



Welcome to AMS!
We are...

- Respectful
- Responsible
- Resilient

The Big Three

Be Respectful

- *Use school appropriate language and voice level*
- *Practice the Golden Rule*
- *Listen to and follow directions the first time*
- *Be positive with what you say*

Be Responsible

- *Participate in school all day, everyday*
- *Use school and personal property appropriately*
- *Be engaged, be prepared, be on time*
- *Complete task and assignments*

Be Resilient

- *Surround yourself with positive people*
- *Be a problem solver*
- *Set high expectations for yourself and your peers*
- *Overcome the obstacles, make life better for yourself and others*

The BIG 3


Administrative Team

- 🐾 Mr. Holmes- Principal
- 🐾 Mr. Giles- Assistant Principal
- 🐾 Ms. Maddox- School Counselor
- 🐾 Nurse Payne- School Nurse
- 🐾 Deputy Payne- School Resource Officer

Respect- A feeling that someone or something is important and should be treated in an appropriate way



Attendance Requirements

- Attendance is related to academic achievement.
 - If you are absent, bring a note within **3 days** of the absence.
 - Excused absences are for medical conditions, medical appointments, school sponsored events, death or serious illness in immediate family, personal court appearance, approved pre-planned absences, extenuating circumstances determined by administration, personal illness verified by written note from a parent/guardian
 - Students may only miss ten school days with a parent's note. After the tenth excused absence, a doctor's note will be required for each absence.
 - Notes for student absences may be sent via email or fax.
 - Fax and email contacts are in the student handbook
 - Review attendance guidelines on page 2 in the student handbook
- 

Tardies

Students who are late to class will be admitted to class and will be subject to the following discipline procedures:

1. **First and Second unexcused tardies**: Warning
2. **Third and Fourth unexcused tardies**: Administrative conference with the student
3. **Fifth unexcused tardy**: Administrative reprimand AND plan put in place to eliminate tardies. Copy the tardy policy and have copy signed by parent/guardian. Students must return it the next school day or they will receive lunch detention until it is returned.
4. **Sixth unexcused tardy**: 1 day of lunch detention
5. **Seventh unexcused tardy**: 2 days of lunch detention
6. **Eighth unexcused tardy**: 3 days of lunch detention.
7. **Ninth unexcused tardy**: 3 days of lunch detention PLUS a mandatory parent conference with the student and administration PLUS a plan put in place to eliminate tardies and signed by the student, parent, and administrator
8. **Subsequent unexcused tardies**: 1 day of In-School Detention

Tardies are cumulative. The tardy policy will be on a nine week basis. Students will have a clean tardy record at the beginning of each nine weeks. **Students will lose dance and field trip privileges due to extensive unexcused tardies and excessive absences.**

Before and After School Hours

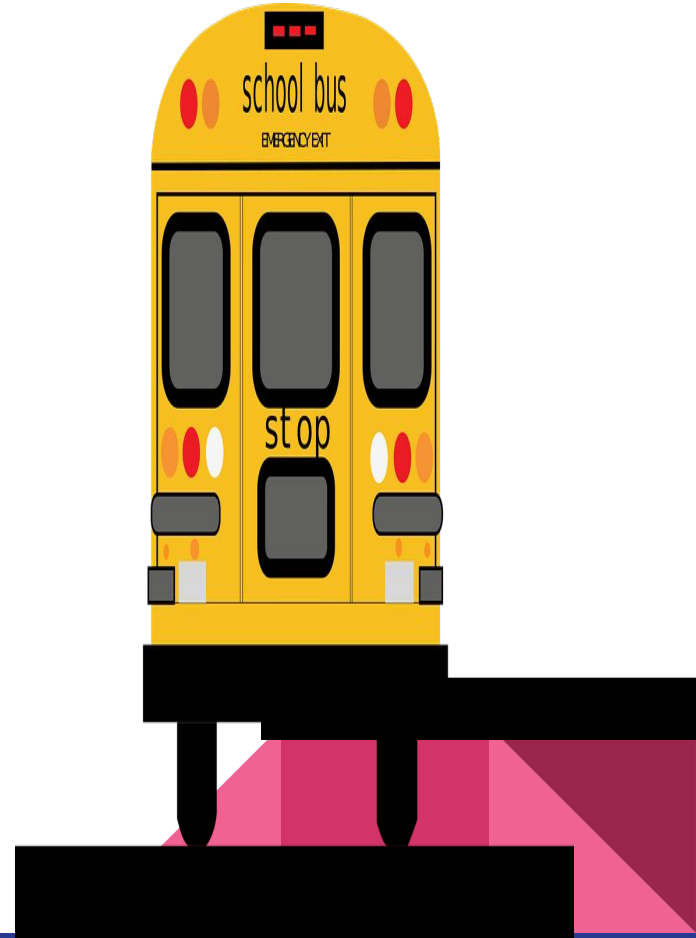
- School hours: 7:30-2:45
- Do not arrive before 7:30
- Leave by 3:00, unless here for an extracurricular activity
 - After School Activities
 - AMS Athletic Teams
 - AMS Drama
 - AMS STEAM Club
 - Cougar Academy
 - FFA Events
 - Students staying after school are expected to adhere to the school policies outlined in the student handbook

Responsibility- the quality of being dependable Show **responsibility** by always doing your homework.



