

Respectful • Responsible • Reliable



2024-2025 MCCTC & Valley STEM + ME² Academy

Student Handbook

Message from the Superintendent

Dear Student,

Welcome to the Mahoning County Career and Technical Center and Valley STEM + ME2 Academy! We want your school year to be happy and positive, and we will do our best to create this type of school environment. With your help, we can!

To benefit from the many opportunities at our schools, approach each day with the necessary motivation and determination to do your very best. With this attitude in mind, you will realize and receive the BEST education YOU are capable of obtaining!

Your responsibility will be that of helping to maintain Mahoning County Career and Technical Center's and Valley STEM's excellent reputation of caring for its students. We have a diverse population coming from our local school districts, as well as open enrollment, for our students to serve. You need to be willing to expend the effort for excellence in academics and in your career-based classes and labs. Show respect to your fellow classmates, teachers, aides, secretaries, administrators, and other school support personnel. Courtesy in the classrooms, labs, halls, and at assemblies is always expected.

We have a student code of conduct that is reviewed annually and is established for the benefit of all students. It is our belief that students should have learned proper behavior by the time they enter high school. We expect you to conduct yourself accordingly while at the school.

This handbook has been carefully prepared to help you become acquainted with our school. Please read it thoroughly and carefully so you will be fully informed of your privileges and responsibilities. All students will be tested on the handbook and must pass the test with a 100% grade.

On behalf of the entire faculty and staff of the Mahoning County Career and Technical Center and Valley STEM + ME² Academy, we extend to you our best wishes for a successful school year. May it be both enjoyable and rewarding!

Have a GREAT year!

John Zehentbauer

MCCTC Superintendent

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Sunset Clause

This Handbook replaces all prior handbooks and other prior written material provided on the same subjects. This Handbook does not equate to an irrevocable contractual commitment to the student, but only reflects the current status of the Board's policies and the School's rules. Please be aware that this is not a complete statement of all policies, procedures, or rules that may be applicable in a given circumstance. If any of the policies or administrative guidelines referenced herein are revised, the language in the most current policy or administrative guideline prevails. While every effort is made to ensure the accuracy of the information provided, the School reserves the right to make changes at any time without prior notice. Copies of current Board policies and administrative guidelines are available on the District's website.

MCCTC Governing Board Members

Mrs. Marie Dockry

Ms. Beth Donofrio

Mr. Jeffery Good

Attorney Kathi McNabb-Welsh

Mr. Richard S. Scarsella

Mr. Ronald Shives

Mr. Michael Stanko

Valley STEM + ME² Academy Board Members

Mr. John Kuzma, President

Ms. Ashley Totin, Board Member

Ms. Roxann Sebest, Board Member

Mr. Craig Hockenberry, Board Member

Dr. Karen Larwin, Board Member

Administration

Mr. John Zehentbauer	Superintendent
Mr. Brian Rella	Chief Financial Officer
Mr. Tyler Lewis	Assistant Treasurer
Dr. Mara Banfield	Career and Technical Director / Valley STEM + ME ² Academy Superintendent
Mr. Ralph Sandy	Principal / Dean of Students / Arts Academy
Mr. Matt Campbell	Principal / CT Supervisor / Global, Machine & iCONS Academies
Mr. Andrew Hampton	Principal / Valley STEM / Attendance
Mr. Corey Stephens	Principal / Student Services
Mr. Chris Stewart	Technology Supervisor / Cafeteria
Mrs. Jessica Cene	Community Outreach / Placement Coordinator / Marketing

Equal Educational Opportunity

Mara Banfield - Title IX Coordinator & McKinney-Vento Homeless Liaison

Corey Stephens - Section 504 Coordinator

In compliance with (1) Title VI of the Civil Rights Acts of 1964, (2) Title IX of the Educational Amendments of 1972, (3) Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, (4) the ORC Vocational Educational Guidelines, and (5) the Americans with Disabilities Act, we are notifying all students, parents, employees, and general public that the Mahoning County Career & Technical Center has adopted a nondiscrimination policy on the basis of race, color, creed, handicap, religion, gender, gender identity, ancestry, national origin, or social or economic background. Any complaint regarding this nondiscrimination policy should be referred to Dr. Mara Banfield, 7300 North Palmyra Road, Canfield, Ohio 44406 – Telephone: (330) 729-4000 ext. 1207. Complaints will be investigated in accordance with the procedures established by the District. Any student making a complaint or participating in a school investigation will be protected from retaliation. The Compliance Officer can provide additional information concerning equal access to educational opportunity.

The school district follows the guideline of the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (**FERPA**) regarding all student records. Parents who do not want directory information for their child released to colleges, universities and military recruiters should contact the guidance office.

Students with Disabilities

The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act (Section 504) prohibit discrimination against persons with a disability in any program receiving Federal financial assistance. This protection applies not just to students, but to all individuals who have access to the District's programs and facilities. The laws define a person with a disability as anyone who:

- A. Has a mental or physical impairment that substantially limits one or more major life activities;
- B. Has a record of such an impairment; or
- C. Is regarded as having such an impairment.

The District has specific responsibilities under these two laws, which include identifying, reviewing and, if the child is determined to be eligible, affording access to appropriate educational accommodation.

Additionally, in accordance with State and Federal mandates, the District seeks out, assesses and appropriately services students with disabilities. Staff members use a comprehensive child study process to systematically screen, assess and, if appropriate, place students in special education and related services. Students are entitled to a free appropriate public education in the "least restrictive environment."

A student can access special education and related services through the proper evaluation procedures. Parent involvement in this procedure is important and required by Federal (IDEIA), ADA (Section 504) and state law. Contact the MCCTC/Valley STEM Student Services Department at (330) 729-4000 ext. 1204 to inquire about evaluation procedures, programs, and services.

Homeless Students

Homeless students will be provided with a free and appropriate public education in the same manner as other students served by the District. Homeless students are eligible to receive transportation services, participate in education programs for students with disabilities or limited English proficiency, participate in gifted and talented programs, and receive meals under school nutrition programs. Homeless students will not be denied enrollment based on lack of proof of residency. For additional information contact the Homeless Coordinator, Corey Stephens, at (330) 729-4000 ext. 1204.

Children and Youth in Foster Care

Students who meet the Federal definition of "in foster care", including those who are awaiting foster care placement, will be provided a free appropriate public education (FAPE) in the same manner as all other students of the District.

Information regarding Missing Children Notification, Due Process Rights Description, Communicable Disease Notice, and the Toxic and Asbestos Notice can be found at the following link: [MCCTC Board Policies](#).

MCCTC / Valley STEM PBIS Mission Statement

The goals of our school are: (1) to foster and promote a positive, safe school environment that enhances student learning through teaching and recognition of positive behavior; (2) to support all students in our school to achieve social, emotional, and academic success; (3) to develop positive character traits in students that they will carry into the world of work/higher education. [MCCTC Schoolwide Behavior Expectations Matrix](#).

Safer Schools Tip Line

To anonymously report bullying, threats, students concerns, suspicious activities please call Mr. Sandy at 330-729-4004 or if you feel more comfortable call or text **844-SAFEROH (844-723-3764)**.

Emergency Medical Authorization

All parents or guardians must fill out the online "Emergency Medical Form" This must be done by the 1st day of school or the student will **NOT** be able to participate in their STEM/MCCTC lab.

School Calendar (2024-2025)

August 15, 2024	Junior & STEM Orientation
August 19, 2024	First Day of Classes
August 30 - September 2, 2024	Labor Day Break (No Classes)
October 11, 2024	NEOE Day (No Classes)
October 18, 2024	End of 1st Grading Period
November 26, 2024	Parent Teacher Conferences 3:00 pm to 9:00 pm
November 27 - 29, 2024	Thanksgiving Break (No Classes)
December 23, 2024 - January 3, 2025	Winter Break (No Classes)
January 10, 2025	End of 2nd Grading Period
January 20, 2025	Martin Luther King Jr. Day (No Classes)
February 6, 2025	Parent Teacher Conference 3:00 pm to 9:00 pm
February 7, 2025	Waiver Day (No Classes)
February 14 & 17, 2025	Presidents Day Break (No Classes)
March 21, 2025	End of 3rd Grading Period
April 18 - April 25, 2025	Spring Break
May 26, 2025	Memorial Day (No Classes)
May 29, 2025	Senior Awards Day / Last Day for Seniors
May 29, 2025	End of 4th Grading Period / Last Day of Classes

Grading Periods

1st Nine Weeks	August 19, 2024 - October 18, 2024
2nd Nine Weeks	October 21, 2024 - January 10, 2025
3rd Nine Weeks	January 13, 2025 - March 21, 2025
4th Nine Weeks	March 24, 2025 - May 29, 2025



Approved 2/26/2024

MAHONING COUNTY CAREER & TECHNICAL CENTER 2024-2025 SCHOOL CALENDAR

AUGUST 2024

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

14 - Teacher In-Service
15 - Junior & STEM Orientation
19 - First Day of Classes
30 - Labor Day Break (No Classes)

SEPTEMBER 2024

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					

2 - Labor Day Break (No Classes)

