

Eastmont Elementary School Handbook 2021-22

www.eastmont206.org

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Penny Brown, Rock Island Elementary Principal
Spencer Taylor, Executive Director of Elementary Education
Dr. Garn Christensen, Superintendent

EASTMONT SCHOOL DISTRICT MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of the Eastmont School District is to maximize the potential of all students by:

- <u>Relationships</u> that support a safe and secure learning environment for students and staff.
- <u>Relevance</u> in education experiences that meet the needs of students, parents, and community.
- <u>Rigor</u> by having expectations that require students to develop and demonstrate academic excellence.
- **Results** that are used to improve and support student and employee success.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

The Eastmont Board of Directors generally meets on the second and fourth Monday of each month at 5:30 p.m. Meetings are held in either the Administration Office Board Room at 800 Eastmont Avenue or at individual schools. Please call the District Office or visit the District's website if you have any questions regarding these meetings (884-7169 or www.eastmont206.org).

DISTRICT ADMINISTRATION

Dr. Garn Christensen, Superintendent

Mr. Spencer Taylor, Executive Director of Elementary Education

Mr. Matt Charlton, Assistant Superintendent/Executive Director of Secondary Education

Mrs. Cindy Ulrich, Executive Director of Financial Services

Mrs. Vicki Trainor, Executive Director of Human Resources

NONDISCRIMINATION NOTICE

The Eastmont School District prohibits discrimination on the basis of, age, race, creed, color, national origin, religion, sex, families with children, marital status, sexual orientation including gender identity, honorably discharged veteran or military status, or the presence of any sensory, mental or physical disability or the use of a trained dog guide or service animal by a person with a disability.

The District also prohibits discrimination on the basis of sex as it applies to counseling and guidance services to students, recreational and athletic activities for students, access to course offerings, and in textbooks and instructional materials used by students.

The District also prohibits sexual harassment. Persons needing to report discrimination described above should contact Vicki Trainor, Executive Director of Human Resources at (509) 884-7169 or email trainorv@eastmont206.org

Title IX/ADA Coordinator Ms. Vicki Trainor 800 Eastmont Avenue East Wenatchee WA 98802 509-884-7169 Section 504 District Coordinator Mr. Matt Charlton 800 Eastmont Avenue East Wenatchee WA 98802 509-884-7169

NOTIFICATION OF RIGHTS UNDER FERPA FOR ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY SCHOOLS (FERPA)

for Elementary and Secondary Schools

The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) affords parents 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 record 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
 - Parents or eligible students may ask the School to amend a record that they believe is inaccurate. They should write to the school principal [or appropriate school official], clearly identify the part of the record they want changed, and specify why it is inaccurate. 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.
- The right to consent to disclosure 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 interest. A school official is a person employed by the School as an administrator, supervisor, instructor, or support staff member (including health or medical staff and law enforcement unit personnel); a person serving on the School Board; a person or company whom the School has contracted to perform a special task (such as an attorney, auditor, medical consultant, or therapist); or a parent of a 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 educational record in order to fulfill his or her professional responsibility.

Upon request, the School disclosed education records without consent to officials of another school district in which a student seeks or intends to enroll. [NOTE: FERPA requires a school district to make a reasonable attempt to notify the parent or student of the records request unless it states in its annual notification that it intends to forward records on request.]

4) The right to file a complaint with the U.S. Department of Education concerning alleged failures by the Eastmont Public Schools 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 20202-4605

