please note: The Marietta School system is listed separately from the Cobb County School system.) If the school closes early, the After School Program and other after school activities are cancelled. Be sure your child knows where to go if school closes early. It is extremely important that you keep the school up-to-date with any changes in emergency contacts.

Field Trips: Teachers and Teams are encouraged to schedule field trips to enrich a particular unit of study or class project. Parents and guardians may serve as chaperones. To attend, a student must have written permission from his/her parent or legal guardian. This permission slip is sent home along with all information regarding each field trip. Younger siblings/friends are not permitted to attend MSGA field trips. Once field trip fees have been paid by the school on behalf of the student, **NO REFUNDS** will be processed. Only exception: if the field trip has to be canceled, then all paid students will receive a refund. Payment can be made using a school payment envelope or [RevTrak](#) which includes a small service fee.

Gifted Services: At MSGA, gifted services are delivered through the Advanced Content Model. Students in grades K-12 who demonstrate a high degree of intellectual, academic, and/or creative abilities may be nominated for evaluation to determine eligibility to participate in the program for gifted students. Referrals for consideration may be made by teachers, parents or guardians, counselors, administrators, peers, self, and other individuals with knowledge of the student's abilities. The State Board of Education determines eligibility criteria for placement in this program. For a summary of those criteria or for further information about Marietta City's program for gifted students, please contact Dr. M. Forrester ext. 5940, MSGA Gifted Coordinator.

Grading: When checking grades in ASPEN please refer to the following grading scale and grading weights:

A	90 – 100 (Excellent)	D	70 - 72 (Passing)
B	80 - 89 (Good)	F	69 and below (Failing)
C	73 - 79 (Average)		

Marietta City Schools offers an opportunity for parents to stay up-to-date on their child's daily academic progress and absences/tardies. [ASPEN](#) can be accessed online with a parent's specific security code. Visit the Marietta City Schools website to download the paperwork needed to set up your login and password. You may access ASPEN with any computer that is connected to the internet. A computer is located in the MSGA Parent Resource Center for parent use.

Hall Passes: Students should be in the halls only at the beginning and close of school and while moving from one class to another unless they have special permission. Students in the halls during class time must have a pass. Students must adhere to the MSGA Voice Level policy (page 18) and be courteous at all times and to keep to the right when moving in the halls. Running or loitering in the halls is not permitted.

Homework: Homework activities play a supportive role in reinforcing the skills/standards taught during in-class instruction. The amount of time a student spends on homework may differ according to individual needs. For more information, please check your child's agenda and his/her teachers' information pages.

Instructional Programs (MYP & STEM): MSGA students participate in relevant and rigorous academic programs. Please see pages 14-15 for more information.

Lockers: Within the first month of school, each student will be issued a locker to help keep books and personal items organized. Only items belonging to the assigned student should be in his/her locker. Large book bags must be kept in the locker during the school day. The combination should not

be given to classmates or friends. Locker problems should be reported to the Advisement teacher.

Lost and Found: Lost and found items are located outside of the cafeteria. Items not claimed in a reasonable amount of time are donated to charity organizations. Confiscated items turned in by teachers are kept in the Administrative Office. Confiscated phones/devices are kept secured in the front office.

Materials and Supplies: Materials and supplies vary with each class. The teacher will provide information. Students will be required to pay for all lost and damaged books and materials. This includes library and textbooks as well as other materials. A general supply list can be found on the school website. All students will receive a copy of the supply list at Meet & Greet and/or during the first week of school.

Media Center: Also referred to as the [MSGA Learning Commons \(LC\)](#)-MSGA's LC provides a variety of services to students, parents and staff. The media center staff assists students in locating and using research materials, magazines, books, and audio-visual materials and equipment.

Students may check out two books for class work and/or the enjoyment of reading and must adhere to the MSGA Book Care Policy. The check out period is two weeks. Some reference books may be checked out overnight. Tiered fines will be assessed for books that are damaged or lost. When books are lost or damaged at Tier 3, the student is expected to pay the replacement cost of the book. Other privileges may be lost such as Zero Referral Celebrations, Field Day or other activities for total lost book fines. Our check out system is computerized on Follett's Circulation Plus. The catalog is automated. Each student has a personalized barcode for checking out materials from the MSGA media center.

Medicine for Students: If prescription medication is required, fill out a form in the school clinic. The following criteria as outlined in Marietta Board of Education Policy JGCD must be met:

1. The medicine is in a container issued by a pharmacy and the store label is attached.
2. The container label shows a recent date on which the prescription was filled.
3. The container label states the name of the student to whom the medicine is to be administered.
4. A prescription number is on the label.
5. The label contains adequate directions indicating the proper amount and method to administer the medicine.
6. The prescribing physician's name is shown on the label. Please call the clinic at 770-429-3115 ext. 5817 for more information.

Messages: Personal messages are delivered to students only under special circumstances. Teachers' instructional times are protected for all students and class will not be interrupted unless deemed an emergency by the school administration. Messages regarding unexpected changes in transportation are generally maintained in the front office for students to pick up at the end of the day and must be received by 3:30 p.m.

Parent Engagement: We welcome parent volunteers. Assistance is occasionally needed in the media center, field trips, and PTSA school store. Let us know how you would like to help. Parent volunteer hours are maintained electronically in the Front Office. Simply check-in as a volunteer when you come to the school. Your ID will be scanned at this time for safety measures. Please contact our Parent Liaison at 770-429-3115 ext. 5813 and watch for communications about parent involvement opportunities.

Partners in Education: The Partners in Education Program is a collaborative effort among businesses in the community, MSGA, Marietta Business Association and Cobb Chamber. We are always looking to increase our partners in education. Our partners assist with staff and student incentives, student mentorship, guest speaking, the donation of goods and services, etc. Our current partners in education are listed on the school website.

