

**2024-2025**  
**West Hancock**



**Student**  
**Handbook**

## Acknowledgment of Policies

*You will be required to provide an electronic signature to indicate that you have read this handbook as a parent/guardian and that you have reviewed them with your child(ren). Your signature in JMC applies to all children in your household who are enrolled at West Hancock CSD*

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# WEST HANCOCK COMMUNITY SCHOOL

## DISTRICT INFORMATION FOR STUDENTS AND PARENTS

*"West Hancock CSD, in partnership with parents/guardians and community, will provide a safe, positive, and supportive environment for all students. By offering a variety of challenging opportunities, we seek to produce responsible, productive citizens and encourage life-long learning."*

### **BUILDING CONTACT NUMBERS**

<b><u>Location</u></b>	<b><u>Phone Number</u></b>	<b><u>Fax Number</u></b>
Elementary/Superintendent's Office	641-843-3833	641-843-4717
Middle School	641-762-3261	641-843-4717
High School	641-843-3863	641-843-4717

### **Personnel**

<b><u>Name</u></b>	<b><u>Position</u></b>	<b><u>Building</u></b>	<b><u>Phone Extension</u></b>	<b><u>E-mail</u></b>
Abbas, Alyssa	Counselor	MS/HS	212/399	alyssa.abbas@whancock.org
Albertson, Ethan	Counselor	EL/MS/HS	151/212/399	ethan.albertson@whancock.org
Anderson, Matt	Custodian	HS	311	matt.anderson@whancock.org
Anderson, Nancy	ELL	EL/MS/HS	143/232/380	nancy.anderson@whancock.org
Bergman, Sally	Paraprofessional	EL		sbergman@whancock.org
Berneman, Shayne	Agriculture	HS	381	shayne.berneman@whancock.org
Bruns, Jolene	3rd Grade	EL	166	jbruns@whancock.org
Burgardt, Jill	Paraprofessional	EL		jiburgardt@whancock.org
Byrne, Carol	Central Rivers AEA Speech Pathologist	EL/MS	158/227	cbyrne@centralriversaea.org
Callow, Sadie	Special Education	MS	228	sadie.callow@whancock.org
Carlson, Lisa	Art	EL/HS	120/385	lcarlson@whancock.org
Carlson, Rita	Alt. School/Library/Bus Driver	HS	315	racarlson@whancock.org
Carlson, Susan	Math/Science	HS	383	scarlson@whancock.org
Carr, Chris	Transportation Director	D	104	chris.carr@whancock.org
Christoffers, Linda	Library	D	147	linda.christoffer@whancock.org
Clark, Rich	Special Education/Social Studies	HS	321	rclark@whancock.org
Couch, Carol	Media	EL	147	carol.couch@whancock.org
DeGroote, Beth	Business Manager	D	366	beth.degroote@whancock.org
DeHart, Michelle	Principal	EL	105	mdehart@whancock.org
Dodd, London	K-2, 9-12 Vocal Music	EL/HS	113/331	london.dodd@whancock.org
Edington, Amanda	Paraprofessional	MS		amanda.edington@whancock.org

Eekhoff, Ahna	Special Education	EL	146	ahna.eekhoff@whanchock.org
Eekhoff, Lori	4th Grade	EL	165	lori.eekhoff@whanchock.org
Eischen, Jolene	Art	EL/MS	134/210	jo.eischen@whanchock.org
Eliason, Ally	Head Cook	MS/D	221	aeliason@whanchock.org
Francis, Paul	Industrial Technology	HS	390	pfrancis@whanchock.org
Gast, Kristi	7-8 Math/5-8 Talented and Gifted	MS	234	kgast@whanchock.org
Goepel, Kamille	Special Education	EL/MS	207	kamille.goepel@whanchock.org
Gremmer, Deb	Paraprofessional	EL		dgregmer@whanchock.org
Gretillat, Elizabeth	Spanish/Talented and Gifted	EL/HS	372	egretillat@whanchock.org
Guido, Rubi	Translator	MS	232	rguido@whanchock.org
Hammer, Jennifer	5-6 Language Arts	MS	214	jhammer@whanchock.org
Hill, Jerri	7-8 Language Arts	MS	216	jhill@whanchock.org
Horstman, Nedra	7-8 Social Studies	MS	217	nhorstman@whanchock.org
Jamtgaard, Mark	Custodian	EL	125	mark.jamtgaard@whanchock.org
Jansen, Tyler	Physical Education	EL/MS	119/211	tjansen@whanchock.org
Johnson, Erika	Paraprofessional	MS		erjohnson@whanchock.org
Kammrad, Erin	Secretary	EL/D	100	erin.kammrad@whanchock.org
Keenan, Natalie	3-8 Vocal Music	EL/MS	113/223	natalie.keenan@whanchock.org
Kirschbaum, Sarah	3-Yr Old and 4-Yr Old Preschool	EL	132	sarah.kirschbaum@whanchock.org
Kronemann, Wayne	Superintendent, Curriculum Coordinator	D	392	wkronemann@whanchock.org
Kudej, Robin	Instructional Coach	D	377	rkudej@whanchock.org
Lemay, Liana	Paraprofessional	MS		liana.lemay@whanchock.org
Lang, Holly	Social Studies	HS	375	hlang@whanchock.org
Leerar, Marlene	5-6 Reading	MS	239	mleerar@whanchock.org
Loeschen, Jana	Kindergarten	EL	138	jloeschen@whanchock.org
Luttrell, Elizabeth	Central Rivers AEA Consultant	D	159/227	eluttrell@centralriversaea.org
Mallen, Shawn	8 Math/ Physical Education	MS	222	smallen@whanchock.org
Marvin, Emily	4yr Old Preschool	EL	121	emily.marvin@whanchock.org
Mayland, Kayla	1st Grade	EL	137	kayla.mayland@whanchock.org
Mayland, Kym	2nd Grade	EL	126	kmayland@whanchock.org
Melohn, Sue	Secretary	MS	200	sue.melohn@whanchock.org
Molina, Rene	Principal. MS Activities Director	MS	205	rene.molina@whanchock.org
Montag, Jared	5-6 Math	MS	229	jared.montag@whanchock.org
Morgan, Catherine	Paraprofessional	EL		catherine.morgan@whanchock.org
Mortensen, Betsy	Paraprofessional	EL		bmortensen@whanchock.org
Niewald, Kim	Nurse	D	154/208	kim.niewald@whanchock.org
Peterson, Brian	Physical Education	HS	325	bpeterson@whanchock.org



Peterson, Dan	Principal	HS/D	305	danpeterson@whancock.org
Reineke, Tony	Buildings and Grounds	D	311	tony.reineke@whancock.org
Reisma, Andrea	Kindergarten	EL	135	areisma@whancock.org
Ries, Anne	K-Prep, 4 yr Old Preschool	EL	123	anne.ries@whancock.org
Sanger, Mark	Special Education/P.E./Health	HS	363	msanger@whancock.org
Savoy, Roxanne	1st Grade	EL	142	rsavoy@whancock.org
Schleusner, Emma	2nd Grade	EL	124	eschleusner@whancock.org
Sickels, Jalen	HS Activities Dir., MS At Risk	MS/HS	231/301	jalen.sickels@whancock.org
Sonius, Paul	7-8 Science, Health	MS	209	psonius@whancock.org
Squier, Katherine	Title 1	EL	148	ksquier@whancock.org
Stewart, Karen	Family Consumer Science	HS	364	karen.stewart@whancock.org
Stortenbecker, Lisa	5-6 Science	MS	215	lstortenbecker@whancock.org
Sundberg, Jim	Custodian	HS	311	jim.sundberg@whancock.org
Swenson, Stacy	Science	HS	382	stacy.swenson@whancock.org
Tooley, Bethany	Instrumental Music	MS/HS	223/335	bethany.tooley@whancock.org
Trautman, Dianne	English LA	HS	373	dtrautman@whancock.org
Tremmel, Melinda	Math	HS	371	mtremmel@whancock.org
Wagner, Ryan	Business	HS	379	rwagner@whancock.org
Weiss-Chipman, Holly	Secretary	HS	300	hweiss-chipman@whancock.org
Wiens, Cora	4th Grade	EL	167	cora.wiens@whancock.org
Winter, Kelly Ruth	English/LA	HS	370	kwinter@whancock.org
Zendejas, Mariana	Paraprofessional	EL/HS		mariana.zendejas@whancock.org
Zuehl, Rachel	3rd Grade	EL	168	rzuehl@whancock.org

[www.whancock.org](http://www.whancock.org)

## **ABOUT OUR DISTRICT**

### **SCHOOL SONG, COLORS, AND MASCOT WEST HANCOCK – HOME OF THE EAGLES!!**

School colors are **RED & WHITE**

School Mascot – **EAGLE** (Also the symbol of our country)

School Song: **ON WEST HANCOCK** (sung to the tune of “On Wisconsin”)

**On West Hancock! On West Hancock,  
Best team in the land.  
We are with you - Betting on you,  
As our faith will stand.  
(GO EAGLES! GO! )  
We will lead the field to victory,  
You just watch us fight!  
Onward, West Hancock, and we’ll win tonight!**

Britt Community Schools and Kanawha Community Schools, recognizing that the needs of the students in the communities of Britt and Kanawha could be better served together than separately, began sharing academic and activity programs in 1989, and five years later, voters in both districts approved a reorganization referendum forming the West Hancock Community School District.

The pride and success each school brought into the consolidation created an equally strong tradition of pride and achievement at West Hancock. We are the Eagles, and we look forward to continuing that winning tradition with you.

### **ACCIDENT INSURANCE**

School-time or twenty-four hour student accident insurance and dental insurance is available for students through insurance companies. The school does not endorse any insurance company. It should be noted that most children are already covered with their family health and accident plan.

Please encourage your child to report to either the teacher on duty or nurse if they are injured while at school.

### **ASBESTOS**

The school district's middle school and high school have small amounts of asbestos containing materials within insulation of heating systems and floor tile.

The district follows the rules and regulations of Asbestos Hazard Emergency Response Act (AHERA) related to encapsulation and maintenance of the materials. Personnel have been appointed and trained. The district management plan is located in the office of the Director of Buildings and Grounds located at 420 9<sup>th</sup> Ave. SW, Britt. Persons interested in reviewing the plan are asked to call Tony Reineke, Director of Buildings and Grounds at 641-843-3833. Building inspections are held semi-annually.

### **ATHLETIC/ACTIVITY TRANSPORTATION POLICY**

All students must travel to and from contests and events in a vehicle supervised by their coach/advisor or a designated chaperone. "To and from" is defined as travel from West Hancock to the destination site and back. Students may return HOME from an event with parents/guardians if the parent is physically present to sign the student out from that event.

If parents/guardians provide transportation home from an athletic event/activity the following policies are in effect:

- Where parents/guardians provide transportation for their son/daughter to or from a scheduled event, the parents/guardians shall assume all resulting liability, and the school shall assume no liability.
- **In the rare event that the student is to ride with another adult, it must be pre-approved by the Superintendent/Principal, at a minimum of a day in advance.**
- Proof of insurance and license are required.

### **CHILD ABUSE REPORTING**

School Board Policy 402.3 outlines procedures to follow in the event there is a report of alleged physical or sexual abuse of a child by a school employee.

The following names and telephone numbers identify the district's designated persons to contact in the event of suspected child abuse by a school employee in the course of employment.

Level I Investigator	Matthew Welp	641-843-3833
Level I Investigator	Alyssa Abbas	641-762-3863
Level II Investigator	Hancock Co. Sheriff's Office	641-923-2621
Superintendent	Wayne Kronemann	641-843-3833

### **CHURCH/FAMILY NIGHTS**

Wednesday night is designated as family night in the West Hancock Community School District. No school activities should be scheduled to conflict. Generally, the school district facilities will not be used for student activities on Sundays. It shall be within the discretion of the superintendent to allow student activities on Sundays such as, but not limited to, an open gym. An open gym would mean that there would be no organized practice and no guarantee of supervision by the head coach of any given team. One exception to this general rule would be organized practices called for the Sunday before a scheduled Monday tournament or play-off event. However, such Sunday practices cannot be mandatory and allowances must be made for students with religious or family conflicts.

### **EMERGENCY DRILLS**

Periodically the school holds emergency fire, tornado drills, and other disaster drills. At the beginning of each semester, teachers notify students of the procedures to follow in the event of a drill. Emergency procedures and proper exit areas are posted in all rooms.

Students are expected to remain quiet and orderly during a drill or an emergency. Students who pull the fire alarm or call in false alarms, in addition to being disciplined under the school district's policies, rules and regulations, may be reported to law enforcement officials.

### **ENTERING OR LEAVING THE BUILDING DURING THE SCHOOL DAY**

When it is necessary for a student to enter or leave the building any time during the school day, the student should stop at the office and sign in or out. Administrative approval along with permission from parent/guardian must be given for the student to leave the school building.

During the school day students are only allowed to enter and exit the school building from the main entrance by the office. Students will need to sign in and out at the office each time. Entering or exiting the building from any other door, when classes are in session, may lead to disciplinary action. The only exceptions to this are for the loading of buses/vans for events (school activities, field trips, athletics, etc.) with the instructor and or coach present, students visiting the greenhouse (with the instructor present) and the building trades students leaving directly from the industrial tech classroom. If a teacher wishes to take their class outside they will need to communicate with the office and enter and leave the building together (in one large group) with the instructor present.

Any student entering the building once classes have started will need to enter at the main entrance.

When gaining access to the main entrance individuals should take care not to allow additional people (specifically non-students) into the building without permission from office personnel. When appropriate students should allow the other people to get permission to enter first to avoid confusion.

## **FIELD TRIPS**

In certain classes field trips and excursions are authorized and may be taken as an extension of the classroom to contribute to the achievement of the educational goals of the school district. If a field trip is required for a course, students are expected to attend the field trip. Absences in other classes or school activities due to attendance on field trips or excursions are considered excused absences.

While on field trips, students are guests and considered ambassadors and representatives of the school district. Students must treat employees, chaperones and guides with respect and courtesy. Violation of these expectations will result in disciplinary action.

Prior to attending a field trip, students must return a note signed by the student's parents and or have had parents/guardians approve permission for such trips during the registration process. Required fees must accompany the permission form. Students unable to afford the cost of the field trip should contact their teacher.

## **FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION**

Under the U.S. Constitution, all individuals have the right of freedom of expression. Since, however, student expression made on school premises or as part of a school-sponsored activity may be attributed to the school, such expression must be appropriate to the activity. Students will be allowed freedom of expression of their viewpoints and opinions as long as the expression is responsibly done. Student expression shall not, in the judgment of the administration, encourage the breaking of laws, cause defamation of persons or contain obscenity or indecency.

The administration has the right to determine the time, place and manner in which the expression is to be allowed so as to not disrupt the educational program of the district. Students who violate this policy may be subject to disciplinary measures including the good conduct policy.

## **LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICIALS**

Law enforcement officers (including canine officers) and officials are welcome in the school building and on the school grounds. Law enforcement officials may also be asked to assist in investigations and/or consulted on various matters.

As a general rule, students may not be questioned by individuals from outside of the school district. If an individual, such as a law enforcement officer wishes to question a student, the request must come through the administrative office. Such a request will be granted only when, in the discretion of the administration, such action is in the best interest of the student's welfare, when the request is made by a child abuse investigator, or when such request is supported by a court order. Prior to allowing the questioning, the administrator shall attempt to contact the parent or guardian of the child and inform them of the request and ask if they wish to be present. In the event that the parent/guardian of a student cannot be contacted and an emergency exists in which it is imperative that a student be questioned by an Officer of the Law or other legal official, such interview may take place in the presence of a neutral third person over the age of 21.

## **OPENING AND USE OF THE BUILDING**

Those riding the buses will be allowed in the building as soon as their bus arrives. Other students will be permitted to enter the building when the route buses arrive. Before school, after school, and night activities are to be scheduled through the office and must be supervised at all times. **Students in the building at times other than regular school hours must be directly responsible to some teacher.**

## **PETS AT SCHOOL**

Due to a variety of concerns with pets (bites, scratches, allergies, etc.) the school does not allow students to bring animals to school.

## **PERSONAL POSSESSIONS**

Students are advised to not bring personal property (toys, electronics devices, etc.) or money to school. The school district is not responsible for lost, damaged, or stolen personal property. If it is absolutely necessary to bring anything of value to school, such items may be checked in for safekeeping in the office.

## **SCHOOL CALENDAR**

A school calendar is available for each family listing the known activities, vacations, teacher workshops, conferences, etc. It is hoped that the calendar will help you to avoid conflicts. Due to Iowa weather and unforeseen circumstances some events may need to be rescheduled. Communication with the community and parents will happen as soon as possible. The up-to-date school calendar may be accessed through the school district web-site ([www.whancock.org](http://www.whancock.org)).

## **SCHOOL DELAYS, EARLY DISMISSALS, AND CLOSINGS**

Weather-related school delays, early dismissals and closings will be announced on radio station KLOW (107.3) and TV station KIMT (channel 3). Anyone may sign up for weather-related alerts on the school district's website: [www.whancock.org](http://www.whancock.org).

## **VIDEOTAPING AND PHOTOGRAPHING**

Individuals may broadcast or videotape public school district events, including open board meetings, as long as it does not interfere with or disrupt the school district event and it does not create an undue burden in adapting the buildings and sites to accommodate the request.

Videotaping and taking pictures for the newspaper or annual of classroom activities will be allowed at certain times. Efforts will be made to notify parents prior to videotaping of classroom activities. The district will also be taking photos and videos for our social media accounts to promote our district. Parents have the right to opt their children out of being photographed or videoed for all these purposes by granting or waiving permission during registration. If at a later time, a parent wishes to change their permissions they'll need to contact the school office.

Smartphones and other technology devices capable of storing and/or transmitting and/or receiving images are banned from use for any purpose in locker rooms and restrooms at ALL times. Students may be asked to leave their device in a secure location before going to either of these locations. Students will be disciplined for any use of technology devices in school locker rooms or restrooms. At no time are students or visitors authorized to video capture, photograph, or audio record others in the school building, on school property (to include school vehicles), or at school activities (unless recording a public performance, such as a game, honor assembly, concert, contest, etc.), without the permission of other parties captured in the video, audio, or photo. School administrators, teachers, coaches, and other school officials may further restrict the capturing of video, audio, or photos, even if all individuals present have given consent. Capturing of video, audio, or photos is not permitted if it violates copyright laws, or includes content that is disparaging toward others (either due to the content of the video, photo, or audio itself or how the content is disseminated) or encourages or depicts violation of other school policies or state or federal law. Students violating this policy shall be subject to reasonable discipline, and the device shall be confiscated and not returned until the end of the school day or after a parent/guardian conference has been held, if such conference is determined necessary by a building administrator or the administrator's designee. Students violating this policy may be prohibited from possessing any smartphone or technology device following the incident on school property for a reasonable period of time, unless otherwise permitted by a school administrator or a student's IEP or 504 Plan.

## **WAIVER OF STUDENT FEES**

Students whose families meet the income guidelines for free and reduced price lunch, the Family Investment Program (FIP), Supplemental Security Income (SSI), transportation assistance under open enrollment, or who are in foster care are eligible to have their student fees waived or partially waived. Students whose families are experiencing a temporary financial difficulty may be eligible for a temporary waiver of student fees. Parents of students who believe they may qualify for temporary financial hardship should contact the principal at registration time for a waiver form. This waiver does not carry over from year to year and must be completed annually.

# **ACADEMIC**

## **GRADING SYSTEM**

The grades given to students' work at West Hancock Community School are designed to reflect the quality of work of that student. We believe that punctuality and responsibility are a component of doing quality work. We also believe that if an assigned work is worth grading, it is worth doing – even if late. If work assigned is not submitted when due, credit may be reduced by up to 40% of the original value. If the work is not completed within 1 week after the end of the current grading period (midterm, quarter, or semester) no credit will be given for the missed school work and the student's grade for that work shall be recorded as zero.

Grades and quality are as follows:

**Grade A** indicates excellent work. Students, to receive this grade, must not only comprehend the subject well, but also must do superior production work on all assignments, and have a proper attitude toward schoolwork.

**Grade B** indicates work definitely above average in quality, but not as outstanding as grade A. Students, in order to earn a B, must do excellent production work on all assignments and must have above average participation and success in all phases of school objectives.

Grade C indicates average performance to be considered satisfactory. To earn this grade, students must have a reasonable understanding of the work and procedures. They must meet average production standards of the class.

Grade D indicates minimum of comprehension and performance. However, the work is of sufficient quality to make it unnecessary to repeat the course.

Grade F A student listed to be failing is governed by the following: The student has not been doing schoolwork that would permit the instructor to issue a grade of D as explained.

Grade U / I (Incomplete) indicates that the work is incomplete for some reason. Incompletes from each grading period not made up within one week will automatically be declared a failing grade unless special provisions have been made for an extension of the make-up period. It is the student's responsibility to arrange all the make-up work.

