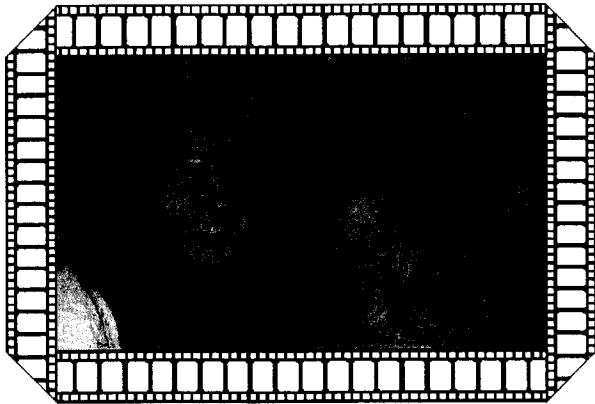


# Welcome to the Nazareth Area Middle School



**STUDENT/PARENT  
INFORMATION PACKET  
2010-2011**



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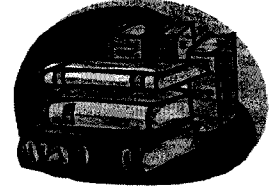
Please return to the boxes located in the Courtyard Lobby:

- 1.) Any additional questions form
- 2.) Parent communication information form



# Frequently Asked Questions

## School Process and Procedures



### 1.) What do I do when my child is ill for school?

*Please call the Attendance Hotline when your son/daughter will be absent from school. The message should contain the students name, grade or team, and an indication as to the reason for the absence. This simple phone call will alleviate a call home from our secretarial staff.*

*The number to call is: (484) 292-1020*

*Note: Reminder that when your child is absent an excuse is due to the main office 5 days after the initial absent day. Failure to do so can lead to unexcused absences and possible magisterial involvement.*

### 2.) How do I pre-pay my child's cafeteria account?

*Simply write out a check to: NAMS Cafeteria. Make sure you put your child's name on the memo section of the check and place in an envelope marked with your child's name. Your son/daughter will hand this in to his/her homeroom teacher and we take care of the rest.*

### 3.) Where do I enter the building for different events?

*With so many entrances to our building the following guidelines can be followed for any Middle School event.*

*Dances- Pool Entrance (south side of building)*

*Auditorium Events- Courtyard Entrance (east side of building)*

*Conferences- Courtyard Entrance (east side of building)*

*Cafeteria Events- Courtyard Entrance (east side of building)*

*Gymnasium Events- Pool Entrance (south side of building)*

*-Auditorium/Gymnasium Entrance (west side of building)*

*PTSA Meetings- Administration Entrance (front of the building)*

*Media Center Events- Administration Entrance (front of the building)*

*Admin/Guidance/Nurse- Administration Entrance (front of the building)*

### 4.) Visitor Parking

*A reminder that visitor parking is located in the front parking lot nearest the Administration entrance (if facing the front of the school, the left side). I often see parents parking on the right side and walking to the Administration entrance. We have moved our office staff to accommodate a much user friendly area for our visitors.*

### 5.) What is a mosaic schedule?

*The Nazareth Area Middle School utilizes a modified mosaic schedule. The modified mosaic schedule allows the academic core schedule to rotate throughout the year. The second trimester will mark the first change in the schedule. What this means for students and teachers is; classes will be rotated down one academic period each marking period. The concept allows students and teachers to change up the yearly schedule and see each other at different times of the day. Therefore, a student will not have the same academic class the last period of the day throughout the year or the same academic class after lunch throughout the year. We believe that students and staff "peak" at various times in the day and all will benefit from the changes. The modified mosaic schedule will not change the level of the class or the curriculum delivered, just the time it meets during the day. We also will be rotating team schedules each trimester. Thus, each grade level team will be linked with a different grade level team each trimester. This assures that at sometime during the year, all students will be able to mingle everyone in their grade.*

## 6.) What goes on during activity period?

*Our Activity Period is utilized for activities, clubs, and programs, allows students time for remediation and seek tutorial help, maintains academic programs that enhance student learning techniques and skills, and has had allowed students to prepare for their academic day.*

## 7.) What is meant by the ExCel Period?

*The ExCel Period has been developed to provide students with opportunities to explore various ways of integrating curricula and enhance learning experiences. The ExCel Period will meet on days A,C,E and replaces the traditional Activity Period for those days. Students come to the Middle School with varying levels of experiences, knowledge bases, and needs (physical/social/mental). Allowing students opportunities to explore, create, and discover is essential to learning. The ExCel Period will allow students a variety of ways to utilize past learning experiences as well as create new learning paths. The ExCel Period will also allow us to determine student needs, address them, and monitor success or continued challenges. Formal interventions are the key to remediating students and then adjusting the instruction accordingly.*

*The ExCel Period will allow for individual, class, or team needs and allow teams to be flexible with their programs. The RtII Program now has time and resources to pull students during this time and will be able to create groups of students to work with. Special Education Staff can use this period of time to meet with students, remediate or support students, and have the option of allowing students to participate in the extension activities.*