OCTOBER 2024

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		

11 - NEOEA Day (No Classes)
18 - End of First Grading Period

NOVEMBER 2024

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

26 - Parent Teacher Conferences
27-29 - Thanksgiving Break (No Classes)

DECEMBER 2024

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				

23-31 - Winter Break (No Classes)

JANUARY 2025

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	

1-3 - Winter Break (No Classes)
10 - End of Second Grading Period
20 - MLK Day (No Classes)

FEBRUARY 2025

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	

6 - Parent Teacher Conferences
7 - Waiver Day (No Classes)
14 & 17 - Presidents' Day Break (No Classes)

MARCH 2025

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					

21 - End of Third Grading Period

APRIL 2025

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			

18-25 - Spring Break (No Classes)

MAY 2025

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

26 - Memorial Day (No Classes)
29 - Senior Awards Day / Last Day for Seniors /
End of Fourth Grading Period / Last Day of Classes
30 - Teacher Report Day

JUNE 2025

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					

JULY 2025

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		

First Grading Period	August 19 - October 18	42 days
Second Grading Period	October 21 - January 10	47 days
Third Grading Period	January 13 - March 21	46 days
Fourth Grading Period	March 24 - May 29	42 days
		177 Student Attendance Days
		1 Student Waiver Days
		2 Parent Teacher Conference Evenings
		4 Teacher Professional Days
		184 Total Days

Calamity make-up days, if necessary: May 30, June 2, 3, 4, 5 unless otherwise scheduled.
If one or more calamity make-up days are necessary, Teacher Report Day will be the school day following the last make-up day.



MCCTC & Valley STEM Staff

Argiro, Lisa	Cosmetology
Baber, Walter	Engineering/Robotics
Baglama, Chris, R.N.	School Nurse
Basista, Seth	Science
Beeson, David	Public Safety
Bellotta, Phil	Exercise Science
Benchwick, Ryan	Construction/Remodeling
Benson, Alex	Networking/Cybersecurity
Bernard, Richard	Science
Bionci, Heather	Math
Bobby, Alisha	Intervention Specialist
Brown, Lynette	Math
Campbell, Jason	Intervention Specialist
Capan, Nicole	Math
Capan, Zach	Intervention Specialist
Ciolino, Julie	Math
Clark, Kasey	Intervention Specialist
Cooper, Kory	Electricity
Cramer, Dustin	Math
Danes, Jacob	Social Studies
Darst, Jennifer	Allied Health/Pre-Nursing
Davis, Scott	Career Based Intervention
DeNiro, Christl	JTC/Hospitality

Dunbar, Brandy	Math
Ferraro, Megan	Science
Francis, Stephanie	Intervention Specialist
Gardner, Paris	Intervention Specialist
Greer, Donna	English
Grimm, Melinda	Social Studies
Hack, Garrett	Science
Hackett, Melissa	Creative Arts
Haidet, Lori	Science
Jones, Brian	Career Based Intervention
Klem, John	Intervention Specialist
Lanterman, Michelle	English
Liste, Alyssa	Math
Lopuchovsky, Mike	Math
Lutz, Mike	Advanced Manufacturing
Mechling, Lauren	Guidance Counselor
Merritt, Joe	Diesel Power Tech
Miller, Bob	Biomedical Sciences
Miller, Jordan	Allied Health/Pre-Nursing
Moore, Jason	RAMTEC
Morris, Thomas	Automotive Technology
Naples, Denny	Welding
Naylor, Rachael	Science
Naymick, Michelle	Intervention Specialist
Nobles, Katie	Modern Marketing & Communications Technology
O'Hara, Tom	Fire

Pagnotta, Julie	Early Childhood Education
Parker, Will	Social Studies
Psaras, Cassandra	Guidance Counselor
Putzier, Matt	Culinary Arts
Robinson, Mike	ISD
Rowe, Scott	Aviation Maintenance
Sander, Joe	Auto Body Painting & Collision Repair
Sankey, Heather	Intervention Specialist
Saverko, Sarah	English
Seebacher, Renee	English
Sekol, Michael	Software Development
Silvestri, Marina	Intervention Specialist
Smith, Tom	Intervention Specialist
Summerfield, Claire	English
Sullivan, Valerie	Guidance Counselor
Valingo, Sarah	English
VanOrman, Todd	STEM Lab
Vlajkovich, Andrew	Social Studies
Weaver, Andrea	English
Williams, Mary	Credit Recovery
Wright, Les	Social Studies
Yungen, Stephanie	Animal Science/Pre-Veterinary

School Counselor Assignments:

Valerie Sullivan - **Boardman, Columbiana, Jackson-Milton, Lowellville, Leetonia, Struthers, Western Reserve, Youngstown (Chaney & East)**

Lauren Mechling - **Austintown, Crestview, East Palestine, Girard, Marlinton, Poland, Salem, South Range, Southeast, Springfield, United, Waterloo, West Branch**

Cassandra Psaras - **Canfield, Sebring, Liberty, Lisbon, Campbell, Davis Anderson & Valley STEM**

Essential Staff:

Don Adams - **Maintenance Director**

Christine Baglama - **Nurse**

Tim Lamping & Tim Coler - **School Resource Officers (Canfield PD)**

Sunny Kumar - **Technology Assistant**

Regular School Day Procedures

- Doors of the building open at 7:15 am. Students are to report directly to the cafeteria for breakfast at this time.
- Breakfast is served in the cafeteria starting at 7:15 am and ending at 7:55 am. Only students with a late bus pass will be served breakfast after 7:55 am.
- Home school buses drop off students in front of the building. Home school bus riders that arrive after 7:45 am will be given a *Late Bus Pass* to get breakfast before reporting to their 1st period. Students riding the bus must enter through Door 1.
- Students who are dropped off at school by a parent/guardian or other individual will enter through Door 1.
- Students who drive to school must park in student parking spots in the designated parking lots. Drivers are expected to follow all vehicle control signs (i.e., speed limit, stops, yields, etc.). Students who drive may enter the building through Door 1 or Door 36. Students who drive must enter the building immediately upon arrival - *there is to be no loitering in the parking lots.*
- Students are to be in their 1st period class by 8:00 am. Students arriving to class after 8:00 are considered tardy and must get a tardy pass from the attendance office.
- The school day ends at 2:20 pm. Students are to exit the building immediately after dismissal.
- Students who ride the bus or who are picked up are to leave through Door 1. Home school buses will be parked in the front of the building.

Attendance

IMPORTANT: The only absences that **DO NOT** count against attendance hours are (1) **medical** absences *with verified documentation from a medical professional*, and (2) **legal** absences *with verified documentation from a court or law enforcement officer*. ALL other absences count toward the excessive or habitual absence thresholds as explained below. **Attendance hours are based on 5.8 hours per day at MCCTC and Valley STEM (lunch time is not included in this calculation per the state of Ohio).**

Coming to school consistently is essential for your success at the MCCTC and Valley STEM. Without consistent attendance, you will not have a positive STEM or career and technical experience. We aim to deliver educational experiences centered around workforce development. Whether you are working for yourself as an entrepreneur or working for a business, you will be expected to come to work every day.

You are required to follow the following attendance expectations:

- Follow **ONLY** the [MCCTC / Valley STEM School Calendar](#) (also see page 8). You **DO NOT** follow your home school district's school calendar.
- If your home school has a waiver day or teacher in-service day, you are expected to be in attendance at the MCCTC and Valley STEM.
- If your school is closed due to a calamity day, you are not required to come to school. If the MCCTC / Valley STEM does NOT have a calamity day, but your home school district does, you can use your best judgment if it is safe to drive to school and arrive on time at 8 am. This time will **NOT** count against your hours of school attendance.
- If your home school district and the MCCTC / Valley STEM are **both** on a 2-hour delay, you should report to school at 10 am. This time will **NOT** count against attendance hours.
- If your home school district is on a 2-hour delay and the MCCTC / Valley STEM is on a regular schedule you are required to report by 10 am. You can use your best judgment if it is safe to drive to school and arrive on time at 8 am. If arriving at 10am, or earlier, this time will **NOT** count against your attendance hours.
- Turn in all verified **medical** or **legal** documentation to the attendance office immediately upon returning to school for any absences or tardies. You have ten (10) school days to turn in any **medical** or **legal** documentation.

The MCCTC and Valley STEM follow all attendance guidelines in accordance with [Ohio House Bill 410](#). Please review the following attendance hour thresholds and related attendance definitions:

- **Excessive Absences** - the combined amount of school absence hours that are *excused* and *unexcused*. Students can hit this threshold by missing 38 hours in a month or 65 hours in a school year.
 - Parent(s)/Guardian(s) will be notified in writing within 7 days of a student hitting the excessive absence hour limit.
- **Habitual Truancy** - the amount of school absence hours that are *unexcused*. A student can hit this threshold by missing school hours greater than or equal to 30 hours consecutively, 42 hours in a month, or 72 hours in a school year *unexcused*.

