

SOMERS MIDDLE SCHOOL
PARENT/STUDENT HANDBOOK 2009-2010
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Warning Bell - 8:27 a.m.

Period 1	8:30	9:13	Attendance & PA Announcements
Period 2	9:17	9:56	
Period 3	10:00	10:39	
Period 4	10:43	11:22	6 th Grade Lunch
Period 5	11:26	12:05	7 th Grade Lunch
Period 6	12:09	12:48	8 th Grade Lunch
Period 7	12:52	1:31	
Period 8	1:35	2:14	
Period 9	2:18	2:58	Afternoon Announcements

2 Hour Delay Schedule

Warning Bell – 10:27 a.m.

Period 1	10:30	11:00	Attendance & PA Announcements
Period 2	11:04	11:30	
Period 3	11:34	12:00	
Period 4	12:04	12:29	6 th Grade Lunch
Period 5	12:33	12:58	7 th Grade Lunch
Period 6	1:02	1:28	8 th Grade Lunch
Period 7	1:32	1:58	
Period 8	2:02	2:28	
Period 9	2:32	2:58	Afternoon Announcements

GREETINGS

Welcome to Somers Middle School!

Somers Middle School is a community of students and faculty who respect one another, and share the responsibility for maintaining high expectations for academic achievement and personal growth.

SMS offers the district's sixth, seventh, and eighth grade students a strong academic program in the foundation subjects while stressing development of the whole child. Middle school teachers provide a caring, structured environment where learning is valued, differences accepted, and the challenges of adolescence recognized. Students are encouraged to explore and develop interests in areas beyond the core curriculum to broaden their life experiences.

In order to guarantee a successful year it is important that students and their families understand the information, guidelines, and policies outlined in this handbook. A careful study of this material will create a common understanding of the Middle School and its expectations, and will better ensure the success of each student.

Recently, the Diversity Committee, consisting of 6th, 7th, and 8th grade students, worked together to develop what it means to be part of the TUSKER community at Somers Middle School. At SMS, a TUSKER is a *Team Player* who *Understands Differences*, possesses a strong set of *Student Skills* supported by *Kindness, Effort, Respect, and Responsibility*. All staff members work with students to support the development of these ideals on a daily basis.

Our goal is to maintain close communication between faculty and families so that we can support the best interests of every Somers Middle School student. Please do not hesitate to call us or any member of our staff with questions or concerns. With everyone working together we are guaranteed another successful year at SMS!

Geraldine Paige, Principal

Jeff Getman, Assistant Principal

TJ Leonard, Assistant Principal

SCHOOL HOURS: 8:30 – 3:00

Go Teams!

RED

WHITE

BLUE

Each grade level at SMS is divided into interdisciplinary teams (Red, White, and Blue), consisting of an English, math, science, social studies, reading, and special education teacher. Students on each team have the same teachers who have common planning time and often teach interdisciplinary units. Every other day half of the students on each team meet during Team Time where students can work in the library or computer room on long-term assignments or get extra help.

The interdisciplinary team concept with its many opportunities for individual support provides a key transition from elementary school to high school. One teacher on each team acts as the Team Leader. In addition, one teacher in each of the core academic disciplines acts as a Curriculum Leader. These individuals coordinate staff to ensure consistent, high-caliber instruction across teams and subject areas.

Teams are heterogeneously grouped so that they are balanced academically and socially. Notice of placement is mailed in late August.



Curriculum and Instruction

The Somers Middle School schedule consists of two block days for every full week of school. Students will meet with half their classes on each block day. The remaining three days will be devoted to the traditional 39-minute classes. A & B days with flipped schedules will remain.

The goal of block scheduling is to increase the depth of understanding and engage students in active learning. Please refer to the inside covers of this handbook for all schedules.

2009 – 2010 BLOCK DAYS			
<u>September</u>	23 & 24 30	<u>February</u>	3 & 4 10 & 11 24 & 25
<u>October</u>	1 14 & 15 21 & 22 28 & 29	<u>March</u>	3 & 4 24 & 25
<u>November</u>	18 & 19	<u>April</u>	14 & 15 21 & 22
<u>December</u>	2 & 3 9 & 10 16 & 17	<u>May</u>	19 & 20 25 & 26
	<u>January</u> 6 & 7 13 & 14 20 & 21 27 & 28		

In school we will make every effort to avoid scheduling field trips or assemblies on the above dates.

We ask that parents avoid scheduling doctor appointments or other planned absences on these days as well.

Detailed information about individual courses is distributed at Back to School Night in the fall. The following provides a general overview of instruction at Somers Middle School.

ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS/READING

SMS is one of a few middle schools that offer students both one period of writing and one period of reading each day. Together these programs coordinate efforts to help students meet the state's English/Language Arts Standards. Guided by these standards and current research related to adolescent literacy, Somers Middle School seeks to develop students who are thoughtful, skilled and strategic readers, writers, listeners and speakers. Students engage in the act of reading and writing in order to think creatively and critically, solve problems, work collaboratively with others, evaluate information and use technology wisely. Students are immersed in a wide variety of genres in order to develop reading and writing skills. This program prepares students for the New York State English/Language Arts Assessment.

MATH

Our math curriculum is aligned with New York State Standards and class lessons prepare students for the New York State Math Assessment. Concepts that have been introduced over time, from simple computation to coordinate geometry, are reinforced throughout the year through hands-on activity-oriented lessons while new topics are introduced at each grade level. Beginning in grade six and continuing on the high school level, students capable of assimilating math concepts at a faster pace than that provided by the regular curriculum are offered an accelerated math program.

A student must maintain an 85 average in the accelerated math class in order to be recommended for the accelerated class the following year. In the event that a student does not maintain the 85 average, he/she will be reassigned to the regular level the following year.

The Integrated Algebra Exam grades are reflected on the high school transcript.

SCIENCE

In conjunction with textbook material students learn through hands-on demonstrations, experiments, and a variety of multimedia experiences. Through integration of the Scientific Method, sixth grade students are provided with a general introduction to science topics. The four units of study include electricity and magnetism, the atmosphere and weather, earth science, and matter and chemistry. Seventh graders experience life science topics. This curriculum includes in-depth research in the areas of cells, genetics, classification, and living organisms, including the human body.

Eighth graders have two different science course offerings, Physical Science and Earth Science. Physical Science covers the universe, solar system, chemistry, physics, light, and sound.

Earth Science is offered to eighth graders who demonstrate an aptitude for more challenging science instruction. This course culminates in a Regents examination and high school credit.

Please note: If your child takes a regents credit course in the Middle School the regents grade will show up on their high school transcript whether they passed or failed the regents.

SOCIAL STUDIES

In sixth grade students are introduced to ancient civilizations, beginning with Mesopotamia and ending with the Middle Ages. They begin to work with primary and secondary sources as well as develop thematic essays. Seventh and eighth grade social studies is a two-year course in American history. The first half covers the American Revolution through the Civil War, Reconstruction, and the Industrial Revolution. The second half begins with immigration in the 1890's and takes students up to 20th century America. Instruction stresses essay writing, and introduces students to document-based questions (DBQ), and the use of primary sources. A state assessment in social studies is administered in grade eight.

FOREIGN LANGUAGE

In seventh grade students begin foreign language instruction in French, Spanish, or Italian. Lessons include basic elementary instruction emphasizing listening, speaking, reading and writing skills. At the end of 8th grade students take the New York State Second Language Proficiency Examination. Successful completion of this two-year course of study yields one high school credit. Students are prepared to begin Level II of the language in ninth grade.

The Proficiency Examination grades are reflected on the high school transcript.

ENRICHMENT

To meet the needs of all learners SMS provides enrichment education in a variety of ways. Teachers engage students in a rigorous academic experience and have the flexibility to differentiate instruction in order to effectively challenge all students. Accelerated instruction is offered in math, foreign language, and Earth Science (see the appropriate section). While all SMS extracurricular activities described in this handbook enrich the educational program at the Middle School, a few, such as Academic Triathlon, Destination Imagination, Meteorology Club and Technology Club serve as extensions of the academic curriculum.

EXPLORATORY CLASSES

QUADS – 10-week exploratory courses beyond the traditional academic curriculum that expose students to a broader range of educational experiences while meeting state mandates. Students take six such courses in sixth grade, then four in both seventh and eighth grades. They include home and career skills, computer, art, technology, and health.

SPECIAL EDUCATION

SMS offers a consultant teacher approach to special education instruction. Small groups of students, each with an Individual Education Plan (IEP) determined by the Committee on Special Education, take core subjects in mainstream classes accompanied by a special education teacher or a teaching assistant.

Each special education teacher has common planning time with regular team teachers. Traditional resource services are also provided students per their IEP. Alternative reading, writing, and math classes are also offered to students who benefit from specialized, direct, multi-sensory, individualized, and language-based instruction.

AIS

Somers Middle School provides Academic Intervention Services to all students who receive scores of 1 or 2 on the New York State Assessment in math or English Language Arts. These services are offered before school as well as during the school day, in lieu of team time, and include instruction in math, English, as well as basic study skills. Students are recommended for AIS based on 5th grade state assessment results.

