

Escanaba Middle School

HANDBOOK

PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

Welcome to Escanaba Middle School and the exciting experiences that await you here. We are not a High School, nor are we an Elementary School. Escanaba Middle School offers a total educational program appropriate to the developmental needs unique to early adolescents. The staff at EMS recognizes these unique needs and is well-trained in dealing with the needs and behaviors of this age group.

The time of early adolescence is one of intense learning, a time when students must deal with changing bodies, added responsibilities, and exciting intellectual pursuits. Your year at EMS will be exciting and filled with many new opportunities.

This Student Handbook/Assignment Notebook is given to every student at the beginning of the school year. It has proven to be a very useful tool at our school during the past nine years. It is to be used on a daily basis to record assignments and/or a note describing what was covered in each class. We believe, "If We Plan to Learn, We Must Learn to Plan!" Please keep this planner with you at all times. In addition to keeping assignments and grades, it will be used as your hall pass. In the event that you should lose this notebook, you will be required to buy another at a cost of \$6.00.

The second purpose of this Assignment Notebook is to provide a handbook of EMS rules, policies, and procedures. The policies and expectations described are reasonable and necessary for maintaining an atmosphere that allows each individual to develop to the best of his/her ability. Read all items carefully. Students and parents are responsible for knowing the contents of this handbook and all other "House" rules.

The EMS staff wishes you a productive and successful school year. Let's all work together to make 07-08 your best school year ever. I invite you to contact me whenever you have a question or concern.

Sincerely,

Kay Johnson

ACADEMIC REQUIREMENTS FOR EXTRA-CURRICULAR PROGRAMS

Students are provided the opportunity to participate in challenging and meaningful athletic and co-curricular programs. Those students who desire to participate in these after-school learning experiences must accept the challenges, sacrifices and responsibilities associated with these programs. After-school activities are considered an important component of the educational program offered for Escanaba Middle School students.

No student shall be eligible to represent Escanaba Middle School for whom there is not on file in the Middle School Office, a physician's statement for the current school year certifying that the student has passed a physical examination and is physically able to compete in athletic practices and contests. Also, signed parent permission and Athletic Code Agreement forms are required to be on file before athletic participation.

ACCIDENTS

In the event of a serious accident, your parents/guardians will be notified immediately. For your security, **IT IS VERY IMPORTANT THAT THE OFFICE HAVE UPDATED TELEPHONE NUMBERS ON FILE AT ALL TIMES.** Every effort will be made to render emergency treatment until parents arrive. However, the school will not be responsible for subsequent treatment.

ATTENDANCE REQUIREMENTS FOR AFTER SCHOOL ACTIVITIES

Students are expected to be in school at the regularly scheduled times. Any student NOT in attendance at school due to illness, suspension, or exclusion will not be allowed to participate in after-school activities the day of absence from school. (Emergency absence must be approved by a building administrator in order for the student to participate.)

BICYCLES

Students who ride their bicycles to school should park them in the racks that have been provided. Bicycles are not to be ridden on the sidewalks or school grounds except upon arriving and departing. **THE SCHOOL ASSUMES NO RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE SAFE-KEEPING OF BICYCLES.**

CAFETERIA & LUNCH PROGRAM

All students must report to the cafeteria during their assigned lunch period and remain there until dismissed by one of the supervisors. Any exceptions to this rule must be made in advance by special arrangements between the parents and principal. Violations of this "closed campus" policy will be considered a truancy and treated as such.

Students have five lunch choices at EMS. They can purchase a hot lunch, pizza lunch, salad bar lunch, ala carte snack, or bring a cold lunch from home. Beverages and other food items must not be taken out of the cafeteria.

It is imperative that no student leave the cafeteria until dismissed and that they go quickly and quietly to their lockers for afternoon classes. **NOISE MUST BE KEPT TO A MINIMUM BECAUSE CLASSES ARE IN SESSION.**

CELLULAR TELEPHONES AND PAGERS

Until the Board of Education changes its policy, the possession of cellular telephones and electronic pagers is prohibited at school and all school sponsored activities. Should you bring such items to school, they need to be turned off and stored in your locker or they will be confiscated and turned over to the Escanaba Public Safety Department.

