

Merrimack School District



Merrimack High School Student Handbook

(for Parent & Student Review)

2025-2026

MERRIMACK SCHOOL DISTRICT
School Administrative Unit #26
36 McElwain Street
Merrimack, New Hampshire 03054
Tel. (603) 424-6200 Fax(603) 424-6229

DR. KATHLEEN SCHOLAND
*Interim Assistant Superintendent
for Curriculum*

EVERETT V. OLSEN JR.
Chief Educational Officer

MATTHEW D. SHEVENELL
Assistant Superintendent for Business

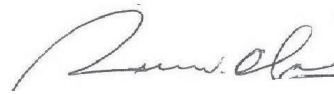
August 28, 2025

Dear Parents/Guardians:

We hope that this booklet provides parents and guardians with information which will be helpful to you. The staff looks forward to working cooperatively with you this year to provide a positive and meaningful learning experience for your child.

This booklet was developed to assist you in becoming more knowledgeable about the day-to-day operations and the policies and procedures that are pertinent to the students' well-being.

Sincerely,



Everett V. Olsen, Jr.
Chief Educational Officer

MERRIMACK SCHOOL BOARD

Lori Peters, Chair	lori.peters@sau26.org.....	603-440-5326
Laurie Rothhaus, Vice Chair	laurie.rothhaus@sau26.org.....	603-315-8671
Naomi Halter.....	naomi.halter@sau26.org	603-566-3030
Jenna Hardy	jenna.hardy@sau26.org	603-682-9696
Rachel Paepke	rachel.paepke@sau26.org.....	603-569-7948
TBD.....	MHS Student Representative	

ADMINISTRATIVE PERSONNEL

<i>Chief Educational Officer</i>	
Everett V. Olsen, Jr	424-6200
<i>Interim Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum, Instruction & Assessment</i>	
Dr. Kathleen Scholand	424-6200
<i>Assistant Superintendent for Business</i>	
Matthew Shevenell.....	424-6200
<i>Director of Human Resources</i>	
Melissa Fazlic	424-6200
<i>Director of Technology & Library Media Services</i>	
Jason Pelletier	424-6203
<i>Director of Student Services</i>	
Colleen Sliva.....	424-6211



Mission Statement



The Merrimack School District will provide a high quality, future-driven education to all students in the community. Students will engage in learning opportunities that reflect both rigor and relevance, along with meeting their cognitive, social, and emotional needs. The District will prepare students to understand, adapt, and adjust to civic, economic, social, and technological challenges in the world. Our overall goal is to inspire, create, and encourage students to be curious, connected, prepared, resilient, dedicated individuals that are lifelong, expert learners; Merrimack graduates exercise judgment, are innovative, and become responsible, contributing members of society.



MERRIMACK HIGH SCHOOL
Parent/Student Handbook
2025-2026

Merrimack High School is a comprehensive high school serving approximately 1,100 students. Our philosophy and objectives are based on the belief that every student should develop their full potential academically, physically, and socially in accordance with their learning style and interests. As a member school of the New England Association of Schools and Colleges, we offer opportunities in all academic areas, in the fine, applied and technical arts, in physical education, and in health and business studies.

Each course offered at MHS has an outline which explains how a teacher will evaluate student progress in meeting course objectives. Teachers will provide students with written statements of grading procedures at the start of each course.

Report cards are issued twice a semester in each course through PowerSchool. If you do not have access, please come to the Main Office to set up an account. Generally, report cards are available 7-10 days after the close of the quarter.

Parents are encouraged to contact their student's counselor if they have concerns about their schedule or academic progress (Refer to [Student Services](#)). Parents may communicate directly with teachers and/or counselors if they have concerns or questions.

Please see below important information for 2025-2026 school year:

Merrimack High School Vision of the Graduate

Merrimack High School students engage in authentic learning that prepares them with necessary life skills to become independent as individuals and active participants as citizens upon graduation.

Merrimack High School Graduates are Positive Community Members

Graduates are effective, creative, and critical thinkers. They feel empowered to be leaders, to care about their self-worth, others, and their local and global community. This may be evidenced by being resilient, ethical, open-minded, confident, and flexible.

The Merrimack graduate will be future ready

Graduates are driven to achieve their goals. The Merrimack graduate takes ownership of and responsibility for their choices and continues to be self-directed, lifelong learners.

They have prepared for this by:

- Participating in a dynamic curriculum that aligns to the State and National Standards.
- Developing executive functioning skills.
- Becoming digitally and financially literate.
- Developing communication skills in areas of listening, speaking and writing.



Vision of a Learner

Merrimack School District



Curious

Learners wonder about and seek opportunities to explore the world around them and are open to new experiences. They listen, ask questions, and gather resources to build understanding. Learners are engaged, critical, and creative thinkers who solve problems and demonstrate understanding.



Connected

Learners are citizens of their school, community, state, and the world. They build positive relationships through the development and use of interpersonal, communication, and empathy skills. Learners consider and respect different perspectives, evaluate the impact of their actions, and demonstrate compassion for others.



Prepared

Learners engage in authentic learning experiences that prepare them with necessary and practical skills for everyday life, including digital and financial literacy. They learn to create and use a plan to guide their own academic, career, and social emotional development. Learners develop collaboration, communication, self-management, and decision making skills.



Resilient

Learners understand that risk taking and failure are part of the learning process, and perceive challenges as an opportunity for growth. They can use their knowledge about themselves to advocate for their needs and recognize when they need help. Learners develop and evaluate multiple ways to solve problems and complete tasks.



Dedicated

Learners seek to contribute to their local and global communities, giving their time and energy to pursue their goals. They are life-long learners who possess the self-worth and confidence to explore and champion their interests and passions, inspiring others to do the same. Learners persevere and collaborate to set and achieve meaningful goals.



Vision of a Graduate

Merrimack High School students engage in authentic learning that prepares them with necessary life skills to become independent as individuals and active participants as citizens upon graduation.



Mastricola Upper Elementary
Mastricola Elementary

Reeds Ferry Elementary
Thorntons Ferry Elementary

Merrimack High
Merrimack Middle

Table of Contents

<u>Administrative Personnel</u>	
<u>Mission Statement</u>	
<u>Student/Parent Letter</u>	
<u>Vision of a Learner</u>	
<u>Table of Contents</u>	1
<u>Parking Plan</u>	4
<u>Bell Schedule</u>	5
<u>2-Hour Delayed Opening Schedule</u>	6
<u>Early Release Schedule</u>	7
<u>Floor Plan - First Floor</u>	8
<u>Accidents</u>	10
<u>Advisory</u>	10
<u>Alcohol and Drug Use/Abuse</u>	10
<u>Assemblies</u>	10
<u>Athletic and Co-Curricular</u>	10
<u>Athletic Code</u>	10
<u>Definition of Sportsmanship</u>	11
<u>Code Of Ethics For District Staff And/Or Volunteers Involved In Interscholastic Athletics</u>	11
<u>Academic And Behavioral Expectations</u>	11
<u>Academic Performance</u>	11
<u>Attendance Policies</u>	12
<u>Absenteeism from School</u>	12
<u>Class Absence Limit</u>	12
<u>Tardy</u>	12
<u>Dismissal</u>	12
<u>Books and Equipment</u>	13
<u>Cafeteria</u>	13
<u>Cell Phone and Electronic Device Policies</u>	13
<u>Cheating/Plagiarism</u>	14
<u>Class Dues</u>	14
<u>Comfort/Support Animals</u>	15
<u>Credit Recovery Programs</u>	15
<u>Evening Academy</u>	15
<u>Summer Institute Program</u>	15
<u>8.5 Summer Academy</u>	15
<u>Dances/Co-Curricular</u>	15
<u>Dangerous Devices</u>	16
<u>Firecrackers/Incendiary Devices</u>	16
<u>Laser Pointers</u>	16
<u>Pocket Knives/Box Openers/Chains, Spikes</u>	16
<u>Weapons</u>	16
<u>Dress Code Policy</u>	17
<u>Extended Learning Opportunity Policy</u>	17
<u>Field Trips - Overnight - Overseas Trips Permission Slip</u>	17
<u>Final Examinations</u>	17
<u>Gambling</u>	18

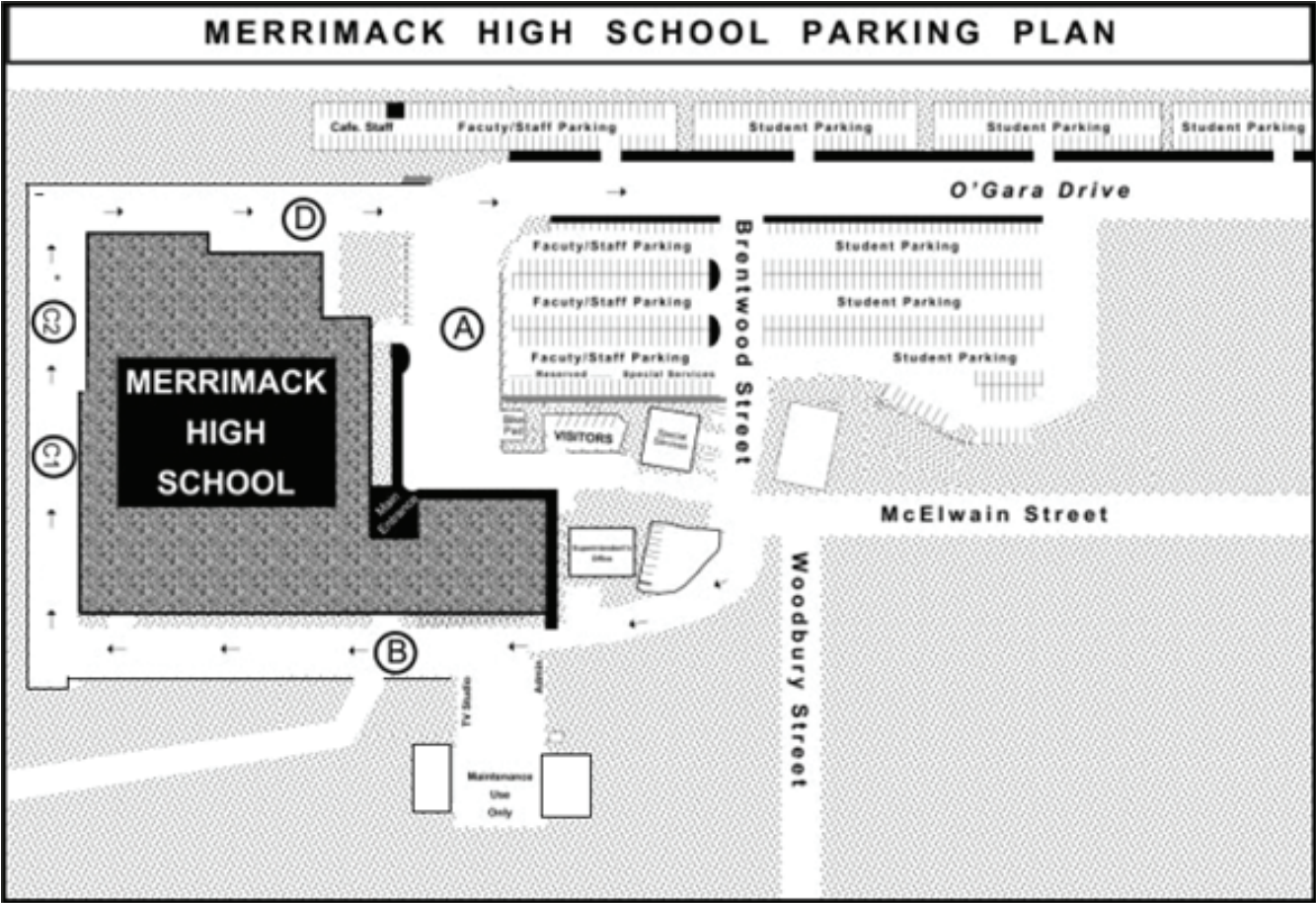
Table of Contents (continued)

<u>Graduation Requirements</u>	19
<u>Progress Towards Graduation</u>	19
<u>Merrimack High School Diploma</u>	19
<u>Merrimack High School Diploma with Honors</u>	19
<u>Adult Diploma Program</u>	19
<u>Other Special Considerations</u>	20
<u>Course Selection</u>	20
<u>Course Levels and Grading System</u>	20
<u>Grade Scale</u>	21
<u>Hall Pass System</u>	22
<u>Health Services</u>	22
<u>Medication</u>	22
<u>Homework</u>	22
<u>Homework Requests for Absent Students</u>	23
<u>Honor Roll</u>	23
<u>Identification Badges</u>	23
<u>Insurance for District Issued Devices</u>	23
<u>Leaving School Buildings/Grounds</u>	24
<u>Library Services</u>	24
<u>Lockers</u>	25
<u>Make-up Work/Incompletes</u>	25
<u>Meal Charging Policy</u>	25
<u>Student Meal Account Summary</u>	25
<u>Modified Schedule: Early Release/Late Arrival Privilege — Juniors And Seniors</u>	26
<u>National Honor Society</u>	26
<u>New Hampshire Scholars Program</u>	27
<u>Parking and Motor Vehicles</u>	27
<u>Posters/Signage</u>	28
<u>Publication of Student Information</u>	28
<u>Religious Rights and Responsibilities</u>	28
<u>School Counseling</u>	28
<u>Special Education Services</u>	28
<u>Standardized Testing</u>	29
<u>Student Clubs</u>	29
<u>Attendance</u>	29
<u>Behavior</u>	29
<u>Buses</u>	29
<u>Student Council</u>	29
<u>Officers and Representative Expectations</u>	29
<u>School Cancellation/Delayed Opening</u>	30
<u>School Procedures Regarding Students of Divorced or Separated Parents</u>	30
<u>Search and Seizure</u>	31
<u>Unauthorized Areas</u>	31
<u>Skateboarding</u>	31
<u>Smoking/Vaping</u>	31
<u>Students 18 Years or Older</u>	31

