

**Apollo Elementary School  
Mercer County District #404**

Dear Parents and Students,

I would like to take this opportunity to welcome your children back for the new school year. I look forward to meeting you and to providing the leadership to continue the tradition of quality education that has been established at Apollo as we merge with our neighbors as the new Mercer County District #404.

As parents, I hope you will support your children and their teachers by reading and discussing this handbook with them. Please read the information provided on student behavior and help to make sure your children understand what is expected. I also hope you will talk with your children each day about their experiences at school, and provide a quiet time and place for homework assignments to be completed. Establish reasonable bedtimes and make sure your children have breakfast either at home or at school. All of these things will help contribute to your children's success at school.

The staff at Apollo is proud of the outstanding cooperation and support that has been exhibited over the years by parents and members of the community. By working together, we can accomplish so much more. I invite you to visit school and to become an active member in our parent-teacher organization. The Apollo PTO plans and carries out a number of support and fund-raising activities that serve to enhance our total school community. We encourage parents and grandparents to serve as volunteers in our school. Call or stop by the Apollo office for more information, or talk to your child's teacher.

Good communication is the foundation for building the teamwork necessary to foster maximum student success. Please feel free to contact your child's teacher or myself if you have any questions or concerns. Let's have a great school year!

Sincerely,

Mr. Bill Fleurette  
Principal

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## Apollo Elementary School Staff

2009-2010



### OFFICE

Bill Fleurette, Principal  
Jolene Vipond, Secretary  
Tracy Rentfro – Cafeteria/Special Ed. Secretary  
Becky Hyett – District Nurse

### SPECIAL SERVICES

Michelle Bailey – Guidance Counselor  
Sarah Christensen – Title I Reading (K-2)  
Allison Stumpf – Title I Reading (2-4)  
Kim Sheese – Tech. Coord. & Grant writer  
Geff Long, Jr. – District Network Specialist

### PRESCHOOL/AT RISK

Amy Duncan

### KINDERGARTEN

Bridget Wilkerson  
Staci Sharp  
Elizabeth MacDonald-Gray  
Sandra Brown

### 1<sup>st</sup> GRADE

Betty Frost  
Nancy Richardson  
Kim Weese

### 2<sup>nd</sup> GRADE

Patricia Newswander  
Sarah Hall  
Pam Truman

### 3<sup>rd</sup> GRADE

John Bittner  
Jodi Lindell  
Anne Rogers

### 4<sup>th</sup> GRADE

Mary Flint  
Katie Jenkins  
Dennis Mellgren

### SPECIAL SUBJECT TEACHERS

Monica Dennison – P.E.  
Michelle Henry – Art  
Marcia Krstic – Music  
Marjorie Seiver - Library/Computers

### SPECIAL EDUCATION

Robert Self – School Psychologist  
Liz Anderson – School Social Worker  
Q Steele – Speech Therapist  
Becky McPeck - Primary Resource Teacher  
Asya Fisher – Early Childhood Special  
Education Teacher  
Kris Chausse– Intermediate Resource  
Teacher

### AIDES

Arlene Walthall-Spec. Ed.  
Susie Bigham – PreSchool/At Risk  
Amber Roberts – Kindergarten  
Karen Wheeler – Kindergarten  
Denise Clark – Spec.Educ.  
Pati Diaz – Spec. Educ.  
Cindy Hutchins – Spec. Educ.  
Lori Dellitt – Reading Improvement  
Sherrie Thorndike – Reading Improvement  
Jeanne Green – Reading Improvement  
Jenifer Franks – Library.  
Shawndee Anderson – Spec. Educ.  
Julie Losey – Spec. Ed.

### CAFETERIA PERSONNEL

Connie Lemon  
Cheryl Miner

### CUSTODIANS

Susie Mizner  
Steve Peterson  
David Schwartzkopf

## Mercer County School District Calendar

### August

8/10 – Monday – Registration 10 am to 6 pm.  
8/11 – Tuesday – Registration 10 am to 6 pm.  
8/ 24 – Monday – 1<sup>st</sup> day of student attendance (11:30 dismissal)

### September

9/7 – Monday – No School / Labor Day  
9/25 – Friday – Early dismissal / School Improvement Day

### October

10/12 – Monday – No School / Columbus Day  
10/19 – Friday – Early dismissal / School Improvement Day  
10/23 – Friday – End of First Quarter  
10/29 – Thursday – Parent-Teacher Conferences / No student attendance  
10/30 – Friday – Parent-Teacher Conferences / No student attendance

### November

11/10 – Tuesday – Early dismissal / School Improvement Day  
11/11 – Wednesday – Early dismissal / School Improvement Day  
11/25 – Wednesday – Early dismissal  
11/26 – Thursday – No School / Thanksgiving  
11/27 – Friday – No School / Vacation

### December

12/9 – Wednesday – Early dismissal / School Improvement Day  
12/18 – Friday – Early dismissal  
12/21 to 1/1 – Winter Break / Vacation

### January

1/4 – Monday – School resumes  
1/15 – Friday – End of semester  
1/18 – Monday – No School / Martin Luther King's Birthday  
1/22 – Friday – Early dismissal / School Improvement Day

### February

2/11 – Thursday – Early dismissal / School Improvement  
2/12 – Friday – No School / Lincoln's Birthday

### March

3/1 – Monday – No School / Casimir Pulaski Day  
3/19 – Tuesday – End of Third Quarter  
3/26 – Friday – No School / Teacher's Institute

### April

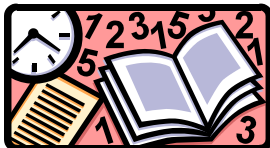
4/1 – 2 – Thursday, Friday – No School / Vacation  
4/5 – Monday – No School / Vacation

### May

5/3 – Monday – Early dismissal / School Improvement  
5/26 – Wednesday – No School / Teacher's Institute  
5/27 – Thursday – Early dismissal / Report Card Day

## MISSION STATEMENT

We, the staff of Apollo Elementary School, are committed to developing life-long learners who value themselves, contribute to their community, and succeed in a changing world.



## DAILY SCHEDULE

- 7:40 am Doors open for students who participate in the breakfast program
- 7:40 am All students may enter the building and report to the playground
- 7:55 am Students report to their respective classrooms
- 8:00 am Tardy bell rings; announcements are given

**\*lunch and lunch recess times are tentative and subject to change\***

10:55 K- Recess	11:15 K- Lunch	11:40 End of Kdg. Lunch
11:10 1-Recess	11:30 1-Lunch	11:55 End of 1 <sup>st</sup> Gr. Lunch
11:30 2- Recess	11:50 2- Lunch	12:15 End of 2 <sup>nd</sup> Gr. Lunch
11:40 3- Recess	12:00 3-Lunch	12:25 End of 3 <sup>rd</sup> Gr. Lunch
11:50 4-Recess	12:10 4- Lunch	12:35 End of 4 <sup>th</sup> Gr. Lunch
2:50 pm	Classes end; students prepare for dismissal	
3:00 pm	Buses arrive; K-2 bus students are dismissed	
3:02 pm	Grade 3-4 bus students are dismissed	
3:07 pm	Remaining (non-bus) students from all grades are dismissed	

Note: Individual classroom schedules may vary somewhat from day to day, depending upon the special subjects schedule and other factors. Special subjects (P.E., art, music, library, etc.) are scheduled on a rotating basis for the entire building.

