

Castle Hill 127

Student Handbook





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WELCOME
TO THE
CASTLE



WELCOME TO CASTLE HILL MIDDLE SCHOOL 127



Officialms127x

Our primary goal at Castle Hill Middle School is to foster the development of well-rounded learners while nurturing minds. To support our work together this school year, we have outlined our school community values through the acronym "ARMOR." We wear and use ARMOR inside our classrooms, outside in our community and homes; we use ARMOR to succeed academically, socially and emotionally. This acronym will serve our school community in how we interact with each other, how we push ourselves, and how we grow as students and staff. What is our ARMOR?"



www.ms127x.com





Castle Hill Middle School 127 Family is dedicated to equity, high expectations, and dignity for all children. Through student empowerment, community partnerships, and collaboration we will develop critical thinkers ready for the real world challenges of the 21st century.

A ALL-IN!

A commitment to community

We need 100% from the whole school community to achieve personal and academic excellence.

R RELENTLESS

Relentless pursuit of equity for all learners

MS 127 wants to be sure that all students feel seen and heard, in and outside of the classroom

M MANIFEST

Manifest the best version of ourselves

Everyone in the school community should aim to bring their best self to school each day. Let's challenge each other to be our best self daily.

O OWNERSHIP

Ownership over our thoughts, our words, and our actions

We all have a part in your learning. We need students, staff and parents to take responsibility for our parts in that learning. We will take accountability for our actions and words that impact our community.

R REFLECTION

Ask ourselves questions to self-reflect

We want every member of our school community to have a growth mindset- finding ways to overcome challenges and problems, be solution-minded, and focus on our strengths



SCHOOL WIDE EXPECTATIONS

Our school day is from 8:10am - 2:30pm. After 8:25am, students who enter the building will be given a late pass. Regular attendance and being on time are essential to your success as a student, we need you here every day and on time! Excused Absences are only for a verified sickness or other justifiable reason (doctor's note, parent's note must be given to homeroom teacher) No student is allowed to leave the building or the school grounds. The lunch period provides students an opportunity to enjoy the company of friends in a safe environment.

At Castle Hill Middle School, all students are expected to follow the rules listed below in order to ensure a productive, healthy, safe, and pleasant learning environment.

Dress Code

At 127 we know fashion is part of the culture. We encourage students to wear clothes that tap into who they are and what they enjoy. We want students to feel comfortable in our learning community. Students need to wear appropriate clothing, this means clothing with no cursing or explicit language/images, and no language that is offensive to any specific person or group of people. Students also are expected to make sure they wear clothing that covers their body appropriately. School is a professional place therefore we want to model that expectation. No see through clothing/extremely revealing clothing, no short skirts, no pants sagging or no flip flops and crocs. We also have school "drip" that we sell and offer like sweatsuits, hoodies, T-shirts etc. Check us out using this QR code when you get home!



Daily Classroom

On a day to day basis, we expect students to give their best effort in the classroom. That looks like attempting to do the work even when you feel like you're struggling. We don't accept giving up and quitting, we are working to persevere through all challenges, together. Positively communicating with your teachers and peers. Respecting everyone in your classroom.



SCHOOL WIDE EXPECTATIONS

Electronics/Phones

Technology and electronics have become a big part of our world daily, and we want to use it in school the right way. There will be times in class when we use electronics, mostly laptops and computers. The only time electronics should be used are through the guidance of teachers/staff, otherwise electronics won't be used or out for display in school. Phones are also a big part of almost all of our daily lives. Our school is dedicated to helping students learn and develop academically and socially. We want you to be able to do this properly and without distractions. Phones are a big distraction especially for students in school, therefore we expect students to put their phones away in their Yondr pouches. If phones are out at all we will have to hold onto them for you. If this becomes an issue that continues to occur we will have to hold onto the phone until your guardian/parent comes to pick it up.

