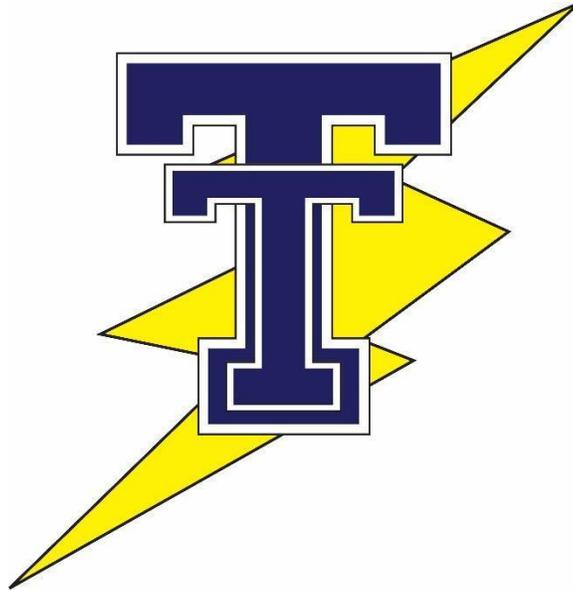


Teeland Middle School Student Handbook 2021-2022



Jo Ann Hinds

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PRINCIPAL'S WELCOME

To Our Teeland Families,

The TMS staff is very excited to welcome our families back to school this fall and we are looking forward to a successful year! Our staff is amazing, the school community is extremely supportive, and our students will continue to rise to our high standards. We may again face challenges this year as we learn about, and adjust to, health and safety risks that are new to our lives. However, we are committed to doing the very best we can to keep our school community safe and deliver a quality education. We will continue to address our mission “To prepare students for success”, and “STRIVE for Excellence”.

Last year our school community rose up to the challenge of attending school during this pandemic. We were successful through the power of communication, forward thinking solutions, and kindness. We are again ready to re-connect, build relationships, and get back to the business of education. From difficult times, come our greatest accomplishments. Let us all move towards this school year with positivity and determination!

Sincerely,

Jo Ann Hinds

Principal

Excellence In...

We strive for **excellence in citizenship** by emphasizing and celebrating respect, responsibility, and personal growth resulting in a caring learning environment.

We strive for **excellence in academics** by creating 21st Century Learners through innovative teaching strategies using real-world applications.

CITIZENSHIP

ACADEMICS

CONNECTIONS

We strive for **excellence in our connections** with students, parents, and community through positive interactions, service-learning, involvement in co-curricular activities, and the celebration of success.

**Teeland
Middle School**

The graphic features three purple boxes containing the words 'CITIZENSHIP', 'ACADEMICS', and 'CONNECTIONS' arranged in a staggered, overlapping layout. The text is set against a light gray background with a subtle gradient and decorative horizontal lines.

GENERAL HEALTH AND SAFETY (COVID-19 RESPONSE)

MSBD has developed a Base Plan to guide school district activities and operations in the event of Low, Medium, High risk environments. Please note that “community” may refer to a specific classroom, school or the entire Mat-Su Borough. A brief description of the protocol for each Risk Level is below:

LOW RISK	MEDIUM RISK	HIGH RISK
MASKS RECOMMENDED No to minimal confirmed cases in the last 14 days	MASKS MAY BE REQUIRED in CLASSROOM OR SCHOOL due to a positive case Outbreaks (hot spots) or increase in school community transmission	SCHOOL BUILDING CLOSED Widespread community transmission and/or multiple outbreaks (hot spots).

Hand Washing: Washing your hands is easy, and it’s an effective way to prevent the spread of germs. Students with clean hands will help stop the spreading of germs from one person to another in our school community.

Follow the CDC recommended hand washing steps every time you wash your hands:

1. Wet your hands with clean, running water (warm or cold), turn off the tap and apply soap.
2. Lather your hands by rubbing them together with the soap. Lather the back of your hands, between your fingers, and under your nails.
3. Scrub your hands for at least 20 seconds. Hum the “Happy Birthday” song from the beginning to the end twice.
4. Rinse your hands well under clean, running water.
5. Dry your hands using a clean towel or air dry them.

Hand Sanitizer: All classrooms, offices, and common areas will be equipped with hand sanitizers. If soap and water aren’t readily available, you can use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol.