4<sup>th</sup> - 8<sup>th</sup> Grading Scale

	B+ 87-89	C+ 77-79	D+ 67-69	F 0-59
A 93-100	B 83-86	C 73-76	D 63-66	
A- 90-92	B- 80-82	C- 70-72	D- 60-62	

9<sup>th</sup> - 12<sup>th</sup> Grading Scale:

	B+ 88-90	C+ 78-81	D+ 67-69	F 0-59
A 94-100	B 85-87	C 74-77	D 63-66	
A- 91-93	B- 82-84	C- 70-73	D- 60-62	

**GRADING & SEMESTER TESTS (H.S.)**

Report cards are issued at the end of each mid-term, quarter, and semester grading period. Grades A, B, C and D are passing and a grade of F indicates failure. The grade given at the end of the semester is a cumulative grade for that semester and is the only grade recorded on the permanent record and the grade upon which the honor rolls are based. Semester tests, while not mandatory, are allowed to be a part of the required curriculum of an academic course. This requirement will be up to individual teacher discretion and the needs of that curriculum. If semester tests are given they should be rigorous and cumulative in nature. Semesters test may not exceed one-fifth (20%) of the overall semester grade.

Teachers may deem certain assignments, papers, tests, projects, or other assessments as critical or mandatory pieces of evidence to determine acquisition of standards and knowledge attained in order to award credit for a course. Failure for a student to submit these items at a satisfactory level will result in a failure of the course. Any such student work that will be held to this standard will need to be addressed in the course syllabus for students and parents to know in advance.

**GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS (H.S.)**

I. Forty-six credits are required for graduation. Students earn one credit per semester for each course passed. Up to one-half credit will be given per semester for everyday physical education. Physical education grades are used in figuring student grade point averages. All students are required to carry six courses and physical education; five courses, physical education and band or vocal music; or four courses, physical education, band and vocal music per semester. All students must take and pass the required courses as indicated in the Course Description Booklet. Exceptions to the Physical Education requirements are listed in the Physical Education section of this handbook.

II. All students must successfully complete (pass) the following: English-eight credits, Social Studies-six credits, Math-6 credits, Science- 6 credits, Technology-2 credits and Physical Education-2 credits and Health Literacy- one credit. In addition, students must successfully complete (pass) 15 credits of other coursework (Financial Literacy standards are required).

III. Students staffed into the resource room for the improvement of academic skills and remediation will earn 1/2 unit of credit if the IEP requires 120 or more class periods per year. Students that are also staffed into the resource room for an academic class can earn a credit for that academic class, but such time spent in the resource room would not count toward the 120 class periods mentioned above. This will be recorded on the report card as study skills. The resource room instructor would be responsible to keep track of each student's accumulated time (periods) spent in the resource room during the school year.

**HOMEWORK**

Home study is a necessary part of each pupil's educational program. Each student must be expected to spend some time in addition to scheduled class instruction to achieve satisfactory work. When a student is absent and requests homework for that day, the request should be made by noon of said day. If a student knows in advance he/she will be absent from school, the student is encouraged to acquire homework in advance.

## **ACADEMIC INTEGRITY POLICY**

Students at West Hancock are to maintain the highest standards of academic integrity. This means that the work submitted to a teacher is the student's best possible submission that indicates that student's knowledge, learning, and growth on a particular standard. While collaboration (whether from another person, source, or artificial intelligence, etc.) is a tool that can be used effectively in some cases, assignments that are turned in on behalf of an individual need to reflect only the viewpoints, knowledge, and/or beliefs of that same individual. Plagiarism, whether intentional or unintentional, cheating, misrepresenting your work with others, copying, etc. will not be tolerated. Students who violate this policy will have the following actions taken against them:

1. The parent will be informed of the incident and made aware of consequences should cheating continue to occur.
2. Students will redo the assignment. Parameters will be established by the teacher, and could include changing the scope of the original assignment.
3. Students will not receive full credit on the replacement assignment. Depending on the severity of the action, the type of assignment or project, the frequency of this occurring, etc. the score may be reduced to zero. Reduction will not exceed 40% for a first time occurrence at the middle school.
4. Students will be reported to the office for this to be tracked in the student information system. Academic Integrity infractions may affect status in Soaring Eagles, National Honor Society, Student Council, and any extra-curricular activity.

## **HONOR ROLL – (M.S./H.S.)**

The honor roll is compiled at the end of each semester. An "A" honor roll and a "B" honor roll are maintained. The "A" honor roll includes those students who have achieved an A- (3.665 GPA) average in subjects with a value of one credit per semester. For the "B" honor roll, an average of (2.995 GPA) "B" must be achieved. GPA's will not be rounded up for calculation purposes. The following point system will be used:

A	=	4.00	B	=	3.00	C	=	2.00	D	=	1.00
A-	=	3.67	B-	=	2.67	C-	=	1.67	D-	=	.67
B+	=	3.33	C+	=	2.33	D+	=	1.33	F	=	0.00

## **GUIDANCE AND COUNSELING SERVICES**

Guidance services are available for every student in the school. These services include assistance with educational planning, interpretation of test scores, occupational/career information, study helps, school and/or social concerns, or any questions the student may feel he or she would like to discuss with the counselor. If you wish to visit the counselor contact the counselor for a pass during the study halls or make special arrangements for an appointment.

A student shall not be required to take instruction in human growth and development. School Board Policy 603.5, Health Education, specifies the procedures and requirements to be followed by parents and school personnel. Parents who wish to pursue a discussion of the materials or procedures are asked to contact the building principal.

## **PARENT-TEACHER CONFERENCES**

Parent-teacher conferences are scheduled before school begins (EL/M.S.) and during the school year. The before school conference does count as a day of attendance for each child. A parent may request a conference at any point during the school year by contacting the building office.

## **PHYSICAL EDUCATION**

Physical Education will be required of all students unless a written excuse from your doctor is filed in the Principal's or nurse's office prior to the absence from the class. Appropriate dress will be determined by the instructor. A pair of "gym only" shoes is encouraged for all students.

All students in grades 9-12 will take a Physical Education course each semester they are enrolled unless a parent submits a written request in which at least one of the following conditions are met:

- the student submits a waiver to enroll in other academic courses not otherwise available.
- the student is enrolled with a work-based learning program which requires significant time out of the building during the day.
- the student is involved in a school activity that requires 900 minutes (1/8th of a semester) of physical activity per semester.

These requests can only be approved on an individual basis if requested and at least one of the criteria are met. Requests must be approved annually and do not carry over.\

## **PROGRESS REPORTS**

As an aid to parents and students, the school will send a Progress Report at approximately the midpoint of each 9-week period for grades 4-12. The report will be sent home to the parents of all students.

Student progress reports may be sent at other times between marking periods to the parents of students who need some type of special attention. The reports do not necessarily mean that a student is failing, but a deficiency is noted which needs correction. Acknowledgement of this report by note, phone call or visit is appreciated.

Report cards will be issued at the end of each nine weeks in grades K-12.

## **ATTENDANCE**

### **ATTENDANCE POLICY**

Parents within the school district who have children over age six and under age sixteen by September 15, in proper physical and mental condition to attend school, shall have the children attend the school district at the attendance center designated by the board. All students, including those of compulsory attendance age, shall attend school the number of days school is in session in accordance with the school calendar, unless their absence is excused. Students not attending the minimum days must be exempted by this policy as listed below or, for students in grades 7-12 of compulsory attendance age, they may be referred to the county attorney. Students in grades 7-12 who are not of compulsory attendance age may be subject to discipline, including the possibility of expulsion, if they do not attend the required minimum number of days without being excused as per board policy. Exceptions to this policy include children who:

- have completed the requirements for graduation in an accredited school or have obtained a high school equivalency diploma;
- are attending religious services or receiving religious instruction;
- are attending an approved or probationally approved private college preparatory school;
- are attending an accredited nonpublic school; or,
- are receiving competent private instruction.

It is the responsibility of the parent of a child to provide evidence of the child's mental and physical inability to attend school or of the child's qualifications for one of the exceptions listed above.

The principal or other school official shall investigate the cause for a student's truancy, i.e., unexcused absences. If the principal or other school official is unable to secure the truant student's attendance, the principal or other school official shall refer the matter over to the county attorney for students of compulsory attendance age.

The school will participate in mediation if requested by the county attorney. The principal shall represent the school district in mediation. The school district will monitor the student's compliance with the mediation agreement and will report violations of the mediation agreement to the county attorney.

When the student's absence is caused by a suspension or expulsion, such absence will be treated as an administrative absence rather than an excused or unexcused absence.

### **CLASSIFICATION OF PERIOD ABSENCES**

Missing over half a class period will constitute one absence in that class. Missing school for from one period up to four and one half periods will constitute a one-half day absence. Missing more than four and one half class periods will constitute a full day's absence.

### **STUDENT ABSENCES – EXCUSED**

Regular attendance by students is essential for students to obtain the maximum opportunities from the education program. For this reason, students are expected to attend school the number of days school is in session in accordance with the school calendar, unless their absence is excused. Parents and students alike are encouraged to ensure an absence from school is a necessary absence. Students shall attend school unless excused by the principal of their attendance center.

School attendance is a shared responsibility of the students, parents, and school. Excused absences shall count as days in attendance for purposes of the truancy law. Excused absences include:

1. Illness
2. Doctor-excused appointments (Health care appointments are to be scheduled outside of the regular school hours whenever possible.)
3. College visits for juniors (limited to around 2 per student) seniors (limited to around 3 per student, if more are needed they need specific approval from the guidance counselor and principal.) College and or Career Fairs are also excused absences but are limited to no more than 2 per year. In all cases, any visit or fair needs to be scheduled and the office notified at least 24 hours in advance.
4. Recognized religious observances
5. Family vacation (prior approval by the building principal required, if possible)
6. Court appearance or other legal situation beyond the control of the family
7. Death or serious illness/injury in the immediate family or household; death of a classmate or student in school.
8. State Events: Students are permitted an excused absence to support West Hancock teams or individuals as they compete at state events. They will need to provide proof of their attendance (ticket stub, photo evidence of attendance, or checking in with a school employee at the event). The only portion of the day that will be excused is the portion of which our students are

competing. Example: leaving before the team and or individual competing even leaves school for the event would not be excused. **Unless they are going as a family which could therefore be a family trip/out of town/vacation.**

9. Any absence approved as excused by the building principal.

The parent/guardian shall notify the appropriate school office of the reason(s) for a student's absence. Such notification shall be in writing or by telephone with suitable verification as to the identity of the person calling. The building principal may request parents/guardians to provide the school with verification by a qualified medical person whenever a student is absent for medical reasons for an extended period of time or in other unusual circumstances. If the building principal becomes aware that the signature of a parent/guardian is forged or that the excuse misrepresents the facts, the principal shall investigate, determine the facts, and take appropriate action which may include classifying such absence as unexcused.

Students who wish to participate in school-sponsored activities must attend school the full day on the day of the activity unless prior permission has been given by the principal. If the student misses a graded co-curricular activity they will complete a separate, alternative assessment to make up the missed portion of their grade in the class they are enrolled in.

Students missing more than 10% of the school year (combined excused, unexcused absence, and school activity) will be labeled as "chronically absent" by the Iowa Department of Education. This label has a negative influence on the school report card and also interferes with a student's ability to learn (academic, social, emotional, etc.) at a satisfactory rate with their peers.

School work assigned during any absence must be completed in a satisfactory and timely manner. Students shall be provided a reasonable length of time to make up school work. In general, students will be given the number of days absent plus one in which to make up the work missed. Additional time may be given at the discretion of the teacher and building principal.

### **PROCEDURES FOR UNEXCUSED ABSENCES K-8:**

The sequence outlined below shall be followed when students in grades K-8 violate attendance policies. Realizing there are circumstances which require special procedures on an individual basis, the building principal may vary from these procedures but must document for the records the reason(s) a variation in procedure is made. The term "unexcused absence" means being absent without a reasonable excuse from parent(s)/guardian(s) or permission of a school official.

1. After the first unexcused absence: The parent(s)/guardian(s) will be contacted, and a conference shall be held with the building principal, the classroom teacher (if appropriate), and the student. The purpose of the conference will be to review the reason(s) for the unexcused absence and to prevent its recurrence. Further action, if determined necessary by the building principal, could include any or all of the following:
  - a. Conference with parent(s)/guardian(s)
  - b. Student may be assigned make-up time
  - c. Referral to the school counselor
  - d. Review of attendance regulations with the student and/or parent(s)/guardian (s)
  - e. Other actions deemed appropriate by the building principal.
2. After a second unexcused absence:
  - a. A conference shall be held with the building principal, the classroom teacher (if appropriate), and the student to review the reason for the unexcused absences. The purpose of the conference is to determine further appropriate action.
  - b. Written notification of the offense and the sanction imposed shall be sent to parent(s)/guardian(s), along with a statement which details attendance regulations and proposed remediation of the problem.
  - c. Further action may also include any or all of the following:
    1. A conference with the parent(s)/guardian(s)
    2. Student may be assigned make-up time
    3. Referral to the school counselor
    4. Referral to the building student at-risk team
    5. Other actions deemed appropriate by the building principal.
3. After a third unexcused absence:
  - a. A conference shall be held with the building principal, the classroom teacher (if appropriate), and the student to review the reason for the unexcused absences. The purpose of the conference will be to determine further appropriate action.
  - b. Written notification of the offense and the sanction imposed shall be sent to parent(s)/guardian(s) by the building principal, with copies to the superintendent and the district truancy officer.
  - c. The building principal shall hold a mandatory conference with the parent(s)/guardian(s) to discuss the problem, alternative schedules, special programs, and other remedial action.
  - d. Further action may also include any or all of the following:
    1. In-school suspension or make-up time
    2. Referral to support staff of Central Rivers AEA.
4. After a fourth unexcused absence:
  - a. Written notification of the absence shall be sent to parent(s)/ guardian(s) by the building principal, with copies to the superintendent and the district truancy officer.
  - b. Out-of-school suspension, not to exceed three days, will be imposed on the student to allow an opportunity for a conference involving parent(s)/guardian(s), the student, and other appropriate individuals.



- c. A contract will be developed to remediate the situation. The parent(s)/guardian(s), student, and school principal all must agree on the terms of the contract.
- 5. After a fifth unexcused absence:  
If agreement is not reached in Step 4c, or if the student does not follow through with the agreement, a referral to the County Attorney may be pursued.

This area is still under revision

### **PROCEDURES FOR UNEXCUSED ABSENCES 9-12:**

The sequence outlined below shall be followed when students in grades 9-12 violate attendance policies. Realizing there are circumstances which require special procedures on an individual basis, the building principal may vary from these procedures but must document for the records the reason(s) a variation in procedure is made. The term “unexcused absence” means being absent without a reasonable excuse as defined by board policy.

Students wishing to earn credit for courses taken at the high school should not exceed a total of five (5) unexcused absences from regularly scheduled classes during a semester. Excused absences are exempt from these attendance sanctions. It is important that parents contact the building principal immediately when the need for a student to be absent occurs.

1. After the first and second (1st-2nd) unexcused class absences:
  - a. The building principal will contact the parent(s)/guardian(s) by mail or by phone to inform them of the attendance policy regarding unexcused absences.
  - b. The building principal will notify the guidance counselor.
  - c. Additional action will be taken as warranted.
2. After the third (3rd) unexcused class absence:
  - a. The building principal/guidance counselor will contact the parent/guardian by mail or by phone.
  - b. The guidance counselor will initiate a conference with the student’s parent(s)/guardian(s) to inform them of the attendance policy and to determine the reasons for non-attendance.
  - c. Additional action will be taken as warranted.
3. After the fourth (4th) unexcused class absence, the building principal will:
  - a. Contact the parent(s)/guardian(s) concerning the student’s class absences by mail or by phone.
  - b. Schedule a conference with the student and the parent(s)/guardian(s) informing them of the consequences of continued class absences, which may include removal of the student from a course.
  - c. Allow the student and his/her parent(s)/guardian(s) to request reclassification of any unexcused.
  - d. Additional action will be taken as warranted.
4. After the fifth (5th) unexcused class absence, the building principal/guidance counselor will:
  - a. Inform the student’s parent(s)/guardian(s) of the sixth (6th) absence and that the student will be removed from the course(s) in which the absence(s) occurred.
  - b. Inform the student and the parent(s)/guardian(s) of the Due Process Provisions of this regulation

Should it become necessary to remove a student from a course due to excessive absences, a meeting will occur between the Principal, Student, Parents, Teacher, Guidance Counselor to set up a plan that will be better for all parties. Students are expected to carry a minimum load of six (6) academic credits per semester in order to be eligible for extra-curricular activities. The student will forfeit the opportunity to earn credit for the course. Students who accrue six unexcused absences in ALL classes may be recommended for expulsion.

### **STUDENT TARDINESS**

Being on time to school and all classes is an expectation for students. Any student who reports to school or class after the tardy bell is tardy. A student may incur up to three tardies per semester without penalty. These three times are granted to take care of unavoidable occurrences. Penalties are assigned in excess of three and include detention, suspension and expulsion. Tardies are accumulated per semester and reset at the semester break.

#### Consequences for Tardiness

1st - No Penalty

2nd - No Penalty

3rd - No Penalty with parent communication by principal.

4th - 9th - Student will serve a 20 minute (before school, after school, or lunch) detention

10+ - Student will be assigned a day of In School Suspension. This will count as time served for any previous tardies if that time has not been made up previously. However, failure to make up that detention time will render a student ineligible for activities until the time is served in detention and or ISS time. Each additional tardy will result in a 20 minute detention and another ISS at each increment of 10. If the tardiness continues beyond 10 in any single class, or is generally deemed excessive overall, the student may be recommended to the school board for possible expulsion and or to the county attorney.

## TRUANCY

Regular attendance by the students at school is essential for students to obtain the maximum opportunities from the education program. Parents and students alike are encouraged to ensure an absence from school is a necessary absence. Students shall attend school unless excused by the principal of their attendance center.

Truancy is the act of being absent without a reasonable excuse as defined by the board policy. Truancy will not be tolerated by the board.

Students are subject to disciplinary action for truancy including suspension and expulsion. Students receiving special education services may be assigned to supervised study hall, in-school suspension, or other appropriate disciplinary actions if the goals and objectives of the student's Individualized Education Program can be met.

It shall be the responsibility of the superintendent, in conjunction with the principal, to develop administrative regulations regarding this policy. The administrative regulations shall indicate the disciplinary action to be taken for truancy.

## ATTENDANCE POLICY DUE PROCESS

Students and/or parent(s)/guardian(s) who feel aggrieved by decisions made in accordance with this regulation may appeal the decision within three (3) school days of receiving notification of the student's removal from class.

Students and/or parent(s)/guardian(s) who are aggrieved with the decision of the building principal may file a request for review with the superintendent within two (2) school days after receiving notification of the building principal's decision. At the conclusion of the review, the superintendent shall affirm, reverse, or modify the building principal's decision.

Students and/or parent(s)/guardian(s) who are aggrieved with the decision of the superintendent may appeal in writing to the Board of Directors within two (2) school days after receiving notification of the superintendent's decision. The appeal must be submitted to the Board Secretary, who will forward the written appeal to the Board President. A hearing in front of the board will be held within ten (10) school days of the receipt of the written appeal. Within two (2) days after the hearing, the Board President shall communicate the decision of the Board in writing to the student and his/her parent(s)/guardian(s). The decision of the Board shall be to affirm, reverse, or modify the superintendent's decision.

Students involved in the appeal process will remain in school and will be expected to be in class until such time as resolution has been achieved.

## HEALTH

A school nurse is available and will serve as a health consultant to school staff members, students and their parents. There will be times throughout the year that special health concerns of a student may need to be brought to the attention of the school. While we appreciate verbal contact, all such concerns also need to be written, signed, and dated.

**If a student is absent from school on a given day, due to illness, we would not expect to see that same child at a school event that same night.** A student with a fever of 100\* or higher will be sent home. Students must be fever free for at least 24 hours without medication before returning to school. Guidelines from Iowa Public Health will be referenced as needed.

If students feel ill, they will need to check with the school nurse/designee and get permission for an excusable absence prior to contacting parents to be released from school. Texting or calling parents from school for permission to leave does not equate to an excusable absence.

## ADMINISTRATION OF MEDICATION

Students may need to take prescription or non-prescription medication during school hours. Students may **NOT** carry medication without the permission of the principal or school nurse. The school must know the medications a student is taking in the event the student has a reaction or illness. Students must provide written instructions for administration of the medication, including Tylenol, as well as parental authorization to administer the medication.

Medication is held in a locked cabinet, distributed only by the school nurse, secretary or principal. Medication must be in the original container with the following information either on the container, in the instruction sheet or in the parental authorization: name of the student; name of the medication; directions for use including dosage, times and duration; name, phone number and address of the pharmacy; date of the prescription; name of the physician; potential side effects; and emergency number for parents.

