



**Junior/Senior High School  
Student Handbook**

2021-2022

**WELCOME**

On behalf of the Faculty, Staff and Administration, we welcome each of you to Martensdale-St. Marys CSD. The beginning of each school year represents an opportunity for you to reflect upon personal goals and expectations. We are looking forward to assisting you in fulfilling your educational goal. Cooperation is the key and with that we ask that you read this handbook thoroughly. The handbook answers many questions you may have about our expectations of student conduct as well as listing our school policies and procedures. You are responsible for knowing the contents of this handbook. We are proud to have you with us and encourage you to commit to giving your best effort.

**Equity Policy**

It is the policy of the Martensdale-St. Marys Community School District not to illegally discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, gender, disability, religion, creed, age (for employment), marital status (for programs), sexual orientation, gender identity, and socioeconomic status (for programs) in its educational programs and its employment practices. There is a grievance procedure for processing complaints of discrimination. If you have questions or a grievance related to this policy, please contact the district's Equity Coordinator. MSTM's Equity Coordinator is Josh Moser, secondary principal. His address is MSTM Community School, 390 Burlington, Martensdale, Iowa 50160. His phone number is 641-764-2486 and his email address is josh\_moser@MStM.us.

**MSTM Mission Statement:**

Provide a safe and progressive learning environment to enhance student growth.

**MSTM Vision Statement:**

A caring community that nurtures individuals to become productive lifelong learners.

Contact Information

Superintendent Office	641-764-2466
Jr/Sr High Office	641-764-2486
Activities Director	641-764-2385
Business Manager	641-764-2608

ADMINISTRATION

Tom Wood	-----	Superintendent
Josh Moser	-----	Secondary Principal/Curriculum Director
Max Seeman	-----	Activities Director

OFFICE STAFF

Alison Cornwell	-----	Business Manager
Karen Tomlinson	-----	Superintendent's Secretary
Christy Henderson	-----	Jr/Sr High School Secretary
Kerry Gegner	-----	Activities/Guidance Secretary

JUNIOR-SENIOR HIGH FACULTY AND STAFF

Dave Alfstad	-----	Science
Tim Baker	-----	JV/Varsity Girls Basketball
Andrea Benson	-----	Head Cross Country
Aric Broderick	-----	Social Studies
Adam Chelleen	-----	Spanish
Ralph DiCesare	-----	Asst. JV/V Football
Robbie Eklov	-----	English, Social Studies, Speech Coach

Carli Erickson	Agriculture, FFA Sponsor
Steve Fisher	Business and Marketing, Robotics Sponsor
Randy Folkerts	Guidance Counselor
Joe Franey	Head JV/Varsity Boys Basketball
Sara Franey	Cheer Coach/Activity Sponsor
Dean Furness	Asst. JV/Varsity Girls Basketball
John Gerlitz	Social Studies
Dylan Gibson	Health, PE, Head JH Baseball, Asst. JV/V Football, Head JH Track
Manda Gibson	Head JV/Varsity Golf
Wade Gibson	Asst. JV/Varsity Golf, Head JH Baseball
Sara Gladson	Family and Consumer Science, Economics, FCCLA Sponsor
Beth Grafft	Media Specialist, TAG, Technology Integrationist
Josh Hart	Asst. JV/V Cross Country, JV Boys Basketball, Head Varsity Girls Track
Clint Hill	Head JH Girls Basketball
Jessica Iverson	JH/HS Special Education
Chris Kollbaum	Head JV/Varsity Baseball
Chris Lee	Industrial Technology, Head JH Wrestling
Barb McKenzie	JH/HS Special Education
Marlene Meier	Special Education Associate
Don Newbury	Student Success Coordinator
Brooke Nichols	English, Student Council Advisor, FCA Sponsor
Jodi Noga	TLC Facilitator of Teaching and Learning
Randy Olson	Band, NHS Advisor
Susan Phillips	Math
Max Seeman	Activities Director, Asst. JV/V Football
Jayne Sherwood	PE, Computers, School-To-Work
Sarah Sloan	Math
Kaylee Stubbs	English
Brian Sweet	Head Varsity Wrestling, Head JV/Varsity Softball
Madison Twaddell	Art
Kamron Warden	Chorus, Drama Sponsor
Daniel Webster	PE
Lynn Wente	Nurse
Dinah White	Special Education Associate

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

I pledge allegiance to the flag of the United States of America and to the republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

**SCHOOL SONG**

Go Blue Devils  
 Go Blue Devils  
 Victory is a must!  
 We will fight for our school  
 colors,  
 And the cause is just.  
 Fight-Fight-Fight  
 Fight Blue Devils,  
 Fight Blue Devils,  
 We will win this game,

Teamwork and great school  
 spirit,  
 Will bring us fame.  
 Go Blue Devils,  
 Go Blue Devils,  
 Victory is a must.  
 We will fight for our school  
 colors,  
 And the cause is just.  
 Fight-Fight-Fight

Fight Blue Devils,  
 Fight Blue Devils,  
 We will win this game,  
 Teamwork and great school  
 spirit,  
 Will bring us fame.  
 Go- Go- Go- Go- Go,  
 Fight- Fight- Fight- Fight- Fight,  
 Win- Win- Win- Win- Win,  
 Go, Fight, Win.

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**COVID-19 STATEMENT**  
**(Effective 8/2020)**

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, there are certain policies within and elements of this handbook that may be temporarily suspended or altered in order to be in compliance with current District policies and procedures, as well as ongoing guidance from the Iowa Department of Public Health, the Centers for Disease Control, the Office of the Governor, the Iowa Department of Public Education, and other relevant agencies.

## 1:1 LAPTOP COMPUTER USE AGREEMENT

This agreement is made effective upon receipt of computer, between the Martensdale-St. Marys Community School District (MSTM), the student receiving a laptop ("Student"), and his/her parent(s) or legal guardian ("Parent"). The Student and Parent(s), in consideration of being provided with a laptop computer, software, and related materials (the "Computer") for use while a student is at Martensdale-St. Marys Community School District, hereby agree as follows:

### 1 Equipment

**1.1 Ownership:** MSTM retains sole right of possession of the Computer and grants permission to the Student to use the Computer according to the guidelines set forth in this document. Moreover, Martensdale-St. Marys administrative staff retains the right to collect and/or inspect the Computer at any time, including via electronic remote access; and to alter, add or delete installed software or hardware.

**1.2 Equipment Provided:** Efforts are made to keep all laptops configurations the same. All Computers include a ample RAM and hard-disk space, a protective laptop case, software, and other miscellaneous items. MSTM will retain records of the serial numbers of provided equipment.

**1.3 Substitution of Equipment:** In the event the Computer is inoperable, MSTM has a limited number of spare laptops for use while the Computer is repaired or replaced. However, it cannot guarantee a loaner will be available at all times. This agreement remains in effect for such a substitute. The Student may NOT opt to keep a broken Computer or to avoid using the Computer due to loss or damage. Please note that if the Student forgets to bring the Computer or power adapter to school, a substitute will not be provided.

**1.4 Responsibility for Electronic Data:** The Student is solely responsible for any non-MSTM installed software and for any data stored on the Computer. It is the sole responsibility of the Student to backup such data as necessary. MSTM provides a means for backup along with directions but MSTM does not accept responsibility for any such software.

### 2 Damage or Loss of Equipment

**2.1 Insurance and deductible:** MSTM has purchased insurance which provides the broadest perils of loss regularly available. This insurance coverage is subject to a deductible per loss.

**2.2 Responsibility for Damage:** The Student is responsible for maintaining a 100% working Computer at all times. The Student shall use reasonable care to ensure that the Computer is not damaged. Refer to the computer manual for directions on expected care. In the event of damage not covered by the warranty, the Student and Parent will be billed a fee according to the following schedule:

- First incident – up to \$100
- Second incident – up to \$200
- Third incident – up to full cost of repair or replacement

MSTM reserves the right to charge the Student and Parent the full cost for repair or replacement when damage occurs due to gross negligence as determined by administration.

Examples of gross negligence include, but are not limited to:

- Leaving equipment unattended and unlocked. This includes damage or loss resulting from an unattended and unlocked laptop while at school. (See the *Standards for Proper Care* document for definitions of "attended," "unattended," and "locked.")
- Lending equipment to others other than one's parents/guardians.
- Using equipment in an unsafe environment.
- Using the equipment in an unsafe manner.

**2.3 Responsibility for Loss:** In the event the Computer is lost or stolen, the Student and Parent may be billed the full cost of replacement.

**2.4 Actions Required in the Event of Damage or Loss:** Report the problem immediately to the Director of Technology. If the Computer is stolen or vandalized while not at Martensdale-St. Marys or at a Martensdale-St. Marys sponsored event, the Parent shall file a police report.

**2.5 Technical Support and Repair:** MSTM does not guarantee that the Computer will be operable, but will make technical support, maintenance and repair available.

### 3 Legal and Ethical Use Policies

**3.1 Monitoring:** MSTM will monitor computer use using a variety of methods – including electronic remote access – to assure compliance with MSTM's Legal and Ethical Use Policies.

**3.2 Legal and Ethical Use:** All aspects of MSTM Computer Use Policy remain in effect, except as mentioned in this section.

**3.3 File-sharing and File-sharing Programs:** File-sharing and File-sharing Programs: The installation and/or use of any Internet-based file-sharing tools is explicitly prohibited. File-sharing programs and protocols like BitTorrent, Limewire, Kazaa, Acquisition and others may not be used to facilitate the illegal sharing of copyrighted material (music, video and images).

Individuals with legitimate, school-related needs to use these tools may seek prior approval from the Director of Technology or Building Principal.

#### 3.4 Allowable Customizations

- The Student *is permitted* to alter or add files to customize the assigned Computer to their own working styles (i.e., background screens, default fonts, and other system enhancements).
- The Student *is permitted* to download music to iTunes, but cannot download or install any other software without permission from the MSTM Technology Director.

### Standards for Proper Computer Use and Care

This document is an important addendum to the *Student Laptop Program Acknowledgement Form*. Read it carefully prior to signing. You are expected to follow all the specific guidelines listed in this document and take any additional common sense precautions to protect your assigned Computer. **Loss or damage resulting in failure to abide by the details below may result in full-financial responsibility.**

Read the manual that comes with the laptop. Following Lenovo's advice and the standards below will lead to a Computer that will run smoothly and serve as a reliable, useful and enjoyable tool.

#### Your Responsibilities:

- Treat this equipment with as much care as if it were your own property.
- Bring the Computer and charging unit to MSTM during every school day.
- Keep the Computer either secured (i.e., home or other secure place where others do not have access) or attended (with you or within your sight) at all times. Keep the Computer stored in a secure place (i.e., locked in the locker room or other suitable place) when you cannot directly monitor it. For example, during athletic events, games, practices and trips, store the Computer in a secure place assigned by your coach/sponsor and arrange to return to school to retrieve it after the activity. Laptops left in bags and backpacks, or in unattended classrooms are considered "unattended" and may be confiscated by school personnel as a protection against theft. Unattended and unlocked equipment, if stolen – even at school – will be your full financial responsibility.
- Avoid use in situations that are conducive to loss or damage. For example, never leave Computers in school vans, in the gym, in a locker room, on playing fields or in other areas where it could be damaged or stolen. Avoid storing the Computer in a car other than in a locked trunk. **Avoid leaving the Computer in environments with excessively hot or cold temperatures.**
- Do not let anyone use the Computer other than your parents or guardians. Loss or damage that occurs when anyone else is using your assigned Computer will be your full responsibility.
- Adhere to MSTM School's Computer Use Policy at all times and in all locations. When in doubt about acceptable use, ask the District Teacher Librarian, Director of Technology or Secondary Principal.
- Back up your data. Never consider any electronic information safe when stored on only one device.
- Read and follow general maintenance alerts from school technology personnel.

#### How to Handle Problems

- Report any problems with your device as soon as they are identified to the HS Office or Technology Integrationist (Mrs. Grafft)
- Don't force anything (e.g., connections, popped-off keys, DVD/CDs). Seek help instead.
- When in doubt, ask for help.