PBIS: MSGA has implemented the Positive Behavior Intervention and Supports system, which encompasses a school wide conduct plan. This plan allows students opportunities to be recognized for academic and behavioral achievements throughout the school year by demonstrating Ready, Respect, and Responsibility-see page 17 for school expectations. Quarterly *Zero Discipline Referral Celebrations* are held for students. Donations are excepted.

Physical Education/Health: Physical Education/ Health is a required class. Students must wear appropriate footwear to participate in activities. If a student is unable to participate, a written statement is required from a parent. A written statement from a physician is required if a chronic problem exists.

PTSA: Studies have shown that children are more successful in school when their parents are involved with their education. We have an active middle grades PTSA with an excellent staff of officers. Our PTSA is a combined effort between MSGA and Marietta Middle School (MMS). We encourage all of our families and business partners to become members. The cost of PTSA membership is \$7.00. The Marietta Middle Grades (MMG) PTSA meetings begin at 6:30 pm unless otherwise indicated (executive session begin at 6:00 pm) at alternating locations-either at MSGA or MMS.

Recognition Programs: Recognizing student achievement is an important aspect of the MSGA culture. We do this in a variety of venues.

Blue Devil News (BDN6)-The student-produced morning news show will showcase student accomplishments throughout the year.

Blue Devil of the Month-On a monthly basis, students are recognized for demonstrating outstanding achievement and/or character.

Town Hall Meetings-Town Hall quarterly meetings, are held to recognize student achievement, such as Students of the Month, competition winners, academic accomplishments, community service, etc. Parents are encouraged to participate.

Honors Day Programs-The year culminates in a Honors Day Programs (invitation-only) by Teams. Students will be honored in all academic areas as well as citizenship, respect, responsibility and accomplishments in elective courses. In addition, all A and all A/B awards and other recognitions will be given. Details will be forthcoming as the year progresses.

Report Cards/Progress Reports:

Report cards are published on Aspen every nine weeks. Progress reports are published in Aspen at the midpoint of each nine-week period. All report cards and progress reports contain all subject grades and conduct grades. The purpose of the progress reports is to inform the parent and the student of how the student is performing. The grades indicated on progress reports are not permanent. *Parents and students are encouraged and expected to check the Aspen Student/Parent portal to see student assignments and grades.*

Safety & Security:

To ensure the safety of MSGA staff and students, a secure environment is maintained. A School Resource Officer (SRO) is available to assist with security. Please note the following security procedures:

1. No unauthorized persons will be allowed in the building without administrative permission.
2. Students may not bring other students to visit in classrooms without administrative approval.
3. Students may not remain after school or on campus, unless they are under the direct supervision of a teacher or staff member.
4. All visitors must report to the **FRONT OFFICE** when visiting the school for any reason, including teacher/parent conferences. No visitors will be allowed access during class changes during the school day. The individual's ID may be requested during check-in. At the conclusion of the visit, visitors must also check-out.
5. Students may not have peer visitors or "shadowing" without the prior written approval of the Principal at least one week in advance.

School Governance Team (SGT): The MSGA School Governance Team is comprised of teachers, community members, and teachers. The team provides input into various school level decisions such as the expenditure of grant funds, school innovation and improvement initiatives, field trips, and school specific policies/procedures. All meetings are open to the public and held on the MSGA campus. SGT meeting dates are posted on our school website. Nominations for the SGT are before the end of the school year.

School Day Hours: Students may enter the building starting at 8:45 a.m. through the front 6-3/6-4 doors (car riders and walkers) and rear of the cafeteria (bus riders). The school day begins at 9:15 a.m. Students arriving after 9:15 am are considered tardy. Dismissal is at 4:00 p.m. Car riders and walkers exit out of the 6-3/6-4 doors. Bus riders exit out of the building when called according to their route. ASP students dismiss with bus riders and after school extracurricular and sports dismiss when called.

School Store: The school store is open before school from 8:45 a.m.-9:15 a.m. Uniform purchases can occur online and in-person when the store is allowed to open in room 44. Students must have a pass to visit the store. Parents and guardians interested in volunteering in the school store can contact the MMG PTSA.

Standardized Testing: Standardized test results are used to help track student progress and to guide instruction. MAP is administered three (3) times a year, fall, winter and spring. In the spring, the GA Milestones End of Grade will be administered. The GA Milestones (EOG) gives information to teachers, parents, and students about how well the students have learned the GSE in all core subject areas. The purpose of the MAP is to measure individual student growth by RIT score, Lexile and NPR and used to see how the performance of students in Marietta City Schools compares with that of students across the nation. MAP data is also used in student course placement.

Student Conduct: Students are expected to meet a high standard of conduct at all times by demonstrating the 3R's-*Ready, Respect, Responsibility*. Unacceptable conduct which prohibits learning and which disrupts other students will not be tolerated. Students who misbehave at school will be disciplined in accordance with the district's code of student conduct. Discipline infractions may result in the loss of specific school privileges. The cooperation of parents is an important element in modifying behavior that is unsatisfactory. Student behavior will be reflected in the conduct indicator on each report card. Please refer to the district's student discipline handbook for detailed guidelines.

Student Records: It is the school's policy to send educational records without parental permission upon request from another school. Student records may be made available to either natural parent unless a legal document instructs the school otherwise. Please give a 24 hour notice for the requests.

Technology: MSGA is equipped with a wealth of technological resources. Students and teachers have access to wireless laptop and desktop computing and printers. All rooms are equipped with interactive display screens. Teachers integrate these resources into their lessons. It is expected that all students will use technology resources appropriately and responsibly. Failure to do so can result in loss of privileges. Online research is often required for homework, projects, and class work. Our policy at MSGA is to cite a source for ALL information attained through the Internet. Plagiarism can result in disciplinary consequences to include lowering a student's grade. Students must also follow all guidelines outlined in the MCS Acceptable Use Guidelines (Board Policy IFBG-E1) and the MSGA BYOT Agreement-see page 19. Parents and students must complete and sign the BYOT form each school year.