Transitions

Since we have over 800 students and only two floors, we have such limited space to operate. That's the reason why we have each class stay within their homeroom. Eighth graders are the exception because they are working towards getting ready for the highschool experience. Transitions are when we are switching classes, which sometimes requires going to another room and floor. During these transitions, students should go directly to the destination they are scheduled to be at without any stops, and should be respectful of everyone else in our community. We shouldn't interrupt other students/teachers/classes in any way, be respectful of other people and give them their physical space, let's not bump into each other and play around in the hallways. We get it, after sitting in your homeroom for several classes all day, sometimes you have that built up physical energy and are ready to use it during transitions, but let's save that for the times like gym, lunch and afterschool. Enjoy your walk to class, talk and walk with your friends, and get to where you're going so we can get through our day, respectfully.



SCHOOL WIDE EXPECTATIONS

Cutting Class

We want to have fun while we help students learn and develop and the only way we can do that is by having you in class. Being where you are supposed to be throughout the school day is important for everyone, it's what makes everything flow and operate correctly. Students are considered cutting class if they came to school and are not where they are scheduled to be without official permission. Official permission looks like having a pass signed by a teacher/staff member, or physically with an administrator. Otherwise you will be considered "cutting class." Remaining in class and on schedule is a priority for us as a school, cutting class requires you to restore the time you lost in class, during your lunch period, trips, or during a time you are supposed to participate in extracurricular activities. Stay in class, and don't be shy to let us know what we can do to improve your experience in the classroom, we welcome the feedback.

Property

We need to make sure we take care of our learning community. We are here just as much as we are at our actual homes on a day to day basis. Our school should be treated like a place we are spending most of our time. That looks like us respecting each other's property by not breaking, stealing, or messing with someone else's belongings. Students must take care of school property as if it's their own. If school property is ruined you might be responsible for repairing it. As we keep expressing that this school is where we spend most of our time away from home we want to treat it that way and therefore if you break something or ruin it you are responsible for restoring it. We want to keep our community clean and comfortable.



SCHOOL WIDE EXPECTATIONS

Language

To build culture, you have to connect with others. To connect with others we have to communicate. Language is the most important way to express and communicate. As a school we will continue to build better relationships by communicating with each other and positively. Positively, does not mean we are always on the same page, but it means we don't disrespect any one for any reason. There will be times we make mistakes and hurt someone's feelings but it should never be on purpose, and we will be able to communicate to fix and repair the harm we have done. Let's make sure we are not making disrespectful comments/jokes that will hurt someone. Everyone of course loves to laugh but it should never be at the expense of someone else's feelings. You know what jokes would hurt someone, because you know what would hurt you. If you can't make a joke that won't hurt someone or find another positive way to be funny because that aint it, and won't be accepted in the culture we are continuing to build.

Social Media

We love social media just like you! We even have a 127 school IG page. (if you're not following us, then what are you even doing on there?) Social media platforms are to be used to connect with others and also enjoy appropriate and healthy entertainment. We don't accept the use of social media to harm others, promote the harm of others in any way, and anything that has the potential for negativity. No fight pages, no rating each other pages, you know the type of stuff we are talking about. These types of social media problems can lead to suspensions, that's not what we want for our school community. Come on y'all, let's keep it real and appropriate.



SCHOOL WIDE EXPECTATIONS

Bullying

In our commitment to being all in for our community, bullying is straight up an issue that we won't tolerate. We want everyone to feel comfortable here, no matter what you look like, how you identify, what you believe in, where you come from, or what struggles you have. Protect each other, protect each other's feelings by treating each person with the value they deserve. At 127, no one is above anyone in the way they deserve to be treated. There are many forms of bullying such as physical, emotional, social, cyber etc. Each and every one of them is unacceptable in our learning community. Remember, communicate positively if you notice it happening, if you're around bullying while someone is being treated wrong that is also not acceptable. Let's take care of each other, that includes how we feel.

Fighting

Physically harming someone is NEVER acceptable in our community. The culture of our school encourages us all to build with each other. Of course, there will always be disputes or issues we face when we have different opinions and views, but fighting isn't how we will handle disagreements. If you ever need someone to mediate a disagreement or issue between you and another student(s), you can always request a circle meeting to resolve the conflict. We even have some students trained to help mediate and resolve conflict. We have outlets and ways for you to resolve conflict, fight is never one of them, and we won't tolerate it.