**General Care**

- Do not attempt to remove or change the physical structure of the Computer, including the keys, screen cover or plastic casing. Doing so will void the warranty, and families will be responsible for 100 percent of the repair or replacement cost.
- Do not remove or interfere with the serial number or any identification placed on the computer.
- Do not do anything to the Computer that will permanently alter it in any way. (You can apply stickers so long as they are completely removable.)
- Keep the equipment clean. For example, don't eat or drink while using the Computer.

**Carrying the Computer**

- Always completely close the lid and wait for the Computer to enter Sleep mode before moving it, even for short distances. Movement while the Computer is on can result in permanent damage to the hard-drive and therefore the loss of all data. Sleep mode is sufficient – there is little reason to actually shut-down the laptop other than on an airplane or during extended days of inactivity.
- Always store the Computer in the laptop bag provided or in another certified laptop case. Note: do not store anything (e.g., cords, papers or disks) in the area within the laptop case designed for the Computer other than the Computer itself as this may damage the screen.
- We recommend that you carry the laptop bag inside your normal school pack. The “vertical sleeve” style laptop case was chosen expressly for this purpose. Simply slide the Computer in and out while leaving the case within the school pack. Do not overstuff your pack – extreme pressure on the laptop can cause permanent damage to the screen and other components.
- Do not grab and squeeze the Computer, as this can damage the screen and other components

**Screen Care**

The Computer screen can be easily damaged if proper care is not taken. Broken screens are NOT covered by warranty and can be costly to replace. Screens are particularly sensitive to damage from excessive pressure.

- Do not touch the Computer screen with anything (e.g., your finger, pen, pencil, etc.) other than approved Computer screen cleaners.
- Clean the screen with a soft, dry anti-static cloth or with a screen cleaner designed specifically for LCD type screens.
- Never leave any object on the keyboard. Pens or pencils left on the keyboard are guaranteed to crack the screen when the lid is closed, thus resulting in a charge to the family

**Battery Life and Charging**

- Arrive to school each day with a fully charged battery. Establish a routine at home whereby each evening you leave your Computer charging overnight.
- Avoid using the charger in any situation where you or another is likely to trip over the cord. Don't let the battery completely drain. Immediately shutdown if you are unable to connect to the charger.
- Close the lid of the Computer when it is not in use, in order to save battery life and protect the screen.

**Personal Health and Safety**

- Avoid extended use of the Computer resting directly on your lap. The bottom of the laptop can generate significant heat and therefore cause temporary or permanent injury. Use a barrier—such as a book or devices made specifically for this purpose— when working on your lap. Also, avoid lap-based computing while connected to the power adapter as this will significantly increase heat production.
- Avoid lengthy use involving repetitive tasks (such as typing and use of the track-pad). Take frequent breaks as well as alter your physical position (typing while standing, sitting, leaning, etc.) to minimize discomfort. If possible, set up a workstation at home with an external keyboard and mouse that allows you to situate the screen at eye-level and keyboard at lap-level.
- Read the safety warnings included in the Lenovo user guide.

**ABSENCE FROM SCHOOL**

If a student will be missing all or part of a school day for a non-school activity, they must pick up an “Absent from Class” slip and have it signed by all their teachers. Before teachers sign the slip the student must have all assignments completed for their class. All slips must be returned no later than 8:20 am the morning prior to leaving.



Students who are excused from class to participate in school activities will be counted absent from class, but they will not be counted absent from school. Students participating in school sponsored events such as field trips and athletic activity events will not be required to fill out an absence form.

### **Absences and Activity Participation**

Students must be in attendance by 10:00 a.m. to participate in any extracurricular activity that school day, unless arrangements have been approved by the principal or activities director. This includes practices and events.

Acceptable absences will include:

- School-sponsored activities
- Funerals
- Court appearances
- Administration-approved absences

### **ACTIVITY GOOD CONDUCT POLICY**

#### **Philosophy**

Extracurricular and co-curricular activities are an integral part of the total educational opportunity for all students. The right to participate is open to all students. However, once students make a commitment to participate in an extracurricular activity, the right becomes a privilege. When the students are granted this privilege, they accept the responsibility of following behavior guidelines outlined in policy and rules and regulations established for administration of the extracurricular programs. Because the student participants represent the school community of Martensdale-St. Marys in extracurricular activities, they are expected to adhere to even more stringent and demanding behavior codes than non-participating students. This Code applies year-round, on and off school grounds, and at any school-sponsored event.

#### **Definitions**

- Participating student: Student enrolled in the Martensdale-St. Marys (grade 7-12) school, including dual-enrolled students for the purpose of activities, who is or will be participating in one or more school activities, as defined by this Code
- School activities: All interscholastic contests and events that are sanctioned and governed by a State organization (IAHSAA, IHSGAU, IHSSA, and IHSMA).
- Ineligibility: The time period in which students may not participate in school activities due to a Code violation.
- Violations of the Code: a student may be found in violation of this Code if:
  - A student admits to being involved in an act that is illegal or is in violation of this policy;
  - When a student is determined at the conclusion of proceedings in any court to have engaged in an act that is illegal or is in violation of this Code, or
  - When a student is determined to have engaged in an act that is illegal or in violation of this Code by the principal or athletic director.

#### **General Expectations for Activity Participation**

Students in MStM School activities have pride in their school, the activity they represent, and in themselves. Standards of behavior both on and off the field should be above reproach. Students in MStM activities accept the standards listed below without reservation.

- Use of tobacco products, including smoking, vaping, chewing, and other forms of using or ingesting tobacco or recognized “look-alikes” in any way, is not compatible with participation in school activities. Tobacco users should not expect to become or remain members of any activity.
- Using, consuming, possessing, acquiring, or delivering alcohol or controlled substances, paraphernalia, or items recognized as “look-alikes” under any circumstances is not allowed.
- Athletes shall avoid any flagrant foul language, which violates the essentials of good sportsmanship.
- Athletes should always respect the decisions of officials. A display of temper can only have a negative effect of the individual, the team and the school.

- Students should be constantly aware that the reputation of our school is directly related to individual conduct during contests and in community life. It shall be our goal to create a favorable impression for MStM.
- Specific rules for each sport will be added by the coach.

### **Serious Breach of Discipline Constituting a Violation of this Code**

The Principal and Athletic Director have the sole discretion in determining a serious breach of discipline constituting a violation of this Code. They can include but are not limited to the following:

- The commission of a crime under any governmental law or ordinance with the exception of simple traffic violations or other civil disobedience where a simple fine is administered as punishment.
- The use, consumption, possession, acquisition, or delivery of tobacco products, alcohol or any controlled substance defined by Iowa law, paraphernalia, or recognized "look-alikes."
- Being in attendance at a function (i.e. party) wherein drugs, alcohol, or other illegal substances are being consumed by minors and failing to leave despite having reasonable means or opportunity of doing so.
- More than three out of school suspensions of three or more days per year.
- Any student who is charged by an authorized law enforcement agent or admits to a serious breach of discipline will be declared ineligible from participation in school activities.
- Exceedingly inappropriate or offensive conduct such as assaulting staff and/or students, gross insubordination, hazing, or harassment of others. Such harassment does not have to rise to the level of the District's anti-bullying/harassment policy, but may include inappropriate and/or disparaging comments made to or about others, whether made verbally, in writing, or by electronic means.

The ineligibility will commence immediately upon notification being delivered to the student and parent/guardian that a violation of this Code occurred by the Principal or Athletic Director.

### **Sanctions for Serious Breaches of Discipline**

1st Offense – Six (6) weeks of the activities in progress or the next activity in which the student is involved. The student must practice and attend activities but cannot dress. An ineligible student may be a spectator at activities. All penalties will be carried over to the next activity if they are not fulfilled in the present activity.

If the violation is related to the use and/or possession of alcohol or controlled substances, the student will also be referred to the Success Team and must agree to follow their recommendations for assistance.

2nd Offense - The same rules as the first offense with the exception of being ineligible for a period of twelve (12) weeks.

3rd or Subsequent Offenses - No participation in any event or activity for one calendar year. The student may be a spectator only.

Senior high and junior high students are treated equally regarding eligibility. Junior high infractions will carry over to high school if a junior high student has a penalty to complete.

Self-Reporting: If a student has violated this Code, other than by engaging in an act constituting a felony under federal or Iowa law, and admits as such (self-reports) to the Building Principal and/or Activities Director within two (2) days of the infraction AND before it is discovered by/reported to the District through other means, the penalty may be reduced by two (2) weeks for a first violation, three (3) weeks for a second violation, or three (3) months for a third violation. Acts constituting a felony under federal or Iowa law are not subject to self-reporting reductions.

**Determinations of Violation of this Code** The Principal and/or Activities Director have the sole authority to administer the policy as best fits the particular situation, as each situation will vary somewhat. The Principal and/or Activities Director shall notify the student and the student's parent/guardian of the student of the decision in writing, including the determination of whether the student's actions constitute a violation of this Code and the length of the sanction that will be applied to the student. Delivery shall be complete when the notice is placed in a U.S. Mail receptacle or delivered to the student and parent/guardian in person.

### **Appeals**

The Principal/Activities Director's decision may be appealed to the Superintendent . Appeals to the Superintendent must be submitted in writing within five (5) school days of delivery of notice of the Principal/Athletic Director's decision, and shall state the specific grounds for the appeal. The Superintendent shall rule on the appeal within fifteen (15) school days of receipt of the appeal. The Superintendent's decision shall be final and not subject to further appeal. The District's Board of Education will not hear any appeals relating to this Code.

**Transfer Students** Any student who is declared ineligible under a prior school district's Good Conduct Rule and then, without having completed the full period of ineligibility at that school, transfers to Martensdale-St. Marys Community School District, will not be eligible for school activities at Martensdale-St. Marys Community School District until the full period of ineligibility has been completed. Once that time period of ineligibility has been completed, the student is then immediately eligible for school activities in the Martensdale-St. Marys Community School District.

### ACTIVITY CODE OF ELIGIBILITY

Participation in school activities (all activities other than scheduled classes) is a privilege available to the student body. Special ability, interest, and effort are primary factors in determining who will represent the Martensdale-St. Marys School, but Martensdale-St. Marys must also be represented by students who are good school citizens and satisfactory scholars willing to abide by prescribed rules and standards. This privilege carries with it great responsibilities to the school, faculty, and student body. To this end, the regulations on initial infractions are designed to keep the student involved and yet provide sanctions which will encourage participants to demonstrate a positive attitude toward the school, its students and staff, and the community.

In order that the standards and ideals of the Martensdale-St. Marys School will be upheld and uniformly enforced, the Board of Education has established the following minimum rules of conduct (both in and out of school and during the summer months) which students (and parents of students) involved should clearly understand. Each coach or director of an activity may enforce additional rules but will not alter the ones stated below.

### ACTIVITY ELIGIBILITY CLASSIFICATIONS

The following co- and extra-curricular activities are governed by Scholarship Rule (36.15(2)) **AND** the District Academic Activity Eligibility Policy:

Band	Football	Volleyball
Baseball	Golf	Wrestling
Basketball	Soccer	
Cheerleading	Softball	
Choir	Speech	
Cross Country	Track and Field	

The following activities and clubs are governed by the District Academic Activity Eligibility Policy:

- Academic Bowl Contests
- Drama Performances
- FCCLA Competitions
- Instrumental Music Contests
- Robotics Club Competitions
- Vocal Music Contests

The following clubs and events are **NOT** affected by either the Scholarship Rule or the District Academic Activity Eligibility Policy:

- Dances (i.e. Winter Formal)
- FCA
- Homecoming Activities
- Post-Prom
- Prom

- Silver Cord
- Yearbook

The following organizations' academic eligibility requirements are self-governed:

- FFA
- National Honor Society
- Student Council

New activities, clubs, and events that emerge during the course of a school year will be subject to classification within one of the above categories upon consultation with the coach/sponsor, Activities Director, and Principal.

