



Rootstown Middle School
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Rootstown Middle School

2026-2027 Student Handbook

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Welcome to Rootstown Middle School!

At Rootstown Middle School, we are committed to creating a safe, supportive, and engaging learning environment where every student can grow academically, socially, and emotionally. Our staff believes that middle school is an important time for students to explore interests, build relationships, develop independence, and prepare for future success.

This handbook is designed to provide students and families with important information regarding school expectations, procedures, academic requirements, student services, and opportunities available at Rootstown Middle School. We encourage all students and families to review this handbook carefully and refer to it throughout the school year.

At RMS, we strive to live by our PBIS expectations:

Respectful

We treat others with kindness, courtesy, and consideration. We respect ourselves, our peers, our staff, and our school community.

Responsible

We come prepared, make positive choices, complete our work, and take ownership of our actions.

Role Models

We lead by example, demonstrate integrity, and represent Rootstown Middle School with pride.

Working together, we can ensure that every student has a successful and rewarding middle school experience.

We look forward to a great school year!

Mission Statement

Rootstown Schools, in collaboration with the community, will provide a quality education in a safe environment for students to become productive, life-long learners.

Being Successful at Rootstown Middle School

Students who are successful at Rootstown Middle School consistently demonstrate the following habits:

1. Attend school regularly and arrive on time.
2. Come to class prepared and ready to learn.
3. Check ProgressBook and Google Classroom regularly.
4. Complete assignments and seek help when needed.
5. Treat others with respect and kindness.
6. Get involved in school activities, athletics, and clubs.
7. Take pride in your work and your school.
8. Demonstrate the qualities of a Respectful, Responsible Role Model.
9. Maintain a positive attitude and persevere through challenges.
10. Have fun and make the most of your middle school experience.

School Information

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School Hours

School Day: 7:25 a.m. – 2:10 p.m.

Students should arrive at school with sufficient time to report to their assigned locations before the start of the school day.

Students are expected to remain under school supervision during the school day unless properly signed out through the school office.

Visitors

All visitors must report directly to the main office upon entering the building. Visitors may be required to present identification and obtain a visitor badge before proceeding within the building.

To maintain a safe learning environment, classroom visits should be scheduled in advance through the principal's office.

Academics

Academic Expectations

Rootstown Middle School is committed to providing a challenging and supportive educational experience for all students. Students are expected to actively participate in their learning by attending school regularly, completing assignments, preparing for assessments, and seeking assistance when needed.

Student success is strengthened through collaboration among students, families, and school staff. Parents and guardians are encouraged to regularly monitor academic progress and communicate with teachers regarding questions or concerns.

Grading and Reporting Student Progress

The purpose of grading is to communicate the extent to which a student has demonstrated mastery of course standards and learning objectives. Student grades are based upon a variety of measures, including assessments, assignments, projects, classroom activities, and participation.

At Rootstown Middle School, nine-week grades are calculated using the following guidelines:

- Assessments: 80%
- Classwork/Homework: 20%

Teachers will communicate specific grading practices and expectations at the beginning of each course.

Percentage	Grade
93–100	A
90–92	A-
87–89	B+
83–86	B
80–82	B-
77–79	C+
73–76	C
70–72	C-
67–69	D+
63–66	D
60–62	D-
59 and below	F

Additional grade designations may include:

- I = Incomplete
- P = Passing
- ME = Medical Excuse

ProgressBook

Parents and students are encouraged to regularly monitor academic progress through ProgressBook.

ProgressBook provides access to:

- Grades
- Attendance records
- Missing assignments
- Class schedules
- Teacher communication

Monitoring ProgressBook on a regular basis allows students and families to address concerns before they become larger academic issues.

Homework and Make-Up Work

Homework serves as an extension of classroom learning and helps students develop responsibility, organization, and study habits. Students who are absent are responsible for obtaining and completing missed assignments within the timeframe established by their teacher. For extended absences, parents may contact the school office or teachers to arrange for missed work and

assignments.

Accelerated Courses

Rootstown Middle School offers accelerated opportunities for students who demonstrate advanced academic achievement and readiness.