SCHOOL WIDE EXPECTATIONS

Vaping/Smoking

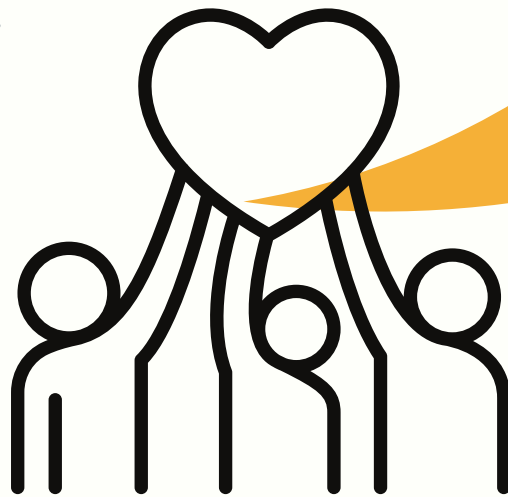
Manifesting the best version of ourselves, includes trying to be at our best mentally, emotionally and physically. Vaping is something that won't be tolerated and most importantly the reason is because it is harmful to those who do it. At the age students are in middle school, it's even more important to stay away from vaping because it can have negative long term health effects and also can mess with your brain development. At middle school age, your brain is still developing and growing, that isn't something you want to affect in a negative way. It's something we expect you to stay away from as a member of our school community on and off campus.

Our expectations are something we expect of you every day as members of this community. Throughout these expectations we mentioned building relationships, communicating, positivity, protecting and taking care of each other, connecting as some of the things that are built into the culture of who we are continuously building to be as a school. We spend so much time here, it is like "home." We need to build our home to being comfortable, a place we ALL are comfortable. Let's build it up, brick by brick and with each other, all in!

RESTORATIVE JUSTICE



As a school we focus heavily on Restorative Justice. Restorative Justice is an approach that helps everyone build better connections and vibes. That includes students, teachers, counselors, therapists, paraprofessionals, cafeteria staff, school safety, principals, deans, and parents. We look forward to building relationships with each other through trips, schoolwide events, grade/homeroom activities, sporting events, extra clubs outside of class and most importantly in our everyday regular schedule and classrooms. It takes all of us to build a better connection with each other by listening to each other and understanding each other.



Restoration Room: When there are moments where we need to restore or repair a situation, the restoration room is where it will happen. Students will be scheduled by the restoration room coordinator or administrator for specific times to be there, and that will be the **ONLY** time students will be in this room.





When there is an issue/problem in our school what does Restorative Justice look like?

Think of restorative justice like a special way of making things right when something goes wrong. It's like fixing a problem by talking it out and understanding how everyone feels, and repairing the harm that was done. Instead of just getting in trouble, restorative justice helps people learn from their mistakes and make things better.

Imagine this: you and someone have a disagreement. Restorative justice would bring you both together to talk about how you feel, what happened, and how you can work things out. It's all about sharing, listening, and finding solutions together.

What if Restorative Justice doesn't work to resolve problems?

For restorative justice to be effective, the most important thing is for everyone to willingly participate in the process of trying to resolve an issue.

If a person responsible for harmful action to another person or the school community in any way, refuses to take responsibility or make amends, it might be necessary to then shift to consequences.

Problems will always exist in any school, let's work together to fix them.



PBIS (Positive Behavior Interventions and Support)



Castle Hill Middle School adapted PBIS as a way to encourage positive behavior amongst all students. Our PBIS system is designed to celebrate students that continuously demonstrate positive academic and behavior choices. Our PBIS system is embedded in our school culture, as students earn knights cash that they trade in for quarterly Friday Knight activities. PBIS helps us maintain consistency with our expectations of our students.

Emergency Drill Procedures

Safety is our biggest priority! To keep everyone safe, we have practice drills just like you would practice anything else, to make sure in case of a real emergency we can be as safe as possible. We have shelter in drills and fire drills. During fire drills, we exit the building but we do this in an organized way. During all drills, we must follow our teacher's guidance, and stay silent, and specifically fire drills we must walk quickly when, line up in the school yard with our class in assigned spots, and wait/listen for further instructions during fire drill.



