



# Westlake City Schools 2023-2024

# Student-Parent **HANDBOOK**

## Westlake High School

**Main Office:** (440) 835-6352

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**wlake.org**

## Attendance (440) 835-6779 (24 hours a day)

Mr. Robert Woods, Principal

Mrs. Joy Morgan and Mr. Derrick Shaw,  
Assistant Principal

Mr. Tony Cipollone, Athletic Director

# **WESTLAKE HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT HANDBOOK & PLANNER 2023-2024**



## **WESTLAKE CITY SCHOOLS MISSION STATEMENT**

*WE EDUCATE FOR EXCELLENCE... Empowering all students to achieve their educational goals, to direct their lives, and to contribute to society.*

Westlake High School  
27830 Hilliard Blvd.  
[www.wlake.org](http://www.wlake.org)

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# FORWARD

This Student Handbook was developed to answer many of the commonly asked questions you and your parents may have during the school year and to provide specific information about certain Board policies and procedures. Please take time to become familiar with the important information contained in this Handbook and keep the Handbook available for frequent reference by you and your parents. If you have any questions that are not addressed in this Handbook, you are encouraged to talk to your teachers or the building administration. This Handbook replaces all prior handbooks and other written material on the same subjects. This Handbook does not equate to an irrevocable contractual commitment to the student, but only reflects the current status of the Board's policies and the School's rules. If any of the policies or administrative guidelines referenced herein are revised, the language in the most current policy or administrative guideline prevails. Copies of current Board policies are available from the building principal and on the District's website. Policies can be found on the district website: <https://go.boarddocs.com/oh/westlake/Board.nsf/Public>

## EQUAL EDUCATION OPPORTUNITY

All students of the Westlake City School District will have equal educational opportunities. Students have the right to be free from discrimination on the basis of race, sex, marital status, pregnancy, national origin, physical handicaps, criminal record, political activity, citizenship status, religion, creed or opinion, in all decisions affecting admissions, membership in school-sponsored organizations, clubs or activities, access to facilities, distribution of funds and academic evaluations of any other aspect of school-sponsored activities. Any limitations regarding participation in a school-sponsored activity will be based on criteria reasonably related to that specific activity.

Any person who believes that they have been discriminated against on the basis of their race, color, disability, religion, gender or national origin while at school or a school activity should immediately contact the building principal. Complaints will be investigated in accordance with the procedures described in this Handbook. Any student making a complaint or participating in a school investigation will be protected from retaliation. The Compliance Officer(s) can provide additional information concerning equal access to educational opportunity.

## THE RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF STUDENTS

All students have the right to:

- A meaningful education.
- Wear distinctive insignia unless the manner of expression interferes with the orderly operation of the school program, trespasses on the rights of others, or disturbs other students.
- Inspect their tests, grades and school records in the presence of a counselor, teacher or administrator.
- Symbolic and actual freedom of expression and verbal expression of their personal opinions. Such verbal opinions shall not interfere with the freedom of others. The use of profane or obscene language and threats of harm to persons or property are prohibited.
- Attend school without fear of intimidation.
- Consultation with teachers, counselors, and administrators.
- Free election of their peers in student government; moreover, all students have the right to seek and hold office.
- Present petitions, complaints, or grievances to school authorities and as well the right to receive prompt authoritative replies from school authorities regarding the disposition of their petitions, complaints or grievances.
- Inform the school administration that an instructor is consistently late to class.
- Anonymity when giving information regarding any wrongdoing.
- Be informed of their rights and responsibilities.
- Appeal through their teacher, counselor and principal on a decision affecting their school life.

## **STUDENT RESPONSIBILITIES**

Students have the responsibility to respect the rights of all persons involved in the educational process and to exercise the highest degree of self-discipline in adhering to school rules and regulations. Responsibility is inherent in the exercise of every right. It is impossible to list all student responsibilities, but it must be emphasized that the absence of responsibility means a weakening of rights.