- Once a student reaches the *habitual truancy* threshold an attendance intervention team is developed to meet the needs of the student on a case-by-case basis. The intention of the attendance intervention process is to determine barriers to attendance and appropriate solutions to those barriers.
- An attendance intervention plan will be developed. If attendance does not improve based on the attendance intervention plan, the student will be referred to the Mahoning County Juvenile Court.
 - “Unruly” charges may be filed against the student and “Contributing to the Delinquency of a Minor” charges may be filed against the parent(s)/guardian(s).
- **Chronic Absenteeism** - students who miss *10% or more of the hours of school* for any reason are considered chronically absent. Any student at the MCCTC or Valley STEM who misses more than 102.66 hours (equivalent to 17.7 days) of school for any reason would be considered chronically absent.

An absence may be approved for the following reasons: illness of the child; illness in the family necessitating the presences of the child; quarantine in the home; death of a relative (*students may have up to 3 days excused [18 hours] with appropriate parent/guardian communication regarding each absence*); medical, behavioral, or dental appointment; observance of religious holidays; college visitation; pre-enlistment reporting to military enlistment processing station; absence due to foster care or related proceedings; absences due to being homeless; absences due to active or reserve military deployment; or any other circumstance or emergency deemed appropriate for absence by the superintendent or superintendent designee. **School administration has full discretion to excuse absences or tardies on a case-by-case basis according to student needs.** Please refer to [Ohio Revised Code 3321.19](#) as it states, “The parent, guardian, or other person having care of the child shall cause the child’s attendance at school.” Please refer to [Ohio Revised Code 3321.38](#) regarding the parent/guardian obligation to send their student to school as well as potential consequences.

Medical Only Status: A student is placed on **MEDICAL ONLY** status when they have reached the excessive absence threshold for the year (absent 65 hours *excused* and *unexcused*). The “Medical Only” designation will be part of the written notification that is sent out in accordance with the excessive absence threshold and Ohio House Bill 410. **When a student is placed on Medical Only status, it is expected that they will provide verified medical documentation for all absences that follow. If they do not, all absences that follow will be considered unexcused and count toward habitual truancy.**

Reporting Absence: communication is essential to the accurate reporting of absences. Absences where communication does not occur will be recorded as *unexcused* and count toward habitual truancy. This included partial absences (coming to school late or leaving school early).

- **MCCTC & Valley STEM** Parents/Guardians **call 330 729 4000 x1232; fax 330 729 4035, or email mcctc.attendance@mahoningctc.com.**
- Students leaving early **FOR ANY REASON** must sign out in the attendance office; leaving school property without permission is an act of truancy.
- **IMPORTANT:** *Medical* or *legal* documentation related to an absence must be turned in immediately upon return to school. You have ten (10) school days to turn in, fax, or email any *medical* or *legal* documentation.

Returning to Class After Absence: ALL absences are considered *unexcused* unless there is (1) communication from a parent/guardian reporting absence, (2) verified medical documentation is provided, and/or (3) legal documentation related to absence is provided. If a student is on **Medical Only** status, the absence hours will be counted as *unexcused* unless medical or legal documentation is provided.

- **Unexcused Absences and Out-of-School Suspension:** missing work, including tests and quizzes, must be completed the day the student returns and are subject to a 20% reduction in credit. *It is the student's responsibility to get all missing assignments due to unexcused absences or suspension.* Out-of-school suspensions **DO NOT** count against habitual truancy hours (unexcused absences), however they do count against a student's attendance and the excessive absence threshold as defined above.
- **Excused, Medical, and/or Legal Absences:** the student will have the amount of time equal to the absence to complete all missing and related assignments for full credit. *It is the student's responsibility to get all missing assignments due to excused, medical, and/or legal absences.*

Family Travel & Vacations: it is highly recommended by the MCCTC and Valley STEM that family's take into consideration the school calendar when planning travel or vacation. *All absences related to family travel and vacations count against a student's attendance, have the potential of affecting progress, and could contribute to habitual truancy.*

- If a student has already hit the yearly excessive absence threshold and are on **Medical Only** status, all absence hours due to travel and vacations will be considered *unexcused*.
- If a student has not hit the yearly excessive absence threshold, the hours still count against attendance and may lead to the student being on **Medical Only** status.

Bereavement: Students are permitted up to five (5) days during the school year due to a family member passing away, a funeral, and/or related family activities due to the passing of a loved one. The parent/guardian must (1) call the student off and (2) indicate when the student will return to school. These absences will be considered "excused" and will still count against hours of school attendance, but will **not** count toward **habitual truancy**. If a student has hit the excessive absence threshold and is considered **Medical Only**, they are still permitted up to five (5) days of bereavement **without** the hours counting toward **habitual truancy**.

Absences from School for Religious Reasons: Students are permitted to miss up to three (3) days of school per year due to the observance of religious practices. Absences for religious reasons *do not* count against student attendance hours (excessive or habitual hours). The parent(s) or guardian(s) must (1) call the school attendance office to communicate the absence, (2) specifically state that the absence is due to religious reasons, and (3) state the duration of the absence. This is in accordance with [Ohio House Bill 214](#).

College / University / Technical School / Military Visitations: Students are allowed two (2) days during the school year for the purpose of a college/university, technical school, or military visit. The parent/guardian must call the student off the day of the visit. In order for the visit to not count against attendance, official, written documentation from the college, university, school, or military must be turned in to the attendance office immediately upon return. **Should the appropriate documentation not be turned in, these absence hours will count against the student's attendance and may contribute toward habitual truancy.**

Closing School During Emergencies

If it becomes necessary to delay the start of the school day or to close the MCCTC and Valley STEM, we may use the *ParentSquare* system, school website, and/or social media to notify you. The following television stations may also announce any closing: WFMJ-TV Channel 21 Youngstown / WKBN-TV Channel 27 Youngstown / WYTV-TV Channel 33 Youngstown

Tardiness to School

Tardiness to school counts against attendance hours and will be dealt with through disciplinary action starting with the 10th tardy . **These tardies are cumulative and DO NOT reset.** Students reporting to school between 8:01 am and 9:50 am will be considered tardy. Tardies 1 through 9 may be *excused* and will not count towards truancy hours of attendance, **starting with the 10th tardy the time missed will count towards truancy.** Written documents from a medical professional, law enforcement officer or court official will be accepted as an excused reason for a tardy and will **NOT** count against accumulated tardies or attendance hours. The discipline progression for tardies is as follows:

- 1-9 = Warning
- 10-11 = 1 day of ISD each
- 12-13 = 2 hour Saturday school for each
- 14+ = 4 hour Saturday School for each

Busing

Home school districts provide busing to the MCCTC / Valley STEM. All transportation related questions should be directed to the home school district, including those related to the home school district calendar. Home schools districts may change busing routes due to their home school district calendar (days that are not emergency / weather closures). In those events, students are expected to be in attendance at the MCCTC / Valley STEM on those days.

Student Withdrawal from School

In order to ensure the continuation of educational services, if it is determined by the parent(s) and/or guardian(s) to withdraw a student from the MCCTC or Valley STEM, the appropriate withdrawal paperwork must be completed. *The student's withdrawal from school will not be finalized until enrollment in another school or school district can be proven through a records request and verification from the attending district.*

Emergency Relocation

If an emergency situation makes it impossible for students to remain at the MCCTC/Valley STEM, a nearby alternate assembly area will be designated and students will be directed to that location.

Fees

Every student will pay a school fee of \$100 yearly. This fee will go towards CT credentials, Youth Club membership, software, Chromebook, and other school-related expenses. (Students on free and reduced lunch status will be exempted).

Early Work Placement

Students on all Work Placement Programs are permitted to leave for work during school hours. Students must follow work placement guidelines for each individual work placement program. Students accepted into these programs must be in school for the required number of hours in order to be released for their work placement. Students who are absent from school may NOT report to a job site that same day. If you do not report to work, you will be considered truant.

- Early Work placement will begin at the end of the 1st semester - January 10th, 2025
- C's and above in all classes to qualify for early work release - Dismissed after the last academic period of the day / 10:22 am - 3rd per or 11:24 am - 4th per.
- A's in ALL classes to qualify for early work ALL Day (3 days max during 3rd 9 weeks / 4 days max during 4th 9 weeks).
- CT teachers will be responsible for weekly grade & attendance check ups for their students on early work by submitting (bi-weekly) a completed Google Form.
 - Bi-weekly Google Form CT check ins - Due every other Monday
- Students must sign out at attendance when leaving for early work. **Students who fail to sign out may be subject to disciplinary action and loss of early work privileges.**

Work Permits

All minors under age 18 are required to have a work permit in order to hold a job. Information about the work permits may be obtained from the home school district. **Valley STEM** students will obtain work permits from the school counselor's office or through the Ohio Department of Commerce website. The [application](#) AND [physician's certificate](#) must be completed and returned to the Valley STEM office. Please allow for necessary processing time for your work permit.