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School Calendar

Eastmont School District

Student Calendar 2021 - 2022

2021	2022
August M T W TH F	February M T W TH F
5 Days 2 3 4 5 6	17 Days 1 2 3 4
9 10 11 12 13 16 17 18 19 20 16-19: Teacher Pro. Development Days	7 8 9 10 11 7: No School - Professional Development Day 14 15 16 17 18 18: No School - Mid-Winter Break
23 24 25 26 27 23: All Staff Opening Day	21 22 23 24 25 21: No School - President's Day
30 31 25: First Day of School	28
	<u> </u>
September M T W TH F	March M T W TH F
21 Days 1 2 3	22 Days 1 2 3 4
6 7 8 9 10 6: No School - Labor Day	7 8 9 10 11 10: End of 2nd Trimester Grading (59 days)
13 14 15 16 17	14 15 16 17 18 11: No School - Records Day
20 21 22 23 24	21 22 23 24 25 18: No School for K-12 (Parent Conferences)
27 28 29 30	28 29 30 31
October M T W TH F	April M T W TH F
20 Days 1 1 4 5 6 7 8 8: No School - Professional Development Day	16 Days 1 1 4 5 6 7 8 4-8: No School - Spring Break
11 12 13 14 15	11 12 13 14 15
18 19 20 21 22	18 19 20 21 22
25 26 27 28 29 28-29: No School for K-12 (Parent Conferences)	25 26 27 28 29
November M T W TH F	May M T W TH F
17 Days 1 2 3 4 5	21 Days 2 3 4 5 6
8 9 10 11 12 11: No School - Veteran's Day	9 10 11 12 13
15 16 17 18 19 23: End of 1st Trimester Grading (62 days)	16 17 18 19 20
22 23 24 25 26 24-26: No School - Thanksgiving 29 30 29: No School - Records Day	23 24 25 26 27 30 31 30: No School - Memorial Day
25.110 Statot - Lecture Day	30 31 School Medical Day
December M T W TH F	June M T W TH F
13 Days 1 2 3	8 Days 1 2 3 3: High School Graduation
6 7 8 9 10	6 7 8 9 10 10: Last Day of School
13 14 15 16 17	13 14 15 16 17
20 21 22 23 24 20-31: No School - Winter Break	20 21 22 23 24
27 28 29 30 31	27 28 29 30
2022	
January M T W TH F	Grading Periods
20 Days 3 4 5 6 7	1st Trimester Ends - November 23 2nd Trimester Ends - March 10
10 11 12 13 14	3rd Trimester Ends - March 10 3rd Trimester Ends - June 10
17 18 19 20 21 17: No School - Martin Luther King Jr. Day	
24 25 26 27 28	
31	I

= Half Day: Students are released after lunch & 3 hours early from regular schedule.

Adopted 1/11/2021;

Admission/Withdrawal and Attendance Policies

All students need to register for school at the Eastmont School District Office at 800 Eastmont Avenue.

Kindergarten Requirements: To enter kindergarten a child must be five years of age on or before August 31. Birth certificates or hospital records and an immunization record must be presented before students may register. State education officials require a polio immunization series, a series for "DTP" (diphtheria, tetanus, and pertussis) or a DT variation, two immunizations against mumps, measles and rubella, and the series of three Hepatitis B immunizations for kindergarteners through fourth grade prior to school admission. The final immunizations for the polio and DTP series must have been administered on or after the child's fourth birthday. Kindergarteners are also required to have the varicella immunization or proof of having had the disease. Immunization records will be reviewed for compliance by School District nurses.

Withdrawal: The school appreciates notice of student withdrawal at least two days before the last day of attendance indicating:

- 1. The last day of attendance.
- 2. Approximate location to which you are moving.
- 3. If known, the new school your child will attend.

Upon enrollment of your child at a new school, the new school will request permanent records to be sent. With reasonable notice, the teacher can prepare the progress report and obtain information for the transfer. Parents should stop in at the office to obtain a copy of their child's immunization records to present to the new school.

Attendance Policy: Attendance is essential to the success of all students. Students who miss critical instruction in key concepts quickly fall behind in school and are less likely to achieve academic success. Accordingly, school attendance is mandatory, and unexcused absences and truancy are prohibited. The state defines chronic absenteeism as being absent 10% of the days enrolled in school.

It is required by state law that each absence from school be explained by a note or phone call from the parent or guardian. Parents are required to contact the office as soon as possible each time their child is absent and include the students complete name, date, and reason for the absence. If we do not hear from you, our receptionist will call you to verify the absence (required by the Becca Bill).

Parents who choose to have their children miss school for non-illness or non-emergency reasons should contact the school at least one week in advance of the absence to complete the pre-approved absence form. These absences may be considered unexcused if they cause a serious adverse effect on the student's educational progress. Parents whose children incur more