Students have the responsibility to:

- Attend school and attempt to complete the course of study developed by the student and their parents.
- Report to classes on time with the necessary materials, be prepared with lessons and have a positive attitude toward learning.
- Be aware of and adhere to school regulations and respect the authority of school officials who enforce the rules. This responsibility extends to a student's conduct to and from school as well as in the buildings.
- Develop tolerance for verbal and written viewpoints and opinions of others and to recognize the right of other individuals to form different points of view.
- Provide information in disciplinary cases should the student be asked and have knowledge of importance in such a case.
- Dress according to the appearance code.
- Respect the school property as well as the property of others.
- Accept the consequences for any wrong act they may commit, subject to the right of appeal as set forth elsewhere in this handbook.
- Respect the authority of all employees of the Westlake City Schools.
- Assist in maintaining cleanliness of all buildings and properties in the Westlake City Schools. School rules and procedures are designed to allow students to be educated in a safe and orderly environment. All students are expected to follow staff members' directions and to obey all school rules.

## **FERPA - PROTECTION & PRIVACY OF STUDENT RECORDS**

The Westlake School District Board of Education is required to follow Ohio and federal law as to the maintenance and release of student records. The school district maintains many student records including both directory information and confidential information.

Directory information can be provided upon request to any individual, other than a for-profit organization, even without the written consent of a parent. Parents may refuse to allow the Board to disclose any or all "directory information" upon written notification to the Board. For further information about the items included within the category of directory information and instructions on how to prohibit its release you may consult the Board's annual Family Education Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) notice which can be found on the Pupil Services website. <http://www.westlake.k12.oh.us/departments/pupilservices/Pages/default.aspx>

Other than directory information, access to all other student records is protected by FERPA and Ohio law. Except in limited circumstances as specifically defined in State and Federal law, the school district is prohibited from releasing confidential education records to any outside individual or organization without the prior written consent of the parents, or the adult student, as well as those individuals who have matriculated and entered a postsecondary educational institution at any age. The Board will provide access or release directory information to armed forces recruiters unless the parent or student requests that prior written consent be obtained.

Confidential records include test scores, psychological reports, behavioral data, disciplinary records, and communications with family and outside service providers.

Students and parents have the right to review and receive copies of all educational records. Costs for copies of records may be charged to the parent. To review student records, please provide a written notice identifying the requested student records to the building principal. You will be given an appointment with the appropriate person to answer any questions and to review the requested student records.

Parents and adult students have the right to amend a student record when they believe that any of the information contained in the record is inaccurate, misleading or violates the student's privacy. A parent or adult student must request the amendment of a student record in writing and if the request is denied, the parent or adult student will be informed of their right to a hearing on the matter.

Consistent with the Protection of Pupil Rights Amendment (PPRA), no student shall be required as a part of the school program or the District's curriculum, without prior written consent of the student (if an adult or an emancipated minor) or, if an un-emancipated minor, their parents, to submit to or participate in any survey, analysis, or evaluation that reveals information concerning:

- political affiliations or beliefs of the student or the student's parents;
- mental or psychological problems of the student or the student's family;
- sex behavior or attitudes;
- illegal, antisocial, self-incriminating or demeaning behavior;
- critical appraisals of other individuals with whom respondents have close family relationships;
- legally recognized privileged and analogous relationships, such as those of lawyers, physicians, and ministers;
- religious practices, affiliations, or beliefs of the student or their parents; or
- income (other than that required by law to determine eligibility for participation in a program or for receiving financial assistance under such a program).

Consistent with the PPRA and Board policy, parents may inspect any materials used in conjunction with any such survey, analysis, or evaluation. Please contact the Superintendent or designee to inspect such materials.

Further, parents have the right to inspect, upon request, a survey or evaluation created by a third party before the survey/evaluation is administered or distributed by the school to the student. The parent will have access to the survey/evaluation within a reasonable period of time after the request is received by the principal.

The Superintendent will notify parents of students in the District, at least annually at the beginning of the school year, of the specific or approximate dates during the school year when the following activities are scheduled or expected to be scheduled:

- activities involving the collection, disclosure, or use of personal information collected from students for the purpose of marketing or for selling that information or otherwise providing that information to others for that purpose); and
- the administration of any survey by a third party that contains one or more of the items described in A through H above.

