


Kulshan



Middle School

STUDENT HANDBOOK 2009-2010

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This agenda belongs to:

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY/TOWN _____ ZIP CODE _____

PHONE _____

STUDENT NO. _____



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At Kulshan Middle School I will HONOR myself... others... my school... everyday.

I will honor MYSELF by...

- ✚ Believing that I have the power to be successful.
- ✚ Being positive and appropriate in what I say and do.
- ✚ Recognizing how my actions impact the entire community.
- ✚ Coming prepared, working hard, and expecting to stretch beyond where I am.

I will honor OTHERS by...

- ✚ Valuing all individuals and respecting our differences.
- ✚ Working together to achieve academic excellence and strengthen personal character.
- ✚ Taking a stand in favor of respectful conduct.
- ✚ Demonstrating kindness and integrity.

I will honor MY SCHOOL by...

- ✚ Promoting a safe place for everyone to be, think, share and learn.
- ✚ Taking care of the building and showing pride in our school.
- ✚ Modeling good citizenship.



OUR SCHOOL

The Kulshan Legend

"Kulshan" is the Native American name for Mount Baker. Our Kulshan logo is the mythological Thunderbird. The Thunderbird was responsible for the protection of the salmon. Legend has it that in order to save the salmon from the killer whales, the mighty Thunderbird swooped down, picked up a giant Orca and dropped it into the top of Mt. Baker. That is when Komo Kulshan erupted for the first time. The Thunderbird was selected by our students to represent our school. Mr. Frank Lawrence of the Lummi Nation created our Thunderbird logo. We are very proud of our symbol and always treat it with respect.

School Colors

Our school colors are dark royal blue, a deep red, and silver. The blue represents the sea where the Orca lives. Red stands for the color of the sky when Mt. Baker erupted. Silver is the color of the salmon that the Thunderbird protected.

Kulshan Vision

The vision of our school is: *The Kulshan community collaborates to create and promote a respectful student-focused environment where responsibility is practiced and all students are engaged in challenging and relevant learning.*" - Kulshan Staff, 2001

Kulshan Teams

Our school has six teams, two at each grade level. Teams are named after San Juan Islands which are located in the Puget Sound near Bellingham.

The six teams are:

Sixth Grade: *Matia and Waldron*

Seventh Grade: *Crane and Patos*

Eighth Grade: *Decatur and Spieden*

To email my team of teachers, type the team name, followed by bham.wednet.edu. For example, matia@bham.wednet.edu



BEING PREPARED TO LEARN

I should do my best to take care of myself by getting a good night's sleep and eating a good breakfast so that I feel ready to learn each day. I am also expected to bring all materials and supplies required to engage fully in my learning. I should own and use a planner to keep track of due dates and responsibilities. **Planners are available for purchase in the office. If finances are of a concern, my family can contact the counseling office for assistance.**

Attributes of a Successful Learner

The attributes outlined below are student behaviors that lead to successful learning. By developing these attributes, I will be more likely to achieve success in educational, career and personal pursuits in the future. I can evaluate my progress in these attribute areas using the following 4,3,2,1 scale.

Student Performance Guide:

4=Exceeds Expectations: Consistently demonstrates these attributes

3=Meets Expectations: Generally demonstrates these attributes

2=Progressing toward Expectations: Needs to practice the attributes to improve success

1=Does Not Meet Expectations: Needs to attempt these attributes to improve success

I demonstrate intellectual engagement by

- Actively exploring new ideas and posing questions about their meaning, significance, and implications
- Identifying connections between new ideas and previous learning
- Seeking to make sense of new learning
- Being willing to take risks and being challenged as a part of the learning process
- Contributing to and engaging in class discussions
- Benefiting from group learning opportunities

I take responsibility for my own learning by

- Attending class and when absent, seeking ways to learn the material covered in class
- Conscientiously preparing work assigned for class and completing tasks on time
- Examining and learning from my mistakes and seeking help when needed
- Taking advantage of available resources—class time, notes, textbook, assignments, teacher help, peers, supplemental materials
- Setting aside the time necessary to be successful
- Planning time well, so procrastination is avoided

I persevere when faced with complex tasks by

- Being willing to work on assignments that require significant time, thought, and effort
- Successfully completing tasks that require organizing and implementing multiple steps, concepts, or techniques
- Recognizing when an approach is unsuccessful and identifying logical alternatives