	used absences during any quarter will be asked to meet with the principal to to improve attendance.
Excused Absences	 Illness (fever over 100 degrees, vomiting, diarrhea, infectious diseases) Chronic health condition (if over 5 days may require a doctor's note) Medical appointment (please bring a doctor's note) Family emergency Religious purposes
Unexcused Absences	 Failing to submit any type of excuse statement by the parent/guardian Absences that do not meet the guidelines for an excused absence Unexcused absences may occur at the discretion of administration, when a student's absence are chronic or have an adverse effect on progress If a student has more than 2 unexcused absences within a month, a school conference will be required.
Tardies	Students are expected to be in class on time. If a student arrives after the second bell, they will need to check in at the office. When a student's tardiness becomes frequent or disruptive, the student will be referred to the principal, assistant principal, or the counselor.
Picking Students Up and Early Checkout	All students need to be checked out of school through the office. Only people listed in our data system will be allowed to pick up students during the school day and identification is required. We request that you do not remove your child from school during the school day unless it is absolutely necessary and early checkout within 15 minutes from the
	end of the day is not permitted.
Attendance Actions	 When the Attendance Committee at a school notices there is a possible attendance concern the following actions may be taken: Information letter sent to parents Attendance Nudge letter showing students attendance compared to the other students at the school A phone call from school administration seeking to help solve the problem A meeting with school administration and parents seeking to help solve the problem A 10 day letter letting parents know that attendance is a concern A 15 day letter requiring doctor's notes for any further absences Home visits A Notice to Appear letter for Truancy Board
*Please refer to	School Board Policy No. 3122 for complete information on the District policy for

attendance.

	Classroom Learning Environment
Birthdays at School	Birthday treats may be brought to school, please check with the teacher in advance. Party invitations and gifts are not allowed to be passed out at school unless every class member is invited. We do not allow flower arrangements or balloons for student birthdays in the classrooms.
Cell Phones and Personal Electronic Devices	 Cell phones are discouraged, but if parents believe one is necessary for their child for communication reasons, the phone must be turned off and kept out of sight at all times during the school day. If it becomes a disruption, the parent or student will need to pick it up in the office. This includes smart watches with phone capabilities. Students are not allowed to use or possess any other personal electronic devices at school. They will be confiscated until the end of the day. If the problem continues, further action will be taken. Exceptions may be made if devices are for educational purposes and if they are pre-approved. The school is not responsible for lost or stolen items.
Toys	 All toys should be kept at home except if brought for "Show & Tell" purposes with advanced permission given by the teacher. Toys can cause a disruption to learning and are often lost or stolen.

Food

Breakfast and Lunches: Eastmont School District has a breakfast and hot lunch program. Students may also bring their lunches from home and may purchase ½ pints of milk.

- Meals may be purchased on a daily, weekly, or monthly basis by either sending money to school with your student or online via MySchoolBucks (recommended).
- The cost for meals will be published and sent home at the beginning of the year.
- This information may also be accessed on the District website at www.eastmont206.org under Departments and then "Food Services".
- Applications for free/reduced price breakfasts & lunches are available at the school or online.
- Students will be allowed to "charge" meals, even if they do not have any money in their accounts and parents will be responsible to pay for these meals.

Lunches/ Snacks from Home	 Students are not allowed to share or trade food for safety reasons. Only individual sized portions may be brought to school for lunch/snack (no large bag of chips, cookies, crackers, candy, etc) Soda pop and energy drinks are not permitted during lunch or snack.
Candy/Gum	Candy, gum, and other treats may be allowed, but only at teacher discretion for special events or celebrations.

Health Services

Our school Health Room is staffed by paraprofessionals, office staff, and is overseen by a part-time school nurse. When students come to the Health Room, staff assess the problem, treat minor injuries, document the visit, and call parents when necessary.

Accidents

During the school year there are occasionally a few accidents. Every precaution is taken to prevent such mishaps. It is very important for each student and parent to know the following procedure in case of an accident:

- The student reports the accident to the teacher or playground supervisor.
- The student will be brought to the Health Room. If the injury is serious, parents will be contacted. Unless it is an absolute emergency, the school cannot take the child to a doctor.
- If you have school insurance, please ask the office staff for an accident report to take to the doctor.

Allergies

If your child has any special health considerations or food allergies, please share that information with your child's teacher, the school office, and/or the school nurse.

Students with food allergies:

- Must have an Emergency Care Plan in place and have necessary, up to date medications at school
- Should not receive any treats or foods at school unless provided by their parents or food services.
- If you have any questions or concerns please contact the school nurses at 888-1480.

Cold/ Wet Weather

Students will be outside for recess unless the temperature is below 15 degrees. Please make sure your students are dressed appropriately. Unless a student has a doctor's note, they will need to go outside. Students will have outdoor recess when it rains and may use umbrellas during this time.