Table of Contents (continued)

<u>Teacher Qualifications</u>	32
<u>Threats/Verbal and Physical/Bullying/Cyberbullying</u>	32
<u>Visitors to School</u>	32
<u>Working Papers</u>	32
<u>Appendix</u>	33
<u>NH State Law</u>	33
<u>Annual Notification of Rights Concerning Student Regards and Directory Information</u>	34
<u>Directory Information</u>	36
<u>School District Policies and Procedures</u>	37
<u>Attendance/Tuancy</u>	37
<u>Daily Physical Activity</u>	37
<u>Distribution and Display of Information at Schools</u>	37
<u>Exceptions to Use of Specific Course Materials</u>	37
<u>Non-Discrimination, Equal Opportunity Employment and District Anti-Discrimination Plan</u>	37
<u>Procedural Safeguards Non-Discrimination on the Basis of Disability</u>	37
<u>Public Complaints</u>	37
<u>Public Complaints About School Personnel, Employees, Students or Administration</u>	37
<u>Non-Educational Surveys and Questionnaires</u>	37
<u>Pupil Safety and Violence Prevention</u>	37
<u>Service Animals</u>	37
<u>Student Behavior, Conduct, Discipline and Due Process</u>	37
<u>Student Transportation Policy</u>	37
<u>Student Use of Information Technology</u>	37
<u>Suicide Prevention and Response Plan</u>	37
<u>Title IX Sexual Harassment Policy and Grievance Process</u>	38
<u>Use of Physical Restraint/Seclusion</u>	38
<u>Wellness Policy</u>	38
<u>Transportation</u>	39
<u>Bus Rules</u>	39
<u>Student Rules</u>	39
<u>Asbestos Management Plan Letter</u>	40
<u>School Calendar</u>	41

PARKING PLAN



BELL SCHEDULE

Monday, Tuesday Friday Schedule (8 Periods)

Period	Time	Length
Period 1	7:30-8:14	44 minutes
Period 2	8:18-9:02	44 minutes
Period 3	9:06-9:50	44 minutes
Period 4	9:54-10:38	44 minutes
Period 5	10:42-11:26	44 minutes
Period 6	11:29-12:39	44 minute class & 22 minute lunch
6A	11:29-11:51	22 minutes
6B	11:53-12:15	22 minutes
6C	12:17-12:39	22 minutes
Period 7	12:43-1:27	44 minutes
Period 8	1:31-2:15	44 minutes

Wednesday/Thursday Block Days (4 Periods)

Period	Time	Length
Period 1 or 2	7:30-9:00	90 minutes
Period 3 or 4	9:04-10:37	93 minutes (Announcements)
Period 5 or 6	10:41-12:41	90 minutes + 30 minute lunch
Lunch A	10:41-11:11	30 minutes
Lunch B	11:26-11:56	30 minutes
Lunch C	12:11-12:41	30 minutes
Period 7 or 8	12:45-2:15	90 minutes

BELL SCHEDULE 2-Hour Delayed Opening

2-Hour Delay Schedule (8 Periods)

Period	Time	Length
Period 1	9:30-9:59	29 minutes
Period 2	10:02-10:31	29 minutes
Period 3	10:34-11:03	29 minutes
Period 4	11:06-11:36	29 minutes
Period 5	11:38-12:07	29 minutes
Period 6	12:10-1:10	35 minute class (w/passing)/20 minute lunch
Lunch A	12:10-12:30	20 minutes
Lunch B	12:30-12:50	20 minutes
Lunch C	12:50-1:10	20 minutes
Period 7	1:13-1:42	29 minutes
Period 8	1:46-2:15	29 minutes

2-Hour Delay Schedule (Block)

Period	Time	Length
Period 1 or 2	9:30-10:31	61 minutes
Period 3 or 4	10:34-11:35	61 minutes
Period 5 or 6	11:38-1:09	61 minute class/30 minute lunch
Lunch A	11:39-12:08	30 minutes
Lunch B	12:08-12:38	30 minutes
Lunch C	12:38-1:09	31 minutes
Period 7 or 8	1:13-2:15	62 minutes

BELL SCHEDULE

Early Release

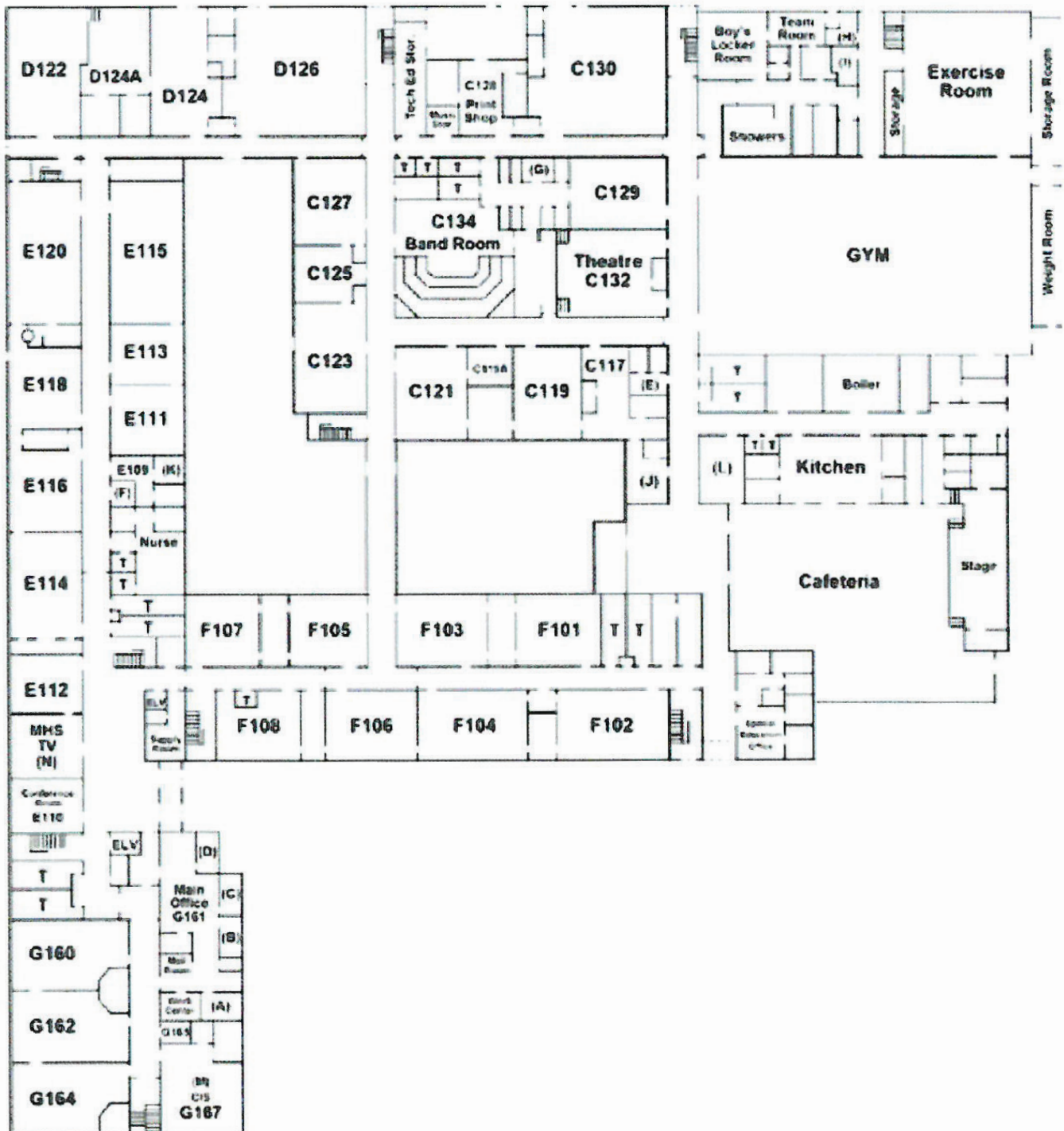
Early Release Schedule (8 Periods)

Period	Time	Length
Period 1	7:30-7:52	22 minutes
Period 2	7:55-8:17	22 minutes
Period 3	8:20-8:42	22 minutes
Period 4	8:45-9:07	22 minutes
Period 5	9:10-9:32	22 minutes
Period 6	9:35-9:57	22 minutes
Period 7	10:00-10:22	22 minutes
Period 8	10:25-10:47	22 minutes
Lunch for All	10:50-11:15	25 minutes



MHS SCHOOL MAPS

FIRST FLOOR





The floor plan of the second floor of the District Library is organized into several sections. At the top, a row of rooms includes D232, D234, D236, D238, D240, C242, C244, C246, C248, and B250. Below this, a horizontal corridor (Pass) runs along the left side, with rooms D223, D225, D227, and D229 above it. To the right of the corridor, a vertical column of rooms includes E230, E228, E226, E224, E222, and E220. Further right, another vertical column contains E221, E219, E217, E215, and E213. To the right of these columns, a vertical column of rooms includes C231, C233, C235, and C237. The central part of the floor plan is dominated by the LIBRARY, which includes a Library Office, a Periodical Room, and a District Media Center. Above the library, there are rooms C239 Faculty, C241, C243, C245, C247, and C249. To the right of the library, there is a Girl's Locker Room and a Team Room. Below the library, a horizontal row of rooms includes F211, F209, F205, F203, F201, and F200. Below this row, another horizontal row of rooms includes F214, F212 Resource Center, F210 Room 2, F208, F206, F204, and F202. At the bottom of the floor plan, a row of rooms includes G269, G271, G273, and G275. To the left of this row, there are rooms G260, G262, and G264. The floor plan also includes various other rooms and areas, such as a District Librarian's Office, an AV Equip. room, a Conference room, a Storage room, a Restroom, and a Janitor's room.

ACCIDENTS

All accidents must be reported to the school nurse. Accident forms are available in the Nurse's Office. Please also see [School Board policy EBBB](#).

ADVISORY

Advisory will be held twice a week. Students must remain in their Advisory. Passes can be issued to see a teacher for academic reasons. Students may receive a .25 credit each year for attending and participating in Advisory.

ALCOHOL AND DRUG USE/ABUSE

All schools within the Merrimack School District, including Merrimack High School, as well as District property and transportation, are all part of the Drug-Free Zone under RSA 193-B.

Students who possess, use and/or distribute any alcoholic beverage(s), illegal narcotic(s), dangerous drug(s), or intoxicant(s) of any kind on school property, school transportation, or at school sponsored events shall receive disciplinary action, immediately.

The policies and procedures governing alcohol and drug infractions shall also apply to students who ***possess, use, and/or distribute*** (by any means) "look-alike" capsules, tablets, powders, liquids, and over the counter drugs. This would include caffeine pills, unauthorized use or possession of prescription or non-prescription drugs, and mood-altering inhalants including, but not limited to glue, spray paint, whiteout, etc.

Students suspected of drug and/or alcohol use during the school day may be referred to the school nurse for medical assessment. If an administrator has reasonable suspicion that a student has consumed and/or is under the influence, a breathalyzer may be employed to further confirm alcohol use. Failure to take the test does not necessarily admit guilt.

MHS has entered into a partnership with outside resources to support students in becoming more informed and cessation. The Youth Council offers screening and assessment, affordable counseling, parenting classes, and groups to help students make healthy decisions.

ASSEMBLIES

Students are expected to follow the guidelines below when attending any assembly program at MHS. This includes, but is not limited to, the spirit week assembly, pep rallies, guest speakers, plays or dramatic presentations, music or dance performances, recognition assemblies, and class or group meetings.

Assembly Expectations

1. Always show respect to the speaker, performer, and classmates.
2. Demonstrate appropriate behavior for the type of assembly you are invited to attend.

ATHLETIC AND CO-CURRICULAR

ATHLETIC CODE

An athlete may not quit one sport and try out for another sport after the season has begun without the mutual consent of both coaches. "After the season has begun is defined as the first scrimmage or game, whichever comes first.

An athlete who has been injured and has received medical treatment must receive written clearance from the treating physician or designee to return to participation.

It should be understood that any person who participates in a sport is subject to injury. These injuries may occur despite proper training, and despite safe practice and game environments.

Parents agree to be supportive and encouraging of all participants, coaches, and officials at all athletic events. Good sportsmanship will be displayed at all times by all spectators (refer to the “Communications and Behavior Guidelines” brochure).

All NHIAA rules and policies will take precedence as the minimum level of expectation.