Unified Student Dress Code: The MSGA community believes the wearing of clothing that is uniform in appearance promotes a positive and safe school atmosphere, as well as, diminishes numerous challenges with purchasing, selection, and acceptance of clothing options.

Administration reserves the right to handle all dress-code violations on a case by case manner.

The administration or designee reserves the right to deem other types of dress inappropriate even if it is not described here.

MSGA students are required to adhere to the following uniform requirements:

Shirt Options:

- Uniform polo-style embroidered shirts with the MCS logo.
- Navy middle grades t-shirt.; short or long sleeved (can be purchased online and school store when allowed to open from the middle grades PTSA for \$7.00 for short sleeved or \$10.00 for long sleeved).
- Marietta City spirit wear-any MCS spirit wear t-shirts can be worn including the Class of 2028 shirts during the week on any day.
- [Land's End](#): Vendor polo-style uniform shirts

Pants, Shorts, & Skirts:

- Solid color khaki, tan, navy blue, black or gray pants/shorts/skirts with no designs or embellishments. including designer holes.
- Plain navy blue or black solid denim jean pants/shorts/skirts with no designs or embellishments.
- Shorts or skirts should be at least knee length and should be of the appropriate size.

Jackets/Other:

- MCS sweatshirts are available for purchase from the PTSA school store. Students may also wear navy or gray “Marietta Blue Devil” sweatshirts/hoodies over their uniform shirt such as those provided by MSGA sports teams.
- **Sweatshirts MCS and Non-MCS:** MCS crewneck sweatshirts will be navy, printed with the MCS logo in white on the left side and must be of appropriate size. MCS pullover and MCS zip-up hoodies will be either navy with the MCS logo in white on the left side or gray with the MCS logo in navy on the left side and must be of appropriate size. Non-MCS pullover hoodies and zip-up hoodies will be either plain navy, black, or gray and must be of the appropriate size.
- Students may also wear non-MCS solid/plain navy blue, black, or gray jackets, but they must be able to show the uniform shirt.
- Students may wear plain navy blue/black/gray/white visible underclothing.
- Hoods can't be worn on the head while in the building. If a student does not comply, this is considered a dress code offense.
- **Students may wear jackets or coats to and from school; however, these jackets and coats may not be worn during the school day (unless the requirements above are met) in order to protect the integrity of the uniform.**

NOTE: Parents/guardians may purchase uniform items from whatever vendor they choose as long as it meets the guidelines of MSGA Unified Dress Code.

The consequences for students not in appropriate dress code violation could include yet not limited to:

Notification Letter sent home
Loaner clothing given (if parent can not come in)
Parent Contact/Phone or Email
Lunch Detention
Discipline Referral
ISS warning letter for Dress Code Non-compliance
Student placed in ISS for portion of the day

Unified Student Dress Code Addendum: Standard for all MSGA students, including those students who have opted-out.

Non-Permitted Clothing and Apparel Items:

This is not intended as a comprehensive list of non-permitted clothing and is subject to change ANY ATTIRE OR GROOMING DISRUPTIVE TO THE INSTRUCTIONAL PROCESS which may include, but is not limited to:

- ⇒ Tank tops or dresses with straps narrower than 2" or single strap tops
- ⇒ Sheer/see-through blouses and skirts
- ⇒ Bare midriffs and halter tops or low cut shirts
- ⇒ Short shorts/micro mini dresses/skirts or high slit sides
- ⇒ Leggings or Jeggings or Sweatpants
- ⇒ Sunglasses
- ⇒ Clothing which allows underwear/undergarments to be exposed
- ⇒ Extremes in hair styles, psychedelic colors (hot colors)
- ⇒ Painted faces, stick on skin tattoos (unless linked to a school spirit event)
- ⇒ Any open toed shoes to include flip flops, slides, and sandals
- ⇒ No torn, ripped pants/jeans/clothing with designer holes, camouflage, monikers or other markings.
- ⇒ Clothing with inappropriate or offensive writing/messages or symbols
- ⇒ Hats, headgear or hoods during the school day (unless linked to a school spirit event)
- ⇒ Chains, spiked rings, spiked bracelets or long earrings or wallet chains
- ⇒ Overalls and Overalls with straps unbuckled
- ⇒ Untied or dangling belts
- ⇒ Combat-type boots (12 holes or more) and flight jackets worn concurrently with combat boots
- ⇒ Any combination of clothing including certain colors which law enforcement agencies currently consider gang related
- ⇒ Any coat longer than the knees, i.e., trench coats

Due to the nuances associated with dress codes, **administration or designee reserves the right to handle all dress code violations on a case-by-case manner** and deem other types of dress inappropriate even if it is not described specifically in this policy.

Visitors to School:

We welcome visitors to our school. According to Georgia State law, all visitors must go to the front office to check-in. If you need to bring anything to your child during the day, please bring it to the front office. To maximize classroom instruction and minimize daily interruptions, all classroom visitations should be scheduled with the classroom teacher in advance (24 hours). No visitors will be allowed access during class changes and scheduled fire/safety drills.

Withdrawal/Transfer:

Parents must notify the Front Office in writing when a student is to be withdrawn from school. Text books and library books need to be returned to school prior to withdrawal or fees will be assessed. Your notification to the Front Office that your child will be withdrawing will enable us to complete his/her school records and provide you with necessary documentation for entry into his/ her next school.

MYP Grading: As an authorized IB MYP School, MSGA provides instruction to students based on MYP units of Instruction, which are aligned to the Georgia Common Core Standards. MSGA provides the first year of the five years of the Middle Years Programme (Grades 6 – 10).

