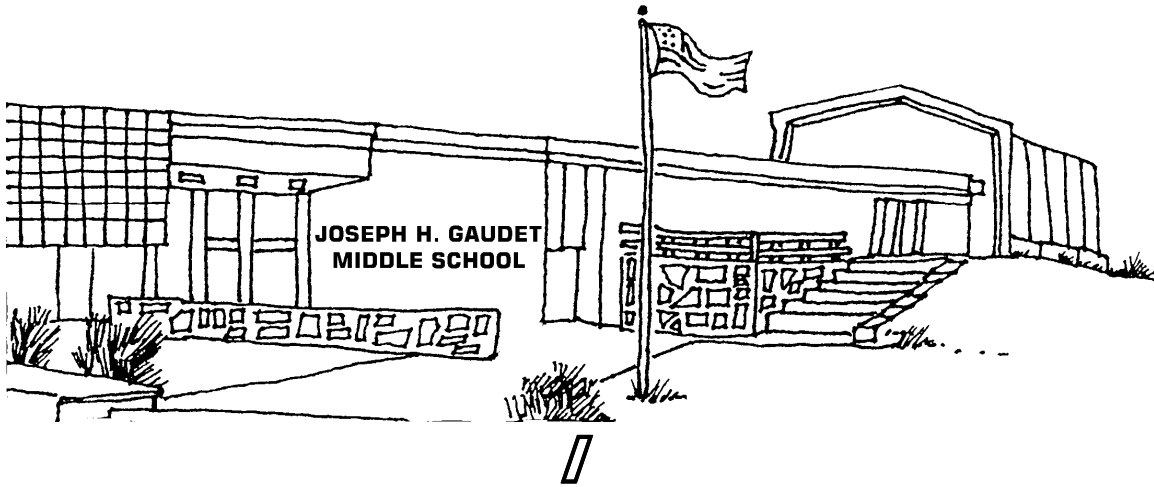


# STUDENT HANDBOOK



## Joseph H. Gaudet Middle School

1113 Aquidneck Avenue  
Middletown, Rhode Island 02842-5255

Telephone: 846-6395

Fax: 847-7580

Website: <http://www.ri.net/middletown/gaudet>

*This agenda belongs to:*

Name

Address

City/Town

Zip Code

Phone

Student No.

Homeroom No.

# What is a Middle School?

The Joseph H. Gaudet Middle School is committed to creating an atmosphere of positive learning experiences for our students, parents, and staff. We are a community devoted to encouraging creativity, individuality, and self worth. Respect and tolerance are important in our daily lives. In our community of learning, the differences among us need to be respected.

A goal of our school is to teach you how to learn. Your teachers will encourage you to think for yourself, to learn the art of asking useful questions, to seek answers on your own, and to study effectively. They will also emphasize the following skills:

1. How to organize materials, time, and information.
2. How and when to ask for help.
3. How to listen and follow directions.
4. How to begin and complete an assignment or task.
5. How to problem solve in all subject areas

You will use several different techniques to help you learn. Sometimes you will learn from information your teacher gives you. Sometimes you will work by yourself. There will be times that you will work with your friends. During your stay at the middle school you may discover the way in which you learn best: by listening, reading, or creating something with your hands.

A middle school is a busy and friendly place to grow... naturally.

## Key Phone Numbers

School: 846-6395  
Fax : 847-7580  
Regional Special Ed: 683-3570  
Laidlaw Bus: 848-7990  
E-mail: [vgiuliano@mpsri.net](mailto:vgiuliano@mpsri.net)  
Oliphant Administration: 849-2122  
<http://www.ri.net/Middletown/gaudet>

# Academic Requirements

1. Any student who has not shown consistent and significant growth towards meeting expected performance standards in one or more core curriculum courses may be required to successfully complete a summer school program.
2. A grade 8 student who is required to meet academic requirements during summer school will not participate in the grade 8 graduation assembly.
3. A student in any grade who has not met minimum academic requirements by the end of the summer session will be retained.

# Report Cards and Progress Reports

Our academic expectations are high and we expect each student to do his/her best. Twice each trimester, your teachers will send home progress reports. These reports will indicate those areas in which improvement is needed. It can also let parents know those areas in which a student is doing well.

At the end of each marking period, you will receive a report card that will let you and your parents know what you are doing in school and how well you are doing. In grades 5 - 8, a student earning all "C"s (Consistently) in the Learner Quality section of the report card will receive Performance Recognition for that Trimester. A student earning all 3's (nearly meets the standard) or higher in all standard categories of the report card will receive Academic Recognition for that trimester. A student earning all 4's (meets the standard) or higher in all standard categories of the report card will receive Academic Excellence for that trimester.

Parents are welcome to discuss concerns with staff at any time. Parent conferences are generally set up after the first trimester.

# Homework

Homework assignments are an extension of the classroom. Homework is another way of developing self-discipline and organizational skills. You should be aware of the following:

1. Homework will include review and practice materials, compositions, reports, book reports, projects, and assigned readings.
2. The amount of time you spend on your homework will depend on your grade level. Students can generally expect ten minutes per grade level (i.e. sixth grade = sixty minutes, seventh grade = seventy minutes, etc..)
3. Individual teachers will assign homework.
4. Your papers should be checked for spelling and grammatical errors.
5. Your work is expected to be turned in on time.
6. The student is ultimately responsible for making arrangements for make-up work.