FIRE, SAFETY, AND TORNADO DRILLS

Fire, safety and tornado drill instructions will be posted in each classroom and the teachers will go over them with the class. **THERE SHOULD BE NO TALKING AND NO HESITANCY IN LEAVING THE BUILDING OR GOING TO THE ASSIGNED AREA DURING THESE DRILLS.**

GRADING

Report card grades that students may receive are the following:

A	=	93% to 100%	C	=	73% to 76%
A-	=	90% to 92%	C-	=	70% to 72%
B+	=	87% to 89%	D+	=	67% to 69%
B	=	83% to 86%	D	=	63% to 66%
B-	=	80% to 82%	D-	=	60% to 62%
C+	=	77% to 79%	F	=	Below 60%

HOMEWORK

Many assignments require study and research outside of class. Individual study is essential if students are to better understand the subjects they are studying. Homework provides students with opportunity to increase his/her knowledge, helps the students become aware of personal responsibilities, discipline, and work habits; provides help in needed skills and leads to proficiency in the subjects being studied. Assigned work must be completed. Each student should have a minimum of one to one and a half hours of homework per night. Assignments will vary from class to class. Some assignments will be due the next day, and some will need to be completed over a determined period of time. Your teachers will write your homework assignments on the agenda board each day.

We encourage all students to have a study partner in each class who can share work that is missed because of illness. If you are absent from school for more than one day and cannot obtain your homework from another student, your parent may call the office after the second day and request your assignments. We ask that parents telephone by 9:00 a.m. and work can be picked up after 2:30 p.m.

HONOR ROLL

All grades are compiled by a computer and students are given a grade average each term. Students who earn a grade average of 4.0 will be placed on the All A Honor Roll. Students who earn a grade point of 3.70 to 3.99 will be placed on the A Average Honor Roll and students who earn a 3.0 to 3.69 grade point average will be placed on the B Average Honor Roll. The office posts Honor Roll lists and releases them to the Daily Press each marking period.

ILLNESS

Students should come to school physically well and able to participate in class for the entire day. If a student becomes ill during the day, he/she is to go to the nurse. If the nurse is not available, the student is to go to the Main Office. If a student is too ill to continue the day, a parent or designated person must be contacted by telephone. A parent or designated person must come to the Main Office to sign out the student who is being excused because of illness. A parent or guardian will be expected to notify the school office by telephone on the day the student is absent from class or by 8:00 a.m. the school day following the absence. Call 786-7462 between 7:15 a.m. and 3:30 p.m. Parents have until 8:00 a.m. the next school day to excuse their student.

INSURANCE

Accident insurance is available for all students for a nominal fee. Everyone is urged to take advantage of this opportunity, especially any students participating in athletics. Students must be covered by insurance before participating in athletics.

LOCKERS

Lockers are provided for the convenience of students. You should be sure that clothes or other valuables are never left unattended and are locked away securely when not in use. The school CANNOT be responsible for items left in lockers. Lockers are issued to you as a service and for your convenience, but the security of the lockers cannot be guaranteed by the school. Additionally, lockers are not your property and may be searched at any time by the administration without your consent. You will be responsible for the contents of your lockers. All lockers have a lock and this lock must not be tampered with or disabled. If you vandalize or abuse a locker, additional charges will be assessed. Each House will designate when their students will be able to go to their lockers. Failure to comply to House rules will result in loss of locker privileges.

MATERIALS DELIVERED TO THE OFFICE

When a student arranges to have something delivered to the office from home, it is his/her responsibility to pick it up. **The office personnel will not interrupt classes to inform students of these deliveries.**

MEDIA PERMISSION/OPT-OUT POLICY

Parents or students who do not want their name or picture given out to the media or used in publications such as newsletters, pamphlets, yearbooks, programs, etc., must contact the building principal.