Follow the CDC recommended hand sanitization steps every time you sanitize your hands:

1. Apply the gel product to the palm of your hand.
2. Rub your hands together.
3. Rub the gel over all surfaces of your hands, fingers, and nails until your hands are dry. This should take at least 20 seconds.

Social Distancing: All students and staff will try to practice social distancing by keeping a safe space between yourself and other people in all school settings, including the bus. To practice social distancing, students and staff may wear face coverings and, when appropriate, stay 3 feet away from other people. In the hallways, social distancing will look like students moving from class to class in a steady moving stream while distancing from peers. In areas such as the breakfast/lunch line, students are encouraged to social distance as best as they can by being at least 3 ft apart (1 arm length).

ATTENDANCE and ABSENCE

*Absence Reporting: Parents are required to let the school know the reason for their student's absence. This can be done in one of three ways:

1. Report absences electronically using Synergy.
2. Call the front office at 352-7500.
3. Send a note with your student when they return to school.

The front office will communicate student absences with student's teachers by entering all absences on the school record in Synergy. If a student has excessive absences, parents will be contacted to develop a plan to support that student in improving attendance or looking into an alternative method of school (home school/transfer).

In the event of an absence, **it is the responsibility of the student to approach his/her teachers for missed work.** All teachers maintain Synergy websites and Google Classroom, as a communication tool for students and parents.

PREARRANGED ABSENCE

A parent and/or student should notify the school in advance if the student plans on missing more than 2 days of school in a row. Arrangements should be initiated two weeks prior to the absence, and a Prearranged Absence form, available in the front office, should be used for this purpose. For absences up to 10 class days, teachers may provide the opportunity to complete the work after the student returns to school. The teacher's choice will be indicated on the prearranged absence. We strongly believe that students learn best when they attend regularly.

MAKE-UP POLICY

Course work that is missed due to absences is expected to be completed upon the student's return. The student has a period of time equal to the absence, plus one day, to complete the missed assignments. For example, if a student misses two days of school, he/she will have three days to make up the work once he/she has returned to school. **In the event of an absence it is the student's responsibility to approach his/her teachers for missed work.**

TARDY POLICY

It is imperative that all students be present in class, on time, every class period. We have implemented a program called "Start on Time" to ensure that tardies are at a minimum. When a student is late to class, he /she will report to the office to record the tardy, and then will return to class with a tardy slip. The following consequences are per

semester:

1st tardy- Student records tardy, warning

2nd tardy- Student records tardy, warning

3rd tardy- Student records tardy, parent contacted

4th tardy- Student records tardy, parent contacted

5th tardy- Student records tardy, parent contacted, SRC lunch detention

6th tardy- Student records tardy, parent contacted, SRC lunch detention

7th tardy- Student records tardy, parent contacted, SRC lunch detention

8th tardy- Referral to administration

TRUANCY/SKIPPING

Truancy is defined as absence from school without the knowledge or consent of the student's parent or guardian. Students who are truant from school or from individual classes will be subject to disciplinary actions which may include a SRC referral and in-school suspension.

BICYCLES/MOTORIZED VEHICLES

ATV's, motorcycles, snow machines, etc. of any kind are ***not*** allowed on Teeland Middle School property.

Bicycles ridden to school must be parked and locked to the bike rack on the north side of the building. The school is not responsible for lost, damaged, or stolen bicycles. Bikes may not be ridden around school property. **Students riding bicycles should wear a helmet and reflective clothing, especially during the dark winter months.**

BUILDING HOURS FOR STUDENTS

Students may be in the building from 7:00 a.m. until 2:30 p.m. Students may not be in the building before or after those hours, unless supervision is provided by staff or parent/guardian. While your children are encouraged to participate in the activities we offer, it is important that students leave the building **when the practice or event is over. Students who have no one supervising them may not stay after school.** Students arriving before 7:15 am., must remain in the cafeteria or gym. After 7:25, students may be in the hallway of their first class of the day. Students still waiting to be picked up after 2:25, must be outside or in the front entry.

SPONSORS AND CHAPERONES

No student meeting is authorized without the presence and approval of an advisor. When students are preparing or working on a school activity, they must be under the direct supervision of at least one teacher or administrator at all times. Students shall not be permitted in or around the school building after the end of the last teaching period unless they have permission from their coach or an administrator and are under his/her supervision. The

supervision must be in the immediate area.