Bus Expectations

- Be at your designated stop on time
- Sit in assigned seat
- Wear your mask on the bus and social distance.
- Obey school bus rules and the bus driver
- **Respect** your bus driver!
- If you need to ride another bus, you must have a note from your parent/guardian to receive a bus pass from Mrs. Campbell in the office. If the bus is a “full bus” passes will not be permitted
- Bus discipline will follow the school’s progressive discipline chart.



Cougar Cafeteria

- Breakfast will be served as a grab and go option. Students will report to the cafeteria as soon as they arrive at school and will take breakfast to their homeroom.
- Be **respectful** to the nutrition staff and to the teachers who are on lunch duty.
 - Mrs. Gunnels, Mrs. Ackerman, Mrs. Henson
- Be sure to throw your trash away and clean up around you when you are finished.
- Follow your grade level cafeteria instructions.
- Enter into the cafeteria in the far doors and exit through the middle doors.



Calling Home

- Reserved for emergencies
- If you need to call home do so at lunch or in between classes
- DO NOT USE A CELL PHONE TO CALL HOME
 - This will result in the first offense of using a cell phone at school



Resilience- an ability to recover from or adjust to misfortune or change

Cell Phones and Smart Watches

- Phone must be off and in your locker throughout the school day 7:30–you leave school premises.
- Cell phone policy is different when riding the school bus:
 - May: send texts, access social media, access internet, listen to music or watch videos (with headphones in).
 - May not: make phone calls, record images or sound, take pictures, wear headphones while boarding or getting off the school bus or while crossing the road in front of the bus.
 - All content being accessed must be within the guidelines of the ACPS acceptable use policy.




Cell Phone/Smart Watch Policy

The use of cell phones is strictly forbidden at any time in private areas including locker rooms, restrooms, dressing areas, classrooms and offices. Such use may also be in violation of the criminal code. Students who refuse to give their cell phones to a teacher upon request will be suspended from school for failure to comply. Handbook page 7.

The following consequences have been established for students failing to follow the cell phone policy.

- 1st offense – Warning
- 2nd offense - The student will be assigned one day of in-school suspension and the cell phone will be confiscated and returned to the student at the end of 7th period.
- 3rd offense - The student will be assigned two days of in-school suspension and the cell phone will be confiscated. A parent/legal guardian of the student will need to pick up the cell phone in the main office.
- 4th offense –The student will be suspended from school to ASC, requiring a conference with the parent/legal guardian before the student returns to school. The cell phone will be confiscated. A parent/legal guardian of the student will need to pick up the cell phone in the main office.

**The phrase “cell phone” refers to all communication devices including, but not limited to, pagers, walkie-talkies, smartphones, and instant message devices. Final interpretation of the cell phone policy rests with the building principal.*



Clinic and Medicine


- The clinic is located next to the cafeteria
- You must have a note or agenda signed to see the nurse.
- If the nurse is not here you may report to the secretary in the office.
- Medicine:
- **You should not have any medicine on you.**
 - Aspirin, Tylenol, Cough Drops, or other over the counter meds, and prescription meds.
- If you need medicine throughout the day your parent needs to bring it in with a completed form and give to Nurse Payne.
- Review medication guidelines on page 5 in the student handbook

I firmly believe that respect is a lot more important, and a lot greater, than popularity.

Julius Erving



Dances

- Student participation in dances and other activities is a privilege. Students with any Out-of-School Suspension/Alternative to Suspension, two or more incidents of In-School Suspension, two or more bus suspensions, or a combination of (1) bus and (1) In-School Suspensions since the previous dance will not be permitted to attend the next dances. Any student with three or more separate incidents of OSS/ASC will not be permitted to attend any dance for the remainder of the year.
 - Students missing any class work assignments, quizzes, or tests will not be able to attend dances. Students will be informed of missing class work assignments, quizzes and tests one week prior to the dance. These missing assignments, quizzes, or tests will need to be completed and turned in three days prior to the dance to be able to attend the dance.
 - See page 4 of student handbook.
- 

Field Trips


To be eligible to participate on a school sponsored field trip:

- **Any student who has received the following consequences will not be able to participate:**
 - Five (or more) incidents of In-School Suspension/bus suspensions for the school year. **This includes ISS for unexcused tardies as well as discipline.**
 - Two or more separate incidents of Out-of-School Suspension/Alternative to Suspension for the school year or one Out-of-School Suspension/Alternative to Suspension of five or more days.
 - A combination of three or more incidents of In-School Suspension and one or more incidents of Out of-School-Suspension/Alternative to Suspension for the school year.
- **Excessive unexcused absences which have resulted in an attendance review meeting. (Please review attendance procedures on page 3)**
 - **For end of the year field trips any student who has accumulated 16 or more absences (excused, excused by a physician, unexcused, or suspended absences) will NOT be able to attend these field trips.**
- **Students with any outstanding balances for cafeteria, fundraisers, or library would NOT be able to attend until accounts are paid in full.**
- <https://bit.ly/3xx1mJN>
- **See page 4 of student handbook.**