RESEARCH/LIBRARY/TECHNOLOGY

The spacious SMS Library Media Center has an extensive print collection of novels, non-fiction books, and periodicals, which supports the curriculum and promotes a love of reading. The OPAC (Online Public Access Catalog) is available on the network through any computer in the building. In addition to print sources the library subscribes to online databases of published material such as magazines, newspapers, and encyclopedias that support middle school curriculum. Online electronic research is conducted in the two adjacent computer labs. Additionally the Internet may be accessed from the numerous computer workstations on the library floor and laptops on a cart that circulate to different classrooms as needed.

The Somers Central School District recognizes information literacy and research skills as being critical to students' success. A district-wide research protocol guides our research curriculum for grades 2-12, and provides the steps needed to plan and conduct meaningful research. Students complete several research projects during their three years at SMS and learn the important skills of note taking, organizing and evaluating material, and citing sources.

Our school library is open for student use at 7:45 a.m., during lunch, team time, and after school on Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday.

Students staying late may take the late bus home.

****After school library hours are for quiet study only!****

MUSIC PROGRAM

All SMS students are invited to participate in the music program. These are academic programs and students will receive a grade every quarter on their report card (Chorus only 2nd and 4th quarters). Students are required to attend all rehearsals, lessons, and concerts. The music program culminates in winter and spring concerts. A student is encouraged to participate in as many performance groups as he or she wishes. A student that performs in more than one group should understand that their grade in that group is based upon the completion of requirements of each group. If a student chooses to participate in chorus, band, and orchestra, the music teachers will work out a schedule on the conflicting days. Rehearsals are held twice weekly before school (7:40-8:20 a.m.). Participants requiring transportation to rehearsals may take the high school bus and catch a shuttle bus to the middle school. Parents dropping off their children before rehearsals must use the upper parking lot between SMS and SIS. Students will not be allowed in the building before 7:15 a.m.

BAND

6th Grade Band	Tuesday & Thursday	7:40-8:20 a.m.
7th/8th Grade Band	Monday & Wednesday	7:40-8:20 a.m.
Music Activities (see clubs)		

Any child in Somers Middle School is welcome to participate in the Middle School Band Program. Even if your child has never played a band instrument they can enjoy the experience for the first time. Students can choose to play the flute, oboe, clarinet, bassoon, saxophone, trumpet, French horn, trombone, baritone horn, tuba or percussion (drums and bell).

Students will learn how to read music and interpret musical symbols as an individual and as part of a group. Instrumental lessons are a requirement for all band students. In lessons, the student will learn the proper playing techniques needed to be successful in both soloist and ensemble situations.

Requirement – All band students are required to purchase the instrumental software called SmartMusic (www.smartmusic.com) and register for lesson and ensemble assignments.

CHORUS

6th Grade Chorus	Monday & Wednesday	7:30-8:15 a.m.
7th/8th Grade Chorus	Tuesday & Thursday	7:30-8:15 a.m.

Every student in SMS has the opportunity to participate in the choruses. As members they will perform many varied styles of music. Students will learn proper breathing techniques for good singing, how to sing in parts, proper vowel and consonant pronunciation, the art of phrasing, and the importance of following the conductor. In order to master these skills many different exercises and techniques will be explored: sight reading, vocal warm-ups, breathing exercises and techniques, and the actual rehearsal of the performance music itself. Participants are constantly reminded to evaluate themselves and the group as a whole.

STRING ORCHESTRA

Full Orchestra

Monday & Tuesday

7:30-8:15 a.m.

Chamber Orchestra

Wednesday

7:30-8:15 a.m.

The string orchestra is comprised of violin, viola, cello and bass. A variety of musical periods are explored including Renaissance, Baroque, Classical, Romantic, and Modern. Students will learn how to interpret and perform music in the style of the appropriate period and will become acquainted with composers from that time period as well.

Small group lessons will take place during school hours on a rotating schedule. Lessons will focus on playing techniques, music theory, and working through problems discovered in the orchestra rehearsal. **Students are encouraged to participate in the New York State Music Association Adjudication (NYSSMA) as soloists.** Orchestra and some small Chamber style ensembles will perform in the winter and spring concerts each year.



FIELD TRIPS

Field trips are an integral part of our curriculum. They make learning come alive because the subject becomes relevant in the eyes and minds of the students. Our 8th grade students spend four days touring Washington, D.C., while our 6th and 7th grade students go on a variety of one-day field trips to places that complement the curriculum.

EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

RULES GOVERNING SMS CLUBS, ORGANIZATIONS, AND SPORTS





SMS students participating in any student organization, club, or any athletic team:

1. Must act in an exemplary manner in the classroom, the school, and the community.
2. Must be aware of all eligibility rules and make every attempt to observe them.
3. Must, at all times, act as a positive representative of Somers Middle School.

MODIFIED SPORTS

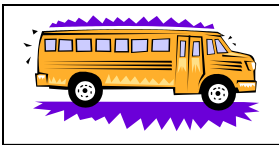
All SMS students may play intramural sports a few afternoons a week throughout the school year. An extensive modified sports program is available to 7th and 8th grade students, introducing them to competitive school sports. ***A student who is absent or arrives at school later than 12:00 will not be eligible to participate in any modified sports that day.***

Girls' Modified Sports

- | | |
|--|--|
|  Basketball |  Track |
|  Cheerleading |  Softball |
|  Volleyball |  Field Hockey |
|  Soccer |  Lacrosse |

Boys' Modified Sports

- | | |
|---|--|
|  Baseball |  Football |
|  Lacrosse |  Basketball |
|  Soccer |  Track |
|  Wrestling |  Ice Hockey |



There are shuttle buses after school that transport athletes to Somers High School and Reis Park for practices, and to other schools for competitions.

Only participants in the sports program may ride the buses.

While the teams appreciate your support you must find your own ride.

CLUBS AND ACTIVITIES



Please note: – There are late buses that transport students to their area, but not to the regular bus stop. They leave SMS at 4:10 p.m.

Academic Triathlon (A.T.) – The club has two teams that compete in meets with other local districts. There are three events at each meet. In one event students show their knowledge of current events, history, social issues, language, and math through a jeopardy-style trivia round. Another event involves students creating and performing a five-minute skit. **Mr. Dell** is the club advisor.

Animal Appreciation Club – Do you want to help animals? This club meets bi-weekly to explore issues facing different animal species and ways to help their causes. The group plans fundraisers and donates to local charities (i.e. Putnam Humane Society). Students are welcome to come on a regular basis or drop in throughout the year. **Ms. Fabian** is the club advisor.

Art Club – This club offers students a bi-weekly opportunity to enjoy the creative process. Students may work independently with their favorite art material or participate in a variety of group activities. Students are welcome to come on a regular basis or drop in throughout the year. **Mrs. Gioffe** is the advisor.

Chess Club – Competitors, fans of chess and other board games are all welcome to come to Chess Club. **Mr. Mullaney** hosts this club in room 323 on Fridays after school until the late bus.

Computer Club/Lego Club – This club involves students from all grade levels. Students work on a variety of computer projects utilizing a wide range of applications. Lego Mindstorm kits will be used to design, build and test Lego robots. **Mr. DeVito and Mr. Rock** are the club advisors.

Destination Imagination – DI is a creative problem-solving program that requires creativity, humor, and ingenuity. Teams of 7 students meet regularly to create a solution to one of five challenges. Each team member contributes to the development of the solution: designing, building, composing, performing, writing, singing, dancing, or providing any other talents that he or she can lend to the final product. Competitions are held regionally in March, then statewide, and culminate in the Global Finals. Teams decide where and when to meet, and are coached by parent or teacher volunteers. The advisor for DI is **Mrs. Allen**. She can be reached at SIS (277-4344) for more information.

School Musical – A musical show is produced each year in March. Students are offered many ways to use their talents, as actors, stage crew, set designers, and lighting booth technicians. All grades may join keeping in mind the 3-month commitment involved. Activities begin the month of December.

Joining after-school clubs and activities is a great way to make

new friends with people who have the same interests as you.

Intramurals – Intramurals run all year. In the fall students will play field hockey or flag football. In the winter the game switches to basketball and volleyball, and in the spring volleyball, wiffleball, and floor hockey. Games are held a few days a week, changing with the season. **Mr. Cunningham, Mr. DeVito, and Mrs. Daly** are the advisors.

Musical Mall – This activity contains three separate musical groups.

Bell Choir – Members of this club will perform on choir chimes. The group will learn a variety of musical selections. Bell Choir is a fall/winter activity culminating with public performances in December. It meets Friday mornings at 7:45 in the band room from November 1st – December 23rd.

Fife & Drum Band – This is an extension of the Living History Club. Students learn to play fife and drums by practicing lessons online and then rehearsing as a group for town parades and other historic functions. Since the group rehearses with SIS and high school members there will be some night rehearsals as we get close to performance dates. Members will be required to own parts of their uniform (tri-corner hat, black knickers, long-sleeved white shirt, knee-high white socks, black shoes).

Honors Band – For students in grades 6-8 to play advanced band repertoire and to compete in the New York School Music Association large

ensemble festival. Students must audition by January 1 using the software called SmartMusic.

Jazz Band – This group learns a variety of styles including swing, Latin, funk, and rock. Admission into Jazz Band is through tryouts using SmartMusic, and participation in the band program is a prerequisite. This club meets Wednesdays after school until the late bus.

Musical Mall advisor is **Mr. Chetcuti**.