Throughout the year, students are assessed using MYP rubrics to measure student achievement on criteria for each subject area. Teachers provide varied and valid assessment tasks that allow students to demonstrate achievement according to the objectives for each MYP subject area. These tasks might include open ended or problem-solving tasks, investigations, analyses, performances, journals, presentations, or examinations.

Achievement Levels are determined based on performance on the total score of all MYP criteria for each subject area and are assigned using guidelines provided by the International Baccalaureate Organization.

Final MYP Achievement Levels are reported in the MYP section of the 4th quarter report card. If you have questions about the MYP Achievement Level, contact your child's teacher or Dr. Tamara Edwards, MYP Coordinator at MSGA, at 770-429-3115x5823 or tedwards@marietta-city.k12.ga.us

Abbreviated Achievement Level Chart:

Grade 1-Poor	Produces work of very limited quality .
Grade 2-Weak	Produces work limited quality .
Grade 3-Mediocre	Produces work of an acceptable quality .
Grade 4-Satisfactory	Produces good quality work.
Grade 5-Good	Produces generally high-quality work.
Grade 6-Very Good	Produces high-quality , occasionally innovative work.
Grade 7-Excellent	Produces high-quality , frequently innovative work.

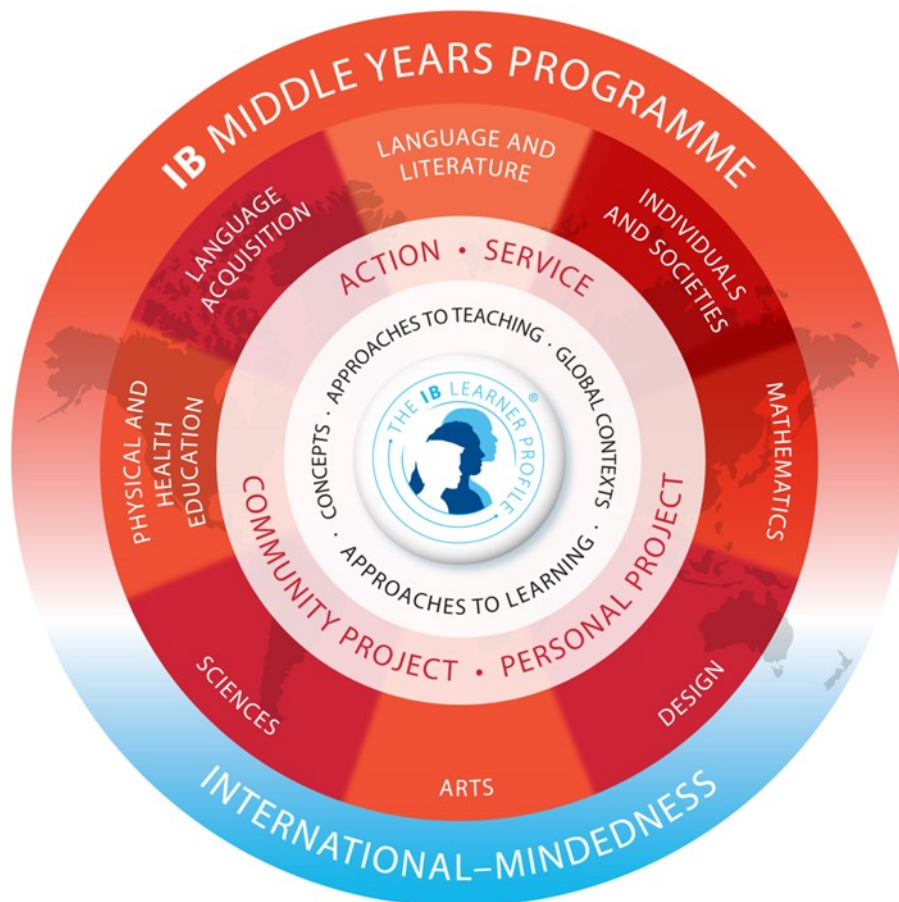
***IB MYP ***

International Baccalaureate Middle Years Programme

Marietta Sixth Grade Academy is an authorized IB MYP School. The aim of all IB programs is to develop internationally minded people who, recognizing their common humanity and shared guardianship of the planet, help to create a better and more peaceful world.

What does this mean for our students?

- ◆ We help students to develop the skills needed to think critically and independently, to work collaboratively, and to take a disciplined approach to studying.
- ◆ We seek to give students an international perspective.
- ◆ We strive to foster a commitment to help others and to act as responsible members of the community.
- ◆ We offer the first year in a five year programme, together with Marietta Middle School and



The IB learner profile represents 10 attributes valued by IB World Schools. We believe these attributes, and others like them, can help individuals and groups become responsible members of local, national and global communities.

As IB learners, we strive to be: inquirers, knowledgeable, thinkers, communicators, principled, open-minded, caring, risk-takers, balanced, and reflective.



IB learner profile

The aim of all IB programmes is to develop internationally minded people who, recognizing their common humanity and shared guardianship of the planet, help to create a better and more peaceful world.

As IB learners we strive to be:

INQUIRERS

We nurture our curiosity, developing skills for inquiry and research. We know how to learn independently and with others. We learn with enthusiasm and sustain our love of learning throughout life.

KNOWLEDGEABLE

We develop and use conceptual understanding, exploring knowledge across a range of disciplines. We engage with issues and ideas that have local and global significance.

THINKERS

We use critical and creative thinking skills to analyse and take responsible action on complex problems. We exercise initiative in making reasoned, ethical decisions.

COMMUNICATORS

We express ourselves confidently and creatively in more than one language and in many ways. We collaborate effectively, listening carefully to the perspectives of other individuals and groups.