I pay attention to detail by

- Correctly following all parts of oral and written directions without needing additional reminders from others
- Seeking out proof readers and correcting all errors
- Producing quality work

STAY CONNECTED

My parents/guardians and I can keep up with what is happening at school in many ways:

- Register online for eNEWS, by going to www.bham.wednet.edu.
- Sign-up for the PTSA Thursday Note in the KMS Front Office
- Sign-up for Parent Connect in the Student Services Office to check my lunch account, grades, and attendance
- Regularly check the Kulshan Middle School website for athletic schedules, an online calendar, team information, and updates at www.kulshan.bham.wednet

GENERAL INFORMATION

Cafeteria

Breakfast and lunch are served daily in the cafeteria. In the cafeteria I am expected to:

1. Wait in the appropriate line until directed to enter serving area.
2. Memorize my lunch number and buy food for myself only.
3. Eat my own food and not ask others for food.
4. Return my tray, recycle, and clean my own table area.
5. Walk (not run) in the Commons area.
6. Consume food and beverages in the commons, not outside.
7. Enter hallways only with a library pass or written teacher permission.
8. Visit quietly, play games, or enjoy supervised areas outside when finished with my lunch.



Breakfast: \$1.75, Lunch: \$3.00, Milk Only: \$.50

Reduced Price Breakfast: FREE, Reduced Price Lunch: \$.40*

**Free or reduced priced breakfasts and lunches are available for those children whose families meet federal income eligibility requirements. Extra applications are available in the school office or on the Food Services page of the district Web site.*

Food and Beverages

I understand that food and beverages must be eaten in the Commons. No food or beverages will be allowed outside, on the stage, in the halls or at the lockers. Opened food or beverage containers may not be stored in lockers. I may have water in a clear container and/or a healthy snack in classrooms at teacher discretion.

Gum

I am not to bring, pass out, or chew gum at anytime or anywhere on the Kulshan campus. This includes before and between class time, during lunch, after school while on campus, and at school sponsored events. My cooperation in “sticking” to this rule is greatly appreciated. Choosing to ignore this rule will result in consequences.

Book bags, Purses, and Backpacks

Book bags, purses, or backpacks of any size or kind are not allowed in the classroom. These items should remain in my locker during the school day. PE bags must be stored in my PE locker and can be dropped off before school.



Textbooks and Library Books

Textbooks and library books are assigned or checked out to me on loan. I am responsible for keeping my books secure, clean, and in good condition. If a book is lost, stolen, or damaged, I should report it to my teacher and librarian right away. I will be expected to pay a replacement fee for any book damage or loss.

Guests

Student visitors during the school day are not allowed. Adult visitors and volunteers are welcome, but must check in at the office and get a visitor's badge. Adult visitors to the classroom will be allowed only with the prior knowledge and arrangements of the administration and staff.

Student Body Cards (ASB cards)

As a Kulshan Middle School student, I get a free student body card. I can use this card for general identification and for checking out foos balls and ping pong balls at lunch.

Lockers

Lockers are for my convenience and are the property of Kulshan Middle School. They must be kept clean and ready for possible inspection at all times. I should keep my combination to myself and never share or change lockers without getting permission from the Attendance Secretary. I can report any problems I have with my locker to the Main Office. I should treat my locker with care. Kicking or jamming my locker or giving my combination out to other students may result in a loss of locker privileges. I can decorate the inside of my locker with removable and appropriate items such as magnets and pictures of friends, family, and pets.



DRESS CODE

My appearance at school should be neat and clean and include shoes at all times. The way I dress or wear my hair should not interfere with the learning process or be a disruptive influence in the school. I should also not mark or write on others or allow others to write or mark on me. ***I am expected to dress according to the following guidelines when I get ready for school:***

Do Wear...	Don't Wear...
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Shorts or skirts that are at least fingertip length when shoulders are relaxed and hands are extended by my side.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Items referencing drugs, alcohol, violence, sex/sexism, racism, or gang affiliation*
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Tops that provide good coverage in front and back; straps two finger-widths or more	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Low cut, cropped, halter, strapless, spaghetti strap, or cut-out back tops
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Clothing that covers all undergarments	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Hanging belts or chains
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Pants that are at the waist	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Saggy, baggy pants
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Sweatshirts, fleece or sweaters when cold	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Coats in the classroom
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Proper P.E. uniform and footwear for P.E.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Shoes with wheels

*This guideline also applies to any writing or drawing on my binder or school work.