EXTRACURRICULAR ATHLETICS

Extracurricular athletics are part of a large and varied program of activities at Teeland Middle School. Extracurricular athletics and academics require a fee determined by the MSBSD. The following athletic activities require a fee: Cross-Country Running, Basketball, Cheerleading, Native Youth Olympics, Volleyball, Wrestling, and Track & Field. Fees can be reduced if a student qualifies for Free & Reduced Lunch.

To be eligible to participate in the interscholastic activities a student must:

1. Be currently enrolled as a student of the school, or claim TMS as their “school of choice” if attending another MSBSD school that does not offer athletics.
2. Have a current physical on file.
3. Register on Planet HS through ParentVue.
4. Follow attendance guidelines set by the coach and approved by the administration.
5. Be responsible for maintaining a passing grade in all subjects. ****Faculty will monitor student eligibility.**
6. Be in attendance for the full day of school on the day of interscholastic competition unless excused by the principal prior to that day.
7. Maintain a positive attitude and good conduct at all times.

INTRAMURALS AND CLUB ACTIVITIES

There will be many activities in addition to interscholastic athletics offered throughout the year. These may require a fee. Intramurals and club activities may include the following: Art Adventures, Battle of the Books, Bowling Club, Chess Club, Archery, Geography Bee, National Junior Honor Society, Science Olympiad, Robotics, Soccer, Speech Competition, Spelling Bee, Guitar Club, Flag Football, Yoga, and Yearbook.

Other activities may be added, or deleted, to the list depending on student interest . All students are encouraged to participate in these activities. **Participation leads to success!**

GRADING

Grades should represent an accurate evaluation of a student's achievement. Our teachers evaluate student work in relation to standards, which apply to all students at each respective grade level. Teeland Middle School is dedicated to giving grades based on the quality of the student's work and his/her mastery of course content and objectives as demonstrated through classroom participation, class assignments, homework, and assessments. Grades will be reported for each quarter as follows:

A (90-100%) Outstanding Achievement

B (80-89%) Above Average Achievement

C (70-79%) Average Achievement

D (60-69%) Below Average Achievement

F (0-59%) Little or No Achievement

I This represents an incomplete due to extenuating circumstances. A student receiving an incomplete will be given up to two weeks after the end of the quarter to make up his/her work unless the principal gives a special extension. If work is not made up, the students will receive NC (non-completion of course). NC has the same ramification as an F at the end of the school year.

Some teachers may add in an employability grade, up to 5-10% of a student's grade, based on the following point system:

Standard		Unsatisfactory=0	Basic=1	Proficient=2
Productivity 	<u>Do I stay on task during work hours?</u>	I accomplished little in class today. I did not stay on task for most of the work time.	I made progress but I wasted some class time.	I used my work time efficiently and did a good job on all of my assignments.
Preparedness 	<u>Do I arrive ready to start working?</u>	I was missing materials for class.	I arrived to class without some needed materials.	I had all of my materials for class today.
Respect 	<u>Do I work well with others (peer & staff).</u>	I interfered with others' learning, safety, or well being several times in class.	I interfered with others' learning, safety, or well being once or twice in class.	I worked well with my peers and staff in class.

HONOR ROLL

Students with an accumulated grade point average (GPA) of 3.5 or above with no incompletes will be on the Honor Roll. TMS recognizes student achievement. Special activities will be planned to celebrate all students receiving a GPA of 3.5 or higher.

MERIT CERTIFICATE

In keeping with the spirit of middle school as an exploratory time for students to experience a wide range of activities, TMS offers the opportunity for students to earn a merit promotion certificate in the 8th grade.

For each year at middle school, students must

- Maintain a 3.0 GPA
- Participate in an **academic** extra-curricular.
- Participate in a leadership activity.
- Participate in an **athletic** extra-curricular.

At the end of the 8th grade, if they meet the criteria for all three years, they may earn a merit promotion certificate.

REPORT CARDS & PROGRESS REPORTS

Report cards are issued at the end of each nine-week grading period. Parents should monitor their student's progress weekly, by using the on-line district-wide program, ParentVue. Access to your child's grades, assignments, attendance, and discipline is available on Synergy. See the front office for more details.

