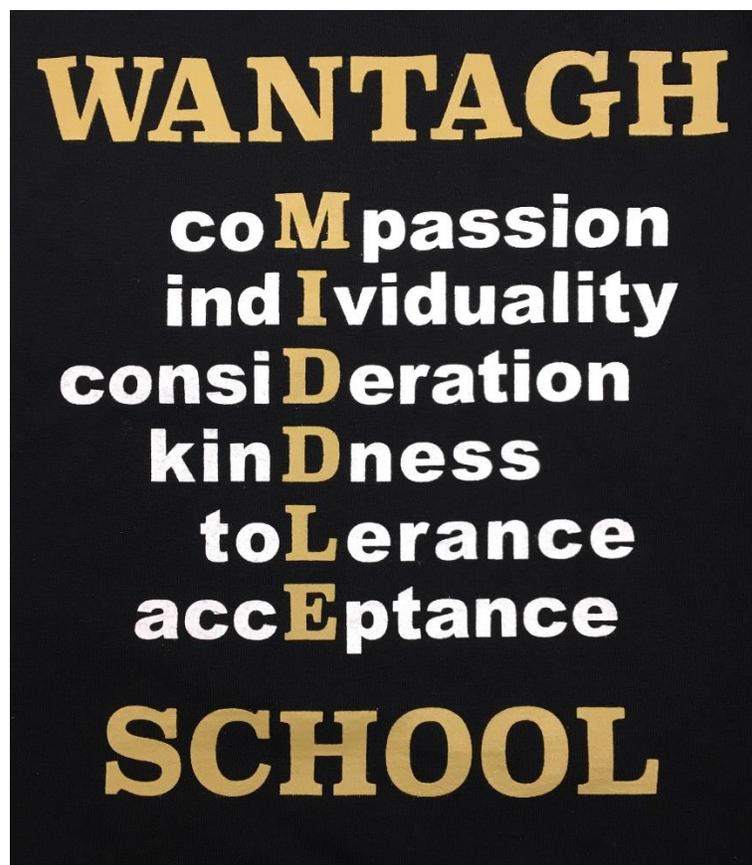


WANTAGH MIDDLE SCHOOL
STUDENT HANDBOOK
2020-2021



#WarriorsCare

Mr. Anthony F. Ciuffo, Jr., Principal
Dr. Stephanie Scolieri, Assistant Principal

Principal: Anthony F. Ciuffo, Jr.
Assistant Principal: Stephanie Scolieri

Guidance Counselors	Grades 6	Grade 7	Grade 8
Mr. Ward	A-F	A-F	A-F
Mrs. Gilley	G-M	G-M	G-M
Mr. Bloom	N-Z	N-Z	N-Z

Psychologists: Dr. Zelenetz and Dr. Taylor
Nurse: Mrs. Dzigas **Librarian:** Ms. Weber

PRINCIPAL’S MESSAGE

I am so honored to be your principal! My goal is for Wantagh Middle School to be a place that you can’t wait to get to each morning and hate leaving each afternoon. Your teachers love you and want to see you succeed. They will do whatever they need in order to make that happen, but here are a few ways that you can also help yourself have an amazing school experience!

- Always come prepared with your Chromebook, notebook, pen and/or pencil.
- Please make sure to leave any communication devices in your bag.
- BE KIND to your classmates and to your teachers.
- Work hard, because “HARD WORK PAYS OFF!”

Perhaps the most important thing to remember is the importance of building positive relationships! When you walk through the doors each morning at Wantagh Middle School, make eye contact with someone, smile, and say “Hi.” Repeat this multiple times every day and you will be just fine! You’d be surprised how far a friendly smile and a “hello” will take you. Remember that we are here to support you, so do not ever feel that you cannot come talk to any one of us, including Dr. Scolieri or myself. Our doors are always open for you! Have an amazing school year!

STUDENT RIGHTS & RESPONSIBILITIES

Student Rights – The district is committed to safeguarding the rights given to all students under state and federal law and district policy. In addition, to promote a safe, healthy, orderly and supportive school environment, all district students have the right to:

- Attend school in the district in which one’s parent or legal guardian resides.
- Expect that school will be a safe place to be educated.
- Be respected as an individual.
- Have the opportunity to take part in all school activities free of discrimination and harassment, regardless of race, color, creed, religion, religious practice, national origin, ethnic group, political affiliation, sex, sexual orientation, age, weight or disability.
- Present their version of the relevant events to school personnel in a discipline situation.
- Access school policies, regulations, rules and, when necessary, receive an explanation of those rules from school personnel.