*The ExCel period allows for time to transition students to the Middle School and creates a period to address our SWEPBS Program, Second Step Program, School-wide Read, and PSSA Preparation. The time dedicated to these items is essential in creating a positive school climate.*

## Grading Information



## 8.) What are common assessments and why do we have them?

*Did you ever experience one teacher being much harder than another? Why would one teacher spend six weeks on a topic and another only two? How can we begin to address curricular and student issues if we are teaching different curriculums and using different assessments? The standards based grading system incorporates common assessments. The reason is to ensure all students are being exposed to the same curriculum and assessments. Assessments drive instruction, allow for proper remediation in specific skills, and allow staff to use student data to make curricular changes and improvements. We want all students to be exposed to the same curriculum and instructional practices. Therefore, if all students are being tested by the same grading tool, then the entire curriculum must be covered equally. The methodology used to get students to be successful on the assessment may vary from instructor to instructor, but the assessment tool will be the same for all students.*

## 9.) What do you do if you forgot your parent portal password?

*Unfortunately, for security issues, we are not allowed to give you a password over the phone or e-mail. Parents will have to come to the middle school guidance office with proper identification. Our administrative assistant will then give you the password.*

## 10.) How is honor roll determined?

*To achieve High Honor Roll students need to achieve a 3.5 or higher in every academic, fire, and ice class during the trimester grading period. To achieve honor roll, students need to achieve a 3.0 or higher in every academic, fire, and ice class during the trimester grading period.*

## 11.) What are 4sight assessments all about?

*The 4Sight assessments are valid, reliable and aligned to our Pennsylvania State Standards and the PSSA Assessments given in the spring. The Nazareth Area Middle School administers the 4Sight assessment four times a year. The 4Sight assessment data is used to make instructional decisions for teachers and students. The 4sight program allows us to look at areas of concern and address them through daily or individual instruction.*

## Team Information

### 12.) How do I contact the team?

*The academic teams have special times when all instructors are available every day, with the exception of Wednesdays. The teams will be sending you a team letter that will specify the phone number and specific times to call. It will also be located in the student/parent handbook given to each student at the beginning of the school year. You may also visit the middle school web site and click on the team and individual teacher to contact them.*



### 13.) How do I check for my son/daughter's homework schedule?

*Each staff member has a teacher web page, located off of the middle school home page. Our staff updates daily all assignments, announcements, upcoming projects, and other information about the course or instructor. Parents and students are free to check each class daily.*

### 14.) How are field trips handled?

*The Middle School often visits places or events as an extension of the curriculum and create diverse learning opportunities. The Middle School Teams rely on students and parents to follow the procedures that are well communicated to everyone. Permission slips may seem to be a bother and an item that is easily forgotten. However, without it, students are not permitted to attend the trip/event. Second is payment, all of our field trips are funded by students participating in school-wide fundraising, or paying the costs themselves. The trips require teams to purchase tickets and bus contracts in advance. The costs are often determined by the number of students attending. When a large percentage of students fail to meet required deadlines, trips/events have to be cancelled due to the increase cost. **Keep in mind, that there will be no refunds once bus/tickets are purchased for the field trip. There are no monies set aside to cover a refund.***

### 15.) What are the Fire and Ice Classes?

*The Fire and Ice classes are sometimes called the exploratory classes. The Fire classes meet all year at various times throughout the six day cycle. The classes include; Computer Education (2 times per cycle), Physical Education (2 times per cycle) and Wellness (Health and Fitness)(2 times per cycle). The Ice classes are six 30 day mini courses. Students are rotated through the six classes throughout the year. They include Drama/Theatre, Music, Art, Tech. Education, Family Consumer Science, and Informational Literacy.*

### 16.) What is the school-wide Study Island assignment?

*Study Island is a web based program built from the Pennsylvania State Standards. This program provides instruction, practice and assessment in reading and math. Students can access this program through any computer that has internet access. Students may use study island at any time throughout the school year. The Nazareth Area Middle School has an annual school wide study island assignment. This assignment is designed to provide instruction and practice on our state standards, which will help them during the PSSA Assessments in the spring. The students who complete this assignment are rewarded with a ticket to attend a night time special event at the middle school. This event includes games, food and awesome prizes!*

## 17.) What is the school-wide read?

*Next school year, we will be having our 2<sup>nd</sup> school wide read at the Nazareth Area Middle School. During this time, staff and students all read the same text at the same time. After reading, everyone participates in a fun, engaging activity centered on the text that was just read. The engaging activities utilize and practices Reading Apprenticeship strategies. The strategies taught to students are helpful no matter what reading level a student may be. Reading is a big initiative at the middle school and this school-wide project helps in our efforts to build a school of readers.*