# Study Habits

You are expected to give your best effort every day in school. Being a successful learner involves self-discipline and organization. Good study habits are extremely important. Your teachers will be teaching classes about study skills. Here are some hints that will help you do well:

1. Write assignments in your daily planner.
2. Be sure you understand your assignment. If you don't understand it, ask questions.
3. Before leaving school, ask yourself what you need to take home with you, and then take it with you.
4. When studying, find a place where it is easy to think; it is quiet; and it is well lighted.
5. When planning to study, budget your time and set goals for yourself.
6. Have all necessary materials at hand when you begin.
7. Avoid interruptions.

**GOOD STUDY HABITS DEVELOPED DURING THE MIDDLE SCHOOL YEARS WILL STRENGTHEN FUTURE ACADEMIC PERFORMANCE.**

# Rules and Regulations

## IT IS YOUR RESPONSIBILITY

- ☞ To bring your best self to everything you do.
- ☞ To be where you are supposed to be, when you are supposed to be there.
- ☞ To do what you are asked by teachers/staff when you are asked to do it.
- ☞ ***To be respectful to everyone in our community at all times.***

## WHAT ABOUT DISCIPLINE

- Your main goal is education, which is worth having just for its own sake. It is also a tool, which helps you learn more. It prepares you for the rigorous demands of a career later on.
- To learn the most you can in any one class requires being able to listen, recite, share, show understanding, and concentrate without interference. You'll find that most problems in a classroom center on people disturbing others. The school protects your right to an education without interference by enforcing consequences to those who violate that right.
- The primary concern of the adults in this school is your welfare. Our main interest is you. We care enough, so you will succeed.

## So...

- The average student intent on doing a good day's work and having a pleasant attitude will rarely have to worry about being disciplined.
- To help all of us know what is expected, and the consequences of misbehavior, a "Code of Conduct" has been written. This is included in the following pages. We are all responsible for reading it and knowing what it entails.

## Code of Conduct

Good discipline is created by policy and action. It has a positive effect on both student and teacher, and operates in a way that allows the student to learn and the teacher to teach.

Staff members and parents need to work together in the disciplinary process. The better the understanding of what is causing the student to behave as he/she does, the better the chance to teach the student to make better choices.

Young people need an atmosphere of structure.

They need to know the rules as well as the consequences. They need to know that the rules are enforced and that the consequences will be directly related to the frequency and severity of their actions. Students have the responsibility to cooperate in school. If you choose to be disruptive and/or uncooperative, disciplinary action will be taken.

## Student Responsibilities

1. Read the "Code of Conduct" and abide by the rules contained within.
2. Attend school on a regular basis.
3. Arrive at school and class on time.
4. Remain at school and in class during the entire day unless you are appropriately excused.
5. Respect the property, personal space, and rights of others.
6. Use appropriate language at all times.
7. Dress in a clean, neat, and reasonable fashion.
8. Accept accountability for your actions.
9. Demonstrate pride in your school.

## Safe Schools

Students are expected to play an active role in providing a secure environment in all Middletown Public Schools. To that end, students are required to report any behavior that would compromise the schools' safety.

Safety issues to be reported would include, but not limited to: a student with a weapon, or any such material that would cause harm to him/herself or others, a student discussing plans to do harm to the school or others, a student talking about suicide, or a student selling drugs or any other illegal materials.

## Honesty and Open Communication

### Policy:

You have the duty to be a responsible and honest person. Your honesty about any situation is the MOST IMPORTANT factor in any decision. Dishonesty deprives you of your most prized possession - YOUR REPUTATION.

### Rules:

1. You must be truthful when questioned by a staff member.
2. You may not forge any note, pass, or other official paper work for yourself or for another student.
3. Cheating on any quiz, test, or other exercise is not acceptable.

### Strategies to avoid social conflicts:

1. Talk, confer, and negotiate with the student who is causing you problems.
2. Walk away from a confrontation. This will give you time to think and handle the problem!
3. Find and talk to a teacher, counselor, grade leader, or principal about your problem.

## Attitude, Behavior, and Language

### Policy:

You are expected to be respectful and courteous at all times while you are on school grounds, on the buses, on the way to and from school, and during school related activities. You are expected to be courteous and respectful to all school personnel when you have any contact with them in school or outside of school.

### Rules:

1. Follow all rules and procedures as explained in this handbook.
2. Keep hands, feet, and objects to yourself at all times.
3. Do not swear, tease or provoke others.
4. Obey all staff members.
5. Walk, do not run.
6. Do not make inappropriate gestures to others.

# Physical Contact/ Verbal Threats/ Harassment

## Rules:

1. You may not fight, push, trip, or hit another student or staff member.
2. You may not play-fight with another student or staff member.
3. You may not threaten to harm another student or staff member.
4. You may not ask other students to threaten or hurt another student or staff member.

## Policy:

You have the right to attend school without the fear of physical harm, verbal threats, or harassment.

Middletown School Committee Sexual Harassment Policy 35145.5

We will uphold the **ZERO TOLERANCE POLICY** put forth by the Middletown School Committee. All acts and threats of violence will be reported to the Middletown Police Department.