Driving / Parking Permits

Driving is a privilege and vehicle registration is actually a pledge by both the student and the parents to abide by school regulations. **Driving privileges may be revoked at any time for disciplinary reasons.** Students are encouraged to ride the buses provided by the home schools. If it is necessary for students to drive to and from school, a driving permit must be secured in the main office. Parking permits are \$5.00 per year. **The student must be licensed and show proof of insurance in order to receive a parking permit.** Upon arrival at school, students are to go directly into the building and are not to remain in their cars. During school hours, any student with an approved early dismissal who transports a student who does not have a valid early dismissal is subject to disciplinary action. Again, parking is a privilege – not a right. **A parking permit will not be issued to students who have failed to pay fees that were accrued during their previous year(s) at the MCCTC/Valley STEM.** Parking permits may be revoked for:

- A. Attendance
- B. Excessive tardiness
- C. Truancy/class cutting
- D. Sitting in vehicle at unauthorized times
- E. Illegal parking
- F. Suspension
- G. Reckless operation
- H. Other acts in violation of student handbook
- I. Excessive speed
- J. Loud stereo or other noise ordinance violations

Regulations:

1. The student must register the car and secure a parking permit from the SRO.
2. Students are not permitted to go into the parking areas until the end of the school day unless the student receives permission from a member of the administrative staff or security office.
3. Students must park in assigned areas and within spaces.
4. Students must follow the rules and regulations established by the administration.
5. All vehicles parked on school property must have a parking permit hanging from the inside rearview mirror facing the front of the car.
6. Students may not use a permit that is not registered to them. (No sharing)
7. The school is not responsible for any automobile or its contents.
8. Vehicles not abiding by the parking regulations may be subject to tow at the owner's expense.

Violations of parking regulations will cause progressive discipline, may include:

- 1st offense – Warning
- Any further offenses will be considered Insubordination/Failure to Comply and subject to punitive measures including revocation of parking/driving privileges.

MCCTC & Valley STEM School Bus Rules (Field Trips)

Riding the school bus is a privilege. Improper conduct on the buses will result in that privilege being denied.

1. Students must go directly to an available or assigned seat. (Ohio Law 3301.83.08)
2. Students must remain seated, keeping aisles and exits clear. (Ohio Law 3301.83.08)
3. Students must observe classroom conduct. All school rules apply on the bus. Obey the driver promptly and respectfully. (Ohio Law 3301.83.08)
4. Students must not throw or pass objects on, from or into the bus. (Ohio Law 3301.83.08)
5. Students must not extend any part of their bodies out the bus windows. (Ohio Law 3301.83.08)
6. Students are to remain absolutely quiet at railroad crossings until the bus completely crossed and the driver says it is OK to talk. (Ohio Law 3301.83.08)
7. Cell phones, recording devices, and/or other electronic devices are not to be used and may be confiscated

Searches

School authorities are charged with the responsibility of safeguarding the safety and well-being of the students in their care. In the discharge of that responsibility, school authorities may search the person or property, including vehicles of a student, with or without a student's consent, whenever they reasonably suspect that the search is required to discover evidence of a violation of law or of school rules. The extent of the search will be governed by the seriousness of the alleged infraction and the student's age. **Search dogs may be brought in to search vehicles and/or school property.**

Cameras

For student safety and welfare, video surveillance cameras are placed throughout the building and school grounds and on buses. Actions recorded on these cameras may be used as evidence in disciplinary action. Any attempt to damage or interfere with the function of these devices will result in disciplinary action by the school and possible referral to local law enforcement agencies.

Artificial Intelligence (AI)

Guidance and Resources for Teachers, Students and Parents to Advance AI Readiness in Ohio Schools can be found at the following web address: <https://innovateohio.gov/aitoolkit/ai-toolkit>.

Emergency Driving

If you do not regularly drive to school, and it becomes necessary for you to drive due to an emergency, you must obtain a temporary parking permit for your vehicle in the school resource officer's office. Those who violate the above regulations risk the loss of the privilege of driving to school and may face disciplinary action. Detailed driving and parking procedures will be issued upon registration for a parking permit.

Textbooks

Textbooks may be issued by your instructors. These texts are supplied by the MCCTC, but any appropriate workbooks must be purchased by the student. Students are required to keep books in good condition and will be held responsible for damage or loss. Upon issuance of the books, they become the responsibility of the student. If the book is lost or damaged, the student's report card and any credits earned are withheld until the book is paid for by the student. The price which the student may be required to pay for all lost or damaged books will be based on repair or current replacement cost.

Care of School Property

You are sharing the use of one of the finest educational facilities in the State of Ohio. We are proud of our school and hope that you will share our pride. The appearance and proper maintenance of our school depends, in large measure, on the student body. We are depending on you to do your part to help us have attractive and workable equipment and facilities.

Our school is a public school and, as such, is also used by the community. The general attitude of our students is reflected in the care of the facilities. If we all try to keep the building and equipment in good condition, we are telling the taxpayers that we appreciate their continuing support.

Because the care of equipment and facilities is a cooperative task, the following guidelines apply:

1. Report any damage to a staff member immediately.
2. Stay clear of areas to which you have not been assigned.
3. Avoid carelessness that may result in accidents or damage.
4. Persons who are caught marking, painting or otherwise defacing furniture or other school property will face disciplinary action, which may include: suspension or expulsion. Restitution will be required.

The pride that you hold in your school is strongly reflected by the manner in which you care for it.

Hall Traffic

In order to insure an efficient flow of traffic at the MCCTC and Valley STEM, we ask your cooperation in following these simple rules:

1. Three minutes will be allowed for changing classes.
2. No student should be in the hall during class time unless the student has a hall pass signed by a staff member.
3. Running and loitering in the halls and commons area are prohibited.
4. Voices will be kept to normal tones.
5. Students who become overly affectionate present an embarrassing appearance to their fellow students, as well as to the MCCTC and Valley STEM. This behavior is forbidden. Detentions or other disciplinary action can be issued by teachers for extending pass time or violation of hall or school rules.
6. Students are prohibited from fraternizing with Adult Education students.

Lockers

Each student will be assigned a locker if desired as close as possible to their career & technical lab, shop area, or 1st period class. For your own protection, keep your locker combination to yourself. You should not share your locker with another student. Your instructor can help you resolve any difficulty you may encounter with your locker. Students are expected to secure books and materials for each segment of the school day, thereby eliminating the need for frequent trips to the lockers.

Lockers, desks, cabinets and similar property are property of the school and as such, they and their contents may be searched at any time and without warning. Please note that there is no expectation of privacy when using a school locker. The school district is not responsible for items stolen from lockers. **Search dogs may be brought in at the discretion of school authorities.**

Announcements

General announcements will be made each morning. Announcements may also appear on the TV message boards in the commons area and cafeteria. Dismissals for homeschool activities will be announced upon arrival of the buses.

Cafeteria Point of Sale

Our school operates a free and reduced lunch program for certain students. If you feel you may qualify for this program on the basis of your family's financial situation, you may contact the Food Services Director, Jennifer Schiraldi at ext. 1351 or check the link on the school website. Guidelines and procedures will be posted online. The MCCTC and Valley STEM never want to see a student go hungry, if a student forgets lunch money, they are to see the administrator on duty in the cafeteria. If a student is not on free or reduced lunch, the charge for a school meal will be applied to the student's school fees.

Lunch Period

Each student will have a thirty-minute lunch period. **All students eating lunch must do so in the cafeteria.** No food or beverages may be taken out of the cafeteria. Students shall display acceptable table manners at all times in the cafeteria. Students must keep the tables clean; the chairs in line and the floor clear of food and paper. You are expected to clean your area and discard all trash into proper receptacles before leaving the cafeteria.

- Students may not leave the school and return with, or have food delivered from restaurants or food delivery services (i.e., GrubHub, Uber Eats, DoorDash, Seamless, etc.).
- Food and beverages may not be taken from the cafeteria or eaten in classrooms or labs.
- Students who cut into food lines may be subject to disciplinary action.

At no time during the lunch period may students leave the cafeteria without permission, or be in the parking lots, nor may they leave the school grounds. During the lunch periods, students are restricted to the cafeteria. Students may not leave the cafeteria area for any reason other than to use the restroom.

Nurse / Medication

The school clinic, staffed by a full-time registered nurse, is equipped to provide for emergency treatment of injury or illness that may occur during the day. Should you become ill or injured during the day, you should fill out the **“REQUEST TO SEE A NURSE”** link on the website. If it's an **EMERGENCY**, you may report directly to the clinic. Students must have a pass from the classroom teacher before reporting to the clinic. Students without a pass will be sent back to class. If the nurse feels it is necessary for you to be sent home, your parent(s) or guardian(s) will first be contacted. Students who become ill after arriving at school may be sent home only by the school nurse. The school nurse maintains a health folder for each student that contains information concerning the student's health records, a listing of any medication that a student might be using, and other important health-related data.

In order to ensure the safety of students in dispensing medication, any medication that a student is to take during school hours must be registered and kept locked in the clinic. A [Medication Administration Record](#) must be completed by the parent/guardian and a physician (if prescribed). Medication will only be administered in the school clinic. “Medication” shall include all medicines including those prescribed by a doctor and any non-prescribed (over-the-counter) drugs, preparations and/or remedies. In case of a lockdown emergency, students need to maintain a complete 3-day supply at all times. A wheelchair and/or crutches are available for emergency use only. Students who need such items on an ongoing basis must provide their own.

Publications

All publications are subject to approval by school administration. This also applies to underground publications.