The Family Policy Compliance Office in the U.S. Department of Education administers both FERPA and PPRA. Parents and/or eligible students 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 20202-4605 Washington, D.C. [www.ed.gov/offices/OM/fpc](http://www.ed.gov/offices/OM/fpc)

Informal inquiries may be sent to the Family Policy Compliance Office via the following email addresses: [FERPA@ED.Gov](mailto:FERPA@ED.Gov); and [PPRA@ED.Gov](mailto:PPRA@ED.Gov).

# ACADEMICS

## ASSIGNMENT OF COUNSELOR

Students have been assigned to one counselor who is responsible for helping them fulfill graduation requirements and keeping accurate records of their progress at Westlake High School. Therefore, the assigned counselor must handle such matters as making schedule changes, applying for early graduation, etc. However, students may go to any of the counselors at Westlake High School with any personal problems. Any counselor will be happy to assist students with information on colleges, careers, or scholarships.

## CHANGE OF ADDRESS OR NAME

Parents of students should inform the Counseling Office at 835-6352 if they have a change of address, change of name, change of custody, or change of phone number in order to help in addressing mailings and in case of any emergency.

## STATE FUNDED SAT TESTING

All members of the 11th Grade Cohort will participate in the State funded SAT test at Westlake High School.

## SCHEDULE CHANGES

Every opportunity is made to make schedules as accurate as possible. Scheduling changes may occur for the following reasons:

- technical error in the scheduling process
- the student is academically misplaced (please refer to Withdrawal Policy)
- there is a scheduling conflict.
- course failure the preceding school year
- summer school - pass or fail
- documented medical concerns

The counselor (with the administration) will make schedule changes.

Students are not permitted to change a course(s) to accommodate a request for privilege. Privilege will only be scheduled after all academic courses are in place.

## TRANSCRIPTS

In order to process requests for transcripts to be sent to colleges as part of the application process, a transcript release form should be completed. The form is in the counseling office on the senior bulletin board or email [ricek@wlake.org](mailto:ricek@wlake.org). Each transcript sent per academic institution is \$3 payable by cash or check (made out to Westlake BOE).

Fees apply for initial transcripts sent, thereafter Westlake High School provides two transcripts at no charge, one mid-year and one final at the end of the school year. Please allow 10 workdays to process requests.

## WORK PERMITS

In order to obtain a work permit, students must first be hired or offered employment. Students can pick up a work permit application located in the counseling office at any time. A parent/guardian as well as the employer will complete the application. Students submit the completed application to the counseling office secretary. A work permit will be generated and provided to the student.

## GRADING SYSTEM

The Westlake Board of Education believes students will respond more positively to the opportunity for success than to the threat of failure. The district will therefore seek to make instructional achievement both reachable and possible for students. It will emphasize achievement in its process of evaluating student performance.

## HOMEWORK

Homework will be assigned, and student grades will reflect the completion of all work, including outside assignments. Homework is also part of the student's preparation for the assessment tests and graduation.

## GRADES

### GRADING SCALE

Letter Grade	Percentage Grade	Regular Point Value	Weighted Point Value
A+	97-100	4.33	5.33
A	93-100	4.00	5.00
A-	90-92	3.67	4.67
B+	87-89	3.33	4.33
B	83-86	3.00	4.00
B-	80-82	2.67	3.67
C+	77-79	2.33	2.33
C	73-76	2.00	2.00
C-	70-72	1.67	1.67
D+	67-69	1.33	1.33
D	63-66	1.00	1.00
D-	60-62	0.67	0.67
F	00-59	0.00	0.00

The Board of Education has approved weighted grades for honors, CCP, and AP level courses. Courses offering additional GPA value do so because greater demands and expectations are placed upon students in those courses. Such expectations may include a faster-paced course, outside reading, additional homework, greater in-class participation, and research.