If I am sent to the office for a dress code violation, the consequences will be as follows:

First Offense: I may call home for a change of clothes or "check out" clothing from office to be returned the following day. My parents will be notified.

Second Offense: Progressive consequences which may include suspension for violation of dress code.

ELECTRONIC DEVICES

While it is **NOT** recommended to bring items such as cell phones, radios, headphones, compact discs players, IPODS, and MP3 players to school, I may chose to do so as long as **I understand that the school is not liable or responsible for theft, loss, or damage of these items.** Bringing these devices to school is a privilege. In doing so, I understand that I must respect the following appropriate use guidelines:

<i>Do ...</i>	<i>Don't...</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use before school, at lunch, or after school 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use in hallways, lunch lines, or classrooms
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Silence devices during the school day. Use classroom or office phones with permission. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Send and or reply to calls or text messages during class/hall time.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Send appropriate text messages and images 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Send inappropriate images or texts
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Take pictures or videos of class projects, experiments, etc. with staff permission. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Take pictures or videos without staff permission
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Keep electronic devices securely locked up when not in use or on your person when in use 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Leave electronic devices in packs, binders, or lying around unattended

Any electronic device that is a distraction, used inappropriately, or used without permission will be confiscated and turned in to the office. The following consequences will be enforced.

First Offense: Item will be held for pick up by student at end of day.

Second Offense: Item will be held for a parent or guardian to pick up.

Third Offense: Item may be held for the remainder of the school year.

Additional Offenses: Will require progressive school discipline.

Note: The office is not responsible for theft of items that must be confiscated due to inappropriate use.



Student Use of Email and Internet

As a student of Kulshan Middle School, I will have access to technology that will enable me to explore thousands of libraries, databases, and bulletin boards while exchanging messages with people worldwide. Per Board Policy, independent use of electronic information will be permitted if my parents/guardian and I sign usage agreement forms. I am responsible for good behavior on the networks and am subject to discipline (Board Policy 3200) for misuse of telecommunications. If I email people I don't know or send inappropriate messages, I may lose my email privileges. If I use the internet or visit websites for purposes other than school work, I may lose my network privileges. I should remember that what I do on the school computer network and district email is NOT PRIVATE and can be viewed by staff at any time.

Lost and Found

I should leave items of value at home and avoid exchanging or loaning clothes or electronic devices to others at school. Marking my clothing, coats, gym clothes, shoes, etc. with a permanent-marking pen will help ensure their return if lost. Lost property should be taken to the Main Office. All lost and unclaimed items will be donated to local charitable organizations on the last Friday of the month. I should only take what belongs to me out of lost and found.

STUDENT RECOGNITION

Students at Kulshan are recognized for excellence and exceptional effort in the areas of Academics, Merit, Attendance, Athletics, Activities, and for Character Traits.



Honor Roll Awards

If I receive a GPA of 3.5 and above first semester, I will be recognized at a Kulshan Honors Night and am invited to bring my family. Because second semester grading period ends on the last day of school, honor roll certificates are mailed home during the summer.

Merit Awards

Merit awards are another form of recognition given by teams for students showing outstanding effort and achievement in a particular subject area.

Student of the Month

Each month teams also present a *Student of the Month* with a certificate including a photo of the student and a description of his or her accomplishment. Copies of the certificates are also displayed in the classroom and entryway. Student names are read over the intercom in the morning announcements and printed in the Thursday Note.

Kulshan Kudos

I have the opportunity to recognize my teachers, staff members, and peers for specific character traits by filling out and giving them a yellow Kulshan Kudos slip. Some of the traits I might notice in others include adaptability, citizenship, collaboration, courage, courtesy, enthusiasm, improvement, inclusiveness, initiative, innovation, leadership, perseverance, positivity, service, thoughtfulness, and other positive qualities. A weekly drawing is held and student names are read over the intercom in the morning announcements and printed in the Thursday Note.

Athletic Awards

P.E.: As a Kulshan student I can earn special recognition for my efforts in the pacer test and mile run with a t-shirts and my picture displayed on P.E. wall

Team Sports: End of season award ceremonies honor students for their participation in Middle School Sports.

Attendance Awards

Students with perfect attendance and timeliness are awarded with end-of-year certificates.