Computer and Technology Resources

Computers are available in career & technical labs, computer technology resource centers throughout the building, and available Chromebooks. Equipment and software are regularly updated, well maintained and provide an excellent opportunity for students to learn and enhance their career & technical skills. Student use of computers and other technological resources shall be in accordance with established school rules. Failure to do so will result in disciplinary action. School equipment is for school assignments, not for personal use or entertainment.

Computer use at the MCCTC/Valley STEM is encouraged and available to students for educational purposes. The school reserves the right to inspect, copy, and/or delete all files and records created or stored on school owned computers (This includes Chromebook).

Use of the MCCTC/Valley STEM Net Access and telecommunications is a privilege, is restricted to school-related projects, and must be supervised by the teaching staff. The Area Cooperative Computerized Educational Service System (ACCESS) provides electronic mail and Internet access services. All students and parents must read the “Acceptable Use Policy” and submit a “Student User Agreement” before an account is established to permit use. This agreement is available on our website. MCCTC/Valley STEM and/or ACCESS reserve the right to revoke these privileges.

Fire Drills

Fire drills will be held periodically throughout the school year. Directions for exiting the building will be posted in each lab, shop and classroom area; you will be given additional oral instructions from your teacher. Students are to walk to the nearest exit and then proceed from there as directed by instructors. If an exit is blocked, the nearest alternate route should be taken. Teachers will cover fire regulations with each class.

Fire Drill Regulations:

1. Walk single file - do not run.
2. Close all doors.
3. Turn off all lights.
4. Turn off all electrical equipment and machinery.
5. All torches must be turned off.
6. Exit by assigned doors.
7. Do not stop at your locker, the lavatory or the drinking fountain.
8. All students are to proceed immediately to their assigned safety areas.
9. Classes shall remain together as a group; attendance will be taken.
10. If the alarm sounds between periods or during lunch, evacuate the building through the nearest exit and proceed to the location previously designated by your career & technical teacher.
11. Wait quietly at your station until the signal to return is given to you by your instructor.
12. Return directly to your classroom or lab.

Students whose special physical needs require assistance should contact the nurse at the beginning of the school year.

Tornado Drills

In case of a tornado warning or a tornado warning drill, an announcement will be made over the PA system. This system is designed to function in the event of an electrical power failure. Students must follow the directions of their teachers and move quickly to their assigned areas.

Lockdown Procedures

Students are to proceed to the nearest classroom. In the classroom, students should move to the rear of the room, away from the doors and windows. Students will stay in the classroom until released by an administrator or public safety official. ALICE protocols will be followed in the case of an emergency.

Visitors

Students are not to bring guests to school. Any exception to this rule must be approved by the central office prior to the guest's arrival. If a visitor is a student of one of the thirteen participating schools, arrangements to visit the school will be made with the guidance department or principal of the home school during the orientation periods that have been planned for each home school. All MCCTC and Valley STEM visitors should enter the building by the main entrance (Door #1); they must register at the main office using a valid state ID or driver's license. All school personnel have the right to exclude all uninvited or unauthorized persons from school premises.

Parents, civic groups, organizations, clubs, and business groups are all encouraged to visit the school. Special arrangements may be made for persons wishing to visit the career center by contacting the Central Office.

Students are expected to display courtesy and hospitality to any visitor in our school. The image you leave with these visitors may have a lasting effect upon your future and the reputation of our school.

Telephone

Telephone messages generally will not be relayed to students during the day. **Emergency messages from a parent/guardian only will be relayed to the student by a member of the office staff.** Students normally will not be called from class unless the situation warrants such action and only with permission of the student's family. Parents are asked to assist the school in keeping phone calls to students to a minimum. **Students will not receive a pass from class to make calls.** Office telephones are to be used only with the permission of a staff member.

Lost and Found

Each student has the responsibility for keeping their personal possessions in a safe and secure place. Lockers are provided for this purpose. It is inevitable that articles will be lost or misplaced. Each student should do their part to see that all lost items are returned to the rightful owner. A lost and found department is maintained in ISD. If you find an item, it should be turned into the ISD (In-School Detention room).

Guidelines for Dress and Personal Appearance

To best prepare you for employment, your instructors will advise you concerning what you should wear and how you should dress. Their suggestions will be based upon the knowledge of what employers expect of an employee within their given career pathway.

Our primary concerns are conditions affecting the health and safety of students. Depending upon the nature of a student's career & technical program, uniforms with shirt tails tucked in, safe footwear, special gloves, provisions for hair length, safety glasses, shields, and/or other safety equipment may be required.

It is the policy of the Mahoning County Career and Technical Center Board of Education to recognize the rights and privileges of each student in the matters of dress and appearance to the extent that the exercise of that right does not interfere with the orderly process of education. Dress or appearance that is disruptive of the classroom or school atmosphere is not allowed. Expectations for dress and personal appearance include, but are not limited to the following:

1. **ID badges must be worn at all times.**
2. Outerwear must cover underwear.
3. Shorts, skirts, and shirts must be of appropriate length and provide adequate coverage. **The following are strictly prohibited for all students: bare midriff, crop tops, tank tops, slippers and pajama pants.**

4. Hoods, sunglasses, and/or other head coverings (unless for medical or religious/cultural purposes) that could obstruct the identification of students are prohibited for safety and security reasons.
5. Students are strictly prohibited from wearing and/or being in possession of blankets or stuffed animals for security reasons.
6. Shoes must be worn at all times for health and safety reasons. **Students are prohibited from wearing slippers.**
7. All clothing must be worn for its intended purpose.

The school administration will make the final decision regarding appearance/dress code violations. Repeated violations may result in other disciplinary action pursuant to the Student Code of Conduct (Rule 16), which may include, but is not limited to a student conference, parent/guardian notification, parent/guardian conference, In-School Detention discipline, Saturday School, suspension and/or expulsion depending on the circumstances. The discipline progression is as follows:

- 1st violation = Warning and correction; subject to Administrative discretion.
- 2nd violation = 1 day of ISD and correction; subject to Administrative discretion.
- 3rd violation = 2 days of ISD and correction; subject to Administrative discretion.
- 4th violation = 3 days of ISD and correction; subject to Administrative discretion.
- **5th violation and beyond will result in OSS; subject to Administrative discretion.**

Code of Student Conduct

The MCCTC and Valley STEM strive to provide students with the opportunity and motivation to learn. Students attending our school have the right to expect educational opportunities free from disruption. This implies an obligation to be aware of the rights of others, to be responsible for maintaining acceptable behavior while attending school and all school-related activities, and to be responsible for the consequences of their actions.

Student discipline is designed to create positive behavior and to encourage acceptable educational and social behavior for a safe and productive learning atmosphere. The development of positive behavior on the part of students is the responsibility of the entire school community.

The MCCTC and Valley STEM will not tolerate any form of violence, disruptive or inappropriate behavior, nor truancy. Discipline will be administered in a fair and just manner.

This code of student conduct sets down those guidelines that the school expects its citizens to follow. All students must adhere to this code of conduct. These guidelines are in force during any school-related activity or while the student is on the job associated with their career & technical program. Whenever a student is representing the MCCTC & Valley STEM the code of student conduct applies.

A violation of any rule may result in disciplinary action, which would be in the form of a teacher detention, parental notification, an in-school detention, Saturday School, out-of-school suspension, expulsion, emergency removal, referral to law enforcement agency and restitution. The District has **zero tolerance** of violent, disruptive, harassing, intimidating, bullying or any other inappropriate behavior by its students. A student may be expelled up to one year if they commit an act that inflicts serious physical harm to persons or property if it was committed at school, on other school property, or at a student activity, event, or program.

The MCCTC and Valley STEM recognizes the basic Constitutional Rights of all its students. It should be emphasized to students that responsibilities accompany their rights. The following rule violations should be sufficient grounds for administration and/or the MCCTC Board of Education to initiate disciplinary action stated in the previous paragraph. The administration reserves the right to review and adjust disciplinary actions on a case-by-case basis. The following shall be sufficient grounds for disciplinary action against any student(s) found to be in violation of any action(s) listed below at school or school-related function.

Students, who are suspended or expelled, may not be on school property, participate or attend any school (Valley STEM, MCCTC, or home school) functions, contests, or be present at activities on property controlled by the school or school officials.

The content of this student handbook and the *Code of Student Conduct* applies to all students and activities related to summer participation. Failure to meet the expectations established by this handbook may result in disciplinary action

and/or removal from the summer program(s). This may include Aviation Maintenance program requirements, summer school, state board testing, summer camps, and the like.

Section I

Rule 1 Misconduct Off School Property: Student shall not engage in misconduct (1) that is off of district property but that is connected to activities or incidents that have occurred on district property, and (2) misconduct by a student, that, regardless of where it occurs, is directed at a district official or employee or the property of a district official or employee.

Rule 2 Disruption/Major Disruption: A student's behavior shall not cause or contribute to the disruption of any class, program, activity, function or service approved by the MCCTC Board of Education. A disturbance determined by the administration to be major may result in an out-of-school suspension for students involved.

Rule 3 Vandalism/Damage: A student shall not vandalize or cause damage to public or private property. This includes defacement.