## COMMUNICABLE AND INFECTIOUS DISEASES

Students who have an infectious or communicable disease are allowed to attend school as long as they are able to do so and their presence does not pose an unreasonable risk of harm to themselves or does not create a substantial risk of illness or transmission to other students or employees. If there is a question about whether a student should continue to attend classes, the student shall not attend class or participate in school activities without their personal physician's approval. Infectious or communicable diseases include, but are not limited to influenza, mumps, measles and chickenpox.

## HEALTH SCREENING

Throughout the year, the school district sponsors health screening for vision, hearing, and scoliosis and height and weight measurements. Students are automatically screened unless the parent submits a note asking the student to be excused from the

screening. The parent may submit a note at the beginning of the year requesting that his/her child be excused from any or all health screenings. The grade levels included in the screening are determined annually. Upon a teacher's recommendation and with parental permission, students not scheduled for screening may also be screened.

## **IMMUNIZATIONS**

Prior to starting school or when transferring into the school district, students must present an approved Iowa Department of Public Health immunization certificate signed by a health care provider stating that the student has received the immunizations required by law. Students without the proper certificate are not allowed to attend school until they receive the immunizations or the student makes arrangements with the principal and/or school nurse. Only for specific medical or religious purposes are students exempted from the immunization requirements. Students may also be required to pass a TB test prior to attending school. Parents who have questions should contact the office.

## **PHYSICAL EXAMINATION FOR ATHLETES/PARTICIPANTS**

Each student, grades 7-12, must have a certificate of physical fitness and a concussion form before being allowed to participate in practice or extracurricular contests. An athletic physical is good for 1 calendar year. Students must have a physical each year they participate.

## **STUDENT ILLNESS OR INJURY AT SCHOOL**

A student who becomes ill or is injured at school must notify his or her teacher or another employee as soon as possible. In the case of a serious illness or injury, the school shall attempt to notify the parents according to the information on the emergency form. If the student is too ill to remain in school, the student is released to the student's parents or, with parental permission, to another person directed by the parents. School personnel will not transport students needing to go home.

While the school district is not responsible for treating medical emergencies, employees may administer emergency or minor first aid if possible. The school contacts emergency medical personnel if necessary and attempts to notify the parents where the student has been transported for treatment.

# **STUDENT CONDUCT & DISCIPLINE**

## **ANTI-BULLYING/HARASSMENT**

[Click this link to see the Anti-Bullying/Harassment Policy in this handbook.](#)

## **BUS RULES**

1. The driver and/or paraeducator are in charge of the pupils and the bus. Pupils **must** obey the driver and/or paraeducator.
2. Pupils must be on time. The bus cannot wait beyond its regular schedule for those who are tardy.
3. Pupils should never stand in the roadway while waiting for the bus.
4. Classroom conduct is to be observed by pupils while riding in the bus, except for ordinary conversation. **No "horseplay" is permitted.**
5. Pupils must not extend any body parts out of bus windows.
6. Pupils must stay in their assigned seats while the bus is in motion. No standing in or on the seats or in the aisle.
7. Pupils must observe instructions from the driver and/or paraeducator when leaving the bus.
8. Any damage to a bus by a student must be paid for by the student responsible for the damage.
9. The driver will not discharge riders at places other than the regular bus stop near the home, or at school, unless by proper authorization from the parent, and approval has been given by the superintendent or principal of the school.
10. No food, candy, gum, or drink is allowed on the bus.

## **CONSEQUENCES OF MISBEHAVIOR ON BUS**

Misbehavior on the school bus will not be tolerated. Bus drivers and/or paraeducators provide written reports to the respective building principal on bus incidents. Consequences for bus incidents will be determined by the building principal and may include suspension from riding the bus for 1 to 10 days or permanent removal (expulsion) from riding the bus following warnings and notification. Serious misbehavior on the bus also may be cause for punishment up to and including suspension or expulsion from school. Vandalism will not be tolerated.

## **DISCIPLINE**

### **DETENTION**

Detentions of various lengths (not necessarily limited to twenty-minutes) will be issued to those students whose conduct or behavior is such that they are a disruptive influence on the educational process in the classroom and/or all other areas of the building. Detention must be served the day of the assignment or within two additional school days. Detention time will be held before or

after school hours and will be supervised by the teacher who assigns it or the building principal. If the detention is not served it will be replaced with one half (1/2) day of in-school suspension.

### **IN-SCHOOL SUSPENSION**

#### **In-School Suspensions will be served under the following Guidelines**

The Student will receive no visitors.

The Student will have limited computer privileges

Students in ISS will remain in the room to which they were assigned.

Assignments will be requested for the student and transferred for the student to complete.

There is NO grace period for assignments due. The student is expected to prepare class work for submission to the instructor upon the return to classes.

Students in ISS are to complete school work, read, or sit quietly.

Students in ISS will not sleep, put their head down, or stand in the doorway of the room.

The student will eat lunch between lunch shifts, not when other students usually eat.

The student will not be allowed to go to the locker unless accompanied by the principal or a teacher.

The student will turn his or her cell phone and other electronic devices into the office and can get them at the end of the day.

Students who serve a suspension will not be eligible for any extracurricular activities that day.

Any student who cannot successfully complete ISS by following these guidelines will be sent home and informed that he/she will complete the ISS the next day of attendance at school. These guidelines will be read to the student at the beginning of ISS time.

### **DRESS CODE**

There is a strong connection between academic performance, students' appearance, and students' conduct. Inappropriate student appearance may cause substantial disruption to the school environment or present a threat to the health and safety of students, employees, and visitors on school grounds. Students are expected to adhere to reasonable levels of cleanliness and modesty. Students are expected to wear clothing that is appropriate to their age level and that does not disrupt the school or educational environment.

Students are prohibited from wearing clothing advertising or promoting items illegal for use by minors including, but not limited to, alcohol or tobacco; from wearing shoes with cleats except for outdoor athletic practices; and from wearing clothing displaying obscenity, profanity, vulgarity, racial or sexual remarks, making reference to prohibited conduct or similar displays. Any clothing that has or would reasonably be seen as to cause a disruption to the school day/environment will be a violation of the dress code. Under certain circumstances or during certain classes or activities a stricter dress code may be appropriate and students must comply with the stricter requirement. Exceptions may be made (when permission from the principal's office is secured in advance) for special events as announced. The principal makes the final determination of the appropriateness of the student's appearance. Students inappropriately dressed are required to change their clothing or leave the school.

Students are asked to not wear clothing that is too revealing in the sense that too much of the anatomy is exposed. Examples of such clothing include, but are not limited to the following:

- A. any shirt that does not cover the torso, including the midriff, no off the shoulder tops, spaghetti straps, halter tops, or strapless tops, shoulder straps less than 1½ inches wide or any tops without appropriate close fitting armholes. (sleeveless shirts need a manufacturer's seam)
- B. any clothing that allows undergarments to be exposed to include sheer tops
- C. any underwear worn on the outside
- D. any clothing should not have any revealing slits, rips, holes or tears.
- E. clothing with low necklines in front and/or back
- F. all shorts, dresses, and skirts are to be of reasonable length and tightness
- G. sunglasses are not to be worn in the school building
- H. trench coats and coats of extended length and size will not be acceptable
- I. pants, shorts, and skirts, must be worn at or near (no sagging) the waistline.
- J. pajamas, bedroom shoes or other sleepwear (H.S. only)
- K. excessively long belts or chains hanging from wallets or clothing
- L. Students are not to wear face paint/excessive make-up during the school day. Exceptions may be made for special events with prior approval from the building principal but should be limited to items for school spirit and done in a limited way in which the student's identity is still immediately apparent and no clothing, furniture, the school itself, etc. is not harmed, damaged, or needing extra cleaning.
- M. Hair coloring should not be applied at school or on the bus.
- N. Hats, caps, and other headgear (bandanas, sweatbands, head rags, hoods etc.) are not appropriate attire during school hours.

Shoes or similar footwear need to be worn at all times in the building.

All staff members have the authority to determine what clothing is too revealing. **Any student asked to change his/her appearance or attire is expected to do so without question.** The administration makes the final determination of the appropriateness of the student's appearance. Students inappropriately dressed are required to change their clothing or leave the school.

**SPECIAL NOTE:** Graduation dress code is semi-formal. Required attire includes the following types of clothing; dress pants/slacks, dress shirts/blouses, skirts, dresses, and dress shoes. (No tennis shoes, flip flops, or sandals) Those who are not willing to comply will receive their diplomas at another time. If a student has concerns about dress, please contact us. We will be sharing with the seniors that we have several ways to help them out if they do not want to purchase special clothes or shoes for the ceremony. We are very willing to do whatever we can to help students. The dress code is stated in board policy. No exceptions will be made. Since this is a semi-formal affair, decorations of caps or other graduation items will not be allowed. Honor Cords are limited to NHS and Silver Cord activities.

## **CARE OF SCHOOL PROPERTY**

Students are expected to take care of school property including desks, chairs, books, lockers, electronic devices, and school equipment. Vandalism is not tolerated. Students found to have destroyed or otherwise harmed school property may be required to reimburse the school district. In certain circumstances, students may be reported to law enforcement officials.

## **EXTRA-CURRICULAR CODE OF CONDUCT**

### **EXTRA-CURRICULAR CODE OF CONDUCT – PHILOSOPHY**

It is the feeling of those concerned with the development of the youth attending the West Hancock Middle/High School that membership and participation in extracurricular and co-curricular activities can have a very positive effect in the development of constructive attitudes for future citizenship. It is also our belief that participants are representatives of their school and their community and as such, are in the spotlight a good deal of the time. Consequently, they may be a good or bad influence on the younger members of the student body. Participants should, by their actions, be a credit to themselves, their parents, their school and their community. Furthermore, it is our belief that participation in any extracurricular or co-curricular activities is a privilege and that certain types of conduct shall be deemed inappropriate to the generally accepted standards subscribed to by the school district. According to this philosophy, the West Hancock Middle/High School will enforce the following policies and procedures relative to standards for participation in extracurricular and co-curricular activities throughout the calendar year both in and out of school. It is essential that all participants should be made clearly aware of this philosophy and the set of policies, procedures and options under which they will be participating.

Activities covered by the policy include, but are not limited to the following: cross country, football, volleyball, basketball, wrestling, track, baseball, golf, softball, plays/musicals, FFA, cheerleaders, individual speech, large group speech, statisticians, managers, and any special events of NHS, band, chorus, annual, SES, student council, pep club, and any other club, sport, or organization that represents the school in a public forum. Because National Honor Society (NHS) is a national organization, any West Hancock NHS member who violates the school's good conduct policy will also face disciplinary action as set forth in the NHS National Constitution.

### **EXTRA-CURRICULAR CODE OF CONDUCT – DEFINITIONS**

The following definitions apply to this policy:

1. Extracurricular activities - All calendar activities outside of the student's regular schedule of classes.
2. Event - A scheduled public performance, special event or competitive contest in which the student is or would be involved. (The play will count as one event, regardless of the number of performances.)
3. Student -Students in grades 7-12 are covered by this policy. A student is considered to be a seventh (7th) grader on the first day of school in 7th grade. A student is considered to be a ninth (9th) grader immediately following the last period of his/her last day in the 8th grade.

### **EXTRA-CURRICULAR CODE OF CONDUCT – DECLARATION OF INELIGIBILITY**

Students involved in any extracurricular activity will be declared ineligible for the following offenses:

1. Smoking, use or possession of tobacco or nicotine products (including chewing tobacco, electronic cigarettes, vapor devices and look-alikes); regardless of whether the student is of a legal age to purchase these items.
2. Use or possession of alcoholic beverages.
3. Use or possession of a controlled substance. This includes but is not limited to items such as marijuana, anything with THC, and CBD products; regardless of whether the student is of a legal age to purchase these items. Any prescription pills are a controlled

substance. If a student has a prescription from a licensed doctor they may follow the prescription as prescribed as long as school policy for the handling of medication is followed.

4. Vandalism involving school property or any other property.

5. If the student violates any local, state or federal law, comes under the jurisdiction of any court or is placed on official or unofficial probation, (routine traffic violations exempted).

6. Exceedingly inappropriate or offensive conduct such as assaulting staff or students, gross insubordination (talking back or refusing to cooperate with authorities), hazing or harassment of others. Such harassment does not have to rise to the level of violating the school's anti-bullying/harassment policy, but rather may include inappropriate and/or disparaging comments to or about others, whether made verbally, in writing, or by electronic means (e.g., text messages, electronic mail, or posting on social networking sites). Examples of such harassment includes, but is not limited to: threats; inappropriate comments about the traits of an individual or group; creating parodies to make fun of others; posting or otherwise sharing potentially embarrassing photographs, drawings, video, or depictions of others without permission.

7. Posting and or sharing nude photos of self does not reflect the values of our school and community and would be seen as a violation of our Good Conduct Policy.

- Examples of Iowa Court Cases regarding Good Conduct Policies that have survived legal review which could also be violations of our policy.
  - A student was found to be in possession of and forwarding nude and partially nude photos of another female student to other students in the school.
  - A student got caught stealing a trophy from the local county speedway and was found in violation of the policy even though the student had subsequently returned the stolen trophy.
  - A student was accused of using chewing tobacco and later "accidentally" admitting using chewing tobacco in violation of the local board policy.
  - A student admitted consuming three to four beers at his residence in the presence of and with the consent of his stepfather.
  - Two students received a good conduct violation for being in the "mere presence" of alcohol.
  - A student was found to have violated the good conduct policy when they went on a personal trip in another country over the summer and drank alcohol in a country where they were legally old enough to drink.
  - <https://educateiowa.gov/resources/legal-resources/legal-lessons/review-good-conduct-policies>

\* Possession is determined based on the following:

- Any time a law enforcement officer would be able to make a charge of possession.
- If the item is found to be on the individual directly or with their belongings.

### **EXTRA-CURRICULAR CODE OF CONDUCT – INVESTIGATION PROCEDURES**

Students believed to be in violation of any of these designated offenses would be notified by the principal of the attendance center attended by the student. Following notification, the principal shall then conduct an informal investigation of the charges prior to the students being determined ineligible. Such investigation shall include, but not necessarily be limited to, written or oral notice to the student of the charge made and an opportunity to respond. The principal will convene a committee made up of the principal, athletic director, guidance counselor, a non-coaching teacher and a coach /sponsor from an activity the student in question is not involved in. This committee will decide whether or not a violation has occurred. Prior to convening the committee to make a decision the administrator will contact a parent/guardian to make them aware of the meeting and charges.

If a student receives a charge, or citation from any law enforcement agency it is the students responsibility to report that to the school as soon as possible. Students are encouraged to report as soon as possible and not try to cover it up.

### **EXTRA-CURRICULAR CODE OF CONDUCT – DETERMINATION OF GUILT PROCEDURE**

Students are found guilty if:

1. Found so in a court of law.
2. Admits to violating one of the standards under "Declaration of Ineligibility."
3. If the Good Conduct Committee determines that there is a standard of proof that supports a violation based on "some evidence" that indicates that a violation of this policy most likely occurred.
  - Examples of evidence could include but not limited to the following examples:
    - Posting or sharing pictures, videos or other depictions of yourself in a perceived situation where some evidence is present to suggest possession and or use.
    - Empty or partially empty alcohol beverages in your vehicle.

- Evidence or claims of a violation from one or more citizens of the community or one or more staff members that a violation has occurred. This evidence has to be submitted within 7 days of said violation (unless brought forth by a law enforcement officer), the reporting party can not claim anonymity, and the evidence has to be provided through a first hand account and not be from a third party source.

\* In all cases the committee will determine if the evidence on its own is sufficient to determine a violation of this policy.

### **EXTRA-CURRICULAR CODE OF CONDUCT – WRITTEN NOTICES**

Written notice of the ineligibility and reasons thereof shall also be sent to the student’s parents or legal guardian, the superintendent, and the president of the Board of Education no later than the school day following the day ineligibility was declared.

### **EXTRA-CURRICULAR CODE OF CONDUCT – RIGHT TO APPEAL**

Students denied extracurricular activity participation under these rules may, by written notice to their principal or to the superintendent given within three (3) consecutive days after the day they are notified of their ineligibility, appeal such decision of ineligibility to the school board of the attendance center. Such board shall, in addition to finding the facts, either

1. Confirm the ineligibility as originally imposed;
2. Confirm the ineligibility, but reduce the period thereof;
3. Void the decision of ineligibility.

The filing of a notice of appeal shall stay the loss of eligibility until the appeal has been acted upon.

### **EXTRA-CURRICULAR CODE OF CONDUCT – PENALTIES TO BE ASSIGNED**

#### FOR ANY SUBSTANCE RELATED INFRACTION

- One-quarter of a regular season schedule for each infraction beginning with the first scheduled activity or performance the student is involved with. There will also be an escalating level of support that will hopefully address a need to help a student who may have or may develop a substance related addiction. This support must be started in order to participate when the suspension is completed but does not have to be completed in order to resume playing/performing. The Good Conduct Committee reserves the right to choose a larger offense plan due to the severity of the infraction.
  - 1st offense - 5 hours of conversations with appropriate school personnel (counselors, administrators, teachers, coaches, etc.)
  - 2nd offense - 5 hours of conversations with appropriate school personnel (counselors, administrators, teachers, coaches, etc.) and a minimum of a 4 hour substance abuse education course (related to the substance that led to the infraction) at the student’s family cost/expense.
  - 3rd offense - 6 months of family and or individual counseling that focused on reducing the behaviors in question. at the student’s family cost/expense.
  - 4th offense - 12 months of family and or individual counseling that focused on reducing the behaviors in question. Time may be reduced to 6 months if enrolled in a treatment specific program to address the needs of the individual. at the student’s family cost/expense.
  - 5th offense and beyond - continual counseling supports will remain in place.

\* If the counseling stops at any time during the timeline then the student will be ineligible until counseling resumes. If providers are switched the timeline will start over to ensure an opportunity for meaningful progress to be made.

#### FOR ANY NON SUBSTANCE RELATED INFRACTION

- 1st offense & 2nd offense - beginning with the first scheduled activity or performance the student is involved with a one-quarter of a season suspension and 5 hours of community service\*
- 3rd offense and beyond - beginning with the first scheduled activity or performance the student is involved with a one-half season suspension and a minimum of 10 hours of community service\* or counseling as assigned by the Good Conduct Committee.

\*Community service must be pre-approved (by the principal, committee, or counselor), and not for any family member or relative. Community service is defined as unpaid work that benefits people and organizations in the community. It could mean helping out at a nonprofit agency, volunteering for a special project in your school, or doing something positive to improve your neighborhood.

Penalties in either category will only accumulate in that category unless the Good Conduct Committee has enough concerns with a particular situation to combine the accumulated total in both categories.

### LIFELINE EXEMPTION

- For a student who has never participated in any extra-curricular activities that may have multiple infractions prior to participation, they may appeal to the Good Conduct Committee for an exemption in order to participate. The committee may reduce the penalty to one suspension period and credit previous counseling in order to get the student involved. The student will need to show growth and progress towards a lifestyle that represents the school and community in order for this to be approved.

### **EXTRA-CURRICULAR CODE OF CONDUCT – PERIOD OF INELIGIBILITY**

In all of the above instances, the period of ineligibility shall carry over from one season to the next or from one calendar year to the next and students may not serve the second or third offense penalty (or beyond if further violations) until the previous penalty has been completed. Students will be ineligible for all extra-curricular activities during the duration of the ineligibility period. The record of offenses will start at zero upon the start of 7<sup>th</sup> grade and again upon the start of 9<sup>th</sup> grade (which begins with the passing of the 8<sup>th</sup> grade).

In all of the above instances, students must continue participating in practice sessions for the duration of the ineligibility period. Students must complete the season for the activity in which they are ineligible in good standing. If they do not, the eligibility will be restarted and enforced during their next activity.

Students who are in violation of the extracurricular conduct rules and have selected or been assigned suspension from participation as a penalty will not be allowed to enter an extracurricular or co-curricular activity already in progress if the first performance or contest has been held. Students in question will be allowed to enter an extracurricular or co-curricular activity previous to the first performance, etc., if the sponsor involved gives his/her permission.

- A participant that is not eligible to participate due to injury or academic reasons will need to be restored to full participation level prior to serving a Good Conduct suspension.
- While jamborees, and scrimmages may not count as games they are public performances and or if they are against another school then the student will sit out. These will not count towards the numbers of activities needed to sit out.
- A student must meet the daily attendance requirement for the game or activity to count towards the suspension time.
- The dates will coincide with the level of play (JH, JJV, JV, Varsity etc.) that the student typically plays. Only game dates at that level will count towards the suspension with the ineligibility extending to all other levels during that period.