KULSHAN DANCES AND SCHOOL CARNIVAL



Dances and all-school social activities are after-school and are a chance for me to socialize with friends in a casual, yet structured atmosphere. These activities are for Kulshan students only. I am expected to stay for the entire activity unless a parent or guardian comes for me. I must stay in the Commons or gym and not be outside the

building except in designated areas. I am expected to be safe and respect the direction of adults who are chaperoning. If I dance body-to-body, inappropriately, or unsafely, I will be asked to leave and will not receive a refund. Some after school events or refreshments may require a participation fee. Refreshments are to be eaten in designated areas.

MIDDLE SCHOOL ATHLETICS



Students attending the four middle schools in the Bellingham School District have the opportunity to participate in a quality athletic program. As a result of significant state budget cuts, the district's middle school athletic program will need to be self-supporting. In order to achieve this goal, students will be required to pay an activity fees for participation in the interscholastic sport(s) of choice. Intramural sports will be available to students without charge. Students will be able to participate in the sport seasons listed below.

<u>6th GRADE SPORT OFFERINGS</u>	<u>7th/8th GRADE SPORT OFFERINGS</u>
Season One (September – October) ☞ Boys and Girls Soccer ☞ Floor Exercise & Dance Season Two (November – February) ☞ Intramural Basketball (a.m.) Season Three (February – April) ☞ Wrestling ☞ Volleyball Intramurals (a.m.) Season Four (April – June) ☞ Track	Season One (September – October) ☞ Boys and Girls Soccer ☞ Floor Exercise & Dance ☞ Football Season Two (November – February) ☞ Boys and Girls Interscholastic Basketball Season Three (February – April) ☞ Wrestling ☞ Girls Volleyball Season Four (April – June) ☞ Track

Requirements for Participation in Athletics:

- ☞ Have a current physical on file prior to practice beginning. (Forms are available at each middle school.)
- ☞ Complete and return an Athletic Registration Form with all required signatures.
- ☞ Pay the required athletic participation fee (fees are listed below) for interscholastic sports.
- ☞ Maintain required academic standards and adhere to student behavior expectations.
- ☞ Pay fees directly to the attendance secretary before participation. (If I receive free or reduced lunch I must complete a required form and return it to the school office at time of registration for a sport in order to receive the reduced rate for which I am eligible.)

Note: Some scholarship funds will be available to assist students who need help with the fees but are not eligible for free or reduced lunch. Please see the school counselor or attendance secretary for an application.

REQUIRED ATHLETIC FEES FOR MIDDLE SCHOOL			
Student Meal Status	1st Sport Fee	2nd Sport Fee	3rd/4th Sport Fee
Full Pay	\$100	\$85	\$0
Reduced Pay	\$65	\$50	\$0
Free Meals	\$35	\$35	\$0

Physical Examination for Athletics

I need a physical examination before I can participate in middle school athletics (with the exception of intramurals (am)). The physical examination needs to be done by a medical authority licensed to perform a physical examination. This physical is valid for a 13-month period. A physical exam update will be required prior to each subsequent year of participation in sports at the middle and high school levels.

ATTENDANCE and TARDY INFORMATION

“Must be present to WIN!”

At Kulshan, we understand that attendance affects what we learn in our classes and believe that in order to be successful, it is essential to attend school regularly and to be to every class on time. I am responsible for making up missed work due to an absence. Some learning opportunities such as guest speakers, special presentations, labs, discussions, etc. can not be made up. Therefore, it is important that whenever possible, I am present and engaged in the learning that takes place in the classroom.

Absences

If I need to be absent from school for a legitimate reason, my parents or guardians should call the Attendance Secretary at 647-6877 to excuse my absence or send a note with me to give to the Main Office when I return to school from my absence. The note should include my full name, dates of absence, reason for absence, and parent or guardian's signature. School District Policy states that absences considered “excused” are for reasons of illness, emergency, medical appointments, or those prearranged by the parent on the morning of the absence. According to Washington State Law (RCW 28A.225), if I exceed five (5) unexcused absences in a month or ten (10) unexcused absences in a year, a BECCA Petition will be filed with Juvenile Court of Whatcom County. ***Please note: All absences must be excused within forty-eight (48) hours or they will be marked unexcused and may result in discipline sanctions.***

Tardy Policy

Kulshan Middle School encourages punctuality. When I am on time to class I benefit from start up instructions and announcements. Punctuality also reinforces respectful behavior and allows teachers and students to focus on the work at hand. If I am tardy to school in the morning, I need to bring a note from my parent or guardian and check in at the Main Office.

