



CATSKILL

CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

Integrity / Perseverance / Compassion

Catskill Middle School

Student Handbook & Code of Conduct
2025-2026



The mission of the Catskill Central School District is to provide all children with the opportunity to fully develop their academic and creative potential and to assist them in becoming mature, humane, responsible, and productive members of society.

September 2, 2025

Dear Catskill Middle School Families and Students:

Welcome to the 2025 - 2026 school year! We are all so excited for a new year!

The information found on the following pages is a resource to help guide you through the upcoming school year, and to make you aware of the policies and procedures that we have in place at Catskill Middle School. It is important to note that Catskill Middle School Handbook supports the Catskill Central School District's Code of Conduct.

Our middle school is a vibrant school community with dedicated faculty and staff. We have an abundance of after-school and extracurricular activities that all students have available to them, and we encourage them to get involved. The pride of the "Catskill Cats" is an important element in our students' development and one that we endorse. Our goal is to provide every student with the educational opportunities leading to a high school diploma. Working together, completing all schoolwork, and following the code of conduct will ensure reaching this goal. As such, it is extremely important for parents and guardians to review the information within this booklet with their children.

Please read the handbook with your child and acknowledge using Parentsquare the receipt of the handbook and the annual health form at the end of the handbook.

Catskill Middle School Comprehensive Education Plan Commitments:

- We are committed to strengthening our ability to provide a cohesive, consistent, rigorous curriculum in order to improve student outcomes.
- We are committed to helping students take ownership of their learning and support them in building trusting relationships as the foundation for being more engaged in their learning. The focus is for students to have increased motivation and drive towards their academic success.
- We are committed to making every student feel safe, respected, and supported.
- We are committed to creating a welcoming environment for both our students and families through increased communications, and opportunities to develop and foster home/school relationships.

On behalf of the faculty and staff at CMS, I wish you all much success in the coming school year.

Sincerely,

John Rivers

Mr. John Rivers
Catskill Middle School Principal

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Telephone Numbers - District Directory

Catskill Middle School Main Number

518-943-5665

Name	Title	Phone Number	Ext.
Deborah Johnson	Acting Superintendent	518-943-4696	1400
Mr. Matthew Parker	Business Manager	518-943-4550	1415
Ms. Alyssa Dyer	Director of Pupil Personnel Service	518-943-0574	3305
Mr. John Rivers	Principal, Middle School	518-943-5665	1301
Ms. Kayla Gessner	Assistant Principal	518-943-5665	1354
Ms. Beth Daly	School Counselor	518-943-5665	1352
Ms. Diane Ashley	School Nurse	518-943-5665	2321
Ms. Alison Englert	Attendance	518-943-5665	1322
Mr. Brian J. Smith	Athletic Director	518-943-2300	2318
Mr. William Hoffman	Head Custodian	518-819-9877	
Mr. Patrick McCulloch	Director of Transp.	518-943-4550	1473
Ms. Kelly Schenkman	Food Services	518-943-2300	2124

BELL SCHEDULE

Morning Bell 7:33 am

Regular Bell Schedule		2-Hour Delay Bell Schedule		3-Hour Delay Bell Schedule	
Period 1	7:35-8:17	Period 1	9:35-10:09	Period 1	10:35-10:57
Period 2	8:20-9:02	Period 2	10:12-10:40	Period 2	11:00-11:22
Period 3	9:05-9:47	Period 3	10:43-11:11	Period 3	11:25-11:47
Period 4	9:50-10:32	Period 4	11:14-11:42	Period 4	11:50-12:12
Period 5	10:35-11:17	Period 5	11:45-12:13	Period 5	12:15-12:37
Period 6	11:20-12:02	Period 6	12:16-12:44	Period 6	12:40-1:02
Period 7	12:05-12:47	Period 7	12:47-1:15	Period 7	1:05-1:27
Period 8	12:50-1:32	Period 8	1:18-1:46	Period 8	1:30-1:52
Period 9	1:35-2:17	Period 9	1:49-2:17	Period 9	1:55-2:17
Extra Help	2:20-2:52	Extra Help	2:20-2:52	Extra Help	2:20-2:52

Catskill Central School District 2025-2026 School Calendar

SEPTEMBER 2025						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30				
19 Student/ 21 Staff						
DECEMBER 2025						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			
17 Student/ 17 Staff						
MARCH 2026						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				
21 Student/ 22 Staff						
JUNE 2026						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30				
18 Student/ 19 Staff						

OCTOBER 2025						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	
22 Student / 22 Staff						
JANUARY 2026						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31
19 Student/ 19 Staff						
APRIL 2026						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30		
16 Student/ 16 Staff						

NOVEMBER 2025						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30						
15 Student/ 16 Staff						
FEBRUARY 2026						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
15 Student/ 15 Staff						
MAY 2026						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						
20 Student/ 20 Staff						