### **EXTRA-CURRICULAR/CO-CURRICULAR – ATTENDANCE REQUIREMENTS**

Students who are absent from school may not practice or participate in an extracurricular or co-curricular activity unless the absence is authorized in advance by the Principal, Superintendent or Activities Director or has a note from the Office to which the appointment occurred. The following are examples of absences that will be authorized: doctor and dental appointments, court appearance, funerals, senior college visits and one time to obtain a driver's license. If the student misses a graded co-curricular activity they will complete a separate, alternative assessment to make up the missed portion of their grade in the class they are enrolled in.

### **LANGUAGE POLICY**

Maintaining a school atmosphere that is free of profane or inappropriate language is the responsibility of the entire school community. Students and staff need to be aware that the use of this type of language creates a negative impression and infringes on the rights of others. Students are not to use profane or inappropriate language. Violations of this policy will be addressed by all staff members, and may result in a warning, detention or suspension from school.

In particular, the faculty and staff have determined that the use of the "F"-word during the regular school day is exceptionally inappropriate and offensive and will result in the student being assigned suspension time if:

- a. The student uses this word in addressing a teacher, staff member or official visitor/guest.
- b. A student causes a disruption of a classroom by use of this word.
- c. A student causes a disruption of the hall, lunchroom, library or other school spaces by use of this word.

**NOTE:** Whether or not the use of this word caused a disruption is determined by teachers or other staff members. Uses of this word during non-school hours may be dealt with by other means by coaches/activity supervisors.

Penalties in the instances described above are recommended as follows:

First Offense – up to 1 day of in-school suspension

Second Offense - up to 2 days of in-school suspension and parent conference

Third Offense - up to 3 days of in-school suspension and parent conference

Subsequent offenses – at-home suspensions and or recommendation for expulsion

**NOTE:** Parents/guardians are notified of all suspensions. Also, students on suspension receive no grace period in regards to turning in make-up work.

Use of the "F"-word in instances other than a, b or c above may be resolved with warnings, detentions or other consequences as appropriate.



## **SCHOOL SPIRIT**

School spirit may be divided into three categories:

- I. Courtesy - toward teachers, fellow students and the officials of the school's athletic activities.
- II. Pride - in everything our school endeavors to accomplish and has accomplished.
- III. Sportsmanship - the ability to win and lose gracefully. School spirit means loyalty to all functions of the school. A loyal student supports his/her school and does his/her utmost to keep her/his scholastic and activity standards at the highest possible level.

## **SPORTSMANSHIP & INTEGRITY**

The Board of Education recognizes the value of extracurricular activities in the educational process and the values that young people develop when they have the opportunity to participate in an organized activity outside of the traditional classroom.

Participants and responsible adults involved in Board approved extracurricular activities are expected to demonstrate the same level of responsibility and behavior at practice and competitions as is expected in the classroom. The Board further encourages the development and promotion of sportsmanship, ethics and integrity in all phases of the educational process and in all segments of the community, including administrators, participants, adult supervisors, parents, fans, spirit groups and support/booster groups.

## **LOCKERS AND DESKS**

School lockers, desks, and other spaces are temporarily assigned to individual students; they remain the property of the school district at all times. The school district has a reasonable and valid interest in ensuring the lockers, desks, and other spaces are properly maintained. For this reason, lockers, desks and other spaces are subject to inspections. Periodic inspections of all or a random selection of lockers, desks, or other space may be conducted by school officials in the presence of the student or another individual. Any contraband discovered during such searches shall be confiscated by school officials and may be turned over to law enforcement officials.

## **PUBLIC DISPLAYS OF AFFECTION**

The display of affection between students by such acts as holding hands, hugging, kissing, and similar behavior is discouraged. Such actions may result in loss of privileges, detention, and possible suspension from school, depending upon the frequency and nature of the behavior.

## **STUDENT BEHAVIOR**

Children are expected to conduct themselves in the building, on the school grounds and on field trips in an age-appropriate manner. It is important that students exercise self-discipline, recognize the rights of others, interact with others in a reasonable manner and learn to foresee some potentially unsafe acts. The staff is expected to be firm, fair and consistent when dealing with student behavior. Students who are not able to abide by these requirements will face disciplinary action from the supervising school employee and/or the school administration. It is important for our students to always represent the West Hancock School District appropriately. Extracurricular activities, field trips, and events off campus will still have the same expectations and potential consequences as they would for a student in a classroom setting.

- I. In General:
  - A. At all times students are to be respectful of others. This includes instances in which the student may not agree with an opinion and or decisions that were made. Disrespect towards another student could result in disciplinary action and or bullying/harassment claims. Disrespect towards teachers, staff, or administration will not be tolerated. All school employees will be open and available to meaningful and purposeful discussion to resolve differences and disagreements but may choose the appropriate time and place for this discussion. However, students must maintain an appropriate level of decorum towards these individuals at all times. Failure to maintain respectful behavior in conversations/situations with an authority figure will result in disciplinary actions including detentions, suspensions, removals from classes, possible expulsion, and possible good conduct violations. If the level of disrespect raises to insubordination then the minimum action will be a day of in school suspension.
  - B. Students are to leave the school building after school is dismissed unless under the supervision of a teacher or coach.
  - C. Phone calls are to be made before and after school. Teachers are discouraged from sending students to the office during regular class time to make phone calls.
  - D. The only food, candy or drink allowed to be eaten in the classroom or study hall will be through special arrangements by the instructor and administration.
  - E. Discard trash in the containers provided. Keep the school clean.
  - F. Students are not to sit or lie down on desktops, tables or heat registers.
  - G. There should be no whistling at any time.
- II. In Assemblies:
  - A. Teachers are assigned to areas to supervise.
  - B. Students are to give the performer/presenter the utmost cooperation. Students should be attentive.

- C. The performers/presenter should be treated as guests.
- D. Applause should be given only when it is in order.
- E. At the close of the program students should wait until dismissed by a teacher or principal. This should be done in an orderly fashion.
- III. In Classrooms:
  - A. Students should ideally be in their seats when the bell rings and ready for the teacher to begin.
  - B. Students should bring with them all materials, textbooks, reading books, pencils, pens, paper, etc. that he/she needs for the class period.
  - C. Students are to follow the instructions of the teacher. Examples include but are not limited to assigning seats to students, instructing students when it is appropriate to talk, procedures for obtaining permission to use the restroom, etc.
  - D. Students should wait until the instructor dismisses the class before leaving the room.
- IV. In Halls:
  - A. Running in the hallway is prohibited.
  - B. Keep hallways open to traffic by walking to the right. Do not block traffic by standing in groups.
  - C. Students should not carry open laptop computers.
  - D. Pass through hallways quietly. Be considerate of others in the halls and classrooms. No music can be played aloud, if wearing headphones you still must be able to hear others around you and emergency alerts.
- V. At Athletic Events:
  - A. High school or middle school students should sit in the student section as long as they can appropriately handle this responsibility. It is not appropriate for an elementary school aged student to sit in the student section.
  - B. Respect and support for all student performers (players, performers, cheerleaders, etc.) is expected to help maintain a positive and healthy school culture.
  - C. Visiting contestants should be treated as guests.
  - D. Students should never 'boo' officials or the opposing contestants.
  - E. Conduct yourself at all times in a manner that will reflect credit upon yourself and your school.
  - F. Props, signs, and noise makers are not allowed (this applies to all spectators).
  - G. During basketball games and wrestling meets, do not stand in the doorways and block fire exits as this is against state fire marshal regulations.
  - H. Students attending athletic contests will either remain in the gym and watch the contest or will be denied the privilege of attendance. The supervisors on duty make the judgment as to whether or not students are being attentive enough to the game or meet.
  - I. At outside events the playground is only available during games to grades 4 and below. Children must be accompanied by a parent or guardian.
  - J. Students in 6th grades and below should only be at high school events under the care and supervision of a parent, guardian, or other trusted adult. Students are not to be running up and down bleachers/sidelines during game play. They are not to be roaming or playing in the halls, concessions areas, etc. or be left unsupervised by the parent, guardian or other trusted adult at any time.

## **STUDENT CONDUCT**

Conduct, which reflects credit to school, staff, and most importantly to self is essential. This includes conduct during school hours and during any school sponsored events such as school trips, contests, or athletic events. Students need to be aware that all West Hancock Elementary, Middle School, and High School personnel have the authority to correct misconduct at any time during school or at school sponsored events.

Rules listed under conduct are not intended to be all-inclusive. We expect our students to behave properly. This includes showing respect for others and for the property belonging to others. Students shall conduct themselves in a manner consistent with the policies of the school and/or the school district handbook. Any student conduct which endangers the property, health, or safety of others or self-impedes the opportunity for that student and others to learn. Violations of school rules will not be tolerated. Police assistance will be requested when local, state or federal laws are violated. Some **examples** of conduct that are not acceptable are:

fighting	verbal harassment
running in halls	physical harassment
throwing objects	possession of weapons
class disruption	vandalism
possession/use of tobacco	inappropriate language
stealing	possession/use of drugs
possession/use alcohol	extortion
tardiness	forgery of passes/excuses
gambling	truancy
throwing snowballs	

The following are **examples** of corrective measures to student behavior:

verbal reprimand	teach proper behavior
restriction of privileges	time out in detention area
referral to student assistance team	conference with parents/guardian
referral to outside agency	confiscation of items/
payment for damaged property	suspension from class
suspension from school	alternative education
expulsion	

## **STUDENT POLICIES FOR DISCIPLINE - THREATS OR INCIDENTS OF VIOLENCE**

### **DISCIPLINE POLICY**

Discipline is designed to promote behavior that will enable students to learn and successfully participate in their educational and social environments. The district discipline policy for students who make a threat of violence or commit an act of violence is developed to help students understand their obligations to others in the school setting, secure the safety of all students, staff and the community, and to correct student behavior if a violation occurs (2023 Iowa Acts, chapter 96 (House File 604), sec. 7, new section 279.79, subsection 1).

Students will conduct themselves in a manner fitting their age, grade level, and maturity, and with respect and consideration for the rights of others while on school district property or on property within the jurisdiction of the school district; while on school owned and/or operated school or chartered vehicles; while attending or engaged in school activities; and while away from school grounds if misconduct will directly affect the good order, efficient management and welfare of the school district. Consequences for the misconduct will be fair and tailored to the age, grade level and maturity of the student.

Discipline and other responses to threats or incidents of violence by a student with a disability, including removal from a class, placement in a therapeutic classroom, suspensions, and expulsions, will comply with the provisions of applicable federal and state laws including, but not limited to, the IDEA, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act, and the Americans with Disabilities Act (2023 Iowa Acts, chapter 96 (House File 604), sec. 7, new section 279.79, subsection 3).

### **DISTRICT RESPONSE TO A THREAT OR INCIDENT OF VIOLENCE BY A STUDENT**

#### **Reporting a Threat of Violence or Incidence of Violence**

In the case of any threat of violence or incident of violence that results in injury, property damage or assault by a student, the teacher will report to the school principal or lead administrator within 24 hours of the incident. The principal or lead administrator will notify the parent or guardian of the student(s) who threatened or perpetrated an act of violence and the student(s) who the threatened or perpetrated act of violence was made against within 24 hours after receipt of the teacher's report and complete an investigation of the incident as soon as possible. The classroom teacher may also notify the parent or guardian of the student who made the threat or caused the incident, and the parent or guardian of the student against whom the threat or incident was directed (2023 Iowa Acts, chapter 96 (House File 604), sec. 4).

An investigation will be initiated by the principal or lead administrator upon learning of an incident of violence or threat of violence through any credible means. If the principal or lead administrator finds that an incident of violence or threat of violence did occur, the administrator will determine the level of threat or incident by considering all aspects of the situation, including the student's intent and knowledge of the impact of their actions, their developmental level and context of the incident. The resolution will focus on identifying the cause behind the behavior and appropriate corrective action (2023 Iowa Acts, chapter 96 (House File 604), sec. 7, new section 279.79, subsections 1 and 4).

A student who makes a threat of violence, causes an incident of violence that results in injury or property damage, or who commits an assault, will be subject to escalating levels of discipline for each occurrence. When appropriate, referrals will be made to local law enforcement. The district retains the authority to assign the level of disciplinary measures appropriate to the severity of the threat of violence or incident of violence (2023 Iowa Acts, chapter 96 (House File 604), sec. 7, new section 279.79, subsection 5).

#### **Threat of Violence**

Threat of violence means a written, verbal, electronic or behavioral message that either explicitly or implicitly expresses an intention to inflict emotional or physical injury, property damage, or assault.

#### **Incident of Violence**

Incident of violence means the intentional use of physical force or power against oneself, another person, a group or community or property resulting in injury, property damage or assault.

### **Injury**

Injury means “physical pain, illness or any impairment of physical condition.” State v. McKee, 312 N.W.2d 907, 913 (Iowa 1981).

### **Property Damage**

Property damage means any destruction, damage, impairment or alteration of property to which the individual does not have a right to take such an action. Property means real property, which includes any real estate, building, or fixture attached to a building or structure, and personal property, which includes intangible property (Iowa Code section 4.1(21)).

### **Assault**

Assault means when, without justification, a student does any of the following:

an act which is intended to cause pain or injury to, or which is intended to result in physical contact which will be insulting or offensive to another, coupled with the apparent ability to execute the act; or any act which is intended to place another in fear of immediate physical contact which will be painful, injurious, insulting or offensive, coupled with the apparent ability to execute the act; or intentionally points any firearm toward another or displays in a threatening manner any dangerous weapon toward another.

The act is not an assault when the person doing any of the above and the other person are voluntary participants in a sport, social or other activity, not in itself criminal, when the act is a reasonably foreseeable incident of such sport or activity, and does not create an unreasonable risk of serious injury or breach of the peace (Following Iowa Code section 708.1).

## **ESCALATING RESPONSES FOR THREAT/INCIDENT OF VIOLENCE, PROPERTY DAMAGE AND OR ASSAULT**

### **LEVEL 1**

- Requires parent or guardian notification.
- Requires individualized educational program (IEP) meeting, if the student has an IEP.
- Responses to an incident may include, but are not limited to, the following:
  - Parent or guardian conference that includes the student, when appropriate;
  - When appropriate and with written parent/guardian consent, counseling, and/or mental health counseling subject to available resources of the district;
  - Behavior intervention student agreement coupled with another response(s);
  - Restitution or opportunities to repair relationships coupled with another response(s);
  - Detention;
  - Temporary removal from extracurricular activities (Grades 9-12);
  - Temporary removal from class;
  - In-school suspension (Grades 9-12); and/or
  - Suspension of transportation, if misconduct occurred in a school vehicle. (Grades 9-12)
- Unless the first offense is unusually serious, the administrator will avoid permanent removal from a class (PK-4 only)

### **LEVEL 2**

- Requires parent or guardian notification.
- Review of response to prior offense, if applicable, to inform increased level of response.
- Requires individualized educational program (IEP) meeting, if the student has an IEP.
- Response to an incident may include the following:
  - Parent or guardian conference that includes the student, when appropriate;
  - When appropriate and with written parent/guardian consent, counseling, and/or mental health counseling subject to available resources of the district;
  - Behavior intervention student agreement coupled with another response(s);
  - Restitution or opportunities to repair relationships coupled with another response(s);

- Detention;
- Temporary or permanent removal from extracurricular activities;
- Temporary or permanent removal from class;
- In-school suspension;
- Out-of-school suspension (Grades 5-12);
- Suspension of transportation privileges, if misconduct occurred in a school vehicle; and/or
- Placement in an alternative learning environment, including a therapeutic classroom, when appropriate.

### LEVEL 3

- Requires parent or guardian notification.
- Review of response to prior offense, if applicable, to inform increased level of response.
- Requires individualized educational program (IEP) meeting, if the student has an IEP.
- Response to an incident may include the following:
  - Parent or guardian conference that includes the student, when appropriate;
  - When appropriate and with written parent/guardian consent, counseling, and/or mental health counseling subject to available resources of the district;
  - Behavior intervention student agreement coupled with another response(s);
  - Restitution or opportunities to repair relationships coupled with another response(s);
  - Detention;
  - Temporary or permanent removal from extracurricular activities;
  - Temporary or permanent removal from class;
  - In-school suspension;
  - Out-of-school suspension;
  - Suspension of transportation privileges, if misconduct occurred in a school vehicle;
  - Placement in an alternative learning environment, including a therapeutic classroom, when appropriate; and/or
  - Recommendation for expulsion.

### **DEFINITIONS (CONSISTENT WITH THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION DATA DICTIONARY 2022-23)**

**Detention** means the student's presence is required during non-school hours for disciplinary purposes. The student can be required to appear prior to the beginning of the school day, after school has been dismissed for the day or on a non-school day. Whether a student will serve detention, and the length of the detention, is within the discretion of the licensed employee or the building principal disciplining the student.

**Expulsion** means an action by the board to remove a student from the school environment, which includes, but is not limited to, classes and activities, for a period of time set by the board.

**In-school suspension** means the student will attend school but will be temporarily isolated from one or more classes while under supervision. An in-school suspension will not exceed ten consecutive school days.

**Out-of-school suspension** means the student is removed from the school environment, which includes school classes and activities. An out-of-school suspension will not exceed ten consecutive school days unless due process is provided as required by federal and state law. A restriction from school activities means a student will attend school and classes and practice but will not participate in school activities.

**Placement in an alternate learning environment** means placement of a student in an environment established apart from the regular educational program that includes rules, staff and resources designed to accommodate student needs and to provide a comprehensive education consistent with the student learning goals and content standards established by the school district.

**Removal from the classroom** means a student is sent to the building principal's office. It is within the discretion of the person in charge of the classroom to remove the student.

## **STUDENT SEARCHES**

In order to protect the health and safety of students, employees and visitors to the school district and for the protection of school district facilities, students and their belongings and school owned lockers, desks and spaces may be searched or inspected. On occasion a mass locker inspection may take place to remove contraband items (food, snacks, pop/drinks, etc.) from student lockers. A search of a student will be justified when there is reasonable suspicion that the search will turn up evidence that the student has violated or is violating the law or school district policy, rules or regulations affecting school order.

Reasonable suspicion may be based on factors such as:

1. Eyewitness observations by employees;
2. Information received from a reliable source;
3. Suspicious behavior by the student;
4. A student's past history and school record although this factor alone is not sufficient to provide the basis for reasonable suspicion.

A search will be permissible in its scope when the measures adopted are reasonably related to the objectives of the search.

Reasonableness of scope will include consideration of factors such as:

1. The age of the student;
2. The sex of the student;
3. The nature of the infraction;
4. The emergency requires search without delay.

Personally intrusive searches will require more compelling circumstances to be considered reasonable. If a pat down search or a search of a student's garments (such as jacket, socks, pockets, etc.) is conducted, it will generally be conducted in private by a school official of the same sex as the student with another adult witness of the same sex present, when feasible. A more intrusive search, short of strip search of the student's body, is permissible in emergency situations when the health and safety of students, employees or visitors is threatened. Such a search may only be conducted in private by a school official of the same sex as the student with an adult of the same sex present, unless the health or safety of the students will be endangered by the delay caused by following these procedures.

Students are permitted to park on school premises as a matter of privilege, not of right. The school retains authority to conduct routine patrols of student parking lots. The interior of a student's automobile on the school premises may be searched if a school official has reasonable suspicion to believe that illegal, unauthorized or contraband items are contained inside. School authorities may seize any illegal, unauthorized or contraband items discovered in a search. Such items include, but are not limited to, illegal drugs, alcoholic beverages, tobacco, weapons, stolen property, etc. Such items are not to be possessed by a student while they are only school district property or property within the jurisdiction of the school district, while on school owned or chartered buses, while attending or engaged in school activities, and while away from school grounds if possession of same would directly affect the good order, efficient management and welfare of the school district. Possession of such items will be grounds for disciplinary action including possible suspension or expulsion and may be reported to local law enforcement. The Board believes that such illegal, unauthorized contraband materials cause material and substantial disruption to the school environment and may endanger the health and safety of students, employees or visitors on school district property.

Law enforcement officials, including canine units, may be used for periodic, random searches of the school and parking lot areas.

## **TOBACCO-ALCOHOL-DRUGS**

Students are prohibited from distributing, dispensing, manufacturing, possessing, using, and being under the influence of alcohol, drugs or look-a-like or vapor substances; and possessing or using tobacco, tobacco products or look-a-like or vapor substances, including any nicotine based substances, and or any other (non-prescription) controlled substances including but not limited to marijuana, CBD oils, THC products, etc.

### **PENALTIES FOR TOBACCO-ALCOHOL-DRUGS**

Police will be notified in all instances. First offense - student shall have three days in school suspension. (Out of school suspension for drug related violations). Second offense - student shall have five days of out of school suspension. Third offense - student shall be brought before the Board of Education for an expulsion hearing in accordance with the suspension and expulsion policy. The district will consider all incidents occurring within 365 days as sufficiently close in proximity between incidents to establish that a repeated incident has occurred. The school district reserves the right to inspect lockers and conduct drug dog searches at any time.

## **WEAPONS**

School should be a safe place for everyone--students, staff, and the general public. With this in mind, the Board of Directors has adopted a policy on weapons, the sole purpose of which is to promote and provide a safe environment for everyone in the school.