## **REGISTRATION**

Registration is typically held approximately two weeks prior to the beginning of the school year. Please watch for announcements through the local media. At this time, you will be required to furnish the following:

- ◆ Documentation of a physical examination and all necessary immunizations, if your student is
  - Entering kindergarten
  - Entering fifth grade
  - Entering Illinois schools for the first timeThe examination must be done within one year prior to each of these entrance dates by a physician practicing within the state of Illinois. Kindergarten students are also required to have vision exams, dental exams, and a lead screening.
- ◆ A copy of your child's official birth certificate (if not already on file). Official birth certificates are issued by the county courthouse, **NOT** the hospital.
- ◆ Payment of registration fees (**currently \$51 per student**). If you are unable to make the registration payment at the time of registration, you should go to the District Office to make arrangements for payment before you come to Apollo.
- ◆ Be prepared to fill out a registration card containing updated information about your child, your residence, your phone number (home and work), and emergency care information. You will need to provide a current phone number of the person who will accept responsibility for your child should the school be unable to reach you. Please let us know immediately if any of these phone numbers change. This person must be available during school hours.
- ◆ Personal information about your student regarding any health conditions that might require special care, medication, PE restrictions, etc.
- ◆ Signatures indicating agreement with the Mercer County District Internet Acceptable Use Policy, permission to have your child photographed for various recognition/publicity purposes, and a request to participate in the Illinois Free-Textbook Loan Program.
- ◆ Purchase of lunch tickets and/or application for free or reduced lunches/breakfasts. See price list elsewhere in this manual.

## **INSURANCE**

Students are offered accident insurance as a school service. Neither the school nor any school employee profits from it. The plan is strictly voluntary. Cost, coverage, and payment information is available from the Apollo office at the time of registration. All accident report forms are filed with the Apollo office immediately following the accident occurrence. The office will keep a copy of the accident report and provide a copy to parents upon request. Insurance claim forms are provided by the student health insurance provider.

## **PRESCHOOL SCREENING**

Each spring, school districts in the State of Illinois are required to screen children of three to five years of age for potential problems in hearing, vision, muscular, and emotional development. All children must be tested who will be three years old on or before December 1<sup>st</sup> of this year and through the ages of those students who will be attending kindergarten next fall. The purpose of the screening is to enable early childhood problems to be corrected before entering school. Even though the child may have been screened the previous year, parents are urged to have him/her screened each year since, during formative years of growth; children change from year to year. There is no charge for this screening. Screening dates and location will be publicly announced several weeks in advance.

## **STUDENT ATTENDANCE**

Regular attendance is necessary if students are to receive the maximum benefit from their educational experiences. Getting an education is a full-time job, and each student should be at school every day that school is in session. As necessary, the following rules will be applied:

- Students who miss more than one hour of school on any school day will be marked as being absent for one-half day. Early Childhood and Pre-Kindergarten students missing more than one hour of school on any school day will be marked absent for that day.
- When students are absent from school for any reason (other than pre-arranged), a phone call must be made to the school office the morning of the absence, preferably prior to 9:30 A.M. When not notified of an absence, state law requires the school to make attempts to contact the parents. If contact is not made with the school, the child must bring a note written by the parent to the office the day he/she returns. The note must clearly state the reason for absence.
- An admission slip will be issued to the student marked “excused” or “unexcused”. The student will give the slip to his/her teacher. Students with excused absences will be given the opportunity to make up work for credit, but are still counted as absent on the attendance records. Students whose parents have not contacted the school, either by phone or note, will receive an unexcused absence. They are still required to make up work, but not for credit. The student is responsible for acquiring makeup work assignments from his/her teacher(s). Students will be allowed one additional day plus the number of days absent to complete missed work.
- If a student is to be absent from school due to vacations or appointments known in advance, the parent must write a note to the principal for approval. The note must explain the reason for the absence and the dates involved. A pre-arranged absence slip will be given to the teacher so that arrangements can be made for completion of work that will be missed. Family emergencies and other unexpected emergencies may be accepted as an excused absence by the principal.
- It is recommended that parents arrange doctor and dentist appointments for children only at times when it will not be necessary to miss school. Students will be excused for ½ day maximum for doctor/dental appointments. A note from the medical professional will be required for the absence to be excused and if a longer time is needed for the appointment.

## **ARRIVAL TIMES AND TARDINESS**

Any student not in his/her classroom by the sound of the third buzzer at 8:00 AM is considered tardy. Students who are repeatedly tardy will be referred to the office for guidance and/or disciplinary action. **Parent cooperation is requested in seeing that children arrive at school after 7:40 am and before 7:55 am.**

### **EXCESSIVE STUDENT ABSENTEEISM**

In the event that a student is absent from school for more than ten days during any given semester of school, a medical statement from a licensed physician or health department official may be required in order to excuse each and every subsequent absence from school during the remainder of that particular grading period. The truancy officer at the Regional Office of Education will also be notified of the excessive absence record.

### **TRUANCY**

Students with unexcused absences will be considered truant, and may be referred to the Regional Office of Education Truancy Officer. Repeated truancy is subject to disciplinary and/or legal action according to Illinois law.

### **REQUEST FOR EARLY DISMISSAL OR CHANGE IN TRANSPORTATION**

Students are not to leave the building or grounds until the end of the regular school day. **Many important school activities take place during the last few minutes of the day and it is important that the children be present.** If it becomes absolutely necessary for a pupil to be dismissed earlier than the customary time, for doctor's appointments, etc., the parent or guardian must send a note explaining the circumstances and should come to the office to call for the student at the time of pick-up. **Parents are not to go directly to classrooms to meet students.**

Students who regularly ride the bus, walk, or are picked up by their parents after school, are not to leave school in any other manner unless written permission, signed by a parent, is received by the teacher. Students who regularly attend an after-school function, such as scouts, need to bring a note only one time. It will be kept on file. The school should be informed of any changes in this arrangement.

### **PARENT PARKING AND PICK UP**

If parents are picking up or dropping off a student, some parking spaces are available on the east side of the school building. Parents are not to leave a vehicle unattended (parked) along the curb next to the building; this is a drop-off and pick-up area only. Please exercise caution and be patient as this is a congested area at arrival and dismissal times. Parents are not to go directly to classrooms or wait in hallways prior to school dismissal times. Parents who wish to come into the building at dismissal time to meet students must wait in a designated area of the hallway near the east entrance. These restrictions are designed to reduce student distractions before and during dismissal procedures.

### **EMERGENCY SCHOOL CLOSING ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Emergency school closings or early dismissals are announced on the radio stations WRMJ (FM 102.3), WRAM (AM 1330), WMOI (FM 97.7) and TV stations KWQC, WHBF and WQAD. In the event

school is dismissed early, please instruct your child as to where he/she should go after school. Please talk with your child about what to do if he/she arrives home and no one is there.

## **STUDENT DISCIPLINE**

One of the more important lessons education should teach is self-discipline. It is the shared responsibility of the home and school to accomplish this goal. Effective training develops self-control, character, orderliness, and efficiency. Self-discipline is the key to good conduct and proper consideration for other people and their property. Students are expected to conduct themselves in a manner that will promote a safe, orderly learning environment for all. Any behavior which causes the learning atmosphere to be disrupted, or which infringes upon the rights of others in the school, will not be tolerated.

### **EXPECTATIONS**

To better communicate general behavior expectations for all students at Apollo Elementary, we have decided to unify our expectations throughout the building. School-wide expectations for behavior will be clearly communicated to the students throughout the school year. The simple system we have chosen involves only three basic expectations for ALL students, regardless of age or grade level. These three school-wide expectations can be applied to any situation/location within our school, as the following chart demonstrates. Please go over these expectations with your student before he/she comes to school.

The Apollo staff will encourage students to display appropriate levels of behavior to meet these expectations throughout the building. Time will be spent to explain and teach these expectations to all students, at all grade levels. The expectations are designed to make all students feel safe and to establish the best possible learning environment.