WSMS/Newspaper Club – WSMS is Somers Middle School's video newspaper. Student volunteers cover stories and report them on videotape. The finished video newspaper (WSMS) is edited on MovieMaker and is then sent to Tusker Tube, the school's intranet video hookup accessible via EdLine, for viewing by all Somers students, teachers, and staff. Any SMS student may contribute a story having to do with school or student events. Other popular features include book/movie/video game reviews, editorials, advice columns, and original poetry or other readings.

Student volunteers must be aware that they will be videotaped and that they will appear on Tusker Tube. Those who like "showing off" their sparkling personalities are especially encouraged to participate. Students interested in participating in WSMS should see **Mr. Pappas**, the club advisor, in room 305, or e-mail him at DPappas@somers.k12.ny.us.

Clubs

Activities



Remote Control Car Club – Students work together to race their radio-controlled cars and trucks on a track of their own design. In June a “mini Indy 500” race is sponsored by the club and trophies are presented to the top racers.

Mr. Rock and Mr. DeVito are the club advisors.

Meteorology Club – Did you ever wonder about things your teacher talked about in science class? Would you like to explore topics that you have heard about but aren’t learning in class? Then science club is for you! During science club you will have the time to investigate topics of interest to you that you don’t have time to explore during the year in class. You don’t have to love science to love this club! **Mr. Dell and Mr. Wilbert** are the advisors.

Service Club –The Service Club is open to students of all grade levels. The club meets 2-3 times per month. One of the monthly meetings is a visit to Somers Manor to do arts and crafts projects and to spend time talking with the residents. Annually, during the winter holiday time, we have fundraisers to purchase gifts for the Friends of Karen families. We also are involved in raising funds for areas of the world in crisis. Other activities involve helping the PTA when necessary. Our members work together to make the world a better place in which to live.

The club advisors are **Mrs. Bressan and Ms. Messina**.

Ski Club – Students work to organize and participate in several local ski outings.

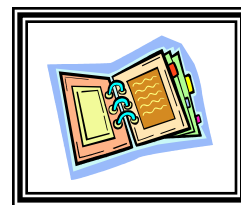
Mr. Savastano is the club advisor.

Technology Club – Students from all grades work together to create many projects such as CO2 cars, model bridges, model gliders, etc. that will be entered in an annual spring TSA competition which is held in late April.

Club advisors are **Mr. DeVito and Mr. Rock**.

Socials – Students are invited several times a year to attend a social sponsored by the **PTA**. The socials offer students a fun evening out with their friends. Socials are located both on and off campus. The socials located at the school offer dancing (with music played by a DJ) in a safe environment. Parent chaperones are always needed and it is a great way for parents to get involved. Information for these events is announced in the Pachyderm Press and in flyers available to students the week before the social.

Living History Club – **Mr. Wienecke** is the advisor.



Student Council – Student Council is open to all students who are interested in enhancing school spirit and fostering unity within the student population and community. Class officers are appointed for 7th and 8th grade and are responsible for keeping their classmates' voices and opinions heard on issues that concern them. Several committees are formed to plan events such as the Welcome Back Socials, Pep Rally, and Spring dances. Student Council members also volunteer and fundraise, as well as assist the PTA. The advisors are **Mrs. Breglio, Mrs. Bieber, and Mrs. Hayden.**

Yearbook – Yearbook will meet early in the school year to set up the schedule for production deadlines. Students will have the opportunity to work on yearbook during lunch and/or team time with advance approval. Occasionally, by grade level, students may need to stay after school. Advisors are **Ms. Mazzucca and Mr. Wanderlingh.**

Listen to morning announcements and to find out when and where clubs are meeting.

Homework Policy

Homework is a major responsibility of each SMS student. Classroom teachers expect students to complete homework assignments according to the individual requirements of the course. Individuals who meet this responsibility will be successful academically and will develop skills needed throughout their academic career.

Homework will be assigned on a regular basis. It should take students no more than one and one-half hours to complete all assignments each night, not including studying for tests and long-range projects. Each student has an assignment notebook in which to write daily assignments. If a problem with homework arises, parents may be contacted.

Student homework responsibilities include:

- completing all assignments and turning them in on time.
- turning in work that is neatly done.
- making up homework assignments missed due to absence.

If students do not meet these responsibilities, consequences may include:

- asking parents to begin checking and signing completed homework each night.
- requiring students to complete homework during lunch.
- requiring student to complete homework during after-school detention.

Parents are the key to making homework a positive experience for their children. Therefore, parents are urged to make homework a top priority, provide necessary supplies and a quiet environment, know their child's assignments and due dates, set aside daily homework time, provide praise and support, and contact the school if a problem arises.

If there is a legitimate reason a student is unable to finish homework parents should send a signed note to school the day the homework is due stating the reason it was not completed.

Please call the Counseling Center at 276-2588 before 9:30 a.m. to request homework if your child has been absent two or more days. If a student is absent for one day they should call their study buddy for missed assignments. Parents may pick up assignments after 2:30 p.m. in the Counseling Center. Alternate arrangements for pick-up should be made by the parent.

Somers Middle School teachers are eager to provide extra help to students who require support. Based upon teacher schedules, extra help is offered during lunch and after school. Students are encouraged to request extra help when they need it.

For students requiring extra support we offer a morning math program before school. Referral to the program is made through our Child Study Team and is based on several factors including a score of either 1 or 2 on the New York State Assessments, as well as teacher feedback and observations.

REPORT CARDS/INTERIM REPORTS

Progress reports are sent home midway through each marking period. Report cards are issued in November, February, April and early July (by mail).

STUDENT RECOGNITION

Because academic excellence is top priority at Somers Middle School we believe students who achieve at a high academic level should be recognized for their efforts. Each quarter high achieving students are recognized on either the high honor roll or the honor roll. All courses count the same when computing quarterly averages.

HIGH HONOR ROLL: average of 93 or better with no incomplete
HONOR ROLL: average of 87 to 92 with no incomplete

TUSKER

We strongly believe that SMS is a great place to learn because of the wonderful students and staff we have in our building. Our students are thoughtful and reflective individuals who come to school every day with a sense of purpose and belonging. In order to further this, our students have developed what it means to be a TUSKER

Team Player
Understanding Differences
Student Skills
Kindness
Effort
Respect and Responsibility

Through our daily interactions and our Students of the Month and STAR programs, being a TUSKER will be honored and promoted on a daily basis.

STUDENTS OF THE MONTH

Students are recognized by their teams throughout the year for their accomplishments in academic subject areas as well as for such qualities as leadership, responsibility, and citizenship. They receive certificates at a team assembly.

STAR

Catch-a-STAR is a program to help recognize positive behaviors in SMS students. STAR stands for Students That are Role Models. Throughout the year staff members nominate students who are caught doing something special that helps make SMS a better place. These students are awarded a certificate, have their names read on the morning announcements, have their names added to the Counseling Center bulletin board, and are given a STAR pen.

The Catch-a-STAR program is the school's way of saying "thank-you" for doing something beyond what is expected.

PRESIDENTIAL EDUCATIONAL EXCELLENCE AWARDS

These awards are announced at our 8th grade graduation ceremony. Students who have earned this award maintained a grade point average of 90% for all semesters of grades 6 and 7 as well as the first semester of 8th grade. In addition, they achieved a level 4 on the NYS assessment in either Math or English.

SCHOOL COUNSELING CENTER

The Counseling Center at Somers Middle School works proactively to ensure the continuing growth of each student academically, socially, and emotionally. The mission of the center is to identify and work through issues that may interfere with student learning and enhance students' self-understanding to clarify goals, provide the tools necessary to achieve those goals, and to maximize each individual's potential.

PARENT/TEACHER CONFERENCES

Parents with questions or concerns should contact the teacher first. You can find the voicemail list towards the back of the handbook. Teachers will do their best to return all voicemail within 48 hours. Parents are encouraged to contact the counseling office to set up a meeting with their child's team or individual teachers if they are having difficulty resolving a problem.

PROMOTION POLICY

The faculty and staff at Somers Middle School work hard to support student learning and are dedicated to the academic and social success of each student. To succeed in a major subject area each student must achieve a final grade of 65 or above.

If a student receives a final grade below 65 in two or more major subjects, summer school or tutoring is required. (The tutor must be a certified teacher who follows a 20-hour program approved by the school.)

A student receiving a final grade below 65 in three major subjects may make up two in summer school or with a tutor and pass for the year. A student who does not pass these two major subjects in summer school or through an approved tutoring program will be automatically retained.

A student receiving a final grade below 65 in four major subjects may make up two in summer school or with a tutor, or the student may be retained at the discretion of the principal after consultation with the Child Study Team.

MAJOR SUBJECTS INCLUDE:



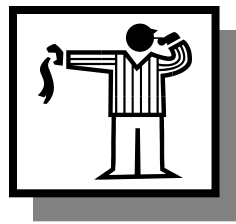
Mathematics
English
Social Studies
Science
Reading

RESPECT & RESPONSIBILITY

At SMS we stress the importance of treating one another with respect and taking responsibility for one's own actions. These important concepts are the subject of ongoing class discussions and special projects and are reinforced each and every day.

CONFLICT RESOLUTION/PEER MEDIATION

Currently all 6th grade students at SMS participate in a comprehensive conflict resolution program. The goal of the program is to help students recognize and define conflict and the various ways in which conflicts are resolved. Students are empowered by gaining knowledge and a common language by which to handle and resolve real life problems they may encounter. Selected 7th and 8th grade students are trained as peer mediators to help other students talk out problems and come to win/win solutions. The program helps to foster listening skills and respect for the entire student body.