Placement in accelerated courses is determined through multiple measures, including:

- Academic performance
- State assessment results
- MAP assessment data
- Gifted identification (when applicable)
- Teacher recommendation

Students enrolled in accelerated courses are expected to maintain strong academic performance and demonstrate the work habits necessary for success in advanced coursework.

Honor Roll Criteria

There are three Honor Rolls at RMS. To be listed on the “4.0 Honor Roll”, you must earn a 4.0 grade point average. To be listed on the “Honor Roll”, you must attain a grade point average of 3.5 – 3.999, with no “D’s”. To be on the “Merit Roll”, you must attain a grade point average of 3 – 3.499, with no “D’s”.

High School Credit Opportunities

Certain courses offered at the middle school level may qualify for high school credit.

Students enrolled in approved high school credit-bearing courses should understand that final grades become part of their official high school transcript and are included in the calculation of high school grade point average (GPA).

Additional information regarding high school credit opportunities is available through the school counselor.

Academic Intervention and Student Support

Rootstown Middle School provides intervention services for students who require additional academic support.

Intervention courses and support services may be assigned based upon:

- Classroom performance
- State assessment data
- Diagnostic assessment results
- Teacher recommendations
- Individual student needs

The goal of intervention services is to provide targeted instruction that helps students access grade-level content and achieve academic success.

Academic Eligibility for Athletics and Extracurricular Activities

Students participating in athletics and certain extracurricular activities must meet eligibility requirements established by the Ohio

High School Athletic Association (OHSAA) and Rootstown Local Schools.

Students in grades 7 and 8 must be enrolled in and passing a minimum of four courses during each grading period to maintain eligibility.

Questions regarding eligibility requirements should be directed to the principal, athletic director, or school counselor.

Attendance

Importance of Attendance

Regular school attendance is essential to student success. Students who attend school consistently are more likely to achieve academic success, develop positive relationships, and fully participate in the educational opportunities available at Rootstown Middle School.

While make-up work may be completed following an absence, classroom instruction, discussions, collaborative activities, and hands-on learning experiences cannot always be duplicated.

Students are expected to attend school regularly, arrive on time, and remain in school for the entire instructional day unless excused by a parent or guardian and approved by school administration.

Participation in Extracurricular and After-School Activities

Students must be in attendance for at least one-half of the school day in order to participate in extracurricular activities, athletics, practices, performances, or any other school-sponsored after-school event. For Rootstown Middle School, **10:30 a.m.** is considered one-half of the instructional day.

Students who are absent for the entire school day are not eligible to participate in after-school activities that day.

An exception may be made for students who are absent due to a medical, dental, or other healthcare appointment. In these cases, written documentation from the healthcare provider must be submitted to the school office in order for the student to remain eligible to participate in after-school activities.

Reporting an Absence

Parents or guardians should notify the school office as soon as possible when a student will be absent.

When reporting an absence, please provide:

- Student's name
- Grade level
- Reason for absence
- Parent/guardian name and contact information

Failure to report an absence may result in the absence being recorded as unexcused until appropriate documentation is received.

Excused Absences

Excused absences may include, but are not limited to:

- Personal illness
- Medical, dental, or counseling appointments
- Illness or death in the family
- Religious observances
- Court appearances
- School-approved activities
- Other circumstances approved by administration

Appropriate documentation may be required for certain absences.

Unexcused Absences

Absences not supported by an approved reason or appropriate documentation may be considered unexcused.

Students are expected to make up missed assignments regardless of whether an absence is excused or unexcused.

Make-Up Work

Students are responsible for obtaining and completing assignments missed during an absence.

Teachers will provide reasonable opportunities for students to complete missed work and assessments.

Students and families are encouraged to utilize ProgressBook, Google Classroom, and direct communication with teachers to stay current with assignments.

Tardies

Students are expected to arrive to school and class on time each day.

Excessive tardiness disrupts the learning environment and may result in disciplinary consequences.

Students arriving after the start of the school day must report to the office before proceeding to class.

Early Dismissal

Students leaving school before the end of the school day must be signed out through the main office by a parent, guardian, or authorized emergency contact.