## CLASS RANK / GRADE POINT AVERAGE

Class rank is determined by a student's cumulative grade point average. Adding the number of points for each letter grade and then dividing by the total number of credits compute this average. All courses will be included in a student's cumulative grade point average; this includes all College Credit Plus courses.

## FINAL GRADE COMPUTATIONS

Final grade computations are determined by an average of each quarter and the semester ending exam. Each quarter receives 40 percent weight while the exam receives 20 percent.

For Example:

Quarter 1 (40%)	Quarter 2 (40%)	Exam (20%)	Final Grade
74% C	92% A-	87% B+	B
$0.4 \times 0.74 = 0.296$	$0.4 \times 0.92 = 0.368$	$0.2 \times 0.87 = 0.174$	$0.296 + 0.368 + 0.174 = 0.838$

## CREDIT

Credit will be granted on a semester basis. Thirty-six-week courses will reflect .50 credits earned each semester. The two separate final grades will not be averaged together. Eighteen-week courses will reflect the .50 credits earned in the semester the course was taken. Students failing a semester of a yearlong course must repeat the semester of the course failed. It is also very important to realize that failing for a quarter jeopardizes students' chances of passing the subject for the semester respective to the marks received for the other quarter and the semester final. If a student obtains a passing grade in two of the three marking periods (each quarter and the semester exam), then credit will be awarded for the semester. Senior honors, scholarships and other forms of academic recognition will be based upon scholastic achievement through the seventh semester.

## PROMOTION TO NEXT GRADE LEVEL

The Board of Education recognizes that the personal, social, physical, and educational growth of children will vary and that they should be placed in the educational setting most appropriate to their needs at the various stages of their growth.

It is the Board's intent that each student be moved forward in a continuous pattern of achievement and growth that is in harmony with their own development. Such a pattern should coincide with the system of grade levels established by this Board and the instructional objectives established for each.

## PROMOTION

A student will be promoted to the succeeding grade level when the student has

- completed the course and state mandated requirements at the presently assigned grade;
- in the opinion of the professional staff has achieved the instructional objectives set for the present grade;
- demonstrated sufficient proficiency to permit the student to move ahead in the educational program of the next grade;
- demonstrated the degree of social, emotional, and physical maturation necessary for a successful learning experience in the next grade.

## RETENTION

A student may be retained at their current grade level when they have, in the opinion of the professional staff, failed to demonstrate proficiency in core courses as required by the Board. A student may be placed at the next grade level when retention would no longer benefit the student.

The Superintendent shall develop administrative guidelines for promotion, placement, and retention of students that:

- require the recommendation of the relevant staff members for promotion, placement or retention;
- require that parents are informed in advance of the possibility of retention of a student at a grade level;
- assure that efforts will be made to remediate the student's difficulties before they are retained assign to the principal the final responsibility for determining the promotion, placement, or retention of each student;
- provide parents the opportunity to appeal the decision about their child's promotion, placement, or retention.

## **STUDENT ASSESSMENT**

Unless exempted, each student must pass all portions of the State mandated assessment test as a requirement for graduation. The test will be administered twice a year until the student passes all parts of the test. Students are only required to retake those parts of the test they have not yet passed. While the School District does schedule make-up dates for testing, students should avoid unnecessary absences. Ohio State assessments are typically given from March to May every year.

## **ADVANCED PLACEMENT GRADES / EXAMS**

Advanced Placement grades reflect classroom performance for the entire year. Scores on the AP exams reflect test performance at the conclusion of the yearlong course. Students enrolled in AP classes are required to pay for and complete the AP exams at the end of the academic year. Failure to complete the AP Exam will result in an incomplete for the course. High scores on the AP exam may earn college credit and advanced standing as determined by the college/university. It is the discretion of the parent/guardian and the student whether AP exams are forwarded to the student's college/university of choice for evaluation. There will be a mandatory parent/student AP Night scheduled during the second semester.