What is a tardy? I must be in the classroom or in my seat (per teacher expectation) at the scheduled start of class time. Examples of excused tardiness are illness, doctor or dental appointments and family emergencies. Examples of unexcused tardies are traffic, running late, transportation issues, etc. Unexcused tardiness cannot be excused even with a note. ***Please note: All tardies must be excused within forty-eight (48) hours or they will be marked unexcused.*** At any other time during the school day, if I am late to class without a valid excuse note I will be marked tardy. Reviewing the consequences below will help me be aware of what will happen if I am tardy.

Consequences for Being Tardy (Per Semester)

1st tardy—Freebie

2nd tardy—Warning

3rd tardy—Lunch Detention

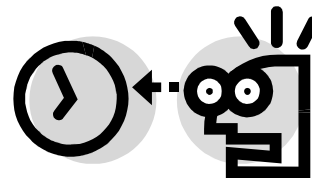
4th tardy—After School Detention (60 min.)

5th tardy—Saturday School, 2 hour

6th tardy—Saturday School, 4 hour

7th tardy—In-School Suspension

8 or more tardies will result in further progressive consequences including suspension.



Truancy

Truancy is an unexcused absence from class or the school campus during school hours. Truancies result in consequences such as Detention, Saturday School, or Suspension. The following instances are examples of being truant:

1. More than ten (10) minutes late to class
2. Out of class or off campus without permission
3. Absent from school without permission from parents or guardians
4. In areas that have been designated as "out-of-bounds"
5. Being given a pass to a certain place and not arriving in a timely manner.

Permission to Leave School Grounds

If I need to leave the school grounds for any reason, I must bring a note from my parent or guardian and sign out at the Main Office. If I return the same day, I must sign in at the Main Office and get a pass to class. Leaving campus without pre-approval will be considered truancy.

Appointments

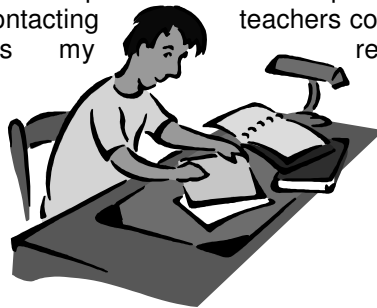
Because classroom attendance is important, my parent/guardian is encouraged to make appointments outside of the school day. If I must leave school for a legitimate reason, I need to bring a note from my parent or guardian indicating the date, time and reason. **I should present my note for early dismissal to the Attendance Secretary first thing in the morning.** I will then get an Early Dismissal slip from the Main Office to present to the teacher of the class I need to leave early. As I am leaving, I will stop by the Main Office and sign out. If I return to school the same day, I must check back in at the Main Office and get a pass to class.

Pre-Planned Absence

If I know I will be absent from school for a number of days for family business or vacations, I must fill out a Pre-planned Absence form. The Pre-planned Absence form is available in the Main Office. This form needs to be taken to my teachers **before** my absence. Pre-planned absences are excused absences unless I am failing a class. If an absence will negatively impact my progress in a class, parents or guardians are contacted to discuss the situation before I am absent.

Homework Request

If I am going to be absent **for three (3) or more days** I may request homework. Teachers will do their best to respond to requests within twenty-four (24) hours after the request is made. My homework may be picked up at the Main Office prior to 4:00 pm or I can take it home with me to work on. Contacting teachers concerning homework missed for shorter absences is my responsibility when I return to school.



DISCIPLINE INFORMATION **STUDENT RIGHTS**

As a student at Kulshan Middle School, I have the right to:

1. A quality education.
2. A safe school environment that respects my dignity and self-worth.
3. Participate in activities and athletics.
4. Expect courtesy from others.
5. Be informed of my progress in school.



STUDENT RESPONSIBILITIES

As a student at Kulshan Middle School I am expected to ***“Honor Myself, Others, and My School.”*** I am responsible for my own actions and will be held accountable for inappropriate behavior. It is my responsibility to:

1. Respect the rights and property of others and obey school rules.
2. Attend class and school on time and be prepared to work with necessary materials.
3. Use appropriate language, free of profanity and harassing statements.
4. Identify myself by name, on request, to school staff and substitutes.
5. Not use or possess tobacco, alcohol, drugs or drug paraphernalia on school property.
6. Keep weapons and imitations of them away from school. Possession may result in emergency expulsion.
7. Not make “death threats” or statements threatening harm to others as these statements may also result in expulsion.
8. Not chew gum in classes or on campus at any time.
9. Limit public display of affection to holding hands.