OUT-OF-TOWN ACTIVITIES

Students participating in out-of-town, school sponsored activities must make the trip both ways in school provided or school approved transportation. Exceptions may be made in unusual situations, but requests for such exceptions must be presented in writing to the Assistant Principal prior to the trip.

PERSONAL PROPERTY

Students must assume responsibility for loss or damage of any school or personal property issued to or belonging to them. The school will try to protect these properties, but it is not the school's responsibility. Students should not bring expensive items to school as they might get lost or stolen. If, for any reason, a student brings in a large sum of money, it can be checked in to the office for safe keeping during the day. During Gym class, students may check all valuables with the physical education instructor for safe keeping during that class period. Students are encouraged to have their names on their calculators, spell checkers, books, etc.

ELECTRONIC MEDIA

Students are not permitted to have Electronic Media Devices in school unless they have been requested by a teacher for a particular assignment or project. In this case, they must be brought to the office or your locker for safekeeping, picked up for use just prior to the class when it is needed, and returned to the office after that class period, field trip, sport trip, etc.

POWERSCHOOL

We are pleased to announce that we can now provide access to your student's current grades and attendance through the Internet via PowerSchool. You no longer have to wait for progress reports or report cards to monitor your child's school progress. If you have Internet access, you can view the information on your student at any time with a PowerSchool Web ID and Password. To receive your student's confidential ID and Password, come to the Middle School Office between 7:30 and 3:00 p.m. on any school day. Please bring a picture ID to secure this confidential information. Your Web ID and Password will be good until your child graduates from High School. We strongly believe that by tracking your child's progress on a daily or weekly basis, you can be more proactive in the educational process.

SCHOOL SUPPLIES

Students need certain supplies in order to work efficiently in class. Teachers will tell their students during the first few days what will be needed and where, if need be, these supplies can be purchased inexpensively.

STUDENT COUNCIL

The Student Council is the official voice of the student body. The purpose of the Council is to initiate and coordinate activities throughout the school. Membership consists of a President, Vice-President, and Secretary elected from the eighth grade and representatives elected from each house. Many other students will have the opportunity to participate by serving on committees or working on council sponsored projects.

STUDENT TEXTBOOK CARE AND/OR SCHOOL FEES

All students are responsible for textbooks and all other materials assigned to them. When students are issued textbooks, each student is responsible for maintaining the condition of the books all year. Textbooks are to be covered to protect them. In the event that a student loses or damages a textbook, damages a locker, loses a lock or damages something on school property, the cost of repair or replacement will be charged to the student. Each student will be held responsible for the use of textbooks, library books, lockers, locks, and other school property.

TELEPHONE USE

The school phones are for business purposes and are available to students only in emergency situations. **YOU WILL NOT BE ALLOWED TO USE THE PHONE FOR SUCH THINGS AS TO HAVE FORGOTTEN ITEMS BROUGHT TO SCHOOL OR TO GET PERMISSION TO GO HOME WITH A FRIEND.** Also, arrangements to stay after school for any activity must be made before arriving at school. Urgent telephone messages from parents or guardians will be delivered by an office representative. You will not be called out of class to receive a phone call. Students are not to use classroom telephones unless directed by a teacher.

Students are not allowed to have cell phones and pagers in school.

AFTER SCHOOL

Students are dismissed for the day at 2:14 p.m. Buses leave from the main entrance area shortly thereafter, and all riders should board their busses as soon after dismissal as possible. There should be no students in the hall after dismissal time unless:

1. They are staying with a teacher for extra help.
2. They are participating in a scheduled activity such as a club or sports activity.
3. They are required to stay for detention.
4. They are attending the after school tutoring program.

UNDER NO CONDITION WILL STUDENTS BE PERMITTED TO STAY IN THE SCHOOL BUILDING AFTER DISMISSAL WITHOUT SUPERVISION.

AGENDA NOTEBOOK

This AGENDA NOTEBOOK is issued to each student at Escanaba Middle School. The purpose of the agenda notebook is fourfold.