## **COURSE WITHDRAWAL POLICY**

Once scheduling is complete, it is the understanding there should be no adjustments. Students who are achieving a "C" or better academically may not withdraw from a class. Students withdrawing from a course who do not meet the following guidelines may have an "F" placed on their transcripts. Students should follow this procedure prior to attempting to drop a course: (1) complete documentation showing that the student contacted the teacher for additional support; (2) complete documentation showing that the student attained the additional support for at least one grading period; (3) request their counselor contact the teacher to inquire regarding academic placement; (4) the counselor will contact the appropriate assistant principal regarding the academic placement. Exceptions to these rules may be considered by administration.

## **WITHHOLDING OF GRADES AND CREDITS**

The Westlake Board of Education has adopted regulations prescribing a schedule of fees for materials required to be used in specific courses. There are also fees for equipment, art, Industrial Tech., musical instruments, library materials, athletic equipment, textbooks and damage to school buildings. Nonpayment of any fees and charges may result in withholding the grades and credits of the student. Failure to turn in textbooks and/or technology or pay fines or fees due to the school will cause withholding of the diploma. Students may not be permitted to take part in school activities due to outstanding fees.

## **JUNIOR / SENIOR PRIVILEGE**

Westlake High School's Junior / Senior Privilege Program is given to students to help them develop responsibility for some unassigned period(s). Students may have Late Arrival (coming in for 2<sup>nd</sup> period), Early

Dismissal (leaving 11<sup>th</sup> period), or Lunch Privilege. Students may indicate their preference, but decisions will be made based on scheduling. Permission forms are available in the Main Office and need to be submitted each semester prior to a student going on privilege.

This privilege may be lost if the student fails to follow school rules and/or privilege guidelines. Administration reserves the right to deny, restrict, or remove privileges at any time based on academic, attendance, or behavioral issues. Juniors are only permitted one privilege period per semester and seniors are permitted no more than two privilege periods per semester.

## ELIGIBILITY ATHLETICS AND EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

In order to be eligible in grades 9-12, a student must be currently enrolled and must have been enrolled in school the immediately preceding grading period (interscholastic only). During the preceding grading period, the student must have received passing grades in a minimum of five one-credit courses or the equivalent, which count toward graduation, and earn a grade point average of 1.50 or above. Fall incoming 9th grade student's eligibility will be determined on the last grading period of the 8th grade.

## GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

Total Credits Required for Graduation: 23.00 Credits

All students are required to enroll in four credits of core courses per year, plus two credits of electives (1.5 for 12<sup>th</sup> graders). Core is defined as English, World Language, Math, Science and Social Studies.

### Minimum Credit Requirements

English	4 Credits
Math	4 Credits (Including Algebra I, Geometry, and Algebra II
Social Studies	3 Credits (Including World History, American History, Government, and Economics)
Science	3 Credits (Including Physical Science, Biology, and Advanced Science)
Health	.5 Credit
Physical Education	1 Credit – Choose from any PE classes (Waiver available for students in OHSAA Sponsored Athletics, Marching Band including Debonaires/Demonettes and Show Choir)
Financial Literacy	.5 Credit (Applies only to the class of 2026 and beyond)
Fine Arts	1 Credit – Art or Music
Technology	.5 Credit (Computer Science or Technology/Engineering)
Electives	6 Credits (7 Credits if using the PE Waiver) 5.5 Credits for the Class of 2026 and Beyond (6.5 Credits if using the PE Waiver)

## EARNING A DIPLOMA/COMMENCEMENT PARTICIPATION

To be awarded a regular diploma, the student shall:

- Complete the Westlake Board of Education curricular requirements
- Complete Ohio Department of Education testing and graduation seal requirements
- Must meet the Service Learning requirements

All requirements must be met in order to participate in commencement exercises

All graduating seniors must reconcile all financial obligations with the school prior to participating in commencement or receiving their diploma. Only those students clearing all obligations and meeting the graduation requirements may participate in Commencement. Commencement is a privilege and not a right.

For failure to pay fees, disciplinary actions and/or other reasons, the administration has the right to deny the privilege of participating in Commencement and all activities associated with it. Participation in Commencement exercise is optional. Seniors who choose not to participate should notify the main office of such at least one week prior to commencement. Those students who choose to take part in the graduation ceremony must fulfill the obligations of cooperating during the practice session, and they must attend all practice sessions. Students who fail to meet these obligations may be denied the privilege to participate in the Commencement ceremony.