PRINCIPLED

We act with integrity and honesty, with a strong sense of fairness and justice, and with respect for the dignity and rights of people everywhere. We take responsibility for our actions and their consequences.

OPEN-MINDED

We critically appreciate our own cultures and personal histories, as well as the values and traditions of others. We seek and evaluate a range of points of view, and we are willing to grow from the experience.

CARING

We show empathy, compassion and respect. We have a commitment to service, and we act to make a positive difference in the lives of others and in the world around us.

RISK-TAKERS

We approach uncertainty with forethought and determination; we work independently and cooperatively to explore new ideas and innovative strategies. We are resourceful and resilient in the face of challenges and change.

BALANCED

We understand the importance of balancing different aspects of our lives—intellectual, physical, and emotional—to achieve well-being for ourselves and others. We recognize our interdependence with other people and with the world in which we live.

REFLECTIVE

We thoughtfully consider the world and our own ideas and experience. We work to understand our strengths and weaknesses in order to support our learning and personal development.

The IB learner profile represents 10 attributes valued by IB World Schools. We believe these attributes, and others like them, can help individuals and groups become responsible members of local, national and global communities.

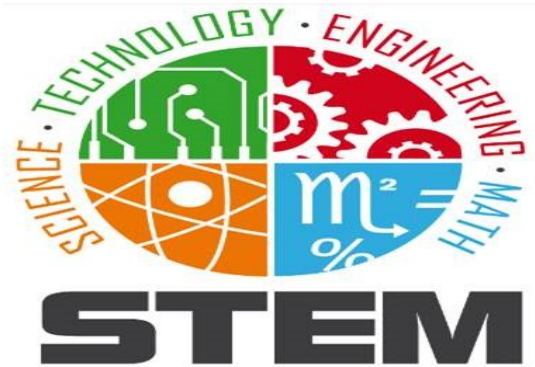


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Middle Grades STEM Magnet Program



The Middle Grades STEM Magnet Program housed at Marietta Sixth Grade Academy (grade 6) is an extension of the STEM Magnet program offered at Marietta Center for Advanced Academics (grades 3-5). There are common links between the elementary and the middle grades magnet that provide a seamless and streamlined academic program.


For example, all magnet students participate in enhanced and/or accelerated coursework in math, English/language arts and science. All students work in a one-to-one computing environment with access to and use of advanced technology applications. In addition, magnet students (grades 3-8) participate in science fair projects, complete thematic based reading projects/presentations, and showcase their work across multiple digital platforms.

The STEM Magnet program emphasizes building the problem solvers of tomorrow while using engineering concepts as the common thread throughout all disciplines/subjects. Students learn through an interdisciplinary approach in a project based learning environment. All middle grades students complete quarterly design capstone projects that are unique to the magnet program.

At the middle grades level, students are afforded the opportunity to continue their experiential learning in STEM education (science, technology, engineering and mathematics). At MSGA, students begin their journey into comprehensive and rigorous instructional program is based on the Georgia Standards of Excellence (GSE), connected through integrated, inter-disciplinary units of instruction, and focused on the design process. By using a balance of text and technological resources, we provide an education that is challenging at higher levels and faster-paced than traditional middle school learning environments.

Students interested in entering the magnet program must complete an application found on the Marietta City Schools website. Please contact the Front Office for additional information.

MSGA students follow the 3R's:
Be **R**eady, Be **R**espectful, Be **R**esponsible

	Classroom Expectations	Hallway Expectations	Cafeteria Expectations	Bus Arrival & Departure Expectations	
	Ready Organized, timely, and prepared Be a Thinker	Go directly to class Walk on the right side of the hall	Get your main lunch prior to getting snacks Focus on eating lunch rather than socializing	Be on time to bus Be on time to school each day Follow the dress code	
	Respectful Caring and kind actions toward others Be Open-Minded	Use kind words Follow direction of adults Be open-minded to the opinions of others Follow all school rules	Keep your hands and feet to yourself Use appropriate language – Be a good communicator Follow adult directions	Use appropriate language – Be a good communicator Keep your hands and feet to yourself Follow adult directions	Use kind and caring words while on the bus or waiting for the bus Go directly to the bus so you don't hold up others Keep your hands and feet to yourself
	Responsible Accountable, dependable, reliable, and trustworthy Be Principled	Complete all assigned work Inquire when you have questions Participate in class	Knowledgeable about where you are going Use a hall pass when necessary	Clean up after yourself Know your lunch number	Knowledgeable of your bus number Go directly to your bus in the afternoon

Marietta Sixth Grade Academy

Voice Levels



0

Voice Level ZERO-VL0

Absolute silence. No talking



1

Voice Level 1-VL1

Whisper. Only 1 person can hear.



2

Voice Level 2-VL2

Small group talk.



3

Voice Level 3-VL3

Normal conversation in a group.



4

Voice Level 4-VL4

Presenting voice...On the stage.

No student will be permitted to use personal technology devices unless the agreement is signed and returned.

Bring Your Own Technology (BYOT) Agreement at MSGA

Students who choose to participate in the Bring Your Own Technology (BYOT) initiative for academic activities must adhere to the Marietta City Student Code of Conduct, as well as all Board policies, particularly the Student Behavior Code (JCDA), Internet Acceptable Use Policy (IFBG) and Student Acceptable Use Guidelines (IFBG-E1). Students who fail to adhere to these rules may face disciplinary measures and lose the privilege of using or possessing personal technology for instructional or personal use.

MSGA Parent/Guardian - Please read this agreement carefully with your child. Initial each statement once you have both read and understand the requirements.

Students must take full responsibility for their devices and accessories (such as cases, headphones, charges, etc.). The school and staff are not responsible for the security of personal technology. By choosing to bring devices onto school grounds, students accept the risk of potential loss or damage to personal technology. Personal devices cannot be left on campus before or after school hours. Students should not allow other students to take possession of their devices.