For student safety, students will only be released to individuals listed in school records unless prior arrangements have been approved.

Vacations and Extended Absences

Families are encouraged to schedule vacations and appointments outside of the school day whenever possible.

When extended absences are anticipated, parents should contact the school office in advance.

Students remain responsible for all assignments, assessments, and coursework missed during extended absences.

Excessive Absences

Attendance concerns will be addressed in accordance with Ohio law and Rootstown Local School District policies.

The school may implement interventions, parent conferences, attendance plans, or referrals when attendance patterns indicate a need for additional support.

The goal of attendance interventions is to improve student success and ensure consistent participation in the educational program.

Student Life

Getting Involved

Students are encouraged to participate in the many academic, athletic, artistic, leadership, and service opportunities available at Rootstown Middle School.

Research consistently shows that students who participate in school activities are more likely to experience academic success, build positive relationships, and develop important leadership skills.

Clubs and Organizations

Opportunities may vary from year to year based upon student interest and staff availability.

Examples of opportunities available to students may include:

- Student leadership organizations
- Academic clubs
- Robotics
- Power of the Pen
- Music and performing arts groups
- Service organizations
- Special interest clubs

Students should listen to announcements and review school communications for information regarding current club offerings.

Athletics

Rootstown Middle School offers a variety of athletic opportunities for students.

Student-athletes are expected to:

- Maintain academic eligibility
- Demonstrate good sportsmanship
- Follow school rules and expectations
- Represent Rootstown Middle School positively both on and off campus

Participation in athletics is considered a privilege and carries additional responsibilities beyond the regular school day.

Questions regarding athletic participation should be directed to the athletic department.

School Events and Activities

Throughout the school year, students may have opportunities to participate in:

- School dances
- Assemblies
- Academic competitions
- Spirit activities
- Field trips
- Special events and celebrations

Participation in extracurricular activities may be restricted for students who fail to meet academic, attendance, or behavioral expectations.

Student Leadership

Rootstown Middle School encourages students to take active roles in shaping a positive school culture.

Leadership opportunities help students develop communication, collaboration, problem-solving, and decision-making skills while contributing positively to the school community.

Students are encouraged to seek opportunities to serve as leaders both formally and informally throughout the school year.

Daily Procedures

Arrival at School

Students should arrive at school with enough time to report to their assigned location and be prepared for the start of the school day.

Students are expected to remain in approved areas upon arrival and follow staff directions.

Students should not enter unauthorized areas of the building before school.

Dismissal

Students are expected to leave the building promptly at the conclusion of the school day unless participating in a supervised school activity.

Students waiting for transportation should remain in designated areas and follow all school expectations until departure.

Student Drop-Off and Pick-Up

Parents and guardians should utilize designated drop-off and pick-up areas.

For the safety of students and staff, all traffic patterns established by the school should be followed during arrival and dismissal

times.

Students should enter and exit vehicles promptly to help maintain an efficient flow of traffic.

Hallway Expectations

Students are expected to:

- Walk at all times.
- Use appropriate language and behavior.
- Respect the learning environment by keeping noise levels appropriate.
- Travel directly to their destination.
- Follow staff directions promptly.

Hallways should remain safe, orderly, and conducive to learning throughout the school day.

Hall Passes

Students must have permission from a staff member when leaving a classroom during instructional time.

Students should travel directly to and from their destination and return promptly to class.

Hall passes may be limited during instructional activities, assessments, or emergencies.

Lockers

Lockers are provided as a convenience for students and remain the property of Rootstown Local Schools.

Students are responsible for:

- Keeping lockers clean and organized.
- Securing personal belongings.
- Reporting locker concerns to staff.
- Using only the locker assigned to them.

Students should not share lockers or locker combinations unless authorized by administration.

The school reserves the right to inspect lockers when necessary to maintain a safe educational environment.

Backpacks and Personal Belongings

Students must keep personal belongings organized and secured throughout the school day in lockers. Backpacks must be left in the student's locker throughout the day and are not permitted to be carried, without prior approval from administration.

The school is not responsible for lost, stolen, or damaged personal property.

Valuable items should be left at home whenever possible.