All athletes must travel to and from events with the team. Requests to use alternate transportation must be submitted by completing the online Transportation Waivers that are found on the Athletic Website.

Merrimack High School offers interscholastic athletic activities. Athletes must take a minimum of six classes (minimum of five if a Senior) and pass a minimum of four classes per quarter to be eligible to participate in interscholastic athletics.

DEFINITION OF SPORTSMANSHIP

The ideals of good sportsmanship, ethical behavior, and integrity permeate our culture. The values of good citizenship shall be defined as those qualities of behavior which are characterized by generosity and genuine concern for others.

Athletes should be aware of the impact of an individual’s influence on the behavior of others. Good sportsmanship is viewed as a concrete measure of the understanding and commitment of fair play ethical behavior and integrity. Athletes will be required to comply with all requirements and standards set forth by the NHIAA. The NHIAA handbook is available at [NHIAA Handbook](#) and the Merrimack High School Code of Conduct found here [Merrimack High School Code of Conduct](#).

CODE OF ETHICS FOR DISTRICT STAFF AND/OR VOLUNTEERS INVOLVED IN INTERSCHOLASTIC ATHLETICS

In order to promote desirable behavior and enhance the overall quality of secondary school athletic programs, the following Code of Ethics is in effect:

It is the duty of all concerned with secondary school athletic programs to...

1. Cultivate an awareness that participation in high school athletics is part of the total educational experience.
2. Emphasize the proper ideals of sportsmanship, ethical conduct, and fair play as they relate to the lifetime impact on the participants and spectators.
3. Develop an awareness and understanding of all rules and guidelines governing competition, both in letter and intent and to comply with them in all activities.
4. Recognize that the purpose of athletics in school programs is to develop and promote the physical, mental, moral, social, and emotional well-being of individual participants.
5. Avoid any practice or technique which would endanger the present or further welfare or safety of a participant.
6. Avoid practices which force students to specialize or which restrict the fro participation in a variety of athletics.
7. Refrain from making disparaging remarks to opponents, officials, coaches, or spectators in any aspect of school athletics.
8. Encourage the development of proper health habits and vigorously discourage the use of chemicals, including alcohol and tobacco.
9. Exemplify proper self-control at all times and accept adverse decisions without public display of emotion or dissatisfaction.
10. Encourage everyone not to judge the true success of the athletic program on the basis of a win or loss.
11. Treat opposing team members and officials respectfully and encourage behavior which will create positive relationships between schools.

ACADEMIC and BEHAVIORAL EXPECTATIONS

ACADEMIC PERFORMANCE

For the student athlete to be eligible to participate in interscholastic sports they must be taking six units (minimum of five if a Senior) of work and passing four units. Eligibility grades are based on quarter grades and not semester grades. Athletes participating in fall sports will be deemed to be eligible or ineligible by the previous fourth quarter grades. All incoming freshmen are eligible to participate in a fall sport. For winter and spring sports, freshmen student athletes will adhere to the Merrimack High School eligibility standard of taking six units of work and passing a minimum of four units of work (NHIAA criteria). Eligibility status is determined on the day that official report cards are distributed to students. Academic Make-Ups: A

student may regain eligibility by making up academic deficiencies, failures, or incompletes of the regular school year through academic/credit recovery programs completed prior to the last date to play a sport as listed by By-Law Article XXXVIII of the NHIAA Handbook. Individual schools may adopt more restrictive policies relative to academic make-up based on the school district philosophy and/or resources.

Any student suspended out of school (OSS) will not be able to participate in OR attend any co-curricular program, game, performance, practice, and/or meeting on the day or days of the suspension.

Any student who has been issued an in-school suspension (ISS) will not be able to participate in or attend any co-curricular program game, performance, and/or meeting on the day or days of the suspension. However, if they have attended and followed all of the ISS expectations and completed school work, students will be permitted to attend practices only.

ATTENDANCE POLICIES

ABSENTEEISM FROM SCHOOL

Parents and students are expected to share with the school the responsibilities for regular attendance. The school must be notified by a parent/guardian of any anticipated student absences by the dialing 603-424-6204, and then dialing a 1 when prompted; however, a parent may leave a voice mail message at any time to the Attendance Clerk, by dialing the above numbers. Parents wishing to remove their son/daughter from school for an extended period of time must put a request in writing to the Principal two weeks in advance. Students are expected to make up all missed work.

CLASS ABSENCE LIMIT

To receive credit for a course, a student must not exceed the ten-day unexcused absence limit.

In or Out-of-School Suspension/Intervention days are not counted toward the attendance policy.

It is imperative that students have strong and consistent attendance to foster student success and progress toward graduation.

Any student who has exceeded the allowable limit of absences from class will have a meeting with the Assistant Principal regarding the loss of credit at the end of the respective semester. Students may appeal a loss of credit to the principal. See Appeal Process for Parents for Non-Disciplinary Matters.

TARDY TO SCHOOL

If a student arrives (unexcused) 20 minutes late to a class it is considered tardy. More than 20 minutes late will be considered an absence.

DISMISSAL

Parents/guardians can dismiss students in the following ways:

1. Call the main office at 603-424-6204 x2400
2. Through your Parent PowerSchool Account How to Submit Student Attendance with PowerSchool (for Current Day only)
3. Through email at MHS.absence@sau26.org.

Students being dismissed from school must present a note from a parent or guardian to the attendance secretary before 7:30 a.m. The communicated dismissal must include a telephone number where the parent/guardians may be reached between 7:30 a.m. and 9:30 a.m. in order to verify the dismissal. Administrative authorization will be required in the absence of a note. Students with an approved note must sign out with the attendance secretary prior to leaving the building.

If a student returns to school before the end of the day, he/she should follow the above procedure (**Tardy to School**).

Tardiness and/or dismissals which result in a student missing 30 minutes or more of a class will be counted as class absences.

Please also see [District Policy JH](#).

BOOKS AND EQUIPMENT

Upon receipt of a textbook or other loaned material, the student will sign a receipt form. In cases where books and equipment are lost, damaged, or destroyed in excess of reasonable wear and tear, the student will be assessed an amount sufficient to cover the loss. No official transcripts, report cards, diplomas, or parking permits will be issued until restitution has been made.

CAFETERIA

IN GENERAL, ALL FOOD AND DRINKS (WITH THE EXCEPTION OF WATER) SHOULD BE CONSUMED IN THE CAFETERIA.

Merrimack High School offers a breakfast program that runs from 6:50 a.m. to 7:20 a.m. in the cafeteria. Items such as juice, milk, bagels, and muffins are served. The lunch program is very extensive and offers a wide variety of healthy foods and drinks. Money can be deposited into a student's account. Students are asked to use their school ID when purchasing a breakfast or a lunch from their account funds.

Student Behavioral Expectations

1. Students will demonstrate rules of common courtesy to fellow students, staff, and administration at all times and adhere to the MHS Code of Conduct.
2. Students will follow all instructions from staff.
3. Students will keep their immediate areas (table and floor) neat and clean and leave it that way for others who will follow. Before leaving the cafeteria, they will dispose of trash and recycle cans and bottles in the appropriate receptacles provided.
4. Students will be seated at the cafeteria tables unless they are in a food line. (It is not appropriate to sit on the floor or stage.)
5. Seniors may go to the courtyard with an MHS ID and permission of the on-duty personnel.
6. Students will not be permitted to loiter in the lobby.

Courtyard Guidelines – Seniors

1. Given good weather, the courtyard will be open to seniors. The purpose of the courtyard is for seniors to read and relax, and it is only open during the lunch periods.
2. Be respectful of the classrooms around the courtyard; please keep the noise level down.
3. Be respectful of the surroundings in the courtyard.
4. The MHS Dress Code applies to the courtyard.
5. Games are permitted unless the activity disrupts adjacent classrooms.

CELL PHONE AND ELECTRONIC DEVICE POLICIES

In alignment with the newly enacted state law RSA 189:1-a, V, Merrimack High School is committed to fostering a focused, respectful, and academically engaging environment for all students.

To support this goal, the use of cell phones and smart devices will be restricted during school hours. This initiative is designed to reduce distractions, encourage meaningful in-person interactions, and enhance students' overall learning experience.

We appreciate your partnership in helping us create a school environment where every student can thrive.

Educational Benefits of a Cell Phone-Free Environment:

- **Reduced Distractions:** Without constant access to cell phones, students are less likely to be distracted by social media, games, or non-educational content during instructional time.
- **Improved Focus:** Students can concentrate more effectively on their lessons and engage actively in classroom activities without interruptions from notifications or calls.
- **Enhanced Social Skills:** Encourages face-to-face communication and interaction among peers during non-instructional times, such as lunch and between classes.
- **Promotion of Responsibility:** Learning to manage cell phone usage appropriately teaches responsibility and respect for school policies, preparing students for future workplaces and social settings where similar rules may apply.

Procedure Details:

1. **During Class Time:** Cell phones and personal communication devices must be turned off and stored out of sight from the first bell of the day sending students to class until the dismissal bell at the end of the day. They may not be used for any purpose during instructional time.
2. **Between Class Periods:** Students may not use cell phones or personal communication devices during the transition time between classes. Phones need to be away, out of sight and may not be held in students' hands.
3. **During Lunch:** Cell phones and personal communication devices may not be used during lunch periods. This time is intended for social interaction and relaxation without digital distractions.
4. **Emergency Situations:** School administration may permit the use of cell phones or smart devices by students only in the case of an emergency situation as deemed appropriate by administrators.
5. **Confiscation and Retrieval:** If a device is confiscated, it will be stored securely in the school office. Students or parents/guardians may retrieve the device at the end of the school day.
6. **Responsibility:** Students are responsible for complying with this procedure and ensuring their devices do not disrupt the learning environment or school activities.
7. **Modification of Procedure:** The school administration reserves the right to modify or update this procedure as necessary to address changing circumstances.

Consequences for inappropriate use: Violation of this procedure will result in progressive disciplinary actions as follows:

- **First Offense:** Verbal warning and confiscation of the phone/smart device until the end of the school day. Parent/guardian notification.
- **Second Offense:** Detention and confiscation of the phone/smart device until the end of the school day. Parent/guardian notification and parent/guardian must pick up the phone from the school.
- **Third Offense:** Detention and confiscation of the device with the parent/guardian being required to pick up the phone/smart device and a meeting with school administration to determine the next steps for the student to ensure meeting of school expectations.
- **Subsequent Offenses:** Confiscation of phone/personal communication device and mandatory meeting with school administration, parent/guardian, and student to discuss compliance options including possible daily phone/personal communication device turn in to office.
- **Failure to comply** with the confiscation request will result in immediate parent contact and progressive disciplinary consequences that may include suspension.

By adhering to this cell phone and personal communication device procedure, Merrimack High School aims to create a positive and conducive learning environment where students can thrive academically and socially. We appreciate the cooperation of students, parents, and staff in maintaining these standards for the benefit of all.

Effective Date: This procedure will take effect at the beginning of the 2025-2026 school year.

CHEATING/PLAGIARISM

Cheating and/or plagiarism subverts the principles and objectives of any educational program.

Cheating is defined as presenting someone else's ideas, words, or information as one's own, or giving unauthorized assistance to someone else's work. Unless authorized by a teacher, the following examples are considered cheating: using "crib" notes, looking at someone's paper, having someone else write a paper, copying homework, giving or receiving answers, allowing someone to copy work, tests, etc., and presenting information as one's own without giving credit to one's source, including work taken off of the Internet, obtained through/from AI, or shared through photos/texts.

CLASS DUES

Class dues are collected from members of each class to help cover the cost of class activities. These include paying large deposits needed to secure venues and services for events such as Sophomore Semi, Prom, and Senior Week (this list is not all inclusive). These deposits are often due many months before tickets are sold to students.

Class Dues are \$10 per year and may be paid yearly, or students may elect to pay for all four years at once. The collection of Class Dues is the responsibility of the Class Officers, under the supervision and direction of the Faculty Advisor(s) for that class.

Students not current on class dues will be UNABLE to participate in these optional class activities or events until they are current on class dues.

COMFORT/SUPPORT ANIMALS

Guidance Pertaining to Comfort/Support Animal

Absent extraordinary circumstances, no student and/or family-owned pets will be permitted at school or on school grounds, including emotional support and comfort animals, unless the animal's presence is required for a student to receive a free appropriate public education, as determined by that student's IEP or Section 504 Team. This prohibition does not include service animals governed by [District Policy IMGA](#). Any request to bring an animal to school or on school grounds that does not involve a special education or Section 504 student must be made to the Superintendent. The request will be reviewed by the Superintendent or their designee and will only be granted in unusual or extraordinary circumstances. The decision of the Superintendent shall be final. The School District may bring in animals for emotional support purposes following a traumatic or other events that emotionally impact students and/or staff.

CREDIT RECOVERY PROGRAMS

** Credit Recovery classes are for students who failed one or more of the core required classes for graduation.*

EVENING ACADEMY

The Merrimack High School Evening Academy will be held each semester beginning September for the first semester and February for the second semester. Students who need to earn make-up credit can choose a .5 credit course that can help them fulfill a graduation requirement. In addition to offering core graduation requirements, some elective classes will be offered. Students may not take classes they have previously passed, and classes will be weighted at the standard/foundations level. Additional information can be obtained in the School Counseling Office.