## ACTIVITY ELIGIBILITY AND GRADES

### District Academic Activity Eligibility

- Grades will be monitored every three (3) weeks. If a student has an F at the three-week period, they will be ineligible for seven (7) days once grades have been posted by the principal's office. If a grade has not improved in seven days from the posted grade, the student will be ineligible for another seven days, continuing on a seven-day cycle until grades are posted again. Receiving an F at the quarter will result in the student being ineligible for 14 days. The ineligible period will begin on the first academic day of the new quarter and continue for fourteen calendar days. Exception: Sports that continue during the summer when school is out of session: (example, Baseball and softball) ineligibility will begin on the day the grade is posted and continue for 14 days.
- Student-athletes that are declared academically ineligible shall not be allowed to travel with their team/organization to away contests that result in missed class time.
- Receiving an F for the semester, the student will follow below State Rule. Students will be allowed to practice during their period of ineligibility.
- Students may not be disciplined for offenses reported by any other party other than school staff.
- If a student quits an activity, is dismissed from an activity, or the season is over, he/she must turn in all equipment on or before the date designated by the teacher/coach. If the student fails to turn in equipment when due, he/she is responsible for the cost of replacement.
- Coaches/Teachers may not add additional academic stipulations to eligibility aside from what is defined by District and State policy.

### State Mandated Eligibility Policy

The state of Iowa has put in place an academic eligibility policy with a 30 calendar day ineligibility period for interscholastic activities. The entire Scholarship Rule (36.15(2)) can be seen at [http://www.iahsaa.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/08/Scholarship-Rule-Guidance\\_080717.pdf](http://www.iahsaa.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/08/Scholarship-Rule-Guidance_080717.pdf).

## ACTIVITY PHILOSOPHY OF PARTICIPATION

Junior high students are not permitted to attend high school dances, prom, homecoming dances, etc. High school students are not permitted to attend Jr. High dances.

### JUNIOR HIGH SPORTS

At the junior high level, we will have an emphasis on participation first and then strive to win.

### JUNIOR VARSITY SPORTS

At the J.V. level we will strive to win and stress participation at the same time. It will not be guaranteed that everyone will get equal playing time or as much playing time as at the junior high level. If there are not enough players at the varsity and J.V. levels for two complete teams, some of the varsity players will need to play down. Coaches may determine the junior varsity teams on a per game basis.

### VARSITY SPORTS

At the varsity level we will strive to win the contest first and substitute when necessary to win. We will also stress substitution for participation when it is foreseen that substituting will not affect the outcome of the contest. This will be at the coach's discretion.

### **ACTIVITY TRANSPORTATION**

- Coaches are responsible for conduct of their team members.
- Do not leave your seat while the bus is in motion.
- Remain in the bus in the event of road emergency until instructions are given by the driver.
- Keep hands and head inside the bus at all times after entering and until leaving the bus. Do not throw anything out of bus windows.
- Remember that loud talking and laughing or unnecessary commotion diverts the driver's attention and could result in a serious accident.
- Keep books, packages, coats and all other objects out of the aisles when possible.

Infraction of the rules will be reported to the Principal who may deny transportation to a student who is not capable of proper conduct.

### **AEA SUPPORT SERVICES**

The school has access to the services of a school psychologist, school social worker, speech therapist, hearing clinician, and physical therapist. Referrals may be made for a variety of reasons; however, written authorization from the parent or guardian is necessary.

### **ALTERNATIVE CURRICULUM**

Under certain mitigating circumstances, it may be necessary to assign students the use of an alternate curriculum, typically in the form of a Web-based program. Currently the district uses Edgenuity for this purpose. Assignments to alternative curriculum are made through the following channels:

- At the discretion of the Student Success Committee;
- At the discretion of the content-area teacher; and
- At the discretion of the building principal, curriculum director, or other administrator

Students may not sign up for or request alternative curriculum; all assignments must come from the approved channels. Reasons for assignment to alternative curricula are as follows:

- The student has been identified and determinations are made by the Student Success committee;
- The student has exceeded the district course offerings in a particular content area;
- The student has demonstrated interest in a course of study not offered in the district course offerings;
- The student is in need of credit recovery.

Content-area teachers will consult with the Student Success Coordinator (or other designated personnel) to ensure alternative curriculum aligns with course objectives. Content-area teachers will also serve as the "Teacher of Record" and will need to assign the grades for student work through the alternative curriculum.

### **ANTI-BULLYING/HARASSMENT POLICY**

Harassment and bullying of students and employees are against federal, state and local policy, and are not tolerated by the board. The board is committed to providing all students with a safe and civil school environment in which all members of the school community are treated with dignity and respect. To that end, the board has in place policies, procedures, and practices that are designed to reduce and eliminate bullying and harassment as well as processes and procedures to deal with incidents of bullying and harassment. Bullying and harassment of students, school employees, and volunteers who have direct contact with students will not be tolerated in the school or school district.

The board prohibits harassment, bullying, hazing, or any other victimization, of students, based on any of the following actual or perceived traits or characteristics, including but not limited to, age, color, creed, national origin, race, religion, marital status, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, physical attributes, physical or mental ability or disability, ancestry, political party preference, political belief, socioeconomic status, or familial status. Harassment against

employees based upon race, color, creed, sex, sexual orientation, national origin, religion, age or disability is also prohibited.

This policy is in effect while students or employees are on property within the jurisdiction of the board; while on school-owned or school-operated vehicles; while attending or engaged in school-sponsored activities; and while away from school grounds if the misconduct directly affects the good order, efficient management and welfare of the school or school district.

If, after an investigation, a student is found to be in violation of this policy, the student shall be disciplined by appropriate measures up to, and including, suspension and expulsion. If after an investigation a school employee is found to be in violation of this policy, the employee shall be disciplined by appropriate measures up to, and including, termination. If after an investigation a school volunteer is found to be in violation of this policy, the volunteer shall be subject to appropriate measures up to, and including, exclusion from school grounds. "Volunteer" means an individual who has regular, significant contact with students.

When looking at the totality of the circumstances, harassment and bullying mean any electronic, written, verbal, or physical act or conduct toward a student which is based on any actual or perceived trait or characteristic of the student and which creates an objectively hostile school environment that meets one or more of the following conditions:

- Places the student in reasonable fear of harm to the student's person or property;
- Has a substantially detrimental effect on the student's physical or mental health;
- Has the effect of substantially interfering with the student's academic performance; or
- Has the effect of substantially interfering with the student's ability to participate in or benefit from the services, activities, or privileges provided by a school.

"Electronic" means any communication involving the transmission of information by wire, radio, optical cable, electromagnetic, or other similar means. "Electronic" includes but is not limited to communication via electronic mail, internet-based communications, pager service, cell phones, electronic text messaging or similar technologies.

Harassment and bullying may include, but are not limited to, the following behaviors and circumstances:

- Repeated remarks of a demeaning nature;
- Implied or explicit threats concerning one's grades, achievements, property, etc.;
- Demeaning jokes, stories, or activities directed at the student; and/or,
- Unreasonable interference with a student's performance.

Sexual harassment of a student by an employee means unwelcome sexual advances, requests for sexual favors, or other verbal or physical conduct of a sexual nature when:

- Submission to the conduct is made either implicitly or explicitly a term or condition of the student's education or benefits;
- Submission to or rejection of the conduct is used as the basis for academic decisions affecting that student; or,
- The conduct has the purpose or effect of substantially interfering with the student's academic performance by creating an intimidating, hostile, or offensive education environment.

In situations between students and school officials, faculty, staff, or volunteers who have direct contact with students, bullying and harassment may also include the following behaviors:

- Requiring that a student submit to bullying or harassment by another student, either explicitly or implicitly, as a term or condition of the targeted student's education or participation in school programs or activities; and /or
- Requiring submission to or rejection of such conduct as a basis for decisions affecting the student.

Any person who promptly, reasonably, and in good faith reports an incident of bullying or harassment under this policy to a school official, shall be immune from civil or criminal liability relating to such report and to the person's participation in any administrative, judicial, or other proceeding relating to the report. Individuals who knowingly file a false complaint may be subject to appropriate disciplinary action.

Retaliation against any person, because the person has filed a bullying or harassment complaint or assisted or participated in a harassment investigation or proceeding, is also prohibited. Individuals who knowingly file false harassment complaints and any person who gives false statements in an investigation shall be subject to discipline by appropriate measures, as shall any person who is found to have retaliated against another in violation of this policy.

Any student found to have retaliated in violation of this policy shall be subject to measures up to, and including, suspension and expulsion. Any school employee found to have retaliated in violation of this policy shall be subject to measures up to, and including, termination of employment. Any school volunteer found to have retaliated in violation of this policy shall be subject to measures up to, and including, exclusion from school grounds.

The school or school district will promptly and reasonably investigate allegations of bullying or harassment. The building principal or designee will be responsible for handling all complaints by students alleging bullying or harassment. The building principal or designee will be responsible for handling all complaints by employees alleging bullying or harassment.

### **ANTI-BULLYING/HARASSMENT INVESTIGATION PROCEDURES**

Individuals who feel that they have been harassed should:

- Communicate to the harasser that the individual expects the behavior to stop, if the individual is comfortable doing so. If the individual wants assistance communicating with the harasser, the individual should ask a teacher, counselor or principal to help.
- If the harassment does not stop, or the individual does not feel comfortable confronting the harasser, the individual should:
  - tell a teacher, counselor or principal; and
  - write down exactly what happened, keep a copy and give another copy to the teacher, counselor or principal including;
  - what, when and where it happened;
  - who was involved;
  - exactly what was said or what the harasser did;
  - witnesses to the harassment;
  - what the student said or did, either at the time or later;
  - how the student felt; and
  - how the harasser responded.

### **COMPLAINT PROCEDURE**

An individual who believes that the individual has been harassed or bullied will notify the building principal, the designated investigator. The alternate investigator is the school counselor. The investigator may request that the individual complete the Harassment/Bullying Complaint form and turn over evidence of the harassment, including, but not limited to, letters, tapes, or pictures. The complainant shall be given a copy of the completed complaint form. Information received during the investigation is kept confidential to the extent possible.

The investigator, with the approval of the principal, or the principal has the authority to initiate an investigation in the absence of a written complaint.

### **INVESTIGATION PROCEDURE**

The investigator will reasonably and promptly commence the investigation upon receipt of the complaint. The investigator will interview the complainant and the alleged harasser. The alleged harasser may file a written statement in response to the complaint. The investigator may also interview witnesses as deemed appropriate.

Upon completion of the investigation, the investigator will make written findings and conclusions as to each allegation of harassment and report the findings and conclusions to the principal. The investigator will provide a copy of the findings of the investigation to the principal.

### **RESOLUTION OF THE COMPLAINT**

Following receipt of the investigator's report, the principal may investigate further, if deemed necessary, and make a determination of any appropriate additional steps which may include discipline.

Prior to the determination of the appropriate remedial action, the principal may, at the principal's discretion, interview the complainant and the alleged harasser. The principal will file a written report closing the case and documenting any disciplinary action taken or any other action taken in response to the complaint. The complainant, the alleged harasser

and the investigator will receive notice as to the conclusion of the investigation. The principal will maintain a log of information necessary to comply with Iowa Department of Education reporting procedures.

#### POINTS TO REMEMBER IN THE INVESTIGATION

- Evidence uncovered in the investigation is confidential.
- Complaints must be taken seriously and investigated.
- No retaliation will be taken against individuals involved in the investigation process.
- Retaliators will be disciplined up to and including suspension and expulsion.

#### CONFLICTS

If the investigator is a witness to the incident, the alternate investigator shall investigate.

#### ATHLETIC AWARDS

In all sports, the coaches recommend players for awards based on several factors, including training, cooperation, sportsmanship and attitude. An athlete may win an award if he/she has played a sufficient length of time in a sporting season. Athletes are only awarded one varsity letter. If an athlete participates in more than one sport, he/she is given emblems to place on the letter.