HARRASSMENT and BULLYING

At Kulshan Middle school we treat each other with respect because we are all part of the Kulshan “Family.” We, the students and staff of Kulshan, believe that every person has the right to attend our school free from any type of verbal or physical harassment--this includes sexual harassment and harassment for race, beliefs, color, gender identity, marital status, or any other reason. It is not acceptable to be a “bystander” (i.e. egging on a fight, witnessing harassment or bullying and not finding an adult or being a passive

onlooker.) I may receive consequences for not taking a proactive approach such as getting an adult to help or reporting a dangerous or violent act.

Types of Harassment and Bullying

There are many types of harassment, intimidation, or bullying. Harassment can include comments about physical appearance, clothing or other apparel, socioeconomic status, gender identity, etc. Harassment, intimidation, or bullying can take many forms including: slurs, rumors, jokes, innuendos, demeaning comments, drawings, pranks, gestures, physical attacks, threats, or other written, oral, or physical actions such as taking things from binders, hiding materials, and general mischief.

Specifically, someone who harasses, intimidates, or bullies is someone who:

- Physically harms a student or damages the student's property; or
- Has the effect of substantially interfering with a student's education; or

- Is so severe, persistent, or pervasive that it creates an intimidating or threatening educational environment; or
- Has the effect of substantially disrupting the orderly operation of the school.

Harassment in any form is NOT COOL (nor is it tolerated)! There are consequences for those who choose to participate in harassing others at Kulshan Middle School. Everyone has a right to a harassment-free education and a safe school environment. I play an important part in keeping Kulshan Middle School a “Harassment Free Zone.” If I have questions regarding harassment, I should speak with my parent, teacher, counselor, or administrator.

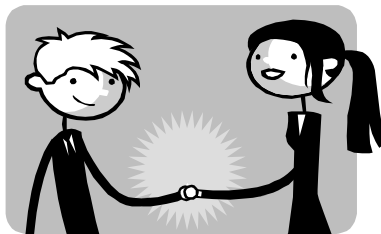
Fighting

All forms of physical aggression will not be tolerated. Any student who physically strikes, kicks, or pushes another student will be subject to suspension.

Self Defense vs. Retaliation: Faced with a threat or aggression from another student, I should remove myself from the situation and area immediately. Striking back, whether verbally or physically, usually results in making the situation worse. I am expected to report any threat or act of aggression toward me to an adult or the office as soon as possible. If I choose to strike another student because they threaten me or strike me first, it will be considered retaliation and I will also be subject to suspension.

Range of Sanctions

Ranges of sanctions for discipline are taken from the Bellingham School District Board Policy #3200 which is posted on the district website in detail. It indicates a range for discipline at the middle level that is sanctioned by the District. Disciplinary sanctions may include one or more of the following: Lunch or After School Detention, Community Service, Restitution, Saturday School, Short Term Suspension, Long Term Suspension, and Expulsion. Discipline is assigned in a progressive process, meaning that if my behavior is not corrected, the level of consequence is increased. An administrator may choose to assign discipline farther up the discipline progression if the behavior is extreme or chronic.



STUDENT SERVICES

The Student Services Office is located in the 100 wing and provides many valuable services to Kulshan students and their families. Located in Student Services are the Student Services Secretary, Nurse, and Counselors. Many services and programs are provided by Student Services staff including registration, counseling, substance abuse prevention/ intervention, and the CREW Mentor Program.

Registration

The Kulshan Registrar works closely with administration and teachers to establish the Kulshan schedule and placement of students into teams and classes. Selection of teams

and classes is done utilizing many criteria to assure a balance of students within each group. Due to this balance, team or class preferences of students and their families cannot be accommodated. All students participate in Math, Science, Social Studies and Language Arts classes each day. Additionally, each student participates in an enrichment class and P.E. on an A/B schedule. Enrichment classes include such offerings as Band and Orchestra, Art, World Music, and World Language. Each spring the registrar and counselors visit the elementary schools to begin the registration process for the 6th grade. The current 6th and 7th graders are given registration forms for their next year. Additionally, the Bellingham and Sehome High School counselors visit the 8th grade class to begin the transition to high school.