SUMMER INSTITUTE PROGRAM

Credit recovery courses are available for students who have failed a required class during the regular school year. Classes are tuition based and run two hours per day during a six-week session. Two class sessions are offered each day in the following subject areas, including but not limited to: English, Math, Science, Social Studies. The Summer Institute runs for a 6-week period.

8.5 SUMMER ACADEMY

The 8.5 Summer Academy is available for all incoming 9th grade students to improve and build upon academic and enrichment skills prior to entering Merrimack High School in the subject areas of English, Math, Science, and Social Studies. This program is tuition free and credit-earning for students who successfully complete the six-week program.

To acquire more information, contact your school counselor or the Summer Institute director.

DANCES/CO-CURRICULAR

All dances sponsored by Merrimack High School clubs/organizations are subject to the District's policy on [Student Behavior, Conduct, Discipline, and Due Process \(Policy JICD\)](#), the [Merrimack School District Co-Curricular Expectations](#), and the following regulations:

Students may not wear clothing, jewelry, accessories, personal items, or show tattoos that through word, design or double meaning display, advertise or otherwise:

- Merrimack High School students with student IDs may attend. Guests (non-MHS students) may be allowed to the Sophomore Semi or Prom. Guests must have prior approval from the administration and their host school (when applicable), and they must be at least a freshman in high school and under 21 years of age. The Merrimack High School administration reserves the right to deny access to the dance if the behavior of any student/guest is deemed inappropriate by either the sending school's administration or Merrimack High School administration. The MHS student host should familiarize his/her guest with the District's policy on [Student Behavior, Conduct, Discipline, and Due Process \(Policy JICD\)](#) and the [Merrimack School District Co-Curricular Expectations](#), and will be held accountable for his/her guest's behavior.
- Students must not have any outstanding fees owed to the school and class dues must be paid up to date.
- To attend, students must be present in school the day of the dance and, if the dance is on the weekend, students must be present in school the preceding Friday.
- Once students leave the building, they are not allowed to return to the dance and must leave school grounds.
- Students who expect to arrive more than 90 minutes after the start of a dance must receive prior approval from the MHS administration.
- The Senior Semi-formal is a MHS senior class only event.
- Attendance and academic success go hand in hand. Students are required to attend all classes each day. Cutting class will result in an unexcused absence. Students who are habitually absent (4 or more per semester), cut classes and/or school may not be eligible to attend school related activities and dances. Students should see their Assistant Principal to check eligibility.

DANGEROUS DEVICES

Firecrackers/Incendiary Devices

Firecrackers, incendiary devices and "look-alikes" are illegal and dangerous and may not be brought to school or on school property.

Laser Pointers

Any device that projects a laser beam is prohibited from school and will be confiscated.

Pocket Knives/Box Openers/Chains/Spikes

Although it may be obvious that knives, and other weapons and/or look alike weapons are not allowed in school, it should be noted that pocket knives and/or pocket tools containing a blade or any sharpened edge are also not allowed. Razor blades, utility knives and box openers, chains, and spikes are forbidden.

Weapons

Weapons are prohibited from school and school grounds. Weapons include but are not limited to the following: firearms, knives of any type, slingshots, metallic knuckles, mace, chains, dangerous spikes, box cutters, hand cuffs, pepper spray or any other object when viewed or used as a weapon.

Please see [School Board Policy IHBH, Extended Learning Opportunities](#), as it offers further details for the program.

Please also see [School Board policy JICD](#), which contains the disciplinary consequences for possessing a weapon at school.

DRESS CODE POLICY

All students are expected to be dressed appropriately for school when in the building or at school-related functions. Pants must be worn at the waist level at all times during the school day and students must wear footwear which is not dangerous or harmful.

Students' attire and grooming should allow for safe participation in such curriculum areas as tech education, physical education, science classes, interscholastic athletics, or any other activity where reasonable precautions are dictated.

Students are prohibited from wearing the following:

1. Hoods, scarves, headgear, sunglasses, and/or any item that obscures facial features (for student safety), unless being worn for religious reasons.
2. Any clothing jewelry, tattoos, or accessories, which, through word, design, or double meaning, display advertise or otherwise promote the use of the following:
 - Illegal or controlled substances including, but not limited to, alcohol, tobacco, or other drugs;
 - Sexual reference and/or language;
 - Symbols of gang association or activities;
 - Intolerance of or lack of respect to others on the basis of gender, race, religion, ethnicity, social, sexual preference, disability, or economic background;
 - Violence; and/or
 - Profanity or vulgarity.
3. Clothing that, by its brevity or sheerness, is not sufficient to conceal undergarments at all times. Shirts and other tops must either tuck into pants or overlap the pants while seated, walking, and standing. No skin can show between the pants and the shirt/top.
4. Any articles of clothing, including accessories, which affect school safety or disrupt the learning process. No metal spikes – or similar items – will be permitted on any articles of clothing, including hats, shoes, belts etc. Additionally, no body jewelry, piercings, or metal accessories on clothing will be allowed in any Physical education class.

A student may appeal this policy to the extent permitted by policies [KE](#), [KEB](#), and [JICD](#) (if a student is appealing a disciplinary consequence stemming from the dress code).

A student who violates the dress code shall be subject to appropriate disciplinary action the Principal or designee shall, upon finding that dress or attire is not in compliance with the dress code, afford the student the opportunity to be in compliance with the dress code. If unable to comply, parental notification will be attempted, and parents will be given the opportunity to bring suitable clothes to the students. Students will not be allowed to leave school to change clothes without parental and administrative approval. Until a student is in compliance with the dress code, the student will be excluded from all classes, lunch, study periods, and any other school activities that occur during the regular school day or after-school activities. The student is responsible for making up any missed work.

EXTENDED LEARNING OPPORTUNITY POLICY

The **Extended Learning Opportunity** (ELO) Program allows students to earn credit outside of Merrimack High School through community partners, or within Merrimack High School by working with a teacher on a specific course of study or project.

ELOs at Merrimack High School fall under one of several categories: Independent Study, Advanced Study, Project Based Learning, Career Exploration, or Internships. Students seeking to participate in an ELO should reach out to the Director of Graduation Pathways to seek ongoing opportunities or arrange something targeted at a specific interest area. ELOs will require a student to work with a teacher facilitator or a community member, with credit being awarded as “pass/fail” or for a grade.

ELOs can only be awarded for elective credit (not graduation requirements) and will come from the Director of Graduation Pathways once a student successfully demonstrates the competencies agreed upon at the start of the ELO.

Please see [School Board Policy IHBH](#), Extended Learning Opportunities, as it offers further details on the program.

Please see the [Program of Studies](#) for additional information on graduation requirements.

FIELD TRIP - OVERNIGHT - OVERSEAS TRIPS PERMISSION SLIPS

A standard main office permission slip for school field trips, overnight, and overseas trips must be completed, signed, and submitted to the teacher and administration before the scheduled event. On all such trips, all school rules shall apply. All trips require a minimum of two chaperones along with administrative approval.

Parents/guardians are allowed to pick up their own child/student from field trips but must submit the [Alternate Field Trip Transportation Form](#) at least 24 hours prior to the event. If a parent would like their student to ride home with another parent, they would need to submit the [Alternate Field Trip Transportation Form](#) at least 24 hours prior to the event.

If parents/guardians provide transportation to, or allow another adult to provide transportation to, scheduled school field trips, the parent/guardian or designated adult transporting the students shall assume all resulting liability, and the school shall assume no liability. Under no circumstances will students transport themselves or other students to or from any school event.

FINAL EXAMINATIONS

At the end of every semester, there will be a final examination in each course. For second semester seniors, these examinations will be given at the discretion of the teacher (such exams should be noted in the course syllabus). Exams will contain a fair sampling of the work for the entire semester.

1. All final assessments will count as 20% of the semester grade.
2. All students must be present during the scheduled exam period.
3. Teachers may utilize traditional assessments, performance-based assessments, and authentic assessments. To facilitate these alternative assessments, teachers could conduct part of the assessment outside the scheduled exam period. (e.g., a teacher may have a two-part assessment: one part could be an authentic assessment done during scheduled class time, and the second could be a traditional assessment done during the scheduled exam period.)
4. Due to the increased emphasis on final exams, it is recommended that teachers provide a thorough review for the students.
5. All final exams must be reviewed and approved by the department chairperson prior to administering the exam.
6. All of these guidelines should be presented to the students at the beginning of the course in the teacher's policies and procedures.

At the end of the 2nd and 4th quarters, students will receive a quarter grade, their exam grade, and a semester grade. The semester grade is recorded on the student's transcript.

Students must be on time for/and attend all their final examinations. If there are extreme circumstances that prevent this from happening, the student's parent or guardian must notify the high school before the exam period on that day. To be permitted to take a make-up exam, a student will need written permission from his/her Assistant Principal.

GAMBLING

Gambling of any kind is not allowed in school.

GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

Class of 2025-2027				Class of 2028 & Beyond			
English		Social Studies		English		Social Studies	
9	1.0	World Studies	0.5	9	1.0	World Studies	1.0
10	1.0	Civics	0.5	10	1.0	Civics	0.5
11	1.0	Economics	0.5	11	1.0	Economics	0.5
12	1.0	US History	1.0	12	1.0	US History	1.0
4.0		2.5		4.0		3.0	
PE/Health		Science		PE/Health		Science	
PE	1.0	Physical Sci	1.0	PE	1.0	Physical Sci	1.0
Health	0.5	Biology	1.0	Health	0.5	Life Sci	1.0
1.5		2.0		1.5		Elective	1.0
						3.0	
		Math	3.0			Math	3.0
		Fine Art	0.5			Fine Art	0.5
		Computer	0.5			Computer	0.5
		Electives	7.0			Electives	6.5
		Total	21.0			Total	22.0

PROGRESS TOWARD GRADUATION

Beginning with the Class of 2026, promotion to the next grade is based on the number of necessary credit earned by the end of each school year.

Promotion to the next grade is based on the number of accumulated credits at the end of the school year. Retained students will be promoted at mid-year if they have obtained the necessary credits. However, promotion to senior status mid-year requires an approved plan for satisfying graduation requirements by the end of the academic year.

Freshman (Class of 2029) = 5.5 credits (22 overall credits to graduate)

Sophomore (Class of 2028) = 11 credits (21 overall credits to graduate)

Junior (Class of 2027) = 15.5 credits (21 overall credits to graduate)

MERRIMACK HIGH SCHOOL DIPLOMA

A diploma is issued to students who successfully complete 21 (classes of 2025-2027) and 22 classes (class of 2028 and future) credits and meet specific course requirements as shown above. Meeting such requirements may include individually determined modifications to instructional and assessment methods.

MERRIMACK HIGH SCHOOL DIPLOMA WITH HONORS

A diploma with honors will be issued to students who meet the above criteria and are in the top 15 percent of the graduating class as determined by the weighted grade point average (GPA).

ADULT DIPLOMA PROGRAM

The Merrimack School District offers a 20 Credit Adult Diploma that meets the State of New Hampshire high school graduation requirements. This program allows current students, those who have withdrawn from Merrimack High School, as well as adults in Merrimack and the surrounding communities, to attain their diploma using both traditional and innovative courses at Merrimack High School. Merrimack High School students seeking to learn more about the Adult Diploma Program can meet with their School Counselor and with the Director of Graduation Pathways Program.

Other Special Considerations

- A. Students who transfer to Merrimack High School during their senior year and cannot meet the requirements for the standard diploma will have their transcripts reviewed by the Director of School Counseling and the Principal. After careful review and analysis of the transcripts, this group will determine the specific requirements for graduation, and notify the student and parent of the decision. Parents, guardians, and/or students will be entitled upon request to an explanation of the decision. They will be given an opportunity to present their views.
- B. Students who transfer to Merrimack High School prior to their senior year will be expected to meet the graduation criteria for a standard diploma as stated in the Merrimack High School Program of Studies.
- C. Students may participate in only one graduation commencement. Students returning for a fifth year may participate in senior week activities if they complete all graduation requirements by the end of the following fall semester. No student may participate in more than one set of senior week activities.

COURSE SELECTION

Students should carefully consider their course selections and involve teachers, counselors, and parents in the process. Course changes (adding or dropping classes) are discouraged after students complete their course selection each spring. Requests for course changes require input from the student, teacher, parent, counselor, department head, and case manager, if appropriate. Students must fill out a course request change form and submit the form to their respective counselor. Up to the end of the fourth week of the semester, a drop will be recorded with no penalty. Any course dropped after the fourth week will result in Withdrawal/Failure (W/F) for that course.

For students to maintain sufficient progress towards graduation, it is recommended students are enrolled in a minimum of 5 courses per semester.

COURSE LEVELS AND GRADING SYSTEM

The difficulty criteria continuum is intended to emphasize the importance of setting appropriate expectations for all students. It is essential that the following chart be viewed as a flexible guideline. Courses titled Advance Placement (AP) follow the prescribed curriculum for taking AP exams to earn possible college credit.

Though some courses require a prerequisite, a student who has an interest and has not taken the prerequisite should seek the advice of their counselor and teachers.

Foundation (FD): To develop and refine thinking, reading, verbal, writing, study skills and content knowledge; to apply skills to assignments and/or problems; to prepare students who plan to further their education or enter the world of work.