RULES & REGULATIONS

Common sense rules and regulations are necessary in order to have a well-managed and academically effective school. A school-wide committee of parents and teachers developed a complete code of conduct for our students, including a description of consequences for failing to follow this code. This information is explained below.

STUDENT EXPECTATIONS

A major goal of Somers Middle School is to create a positive atmosphere of mutual respect and cooperation among all people who are part of the school community. We expect parents, staff, and students to work together towards this goal.

Every student has rights to which s/he is entitled, and responsibilities to fulfill. Some of these rights and responsibilities are:

- The **right** to be respected and trusted by others, and the **responsibility** to show respect and trust for others.
- The **right** to be mistaken and the **responsibility** to learn from one's mistake.
- The **right** to express ideas and feelings without fear or criticism, and the **responsibility** to listen with an open mind to another's point of view.
- The **right** to learn, and the **responsibility** to perform in one's academic work to the best of one's capability.
- The **right** to be free from abuse and harassment, and the **responsibility** to be a good friend.
- The **right** to enjoy one's experience and the **responsibility** not to hurt or disturb others while doing so.
- The **right** to be an individual, and the **responsibility** to understand other people's feelings.
- The **right** to pursue educational opportunities free from illegal and improper discrimination, including discrimination based on gender, race, religion, disability, sexual orientation, or ethnic background, and the **responsibility** to take full advantage of the educational opportunities offered.
- The **right** to be represented by student government, and the **responsibility** to vote wisely and participate in the work of the student government.
- The **right** to privacy of one's own possessions, and the **responsibility** to respect other people's privacy and property.

At Somers Middle School, we feel that it is of paramount importance to address the social and emotional needs of all students and take a proactive approach to dealing with student behaviors and decision making. In order to accomplish this:

- Each student has access to a certified guidance counselor who is available to them as needed and will stay with them throughout the course of their time at SMS.
- Our School Resource Officer is visible and available to students to provide support and guidance as well as to intervene as dictated by particular situations.
- All sixth grade students take part in a conflict resolution course that is designed to provide them with strategies to help them deal with any difficult issues they might face.
- Our Student Assistance Counselor provides prevention education for 7th and 8th graders.
- Selected 7th and 8th grade students are trained as peer mediators. These students model the process of making positive choices for their peers and are available to help students in conflict, if recommended by a staff member.
- Our school is fully teamed so that all students have a core group of academic teachers who see them on a daily basis. This organizational format fosters positive relationships and helps students feel part of a small community within our larger school.
- Teachers have a common planning period where they meet regularly to discuss students' progress and to coordinate efforts to assist students as needed, academically and behaviorally. Students' guidance counselors and/or other specialists or administration join these planning sessions as needed.
- During this common planning time, teachers are also available to meet with parents. This is an effective way to keep communication open and to develop plans that support the growth of each student.

In addition to this proactive approach and supportive learning environment, there are also very clear guidelines for student conduct. Listed below are some examples of misconduct and the possible consequences for such behavior. This code governs students while on school premises, at school-sponsored events, on trips, and while being transported to and from school by bus. In addition, off-campus misconduct that endangers the welfare of students or staff within the school will not be tolerated. With all offenses, the building administrators reserve the right to modify the consequences based upon the nature of the intent, the behavior itself, and any other related circumstances. Our ultimate goal is to create situations where students can learn and grow so that behaviors are not repeated.

DISCIPLINE CODE

LEVEL I:

Below are some examples of level-one offenses. These offenses may be dealt with directly by the teacher, or the student may be sent to an administrator.

- Excessive noise in the classroom, cafeteria, hallways
- Littering
- Running/pushing in corridors
- Use of electronic devices during times when they are not allowed to be used; items include, but are not limited to, cell phones and I-pods
- Lateness to school/class
- Inappropriate dress (see dress code)
- Gum chewing
- Unauthorized selling of items in school
- Behaving inappropriately or in a way that disrupts the normal operation of the school
- Consumption of high caffeine energy drinks (i.e., Red Bull, Monster)

Consequences for a level-one offense include, but are not limited to the following:

- Verbal reprimand or warning
- Confiscation of inappropriate objects
- Conference (with student, teacher, parent, and/or team)
- Detention

LEVEL II:

Below are some examples of what would be considered a level-two offense. These offenses will be reported to an administrator.

- Repeated infractions from level-one
- Cutting detention
- Unexcused lateness/absence from class
- Inappropriate or disrespectful language or behavior
- Damage/vandalism to school property or the property of others
- Physical altercation
- Insubordination (refusing reasonable request of an adult)
- Academic dishonesty including, but not limited to plagiarism, cheating, copying
- Inappropriate use of technology, including, but not limited to computers, cameras, cell phones and audio/video recording devices

- Harassment of others or bullying, which consists of persistent and inappropriate behavior including threats or intimidation of others, treating others cruelly, habitual put-downs, cyber-bullying as well as misuse of social networking websites
- Comments or actions that are discriminatory toward others
- Bigotry, which includes expressed intolerance of those who differ
- Harassment, which includes a sufficiently severe action or persistent pervasive pattern of actions or statements directed at an identifiable individual or group which are intended to be, or which a reasonable person would perceive as ridiculing or demeaning

Consequences for a level-two offense include, but are not limited to the following:

- Removal from class
- Temporary removal of cafeteria/recess or other privileges
- Conference (with student, teacher, parent, and/or team)
- Detention
- In-school or out-of-school suspension

LEVEL III:

- Repeated infractions from level-two
- Unexcused absence from school (without parents' consent)
- Leaving school grounds without appropriate approval
- Repeated harassment of others or bullying
- Fighting
- Repeated verbal harassment
- Threatening behavior/language
- Possession and/or use of illegal substances including, but not limited to cigarettes, alcohol, and drugs
- Possession of firecrackers or weapons
- Stealing
- False alarm/bomb threats and/or threatening to use a weapon
- Arson
- A person who is disorderly, disruptive to the educational process, violent, or whose conduct endangers the safety, morals, health, and welfare of others
- Engaging in off-campus misconduct, such as cyber-bullying, harassment of student or school personnel over the phone, in person, in writing, or any form of electronic communication including social networking websites, that endangers the health and safety of students or staff within the school or substantially disrupts the educational process
- Possession of inappropriate or obscene materials, including but not limited to images on computers, cameras or cell phones

Consequences for a level-three offense include, but are not limited to the following:

- In-school or out-of-school suspension
- Referral to principal for further action, suspension of privileges**
- Referral to police
- Superintendent's Hearing

ALL OFFENSES SUBJECT TO ADMINISTRATIVE DECISION

CELL PHONE POLICY*

Cell phone use is permitted at SMS under the following conditions:

- ❑ Phones must remain off and in the locker during school hours.
- ❑ Phones must be turned off upon entering the building and may be used when the school day ends.
- ❑ Cell phones may not be used during lunch.
- ❑ It is in violation of school code to use cell phones to take or send photos, or make audio or visual recordings in school or on any school trip

A student who does not follow the above guidelines will have his/her phone confiscated for the day (first offense); be required to have a parent or guardian retrieve phone (second offense).

****Other disciplinary action could result if a student consistently fails to follow the above guidelines, or if classroom work is disrupted as a result of inappropriate cell phone use.***

The following important rules to keep in mind were formulated to ensure a positive environment for learning at SMS:

- ❖ During the school day, students may only leave school property with permission obtained through the Main Office.
- ❖ Cameras or other audio/video recording devices are not permitted without prior approval from a building administrator.
- ❖ Radios, I-pods, and headphones are not allowed in class. They are permitted during lunch.
- ❖ Students are not allowed to sell items at school for personal profit.
- ❖ Backpacks, hats, and gum chewing are not allowed in school. Backpacks may be brought to school but must remain in lockers during the school day.

Computer/Network Use Policy

The Somers Central School District offers students access to the district's computers and network. These provide an invaluable opportunity for students to access an extensive range of information resources and exciting learning opportunities. It is important that all computer users understand and use the district's computers in an appropriate manner.

Just as students have learned social codes and behaviors that are acceptable at school and home, they now need to understand the proper rules and procedures for using the district's computer and network information services.

Since our information network is used as part of a school activity, Somers' Discipline Code applies to all network activities as well. This Computer Use Policy is an extension of Somers' existing rules and policies.

Before students have access to Somers' network, it is important that they and their parents review the following rules.

1. Only authorized users may use the computers and the network. Those who do not have parental authorization to use the Internet may not team up with those who do.
2. We expect that when using the school's computers or accessing the network, students will:
 - Respect the rights of others using the network (e.g., they will not disrupt the use of the network or software).
 - Use the Internet only for educational purposes related to the curriculum.
 - Use the proper netiquette when using the Internet (e.g., use appropriate language, keep home addresses and phone numbers private).
 - Respect and uphold copyright laws.
3. Students may not:
 - Use the network or Internet to develop programs that harass others or infiltrate a computer, computer system or network.
 - Use the network to disrupt the use of the network by others.
 - Seek information on, obtain copies of, or modify the files, other data or passwords belonging to others.

Inappropriate use of the internet in school for any reason, and off campus if such inappropriate use is in any way associated with school activities and/or personnel, is a violation of this agreement. "Inappropriate use" is classified as any action forbidden by the school's code of conduct.