- 2025**
- September 1 Labor Day
 - September 2 & 3 Superintendent Conference Day
 - September 4 Classes Begin
 - October 13 Columbus Day
 - November 21 Emergency Release Drill
 - November 10 Superintendent Conference Day
 - November 11 Veterans Day
 - November 24 & 25 ½ Day Dismissal, P/T Conf.
 - November 26-28 Thanksgiving Recess
 - December 23 ½ Day Dismissal
 - December 24-Jan 2 Holiday Recess

- 2026**
- January 5 January 5
 - January 19 Martin Luther King Jr Day
 - January 20-23 Regents Testing
 - February 16 Presidents Day
 - February 16-20 Winter Recess
 - February 17 Asian Lunar New Year
 - March 13 Superintendent Conference Day
 - April 1 & 2 ½ Day Dismissal, P/T Conf. CES
 - April 3 Good Friday
 - April 6-10 Spring Recess
 - May 25 Memorial Day
 - June 9, 10, 17 & 18 Regents Testing
 - June 19 Juneteenth
 - June 22-25 Regents Testing
 - June 22-25 ½ Day Dismissal for CES & CMS
 - June 25 Last Day of Classes
 - June 26 Staff Last Day/Graduation

KEY

	District Offices Closed
	Classes Not In Session
	Superintendent Conference Day
	Regents Testing
	Professional Development Day
	Early Dismissal Day

BOE APPROVED: 4/01/2025 REVISED: 3/27/2025

DAYS OF STUDENT INSTRUCTION 182
SUPERINTENDENT CONFERENCE DAYS 4
PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT DAY 1



Catskill Middle School 2025-2026 Marking Periods

Marking Period 1 Begins	9/5/2025
Marking Period 1 Interim Ends	10/3/2025
End of Marking Period 1	11/7/2025
Marking Period 1 Published (11:59pm)	11/14/2025

Marking Period 2 Begins	11/10/2025
Marking Period 2 Interim Ends	12/12/2025
End of Marking Period 2	1/23/2026
Marking Period 2 Published (11:59pm)	1/27/2026

Marking Period 3 Begins	1/26/2026
Marking Period 3 Interim Ends	2/27/2026
End of Marking Period 3	4/17/2026
Marking Period 3 Published (11:59pm)	4/27/2026

Marking Period 4 Begins	4/20/2026
Marking Period 4 Interim Ends	5/15/2026
End of Marking Period 4	6/25/2026
Marking Period 4 Published (11:59pm)	6/25/2026

PARENTSQUARE:

The Catskill Central School District will continue to use ParentSquare as our primary method of communication with student families for important alerts and updates. All important text messages, phone, and email alerts from the District about early dismissals, closures, bus delays, and more will be sent to families through this platform.

Catskill Middle School uses for ParentSquare will include, but are not limited to:

- Student tardiness
- Student absences
- Emergency situations
- Special announcements

It is imperative that the school have updated telephone numbers and e-mail addresses for these purposes. Please update these numbers immediately by contacting our district Registrar Kim Vela kvela@catskillcsd.org

STUDENT ATTENDANCE

It is the responsibility of the parent or guardian to notify the school in the event of a student's absence. Parents should call the main office to notify them of the child's absence. The State

Education Law recognizes only the following as legal absences (with documentation); this does not excuse students from their academic responsibilities.

- Sickness - medical
- Death in the family
- Required court appearance
- Religious observation

School starts promptly at 7:35 a.m. By this time, students are expected to be in their seats, prepared, and ready to learn. However, there are situations that prohibit a student from attending school. When a student is absent from school, it is critical for a parent to call the school notifying the Attendance Office 518-943-5665 Ext. 1322 of the absence and the reason. The Attendance Office will note the absence and the reason in SchoolTool. You will also need to send in a note upon return with your student.

VIOLATIONS OF SCHOOL ATTENDANCE POLICY

Students who are absent from school or class unlawfully are ***truant***. Firm disciplinary measures will be applied to such students, including detention, withdrawal of off-campus privileges, or suspension. Parents will be notified by telephone and/or mail. **Teachers are not required to assist students in making up work missed due to an illegal absence(s).**

The learning process is an interactive one, and an absence from the classroom does not allow for full participation in this process. Therefore, students who miss a substantial amount of class time because of absences or tardiness may have their grade reduced.