Requests for missing practice must be made to the principal prior to the actual practice. Since the time and dates of the practice sessions are publicized in advance, no excuse will be honored for work and appointments.

## **SERVICE LEARNING REQUIREMENTS**

Students must complete 5 service learning hours each academic year, reaching a total of 20 hours by the conclusion of their senior year. The materials and directions for earning service learning hours will be presented to incoming students during freshman and new student orientation and will be reviewed at the start of each school year thereafter. Students new to the district who enter the high school after the start of freshman year will have the number of hours required for graduation prorated accordingly.

## **PE WAIVER**

Students have the opportunity to exempt the Physical Education (PE) graduation requirement by completing two full seasons of interscholastic athletics (including cheerleading), marching band (including Debonairs and Demonettes) or show choir at Westlake High School. Students who select this option will not receive academic credit for the exemption. Instead, students will have the opportunity to add an elective in place of the PE requirement.

In order to complete the exemption, the student must submit the electronic PE Waiver form located on the website: <https://www.wlake.org/our-schools/westlake-high>. The form only needs to be submitted once; if the intended sport/season changes after you submit the form, please notify your counselor.

Students must maintain academic eligibility and finish each season in good standing in order to complete the waiver. If a student is injured during the course of a season, they is expected to attend practices, meetings, and competitions that are not limited by the medical illness or injury in order to remain in good standing and to qualify for the waiver. A student who quits or is dismissed from the team will be ineligible to earn the waiver for that season. This includes dismissal for violating team, athletic department, or school rules.

## **DETERMINING TRANSFER CREDITS FOR NEW TO DISTRICT STUDENTS**

After registration, students will meet with their assigned counselor to review middle school and high school coursework, high school transcripts, report cards and assessment data to assure proper placement.

All credits awarded by an accredited school and that meet the Ohio requirements will be accepted as transfer credits. Please be advised – the number of credits required for graduation will be adjusted proportionately only to reflect high school transcript credits. In some cases, a math or science placement test and an end-of-course exam may be required.

## **EARLY GRADUATION**

Students who plan to complete the credit requirements for receiving a diploma prior to completing eight semesters of high school may request permission to graduate early. Approval of such a request will be based on criteria which is in the best interest of the student. Paperwork must be completed by **December 2, 2022**. Early graduation at the end of six semesters will be considered if (1) all necessary forms and conferences are completed before the end of the first semester of the junior year or (2) at the end of seven semesters if all necessary forms and conferences are completed before the sixth week of the first semester of the senior year.

Students planning to pursue this option are encouraged to begin making the necessary plans with their counselor as early as possible to fulfill early graduation requirements. Students may participate in graduation ceremonies of their designated class.

## **COLLEGE CREDIT PLUS**

Ohio's College Credit Plus (CCP) program allows Ohio high school students to earn college credit and high school graduation credit through the successful completion of college courses. The purpose of the CCP program is to promote rigorous academic pursuits and expose students to options beyond the high school classroom. Any high school student admitted to a course by an institution of higher education will be required to perform at the same level as the institution's regular students. CCP allows seventh through twelfth graders to take college courses at a college campus or, when available, onsite at their high school. More information is available on the following website: (<https://www.ohiohighered.org/ccp/students-families>).

There will be a mandatory meeting held for all those interested in participating in the CCP program. There is potential exposure to mature subject matter and materials, and Selective Service System registration requirement.

## **CREDIT FLEXIBILITY**

Any student may apply for credit to be awarded through Credit Flexibility. The student will submit an application on the District's Credit Flexibility Application and Contract Form (see website). All required information must be presented. The student may be required to provide supporting documentation as determined by the Credit Flexibility Review Committee. Applications will be due on **November 3, 2023** (spring semester) and **May 4, 2024** (summer or fall semester). Incomplete applications will not be accepted.

## **ACADEMIC RECOGNITION**

Students who excel academically will be recognized as follows: High Honor Roll: 4.00 and above, Honor Roll: 3.5-3.99 and Merit Roll: 3.0-3.49.