The Board believes weapons and other dangerous objects in school district facilities cause material and substantial disruption to the school environment or present a threat to the health and safety of students, employees, and visitors on the school district premises or property within the jurisdiction of the school district.

School district facilities are not appropriate places for weapons or dangerous objects. Weapons and other dangerous objects shall be taken from students and others who bring them onto the school district property or onto property within the jurisdiction of the school district or from students who are within the control of the school district.

Parents of students found to possess a weapon or dangerous objects on school property shall be notified of the incident. Confiscation of weapons or dangerous objects shall be reported to the law enforcement officials, and the student will be subject to disciplinary action, including suspension or expulsion.

Students bringing a firearm to school shall be expelled for not less than twelve months and will recommend this expulsion requirement be modified for a student on a case-by-case basis. For purposes of this portion of this policy, the term “firearm” includes any weapon which is designed to expel a projectile by the action of an explosive, the frame or receiver of any such weapon, a muffler or silencer for such a weapon, or any explosive, incendiary or poison gas.

Weapons under the control of law enforcement officials shall be exempt from this policy. The principal may allow authorized persons to display weapons or other dangerous objects for educational purposes. Such a display shall also be exempt from this policy.

## **MANDATORY POSTINGS**

### **BOARD POLICIES**

#### **ANTI-BULLYING/HARASSMENT (BOARD POLICY 104)**

The West Hancock CSD is committed to providing all students, employees, and volunteers with a safe and civil school environment in which all members of the school community are treated with dignity and respect. Bullying and/or harassing behavior can seriously disrupt the ability of school employees to maintain a safe and civil environment, and the ability of students to learn and succeed.

Bullying and/or harassment of or by students, employees, and volunteers is against federal, state, and local policy and is not tolerated by the board.

Accordingly, school employees, volunteers, and students shall not engage in bullying or harassing behavior while on school property, while on school-owned or school-operated vehicles, while attending or participating in school-sponsored or sanctioned activities, and while away from school grounds if the conduct materially interferes with the orderly operation of the educational environment or is likely to do so.

Complaints may be filed with the superintendent or superintendent’s designee pursuant to the regulation accompanying this policy. Complaints will be investigated within a reasonable time frame.

A school employee, volunteer, or student, or a student’s parent or guardian who promptly, reasonably, and in good faith reports an incident of bullying or harassment, in compliance with the procedures in the regulation, to the appropriate school official designated by the school district, shall be immune from civil or criminal liability relating to such report and to participation in any administrative or judicial proceeding resulting from or relating to the report.

#### **RETALIATION PROHIBITED**

Individuals who knowingly file false bullying or harassment complaints and any person who gives false statements in an investigation may be subject to discipline by appropriate measures.

Any student found to have violated or retaliated in violation of this policy shall be subject to measures up to, and including, suspension and expulsion. Any school employee found to have violated or retaliated in violation of this policy shall be subject to measures up to, and including, termination of employment. Any school volunteer found to have violated or retaliated in violation of this policy shall be subject to measures up to, and including, removal from service and exclusion from school grounds.

#### **DEFINITIONS**

For the purposes of this policy, the defined words shall have the following meaning:

- “Electronic” means any communication involving the transmission of information by wire, radio, optic cable, electromagnetic, or other similar means. “Electronic” includes but is not limited to communication via electronic mail, internet-based communications, pager service, cell phones, and electronic text messaging. “Harassment” and “bullying” mean any repeated or potentially repeated electronic, written, verbal, or physical act or other ongoing conduct toward an individual based on any trait or characteristic of the individual which creates an objectively hostile school environment that meets one or more of the following conditions:
  - (1) Places the individual in reasonable fear of harm to the individual’s person or property.
  - (2) Has a substantial detrimental effect on the individual’s physical or mental health.
  - (3) Has the effect of substantially interfering with the individual’s academic or career performance. Has the effect of substantially interfering with the individual’s ability to participate in or benefit from the services, activities, or privileges provided by a school.

- “Trait or characteristic of the individual” includes but is not limited to age, color, creed, national origin, race, religion, marital status, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, physical attributes, physical or mental ability or disability, ancestry, political party preference, political belief, socioeconomic status, or familial status.
- “Volunteer” means an individual who has regular, significant contact with students.

#### FILING A COMPLAINT

An individual who believes that the individual has been harassed or bullied may file a complaint with the superintendent or superintendent’s designee. The complaint form is available above in policy 104.E1. An alternate investigator will be designated in the event it is claimed that the superintendent or superintendent’s designee committed the alleged bullying or harassment or some other conflict of interest exists. Complaints shall be filed within 180 days of the event giving rise to the complaint or from the date the Complainant could reasonably become aware of such occurrence. The Complainant will state the nature of the complaint and the remedy requested. The Complainant shall receive assistance as needed.

#### INVESTIGATION

The school district will promptly and reasonably investigate allegations of bullying or harassment upon receipt of a written complaint. The [superintendent or the superintendent’s designee or name the position if not the superintendent] (hereinafter “Investigator”) will be responsible for handling all complaints alleging bullying or harassment. The investigation may include, but is not limited to the following: Interviews with the Complainant and the individual named in the complaint (“Respondent”) A request for the Complainant to provide a written statement regarding the nature of the complaint; A request for the Respondent to provide a written statement; Interviews with witnesses identified during the course of the investigation; A request for witnesses identified during the course of the investigation to provide a written statement; and Review and collection of documentation or information deemed relevant to the investigation. The Investigator shall consider the totality of circumstances presented in determining whether conduct objectively constitutes bullying or harassment as defined in Board policy. Upon completion of the investigation, the Investigator shall issue a report with respect to the findings, and provide a copy of the report to the appropriate building principal or Superintendent if the investigation involved the building principal. The complaint and identity of the Complainant, Respondent, or witnesses will only be disclosed as reasonably necessary in connection with the investigation or as required by law or policy. Similarly, evidence uncovered in the investigation shall be kept confidential to the extent reasonably possible. Additional suggestions for administrative procedures regarding this policy include: Organizing training programs for students, school employees, and volunteers regarding how to recognize bullying and harassing behavior and what to do if this behavior is witnessed; and Developing a process for evaluating the effectiveness of this policy in reducing bullying and harassing behavior.

#### DECISION

The investigator, building principal or superintendent, depending on the individuals involved, shall inform the Complainant and the accused about the outcome of the investigation. If, after an investigation, a student is found to be in violation of the policy, the student shall be disciplined by appropriate measures, which may include suspension and expulsion. If after an investigation a school employee is found to be in violation of this policy, the employee shall be disciplined by appropriate measures, which may include termination. If after an investigation a school volunteer is found to be in violation of this policy, the volunteer shall be subject to appropriate measures, which may include exclusion from school grounds. Individuals who knowingly file false bullying and/or harassment complaints and any person who gives false statements in an investigation may be subject to discipline by appropriate measures, as shall any person who is found to have retaliated against another in violation of this policy. Any student found to have retaliated in violation of this policy shall be subject to measures up to, and including, suspension and expulsion. Any school employee found to have retaliated in violation of this policy shall be subject to measures up to, and including, termination of employment. Any school volunteer found to have retaliated in violation of this policy shall be subject to measures up to, and including, exclusion from school grounds.

#### **EQUAL EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITY (BOARD POLICY 102)**

It is the policy of the West Hancock Community School District not to discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, disability, religion, creed, age (for employment), marital status (for programs), sexual orientation, gender identity and socioeconomic status (for programs) in its educational programs and its employment practices. There is a grievance procedure for processing complaints of discrimination. If you have questions or a grievance related to this policy please contact *Dan Peterson, 510 9<sup>th</sup> Ave SW Britt Iowa 50423, 641-843-3863, danpeterson@whancock.org*

The board requires all persons, agencies, vendors, contractors and other persons and organizations doing business with or performing services for the school district to subscribe to all applicable federal and state laws, executive orders, rules and regulations pertaining to contract compliance and equal opportunity

#### **EQUAL EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY (BOARD POLICY 401.1)**

The West Hancock Community School District will provide equal opportunity to employees and applicants for employment in accordance with applicable equal employment opportunity and affirmative action laws, directives and regulations of federal, state and local governing bodies. Opportunity to all employees and applicants for employment includes hiring, placement, promotion, transfer or demotion, recruitment, advertising or solicitation for employment, treatment during employment, rates of pay or other forms of



compensation, and layoff or termination. The school district will take affirmative action in major job categories where women, men, minorities and persons with disabilities are underrepresented. Employees will support and comply with the district's established equal employment opportunity and affirmative action policies. Employees will be given notice of this policy annually.

The board will appoint an affirmative action coordinator. The affirmative action coordinator will have the responsibility for drafting the affirmative action plan. The affirmative action plan will be reviewed by the board at least every two years.

Individuals who file an application with the school district will be given consideration for employment if they meet or exceed the qualifications set by the board, administration, and Iowa Department of Education for the position for which they apply. In employing individuals, the board will consider the qualifications, credentials, and records of the applicants without regard to race, color, creed, sex, national origin, religion, age, sexual orientation, gender identity, marital status, or disability. In keeping with the law, the board will consider the veteran status of applicants.

Advertisements and notices for vacancies within the district will contain the following statement: "The West Hancock Community School District is an EEO/AA employer." The statement will also appear on application forms.

Inquiries by employees or applicants for employment regarding compliance with equal employment opportunity and affirmative action laws and policies, including but not limited to complaints of discrimination, will be directed to the Affirmative Action Coordinator by writing to the Affirmative Action Coordinator, West Hancock Community School District, P.O. Box 420, Britt, Iowa 50423; or by telephoning 641-843-3833.

Inquiries by employees or applicants for employment regarding compliance with equal employment opportunity and affirmative action laws and policies, including but not limited to complaints of discrimination, may also be directed in writing to the Equal Employment Opportunity Commissions,

- Milwaukee Area Office, Reuss Federal Plaza, 310 West Wisconsin Ave., Suite 800, Milwaukee, WI., 53203-2292, (800) 669-4000 or TTY (800) 669-6820. <http://www.eeoc.gov/field/milwaukee/index.cfm> or the Iowa Civil Rights Commission, 400 E. 14th Street, Des Moines, Iowa, 50319-1004, (515) 281-4121 or 1-800-457-4416, <https://icrc.iowa.gov/>. This inquiry or complaint to the federal office may be done instead of, or in addition to, an inquiry or complaint at the local level.

Further information and copies of the procedures for filing a complaint are available in the school district's central administrative office and the administrative office in each attendance center.

#### **FUNDS & FUND-RAISING (BOARD POLICY 504.5)**

Students may raise funds for school activities upon approval of the superintendent prior to the fund raising event or the start of a fund-raising campaign. Funds raised remain in the control of the school district and the board. School-sponsored student organizations must have the approval of the principal prior to spending the money raised.

#### **GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS (BOARD POLICY 505.5)**

Students must successfully complete the courses required by the board and Iowa Department of Education in order to graduate. It is the responsibility of the superintendent to ensure that students complete grades one through twelve and that high school students complete 46 credits prior to graduation. The following credits will be required:

Language Arts	8	credits
Science	6	credits
Mathematics	6	credits
Social Studies	6	credits
Technology	2	credits
Health	1	credit
Physical Education	2	credits
Electives	15	credits (Financial Literacy content is required)

Students are required to enroll in Physical Education each semester that they are enrolled in high school, unless a waiver is secured as provided in the State of Iowa Accreditation Standards. More elective credits would be required if Physical Education has been waived for one or more semesters.

The required courses of study will be reviewed by the board annually.

Graduation requirements for special education students will be in accordance with the prescribed course of study as described in their Individualized Education Program (IEP). Each student's IEP will include a statement of the projected date of graduation at least 18 months in advance of the projected date and the criteria to be used in determining whether graduation will occur. Prior to the special education student's graduation, the IEP team will determine whether the graduation criteria have been met.

#### **EARLY GRADUATION (BOARD POLICY 505.6)**

Generally, students will be required to complete the necessary coursework and graduate from high school at the end of grade twelve. Students may graduate prior to this time if they meet the minimum graduation requirements stated in board policy.

A student who graduates early will no longer be considered a student and will become an alumnus of the school district. However, the student who graduates early may participate in commencement exercises.

### **HOMELESS CHILDREN AND YOUTH (BOARD POLICY 501.16)**

The board will make reasonable efforts to identify homeless children and youth of school age within the district, encourage their enrollment and eliminate existing barriers to their receiving an education which may exist in district policies or practices. The designated coordinator for identification of homeless children and for tracking and monitoring programs and activities for these children is the Guidance Counselor.

### **HUMAN GROWTH AND DEVELOPMENT (BOARD POLICY 603.5)**

The school district's K-12 health curriculum follows School Laws of Iowa and School Board policy wherein it is stated the program is to offer instruction in specific areas including: human sexuality, stress management, suicide prevention, substance abuse, sexually transmitted diseases, sex stereotypes, prevention of sexual abuse, family life and parenting, and self-esteem.

Each attendance center is to provide parents information about the curriculum and the procedure for inspecting the instructional materials prior to their use in the classroom.

### **INSTRUCTION AT A POST-SECONDARY EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTION (BOARD POLICY 604.6)**

If available, students in grades nine through twelve may receive academic or vocational-technical credits that count toward the graduation requirements set out by the board for courses successfully completed in post-secondary educational institutions. The student may receive academic or vocational-technical credits through an agreement between a post-secondary educational institution or with the board's approval on a case-by-case basis.

### **MULTICULTURAL/GENDER FAIR EDUCATION (BOARD POLICY 603.4)**

Students will have an equal opportunity for a quality education without discrimination, regardless of their race, religion, creed, socioeconomic status, color, sex, marital status, national origin, sexual orientation, gender identity or disability.

The education program is free of discrimination and provides equal opportunity for the students. The education program will foster knowledge of and respect and appreciation for the historical and contemporary contributions of diverse cultural groups, as well as men and women, to society. Special emphasis is placed on Asian-Americans, African-Americans, Hispanic-Americans, European-Americans and persons with disabilities. It will also reflect the wide variety of roles open to both men and women and provide equal opportunity to both sexes.

### **OBJECTIVES FOR EQUAL EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITY (BOARD POLICY 500)**

It is the goal of the board to develop a healthy social, intellectual, emotional, and physical self-concept in the students enrolled in the school district. Each student attending school will have the opportunity to use it and its education program and services as a means for self-improvement and individual growth. In so doing, the students are expected to conduct themselves in a manner that assures each student the same opportunity.

The board supports the delivery of the education program and services to students free of discrimination on the basis of race, color, sex, marital status, national origin, religion, sexual orientation, gender identity, social economic status, creed or disability. This concept of equal educational opportunity serves as a guide for the board and employees in making decisions relating to school district facilities, employment, selection of educational materials, equipment, curriculum, and regulations affecting students.

In the delivery of the education program, students will treat the employees with respect and students will receive the same in return. Employees have the best interests of the students in mind and will assist them in school-related or personal matters if they are able to do so. Students should feel free to discuss problems, whether school-related or personal, with the guidance counselor or other employees.

Board policies, rules and regulations affect students while they are on school district property or on property within the jurisdiction of the school district; while on school owned and/or operated school or chartered vehicles; while attending or engaged in school activities; and while away from school grounds if misconduct will directly affect the good order, efficient management and welfare of the school district.

Board policy refers to the term "parents" in many of the policies. The term parents for purposes of this policy manual will mean the legal parents, the legal guardian or custodian of a student. Students who have reached the age of majority or are otherwise considered an adult by law.

Inquiries by students regarding compliance with equal educational opportunity and affirmative action laws and policies, including but not limited to complaints of discrimination, are directed to the Affirmative Action Coordinator by writing to the Affirmative Action Coordinator, Dan Peterson, West Hancock Community School District, Britt, Iowa 50423; or by telephoning 641-843-3863.

Inquiries by students regarding compliance with equal educational opportunity and affirmative action laws and policies, including but not limited to complaints of discrimination, may also be directed in writing to the Director of the Region VII office of Civil Rights, U.S. Department of Education 8930 Ward Parkway, Suite 2037, Kansas City, MO. 64114 (816) 268-0550, <https://icrc.iowa.gov/> or

Iowa Dept. of Education, Grimes State Office Bldg., Des Moines, IA. (515) 281-5294. This inquiry or complaint to the federal or state office may be done instead of, or in addition to, an inquiry or complaint at the local level.

Further information and copies of the procedures for filing a complaint are available in the school district's central administrative office and the administrative office in each attendance center.

### **OBJECTION TO INSTRUCTIONAL AND LIBRARY MATERIALS (BOARD POLICY 605.3)**

Members of the school district community may object to the instructional and library materials utilized in the school district and ask for their use to be reconsidered.

### **OPEN ENROLLMENT (BOARD POLICIES 501.14, 501.15)**

Iowa's open enrollment law allows students residing in one school district to request transfer to another school district upon the parents' request. Students interested in open enrolling out of the school district must contact the superintendent for information and forms.

### **PUBLIC CONDUCT ON SCHOOL PREMISES (BOARD POLICY 903.4)**

The board expects that students, employees and visitors will treat each other with respect, engage in responsible behavior, exercise self-discipline and model fairness, equity and respect. Individuals violating this policy will be subject to discipline. Students will be disciplined consistent with the student conduct policies. Employees will be disciplined consistent with employee discipline policies and laws. Others will be subject to discipline according to this policy.

Individuals are permitted to attend school sponsored or approved activities or visit school premises only as guests of the school district, and, as a condition, they must comply with the school district's rules and policies. Individuals will not be allowed to interfere with or disrupt the education program or activity. Visitors, like the participants, are expected to display mature, responsible behavior. The failure of individuals to do so is not only disruptive but embarrassing to the students, the school district and the entire community.

To protect the rights of students to participate in the education program or activities without fear of interference or disruption and to permit the school officials, employees, and activity sponsors and officials to perform their duties without interference or disruption, the following provisions are in effect:

- Abusive, verbal or physical conduct of individuals directed at students, school officials, employees, officials and activity sponsors of sponsored or approved activities or at other individuals will not be tolerated.
- Verbal or physical conduct of individuals that interferes with the performance of students, school officials, employees, officials and activity sponsors of sponsored or approved activities will not be tolerated.
- The use of vulgar, obscene or demeaning expression directed at students, school officials, employees, officials and activity sponsors of sponsored or approved activities participating in a sponsored or approved activity or at other individuals will not be tolerated.

If an individual becomes physically or verbally abusive, uses vulgar, obscene or demeaning expression, or in any way interrupts an activity, the individual may be removed from the event by the individual in charge of the event. Law enforcement may be contacted for assistance.

Individuals removed from school premises have the ability to follow the board's chain of command and complaint policies should they choose to do so. The exclusion is in effect should the individual choose to appeal the decision of the superintendent or designee. The term "individual" as used in the policy also includes students and employees.

If an individual has been notified of exclusion and thereafter tries to enter a school building or attends a sponsored or approved activity, the individual will be advised that his/her attendance will result in prosecution. The school district may obtain a court order for permanent exclusion from the school building or from future school sponsored or approved activities.

### **SPECIAL EDUCATION SERVICES (BOARD POLICY 603.3)**

The board recognizes some students have different educational needs than other students. The board will provide a free appropriate public education program and related services to students identified in need of special education. The special education services will be provided from birth until the appropriate education is completed, age twenty-one or to the maximum age allowable in accordance with the law. Students requiring special education will attend general education classes, participate in nonacademic and extracurricular services and activities and receive services in a general education setting to the maximum extent appropriate to the needs of each individual student. The appropriate education for each student is written in the student's Individualized Education Program (IEP).

Special education students are required to meet the requirements stated in board policy or in their IEPs for graduation. It is the responsibility of the superintendent and the area education agency director of special education to provide or make provisions for appropriate special education and related services.

Children from birth through age 2 and children age 3 through age 5 are provided comprehensive special education services within the public education system. The school district will work in conjunction with the area education agency to provide services, at the earliest appropriate time, to children with disabilities from birth through age 2. This is done to ensure a smooth transition of children entitled to early childhood special education services.

## **VIDEO CAMERAS ON SCHOOL DISTRICT BUSES (BOARD POLICY 711.2)**

The board supports the use of video cameras on school buses as a means to monitor and maintain a safe environment for students and employees. The video cameras may be used on buses used for transportation to and from school, field trips, curricular events and extracurricular events. The contents of the videotapes may be used as evidence in a student disciplinary proceeding.

## **VISITING SCHOOL (BOARD POLICY 903.3)**

Parents are encouraged to visit school and their children's classroom after the second week of school, and before the final two weeks of school. Please contact the classroom teacher before visiting the school. We suggest that a visit of one-half the school day should be sufficient for the parent to have a fair representation of the day. Please do not bring your children, they often get restless and parents end up watching them more than the class they came to see.