## 18.) What is the Talon Club?

*The Talon Club was started last year to recognize students who are excellent role models in our school. The students are selected by each team of teachers every six weeks. The selection criteria used is a combination of good work habits, good citizenship qualities, school spirit, positive attitude, and characteristics that exhibit a caring person. The student recognized receives a framed certificate, a parent letter sent home, and their picture displayed in our main hallway where we honor our Talon Club Members. Promoting students to display positive personality traits and enhancing student character is an important part of our school. The Talon Club recognizes that type of student and helps us accomplish our goal.*

## Conference Information

### 19.) What are my options if I am not able to schedule a conference during district assigned times?

*The Middle School Administration realizes that not every parent is able to schedule a parent/teacher conference during the school calendar scheduled times. There are only enough time slots for 55 conferences per team and roughly 130 students on each team. The time limitations are created for many reasons. We are already shortening three academic days to accommodate the conferences. To accommodate more half days is not in the best interest of our academic goals. Individual buildings cannot just add half days to the schedule (even if we wanted to) due to the coordination of each district buildings bus schedules. The reason for the coordination of bus schedules was to serve as cost reduction of School District funds. We no longer need to run separate or double bus runs in the same day. The teacher's contract also limits the number of hours spent after school or evenings to perform the conferences. We understand that it is often important for everyone to get the opportunity to have "face to face" time with the staff. The teams are available to meet with parents during their team times on any day except Wednesdays (reserved for curriculum meetings). A parent simply needs to call the team leader and schedule that meeting.*

*All spring conferences will be "student led" conferences. This will require some planning and training with staff and students. Student led conferences will allow us to accommodate nine or more conferences at the same time, as we are allowing our students to take on the responsibility for their own learning. Parents will be able to talk to individual staff members if needed and parents will also be able to meet with Fire and Ice Teachers to discuss progress in their curricular areas as well. Major issues or concerns can be handled at individual meetings with the team or a conference call. We are excited about this new approach and will create more of a dialogue between students, parents, and staff.*



## 20.) What can I expect from a student led conference?

### Student Led Conferences

- 1- Please use the bus parking lot and enter the building through the courtyard entrance (next to Friedenstahl Avenue).
- 2- When entering the building there will be a table that lists the room numbers to be used for the conferences. Grab a snack and a drink located at the table and continue to the assigned classroom. Your son/daughter will be very helpful guiding you to the appropriate hallway.
- 3- When entering the assigned room, a staff member will guide you to the appropriate area. Keep in mind there will be three conferences going on at the same time. We have scheduled a half an hour per conference, but take as long as you like. There will be two staff members from the team assigned to each classroom to assist your needs.
- 4- At your conference area, there will be several items to help the conference go as smooth as possible.
  - 1- A red card (questions) and a green card (thumbs up) placed on the desks. Red means student needs help or parents have a question or a request to talk to a particular staff member on a selected piece of work. Green means everything is good and at that time need no assistance.
  - 2- A student agenda will available to use (or not use). There are simple suggestions and cues to help our students have a successful conference.
  - 3- A suggested list of parent questions to ask your son/daughter is also available. These questions are designed to increase the depth of the conversation and gain a clearer insight to your child's thoughts and processes.
- 5- Students will begin the conference by welcoming you and explaining the process of the portfolio, the student academic and citizenship goals set at the beginning of the, year, a self analysis on how they see themselves as a learner. Take a good look at these key pieces of your son/daughter's insights. Begin reviewing each piece of work in the portfolio. Ask key questions and for detailed explanations of the student work provided.
- 6- If you need to see a staff member who is not in the room, simply use the red card and request The staff in the room will direct that person to you.
- 7- When the conference ends, please take time to fill out our parent survey. This will help us to make improvements to next year's program.
- 8- Please visit other curricular areas of our building. An art show will be going on in the large group instruction room (upstairs at the top of the center stairwell) Also, all Fire and Ice classes will have various projects on display. Ask about student projects in computers class, career/informational literacy, community living, foods, drama, music lab, technology education, wellness and fitness.

# Nazareth Area Middle School



## Dates to Remember

### August

29<sup>th</sup>- 7<sup>th</sup> Grade Team Orientation (AM only, bus transportation available)

30<sup>th</sup>- First day of school for all students

### September

2<sup>nd</sup> & 5<sup>th</sup>- No school

26<sup>th</sup>- Teacher in-service, no school for students

### October

10<sup>th</sup> & 11<sup>th</sup>- Teacher in-service, no school for students

### November

1<sup>st</sup>-17<sup>th</sup>- Fall Parent/Teacher Conference Appointment Calls

18<sup>th</sup>- Early Dismissal/ Parent/Teacher Conferences (12:20-3:40 pm)

21<sup>st</sup>- Early Dismissal/ Parent/Teacher Conferences (12:20-3:40 pm & 6-9 pm)

22<sup>nd</sup>-Early Dismissal/ Parent/Teacher Conferences (12:20-3:40 pm)