Junior High Athletic team participants will be considered for a participation award when they have met the following requirements:

- Attend all practices, unless the student is ill, excused by the coach, or is not in attendance during the school day.
- Display acceptable conduct at practices and contests, including sportsmanship and personal behavior, in a manner, which best represents MStM. If a player is ejected from a game, the player forfeits all awards.
- Maintain a coachable and cooperative attitude that contributes to the well-being of the team.

Any student dismissed from the team before the end of the season will forfeit all awards.

#### ATHLETIC LETTER

##### Participation Award - All Sports

- To receive a letter you must fulfill all participation requirements.
- Be at all practices unless excused by the coach, illness, or not having been in school that day.
- Show a display of proper conduct in school, practice, contests, and in the community which would best represent our team and our school.
- Display a coachable and cooperative attitude that contributes to the wellbeing of the team.
- Exhibit admirable sportsmanship as a participant and as a member of the team.

Coaches have the right to require certain criteria for receiving a varsity letter. These criteria must be handed out to all athletes at the beginning of the season.

If, in the opinion of the coaches, the student is deserving of a participation award, he/she will receive one.

#### ATTENDANCE

Daily, punctual attendance is an integral part of the learning experience and is required of students to receive the maximum benefit of the educational program. Parents and students are encouraged to ensure an absence from school is necessary.

Students who know they will be absent should notify the office two days prior to the absence. If advance notification is not possible, parents are asked to notify the office at 641-764-2486 or 641-764-2385 prior to 8:30 a.m. If notification is not received, school personnel will call the home or place of work. If contact cannot be made by phone, a written excuse from the parent/guardian is required. If a phone call or note is not received within two school days, the absence will be considered an unexcused absence.



Excused Absences

Students are required to be in attendance unless the principal has excused their absences. Excused absences include illness, family emergencies or funerals, doctor or dentist appointments verified by an appointment card or a doctor's note, court appearance, school-initiated absence, and religious observances. Students whose absences are approved shall make up the work missed and receive full credit for the missed schoolwork. Students who are excused from school for illness are expected to remain home and may not attend school activities, including contests and practices.

Unexcused Absences

Students who are absent from school or more than 30 minutes of a class period without prior approved administrative consent, shall be subject to disciplinary measures. Examples of unexcused absences include (but are not limited to) oversleeping, leaving building or school grounds during the day without parental excuse and authorization from the office, haircuts, tanning sessions, shopping, and other personal business which should be handled outside the regular school day. The determination of an absence being excused or unexcused is at the discretion of the administration.

Upon the third unexcused absence for a class, the student, his/her advisor, his/her parent(s), and the Success Coordinator will meet to determine a corrective plan for improvement. The Success Coordinator will bring the plan to the Success Committee for review and approval. Subsequent unexcused absences will follow similar procedures. Upon the seventh unexcused absence, the student will be removed from the class(es) missed and placed in credit recovery courses. Similar interventions may be implemented for students with excessive excused absences, and this can be done at the request of teachers, parents, or building administrators.

Excessive Absenteeism

Excessive absenteeism is any absence beyond five (5) days or individual class meetings per semester. Upon the fifth (5) absence, excused or unexcused, a letter will be sent by the office indicating the current attendance rate and the expectations for future attendance. If a student is absent and unexcused for seven (7) days in two (2) or more individual classes, the student will be dropped from the regular school program and referred to the Student Success program pursuant to the district's plan for Student Success students. Following the tenth and subsequent excused absence, parents and students will meet with principal and Student Success Coordinator to determine an appropriate plan or to establish an attendance contract. Situations of prolonged illness and other mitigating circumstances will be considered in development of said plan or contract.

**Excusal from Physical Education**

Students who have a medical excuse from physical activity must provide a doctor's note to their physical education instructor in order to be exempt from the coursework. Failure to submit the required documentation may be considered non-participation and result in a lowered course grade.

**CARE OF SCHOOL PROPERTY**

Students are responsible for the proper care of all books, supplies, lockers, and furniture supplied by the school. Students who disfigure property, break windows or do other damage to school property or equipment, will be required to pay for the damage done or replace the item.

Book Fines

Torn Pages	\$1.00
Non Erasable Writing	\$1.00
Bent Covers	\$8.00
Broken Bindings	\$8.00
Other Damage to Pages	\$3.00
Missing Pages	Full Replacement Cost
Lost Book	Full Replacement Cost
Destroyed Book	Full Replacement Cost

**CAREER PATHWAYS**

Career pathways are clusters of occupations/careers that are grouped because of shared skills and aptitudes. All pathways include a variety of occupations that require different levels of education and training. Selecting a career pathway provides you with an area of focus, along with flexibility and a variety of ideas to pursue.

Deciding on a career pathway can help you prepare for your future. The intent is not for you to decide on a specific occupation for the rest of your life, but to select a career pathway into which you can begin directing your energies. Identifying a career pathway can help you in selecting school courses, activities, and part-time employment. It can also help guide your participation in work-based learning opportunities.

The MSTM Career Pathways are:

- Agriculture, Food, and Natural Resources
- Business, Management, and Administration
- Human Services
- Industrial Technology - Manufacturing

### **CELL PHONE POLICY**

It is the expectation that students keep cell phones and other personal electronics in lockers, backpacks, pockets, purses, or other means of ensuring they are out of sight during regular class time. Students are not permitted to use their phones unless given specific permission by a teacher for academic purposes. Teachers may request students place their phones in a secure and monitored location in the classroom (i.e. a cell phone holder) upon entry. Teachers may also request students leave phones in the classroom when leaving during the block (i.e. to use the restroom, etc.).

### **CHEATING**

Students are expected to do their own school work. Cheating by looking at another student's work, copying others' work, copying from other sources, cheat sheets will not be tolerated. Students discovered cheating – including students complicit in contributing to academic dishonesty – will be subject to consequences outlined in the student Code of Conduct (p. 25).

### **CLASSIFICATION OF STUDENTS**

- 9th Grade 0 - 6.25 credits
- 10th Grade 6.5 - 12 credits
- 11th Grade 12.25 - 18 credits
- 12th Grade 18.25+ credits

Classes taken off-site that are paid for by the school district will be included in the classification of the student. These classes will also count toward graduation.

### **CO-CURRICULAR AWARDS FOR SENIORS**

#### **AMERICAN CITIZENSHIP AWARD**

- The recipient must be a graduating senior (receiving a diploma) during graduation ceremony.
- The student must show qualities of good citizenship as reflected in day to day activities.
- The student has demonstrated a full comprehension of what good citizenship means.
- The student should be active in student and community activities and a reliable and upstanding individual.

#### **BERNIE SAGGAU AWARD**

Academic - There shall be no grade point or class placement requirement. The recipient shall be one who achieves academically at least in proportion to his/her ability.

Citizenship - The behavior of the student, both in and out of School, shall have consistently been of such high quality as to bring credit to the student, the family, and the school. This behavior shall have demonstrated a respect for rules, laws, our country, and its symbols as well as our constitution.

Extracurricular - There shall be no specific extracurricular activity requirement beyond the fact that such participation may serve to demonstrate both citizenship and contribution to the school and community. It is assumed that the recipient of the award would be the kind of person who would perform beyond that which is required of all students.

Achievements - There shall be no requirement that the recipient have held any office, excelled in any sport or activity, or received any other reward or honor as this award is unique unto itself. On the other hand, these other forms of recognition may serve as indicators of the person's qualifications and not held against the candidate.

Award - A plaque shall be provided to each member high school in the state of Iowa each year to be presented to one graduating student. Such plaque, which shall become the recipient's permanent possession, shall be publicly presented with a statement outlining the purpose as contained in the enabling resolution. In any year that no graduating senior qualifies, or it is impossible to determine one recipient, the award shall not be made and the plaque returned to the Association Office.

Selection - Each school district, through the approval of their superintendent and board of education, shall have the prerogative of developing the method of selecting the person to be recognized. The selection may be done by the administration, by committee or by some other means utilizing the criteria outlined herein.

#### BETTY GIBBONS SPORTSMANSHIP AWARD

- One female and one male senior athlete will be recognized.
- A player who lives up to the standards of sportsmanship established by the coach.
- A player who represents themselves, school, family and community in a positive manner.
- A player who respects opponents.
- A player who demonstrates respect for the integrity and judgment of officials.
- A player who helps younger players to learn the rules of the game.

#### COLLEGE BOUND STUDENTS

If there is a possibility the student will enter college, he or she should have the fourth year of English and if interested, Mathematics and Science. Parents and students should discuss this before registration.

State university admission requirements:

- Four years of English - one being Composition requiring a "C" or better
- Three years of Math - one being Algebra requiring a "C" or better.
- Three years of Social Studies.
- Three years of Science - lab experience highly recommended.
- Two years of Electives - may include foreign language or fine arts.

These guidelines are helpful in deciding course loads for college bound Students. Students are encouraged to check the catalogs in the counseling office for admission requirements. Any student athletes who desire to compete at the DIVISION ONE level must select core courses from the following list:

#### ENGLISH

English 9  
English 10  
English 11  
Composition

#### SOCIAL SCIENCE

American History  
Government  
Western Civilizations  
Sociology  
World History

#### MATHEMATICS

Algebra I  
Geometry  
Algebra II  
Trigonometry/Pre-Calculus  
Calculus  
Consumer Math

NATURAL/PHYSICAL SCIENCE

Biology (Lab)  
 Chemistry (Lab)  
 Earth Science (Lab)  
 Human Physiology (Lab)  
 Physics (Lab)

ADDITIONAL CORE COURSES

Business Applications  
 Spanish I  
 Spanish II  
 Spanish III  
 Spanish IV

**COLLEGE VISITATION/JOB INTERVIEW/JOB SHADOWS**

When making career plans, students may find it necessary to visit college campuses or have job interviews. A limit of four absences annually will be allowed for these purposes, providing the following procedure is observed.

- The student must complete a written request with the Counselor to arrange a visitation or interview. Request forms may be picked up in the Guidance Office.
- The plans must be finalized at least three days in advance.
- The request form must be signed by the student, parent/guardians, Counselor, Attendance Secretary and the contact person.
- Any assigned make-up work must be completed prior to the absence.

**COMPETENT PRIVATE INSTRUCTION**

It is also our policy not to give recognition toward graduation for any subjects in high school from private instruction. Martensdale-St. Marys does not offer a Home School Assistance Program (HSAP). The district may assist home school students by providing curriculum, text books, and a laptop (if desired for 7-12 students). A rental fee will be charged.

Students must have completed their last two semesters of academic work at Martensdale-St. Marys to be included in the class rank and eligible for academic honors and awards. Full time is defined as a student enrolled in an accredited institution an equivalent of eight classes per semester.

Please refer to Martensdale-St. Marys board policy 604.1

The Iowa Department of Education cannot issue diplomas, and the district of residence may not be compelled to issue a diploma. There are certain state-mandated graduation requirements that must be met before a school district may issue a diploma. Physical education, U.S. history and U.S. government are current requirements, and as of the fall of 2010-2011 school year, anyone receiving a diploma must have four credits in English/language arts and three credits each in science, mathematics, and social studies. Families desiring a district diploma for their children are urged to contact their resident home school coordinator (Beth Happe) during their child's 8<sup>th</sup> grade year to coordinate these credits.

**COMPLAINT RESOLUTION**

The Martensdale-St. Marys Community School District Complaint resolution is for the use of parent advisory councils, parents, teachers, other organizations, or concerned individuals wishing to register complaints regarding violations of the district's Title Programs, the Multi-Cultural/Nonsexist program, or of applicable provisions of the General Education Provisions Act in connection with programs under this Title and Code of Iowa.

- **INFORMAL LEVEL** - Anyone with a serious concern or a complaint should first discuss it with the teacher. Hopefully the matter can be cleared up. If the person is not satisfied the next step is to discuss it informally with the Principal. Should the complaint not be satisfied, then the next step is to follow the steps in the Formal proceedings.