Lice

Head lice are often a fact of life for school-aged children. While inconvenient, head lice causes no medical harm and can be effectively treated. If a child is found to have head lice, the following will occur:

- The child's parent or guardian will be notified by telephone or letter home stating that prompt, proper treatment of this condition is in the best interest of the child.
- 2. The parents of the affected students will be given the handout "Parents Guide How to Treat and Keep Lice Out of Hair" which has accurate information about the diagnosis, treatment, and prevention of head lice.
- 3. It is the practice of the Eastmont School District that healthy children will not be excluded from or miss school because of head lice.

Illness

Students who become ill during the school day are sent to the office. The office staff will determine whether or not the student should be sent home.

	 Anytime a child's temperature is 100 degrees or higher, we will automatically call his/her parent to pick up the child from school. A child should remain home if he/she has had a fever and/or has been vomiting within the last 24 hours.
Medication at School	State laws prohibit us from giving any medications (over-the-counter or prescribed) without having the following form completed: "Authorization for Administration of Medication at School." This form must be filled out and signed by your healthcare provider and parent. These forms are available in the school office.
School Insurance	Parents may buy an insurance policy that covers injury received by the child during the school day. Brochures will be sent home, so that parents who wish may purchase this coverage.
Vision and Hearing	Vision and hearing screening is done annually for grades K-3. If a problem is detected, parents will be notified as soon as possible.

School Safety

Student safety is one of the most important aspects of what we do at Eastmont.

Bikes, Skateboards, Scooters, and Shoes with Wheels

3rd-5th grade students may ride bikes/scooters with helmets to/from school, but are not allowed to ride them on school grounds or in the parking lot during school hours.

- We encourage children to lock their bicycles to the racks provided.
- Students may not ride skateboards to school and may not wear shoes with wheels.
- Bicycles and scooters on the sidewalks cause a real safety concern for parents, students, and staff entering and leaving the buildings. Therefore, we require bikes and scooters to be walked when on school grounds.

Emergency Drills

- Fire and other emergency drills are scheduled on a regular basis in accordance with state law.
- Earthquake drills, emergency evacuation drills, and lockdown drills are also practiced regularly throughout the year.

Harassment, Intimidation, or Bullying (Board Policy)

The Eastmont School District is committed to a safe and civil school environment for all students, employees, volunteers and patrons, free from harassment, intimidation and bullying. "Harassment, intimidation, or bullying" means any intentional written, verbal, or physical act, including, but not limited to one shown to be motivated by any characteristic in RCW 9A.36.080(3), (race, religion, ancestry, national origin, gender, sexual orientation or mental or physical disability), or other distinguishing characteristics, when the intentional written, verbal, or physical act:

- Physically harms a student or damages the student's property; or
- Has the effect of substantially interfering with a student's education; or
- Is so severe, persistent, or pervasive that it creates an intimidating or threatening educational environment; or
- Has the effect of substantially disrupting the orderly operation of the school.

Harassment, Intimidation, or Bullying (Board Policy) (continued)

Harassment, intimidation, or bullying can take many forms including: slurs, rumors, jokes, innuendos, demeaning comments, drawings, cartoons, pranks, gestures, physical attacks, threats, or other written, oral or physical actions. "Intentional acts" refers to the individual's choice to engage in the act rather than the ultimate impact of the action(s).

Eastmont School Board Policy 3207 is a component of the District's responsibility to create and maintain a safe, civil, respectful and inclusive learning community, and is to be implemented in conjunction with comprehensive training of staff and volunteers, including the education of students in partnership with families and the community.

Board Policy 3207 outlines the Informal and Formal Complaint process. Please notify the Principal of any acts of harassment, intimidation, or bullying and either the informal or formal complaint process will be explained to you. Action will be taken immediately to stop the undesired behavior.

Is it Bullying?

We are using this definition to help students understand the difference between mean, rude, and bullying behavior:

- When someone says or does something unintentionally hurtful and they do it once, that's RUDE.
- When someone says or does something intentionally hurtful and they do it once, that's MEAN.
- When someone says or does something intentionally hurtful and they keep doing it - even when asked to stop or are upset - that's BULLYING.

Possession or Use of Tobacco Products, Alcohol, Drugs, or Weapons

- Students in the Eastmont School District are not allowed to possess or use any tobacco products, alcohol, illegal drugs, weapons or pseudo-weapons while attending school or school functions.
- Weapons and pseudo-weapons shall include any item construed to be a weapon, including, but not limited to: "switch-blade" combs, replicas of guns, knives, throwing stars, and num-chuks.
- Use or possession of such products will result in disciplinary action up to expulsion, and immediate contact of parents and/or law enforcement officials.