23<sup>rd</sup>- Early Dismissal Teacher and Students

24<sup>th</sup>-28<sup>th</sup>- Thanksgiving Holiday

### December

23<sup>rd</sup>- Early Dismissal Teacher and Students

24<sup>th</sup>-January 2<sup>nd</sup>- Winter break

### January

16<sup>th</sup>- Teacher in-service, no school for students

### February

17<sup>th</sup>- No school for students or staff OR SNOW MAKE-UP DAY # 1

20<sup>th</sup>- President's Day- No school for teachers and students

### March

1<sup>st</sup>-12<sup>th</sup>- Student Led Conference Appointment Calls

13<sup>th</sup>- Early Dismissal/ Student Led Conferences (12:20-3:40 pm)

14<sup>th</sup>- Early Dismissal/ Student Led Conferences (12:20-3:40 pm & 6-9 pm)

15<sup>th</sup>- Early Dismissal/ Student Led Conferences (12:20-3:40 pm)

16<sup>th</sup>- Early Dismissal Teachers and Students

### April

3<sup>rd</sup>- Teacher in-service, no school for students

4<sup>th</sup>- Teacher in-service, no school for students

5<sup>th</sup>- Teacher in-service, no school for students

6<sup>th</sup>-9<sup>th</sup>- Spring Break

### May

18<sup>th</sup>- Early Dismissal Students and Teacher in-service

28<sup>th</sup>- Memorial Day- No school for teachers or students

### June

5<sup>th</sup>- 7<sup>th</sup>- Early dismissal for students (or snow make-ups)

8<sup>th</sup>- SNOW MAKE-UP DAY #2

11<sup>th</sup>- SNOW MAKE-UP DAY #3

12<sup>th</sup>- SNOW MAKE-UP DAY #4

# NAZARETH AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT

## 2011-2012 School Calendar

**For Adoption - March 28, 2011**

Aug 2011						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

S = 2 T = 5

Sep 2011						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	

S = 19/21 T = 20/25

Oct 2011						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

S = 19/40 T = 21/46

Nov 2011						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30			

S = 19/59 T = 19/65

Dec 2011						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

S = 17/76 T = 17/82

Jan 2012						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

S = 20/96 T = 20/102

### August

- 16 Teacher Induction Program
- 17 Teacher Induction Program
- 18 Teacher Induction Program
- 22 Volunteer Professional Development Academy
- 23 Volunteer Professional Development Academy
- 24 Volunteer Professional Development Academy
- 25 District Welcome/Room Prep
- 26 Building Welcome/Room Prep
- 29 Kindergarten, Grades 4, 7, and 9 Orientations/Professional Development
- 30 First Student Day

### September

- 2 No School for Students/Staff
- 5 No School for Students/Staff
- 26 Professional Development Day/No School for Students

### October

- 10 Professional Development Day/No School for Students
- 11 Professional Development Day/No School for Students

### November

- 18 Half-Day for 4 - 8 Students/Parent Teacher Conferences in PM for 4 - 8 Students
- 21 Half-Day for K - 12 Students/Parent Teacher Conferences in PM for K - 8 Students/Parent Teacher Conferences in Evening for K - 3 / 7-8

### December

- 22 Half-Day for K - 12 Students/Parent Teacher Conferences in PM for K - 12 Students/Parent Teacher Conferences in Evening for 4 - 6 / 9 - 12
- 23 Half-Day for K-12 Students and Staff
- 24 No School for Students/Staff
- 25 No School for Students/Staff
- 28 No School for Students/Staff
- 23 Early Dismissal - Winter Break Begins at Close of Work Day
- 26 No School for Students/Staff
- 27 No School for Students/Staff
- 28 No School for Students/Staff
- 29 No School for Students/Staff
- 30 No School for Students/Staff

### January

- 2 No School for Student/Staff
- 16 No School for Students/Staff

### February

- 17 No School for Students/Staff (Snow Make-Up Day #1)
- 20 No School for Students/Staff

### March

- 13 Half-Day for 4-8 Students/Parent Teacher Conferences in PM for 4 - 8 Students
- 14 Half-Day for K-12 Students/Parent Teacher Conference in PM for K - 8 Students/Parent Teacher Conferences in Evening for K - 3 / 7 - 8
- 15 Half Day for K - 12/Parent Teacher Conferences in PM for K - 8 Students/Parent Teacher Conferences in Evening for 4 - 6 / 9 - 12

### April

- 3 No School for Students/Professional Development Day
- 4 No School for Students/Professional Development Day
- 5 No School for Students/Professional Development Day
- 6 No School for Students/Staff
- 9 No School for Students/Staff

### May

- 18 Early Dismissal for Students/Professional Development Day in PM

### June

- 5 Early Dismissal for Students
- 6 Early Dismissal for Students
- 7 Early Dismissal for Students and Last Student Day
- 8 Last Day for Teachers or Snow Make-Up Day #2
- 11 Snow Make Up Day #3
- 12 Snow Make-Up Day #4

Feb 2012						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29			

S = 19/115 T = 19/121

Mar 2012						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

S = 22/137 T = 22/143

Apr 2012						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30						

S = 16/153 T = 19/162

May 2012						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

S = 22/175 T = 22/184

Jun 2012						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30						

S = 5/180 T = 6/190

**IMPORTANT NOTES:**  
 1st Snow Make-Up Day - February 17.  
 2nd Snow Make-Up Day - June 8.  
 3rd Snow Make-Up Day - June 11.  
 4th Snow Make-Up Day - June 12.  
 Any additional Snow Make-Up Days will be added to the end of the school year.