HOMEWORK POLICY

Homework is defined as out of class tasks assigned to students as an extension or elaboration of classroom work. There are three types of homework: practice, preparation, and extension. Practice assignments reinforce newly acquired skills. Preparation assignments help students prepare for activities that will occur in the classroom. Extension assignments are frequently long term, continuing projects that parallel class work.

DRINKS/FOOD

All food and drinks should be consumed in designated eating areas (see Breakfast & Lunch below) except on special occasions with the permission of the teacher. Only water is permitted in classrooms other than during breakfast.

BREAKFAST & LUNCH

Students will be given 30 minutes to eat lunch, and 15 minutes for breakfast. Breakfast will be eaten in the cafeteria. **After breakfast, students are expected to pick up their trash. Lunch will be eaten in the school's main cafeteria, library, and the lower 7th grade hall.** Breakfast can be purchased from 7:25-7:40. Students may choose to bring their own lunch from home, or receive a full-meal from school. **During lunch, students will clear all their trash and raise their hand to be dismissed from the cafeteria.**

CAFETERIA

Our cafeteria is a clean, friendly place. Students, please follow these expectations during breakfast and lunch period:

- **Cold lunch students will report directly to their seat.**
- Line up in a single file and **do not cut into the line.**
- Try to maintain a social distance of 3 feet between students in line.

- **All students remain seated the first ten minutes of lunch.**
- Speak in a low conversation tone of voice. (Voice Level 2)
- Pick up your trash. Your seating space must be “checked” for cleanliness by an adult before you may leave. Raise your hand to be dismissed.
- Remain seated - do not move around the cafeteria/hallways until dismissed.
- Display good table manners.

LIBRARY

Any damage to or loss of library materials will be charged to the student. In order to check out a book or use the computers, students must have a valid TMS ID card. The library will be open during lunches for students.

LOST AND FOUND

There is a designated lost and found area in the cafeteria. However, some items of a personal nature (electronics, watches, jewelry, money, etc.) are held in the school office. Library materials are routed to the library, and textbooks are sent to the appropriate teachers. The PE department has its own lost and found. If a student has lost an item, he/she is to check at the appropriate place. If a student finds an item that does not belong to them, it should be taken to the school office or placed in the cafeteria lost and found area. All lost and found items not claimed will be donated to appropriate charitable agencies after each quarter.

CHROMEBOOKS

All students will be issued a Chromebook. LA teachers will take their classes at a scheduled time to the library to check out a device and charger. Students are responsible for carrying their Chromebook to every class and home every evening. If a student experiences mechanical issues with their assigned computer, they are to report to the library for support. Students are responsible for keeping their Chromebook safe and clean. **Clean** top, screen and keys with **alcohol** wipe. **Clean** bottom with **Lysol** wipe. Students will be held responsible for purposeful damage done to their issued device, along with devices and equipment not returned at the end of the school year.

Selling Items

Students may not sell any type of items to other students unless it is a school-sponsored activity approved by the administration.

MSBSD PROCESS REGARDING SCHOOL CLOSURES and LATE BUSES

- District Personnel will determine by 5:00 A.M. the status of all school closures
- Bus delay information will be sent when a bus is running more than 15 minutes late.

The following methods will be used to inform the public of school closures or bus delays:

1. The MSBSD app can be downloaded on your phone for updates and connectivity to district events.
2. MSBSD Facebook page - Like us on Facebook! Our page will be updated with the most current information.
3. MSBSD Website Headlines - Check the first headline for updated information.
4. ConnectEd - Text, Phone and Email messages with most current information will be sent to all contacts for students riding affected buses.
5. Where's My Bus - Parents can use this tool to see where their student's bus is. Use your district family number as the username and password.
6. New information will be posted on the MSBSD Facebook page and the MSBSD app.

GENERAL BUS POLICIES

Alaska statutes do not mandate pupil transportation in this state. **School bus transportation is provided as a courtesy and is a privilege, not a right.** If a student's conduct is such that the health, safety, comfort, or the well being of others is jeopardized, on or off the bus, the privilege of riding the bus may be denied by a school district official. The school bus driver is in charge of the bus and all its passengers and has total authority and responsibility. Only designated school officials are authorized to suspend transportation privileges.