#### **School-wide Expectations for Student Behavior at Apollo Elementary:**

- ◆ **RESPECT YOURSELF**
- ◆ **RESPECT OTHERS**
- ◆ **RESPECT PROPERTY**

The following chart shows how these three expectations can be interpreted in different settings throughout our building. Students will be expected to display the behaviors described in this chart as they move throughout the building.

	<b>RESPECT YOURSELF</b>	<b>RESPECT OTHERS</b>	<b>RESPECT PROPERTY</b>
<b>All Settings</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◆ Give your best effort</li> <li>◆ Be on task</li> <li>◆ Keep body and clothing clean</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◆ Use good manners</li> <li>◆ Stay in your own space</li> <li>◆ Follow adult directions</li> <li>◆ Be kind</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◆ Take care of all property</li> <li>◆ Leave valuables and toys at home</li> <li>◆ Clean up after yourself</li> </ul>
<b>Hallways</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◆ Walk normally</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◆ Walk normally and in single file, staying to the right when possible</li> <li>◆ Voices off</li> <li>◆ Stay in your own space</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◆ Take care of our hallways</li> </ul>
<b>Restrooms</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◆ Use healthy habits</li> <li>◆ Wash your hands with soap</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◆ Use quiet voices</li> <li>◆ Give others privacy</li> <li>◆ Always flush after use</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◆ Keep restrooms clean</li> <li>◆ Use equipment and towels properly</li> <li>◆ Dispose of used towels in the trash can</li> </ul>
<b>Cafeteria</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◆ Eat your own food</li> <li>◆ Be neat</li> <li>◆ Walk when entering and leaving</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◆ Use quiet voices</li> <li>◆ Practice good manners</li> <li>◆ Give the cooks your attention</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◆ Pick up and return tray and utensils correctly</li> <li>◆ Keep uneaten food on tray</li> </ul>
<b>Playground</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◆ Play safely</li> <li>◆ Dress for the weather</li> <li>◆ Wear appropriate shoes</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◆ Take turns and share equipment</li> <li>◆ Be kind and include others</li> <li>◆ Line up quickly and orderly</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◆ Use and return equipment properly</li> <li>◆ Leave rocks and tire chips in place</li> <li>◆ Stay in assigned area</li> </ul>

	<b>RESPECT YOURSELF</b>	<b>RESPECT OTHERS</b>	<b>RESPECT PROPERTY</b>
<b>*Classroom</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◆ Bring what you need for class</li> <li>◆ Complete assignments</li> <li>◆ Take pride in your work</li> <li>◆ Be responsible for yourself</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◆ Be a polite listener</li> <li>◆ Use quiet voices</li> <li>◆ Allow others to learn</li> <li>◆ Work as a team</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◆ Use your own supplies</li> <li>◆ Keep desk and classroom clean</li> </ul>
<b>Bus</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◆ Enter and leave the bus safely</li> <li>◆ Remain seated in your compartment when the bus is moving</li> <li>◆ Keep all parts of the body inside the bus</li> <li>◆ Follow the bus driver's instructions</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◆ Stay in your own space</li> <li>◆ Use quiet voices</li> <li>◆ Follow the bus driver's instructions</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◆ Take care of the bus seats and windows</li> <li>◆ Put all trash in proper place</li> <li>◆ Follow the bus driver's instructions</li> </ul>

- Classroom teachers may choose to add to or modify this list

### **P.B.I.S. (POSITIVE BEHAVIOR INTERVENTIONS AND SUPPORTS)**

The staff at Apollo Elementary School has implemented a discipline system designed to promote appropriate student behaviors through direct instruction of those behaviors, and positive rewards for students who correctly demonstrate those behaviors on a regular basis. Through this system we hope to focus more on encouraging students to behave correctly, with the anticipated result that only a few students will need to be disciplined or punished for doing otherwise. We have instituted various ways to reward students for their good behavior. This includes frequent verbal praise, awarding of "tickets" which may be redeemed for small prizes or major principal prizes, occasional classroom parties or special activities for achieving group goals, as well as some school-wide celebrations. Throughout the year, the staff will continue to re-teach and reinforce the expected school-wide behaviors. The P.B.I.S. system is a three-tiered system. Those students who are unsuccessful following our school-wide efforts to teach appropriate behaviors may be referred to the A.S.K. program, which serves as the second line for intervention and support. Occasionally we will have one or two students who may need support beyond what we can offer at school. These students will receive assistance through a third level of programming involving family and community, sometimes referred to as "wrap-around" services.

## **CONSEQUENCES**

When students fail to meet expectations, consequences should be expected. Depending on the severity and frequency of misbehavior, and the age of the student, consequences may be any one or more of the following, or others as deemed appropriate in specific situations:

- ◆ Verbal correction from adult supervisor/teacher
- ◆ Student self-reflection on behavior (written or verbal response to Respect & Protect questions)
- ◆ Change in seating or line-up arrangement
- ◆ Loss of recess time
- ◆ Temporary denial of special privileges or preferred activities
- ◆ Temporary denial of positive behavior incentives or rewards
- ◆ Age-appropriate reading assignments on behavior-related topics
- ◆ Natural consequences related to misbehavior (cleaning up mess, writing an apology, etc.)
- ◆ Communication with parent via note, telephone call, or conference
- ◆ Referral to counselor
- ◆ Referral to principal's office
- ◆ Time-out from the classroom (short-term detention)
- ◆ In-school suspension
- ◆ Out-of-school suspension
- ◆ Referral to A.S.K. student assistance team
- ◆ Behavioral contract agreement
- ◆ Referral to outside agency
- ◆ Referral to school-based insight group (i.e., Rainbows, tutoring, etc.)
- ◆ One-on-one mentoring with staff member
- ◆ Expulsion

This list does not necessarily represent a continuum of consequences that will be applied in the order listed. It does, however, represent a menu of consequences from which school personnel may select.

## **DAMAGE TO PROPERTY**

Students who damage property, unless by accident, will be required to pay for the damages done, which includes replacement and/or repair if possible. Whenever possible, students will be required to assist in the repair of the property.

## **HARASSMENT**

All students and staff members have the right to be free from harassment, which includes sexual harassment and physical torment, while in school and while passing legitimately on the school grounds. ALL INCIDENTS OF HARASSMENT SHOULD BE REPORTED TO THE PRINCIPAL OR COUNSELOR.

## **PROFANITY**

Disrespectful or vulgar language will not be permitted. This is recognized as a type of bullying behavior and will be treated as such. Consequences can be expected.

## DISCIPLINE OF SPECIAL EDUCATION STUDENTS

The Aledo School District has adopted a policy concerning discipline of special education students. The policy is in compliance with federal and state guidelines. The policy explains the rules and procedures that will be followed when disciplining special education students. Parents of special education students are to receive a copy of the policy within 15 days after the start of school.

## SUSPENSION /EXPULSION POLICIES

Two types of suspension are possible. One is the in-school suspension (or alternative educational placement) when the student remains in an assigned school area to complete assignments under the supervision of a staff member. An out-of-school suspension may be assigned by the building principal at his/her discretion, up to a maximum of 10 days. All out-of-school suspensions will be treated as unexcused absences. Parents will be notified prior to the suspension. They will be given a full statement of the reasons for the suspension and the beginning and ending dates of the suspension. They will also be advised of a right to an appeal to the District Superintendent, and then to the Board of Education, if needed. The decision of the Board of Education is final. Students serving out-of-school suspension time are not permitted on school property and may not participate or attend any school activity. Before the student returns to school, a conference with the parents will be arranged.

