

Homer Middle School Student Handbook

The complete KPBSD Parent/Student Handbook can be accessed on the school district website: www.kpbsd.k12.ak.us

Mission Statement

Homer Middle School honors students' diversity by recognizing each individual's academic and creative potential. HMS promotes high standards through a positive work ethic and encourages students to learn, succeed, and believe in themselves.

School Hours

- The doors open at 8:30 am. Students will remain in the MPR until dismissed unless permission has been given by a specific staff member.
- The first bell rings at 8:55 am.
- Students should be in their classroom when the second bell rings at 9:00 am.
- School ends each day at 3:45 pm.
- Students are expected to exit the building by 4:00 unless participating in a school-sanctioned event or activity.

Closed Campus

For the safety of our students, students are not permitted to leave the school grounds or go to the upper field, the trails and/or the Homer Skate Park once they arrive each morning, this includes walkers, bike riders, car riders and/or busriders. If picking your student up during the school day for an appointment, please send a note or call the school office if you are not planning to come inside to check him/her out.

In order to provide equality to every student, HMS does not permit visitors to eat with students in the MPR during lunch nor bring items for birthdays or other celebrations during the school day.

School Website

Information about Homer Middle School can be found on line at <http://homermiddleschool.blogs.kpbsd.k12.ak.us/> . This includes our school calendar, newsletter, homework assignments, and student grade reports.

Student Phone

A phone is provided for students in the hallway across from the office. This phone is to be used for emergencies or short calls home. Students should limit their calls to one minute or less. Students who need to call home during the school day must get permission from the office before using the phone. Plan ahead so that the need for telephoning can be kept to a minimum. School officephones are business phones and are not to be used by the students except with permission from the office.

Electronic Devices and Cell Phones

The use of electronic devices, such as cell phones, headphones, earbuds, smartwatches, etc., not provided by the school for student use is not allowed in school by students. If students bring these items to school, they must turn them off when entering the building and leave them off and out of sight until the last bell rings at the end of the day. The school is limited in resources and may not be able to assist in searching for lost electronics. The only exception to this rule is if a teacher gives permission for a student to use a device for a specific activity in class or as a school reward with permission from the principal.

1st offense- Student is warned and reminded of the rules.

2nd offense- Device is taken away and given to the office. Student may get device back at the end of the school day.

3rd offense (and each offense after) - Device is taken away and given to the office. A parent or guardian will be called and must pick up the device.

Public Displays of Affection

No forms of public displays of affection are allowed at any time at Homer Middle School. This includes hugging, kissing, holding hands, and other forms of public displays of affection.

HMS Student Dress & Appearance Code

Student attire should not jeopardize anyone's health or safety and not be distracting, inappropriate or have a disruptive influence on the educational process.

Guidelines for Dress and Grooming (includes outside PE classes and outside enrichment):

- Decent, neat, clean, and suitable for school.
- Hats or other headgear may not be worn inside the building during regular school hours, these items should be removed when you enter the school and then placed in the student locker before school begins. Headbands are permitted if appropriate.
- Shorts, dresses, or skirts that end above fingertip length when arms are lowered to the sides are not permitted.
- Jeans or pants with slits, tears, or rips are only allowed, if it follows the fingertip rule as stated above and/or skin cannot be seen through the tear/rip/slit.
- The straps of shirts, tops, tank tops, or dresses must be at least two fingers wide on the shoulders and three fingers underneath the armpits.
- See-through clothing is not allowed.
- Any shirt or top that ends above the waistband when arms are extended out to the side is considered inappropriate school dress. Shirts with low necklines exposing cleavage are not appropriate for school. Clothing that exposes undergarments or skin around the waistline is not allowed. This includes sagging pants, low cut pants, short tops, tops with holes or cutouts.
- Pants must be worn at the hip/waist level.
- Non-prescribed dark tinted glasses are not allowed. If prescribed, a doctor's note must be on file in the nurse's office and in the student's file.
- Clothing that advertises or suggests the use of alcoholic beverages, illegal drugs, tobacco, questionable printing, or printing that alludes to objectionable material/words is not allowed.
- Clothing that distracts others and interferes with the education of others is not allowed.
- Coats and jackets designed for outside protection shall not be worn in the building during school hours. Layered clothing is allowable.
- Shoes must be worn at all times in school.
- Backpacks and outdoor coats must be kept in lockers during class time.

Violations of the dress and appearance code shall be handled immediately.

- Parents will be involved in correcting the dress code violation.
- Students wearing inappropriate clothing will not be allowed to attend classes until it is corrected. If available, the office staff will provide substitute clothing as needed, until parents are contacted and are able to provide appropriate clothing.
- Continued or repeat violations of this policy will be considered insubordination, with consequences that coincide with KPBSD policy 5131.
- Final decisions on appropriateness of dress for school will be made by the school administration.

Absences, Tardies, or Bus Changes

- Parents are reminded to call as soon as possible in the morning if a student will be absent from school. The school phone number is 235-5700.
- When students are late to school, please send a note or call to excuse the tardy. If notification is not received from the parent/guardian by the next school day, it will be considered unexcused. (ref. KPBSD Board Policy 5113 Absences and Excuses.)
- Students must be on time to all classes throughout the day unless excused by a staff member.
 - Every unexcused tardy to class will be recorded by the classroom teacher.
 - If a student continues to arrive to class tardy, an intervention conference will be scheduled with the parents, the teacher, and the principal.
- Parents/guardians must call early in the day or send a note for permission to allow a student to ride a bus to a destination other than home/regular stop. Students are not permitted to exit the bus unless it is their designated stop or transfer site. If you need information regarding bus stops and times, please call Apple Inc.

Caffeinated Beverages

Students are prohibited from having and consuming over the counter products containing caffeine.

Parents, staff, and the Homer Middle School Site Council have all agreed that students at Homer Middle School should not be allowed to bring and/or consume beverages that contain caffeine. This is further defined as energy drinks, drinks similar to the brand names of Monster, Rock Star, Red Bull, etc. This would also include soda pop like Cola products or other pop with caffeine as an ingredient. Furthermore, coffee drinks would also be prohibited for students.

Students who bring these types of beverages to school, or beverages that cannot be reasonably identified as caffeine free, will give them to the staff or administration to be held by administration until the end of the school day and returned to the student upon their exit from the building. Students who do not follow this guideline on a repetitive basis will be subject to the Homer Middle School Discipline Guidelines.