# Bullying

Bullying is when a student or group of students intentionally assaults, batters, threatens, harasses, stalks, menaces, intimidates, extorts, humiliates, or taunts another student. It also includes organizing a campaign of shunning another student or group of students or maliciously spreading rumors about another student(s).

Disciplinary actions may include but are not limited to:

Loss of opportunities to participate in extracurricular activities or school social activities, loss of bus transportation, transfer to another school, in-house suspension, out of school suspension, mandatory counseling.

Students who observe an act of bullying or who have reasonable grounds to believe that bullying is taking place are obligated to report the bullying to school authorities. Failure to do so may result in disciplinary action.

# Referrals

Students should be referred to the Grade Leader for the following offenses:

1. Profane, obscene, or other improper language.
2. Smoking in school or on school grounds.
3. Incidents of fighting.
4. Any act which imperils the safety of others.
5. Possession of a dangerous weapon or implement.
6. Theft or damage to personal property of others.
7. Possession of any illegal substance or apparatus.
8. Acts of vandalism.
9. Starting a fire or pulling a false fire alarm.
10. Chronic classroom disruption.

Teachers will impose consequences for students in violation of their classroom management plans that may include but are not limited to:

1. Talking or fooling around in class.
2. Wasting time in class.
3. Arriving for class unprepared.
4. Causing minor disruptions that impede the learning process.
6. Littering
7. Arriving late for class.
8. Minor corridor problems.
9. Violating school safety procedures.

# Consequences

Enforcement of the Code of Conduct is the responsibility of all staff members. The administering of consequences will depend on the severity of the infraction and the frequency of the misconduct. The Code of Conduct will be enforced in a fair, firm, and consistent manner.

Consequences may include but are not limited to;

1. Parental contact
2. Silent lunch
3. Detention
4. In-House suspension
5. Out of school suspension

## DISCUSSION

A discussion of the infraction and a review of the Code of Conduct may be held with the grade leader.

## DETENTION

You may be assigned a detention time before, during, or after school by a teacher, grade leader, Assistant Principal, or Principal. If you have been assigned TEACHER DETENTION, you will report to the assigning teacher's room on time.

## DISMISSAL

If you are DISMISSED from school for an infraction, you may not return to school unless accompanied by a parent or guardian. Upon your return, it is expected that you and your parent or guardian will meet with the grade leader, Assistant Principal, or Principal to discuss your situation.

## IN-SCHOOL SUSPENSION

If you are assigned to IN-SCHOOL SUSPENSION, you will spend the school day in a confined area within the school. IN-SCHOOL suspension continues for a period of time determined by the grade leader, Assistant Principal, or Principal. During IN-SCHOOL SUSPENSIONS the student is expected to continue working on schoolwork.

## OUT-OF-SCHOOL SUSPENSION

If you are suspended from school, you are excluded from school and all school related activities for a period determined by the Assistant Principal or Principal.

## SUSPENDABLE OFFENSES:

Include but are not limited to;

1. Habitual truancy.
2. Leaving school grounds without permission.
3. Insubordination or failure to comply with a directive from a staff member.
4. Intimidation of a student or staff member.
5. Using obscene language, gestures, or profanity.
6. Possession or use of anything that may cause injury to a student or staff member.
7. Assaulting another student or staff member.
8. Damaging or attempting to damage school property.
9. Fighting, stealing, gambling, indecent exposure, extortion - attempted or implied.
10. Possession of and/or use of an alcoholic beverage or under the influence of the same.

11. Unauthorized possession of and/or use of any substance classified as a "drug" by the State of Rhode Island.
12. Smoking in school or on school grounds, lighting a match or fire, pulling a false alarm or making a bomb threat.
13. Habitual disciplinary offenses.
14. Use of any items that disrupt the school process (i.e., stink bombs, fire crackers, etc.)

## Personal Property Policy

Each student will be assigned a locker in which to keep personal property and materials related to school life. Book bags/Back Packs will remain in the locker during the school day. Items that are not necessary for school or are illegal are not allowed in school. The principal or his designee will search lockers and personal belongings if there is reasonable suspicion that there's something illegal, dangerous, or disruptive to the operation of the school. Confiscated items may not be returned.

### Rule 1:

You may not bring any item to school that can be considered a weapon. This includes knives, sharp objects, firearms, firecrackers or other explosives, lighters, and matches.

### Rule 2:

Smoking is prohibited in school or on school grounds. You may not bring cigarettes, tobacco products or any other smoking matter to school or have them on your person, in your locker, or in your purse.

### Rule 3:

You may not bring any illegal, substance or apparatus to school. You may not use any illegal substance or apparatus in school or on school grounds. The Rhode Island Substance Abuse Prevention Act prohibits paging devices or cell phones. "Any student enrolled in any secondary or elementary school shall be prohibited from carrying, possessing or using a paging or communication device of any kind on school property."

### Rule 4:

You may not wear clothes or accessories that are **vulgar, rude, unsafe, illegal** or **disruptive** to the educational process. In addition, boys and girls are to dress appropriately for school. Personal appearance should not disrupt the educational process, call undue attention to the individual, violate federal, state, or local health and obscenity laws, or affect the welfare and safety of the student or his/her classmates. As a courtesy, students are **NOT** to wear hats, sweat

bands or other head coverings in the classroom, corridors, and cafeteria. For health reasons, students are not to wear heavy coats or jackets during school.