1. Students are required to ride the bus assigned to them, and to board and disembark, at their assigned bus stop. Students may be transported to an unassigned bus stop, or ride a different bus, on an occasional basis or for periods of time less than 30 days upon approval by the school office. **A written request from parents is needed to get a Bus Pass.**
2. Parents may not remove a student from a bus after the student has boarded without a Bus Pass or approval by a school representative.
3. Students will be issued School Bus Conduct Reports for infractions of the rules by the bus driver. The school bus driver and the school administrators are responsible for handling behavioral problems occurring on the school bus.

Lockers

Student lockers are a **privilege** at Teeland Middle School and may be used daily for storage. **Students may ONLY access lockers at the following times: start of day, at the beginning and end of lunch period, and at the end of the day.** Lockers can help students protect their belongings and be more organized. However, there are many responsibilities that come with locker privileges. Students may be assigned both a hallway locker as well as a P. E. or band locker. Personal locks, and the sharing of lockers, are not allowed. Lockers can be subjects to search at any time by school staff.

STUDENT RIGHTS/RESPONSIBILITIES

You will be held responsible only for the things you do or fail to do. The decision will be yours, and so will the consequences. Your first responsibility is to decide how you should conduct yourself while in school. Your second responsibility is to be prepared to accept the consequences of your actions.

Titan Code Of Conduct “The Titan Way”

The Titan Code of Conduct promotes an environment that allows learning to take place for all students, and ensures that all students will be protected physically and emotionally. Students develop citizenship skills and self-discipline through intrinsic motivation. At TMS each student is held accountable for this school wide Code of Conduct: **No one has the right to interfere with the learning, or the physical and emotional well-being of others.** Our expectation is: Do what is expected to the best of your ability. Behaviors which interfere with “The Titan Way”, will be considered disruptive. Examples of disruptive behavior include, but are not limited to: moving around the classroom without permission, profanity, uncomplimentary gestures or speech, threats, non-compliance with school or class rules, refusing to acknowledge or to follow a school staff member’s instructions, and any behavior which jeopardizes the welfare or safety of other students and staff.

If a student chooses to interfere with the learning, or safety of others, he or she is violating our Titans Code of Conduct. Brief descriptions of the consequences are as follows:

Notice 1: If a student is interfering with the learning, or physical and emotional well-being of others, he/she is handed a Notice slip. This slip contains four questions to help the student focus and correct their behavior.

Notice 2: If a student continues to interfere with the learning, or safety of others, the teacher will turn the Notice slip over and the student will be required to provide a written response to the four questions regarding their disruptive behavior. Once the student has answered the questions, they are able to continue working in the classroom and the teacher will conference with the student at the end of the period. If a student refuses to answer the questions, or continues to interfere, they will be referred to the Student Responsibility Classroom.

Hallway and common area expectations.

In order to lessen the chance of spreading Covid-19, students are expected to maintain a social distance of 3 feet between others in the hallways when possible. Students **MUST** remain in motion and travel directly to their next class. Students may utilize the bathroom during passing time and at lunch. Keep in mind that you only have 4 minutes of passing time.

Students who are violating school rules in common areas are asked to state their behavior and what behavior they should be demonstrating. For example, a staff member will ask a student, “What are you doing?” The student will then state their behavior. The staff member will then ask, “What are you supposed to be doing?” Upon the student’s answer the staff will ask, “Are you going to do it? Thank you.” Students who continue to violate the rules or who do not respond appropriately will choose Notice 1, for another opportunity to correct their behavior, or proceed to the SRC. Repeated hallway violations may result in the loss of the student’s locker, a shortened passing time, loss of the common passing time, or a behavior contract.

Bathroom Expectations

- Restroom use is available during passing periods.
- No more than 3 students are allowed in the bathroom at any time. When you enter, place your pass in the STOP area.
- If the bathroom is full, STOP and wait for an opening in the hallway. **Remember to maintain social distancing rules.**
- Only 4 girls and 4 boys may be waiting for the restroom at any given time. If too many students are waiting, please return to your classroom and come back later.
- **WASH YOUR HANDS!**
- Sanitize the bathroom pass once you return to your classroom

Student Responsibility Classroom (SRC) referral

If a student has already been placed on notice twice in a single class period and continues to disrupt, he/she will be referred to SRC.

When a student is referred to the SRC, the student will arrive with a written notice about the misbehavior and begin to take ownership on a written SRC response sheet. Once the student has taken ownership of his/her behavior, the student will conference with the referring teacher. Additionally, the parent/guardian will be contacted. During the parent/guardian phone call, the student will say, “I was referred to the SRC for _____.”