_____ Student Initials _____ Parent Initials

Devices cannot be used during tests or assessments, unless otherwise directed by a teacher.

_____ Student Initials _____ Parent Initials

Students must immediately follow with teachers' requests to shut down devices or close the screen. Devices must be put away when asked by teachers. Devices must always be in silent mode while on school campuses and while riding school buses.

_____ Student Initials _____ Parent Initials

Students are not permitted to take, send, post pictures or images/videos while in class or at school.

_____ Student Initials _____ Parent Initials

Students will only use devices to access files or sites relevant to classroom curriculum. Games and other non-instructional purposes, such as making personal phone calls or messaging via text or social media*, are not permitted. Due to age restrictions, social media is prohibited at MSGA. Devices may not be used for cheating on assignments or tests.

_____ Student Initials _____ Parent Initials

Students should have no expectation of charging or plug-in capabilities. Personal devices should be charged prior to bringing them to school.

_____ Student Initials _____ Parent Initials

To ensure appropriate network filters, students will only use the BYOT wireless connection in school and will not attempt to bypass the network restrictions by using an outside network. Students have no expectation of privacy in any work transmitted on the school network and understand that staff may collect and examine their personal device to determine if a violation of school rule or law has been committed.

_____ Student Initials _____ Parent Initials

Students understand that introducing a virus, Trojan, or any program designed to damage, alter, destroy, or provide access to unauthorized data or information in the network is in violation of the Acceptable Use Policy and Behavior Code, and will result in disciplinary actions. The school district has the right to collect and examine any device that is suspected of causing problems or is the source of an attack or virus infection.

_____ Student Initials _____ Parent Initials

Students realize that processing or accessing information on school property related to "hacking," altering, or bypassing network security policies is in violation of the Acceptable Use Policy and Behavior Code, and will result in disciplinary actions. Students can only access files on the computer or Internet sites which are relevant to the classroom curriculum and suggested by a teacher.

_____ Student Initials _____ Parent Initials

Students realize that printing from personal devices is not permitted at school.

_____ Student Initials _____ Parent Initials

Students realize that any violations of the above listed rules, this agreement, any law or any school policy may result in confiscation of personal electronic devices by teachers or staff. Return of the device in 24 hours may be dependent upon parental conference where deemed necessary.

_____ Student Initials _____ Parent Initials

Student Name (Print) _____

Team 6-____

Parent/Guardian Name (Print) _____

Parent/Guardian Signature _____

Date _____



Writing Cheat Sheet for Students...

Always remember **RACE** when writing a constructed response!

Restate the question by turning it into a statement.

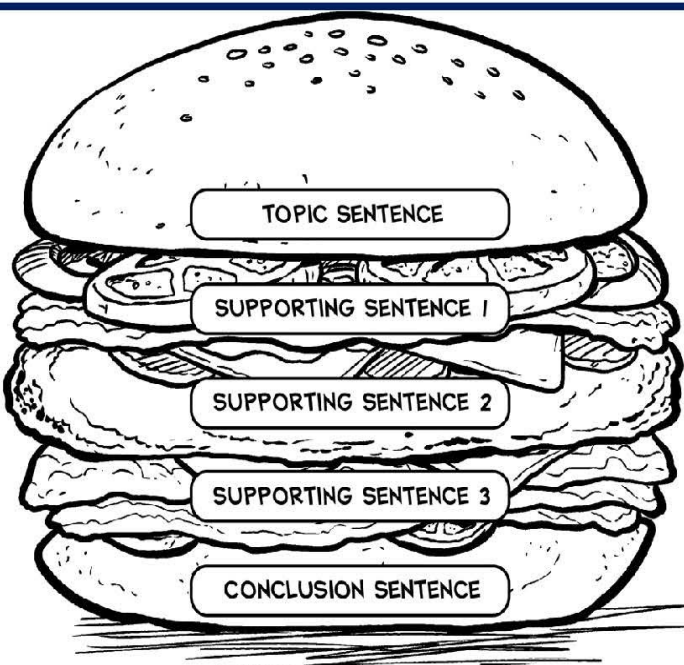
AnsWER all parts of the question.

Cite examples and evidence from the text.

Explain how your evidence supports your answer.

Citing Text Evidence Sentence Starters:

- *According to the text...*
- *The author/text stated...*
- *In the text it states...*
- *The text explicitly states...*
- *From the reading, I know that...*
- *Based on the information in the text...*



Remember...

- Always punctuate the end of sentences.
- Begin every sentence with a capital letter.
- All proper nouns must be capitalized.
- Never start sentences with "and" or "because."
- Check your spelling.

Transition Words

Transition words and phrases connect ideas in sentence and paragraphs.

Start In the beginning To begin with One example	Continue Next Soon In addition Eventually Another reason Afterward Suddenly Shortly after	Cause and Effect Because So Therefore Due to As a result of
Compare Compared to Similarly At the same time Either	Contrast Although However Besides On the other hand	Examples Such as In this case Specifically In particular
Conclusion <div> <div> Lastly In conclusion Overall Therefore </div> <div> As a result Finally To summarize </div> <div> Consequently Thus To sum up Ultimately </div> </div>		

Types of Essays

Informational <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Informs the reader. • Use specific language related to the topic. • True facts and definitions. 	Argumentative <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Makes a claim. • Includes evidence to support the claim. • Offers a counter-argument. 	Narrative <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tells a story. • Includes dialogue, setting, conflict, and theme.
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MSGA Course Offerings