Counseling Services

The school counselor works to create an atmosphere of confidence, understanding and respect for all students. Kulshan Middle School counselors provide counseling and guidance services to all students. The counselors welcome student drop-in contacts before and after school and during lunchtime. The student-counselor relationship is one based on mutual respect and confidentiality. They work with parents or guardians, teachers, and administrators to enhance social, emotional and educational growth. Confidentiality is maintained at all times with the exception of the mandatory reporting laws (RCW 26.44.010). Students who are 13 years or older maintain their own right to confidentiality (RCW 71.34.030). Washington State school counselors have master's degrees in counseling and are certified as professional trained counselors. In addition to seeing students individually, counselors help students work through friendship, harassment, and personal issues. Some small group sessions are also offered in areas such as study skills, anger management, and social skills. Students are able to schedule appointments during the school day by making an appointment with the school registrar in Student Services. Class time release is at the discretion of the teacher.

C.R.E.W.

"C.R.E.W." is a peer-mentorship program for incoming sixth grade students. Seventh and eighth grade students serve as mentors and helpers for our new students. C.R.E.W. stands for Connections, Responsibility, Encouragement, and Welcoming. There is a CREW orientation each fall. Ongoing activities are planned throughout the year for mentors and new students to have time together.

STUDENT HEALTH and SAFETY



Accidents

If I have an accident at school, on the school grounds, at practice sessions, or at any event sponsored by the school, I must report it to the staff member in charge or other available school authorities. School staff will help me fill out an accident form available at Student Services.

Illness at School

If I become ill at school, I may go to the Student Services Office after receiving permission from my teacher. I may use the sick-room for a short time, but then must go back to class or call my parent or guardian to go home.

Medication at School

If I need to take medication at school, my parent or guardian must bring the medication and an appropriate form completed by my physician to the Main Office detailing the method, amount, and time schedule of that medication. The appropriate forms for medication are available in the school office. **Do not bring any medication, including over-the-counter drugs such as cough drops and Tylenol, to school as this is in violation of the Bellingham School District drug and alcohol policy.**



School Insurance

Optional student insurance is available at a nominal cost. If I am insured under this plan and am injured, I will be given a claim form. This form must be completed by my parent or guardian and presented to my doctor or hospital. The school makes insurance available, but assumes no liability, either for the injury or the subsequent negotiations with the insurance company.

Emergency Situations-911 Call

All serious conditions or injuries will result in calls to 911. In the event that I have symptoms or behavior that causes me to be incoherent or unable to communicate clearly, emergency aid will be called. ***Students who make false 911 calls or pull the fire alarm at school will face severe consequences that may include emergency expulsion and legal action.***

SAFETY DRILLS

Earthquake and Lock-down Drills

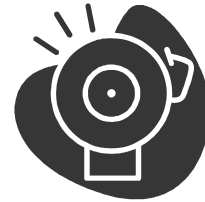
Staff and students will discuss and practice emergency drills and procedures. Emergency procedures to follow when the alarm sounds are:

Earthquake procedures

1. Stop work immediately and follow the directions of my teacher.
2. DROP...COVER...HOLD... (Get under my desk or table)
3. Wait for the "all clear" signal and my teacher's instructions for the next step.

Lockdown drills are for emergencies that require students to stay in their rooms for safety (intruders, unsafe person outside, etc.)

1. Students get down against the inside wall of the classroom and lie flat on the floor.
2. Teachers will lock doors, turn out lights close blinds and lock windows.
3. Students need to lie on floor silently, stay calm and listen to the teacher.



Fire Drills

Several times during the year we will practice fire drills so that we will all know how to exit the building in a safe manner in case of fire. In the event of a fire drill, please follow these procedures:

1. Exit **quietly** to the designated area assigned to my class outside of the building. It is important that I exit quietly so that any directions given to me by my teacher may be heard easily.
2. Walk in an orderly manner with no pushing, shoving, or "fooling around."
3. When outside, line up and stay in my designated team area with my teacher.
4. When given the "all clear" signal, follow my teacher in a single file line back to class.

SCHOOL TRANSPORTATION

Riding the school bus to and from school is a privilege. **I am expected to behave responsibly, safely, and respectfully both on the school bus and at bus stops.** Bus conduct reports are disciplinary reports used to inform both students and parents of inappropriate behavior involving the student and the school bus. Riding privileges may be denied in cases of inappropriate behavior. Below are the District's Bus Rules.