1. It serves as a place to record your class work and homework assignments in academic and exploratory classes each day.
2. It provides for an effective and regular means of communication between home and school.
3. It allows for monitoring of your participation and progress by parents, teachers, and you.
4. It serves as your hall pass.

It is your responsibility to have this notebook in each class and to enter the information. Have your parents review the agenda book daily as a way to keep them informed about your progress and the content of your classes.

ATTENDANCE, ABSENCES AND TARDIES

Regular attendance in school is essential for a quality education. We encourage you to be present every day. The time missed from class results in loss of valuable educational experiences. Make 100% attendance your goal for this year. **WE WANT YOU IN SCHOOL EVERY DAY.**

Students are expected to attend school unless they have an excused absence verified by a signed note and/or telephone call from their parent/guardian. If a student will be absent for a known period of time, the parent should notify the Main Office so that assignments can be made available. When students are absent for shorter periods of time all work is expected to be made up as soon as possible after returning to school. It is the student's responsibility to find out what work has been missed, and to complete this work according to the teacher's instructions.

- All absences not excused will be considered unexcused.
- Parents will be notified by letter or phone call if a conference is required.
- **EARLY CHECK-OUT.** Parents are urged to make your dental, medical, and other necessary appointments after school hours. If it becomes necessary for you to check out during the day, we ask that parents report to the office to sign you out. Office personnel will call you from class. **STUDENTS MUST HAVE PARENT OR GUARDIAN PERMISSION BEFORE EARLY CHECKOUT WILL BE PERMITTED.** No student will be allowed to check himself out, walk home or leave the school campus with a friend or relative without confirmed parental permission.
- A student who reaches nine (9) absences (excused, unexcused, or any combination thereof) in any one course per semester must attend a makeup session(s).

TARDY POLICY – Anytime a student is tardy, a teacher will record it as a sign-out. Once a student has accumulated three tardies in a class the student will serve five minutes with the teacher during lunch. If a student continues to be tardy beyond their three sign-outs, teachers may use sign outs from other class periods or refer administration for further corrective action.

CODE OF CONDUCT

Rules for student behavior at school and in the classroom have been established to protect the rights, safety and well-being of all students and to further the academic achievement of each student. All students at EMS observe all rules.

- Each student has the right to learn.
- Each teacher has the right to teach.
- Each parent, student, and teacher has the right and responsibility to support each other and to expect a positive, safe learning environment.

1. Students are expected to be prepared for class having with them their books, completed assignments, pens and pencils, Agenda, and any other items required for each class.
2. When students are absent from class, it is their responsibility to find out what the class work has been and to complete that work according to the teacher's instructions.
3. Students in our school consistently demonstrate respect for our teachers and other adult personnel. Students understand that rude, disrespectful behavior is unacceptable.
4. Students in our school treat each other with courtesy and respect. We appreciate the individual differences which exist among us and we do not attempt to "put others down". Hard looks, stare downs, etc. are actionable offenses at EMS.
5. Students arrive to each class ON TIME. If for any reason a student arrives late for school, he/she must check in with the office before going to class.
6. Students WALK, not run, in the hallways. Audiovisual equipment, custodial equipment in the hallways, open doors, blind corners and other conditions which could result in injury due to running, necessitate that this rule be followed at all times!
7. Students in our school do not make threats of violence, fight, steal, smoke or use abusive language. Students also DO NOT interfere with the rights of others.
8. Students in our school do not bring any weapons or look-alike weapons to school for any reason. This includes but is not limited to weapons such as guns, knives, chains, brass knuckles and pipes.
9. Students do not joke about "hit lists", "bombs" and "weapons". Students found with weapons or making bomb threats will be turned over to the Escanaba Public Safety Department and will be suspended from school pending an expulsion hearing by the Board of Education.
10. Students in our school respect school property, the property of others, and one's own belongings at all times.
11. Assemblies and special programs are frequently arranged for students by their teachers. Students attending these programs demonstrate appropriate behavior and show respect to all performers and/or presenters. Students who demonstrate inappropriate behavior at these enrichment events will lose the privilege of attending.
12. Students in our school do not throw snowballs, rocks, sticks or other items which might cause injury. This applies in school and on school grounds.
13. Students in our school who participate in after-school activities, clubs, field trips, evening programs and sporting events conduct themselves in the same respectful, well-disciplined manner in which they behave during the school day. If a student behaves inappropriately, he/she may be excluded from after school/evening activities or field trips.
14. Students in our school do not chew gum, eat candy and/or food, or carry open beverage containers in the hallway. Beverages and food items purchased for lunch or breakfast are not allowed out of the cafeteria. Each team will determine rules for consumption of these items in the classroom. Under no