As per the District's Attendance Policy, the following steps will occur to address student attendance concerns:

- 5 Absences/Tardies
 - 1) Attendance letter sent home
 - 2) A member of the Attendance Committee will meet with the student to discuss attendance
- 10 Absences/Tardies
 - 1) Attendance letter mailed home
 - 2) The student will meet with a member of the Attendance Committee to further discuss attendance concerns
 - 3) A member of the Attendance Committee will contact the child's parent/guardian
 - 4) There will be an announced or unannounced home visit
 - 5) Outside agencies will be contacted to determine intervention steps
- 20 Absences/Tardies
 - 1) Attendance letter sent home
 - 2) Attendance intervention
 - 3) Provide reference for outside support, if needed
 - 4) District Attorney notified
- 21 - 29 Absences/Tardies
 - 1) A member of the Attendance Committee will contact the student's parent/guardian

- 2) There will be a review of the student’s file for educational neglect and, as needed, contact will be made to outside agencies (PINS, CPS, or Greene County Mental Health)
 - 3) Attendance intervention
- 30 Absences/Tardies
 - 1) Attendance letter mailed home
 - 2) A member of the Attendance Committee will contact parent/guardian
 - 3) An updated copy of the student’s file will be sent to the District Attorney
 - 4) District Attorney intervention

TARDINESS

Students arriving to school late are to report directly to the main office for an admission pass to class. Signed excuse notes must be given to the office at this time. Students arriving late to school without an excused note will be assigned a detention on the third occurrence in each quarter and for each subsequent occurrence each quarter. “Legal” excuses for lateness are the same as for absence.

HALL PASSES

Last school year, the District moved to a virtual pass system called **PikMyKid** that we will continue to use this school year. This system creates safer pathways for learning by monitoring student movement throughout the day. Setting limits and paying special attention to patterns helps us make informed decisions and keep students safer.

Catskill Central School District **Code of Conduct Summary 2025-2026**

The Catskill Central School District is committed to maintaining high standards of education for students in the schools. Because the District believes that order and discipline are essential to being educated effectively, The District is also committed to creating and maintaining high behavioral standards and expectations. An orderly educational environment requires that everyone in the school community play a role in contributing to an effective environment. It also requires the development and implementation of a code of discipline that clearly defines individual responsibilities, describes unacceptable behavior and provides for appropriate disciplinary options and responses.

Essential Partners: The District believes that order and discipline must be a shared responsibility between “Essential Partners” those individuals who contribute directly to a student’s success. The partners include parents, teachers, guidance counselors, other school personnel, principals, the superintendent, and the Board of Education.

Bystander Misconduct: Students who engage in misconduct when they do not initiate or directly participate in prohibited behavior; but rather by their action and / or inaction they allow damage or injury which could have prevented and / or encouraged prohibited conduct.

Harassment and Intimidation: The Board of Education is committed to providing a safe and productive learning environment within the District. Harassment and intimidation of or by students, faculty, staff, or visitors are strictly prohibited on school property, in school buildings, on school buses, and at school sponsored events and/or activities whether occurring on or off campus.

- *The Responsibility of Faculty and Who Witness Acts of Bullying
- *Definition of Bullying Behavior
- *Cyber Bullying
- *List of DASA Coordinators by Building

Social Media: Social Media such as Facebook, Twitter, and Youtube have increased the ability for communication between and among school community constituent groups. The use of such media can create an increase in communication and access to information and interaction. With the popularity of Social Media as a means of staying connected in today's world, faculty, staff, students, and parents are advised to clearly distinguish between personal and professional communications in order to maintain confidentiality and professionalism and in order to avoid potential conflicts or the appearance of impropriety.

Dress Code: Students are expected to dress and groom themselves in an appropriate manner. Students must be dressed in appropriate clothing and protective equipment as required for physical education classes, participation in athletics, science laboratories and home and career skills classes. Any dress or appearance which constitutes a disruption to the educational process is not acceptable. Hats and other headgear including hoods and do-rags/wave caps (inside the building) except for religious or medical reasons. Pants/trousers worn off waist or the pants crotch at knees are prohibited if undergarments are not covered or if it presents a health and safety issue.

IMPORTANT: Students must bring sneakers to physical education classes.

Cell Phones & Other Communication Devices:

Personal electronic devices often interfere with the academic environment of the school. Considering the potential for distraction and additional problems, all equipment must be turned off and stowed in a school-provided Yondr Pouch (including accessories) during school hours (7:35-2:17) unless authorized by the school administration. Yondr Pouch's are considered school property, it is each student's responsibility to keep it in good working condition. Students must also place their stowed phones in their lockers or in their backpacks. Any student observed with electronic devices outside of their Yondr pouches will have the device confiscated by a staff member and the student will be referred to the building's administration. ***Please note that if a parent needs to contact a student during school hours, they may call the middle school attendance office at (518) 943-5665 ext. 1321 or email the attendance officer at aenglert@catskillcsd.org**

In the event that a student is observed using or holding an unauthorized electronic device, or is seen to have an unauthorized device not in a Yondr Pouch, the following shall occur:

- **First Offense:** The device will be confiscated by a staff member and the student will be referred to administration. Noncompliance will be viewed as insubordination and treated

accordingly. The device will be turned over to a building administrator. Students will be spoken with and the phone will be returned at the end of the day.