## **NATIONAL HONOR SOCIETY**

The Westlake Chapter of the National Honor Society inducts new members in the fall of each year. The basic requirement for an invitation to apply for consideration of participation in the privilege of membership is a cumulative 3.5 grade point average after five semesters. Scholastically eligible students must then demonstrate sustained qualities of leadership, service and character. Information regarding specific guidelines for each of these areas is available in the counseling office. Special Note: Candidates will not be considered if a grade on a test or major homework assignment has been lowered due to academic dishonesty during that school year which the candidate is being considered. A candidate will also not be considered if the candidate has been suspended from school in the year of application.

## **POWERSCHOOL**

Parents and students are encouraged to monitor students' progress using Westlake's online gradebook program, PowerSchool. Both parents and students will be provided log on information at the beginning of the school year or at enrollment. PowerSchool usernames and passwords can be obtained from the Counseling Office Secretary throughout the year if they become lost.

# ATHLETICS

## AN ATHLETE'S RESPONSIBILITIES TO SELF AND OTHERS

A firm and fair policy of enforcement is necessary to uphold the regulations and standards of the athletic department. The community, school administrators and the coaching staff feel strongly that high standards of conduct and citizenship are essential in maintaining a sound program of athletics. The welfare of the student is our major consideration and transcends any other consideration.

All athletes shall abide by a code of ethics, which will earn them the honor and respect that participation and competition in the interscholastic program affords. Any conduct that results in dishonor to the athlete, the team or the school will not be condoned. Acts of unacceptable conduct by student-athletes tarnish the reputation of everyone associated with Demon Athletics and the Westlake City Schools.

As a member of an athletic team, you represent the Westlake Schools and the tradition of Demon Pride that it symbolizes. The student-athletes, coaches and administrators within the athletic department abide by the principles of The Demon Code: Effort, Mastery, Discipline, Selflessness, Resilience, Respect, Competition, Fun and Pride. Interscholastic athletics are an integral part of the total educational program. High standards of scholarship, behavior and citizenship are important to maintain in all aspects of school. Students volunteering to participate must assume the responsibilities of these privileges and are required to meet expectations beyond those set for non-athletes. The younger students in Westlake are watching you. Be a great role model.

## ELIGIBILITY STANDARDS

In order to be eligible in grades 9-12, a student must be currently enrolled and must have been enrolled in school the immediately preceding grading period (interscholastic only). During the preceding grading period, the student must have received passing grades in a minimum of five one-credit courses or the equivalent, which count toward graduation, and earn a grade point average of 1.50 or above. Fall incoming 9th grade student's eligibility will be determined on the last grading period of the 8th grade.

Any student who arrives at Westlake High School after their freshman year is considered a transfer student and must see the Athletic Director immediately to determine their eligibility and complete any OHSAA required paperwork prior to competing for WHS.

Students may participate in interscholastic athletics and extracurricular activities if they receive a failing grade for any course in the immediately preceding grading period provided they meet the eligibility requirements above.

Those student-athletes taking PSO or CCP classes should check with their counselors and with the Athletic Department to make sure they have enough credits to maintain eligibility. This is ultimately the responsibility of the student athlete with assistance from the guidance office and the athletic department.

Extracurricular activities are those activities not for academic credit that meet after school two or more times per week on a regular basis or for a season. The principal of the high school and middle school shall publish a list of all activities and extracurricular activities subject to these standards at the beginning of the school year. A physical education waiver can be obtained by participation in athletics. Information on this waiver is available from the guidance office.

## ATHLETIC ACADEMIC PROBATION

Student-Athletes in Grades 7-12 must maintain a 1.5 Grade Point Average, or higher, on a 4.0 scale. Any student eligible by OHSAA standards (passing 5 or more classes) with a GPA of less than 1.5 during the immediately preceding grading period will be placed on academic probation. To remain eligible, the student must actively participate in identified academic intervention programs as formally established by the student athlete's school. These academic intervention programs may include bi-weekly eligibility checks, tutoring sessions such as math and writing labs, or morning and afternoon study tables. Failure to participate in these intervention programs will result in ineligibility until the conclusion of the quarterly grading period. (All courses

are to be counted in the cumulative average and quarterly eligibility is independent of the eligibility status of previous quarters.)