Comprehensive (CM): To develop higher level thinking, reading, verbal, writing, study skills and content knowledge; to develop abstract, complex language and concepts through application to problem solving; to prepare students who plan on post-secondary education at a four-year college or university.

Honors (H): To develop advanced thinking, reading, verbal, writing, study skills and content knowledge; to develop understanding of complex concepts; to complete extensive investigating of subject matter; to use sophisticated language and to prepare students who plan on post-secondary education at a four-year college or university.

Advanced Placement (AP): To develop the most advanced thinking, reading, verbal, writing, study skills and content knowledge; to develop and comprehend complex concepts; AP courses are aligned with College Board expectations and offer students the opportunity to complete college-level work while still in high school. Students may earn college credit with a qualifying score on an AP exam.

GRADE SCALE

	FD	CM	H	AP
A+ (97-100)	4.00	4.50	4.75	5.00
A (93-96)	3.75	4.25	4.50	4.75
A- (90-92)	3.50	4.00	4.25	4.50
B+ (87-89)	3.25	3.75	4.00	4.25
B (83-86)	3.00	3.50	3.75	4.00
B- (80-82)	2.75	3.25	3.50	3.75
C+ (77-79)	2.50	3.00	3.25	3.50
C (73-76)	2.25	2.75	3.00	3.25
C- (70-72)	2.00	2.50	2.75	3.00
D+ (67-69)	1.75	2.25	2.50	2.75
D (63-66)	1.50	2.00	2.25	2.50
D- (60-62)	1.25	1.75	2.00	2.25
F (0-59)	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00

FOUNDATIONS

COMPREHENSIVE

HONORS/AP

Goals of Course

To develop reading, verbal, writing, and study skills and content knowledge; to apply skills to assignments and/or problems; to prepare students who plan to further their education or enter the world of work.

To develop higher level, reading, verbal, writing, and study skills and content knowledge; to develop abstract, complex language and concepts through application to problem solving; to prepare students who plan on post-secondary education, including four-year colleges.

To develop advanced thinking, reading, verbal, and writing skills; to develop understanding of complex concepts and themes through extensive investigation and sophisticated language and subject matter; to prepare students who plan to attend a four-year college.

Prerequisite Skills

Low average to average reading, writing, math, listening and/or study skills.

Average (grade level) to above average reading, writing, math, listening, and independent study skills.

Teacher recommendation; highly developed academic and independent study skills. High degree of motivation.

Methodology

Instruction includes frequent student-teacher interaction, a multisensory approach, and practice and application of skill at a moderate rate of instruction.

Instruction assumes students are able to master content and concepts with little supervised practice and/or reteaching. Students must be ready for independent application of skills and concepts. The rate of instruction is brisk.

These advanced courses are taught at an accelerated pace. Students must be able to conduct complex research projects and apply skills and concepts independently.

Assignments

Structure reinforcement and extension of taught concepts and skills with moderate independent reading and use of resource materials.

Independent study and research critical analysis, as well as reinforcement and extension of text and resource materials.

In-depth analysis and synthesis of concepts and skills. This requires identification and independent use of resources beyond textbook/class materials.

Evaluation

Written/oral tests, practical applications, research reports, projects, and demonstrations.

Written/oral tests, practical applications, independent research reports, projects, and demonstrations.

Written/oral tests, practical application, independent, complex research projects/reports and demonstrations.

HALL PASS SYSTEM

Once a period has started, all students out of their assigned areas must have in their possession valid corridor passes. Corridor passes must be shown to a teacher or staff member upon request.

HEALTH SERVICES

Merrimack High School provides a school nurse each day when school is in session. Students may seek the assistance of the school nurse for a medical emergency at any time. Otherwise, students should report to their assigned classes to receive passes to the nurse. Students must sign the nurse's log when they enter the office. Students are not allowed to be in possession of any over the counter medication or prescription medication. The nurse can dispense over the counter medications and any prescriptions should be brought to the nurse with a parental permission note.

Medication

Any student required to take medication during school hours should notify the school nurse and obtain information regarding the school policy. Please see [District Policy JLCD](#) for more information on the District's medication administration policies. The school nurse or a designated administrator will assist any student needing to take medication during the school day, except for self-administered medications permitted by District Policy JLCD and approved by the administration. Before this can happen, the school nurse must have received and filed with the student health record:

1. A signed Merrimack School District Prescription Authorization Form or written statement from the prescribing physician specifying: the student's name, medication name, route of administration, dosage, frequency and time of medication administration, the date and duration of the order, and a diagnosis, if not a violation of confidentiality. This will be renewed each school year. If the student is self-carrying medication in accordance with District Policy JLCD, the "hold harmless" section of the Prescription Authorization Form must also be completed by the student's parent/guardian. If a change in medication, dosage, or time schedule is made, the prescribing physician must send another written statement outlining the changes.
2. A signed Merrimack School District Parental Permission to Administer Medication Form from the parent(s)/guardian(s) of the student indicating their desire that the school assist the student in a matter set forth in the physician's statement.
3. Prescription medication should be delivered by a parent/guardian to the nurse in a container labeled by the pharmacy or manufacturer with the student's name, the physician's name, the date of the original prescription and medication name, strength and directions for administration. No more than a 30-school day supply of the prescription for a student shall be stored at the school.
4. For over-the-counter medication parents/guardians will be asked to fill out a Merrimack School District Parental Permission to Administer Medication form. This form can be accessed through the nurse's office or online at the district website.

Students found in possession of over the counter and/or prescription medications, except for self-administered medications permitted under District Policy JLCD, will be addressed in accordance with [School Board policy JICD](#).

HOMEWORK

Homework is intended to support student learning by providing opportunities for practice based on the differentiated needs of students. Homework should be intentionally designed by the teacher to support deeper learning, and build skill acquisition and proficiency. Teachers may assign and grade homework, but it should not be worth more than 10% of a student's overall grade. It is essential that the amount of homework assigned be developmentally appropriate and manageable by the student. Homework completion is the responsibility of the student. The teacher has an obligation to monitor the assigned homework and provide students with timely feedback based on their progress.

Please see [District Policy IKB](#) for more information on homework.

HOMEWORK REQUESTS FOR ABSENT STUDENTS

If students are out for an extended period (3 or more consecutive days) students are strongly encouraged to check Canvas, Google classroom and PowerSchool for any assignments. Parents can also request a log-in for Canvas Observer accounts if needed.

Any extended absences, including family vacations, must be approved by the principal through a written request by parents/guardians. The district attendance policy does not excuse days missed due to family vacation taken outside of those listed on the district calendar unless otherwise approved. It is encouraged that no lengthy projects, papers, and homework assignments during district vacation days. This expectation is encouraged so that students and staff may use the time in non-school activities.

Please see [District Policy JH](#) for more information about the District's attendance policies.

HONOR ROLL

A student must be enrolled in a minimum of 2.5 credits per semester in order to qualify for the honor roll.

High Honors – All A's

Honors – All A's and B's

IDENTIFICATION BADGES

All staff and students at Merrimack High School will be issued ID badges prior to the beginning of the school year. Each student's current school year badge should be carried on his/her person and be shown to any school staff member when asked. For ID purposes, the badge will be required to admittance to school dances and some other events.

When a student realizes that he/she has misplaced or lost a badge, he/she should report to the Main Office. There will be a charge of \$3.00 for a replacement. ID badges are the property of the school and must not be defaced, forged, or transferred to any other person.

INSURANCE FOR DISTRICT ISSUED DEVICES

An uninsured device will incur full repair/replacement cost at the device holder/family expense. Cases of hardship should be directed to your building principal.

Accident insurance is available for purchase at the beginning of the school year for a nominal fee these forms are available online. *if damage is intentional or deemed intentional resulting from a student's deliberate actions, insurance will not cover the cost of the device.

Pay by Cash or check link:

<https://www.sau26.org/cms/lib/NH02217442/Centricity/Domain/11/Student%20Device%20Repair%20Coverage%20updated%20july%202025.pdf>

MySchool Bucks Link: [MySchoolBucks](#)

District Device Repair Coverage: [Merrimack School District Student Device Repair Coverage](#)

District Technology Services: [Technology Services / General Information](#)

District issued ChromeBook Insurance is recommended. The cost is 10.00. [Chromebook Insurance](#)

LEAVING SCHOOL BUILDINGS/GROUNDS

Once a student arrives on school property, he/she is expected to enter and remain in the school building. Students are not permitted to leave the school building or school grounds without prior permission from the school nurse or an administrator designee and signing out at the main office. If a student has left without such prior permission, he/she may be subject to disciplinary action and to a search upon return.

LIBRARY SERVICES

The Merrimack School Library Program offers students access to the District's entire collection of print and non-print resources to support their academic needs and pursue their leisure time interests. By teaching students how to find and use information, the library staff strives to help all students become independent, responsible, and frequent library users.

The High School Learning Commons is open to students from 7:00 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. daily. Students are encouraged to use the learning commons as often as they wish and may come any time during the school day with their teacher's permission.

While no fines are charged for materials that have not been returned on time, students are required to either renew or return all items in a timely fashion. If the materials are not returned or renewed, students will be given notice to remind them to return or renew the items. If, after several notices are sent, the materials still have not been returned, the cost of replacing the materials will be added to students' PowerSchool accounts. Additionally, if students damage materials, they may be charged for the cost of replacing the materials. These charges will be added to students' PowerSchool accounts. Fines will be removed from PowerSchool when the materials are returned or the fines are paid to the High School Learning Commons. New Hampshire RSA 201-D:11 states that all library user records are confidential. In compliance with this law, libraries are not permitted to state the title of the item to someone other than the borrower. Report cards and transcripts may be held pending payment for any items that have been lost, damaged, or not returned.

In the event that students do not exercise good judgment, learning commons personnel may ask students to refrain from using the learning commons during their free periods for such things as vandalism and inappropriate or disruptive behavior. The staff also may suspend students' borrowing privileges if they abuse materials or repeatedly fail to return overdue items.

LOCKERS

Lockers are provided as a place for students to keep their personal belongings. Students are only permitted to use their assigned locker. Students are encouraged to request a lock from the main office. There is no cost for the lock, but a \$5.00 loan charge will be assessed at the time the lock is received by the student. This loan charge will be returned to the student when the lock is returned. Only school locks are permitted on lockers. Personal locks will be removed at the student's expense.

The school is not responsible for lost or stolen articles. Student lockers are school property and may be opened for inspection by authorized personnel at any time, including search and seizure.

MAKE-UP WORK/INCOMPLETES

Students may submit make-up work following an absence from class. However, it must be done in a reasonable amount of time to be determined by the teacher and student involved.

The following will be used as guidelines:

- A minimum of one (1) day for each day absent will be granted for make-up work.
- It is the student's responsibility to meet with his/her teacher to make arrangements to complete make-up work due to absence or suspension.
- Students are encouraged to meet with their teacher and/or school counselor to plan a schedule for make-up work after extended absences.
- "0" grade may be given for graded work missed due to class "cuts" and/or truancy.
- In the case of a grade of "incomplete" received on a report card: The teacher and student involved must develop a written agreement including deadlines for make-up work. A copy of this agreement must be forwarded to the student's School counselor by the teacher
- Grades of "incomplete" not completed by the deadline will become an "F".

MEAL CHARGING POLICY

Students will be allowed to charge a reimbursable meal in grades K-12 if the funds in their meals account cannot cover the cost of a school meal. The cashiers will tell the students verbally when their accounts are running a low balance. We allow students to charge reimbursable meals up to an amount not greater than \$20.00. Notices will be sent home to the parent via the student. If we do not receive payment, a phone call will be made to the parent with the expectation that the account will be paid in full.

We have an on-line parent payment system in place called My School Bucks. The system allows parents to view their student's account and make deposits online with credit cards. The system allows parents to receive a low-balance email to help remind them to make a deposit.

The charge will create a negative balance in their meal account until it is paid back.

Any negative account balances need to be brought to zero in the food service fund at the close of the fiscal year. If any negative balances remain, they will need to be covered by the general fund.

Student Meal Account Summary

Students attending Merrimack High School may purchase meals and a la carte items from the school cafeteria. Positive balance funds from the previous year will be carried over into the student's account. The student may access their account by using their student ID which has their account bar code. This is the most secure and accurate way for them to access their account. Lost cards may be replaced from the high school office. Accounts may also be accessed using the student's name if necessary.

Funds can be deposited into their accounts with cash, check, or by using the online deposit website. Checks will be accepted at the serving line and should include the deposit to The Merrimack School District. Checks should be made out in pen and include the student's name on the memo line.

The online website for depositing money into students' accounts is www.myschoolbucks.com. This website will allow parents to view their student's account and deposit funds using a credit card. It will also give the parent the option to set up a low balance fund reminder which will be sent to their e-mail. A transaction fee of \$3.25 per transaction will be charged when a deposit is made via a credit card and \$2.75 fee per transaction via electronic check.. The parent may view their student's account without any charge. The parent may set up the student account on My School Bucks by using the student ID number issued by the school or by the student's birthdate.

Students who have gone into a negative balance will be allowed to charge a reimbursable meal per the District Charging Policy. Students will not be able to charge a la carte items.