**Items of clothing not allowed include:**

- Those advertising drugs, alcohol, violence, tobacco, or with profanity. Any clothing that contains logos or language that is sexual in nature. Also, clothing must not pose a safety issue.
- Sunglasses in the building.
- Abbreviated tops-(halter, tube, shortened tank)
  - a. Straps / sleeves must measure **2"** or more.
  - b. Tops must overlap/tuck into the bottom layer at all times. (No skin showing)
  - c. Tops must not be cut too low nor of a see-thru design.
- Chains with links greater than  $\frac{1}{4}$ " or with an overall length greater than 10".
- Shorts / skorts/ Skirts - must be no shorter than 3" from the top of the kneecap.
- Basketball jerseys must be worn with a t-shirt underneath.
- Pants must be worn with no under garments or skin showing.
- Hats, headbands, bandanas and other head coverings
- Slippers, pajamas or other similar clothing
- Any article of clothing associated with gang culture.
- Sneakers/Shoes with wheels in them

Students violating this dress code will be asked to contact parents to bring in appropriate clothing, change, or wear clothing supplied by the school.

**Rule 5:**

You may not steal or damage the personal property of others.

**Rule 6:**

You are not allowed to buy/sell any items on school grounds except hot lunch or items from the school store, or items related to school sponsored activities.

**Rule 7:**

All electronic devices are not to be used during the school day. While students may bring them in, it is expected that they are turned off and left in your locker during the school day.

## Cell Phone Policy

As per RI law, cell phones/paging devices/ personal communication systems are not allowed in school. Possession of such devices can result in forfeiture of said items.

## School Property

**Policy:**

You have the responsibility to respect and protect all school property.

**Rules:**

1. You may not purposefully damage or deface any school property.
2. You may not steal anything that belongs to the school community.
3. You may not abuse or deface the lockers or locks.
4. You may not litter on school property.
5. You are responsible to cover and care for textbooks that are assigned to you.

## Restitution Policy

Students will be responsible to pay for lost or damaged books.

A student who deliberately damages school property may be suspended from school. The student will also be required to make full restitution for acts of vandalism.

## Entering and Leaving School

**Policy:**

You have the right to be in the Middle School and on school grounds during the regularly scheduled school day and for school sponsored activities.

**Rules:**

Morning Entrance

1. When walking to school, you are to come directly to school and are not to trespass on private property or loiter on streets or areas adjacent to the school.
2. 5th and 6th graders may enter the building through the C and D entrances and 7th and 8th graders will enter through the main entrance A. Students who ride buses that drop off in the back of the building will enter through the

music hallway door adjacent to the planetarium.

3. During times of inclement weather you may enter the building through the front entrance and report to the Common Learnings Room.
4. You will not be allowed in any undesignated area of the building without written permission from a teacher.

#### Afternoon Dismissal

1. Upon dismissal from school, you are to report directly to assigned areas (buses, detention, intramurals, etc.) or leave the school building and school grounds immediately.
2. When walking home from school, you are to go directly home and are not to trespass on private property or loiter on streets or areas adjacent to the school.

## Use of Boys' and Girls' Room

### Policy:

All students have the right to use either the boys' or the girls' rooms. Students who need to use the boys' or girls' room must have permission to do so from a teacher.

### Rule 1:

You must have an appropriate pass or be under the supervision of a teacher to use the boys'/girls' rooms.

### Rule 2:

You may NOT smoke in the boys' or girls' rooms.

### Rule 3:

You may NOT loiter in the boys' or girls' rooms.

## Attendance

Rhode Island General Laws governing education require that all students must attend school for 180 days. Regular school attendance is essential for school success and achievement. Students with unexcused absences of more than 10 days or excessive tardies will be referred to Truancy Court. This is a real court with a judge who has the power to summons. It is housed either at the middle school or the high school.. Unexcused absences are any absences not

verified by a doctor's note. A death in the family (please provide documentation) or a religious holiday may also constitute an excused absence. Vacations taken during school time are considered unexcused absences.

### Policy:

You have the responsibility to be in school and in class on time and to attend all classes and assigned activities.

### Rules:

1. You must be on time for school.
2. You may not be absent from school except for reasons of health and family emergency.
3. You may leave the school during the regularly scheduled school day only if you bring a parent's note and receive permission from the school administrator and are picked up by a parent / guardian.
4. You must be on time to class or a scheduled activity.
5. You may not skip a class.
6. You may not wander in the corridors or loiter in the boys' or girls' rooms.
7. You may not refuse to remain after school for discipline or extra help.
8. You must have a pass when you are in the corridors during class or lunchtime.

## Cafeteria

### Policy:

You have the privilege of eating lunch in the cafeteria while at school. This privilege continues as long as you follow the rules.

### Rules:

1. You must enter in an orderly manner and take a seat. Once students are seated they will be called by row.
2. You are expected to be courteous and respectful at all times. Any unnecessary or unacceptable noise or behavior is not allowed.
3. At the end of lunch you will be called by row to dispose of your garbage, return your tray, go back to your seat, and then wait until dismissal.
4. You must leave your table and area clean.
5. You are not to throw anything, or pop cups, milk cartons, or bags.
6. All eating must be done in the cafeteria and during your designated lunch period.