Discipline

- Be RESPECTFUL, Be RESPONSIBLE, Be RESILIENT
- Be on time, don't be tardy.
- No bullying and do not bring social media issues into the building.
- No alcohol, drugs, tobacco, prescription drugs.
- Due Process: We make you aware of the accusation against you, we hear your side of the story, and you have a right to appeal the consequence(s) received.
- No Fighting:
 - Fighting is considered to be a serious and disruptive behavior. After examination of the evidence, circumstances and provocation the following disciplinary options could be used:
1st Offense: 3 Day Out of School Suspension.
2nd Offense: 5 Day Out of School Suspension.
Repeated Offenses: Suspension with possible recommendation for expulsion.

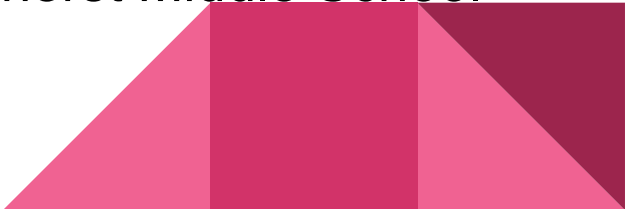
Hold yourself responsible for a higher standard than anybody expects of you. Never excuse yourself. Henry Ward Beecher



Discipline

- No Profanity
 - Acceptable Use of Computers
 - Downloading games
 - Google tracking system
 - Email, Google apps, internet sites
 - Keep your hands to yourself
 - Defiance and disobedience
 - Disruptive behavior
 - When attending after school activities here or at other schools keep in mind that expectations are still the same and you will receive consequences for your actions.
 - Resources available to develop self-management skills:
 - Alternative to Suspension Center
 - Racial Slur, Physical Altercation, etc.
 - Discipline is used to ensure a safe and orderly environment and to ensure the fair and equitable treatment of all students.
 - Progressive consequences
 - YOU make AMS a great place!
 - Be RESPECTFUL, Be RESPONSIBLE, Be RESILIENT
- 

Dress Code

- Amherst County Public Schools has developed standards for student dress in order to prepare students for future success as well as to create a safe and orderly learning environment. Amherst County Public Schools respects the differences of all students and does not discriminate based on sex, race, color, national origin, gender, ethnicity, religion, disability, ancestry, marital or parental status, or other factors. Amherst County Public Schools will rely on parents and guardians to use good judgment in their selection of clothing for their students.
 - See the student dress code outlined in the Amherst Middle School Student Handbook, page 11.
- 

Grading

GRADING SCALE:

98-100	A+	73-76	C
93-97	A	70-72	C-
90-92	A-	67-69	D+
87-89	B+	63-66	D
83-86	B	60-62	D-
80-82	B-	0-59	F
77-79	C+		

Students will receive a grade of “0” for assignments not completed.



Lockers

- Do Not share lockers!!
- Do Not give your locker combinations out!!
- We can inspect lockers anytime for any reason.
- If your locker is not working, please tell a teacher or an administrator.
Do not kick or punch the lockers to try and get them open/closed.

It's a wonderful thing to be optimistic. It keeps you healthy and it keeps you resilient.

Daniel Kahneman



Resources

- We want you to be successful and we are here to help you have a great middle school experience.
 - Administrative Team
 - Mr. Holmes
 - Mr. Giles
 - Ms. Maddox
 - Mrs. Campbell
 - Mrs. Davila
 - Deputy Payne
 - Nurse Payne
 - Teachers, coaches, and counselors
 - Cafeteria workers, custodians, and bus drivers

**"The whole is greater than the sum of its parts."
Aristotle**



Cougar Incentive Program

Cougar Quest:

Academics (based on overall GPA for the Nine Weeks)

- Tier 1: 4.0 10 tickets
- Tier 2: 3.5 - 3.999 8 tickets
- Tier 3: 3.0 - 3.499 5 tickets
- Tier 4: 2.3 - 2.999 3 tickets

Attendance (absences based on Nine Weeks - both excused and unexcused)

- Tier 1: Perfect Attendance 10 tickets
- Tier 2: 1 Absence 8 tickets
- Tier 3: 2 Absences 5 tickets
- Tier 4: 3-4 Absences 3 tickets

Behavior (based on Nine Weeks)

- Tier 1: No Referrals 15 tickets
- No other Tiers will be awarded in this category

NOTE: 3 separate incidents of OSS will be an automatic disqualification from the incentive program.



Go Cougars!

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3sK3wJAxGfs>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mTsvSAltPqA&list=RDLVc8vUlojBZNA&index=4>