circumstances will food items including gum or drinks be allowed in the library, computer labs, courtyard room or the auditorium.

15. Students in our school understand that their parents will be notified if they do not consistently behave appropriately and follow the school's Rules of Conduct.

DISCIPLINE

Every effort will be made by the staff to solve disciplinary problems within the school setting and without excluding a student from school. If this cannot be done, exclusion may be necessary; these exclusions may include but are not limited to the following categories;

- **TEMPORARY SUSPENSION** – is defined as removal of a student from school for up to three days.
- **SUSPENSION** – is defined as removal of a student from school for a period of time, and fulfillment of specific conditions, if any.
- **EXPULSION** – is defined as the permanent removal of a student from school for the current year.

Parents shall be informed and involved in any case of a student exhibiting a history of unacceptable conduct. Records of such involvement shall be maintained in the principal's office.

The authority of the Board of Education to authorize suspensions regarding discipline is granted in Sections 340.613 and 340.614 of the School Code. Section 340.613 authorizes suspension for the following reasons: Gross misdemeanor, persistent disobedience, or habits or bodily conditions detrimental to the school.

VIOLATIONS AND CONSEQUENCES

GROUP I VIOLATIONS (include but are not limited to):

1. Swearing, obscenity, inappropriate language.
2. Loitering in the restroom, hallways, or any unauthorized place.
3. Disorderly conduct (including pushing and shoving)
4. Defiance of authority, rudeness, insubordination, disrespect
5. Inappropriate physical contact and/or nonphysical intimidation.

**GROUP I VIOLATIONS WILL RESULT IN THE FOLLOWING MINIMUM
DETENTIONS OR SUSPENSIONS:**

- 1st offense: warning from Administration
- 2nd offense: 1 hour detention after school
- 3rd offense: 2 hour detention after school
- 4th offense: up to 3 days in-school suspension and removal from all school activities for those days
- 5th offense: up to 5 days in-school suspension and suspension from all activities for those days
- 6th offense: up to 10 days suspension and suspension from all activities for those days

GROUP II VIOLATIONS (include but are not limited to):

1. Major profanity or obscenity; profanity directed toward any school employee
2. Major insubordination
3. Fighting, intimidation of student or staff
4. Failure to serve detention after parent conference
5. Possession or use of alcohol, tobacco or other drugs (whether on campus or not)
6. Stealing or defacing school property
7. Gambling (cards, money and materials will be confiscated)
8. Threats of violence (bombs, weapons, hit lists, etc.)

**GROUP II VIOLATIONS WILL RESULT IN THE FOLLOWING MINIMUM
SUSPENSIONS:**

- 1st offense: out-of-school 3 days suspension and removal from all school activities for those days
- 2nd offense: up to 5 days suspension, suspension from all school activities for those days and referral to school social worker
- 3rd offense: up to 10 days suspension, suspension from all school activities for those days and referral to outside agency
- 4th offense: suspension up to 10 days and possible Probate Court referral.

DRESS CODE

While fashions change, the reason for being in school does not. Students are in school to learn. Any fashion (dress, accessory, or hairstyle) that presents a health or safety problem, causes a disturbance or distraction or does not provide adequate body coverage will not be permitted. Personal expression is allowed within the general guidelines listed below. It is your responsibility to dress appropriately for school. Neatness of appearance and cleanliness of a person reflect pride in one's self, in one's

family, in one's school, and while fashions change, the reason for being in school does not.