7. You must receive permission to leave the cafeteria from one of the supervising teachers.
8. You may not refuse any reasonable request made of you by supervising personnel.
9. You may be assigned to a seat or to silent lunch by supervising personnel.
10. You will be dismissed by sections at the end of your lunch period and are to proceed directly to your class.

## **School Bus Code**

### **ADMINISTRATIVE POLICY**

Transportation on a school bus is a privilege and this privilege can be withdrawn if you are not respectful of the bus rules and policies. Since the safety and well being of all Students are the Gaudet Middle School's primary concern, the following rules, regulations, and procedures will be followed:

#### **I. Policy - School Bus Rules and Regulations**

1. The driver is in full charge of the bus and students. Students must obey the driver promptly.
2. Students will ride their regularly assigned bus at all times. They will board and leave at their assigned stops unless permission has been granted by the school authorities to do otherwise.
3. Each student may be assigned a seat by the school principal and/or the bus driver.
4. Outside of ordinary conversation, classroom conduct must be observed. Abusive language or obscene gestures will not be tolerated
5. Students are to assist in keeping the bus clean. Students must refrain from throwing anything out of the windows. No food or drink may be consumed on the bus.
6. No person shall have possession of, consume, or be under the influence of alcoholic beverages or illegal drugs.
7. No person shall at any time stick his/her hand out of the windows, whether the bus is moving or not.
8. Students must have nothing in their possession that could cause injury to others.
9. No books or personal belongings are to be in the aisle of the bus.
10. No one other than the driver shall sit in the driver's seat, nor shall anyone be located to the immediate left or right of the driver.
11. Students are to remain seated while the bus is in motion and are not to get off or on the bus unless it has come to a complete stop.
12. Students must leave the bus in an orderly manner. They may not cross the road until given consent from the bus monitor. When boarding or leaving the bus, Students should be in the view of the driver/monitor at all times.
13. Students must cross the road at least ten feet in front of the school bus and NEVER BEHIND IT.
14. Students must not stand or play in the roadway while waiting for the bus.
15. Students will refrain from pushing or shoving other students at the bus stop.
16. Students walking to and from the bus loading areas should use sidewalks where available.
17. In the event of an emergency, emergency exit procedures, as established by the emergency exit drills, will be followed.
18. Parents of students causing damage to school buses will be held responsible for full reimbursement.
19. No student will throw anything at, or out of a school bus.
20. Students must not, in any way, interfere with the safe operation of the school bus.

#### **II. Discipline Procedures**

1. School bus transportation is a privilege, not a right, and is an extension of the school system. A student's misconduct at a bus stop or on a bus will be sufficient reason to discontinue providing bus transportation to the student involved.
2. Violations of the student bus code will be reported to the bus manager. The bus company will in turn report the incident to the Principal/Asst. Principal.
3. The Principal/Asst. Principal will proceed as follows:

## Bus Violations

### **First Violation - All students K-12**

Verbal warning given -A letter will be sent home to parents.

### **Second Violation - Grades K-8 students**

Conference with parents. Student receives detention. A letter will be sent to parents.

### **Third Violation - Grades K-8 students**

Student suspended from bus transportation for three to five school days. Conference with parents. A letter will be sent to parents.

### **Fourth Violation - Grades K-8 students**

Ten days suspension of bus transportation. Letter to parents.

### **Fifth Violation -**

Suspension of transportation to be determined by Asst. Principal.

Letter to parents.

If any violation is deemed to be a high level violation and directly threatens the health and safety of others, the total loss of bus transportation can be invoked.

## Lockers

- Your homeroom teacher will assign you a locker and a lock at the start of the school year. A \$5.00 deposit is required for the lock. The deposit will be refunded to you at the end of the school year when you return the lock. This will be your locker for the remainder of the year, and you are to keep it clean and neat.
- **Do not lose your combination. Do not give your combination to anyone.**
- You will not have time to go to your locker between classes. The best times to use the locker are first thing in the morning, before and after lunch, and at the end of the day. Your cluster teachers will establish a locker time schedule.
- **School lockers remain the property of the school and not the student. The school reserves the right to inspect lockers at any time.**

## Morning Arrivals

- Buses will drop students off at the front and back of the building. For students who are dropped off in the front; 5th and 6th graders will enter the building through the "C" entrance and 7th and 8th graders will enter through the main entrance "A". (See map insert) Students who are dropped off in the back of the building will enter through the Music hallway door adjacent to the Planetarium (R).
- Students will enter the building at 7:35 a.m. and should be in Homeroom by 7:40 for morning announcements. Any students arriving after 7:45 will be considered tardy. First period begins at 7:50 a.m. In inclement weather students will enter upon arrival and report to the Common Learnings Room.
- At the beginning of each day, attendance is taken, announcements are made, and messages from teachers and administration are delivered.
- Students wishing to eat breakfast may enter the building at 7:15 and must leave the cafeteria by 7:45.

## School Dismissal

School dismissal is at 2:10 p.m.

## Breakfast/Lunch

Chartwells will provide breakfast and lunch.

## Fire Drill Conduct

We all hope there will not be a fire in our school, but precautions must be taken.

