

## APPENDIX E

### STUDENTS' RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES

I. A STUDENT HAS THE RIGHT TO A QUALITY EDUCATION AND ACTIVITIES AND THE RESPONSIBILITY TO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THE LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES AVAILABLE.

***MMRHS Students' Rights are:***

- A. To have an equal opportunity to participate in and benefit from education without discrimination because of race, color, national origin, religion, political beliefs, sex age, or marital status, pregnancy and parenthood.
- B. To have fair and equitable treatment in all academic matters including enrollment in courses, participation in assemblies, appraisal of achievement, grading of work, assignment to academic level, enforcement of rules and discipline.
- C. To have reasonable access to all services, facilities, and activities. When participation is limited for any reason, it will be done on an equal basis.
- D. To have equal opportunity to participate in MMRHS student government, athletics, clubs and all other school activities unless such participation would endanger the safety of any individual.
- E. When a certain level of skills is required for a particular activity, a student is entitled to equal opportunity to try out and to be judged fairly.

***MMRHS Student Responsibilities are:***

- A. To take full advantage of the learning opportunities available to students and do all they can to achieve their learning potential.
- B. To treat all others fairly and equitably, and not participate in any practice which discriminates against others.
- C. To comply with all the rules and procedures associated with a particular activity or with the use of school services or facilities.
- D. To refrain from participating in any activity if it would endanger the safety of any individual or cause interference with learning.

II. A STUDENT HAS THE RIGHT TO EXPECT THAT HIS/HER FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION SHALL NOT BE UNDULY RESTRAINED.

***MMRHS Students' Rights are:***

- A. To be exposed to opposing views, to be able to express themselves freely and to seek acceptance of their views by others. Students shall exercise this right consistent with the rights of others.
- B. To have access to available resource materials. Such access shall not be unreasonably restricted by School Committee policy.
- C. To have an opportunity to express his/ her views regarding any subject being discussed. Students shall recognize the authority of the teacher to conduct the class and shall comply with a teacher's regulation of discussion. A student's work shall be graded objectively and without bias.
- D. To be free to publish and distribute student publications and similar printed matter. Such publications shall be restricted only to protect the rights of others, to conform with the laws pertaining to libel and obscenity and to maintain a positive teaching/learning environment.
- E. To be free to use symbols such as armbands, buttons, badges or personal appearance to express views the student considers important, unless school regulations, disruption of the teaching/learning and/or the discipline/atmosphere is disrupted.
- F. To be free to participate or not in religious or patriotic ceremonies without being censured or jeopardized because of their choice.
- G. To show support for personal views, a student shall be free to circulate and present petitions at places and times approved by the administration.
- H. To have available to them the opportunity for appeal if they believe their right to free expression has been unfairly restricted. The process of appeal may include, in direct order, the Assistant Principal, the Principal, the Superintendent of Schools, and the Berkshire Hills Regional School Committee.

***MMRHS Student Responsibilities are:***

- A. To combine freedom of speech with the responsibility of listening to others.
- B. To verify facts, substantiate beliefs, distinguish between fact and opinion and never knowingly state an untruth.
- C. Not to use the right of free expression to abuse the rights of others or disrupt the educational process.
- D. Not to provoke such occurrences as may endanger the safety of others or lead to disruption.
- E. To take care not to libel or slander any person, be obscene, expose anyone to ridicule, or harm his or her reputation.
- F. To pay due respect to, and not interfere with, the rights of others to participate in religious or patriotic ceremonies.
- G. To comply with the prohibitions and regulations governing petitions, including prior approval by the Principal, specific times, places and manner of disruption.
- H. To accept the decisions determined by the appeal process.

III. STUDENTS HAVE THE RIGHT TO PARTICIPATE IN MATTERS THAT AFFECT THEM IN SCHOOL AND THEY HAVE THE RESPONSIBILITY TO EXERCISE THIS RIGHT IN A WAY THAT RESPECTS THE RIGHTS OF OTHERS.

***MMRHS Student Rights are:***

- A. To make the decisions that affect them in school. Subject only to the condition that their decisions shall not interfere with the learning process of the student.
- B. To have the opportunity to formulate a meaningful and practical educational program that meets their needs. In order to do so, students are entitled to a description of course offerings. With the help of school personnel and parental guidance, students may choose courses within an established curriculum subject to class size limitation, and participate in decisions regarding the levels of education they wish to pursue.
- C. To have available a specific procedure, through the Student Senate, for registering and discussing suggestions concerning curriculum, scheduling, teaching methods and other pertinent matters.
- D. To have the opportunity for appropriate involvement in planning and/or conducting assemblies and activity periods.
- E. To have the appropriate opportunity, primarily through student government to participate in judging the value and reasonableness of school rules and procedures, to participate in establishing and revising such rules and to participate in administering them.
- F. To be entitled to student government representatives who have been elected in a democratic process that assures an effective voice for all students in choosing their representatives. A student representative shall have access to administrators and shall be accorded the time and opportunity to participate in important matters concerning the student body.
- G. To be elected to serve on the Student Advisory Council to the School Committee and be entitled, as a member of this group, to consult with the Superintendent of Schools about an agenda of a regularly scheduled meeting that includes topics submitted by the student delegates.