Student Responsibilities – All students have the responsibility to:

- Contribute to maintaining a safe and supportive school environment that is conducive to learning and to show respect to others and to property.
- Be familiar with and abide by school policies, rules and regulations dealing with student conduct.
- Attend school every day unless legally excused. Also, be in class, on time, and prepared to learn.
- Work to the best of their ability in all academic and extracurricular pursuits and strive toward their highest level of achievement possible.
- React to direction given by teachers, administrators and other school personnel in a respectful, positive manner.
- Work to develop coping skills to manage anger.
- Ask questions when they do not understand.
- Seek help in solving problems.
- Dress appropriately for school and school functions in accordance with the dress code, so as not to endanger physical health, safety, limit participation in school activities or be unduly distracting.
- Accept responsibility for their actions.
- Conduct themselves as representatives of the district when participating in or attending school-sponsored extracurricular events and to hold themselves to the highest standards of conduct, demeanor, and sportsmanship.
- To respect one another and treat others fairly in accordance with the District Code of Conduct and the provisions of the Dignity Act.
- To report and encourage others, to report any incidents of intimidation, harassment or discrimination.

DIGNITY ACT (DASA)

- Promote a safe, orderly and stimulating school environment while supporting active teaching and learning for all students regardless of actual or perceived race, color, weight, national origin, ethnic group, religion, religious practice, disability, sexual orientation, gender or sex.
- Identify material and resources that support teaching civility in classroom instruction and classroom management; and provide guidance to staff as to how to access and implement those resources.
- Be responsible for monitoring and reporting on the effectiveness of the district's bullying prevention policy.
- Address issues of harassment or any situation that threatens the emotional or physical health or safety of any student, school employee, or any person who is unlawfully on school property or at a school function.

Wantagh Middle School Dignity Act Coordinators:

Dr. Scolieri
Assistant Principal
scolieris@wantaghschools.org
(516)679-6350

Dr. Zelenetz
School Psychologist
zelenetzt@wantaghschools.org
(516)679-6372

TECHNOLOGY

- **Inappropriate use of technology.** Examples of inappropriate use include but are not limited to:
 - Any violation of the district's policy for use of the school's resources as articulated by the BOE in the latest revision of the district code of conduct.
 - Use of any recording device to photograph, create, or manipulate an audio or video recording on school property at a school event or on a school bus without the permission of the school principal or supervising teacher.
 - Taking photographs and/or video/audio recordings on school grounds **without the consent of those individual(s) being photographed/recorded** or without an otherwise valid school sanctioned purpose, is prohibited. In addition, prior to taking photographs and/or video/audio recordings for any other reason, consent shall be obtained from the building principal or his/her designee.
 - Sending, posting, or otherwise distributing a photograph, video or voice recording made on school property, at a school event or on a school bus without the permission of the school principal or his/her designee.
 - Use of technology, including but not limited to email, instant message, blogs, chat rooms, social media forums, cell phones, websites, internet and gaming systems, to deliberately harass, threaten, or intimidate others or create a disruption to the operation of school.
 - Sending, posting or otherwise distributing suggestive, nude or semi-nude photographs.
 - Any unauthorized use of district logo, name, letterhead or communication system.
 - Use of headphones that interfere with the student's ability to hear verbal directives, alarms and warnings is prohibited.

- **Actions deemed appropriate for misuse of technology:**
 - Requirement to seek assistance in learning the proper procedure before he/she is allowed to use computer equipment.
 - Administrator/parent contact.
 - Referrals and conferences involving various support staff or agencies.
 - Behavioral contracts.
 - Confiscation of inappropriate items.
 - Restitution/restoration.
 - Denial of participation in class and/or school activities.
 - Denial of access to the Internet for a specified period of time.
 - Denial of access of computer equipment and other technology resources for a specified period of time.
 - Suspension from school and/or other appropriate disciplinary action.

Student Online Etiquette and Accountability Code of Conduct Wantagh Middle School

The goal of Wantagh Schools is to provide a highly effective and seamless education to our students, no matter the mode of instruction. Therefore, in addition to the Wantagh Middle School code of conduct, this addendum is in effect in the event that student instruction is delivered through an online platform.