In order to return to my class, I must present this plan with my teacher. My plan is _____.” Students will not be permitted to return to the class where they earned the SRC referral. In order to return on the next day to the classroom where the misbehavior took place, the student must:

- Complete the SRC response sheet
- Discuss the plan with the SRC supervisor or an administrator
- Present the plan to the referring teacher and verbally state their plan for success in order to be readmitted to the classroom
- Call home to share their behavior plan with their parents/guardian.

(In cases of multiple SRC referrals, students may be required to complete an assigned behavior packet and/or participate in a meeting with parents and an administrator to discuss a behavior plan).

Each day is a new day for students to begin again, however, SRC referrals accumulate the entire year. Students who receive multiple SRC referrals may also be required to complete instructional behavior packets. These students are also subject to progressive disciplinary action, up to and including suspension. In an effort to work as partners to limit future behavior concerns, four or more SRC referrals serves as an indicator for staff and parents to meet to develop a collaborative plan of support for the student. Counselors, advisory teachers and/or administration will initiate contact with parents to set up a behavior intervention meeting when students have four or more SRC referrals.

Immediate SRC referral with administrative intervention

The following behavior will constitute a referral to the Assistant Principal:

- Mutual altercation (fighting)
- Skipping a class, on or off, campus (truancy)
- Drug, alcohol, or tobacco possession (including paraphenalia)
- Anything requiring a report to law enforcement (assault, weapons, illegal substances, theft, etc.)
- Any other offense that would require a student to be escorted to the front office because of serious safety concerns.

Immediate SRC referral

The following behavior will constitute an SRC referral without prior notice:

- Willful disobedience (refusal to follow reasonable request from a staff member)
- Harassment

- Disruptive behavior during an emergency drill
- Inappropriate language directed at another person (swearing, derogatory or harassing language)
- Academic dishonesty (cheating, plagiarism)
- Safety concerns

SELF IDENTIFICATION

All students must, upon request, identify themselves to authorized School District personnel who properly identify themselves as being in a position of authority.

FIGHTING/ ASSAULT

Students involved in fighting, intimidation, or conduct of this nature before, during, or after school, on school property or in the area, are subject to disciplinary action, regardless of who started the incident. It is expected that students who are provoked will maintain control and immediately remove themselves from a potential conflict and report to a staff member or the office.

ILLEGAL SUBSTANCE SANCTIONS

Presumptive disciplinary actions, such as suspension or expulsion, will be taken against students shown to be guilty of selling or attempting to sell, delivery or attempting to deliver, possessing or attempting to possess, or being under the influence of illegal substances while under School District jurisdiction. In addition, the School District may request, in an appropriate case, that the student's Parents enroll the student, at their own expense, in a state certified substance abuse education or treatment program. Completion of, or enrollment in, such a program may be required in responding to any request that a student be returned to school prior to the completion of any suspension or expulsion.

INAPPROPRIATE DISPLAY OF AFFECTION

Although expressing affection is healthy, some expressions of affection are not consistent with the school environment. Some displays of affection can be a distraction, not only to the individuals directly involved, but to students and staff around them. Examples of inappropriate displays of affection include holding hands and kissing.

ACADEMIC HONESTY

The acts of cheating and plagiarism, on school assignments are subject to disciplinary action.

INTERNET USAGE

District computers and networks must be used in support of the educational goals and objectives of the Matanuska-Susitna School District. **Students are personally responsible for this provision at all times when using District computers.**

Misuse is defined as any malicious attempt to physically deface, disable, or destroy computers, peripherals, or other network hardware, to harm or destroy data of another user or any other agencies or networks that are connected to the system, to gain access or attempt to gain access to unauthorized systems or to access inappropriate materials from school computers. Attempting to bypass the District's internet filtering software is prohibited. Any misuse will result in loss of computer privileges, disciplinary action, or possible legal referral.

ELECTRONIC DEVICES

Electronic devices can be a distraction to the learning environment. Teachers may permit, or prohibit, the purposeful use of personal electronic devices in support of curriculum learning objectives. Cell phones are not allowed in the gym or locker rooms. Students are not allowed to use or check phones in the following areas:

Stairs

Congested areas of hallway

Bathrooms

These personal digital devices are the sole responsibility of the owners. The school is not responsible for the loss or theft of these devices. Consequences may be applied for any misconduct related to electronic devices.