Rule 4 Inciting a Fight/Fighting: A student shall not cause physical injury or behave in such a way that could threaten to cause physical injury to school staff, other students or visitors while under the jurisdiction of the school. A student shall not endanger another one's well-being. **Depending on the severity, the student may not only be suspended out of school but also, possibly recommended for expulsion.**

Rule 5 Tobacco/Electronic Cigarettes, Vapes, and Electronic Smoking Devices: A student shall not be permitted to possess, sell, smoke or use tobacco/nicotine products in any form in the school buildings or on school property, before, during or after school. This includes all types of e-cigarettes, vaporizers, battery powered smoking devices, Juuls, etc. This also includes any "chemicals" intended for e-cigarette use. (Vape liquid/juice)

Violation of Rule 5 may result in the following:

- **1st write-up = 4 hour Saturday School with mandatory Vape Education classes**
- **2nd = 3 day OSS with citation from the Canfield Police**
- **3rd = 5 day OSS with citation from the Canfield Police**
- **4th = Student will be suspended for 10 days, Canfield Police citation and possible expulsion**

Rule 6 Truancy/Leaving Building/Class Cutting: A student is declared truant when the student is absent from school for the day and/or any portion of the day without parent's consent or school authorization. Leaving the school without permission is an act of truancy. Class cutting is also considered an act of truancy.

Rule 7 Disrespect/Insubordination/Failure to Comply: A student shall not fail to comply with reasonable requests of administrators, faculty, substitutes, student teachers, teacher's aides, or any other authorized school personnel, during the time when the student is under the jurisdiction of the school. Depending on the severity of the act, the student will be disciplined as showing disrespect or insubordination. Insubordination may be dealt with by assigning

out-of-school suspension. A student providing false information during the time they are being questioned regarding an incident will be viewed as insubordination.

Rule 8 Harassment/Hazing/Bullying: A student shall not threaten, act to participate in any act that degrades, disgraces, or tends to endanger the well-being of a student or employee of the school. Such acts are viewed as hazing or harassment. Some possible acts of the above would include: written or oral innuendoes; jokes; insults; disparaging remarks of gender, national origin, religious beliefs, physical stature, and disabilities; suggestive gestures; and unwanted bodily contact. Acts such as posting slurs on websites where students congregate or on web logs. Sending abusive or threatening text or instant messages. Using camera phones to embarrass or endanger the well-being of another. Using websites to circulate gossip and rumors to other students. This includes “sexual harassment” by means of unwelcome physical contact, sexually explicit language or gestures, uninvited or unwanted sexual advances, or an offensive overall environment including the use of vulgar language, the presence of sexually explicit photographs or other materials, and the telling of sexual stories/jokes. This also includes any form of cyberbullying. Dating violence is a form of harassment, intimidation and/or bullying. If such behavior occurs at school it will be subject to punishment. If any person believes that they are a victim of such acts, the person should report the incident to school administrators. Any case of harassment or bullying needs to be reported to Mr. Sandy immediately via in person, phone 330-729-4004 or email ralph.sandy@mahoningctc.com. If you would like to anonymously report a bullying incident, you may call or text the **Safer Ohio Schools tip line at 844-723-3764**.

Rule 9 Profanity: A student shall not use profanity, obscene language or gestures, or euphemisms, written or verbal, in communication with any faculty member, student, authorized school personnel or visitor.

Rule 10 Forgery/Misapplication of a Pass/False Reporting: A student shall not forge, alter, or misuse school records, parent’s notes, medical and court excuses, or any other school authorized passes or forms. Submitting any forged or altered excuse, note, or form to school personnel is a violation of this rule. Falsely reporting a student off is also a violation of this rule. A student shall not make a false statement, a false accusation, or provide false information that in any way defames or damages the reputation of another student or staff member. A student shall not make a false report or issue a false statement that results in the reporting of an incident of child abuse to children’s services or law enforcement agencies.

Rule 11 Cheating/Plagiarizing/Dishonesty: Any form of dishonesty including cheating, plagiarism, altering or using school documents with intent to defraud, or providing false information to school personnel may result in disciplinary action. This includes AI generated school work.

Rule 12 Computer Policy: A student shall not use a school computer to access the Internet without signing the school’s “Acceptable Computer Use Policy”. In addition, each student must abide by the classroom rules established by each teacher in the usage of the computer. Attempted hacking or maliciously trying to harm the school’s network, data, software or hardware may result in suspension and/or expulsion.

Rule 13 **Extortion/Threats/Intimidation:** A student shall not threaten with physical violence or coerce by any means any student, teacher, or other school employee or visitor. A student shall not urge another student or person to threaten with physical violence or coerce by any means any student, teacher, or other school employee or visitor. Intimidation shall include, but is not limited to threats used to extort money or any other item of value from another student or person.

Rule 14 **Gang Activities:** A student shall not engage in gang-related activities including but not limited to: writing in gang language or symbols on notebooks/book covers/papers; showing colors/wearing gang apparel; initiations; intimidation and recognizing other gang members.

Rule 15 **Aiding/Abetting:** A student shall not aid or abet another student that is acting in violation of any rule stated in the code of conduct. The students in violation of this rule will be subject to the same discipline.

Rule 16 **Appearance/Dress Code:** A student shall not violate the *Guidelines for Dress and Personal Appearance* as stated in the student handbook.

Rule 17 **Classroom Rules/School Rules:** It is the student's responsibility to know and understand the classroom rules (classroom plans) presented by their instructor. In some instances, the classroom rules may be more demanding than the school rules. All students are to adhere to classroom rules.

Rule 18 **Cell Phones and Electronic Devices:** The school provides Chromebooks for all students. The use of unauthorized electronic equipment may result in confiscation from the student by school personnel and/or disciplinary action may be taken. The district will allow students to bring their own cellular device, however in the classroom/lab setting these devices must be kept off and be out of sight. **No cellphone use is permitted in the instructional setting (lab or classroom) due to students having access to a one-to-one device (Chromebook).** These devices can only be used outside of the classroom or lab (hallways and cafeteria). The only exception is for students who require a cellular device to monitor a health concern. This is all in accordance with [Ohio House Bill 250](#).

The taking, disseminating, transferring, receiving, or sharing of obscene, pornographic, lewd, or otherwise illegal images/photographs or videos, whether by electronic data transfer (i.e., texting, emailing, posting, etc.) or otherwise distributing or obtaining may constitute a crime under state and/or federal law. Any person taking, disseminating, transferring, receiving, or sharing obscene, pornographic, lewd, or otherwise illegal images/photographs or videos may be punished under this code of conduct and will be reported to law enforcement and/or other appropriate state or federal agencies, which may result in arrest, criminal prosecution and lifetime inclusion on sexual offender registries.

Violation of Rule 18 may result in the following:

- **1st write-up = Warning**
- **2nd = 1 day ISD**
- **3rd = 3 days ISD**
- **4th/5th = 4 hour Saturday school**
- **6th and after = OSS**

Rule 19 **Unauthorized recording:** A student shall not record, videotape, or photograph on school property or at a school function without permission from the administration.

Rule 20 **Gambling:** Students shall not engage in card playing or promote games of chance, placing of bets, or risk anything of value, on school grounds or at school-sponsored or related functions.

Rule 21 **Unauthorized or Unsupervised Areas:** Students may not be in areas for which they have not been authorized or areas that are unsupervised.

Rule 22 **Trespassing:** A student shall not be on school property without proper school personnel authorization. A student who has been expelled, suspended out of school, or on removal from school or activity shall not enter onto school property. Such an act would be trespassing.

Rule 23 **Repeated Offender:** A student shall not be a repeated offender of the rules of student handbook. If a student consistently breaks the rules, they will be considered a Section 2 offender, which may result in expulsion.

Rule 24 **Inappropriate Display of Affection:** Students shall refrain from displays of affection. Students are not to hug, kiss or demonstrate other similar acts of affection.

Rule 25 **Safety Violations:** Students must follow all safety rules and regulations set forth by the school/CT labs. Uniforms, safety gear and all other regulations must be followed. **Students must wear their ID badge at all times.** Opening an outside door for any reason would fall into this category. Failure to do so may result in disciplinary action.

Violation of Rule 25 may result in the following:

- 1st write-up which will be the students 3rd offense = 1 day ISD
- 2nd = 3 days ISD
- 3rd = 3 days ISD
- 4th = 1 day OSS
- 5th and 6th = 3 days OSS
- 7th and 8th = 5 days OSS
- 9th and more = 10 days OSS with possible expulsion

Active disciplinary action will be taken toward a student who violates the above rules. Students who accumulate more than 18 days of out-of-school suspension may be recommended for expulsion.

Section II

Zero tolerance is maintained by the district. A student who is in violation of the following rules may be issued a (10) ten-day suspension by the administration with the recommendation for expulsion. Grounds for expulsion may include but are not limited to:

Rule 1 **Theft:** A student shall not steal, conspire to steal or benefit from the theft of any item or have unauthorized possession of any item.

Rule 2 **Drugs:** A student shall not use/consume, have evidence of consumption/use, possess, distribute, and offer to sell or conceal any drug, narcotic, mind-altering substance, look-alike drug or paraphernalia. This includes vapes, dab pens, wax pens, oil pens, transdermals and/or other devices containing THC or any other illicit drug or substance.