Attendance Requirements

Students are expected to attend their online classes when they are in session. If a student will be absent from or tardy to instruction, for any reason, a parent or guardian must call the Wantagh Middle School Attendance Office on the morning of the absence or tardy at **516-679-6350**. When the student returns to online classes, they must submit a note from their parent/guardian or doctor, stating why they were absent. Illness and doctor's appointments will only be considered excused absences if there is a verified note from a doctor.

- Daily attendance can be viewed on the portal.
- Illness and doctor's appointments will only be considered excused absences if a note from the doctor is submitted to the main office when the student returns to online classes.
- If a student is chronically late to an online class, absences may accrue.

Makeup Work

- When absent from school for a day or two, the most efficient and effective way to keep up with your studies is to contact your teacher via e-mail and request your assignments.
- Students will have a set amount of time to make-up and submit any missed assignments or exams. Please make sure to arrange all make-up work with your teacher.

Student Dress Code (In-School and Online)

All students are expected to give proper attention to personal cleanliness and to dress appropriately for online instruction and online school functions. Students and their parents have the primary responsibility for acceptable student dress and appearance. Teachers and all other district personnel should exemplify and reinforce acceptable student dress and help students develop an understanding of appropriate appearance in the school setting.

A student's dress, grooming and appearance, including hair, jewelry, make-up, and nails, shall:

- Be safe, appropriate and not disrupt or interfere with the educational process.
- Not include items that are vulgar, obscene, libelous or denigrate others on account of race, color, religion, creed, national origin, ethnic group gender, sexual orientation, or disability.
- Not promote and/or endorse the use of alcohol, tobacco or illegal drugs and/or encourage other illegal or violent activities.
- Ensure that underwear or swim garments are completely covered with outer clothing.

In addition to this, here are some other things to consider regarding student dress:

- Extremely brief garments and see-through garments are not appropriate.
- Except for medical or religious purposes, students are required to remove hats upon the request of a teacher or administrator.

In the event that a student is in breach of the dress code set forth by the district:

- Students who violate the student dress code shall be required to modify their appearance by covering or removing the offending item and, if necessary or practical, replacing it with an acceptable item.
- Any student who refuses to do so shall be subject to disciplinary actions.
- Any student who repeatedly fails to comply with the dress code shall be subject to further discipline, up to and including suspension from the class &/or school.

Student Online Responsibilities

All students have the responsibility to:

- Attend online classes every day unless they are legally excused and be in class, on time, and prepared to learn.
- Use their school-issued devices for online learning.
- Inform the help desk (via Parent Portal) of any technological issues or concerns within 24 hours of the issue.
- Be ready to learn in an area where there are minimal distractions and provide teachers with an indicator that they are attentive throughout the instruction.
- Keep their cameras on when attending an online class and enter class with their microphones muted.
- During online instruction periods, students are expected to activate their camera and microphone during live video or audio lessons. Teachers will have the discretion to designate specific lessons or portions of lessons as "video / audio required." If a student or parent is uncomfortable with the use of video during class, they should contact the teacher as soon as possible to discuss alternatives.
- If a student is found to be non-participatory or unresponsive during a lesson, teachers have the ability to mark a student absent.
- Online lessons may incorporate live interaction for the opportunity for students to feel a connection to their teachers and one another. Text chat boxes are a useful tool for teachers and students during a recorded video or screencast, but not an ideal tool to use exclusively.
- Regularly monitor and acknowledge their Google Classroom accounts, email accounts, and other messenger apps the teachers may use for teacher comments, feedback, and communication.

DISCIPLINARY CONSEQUENCES –

The entire District Code of Conduct is available on the website

Any violation of this Code should be reported to the building principal or assistant principal. Penalties may be imposed alone or in combination. Depending on the nature of the violation, student discipline may be progressive, that is, with each subsequent violation, the penalty can be increased, and all other relevant factors and circumstances shall be taken into account in determining the appropriate penalty. However, depending on the severity of the misconduct, a first-time offender may be subject to the most severe penalties. ***Any student who accumulates four referrals will not be permitted on any school sponsored field trips. For 8th graders one additional referral (total of 5) will result in the loss of attending the Crossing Over dance in June. Please note: one out-of-school suspension equals three referrals, one in-school suspension equals two referrals.*** Please understand that “fair” is not always “equal” when determining consequences.