1. Know the proper exit from any place in our building.
2. Be familiar with the fire evacuation exits posted in each room.
3. Be ready to act in case of an emergency. Think clearly and avoid confusion.
4. Walk in a quiet and orderly manner. There is to be no talking during a drill.
5. Form single lines outside facing away from the building.

## ***NO TALKING DURING A FIRE DRILL***

*You must be quiet to hear any lifesaving instructions*

### **Students will practice the following:**

A fire drill with bus evacuation-students will exit the building and will be instructed to board the buses.

A lockdown-students and staff will practice moving to a secured classroom or another area of the building for a specific amount of time. The secured classrooms will be locked and no one will be allowed to enter or leave the classroom or school.

## **Physical Education / Health**

Fifth grade students should wear appropriate clothing as well as sneakers to school on physical education days.

Sixth, Seventh and Eighth grade students should be prepared for Physical Education with sneakers, sweatpants or shorts, and a tee shirt.

Shorts need to have a five inch inseam and spaghetti strap shirts are not allowed.

Sneakers should be non-marking and tied at all times. Students should consider the weather and dress appropriately for outdoor activities.

Rhode Island law permits a parent to exempt in writing his/her student from certain aspects of **Health Education** instruction (R.I.G.L. 16-22-17. "AIDS education program" and R.I.G.L. 16-22-18. "Health and family life courses").

## **Band/Chorus**

Band and chorus classes take place during the school day. Some performances will take place outside of the school day. Attendance at all performances is a course requirement and should be considered before choosing this elective.

Appropriate dress (black pants/dress, shoes, and a white top) and appropriate behavior is expected at all performances.

## **School Programs**

### **Grades 5-8**

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ELA

Math

Social Studies

Science

Art

Health

Physical Education

Family and Consumer Science

Technical Education

Music

Band / Chorus

Foreign Language

Computer Education (Integrated into classrooms)

## **Drug Abuse Resistance Education (D.A.R.E.)**

The 5<sup>th</sup> Grade D.A.R.E. program gives lessons on self-esteem, peer pressure, and drug awareness.

## **Special Events/Field Trips**

Field trips are educational activities designed to enrich and supplement the curriculum. The privilege of attending these functions depends on a student acting responsibly in school. (Poor conduct may result in denial of the privilege.) Students attending field trips must remember that all school rules apply when on a trip.

## **Yearly Student Recognitions/Activities/Clubs/Intramurals/Sports**

- Awards/Assemblies
- Student of the Month
- Cracker Jack Assembly
- Book Fair
- D.A.R.E.
- International Foods Day

- Band/Chorus Presentations
- After-School Enrichment / Homework Clubs
- Intramural Cross Country
- Interscholastic Basketball
- Interscholastic Wrestling
- Interscholastic Baseball
- Interscholastic Softball
- Field Days
- Yearbook Staff
- Gaudet Gamut
- Spelling Bees (National Scripps Competition)
- Field Trips
- National Geography Bee
- Student Volunteer Programs
- N.E. Math League Competition
- Writer's Workshop
- Book Club
- Robotics
- Mock Trial
- Drama club
- Career Day
- Walking Club
- Student Newspaper
- Student Council

## YOUR RESPONSIBILITY FOR PARTICIPATION

Involvement in all after-school programs and activities is a privilege based on fulfillment of your responsibilities. Your conduct and grades, as determined by teachers and grade leaders, will be deciding factors in your ability to participate.

Participation in Interscholastic sports will be governed by the rules established by The Principals Committee on Athletes. The assistant principal will inform participating students as to the academic and behavioral expectations of team members.

The intramural program is designed to provide you with enjoyable after school activities. It will be an instructional program.

Late bus transportation will be provided on Monday, Tuesday and Thursday for those who require transportation. Use of the late bus is limited to Gaudet students who have participated in an after-school activity. Students are not to be

on school grounds without direct adult supervision.

## STUDENT COUNCIL

Your student council is made up of selected officers and homeroom representatives under the supervision of faculty advisors. Elections for student council will be held some time in September.

## SCHOOL SPONSORED DANCES

The student council may sponsor dances during the year. The dances are open to Gaudet 7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> or 5<sup>th</sup> & 6<sup>th</sup> graders only. Students who are absent, chronic behavior problems, and/or are on suspension or dismissal on the day of the dance may not attend the dance. Tickets are sold only in school. **NO TICKETS ARE SOLD AT THE DOOR!**

## Guidance

- Guidance Counselors at the Gaudet Middle School are available to help you, the staff, and your parents. They will provide assistance in your development as a learner.
- You can expect to meet with your counselor at least once in any given year. However, you may sign up in the Guidance Office for an appointment with your counselor at any time.
- Parents may call the school for an appointment if they wish to meet with your guidance counselor.
- If parents wish to review their children's academic/school's records, a written request must be submitted to the Guidance Department.
- The Guidance Department is located between the main office and the health clinic.

Every student and parent has the right to confidentiality when speaking to a guidance counselor. Conversations between guidance counselors and students and/or parents are confidential unless disclosure is required to prevent clear and imminent danger to the person being counseled or others, or when legal requirements demand that confidential information be revealed. Circumstances that require reporting include, but are not limited to, the following:

- The student reports he/she will harm himself/herself or someone else,
- The student reports physical or sexual abuse that has not previously been reported to the appropriate authorities,

- The student reports someone else will do harm to another person.