Rule 3 **Alcohol:** A student shall not possess, use/consume, have evidence of consumption/use, transmit, sell or conceal any alcoholic beverage.

Rule 4 **False Fire Alarm/Setting a Fire:** A student shall not set off a false fire alarm or defibrillator or set a fire on school property.

Rule 5 **Explosive Devices or Bomb Threats:** A student shall not be in possession of, set off or threaten to set off an explosive device (i.e., bomb, firecracker, etc.) Ammunition of any kind is considered an explosive device and is prohibited on school property.

Rule 6 **Knives and Other Weapons:** A student shall not possess, use, transmit or conceal a knife or any object that might be considered a dangerous weapon or instrument of violence, including look-alike weapons. "Knife" refers to any instrument that possesses a pointed or sharp-edged blade of metal or other rigid material that is designed or can be used for cutting, slicing, piercing or stabbing. This definition shall include, but is not limited to, straight razors, utility knives, box-cutters, ice picks, pocket knives, and switchblades. Ammunition would fall into this category as an "instrument of violence."

Rule 7 **Firearms:** Federal law requires that any student who brings a firearm on school property in a school vehicle or to any school-sponsored activity is to be expelled from school for a period of one year. A firearm, under the federal law, is defined as:

- Any weapon (including a starter gun) which will, is designed to or may be readily converted to expel a projectile by action of an explosive;
- The frame or revolver of any such weapon;
- Any firearm muffler or firearm silencer; or any destructive device, which includes, but is not limited to, any explosive, incendiary, poisonous gas or other device similar to the devices described above.
- Look-alike firearms would also fall into the category (i.e., BB gun, replica gun, airsoft gun, etc.).

Rule 8 **Other Violent Acts/Assault/Threats of Violence:** Students shall not commit or be involved in violent acts that occur at or on school property or at an interscholastic competition, extracurricular event, or any other school program or activity. The acts included are those that (1) would be criminal offenses if committed by an adult, and (2) result in serious physical harm to persons or property. The threat of physical harm towards a staff member would fall into this category.

Rule 9 **Laws:** A student's conduct shall not violate federal, state or local laws. A student who violates certain school rules should, therefore, understand that charges may be filed at any time during the disciplinary process. This shall

include all above mentioned rules in Section II including but not limited to any sexual or lewd acts committed on school grounds.

Rule 10 Consistent Disruptive Behavior/Referrals: A student who continually gets written up for disruption of the school and other Section I offenses may be subject to expulsion. Consistent Section I offenses fall into this category.

Due Process Rights

Before a student is suspended, expelled, or permanently excluded from school, there are specific procedures that must be followed.

As long as the in-school discipline is served entirely in the school setting, it will not require any notice or meeting, or be subject to appeal.

Emergency Removal

If a student's presence poses a continuing danger to persons or property or an ongoing threat of disrupting the academic process, the Superintendent, principal, assistant principal or personnel employed to direct, supervise or coach a student activity program may remove the student from the premises.

In-School Detention

Depending on staffing, in-school detention may or may not be available. Students placed in in-school detention will be given credit for class work completed during the time they are in in-school detention. Students, who do not conduct themselves properly, will be removed and scheduled for out-of-school suspension. Restroom breaks will be scheduled and a lunch break will be given. Parents do not receive written notice for in-school detention. In-school detention *DOES NOT* count against a student's attendance hours.

- In-School Detention Room will be subject to classroom rules.
- Students must talk with their teachers a day prior or in the morning of serving ISD to gather school work. This must be done before the tardy bell at 8:00.
- Students will work the entire time while in ISD.

Saturday School

Students must attend school on a designated Saturday. There will be a 2-hour and 4-hour punishment. Transportation will **NOT** be provided. The student must bring their Chromebook and work to do for the entire length of their punishment. Students will be allowed one reschedule per school year. A missed Saturday School = 2 days OSS.

Suspension

The length of the suspension will be at the discretion of the administrator involved. Out-of-school suspensions are considered unexcused, all work must be submitted the day the student returns from suspension and all work will be subjected to a reduction in points (20% reduction). It is the responsibility of the student to get missed work from staff while on suspension. (Email, Google Classroom, phone call...etc.) All suspensions are reciprocal between the home school and the MCCTC/Valley STEM. Thus, a student suspended from the MCCTC/Valley STEM will not be permitted to attend the home school during the period of suspension.

A student must be given written notice of a suspension, the reason for the suspension, and the opportunity to respond to the charges prior to the suspension. The decision may be appealed to the superintendent. Any student who has been suspended from school on three separate occasions during one school year may be subject to possible expulsion from school. If a student is suspended for an infraction of a rule at the home school, the student will not be permitted to attend the MCCTC/Valley STEM during the period of suspension.

Expulsion

In cases where various disciplinary measures have been taken and the problem continues or in cases of certain serious offenses, the Superintendent may expel the student from the school for a maximum of 80 days. Violation of Section II, Rule 6 and/or 7 may result in an expulsion for up to one (1) calendar year.

A student who is expelled from the MCCTC/Valley STEM will receive a grade of zero for each day of expulsion. For any grading period that the student accumulates 10 days of expulsion, they will fail for that grading period. A junior student who is expelled for a semester may not be permitted to enroll in the senior program.

A student and their parent or guardian must be given written notice of the intention to expel, the reasons, and an opportunity to appear with a representative before the superintendent to answer the charges. During an expulsion period, students may not enroll in any other public school or any university/college.

Grading Policy

A	90.0 - 100.0+
B	89.9 - 80.0
C	79.9 - 70.0
D	69.9 - 69.0
F	59.9 - 50

Students cannot receive less than a 50% in a 9 week grading period. **Students cannot fail more than two 9 week grading periods AND / OR fail the 2nd semester in the school year.** If a student fails more than any two 9 week grading periods or if they fail the 2nd semester students will receive a failing grade for the course.

Examples:	<u>1st</u>	<u>2nd</u>	<u>3rd</u>	<u>4th</u>	<u>Pass / Fail Class</u>
	50%	50%	70%	70%	Pass (overall grade 60%)
	90%	70%	50%	50%	Fail (failed 2nd sem)
	50%	55%	85%	50%	Fail (failed 3 grading periods)
	50%	50%	70%	60%	Fail (58% yearly cumulative)

Students need to perform consistently to maintain a passing average because final grades will be calculated by percentages in the four quarters, not by a point system for the letter grades. Certificates, passports, transcripts, report cards or records will not be given out or sent until all fees and fines are paid.

Credit

All MCCTC students must enroll in one career & technical lab class. Academic classes are scheduled based on the diploma requirements for the high school that will be issuing the diploma. All Valley STEM students are enrolled in coursework per the Ohio Department of Education graduation requirements.

CTE College Credit Articulation and CTAG Credits

MCCTC students may earn college credit for coursework completed at the MCCTC. This credit is given to those who show mastery of the competencies identified in career & technical courses.

The MCCTC has agreements with several institutions to make this possible. Your career and technical instructor and/or the guidance office can provide information about these postsecondary options. In addition, the MCCTC offers college credit plus (CCP) opportunities for academic and some career and technical programs. See our website under the guidance tab for checklists, Board of Education policy and required forms for these various opportunities.

Online Education and Career Planning Tool

This information is posted in compliance with ORC3313.89. In compliance with ORC6301.15, the Ohio Director of Job and Family Services, in consultation with the Ohio Superintendent of Public Instruction and the Director of the Governor's Office of Workforce Transformation, has developed an online education and career planning tool to assist

students in developing education and career plans. In compliance with ORC3313.89, each public high school is to provide information regarding the online education and career planning tool, including the internet web site address for the planning tool and a link to that website.

The planning tool that has been developed by the Ohio Director of Job and Family Services, in consultation with the Ohio Superintendent of Public Instruction and the Director of the Governor's Office of Workforce Transformation is OhioMeansJobs K-12.

Its planning tool includes features such as:

- Guided tour and recommended activities
- Online backpack to save and view information
- Career interest survey
- Career information by keyword or industry
- Budget and cost of living tools and information

The website and link to access these tools is www.ohiomeansjobs.com.

Guidance Department

Recognizing the need for comprehensive guidance, counseling and placement services within the school, the MCCTC and Valley STEM provides a guidance department staffed by trained, certified school counselors. The MCCTC Guidance Office is located in the front hallway and Valley STEM Guidance Office is located by door 4.

You can make an appointment to see a school counselor by requesting an appointment on our website. The tab **“Request To See A Counselor”** will email your school counselor of your request. If it is an emergency, it is best to stop at the office.

The school counselors are available to help with any number of concerns that may arise. Information is available on apprenticeships and post high school educational opportunities including colleges and technical schools, financial aid for further education, armed services alternatives, occupational information, career planning, and personal concerns.

For MCCTC students, often the school counselor is the best source of communication with the home school. Your counselor can help you find the answers to your status at the home school regarding graduation, your home school's policies regarding being a MCCTC student, or any related matters.

Other important career, college, and social emotional resources can be found on both websites under the guidance tabs.

All final transcripts needed by seniors are available from the home school district. At all other times you can request a transcript by completing the form on the website labeled: “Transcript Release Form.”

