

Independence Middle School General School Policies

Media Center

1. All books are the property of the Independence School District.
2. Books may be checked out for two weeks and renewed twice.
3. Students may have two books at a time unless special permission is obtained from the Library Media Specialist.
4. Students must pay full price for any book lost or damaged.
5. A student may not check out additional books if they have over \$1.00 in fines accrued. Students will be charged five cents per day for overdue items.
6. Students must handle print and non-print media and equipment with care and exhibit self-controlled conduct in the Library Media Center.
7. All students and adults must be treated respectfully by all students who use the media center.
8. Any student who abuses these rules may lose his/her privilege to check out books or use the Library Media Center for a period of time determined by the Library Media Specialist.

Bus Rider Expectations

Independence Middle School Bus Riders Will:

1. Make the bus stop AND bus ride safe by:
 - being on time and staying out of the roadway
 - using appropriate and respectful behavior (no name calling, no throwing objects, no profanity, no touching or threatening another person)
 - being cautious of strangers who approach the bus stop
2. Follow the directions of the bus driver the first time they are given.
3. Keep aisles and exits clear at all times.
4. Remain seated, face the front of the bus, and keep all body parts inside the bus.

Independence Middle School Bus Riders Will Not:

1. Commit any actions that might distract the bus driver (throw objects, touch another person, use loud or inappropriate language).
2. Eat or drink anything on the bus- including gum or candy.
3. Bring tobacco products (including matches or lighters), drugs, alcohol, illegal or controlled substances, weapons (or look-alike weapons), fireworks, laser pointers on the bus or to school; vandalize the bus or any of its equipment.
4. Harass or disrespect other riders, the driver, or passing automobiles.

School consequences for inappropriate behavior on the bus may be given out in addition to consequences from transportation.

Attendance Expectations

School attendance and classroom participation are critical factors for academic achievement. Educational studies have shown positive correlation between consistent school attendance, academic success and graduation. The Missouri Compulsory Attendance Law (R.S.MO.167.031) requires regular attendance by all students between the ages of seven and sixteen. Independence School District expects students to have an attendance rate of at least 95%. To accomplish this standard, cooperation between the family, school and community is essential.

Absentee Procedure

1. A parent/legal guardian should notify the student's school each day of a student's absence. Parents are encouraged to maintain written records received (such as doctor's notes) to account for the student's absence. Parents should contact the school prior to any planned absence and make arrangements for class work.
2. If the school is not notified by the parent, the school will attempt to contact the parent regarding the absence.
3. A student's absence will remain unexcused until proper notification has been provided.
4. If a student's attendance rate drops to 90%, written notification will be sent to the parent from the child's school. This includes full day and partial day absences.

Interventions to Resolve Chronic Absences & Truancy

Conferences with school administrators/ counselors

Support from the Family School Liaison

Referral to Truancy Court (Municipal charges are filed against the parents/legal guardian for attendance rate below 80%)

Referral to Missouri Children's Division (for attendance rate below 80%)

Student Signature

Date

Parent Signature

Date



Policy Regarding Alcoholic Beverages, Narcotics, Illegal Drugs, Prohibited Substance, Medication and Smoking

Sale, and/or use, and in any instance when a pupil is discovered to have on or about such pupil’s possessions, or placed elsewhere on the school premises of alcoholic beverages, narcotics, illegal drugs and/or prohibited substances and drug paraphernalia, as defined by RSMo Chapter 195, by any student while such student is upon school property, in attendance at a school function, whether off or upon school property or while on school furnished transportation will result in suspension from classes with a recommendation to the Superintendent of Schools that the student be suspended for a period not to exceed one hundred eighty (180) days.

Sale and/or use, and in any instance when a pupil is discovered to have on or about such pupil’s possessions, or placed elsewhere on the school premises of medication, medicine, drugs or vitamins, either prescription or nonprescription by any student while such student is upon school property, in attendance at a school function, whether off or upon school property or while on school furnished transportation will result in suspension from classes with a recommendation to the Superintendent of Schools that the student be suspended for a period not to exceed one hundred eighty (180) days. Such medication, medicine drugs or vitamins shall be delivered to the school clinic by a parent, guardian or designated adult with written orders from a doctor and shall be administered by trained personnel.

Any student engaged in smoking, chewing, sniffing possession or any other use of tobacco or smokeless tobacco materials on school property during the school day or while any after-school activity is in progress, including riding the bus to and from school, will be suspended.