A student may be suspended for the following:

1. Use or possession of prohibited drugs, alcohol, or tobacco.
2. Use or possession of a weapon, or any object that can reasonably be considered, or looks like, a weapon.
3. Gross disobedience or misconduct, including but not limited to the following:
  - behavior which is injurious to persons or property, or intended as such
  - behavior which substantially and materially disrupts the educational process or discipline in the school
  - repeated minor incidents of misbehavior that other disciplinary measures have failed to deter
  - gross disrespect of teachers, staff or administration

A recommendation for expulsion may occur as a result of a third suspension in the academic year or for gross disobedience or misconduct showing a clear and flagrant disregard for the educational process. The student may be temporarily suspended from school pending a hearing before the Board of Education to determine the outcome of the case. Board of Education policy will govern the procedures, and a copy of the policy will be made available to the student and his/her parents at the same time he/she is advised that a recommendation for expulsion is to be made.

## Student Health

### PHYSICAL EXAMINATIONS AND IMMUNIZATIONS

In accordance with Illinois law, before entering kindergarten, all students are required to have a physical examination, including required immunizations. Any students who are new to the Mercer County School District must also show evidence of the required examinations and immunizations. The examination must be completed within one year prior to the entrance date by a physician practicing in the state of Illinois, and the documentation should be provided to the school at the time of registration. **Students whose records are not complete and on file in the health office will be excluded from school until the**

**records are complete.** For all kindergarten students lead screen, dental examination, and vision examination are also now required by the state.  
Dental examinations are required for all second grade students.

### **WHEN IS YOUR CHILD TOO SICK FOR SCHOOL?**

Many parents wonder when their child is too ill to attend school. If your child experiences any of the following symptoms before school, please keep them home:

- Restless at night (often the first sign of an acute illness)
- Sore Throat (Rash of Unknown origin)
- Fever – 100 degrees or over
- Flushed Face
- Poor Appetite
- Runny nose (with yellow or green discharge)
- Headache
- Severe Coughing or Sneezing
- Nausea, vomiting, or diarrhea within the last 8-12 hours
- Chills
- Lack of sufficient sleep
- Red, burning, itchy or watery eyes – white or yellow discharge, eyelids stick together in the morning, or eyelids that are red and swollen
- Swelling in the face or jaw – can be due to swollen glands underneath your child’s jaw or the back of the neck. It may also be due to an abscessed tooth
- Earache – a child pulling on his ear, bleeding or drainage from the ear canal or pain

**Please make sure your child is fever free for 24 hours and has not vomited for 24 hours before they return to school.**

### **REQUEST FOR ADMINISTRATION OF MEDICATION**

Students are not permitted to keep medication in their possession while at school. The Mercer County School Nurse will provide first aid only as authorized by the State Board of Health. Over-the-counter medication will only be given with written permission from the parent. Prescriptions medication will be administered at school only if the physician requests in writing to the school, and with the following guidelines:

- Any medication to be taken **Three Times a Day Need Not** be taken at school.
- Any child taking medications must:
  1. Leave medication at the school office
  2. Have medication in bottle or box plainly marked with the following
    - Name of student
    - Name of medication
    - Dosage
    - Doctor prescribing medication
    - Reason for taking medication
    - Termination date for Administering the medication
  3. Be responsible to come to the office at designated time to take medication.
  4. Be responsible for picking up medication if it is to be take home at the end of the day.

**IF THE ABOVE RULES ARE NOT FOLLOWED, MEDICATIONS WILL NOT BE GIVEN.**

## **COMMUNICABLE DISEASE RE-ADMISSION PROCEDURE**

Children who develop cases of communicable diseases may be re-admitted to school after all health department provisions for isolation and quarantine have been met and the attending physician has given permission, in writing, for return to school.

Children with certain skin diseases may return if under treatment from a physician who gives written permission to return.

Pediculosis (head lice) is considered a communicable disease. If a student is found to have head lice he/she may be excluded from school until the hair is free of live lice. Eligibility for re-admission to school must be approved by the school nurse.

## **PHYSICAL EDUCATION REQUIREMENTS**

All pupils will be required to participate in regular physical education activities unless excused for valid reasons, i.e. illness or injury. Request to be excused from Physical Education must be made in writing by the parent or physician.

## **PERSONAL HYGIENE**

Students are responsible for maintaining a reasonable standard of cleanliness and grooming. Counseling will occur to help each student meet appropriate standards.

## **STUDENT INJURIES – ILLNESS**

An attempt will always be made to notify parents when their child is significantly injured or becomes ill at school. When the parent cannot be reached, we will keep the child as comfortable as possible until the parents can be contacted. If a serious injury or illness should occur, and parents cannot be located, we will contact those people listed in the student's registration information, or contact the student's physician. **It is very important that contact information, including phone numbers, be kept updated with our school office.** Should hospital care be required, we will have the child transported to the emergency room of Mercer County Hospital in Aledo by ambulance. An adult will always accompany the child to the hospital if this situation should occur.



## **SCHOOL SERVICES**

### **LUNCH PROGRAM**

The Apollo lunch program includes complete mid-day lunches served in the all-purpose room. Some students may choose to bring their lunch to school. We ask parents not to include pop, energy drinks or candy in these lunches. Milk may be purchased at a price of 25 cents per half-pint carton. Parents are welcome to join their child for lunch at Apollo. However, our new wellness policy stipulates that that

parents are not allowed to bring prepared restaurant food to lunch at Apollo. Parents are welcomed to eat the school hot lunch (\$2.25) or to bring home-packed bag lunches.

Eating lunch at school should be a pleasant, social, and educational experience. Because it is necessary to serve a large number of students in a relatively short time period, we ask that students enter and leave the cafeteria in an orderly and quiet manner. Students will also be expected to follow certain clearly communicated procedures to maintain order and efficiency throughout the lunch period.

Students who qualify for free lunches under the National School Lunch Program must have their parents apply for this program at the school. **We cannot offer free or reduced-cost meals until the proper papers have been filled out and signed in the school office.** Lunches may be purchased by the week, month, semester, or year. The following payment options exist:

<u>Free</u>	<u>Days</u>	<u>Regular Cost</u>	<u>Reduced Cost</u>	
<b>Year</b>	174	x \$1.75 = <b>\$304.50</b>	x \$.40 = <b>\$69.60</b>	0
<b>Semester</b>	87	x \$1.75 = <b>\$152.25</b>	x \$.40 = <b>\$34.80</b>	0
<b>Month</b>	20	x \$1.75 = <b>\$35</b>	x \$.40 = <b>\$8</b>	0
<b>Week</b>	5	x \$1.75 = <b>\$8.75</b>	x \$.40 = <b>\$2</b>	0

### **BREAKFAST PROGRAM**

Breakfast is served each school day in the all-purpose room from 7:40 to 7:55 A.M. Breakfasts may be purchased by the week, month, semester, or year. The cost of breakfasts are as follows:

	<u>Days</u>	<u>Regular Cost</u>	<u>Reduced Cost</u>	<u>Free</u>
<b>Year</b>	174	x \$1.00 = <b>\$174</b>	x \$.30 = <b>\$52.20</b>	0
<b>Semester</b>	87	x \$1.00 = <b>\$87</b>	x \$.30 = <b>\$26.10</b>	0
<b>Month</b>	20	x \$1.00 = <b>\$20</b>	x \$.30 = <b>\$6</b>	0
<b>Week</b>	5	x \$1.00 = <b>\$5</b>	x \$.30 = <b>\$1.50</b>	0

### **GUIDANCE COUNSELOR**

A fulltime elementary guidance counselor is available. The counselor helps students overcome problems that may impede learning. The counselor may meet with individual students or with groups of students who may have similar problems. The counselor may contact parents directly about the need for continuing services.