- **FORMAL** - Anyone with a serious concern or complaint should put the complaint in writing. The Principal shall have five (5) school days to investigate and resolve the complaint. The investigation and resolution of the complaint shall not exceed thirty days unless a longer period of time is provided by the State Education Agency due to exceptional circumstances in accordance with regulations established by the Commissioner.
- **PRESENTATION OF EVIDENCE** - If the complainant or the complainant's representative, or both are not satisfied with the Principal's resolution, they may present their evidence to the Superintendent, which includes an opportunity to question parties involved. The Superintendent shall have ten (10) school days to resolve the complaint. Should the complainant or complainant's representative, or both, not be satisfied with the Superintendent's resolution, they may appear before the Local Education Agency no later than its next regular meeting, or ten (10) school days, whichever is earlier, and present their evidence.
- The local Education Agency shall have twenty (20) school days to investigate and give its final resolution.
- **APPEAL OF FINAL RESOLUTION** - The Martensdale-St. Marys Community School District recognizes the right of the complainant to appeal the final resolution of the Local Education Agency to the State Education Agency within thirty (30) days after receipt of the written decision.
- **DISSEMINATION OF INFORMATION** - The Local Education Agency shall disseminate information regarding complaint resolution procedures to interested parties, including all district and school parent advisory.

**CONDUCT ON ACTIVITY TRIPS**

- All students are expected to go and return from all events and practices on the bus together. Any exceptions will be approved by the Athletic Director or Principal.
- You may pick up the form for Transportation Home from Extra-Curricular Activities and Practices in the High School Office.
- Students must remain on the host's school grounds before and after the games away from home.
- Students must see that nothing is damaged, either on the bus or around the host school.
- Students must at all times conduct themselves in a sportsmanlike manner.
- The coaches of each sport will recommend specific regulations for their program. A statement of these regulations will be approved by the Athletic Director and the Principal prior to the start of the season.

**COUNSELING DEPARTMENT SERVICES**

It is the purpose of the Counseling Department to assist students 7-12 with their career planning. Specific services are offered at each grade level, as well as help with personal problems that may arise. All students are encouraged to take advantage of the many resources available both in the counseling office and the library. The counselor will work to help students in any way that seems necessary to help students plan and reach their future goals.

**COURSE SYLLABUS/GRADING**

At the beginning of the school year and the start of the second semester each student will receive a course syllabus from their teachers. Course expectations and the grading policy will be covered in the syllabus.

**CREDIT RECOVERY**

Classes that are taken for the purpose of remediation/skill building or for credit recovery will be assigned a Pass/No Pass and will reflect on the student's transcript accordingly. In cases of credit recovery where students have been given opportunity and support to otherwise pass a course, the F will remain on the transcript. Students completing courses for credit recovery during the fall, spring, or summer terms, must complete the assigned coursework by the end of the relevant grading period (fall semester, spring semester, or summer school). Extensions for completing credit recovery courses will not be granted.

**DAILY BELL SCHEDULE**

Regular Schedule		1:00 PM Dismissal		2-Hour Late Start	
Intervention Period:	8:00-8:35	Block 1:	8:40-9:35	Block 1:	10:25-11:10
Block 1:	8:40-10:00	Block 2:	9:39-10:34	Block 2:	11:15-12:00
Block 2:	10:04-11:26	Block 4:	10:38-10:58	Block 3:	12:04-1:50
Power Hour:	11:30-12:00		11:01-11:33	Block 4:	1:54-3:15

Block 3 (w/Lunch):	12:04-1:50	Block 3:	11:37-1:00
Block 4:	1:54-3:15		

Students should not enter the building before 7:30 a.m. unless prior arrangements have been made. Students who are selected for Intervention will be notified the day before they are to report. Students who are not required to attend Intervention will not need to report until the start of block 1. Any students who are on school premises before Block 1 and are not participating in Intervention will report to their Block 1 classroom. They may not congregate in the commons, gyms, or other unsupervised locations.

At 3:15PM all students must leave the building unless they are waiting for a bus or are remaining under supervision. The building is closed for students not participating in staff-supervised activities at 3:30.

**Intervention Period:** Students who are required to attend Intervention will be notified the day before, as will the parents/guardians of those students. Students not required to attend Intervention will not be required to be at school until 8:40AM.

Interventions are implemented for both academic and non-academic reasons. An academic intervention occurs when a student or group of students are identified as lacking a particular skill or knowledge necessary to achieve course objectives. For example, if a student has proven to have difficulty conjugating a certain verb, balancing chemical equations, or has no working knowledge of the Civil War, then an academic intervention would be applied. This usually takes the form of re-teaching on an individual or small-group basis, depending on need.

A non-academic intervention would be applied when a student's behaviors prevent him or her from attaining course objectives. For example, if a student is habitually disruptive during class or repeatedly fails to turn in assignments, then a non-academic intervention would be applied. This usually takes the form of a detention or structured study hall, depending on the behaviors needing correction.

**"Power Hour":** This is a time wherein students can attend club meetings as well as work with their Advisors in post-secondary planning, see teachers for additional assistance, and recharge to complete the remainder of the school day. In order to make this time most effective, sponsors will be required to schedule and hold regular meetings based on a firm day and time. This will ensure all students have the chance to get to where they need to go during a given week or month. Students not participating in any scheduled organizational meetings or club gatherings will report to their Advisors.

## DRESS AND APPEARANCE

The appearance of the students reflects the quality of the school, their conduct, and their school work. All students are expected to dress and groom themselves neatly. Shirts and shoes must be worn at all times. Sleeveless or tank tops must have shoulder straps measuring at least two finger widths. Tube tops and halter tops must be covered with another shirt. Midriffs must not be exposed. When arms are raised perpendicular to the torso, the midriff must remain covered by the top. The principal will make the final determination of the appropriateness of the student appearance. Students inappropriately dressed will be required to change their clothing.

The following clothing and types of dress are prohibited in the school building:

- Clothing and accessories which may be hazardous to yours and others' health or safety
- Hats, caps, sweatshirt hoods, or other non-religious headgear
- Clothing with wording, pictures or illustrations relating to advertising of alcohol, tobacco or drugs, sexually suggestive slogans, or foul language.
- Dress or material which contains any print or image that is derogatory to any race, gender, or ethnic group.
- Wearing pants or shorts that have holes or tears above the bottom of the hip line, clothing that is too tight, too revealing, or inappropriate for school.
- Pants/shorts that are worn lower than the hipline and/or that leave undergarments showing.
- Cut up shirts, shorts, and pants that are too revealing or any clothes that have holes in them that are revealing.

## DRILLS

Fire, lock down and tornado drills are held periodically to acquaint students with the precautions to be taken if an emergency occurs. Cooperation and quick movements are extremely important.

A fire alarm is a series of short blasts of the alarm horn. All persons in the building are to leave by way of the nearest exit. Follow instructions that are posted in each room for the proper emergency route.

A lock down announcement will be given over the intercom system. Teachers and students will be given specific instructions of what to do.

A tornado alarm is a long continuous blast of the alarm horn. Students should immediately report to their class teacher for directions. Once they have arrived, students should stay low and remain quiet so that instructions can be conveyed.

## DUE PROCESS

Procedural due process as it applies to students in public schools requires that in any form of disciplinary action, the following basic elements must be present:

- The students must have prior knowledge of the conduct, which is required of or prohibited to them.
- The students must be aware of the specific matters giving rise to any of the proposed penalties or discipline.
- The students must have some opportunity to express or convey to the decision-making authority their views or rebuttals regarding the incident, prior to the use of any discipline.
- The decision-making authority must base its decision on the incidents or matter about which the student has been appraised as indicated above.

The test of essential fairness is given in each set of circumstances. Various factors must be considered in each situation to determine the formality which is required. The code of conduct is based on the premise that all students are treated equally regardless of race, creed, age, sex or national origin.

## GENERAL CODE OF CONDUCT

**Backpacks** - Students are discouraged from carrying backpacks during the school day. They can be a hazard to the learning environment, and backpacks that are too full can cause injury and strain. Students' belongings should be kept in lockers when not in use.

**Closed Campus** - no student may leave the school grounds from the time they arrive until dismissal unless permission has been granted by the office. This includes the morning prior to classes beginning for the day. Work-study will be permitted for Juniors and Seniors. Early dismissals and late arrival programs will be permitted for Seniors on a limited basis, and as their conduct and academic work remains satisfactory.

**Code Violations and Activities** - Students who are disciplined in the Principal's office, or cause continued trouble to teachers are subject to suspension from an activity for a period of time that the Principal deems appropriate to the offense or misconduct.

**Detention** - Detention is a form of intervention that will be used as an alternative to in-school-suspension and out-of-school-suspension. A student refusing to attend an assigned detention will result in additional detentions, Saturday School and/or In-School Suspension. Students are expected to report with materials to work on class assignments. Visiting or talking to other students, sleeping, having food or drinks while assigned a detention is not permitted. The full detention term MUST be served or the student will advance to Saturday School or ISS. Students must accept the direction of the supervising teacher at all times. Students are responsible for their own transportation.

**Dismissal from Class** - Students dismissed from class will be required to make that block of time up during detention or Saturday School. The consequences will be doubled if a substitute teacher is in charge of the class.

**Emergency Removal from School** - A student whose presence poses a danger to persons or property or an ongoing threat of disruption may be removed from school immediately. Notice of charges, explanation of facts and opportunity to present his/her version of what occurred shall be provided as soon as possible.

**Food and Candy** - Students are discouraged from bring pop or candy into the building. Food and drinks in the classroom are up to the discretion of each classroom teacher. Pop and food machines may not be used during the school day, with the exception of bottled water. Students are expected to keep commons clean, or it will be closed.

**Hall Conduct** - Students should behave in a safe manner. Running in the building or other inappropriate behavior will not be tolerated.

**In-School Suspension** - Students may be assigned to in-school suspension for violating certain school rules and procedures. Students will be provided with assignments to work on while serving an in-school suspension. Students in In-School Suspension during a day are not allowed to participate in extra-curricular activities that day. They may participate in practices that day.

**Nuisance Items** - Any item determined to be disruptive to the learning environment (including but not limited to toys and electronic devices) may be taken from students during class and/or school sponsored activities if they are causing a disruption. The items taken from students will be returned at a later time. Teachers will specify rules and regulations for their individual classrooms regarding the use of electronics.

**Out-of-School Suspension** - Assignments will be collected and given to the students to work on during the suspension. Assignments due during the suspension will be handed in the day following the suspension unless arrangements have been made with the teacher prior to the end of the suspension. Students are to contact teachers with questions concerning the assignments given. It will be the student's responsibility to turn in work the day he/she returns to receive full credit. Choosing this option will mean the day(s) spent at home will count as day(s) absent from class. Students in Out-of-School Suspension during a day are not allowed to participate in extra-curricular activities that day or participate in practices

**Saturday School** - Students may be assigned to Saturday School to serve their disciplinary obligations for committing certain offenses. Saturday School is held from 8:30-11:30 a.m. at the High School, during which time students work on schoolwork in a quiet, controlled atmosphere.