The ranges of penalties which may be imposed for violation of the Code of Conduct include the following:

- Verbal warning
- Referral – written notification is maintained in student file
- Referrals to outside agencies: Counseling, PINS petitions, Juvenile delinquent and Juvenile offender status
- Detention – three different kinds of detention can be assigned:
 1. Teacher detention- served by the student with the individual teacher
 2. School detention – served by the student from 3:05-3:40 in an assigned room
 3. Lunch detention – students eat lunch in a secluded, silent setting under the supervision of a teacher
- Suspension
 1. In school suspension – a student is suspended from regular classroom activities, he/she is confined to a teacher-monitored location where the student must complete all assignments sent by his/her teachers.
 2. Out of school suspension – a student is suspended from school grounds. A parent conference is required. The building principal has the authority to impose suspensions of five days or less. The superintendent of schools may impose a suspension of more than five days. If a principal determines that a suspension of five days or less is warranted, he/she shall immediately, within 24 hours, notify the student and the student’s parent/guardian that the student has been suspended from school. Written notice to the parent/guardian shall be given to the parent/guardian at the meeting. If possible, additional notice shall be provided by telephone. Suspension of more than 5 days shall be governed by appropriate procedures of the superintendent of schools.
- Exclusion and/or removal from a particular class/extra-curricular activity.
- Expulsion

DISCIPLINE OF STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES

Students with disabilities will be disciplined in compliance with all procedural safeguards required by applicable laws and regulations.

TARDINESS

If a student is late to school, report to the main lobby to sign in and to have your temperature checked prior to entering. Please have a note explaining the tardiness. **Ten late arrivals to school will result in an after school detention as well.** *Any athlete not in school by 9:30 a.m. cannot practice or participate in an event/game on that day.*

ABSENCE

A parent/guardian must call the main office if a student is going to be absent. Students are expected to bring an absence note to his/her advisor stating the reason for the absence upon return to school.

EARLY DISMISSAL

Students may be excused with WRITTEN PERMISSION ONLY. Students can **only** be released to adults listed on their Emergency Contacts.

ROOM LOCATIONS

All 300 numbered rooms are located on the first floor, as are the gyms, main office, and offices for the nurse, guidance counselors and psychologists. All 400 numbered rooms are located on the second floor, as are the IMC and the hallway to the lunchrooms.

In rare occasions, students may take classes located in the high school. All 100 numbered rooms are located in the high school on the 1st floor and 200 rooms, the 2nd floor.

REPORT CARDS

Report cards are issued every 10 weeks on the parent/student portals only. If you are not currently enrolled in the parent/student portals please see the district website for instructions on how to sign up. You are encouraged to check the portal weekly in order to be current with your child's progress.

MERIT ROLL, HONOR ROLL and HIGH HONOR ROLL

To be eligible for merit roll, a student must have an overall average of 85 – 89.49 with no failures or incompletes. To be eligible for honor roll, a student must have an average of 89.5 – 94.49 with no failures or incompletes. To be eligible for high honor roll, a student must have an average of 94.5 – 100 with no failures or incompletes.

To calculate the average:

All courses that meet daily count 2 times in that quarter and every other day courses count 1 time in that quarter. For example: English, Math, Science and Social Studies count 2 times and Music and Physical Education count 1 time. Electives may vary depending on course and frequency.

HONOR SOCIETY

Students are academically eligible for Honor Society if they have achieved a 90 or higher average in grades 7 and 8. In middle school, regents and honors classes count the same. Students must have been an active participant in at least two (2) school clubs or sports or related community service activities during each grade. In addition, students will be rated on a scale of 1-5 by a committee of faculty and staff on character and leadership skills. Only those students who have averages of 4 or above will be eligible for induction. **Adherence to deadlines is also required.** You will be notified if your child has qualified for honor society.

BUS PASSES AND CONDUCT

Bus passes are mailed to eligible students at the beginning of the year. Students should carry these passes with them every school day. Lost passes may be replaced at the cost of \$5.00 each. Bus passes are not transferable. Any misconduct by a student on a bus will be subject to disciplinary action by the school and/or forfeiture of the bus privilege for a period of time. **Students may only ride their own bus – no exceptions.** Non-bus students are not permitted on a school bus at any time except for a field trip.