MODIFIED SCHEDULE: EARLY RELEASE/LATE ARRIVAL PRIVILEGE — JUNIORS AND SENIORS ONLY

To be eligible for Late Arrival or Early Release the following conditions must be met:

Juniors in good academic standing with a C- or better may have Late Arrival OR Early Release in their schedule each semester. Juniors with Early Release/Late Arrival may have:

Period 1 or 8 off

Seniors in good academic standing may have Late Arrival AND/OR Early Release in their schedule each semester. Seniors with Early Release/Late Arrival may have either:

Period 1 off

Period 8 off

Period 1 and 2 off

Period 7 and 8 off

Period 1 and 8 off

- A junior/senior's late arrival/early release privileges may be revoked at an time by the administration.
- Junior/Seniors granted late arrival should arrive at school no earlier than five minutes before the end of the previous class unless prior arrangements have been made with their assistant principal. Junior/Seniors granted early release must leave school immediately following their seventh period class and cannot return until after 2:15 p.m. unless prior arrangements have been made with their assistant principal.
- Juniors/Seniors who wish to be considered for late arrival/early release but who do not meet the above criteria should schedule a meeting with their assistant principal to discuss this issue.
- Parent/guardians permission must be granted in writing.

NATIONAL HONOR SOCIETY

Members of the Robert McGaw Chapter of the National Honor Society must have established fine records of service and academic achievement as well as possess qualities of leadership and good character. The society is a service organization that provides for the needs of the school and the community, including a number of service projects in and out of the high school community.

Guidelines for National Honor Society Selection

1. For all candidates the grade point cumulative average at the end of the second semester of the Sophomore or Junior year must be equivalent to or better than a 4.0
2. All students meeting the above scholastic eligibility requirement will be invited to a meeting with the advisor(s) where they will be informed about the National Honor Society and its responsibilities, and be given the "service rating sheet".
3. All NHS candidates will give a Ratings Form to 3 teachers, 2 needing to be Core Teachers. These teachers will complete the rating form and submit them to the NHS Faculty Council.
4. Students must complete their "Service Rating Sheet" and achieve a minimum number of 8 activity points, a teacher rating of at least 7.5 each for Character and Leadership and 25 hours per year of community service in order to be considered for membership in the NHS.

5. A five-member faculty council, appointed by the Principal, will evaluate “Service Rating Sheets” and teacher ratings. Candidates are notified by letter whether or not they have been nominated following the faculty council meeting. Those who have not been nominated may meet with an advisor in person to discuss areas in their profile that they might strengthen. Students who were not nominated may also meet with the MHS Assistant Principal for further information about the decision.

The above guidelines are in compliance with the National Honor Society Handbook. These guidelines are subject to change whenever there are updates or regulation changes made in the National Constitution or the By-Laws.

All NHS members must maintain the standards of service, character, leadership, and scholarship. Any student who’s GPA drops below 4.0 who missed a major service commitment or two NHS meetings without being excused, or who has a significant discipline incident will be placed on probation. The student and his/her parents will receive written notification that he or she will have one semester in which to remedy the deficiency. If, at the end of that time, the student still falls short of the standard for membership, the faculty council will meet to vote on his/her status. The student and his/her parents will be notified about the meeting and given the opportunity to present the student’s case to the Council.

NEW HAMPSHIRE SCHOLARS PROGRAM

The New Hampshire Scholars Program recommends a Core Course of Study to high school students giving every participating student the advantage of well-rounded, more challenging coursework in English, Math, Science, Social Studies, and Foreign Language. Students who undertake this rigorous Core Course of Study will challenge themselves to do their best work during their high school career and will enjoy a wider range of post-secondary options upon graduation.

New Hampshire Scholars spell out some of the courses you have to take.

- English – 4 years;
- Math – 3 years, to include Algebra 1, Geometry, and Algebra II;
- Laboratory Science – 3 years of basic Laboratory Science, to include Biology, Chemistry, and Physics;
- Social Studies – 3.5 years, (chosen from U.S. and World History, World Geography, Economics, and Government); and Psychology.
- Foreign Language – 2 years of the same foreign language other than English.

Students who complete this Core Course of Study will be prepared both for college and work. They will also be recognized at graduation as New Hampshire Scholars in the program.

PARKING AND MOTOR VEHICLES

Only students issued a current Merrimack High School parking sticker may park during the school day. All school rules apply in the parking lot. The administration reserves the right to search vehicles when appropriate and consistent with their search and seizure policy. Students must park in designated areas between parking space lines. Parking of student vehicles elsewhere on school grounds is not permitted. See parking map issued at time of parking permit purchase.

Violations may result in tickets with fines from \$20.00 (with a permit) to \$50.00 (without a permit) or towing at the driver’s risk and expense. **School parking violation decals are parking tickets** that are affixed to a car’s window and have to be addressed to with an administrator at the high school office. Repeated violations will result in a suspension and/or loss of driving/parking privileges. No refunds or reimbursements will be given for revoked parking permits or towing.

Student parking stickers will be sold to seniors and then to juniors as spaces are available. Parking stickers are not transferable to another student. A lottery system will be used when necessary. To purchase a sticker, a student must produce his/her MHS ID, his/her valid driver’s license, and the car registration along with paying a fee of \$50.00. The fee is \$25.00 for vehicles registered for only the second semester. The vehicle must be registered to an immediate family member.

Once a student has arrived on school property, he/she should leave the parking area and enter the school building. The parking lots are off limits to all students during the day.

The speed limit on school property is 15 miles per hour. The exit road from the student parking lot is school property. Persons failing to follow good driving practice will lose privileges on school grounds, and the police will be notified. Any student owing any money to the school must have this obligation met before a parking permit is issued.

* See Search and Seizure protocol

POSTERS/SIGNAGE

All posters or announcements to be displayed anywhere in the building, including bulletin boards, must be approved by the Administration. Please attach posters only to surfaces that will not be marred by masking tape. It is understood that all signs and posters will be taken down after a reasonable length of time.

PUBLICATION OF STUDENT INFORMATION

The Merrimack School District (MSD) maintains educational records and may provide information designated as Directory Information consistent with the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA). Each year, the MSD shall give parents public notice of the types of information designated as Directory Information (included in the Appendix of the Parent-Student Handbook) and will release such Directory Information, at its discretion, to external sources upon receipt of a request for such information unless a parent requests that such information be withheld. By a specified time after parents are notified of the review rights, parents may request in writing to remove all or part of the information on their child that they do not wish to be available to the public. Such approval shall be renewed on an annual basis.

RELIGIOUS RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES

Respect for the religious rights and responsibilities of students and teachers have and always will be a part of the Merrimack School District. Literature describing these rights and responsibilities is available in each school library. The following resources are currently available on this topic: Religious Expectations in the Public School (a memo from the Secretary of Education, Richard Riley, date August 10, 1995) and Religion in Public Schools: A Joint Statement of Current Law (dated April 1995). Similar literature is available in the Merrimack Public Library for Parents and other interested citizens.

(Additional resources are available at the following website:

https://www2.ed.gov/policy/gen/guid/religionandschools/prayer_guidance.html)

Please also see [District Policy Commitment to Religious Neutrality \(ACD\)](#).

SCHOOL COUNSELING

The School Counseling Department assists and provides students with a culturally competent, comprehensive school counseling program that supports that development of the knowledge, mindset, skills/competencies necessary for academic success, social/emotional development and college and career readiness. School counselors maximize student success by building strong relationships with students and families, and by promoting access and equality for all students. School counselors will provide direct and indirect services to students.

Students are encouraged to seek the assistance of their counselor for critical issues or emergencies at any time.

SPECIAL EDUCATION SERVICES

The District has a duty to ensure that every child who is suspected or known to be a child with a disability is referred for further evaluation. See Ed 105.02(a). The Department of Special Education provides diagnostic, remedial and consultative services for special needs students in all grades. Special needs students are defined as students who need additional services outside the classroom program. The Referral Review Team initially processes referrals and if there is a recommendation for evaluation, a formal team meeting is held to design and Individual Education Plan.

Those students and parents interested in special education services should refer to the school district's Procedural Safeguards Booklet for Parents available from the Department of Special Services (603-424-6211) or through the high school Special Education Director at 603-424-6204

STANDARDIZED TESTING

SAT and PSAT Exam dates will be determined and communicated by the Principal.

STUDENT CLUBS

Merrimack High School provides a wide variety of extra-curricular, curricular-related, and social activities and clubs. We believe that every student should become involved beyond the classroom as a way of meeting friends, learning new skills, discovering new capabilities, building character and leadership, providing a service to the school and community, and just having fun.

Attendance at or participation in interscholastic sports and student activities is a privilege. Any violations of the [Policy on Student Behavior, Conduct, Discipline, and Due Process \(Policy JICD\)](#) or the [Merrimack School District Co-Curricular Expectations](#) may result in suspension from these athletic events and student activities. Furthermore, dances, class-based events, Sophomore Semi, Junior Prom, Senior Week (including the Graduation Ceremony) are examples of activities from which students could be excluded if they violate school rules. Student attendance and lack of progress toward graduation are also factors that may lead to the suspension from the activities listed above.

Students who wish to start an activity or club that is not listed will need to meet with an Assistant Principal. All newly proposed clubs and activities may be subject to review by the Co-curricular Advisory Council.

Attendance: Students must follow the [Merrimack School District Co-Curricular Expectations](#).

Behavior: The School Board policy on [Student Behavior, Conduct, Discipline, and Due Process \(Policy JICD\)](#) is in full force at all student activities. Several clubs and organizations have constitutional articles which also discuss behavioral expectations and are part of the organization's by-laws. The Merrimack School District Co-Curricular Expectations and the NHIAA codes also include additional stipulations.

Buses: There are late buses daily at 4:00pm for students who participate in after-school activities.

STUDENT COUNCIL

Student Council members are elected representatives of the student body at large. Among its responsibilities, the Student Council sponsors assemblies, organizes service projects, and serves as a liaison between students and the faculty.

The Student Council will consist of 1) An Executive Board consisting of the following positions: President, Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer, and School Board Representative and 2) The elected Class Officers from the Senior, Junior, Sophomore, and Freshman classes. Class Representatives for each of the four classes will augment class officers and can vote within their class activities. Class Representatives can attend Student Council meetings but only Class Officers will maintain voting privileges.

Class Officers and Representatives are elected each Spring for the following year. For incoming Freshman, elections will be held in the Fall of their Freshman year. Along with the faculty advisor(s), the officers oversee class activities for each class.

Officers and Representative Expectations:

1. All members of Student Council are expected to attend ALL meetings of the Student Council. Members who have more than two unexcused absences per semester shall be subject to dismissal from office/membership for failure to fulfill their duties. Members should notify the faculty advisor(s) of an absence in advance. Participation in other clubs and teams is not an excused absence. Sports games are an exception.

2. Members of Student Council will be required to promote school spirit/pride and participate in all Student Council activities, including evenings, weekends, and over the summer. Members who do not fulfill this requirement shall be subject to dismissal from office/membership for failure to fulfill their duties.
3. All members of the Student Council shall maintain a 2.75 unweighted grade point average at minimum. Any member whose grade point average falls below a 2.75 in any quarter shall be placed on probation until the next grade report (i.e. quarter-based report card). Students on academic probation are prohibited from voting in any Student Council decisions. If the member's grade point average remains below a 2.75 at the following interim report, the student will be dismissed from Student Council.
4. Each member of the Student Council must maintain a high standard of ethical and moral conduct adhering fully with the Merrimack High Schools Code of Conduct. While social media has a large impact on advertising and the success of events, members are responsible for what is posted to their individual sites. Members may be subject to consequences for postings that do not reflect themselves, the Student Council organization, or school in a positive, respectful and appropriate way. Violations of the code of conduct may result in automatic dismissal from office and/or general membership as a part of Student Council; the Student Council Advisor(s). The MHS Administration reserves this right.

Members are considered for student elections based on the following criteria:

1. Complete Application, submitted on or before the deadline.
2. Teacher/Class Advisor Recommendations (Criteria for recommendation must be a 90 or higher on the rubrics)
3. CPA (minimum 2.75) unweighted
4. No Disciplinary Violations
5. Students running for Senior Officer positions must have 1 year minimum StuCo experience. No prior experience required for Senior Class Representatives.

Applications contain campaign rules and expectations, deadlines and job roles.

STUDENT CANCELLATION/DELAYED OPENING

The decision to cancel or delay the opening of school will be made and announced no later than 6:30 a.m. These announcements will be made on local radio stations and Channel 9 TV, in addition to the use of the District's Automated Calling System.

The two-hour delayed school opening policy, if utilized during inclement weather, will mean that all bus transportation will be delayed two hours and that the opening of school on that day will also be delayed by two hours. School will close at its regular time.