#### General Code of Conduct: Sanctions for Violations

Behavior	Description/Definition	Consequence per Incident
Abusive or Inappropriate Language, Profanity – Peer-Related	Words, gestures, or images of a profane or otherwise inappropriate nature, including those about one's race, ethnicity, gender, sexual orientation, disability, and/or socioeconomic status	1 <sup>st</sup> – 30-minute detention 2 <sup>nd</sup> – 60-minute detention 3 <sup>rd</sup> or more – Administrator Decision
Abusive or Inappropriate Language, Profanity – Staff-Related	See above	1 <sup>st</sup> – 1-day suspension 2 <sup>nd</sup> – 3-day suspension 3 <sup>rd</sup> – Administrator decision
Alcohol-Related Incident	Possession, consumption, or distribution of alcohol	1 <sup>st</sup> – 5-day suspension & possible recommendation for expulsion 2 <sup>nd</sup> – Recommendation for expulsion
Arson	Intentionally setting fire to school property	Recommendation for expulsion
Bullying	See page 21 for definitions, procedures, and consequences as defined by Board policy	According to Board policy
Communication of a Threat	Physical or electronic distribution of messages deemed threatening to the well-being or safety of students and/or staff	Administrative Decision, including and up to Recommendation for Expulsion
Defiance, insubordination, or non-compliance	Repeated refusal of reasonable requests from school staff	1 <sup>st</sup> – 30-minute detention 2 <sup>nd</sup> – 60-minute detention 3 <sup>rd</sup> or more – Administrator Decision



Disrespect toward Peer	Repeated instances of disrespectful language or behavior toward peers	1 <sup>st</sup> – 30-minute detention 2 <sup>nd</sup> – 60-minute detention 3 <sup>rd</sup> or more – Administrator Decision
Disrespect toward Staff	Repeated instances of disrespectful behavior toward school staff	1 <sup>st</sup> – 60-minute detention 2 <sup>nd</sup> – Saturday School 3 <sup>rd</sup> or more – Administrator Decision
Disruption of Learning Environment	Any action that impedes or obstructs school purposes	1 <sup>st</sup> – 30-minute detention 2 <sup>nd</sup> – 60-minute detention 3 <sup>rd</sup> or more – Administrator Decision
Drug-Related Incident	Possession, consumption, or distribution of illegal and/or illicit substances	Recommendation for expulsion
Harassment	See page 21 for definitions, procedures, and consequences	According to Policy
Inappropriate Display of Affection	Touching others, kissing, prolonged full-body contact, and other acts deemed otherwise inappropriate	1 <sup>st</sup> – 30-minute detention 2 <sup>nd</sup> – 60-minute detention 3 <sup>rd</sup> or more – Administrator Decision
Inappropriate location	Being somewhere not permitted and/or without knowledge of the staff member	1 <sup>st</sup> – 30-minute detention 2 <sup>nd</sup> – 60-minute detention 3 <sup>rd</sup> or more – Administrator Decision
Lying to staff	Intentional dishonesty, including omission of facts and details, for the purpose of avoiding consequences for oneself and/or another person	1 <sup>st</sup> – 30-minute detention 2 <sup>nd</sup> – 60-minute detention 3 <sup>rd</sup> or more – Administrator Decision
Malicious Mischief	Use of cell phones and electronic devices to take, store, or share pictures and/or videos with the intent to ridicule, harass, or mock others or have the potential to cause substantial material disruption to the learning environment	1 <sup>st</sup> – Up to 3-day suspension 2 <sup>nd</sup> – Up to 10-day suspension and possible recommendation for expulsion 3 <sup>rd</sup> – Recommendation for expulsion  Students responsible for taking, sharing and/or possessing sexually explicit or otherwise inappropriate pictures/videos may be turned over to law enforcement
Physical aggression w/o injury	Threats or acts of violence against another, destruction of personal or school property, or other such behaviors	1 <sup>st</sup> – Up to 2-day suspension 2 <sup>nd</sup> – Up to 5-day suspension 3 <sup>rd</sup> – Recommendation for expulsion
Physical aggression w/injury	Threats or acts of violence against another, destruction of personal or school property, or other such behaviors that result in injury to others	1 <sup>st</sup> – Up to 5-day suspension 2 <sup>nd</sup> – Up to 10-day suspension and possible recommendation for expulsion 3 <sup>rd</sup> – Recommendation for expulsion
Physical fighting w/injury	Two or more people engage in an exchange of punches, kicks, or other forms of aggressive physical contact, and one or more people involved sustain injury	1 <sup>st</sup> – Up to 5-day suspension 2 <sup>nd</sup> – Up to 10-day suspension and possible recommendation for expulsion 3 <sup>rd</sup> – Recommendation for expulsion
Physical fighting w/serious bodily	Two or more people engage in an	Recommendation for expulsion

injury	exchange of punches, kicks, or other forms of aggressive physical contact, and one or more people involve sustain significant and potentially debilitating injuries	
Plagiarism or other act of academic dishonesty	Copying from sources without proper credit, passing off one person's work as another's, supplying answers to someone else, or any other act deemed academic dishonesty	1 <sup>st</sup> – 60-minute detention to rework plagiarized assignment 2 <sup>nd</sup> – Saturday School 3 <sup>rd</sup> – Administrator Decision, up to and including removal from course
Tardy	See page 15 for Policy	According to Policy
Technology Violation	Improper use of school-provided technological tools, including devices and network	1 <sup>st</sup> – 30-minute detention 2 <sup>nd</sup> – 60-minute detention 3 <sup>rd</sup> or more – Administrator Decision
Theft	Intentionally removing and/or possession property belonging to another person or the school without prior permission	1 <sup>st</sup> – Up to 10-day suspension 2 <sup>nd</sup> – Recommendation for expulsion
Tobacco-related Incident	Possession, consumption, or distribution of tobacco and/or synthetic tobacco and synthetic tobacco paraphernalia	1 <sup>st</sup> – 2-day suspension 2 <sup>nd</sup> – 5-day suspension 3 <sup>rd</sup> – Administrator Decision, up to and including recommendation for expulsion
Unexcused Absence/Truancy	See page 15 for Policy	According to Policy
Weapon-Related Incident	Possession of a firearm or other potentially deadly weapon on school premises	Recommendation for Expulsion

Any action on the part of the student that constitutes immediate threat to another individual or groups of individuals will result in an immediately suspension and may be recommended to the Board of Education for expulsion. Students participating in co-curricular activities will be subject to the Good Conduct Code of Eligibility rules as well as the above consequences.

The school reserves and retains the right to modify, eliminate, or establish school district policies, rules, and regulations as circumstances warrant, including those contained in the handbook. Any violation of school rules that is not covered by this booklet will be handled on an individual basis by the principal or the principal's designee.

**GIFTED AND TALENTED PROGRAM**

Students may self-nominate for admittance into the gifted and talented program at any time during the school year, or parents and teachers may nominate students for the gifted and talented program at any time during the school year by contacting Mrs. Grafft in person or by e-mail. The areas serviced in the gifted and talented program include general intellectual, specific academic, creative/productive, visual and performing arts, and leadership.

After a nomination has been received, the gifted and talented facilitator will begin the identification process by interviewing the nominated student, surveying and inventorying the student's characteristics of intellectual giftedness, talent, or creativity and learning styles, surveying the nominated student's parents, conducting the Slossen Cognitive Test on the nominated student if nominated for general intellectual or specific academic, referencing his or her standardized test scores if nominated for general intellectual or specific academic, surveying the student's teachers about the evidence of giftedness, talent, or creativity seen in the classroom, and, if nominated for creative/productive or visual arts, gathering a portfolio of work.

The Gifted and Talented Committee will meet the second and fourth quarter of each year to evaluate student nominations to determine if the gifted and talented program is a service needed by the nominees.

**GRADE POINT VALUES**

**GRADING SCALE**

A	4.000 grade points	A	100%-94%
A-	3.667 grade points	A-	93%-90%
B+	3.333 grade points	B+	89%-87%
B	3.000 grade points	B	86%-84%
B-	2.667 grade points	B-	83%-80%
C+	2.333 grade points	C+	79%-77%
C	2.000 grade points	C	76%-74%
C-	1.667 grade points	C-	73%-70%
D+	1.333 grade points	D+	69%-67%
D	1.000 grade point	D	66%-64%
D-	0.667 grade point	D-	63%-60%
F	0.000 grade point	F	59% and Below
Withdrawn	0.000 grade point	Credit	0.000 grade point
Incomplete	0.000 grade point	P/NP	0.000 grade point

Off-site classes that are paid for by the school district will be included in the student's grade point average.

### GRADE REPORTING

The Martensdale-St. Marys Jr/Sr High School uses JMC (a web-based student management program) to report student progress in his/her coursework. Students and parents will have access to daily lesson plans as well as timely updates to student progress toward course objectives. The following terminology will be used in all classes to report student progress toward completion of course requirements:

- Blank – The assignment has not yet been submitted or the due date has not come yet.
- HI (Handed In) – The student has submitted the assignment and the teacher acknowledges its receipt. It is in the process of being assessed
- M (Missing) – The assignment due date has come and the student has made arrangements with his/her teacher to complete the assignment in a timely manner.
- MI (Missing/Incomplete) – The due date for the assignment has passed and is no longer eligible for assessment.
- 0 (Zero) – Students have attempted or completed an assignment and earned a 0%.
- X (Excused) – Students are excused from this assignment (usually reserved for in-class daily work or a one-time, non-repeatable task)

### GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

One half credit is earned for each semester course that is completed. No credit is given for courses that are failed for the semester. Units required for graduation are as follows:

#### Class of 2021 & 2022

English	4.0 credits
Mathematics	3.0 credits
Science	3.0 credits
Social Studies	2.0 credits
American Government	0.5 credit
Economics	0.5 credit
Health	0.5 credit
Workplace Readiness	1.0 credit
Business Applications	0.5credits
Financial Literacy	0.5 credits
Physical Education	4.0 credits
<u>Electives</u>	<u>8.5 credits</u>
Total Required	28 credits

#### Class of 2023 and Beyond

English	4.0 credits
Mathematics	3.0 credits
Science	3.0 credits
Social Studies	2.0 credits
American Government	0.5 credit
Economics	0.5 credit
Health	0.5 credit
Workplace Readiness	1.0 credit
Business Applications	0.5credits
Financial Literacy	0.5 credits
Physical Education	4.0 credits
Electives	6.5 credits
<u>Zenith Learning Experience</u>	<u>2.0 credits</u>
Total Required	28 credits

The following specific courses are required for graduation:

English 9  
 English 10  
 American History  
 Government  
 Physical Education  
 Health/CPR  
 Business Applications

Seniors opting to graduate mid-year must request to do so in the first quarter. They forfeit all students' rights, eligibility and participation in school activities. They can, however, participate in prom and commencement ceremonies.

All students must meet all graduation requirements prior to the graduation date to participate in the commencement ceremonies. They may receive a diploma at a later date when requirements are fulfilled.

Exchange students are a welcomed and valued experience for our students and staff, but it is our policy that they do not receive a diploma from Martensdale-St. Marys.

### HEALTH SERVICES

No medication will be given to students unless written authorization and instructions are provided by a medical professional. If a student is to receive medication during school hours it must be sent in its original container. Written instructions must accompany the medication with the following information:

- Name of student and date
- Name or purpose of medication
- Amount and time to be given
- Parent/guardian signature

All medication must be stored in the Nurse's Office. All medication will be distributed by the school nurse or their designee.

No medication is furnished by the school. Over-the-counter medication, such as aspirin and cough drops, will be given when accompanied by the above information, with the exception of the physician's signature.

### HONOR ROLLS/RECOGNITION

Junior high and high school students are recognized each quarter before earning a cumulative grade point average of 3.0 or higher on a 4.0 grading scale. All classes are included in the GPA.

**Valedictorian Award** - This award will be presented to the student(s) accumulating the highest grade point average and having met all MSTM academic graduation requirements.

**Salutatorian Award** - This award will be presented to the student(s) accumulating the number two rank grade point average and has met all MSTM academic graduation requirements.

The recipients must have completed their last two semesters of academic work at Martensdale-St. Marys.

### **ILLNESS DURING THE DAY**

- Any students who feel they need to lie down must always check into the Nurse's office.
- When that person leaves the Nurse's office to return to class, they must have a pass signed by the Nurse.
- Any student who has been in the Nurse's office for two blocks and is still not able to return to class, will be taken home by the parents/guardians. In the event this cannot be done, the student will be counted as absent from school.
- Students must check out of a class or study hall prior to seeing the nurse. Exceptions may be considered by the Principal.

If a student fails to check into the office for any time they spend in the Nurse's office, it may be considered an Unexcused Absence.

### **INCOMPLETE GRADES**

Students who receive an incomplete grade on their report card will be given ten (10) school days to make up work not completed. The teacher may extend the ten-day period (no more than 5 additional days), with administrator approval. Students will remain eligible for activities during the incomplete grading period. Failure to complete the incomplete work within the ten-day period, or approved extended time, will result in an F for the grading period.