Network administrators may review files communications and desktop sessions to maintain system integrity and to ensure that users are using the system responsibly. Users should not expect that communication or files stored on district servers will be private.

Consequences

Students are fully responsible for their actions while using computers or the network. In addition to provisions in the Discipline Code, consequences for violation of any of the rules stated above include but are not limited to:

- Suspension of computer/network privileges
- Financial responsibility for willful damage to the network
- Revocation of computer/network privileges
- Suspension from school
- Legal action and prosecution by authorities

CLASS TRIP PARTICIPATION POLICY

The Somers Middle School staff is committed to providing a full range of educational experiences for its students. We are dedicated to providing learning experiences that are both rigorous and challenging. We believe that class trips are an integral part of this rich and complete learning experience. Additionally, we are committed to providing the safest atmosphere possible for all students and staff alike.

In an effort to provide an environment in which student safety is paramount, we hold all students to very high standards of behavior and self-discipline. If a student demonstrates behaviors or actions that indicate that he or she may be a detriment to themselves or others in a field trip setting, the student may be provided with an alternate educational program, at school, on the day of the class trip.

DRESS CODE

While we are sensitive to students' interest in dressing fashionably we also believe that students must understand that different types of clothing are appropriate for different occasions.

Somers Middle School is a place where students come to learn. ***Any clothing that distracts from the learning environment is not acceptable.*** Our dress code at SMS is simple: since school is a student's place of work, appropriate dress is expected.

Appropriate dress at SMS can include t-shirts, as long as they do not display any offensive or inappropriate logos, words or pictures. Our dress code prohibits bare midriff, low-cut or backless shirts, and short-shorts from being worn at school. Any students dressed inappropriately will be asked to call home for appropriate clothing to be brought to school. These common sense guidelines are the same as those in Somers High School.

We thank you in advance for your continued support of our efforts to make Somers Middle School an appropriate environment in which our children can learn and grow.

SEXUAL HARASSMENT POLICY

In order to help provide an educational and working environment that promotes respect, dignity, and equality, the faculty and staff at SMS are committed to abiding by the Board of Education's policy on sexual harassment. Specifically, "sexual harassment" means unwelcome sexual advances, requests for sexual favors, sexually motivated physical conduct, or other verbal or physical conduct or communication of a sexual nature when:

1. Submission to that conduct or communication is made a term or condition, either explicitly or implicitly, of an employee's employment or a student's education; or
2. Submission to, or rejection of that conduct or communication by an individual is used as a factor in decisions affecting an employee's employment or a student's education; or
3. The conduct or communication has the purpose or effect of substantially or unreasonably interfering with an employee's work performance or a student's academic performance or participation in school-sponsored activities, or creating an intimidating, hostile, or offensive working or educational environment.

The Board and faculty condemn and strictly prohibit all forms of sexual harassment on school grounds, school buses, and at all school-sponsored activities, programs, and events including those that take place at locations outside the district.

The district will promptly investigate all complaints of sexual harassment, either formal or informal, verbal or written. To the extent possible, all complaints will be treated in a confidential manner.

All members of the SMS community are encouraged to become familiar with the Board of Education's regulations regarding sexual harassment, which define the term, spell out specific unacceptable types of conduct, and describe investigation procedures and training requirements. These regulations are posted prominently in the SMS office and are available by request from the SMS and district offices.

DETENTION

Students who disobey school rules are assigned to detention which is held at lunchtime and after school. Anyone who does not attend an assigned after-school detention may be placed on in-school suspension.

In an emergency, students may miss an assigned detention if a parent note is presented in advance.

After-school detention is held Tuesday through Thursday from 2:58 until the 4:00 p.m. late bus.

NEWSLETTER/COMMUNICATION/WEBSITE

*Our web site is www.edline.net/pages/Somers_Middle_School.
Come visit us often!*

In an effort to keep our parents well aware of what is taking place in the schools and in the community, the PTA and SMS faculty and staff work together to publish the "Pachyderm Press" (our award winning newsletter), and keep our website up to date. Our newsletter is mailed home to the parents of each student in Somers Middle School. You can expect to receive issues throughout the school year. We try to keep you posted on long-term assignments, changes in rules or procedures, upcoming events in the school and community, educational issues, field trips, school closings, special meetings and workshops, as well as the summer reading list. From time to time an important event or issue cannot wait for the newsletter to inform parents. In these cases flyers will be handed out to your child to bring home to you. It is a good idea to check with your child daily to see if any important papers have been sent home.

OUR PARENTS GET INVOLVED!

Parents play a key role in the overall educational program at SMS and are welcome partners on behalf of all students. We have an extremely active PTA (Parent Teacher Association) at SMS. Among the many activities initiated by the PTA are: Arts in Education programs, book fair, school store, PTA newsletter, emergency phone chain, evening social events for students, and funding for field trips. Parents also volunteer to assist with a wide variety of school events. If you are interested in joining the SMS PTA please call Julie Gorecki, our PTA president at 621-5983. Please refer to the PTA Board list of telephone numbers and e-mail addresses towards the back of this booklet.

ATTENDANCE

smsattendance@somers.k12.ny.us

Regular attendance at school is not only a key to academic success, it is also required by New York State law. When a student is absent, however, parents should contact the school nurse, Mrs. Camilli, at 277-4099 or 277-3399 (prompt 1). When they return to school students must bring a note explaining their absence to their teacher, or the Attendance Office. **Parents may also use our attendance e-mail. The e-mail will fulfill the absence note requirement.** Students who are truant (absent without permission) will be placed on in-school suspension.

Schoolwork that is incomplete due to an accepted absence can be made up in the time allowed by the individual teacher.

Please remember that it is necessary to call the absentee phone line on each day that your child is absent from school, unless you have discussed the situation with the school nurse and she is aware that the absence will be for many days.

LATE ARRIVAL

A student arriving at school late (after 8:30 a.m.) should report directly to the Attendance Office, sign in, and be issued a pass allowing them into their class. They must be accompanied by their parent or have a written note explaining the reason for lateness, or they may not be admitted to class until we have reached their parent. The Attendance Office is located across the hall from the Main Office. If a student is going to be away for a few days please send a note advising the school nurse of the upcoming absence.

EARLY ARRIVAL

Students arriving at school between 7:45 a.m. and 8:10 a.m. (and not involved with the before school programs) must report to the cafeteria or library for supervised study hall. Any student taking part in early morning activities such as band, orchestra, chorus, morning math, or ELA must report no earlier than 7:30 and go directly to their activity at that time. ***Absolutely no students, except for those involved in early morning activities, should arrive before 7:45 a.m.***

ATTENDANCE POLICY

The middle school recognizes the importance of good attendance for academic and social success.

With this in mind the following policy is designed to promote regular attendance on the part of all of our students:

1. The assistant principal and school attendance clerk will meet regularly to examine attendance issues.
2. A child who reaches 10 absences will set in motion the following:
 - Parental notification regarding excessive absences.
 - This notification will include the number of days missed.
 - Parent-student conference with the grade level counselor to address the issue of school attendance and to develop a plan for promoting regular attendance.
3. If absences continue, a referral to the appropriate social services agency will follow.
4. If a student is late to school 3 times without a note from the parents a warning letter will be sent home.
5. If a student is late to school 4 times without a note from the parents they will not be admitted to class until we contact their parent.

EXTENDED VACATIONS FROM SCHOOL

There are times when students are absent from school because of extended vacations. We discourage this practice because nothing can replace the on-going instruction that occurs within each class.

When such absences are unavoidable, to lessen the overall impact on a student's progress, teachers will do their best to provide the student with assignments in advance.

Somers Middle School has established the following guidelines for parents and students:

- ❑ The parent must contact the school guidance counselor in writing if he/she must take the child out of school.
- ❑ Parents are responsible for supervising the completion of all assigned student work by the return date.
- ❑ Students must recognize that these assignments may differ from those originally assigned.
- ❑ All missed tests and projects will be completed in a timely manner.
- ❑ Teachers give extra help on a regular basis to many students; therefore, they will not be able to provide "catch-up" help to students who are out on extended vacation.

It is our firm belief that extended absences should be avoided. However, if absolutely necessary, the above guidelines have been developed to ensure as much continuity in a student's progress as possible.

EARLY DISMISSAL

If a student needs to leave SMS before the end of the regular school day, a note from the parent must be brought to the Attendance Office at the **beginning of the school day**. At this time the student will get a pass (to show the teacher) with the time of the early dismissal on it. The child will meet the parent in the Attendance Office. All parents must go to the Attendance Office to sign the student out before the student can leave the building. **A student will not be dismissed early from school without a written parent request.**

NEED TO GET A NOTE OR LUNCH TO YOUR MIDDLE SCHOOLER?

We try our best at the middle school to accommodate parents who need to get messages, school work, lunches, etc. to a child after school has begun. Please understand, however, that we receive many requests of this nature each day and are unable to disrupt classes in order to contact students. **If you need to get something to your child during the school day, you should drop the item off in the main office. The item should be clearly labeled with the student's name and grade.** A staff member will locate the student during his or her respective lunch period. Sometimes a student may not be in the cafeteria or at recess due to extra help, and, as a result, may not get the message in a timely manner. Items dropped off after a student's lunch period will be delivered at the end of the school day. Please encourage your child to listen carefully to afternoon announcements in the event that he or she is called to pick up a note or other item. Of course if a parent needs to reach a child due to an emergency, we would contact the student immediately via our intercom system.

