



MEMORANDUM

To: Superintendent Jon Sills
From: Nick Bacigalupi, on behalf of the JGMS School Council
Date: June 1, 2020
Re: Proposed Changes to the JGMS 2019-2020 Student/Parent Handbook

The following are the proposed edits and policy changes for the 2019-2020 Student/Parent Handbook. The proposed changes are a product of conversations with administrators, faculty, staff, students and school council. For organizational purposes, all changes are listed in the order they appear in the original document. Deletions are in **Red**, additions are in **Blue**, and updates are in **Green**. Please note that there may be additional changes in the appendix of the Student/Parent Handbook if new legislation, district policies or changes in BPS personnel warrant an amendment(s).

Changes and Updates to Entire Document:

- Revise any grammatical, punctuation or formatting inconsistencies found.
- Update all dates to reflect the 2019-2020 school years.

Page(s) iii-vi

- Update Table of Contents and all additional page number references if suggested revisions are approved

Page 1

- Update for name changes of faculty members listed
- Highlighted JGMS focus on H.E.A.R.T by adding the following text to the school description:

“JGMS has H.E.A.R.T.!

Students and staff at John Glenn Middle School do their best each day to show the values of H.E.A.R.T. (Honor, Empathy, Acceptance, Responsibility, and Tenacity) as a part of the overall school community.

- Honor: We act in a manner which displays respect and integrity
- Empathy: We understand and reflect upon the feelings of others.
- Acceptance: We accept all individuals and groups regardless of our differences.
- Responsibility: We take responsibility for our own actions, the well-being of others, our environment, and our community.

- Tenacity: We act with persistence, determination, and grit.

Page 4

- JGMS's focus on students was emphasized by moving the **Student Bill of Rights** to page 2:

"Student Bill of Rights

We recognize that all students are of equal value and are equally deserving of the same rights and privileges. There will be no discrimination on the basis of ethnic origin, race, religion, age, disability, gender, or sexual orientation.

All students have the right:

1. To feel safe, both physically and mentally, at John Glenn Middle School including on the school bus, at social and sporting events, and on field trips.
2. To an education about issues of civil rights
3. To learn about and practice democracy in our school
4. To celebrate diversity
5. To be treated equally and fairly
6. To participate in the peaceful resolution of conflict
7. To have an open and enlightened exchange of information among members of different racial, ethnic, cultural and religious groups and those with different abilities
8. To have firsthand experience with different cultural groups this will enhance greater tolerance
9. To have available, read and discuss publications about topics such as the "new" immigrants, gay rights, and gender issues on a regular basis
10. To attend educational events exploring social concerns of diverse groups
11. To participate and cooperate in projects that protects and promotes civil rights of all people
12. To be heard
13. To attend classes that are free from student disruptions
14. To be in a school that is respectful, where good manners are expected and making good decisions are expected and are part of our school community"

Pages 22

- In the Blackboard Connect section, "Blackboard Connect" was updated with **"School Messenger"** as a school messaging and contact system.
- In the Parent Conferences section, **parents conference times were updated with new dates for the 2020-2021 school year.**

Page 25

- In the Dress Code section, **"hoods from a hooded sweatshirt or shirt"** was added to the first section that reads: **"Hats, hoods from a hooded sweatshirt or shirt, and headphones are not to be worn."**
- In the section after the Dress Code items, the phrase **"Unless the clothing item is a hat, hood, or headphones"** was added to the sentence: **"Unless the clothing item is**

a hat, hood, or headphones, students are typically allowed to wear the current outfit for the remainder of the school day and the dress code violation is documented.”

Pages 26

- In the Student Use of Cell Phones and Electronic Devices, “portable speakers” was added to the sentence: “Cell phones, Smart Watches, Ipods, MP3 players, personal gaming systems, CD players, portable speakers, laser pointers or any other electronic devices that may interfere with the optimal learning environment should not be utilized inside the school prior to the dismissal bell.”

Page 32

- In the Student Council section, under Article III: Membership to the Student Council, delete section 3, “Section 3. The election of Student Council group representatives for the school year will be held within the first five weeks of school.”

Page 36

- In the section on Student Code of Contact, add description of JGMS use of Restorative Practices:

“Restorative Practices

Whenever possible, JGMS attempts to employ Restorative Practices in response to unexpected behaviors. These practices, which can be applied by both teachers and administrators, promote more inclusive, relationship-building, problem-solving approaches to address behavior. Restorative practices encourage students to reflect on their behavior, take responsibility, and develop plans for repairing harm.”