**PSSA DATES:**  
 March 12 through March 23, 2012 - Math/Reading - Grades 3-8, 11  
 April 16 through April 21, 2012 - Writing - Grades 5, 8, 11  
 April 23 through April 27, 2012 - Science - Grades 4, 8, 11



# Transportation Information

## Bus Drop-off/Pick-up

The bus student drop off and pick up is located on the east side of the building.

- 1.) All AM bus students should remain behind the line painted on the sidewalk and begin walking into the courtyard.
- 2.) All AM bus students should remain in the courtyard until allowed into the building.
- 3.) All PM bus students will be exiting through the courtyard to board the busses.



## Student AM Drop-off Procedures

The student am drop-off is located in the front of the building.

- 1.) Enter the school complex utilizing the north side entrance off of Friedenstahl Avenue.
- 2.) Proceed past the bus turn and move into the left lane heading west. (One way begins after the bus entrance)
- 3.) Stay in the left lane and turn left onto the lane directly in front of the school.
- 4.) Continue as far as you can before allowing students to leave the vehicle. This will allow us to accommodate as many vehicles as possible.
- 5.) Continue to the end of the lane and turn right to exit the complex. Be careful to allow bus traffic entering the complex to turn left in front of you.

**Notes:** Do not pass, Do not double park, Do not block any intersections, Do not drop off students on Friedenstahl Avenue.

## **Student PM Pick-up Procedures**

The student pick-up parking lot is located in the rear of the building across from the natatorium entrance.

### **Option #1:**

- 1.) Enter the school complex utilizing the north side entrance off of Friedenstahl Avenue.
- 2.) Proceed past the bus turn and move into the right lane heading west. (One way begins after the bus entrance)
- 3.) Continue in the right lane until passing the gymnasium entrance, then merge into the left lane.
- 4.) Turn left at the stop sign (Mitchell Avenue) and continue to the far end of the parking lot.
- 5.) Turn left into the lane next to the parking lot and then turn left into the second parking lot entrance.
- 6.) Continue to the far end of the parking lot and remain there until students arrive.
- 7.) There are two ways to exit the parking lot.
  - A.) Utilize the west exit then turn left. Turn left at the stop sign and exit utilizing Mitchell Avenue to Friedenstahl Avenue.
  - B.) Utilize the east exit through the parking lot. Turn right, then left onto Mitchell Avenue to Friedenstahl Avenue.

### **Option #2:**

- 1.) Enter the school complex utilizing the south side entrance (Mitchell Avenue) off of Friedenstahl Avenue.
- 2.) Proceed to the lane next to the rear parking lot and turn right.
- 3.) Turn left into the second parking lot entrance.
- 4.) Continue to the far end of the parking lot and remain there until students arrive.
- 5.) There are two ways to exit the parking lot.
  - A.) Utilize the west exit then turn left. Turn left at the stop sign and exit utilizing Mitchell Avenue to Friedenstahl Avenue.
  - B.) Utilize the east exit through the parking lot. Turn right, then left onto Mitchell Avenue to Friedenstahl Avenue.

## Students Walking to and from the Middle School



The design of the new middle school incorporated routes for students walking to/from school. These routes are designed to keep our students as safe as possible when walking to and from school. We expect all students to cooperate and follow the designed routes and do their part in creating a safe and secure middle and high school campus.

### To/From Farmview Acres

- 1.) Students will cross Friedenstahl Avenue by using the 4<sup>th</sup> street entrance to the high school campus.
- 2.) Upon entering the campus turn immediately right and utilize the sidewalk recently constructed along the east parking lot leading to the new middle school.
- 3.) Continue on the sidewalk over the bridge leading to the new middle school.
- 4.) Cross over Mitchell Avenue and continue to travel on the sidewalk on the west side (across from the new track) of the school.
- 5.) Walk to the front of the building and continue to the main entrance.
- 6.) Reverse pattern walking home.

### To/From Nazareth Borough

- 1.) Students will walk through the high school campus and continue on the sidewalks leading to the rear of the high school.
- 2.) Students should cross over the student parking lot and proceed to the sidewalk recently constructed along the east high school parking lot leading to the new middle school.
- 3.) Continue on the sidewalk over the bridge leading to the new middle school.
- 4.) Cross over Mitchell Avenue and continue to travel on the sidewalk on the west side (across from the new track) of the school.
- 5.) Walk to the front of the building and continue to the main entrance.
- 6.) Reverse pattern walking home.

### To/From Mitchell Road

- 1.) Students will walk onto the middle school campus utilizing the sidewalk located on the right side of Mitchell Avenue.
- 2.) Continue past the Mitchell Parking Lot and utilize the crosswalk to continue across the road leading to the high school.
- 4.) Turn left immediately and cross over Mitchell Avenue and continue to travel on the sidewalk on the west side. (across from the new track) of the school.
- 5.) Walk to the front of the building and continue to the main entrance.
- 6.) Reverse pattern walking home.