[\(See the Delayed Bell Schedule.\)](#)

STUDENT PROCEDURES REGARDING STUDENTS OF DIVORCED OR SEPARATED PARENTS

It is the practice of Merrimack High School to cooperate with the parents of all children registered in the district. However, in order to communicate effectively, sensitively, and legally with parents who are divorced or separated regarding issues involving their children at Merrimack High School, we have adopted the following procedures:

1. In the event only one parent has retained legal rights and responsibilities for a child, all communication concerning the child will be directed by school officials only to that parent.
2. In the event both parents have legal rights and responsibilities for a child, school officials will normally direct communications to the parents having physical custody of the child, and who have registered the child in school with respect to questions concerning the child's education and matters pertaining hereto unless notified differently. If a parent who does not have physical custody of a child (but has not had his/her parental rights terminated) would like to receive direct communications and/or mailings concerning the child, they should notify the Principal of this request in writing.

SEARCH AND SEIZURE

When an administrator (1) receives information from a person believed by him/her to be a reliable source, (2) witnesses an event or events, or (3) has other information or reasons which, in any of the three foregoing instances, yields a reasonable suspicion based on objective criteria to believe that a student is in possession of tobacco products, alcoholic beverage(s), illegal narcotic(s), dangerous drug(s) drug paraphernalia, intoxicant(s) of any kind, weapons or any “look-alikes” of the aforementioned, the administrator has the duty and the right to conduct a reasonable search of the individual, the individual’s backpack, locker, etc. or vehicle if on school property, whichever is/are a part of the information received or event viewed.

In conducting this search, local or State Police canines may be utilized to sniff out illegal substances. Any illegal substance found will be used in upholding the school’s drug abuse policy in order to protect and maintain the safety, health, and well-being of the students entrusted to our care. Our aim is to provide a drug-free environment for all students at Merrimack High School.

If drug paraphernalia is confiscated along with alcoholic beverage(s), illegal narcotic(s), dangerous drug(s), intoxicant(s) or any kind of “look-alike”, all material will be given to the police.

Unauthorized Areas

In order to insure the atmosphere is conducive to learning and to permit adequate supervision in the school, the following areas are unauthorized to students:

1. Parking lots (during school hours);
2. Parked cars;
3. Unsupervised areas within the building;
4. Areas under construction or renovation; and
5. Staff facilities.

Students who are in unauthorized or restricted areas may be subject to search and consequences consistent with [Policy JICD](#).

SKATEBOARDING

Skateboarding is prohibited on Merrimack High School property. Skateboards must be stored in student lockers. If the skateboard is confiscated for the first time, students may pick the skateboard up after the last period of the school day. Subsequent confiscation will result in the student’s parent picking up the skateboard and possible disciplinary action.

SMOKING/VAPING

All smoking/vaping on school property is prohibited. Possession of tobacco products by students, including, but not limited to smoking tobacco, chewing tobacco, smokeless tobacco and e-cigarettes are also prohibited. Students will be referred to the police when appropriate as per RSA 155:64-77.

Students are considered to be smoking when they have vaping devices/cigarettes lighted or unlighted, in hand, when smoke/vape is coming out of the student’s mouth or nose, or when circumstances are such that it is apparent that the student has been smoking/vaping, i.e., alone in a room filled with smoke/vape clouds and a cigarette/device lies at the foot of the student or more than one student is in a smoky stall. Students have the right to a smoke/vape-free environment. Students having tobacco/nicotine products or related smoking/vaping materials in their possession will have them confiscated. These will not be returned to the student. (See Policies [ADC](#), [GBED](#), [JICG](#))

* See Search and Seizure Protocol

STUDENTS 18 YEARS OR OLDER

The rules and regulations at Merrimack High School are for all students. High school for persons over the age of eighteen is optional. If students are to attend, they must comply with reasonable rules and regulations. Students may sign themselves out in the main office.

TEACHER QUALIFICATIONS

The Merrimack School District adheres to New Hampshire's Teacher Certification Requirements under the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) of 2015. Parents have the right to know the qualifications of their child's teacher. This includes the state certification and degrees held. Information may be obtained from the Superintendent's office at 603-424-6200.

THREATS/VERBAL AND PHYSICAL/BULLYING/CYBERBULLYING

Verbal and/or physical threats, or endangering the physical or psychological well-being of others (including instigating, sexual, intimidation, or other forms of harassment), are not tolerated. All types of hazing or initiation are prohibited. Such hazing may include initiation demands and/or rites. Please see Policies [Pupil Safety and Violence Prevention - Bullying \(JICK\)](#) and [Hazing Policy \(JICFA\)](#).

VISITORS TO SCHOOL

All volunteers and other visitors in the school must sign in at the Main Office. As a rule, student visitors will not be permitted in the school. Anyone in the building without administrative authorization will be considered trespassing, and the police will be notified.

WORKING PAPERS

Students under the age of sixteen needing working papers may get them in the main office. Working papers will be granted in accordance with RSA 276-A.

APPENDIX

NEW HAMPSHIRE STATE LAW

RSA 193:1 Duty of Parents; Compulsory Attendance by Pupil

I. A parent of any child at least 6 years of age and under 18 years of age shall cause such child to attend the public school to which the child is assigned in the child's resident district. Such child shall attend full time when such school is in session unless:

(a) The child is attending a New Hampshire public school outside the district to which the child is assigned or an approved New Hampshire private school for the same time;

(b) The child is receiving home education pursuant to RSA 193-A and is therefore exempt from this requirement;

(c) The relevant school district superintendent has excused a child from attendance because the child is physically or mentally unable to attend school or has been temporarily excused upon the request of the parent for purposes agreed upon by the school authorities and the parent. Such excused absences shall not be permitted if they cause a serious adverse effect upon the student's educational progress. Students excused for such temporary absences may be claimed as full-time pupils for purposes of calculating state aid under RSA 186-C:18 and adequate education grants under RSA 198:41;

(d) The child is attending a public or private school located in another state which has been approved by the state education agency of the state in which the school is located or is attending a private school located in New Hampshire that is approved as a school tuition program by the school board pursuant to RSA 193:3, VII;

(e) The pupil has been exempted from attendance pursuant to RSA 193:5;

(f) The pupil has successfully completed all requirements for graduation and the school district is prepared to issue a diploma or the pupil has successfully achieved the equivalent of a high school diploma by either:

(1) Obtaining a high school equivalency certificate; or

(2) Documenting the completion of a home school program at the high school level by submitting a certificate or letter to the department of education;

(g) The pupil has been accepted into an accredited postsecondary education program;

(h) The pupil obtains a waiver from the superintendent, which shall only be granted upon proof that the pupil is 16 years of age or older and has an alternative learning plan for obtaining either a high school diploma or its equivalent.

(1) Alternative learning plans shall include age-appropriate academic rigor and the flexibility to incorporate the pupil's interests and manner of learning. These plans may include, but are not limited to, such components or combination of components of extended learning opportunities such as independent study, private instruction, performing groups, internships, community service, apprenticeships, and online courses.

(2) Alternative learning plans shall be developed, and amended if necessary, in consultation with the pupil, a school guidance counselor, the school principal, and at least one parent or guardian of the pupil, and submitted to the school district superintendent for approval.

(3) If the superintendent does not approve the alternative learning plan, the parent or guardian of the pupil may appeal such decision of the local school board. A parent or guardian may appeal the decision of the local school board to the state board of education consistent with the provisions of RSA 21-N:11, III; or

I. The pupil is enrolled in the education freedom account program pursuant to RSA 194-F and is therefore exempt from this requirement.

II. A child who reaches the sixth birthday after September 30 shall not be required to attend school under the provisions of this section until the following school year.

III. In this section, "parent" means parent, guardian, or person having legal custody of a child.

Penalty. Any person who does not comply with the requirements of this subdivision shall be guilty of violation and any fines collected hereunder shall be for the use of the district. (RSA 193:7)

ANNUAL NOTIFICATION OF RIGHTS CONCERNING STUDENT RECORDS AND DIRECTORY INFORMATION

The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) affords parents and students who are 18 years of age or older (“eligible students”) certain rights with respect to the student’s education records. These rights are:

- 1) The right to inspect and review the student’s education records within 14 days after the day the District receives a request for access.

Parents or eligible students who wish to inspect their child’s or their education records should submit to the school principal (or appropriate school official) a written request that identifies the records they wish to inspect. The school official will make arrangements for access and notify the parent or eligible student of the time and place where the records may be inspected.

- 2) The right to request the amendment of the student’s education records that the parent or eligible student believes are inaccurate, misleading, or otherwise in violation of the student’s privacy rights under FERPA.

Parents or eligible students who wish to ask the District to amend their child’s or their education record should write the school principal (or appropriate school official), clearly identify the part of the record they want changed, and specify why it should be changed. If the school decides not to amend the record as requested by the parent or eligible student, the school will notify the parent or eligible student of the decision and of their right to a hearing regarding the request for amendment. Additional information regarding the hearing procedures will be provided to the parent or eligible student when notified of the right to a hearing.

- 3) The right to provide written consent before the school discloses personally identifiable information (PII) from the student’s education records, except to the extent that FERPA authorizes disclosure without consent.

One exception, which permits disclosure without consent, is disclosure to school officials with legitimate educational interests. A school official typically includes a person employed by the school or school district as an administrator, supervisor, instructor, or support staff member (including health or medical staff and law enforcement unit personnel) or a person serving on the school board. A school official also may include a volunteer, contractor, or consultant who, while not employed by the school, performs an institutional service or function for which the school would otherwise use its own employees and who is under the direct control of the school with respect to the use and maintenance of personally identifiable information from education records, such as an attorney, auditor, medical consultant, or therapist; a parent or student volunteering to serve on an official committee, such as a disciplinary or grievance committee; or a parent, student, or other volunteer assisting another school official in performing his or her tasks. A school official typically has a legitimate educational interest if the official needs to review an education record in order to fulfill his or her professional responsibility.

Upon request, the school discloses education records without consent to officials of another school or school district in which a student seeks or intends to enroll, or is already enrolled if the disclosure is for purposes of the student’s enrollment or transfer. The District will make a reasonable attempt to notify the parent/guardian/adult student of the records transfer, unless the request is initiated by the parent/guardian/adult student.

- 4) The right to file a complaint with the U.S. Department of Education concerning alleged failures by the District to comply with the requirements of FERPA. The name and address of the Office that administers FERPA are:

Student Privacy Policy Office
U.S. Department of Education
400 Maryland Avenue, SW
Washington, DC 20202

See the list below of the disclosures that elementary and secondary schools may make without consent.

FERPA permits the disclosure of PII from students' education records, without consent of the Parent/Guardian or eligible student, if the disclosure meets certain conditions found in 34 CFR § 99.31 of the FERPA regulations. Except for disclosures to school officials, disclosures related to some judicial orders or lawfully issued subpoenas, disclosures of directory information, and disclosures to the Parent/Guardian or eligible student, 34 CFR § 99.32 of the FERPA regulations requires the school to record the disclosure. Parents/Guardians and eligible students have a right to inspect and review the record of disclosures. A school may disclose PII from the education records of a student without obtaining prior written consent of the Parents/Guardians or the eligible student:

- To other school officials, including teachers, within the educational agency or institution whom the school has determined to have legitimate educational interests. This includes contractors, consultants, volunteers, or other parties to whom the school has outsourced institutional services or functions, provided that the conditions listed in 34 CFR § 99.31(a)(1)(i)(B)(1) - (a)(1)(i)(B)(3) are met. (34 CFR § 99.31(a)(1))
- To officials of another school, school system, or institution of postsecondary education where the student seeks or intends to enroll, or where the student is already enrolled if the disclosure is for purposes related to the student's enrollment or transfer, subject to the requirements of 34 CFR § 99.34. (34 CFR § 99.31(a)(3)(ii)(2))
- To authorized representatives of the U. S. Comptroller General, the U. S. Attorney General, the U.S. Secretary of Education, or State and local educational authorities, such as the State educational agency (SEA) in the Parent/Guardian or eligible student's State. Disclosures under this provision may be made, subject to the requirements of 34 CFR § 99.35, in connection with an audit or evaluation of Federal- or State- supported education programs, or for the enforcement of or compliance with Federal legal requirements that relate to those programs. These entities may make further disclosures of PII to outside entities that are designated by them as their authorized representatives to conduct any audit, evaluation, or enforcement or compliance activity on their behalf, if applicable requirements are met. (34 CFR § 99.31(a)(3)(ii)(3) and 34 CFR § 99.35)
- In connection with financial aid for which the student has applied or which the student has received, if the information is necessary for such purposes as to determine eligibility for the aid, determine the amount of the aid, determine the conditions of the aid, or enforce the terms and conditions of the aid. (34 CFR § 99.31(a)(3)(ii)(4)(i))
- To State and local officials or authorities to whom information is specifically allowed to be reported or disclosed by a state statute that concerns the juvenile justice system and the system's ability to effectively serve, prior to adjudication, the student whose records were released, subject to 34 CFR § 99.38. (34 CFR § 99.31(a)(3)(ii)(5))
- To organizations conducting studies for, or on behalf of, the school, to: (a) develop, validate, or administer predictive tests; (b) administer student aid programs; or (c) Improve instruction, if applicable requirements are met. (34 CFR § 99.31(a)(3)(ii)(6))
- To accrediting organizations to carry out their accrediting functions. (34 CFR § 99.31(a)(3)(ii)(7))
- To Parents/Guardians of an eligible student if the student is dependent for IRS tax purposes. (34 CFR § 99.31(a)(3)(ii)(8))
- To comply with a judicial order or lawfully issued subpoena if applicable requirements are met. (34 CFR § 99.31(a)(3)(ii)(9))
- To appropriate officials in connection with a health or safety emergency, subject to 34 CFR § 99.36. (34 CFR § 99.31(a)(3)(ii)(10))
- Information the school has designated as "directory information" if applicable requirements under 34 CFR § 99.37 are met. (34 CFR § 99.31(a)(3)(ii)(11))
- To an agency caseworker or other representative of a State or local child welfare agency or tribal organization who is authorized to access a student's case plan when such agency or organization is legally responsible, in accordance with State or tribal law, for the care and protection of the student in foster care placement. (20 U.S.C. § 1232g(b)(1)(L))
- To the Secretary of Agriculture or authorized representatives of the Food and Nutrition Service for purposes of conducting program monitoring, evaluations, and performance measurements of programs authorized under the Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act or the Child Nutrition Act of 1966, under certain conditions. (20U.S.C. § 1232g(b)(1)(K))

Directory Information

The Merrimack School District defines directory information as the student's name, address, telephone number, date of birth, participation in officially recognized activities and sports, weight and height of members of athletic teams, photograph, dates of attendance, awards, and most recent educational institution attended.