- **Second Offense:** The device will be confiscated by a staff member and returned only to the student's parent/guardian by an administrator following communication with a parent/guardian.
- **Third Offense:** A disciplinary referral, a cell phone contract, additional behavioral consequences, including the possibility of in or out of school suspension.
- Subsequent violations of this policy shall result in additional behavioral consequences, including the possibility of in or out of school suspension. Electronic recording of any sort (audio, visual, etc.) is prohibited without authorization from the building administrators and will be subject to an in or out of school suspension.

As students arrive at school, students will:

- Turn their phone/device off.
- Place their phone inside their pouch and secure it.
- Store the pouch in their backpack or locker for the day.

At the end of the day, students will:

- Open their Pouch with the assistance of a magnetic device located at various areas of the school..

Drug and Alcohol Policy:

Any student who sells, gives, possesses, uses, or is under the influence of illegal and/or prescription drugs, narcotics or alcohol or is in possession of drug paraphernalia in or on school property, including buses, shall be subjected to the following disciplinary action:

- ❖ Possession or Use of illegal drugs – Except as otherwise indicated by a consideration of all the factors involved, the consequences for a student illegally in possession of a drug may include:
 - out of school suspension, the length of which to be dependent upon the circumstances; notification of parents; notification of appropriate law enforcement authorities;
 - three meetings with the school's Twin County Recovery Services counselor; and provide a report to the Superintendent of Schools for further potential disciplinary action.
- ❖ Sale or Distribution of illegal drugs – Except as otherwise indicated by a consideration of all the factors involved, the consequences for a student illegally in possession of a drug may include:
 - out of school suspension, the length of which to be dependent upon the circumstances; notification of parents; notification of appropriate law enforcement authorities;
 - meeting with the school's substance abuse counselor; and provide a report to the Superintendent of Schools for further potential disciplinary action.

Student Searches and Interrogations: Students may be questioned by school officials regarding alleged violation of law or the Code of Conduct. Furthermore, searches of students and their belongings according to specific guidelines are also authorized whenever there is reasonable suspicion that the student violated the law or the code of conduct, or where safety may be threatened. Students have no reasonable expectation of privacy with respect to computer files, student lockers, desks and other school storage places and student vehicles while on school property. These may be searched at any time without prior notice of consent. The Board of Education has also authorized the intermittent use of a drug sniffing dog.

Public Conduct on School Property: All persons on school property or at school functions are expected to conduct themselves in a respectful and orderly manner. Specifically prohibited conduct includes intentional injury or threat; damaging school property; disruptive conduct; wearing materials or objects that are obscene, libelous, advocate illegal action or obstruct the rights of others; smoking or use of tobacco products on school property; possession, consumption, sale or distribution of alcoholic beverages or controlled substances or being under the influence of either; possession of weapons; loitering, or refusing to comply with any reasonable request of recognizable school officials while performing their duties.

Prohibited Student Conduct: The Code of Conduct outlines in detail areas of prohibited student conduct. These include disorderly conduct, insubordination; disruptive behavior, violent conduct, or any other behavior which endangers the safety, morals, health or welfare of others. This includes student behavior on a school bus as well as academic misconduct, (e.g. plagiarism, cheating). The code also provides detailed information to incidents involving weapons, students who commit violent acts and students who are repeatedly and substantially disruptive to the educational process.

Penalties: When penalties are imposed, administrators must take into account various issues, which include the age of the student, the circumstances surrounding the offense, prior disciplinary record, information received from the sources, as well as any extenuating circumstances. Penalties include verbal warnings, counseling/mediation, detention, class removal, suspension from activities or privileges, in school suspension, out of school suspension, referrals to family court or other agencies may also be part of the disciplinary action.

For the purpose of the Catskill Middle School's Code of Conduct, violations of school rules have been divided into three levels: Level 1: Minor Infractions, Level 2: Major Infractions, and Level 3: Serious Infractions. The use of restorative consequences are implemented whenever possible. Discipline is also progressive, which means that discipline is consistent, objective, and fair. Every attempt to correct behavior is exhausted before resulting in a referral and/or disciplinary actions. It is important to note that the charts below are not inclusive of all infractions and disciplinary actions, and administrators reserve the right to review each situation on a case-by-case basis.

Level 1 - Minor Infractions	Level 1- Actions
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Running in the hallway -Horseplay -Making unreasonable noise -Off-task behavior -Failure to follow directions -Distractions -Failure to follow the Electronics Policy -Eating/drinking in the classroom -Being unprepared for class -Pass abuse -Being uncooperative -Copying/cheating -Failure to follow directions or classroom expectations -Misuse of a computer -Dress code violation -Lack of respect for property -Littering -Late to class/school -Skipping class/school -Leaving class without permission 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Teacher reprimand/detention -Verbal warning -Written warning -Mediation -Restorative practice -Time-out -Phone call home and/or meeting -Schedule change -Academic sanctions (for academic infractions) -Classroom or school building contract -Referral -Administrative conference -Parent conference -Lunch detention -After school detention -In-school suspension -Removal from class -Short-term loss of privilege