### Do's and Don't's

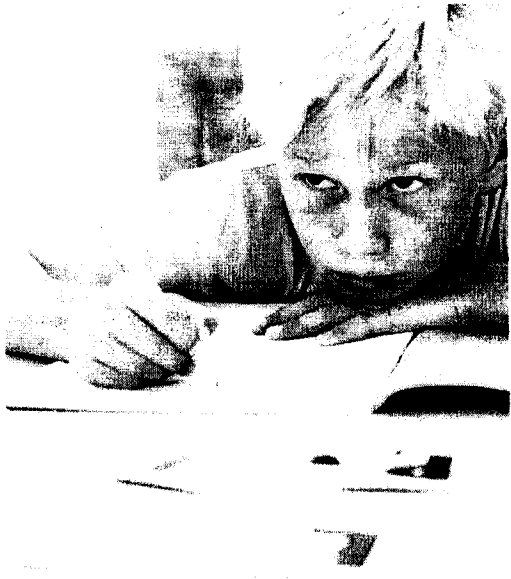
- 1.) Do utilize all sidewalks and crosswalks when walking to and from school.
- 2.) Do walk on the edge of the street going with traffic when walking on streets without sidewalks.
- 2.) Do look in both directions when crossing streets of or on campus.
- 3.) Do adhere to all designed routes.
- 4.) Don't walk along Friedenstahl Avenue. (unless living directly across from the school)
- 5.) Don't attempt to cross Route 191 either traveling to or going home from school.



# Attention Parents/Guardians

## **DON'T WAIT -----VACCINATE NOW**

**FOR ATTENDANCE IN ALL GRADES in 2011/2012 children need the following:**



- 4 doses of tetanus\*  
(1 dose on or after the 4<sup>th</sup> birthday)
- 4 doses of diphtheria\*  
(1 dose on or after the 4<sup>th</sup> birthday)
- 3 doses of polio
- 2 doses of measles\*\*
- 2 doses of mumps\*\*
- 1 dose of rubella (German measles)\*\*
- 3 doses of hepatitis B
- 2 doses of varicella (chickenpox) vaccine or history of disease

\*Usually given as DTP or DTaP or DT or Td

\*\*Usually given as MMR

**Children ATTENDING 7<sup>th</sup> grade in 2011/2012 need the following:**

- 1 dose of tetanus, diphtheria, acellular pertussis (Tdap)  
(if 5 years has elapsed since last tetanus immunization)
- 1 dose of meningococcal conjugate vaccine (MCV)

These requirements allow for medical reasons and religious beliefs.

If your child is exempt from immunizations,  
He/she may be removed from school during an outbreak.

Pennsylvania's school immunization requirements can be found in 28 PA.CODE CH.23 (School Immunization)  
Contact your health care provider or 1-877 PA HEALTH for more information



**pennsylvania**  
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

# NAMS School Counseling Department

## MISSION

The mission of the Nazareth Area School District School Counseling Program is to establish a comprehensive and integrated counseling program that focuses on learning, builds character, and develops skills and competencies necessary to be successful in life. This program will facilitate the academic, career, and personal/social development of all students in grades K-12. The school counselors are professional school advocates who provide support to maximize school potential and academic achievement. We believe that the school counseling program is an integral part of the total educational process.

## PROGRAMS

The Middle School Counseling Program oversees and coordinates programming throughout the year. Some of the programs/activities include:

- Eagle Ambassadors
- Giving Tree
- Night of Excellence
- High School Scheduling
- PSSA's
- Morning Breakfast
- F.I.S.H. 4 it! Club
- Anti-Harassment Program

Counselors also serve on the LINKS team whose objective is to identify students with at-risk behaviors that are impeding upon student success and recommend an appropriate course of action.

Counselors are members of the RTII (Response To Instruction and Intervention) team as well. Our role includes analyzing data as determined by intervention and providing social/emotional/behavioral supports to students.

## SERVICES

Counseling services are provided through four components: the counseling curriculum, individual planning, responsive services, and system support. Some of the services provided by the counseling department are:

- Individual brief, solution-focused counseling
- Small group counseling
- Consultation with parents, staff, and outside organizations
- Coordination of services
- Referral to outside services

## The Nazareth Area Middle School Anti-Harassment Program

The goal of the Middle School Anti-Harassment Program is to change the way that faculty, staff, and students address harassment and to promote a more positive social climate amongst students. Students who harass will be educated with each situation and may receive interventions dependent upon the incident. The program uses research based interventions which focus on skill-building and peer-helping programs for both the harasser and the target of harassment which will be delivered uniformly. Students and staff have been informed of ways to report harassment, either verbally to a trusted adult or peer or anonymously outside of the Guidance office.