1. The bus driver is in full charge of the bus and students.
2. Cross streets under the direction of the bus driver and cross only in front of the bus.
3. Observe classroom type conduct: be courteous, don't use profane language, teasing or name-calling.
4. Keep bus clean: no eating, drinking or chewing gum.
5. Remain seated at all times; keep head, hands and feet inside the bus.
6. No pets, animals or hazardous objects allowed on the bus.

Consequences for breaking the bus rules are as follows:

First offense=warning

Second offense=3 days off the bus

Third offense=5 days off the bus

Fourth offense=off for the remainder of semester or school year.



Bus Passes

If I wish to ride a bus that I am not assigned to, or if I wish to get off at a stop different than my assigned one, I must bring a note from my parent or guardian requesting permission. Notes should be taken to the office in the morning. A pass to ride the bus must be issued by the office and presented to the bus driver upon boarding. Telephone permission will not be accepted except in emergency situations. Permission to ride a bus may be denied by transportation due to overloading, etc.

Bicycles, Skateboards, Scooters and Such

If I ride my bicycle to school, it must be locked in the bicycle rack during the school day and remain parked until school is dismissed. I will walk my bike when arriving to and leaving the school grounds. If I ride a skateboard or scooter to school, I will keep these items in my locker or checked in at the office. I will carry these items on and off campus and not ride them on school grounds.



Student Drop-Off and Pick-Up

Students arriving or leaving the school in a private vehicle must be dropped off and/or picked up **in the lower parking lot only from 7:30AM-3:30PM.** The bus loop, handicapped, and staff parking lots are not appropriate drop-off/pick-up locations for students and parents (unless disabled). **Parents should travel one way only through the pick up/drop off loop.**

TELEPHONE USE

I have access to a phone located in the Main Office. This phone should be used for necessary calls to parents or guardians only. Phone calls to friends are not allowed. Please remember, the use of this phone is a privilege. Phones are also located in classrooms and may be used with staff permission for school related concerns.

2009-2010 School Calendar

Please refer to the Kulshan Website for the most up-to-date information such as athletic schedules, picture days, and special events.

September 2009

8 First Day for Students
28 Early Release for All Schools*

October 2009

5 Early Release for All Schools
19 Early Release for All Schools

November 2009

11 No School — Veterans Day
18-19 Early Release for elementary/middle school conferences
23-24 Early Release for elementary/middle school conferences
25 Early Release for All Schools
26-27 No School — Thanksgiving Holiday

December 2009

7 Early Release for All Schools
18 Early Release for All Schools
21-Jan.1 No School — Winter Break

January 2010

4 School Resumes
11 Early Release for All Schools
18 No School — Martin Luther King Jr. Day

February 2010

1 No School — Teacher Workday (Grading —End of first semester)
12, 15 No School — Mid-Winter Break and Presidents Day
22 Early Release for All Schools

March 2010

1 Early Release for All Schools
22 Early Release for All Schools

April 2010

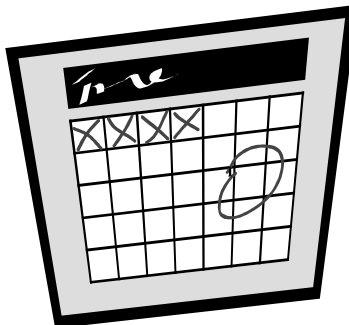
5-9 No School — Spring Break
26 Early Release for All Schools

May 2010

17 Early Release for All Schools
31 No School — Memorial Day

June 2010

17 Last Day for Students
Early Release for All Schools (Emergency/weather closures could change the last day of school.)



**Early release times are:
Elementary 12:30 p.m.;
Middle 11:30 a.m. dismissal;
High School 10:30 a.m.;
Options/GRADS 12:30 p.m. dismissal.*

KULSHAN MIDDLE SCHOOL STUDENT HANDBOOK 2008-2009

"I have read through the contents of this handbook and have shared the information with my parents/guardians. I understand that I am responsible to fulfill the expectations presented in the handbook. Failure to follow the guidelines may result in loss of privileges or other consequences.

Date _____

Team _____

Student Name _____

Student Signature _____

Parent Name _____

Parent Signature _____