Level 2 - Major Infractions	Level 2- Actions
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -A continuation of any behaviors listed in Level 1 after being redirected by staff -Insubordination -Disrespect -The use of abusive and/or indecent gestures -Swearing -Hazardous horseplay -Bus misconduct -Disrupts teaching and learning -Leaving campus without permission -Any act of violence (hitting, kicking, slapping, punching, biting, spitting, pushing, scratching) -Fighting with minor injury -Possessing, using, distributing, or sharing nicotine vapes -Intentional destruction of school property -Harassment -Discrimination 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Any disciplinary action listed in Level 1 -Referral -Out-of-school suspension -Referral to outside agencies (PINS, probation, Greene County Mental Health, etc) -Superintendent Hearing recommendation -Mandated parent conference -Police investigation / involvement -Mandated counseling -Restitution -Building Contract -Long-term / permanent loss of privilege (extra-curricular activities and involvement, trips, school events, sports, etc.)

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Any action which may result in endangering the health, safety, and welfare of others -Missing detention -Repeated tardiness to school and/or class -Partial/full day truancy/cutting class -Possession of drugs and/or paraphernalia -Misuse of a computer -Possessing, consuming, or distributing alcohol -Gross academic dishonesty 	
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Level 3 - Serious Infractions	Level 3 - Actions
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -A continuation of any infractions from Level 1 or 2 -Safety concerns and issues -Threats -Use or possession of a weapon -Possession, use, or sale of alcohol/drugs...including being under the influence -Possession, use, or sale of a controlled substance -Fighting with major injury -DASA violations -Racial slurs/hate speech -Discrimination -Harassment -Vandalism -Excessively skipping school/class -Major interruptions and/or defiant behaviors -Intimidation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Any disciplinary action listed in either Level 1 or 2 -Referral -Referral to outside agencies (PINS, Prevention, Greene County Mental Health, etc) -Law Enforcement Involvement -Mandatory Superintendent's Hearing -Suspension from school for up to five (5) school days -Suspension from school in excess of five (5) days -Suspension from school for at least one (1) year -Placement in an interim alternative educational setting

*Making violent statements that make others feel uneasy, fearful, or uncomfortable, regardless of intent (joking or not), ***are taken seriously***, and students will be held accountable to the fullest extent of the District's Code of Conduct. All threats must be immediately reported to a building administrator, in person.

REQUESTING A MEETING WITH THE PRINCIPAL /OR ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL

Please note that impromptu meetings cannot always be accommodated. Therefore, we kindly request that anyone requesting to meet with an administrator call 518-943-5665 and schedule an appointment. Please also share specifics of the meeting so administrators can best come prepared to address concerns.

STUDENT HARASSMENT, BULLYING PREVENTION AND INTERVENTION, & DIGNITY FOR ALL STUDENTS (DASA)

New York State's Dignity for All Students Act (DASA) (The Dignity Act) established July 1, 2012 seeks to provide the state's public elementary and secondary school students with a safe and supportive environment free from discrimination, intimidation, taunting, harassment, and bullying on school property, a school bus and/or at a school function. It protects students who may experience intimidation or abuse based on actual or perceived race, color, weight, national origin, ethnic group, religion, religious practice, disability, sexual orientation, gender or sex from other students or faculty and staff.

Bullying generally involves the following:

- *Imbalance of Power*: People who bully use their power to control or harm, and the people being bullied may have a hard time defending themselves.
- *Intent to Cause Harm*: Actions done by accident are not bullying; the person bullying has a goal to cause harm
- *Repetition*: Incidents of bullying happen to the same person over and over by the same person or group

Bullying can take many forms including:

- Verbal- Name calling and teasing
- Social- Spreading rumors, excluding people on purpose, and breaking up friendships
- Physical- Hitting, punching, smacking, and shoving
- Cyber-Bullying- Using the internet, cellphones, social media and other digital platforms to harm others

The DASA reporting form can be found at: [W DASA Complaint Form.docx](#)

Each building is required to have a coordinator designated to complete investigations when incidents occur. At Catskill Middle School, those people are: John Rivers and Jen Osswald.

Any student who believes that he or she has been subjected to bullying or harassment should report the alleged misconduct immediately to an administrator or a staff member. Any found DASA violations will result in disciplinary action in accordance with the Code of Conduct.

GENERAL MIDDLE SCHOOL INFORMATION

PEER CONFLICT FORM

Students are encouraged to report any concerns, peer conflicts, or anything they want administration and counselors to know. As soon as a student hits submit, these staff members are notified. Concerns can be reported any day at any time using this link:

<https://forms.gle/qDcLtHg2ic74u3A>

BREAKFAST PROGRAM

Students may select three to five breakfast items each day. All students must select a fruit and/or 100% fruit juice at breakfast. Please refer to the website for daily menus.