We sometimes have requests to allow visitation by school age children who are visiting in the home of our regular students. We feel that if they choose to visit, they should be accompanied by either their parents or the parent of a regular student and we recommend that the visit be limited to one hour. Whenever entering any school building, please check into the office first. We ask this only because we are concerned with the safety and education of your children. It is important that we know who is in the building at all times. In this way we can also assist you and not disturb the classes which will be going on.

Your cooperation and understanding of these procedures is greatly appreciated. As mentioned previously, please visit us. We want to keep you fully involved and informed.

## **OFFICIAL NOTICES**

### **STUDENT PUBLICATIONS**

Students may produce official school district publications as part of the curriculum under the supervision of a faculty advisor and principal. Official school district publications include, but are not limited to, the school newspaper and yearbook. Expression made by students, including student expression in the school district publications, is not an expression of official school district policy. The school district, the board and the employees are not liable in any civil or criminal action for student expression made or published by students unless the employees or board have interfered with or altered the content of the student speech or expression.

A faculty advisor supervises student writers to maintain professional standards of English and journalism and to comply with the law including, but not limited to, the restrictions against unlawful speech. No student shall express, publish or distribute in an official school district publication material which is:

- obscene;
- libelous;
- slanderous; or
- encourages students to:
  - commit unlawful acts;
  - violate school district policies, rules or regulations;
  - cause the material and substantial disruption of the orderly and efficient operation of the school or school activity;
  - disrupt or interfere with the education program;
  - interrupt the maintenance of a disciplined atmosphere; or
  - infringe on the rights of others.

Students who believe they have been unreasonably restricted in their exercise of expression in an official student publication should follow the complaint procedure outlined in this handbook.

### **TEXTBOOKS/COMPUTERS AND FINES**

The minimal textbook fee assessed at registration does not cover the total cost of each book used by the student. When books are not properly treated, students will be expected to pay for the damage done to these books. Students should obtain or make book covers for all their textbooks. Books should be in lockers not left in classrooms unless directed by the teacher. This also includes library books.

The use of any district technology is a privilege and not a right. Students are expected to use their computer in accordance with these Policies and Procedures, and District Acceptable Use Policy and any applicable laws. The student is responsible for maintaining a 100% working computer at all times and shall use reasonable care to ensure that the computer is not damaged. In the event of damage not covered by the warranty or the school's insurance, the student and parent will be billed a fee according to schedule on the agreement form.

## **STATE AND FEDERAL POLICIES**

### **HIGHLY QUALIFIED STAFF**

As per federal legislation, those parents/guardians of the West Hancock Community School District who wish to be provided with information regarding state licensure requirements for the grade level and content areas taught, the current licensing status of a

student's teacher, and baccalaureate/graduate certification/degree of a student's teacher may request this information from the Office of the Superintendent by calling 641-843-3833 or by sending a letter of request to the Superintendent of Schools, West Hancock Community Schools, P. O. Box 128, Britt, IA 50423.

### **INSPECTION OF EDUCATIONAL MATERIALS**

Parents and other members of the school district community may view the instructional materials used by students in the office. Copies may be obtained according to board policy. Tests and assessment materials are only available for inspection with the consent of the superintendent. Persons wishing to view instructional materials or to express concerns about instructional materials should contact the principal's office.

### **CORPORAL PUNISHMENT, RESTRAINT, AND PHYSICAL CONFINEMENT AND DETENTION**

State law forbids school employees from using corporal punishment against any student. Certain actions by school employees are not considered corporal punishment. Additionally, school employees may use "reasonable and necessary force, not designed or intended to cause pain" to do certain things, such as prevent harm to persons or property. State law also places limits school employees' abilities to restrain or confine and detain any student. The law limits why, how, where, and for how long a school employee may restrain or confine and detain a child. If a child is restrained or confined and detained, the school must maintain documentation and must provide certain types of notice to the child's parent. If you have any questions about this state law, please contact your school. The complete text of the law and additional information is available on the Iowa Department of Education's website: [www.iowa.gov/educate](http://www.iowa.gov/educate).

### **NOTIFICATION OF RIGHTS UNDER FERPA (SCHOOL BOARD POLICY 506.1)**

The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) affords parents and students over 18 years of age ("eligible students") certain rights with respect to the student's education records. They are:

(1) The right to inspect and review the student's education records within 45 days of the day the district receives a request for access.

Parents or eligible students should submit to the school principal (or appropriate school official) a written request that identifies the record(s) they wish to inspect. The principal will make arrangements for access and notify the parent or eligible student of the time and place where the records may be inspected.

(2) The right to request the amendment of the student's education records that the parent or eligible student believes are inaccurate or misleading or in violation of the student's privacy rights.

Parents or eligible students may ask the school district to amend a record that they believe is inaccurate or misleading. They should write the school principal, clearly identify the part of the record they want changed, and specify why it is inaccurate or misleading.

If the district decides not to amend the record as requested by the parent or eligible student, the district will notify the parent or eligible student of the decision and advise them of their right to a hearing regarding the request for amendment. Additional information regarding the hearing procedures will be provided to the parent or eligible student when notified of the right to a hearing.

(3) The right to consent to disclosures of personally identifiable information contained in the student's education records, except to the extent that FERPA authorizes disclosure without consent.

One exception, which permits disclosure without consent is disclosure to school officials with legitimate educational interests. A school official is a person employed by the district as an administrator, supervisor, instructor, or support staff member (including health or medical staff and law enforcement unit personnel); a person serving on the school board; a person or company with whom the district has contracted to perform a special task (such as an attorney, auditor, AEA employees, medical consultant, or therapist); or a parent or student serving on an official committee, such as a disciplinary or grievance committee or student assistance team, or assisting another school official in performing his or her tasks.

A school official has a legitimate educational interest if the official needs to review an education record in order to fulfill his or her professional responsibility.

Upon request, the district discloses education records without consent to officials of another school district in which a student seeks or intends to enroll. (Note: FERPA requires a school district to make a reasonable attempt to notify the parent or eligible student of the records request unless it states in its annual notification that it intends to forward records on request).

(4) The right to inform the school district that the parent does not want directory information, as defined below, to be released. Any student over the age of eighteen or parent not wanting this information released to the public must make an objection in writing by September 1 of the current school year, or as otherwise agreed upon with the principal or superintendent, to the principal. The objection needs to be renewed annually.

NAME, ADDRESS, TELEPHONE LISTING, DATE AND PLACE OF BIRTH, GRADE LEVEL, MAJOR FIELD OF STUDY, PARTICIPATION IN OFFICIALLY RECOGNIZED ACTIVITIES AND SPORTS, WEIGHT AND HEIGHT OF MEMBERS OF ATHLETIC TEAMS, DATES OF ATTENDANCE, DEGREES AND AWARDS RECEIVED, THE MOST RECENT PREVIOUS SCHOOL OR INSTITUTION ATTENDED BY THE STUDENT, PHOTOGRAPH AND LIKENESS AND OTHER SIMILAR INFORMATION.

(5) The right to file a complaint with the U.S. Department of Education concerning alleged failures by the district to comply with the requirements of FERPA. The name and address of the office that administers FERPA is:

Family Policy Compliance Office, U.S. Department of Education,  
400 Maryland Ave., SW, Washington, DC, 20202-4605.

The School District may share any information with the Parties contained in a student's permanent record, which is directly related to the juvenile justice system's ability to effectively serve the student. Prior to adjudication information contained in the permanent record may be disclosed by the School District to the Parties without parental consent or court order. Information contained in a student's permanent record may be disclosed by the School District to the Parties after adjudication only with parental consent or a court order. Information shared pursuant to the agreement is used solely for determining the programs and services appropriate to the needs of the student or student's family or coordinating the delivery of programs and services to the student or student's family. Information shared under the agreement is not admissible in any court proceedings, which take place prior to a disposition hearing, unless written consent is obtained from a student's parent, guardian, or legal or actual custodian. Information obtained from others shall not be used for the basis of disciplinary action of the student. This agreement only governs a school district's ability to share information and the purposes for which that information can be used.

The purpose for the sharing of information prior to a student's adjudication is to improve school safety, reduce alcohol and illegal drug use, reduce truancy, reduce in-school and out-of-school suspensions, and to support supervised educational programs supplemented by coordinated and appropriate services designed to correct behaviors that lead to truancy, suspension, and expulsions and to support students in successfully completing their education.

The party requesting the information will contact the principal of the building in which the student is currently enrolled or was enrolled. The principal will forward the records within 10 business days of the request.

Confidential information shared between the Parties and the school district will remain confidential and will not be shared with any other person, unless otherwise provided by law. Information shared under the agreement is not admissible in any court proceedings which take place prior to a disposition hearing, unless written consent is obtained from a student's parent, guardian, or legal or actual custodian nor can it be used as the basis for disciplinary action of the student

#### **NOTIFICATION OF RIGHTS UNDER FERPA (SCHOOL BOARD POLICY 506.1) (SPANISH VERSION)**

La FERPA (Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act), la ley que trata sobre el derecho a la privacidad y los derechos educativos de la familia, le depara a los padres y a los estudiantes mayores de dieciocho años (estudiantes emancipados) ciertos derechos con respecto a los expedientes académicos del estudiante. Estos derechos están a continuación:

(1) El derecho a inspeccionar y a revisar los expedientes académicos del estudiante dentro de un plazo de 45 días a partir de la fecha en que el distrito reciba una solicitud para obtener acceso a los expedientes.

Los padres o los estudiantes emancipados deben someter una solicitud por escrito al director de la escuela (o al oficial escolar apropiado) identificando el expediente o los expedientes que ellos desean inspeccionar. El director hará arreglos para el acceso a los mismos y le notificará al padre o a la madre o al estudiante emancipado de la hora y el lugar en donde se pueden inspeccionar los expedientes.

(2) El derecho a solicitar una enmienda de los expedientes académicos del estudiante, los cuales piensan los padres o el estudiante emancipado que están incorrectos, que son engañosos o que quebrantan los derechos del estudiante a su privacidad.

Si los padres o los estudiantes emancipados creen que un expediente está incorrecto o es engañoso, pueden pedirle al distrito escolar que enmiende el expediente. Ellos deben escribirle al director de la escuela, identificando claramente la parte del expediente que ellos desean cambiar y especificando por qué el expediente está incorrecto o es engañoso.

Si el distrito escolar decide no enmendar el expediente, según la solicitud de los padres o de los estudiantes emancipados; el distrito notificará a los padres o al estudiante emancipado de esta decisión y les informará de su derecho a tener una audiencia con relación a la solicitud de enmienda. Cuando se le notifique del derecho a tener una audiencia, el padre, la madre o el estudiante emancipado también recibirá información adicional sobre los procedimientos de la audiencia.

(3) El derecho al consentimiento de la divulgación de información contenida en el expediente académico del estudiante y que lo identifica personalmente, a la excepción de lo que autoriza FERPA divulgar sin consentimiento.

Una excepción que permite la divulgación de información sin consentimiento es la divulgación de información a los oficiales escolares que tienen intereses educativos legítimos. Un oficial escolar es una persona que es empleado del distrito ya sea como administrador, supervisor, instructor, personal auxiliar (incluyendo el personal médico o de servicios de salud y el personal policial), una persona miembro de la junta escolar, una persona o compañía con quien el distrito ha contratado para realizar una tarea especial (tal como un abogado, interventor de cuentas, empleados del AEA (Agencias de Educación Regionales), asesor médico o terapeuta), o como un padre o estudiante que participa en un comité oficial, tal como un comité disciplinario o de quejas, o un equipo auxiliar de estudiantes, o como una persona que ayuda a otro oficial escolar a realizar sus tareas.

Un oficial escolar tiene un interés escolar legítimo si el oficial necesita revisar un expediente académico a fin de cumplir con su obligación profesional.

*[Previa solicitud, el distrito divulgará sin consentimiento los expedientes académicos a los oficiales de otro distrito escolar en el cual el estudiante tiene la intención de matricularse. (Nota: A menos que en su notificación anual haya una declaración indicando que tienen la intención de enviar los expedientes al solicitante cuando éste los solicite. FERPA exige que un distrito escolar haga un intento razonable para notificar al padre o al estudiante emancipado de que han recibido una solicitud para la obtención de los expedientes académicos).*

(4) El derecho de informarle al distrito escolar de que el padre o la madre no quieren que se comunique al público la información contenida en el directorio, tal como se define abajo. Cualquier estudiante mayor de dieciocho años de edad o padre o madre que no quiera que se comunique al público esta información puede hacer una objeción de los escribiéndole al director a más tardar el (date) de (month) de (year). La objeción tiene que ser renovada anualmente.

Nombre, dirección, número de teléfono, fecha y lugar de nacimiento, materia de estudio principal, participación en deportes y en actividades reconocidas oficialmente, peso y estatura de los miembros de los equipos atléticos, fechas de asistencia a la escuela, diplomas y premios recibidos, la escuela o institución docente más reciente a la que asistió el estudiante, fotografía o imagen u otra información parecida.

(5) El derecho a presentar una queja al U.S. Department of Education (Ministerio de Educación de los Estados Unidos) con respecto a las faltas supuestas del distrito en cumplir con los requisitos de FERPA. A continuación encontrará el nombre y la dirección de la oficina que maneja FERPA:

Family Policy Compliance Office, U.S. Department of Education,  
400 Maryland Ave., S.W., Washington, D.C., 20202-4605.

*El Distrito Escolar puede intercambiar con cualquiera de las Partes cualquier información contenida en el expediente académico permanente del estudiante. Esta información debe estar relacionada directamente con la capacidad del sistema de justicia de menores para servir efectivamente al estudiante. Antes de la adjudicación, la información contenida en el expediente permanente puede ser divulgado por parte del Distrito Escolar a las Partes sin consentimiento de los padres y sin una orden judicial. Después de la adjudicación, la información contenida en el expediente permanente del estudiante solamente podrá ser divulgada con consentimiento de los padres o por medio de una orden judicial. La información que se intercambie conforme con un acuerdo, será utilizado únicamente para determinar los programas y los servicios apropiados para las necesidades del estudiante o de la familia del estudiante. También se podrá utilizar para coordinar la entrega de los programas y los servicios al estudiante o a la familia del estudiante. A menos que se obtenga un consentimiento por escrito de parte de los padres de un estudiante, del guardián o del custodio legal o real del estudiante, la información que se intercambie en virtud de un acuerdo, no será admisible en ningún procedimiento judicial que tenga lugar antes de una audiencia de disposición. Este acuerdo solamente rige la capacidad de un distrito escolar para intercambiar información y rige los propósitos para los cuales se puede utilizar esa información.*

*El propósito para el cual se intercambia la información antes de la adjudicación del estudiante es para mejorar la seguridad del colegio, reducir el uso ilícito de drogas y de alcohol, reducir las inasistencias a clase, reducir las suspensiones en el colegio y fuera del colegio, y para apoyar las alternativas a las suspensiones y expulsiones en el colegio y fuera del colegio. Estas alternativas proporcionan programas educativos estructurados y bien supervisados, suplidos por servicios adecuados y coordinados que están diseñados para corregir comportamientos que causan inasistencias a clase, suspensiones y expulsiones. Estos programas apoyan a los estudiantes en completar exitosamente su educación.*

*El individuo que solicite la información debe ponerse en contacto con el director del edificio en el cual el estudiante está actualmente matriculado o en el que estuvo matriculado. El director entonces enviará los expedientes dentro de los diez días laborables que le siguen a la fecha en que se recibió la solicitud.*

*La información confidencial que se intercambie entre las Partes y el distrito escolar permanecerá en confianza y no se intercambiará con ninguna otra persona salvo que esté dispuesto por ley. A menos que se obtenga el consentimiento por escrito de parte del padre o la madre del estudiante del guardián o del custodio real o legal del estudiante, ninguna información intercambiada según el acuerdo será admisible en ningún procedimiento judicial que tenga lugar antes de la audiencia.]*

## NOTIFICATION OF RIGHTS UNDER THE PROTECTION OF PUPIL RIGHTS AMENDMENT (PPRA)

PPRA affords parents certain rights regarding our conduct of surveys, collection and use of information for marketing purposes, and certain physical exams. These include the right to:

- *Consent* before students are required to submit to a survey that concerns one or more of the following protected areas (“protected information survey”) if the survey is funded in whole or in part by a program of the U.S. Department of Education (ED)-
  1. Political affiliations or beliefs of the student or student’s parent;
  2. Mental or psychological problems of the student or student’s family;
  3. Sex behavior or attitudes;
  4. Illegal, anti-social, self-incriminating, or demeaning behavior;
  5. Critical appraisals of others with whom respondents have close family relationships;
  6. Legally recognized privileged relationships, such as with lawyers, doctors, or ministers;
  7. Religious practices, affiliations, or beliefs of the student or parents; or
  8. Income, other than as required by law to determine program eligibility.
- Receive notice and an opportunity to opt a student out of -
  1. Any other protected information survey, regardless of funding;
  2. Any non-emergency, invasive physical exam or screening required as a condition of attendance, administered by the school or its agent, and not necessary to protect the immediate health and safety of a student, except of hearing, vision, or scoliosis screenings, or any physical exam or screening permitted or required under State law; and
  3. Activities involving collection, disclosure, or use of personal information obtained from students for marketing or to sell or otherwise distribute the information to others.
- *Inspect*, upon request and before administration or use -
  1. Protected information surveys of students;
  2. Instruments used to collect personal information from students for any of the above marketing, sales, or other distribution purposes; and
  3. Instructional material used as part of the educational curriculum.

These rights transfer to from the parents to a student who is 18 years old or an emancipated minor under State law.

The West Hancock School District will develop policies, in consultation with parents, regarding these rights, as well as arrangements to protect student privacy in the administration of protected information surveys and the collection, disclosure, or use of personal information for marketing, sales, or other distribution purposes. The District will directly notify parents of these policies at least annually at the start of each school year and after any substantive changes. The District will also directly notify, such as through U.S. Mail or email, parents of students who are scheduled to participate in the specific activities or surveys noted below and will provide an opportunity for the parent to opt his or her child out of participation in the specific activity or survey. The District will make this notification to parents at the beginning of the school year if the District has identified the specific or approximate dates of the activities or surveys at that time. For surveys and activities scheduled after the school year starts, parents will be provided reasonable notification of the planned activities and surveys listed below and be provided an opportunity to opt their child out of such activities and surveys. Parents will also be provided an opportunity to review any pertinent surveys. Following is a list of the specific activities and surveys covered under this requirement:

- Collection, disclosure, or use of personal information for marketing, sales or other distribution.
- Administration of any protected information survey not funded in whole or in part by ED.
- Any non-emergency, invasive physical examination or screening as described above.

Parents who believe their rights have been violated may file a complaint with:

Family Policy Compliance Office  
U.S. Department of Education  
400 Maryland Avenue, SW  
Washington, D.C. 20202-5920

### PPRA NOTICE AND CONSENT/OPT-OUT FOR SPECIFIC ACTIVITIES

The Protection of Pupil Rights Amendment (PPRA), 20 U.S.C. § 1232h, requires the West Hancock School District to notify you and obtain consent or allow you to opt your child out of participating in certain school activities. These activities include a student survey, analysis, or evaluation that concerns one or more of the following eight areas (“protected information surveys”):

1. Political affiliations or beliefs of the student or student’s parent;
2. Mental or psychological problems of the student or student’s family;
3. Sex behavior or attitudes;
4. Illegal, anti-social, self-incriminating, or demeaning behavior;



5. Critical appraisals of others with whom respondents have close family relationships;
6. Legally recognized privileged relationships, such as with lawyers, doctors, or ministers;
7. Religious practices, affiliations, or beliefs of the student or parents; or
8. Income, other than as required by law to determine program eligibility.

This requirement also applies to the collection, disclosure or use of student information for marketing purposes (“marketing surveys”), and certain physical exams and screenings.

For surveys and activities scheduled after the school year starts, the District will provide parents, within a reasonable period of time prior to the administration of the surveys and activities, notification of the surveys and activities and be provided an opportunity to opt their child out, as well as an opportunity to review the surveys. (Please note that this notice and consent/opt-out transfers from parents to any student who is 18 years old or an emancipated minor under State law.)

## **NUTRITION**

### **BREAKFAST/LUNCH TIME REGULATIONS**

Students may bring their lunch from home and eat it in the cafeteria or purchase it in the cafeteria. The only exception to this will be a doctor’s excuse for dietary reasons. The lunch supervisors are in complete charge during the lunch period (including charge of the lunch room) and their instructions are to be followed. Supervisors may assign special rules, loss of privileges, assign seats, assign disciplinary actions, etc. as they determine is necessary in dealing with failure to follow instructions and/or infractions of the following rules:

1. Proper respect is expected to be shown towards all cafeteria employees.
2. Deposit all lunch litter in receptacles.
3. Return all trays and utensils to the area by the disposal.
4. Leave the table and floor around the space in which you eat clean.
5. All food must be eaten in the cafeteria.
6. Be patient and polite while waiting your turn in line.
7. All students are to remain in the cafeteria during the lunch period.
8. Such other rules as the supervisor(s) may determine as necessary.
9. Students are not allowed in the faculty lounge. This includes the usage of the microwave and refrigerator. A microwave will be available in the student lunchroom for student use. Any student lunch requiring refrigeration will need to be brought in a cooler and kept in the student’s locker.
10. Other than sack lunches, students should not have food, candy or beverages in their lockers
11. Students are not permitted to purchase/consume pop at any meal service.
12. Students will not be allowed to leave the school grounds for the purpose of eating the noon meal.
13. No items may be purchased from the vending machines during the lunch periods.