If you have questions or concerns about confidentiality, please contact your child's guidance counselor.

## Student Assistance Counselor

The Student Assistance Counselor is available to assist students with concerns about alcohol or drugs.

## Title I Program

The Title I Program offers help in reading and math to qualified students in grades 5 through 8.

## Resource

Resource teachers are available for qualified students in grades 5 through 8.

At Gaudet, students with disabilities are educated with non-disabled students. This integration provides opportunities for students with disabilities to learn and socialize with their non-disabled peers. Non-disabled students gain an opportunity to learn about disabilities and to become more accepting of individuals with disabilities. Integrating students can be a beneficial experience for all students.

## Library

The library is an excellent resource. We encourage students and teachers to utilize the library to support the academic work they are doing in class. The librarian will help facilitate your learning experience. Students need to be respectful of the rules and regulations as posted in the library.

## What If...

### ***Your parents/guardians need to contact you?***

In the event of an emergency, parents/guardians can call the main office (846-6395). If it is not an emergency, our staff will gladly pass along any message that needs to be relayed.

### ***You are absent from school?***

Your parent/guardian must call the school between 7:30 a.m. and 9:00 a.m. on the day of

your absence (846-6395). If we do not hear from your parent/guardian, the school will make every effort to contact that person at home or work.

If you are not present in school for at least 2 ½ hours, you will be marked absent. You will be marked absent if you arrive at school later than 11:00 a.m. All unexcused absences will be counted towards possible Truancy Court referral. Unexcused absences are any absence without medical documentation.

### ***You're late for school?***

If you are late for school, you must have a signed excuse or phone call from a parent/guardian on the day you are tardy. If you are repeatedly late without an excuse, you may be given a consequence and referred to Truancy Court.

### ***You must contact your parents/guardian?***

If you need to use the phone during the day, you must have permission and a pass from your teacher.

### ***You have to leave school early?***

You should bring a signed note of request from your parent/guardian. You will be given a dismissal slip. Your parent/guardian must meet you in the main office when you are dismissed.

### ***You need to take medication?***

- All medication, both prescription and over the counter, must be coordinated by the school nurse-teacher.
- For all medications, the student's health care provider and the child's parent/guardian must sign a written permission form.
- Medication must be brought to school in the original container labeled by the pharmacy or physician.
- A responsible adult must transport medication to school, unless special arrangements are made with the school nurse-teacher. Medication will be kept in locked, secure place. (See inhaler policy)
- Inhaler policy: Inhalers may be self-carried per R.I.D.H Regulations with written permission from the student's health care provider.

***You get sick or injured during school time?***

Ask your teacher's permission to see the nurse. The nurse will decide if there is a need to leave school. In such cases, a parent/guardian will be notified.

***You receive a detention?***

A teacher, grade leader or an administrator can assign a detention. Parents will be notified within approximately 24 hours, regarding detention. You will stay after school on the day the detention is assigned unless there is a conflict. If you are unable to stay that afternoon, you must stay the next assigned day. It is the student's responsibility to let the teacher know if there is a conflict.

***You lose a text or library book?***

You are responsible for textbooks, workbooks, and trade books given to you. You are responsible for any library book you check out of the library. Cover textbooks when you receive them and keep them covered for the year. You must pay for any textbook, workbook, or library book you lose or damage. Report cards and transfers will be withheld pending settlement.

***You lose money or personal items?***

If you lose money or personal items, your teachers or grade leader should be notified as soon as possible. You should check the lost and found area in the main office.

**YOU SHOULD NOT BRING LARGE SUMS OF MONEY OR VALUABLE ITEMS TO SCHOOL.**

***You are not sure whether there is school because of bad weather?***

When it becomes necessary to cancel or dismiss school early due to inclement weather conditions, it will be announced on local radio, local TV stations, and the Internet.

***You are moving?***

You must bring in a note stating the specific date you are leaving. **Parents are asked to give the school at least five days advanced notice with both a written and verbal request to begin the transfer process.** You will be given transfer papers on the day of your departure. If your parents would like to hand carry your records to your next school, you must bring in a note prior to your last day of school.

***You missed assignments during an extended absence?***

If you are absent for an extended period (3 or more days) of time due to illness or emergency, your parent/guardian must notify the main office to arrange for work. The office needs **twenty-four (24) hours** notification, so that the teachers may organize the assignments. All work should be turned in to the teacher when the student returns to school.

***You are vacationing during the school year other than scheduled school vacations?***

You must bring in a note from your parent/guardian stating the specific dates you will be absent from school. You should also request assignments, which need to be completed during this time. All assignments are due on the day you return to school. Remember, it is impossible for us to replace several days of classroom instruction. Students find catching up very difficult despite extra help. Days missed for vacation are not excused and apply towards any possible Truancy Court referral.

***You need more information on anything?***

The main office often has flyers and permission slips. Feel free to stop by for more information.

***You need to be excused from physical education?***

To be excused from Physical Education students must have a doctor's note. The note must be initialed by the school nurse and then given to the physical education teacher.