Disciplinary action may include:

- verbal warnings
- confiscation of device
 - 1st offense, teacher returns device after class
 - 2nd offense, teacher sends the device to the office to be returned at the end of the day
 - 3rd offense, device is sent to the office, student meets with an administrator
 - 4th offense, and every one after, results in an SRC

THEFT / MISUSE OF SCHOOL PROPERTY

Theft means stealing of any kind. Examples of theft include, stealing something from another student's locker, or

taking the school's property without permission. Such behavior is cause for suspension and/or other disciplinary action, such as restitution. Students participating in theft, or in possession of stolen property, may also be referred to appropriate law enforcement authorities in addition to school and district consequences.

VANDALISM

Vandalism is the intentional destruction or defacing of objects or materials belonging to the school, school officials, or other persons. Vandalism of any kind is prohibited. In addition to the consequences that may occur with any misconduct, the disciplinary action for offenses concerning vandalism may involve:

- Student liability for damages
- Suspension
- Report to proper authorities

WEAPONS

The possession of potentially dangerous items/weapons of any kind, or look-alikes (this includes pocket knives of any size) or the use of any object to inflict bodily injury to another person is absolutely prohibited and subject to disciplinary action.

GANG ACTIVITY

Staff, parents, and students recognize the harm done by the presence and activities of gangs in public schools. Gang activity also creates an atmosphere of intimidation in the entire school community.

Definition: For purposes of this policy a "gang" is any group of 3 or more persons whose purposes include the acts in violation of disciplinary rules of the Matanuska-Susitna Borough School District.

Any type of gang activity, affiliation, or gang related symbols are prohibited.

DRESS POLICY

BP 5132 DRESS AND GROOMING

The School Board believes that appropriate dress and grooming contribute to a productive and safe learning environment. The Board expects students to give proper attention to personal cleanliness and to wear clothes that are suitable for the school activities, including industry requirements at the work site, in which they participate. Students have the right to make individual choices from a wide range of clothing and grooming styles, but they must not present a health or safety hazard or a distraction which would interfere with the educational process.

(cf. 5145.2 - Freedom of Speech/Expression)

Students and parents/guardians shall be informed about the school dress code at the beginning of the year and when revised. The following minimum standards will be enforced:

1. Clothing and accessories, e.g., notebooks, patches, tattoos, and jewelry must not display racial or ethnic slurs or symbols, gang affiliations, vulgar, subversive, sexually suggestive, or otherwise inappropriate language or images; promotion of products that students may not legally buy such as alcohol, tobacco, and illegal drugs; or anything that promotes harm to another or to one's self.
2. Prohibited items include studded jewelry or chains, sunglasses unless medically required, sleepwear or clothing resembling sleepwear.

(Board Policy 5144.1)

Additionally, for safety concerns, TMS does not permit hats, hoods, winter coats, oversized coats, or slippers to be worn in the building. Backpacks may be stored in student lockers or worn in the building to transport belongings. Cinch sacks and backpacks are permitted for students to use during passing time to carry their supplies.

If a student chooses to wear inappropriate clothing, the student will be asked to change. If necessary, the student may call a parent to bring an appropriate change of clothes.

FIRE AND EMERGENCY DRILLS

The sound of the fire alarm is the signal to evacuate the building. Move rapidly and orderly, but do not run. After leaving the building, all students should proceed to a distance of at least 100 feet from the building and remain there in order to give the fire fighting equipment room to operate safely. Silently line up and remain with the class so the teacher can check attendance. Return to the classroom only after the all-clear signal is given.

All students are expected to become thoroughly familiar with the fire drill exit route posted in each room. Fire/emergency drills will be conducted periodically throughout the school year. Purposely setting off a false fire alarm is an Alaska State Law class A misdemeanor, punishable by a \$1,000.00 fine and/or one year in jail.

In addition, Teeland students and staff will be educated on and practice lockdown drills, active intruder drill, earthquake drills, and bomb threat drills.

HARASSMENT/ BULLYING/ DISCRIMINATION

Harassment, bullying, and discrimination are prohibited. Harassment is any unwanted and/or unwelcome behavior that interferes with a student's right to an education or participation in school activities. In school, harassment may result from someone's words, gestures or actions that make a person feel uncomfortable,

embarrassed, offended, frightened, helpless or threatened.