IB Middle Years Programme

Language Arts	Mathematics	Science	Social Studies	Electives & Foreign Language
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reading Connections • ELA 6 • Enhanced ELA • AC/MILE ELA 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Math Connections • Math 6 • Enhanced Math 6 • Accelerated 6/7 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Science 6 • Enhanced Science 6 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Social Studies 6 • Enhanced Social Studies 6 • AC/MILE Social Studies 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Art • Band • Orchestra • Chorus • Enh. Chorus • Drama • Enh. Drama • French • Spanish
<i>IB Middle Years Programme - STEM Magnet</i>				

Language Arts	Mathematics	Science	Social Studies	Electives & Foreign Language
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Enhanced ELA • MILE ELA 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Enhanced Math 6 • Accelerated 6/7 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Enhanced Magnet Earth Science 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Enhanced Social Studies • MILE Social Studies 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Art • Band • Orchestra • Chorus • Enh. Chorus • Drama • Enh. Drama • French • Spanish

Definition of Terms

MYP 6th grade—Curriculum is focused on the 6th Grade GSE (Georgia Standards of Excellence) using IB MYP ATL, command terms and IB Learner Profile.

Enhanced MYP 6th grade—Curriculum extends the 6th Grade GSE incorporating IB MYP.

AC/MILE MYP—Curriculum extends the 6th Grade GSE through advanced content classes (SS & ELA only) and addresses the standards for gifted learners incorporating IB MYP.

English Learners

MSGA has a complete ESOL (English to Speakers of Other Languages) program for English Learners (EL). We serve EL students throughout a 3-tier progression: (1) intensive, (2) intermediate, and (3) monitored.

Special Education

The needs of students of all abilities are served. Special education students are instructed in their least restrictive environments through a continuum of services to include small group, team taught, and enhanced settings.

MSGA Daily Rotating (per quarter) Schedules

Period	Regular	Advisement	Conference
	Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday	Wednesday Advisement or Clubs	Conference Week Early Release
1	9:15 – 10:06	9:15 – 10:04	9:15 - 9:44
BBB	10:10-10:40		
2	10:44 – 11:35	10:08-10:57	9:48 – 10:17
3	11:35 – 1:05	11:01 – 12:30	10:21 – 11:46
4	1:09 – 2:00	12:34 – 1:23	11:50 – 12:19
5	2:04 – 2:55	1:27 – 2:16	12:23 – 12:52
6	2:59– 4:00	2:20– 3:11	12:56 – 1:30
Adv.		3:15-4:00	

Breakfast & Lunch Schedule

Breakfast	8:45-9:15 every morning		
Lunch	Blazing Blue Block	PM Advisement 3:15 - 4:00	Conference Week
A1-2	11:39 – 12:09	11:01 -11:31	10:21 – 10:51
B1-2	12:11 – 12:41	11:33 -12:03	10:50 – 11:21
C1-2	12:43 – 1:06	12:05 -12:30	11:20 – 11:46

2021-2022 Important Dates

GRADING QUARTERS	1st: August 9– October 11 2nd: October 12- December 17 3rd: January 5- March 17 4th: March 18 - May 26
PROGRESS REPORTS *Published in ASPEN	1st: September 9 2nd: November 16 3rd: February 11 4th: April 25
REPORT CARDS *Published in ASPEN	1st: October 15 2nd: January 6 3rd: March 24 4th: June 6 (mailed)
CONFERENCE WEEKS	Fall Student-led: October 25 - 29 Spring Priority Teacher-led: March TBD
STANDARDIZED TESTING	ACCESS for ELLs: January 12-March 4 GA Milestones: April 26-May 13 MAP Growth: September, January, May



Non-Discrimination Statement

The Board of Education of the City of Marietta does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, national origin, age, disability, or gender in its employment practices, student programs and dealings with the public.

Below is a list of individuals designated to handle inquiries regarding the District's nondiscrimination policies:

Title VI Compliance Officer/Alternate Title IX Compliance Officer

(Issues of discrimination on basis of race, color, or national origin, gender, sexual harassment)

Director of Federal Programs
Central Administrative Offices
250 Howard Street, Marietta, GA 30060
770-422-3500

Title IX Compliance Officer

(Issues of discrimination on the basis of gender or sexual harassment)

Director of Athletics
Marietta High School
1171 Whitlock Avenue, Marietta, GA 30064
770-429-3154

Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act and Section 504 Compliance Officer

(Issues of discrimination on the basis of disability)

Assistant Superintendent, Special Services
Central Administrative Offices
250 Howard Street, Marietta, GA 30060
770-422-3500

Employment Issues

(Issues of discrimination on the basis of any category listed in policy GAAA)

Director of Human Resources
Central Administrative Offices
250 Howard Street, Marietta, GA 30060
770-422-3500

Complaints may also be filed directly with the Office of Civil Rights at the address below:

The U.S. Department of Education
Atlanta Office for Civil Rights
61 Forsyth St. S.W., Suite 19T70
Atlanta, GA 30303-3104
(404) 562-6350

Sexual Harassment

Any student who believes he or she has been the victim of sexual harassment should report the incident to the Title IX Compliance Officer or to an administrator, counselor, or teacher at the school he or she attends.

Investigations involving allegations of sexual harassment allegations will be handled per Board of Education of the City of Marietta Policy JAEB, Student Sexual Harassment. This policy and the Report of Harassment form can be found on the Legal Information webpage at www.marietta-city.org or by contacting the school.

MCS SAFE RIDER CONTRACT

Dear Parent/Guardian:

The safety of your children is our number one concern and “The Safe Rider Program” is a student management program which promotes and teaches proper school bus safety. The core of the program promotes personal accountability as it relates to bus safety because unsafe choices endanger the safety of all passengers.

How the Program Works

The program promotes instant accountability for unsafe behavior as shown below. The program also includes a defined and graduated discipline plan. The concept does not stop here. We have also developed a Safe Rider Class that employs several different ways of empowering the student to correct unsafe behavior. Some of those techniques include role play, videos and class work which will be scheduled to not interfere with the student’s academic work.