***Masks must be worn at all times while riding the bus.**

SCHOOL BUILDING HOURS

Students are not permitted in the building before 8:10 AM or after 3:05 PM unless in a teacher-supervised activity.

Regular Day Bell Schedule

Early Bird:	7:37	-	8:17
PERIOD 2:	8:20	-	9:10 (10 min "advisory" included)
PERIOD 3:	9:14	-	9:54
PERIOD 4:	9:58	-	10:38
PERIOD 5:	10:42	-	11:22
PERIOD 6:	11:26	-	12:06
PERIOD 7:	12:10	-	12:50
PERIOD 8:	12:54	-	1:34
PERIOD 9:	1:38	-	2:18
PERIOD 10:	2:22	-	3:02

Upon entering the building, students must go directly to their period 2 classroom, unless they have an early bird or extra help session. Due to COVID-19 restrictions, students are not permitted to congregate in the hallways. They may enter the classroom as early as 8:13am.

ARRIVAL PROCEDURES

It is highly recommended that parents take their child's temperature before coming to school. If a child's temperature is above 99.9, they should not send their child. As students arrive, district health aides will take each child's temperature before they can enter. If their temperature is higher than 99.9, they will immediately be sent to a quarantine health office where they will wait to be picked up by a parent.

No child will be allowed in the building prior to 8:10. At exactly 8:10 each day, the process described below will begin. The school day will start with period 2, which means students will no longer report to advisory.

All students will enter the building under the colonnade, using either the MS Downstairs Cafeteria doors (HS Side) or the Main Entrance as their entry point.

Main Entrance: All BUSES at the Main Entrance - This entrance will be for busses and any walkers who cannot manipulate the stairs safely.

- Busses will pull up from Wantagh Avenue and let students off under the Colonnade. It is recommended that busses drive past the flagpole and make a right to get to the colonnade to avoid a backup of busses onto Beltagh Ave.
- Students will exit the bus one at a time and immediately have their temperature taken by one of our health aides.

- If the temperature is below 100, they will be allowed to proceed into the building and to their second period classroom. (They no longer report to their advisory class or lockers.)
- Attendance will be taken in period 2 class starting as early as 8:20. Instruction will begin as close to 8:30 as possible.
- If a student's temperature is 100 or higher, they will be escorted by a health aide to the nurse's office "sick room."
- Once emptied, the bus will then exit at Daffodil. The Daffodil exit will be an "Exit Only." Cars will NOT be allowed to enter through this gate.

Cafeteria Colonnade Entrance: All Car Drop Offs and Walkers - This entrance will be used by all parents who are dropping their children off and any students who walk to school.

- Parents will pull into Beltagh Avenue from Wantagh Avenue. They will immediately make a right into the Central Administration Lot and proceed around the back of the complex. They will make their way around to the colonnade where they will pull under the colonnade on the high school side.
- Students will exit the car under the colonnade and immediately have their temperature taken by one of our 6 health aides.
- If the temperature is below 100, they will be allowed to proceed into the building and to their second period classroom. (They no longer report to their advisory class)
- Students will enter through the downstairs cafeteria entrance. They will be required to walk up the stairs and enter the school on the 2nd floor.
- Attendance will be taken in period 2 class starting as early as 8:20. Instruction will begin as close to 8:30 as possible.
- If a student temperature is 100 or higher, they will be escorted by a health aide to the nurses office "sick room" through the main entrance.
- If a student cannot manipulate stairs safely, they may contact the nurse to receive a pass to enter using the bus entrance each morning.
- Once students exit the car, cars will proceed back to Beltagh Ave and make a left to head out at Wantagh Avenue.

EXTRA HELP

Extra help is available on Tuesday, Wednesday, and/or Thursday. For grades 7 and 8, extra help will be offered online once per week for every student. Students can participate in online extra help on the days that they are working remotely from home. 6th grade extra help is offered two times per week in person, after school, beginning at 3:02 pm. Late buses will be available at 4:05, 4:45, 5:25, 6:05. There is one north bus and one south bus available at each time noted. Additional morning sessions may be offered.

BATHROOM USAGE

In order to reduce the amount of students congregating in bathrooms, students will not be permitted to access the bathrooms during period changes. Bathrooms are to be used during lunch or class time only and the maximum occupancy in all large bathrooms is 1 student at a time. Students waiting to use the bathroom must wait in the hallway, spaced 6 feet apart. They will check in with the teacher on duty prior to entering the bathroom.