## A.S.K. – Apollo Supporting Kids

The A.S.K. program is a joint school staff and community effort to identify, assist and support all students who have actual or potential problems that may interfere with academic or extracurricular performance. The main goal of A.S.K. is to identify students whose behavior, attendance, health or grades indicate that they may have problems or be “at-risk”. Faculty, staff, and parents will be able to notice and respond to students who are exhibiting difficulties and refer them for help through the A.S.K. Core Team. The Core Team is composed of teachers and school staff members who have been trained to receive referrals and to intervene in a student’s problematic pattern of behaviors and offer assistance. The A.S.K. program is an important component of the P.B.I.S. system and the RTI initiative, as it is designed to provide targeted interventions for those students who, for one reason or another, are having difficulty adjusting to the behavioral or academic expectations of the school.

## TITLE I PROGRAM

The Title I program in the Mercer County School District is funded under the No Child Left Behind Act of 2001. Title I of this act provides financial assistance to local school districts to provide services which help at-risk children achieve the high standards expected of all children.

The main goal of our program is to provide a wide range of assistance so that students can achieve the high standards expected of all students. Characteristics of the Mercer County Title I programs are:

1. The instruction is supplemental to the regular instruction taking place in the classroom.
2. In class as well as after class assistance is provided.
3. Through diagnosis and teaching, we endeavor to discover and overcome the special and particular needs of each student.
4. The Title I program is correlated to the student’s classroom program.
5. The Title I teachers keep in close touch with the classroom teachers to find out what the Title I student’s immediate needs are.
6. The District/School has a parental involvement plan in order to assist and encourage parents to become involved in their child’s education.

## LEARNING CENTER

Apollo Elementary has a library-media center that is located centrally to all classrooms and is staffed with a professional librarian. Students are scheduled into the center on a regular basis, but are encouraged to make use of the facility at other times, also. **Students are responsible for any book(s) or equipment that are checked out. If lost or damaged, fines will be assessed based on replacement or repair costs.**

## COMPUTER LABS AND CLASSROOM COMPUTERS

Apollo Elementary now has two computer labs. One is located in the Learning Center area, and the other is located in a former classroom just to the west of the Learning Center. There is access to Internet. Each classroom is also equipped with one or more computers. Students are expected to use the equipment responsibly and according to guidelines that are established by the teachers and administration. Parents are asked to provide a signature at registration indicating agreement with our district’s Acceptable Use Policy for the Internet.

Students in grades 3 and 4 also take the required Illinois Standards Assessment Test (ISAT) in the spring of each year. The results of this test are not received until the beginning of the next school year. Parents are notified of students' individual ISAT results, and the annual School Report Card prepared by the Illinois State Board of Education reports school-wide and district-wide results. This School Report Card is also distributed to parents.

### **AFTER-SCHOOL TUTORING PROGRAM (PENDING FUNDING)**

Grant funds (Project Stay-In) from the Regional Office of Education, in combination with district funds, offer us the opportunity to provide limited after-school tutoring services to students who are identified as needing such assistance to complete classroom assignments and/or homework. The number of students who can be served and the time frame for tutoring services will be determined by the amount of funding available to support these services annually.



### **GENERAL POLICIES and INFORMATION**

#### **ASBESTOS**

The Mercer County District #404 has complied with the U.S. EPA-AHERA regulations, as well as the Illinois State Board of Education Rules and Regulations, concerning asbestos. The inspection of our buildings identified and located some asbestos containing materials (ACMs). Documents are available in our Unit Administration Office and in each school's office for review.

#### **BICYCLES**

While all students are permitted to ride their bikes to school, it is recommended that parents make sure their children know the safety rules before they do so. Bicycles are to be parked in the bike racks provided outside the building. All bikes should have locks. Bicycles are not to be ridden on school property, and should be walked to and from the street to the bike racks. Safety helmets are recommended.

#### **BIRTHDAY TREATS AND PARTY INVITATIONS**

Birthday treats may be passed out during the last few minutes of the school day. **Home made treats are no longer allowed.** Treats must be prepackaged or prepared in a state-licensed kitchen facility. Private party invitations should not be distributed at school.

## **DRUGS, ALCOHOL, AND TOBACCO**

The use or possession of drugs, alcoholic beverages, or tobacco by students will not be tolerated. Any violation of this rule on school property, or at any school activity, will be dealt with severely. Students are asked to report any suspected infractions of this rule to their teacher or principal. School personnel have the right to conduct a search if there is reasonable suspicion of possession of any of these items.

The Mercer County District #404 has been designated a Drug Free School Zone. This means that any drug, alcohol, or tobacco violation within one city block of a school campus can result in disciplinary action by school officials.

## **MONEY AT SCHOOL**

Money should not be brought to school unless it is needed for school expenses. Lunch money should be placed in an envelope with proper information, i.e. each child's name, classroom, number/amount of lunches to be purchased. It is not necessary to enclose checks in an envelope if you indicate at the bottom of the check the names of children, amount for each, and their classrooms. Lunch money envelopes should not include money for any other purpose. Individual cartons of milk may be purchased only in the lunch line, and cannot be purchased by the week, month, semester, or year. No charges are allowed for milk.

## **PARENT CONFERENCES**

Annual district-wide parent/teacher conferences are scheduled each fall. These conferences are held to discuss each student's progress in school. **Parents are strongly encouraged to attend.** Additional follow-up conferences may be scheduled as needed. Parents are encouraged to request a conference with the teacher whenever questions arise.

## **PARENT-TEACHER ORGANIZATION**

Apollo Elementary has an active Parent-Teacher Organization (P.T.O.) that helps serve the needs of the school during the course of the year. They help by volunteering services, sponsoring programs, and funding special projects that would not normally be available through our district budget. Funds are raised through several projects, including Market Day food sales. You are invited to be a part of this active group. Call the Apollo office for details and meeting times.

## **PERSONAL APPEARANCE**

Good taste and common sense should dictate a child's dress. Clothes and hairstyles that detract from the orderly process of the school day would not be considered in good taste. The administration reserves the right to disallow attire or hair styles (including colors) that may disrupt the teaching environment. No shoes with wheels should be worn to school. No clothing promoting alcohol, tobacco, or illegal drugs, or items displaying lewd or inappropriate statements or pictures, will be allowed in school or at school-sponsored activities. Shoes worn to school should be appropriate for activities at recess and PE that involve running (**flip-flops are unsafe for running**). Boys will be expected to remove hats or caps when entering the school building.

## **PERSONAL BELONGINGS**

The school is not responsible for lost, stolen, or broken articles. Please mark all items brought from home, such as coats, hats, and book bags, with your child's name. Students should not bring items to school that have significant sentimental or monetary value. Students are not to bring toys, balls, trading cards, or electronic games or devices to school. Cell phones are allowed at school but must be turned off and out of sight. Scooters, skateboards, and roller blades are not allowed at school due to safety considerations and lack of available storage. Lost and found articles should be brought to the office.

## **PETS**

Students are not to bring pets to school. Parents, however, may bring in small animals for educational purposes, with advance permission from the teacher. The parent must take the animals with them when they leave the school.

## **PROMOTION/RETENTION**

The basic responsibility for determining whether or not a student is eligible for promotion to the next grade is that of the teacher. A number of factors are taken into consideration before a recommendation is made. Students will be promoted from one grade to the next, upon recommendation of the teacher, by the building principal. If retention of a pupil is being considered, the teacher, after consulting with the principal, will arrange a parent-teacher conference so that the situation can be discussed with parents.