### **INDEPENDENT STUDY**

Certain circumstances may warrant students taking regular catalog classes in an independent study format. Students taking classes independently must be done so in arrangement with the course instructor. The following guidelines and expectations will be applied to all independent study courses:

- Students need to check in with their instructor on a daily basis for attendance and progress monitoring purposes. Failure to do so may result in failure of the course;
- Students and instructors must determine the appropriate location for students to work. This should be either in the classroom or in another approved, supervised area (i.e. west computer lab, media center, etc.). This information will be shared with the office;
- Students will be provided with the necessary curriculum documents to define the scope and sequence of their coursework at the beginning of the course; and
- Instructors will provide weekly updates on student progress to students and parents. These updates may include letter grades, point accumulations, or other meaningful feedback on student work.

### **INITIATION CEREMONIES**

No initiation ceremonies shall be held either at the school or any other place involving students of the Martensdale-St. Marys Community School in any grade. Appropriate disciplinary action will be taken against violators

### **INTERIM PROGRESS REPORT**

The interim progress report is designed to monitor academic progress between grading periods. They will be mailed or e-mailed to parents/guardians at the three-week period when a student has a D or F. Teachers will submit progress reports by noon on the Wednesday prior to an ineligibility period. Students then have two (2) calendar days to bring their coursework current (i.e. submitting past due assignments with teacher approval that have a due date prior to the Wednesday cut off) before the ineligibility period will take effect. Students are expected to communicate with their teachers, regarding missing work, in an effort to avoid periods of ineligibility. The finalized ineligibility list will be sent out on Friday of each three-week period, with ineligibility effective for the following Monday-Sunday.

### **JUNIOR HIGH PROMOTION POLICY**

A student's promotion/retention will be based on their academic progress. Students that meet classroom expectations will be recommended to the principal for promotion. Students that fail to meet classroom expectations might be recommended for promotion, but only after the following measures have been taken:

- At mid-term, teachers will refer to the office those students that are failing or near failing. Parents will be contacted and informed about their child's lack of progress. Lack of improvement and/or progress may result in a parent/teacher/principal conference to develop a plan of action, which may include:
  - Academic Behavior Contract
  - Discipline Behavior Contract
  - Weekly Progress Reports to Parents
  - Referral for Comprehensive Evaluation
- Passing a course is determined by averaging the two semester grades. If that percentage does not meet the teacher's requirements for passing, the student has failed the course for the year.
- Students who fail three or more "core" classes for the year will be required to repeat the entire grade level. Students who fail one (1) or two (2) core class for the year will be required to complete coursework during summer school. This will be expected for each core class in which a student receives a failing grade for a full year.

### LEAVING DURING THE DAY

A student who needs to leave school during the regular school day must have a parent/guardian make verbal arrangements with the Principal's office if they desire to be considered for an excused absence. Any student who leaves without prior permission from both the parent/guardian and the Principal's office will be considered unexcused.

Students absent from school an entire school day or the last half of the school day due to illness are not to attend school activities that day or evening. Students who have early-out may leave at their scheduled time.

High school students who have lunch during the 2<sup>nd</sup> high school lunch mod on 1:00 dismissal days may choose to leave for the day when the lunch bell rings at 12:35, if the school has written permission from a parent/guardian. Those not choosing to leave, or those who ride the bus, must be in the lunchroom for the remainder of the day until the 1:00 dismissal bell rings.

### LOCKER POLICY

- Lockers are the property of the school.
- Lockers are to be kept closed.
- Lockers are recommended to be locked. The school takes no responsibility for lost or stolen items.
- Students are to use their assigned locker and no one else's: no locker sharing or trading. Students are responsible for their assigned locker. If a locker is in need of repair it is the student's responsibility to notify the office.
- Locker signs/decorations must be approved by the office prior to posting. Once an activity or sport is over the locker sign/decoration needs to be removed. Signs/decorations may not be wrapped or placed around the sides of the locker. (i.e. no wrapping of locker with birthday paper)
- Team signs/decorations need to be taken down by the end of the state tournament for that sport.
- Birthday signs/decorations must be taken down within one week of the birthday.
- Signs/decorations which are torn, ripped, marked, etc. prior to the sign/decoration stated duration need to be removed and/or replaced.

Consequences (per semester)

- 1st Violation – Notice to correct violation within one day.
- 2nd Violation – 30 min. detention
- 3rd Violation – 3 hr. Saturday school
- 4th Violation – Loss of locker privileges.

### LUNCHROOM RULES

- Students are allowed to bring a sack lunch and eat it in the cafeteria
- Students are expected to use good manners, clean off each table, refrain from throwing food, refrain from annoying others, and refrain from crowding in line.
- Lunch money should be deposited in the Central Office before school.
- Students must remain in the cafeteria during their lunch period.
- Students who do not meet basic expectations for behavior and conduct will be subject to disciplinary measures

### **MISSED CLASS TIME**

For assignments that are required to be completed in class, the student will make up assignments from the actual classes missed and may receive full or partial academic credit for them. Arrangements must be made with the classroom teacher as to when the time will be made up to successfully master the material missed. Failure to do so will result in no credit for the assignments not completed.

When a student returns from an absence they are expected to collect notes and make-up work. The student is expected to do make-up assignments during non-school hours.

Students will be permitted one (1) day for each day absent, plus one additional day to complete the make-up work. (i.e.-if a student is ill 2 days, he or she will be permitted 3 days for make-up work to be completed).

### **NATIONAL HONOR SOCIETY**

National Honor Society ([www.nhs.us](http://www.nhs.us)) is defined as, "More than just an honor roll, NHS serves[s] to honor those students who have demonstrated excellence in the areas of Scholarship, Leadership, Service, and Character. These characteristics have been associated with membership in the organization since [its] beginnings in 1921..." The tenets guide the organization and are also the basis on which membership is decided. The membership selection process is as follows:

The candidate must be a sophomore, junior, or senior, and have attended Martensdale-St. Marys for a minimum of one semester. All applicants must have a 3.500 grade point average on a 4.0 scale. Students will be extended an invitation to complete an application for membership to the MSTM Chapter of the National Honor Society. This process begins the last part of March and will be completed by the end of April.

Transfer students inducted into a chapter other than that of Martensdale-St.Marys shall have the same rights and responsibilities as all members as long as they are considered in good standing.

All applications will be reviewed based on a point scale system. Candidates will receive points for their participation in school organizations, work experience, community service, and leadership roles. In addition, students will be required to submit a short essay to the Faculty Committee stating why they would be a good addition to the organization.

The final portion of the process will include the submission of teacher recommendations. Each candidate may choose two high school teachers to provide feedback supporting them as NHS members. This information will be reviewed by the Faculty Committee and scored according to a rubric. All applications will be scored accordingly. The Faculty Committee will determine the cut off score needed for membership and all final decisions will be made by the Faculty Committee.

Newly appointed members will be asked to attend the induction ceremony recognizing their accomplishments Throughout the year, members perform a series of group service projects. Each month we gather for a formal meeting where, using parliamentary procedure, we decide each month's service project, discuss the climate and culture of the school, and generally work to improve the MSTM community. Members of NHS should set the standard for what a student at MSTM should be, and we are striving to do that each and every day.

### **ONLINE ACCESS FOR PARENTS**

Go to [www.MSTM.us](http://www.MSTM.us) and click on the JMC link on the toolbar. Select 7-12 Parents, enter Parent Username and password (which can be set up in the high school office) and click sign in.

**Attendance Report-** This area gives you period attendance for your child.

**Report Card-** This area shows the latest report card for your student.

**Progress Reports-** This area allows you to see up-to-date grades and scores on your child's assignments.

**Parent Information-** This allows you to update your address and phone information.

**Lunch-**This allows you to see all lunch transactions and lunch account balances. You can also make deposits directly into your student's lunch account at this point through RevTrak.

## PE LOCKERS

All students who wish to use lockers provided to them in the gym locker rooms must either use a school-issued lock or provide a key and/or combination to their PE instructors.

## POST SECONDARY ENROLLMENT ACT

The Post-Secondary Enrollment Act allows high school students to take college courses while still in high school in order to provide a wider variety of options to students and to promote rigorous academic pursuits. All juniors and seniors are eligible. Freshmen and sophomores who are enrolled in the Talented and Gifted Program are also eligible. Academic courses that are not offered at Martensdale-St. Marys can be taken and can be used toward graduation requirements.

The student is responsible for providing his or her own transportation to and from the college. The student is also responsible for passing the course. For registration information see the counseling office.

## REGISTERING FOR AND SCHEDULING CLASSES

Students wishing to add or drop a class must do so within the first two (2) class periods of the semester. All schedules must be finalized by the end of the fourth (4<sup>th</sup>) day of the semester. Changes will be governed by class loads and student needs. Students are expected not to drop full year courses at the end of the semester. Changes in class schedules must have the approval of the teachers involved, guidance counselor, parents, and principal. Students are not encouraged to drop a class. If this is necessary, students must do so within the first 2 days from which the first day of the class wanting to be dropped starts. Students must:

- Pick up a drop-add form from the guidance office.
- List all drops and adds.
- Get signature of teacher whose class is being added and/or dropped.
- The form must be signed by the student and their parents/guardians.
- The form must be returned to the guidance office.

Dropping a class after the fifth (5<sup>th</sup>) day of the semester will result in an F for the course.

Students enrolled in the School-to-Work program must have a class load equivalent to a full day of coursework opposite their work day.

Students interested in taking courses outside of the district for graduation credit must have approval from the administration prior to enrollment. Classes taken off sites, which are paid for by the school district, will be included in the classification of students. These classes will also count toward graduation requirements. Off-site classes that are paid for by the school district will be included in students' grade point averages. Students will enroll for PSEO classes through the counselor's office at designated times during the school year. Martensdale-St. Marys will pay for two (2) PSEO classes per semester and will count toward the student's GPA. Courses above and beyond the school-sponsored courses that are paid for by the student's family during or outside of the academic year will not count toward GPA calculations.

Seniors are given the option of having one elective course graded on a PASS/NOT PASS basis per semester if elected within two weeks of the start of the semester. This option will include a contract made by the teacher and student including requirements and expectations submitted to the principal's office within the first two weeks of the semester. A course taken under this option would, if passed, be counted toward the credits earned. A written evaluation of the student's work will be completed by the teacher.



**RELEASE OF STUDENT INFORMATION**

The following directory information may be released to the public in regard to any individual student of the school district as necessity or desirability arises: Name, address, telephone listing, date and place of birth, participation in officially required activities and sports, weight and height of members of athletic teams, dates of attendance, degrees and awards received, and the most recent previous school or institution attended.

**REPORT CARDS**

Report cards are available on-line through the JMC access. A student or parent may request that the school print off a report card for a student.

**SCHOOL CANCELLATIONS**

School may be cancelled or postponed due to inclement weather. Information may be obtained by listening to radio stations WHO, KJJY, KLYF or watching WHO, KCCI, WOI television.

**SEARCH AND SEIZURE**

All school property is held in public trust by the Board of Directors. School authorities may conduct periodic inspections of all or a randomly selected area of school grounds or if reasonable suspicion exists without a search warrant. The use of drug sniffing dogs will be used to inspect lockers, the school parking lot, and any other areas owned by the school where students may have their belongings. These searches could include but are not limited to searching a student, a student locker, desks, work areas, or student automobiles under the circumstances as outlined in the following regulations to maintain order and discipline in the schools, promote the educational environment, and protect the safety and welfare of students and school personnel. School authorities may seize any illegal, unauthorized or contraband materials discovered in the search.

It is recognized that such illegal, unauthorized or contraband materials generally cause material and substantial disruption to the school environment or present a threat to the health and safety of students, employees, or visitors on the school premises. Items of contraband may include but are not limited to non-prescription controlled substances such as marijuana, cocaine, amphetamines, barbiturates, apparatus used for the administration of controlled substances, alcoholic beverages, tobacco, weapons, explosives, poisons and stolen property. Such items are not to be possessed by a student anywhere on the school premises.

All non-maintenance searches must be based on a reasonable suspicion and be reasonable in scope.