Cafeteria Expectations

The cafeteria is an extension of the classroom and students are expected to demonstrate the RMS 3 Rs during lunch.

Students should:

- Follow staff directions.
- Remain seated unless given permission to move.
- Use appropriate voice levels.
- Clean their eating area before dismissal.
- Show respect toward cafeteria staff and fellow students.

Students should help maintain a positive and welcoming environment for all.

Food Deliveries

To minimize disruptions to the school day, outside food deliveries from restaurants, delivery services, or other vendors are not permitted unless approved by school administration.

Parents delivering lunches should follow procedures established by the school office.

Lost and Found

Items that are found within the school should be turned into the designated lost and found area.

Students who have lost personal belongings should check the lost and found promptly.

Items not claimed within a reasonable period may be donated or discarded.

Transportation and Bus Expectations

Transportation is a privilege that supports student access to school and school-sponsored activities. Students are expected to demonstrate safe and respectful behavior while riding school transportation.

Bus Expectations

Students are expected to:

- Follow all directions given by the bus driver.
- Remain seated while the bus is moving.
- Keep hands, feet, and objects to themselves.
- Use appropriate language and behavior.
- Respect other students and school property.
- Keep aisles clear and unobstructed.
- Enter and exit the bus safely.

Unsafe conduct may result in disciplinary consequences and/or loss of transportation privileges.

Bus Stops

Students should:

- Arrive at their bus stop on time.
- Remain a safe distance from the roadway.
- Respect surrounding property.
- Follow all safety procedures while waiting for transportation.

The school district may impose disciplinary consequences for misconduct occurring at bus stops when the behavior impacts school operations or student safety.

Transportation Changes

Transportation changes should be communicated to the school office by a parent or guardian whenever possible.

The school may require verification before approving transportation changes to ensure student safety.

Technology and Electronic Devices

Technology provides valuable opportunities for learning, communication, collaboration, and creativity. Students are expected to use all technology resources responsibly, safely, and in accordance with school expectations. The use of technology at Rootstown Middle School is a privilege, not a right. Students who misuse technology may lose technology privileges and/or face disciplinary consequences.

No Cell Bell to Bell

Rootstown Middle School operates under a "No Cell Bell to Bell" expectation. The purpose of this expectation is to maximize instructional time, reduce distractions, and encourage student engagement throughout the school day.

Personal Device Use Permitted

Students may use personal electronic devices:

- Before 7:25 a.m.
- After 2:10 p.m.
- When specifically directed by a staff member for an educational purpose

Personal Device Use Prohibited

Students may not use personal electronic devices:

- During class periods
- While traveling to or from classes
- In hallways during instructional time
- In restrooms
- In locker rooms

- In classrooms between 7:25 a.m. and 2:10 p.m. unless directed by a staff member

Students are expected to store cell phones and personal electronic devices in their lockers during the instructional day.

Cell Phone Discipline

Violations of the No Cell Bell to Bell expectation may result in the following consequences:

- 1st Offense: One detention
- 2nd Offense: One detention
- 3rd Offense: Two detentions
- 4th Offense: Two detentions and phone stored in the office until a parent picks it up
- 5th Offense: Saturday detention
- 6th Offense: Saturday detention and phone stored in the office until a parent picks it up
- 7th Offense and Beyond: Saturday detention and phone stored in the office daily

School administration reserves the right to adjust consequences based upon individual circumstances.

Headphones, Earbuds, and Smart Devices

Headphones, earbuds, smart watches, and similar electronic devices are subject to the same expectations as cell phones unless specifically authorized by a staff member for instructional purposes.

Students should not use these devices during instructional time without staff permission.

School-Issued Technology

Students are expected to properly care for all school-issued technology devices and accessories.

Students are responsible for:

- Bringing devices to school as required
- Keeping devices charged and ready for use
- Using technology appropriately
- Reporting damage or technical issues promptly
- Following district technology guidelines

Intentional damage, misuse, or loss of school-issued technology will result in disciplinary consequences and/or financial responsibility. Disciplinary consequences will be at the discretion of administration and the technology department.