Bullying Policy – Independence Anti-Bullying Pledge

- We the students of the Independence School District agree to join together to stamp out bullying at our school.
- We believe that everybody should enjoy our school equally, and feel safe, secure and accepted regardless of color, race, gender, popularity, athletic ability, intelligence, religion and/or nationality.
- Bullying can be pushing, shoving, hitting, and spitting, as well as name calling, picking on, making fun of, spreading rumors about, laughing at, and excluding someone. Bullying causes pain and stress to victims and is never justified or excusable as “kids being kids”, “just teasing” or any other rationalization. The victim is never responsible for being a target of bullying.

By agreeing to this pledge, I will:

1. Value student/adult differences and treat others with respect.
2. Not become involved in bullying incidents or be a bully.
3. Be aware of the school’s policies and support system with regard to bullying.
4. Report honestly and immediately all incidents of bullying to a faculty member.
5. Be alert in places around the school where there is less adult supervision such as bathrooms, corridors, and stairwells.
6. Support students who have been or are subjected to bullying.
7. Talk to teachers and parents about concerns and issues regarding bullying.
8. Work with other students and faculty, to help the school deal with bullying effectively.
9. Encourage teachers to discuss bullying issues in the classroom.
10. Provide a good role model for younger students and support them if bullying occurs.
11. Participate fully and contribute to assemblies dealing with bullying.

I acknowledge that whether I am being a bully or see someone being bullied, if I don’t report or stop the bullying, I am just as guilty.

Sexual Harassment Policy

The Independence School district is committed to maintaining and ensuring a learning and working environment free of any form of sexual harassment or intimidation toward personnel and students.

Everyone in our schools has a right to work and go to school without fear of any kind of harassment. Students at Bingham Middle School will be treated with respect, dignity, and equality. Sexual harassment is any type of UNWELCOME sexual words or actions that make a person feel bad, trapped, or confused.

Sexual harassment may be in the form of (but not limited to):

- Name-calling; rumors and gossip; staring; gestures; notes; writing on walls or desks
- Touching or grabbing someone
- Profanity or dirty jokes/stories or inappropriate pictures; whistling
- Comments about sexual orientation (such as “gay”, “fag”, “homo”, etc...)

If you feel that you are a victim of sexual harassment, you should NOT keep it to yourself. Please inform a teacher, principal, and your parents about the situation so that it can be dealt with immediately.

Student Signature Date

Parent Signature Date

Standard of Student Conduct

This document is based upon the provisions of the Missouri Safe Schools Act in Missouri Revised Statutes, the Federal Gun Free Schools Act and other pertinent laws which support schools being safe places for students and employees. Each student is expected to further his/her education and to respect each student's right to learn in a safe environment. The Standard of Student Conduct applies in or about all school buildings and grounds, at all school activities or activities, which involve Independence Middle School Campus and the Independence School District. These standards will be applied to address the emotional, developmental and intellectual level of the student. Non-compliance with these standards may result in student suspension, expulsion and/or reporting to the appropriate agency or to law enforcement, which may result in removal from school grounds.

Students are provided with a Student Handbook at the beginning of each school year or when admitted to the Independence School District. The handbook, which is based on policies of the Independence School District, details the proper deportment of students and possible discipline consequences. A copy of district policy is available at each district building. The following paragraphs identify specific conduct issues that have the potential for significant disciplinary consequences.

This document requires a student's signature. The signature indicates that the content has been read and understood. This signed document will be kept in the student's file.