USE OF FACIAL COVERINGS

Students **MUST** wear facial coverings (masks) at all times throughout the school day!

The only exception is lunch and any scheduled mask breaks.

TELEPHONES/ELECTRONIC DEVICES

Students may use the phone in the main office at any time. There will be wipes available near the phone and students will be required to wipe the phone down before and after using it. Messages and deliveries from home should be left at the window of the security desk in the lobby. *Students are responsible to check for items that have been dropped off for them.* ***Under no circumstances will the main office call a student down.*** Please be advised, no electronic devices (cell phones, iPod, smart watches etc.) are allowed to be on or used during the school day and must remain in the student's bag or pocket (turned off) during school hours. The device will be taken from the student and brought to the main office if seen/heard by a teacher/staff member. Only a parent or adult listed on the emergency contact list may report to the main office to sign for its return.

Additionally, hats are not permitted to be worn within the school.

LOCKERS

For the 2020-2021 school year, the use of lockers in the hallways and in the gym will be prohibited. This is to prevent students from congregating in the hallways and other small spaces in order to help prevent the spread of infectious diseases.

Students are expected to travel lite and to move directly from one classroom to the next in between periods.

BACKPACKS

Due to the crowded halls during passing, as a safety measure it is recommended to use a string backpack during the school day. Students will have to carry their backpacks with them all day.

HALL PASSING

In between periods, students are expected to go directly to their next class and not congregate in the hallways. They may not use the bathroom in between periods either. There will be arrow markers in the hallways, reminding students to walk on the right side only in order to avoid contact with students moving in the opposite direction. Students are also encouraged to keep a distance of 6 feet from other students moving about the hall.

IF YOU GET HURT

If you are injured but can return to school with crutches or a sling, please bring a note from your doctor. A helper will be assigned to you to help you get to class with your books. In addition, you may be issued an elevator key. It is your responsibility to see that only you and your helper use the elevator and that you do so in a responsible manner. Failure to do so will result in the loss of the key and privilege. Injured students will also be given a pass to enter the building using the bus entrance (main entrance under the colonnade). The reason for this is that students arriving by car or foot typically enter by the cafeteria and have to climb stairs upon entering.

MEDICATION

If it is necessary to take medication during school hours, you may do so with a note from your private doctor and your parent. The medication is to be brought directly to the nurse in the original labeled container. These instructions apply to prescription and non-prescription medications. A parent must be present to dispense non-prescription medication to a student during the school day.

*Students are not allowed to carry any medicine in their backpack.

SCHOOL STORE

The School Store sells quality supplies at fair prices with superior customer service. Due to COVID-19 restrictions, they will be operating online this year and they will offer free delivery directly to student's second period classroom.

CAFETERIA

The cafeteria will be offering "grab and go" bagged lunches each day. 6th graders will have access to a school lunch from within their classrooms. 7th and 8th grade lunch will take place in the gymnasium, as well as outdoor eating spaces covered by tents. Students are required to wear masks upon entering the eating space and may remove it once seated with their food. All eating spaces will be disinfected before a new group enters. The menu appears on our website. ***Food from outside establishments may NOT be delivered or brought into the school for lunch, including birthdays or other celebratory days.***

RESPECT ★ RESPONSIBILITY ★ REFLECTION

The Wantagh Middle School seeks to promote academic excellence, social skills, self-esteem and respect for others through a cooperative effort.

BOARD OF EDUCATION

Mr. Adam Fisher	President
Ms. Kera McLoughlin	Vice President
Ms. Tara Cassady	Trustee
Mr. Anthony Greco	Trustee
Ms. Laura Reich	Trustee

CENTRAL ADMINISTRATION

Mr. John C. McNamara	Superintendent
Dr. Marc J. Ferris	Assistant Superintendent
Mr. Anthony J. Cedrone	Assistant Superintendent

MIDDLE SCHOOL ADMINISTRATION

Mr. Anthony F. Ciuffo, Jr.	Principal
Dr. Stephanie Scolieri	Assistant Principal

Wantagh Middle School
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Telephone: (516)679-6350 Fax: (516) 679-6311
www.wantaghschools.org

*A copy of this handbook could also be found on the Wantagh Middle School website