We appreciate your understanding and patience and welcome your feedback. Please know that we always seek to balance the needs of our students and parents with our responsibility to maintain a safe and orderly learning environment.

TRANSPORTATION

When riding on district buses students are expected to follow the same rules of conduct that apply when they are in school. For the safety and well being of all passengers, mature behavior is essential on school district buses.

In order to permit a child to take a different bus to visit a friend, we must receive a bus permission note from the sending parents. The following is a sample of what the note should contain:

BUS PERMISSION SLIP

Date: _____

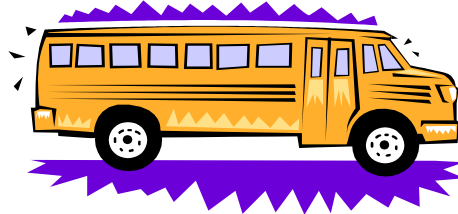
I give permission for my child (your child's name) to visit (other student's name).
They will be taking bus # ____ and getting off at (bus stop street name).

(Visiting Parent or Guardian Signature)

This note must be initialed by our Attendance Clerk located directly across from Main Office.

LATE BUSES

Late buses are available Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday after school so that students may stay for extra help, join clubs, and participate in intramural activities. Late buses depart from the middle school at approximately 4:10 p.m. and bring your child to a stop in your area (not necessarily your stop). The late bus routes are located in your school calendar and assigned by color. **Students need a bus pass in order to ride the late bus. This pass is furnished by the appropriate club advisor, teacher, etc.**



SCHOOL STORE

The SMS PTA runs the school store which is located in the cafeteria. The store is open during lunch periods on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday. Throughout the year the store carries items that teachers are requiring, and items needed for special projects (i.e., report covers, poster board, tri-fold boards, computer disks, etc.) During the year the school store will run weekly sales on special items, have holiday specials, school apparel, run raffles, and do lots of other “school spirit things”. Parents are welcome to come and shop between 10:43 and 12:48 p.m., or can send your child to shop for himself/herself and siblings. **Please make all checks payable to SMS PTA.**

Color Coded Notebooks

In order to help our students be better organized, SMS maintains a color-coding system for notebooks. Regardless of grade level, subject areas will utilize notebooks as indicated below. These notebooks may be purchased at the School Store in August.

Math – Blue
English – Red
Science – Green
Social Studies – Yellow
Reading – Purple
Foreign Language – Black



CAFETERIA

The cafeteria is open for breakfast from 8:00-8:20 a.m. The price is \$1.00 for breakfast; our full lunch price is \$2.00. A la carte offerings are available for lunch, as well as a salad bar. Students can purchase lunch tickets for a month's worth of lunches in advance.

Students eat lunch with students in their grade level. Students are urged to help keep our cafeteria a clean, inviting place. Classes are in session across the hall so quiet is requested outside the cafeteria.

RULES FOR THE CAFETERIA

1. Students must go to lockers before coming to the cafeteria.
2. Students must arrive at the start of the lunch period.
3. Show courtesy and respect to the lunchroom staff. They are here to assure your safety and make sure you follow the rules of the cafeteria.
4. Students must purchase their own lunch.
5. Wait your turn in line. No cutting allowed.
6. Sit down while eating.
7. All food must be eaten in the cafeteria.
8. Dispose of all remaining food and paper materials in the garbage cans provided.
9. Recycle when appropriate.
10. Bring your jacket with you. You will not be allowed to go back to your locker. If you are not properly dressed, you will not go outside for recess.
11. In order to go to the library, music room, computer room, any classroom, or guidance department, you must present a pre-signed pass to the teacher on duty in the cafeteria.
12. Students are responsible for having the tabletops and floor under the table clean before leaving the cafeteria.

The following behavior is not allowed:

- | | | |
|-------------------------|---------------------------|----------------------|
| ✓ Rude talk or behavior | ✓ Screaming | ✓ Fighting |
| ✓ Horseplay | ✓ Throwing food | ✓ Standing on tables |
| ✓ Sitting on tables | ✓ Physical contact sports | |

HEALTH OFFICE

New York State law requires several immunizations for Middle School students. All children enrolled in the 7th grade in any public, private, or parochial school on, or after, September 1, 2000 must have the Hepatitis B vaccine. Please note that this vaccine is given in a series of shots and may take 4-6 months to complete. Law also requires one dose of varicella for students on or after January 1, 1994 and enrolling in 6th grade. The Tdap vaccine is required for students who are entering 6th grade or a comparable age-level special education school or program on or after September 1, 2007 and who are 11 years of age or older must receive an immunization containing tetanus, diphtheria, and acellular pertussis (Tdap).

If a student has received a Td, Dt, or Dtap vaccination within the last two years, the student's Tdap vaccination should be deferred (with rare exceptions) until a period of two years has elapsed.

10 year old students who are entering 6th grade will not be required to receive a Tdap vaccine and will not be excluded from school, but they must be flagged, tracked and immunized when they turn 11 years old.

Documentation from your child's doctor is required.

A student who does not feel well during the school day must get a pass from his or her teacher to go to the school nurse. The nurse will contact a student's parent if he or she needs to go home or to a doctor. Students may not contact their parents via cell phone.

Students may not bring any medicine to school, including Tylenol, Advil, or Aspirin. If medication must be administered during school hours or if emergency medication must be kept on hand at the school, parents must personally bring the medication to the Health Office, and a medication authorization form signed by parent and physician must accompany the medication.

EMERGENCY DRILLS

There has been a heightened concern throughout our nation about the possibility of intruders in schools. Although no community is immune, we are confident that Somers Middle School offers a very safe environment. We believe in the importance of being proactive to avoid any such occurrences, and being prepared for an emergency situation, should one occur.

We have developed several procedures for staff to follow should an emergency occur. These procedures include sheltering students and evacuating students from the building.

Staff meets with students during team time to review our No Tolerance Policy on bullying and harassment, and to encourage students who hear about a classmate bringing a weapon to school or other threatening behavior, to report it to an adult of their choice.

Doors in our school, except the ones by both main parking lots, stay locked. We continue to believe that the strongest deterrent to school violence is a safe and caring environment where students feel supported and connected. Parents also are critical partners in providing for a safe school. Please take time to talk to your children about reporting incidents in which they see students being bullied and encourage them to talk to adults about any threats.

STUDENT DISMISSAL IN AN EMERGENCY SITUATION

From time to time, the administration may determine that it is safer to maintain students in our schools until road conditions improve, rather than to dismiss them.

In such instances, parents are asked not to come to school to pick up their children unless a particular family emergency exists. Past experience has found that an influx of traffic into our campus and request for individual student dismissal unduly complicates matters.

FIRE DRILLS

When the fire alarm sounds, students should immediately leave the building following the directions that are posted in each classroom. While exiting the building students should remain silent, listen carefully for special instructions, and move quickly without running.

LOCKERS

Each student will be issued a locker with a combination. Problems with lockers should be reported to the Main Office. Students should never give their combination to others. Students are urged to maintain neat, orderly lockers. They are reminded that SMS lockers remain the exclusive property of Somers Middle School.

Locker Contract



Name	Locker #	Combination

I, _____, have been assigned locker number _____. My locker is in good working order and opens and locks properly using the above combination. I agree to maintain my locker and take responsibility for any damages sustained to the inside of my locker, including graffiti. I understand that I will be charged the cost of repair for any damages to the inside of my locker.

To keep my locker in good working condition and avoid any charges, I will:

- **NOT** share my locker combination with another student. I am responsible for my own locker.
- **NOT** break or insert anything into the locking device that will keep my locker from locking properly.
- Immediately report any locker problems to an adult.

Student Signature

HALL PASSES

When out of class during their regularly assigned class periods, students must have a staff issued and signed hall pass. Students can expect to be asked for passes. Misuse of a pass may result in the loss of pass privileges or detention.

LOST & FOUND

The Lost & Found is located in the cafeteria. Small items like jewelry, eyeglasses, wallets, etc. are turned in at the Main Office. All items found on district school buses are turned in to the SMS Lost & Found. Larger items are kept in a bin in the cafeteria, which is emptied monthly and donated to charity.

Because of the huge volume of items that end up in our Lost & Found, we recommend, when possible, that parents clearly label clothing items. This will make finding lost items much easier.

VISITORS

All visitors to the Somers Middle School are required to sign in at the Main Office and obtain a visitor's badge, which should be worn for the duration of the visit. All visitors to the school (parents, community members, salespersons, etc.) should be clearly identified for the safety of our students, faculty, and staff. SMS staff has been instructed to request that any visitor without a badge return to the Main Office.

Student guests are only allowed if the guest is planning to attend SMS in the near future. In such cases a request should be submitted to the principal at least 48 hours prior to the visit.

PARKING

Parking at SMS is extremely limited. All visitor parking spaces are located in the parking lot between SIS and SMS.

Parent parking is available between the hours of 8:30 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. The row of spots located between SIS and SMS next to the field are reserved for parent parking between the hours of 8:30 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. This row is used for DROP-OFF ONLY from 8:10 – 8:30 a.m.