1. Profanity, display of affection, insubordination, behavior disruptions, and use of tobacco products are violations of policy. Students in violation will be subject to appropriate discipline.
2. Threats, bullying, cyberbullying, and oral/physical assault of a fellow student or staff member may result in suspension, expulsion, and/or be reported to the appropriate authorities (including police).
3. The use and/or possession of a weapon or potentially dangerous/inappropriate items are prohibited. The 1994 Federal Gun Free Schools Act, Missouri Revised Statutes and the policies of the Independence School District define a weapon. Violators will be referred to the appropriate legal authorities and also are subject to long-term suspension or expulsion from school. If a student violates the weapons policy as provided in both state and federal law, the student shall be suspended and/or expelled for a period of not less than one year as specified by law.
4. The use, sale, transfer, or attendance under the influence of alcohol or drugs is prohibited. Drug paraphernalia is also prohibited. Students in violation of policy will be subject to discipline which includes suspension and/or expulsion and reporting to the appropriate legal authorities.
5. Students are forbidden from making any terrorist threat or knowingly false report of a catastrophe, including but not limited to false bomb threats, which may disrupt or frighten people, causing the closing or evacuation of any building, facility, or transportation. Violation may result in suspension, expulsion, and will be reported to the appropriate law enforcement.
6. Extortion, theft, damage to school/staff/student property is prohibited. Students will be subject to suspension, restitution, and a report to the police department.
7. Students at Independence Middle School Campus are expected to be clean and tidy in attire. Dress and grooming must not disrupt the teaching and learning environment/process. When school authorities judge that a student's appearance or mode of dress disrupts the educational process, or constitutes a threat to health and safety, the student may be required to make modifications.
8. Attendance is necessary for adequate educational progress and learning. Missouri law requires that every parent, guardian, or other person having charge, control or custody of a child, be responsible for ensuring that the student attend school regularly. Failure to comply can result in legal proceedings. Regular attendance is required at ALL times at the Independence Middle School Campus. Truancy is prohibited. Students may be subject to home visits by school and law enforcement authorities, and or truancy court for truancy issues.
9. Federal laws and district policy dictate technology use. The use of technology, such as computer equipment, electronic mail, phone systems, and all other communication capabilities, is a privilege. Any misuse of technology that violates district or federal law will result in disciplinary action, possible loss of technology privileges, and or legal consequences (including FBI, United States Secret Service, etc.) – See Technology Acceptable Use Policy.
10. Students who bring cell phones to school will need to store them in one of two places: locker or zipped pencil pouch. Cell phones that are seen will be collected by staff and turned into the office. The first time, the item will be returned to the student at the end of the day. The second time items are confiscated, parents may be asked to pick the item up in addition to possible consequences to the student. Students who use these items or have them out during the school day will be subject to disciplinary action up to and including ISS/OSS. Continued violations or failure to comply will be subject to disciplinary action up to and including ISS/OSS.
11. It is our goal to maintain an environment free from sexual harassment for students and employees. The district prohibits any form of sexual harassment. Reports of such incidents should immediately be made to building administrators. Disciplinary action may include suspension, expulsion, or referral to legal authorities.

I have read, reviewed, and understand the policies and items described in the "Independence Middle School General School Policies" and the Student Planner. I understand the consequences that may result if I violate any of the policies or rules described in these documents.

Student Signature Date

Parent Signature Date

School Dress Code

Students should wear clothing that is appropriate for school and is not distracting, offensive, or dangerous. Any violation of the following will result in the student required to adjust or change clothing.

- Clothing should not display anything that is sexual in nature; advertise or promote drugs, alcohol, or tobacco; display violence; suggest put-downs toward any ethnic group or promote any other material deemed harmful, distracting, or offensive.
- Shirts or tops MUST cover the midriff, back and chest area (tube tops, halter-tops, and diagonal tops with strap over on shoulder are not allowed).
 - Tank tops must cover undergarments, chest area, and sides of torso.
 - Spaghetti straps are not permitted.
- Pants/Shorts/Jeans with holes cannot expose too much skin.
- Pants, shorts, jeans, etc. must be worn so that the waistband is at your waist. Sagging of jeans, shorts, and pants is not permitted.
- If pants will not stay up on their own, student will be expected to adjust clothing or change.
- Shorts and skirts must not be too short or revealing.
- Hats may not be worn inside the building during the school day. This includes stocking caps, scarves, bandanas, "do rags", hoods, or other headwear.
- Coats, backpacks, purses, blankets, and book bags should be placed in your locker as soon as you arrive at school.
- Jewelry must not be dangerous, distracting, or promote drugs, alcohol, tobacco, weapons, profanity, or sex. Watch, wallet, or other chains worn from the waist are not permitted.
- Bandannas and other gang-related attire are not permitted at school.
- No house shoes or slippers allowed.
- Hairspray and/or hair or body dye materials are not allowed at school or on the school bus.
- Skin tight pants cannot be sheer or see through.
- Writing on skin and/or body graffiti which is a distraction will result in students being required to remove it.

Students who are dressed inappropriately will be asked to change clothes before attending class or school activities. A student with too much exposed skin will be asked to change into appropriate clothing. If a student chooses not to comply, staff will refer the student to an administrator for further disciplinary actions. As fashion trends develop, the administration may determine that other styles are not safe or appropriate to be worn at school.

The school reserves the right to restrict any student from attending classes or school activities when such student's dress, general appearance and/or conduct creates safety, health, or discipline problems. Exceptions to the dress code may be made by administration.

Students may be given the following consequences if they fail to follow the identified dress code:

- **Warning, Detention, In-School Suspension, Out of School Suspension**

Additional consequences may be given if the student continually does not follow the dress code.

Student Signature

Date

Parent Signature

Date