### Defining Peer Aggression and Harassment

The Nazareth Area School District defines "Bullying" as an intentional electronic, written, verbal or physical act or series of acts directed at another student or students, which occurs in a school setting that is severe, persistent or pervasive and has the effect of doing any of the following:

1. Substantial interference with the student's education
2. Creation of a threatening environment.
3. Substantial disruption of the orderly operation of the school.

For the sake of the NAMS Anti-Harassment Procedures and Interventions Policy, we would like to further identify and define the behaviors that are targeted. First, we will identify aggressive behaviors that children engage in. These behaviors fall into two categories: Verbal Aggression and Physical Aggression.

Verbal Aggression involves words that hurt and/or humiliate, including but not limited to teasing, name calling, and/or insulting. The following are categories of verbal aggression.

- 1) Careless hurtful remarks appear to be thoughtless rather than malicious; repetitive "careless hurtful remarks" are probably not thoughtless, but in fact may be "verbal or written teasing/taunting"
- 2) Verbal or written teasing/taunting is the expression of language which is deliberately hurtful to a target's feelings, and can either be made directly to the target or within his/her or other children's hearing or sight.
- 3) Verbal or written threats or taunts are explicit remarks threatening future harmful behavior.

Physical aggression involves physical actions that are hurtful. The following are categories of physical aggression.

- 1) Physical threats include physical gestures used to convey to a target that s/he will be hurt, such as but not limited to raising a clenched fist or drawing a finger across the throat.
- 2) Physical harassment involves physically touching a target in a hurtful way that is unlikely to cause injury, including but not limited to pinching, pulling off hats, grabbing books, and/or blocking one's way.
- 3) Physical attacks include, but are not limited to, pushing, shoving, kicking, hitting, punching, or pinning down.
- 4) Taking or damaging someone's property is another form of physical aggression.

In addition to the District policy, Harassment (identified as bullying in the district policy) will contain the following characteristics:

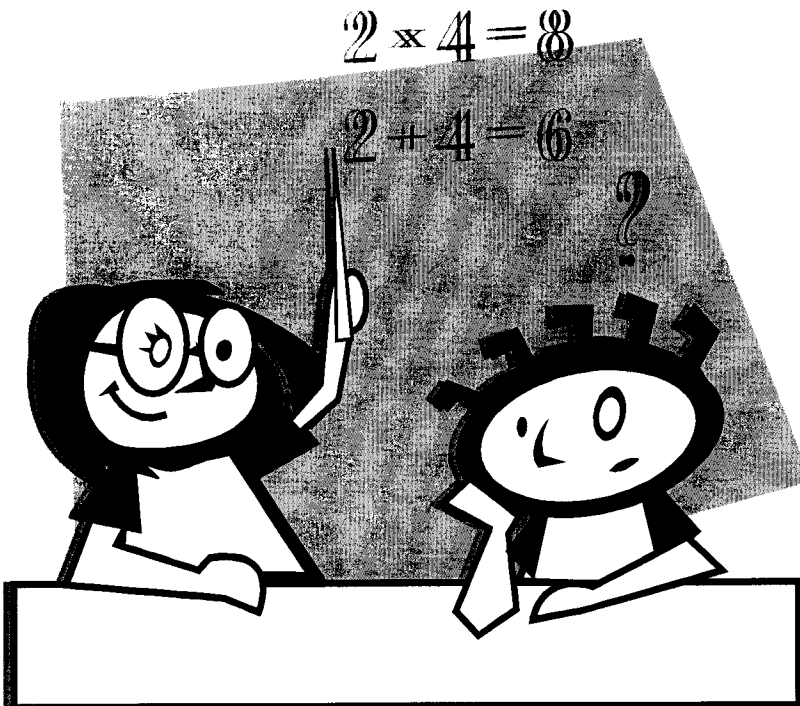
- 1) Aggressive, cruel, and/or threatening
- 2) Repetitive
- 3) Characterized as an imbalance of physical, psychological, and/or emotional power. Children who engage in peer aggression have more power than the target. The power advantage may be due to social status, age, size, ability, and/or popularity.
- 4) Bullying behavior is *unprovoked*.

Physical and Verbal aggression is harassment if it also has the above three characteristics.

## Tutoring Services

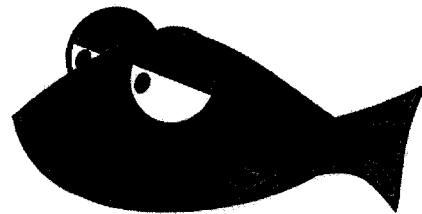
Tutoring services at NAMS include the following:

- Tutoring during activity period in the LGI (Math only)
  - Tutoring in the LGI is facilitated by the 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade Math teachers
- After school tutoring (Math and Language Arts)
  - After tutoring is facilitated by 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade teachers
- Peer Tutoring
  - Students are matched according to academic strengths to peers who may need assistance in their academic courses
- Computer Tutorials
  - Computer tutorials are available via the NAMS website.
- Intervention material
  - Teacher provided remediation packets