LUNCH PROGRAM

Daily entree choices are a balance of traditional student favorites and global flavors to introduce students to new foods and cultural foodways. All students must select a fruit or vegetable at

lunch. Alternate lunch options are available daily. Please refer to the website for daily menus. If your child requires modifications due to allergies or other concerns please contact your food service director.

EMERGENCY SCHOOL CLOSINGS

If there is to be no school the information will be announced on the district website, ParentSquare, and by a phone call or text message to all school families. Many of the local news sources will also be provided that information. Please make sure your contact information is correct.

ILLNESS

Students who become ill during the school day should report directly to the health office. If necessary, a parent/guardian will be contacted and requested to take the student home.

LOCKERS

Each student is assigned his/her/their own locker in the building. Each locker has a built-in combination lock. Students should keep their combination confidential and keep the locker clean.

LOST AND FOUND

Articles that are found should be brought to the bin by the CMS gymnasium.

FIRE/EVACUATION DRILLS (EDUCATION LAW 807)

State law requires that every school conduct twelve (12) fire drills during the school year. It is every pupil's responsibility to take these drills seriously and obey instructions completely.

Students will be informed by their classroom teachers where they should exit and what procedures are to be followed. Absolute quiet must be maintained and no talking will be allowed during these drills. This rule must be followed by everyone so that necessary directions can be given and understood.

Discipline ranging from reprimand to suspension may be administered depending upon the degree of infraction.

MEDICATION

If a student is required to take medication during the school day, they may do so ***only if***:

- The medication is retained by the nurse in the Health Office, unless your child's MD sends the health office an order stating the student may "self carry" emergency meds such as an inhaler or EpiPen
- A note directed to administration, signed by the parent, is on file in the Health Office. ALL medications both prescription and over the counter will require the signature of a physician and must be brought to school by an adult-Students may not transport medication.

MESSAGES

Students and families can check their grade level Google Classroom for up-to-date information and notices.

TEXTBOOK/LIBRARY BOOKS

Increasing costs make it especially important that students take proper care of books issued to them. Covers are encouraged for textbooks. Fines are imposed for lost or damaged texts or library books.

SCHOOL COUNSELOR'S OFFICE

The Counselor's Office is open every school day from 7:30 a.m. until 3:00 p.m. The purpose of a school counselor is to assist students in making the best use of their opportunities as they progress through school. Students should feel free to contact their counselor whenever a personal or academic problem exists.

RELEASE OF STUDENT RECORDS

Student records may not be released to any agency, company, or non-school personnel without student and/or parent/guardian approval.

SCHOOL ASSESSMENT AND EVALUATION

HOMEWORK

Students should expect daily homework assignments. Long-range assignments and projects require more careful planning on the part of the student. When no specific written assignment is due, students are expected to review their material and/or read independently. Students are encouraged to develop good study habits by budgeting their time properly, reading independently, and using a suitable place to study at home. Please ask your child to show you the Peek of the Week located on their Grade Level Google Classroom.

EXTRA HELP

Teachers are available during the school day to assist students. Students may also have an advisory/academic support class with their grade level team as well as after-school time Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays. Students are expected to make the necessary arrangements with their teacher in advance or follow the schedule for extra help as established by the individual teacher.

PROGRESS REPORTS

Progress reports are available at the approximate midpoint of each marking period, also termed the 5-Week Report. The dates are included in the Marking Period Calendar. Students whose reports are negative are encouraged to speak with their individual teachers to determine what may be done to improve their academic achievement. Parents/guardians are urged to contact their student's school counselor, Ms. Daly, as soon as possible to develop a plan of action for improvement. Ms. Daly's email address is: bdaly@catskillcsd.org

REPORT CARDS

Report cards are issued four times a year, approximately every ten weeks. Report cards will be available online in the parent portal or through the student's login. The dates for posting on the

portal are shown in the Marking Period Calendar and the district calendar. Parents/guardians are urged to discuss the report card with their student each marking period. Attention should also be given to the class attendance and school attendance/lateness data shown on the report card.

PARENT-TEACHER CONFERENCE

These conferences are scheduled upon request to your student's teacher(s). If parents/guardians feel their student may be experiencing some problem in particular, they may contact the teacher involved. If there are general concerns academically parents/guardians can contact the school counselor, Ms. Daly. District-wide conference days are established in November. For dates and times, consult the website.

HONOR ROLL

Students with any incomplete grades cannot be considered for honor roll until the incomplete work has been made up and a grade determined. Incomplete grades should be replaced with a number grade within two weeks following the marking period end date.