Drug Free Schools Statement

The MCCTC and Valley STEM are drug free campuses. The MCCTC and Valley STEM recognizes the scope of society's concerns about drug and alcohol use. This concern is reflected in the statistics that define the drug and alcohol problem in the U.S.

- At least 25% of all school children are seriously affected by the alcohol/drug abuse of parents.
- It has been estimated that approximately one-third of all causes of preventable deaths in the U.S. are related to complications of alcohol abuse.
- Chemical dependency accounts for more than one-half of all suicides in our nation, not including deaths due to accidental drug overdoses.
- During adolescence, abuse of alcohol and other mood-altering substances is either directly or indirectly a major cause of traffic fatalities.

We recognize that chemical dependency is a serious disease. This disease is treatable, but if left untreated, it can be fatal.

There are resources available to you. If you have questions or concerns, please feel free to contact, **Christine Baglama – School Nurse, at the school number (330) 729-4000, ext. 1130, from 7:50 am until 2:50 pm.** She can provide you with in school resources as well as referrals to local agencies.

Student Change of Address or Phone Number

Any student who changes their address during the year must report the change of address to the guidance office. It may also be necessary for the student to enroll at a new home school if they have changed school districts. Students whose home telephones have changed should also report changes to the guidance office. Correspondence from the school will be sent to the address of record.

Schedule Changes and Transfer to Your Home School

Schedule changes may be requested during the 1st and/or 2nd week of the year. Schedule changes will NOT be permitted after the 2nd week. Students who wish to transfer back to their home school may request to do so. Students must remain at the MCCTC for the first 5 days of school. They may return to their home school during the 2nd week of the school year. Transfer requests must be made to our Guidance Office.

Postsecondary Enrollment Options

Students attending the Mahoning County CTC are eligible to participate in post-secondary enrollment options. The post-secondary enrollment option gives students an opportunity to earn college credit while they are enrolled in high school. Those who are interested in postsecondary enrollment options should contact the Guidance Office.

Graduation

Students enrolled at the MCCTC retain membership in their respective home schools. A student must meet the graduation requirements set by the home school to receive a diploma. MCCTC students will wear their caps and

gowns at our Awards Ceremony in May or June. Students walk one time during their tenure at MCCTC at the conclusion of their first program. Participation in our Awards Ceremony is a privilege – not a right.

Career Passport

Each student is given the support necessary to prepare a career passport. The career passport is a compilation of the student's credentials and achievements received while at the MCCTC. The passport will be a great aid in securing employment upon graduation. Students will be given a career passport at the completion of a program. If a student completes additional programs, a certificate will be issued and may be placed in the Career Passport.

Placement

The MCCTC maintains contact with area business and industry to enable our students to find employment upon graduation. The placement specialist is often contacted by employers seeking full and/or part-time employees. Even after a student has graduated, they can use the placement service at the MCCTC.

Scholarships

Each year scholarships are made available which are designated for career and technical students only. Local community, service, and fraternal organizations provide some of these scholarships. Your best source of information is on the MCCTC and homeschool websites under the guidance tabs by clicking on scholarships.

Student Records

The MCCTC provides access to school records by parents/guardians (if the student is under 18) or by the student (if the student is 18 or older). Students or parents/guardians also have the opportunity to challenge any portion of the contents of the permanent school record, which they deem misleading, inaccurate or inappropriate. The following procedures are set forth to govern the inspection of school records:

1. Only the following persons will be entitled to a student's permanent records
 - a. The parents or guardians of the student if the student is under 18 years of age. A non-custodial parent shall have the same right of access to their child's records as a custodial parent except where access is limited by an agreement between the parents or by a court order.
 - b. The student, if the student is 18 years of age or over.
2. The person desiring to inspect the permanent record must make a request in writing to the guidance department.
3. Within a reasonable period of time, an appointment will be made whereby the person wishing to inspect the records may do so.
4. A member of the guidance staff must be present during inspection of the record to interpret or lend insight into the permanent record.
5. If the person inspecting the record challenges any portion of the permanent record, they may request a hearing with the superintendent or the designated representative.

Eighteen-Year-Old Students

The student 18 years of age or over assumes many responsibilities previously assumed by parents/guardians. While school membership is no longer mandated by law, these students are responsible for regular school attendance, as well as following all rules and regulations as they apply to the student body. Adult students who wish to exercise the rights and responsibilities listed below must request and complete the appropriate forms available through an administrator's office.

Adult Student Rights and Responsibilities

1. Attendance

a. Rights

- i. The adult student may call the office to report their absence from school.
- ii. The adult student may write their own excuse to cover absences.
- iii. The adult student may write their own request for future absence. These requests must follow the guidelines set forth in the "Attendance" section of the student handbook.
- iv. The adult student may write their own request for early dismissal. The procedures for early dismissals will be the same for all students.

b. Responsibilities

- i. The adult student must attend school regularly.
- ii. The adult student may be required to submit a doctor's excuse for absences beyond two consecutive days.
- iii. The adult student may be required to submit a doctor's excuse for all absences beyond seven cumulative days.

2. School Records

a. Rights

- i. The adult student has rights outlined in the student handbook.
- ii. These rights are, in summary:
 1. The adult has the right to inspect their record folder which is located in the guidance office.
 2. No unauthorized person may inspect this folder without permission of the student.
 3. No one may release a copy of any of the information in the student record folder without the permission of the adult student.
 4. The adult student must identify what information they wish to be released and to whom it is released.
 5. The adult student must keep their own file updated with additional information such as change of address, phone number, and school district.
 6. The MCCTC administration reserves the right to inform parents of information by appropriate school personnel.

Student Activities

Career & technical student organizations are recognized as an integral part of all career & technical programs. They include:

1. **Book Club:** The MCCTC/Valley STEM book club is a group of students who meet monthly to discuss books they are reading. We spend an afternoon at Barnes and Noble picking out books the group would like to read the following school year while having dinner at a restaurant. We also plan a spring trip to a major metropolitan city where we explore the theaters, cultures, museums, and history of the city.
2. **Business Professionals of America (BPA):** The Business Professionals of America, Ohio Association is an affiliate of the National Business Professionals of America. This organization is composed of those students enrolled in high school and post-secondary office occupational programs. The MCCTC chapter functions as an integral part of the business education program by providing leadership training for all members. The members learn, through their club and class activities, the inner workings of the business world and participate in professional, financial, civic, service, leadership, and social activities and projects.
3. **Council for Exceptional Children (CEC):** CEC promotes the acceptance of students with special needs. Monthly meetings/activities are held that provide the opportunity for special needs students to interact and socialize with other MCCTC students. Various events including the Winterfest Dance and Special Needs Prom are also attended throughout the school year.
4. **Family, Career, and Community Leaders of America (FCCLA):** Family, Career, and Community Leaders of America is operated under the auspices of Family and Consumer Sciences Education. It is a national organization that helps students to prepare for careers in related areas. FCCLA is an activity that trains youth in leadership in occupational, school, and community activities. Students are eligible to run for local, state, and national offices and awards.
5. **Future Health Professionals (HOSA):** HOSA/FHP is a national career and technical student organization that provides a unique program of leadership development, motivation and recognition exclusively for students enrolled in health occupations education programs. HOSA's mission is to promote career opportunities in the healthcare industry and to enhance the delivery of quality health care to all people. Since HOSA is a student run organization, students will be eligible to run for leadership jobs within the organization at the local, state and national level. Competition and community service are vital parts of HOSA.
6. **Key Club:** Key Club is a service organization sponsored by Western Mahoning County Kiwanis Club. Membership is open to all students at the MCCTC. Projects are designed to help serve the community and the school. All students are welcome to attend the informational meeting that will be held at the beginning of the year
7. **National Technical Honor Society (NTHS):** The National Technical Honor Society has been established at the MCCTC to honor outstanding students. Students are inducted in the spring in a ceremony attended by students, staff, and parents. Students are selected on the basis of their grades, attendance and service to the school.
8. **Robotics Club:** The Robotics Club is committed to fostering student growth and development through competitions in VEX Robotics. Student-led teams will work together to design, build, program, test, and

troubleshoot robots to complete a specific set of tasks that vary each year. Students will compete with and against teams from across Ohio for a chance to qualify for the state championship match.

- 9. School Farm:** The MCCTC School Farm is committed to promoting good nutritional choices in our lives and school by planting, tending, harvesting, and sharing fresh fruits, vegetables, and herbs with our peers, community and those in need. We run every aspect of a 1-acre farm on school grounds both during the school year and over the summer months.
- 10. SkillsUSA:** SkillsUSA is a partnership of students, teachers, and industry working together to ensure America has a skilled workforce. Students can compete in trade programs such as: CNC Mill, CNC Lathe, CNC Technician, Automated Manufacturing, Mechatronics, and Additive Manufacturing. Students may also compete in design/engineering events: Tech Prep Showcase, Engineering and Design, Chapter Display, Community Service, and soft skill competitions such as speech, interview, and many others.
- 11. Student Council:** The Student Council plays an active role within the MCCTC & Valley STEM. It is composed of one student from each career & technical class. Officers are elected by members. Information concerning the requirements to serve as a representative of the Student Council will be given out at the beginning of each school year. A student council suggestion box is located in the resource center.

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