Effective September 15, 1983, the Merrimack School District will continue to release such directory information at its discretion to external sources upon receipt of a request for such information unless a parent or student eighteen years of age requests such information be withheld.

Parents or students eighteen years of age may refuse designation of any or all of the aforementioned directory information for a specific student provided that a written request to that effect is received by the Superintendent of Schools, 36 McElwain Street, Merrimack, NH 03054, **by September 15 of each school year.**

SCHOOL DISTRICT POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

Please note that the District is in the process of reviewing and/or updating many of its policies; therefore, the below may be subject to change throughout the year. Parents and students are encouraged to visit the District's website at <https://www.sau26.org/Page/5040> for all up to date versions of the District's policies.

ATTENDANCE/TRUANCY (JH)

DAILY PHYSICAL ACTIVITY (IMAH)

DISTRIBUTION AND DISPLAY OF INFORMATION AT SCHOOLS (KHC)

EXCEPTIONS TO USE OF SPECIFIC COURSE MATERIALS (IGE)

NON-DISCRIMINATION, EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYMENT and DISTRICT ANTI-DISCRIMINATION PLAN (AC)

PROCEDURAL SAFEGUARDS NON-DISCRIMINATION ON THE BASIS OF DISABILITY (ACE)

PUBLIC COMPLAINTS (KE)

PUBLIC COMPLAINTS ABOUT SCHOOL PERSONNEL, EMPLOYEES, STUDENTS OR ADMINISTRATION (KEB)

NON-EDUCATIONAL SURVEYS AND QUESTIONNAIRES (ILD)

PUPIL SAFETY AND VIOLENCE PREVENTION - BULLYING (JICK)

SERVICE ANIMALS (IMGA)

STUDENT BEHAVIOR, CONDUCT, DISCIPLINE AND DUE PROCESS (JICD)

STUDENT TRANSPORTATION (EEA)

STUDENT USE OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (JICL)

SUICIDE PREVENTION AND RESPONSE PLAN (JLDBB)

The Merrimack Suicide Prevention and Response Plan was implemented in 2020 in response to the Suicide Prevention Education statute RSA 193:J mandating that school districts provide evidence-based suicide prevention education and training to staff and students to “reduce suicides in our school population.” The Merrimack School District seeks to join with families and the community in the important work of suicide prevention, understanding that this is an integral component of the trauma-informed System of Care and Learning Supports that promotes student social-emotional health and wellbeing and equitable access to education. The District recognizes that physical and mental health are integral to student success, both in school and beyond graduation and believes that only through a proactive and collaborative approach between the school, families, and the community, can the problem of youth suicide be addressed. You can read the full text of the policy and plan at

<https://www.sau26.org/cms/lib/NH02217442/Centricity/domain/8/msd%20policies/JLDBB%20-%20Suicide%20Prevention%20and%20Response.pdf>

TITLE IX SEXUAL HARASSMENT POLICY AND GRIEVANCE PROCESS (ACAC)

On August 12, 2024, the Merrimack School Board adopted an updated Title IX Policy and Grievance procedure. This policy has been updated consistent with the revised Title IX regulations and is available online at sau26.org; if you would like a hard copy of the policy, please contact Amy Doyle, Title IX Coordinator, at 603-434-6200.

USE OF PHYSICAL RESTRAINT/SECLUSION (JKAA)

WELLNESS (JLCF)

A full list of the District's policies are available at <https://www.sau26.org/Page/5040>.

TRANSPORTATION

School Bus Rules

Students are expected to be ready to board the bus in a safe manner at the bus stop at least 10 minutes prior to pick up time. If there is a student issue, contact the Transportation Coordinator at 603-440-2282. If there is a route or driver issue contact Student Transportation of America at 603-424-7880.

Cell phones are not to be used on the school bus. This prevents sharing of content that another family may deem inappropriate such as music, videos, recording or taking photos of other people without their permission and posting to social media.

Wait for thumbs up from the bus driver prior to crossing to load or unload. Crossing students should always look both ways after getting the thumbs up.

Food, drinks (except water), and candy/gum are not allowed to be eaten on the bus.

All students should ride the bus that is assigned to their legal address(es). If a student has a hardship and must ride a different bus, a note from the guardian listing the date, the child's name, the reason for the request and the address they are riding to must be submitted to the school office for approval. If approved using the school district guidelines, a copy of the stamped note will be given back to the student to hand to the driver. If a student does not have a stamped note, they cannot ride a different bus or disembark to a different address.

Please notify the bus company if your child has a medical issue that the driver should be made aware of. There are two waves of buses at the middle school and high school.

Middle School/High School Wave 1 consists of buses #1 through #9 and #25 through #36

Middle School/High School Wave 2 consists of buses #17 through #24 and #10 through #16

Student Rules

- Follow directions of the driver the first time given.
- Arrive at the bus stop at least 10 minutes before the bus is scheduled to arrive.
- Wait in a safe place, clear of traffic and at least 10 feet away from where the bus stops.
- Wait in an orderly line and avoid horseplay.
- Cross the road or street in front of the bus only after the bus has come to a complete stop and upon direction of the driver (10 foot minimum crossing distance).
- Go directly to an available or assigned seat when entering the bus.
- Remain seated and keep aisles and exits clear.
- Exhibit classroom conduct at all times.
- Refrain from throwing or passing objects on, from or into buses.
- Allowed to carry only objects that can be held on his/her lap.
- Refrain from the use of profane language and obscene gestures on the bus.
- Refrain from eating and drinking on the bus.
- Respect the rights and safety of others
- Refrain from leaving or boarding the bus at locations other than the assigned stops at home or school.
- Prohibited from using tobacco products, alcohol, drugs, or any controlled substance on the bus.
- Prohibited from carrying hazardous materials, nuisance items and animals onto the bus.
- Prohibited from extending head, arms or objects out of the bus windows.
- Prohibited from hitching rides via the rear bumper or other parts of the bus.

MERRIMACK SCHOOL DISTRICT
School Administrative Unit #26 36 McElwain Street
Merrimack, New Hampshire 03054 Tel. (603) 424-6200 Fax (603) 424-6229

DR. KATHLEEN SCHOLAND
Interim Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum

EVERETT V. OLSEN, Jr.
Chief Educational Officer

MATTHEW D. SHEVENELL
Assistant Superintendent for Business

**ASBESTOS MANAGEMENT PLAN
ANNUAL NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY**

August 28, 2025

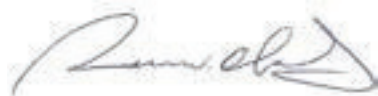
To Staff, Parents/Guardians, and Students:

This notice serves to fulfill annual notification requirements in accordance with Section 763.93 of the *Asbestos Emergency Response Act* (AHERA). AHERA requires that all school buildings be visually inspected by accredited inspectors to identify all asbestos-containing building materials (ACBM) that may be present in the school environment. As required under AHERA, the Merrimack School District must maintain an Asbestos Management Plan (AMP) and keep the AMP on file at the school, and the School Administrative Unit Office. The AMP is available for review during school hours, Monday through Friday.

Periodic surveillance of known asbestos in the Merrimack School District is performed every six months by a designated person to assess the condition of the ACBM. Six-month Assessment Results are maintained and are also available for review in the AMP.

For additional information, please contact our Local Educational Agency Designee, Thomas Touseau at 603-235-2472, or thomas.touseau@sau26.org

Sincerely,



Everett V. Olsen, Jr. Chief Educational Officer

cc: Faculty Staff
Parent/Guardians School Website

Merrimack School District - SAU 26

School Calendar 2025-2026

Approved 2/17/25
Revision 4/21/25

Students: 2 days	August 2025						
	S	M	T	W	T	F	S
Aug 25 - Classroom Set Up - no MESSA						1	2
Aug 26 - District Mtgs/PD - All Staff	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Aug 27 - Building Mtgs/PD - All Staff	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
Aug 28 - First Day of School Transition Day*	17	18	19	20	21	22	23
*Gr.K,5,7,9 Regular Arrival Time	24	25	26	27	28	29	30
*All other grades: 2hr delay	31						

Students: 19 days	January 2026						
	S	M	T	W	T	F	S
Jan 1 - No School/New Years' Day					1	2	3
Jan 2 - No School	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
	11	12	13	14	15	16	17
Jan 19 - No School/MLK Jr Day	18	19	20	21	22	23	24
	25	26	27	28	29	30	31

Students: 20 days	September 2025						
	S	M	T	W	T	F	S
Sept 1 - No School/Labor Day		1	2	3	4	5	6
Sept 10 - PD Day	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
	21	22	23	24	25	26	27
	28	29	30				

Students: 15 days	February 2026						
	S	M	T	W	T	F	S
Feb 4 - Early Release	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
	15	16	17	18	19	20	21
Feb 23 to 27 - No School/February Break	22	23	24	25	26	27	28

Students: 22 days	October 2025						
	S	M	T	W	T	F	S
Oct 10 - Early Release				1	2	3	4
Oct 13 - Columbus/Indigenous people Day	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	

Students: 21 days	March 2026						
	S	M	T	W	T	F	S
Mar 11 - Workshop Day	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
	15	16	17	18	19	20	21
Mar 25 - Early Release	22	23	24	25	26	27	28
	29	30	31				

Students: 16 days	November 2025						
	S	M	T	W	T	F	S
							1
	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Nov 11 - No School/Veterans Day Observed	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
	16	17	18	19	20	21	22
Nov 26-28 - No School/Thanksgiving Break	23	24	25	26	27	28	29

Students: 17 days	April 2026						
	S	M	T	W	T	F	S
Apr 7 - No School/Town Elections				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
Apr 27 to May 1 - No School/Spring Break	26	27	28	29	30		

Students: 15 days	December 2025						
	S	M	T	W	T	F	S
Dec 10 - Early Release		1	2	3	4	5	6
	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
Dec 22 to Jan 2 - No School/Winter Break	21	22	23	24	25	26	27
	28	29	30	31			

Students: 19 days	May 2026						
	S	M	T	W	T	F	S
May 1 - No School						1	2
	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
May 20 - Early Release	17	18	19	20	21	22	23
May 25 - No School/Memorial Day	24	25	26	27	28	29	30
	31						

Students: 14 days	June 2026						
	S	M	T	W	T	F	S
June 13 - Tentative Graduation Date	1	2	3	4	5	6	
June 18 - Tentative last day of school-ER	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
	21	22	23	24	25	26	27
	28	29	30				

Key

Teacher Workshop, No School for Students	
First/Last Day of School for Students	
No School, Observed Holiday/Vacation	
Early Release	
Summer Break/Weekends (no school)	

School Start/End Times

School	Start	End	ER Dismissal
Merrimack Middle School	7:30	2:05	11:00
Merrimack High School	7:30	2:15	11:15
Mastricola Elementary	8:30	2:45	12:15
Reeds Ferry Elementary	8:30	2:45	12:15
Thorntons Ferry Elementary	8:30	2:45	12:15
Mastricola Upper Elementary	8:40	2:55	12:25

Important Dates*

Event	MES	RFS	TFS	MUES	MMS	MHS
Parent Information Night	9/25	9/25	9/25	10/2	9/3 & 9/4	9/11
Fall Parent Teacher Conferences	11/6 & 11/10	11/6 & 11/10	11/6 & 11/10	10/23 & 10/29	10/9 & 10/14	10/9, 10/14
Kindergarten Registration						
Kindergarten Registration Night	1/22	1/22	1/22			
Spring Parent Teacher Conferences	3/10 & 3/12	3/10 & 3/12	3/10 & 3/12	2/12 & 2/17	3/25	3/12, 3/18
Term/Marking Period End Dates	12/5, 3/20, 6/12	12/5, 3/20, 6/12	12/5, 3/20, 6/12	12/5, 3/20, 6/12		10/31, 1/23, 4/3, 6/19
Report Cards	12/19, 4/3, 6/18	12/19, 4/3, 6/18	12/19, 4/3, 6/18	12/19, 4/3, 6/18		11/14, 2/6, 4/17, 6/21
Election Dates	Town Elections April 7, 2026					

* Dates above are subject to change with notice