<https://educateiowa.gov/pk-12/learner-supports/healthy-kids-actids-act>

<https://educateiowa.gov/pk-12/nutrition-programs/quick-links-nutrition/learning-tools-nutrition/smart-snacks-school>

### **MEAL CHARGE POLICY**

All students have the option to eat school breakfasts and hot lunches. Breakfast is available beginning at 8:00 a.m. Our district uses a computerized hot lunch system. Students deposit money into their family lunch account. They will be informed as to the balance remaining in their accounts so they will know when to bring more money. Your lunch account balance may also be accessed through the school’s website. Set up a password through the office. Free and reduced price meals are available for those who qualify. The necessary application forms may be obtained from the office. **Students that owe for 5 or more meals will not be allowed to eat regular hot lunch or breakfast.** Students will be given an alternate lunch which will include only the main entrée and a milk. Students who qualify for free meals will not be denied a reimbursable meal. **In order for any student to purchase and receive seconds the student cannot have a negative lunch balance.**

### **MEAL MODIFICATIONS - DIETARY HEALTH NEEDS**

In order for students to be provided a modified meal due to medically documented dietary restrictions, a completed Diet Modification Request Form must be on file with the school nurse. This form, filed annually, must include signatures from a licensed prescribing medical professional and parent(s) as well as the medical reason for the modification.

### **USDA NONDISCRIMINATION STATEMENT**

In accordance with federal civil rights law and U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) civil rights regulations and policies, this institution is prohibited from discriminating on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex (including gender identity and sexual orientation), disability, age, or reprisal or retaliation for prior civil rights activity.

Program information may be made available in languages other than English. Persons with disabilities who require alternative means of communication to obtain program information (e.g., Braille, large print, audiotape, American Sign Language), should

contact the responsible state or local agency that administers the program or USDA's TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TTY) or contact USDA through the Federal Relay Service at (800) 877-8339.

To file a program discrimination complaint, a Complainant should complete a Form AD-3027, USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form which can be obtained online at: <https://www.usda.gov/sites/default/files/documents/USDA-OASCR%20P-Complaint-Form-0508-0002-508-11-28-17Fax2Mail.pdf>, from any USDA office, by calling (866) 632-9992, or by writing a letter addressed to USDA. The letter must contain the complainant's name, address, telephone number, and a written description of the alleged discriminatory action in sufficient detail to inform the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights (ASCR) about the nature and date of an alleged civil rights violation. The completed AD-3027 form or letter must be submitted to USDA by:

1. Mail:  
U.S. Department of Agriculture  
Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights  
1400 Independence Avenue, SW  
Washington, DC 20250-9410; or
2. Fax:  
(833) 256-1665 or (202) 690-7442; or
3. Email:  
[program.intake@usda.gov](mailto:program.intake@usda.gov)

#### Iowa Nondiscrimination Statement

It is the policy of this CNP provider not to discriminate on the basis of race, creed, color, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, national origin, disability, age, or religion in its programs, activities, or employment practices as required by the Iowa Code section 216.6, 216.7, and 216.9. If you have questions or grievances related to compliance with this policy by this CNP Provider, please contact the Iowa Civil Rights Commission, Grimes State Office Building, 400 E 14th St, Des Moines, IA 50319-1004; phone number 515-281-4121 or 800-457-4416; website: <https://icrc.iowa.gov/>.

## TECHNOLOGY

### INTERNET – APPROPRIATE USE POLICY

Because technology is a vital part of the school district curriculum, the Internet will be made available to employees and students. Appropriate and equitable use of the Internet will allow employees and students to access resources unavailable through traditional means.

Students will be able to access the Internet for educational purposes. Individual student accounts will be issued to all students and electronic mail addresses may be issued to students. If a student already has an electronic mail address, the student will not be permitted to use the address to send and receive mail at school.

The Internet can provide a vast collection of educational resources for students and employees. It is a global network which makes it impossible to control all available information. Because information appears, disappears and changes constantly, it is not possible to predict or control what students may locate. The school district makes no guarantees as to the accuracy of information received on the Internet. Although students will be under teacher supervision while on the network, it is not possible to constantly monitor individual students and what they are accessing on the network. Some students might encounter information that may not be of educational value. Student Internet records and access records are confidential records treated like other student records. Students' Internet activities will be monitored by the school district to ensure students are not accessing inappropriate sites that have visual depictions that include obscenity, child pornography or are harmful to minors. The school district will use technology protection measures to protect students from inappropriate access, including sites that include obscenity, child pornography or are harmful to minors.

The school district will monitor the online activities of students and will educate students about appropriate online behavior, including interacting on social networking sites and chat rooms. Students will also be educated on cyberbullying, including awareness and response. Employees will provide age appropriate training for students who use the Internet. The training provided will be designed to promote the school district's commitment to:

- The standards and acceptable use of Internet services as set forth in the Internet Safety Policy;
- Student safety with regard to:
  - o safety on the Internet;
  - o appropriate behavior while on online, on social networking Web sites, and
  - o in chat rooms; and
  - o cyberbullying awareness and response.

Compliance with the E-rate requirements of the Children's Internet Protection Act

Employees and students will be instructed on the appropriate use of the Internet. Parents and students will sign a form acknowledging they have read and understand the Internet Acceptable Use policy (605.6) and the laptop agreement policy (502.2R1), that they will comply with the policy and regulations and understand the consequences for violation of the policy or regulations. The following link is to the Parent/Student Technology Agreement Policy. Information on appropriate use and fines can be found on this link: [Parent/Student Technology/Agreement Policy](#)

**WEB PAGE**

By accessing the school district web page, students and parents have a variety of information available. Student grades, lunch account balances, teacher lesson plans, the up-to-date activity calendar, school board information, and notes and announcements are among the items located at: [www.whancock.org](http://www.whancock.org).

# WEST HANCOCK ELEMENTARY

## WELCOME

Welcome to West Hancock Elementary School! The staff is glad you are here and is looking forward to a good school year. We feel we have much to offer you and hope that you look forward to attending our school every day.

## DISMISSAL PROCEDURE

In order to ensure the safety of our students when they are dismissed at the end of the day, the following dismissal procedures are in effect. Students who ride the Kanawha shuttle are dismissed from class at 3:20 pm to load onto the bus. To minimize vehicle traffic near our students, any person picking up a student in a vehicle at regular dismissal time must pick up the student at the south entrance of the school. South door pick up begins at 3:25 pm. Students who are being picked up without a vehicle are to be met at the front entry of the school when the walkers are dismissed. Walkers are dismissed at 3:25 pm. To avoid confusion, caretakers are asked NOT to go to classrooms to pick up children. Vehicles are NOT allowed to drive through the parking lot from 3:10 pm – 3:40 pm. Parents/guardians need to contact the office if their child is being picked up earlier than regular dismissal time.

## PARTIES

### **DATES**

Dates will be determined by teachers at the beginning of each year. Parties will be limited to one hour. A note will be sent home to students in grades K-4. The teacher will ask for volunteers for each party. It will be to the teacher's discretion to assign room volunteers or decide what each child supplies and what games will be played.

### **HALLOWEEN**

Costumes are optional for the party. **NO** hair spray or face paint may be applied in the school. Students are not allowed to bring accessories that represent weapons (ex. Swords, knives, guns, etc.)

### **CHRISTMAS**

A note will be sent home about the party and prices for grab bag gifts. A grab bag gift will be brought by each child wishing to exchange. It is left up to the teacher whether to exchange girls to girls, boys to boys, or the whole class.

### **VALENTINE'S DAY**

If students wish to participate, they will be expected to bring a Valentine for everyone in the class. A class list will be sent home at the request of the parent. Valentine boxes and sacks are up to the teacher's discretion.

### **BIRTHDAY TREATS AND INVITATIONS**

Birthdays are special and we enjoy helping our students celebrate them. When treats are sent to school, however, please send the same thing for EVERY child in the classroom. It is requested that teachers be notified of the date and kind of treat being provided. This will help to avoid possible allergic reactions and scheduling conflicts. We prefer you send individually wrapped, commercially prepared, nutritional snacks.

Invitations for birthday parties may not be handed out in school unless all students in the class are invited or all the boys or all the girls, depending on the sex of the person having the birthday. We want to try to prevent hurt feelings.

## RECESS

Students should be dressed appropriately, recesses will be outside if the temperature and wind chill are above zero. **When there is snow on the ground, boots and snow pants are required. When the snow is gone and it is muddy, students need old shoes or boots to play outdoors. This protects their good shoes and helps keep our building clean. If no boots and snow pants or shoes are brought, the student will either go outside and stand by the door or not be permitted to attend recess/activities for a period of time.** Continued lack of required outdoor clothing could lead to additional consequences as determined by the administration. Since fresh air helps students to stay healthy, all students should be encouraged to play outdoors.

If a child is under a doctor's care, recovering from an illness that has caused recent absences, or suffers from severe recurring illnesses such as asthma, ear infection, etc., notes to keep the child inside for recess would be appropriate. **If children must be in over two days, a doctor's excuse will be required.** Almost always, a child that is too sick to go outside for a few minutes at recess is too sick to be in school.

### **A. PLAYGROUND REGULATIONS -- -- -- Reasonable and respectful behavior is expected at all times**

1. No rough play.
2. No swearing, other inappropriate language or spitting is allowed.
3. No tackle football, king of the mountain, or throwing or kicking of balls against the school. Keep balls away from all windows.
4. No climbing trees, playing with sticks, or moving or throwing rocks from the playground area.

5. No skateboards, roller blades or roller skates are allowed.
6. No playing with hard balls.
7. Students will not leave the playground without permission of the supervisor.
8. Consumption of any food or use of gum on the playground is not allowed.
9. All equipment is to be returned to the containers in the classrooms.
10. Older students will allow the younger students to use the playground equipment. Older students will have priority on the basketball court.
11. Students will recognize and respect the boundaries of the playground
12. Students are not to bring toys, electronic devices, or cell phones from home for use at recess.

#### B. GYM

Stay on the gym floor.

Use equipment from the gym only. Do not use any classroom equipment.

Return all equipment before leaving the gym.

Clean dry shoes are required in the gym.

Problems during recess time may result in any one of the following consequences:

- Parents are notified of the display of inappropriate behavior
- Loss of recess privileges
- Teacher meets with the student to address the behavior
- Principal meets with the student to address the behavior and determine appropriate consequences
- Students will be asked to stand by the building or sit on the bench and not play with the other children. Other options will be explored for repeat offenders.

### SCHOOL HOURS

Elementary students will be allowed in the building when the buses arrive in the morning. Breakfast begins at 8:00 am. School begins at 8:25 am. Students will remain in the lunchroom or outside until 8:20 am. Students will not be in a classroom without a teacher present. Students will be considered tardy at 8:30 am. Students entering the building between 8:30 am and 10:00 am will be marked tardy. Students entering the building after 8:30 am must check in with the office.

A shuttle bus will leave for Kanawha at 3:20 pm daily. Students may be picked up at the south door beginning at 3:25 pm. Students walking home will be dismissed at 3:25 pm. Any student being picked up by a parent or guardian must have a note and will be dismissed with the town walkers unless someone comes inside to school to get him/her. Town shuttle bus students leave with the country buses at approximately 3:45 pm.

Many times we have students who will tell their teacher that they are to go on a different bus, walk someplace in town, or wait at school for someone to pick them up at the end of the day. This is fine, but often they do not have an accompanying note from parents verifying this. Small children can easily get confused when talking about specific dates and times, and who is or is not to pick them up. **If your child is to go someplace other than his/her normal destination after school, we must have a note from the parent or guardian verifying this. We will send your child home his/her regular way unless we have a note or other parental permission. Bus drivers must have a note as well. Your cooperation in this matter will be appreciated.**

# WEST HANCOCK MIDDLE SCHOOL

## WELCOME

Welcome to West Hancock Middle School! The staff is glad you are here and is looking forward to a good school year. We feel we have much to offer to you and hope that you look forward to attending our school every day.

Our middle school intends to help make the transition from elementary school to high school a smooth one. Each student is important, has self-worth, and possesses unique and varying interests and abilities. We hope to enable you to learn, grow, and pursue your interests to the fullest extent of your ambitions and abilities. In addition to academic classes, you will be encouraged to participate in activities such as music, athletics, and dramatics. It is our wish that each student will have many positive experiences and feel the sense of satisfaction, which comes only with success and achievement.

## DANCE RULES

1. At least three parents are needed as chaperones, one of which need to be male.
2. Chaperones must be parents of West Hancock Middle School students and/or be members of the West Hancock Middle School staff.
3. The school dress code applies.
4. The dance must be approved by the building principal.
5. The dance must end by 10:00 P.M.
6. Any decorations must be completely taken down after the dance before leaving the building.
7. If you leave the building during the dance, you will not be readmitted.
8. The end hallways and kitchen are off limits.
9. Chaperones will reserve the right to contact parents and/or police if necessary.
10. Only 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade students of West Hancock Middle School will be admitted to the dances unless prior approval from the building principal has been received.
11. Students on the weekly ineligible list are not permitted to attend a dance held during the week of ineligibility.

## ELIGIBILITY POLICY

The West Hancock Middle School eligibility policy will hold students accountable for passing grades on a weekly basis. The consolidated list will be distributed to homeroom advisors Monday morning and the student or advisor will inform the parents their student is failing.

The students that are failing will be ineligible for that week's extra-curricular activities. This includes any non-graded function occurring within the school district before, during, and after school hours. Students who are ineligible are encouraged to attend the after school Eagle's Nest homework help program on Monday and Wednesday of that week. On some occasions Eagle's Nest may be offered more than two times each week. During this time a staff member will work with the students to help them improve to a passing grade in all courses. It is highly suggested that students attend Eagle's Nest if they need help. Teachers may require students to attend Eagle's Nest if the student is falling way behind with their work. Students will be allowed to practice but not play/perform/dance/participate in any extracurricular event. If, at the end of the week, the student has increased his/her grade to a passing grade, he/she will be eligible for extracurricular activities for the following week. Each week this same process will occur throughout the school year.

Eagle's Nest is not intended to be a punishment but a program for students to better themselves with the help of an adult. Eagle's Nest is not intended to be a detention center. Parents also need to get involved and require their students to stay for Eagle's Nest if they can see a problem developing. The supervisor of Eagle's Nest may administer Eagle's Nest the way they see fit, just as they do their individual classroom.

## MIDDLE SCHOOL SPECIFIC REGULATIONS

1. No food, gum, or candy will be eaten in the building except for hot lunch or sack lunches, which must be eaten in the lunchroom. This does not apply to teacher approved classroom activities. Other than sack lunches, students should not have food or candy in their lockers.
2. Water bottles can be used in classrooms and carried in the hallway. Responsible behavior is expected.
3. Student book bags are not to be taken to classrooms unless permitted by the teacher.
4. Students are not to miss class for a makeup lesson for vocal or instrumental music without prior permission from the classroom teacher.
5. Once the semester starts schedules will only be changed based on administrative necessity and even in these cases it will most likely be limited to the first week of a semester. Seventh and eighth grade music selections will be scheduled based on spring registration. Students may be permitted the first week of the semester to make an enrollment change. This will be done after approval of the parent, instructor, and principal. An exception will be made for fifth grade band; students will be permitted the first two weeks of the fall semester to drop or add fifth grade band.

## **HALLWAY PASSES FROM CLASSES**

Students may be required to have a staff signed pass to be in the hallway during non-passing times. **Plan ahead.** Be sure that you have all necessary books, papers, project parts, etc., before you go to class.

## **PLAN FOR SUCCESS**

- Attend school regularly, one way or another, your attendance will be reflected in your grades.
- Pay attention in class.
- Go to class prepared. Take your book, notebook, pencil, paper, Chromebook, etc. Have all reading and written assignments completed and with you.
- Do not talk without permission, even if others do.
- Participate in class by answering questions, asking questions, and making other appropriate comments.
- Act maturely.
- Turn in all work in time. A grade of “zero” on just one assignment can affect the overall grade more than you would think.
- Write down all assignments in a planner (paper or digital).
- Learn how to take notes.
- Get help from the teacher when you are having trouble.

## **PROMOTION POLICY**

Students in the middle school may receive a maximum of two failing semester grades for the school year to be promoted to the next grade level. **All** courses a student is enrolled in will calculate semester grades by averaging the previous two quarter grades.

Student grades will be examined and monitored closely throughout each quarter by the building principal, homeroom advisor, and classroom teachers. Homework help will be available to the students through our Eagle’s Nest program.

If a teacher or the building principal recommends that a student can obtain a passing grade with a small amount of supplemental assistance and the student had a 50% or better for the semester, the student will have an opportunity to work with the **principal or designated** teacher to complete the required coursework. This coursework needs to be satisfactorily completed by June 16<sup>th</sup> in order for the student to be promoted to the next grade level. The final recommendation of whether a student will be promoted or retained will be decided by the middle school principal and the classroom teachers.

If there is not agreement about retaining the student at grade level, the building principal will recommend to the Board that the student be retained. A hearing before the Board will be held on the third Monday of July. The hearing will be conducted in closed session, unless the parent/guardian of the student requests that the hearing be conducted in open session. The decision of the Board is final at the local level.

If a middle school student takes any credit based high school courses the course will count toward graduation requirements and be included in the student’s high school grade point average. *Reference IAC 281-12.5(4)*

## **SOARING EAGLES**

In an effort to recognize positive student behavior and good character, student’s grades, attendance and discipline notices will be reviewed each grading period. A student with no unexcused absences or tardies, no missing work at the end of the grading period, grades of C or better, no discipline referrals to include classroom, bus, or school functions, and no code of conduct violations will earn an activity planned by staff.

## **STUDY HALL REGULATIONS**

Study hall will be supervised by a school employee. All school employees are to be treated with respect and authority. Violations of this statement will result in disciplinary action.

1. All students assigned to study hall must be in their seats when the bell rings. You are to bring everything you need to keep busy for the entire period. You will not be allowed to go to your locker on a regular basis. If you have no homework to do, you should read a (school appropriate) book of your choice.
2. The supervisor will make a seating chart or class roster for each study hall and check to see that students are present before any student is allowed to leave.
3. Students may work with a partner or in collaborative groups for a reasonable amount of time as appropriate to the classroom project with prior permission of the study hall supervisor.
4. With the study hall teacher’s permission, students may sign out of study hall to:
  - a. Go to other classrooms to receive teacher assistance on assignments if pre-arranged with the classroom teacher.
  - b. See the Guidance Counselor if you have a pass prior to study hall
  - c. Go to the office, locker, and restroom.

## **PHONE CALLS**

A telephone is located in the classrooms. Calls by students should be made only when absolutely necessary and with the teacher's permission.

Cell phones should be off and are not to be used during school hours unless given permission from their classroom teacher. If given permission from the teacher it must be used only with direct supervision. Students who are caught using a cell phone during school hours will have to turn the phone into the office at the beginning of the day for a period of five days. It is the student's responsibility to remember to turn it in and pick it up each day. If the student is caught with a cell phone during that five day period they will serve an in-school suspension and the turn in time will be doubled.



# WEST HANCOCK HIGH SCHOOL

## ACADEMIC INFORMATION

### CHANGE OF CLASSES

The counselors and administration make every attempt to ensure students get into all requested classes while maintaining an effective balance between section sizes, student career interests, graduation requirements, and teacher preferences. Scheduling of college classes and work experience opportunities need to be scheduled weeks in advance of a semester beginning. With that in mind, schedule changes will only happen at the student's request prior to the start of the semester. Once the semester starts schedules will only be changed based on administrative necessity and even in these cases it will most likely be limited to the first three days of a semester. Students will not be allowed to drop a class that reduces the class size to less than five. Classes with less than five students enrolled may be offered with administrative (superintendent and principal) approval, provided a teacher is available. The student must have permission from the teacher involved, parents and guidance counselor before a change of classes will be permitted. A student can add a second semester class only if the class is a semester long class. Difficulty of material, change of career goals, and change to a college prep course or credit deficiency would be examples of reasons for changes.

Procedures:

- I. Student/parent will make a written request to the guidance counselor.
- II. If a change is allowed, the guidance counselor will inform all concerned.
- III. If a change is denied, the student and parent may appeal to the principal.