School Closure Due to Weather / Inside Recess

Inclement weather may cause school to begin late or school may be cancelled for the day.

For information on school closures:

- Monitor ParentSquare for announcements.
- Our school website and the District's website at <u>www.eastmont206.org</u> will have any school closure information and will be updated by 6:30AM.
- Media will be notified immediately of ANY type of school schedule change.
- You may also call the District Weather Hotline at 888-1111.
- Please do NOT call the school. <u>Telephone lines must be kept open in case of an emergency.</u>

Students will remain indoors when the outdoor temperature drops below 15 degrees or when air quality is deemed dangerous. The District Office makes the decision as to when we remain inside for air quality. Students will go outside when it is raining or snowing, so proper outdoor clothing is essential.

Technology/ All students will be given internet access, unless parents opt their child out using the Internet Parent Release and Student Use Form 2022-F2. Access and Student projects, classroom activities, and student work may be showcased on the Web school or District websites and social media pages. Only relevant information will be **Publishing** included (i.e., first name, picture, participation, grade level, etc...) Parents may opt out of this option. **Visitors -**Allowing our students to bring other children to school causes a disruption to learning **Students** and is a liability issue. Therefore, we must deny any such requests. Technology/ Students must agree to the following rules for using technology: **Internet Safety** 1. I will not let other students use my name and password. 2. I will not use bad language or pictures. 3. I will respect others. 4. I will follow all school rules while using the computer. 5. I understand that all my computer work will be checked by the teacher and computer privileges will be revoked if I break the computer rules. 6. I will not damage the computer and will stay in my own area on the computer. 7. Downloading of any programs, games, music, or any other software is strictly prohibited. If devices are damaged due to negligent use by the student, repair and or replacement costs may be charged to the student's account. Threat and Students may not threaten to hurt or kill another person or threaten to cause **Threat** damage to the school. Assessment As in airports and other public places, these kinds of words, joking or otherwise, are absolutely not allowed. The safety of students is our top priority at school. Threats to kill or cause bodily injury to people or destroy property will be taken seriously. Depending on the seriousness and nature of the threat, a student may be detained, sent home from school, or separated from others while a threat assessment is completed. Police may be contacted. ALL volunteers are required to fill out a Volunteer Disclosure Form. Volunteers and **Parent** The Volunteer Disclosure Form is available on the District's website at **Visitation** www.eastmont206.org - District Information - Parents & Community - Volunteer Form (online). These forms must be renewed each school year. Parents and other adults are encouraged to volunteer. Please make

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made with the classroom teacher.

arrangements with the teacher if you wish to volunteer.

Parents are welcome to visit the classroom. Prior arrangements need to be

Volunteers and

Parent

Visitation (continued)	Please check in at the office and obtain a visitor pass when you arrive at school to let us know a visitor is on campus.
Weapon Free Zone	All Washington schools have been officially defined as "weapon free zones". The law has no provision for the age of offenders, so even a kindergartner is expected to know enough to realize that they should never bring a gun or dangerous weapon to school. Squirt guns and any other toy replicas of weapons are also strictly prohibited.

	Student Data and Information
Custody Documents/ Parenting Plan	Refer to Eastmont School Board Policy 3126. • Questions regarding custody issues and disputes should be referred to your attorney. • Schools do not have the authority to enforce Parenting Plans.
Directory Information	 Most information about Eastmont School District students cannot be made public without consent of parents or guardians. Federal law prohibits schools from releasing information without permission, except for what is termed "directory information." Directory information about students may be released by the District without parental consent. The District will not release directory information for commercial purposes. Directory information is defined as the student's name, photograph, address, grade level, dates of attendance, participation in officially recognized activities and sports, weight and height of members of athletic teams, diplomas and awards received, and the most recent previous school attended. Photos of students are sometimes used in District or school-produced publications or for use by the news media. The District takes special care not to identify the photographed students by name in most cases. However, published photos in yearbooks, student/school newspapers, school handbooks, etc., are considered public domain and can be reproduced by the media. Parents/guardians who do not want their student directory information released complete the "FERPA Do Not Disclose Student Directory Information Form" in our school office or on the District's website.
Duplicate Student Information	 We try to be sensitive to the needs of all family structures, while maintaining a neutral environment for our students. If your child is part of a multiple household family and double notices/ information is preferred, please note that when registering/llet the office know. We will send duplicates home for anything we mail, but are not able to replicate the items carried home by students. We request that parents meet together for school conferences.