SCHOOL CLOSINGS

When weather conditions or other emergencies occur to prevent or delay the opening of school, or create the need for an early dismissal, announcements will be made over the following radio stations:

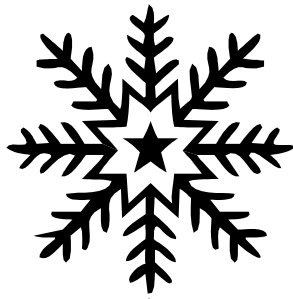
WHUD/WLNA PEEKSKILL 1420 AM/100.7 FM

OR ON-LINE AT WWW.WHUD.COM

WFAS HARTSDALE 1230 AM/103.9 FM/106.3 FM

WCBS NEWS RADIO 880 AM

When an early dismissal is called for SMS, the children will be dismissed at 11:30 a.m. ***Parents should make arrangements and instruct their children as to what to do in the event they are returned home early from school.***



Channels of Communication/Resolving Disputes

Parents are important partners in our schools. Their input and involvement and awareness of what is happening in school is key to program success. To this end, school personnel will make every effort to keep parents informed about educational and co-curricular programs, school goals and policies and individual student progress.

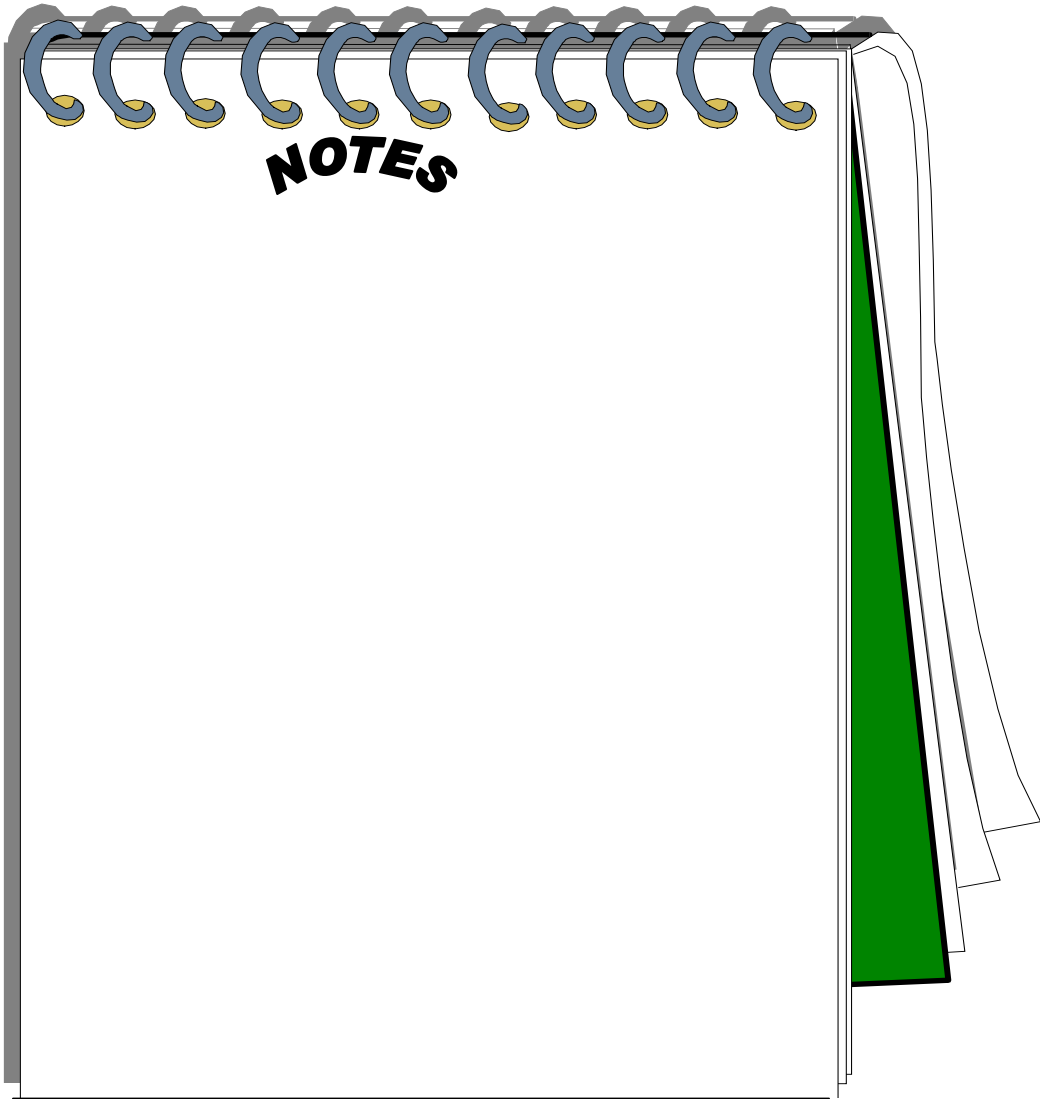
From time to time, it is inevitable that parental concerns may arise. In such cases, the Board of Education believes that the best possible means of resolving an issue is to address it directly with the individual involved. If, after a good faith effort to resolve an issue at the point of origin no resolution is reached, the matter may be directed to a staff member's supervisor.

PROBLEM SOLVERS

SITUATION	PROBLEM SOLVERS
I need general information (i.e., permission slip).	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ <i>Classroom Teachers</i> ➤ <i>Assistant Principal</i> ➤ <i>Homeroom Teacher/Leader</i> ➤ <i>Main Office</i> ➤ <i>Principal</i>
I have questions about my academic work or my grades.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ <i>Classroom Teachers</i> ➤ <i>Guidance Counselor</i> ➤ <i>Principal/Assistant Principal</i>
I have a note to be dismissed early or to go home with a friend.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ <i>Attendance Office</i> ➤ <i>Homeroom Teacher/Leader</i>
I could use help with a problem in the cafeteria or on the playground.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ <i>Classroom Teachers</i> ➤ <i>Guidance Counselor</i> ➤ <i>School Psychologist</i> ➤ <i>Cafeteria Supervisor and Monitors</i> ➤ <i>Assistant Principal</i> ➤ <i>Student Assistance Counselor</i> ➤ <i>Teacher Aides</i>

<p>I need help opening my locker.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ <i>Teacher Aide</i> ➤ <i>Assistant Prin. Office</i> ➤ <i>Main Office</i> ➤ <i>Guidance</i> ➤ <i>Teacher Aides</i> ➤ <i>Custodial Staff</i>
<p>I have a question about my lunch ticket.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ <i>Guidance Counselor</i> ➤ <i>Kitchen Staff</i> ➤ <i>Social Worker</i>
<p>I don't feel well or I need to take medication.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ <i>Classroom Teachers</i> ➤ <i>Nurse</i>
<p>I need help resolving a problem with a friend or another student.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ <i>Classroom Teachers</i> ➤ <i>Guidance</i> ➤ <i>Assistant Principal</i> ➤ <i>Social Worker</i> ➤ <i>Student Assistance Counselor</i>
<p>I have a question about my library loans</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ <i>Library Staff</i>
<p>I would love to join or start a new club.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ <i>Classroom Teachers</i> ➤ <i>Assistant Principal</i> ➤ <i>Guidance Counselor</i> ➤ <i>Principal</i>
<p>I feel worried about my family, friends, or myself.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ <i>Classroom Teachers</i> ➤ <i>Guidance</i> ➤ <i>Assistant Principal</i> ➤ <i>School Psychologist</i> ➤ <i>Social Worker</i> ➤ <i>Student Assistance Counselor</i>

<p>I need to discuss an issue on my bus.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ <i>Bus Driver</i> ➤ <i>Guidance Counselor</i> ➤ <i>Assistant Principal</i>
<p>I would like to help with a project or assignment.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ <i>Classroom Teachers</i> ➤ <i>Library Staff</i>
<p>I have a question about school procedures or policies.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ <i>Classroom Teachers</i> ➤ <i>Assistant Principal</i> ➤ <i>Guidance Counselor</i> ➤ <i>Principal</i> ➤ <i>Teacher Aides</i>



SOMERS MIDDLE SCHOOL PTA 2009-10 EXECUTIVE BOARD

Officers

President	Kim Moros	kmoros@optonline.net	962-8522
	Julie Gorecki	gorbj@comcast.net	621-5983
Vice President	Virginia Maloney	vmaloney17@optonline.net	245-9145
Treasurer	Linda Graffitti	lgraffitti@yahoo.com	232-8540
Recording Scy.	Carolyn Worsley	worsleyfamily@optonline.net	962-8377
	Gayle Mottola	gbdm@optonline.net	232-7851
Corresponding Scy.	Linda Morgante	lindamorgante@optonline.net	245-7468

Committees

Author's Day	Kathy Cucchiarella	jkcucch@aol.com	245-9145
Beautification	Michelle DiPaolo	cdmd137@aol.com	962-6353
Book Fair	Sherry Arita	sherryarita@aol.com	248-8235
	Lori Weil	lpw4@optonline.net	248-8830
	Clare Eberts	rjearcht@aol.com	962-4356
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Council Delegate	Alice Shaw	zezshaw@aol.com	232-0221
Cultural Arts	Judy Brooks	judybr33@gmail.com	767-3159
Education	Laura Olert	LJolert@yahoo.com	962-6539
	Kristin Wagner	gw110468@aol.com	277-7869
8th Grade Graduation BBQ	Patti Fecci	efecci@aol.com	232-7424
	Jen Maestri	jenmaestri@aol.com	243-9525
	Christine Rossiter	cmlrossiter@aol.com	248-4670
	Linda Verderame	isussverde@optonline.com	248-5949
8th Grade Breakfast	Pam Adams	mom96@optonline.net	455-2213
Fashion Show	Pam Adams	mom96@optonline.net	455-2213
Fundraising	Angela Welsh	welsh.angela@yahoo.com	245-3019
	Erika Sherman	erikaj@optonline.net	245-7933
Green	Abi Hodes	alabdylerie@aol.com	248-8827
	Stacy Hendrie	stacyhendrie@optonline.net	556-8903