<i>High Honor Roll</i>	an average of 90, with no failing grade
<i>Honor Roll</i>	an average of 85, with no failing grade
<i>Merit Roll</i>	an average of 80, with no failing grade

STUDENT SERVICES

TUTORING

The Junior Honor Society members provide individual students with free tutoring in various subjects. This schedule will be arranged during the academic support times and after school in the media center. If a student is interested in receiving tutoring services, contact Ms. Miner, JHS Adviser. Additionally, on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays, the middle school offers an extra help period from 2:17 until 2:55. Teachers are available for extra help and support on these days. If your child is interested in staying for additional support, a late bus is offered. Your child must sign up with the teacher and the teacher will assign students to the late bus.

HEALTH OFFICE

School health services are provided by a registered nurse in the health office. The nurse is available to assist with any health problems which students might have in the course of a normal school day.

LIBRARY

The library/media center contains the book collection for all departments. Computers are also available for student use. Students using the library/media center are expected to work independently and quietly.

PUPIL PERSONNEL

The school district provides the services of psychologists, speech therapists, and social workers. These professionals become involved with a student when their specialized skills are needed within the realm of the educational day.

CATSKILL MIDDLE SCHOOL ACTIVITIES / EXTRA-CURRICULAR CLUBS

Ambassador's Club (6-12)

This club is for students in grades 6-12 that integrates students with developmental disabilities and general education students. This is a space where students can collaborate and socialize while working on various group projects and activities.

Advisors:

Sheri Whitney: swhitney@catskillcsd.org

Shelly West: swest@catskillcsd.org

Art Club

Art Club is for students who would like to explore the art room and create their own art outside of art class.

Advisor: Carly Gazoorian: cgazoorian@catskillcsd.org

Business Club

The Business Club will operate a concession table at various school-wide events and for modified sports. We will be collaborating to start a school store. There are some events that we will work with other club activities. We help support PBIS events as well.

Advisor:

Matt Luvera: mluvera@catskillcsd.org

Courtney Near: cnear@catskillcsd.org

Chess Club (6-12)

The Chess Club is open to all middle school students who are interested in learning and playing the game of chess—whether you're a beginner or an experienced player. Members will develop critical thinking, strategy, and problem-solving skills in a fun and supportive environment. We'll learn the rules of the game, practice openings and tactics, and challenge each other in friendly matches and tournaments. Join us to sharpen your mind, make new friends, and enjoy the classic game of kings and queens!

Advisor:

Digital Media Club

In the Media Club, students are given opportunities to participate in creating a weekly broadcast for the middle school.

Advisor: Bill Maouris: wmaouris@catskillcsd.org

Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Club

The diversity and equity club will be working for CMS to be recognized as a No Place for Hate School. At CMS, we strive to be a community that is accepting of all individuals. The diversity club will be working to foster a school community that exhibits respect, acceptance, and kindness. Members will be working together to plan and coordinate activities for students and staff that promote these beliefs. All are welcome and encouraged to attend.

Advisor: Carly Gazoorian: cgazoorian@catskillcsd.org

FCCLA

FCCLA- Family, Career, and Community Leaders of America - is a way to enhance leadership and volunteering to strengthen families and our community!

Advisor: Carrie Taylor: ctaylor@catskillcsd.org

Fishing Club

Topics covered will be ecology of the Hudson River, choice of different baits, knot tying, fishing around underwater structures, catching live bait, fundamentals of casting fish species identification, and overall stewardship of the river. Participants who attend these workshops will be eligible for several field trips to fishing destinations where we will take what we learned to the water. All tackle and bait and supplies will be provided. Come out and enjoy the fun!

Advisor: David Taylor: dtaylor@catskillcsd.org

Living History

Make history come alive in History Club! Some things we do include are, but are not limited to: Dressing in period clothing, experiencing life as a Revolutionary War soldier, including medical practices/mock drilling/musket firing, playing historical and/or war strategy games, sampling military "victuals" and 18th century espionage, and interviewing people for the "legacy project." Also, the group will conduct an "archaeological dig" to dive deeper into this year's content and watch historical movies.

Advisor: Kaitlin Hair: khair@catskillcsd.org

Intramurals (Grade 6)

In Intramurals, come participate in a variety of competitive and recreational sports activities: Soccer, Flag Football, basketball, volleyball, tennis, Track & Field events, yoga, and pilates!

Advisor: Nick Fabiano: nfabiano@catskillcsd.org

Jazz Club

The CHS Jazz Band is open by audition or invite to all CMS and CHS students from grades 7-12. Like Jazz? Come on down and create some amazing music with us!

Advisor: Seth Dowling: sdowling@catskillcsd.org

Junior Honor Society

The National Junior Honor Society elevates a school's commitment to the values of scholarship, service, leadership, character, and citizenship. We will work on events for the school and how we can promote our service! National Junior Honor Society is an honor, and there are criteria to be met in order to be a part of this organization.

Advisor:

Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports (PBIS)

In PBIS (Positive Behavior Interventions and Supports), we will have student representatives on this committee to assist with monthly incentive events as well as school wide events.