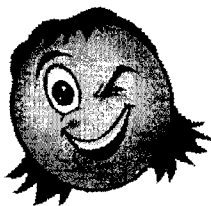
# FISH ! Philosophy Basics

The FISH! Philosophy  
is based on four essential practices:



## 1.) Be There

**Be emotionally present for people. It's a powerful message of respect that strengthens relationships.**



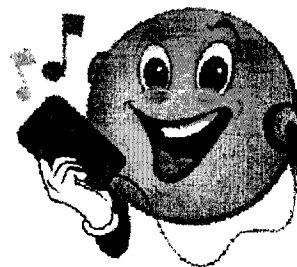
- Be fully present
- Listen to understand, not just to reply
- Take action to meet people's needs, based on awareness

**For students, Be There can be as simple as listening attentively or as deep as making a genuine emotional connection. Explore their ideas about and experiences with Be There and help them make it an intentional way of being.**

## 2.) Play

**Tap into your natural way of being creative and having fun. Play allows curiosity and enthusiasm to flow in childlike wonder without being childish.**

- Build trust. Without it, people don't feel safe
- Create a physical and emotional environment conducive to Play
- Encourage freedom to try new approaches
- Be curious; about everything

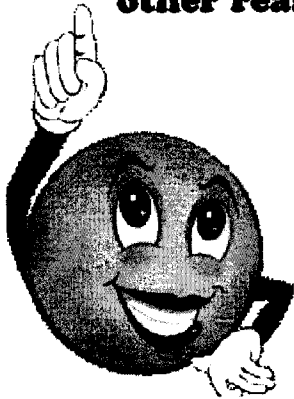


**Play is not separate from the "work" you do in school; it is the way you approach that work. You don't have to have a comedian's sense of humor to be Play-full, just the passion to throw yourself into whatever you are doing and the lightheartedness to enjoy all parts of your day, even the challenges.**

### **3.) Make Their Day**



**Find special ways to connect with everyone you encounter, for no other reason than to serve them in a meaningful way.**



- Be selfless**
- Be of service**
- Be authentic**

**Often regarded as the simplest of the practices, Make Their Day can have great impact on students, especially those who perceive themselves as powerless. By intentionally making the day of others often through appreciation or recognition each of us learns that we do have an impact on the world and can make a positive difference if we choose.**

### **4.) Choose Your Attitude**

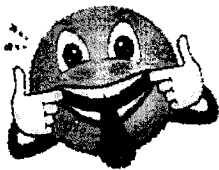
**Be responsible for consciously choosing how you want to show up in the world, no matter the situation.**



- Be aware of your impact. Is it the one you want?**
- Consciously choose your response to what life throws in your path. Live in alignment with who you say you want to be.**



**Choose Your Attitude is not an order or admonition, but a reminder to yourself, I can and do choose how I show up in the world. Because attitudes are neutral the same attitude may be harmful in one situation but beneficial in another each of us must determine what impact we desire and then ask ourselves if the attitude we are choosing is helping us achieve our goal.**



**Note: These ideas are the basis of The FISH! Philosophy. You and your students will find your own words to express them and your own way to live them. We refer to these ideas as practices because practice requires action, and like anything else you practice, you can always improve. With experience, your conversations and actions will take on new meanings, especially as your students grow and mature.**

# S.W.E.P.B.S.

## (School Wide Effective Positive Behavior Support)

### 1. Incorporation of FISH philosophy (attached)

- Based on four essential principles, "be there", "make their day", "choose your attitude", "play"
- Helps to strengthen school culture
- "CATCH IT"

### 2. What is School-Wide PBS?

Improving student academic and behavior outcomes is about ensuring all students have access to the most effective and accurately implemented instructional and behavioral practices and interventions possible. SWPBS provides an operational framework for achieving these outcomes. More importantly, SWPBS is not a curriculum, intervention, or practice, but IS a decision making framework that guides selection, integration, and implementation of the best evidence-based academic and behavioral practices for improving important academic

### 3. What it looks like

The purpose of the SWPBS program is to "catch" students making good decisions while applying the four principles of the FISH philosophy. At the start of the school year, there will be instruction on how the concepts of CATCH It! will apply to different areas within school. There will be an incentive and rewards system for staff and students that will be ongoing throughout the school year for individuals, classes, and teams.

#### Concept: Choose Your Attitude

**Definition:** Display an open-minded, energetic appreciation for each new learning experience;  
**Rationale:** Your attitude as a direct effect on the type of day you will have;

EXAMPLES	NON-EXAMPLES
Use appropriate language	Cursing, name calling, unkind words, insults
Use appropriate level of voice in various school settings	Loud voices in quiet places
Be an active, involved participant	Daydreaming, slouching, bothering others

#### Concept: Act Responsibly

**Definition:** Be accountable for your own actions  
**Rationale:** Each individual plays a key role in creating a positive school culture.

EXAMPLES	NON-EXAMPLES
Leave no trace	Littering
Report Issues	Ignoring problems
Be Prepared	Coming without materials
Be On-time	Being late
Follow Directions	Off-task