Enrollment Cards and Emergency Information	 Each year we send home an Enrollment Card Update Form and Health Information Form for you to complete. It is extremely important that both of these be filled out and returned to school immediately. The card provides the information necessary to reach you if your child should become ill or be injured at school. If there are any changes in your phone or emergency contacts during the year, please call the office with your new information. Address changes the use of the District's "Change of Address Form" with corresponding proof of address required.
Lost and Found	 We have a designated lost and found area that we encourage parents to check often. Please mark all clothing with your child's name. Marked clothing helps facilitate identification and return. Students are responsible to look for their own lost items. Parents are also welcome to come to this area to look for lost items. Periodically articles are donated to various charitable organizations. We are not responsible for any lost items.
Parent Input for Class Placement	Creating class lists is very much like putting together a difficult puzzle. We must look at numerous factors in determining student placement (i.e., equity for gender, special learning needs, learning styles, program needs, parental input, behavior concerns, etc.) The more information we have on a child, the easier it is to "place" children into the correct spot in our "class roster puzzle." We can guarantee that we will carefully look at your input, but we cannot guarantee a particular teacher for your child. As mentioned previously, parental input, although very important, is only one of many factors we must weigh as we place students into classes.
	We will send parents information about providing parent input after Spring Break. These forms are due back by April 30th. Thank you for providing us with additional information regarding your child's strengths and needs.
Pictures	It is a tradition in the Eastmont School District to have individual and group pictures taken. A commercial photographer takes these pictures and makes them available to students and parents for a fee. The individual pictures are taken in the fall and the class pictures are taken in the spring.
Student Records	We maintain student records necessary for the educational guidance and welfare of our students, for orderly and efficient operation of school, and as required by law. This information is treated in a professional and confidential manner.
Student Dress	Refer to Eastmont School Board Policy 3224.

Transportation

Parents and Guardians:

Please discuss these bus passenger rules and procedures with your child. Your child should appreciate the important part that he/she plays in accomplishing SAFE and EFFICIENT transportation throughout the District.

Your child should understand that riding a school bus is a privilege conditioned on appropriate, safe, and respectful behavior. Unruly conduct on the bus is a very real risk to the safe operation of a school bus. Your cooperation in communicating this very important message would be most appreciated.

Bus Service Eligibility	 Bus service is only provided for those beyond the one radius mile for all grades. Students residing within the one mile radius will need to safely find other means to get to/from school. Exceptions are made only when safety concerns are identified by the transportation office. In order to change their normal bus and/or stop, students must obtain a pass from the school office.
En Route to the Bus Stop	Parents/guardians are encouraged to review their child's walking route to the bus stop, advising about safety concerns.
Be Prompt	 Bus passengers should arrive at the bus stop 5-10 minutes before the bus is scheduled to arrive. Buses will promptly depart all schools 5-10 minutes after dismissal times. For safety, once bus doors are closed, drivers will not stop for late arriving students.
At the Bus Stop	 While waiting at the bus stop, students are expected to stand a safe distance from the street and avoid activities that could injure themselves or others. Students are expected to respect others' property, however, bus stops are not supervised and parents are responsible for supervision until students are under the supervision of the driver. When the bus approaches, students must observe the instructions of the driver. This is particularly important in the winter when slick road conditions exist.
Boarding/ Departing the Bus	 It may be necessary to cross the road to board the bus. Students are expected to observe the driver's instructions and always cross in front of the bus with the aid of the flashing stop sign lights and crossing arm.
Driver Authority	 The driver has full authority over the passengers on the bus. Seating assignments may be necessary to assure passenger safety. If inappropriate behavior is demonstrated by a student, the parent will be contacted to assist the student to modify the behavior of concern.

Passenger Conduct

Safe, respectful conduct is expected of all passengers to insure safety:

- Obey the driver's instructions when first requested.
- Remain seated.
- Respect others and their property.
- Keep your hands to yourself.
- Keep noise level down.
- Cell phone use is not permitted on the bus.