Acceptable Use of Technology

Students must use technology resources in a manner that supports learning and reflects the RMS expectations of being Respectful, Responsible, and Role Models.

Students may not:

- Access inappropriate content
- Attempt to bypass district security measures
- Use another person's account
- Share passwords

- Harass, threaten, or bully others electronically
- Record or photograph others without permission
- Use technology in a manner that disrupts the educational environment

Additional expectations are outlined in the district's Acceptable Use Policy and Chromebook Policy.

Artificial Intelligence (AI)

Artificial intelligence tools can be valuable learning resources when used appropriately and with teacher permission.

Students may not use AI tools to:

- Complete assignments dishonestly
- Submit work that is not their own
- Circumvent learning expectations
- Violate academic integrity standards

Students should follow teacher expectations regarding the use of AI and other emerging technologies.

Digital Citizenship

Students are expected to demonstrate positive digital citizenship by:

- Communicating respectfully online
- Protecting personal information
- Respecting the privacy of others
- Thinking critically about online content
- Using technology safely and responsibly

Students should understand that electronic communications and technology usage may be subject to review when necessary to maintain a safe educational environment.

Student Expectations and Positive Behavior Supports

Rootstown Middle School is committed to creating a positive school culture where students feel safe, respected, supported, and challenged to succeed.

Positive Behavior Supports

Rootstown Middle School recognizes and celebrates students who consistently demonstrate the RMS expectations.

Students may receive recognition through:

- Classroom acknowledgements
- PBIS incentives
- Special activities and events
- Positive communication home
- Other school-wide recognition opportunities

The goal of PBIS is to teach, reinforce, and recognize positive behaviors that contribute to a safe and productive learning

environment.

Student Conduct

Students are expected to conduct themselves in a manner that promotes learning, safety, and respect for all members of the school community.

When behavior concerns arise, school staff will work to teach appropriate behaviors, provide support, and apply consequences when necessary.

Discipline is intended to promote learning, accountability, and positive decision-making.

Student Conduct and Discipline

Discipline Philosophy

Rootstown Middle School believes that student behavior is an important part of the educational process. The goal of discipline is to teach students to make positive choices, accept responsibility for their actions, and contribute to a safe and productive learning environment.

While positive behavior is recognized and encouraged through the PBIS framework, students who violate school expectations may receive disciplinary consequences.

Disciplinary actions are intended to be fair, consistent, and appropriate to the severity and frequency of the behavior.

Progressive Discipline

Whenever appropriate, disciplinary consequences may progress as behaviors continue or become more severe.

Possible interventions and consequences may include:

- Verbal warning
- Teacher conference
- Parent contact
- Detention (during lunch, after school, or Saturday)
- Loss of privileges
- Office referral
- In-school suspension
- Out-of-school suspension
- Other disciplinary consequences as determined by administration

The administration reserves the right to modify consequences based upon the nature and severity of an incident.

Detention

Detention may be assigned for violations of classroom, school, or district expectations.

Students assigned detention are expected to:

- Arrive on time
- Bring appropriate materials
- Follow all staff directions
- Remain productive and respectful

Failure to attend detention may result in additional disciplinary consequences.

Saturday Detention

Saturday Detention may be assigned for repeated violations of school expectations or more significant behavioral concerns.

Students assigned Saturday Detention are expected to attend the full session and comply with all established expectations.

Failure to attend may result in additional disciplinary consequences.

Out-of-School Suspension (OSS)

Students may be suspended from school for serious or repeated violations of school rules.

Students serving an out-of-school suspension may not participate in or attend school-sponsored activities during the suspension period unless approved by administration.

Assignments may be provided during the suspension period in accordance with district procedures.

Search and Seizure

To maintain a safe educational environment, school officials may conduct searches of lockers, school property, and student possessions when there is reasonable suspicion that a violation of school rules, district policy, or law has occurred.

Lockers, desks, and other school property remain the property of the school district and may be inspected when necessary.

Items determined to violate school rules or district policies may be confiscated.

Academic Integrity

Honesty and integrity are essential components of student learning.