## **REPORT CARDS**

A progress report is made on each student every nine weeks during the school year – or four times per year. Report cards are sent home one week after the conclusion of each nine-week period.

## **SCHOOL BUS RULES**

Mercer County District #404 employs a commercial carrier, Johannes Bus Service, to transport pupils to and from school. Issues concerning bus routes, pick-up and drop-off times, etc., should be directed to the Aledo office of Johannes Bus Service at 582-2922.

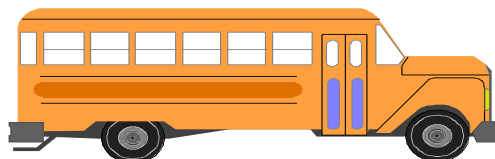
Children who have the privilege of riding a bus must assume the responsibility for good behavior on the bus. School buses cannot wait for children who are not ready on time. Students must be at the assigned bus stop on time each morning.

The bus driver is in complete charge of the bus and will report infractions of conduct to the principal. Students are expected to observe all bus rules and regulations established by the state, the school district, and the bus driver. Any misbehavior can be a distraction to the driver and endanger the lives of all the students on the bus. Such behavior will not be tolerated. The principal will have the discretion to take disciplinary action for reported misbehavior on the bus. Serious or repeated infractions may result in the student being denied the privilege of riding the bus for a specified period of time. Parents of the student, the District Superintendent, and the Board of Education will be notified of all bus suspensions.

When necessary, the district's regular suspension procedures shall be used to suspend a student's privilege to ride a school bus. In most situations the first offense will result in a one-day suspension, the second offense will result in a 3-day suspension, and the third offense will result in up to 10 days suspension. The administration may move a student to a higher level of suspension depending on the severity of the offense.

The following are general bus safety rules that should be observed by all bus riders:

1. Stand clear of the bus when waiting for it to arrive.
2. Board the bus and promptly take your seat.
3. Do not talk in a manner which may disrupt the driver; silence is to be observed during all critical driving situations, especially at railroad crossings.
4. Keep your hands and feet to yourself.
5. Keep the main aisle clear; place all large items, such as musical instruments, in available seats.
6. Do not stand or move from one seat to another.
7. Keep all parts of the body inside the bus.
8. Do not throw anything out the windows.
9. Do not eat or drink on the bus.
10. Do not bring glass items on the bus.



### **SCHOOL MASCOT AND SCHOOL COLORS**

We are the Apollo Golden Eagles. Our school colors are navy blue and Las Vegas gold.

### **STUDENT RECORDS**

A student's records may be examined by the student's parents following receipt of a written request to the building principal. Additional information regarding the rights of students and parents where student records are involved is available in the Apollo Elementary Office and the District #404 Office.

### **TELEPHONE**

Students are not to make phone calls on any school phone unless permission is given. Students will not be allowed to charge long distance calls to the school district unless approved by the building principal or office staff. Students are not to be dismissed from class to make phone calls. Students are not to use the phone to ask permission to go to another student's home after school. Students will not be called to the phone to receive incoming calls unless an emergency exists. Messages to students will be delivered under reasonable and necessary circumstances. Please limit interruptions to teachers and students.

### **TEXTBOOKS**

Textbooks are provided on a rental basis to the student. These will be distributed in the classroom by the teachers. At the end of the year, the same books are to be returned without marks in or on them. Charges will be assessed for excessively worn, marked, or lost textbooks.

### **VISITORS**

**All visitors during the regular school day must report directly to the office and obtain a "Visitor's Pass" before entering other areas of the building.** Non-authorized persons should not be in the school building or on the school premises at any time without clearance from the office. Please help us to make our school the safest place possible.

School visitation by parents and grandparents is encouraged. Parents or grandparents are welcome to eat lunch with their child at school when they are visiting. However, our new wellness policy stipulates that parents are not allowed to bring prepared restaurant food to lunch at Apollo. Parents are welcomed to eat the school hot lunch (\$2.25) or to bring home-packed bag lunches (adult lunch price is \$2.25). When eating the school hot lunch we ask that you call ahead and make a reservation to do so. Students are not permitted to bring other children to school as visitors.

## **WEAPONS**

A weapon is defined by board policy as any object that may be used to cause bodily harm, including, but not limited to, guns, knives, etc. Other items such as baseball bats, pipes, bottles, rocks, sticks, pencils, and pens may be considered weapons if used or attempted to be used to cause bodily harm. Possession of any type of weapon on school property is not permitted.

## **RTI – RESPONSE TO INTERVENTION**

The federal Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) and No Child Left Behind (NCLB) laws both require the use of research based instruction and interventions. In Illinois a problem-solving model must be implemented to evaluate student responses to research based interventions. A child's response to interventions is often abbreviated and referred to as RTI. A problem-solving model is a systematic and data-driven method for determining the degree to which a student has responded in interventions.

Services should intensify for a student as the student's response to the intervention is below expectations. The problem-solving model is an initiative that supports general education school improvement goals. It is intended to help as many students as possible to meet proficiency standards without special education. The model is applicable to academic and behavioral issues.

There are three levels of interventions that are referred to as Tiers. The descriptions of each Tier are described below. These tiers are viewed as continuum of services where Tier 1 is the least intense, while Tier 3 involves the most intense interventions.

Tier 1 is the delivery of a Scientifically Based Core Program within the general educational setting. Universal screening will determine the students that may be at risk in comparison to the identified district benchmarks. Screenings will be done three times a year. All students receive instruction within Tier 1 in the general education classroom which may include core group interventions designed to promote student to progress at a sufficient rate. When the core program is delivered with fidelity, intensity, passion, and with necessary, appropriate, and practical accommodations it should meet the needs of approximately 80% of the students within the grade level subject area.

Tier 2 is delivered to those students which have been identified to be at risk of failure through the universal screening tool. Students identified for Tier 2 will receive supplemental instruction using targeted interventions. This supplemental instruction will include MORE time, explicit teacher-led instruction, scaffold instruction, opportunities to respond with corrective feedback, language support, intensive motivational strategies and frequent progress monitoring in order for students to decrease the performance gap in comparison to Tier 1 peers. Once the progress monitoring data indicates a student has made sufficient progress toward benchmarks, a decision could be made that the student no longer requires Tier 2 supplemental interventions but Tier 1 instruction will continue. Research indicates that approximately 15% of the students will be in Tier 2.

Tier 3 is designed for students who, through progress monitoring data, do not show significant improvement in their identified deficit area(s) when presented with various Tier 2 interventions. Tier 3 students will receive intensive, individualized targeted interventions. This is in addition to Tier 2 supplemental and Tier 1 core instruction. This intensive instruction will include the MOST time, explicit teacher-led instruction, scaffold instruction, opportunities to respond with corrective feedback, language support, motivational strategies, and frequent progress monitoring in order for students to decrease the performance gap in comparison to Tier 1 peers. Approximately 5% of student will require the intensity of Tier 3 interventions.

Mercer County School District has a written RTI plan in place and it will be fully implemented by August of 2010. The tiered model is intended to be a fluid system that promotes the movement of students from one tier to another as indicated by the data. Our district plan will dictate when a request for evaluation of possible special education services should be considered.

## **PERTINENT DISTRICT INFORMATION**

### **CIVIL RIGHTS GRIEVANCE PROCEDURES**

#### **Notice of Nondiscrimination**

Mercer County School District #404 will not discriminate and will provide equal educational opportunities for all students, without regard to race, color, national origin, ancestry, sex, ethnicity, language barrier, religious beliefs, physical and/or mental disability, age, sexual orientation, economic and social conditions, or actual or potential marital or parental status.