Serious or persistent violations offensive to, or endangering the safety of others, will result in progressive discipline. The age and experience of the student will help determine how many progressive steps are appropriate. Certain activities may result in immediate suspension from bus riding privileges. These include, but are not limited to:

- Fighting on the bus
- Throwing objects in or out of the bus
- Possession of dangerous weapons or articles
- Destroying or defacing District or private property
- Use of sparking devices
- Smoking, or use/possession of drugs, alcohol, or any form of tobacco
- Obscene gestures or profanity directed at the bus driver or others
- Any part of the body extended outside of the bus
- Assault on a bus driver will result in indefinite suspension and possible criminal charges
- Pointing a laser pointer at a bus driver will result in suspension from the bus and possible criminal charges

Accidents/ Breakdowns

- Bus drivers are thoroughly trained in defensive driving techniques and buses are carefully maintained.
- Yet, given the thousands of miles traveled annually, and the traffic conditions in our area, accidents and breakdowns can happen.
- All the buses have two-way radios and help can be just minutes away. One of the most important things to a bus driver in the event of an accident or breakdown is passenger cooperation.

Buses and School Delay/ Closure Due to Weather (Snow Days)

For information on bus routes during school delay/closures due to weather:

- Monitor ParentSquare for announcements.
- Our school website and the District's website at <u>www.eastmont206.org</u> will have any school closure information and will be updated by 6:30AM.
- Media will be notified immediately of ANY type of school schedule change.
- You may also call the District Weather Hotline at 888-1111.

Items Not Allowed on the Bus

For reasons of safety and health and in order to comply with state law and district policies, the following items are not allowed on a school bus:

- 1. Glass objects: bottles, jars, etc.
- 2. Open containers of food or drink
- 3. Gum

- 4. Inflated balloons
- 5. Live animals: bugs, worms
- 6. Plants, dirt, or other growing projects
- 7. Oversized objects and instruments (any that cannot fit safely in the seat with the student.)
- 8. Weapons: guns, knives, razor blades, etc. (real or toy)
- 9. Sports equipment which could endanger others: like javelins, pole vaults, or shot puts
- 10. Skateboards, scooters, or baseball bats
- 11. Any item which cannot be transported easily or which creates a safety concern
- 12. Distracting electronic devices such as Game Boys, MP3 players, or trading cards

Please arrange for alternative transportation if any of the above items need to go to or from school.

Student Discipline on the Bus

The District has adopted a progressive discipline policy which emphasizes logical consequences for inappropriate behavior.

- The written tool for this is the "Bus Conduct Notice." If warranted, your child will be issued a written notice for you to review and sign. If a notice is issued, the transportation director may attempt to call you to confirm and to answer any questions you may have. You may be asked to accompany your student for a conference with the driver and the transportation director.
- Camera boxes are mounted in district buses. Cameras are randomly and/or selectively rotated through the buses. Student behavior may be monitored or observed from the video system. Parents may view a video concerning their student by contacting the transportation director.
- Parents are encouraged to contact the Director any time they have concerns.
- The District reserves the right to suspend transportation privileges for any student who demonstrates behavior unreasonably distracting to the driver which may contribute to unsafe operation.

Disciplinary Procedures

When, in the opinion of the driver, a serious rule violation occurs, when the driver's efforts to deal with less severe violations are unsuccessful, or a pattern seems to have developed, a school bus incident report will be initiated. The intent is to maintain good order and a safe environment for students riding buses to and from school or school sponsored activities, as well as to notify parents of the misconduct of their children.

- The following are standard actions that will generally be applied uniformly in response to documented incidents:
 - 1st & 2nd Offense: Student counseled and warned by driver.
 - o 3rd Offense: Suspension of bus privileges for 3 days. (If within 45 days)
 - 4th Offense: Suspension of bus privileges for 5 days. (If within 45 days)
 - 5th Offense: Suspension of bus privileges for 10 days or more, depending upon nature of the offense. (If within 45 days)

The building administration will determine the extent of the suspension.

Note:

- Serious offenses: such as fighting, flagrant displays of disrespect toward a driver, or possession of drugs or alcohol will result in immediate loss of bus privileges for a minimum of 5 school days.
- Assault on a bus driver will result in indefinite suspension of bus riding privileges and possible criminal charges.

If a violation occurs more than 45 calendar days after a previous violation, the disciplinary action will be the same as for the previous offense. There may be some exceptions to these disciplinary actions in extraordinary circumstances, as determined by the transportation director and the appropriate school principal. If a student is suspended for misconduct on any bus, the suspension will apply to all buses.