Academic dishonesty may include:

- Cheating on assignments or assessments
- Plagiarism
- Copying another student's work
- Unauthorized use of artificial intelligence (AI)
- Falsifying academic information
- Allowing another student to copy work

Students found engaging in academic dishonesty may receive academic and/or disciplinary consequences.

Vandalism and Destruction of Property

Students are expected to respect school property and the property of others.

Any student who intentionally damages school property may be subject to:

- Restitution for damages
- Disciplinary consequences
- Law enforcement involvement when appropriate

Theft

Taking or possessing property belonging to another individual or the school district without permission is prohibited.

Theft may result in disciplinary action and referral to law enforcement when appropriate.

Fighting and Physical Aggression

Rootstown Middle School is committed to maintaining a safe learning environment.

Fighting, physical aggression, threats of violence, or encouraging others to engage in violence are prohibited and may result in significant disciplinary consequences.

Threats and Intimidation

Threats, intimidation, coercion, or behavior that causes fear or concern for safety will not be tolerated.

Any threat may be investigated and addressed through school disciplinary procedures and/or law enforcement involvement.

Inappropriate Language and Conduct

Students are expected to communicate respectfully with peers, staff members, and visitors.

Profanity, inappropriate gestures, harassment, or disruptive behavior may result in disciplinary consequences.

Tobacco, Nicotine, Alcohol, and Drugs

The possession, use, distribution, sale, or being under the influence of tobacco products, nicotine products, alcohol, illegal drugs, controlled substances, drug paraphernalia, or look-alike substances is prohibited on school property, at school-sponsored events, and while under school supervision.

Violations may result in disciplinary consequences and referral to law enforcement when appropriate.

Weapons

Possession, use, transmission, or concealment of weapons or dangerous objects is prohibited.

Violations will be addressed in accordance with district policy and applicable state and federal laws and may result in suspension, expulsion, and/or law enforcement involvement.

Due Process

Students will be afforded appropriate due process rights in accordance with district policies and state law.

Students will have an opportunity to explain their actions before disciplinary decisions are finalized whenever appropriate.

Bullying, Harassment, and Hazing

Rootstown Local Schools is committed to providing a safe, positive, and respectful learning environment for all students.

Bullying

Bullying is prohibited and will not be tolerated.

Bullying may include:

- Physical aggression
- Verbal harassment
- Social exclusion
- Intimidation
- Threats
- Property damage
- Cyberbullying

Bullying occurs when a student is repeatedly exposed to negative actions intended to cause physical, emotional, or social harm.

Students who believe they have been bullied or who witness bullying should immediately report the behavior to a teacher, counselor, administrator, or other trusted adult.

Reports will be investigated promptly and addressed according to district policy.

Cyberbullying

Cyberbullying includes the use of technology, social media, messaging platforms, websites, electronic communication, or digital devices to harass, threaten, embarrass, intimidate, or harm another person.

School administration may address off-campus conduct when it substantially disrupts the educational environment or impacts student safety.

Harassment

Harassment based upon race, color, national origin, sex, disability, religion, or any other protected status is prohibited.

Students who experience or witness harassment should report concerns immediately.

Reports will be investigated in accordance with district policies and applicable laws.

Hazing

Hazing of any kind is prohibited.

Students may not participate in activities that intentionally or recklessly endanger the physical or emotional well-being of another individual as a condition of membership or participation in a group or activity.

Violations may result in disciplinary consequences, removal from activities, and referral to law enforcement when appropriate.

Reporting Concerns

Students and families are encouraged to report concerns as soon as possible.

Reports may be made to:

- Teachers
- School counselors
- Administrators
- School Resource Officer
- Other trusted staff members

Retaliation against individuals who report concerns in good faith is prohibited.

Student Services

School Counseling Services

School counseling services are available to all students at Rootstown Middle School.

The school counselor works collaboratively with students, families, teachers, and administrators to support student success in the areas of:

- Academic development
- Career awareness and exploration
- Social and emotional well-being
- Transition planning
- Problem-solving and goal setting

Students are encouraged to seek assistance from the school counselor whenever they need support.