### CLASSIFICATION OF STUDENTS

- I. Academic Classification - students are classified "academically" by comparing the number of High School credits they have earned to the following table:
  - Freshman -#Credits Earned is less than 10
  - Sophomore-#Credits Earned is greater than or equal to 10 but less than 21
  - Junior-#Credits Earned is greater than or equal to 21 but less than 32
  - Senior-#Credits Earned is greater than or equal to 32
- II. Classification for Interscholastic Competitions - the IHSAA & IGHSAA regulations state that once a student enters high school, he/she is entitled to the next 8 semesters of eligibility to participate in competitions, contests, etc. This is separate from the academic classification standards listed above.
- III. Classification for the Purpose of Local School Activities - a student is classified as a Freshman, Sophomore, Junior or Senior for the purposes of attending class meetings, prom, and other local school activities based on a tiered system. The primary tier classifies students by the number of credits earned. The secondary tier classifies students by the graduating year of the class he or she originally entered with. Class reorganization based on credits will occur only at the beginning of the year.
  - o Example: Students ahead of their classmates in credits, will retain their classification with their peers based on target graduation year.
  - o Example: Students who are not maintaining pace with their peers in credit acquisition will be classified based on their credits, regardless of original target graduation year. The lower classification will be used to encourage students to acquire credits at a pace that allows students to graduate on time with their peers.

NOTE: A student is not allowed to repeat activities that the class does not normally repeat. This is separate from the academic classification standards listed above.

## **POST-SECONDARY ENROLLMENT OPTION (CODE CHAPTER 261C(1989) 281 ADMINISTRATIVE CODE 22)**

If available students in grades 9 through 12 may receive class or vocational/technical credits that count toward graduation requirements for successfully completed courses at community colleges, private colleges or state universities.

The school district may pay up to \$250.00 of the cost of a course taken by 9th and 10th grade talented and gifted students and 11th and 12th grade students. The school district pays only for courses which are not offered by the high school and which are offered during the regular school year by the community college, private college or state university. The school district does not pay for the costs of summer school classes. However, summer school classes are eligible for credit.

Students who fail the course or fail to receive credit in the course paid for by the school district must reimburse the school district for all costs directly related to the course. Prior to enrolling in a course, students age 18 or over or the parents of students under age 18 shall sign a form indicating they are responsible for the costs of the course should the student fail the course or fail to receive credit for the course. The school district may waive the cost of the course for students who fail the course for reasons beyond their control, including, but not limited to, the student's incapacity, death in the family or a move to another school district. Students interested in participating in this program should contact the principal.

Academy Opportunities: West Hancock students have the opportunity to participate in academies through NIACC. While these students are attending these classes they are considered college students. While they are in our building they must follow our rules. If

they are in the building before or after their regularly scheduled West Hancock classes they must be in the library. If students return to school during lunch they should eat with their assigned lunch or report to the library. Students should not loiter in the office or lobby areas for extended amounts of time before or after their classes are over.

## RULES AND CONTRACT FOR PSEO, CONCURRENT, AP, & ONLINE COURSES

[Link to Contract](#)

[Link to Senior Year Plus Guidelines](#)

For those seeking enrollment in college classes while in high school, the following rules and guidelines are necessary to help ensure that your efforts to advance your education are successful. Please read the following rules and sign at the bottom of the page which indicates your awareness and agreement with this policy. Students will not be enrolled in these courses without this agreement. If you have any questions please contact the high school principal or a school counselor. Please note, each post-secondary institution may have additional rules for enrollment and there are specific rules set by the Iowa Department of Education for the [Senior Year Plus](#) program which stipulates the rules and guidelines for these options. The rules and guidelines below are specific to West Hancock and our students.

### **Additional Guidelines and Rules for Students taking College Classes**

1. (HUB Students) Follow the schedule of the host school and NIACC. If there are no classes on a day you report to your first regularly scheduled class at West Hancock at the usual time. Two things to remember, intervention is a scheduled class, and once you are in the building you don't leave the building, even if you have a gap period. You'll report to the library in that case.
2. (Garner Hub and/or students on Clinicals). You are to report back to West Hancock as soon as possible after being released. You should be back in time for lunch without issue, so there is no need to eat on the way. If you need to stop and get gas, that is understandable on occasion. There should be no other stops or detours.
3. Enrollment in college courses needs to be completed approximately a minimum of a month prior to the start of a semester. This is the best way to ensure you can get into your preferred classes and that books can be secured for the first day of classes.
4. The only time you can make a change on your schedule and drop a NIACC or concurrent course is during West Hancock's window for making schedule changes prior to the beginning of each semester. While NIACC or other post-secondary school may let you drop later without it affecting your college transcript there are other impacts on the high school end. If you choose to drop a college course after our window closes, you'll receive an F on your report card and will be ineligible at the mid-term and/or quarter (on West Hancock's end) and then for 30 days at the semester for the state rule as well.
  - If taking a PSEO class you will also pay the school back the \$250 fee if you fail or drop a course.
5. We do not recommend taking any college courses that will be in your anticipated area of study/major. These classes do not always transfer as we expect and one of your best resources in securing a job after college is through personal connections with your professors. Taking these classes in person, with your professor will always be your best option. We recommend using this program for taking care of elective courses that are not within your primary program of study.
6. You need to be checking your email and paying attention to changes in schedule at the high school level.
7. If clinical time is going to impact your lunch please see a counselor or the principal as soon as possible.
8. You may be asked to rent books on your own. If so you will be reimbursed by the school.
9. All books need to be returned on time. Any damaged or missing books will result in the student paying the replacement costs of the book.
10. When taking college courses outside of the HUB format, you'll be scheduled to the library. All school rules still apply as they would for any student. You do not have extra privileges to leave the library, see the counselor, eat snacks, join other classes (like PE) etc. Failure to follow these rules will keep you in the library.

### **Things to keep in mind...**

College courses are great to do in high school but come with risks and costs. Things to be aware of include...

1. The results of these courses will stay on your college transcript as well as your high school transcript permanently. Make sure you are ready for the challenge as well as the benefit.
2. College courses come with a lot of work. A 3 credit hour course should take 3 hours of study time per day. Do not overload yourself and make sure you can handle the workload you are signing up for. Remember these courses are optional.
3. Every college course, whether at the college or online, uses an online system for students to post to and use for resources, it also contains a gradebook and copy of the syllabus for the course. We highly encourage parents to get your student's username and password to check on grades as the only report the high school receives from the college will arrive at the end of the semester.

4. College instructors are not required to communicate with parents of the students. Because of this, if you have any concerns with your student in their online or face-to-face college course, please contact us and we will serve as a liaison between yourself and the college.

### **REPEATING COURSES PREVIOUSLY COMPLETED**

**PROCESS:** The student must make a request with the instructor involved. The request may be for a one-semester course or a two-semester course. If approved, the request must be presented to the principal for approval.

**CREDITS:** The class that is retaken must be retaken for a grade. A student may not earn more than one credit for a course no matter how many times it is taken.

**GRADE:** The grade received for the retake will replace the grade the student received when he/she originally took the course.

**TRANSCRIPT:** Only the retake grade will apply towards the student's grade point average (GPA), and appear on the student's official transcript.

## **ACTIVITIES**

### **EXTRA-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES**

#### **I. Academic Eligibility:**

Students must carry a minimum academic load of 6 classes plus physical education each semester in order to be eligible to participate in extracurricular activities. Students must pass all classes to remain eligible. Exceptions to the Physical Education requirements are listed in the Physical Education section of this handbook. In not passing all classes at the end of the semester, the student is ineligible for the first period of 20 consecutive calendar days in the activity in which the student is a bona fide contestant. (Scholarship Rule 36.15 (2). [State Guidance on the Scholarship Rule](#)

- Since the Iowa Cheerleading rules are not required to adhere to the 20 day Scholarship Rule we will follow these guidelines.
  - 1. If the cheerleader is out for another activity that is covered by the rule then the rule will be enforced with that rule as required by law.
  - 2. If the cheerleader is not out for another activity and is likely that they won't ever be out for another activity that is covered by this rule then the same 20 day ineligibility rule will be enforced during the first available cheerleading season. (If at any point the cheerleader decides later to go out for another activity they will need to sit out again as required by law.)
- Although the Iowa High School Music Association does follow the Scholarship Rule, the way it is administered does not typically impact our music program. Therefore any non-graded public performances will be limited for 30 days (The IHSMMA is working to update their Constitution to make this 20 days...expected update is July, 2024. Once approved our policy will match theirs.) from the first eligible activities which will include honor bands/choirs, national anthems, small group performances, etc. but only if the Scholarship Rule cannot be enforced, at some point, as intended.
- While most other activities are covered by this rule, if there are cases in which questions arise on if a student should be deemed ineligible to perform then the examples listed for cheer and music should provide the same basis for eligibility determinations.

In addition, student's academic performance will be analyzed every 9 weeks to determine eligibility. If a student is failing one or more classes at the end of the 9 week period, they will be ineligible for 10 days.

#### **II. Activities Offered:**

Athletics: Cross Country (Girls), Football, Volleyball, Basketball (Boys and Girls), Wrestling, Baseball, Softball, Track (Boys and Girls), Golf (Boys and Girls) and Cheerleading.

Instrumental Music: Marching Band, Concert Band and Solos/Ensembles

Vocal Music: Mixed Chorus, Electos and Solos/Ensembles

Drama: Fall and spring plays

Speech: Individual & Large Group Contest Speech

Clubs and Organizations: Students for Educational Services, FFA, Future Consumer & Career Leaders of America, SkillsUSA, Future Business Leaders of America, SWAT, Pep Club, Drama Club, Student Council, Annual Staff and National Honor Society.

### **EXTRACURRICULAR CODE OF CONDUCT**

[Click this link to access the policy in the district section of the handbook.](#)

### **STUDENT COUNCIL**

Student council representatives will be elected by their respective classes for two-year terms in the spring of the year for the following school year. Unexpired terms, when necessary, will be filled by election of the class involved. This will be done by

majority vote of the class. Any member may be re-elected to the council.

- I. Membership - Any regularly enrolled student of West Hancock High School shall be eligible for election.
- II. Student Election Procedures:
  - A. Elections will be held in the spring of each school year.
  - B. Students will sign up for the nomination ballot.
  - C. Students may be elected as both student council representative and class officer during the same year.
  - D. Class Officers - The eight students receiving the most votes will be placed on the final ballot. A majority of the votes cast is necessary to be elected.
  - F. Student Council Representatives - Each class will nominate two for each vacancy. Each student will vote for the number of existing vacancies in both nomination and final ballot. Two candidates for each vacancy will be on the final ballot. A majority of the number of votes cast is necessary to be elected.
- III. Chartering Clubs:
  - Section 1: Any group wishing to start a school club shall apply to the student council for a charter.
  - Section 2: The application shall state the purpose of the club and must present a constitution for the approval of the student council.
  - Section 3: Charters issued by the student council may be renewed at the option of the council.
- IV. Powers of the Council: The powers of the student council shall be:
  - A. To develop and adopt such by-laws as may be necessary, provided they do not conflict with the elements and spirit of this constitution.
  - B. To develop, promote and supervise the general election of the student council members in the spring.
  - C. To create, authorize, supervise and coordinate committees for specialized services.
  - D. To initiate and approve necessary legislation.
  - E. To consider (upon being properly petitioned) policies, activities and changes recommended by students and teachers.
  - F. To provide for referendum and recall elections. To issue, renew and (if necessary) revoke organization charters and to coordinate organization activities.

### **BACKPACKS**

Backpacks and bags should be able to fit into a locker and be no larger. Larger bags need to be kept in the locker room or in a student's vehicle. Backpacks and bags are not allowed in the lunchroom. Individual teachers and/or classrooms may ban backpacks and bags from their rooms.

### **SENIOR RELEASE**

- Senior release will be made available to seniors who are on track to graduate and have passed all classes the previous semester.
- Seniors may choose to replace 1<sup>st</sup> or 9<sup>th</sup> period study hall with senior release.
- Seniors must still take 6 classes and PE. Unless exception clauses under the Physical Education criteria are met.
- Seniors must have this approved by their parents, the guidance counselor and the principal.
- If the student is involved in extracurricular activities they need to work with the principal or counselor to ensure they can safely manage their participation and senior release. This may impact which hour (1st or 9th) leave is allowed, or if it should be denied. This does however, create a possibility for a senior to have a release period immediately before or after an extracurricular activity.
- A senior can extend senior release if taking an online college course that is the period immediately before or after senior release.
- Seniors with a release period, when in the building, need to follow all school rules, including not wearing hats in the building while school is in session.
- Seniors who are in the building at a time they are normally on release (therefore not scheduled for a class) are to remain in the library quietly and not disturb or join any other classes.
- Senior release can be pulled from any student who is displaying attendance, disciplinary, or academic issues.
- Students with 9th period release will be required to stay for 9th period if they are needed for MTSS support, having missing assignments/student work, grades of a D+ or below in any course, or per academic requests of a teacher.
- Senior Release Contract must be signed by all parties and filed with the counseling office prior to implementation of any leave time. [Senior Release Contract](#)

## **OTHER ACADEMIC INFORMATION**

### **CAREER PANELS**

At numerous points during the school year the counseling department will host various career panels during intervention periods. All students are required to attend at least two sessions each year (one per semester) that best align with their Career and Academic Plan.

### **JOB SHADOW**

Students in their junior and senior year are encouraged to seek no more than one job shadowing experience per semester. To be eligible for a job shadow opportunity and to have the experience count as an excused absence the following conditions must be met.

- The experience is approved and set up by a school counselor, and AEA representative, or through NIACC's College and Career Transition Counselor.
- The student needs to be maintaining good attendance and not be on the Chronic Absentee report.
- The student needs to be passing all classes and in good academic standing.
- Work experience is not to be allowed to be completed with a family member.
- The student is not allowed to repeat job shadowing experiences if the event is similar to one they have done in the past (same industry, job, business) unless approved by the school principal.
- Parent permission is to be secured and the school office notified at least 24 hours in advance.
- No job shadows can take place in the first two weeks of the start or end of the semester and the last week of school before winter break.

### **WORK RELEASE (FOR CREDIT - IF LICENSED TEACHER AVAILABLE)**

Can be combined with senior leave if the following conditions are met:

- Student should attempt to earn their National Career Readiness Certificate (NCRC) through school testing.
- Student received credit for Basic Communications
- All senior release qualifications are met.
- Student is passing all classes during the year. Any student who is ineligible for extracurricular activities will have their work release suspended until eligibility is restored.
- Students who within the last year have had, or are currently experiencing attendance issues (more than 2 unexcused absences) will be removed from this program.
- Students are not allowed to work with or for a family member.
- Students will provide weekly reports to the school counselor or teacher overseeing this program.
- If transportation is needed, the student must provide their own reliable transportation. Parent permission will be secured, in advance, to allow students to drive to their employment.

### **ATTENDANCE MAKE-UP TIME**

Students will be assigned to a Make-Up Time Sessions for a variety of reasons, including but not limited to excessive tardiness, unexcused absences, excessive classroom disruption, skipped detention, principal's discretion.

Make-Up sessions will be scheduled as staff are available but will either be on a scheduled Saturday from 8:30 A.M. until 11:30 A.M. and or on early out Wednesdays from 1:30-3:30 PM. Students who are assigned, but do not attend Make-Up Time Sessions will be held out of all non-required school events. This non-exhaustive list includes activities such as Prom, Graduation Ceremonies, Extra-Curricular Events, dances, any non-school day activity. Students have to make up all assigned Make-Up time/sessions in order to participate in these events. (If due to personnel and staffing needs it may work better to have these times made up and served on 2 hour early outs with a paraprofessional.)

Make-Up Time sessions will be scheduled at the convenience of the supervising teacher. Students will need to make appropriate accommodations to ensure their attendance if they are assigned.

### **PASSES FOR LEAVING SCHOOL**

Students are not permitted to leave the school grounds at any time during the school day without permission from the office AND the parents. If students must leave the building because of illness or any other emergency, they must sign out at the office. As with any violation, disciplinary action will follow if a pass is not secured prior to leaving.

### **STUDENT VEHICLES AND PARKING**

Students who drive motor vehicles to school must know and obey good driving practice. At no time are students allowed to be in the parking lots or in cars unless the student has written permission from the high school principal's office or from a faculty member. The speed limit on the grounds is not to exceed 10 miles per hour.

Student parking is located on either side of the street east of the high school and in the north parking lot. Cars must be parked in the designated parking lots and in the designated parking spaces. All vehicles in all parking areas are to give the buses the

right-of-way once they enter the street.

Faculty and visitor parking is located in front of the high school building. Students who are parked in spaces designated for other parking run the risk of having their vehicle towed at their own expense. Students who violate speed limits, right-of-way or other regulations as stated above run the risk of having to park elsewhere besides at the school.

## **PROCEDURES & INFORMATION**

### **DAILY ANNOUNCEMENTS (BULLETIN)**

The daily bulletin will be e-mailed to each student. It is also sent to faculty members. It will also be posted on the district website. **The student has the responsibility of knowing what is in the bulletin.** All announcements intended only for use by staff members shall be sent to the staff via e-mail or given directly to the staff members by the secretary.

### **STUDENT REMOVAL FROM CLASS**

Removal from class takes place for **severe** breaches of appropriate classroom conduct. A “time-out” is not the same as a removal and is used for less serious problems. The teacher and principal will determine if the removal is a “time-out” or not. The student is sent to the office for the remainder of the class period. The following actions will apply:

#### **1<sup>st</sup> Removal-**

- The **student, teacher, and principal** will meet (preferably after school or the next day before school) to discuss what behavior occurred to warrant a removal and discuss steps to prevent a similar occurrence.
- The student will make up the time he/she spent out of class before or after school with the teacher.
- The student will not return to class until the detention time and a meeting with the teacher and principal is completed. Otherwise, the student will report to the office or study hall as determined by the principal.
- The teacher will contact the student’s parent/guardian by phone by the end of the school day and explain the situation. If a parent cannot be contacted by phone, the teacher will mail a copy of this removal notice with any additional explanation as needed.
- The teacher will forward a copy of this completed form to the principal.
- In the case of a student on an IEP, the special education instructor and Central Rivers AEA team representative will be notified by the principal who will set up a conference with the parents/guardians as soon as possible.

#### **2<sup>nd</sup> Removal-**

- The **principal** will contact the student’s parent/guardian by phone by the end of the school day and explain the situation. If a parent cannot be contacted by phone, the teacher will mail a copy of this removal notice with any additional explanation as needed.
- The **student, teacher, and principal** will meet (preferably after school or the next day before school) to discuss what behavior occurred to warrant a removal and discuss steps to prevent a similar occurrence.
- The student will make up the time he/she spent out of class before or after school with the teacher.
- The student will not return to class until the detention time and a meeting with the teacher and principal is completed. Otherwise, the student will report to the office or study hall as determined by the principal.
- The teacher will forward a copy of this completed form to the principal.
- In the case of a student on an IEP, the special education instructor and Central Rivers AEA team representative will be notified by the principal who will set up a conference with the parents/guardians as soon as possible. Discussion will center on the program and/or placement of the student.

#### **3<sup>rd</sup> Removal-**

- The **principal** will contact the student’s parent/guardian by phone by the end of the school day and explain that the **student is being removed from the class for the remainder of the semester. The student will receive no credit for the class.** If a parent cannot be contacted by phone, the principal will mail a copy of this removal notice stating the reason for this 3<sup>rd</sup> and final removal.
- The teacher will forward a copy of this completed form to the principal.
- The student’s grade shall be recorded as **“NC” meaning no credit.**
- The student will be allowed to re-enroll in the class at the beginning of the next semester unless extenuating circumstances exist.
- In the case of a student on an IEP, the special education instructor and Central Rivers AEA team representative will be notified by the principal who will set up a conference with the parents/guardians as soon as possible. Discussion will center on the program and/or placement of the student.

### **STUDENT TELEPHONE USAGE**

Students will not be permitted to call home for the purpose of dismissal from school, except for illness. Students will not be allowed to use the telephone from 8:25 a.m. until 3:23 p.m., except through permission from the office. Permission from the office

will NOT be given unless the student can supply permission from his/her teacher in writing or by intercom phone. Social calls are not permitted!

Cellular phones and other electronic devices have become a part of many of our lives; however, during the school day they are a distraction to the educational process. During classes students are not to use their cell phones or electronic devices without permission from their teacher. Use of electronic devices and cell phones is permissible in the library, lunchroom, and hallways, if the students are safely and appropriately using such devices. Students needing to use a personal device for phone calls must still abide by the overall telephone usage policy. Notably, students should not be missing class to conduct personal business. If they need to answer or return a call they must do so at the office for a reasonable attempt at privacy, after permission has been secured according to the aforementioned policy.

Any misuse of cell phones or electronic devices can result in but is not limited to the following escalating scale: teacher confiscation until the end of the period; teacher banning repeated offenders from using said device in class for a time period; device being submitted to the office for the day; use of devices for that individual being banned from school or required to stay in the office. In all cases, parents should be notified.

Students have no right to use a device at school (regardless of who owns it or pays for it) that interferes with their or another student's ability to maximize the learning opportunity and environment.