Hospitality	Vicky Deirmendjian	deirmendjian@optonline.net	248-5433
Membership	Melinda Kornblatt	mkornblatt	248-9691
	On Committee: Michele Lombardo	lalli29@aol.com	232-5890
Mini Grants	Maria Vitale	mvitale912@optonline.net	248-0317
Newsletter Editors	Gayle Mottola	gbdm@optonline.net	232-7851
Copy & Distribution	Erika Sherman	erikaj@optonline.net	245-7933
Parent Programs	Susette Acocella	msacocella@gmail.com	232-8180
	Teresa Lombardi	lombardit@aol.com	232-0214
Red Ribbon	OPEN		
Reflections	Laura Sweig	lsweig@aol.com	248-6418
School Brd. Rep.	OPEN		
School Store	Cathy Kryza	kryza@optonline.net	962-6996
School Store Volunteer Coordinator	Doreen Gadigian	gadboys@optonline.net	767-0694
SEPTA Rep.	Lorena Cole	Babygirl0712@verizon.net	248-5729
Site Based Team	Nina Collins	thecollinsclan@optonline.net	276-1488
Staff Apprec. Lunch	Kathy Weisman	caweissman@optonline.net	248-7660
Socials	Michelle DiPaolo	cdmd137@aol.com	962-6353
	Karen Malek	malekk@emigrant.com	248-4820
Student Directory	Laura Sweig	LSweig@aol.com	248-6418
Website	Patti Calautti	Farmgirlind@aol.com	962-4707
Welcome	Nina Collins	thecollinsclan@optonline.net	276-1488
Wellness	<u>Stacy Hendrie</u>	stacyhendrie@optonline.net	556-8903





Somers Middle School
277-3399

**SOMERS MIDDLE SCHOOL
VOICE MAILBOXES
2009-2010**

Mrs. D. Acampora	Special Education	633
Mrs. J. Amaditz	Special Education	674
Ms. K. Annicchiarico	Student Assistance Counselor	210
Mrs. J. Antonucci	Social Studies	600
Mr. J. Arnett	Health	648
Ms. P. Baldes	English	605
Mrs. A. Bergin	Social Studies	662
Ms. E. Bieber	Guidance Counselor	235
Mrs. M. Breglio	Special Education	705
Mr. C. Brenneman	Physical Education	241
Mrs. L. Bressan	Reading	604
Mr. V. Bucci	Reading	606
Mrs. M. Capone	Science	657
Mrs. L. Chapman	Computer	609
Mr. S. Chetcuti	Instrumental Music/Band	714
Mr. DJ Colella	Science	663
Mrs. S. Compo	ELA	709
Mrs. P. Court	Mathematics	614
Ms. A. Cuestas	Foreign Language	713
Mr. T. Cunningham	Adaptive Physical Ed/Health	241
Ms. K. Daley	Special Education	601
Mrs. D. Daly	Physical Education	208
Mr. C. Dell	Science	649
Mr. R. DeVito	Technology	602
Mrs. C. DiDona	Reading	607
Ms. E. Fabian	Guidance Counselor	225
Mrs. J. Ferris	Mathematics	618
Ms. E. Ferrucci	Foreign Language	661
Mr. T. Filo	Music	622
Mr. R. Fisher	Special Education	678
Mrs. V. Fisher	Science	620
Mrs. J. Freeman	Speech	623
Ms. T. Garrett	English	644
Mrs. C. Gelman	Librarian	214
Mr. J. Getman	Assistant Principal	204
Mrs. M. Gioffe	Art	243
Mrs. E. Gottesman	Home & Career	626
Mrs. G. Greason	Mathematics	627
Mrs. A. Hayden	Special Education	647
Mr. R. Heller	English/Reading	629
Mrs. S. Ianniello	English	632
Mrs. S. Jacobsen	Mathematics	619
Mrs. M. Kealy Miller	Mathematics	634

NOTE:

If you wish to e-mail staff, type in the first letter of the staff member's first name and their full last name followed by somers.k12.ny.us

**i.e.
SDeanut@
somers.k12.
ny.us**

Somers Middle School 277-3399	SOMERS MIDDLE SCHOOL VOICE MAILBOXES 2009-2010	<i>Continued</i>
Mrs. L. Kearns	Science	671
Mr. S. Kennelly	Psychologist	265
Mrs. M. Klock	Social Studies	645
Mrs. S. Kurchack	Guidance Counselor	226
Mr. TJ Leonard	Assistant Principal	231
Mrs. C. Levine	Foreign Language	635
Ms. S. Mangus	Special Education	712
Mrs. M. Manko	Science	637
Ms. S. Mazzucca	Mathematics	638
Mrs. K. Messina	Foreign Language	639
Mrs. D. Miller	English	655
Ms. M. Moriarty	Home & Career	677
Mr. E. Mullaney	Social Studies	641
Mr. K. Mullen	Physical Education	708
Mr. B. Muller	Special Education	631
Ms. D. Nobile	ELA	710
Ms. D. Ostrye	Special Education	679
Ms. G. Paige	Principal	201
Mr. D. Pappas	English	666
Mr. R. Paulmeno	Math/Social Studies	668
Mrs. A. Pepe	Foreign Language	616
Mrs. K. Reynolds	ELA	642
Mr. W. Rock	Technology	650
Mr. J. Savastano	Mathematics	624
Mrs. J. Schettino	Social Studies	651
Mrs. C. Shilinski	Reading	670
Mrs. P. Sisca	Mathematics	603
Mrs. K. Smith	Psychologist	202
Mrs. D. Stanczuk	English	646
Mrs. L. Stetson	Special Education	654
Mrs. C. Sweeney	English	656
Mrs. K. Turkewitz	Science	659
Ms. J. Varnum	Special Education	653
Mr. J. Varricchio	Special Education	608
Mrs. C. Velez	Science	660
Mr. G. Wanderlingh	Art	243
Mrs. M. White	Mathematics	664
Mrs. K. Wien	Reading	613
Mr. W. Wienecke	Social Studies	665
Mr. T. Wilbert	Science	617
Mr. T. Williams	Safety Officer 248-8585 Ext. 268	
Mr. E. Woolsey	Social Studies	680
Mrs. A. Wozniak	Instrumental Music/String	615

NOTE:

If you wish to e-mail staff, type in the first letter of the staff member's first name and their full last name followed by somers.k12.ny.us

**i.e.
SDeanut@
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ny.us**

**2009-2010
BLOCK SCHEDULE**

CYCLE ONE

GRADE 6			GRADE 7			GRADE 8		
TIME	DAY 1	DAY 2	TIME	DAY 1	DAY 2	TIME	DAY 1	DAY 2
8:30-9:55	1	6	8:30-9:55	1	6	8:30-9:55	1	5
10:00-10:40	2	7	10:00-11:21	2	7	10:00-11:21	2	7
10:43-11:23	LUNCH		11:26-12:06	LUNCH		11:26-12:06	3	8
11:26-12:06	2	7	12:09-1:30	3	8	12:09-12:49	LUNCH	
12:09-1:30	3	8	1:35-2:58	4	9	12:52-1:30	3	8
1:35-2:58	5	9				1:35-2:58	4	9

CYCLE TWO

GRADE 6			GRADE 7			GRADE 8		
TIME	DAY 1	DAY 2	TIME	DAY 1	DAY 2	TIME	DAY 1	DAY 2
8:30-9:55	5	9	8:30-9:55	4	9	8:30-9:55	4	9
10:00-11:21	3	8	10:00-11:21	3	8	10:00-10:40	3	8
11:26-12:06	2	7	11:26-12:06	LUNCH		10:43-11:23	LUNCH	
12:09-12:49	LUNCH		12:09-1:30	2	7	11:26-12:06	3	8
12:52-1:30	2	7	1:35-2:58	1	6	12:09-1:30	2	7
1:35-2:58	1	6				1:35-2:58	1	5

IMPORTANT TELEPHONE NUMBERS

<u>Attendance (Nurse)</u>	277-4099
<u>Main Office</u>	277-3399
<u>Counseling Center</u>	276-2588 277-3399 Ext. 228
<u>Athletic Office</u>	277-3399 Ext. 241 High School 248-7315
<u>Superintendent</u>	277-2400
<u>Assistant Superintendent</u>	277-2405
<u>Committee on Special Education</u>	277-3777
<u>Somers High School</u>	248-8585
<u>Somers Intermediate School</u>	277-4344
<u>Primrose School</u>	248-8888
<u>Bus Garage</u>	243-3032
<u>HOTLINE NUMBERS</u>	
<u>Alcoholics Anonymous (AA)</u>	949-1200
<u>Child Abuse & Maltreatment Reporting Center</u>	1-800-342-3720
<u>Drugs</u>	1-800-522-5353
<u>National Runaways</u>	1-800-621-4000
<u>Suicide Prevention & Crisis Counseling</u>	347-6400
<u>Poison Control Center (Hudson Valley)</u>	366-3000