Unsafe Behavior on the Ride Home

- If unsafe behavior occurs before the bus leaves the school; the student will be provided with two options: (1) Correct the behavior and continue home (behavior documented) or (2) be removed from the bus and taken to MCAA with staff supervision until a parent or guardian can pick up the student (behavior documented.)
- If unsafe behavior occurs after the bus leaves the school the driver will contact their Dispatch. Transportation staff will assess the situation and if necessary, a staff member will remove the student from the bus to return the student to MCAA to remain under staff supervision until a parent or guardian can pick the student up.
- If either of the above instances occurs, the graduated discipline plan will be in effect.

MCS Policies for students supersede the Safe Rider Program.

We need your partnership as we move forward in making Marietta City School buses safer and more enjoyable part of the student’s day. Please review the ***Safe Rider Policies and Regulations*** with your student. Please complete and sign the ***Safe Rider Contract / Emergency Form*** with your child and return to your bus driver within 5 days to continue bus rider privileges and to insure your child’s assigned seat.

GRADUATED DISCIPLINE PLAN

- ♦ **1st Offense** – Driver Student Conference & Parent Contacted. (Courtesy Notice.) Student on probation and re-assigned to the front of Bus for 1 week.
- ♦ **2nd Offense** – Driver Student Conference & Parent Contacted. (Courtesy Notice.) Student on probation and re-assigned to the front of Bus for 2 weeks.
- ♦ **3rd Offense*** – Referral submitted, **3 Days Bus Suspension**. Upon return student placed on probation and re-assigned to the front of Bus for 1 week. *Safe Rider Class and Behavior Contract Required.
- ♦ **4th Offense*** – Referral submitted, **5 Days Bus Suspension**. *Conference required before returning to the school bus.
- ♦ **5th Offense** – Referral submitted, Transportation Director recommends Bus suspension for the remainder of the year.



MCS SAFE RIDER CONTRACT

Safe Rider Behavior Policies and Regulations

1. Students must show respect for school bus drivers at all times and follow the "The Safe Rider Program."
2. All students shall comply with reasonable directives of a Marietta City Schools Employee. Failure to do so is considered an act of insubordination.
3. **NO** student shall refuse to identify one's self upon request of any Marietta City Schools Employee.
4. Students must be standing at the bus stop **AT LEAST FIVE (5) MINUTES** prior to the scheduled pick-up time. Students are to wait at the school bus stop in an orderly manner.
5. Students must **WAIT** for instructions (hand signals or otherwise) from the school bus driver **EVERY TIME** when crossing the street to board the bus or when exiting the bus. Students must be able to maintain eye contact with the school bus driver and cross in full view of the school bus driver.
6. Students must board the bus as soon as school is dismissed and not loiter in the courtyard and on the sidewalk. Once on the bus at dismissal time, the student will need the approval of an administrator to depart the bus, while at school.
7. Students **MUST** remain **SILENT** and **STILL** at **ALL** railroad crossings until the school bus crosses railroad tracks completely.
8. Elementary and Middle school students will be assigned a seat assignment on the school bus. (*High School at driver's discretion*)
9. Students **MUST** remain seated properly in the seat at all times unless otherwise directed by the school bus driver. (**BACK to BACK – BOTTOM to BOTTOM**)
10. Unnecessary noise is prohibited. Students must talk at a low volume level - **NO** loud voices.
11. Student shall not talk on a cell phone. No other electronic devices can be used without use of headphones and must not be heard by others. **Students may not have any type of head phones or ear buds on their ears when boarding or exiting the school bus.** Students must be able to hear bus driver at all times. Students may not use any electronic device to video or audio record while on the school bus.
12. Due to allergic reactions and the possibility of choking - food, gum, and/or drinks are not to be consumed or opened on the school bus.
13. Name calling, harassment, intimidation, threats and bullying is prohibited on the school bus
14. Obscene language and gestures are prohibited.
15. Fighting, pretend fighting, roughhousing or horseplay is **NOT** permitted.
16. **NO** objects are to be thrown on, in, out or at the school bus.
17. Destruction or defacing any part of the school bus is prohibited. Replacement cost at parent's expense.
18. Emergency doors, windows, and hatches are to be opened **ONLY** at the direction of the school bus driver.
19. Students must keep all body parts inside the school bus at all times.
20. Students shall not use mirrors, lasers, flashing lights, flash cameras, or any other lights or reflective surfaces as it may interfere with the operation of the school bus.
21. *Weapons (or objects that look like and/or could be used as weapons)* are **NOT** permitted at bus stop, on the school buses or school grounds.
22. Tobacco, illegal drugs and/or alcohol is **NOT** permitted at bus stop, on the school buses or school grounds.
23. Objectionable and/or dangerous items are **NOT** allowed on the school bus. Such as; glass items, lighters/matches, animals, balloons, flowers/plants, skateboards, perfume/cologne, aerosol cans, plastic bags, insects, straight or safety pins, sharp objects, large toys or objects that cannot easily fit on the student's lap or any other item of a questionable nature that might present a safety hazard.
24. Band instruments, sporting equipment and school projects can be transported **ONLY** if there is enough space for all students' seating requirements. Items may be placed in the seat or lap to whom they belong. This is left to the bus driver's discretion.
25. Students must board and exit the school bus at their designated bus stop **ONLY**. Alternate arrangements must be pre-approved using a MCS Bus Pass which has been completely filled out by Parents/Guardian and with a school administrator approval (in writing). This written permission must be given to the school bus driver when boarding the school bus. (**Bus Pass can be denied if school bus is at capacity or if the student has a history of bus behavior offenses or becomes an offender**)

Any Behavior that is considered disruptive or unsafe by the school bus driver will be handled through the use of the Safe Rider Program.