#### **Gender Equity**

Mercer County School District #404 does not discriminate on the basis of gender in the provision of programs, activities, services or benefits, and it guarantees both genders equal access to educational and extra-curricular programs and activities. Facilities and related services, equipment and supplies are neither assigned nor limited on the basis of gender (excluding shower and toilet facilities, locker rooms, dressing areas and facilities used by exempt organizations).

#### **Uniform Grievance Procedure**

Students, parents, guardians, employees, or community members should notify any District Complaint Manager if they believe that the School Board, its employees, or agents have violated their rights guaranteed by the State or federal Constitution, State or federal statute, or Board policy, or have a complaint regarding:

1. Title 2 of the Americans With Disabilities Act;
2. Title 9 of the Education Amendments of 1972;
3. Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973;
4. Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, 20 U.S.C. 1400et seq.
5. Title 6 of the Civil Rights Act, 42 U.S.C. 2000d et seq.
6. Equal Employment Opportunities Act (Title 7 of the Civil Rights Act). 42 U.S.C. 2000e et seq.
7. Sexual harassment (Illinois Human Rights Act, Title 7 of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, and Title 9 of the Education Amendments of 1972);
8. The misuse of funds received for services to improve educational opportunities for educationally disadvantaged or deprived children;
9. Provision of services to homeless students.

The Complaint Manager will attempt to resolve complaints without resorting to this grievance procedure and, if a complaint is filed, to address the complaint promptly and equitably. The right of a person to prompt and equitable resolution of the complaint filed hereunder shall not be impaired by the person's pursuit of other remedies. Use of this grievance procedure is not a prerequisite to the pursuit of other remedies and use of this grievance procedure does not extend any filing deadline related to the pursuit of other remedies.

1. **Filing a Complaint**

A person (hereinafter Complainant) who wishes to avail him or herself of this grievance procedure may do so by filing a complaint with any District Complaint Manager. The Complainant shall not be required to file a complaint with a particular Complaint Manager and may request a Complaint Manager of the same sex. The Complaint Manager may request the Complainant to provide a written statement regarding the nature of the complaint or require a meeting with the parent(s)/guardian(s) of a student. The Complaint Manager shall assist the Complainant as needed.

2. **Investigation**

The Complaint Manager will investigate the complaint or appoint a qualified person to undertake the investigation on his or her behalf. If the Complainant is a student, the Complaint Manager will notify his or her parent(s)/guardian(s) that they may attend any investigatory meetings in which their child is involved. The complaint and identity of the Complainant will not be disclosed except (1) as required by law or this policy, or (2) as necessary to fully investigate the complaint, or (3) as authorized by the Complainant.

Within 10 school days of the date the complaint was filed, the Complaint Manager shall file a written report of his or her findings with the Superintendent. The Complaint Manager may request an extension of time. If a complaint of sexual harassment contains allegations involving the Superintendent, the written report shall be filed with the School Board, which will make a decision in accordance with Section 3 of this policy. The Superintendent will keep the Board informed of all complaints.

### 3. Decisions and Appeal

Within 5 school days after receiving the Complaint Manager's report, the Superintendent shall mail his or her written decision to the Complainant by U.S. mail, first class, as well as the Complaint Manager.

Within 5 school days after receiving the Superintendent's decision, the Complainant may appeal the decision to the School Board by making a written request to the Complaint

Manager. The Complaint Manager shall promptly forward all materials relative to the complaint and appeal to the School Board. Within 10 school days, the School Board shall affirm, reverse, or amend the Superintendent's decision or direct the Superintendent to gather additional information for the Board. Within 5 school days of the Board's decision, the Superintendent shall inform the Complainant of the Board's action. The Complainant may appeal the School Board's decision to the Regional Superintendent pursuant to Section 3-10 of The School Code and, thereafter, to the State Superintendent pursuant to Section 2-3.8 of The School Code.

This grievance procedure shall not be construed to create an independent right to a School Board hearing. The failure to strictly follow the timelines in this grievance procedure shall not prejudice any party.

The complaint managers are listed as follows:

Kathy Albert, Principal  
Mercer County High School  
1500 S. College Ave.  
Aledo, IL 61231  
(309) 582-2223

Robert Reed, Principal  
Mercer County Junior High  
PO Box 436  
Joy, IL 64260  
(309) 584-4174

## STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES

All children with disabilities have a right to a free appropriate public education as provided under the Illinois School Code. Mercer County School District shall provide, upon request, written materials and other information that indicates the specific policies, procedures, rules and regulations regarding the identification, evaluation or educational placement of children with disabilities. Inquiries should be directed to:

Director of Special Education  
Apollo Elementary School  
801 SW 9<sup>th</sup> Street  
Aledo, IL 61231  
Phone: 309/582-5350

## **STUDENT RECORDS (FERPA)**

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

1. The right to inspect and review the student’s education records within 45 days of the day the school receives a request for access. Parents or eligible students should submit to the school principal (or appropriate school official) a written request that identifies the record(s) they wish to inspect. The school official will make arrangements for access and notify the parent or eligible student of the time and place where the records may be inspected.
2. The right to request the amendment of the student’s education records that the parent or eligible student believes are inaccurate, misleading, or otherwise in violation of the student’s privacy rights under FERPA. Parents or eligible students who wish to ask the school to amend a record should write the school principal (or appropriate school official), clearly identify the part of the record they want changed, and specify why it should be changed. If the school decides not to amend the record as requested by the parent or eligible student, the school will notify the parent or eligible student of the decision and advise them of their right to a hearing regarding the request for amendment. Additional information regarding the hearing procedures will be provided to the parent or eligible student when notified of the right to a hearing.

3. The right to consent to disclosures of personally identifiable information contained in the student’s education records, except to the extent that FERPA authorizes disclosure without consent. One exception, which permits disclosure without consent, is disclosure to school officials with legitimate educational interests. A school official is a person employed by the school as an administrator, supervisor, instructor, or support staff member (including health and medical staff and law enforcement unit personnel); a person serving on the School Board; a person or company with whom the school has contracted as its agent to provide a service instead of using its own employees or officials (such as an attorney, auditor, medical consultant, or therapist); or a parent or student serving on an official committee, such as a disciplinary or grievance committee, or assisting another school official in performing his or her tasks.

A school official has a legitimate educational interest if the official needs to review an education record in order to fulfill his or her professional responsibility.

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

Family Policy Compliance Office  
U.S. Department of Education  
400 Maryland Avenue, SW  
Washington, DC 20202-5920

Directory information may be disclosed without prior notice or consent unless the parent/guardian or eligible student notifies the Records Custodian or other official in writing, before October of the current school year, that he does not want any or all of the directory information disclosed. Directory information includes the student’s name, address, telephone listing, date and place of birth, major field of study, participation in officially recognized activities and sports, weight and height of members of athletic teams, dates of attendance, degrees and awards received, and the most recent previous educational agency or institution attended.