Student clothing must adhere to the following or a change of clothing will be required:

- Heads are to remain uncovered when students are inside the school building. Hats, bandanas, visors, hoods, or doo rags of any kind are not to be worn in school. Such items are subject to confiscation and EMS will not be responsible for safe return.

- Clothing and accessories, backpacks, jewelry, notebooks, etc. must be free of objects that could be perceived as a weapon.

- Sunglasses are not to be worn in school.

- Clothing and accessories, backpacks, jewelry, notebooks, etc., must be free of profanity, obscenity, drug related (alcohol, tobacco, or illegal substances) slogans, gang related slogans, vulgarity, double meanings, sexually suggestive sayings and anything racially, ethnically, or religiously offensive.

- Bottoms (pants, skirts, shorts, etc.) and tops (shirts, blouses, etc.) must overlap at ALL times. Pants and tops must provide adequate covering and no undergarments may be exposed or visible. This includes clothing with rips, and tears that reveal undergarments.

- Inappropriate attire may include, but is not limited to; tube tops, halter tops, muscle shirts and tops with spaghetti straps, unless appropriately covered. No see-through apparel. Clothing should reflect modesty and pride.

- Pajamas and slippers are prohibited.

- Jackets/coats may not be worn in class.

- Footwear that is conducive to both indoor and outdoor use must be worn at all times.

- Rollerblades and rollershoes are not to be worn in or near the building.

Students who dress inappropriately will be given an appropriate change of clothes. Continued dress code violations will be referred to the assistant principal.

FLOWERS AND GIFTS

Students will be called out of lunch or at the end of the 6th period and presented the gift/flowers by the office staff. Students will leave the flowers in the office until the end of the school day. Gifts may be taken to their locker and then taken home at the end of the school day.

MEDICATION

ALL prescribed and over-the-counter medications **MUST** go through the main office or the nurse's office. The Board policy of the Escanaba Area Public Schools (Policy 5330) provides the administration of medication in school **MUST** be on the basis of written permission by the parent or guardian (permission forms are available in the office), **MUST** be done in compliance with a physician's instructions (for prescription medication), and **MUST** be done in the presence of an adult.

The medication **MUST** be in the **ORIGINAL** prescription or over-the-counter container, and needs to be labeled with the name of the student, name and dosage of the medication, method of administration, and time of day to be given. Prescription bottles also need to be labeled with the name of physician, date issued, and pharmacy name, address and phone number. **PARENTS ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR THE SAFE DELIVERY OF ALL MEDICATION TO AND FROM THE SCHOOL OFFICE.**

Self-administration of certain medication such as asthma inhalers and emergency medications, may be allowed with proper written permission, and may require a physician's authorization.

TECHNOLOGY

The computer lab and media center requires all students to have on file a signed NEOLA Acceptable Computer Usage form. The increased accessibility of electronic resources requires the implementation of the following guidelines.

1. Students will adhere to the Escanaba Area School District NEOLA Acceptable Use Policy. This policy must be signed by both the student and parent/guardian and be on file in the office.
2. Students will observe software copyright laws and fair use guidelines. They will not be permitted to copy school software or bring software from home to school to copy on to the school's machines.
3. Respect for personal data of others including students, teachers, and administrators will be maintained. Passwords to files will not be shared. Violations to this will result in, but are not limited to:
 - a. Loss of the computer and/or Network privileges for two weeks.
 - b. Loss of the computer and/or Network privileges for one month.

- c. Loss of the computer and/or Network privileges for the remainder of the school year.
4. The use of online/internet services is restricted to school projects. If you are found on an unacceptable site the following actions will be taken.
 - a. Loss of the computer and/or Network privileges for one month.
 - b. Loss of the computer and/or Network privileges for the remainder of the school year.
5. Access to e-mail is not allowed.