**SEMESTER TESTS**

Summative semester assessments will be administered to all students in core areas. Summative semester assessments in elective courses are left to teacher discretion. Teachers may elect for students to complete projects in place of a comprehensive test. The tests will be administered over a five-day period, with no more than two (2) tests per day. Projects may be due on the same day as tests in other class periods as they are completed over time. All semester tests will be scheduled as far in advance as possible to ensure students have ample time to prepare. Inclusion of the summative assessment in a final semester grade is at the teacher's discretion.

**SPORTSMANSHIP**

All parents and athletes must attend a sportsmanship meeting prior to the student participating in an extra-curricular activity. There will be a Fall meeting date set each year to meet this requirement. Each student is expected to follow these suggestions which will serve as a guide to carrying out his/her responsibility in promoting good sportsmanship.

- Consider the visiting teams and fans, as well as the officials, as guests and treat them as such.
- Respect the rights of all spectators.
- Accept the officials' decisions as final.
- Support your cheerleaders with enthusiasm.
- Be modest in victory and gracious in defeat.

Consider it a privilege and duty to encourage everyone (players and spectators) to live up to the spirit of the rules of fair play and sportsmanship.

- Students should refrain from the following unsportsmanlike conduct.
- Booing or jeering officials or players at any time.
- Applauding errors by opponents or penalties inflicted upon them.
- Yelling or demanding a substitution or withdrawal of a player.
- Using profane language at any time during the game.
- Throwing objects on the playing surface.
- Criticizing players or coaches for losing a contest.

## STANDARDIZED TESTING

To fulfill state requirements, we formally assess students using the Iowa State Assessment of Student Progress (ISASP), which is developed in Iowa City. They will be administered to grades 7 through 11 and will be given during the regular school day in the late Spring. The Algebra Aptitude Test at the 8<sup>th</sup> Grade for Math and an end-of course science assessment for grades 8 and 11 will also be administered in late April or early May of each school year.

## STUDENT DRIVING

Buses are provided for the student's convenience, therefore, absences or tardiness due to a student driving are not excused.

All students who plan to drive must have a student-driving permit signed by your parents/guardians.

The staff and other school personnel have priority parking in the west area and the south row of the north parking lot.

Once a student driver enters the school zone with their vehicle after 8:00 A.M. on a school day, the driver is expected to drive to the school parking lot and park the vehicle the remainder of the school day. We have too many children on their way to school to tolerate leisure driving in the school driving zone.

Your vehicle is to be parked and remain parked until the end of the school day. Students are prohibited from returning to their vehicles or driving during the school day unless permission has been granted by the Principal.

When leaving the parking lot at the end of the day, all student drivers must use the gravel egress road by the north parking lot. Driving to school is considered a privilege and when improperly done will result in the suspension of the privilege.

Improper parking will result in the student moving their car and being assessed a tardy to school.

## STUDENT RECORDS

The Martensdale-St. Marys Community School District collects and maintains records on each student in order to facilitate the instruction, guidance and educational progress of the student. The records contain information about the student and his/her education. The records of each student are under the responsibility of the building principal and are generally located in the school building in which the student is attending.

## STUDENT VOICE BOARD

Martensdale-St. Marys is committed to elevating and amplifying student voice. In addition to self-advocacy, students in school-sponsored organizations and clubs will have a forum in the Student Voice Board, which will be located across from the HS Office. In collaboration with organizations' coaches/sponsors, students may post club announcements including meeting dates and times, fundraiser opportunities, or other pertinent information to promote and grow the organization. All postings must be 8 ½ x 11 in size and approved by the HS Principal and the coach/sponsor prior to hanging. The Board will be cleared out on a monthly basis, and groups are welcome to post again with the same expectations and parameters.

## TARDY POLICY

Punctuality is one of the self-disciplines that are essential for students. Tardiness to school is a student/parent/school problem and will be corrected as such.

The office does not give out passes unless the student has been called to the office.

Students need to secure a pass from the teacher if they were detained.

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- Missing more than 30 minutes of class for a non-school related activity is considered an absence.
- The word “tardy” in this policy will refer to those tardies that are unexcused.
- Tardies will be recorded on a semester basis.
- On the third tardy parents will be notified and advised that on the fourth tardy, their student will serve a 30-minute, before-school detention.
- On the fifth tardy, a student will serve 60 minutes of before-school detentions and will meet with his/her parent/guardian and the principal to discuss and implement appropriate interventions.
- On the sixth tardy, a student will forfeit practices for and participation in school activities for a calendar week.
- Students exceeding six tardies in a semester will be subject to further disciplinary measures and interventions, up to and including forfeiture of course credit.
- It is understood that a student can have multiple tardies occur in a single day.

Student drivers whose corresponding bus route arrival is delayed as a result of inclement weather shall not be counted as tardy as long as they arrive and check in with the office within a reasonable time in relation to the bus arrival time.

#### **TELEPHONE**

Students will be called from class for emergency reasons only; otherwise they will be called to the office to pick up the message during passing time.

#### **TEXTBOOKS**

Basic textbooks are issued to each student on a rental basis. Each book is numbered and a record of issued books is maintained. At the end of the school year all books checked out in the student's name are returned to the teachers. Books not returned or books damaged are to be paid for before full clearance can be given. Official school records are not released unless you have met this obligation.

#### **TRANSFERS**

If you will be transferring to another school, you must inform the principal's office, complete and turn in a drop slip before your records will be forwarded to your new school. Official school records are not forwarded to another school unless you have met this obligation.

#### **TRANSPORTATION**

Although the law requires the district to provide transportation, it does not relieve parents from the responsibility of supervision until such time as the child boards the bus in the morning and after the child exits the bus at the end of the school day. Nor does it relieve students from the responsibility to behave in an orderly and safe manner on the bus. School bus transportation is a privilege that can be taken away any time a student's conduct is considered bad enough to jeopardize the safety of the other passengers. The right to safe transportation will not be taken from an entire busload of students because a few of them disobey the rules.

Those students guilty of flagrant, repeated, or gross disobedience or misconduct on school buses are subject to suspension. Continued violation of bus rules will be considered sufficient cause for refusing to transport the student(s) involved, and may lead to suspension from school, depending upon the seriousness of the matter.

The bus driver shall have complete control of the bus and the students he or she is transporting for the duration of the bus ride. Any problem arising with a student will be promptly reported to the building principal, who shall discipline the student as follows:

- 1st offense - Verbal warning.

- 2nd offense - Written warning from the principal to be signed by the parent/guardian before allowed back on the bus
- 3rd offense - Suspension from riding the bus.

All students riding the bus must stay on school grounds after arriving at school. Students are not allowed to go to town before or after school is dismissed.

## VISITORS

The school is open to properly accredited visitors. Students will please introduce all guests at the Principal's office and secure a Visitor's Permit. Parents/guardians should contact the Principal **prior to their child bringing a guest to school at least two days in advance.**

## WAIVER OF STUDENT FEES/SCHOOL SUPPLIES

Students whose families meet the income guidelines for free and reduced price lunch, the Family Investment Program (FIP), Supplemental Security Income (SSI), transportation assistance under open enrollment, or who are in foster care are eligible to have their student fees waived or partially waived. Students whose families are experiencing a temporary financial difficulty may be eligible for a temporary waiver of student fees. Parents or students who believe they may qualify for temporary financial hardship should contact the Principal's office for a waiver form. This waiver does not carry over from year to year and must be completed annually.

## WORK COMPLETION AND REASSESSMENT POLICY

This policy will address the following elements of work completion and reassessment: a) clearly defining "due date"; b) a universal practice regarding the acceptance and assessment of late work; c) emphasis on communication between student, teacher, and parent; d) timely return and recording of student work; and e) common reassessment procedures.

### Definitions

- *Due Date:* The day and time as designated by the classroom teacher an assignment is to be turned in for assessment of progress toward learning objectives
- *Reassessment:* The practice of revising, redoing, or correcting previously-assessed assignments, tests, or projects in an effort to provide additional instruction and opportunity for the student to demonstrate proficiency in learning objectives.

### General Policy Enactment

Teachers will provide defined due dates for assignments in JMC upon their dispersal to students. Due dates will be communicated in class, through the grade portal on JMC, and in lesson plans posted on JMC, Google Classroom, and/or other approved course management systems. If a student is not able to complete an assignment by the designated due date, he/she must communicate with his/her instructor to a) explain the reason why the assignment was not turned in on time, and b) arrange with the teacher when the assignment will be turned in.

On an assignment's due date, teachers will note in their online grade books whether the assignment was handed in ("HI" in JMC) or missing ("M" in JMC). From that point, an assignment will be assessed and scored by the teacher and returned with the appropriate assessment score within two (2) class periods. If a student has an "M" denotation in JMC, he/she has spoken with the instructor and made arrangements to submit the completed work. If a student has an "MI" denotation in JMC, the corresponding assignment has passed the due date and no longer eligible for credit.

Students who repeatedly miss assignment will be assigned to structured study hall before school in order to make up missing work and develop strategies to improve performance.

Reassessment Practices

Students are eligible for reassessment for any assignment, test, project, or other scored measure of student progress if they meet the following criteria:

- a) The assignment was submitted on or before the designated due date;
- b) There is evidence of the student's concerted attempt toward completing the assignment; and
- c) The student's performance on the assignment is indicative of needing reinstruction or reinforcement of key concepts and skills

If the above criteria are met, it is the student's responsibility to meet with his/her teacher to determine when and how the reassessment will occur.

**ZENITH LEARNING EXPERIENCE**Purpose

- Increase student engagement in learning over the course of their secondary experience;
- Partner with local businesses and service providers to strengthen connections to school;
- Provide students with hands-on, real-life experiences in fields of interest;
- Prepare students for the demands and complexity of post-secondary life
- Actively engage students, teachers, parents, and the community in more purposeful and directed post-secondary planning

The Zenith Learning Experience at Martensdale-St. Marys is not unique – there are similar programs all over the state of Iowa. What separates Zenith from the others is its personalized design that enables every student to explore fields of interest in depth and with support from knowledgeable and experienced people. Over the course of four years, students engage in job shadows, guided planning, college visits, guest speakers, and a minimum semester-long project or workplace experience in their field of professional interest. The overall experience will give MStM students a feel for what's ahead of them after high school; a clear direction and pathway for how to continue their learning and growth; and the confidence to be successful in whatever they do. It will ensure MStM graduates leave our halls as their most powerful selves to be ready for what lies beyond.

Pathway Options

No two Zenith Learning Experiences will look the same – which is both a challenge and an opportunity for all involved. There are similarities, to be sure, but because each MStM student has unique talents, goals, abilities, and learning styles to consider, a single means of developing and executing such an experience is not feasible. To that end, there are four general pathways for students to determine when planning for their learning:

- Capstone Project – For students whose post-secondary plans do not align with a clear or available workplace experience, the Capstone Project provides an opportunity for them to create a comprehensive project of considerable depth and complexity. Through the guidance of their Advisor, students propose, plan, execute, refine, and present their work at the conclusion of their Zenith Learning Experience.
- Workplace Experience – Taking the basic tenets of the School-to-Work option, students electing to follow this pathway will participate in a job (paid or unpaid), an internship, pre-apprenticeship, or other similar format of on-site, hands-on learning. Any teacher may supervise this within their own endorsement areas. The MOC endorsement is only required if supervising outside their endorsement areas.
- Supervised Agricultural Experience (SAE) – This is an option available to students in the MStM chapter of Future Farmers of America (FFA). The Supervised Agricultural Experience is an interdisciplinary learning

experience in an ag-related field that combines elements of the Capstone Project and the Workplace Experience mentioned above.

- Post-Secondary Institution Program – We currently partner with DMACC Southridge Career Academy in a number of fields where students complete dual-credit coursework in a college environment. Other local colleges and universities may also be available, depending on the student's chosen pathway.

### Changing Pathways

At any time during the course of their high school experience, students may change pathways upon proper consultation with their Advisor, the School Counselor, and the building Principal. This consultation will include a graduation credit review, planning for the new pathway, and gathering feedback for improvement. Students will not be penalized for changing pathways.