## **PROTECTION OF PUPIL RIGHTS AMENDMENT (PPRA)**

PPRA affords parents certain rights regarding our conduct of surveys, collection and use of information for marketing purposes, and certain physical exams. These include the right to:

- *Consent* before students are required to submit to a survey that concerns one or more of the following protected areas (“protected information survey”) if the survey is funded in whole or in part by a program of the U.S. Department of Education (ED)-
  1. Political affiliations or beliefs of the student or student’s parent;
  2. Mental or psychological problems of the student or student’s family;
  3. Sex behavior or attitudes;
  4. Illegal, anti-social, self-incrimination, or demeaning behavior;
  5. Critical appraisals of others with whom respondents have close family relationships;
  6. Legally recognized privileged relationships, such as with lawyers, doctors, or ministers;
  7. Religious practices, affiliations, or beliefs of the student or parents; or
  8. Income, other than as required by law to determine program eligibility.
- *Receive notice and an opportunity to opt a student out of* -
  1. Any other protected information survey, regardless of funding;
  2. Any non-emergency, invasive physical exam or screening required as a condition of attendance, administered by the school or its agent, and not necessary to protect the immediate health and safety of a student, except for hearing, vision, or scoliosis screenings, or any physical exam or screening permitted or required under State law; and
  3. Activities involving collection, disclosure, or use of personal information obtained from students for marketing or to sell or otherwise distribute the information to others.
- *Inspect*, upon request and before administration or use -
  1. Protected information surveys of students;
  2. Instruments used to collect personal information from students for any of the above marketing, sales, or other distribution purposes; and
  3. Instructional material used as part of the educational curriculum.

These rights transfer to from the parents to a student who is 18 years old or an emancipated minor under State law. Mercer County School District #404 has developed and adopted policies, in consultation with parents, regarding these rights, as well as arrangements to protect student privacy in the administration of protected information surveys and the collection, disclosure, or use of personal information for marketing, sales, or other distribution purposes. Mercer County School District will directly notify parents of these policies at least annually at the start of each school year and after any substantive changes. Mercer County School District will also directly notify, such as through US Mail or email, parents of students who are scheduled to participate in the specific activities or surveys noted below and will provide an opportunity for the parent to opt his or her child out of participation of the specific activity or survey. Mercer County School District will make this notification to parents at the beginning of the school year if the District has identified the specific or approximate dates of the activities or surveys at that time. For surveys and activities scheduled after the school year starts, parents will be provided reasonable notification of the planned activities and surveys listed below and be provided an opportunity to opt their child out of such activities and surveys. Parents will also be provided an opportunity to review any pertinent surveys. Following is a list of the specific activities and surveys covered under this requirement:

- Collection, disclosure, or use of personal information for marketing, sales, or other distribution.
- Administration of any protected information survey not funded in whole or in part by ED.
- Any non-emergency, invasive physical examination or screening as described above.

*Parents who believe their rights have been violated may file a complaint with:*

Family Policy Compliance Office  
 U.S. Department of Education  
 400 Maryland Avenue, SW  
 Washington, D.C. 20202-5920

## **SEXUAL, RACIAL, ETHNIC AND RELIGIOUS HARRASSMENT**

Sexual, racial, ethnic and religious harassment of students is prohibited.

### **Sexual Harassment**

An employee, District agent, or student engages in sexual harassment whenever he/she makes unwelcome sexual advances, requests sexual favors, or engages in other verbal or physical conduct of a sexual or sex-based nature, imposed on the basis of sex, that:

1. denies or limits the provision of educational aid, benefits, services, or treatment; or that makes such conduct a condition of a student's academic status; or
2. has the purpose or effect of:
  - a. substantially interfering with a student's educational environment;
  - b. creating an intimidating, hostile, or offensive educational environment;
  - c. depriving a student of educational aid, benefits, services, or treatment; or
  - d. making submission to a rejection of such unwelcome conduct the basis of academic decisions affecting a student.

The terms "intimidating", "hostile", and "offensive" include conduct which has the effect of humiliation, embarrassment, or discomfort. Examples of sexual harassment include unwelcome touching, crude jokes or pictures, discussions of sexual experiences, teasing related to sexual characteristics, and spreading rumors related to a person's alleged sexual activities.

### **Racial, Ethnic and Religious Harassment**

Racial, ethnic and religious harassment include, but are not limited to: verbal or physical conduct that denigrates or shows hostility or aversion towards an individual in that:

1. has the purpose of affecting or creating an intimidating, hostile or offensive educational environment;
2. has the purpose or affect of unreasonably interfering with an individual's academic performance;
3. or otherwise adversely affects an individuals academic opportunities.

Examples of harassment might include, but are not limited to, threats, insults, racial or religious slurs, unwelcome comments, jokes, pranks, gestures, or physical contact and display or circulation of derogatory or inappropriate written or other physical materials, cartoons or pictures.

### **Reporting Harassment**

Students who believe they are victims of sexual, racial, ethnic or religious harassment or have witnessed such harassment are encouraged to discuss the matter with the Nondiscrimination Coordinator or the Complaint Manager. Students may choose to report to a person of the student's same sex. Complaints will be kept confidential to the extent possible given the need to investigate. Students who make good faith complaints will not be disciplined.

The names, addresses and telephone numbers of the District's current Nondiscrimination Coordinators and Complaint Manger are as follows:

#### *Nondiscrimination Coordinators:*

Name: New Boston Elementary School  
Principal Nancy Robinson  
301 Jefferson Street,  
New Boston, IL 61272  
587-8141

Name: Apollo Elementary School  
Principal Bill Fleurette  
801 SW 9<sup>th</sup> Street,  
Aledo, IL 61231  
582-5350

#### *Complaint Manager:*

Name: Superintendent of Schools, Alan Boucher  
Address: 1002 SW 6<sup>th</sup> Street, Aledo, IL 61231  
Telephone No.: 582-2238

The Superintendent shall also use reasonable measures to inform staff members and students that the District will not tolerate sexual, ethnic or religious harassment, such as by including this policy in the appropriate handbooks.

Any District employee who is determined, after an investigation, to have engaged in sexual, racial, ethnic or religious harassment will be subject to disciplinary action up to and including discharge. Any student of the District who is determined, after an investigation, to have engaged in sexual, racial, ethnic or religious harassment will be subject to disciplinary action, including but not limited to, suspension and expulsion consistent with the discipline policy. Any student making a knowingly false accusation regarding sexual, racial, ethnic or religious harassment will likewise be subject to disciplinary action up to and including suspension and expulsion.

#### **SEX OFFENDER REGISTRY**

The Illinois State Police provides an online listing of sex offenders required to register in the State of Illinois. The database is updated daily and allows searching by name, city, county, zip code, compliance status, or any combination thereof. The list can be viewed by going to the following web address: <http://www.isp.state.il.us/sor/>. The school district will be happy to assist you with getting access to the registry if you do not have Internet access.

#### **PARENTAL RIGHT TO REVIEW CURRICULUM**

Parents have a right to review the instructional materials used by their child's classroom teacher. Parents wishing to do so should contact their child's teacher to make arrangements.

#### **NO CHILD LEFT BEHIND (NCLB)**

Upon request, parents have a right to inspect their child's teacher's qualifications and the district's parent involvement policies. Parents also have a right to receive notice of their child's achievement level in each state academic assessment. Parents will be notified with their child has been taught by a teacher who is not highly qualified for 4 or more consecutive weeks.

#### **TRANSPORTATION REIMBURSEMENT**

The district provides transportation for all students who live more than 1.5 miles away from school. Parents can seek transportation cost reimbursement from the State if they drive their child to and from school because they feel the child's walking route is unsafe. Parents desiring to seek transportation reimbursement should contact the school by November 1 of each school year to obtain the claim forms. A copy of procedures regarding reimbursement disputes is available to parents upon request.

#### **ASBESTOS PLAN**

Many of the district buildings contain some form of asbestos. The district maintains an asbestos plan to ensure the safety of the students and staff. Parents and community members wanting to examine the district's asbestos plan should contact the unit office.

#### **VISION SCREENING**

Each year, the district conducts vision screenings with all students. Vision screening is not a substitute for a complete eye and vision evaluation by an eye doctor. Your child is not required to undergo this vision screening if an optometrist or ophthalmologist has completed and signed a report form indicating that an examination has been administered within the previous 12