# School Cancellation- Due to Inclement Weather

Should the need arise to cancel school or dismiss early due to inclement weather, Middletown Public Schools will notify the following media:

## Radio Stations

WADK-1540AM

WPRO-630AM

92.3FM

WHJJ-920AM

## Television Stations

WPRI-TV-12

WJAR-TV-10

ABC-TV-6

FOX-TV-64

## Internet

[www.cancellations.com](http://www.cancellations.com)

[www.middletownri.com](http://www.middletownri.com)

**If there is an emergency in the district, the two student relocation centers are listed below:**

### **Primary Relocation Center**

Gaudet Middle School

1113 Aquidneck Ave.

Middletown, RI

### **Secondary Relocation Center**

Middletown High School

130 Valley Road

Middletown, RI

Dear Parent/Student:

This handbook explains and clarifies our program, policies and guidelines at the Joseph H. Gaudet Middle School.

Knowing that you are knowledgeable about the Joseph H. Gaudet Middle School and its policies will enable us to cooperate and communicate more efficiently with each other.

In an effort to encourage student responsibility, we ask that you become familiar with this handbook.

Please acknowledge your review by completing and returning the attached form.

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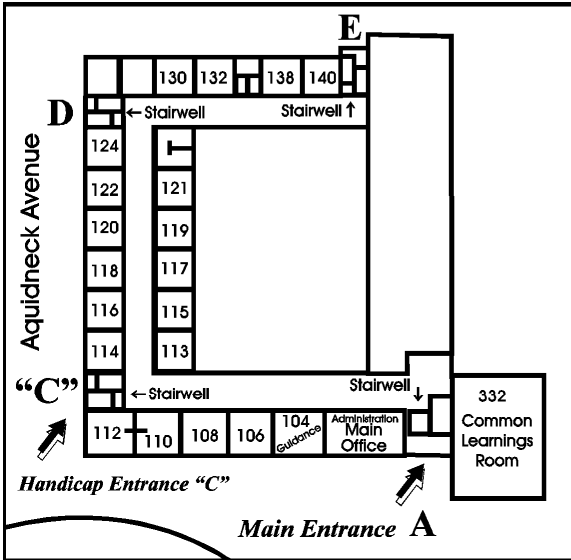
PLEASE DETACH AND RETURN

I have read the Student Handbook of the Joseph H. Gaudet Middle School.

Parent Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Student Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

**Joseph H. Gaudet Middle School**  
 1113 Aquidneck Avenue  
 Middletown, RI 02842



**Gaudet Middle School — Lower Level**



All visitors are required to enter through the Main Entrance A and register at the Main Office before entering any classroom.



Fire exits are marked with bold letters A- W



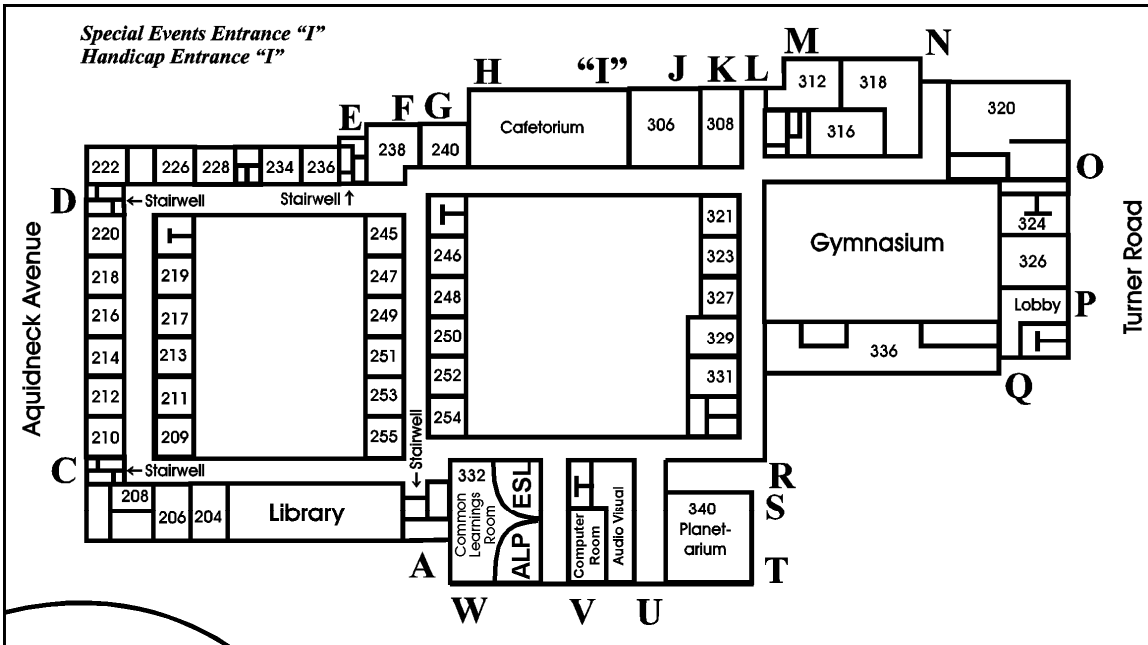
Please do not park in the fire lanes on the circle entrances.



Elevator is located in the Lobby at Main Entrance A



Wheelchair access provided at Entrances "C" and "I".



**Gaudet Middle School — Upper Level**