Advisor: Beth Daly & Jen Manning

bdaly@catskillcsd.org

jmanning@catskillcsd.org

STEAM Club

The Engineering Club's main focus is to give creative kids an opportunity to use their minds for engineering purposes. It will be hands-on and fun for people interested in all things engineering, like; creative design, problem-solving, collaboration, and teamwork. There will be lots of designing solutions to current and future problems

Advisor: Brian Bovee: bbovee@catskillcsd.org

Student Council

The Student Council is an organization that represents the entire student body and promotes activities which include, as far as possible, every student in the school. One of the main goals of the Student Council is to promote school spirit. Join us for Student Council, where we will be fundraising, hosting social events, helping people in need, and helping build school spirit at CMS. All are welcome and encouraged to join.

Advisors: Kim Bushane & Jodi Chirkis

kbushane@catskillcsd.org

jchirkis@catskillcsd.org

Yearbook

The Yearbook Club begins its preparations each spring for the annual publication. Yearbook creates an opportunity for students to participate in designing their school's memory book.

Advisor: Bill Maouris: wmaouris@catskillcsd.org

Guitar and Strings

The Guitar & Strings Club is the perfect place for students to explore their love of music, whether they're just starting out or have been playing for years. Members will learn and practice guitar and other string instruments in a supportive, fun environment. We focus on developing playing skills, reading music, and performing together as an ensemble. Students will have the opportunity to try new techniques, collaborate on songs, and showcase their talents at school events. No matter your experience level, if you have a passion for music, you have a place here!

Advisor: Joseph Geraci: jgeraci@catskillcsd.org

COMMUNITY ASSISTANCE

Department of Social Services/HEAP
411 Main Street - Suite 238
Catskill, NY 12414
518-719-3700

Community Action of Greene County
7856 US Highway 9W
Catskill, NY 12414
518-943-9205

Matthew 25 Food Pantry
8 Union Street
Catskill, NY 12414
518-943-5890
Cairo Food Pantry

Coxsackie Community Food Pantry
117 Mansion Street
Coxsackie, NY 12051
518-731-8603
Our Mission

Resurrection Lutheran Church
186 Main Street Cairo, NY 12413
518-622-3286

448 Main Street
Catskill, NY 12414
518-943-3691

Greene County Public Health Department
540 Columbia Street
Catskill, NY 12414
518-719-3600

Columbia Opportunities
411 Main Street, Suite 300
Hudson, NY 12534
518-828-4611

Counseling / Crisis Services:

Family of Woodstock
31 Albany Ave.
Kingston, NY 12402
845-331-7080 / 845-679-2485

Mental Health Association of Columbia-Greene
713 Union Street
Hudson, NY 12534
518-828-4619

Mobile Crisis Team (MCAT)
518-943-5555
Lifeline (Text of call): 988

Greene County Mental Health
905 Greene County Office Building
Mountain Ave. Cairo, NY 12413

Columbia County Mental Health
325 Columbia Street
Hudson, NY 12414
518-828-9446

Department of Psychiatry
159 Jefferson Heights Suite C-104
Catskill, NY 12414
518-697-8010

Families Together Counseling
110 Jefferson Heights
Catskill, NY 12414
518-719-0123

Four Winds Saratoga
30 Crescent Ave.
Saratoga Springs, NY 12866
518-584-3600

Clearwater Counseling
160 Fairview Ave, Suite 99
Hudson, NY 12534
518-245-6272

Mosaic Clinical Services
*100% Virtual Practice
info@mosaicclinicalservices.com
845-768-2295

Child Abuse Hotline
800-846-5678

Domestic Violence
800-799-7233

ATHLETICS

Any student in 7th or 8th grade interested in participating must register using the online platform known as Arbiter. Families can complete and submit all documents electronically for the nurses and athletic department to approve. All scheduled games will be posted on the school website through schedulegalaxy link: <https://www.schedulegalaxy.com/schools/471>

The student is expected to attend school regularly, be in attendance for all classes scheduled, and perform regular coursework in all of his/her classes for each marking period. Students who are absent **for more than half a day**, will be ineligible to participate in the practice, activity, or game scheduled that day. A legitimate excuse must be signed and dated by a guardian for the partial day absence.

Academic Eligibility Determination

- A student must maintain a 70 average and pass at least 4 courses each marking period.
- Determination for fall participation rests upon the previous year's performance.
- A student who does not meet eligibility requirements has until the next 5 week interim report period conclusion to meet the requirements and is placed on academic probation.
- During the academic probation period the student may fully participate on the team.
- eDuring the academic probation period, the student will attend and participate in a minimum of three after-school study sessions. In addition, other school-assigned interventions may be required if deemed necessary for student success.
- If the student does not participate in the after-school program or show improvement at the 5-week interim report time, he/she will become "Ineligible to Compete."

Brian Smith, Athletic Director

bjsmith@catskillcsd.org

518-943-5665 Ext. 2318