MASTERY BASED LEARNING

Castle Hill Middle School embraces Mastery-Based Learning, also known as Competency-Based Learning. We have moved away from traditional numerical grading and instead prioritize students' ability to demonstrate their understanding of concepts before progressing to the next grade. Mastery-Based Learning allows students to show progress at their own pace, with continuous opportunities to demonstrate growth on assessments.

Each subject has its own set of required skills. Throughout the year, students will have multiple opportunities to demonstrate their learning of these skills. At the end of each marking period, students will receive grades that reflect their present level of performance.

GRADES

Report Card Reporting

Explanation of Measurement

ME - - - Exceeding Mastery Standards

MA - - - Above Mastery Standards

MT - - - Meets Mastery Standards

MP - - - Approaching Mastery Standards

MB - - - Below Standards

HOMEWORK

We encourage students to set aside dedicated homework time each night. Homework assignments provide extra practice opportunities for students to reinforce classroom learning and develop their skills.

REPORT CARDS

Report Cards and student progress reports will be distributed 4 times during the year in order to provide students and parents with feedback about their academic progress. This report will notify parents and guardians if a student is in danger of failing a class in any content area before a marking period ends. This will allow time for a parent to have a conversation with the teacher about student progress and give students an opportunity to make up missed assignments. The total days absent and days late are provided for each marking period. Report Card Grades reflect a combination of the following: Participation, Class work, Homework, Testing and Projects.



AFTERSCHOOL WITH NEW YORK EDGE



After the regular school day, you can join our afterschool program sponsored by New York Edge which offers many teams and clubs such as art, dance, step, cheerleading, basketball, soccer, flag football, volleyball, homework help etc. There are even more activities you can be involved in, even if there is an activity that you are interested in that isn't offered, you and a group of friends can advocate for it and can get it started. In afterschool, the same expectations apply as the regular school day. Everyone must follow the expectations that have been set in order to be a part of the program. Our afterschool program has limited availability and is a privilege to be in so let's treat it as such.

Program Director: Ms Vivian Jimenez



LIST OF TEAMS/CLUBS YOU CAN JOIN

Our school community takes pride in our extracurricular activities. It is an important part of our school culture. We love having success in the classroom, and also in activities that help bring us all together. Below is a list of teams/clubs we had last year and look forward to having this year. There will be many more that will be added throughout the school year, always check and listen for announcements, ask your HR teacher, and look for postings around the school that will provide info when other teams/clubs are formed.

- > **Volleyball Team:** Our school volleyball team was created last year, and we have been getting better everyday. Come tryout for our team this year as we look forward to competing against other schools in the Bronx.
- > **Flag Football:** Our school flag football team competes at a high level and have won championships in the past playing against some good competition. Come tryout for our team and hopefully you can help us get another one.
- > **Soccer Team:** Every year, the MS 127 soccer team is a title contender, and at one point won 7 championships in a row! The dedication our student athletes have shown, practicing outside everyday has helped create a culture of winning. Come tryout and help continue the winning tradition.
- > **Art Club:** Our Art club is committed to making some excellent things happen. Look no further than some of the art murals you see in our building (check out the doors on the way to the gym). We look forward to some more art projects around the school and the community, join us!
- > **Girls Basketball (Junior Varsity and Varsity):** Our girls basketball teams had a great season. Our varsity team went all the way to the championship where we fell short. We look forward to another great season from both teams and hope to come back and grab the chip this year.
- > **Boys Basketball (G-League, Junior Varsity and Varsity):** Our boys basketball teams all had success last year. Our G-league team, built on developing students who may just be starting to play for the first time, made it to the playoffs. Our varsity team made it to the playoffs as well. Our Junior Varsity team won the championship, being the best team in the Bronx, and finished as the 2nd best team in the city. We look to building on all of the success we had last year, if you think you have what it takes to help us make sure you tryout.