***MMRHS student Responsibilities are:***

- A. To know the relevant facts, and seek counsel of others in making major decisions affecting them in school. They are expected to exercise patience, tolerance, and due regard for the interest of others in resolving the problems that are inherent when many individuals make their own decisions.
- B. To comply with school rules and procedures and to peacefully work to change those rules they consider unreasonable or unnecessary. When participating in rule making and enforcement, they are expected to consider the will of the majority, the necessity for violators to accept the consequences for their actions and the need to balance the interests of all in the school community.
- C. To help maintain an electoral process that provided candidates who are willing and able to meet their obligations as representatives. They shall keep their constituency fully informed about the actions of student government and other matters in which they represent students.
- D. A student designated to serve on the Student Advisory Council to the School Committee is expected to carry out charges given him/her by the State Law to conduct their business within the rules of the body they are advising, and to meet the responsibilities of the Student Advisory By-Laws.
- E. To honor the rights of others regardless of race, creed, color, religion, sex, or handicap.

IV. A STUDENT HAS THE RIGHT TO FAIR AND EQUITABLE TREATMENT UNDER SCHOOL RULES AND PROCEDURES, AND HAS THE RESPONSIBILITY TO SUPPORT AND OBEY ESTABLISHED RULES AND PROCEDURES.

***MMRHS Student Rights are:***

- A. To be assisted in developing a basic respect for the principles of citizenship through participation in establishing and enforcing school rules and procedures. These rules and procedures, as well as the penalties and procedures to be applied in the event of infractions, shall be specific and communicated to students and parents.
- B. To have access to available pupil personnel services (such as psychiatric services, guidance counseling, and learning disability services) that are responsible to his/her needs regarding behavior and personal problems under the provisions of Chapter 766.
- C. In the event of any information that may lead to punishment, a student is entitled to fair and equitable treatment whose details have been made available to him/her.

***MMRHS student Responsibilities are:***

- A. To support and obey established rules and procedures.
- B. To participate in establishing and periodically revising school rules and procedures.
- C. To seek pupil personnel services to meet their needs.
- D. To comply with the penalties that result from any violation of school rules. They shall cooperate with the administration of justice, including the giving of witness and evidence as required to assure due process.

V. A STUDENT HAS THE RIGHT TO BE SECURE IN HIS/HER PERSON AND PROPERTY AND HAS THE RESPONSIBILITY TO DO ALL HE/SHE CAN TO ASSURE THIS RIGHT FOR OTHERS.

***MMRHS student Rights are:***

- A. Not to be subject to physical harm or assault by other students or school personnel. Not to be subjected to corporal punishment.
- B. Not to be subjected to threat, intimidation, coercion, harassment, or persecution.
- C. To have his/her property reasonably protected from willful damage, theft, and extortion.
- D. Not to have his/her person, personal property, or locker subjected to search unless school officials have reasonable grounds of suspecting that the search will turn up evidence that the student has violated or is violating either the law or the rules of the school. Searches of students, their property, or their lockers may be conducted by school personnel. Police may be contacted to assist school personnel.
- E. That is a law enforcement office, officer of the court, district attorney, or registry of motor vehicles request a conference during school with any student, an administrator will be present and parent(s) shall be appropriately notified.

***MMRHS student Responsibilities are:***

- A. To refrain from acts of violent behavior. He/she shall not physically attack or harm anyone.
- B. To conduct themselves with tolerance and respect for the opinions and cultural, racial, religious and political differences of others.
- C. To speak with civility and act with common courtesy.
- D. Not to commit acts of theft, willful damage, burglary, or extortion. Also, to use their assigned locker according to its intended purpose and be responsible for its contents. A student shall not possess on school property illegal or dangerous items or materials such as bombs, firecrackers, or other explosives, weapons, narcotics, controlled substances, alcoholic beverages, knives or other contraband.
- E. To notify the school nurse of possession in use of prescription drugs on school property.
- F. To take all reasonable, peaceful action to prevent or stop physical conflict and to do all they can to help protect the right of others.