- Harassment can be a single event or a pattern of events
- Agreement isn't needed. The target of the harassment and the harasser do not have to agree about what is happening.
- If you have told the harasser to stop, and they do not stop, then you are being harassed.

Harassment is taken very seriously at Teeland Middle School. There are four main types of harassment to be aware of: physical, sexual, verbal and cyber.

1. Physical harassment is intentional annoying or offensive physical behavior perceived by the recipient or others as having a negative impact on an individual's safety or well-being. Examples are pushing, tripping, poking, kicking, etc.
2. Sexual harassment is any unwelcome sexual advance, request for sexual favor or other verbal or physical conduct of a sexual nature.
3. Verbal harassment is defined as using words perceived by the recipient or others as having a negative impact. Some examples are name-calling, swearing, put-downs and making threats.
4. Cyber/Social Media harassment is defined as repeated, unsolicited, threatening behavior by a person or group using mobile or internet technology with the intent to bother, terrify, intimidate, humiliate, threaten, harass or stalk someone else.

If a student feels that he/she is being harassed, they should take the following action:

- Say "STOP". Tell the harasser you do not like the behavior and you want it to stop.
- Tell someone. Talk to an adult.
- Keep records. If the behavior continues, write it down. Be sure to include dates, times and names, including witnesses and locations where the harassment occurred.
- Take action. Write a complaint describing your concerns and turn it into the front office.

Consequences of harassment

Listed below are established steps of progressive discipline for dealing with incidents of harassment:

- 1st report – Clarification of the harassment and a warning issued by counselor or administrator
- 2nd report – Positive Behavior Agreement signed and parents contacted
- 3rd and subsequent reports – Suspension from school starting with one day and progressing to three, five and ten days.

Suspensions of greater duration or expulsion may be applied in serious or continual cases of harassment. Patterns of harassment may be reported to the Alaska State Troopers.

STUDENT ACCIDENTS

All students are encouraged to purchase accident insurance, either through an insurance carrier available at school or through regular family coverage. The School District does not carry accident insurance to cover students. Any accident on school property (including buses) must be reported to the school immediately. Insurance enrollment forms for student insurance program are available at the time of registration or may be picked up in the school office. The deadline for purchase of this insurance is September 30th, except for late enrollees.

STUDENT HEALTH SERVICES

A student who becomes ill during the school day must get permission from his/her teacher to see the nurse. If it is necessary to go home or to a doctor, the nurse will inform the parent and the student will be released from school.

Students should not call home on their own to be picked up due to illness. A student leaving due to illness without properly checking out through the office will be counted as truant from missed classes.

All students will be expected to participate in health programs sponsored by the school unless special arrangements are made with the principal.

Medication: prescription and over the counter

1. All medications must be delivered to the school by the parent/guardian or his/her adult representative.
2. School nurses can give prescription medication with doctor's orders and parent written permission.
3. During online registration, parents can give permission for the school nurse to administer Tylenol, Tums, Ibuprofen, and/or cough drops. The nurse has these over the counter medications.
4. Students cannot bring medication on the bus, or deliver or sell or possess medication (prescription or over the counter)

Physical education participation

1. A student must have a written excuse for non-participation. Parents can excuse physical activity for up to three days. After that time, for a continued excused absence from PE participation, a note must be obtained from the student's health care provider.
2. If you cannot participate in physical education, you cannot participate in after school sports.

The school nurse will do routine health screening on specific grades during the school year. These screenings will include: vision, hearing, height, weight, blood pressure, and scoliosis. The student will be given a screening

report for your information. If a student fails the screening the parent/guardian will be contacted by the school nurse.

Please be sure to contact the Teeland Middle School nurse about any new disease/illness or accident your student may experience. The nurse will be glad to help with school management and provide care necessary for the recovery of your child.

Teeland Middle School staff encourages wellness for our students. We would ask for your participation in our wellness efforts by helping your student do the following: eat before coming to school, dress appropriately for our Alaska weather, sleep 8 to 10 hours nightly, and exercise at least 20 minutes daily.

TMS reserves the right to change policies or procedures throughout the year as needed. These changes can be seen online by accessing our TMS webpage and clicking on Student Handbook.