REPORT CARDS

Report cards will be distributed following the close of each marking period. All report cards will be available by mail or in the school office at the end of each marking period.

SKATE BOARDS/ROLLER BLADES

Skateboarding and roller blading will not be permitted on school property or sidewalks from 7:15 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. during school days or during the times when school related activities are held.

SEARCH AND SEIZURE

To maintain order and discipline in the schools and to protect the safety and welfare of students and school personnel, school authorities may search a student, student lockers and desks under circumstances outlined below and may seize any illegal, unauthorized or contraband materials discovered in the search. Student lockers and desks are school property and remain at all times under the control of the school district; however, students are expected to assume full responsibility for the security of their lockers and desks. Students should not expect privacy regarding items placed into school property because such property is subject to search at any time by school officials. Periodic general inspections of lockers and desks may be conducted by school authorities for any reason, at any time, without notice without a search warrant. A student's failure to permit searches and seizures as provided in this policy will be subject to disciplinary action. A student's person and/or personal effects (e.g. purse, book bag, athletic bag), may be searched whenever a school official has reasonable suspicion to believe that the student is in possession of illegal or unauthorized material. If a properly conducted search yields illegal or contraband materials, such findings shall be turned over to proper legal authorities for ultimate disposition.

SEXUAL HARASSMENT POLICY

The Board of Education recognizes that a student's right to freedom from discrimination includes the opportunity to learn in an environment untainted by sexual harassment. Sexually offensive speech and conduct are wholly inappropriate to the harmonious educational relationships necessary for the operation of Escanaba Middle School. The sexual harassment of an EMS student is strictly forbidden. Any person who is found to have sexually harassed another person of this District, will be subject to disciplinary action.

EQUAL EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITES

The Escanaba Area Public Schools Board of Education declares it to be the policy of this district to provide an equal opportunity for all students to achieve their maximum potential through the curriculum offered in this District regardless of race, color, creed, disability, religion, sex, ancestry, national origin, place of residence within the boundaries of the District, or social or economic background. Inquiries of complaints may be addressed to the Escanaba Area Public School District Coordinator for Title VI, Title IX, and Section 504:

Mr. Thomas J. Sabor
1500 Ludington Street
Escanaba MI 49829
(906) 786-5412

SCHOOL BOARD POLICIES AND REGULATIONS

Copies are available for review in the Principal's Office.

STRUCTURE

The new system at EMS is referred to as the House System. A house can be best understood by viewing it as "a school within a school." We currently have four houses in our school. The House System is being implemented with the belief that each student's total educational experience will be enhanced. We believe it will be most successful in providing a positive transitional experience from the elementary grades to the High School.

The potential improvements realized by adopting this method of organization are unlimited. Flexible scheduling is possible, team teaching is introduced, individualized instruction is increased, and interdisciplinary instruction becomes an important tool for education.

The Middle School experience is often one of new friends, experiences, methodology, and in many cases, Terminology. To help each student better understand this new level of education, some "household" terms are defined below:

HOUSEHOLD TERMS

House – A specific area of the school where students are assigned for their academic subjects.

Academic Classes (CORE) Those classes which concentrate on the most fundamental of educational skills. The following four classes are considered the CORE classes:

Social Studies
Science
English
Mathematics

Block Time – That portion of the day which is set aside for CORE instruction within the House.

Extension Period – That portion of the day which is set aside for CORE enrichment or remediation, as well as for additional education offerings. We believe all students need an opportunity to enhance their educational programs and pique interest through an all-school, high interest program.

Encore Classes – Physical Education, Teen Health, and Computers are Encore Classes. Physical Education class meets every other day. For one semester it alternates with Teen Health and for the other semester it alternates with Computers/Keyboarding.

Related and Fine Arts – Band, Orchestra, Art, Life Skills and Industrial Technology make up the Related and Fine Arts classes. Band and Orchestra meet every day all year and the Art, Life Skills, and Industrial Tech classes meet daily for 12 weeks.

EMS IS A DRUG FREE AND WEAPONS FREE SCHOOL ZONE.