Academic Planning

The counseling office assists students and families with:

- Course selection
- Academic planning
- High school transition preparation
- Accelerated course opportunities
- High school credit opportunities
- Scheduling questions

Students and parents are encouraged to contact the counseling office whenever questions arise regarding academic planning.

Special Education Services

Rootstown Local Schools provides services and supports for students who qualify under federal and state special education guidelines.

Questions regarding special education services, accommodations, modifications, or evaluations should be directed to the school counselor, intervention specialist, or building administration.

Health Services

Student Health and Wellness

The health and well-being of students is an important part of supporting academic success.

Students who become ill during the school day should report to the office or health clinic according to school procedures.

Students should not contact parents directly from personal devices regarding illness without first reporting to school personnel.

Medication at School

Whenever possible, medications should be administered at home.

When medication must be administered during the school day, district procedures must be followed.

Prescription medications:

- Must be provided in the original pharmacy container.
- Must include physician instructions.
- Must be accompanied by required district forms and parent authorization.

Over-the-counter medications:

- Must be provided by the parent or guardian.
- Must comply with district medication procedures.

Students should not carry or distribute medications unless specifically authorized by district policy and medical documentation.

Medical Emergencies

In the event of a medical emergency, school personnel will take appropriate action to ensure student safety.

Parents or guardians will be notified as soon as practical.

It is important that emergency contact information remains current throughout the school year.

Immunizations

Students must meet all immunization requirements established by the State of Ohio unless exempted according to state law.

Questions regarding immunization requirements should be directed to the school office.

Safety and Security

Providing a safe learning environment is a shared responsibility among students, staff, families, and community partners.

Students are expected to contribute to a safe school environment by following school expectations, reporting concerns, and demonstrating the RMS 3 Rs.

Emergency Drills

Throughout the school year, students will participate in safety drills as required by Ohio law.

These may include:

- Fire drills
- Severe weather drills
- Lockdown drills
- Evacuation drills
- Other emergency response exercises

Students are expected to follow all staff directions promptly during drills and emergencies.

Reporting Safety Concerns

Students are encouraged to report any safety concern immediately.

Examples include:

- Threats
- Bullying
- Harassment
- Suspicious behavior
- Weapons
- Self-harm concerns
- Unsafe conditions

Students should report concerns to a teacher, counselor, administrator, School Resource Officer, or another trusted adult.

School Resource Officer

The School Resource Officer (SRO) works collaboratively with students, staff, families, and local law enforcement to promote school safety and positive relationships.

The SRO serves as a resource for education, prevention, and school safety initiatives.

Visitors and Building Security

To maintain a secure learning environment:

- All visitors must report to the main office.
- Identification may be required.
- Visitors must obtain authorization before entering other areas of the building.
- Exterior doors should remain secured throughout the school day.

Students should never open exterior doors for visitors.

Family Communication and Involvement

Rootstown Middle School values strong partnerships between school and home. Student success is enhanced when families and school personnel work together to support learning and development.

Communication

Families may receive information through:

- ParentSquare
- Phone calls
- School website updates
- Email
- ProgressBook
- Parent conferences
- Social media and district publications

Parents and guardians are encouraged to contact teachers, counselors, or administrators whenever questions or concerns arise.

Parent Conferences

Parent conferences may be scheduled throughout the school year to discuss student progress, concerns, and goals.

Families are encouraged to communicate with teachers early when academic or behavioral concerns develop.

Parent Involvement

Families are encouraged to participate in school events, activities, and organizations that support students and the school community.

The involvement of parents and guardians strengthens the educational experience for all students.

Working together helps ensure that every student has the opportunity to succeed.

Student and Parent Handbook Acknowledgement

We acknowledge that we have received access to the Rootstown Middle School Student and Family Handbook.

We understand that the handbook contains important information regarding school procedures, expectations, student conduct, attendance, technology use, and student services.

We agree to review the handbook and understand that students are expected to comply with school and district expectations throughout the school year.

Student Name: _____

Grade: _____

Student Signature: _____

Date: _____

Parent/Guardian Signature: _____

Date: _____

This acknowledgement indicates receipt and review of the handbook and does not waive any rights provided by district policy, state law, or federal law.