Probation and Academic Interventions:

1. Probation status is considered a warning.
  - a. Student can participate and compete at all team contests and at coach's discretion.
  - b. Student must seek academic assistance to manage the eligibility issue.
2. Ineligible status indicates that the student athlete cannot play in any team contest.
  - a. Student athlete may practice at coach's discretion.
  - b. Student must be attending after school tutorials and/or obtain other tutorial assistance.
3. Student deemed to be ineligible may regain eligibility only when the next grading period has been posted, provided all eligibility criteria have been met.
4. If an athlete is on probation, the student athlete must meet all eligibility requirements at the end of the next grading period or will be moved to ineligible status.

## **REQUIREMENTS FOR PARTICIPATION**

Remember that all student-athletes and parents must create an account on Final Forms. Final Forms is our compliance software program and will house all forms and compliance materials.

Final Forms Registration information can be found here: [https://drive.google.com/file/d/1FG02\\_PcogQWpBCRshX9btrJoNMMPk50I/view](https://drive.google.com/file/d/1FG02_PcogQWpBCRshX9btrJoNMMPk50I/view)

If a student-athlete or parent has not signed off on all forms, this could jeopardize the student-athlete's ability to participate in a contest and/or practice.

## **RISK OF PARTICIPATION**

All athletes and parents must realize the risk of serious injury and in extreme cases, death, which may be the result of athletic participation. The Westlake School District will use the following safeguards to make every effort to eliminate injury:

- All coaches will follow OHSAA guidelines concerning coaching certifications.
- A certified athletic trainer will be available to all athletes for consultation and rehabilitation of injury.
- Maintain a continuing education program for coaches to have the opportunity to learn the most up-to-date techniques and skills to be taught in their sport.

## **GUIDELINES FOR POSSIBLE CUTTING OF STUDENT-ATHLETES FROM ATHLETIC TEAMS**

Time, space, facilities, equipment, economics and other factors will place limitations on the most effective squad size for any particular sport. In accordance with our philosophy of athletics and our desire to see as many students as possible participate in the athletic programs, we encourage coaches to keep as many students as they can without compromising the integrity of the sport.

The most difficult job of any coach is when they must make decisions regarding the personnel of their team. We ask each coach to be as empathetic as possible to each student athlete who has tried out but does not make the team. Each coach should communicate with those that will not make the team in the manner deemed best by that individual coach.

## **GUIDELINES FOR POSSIBLE ELIMINATING A LEVEL OF SPORT**

In certain situations, the administration along with the coaching staff of the particular sport may decide that because of student safety, offering multiple levels of the same sport is not in the best interest of the student-athlete or the department. Every effort will be made to field all levels of teams. If a level is to be eliminated, an explanation email will be sent to those parents and student-athletes affected. If they choose to cease participation, fees can be refunded. Students may be asked to participate at a higher level as well.

## HAZING

It is the policy of the Westlake Board of Education, the School District and the Athletic Department that hazing activities of all types are inconsistent with the educational process and shall be prohibited. Hazing is defined as doing any act or coercing another, including the victim, to do any act of initiation into any organization that uses or creates a substantial risk of causing mental or physical harm to any person or persons. Permission, consent, or assumption of risk by an individual subjected to hazing does not lessen the prohibition contained in this policy. Hazing will not be tolerated by the Westlake Athletic Department and will be dealt with swiftly and harshly. One example of hazing is "Senior Wakeups". The Athletic Director and Principal are willing to meet with students to discuss team building exercises that do not involve hazing.

## DRUG/ALCOHOL/TOBACCO POLICY

In seeking the privilege to participate in these activities, participants choose the responsibility of living a lifestyle free of tobacco, alcohol and drugs. The drug/alcohol/tobacco policy will begin with the first OHSAA mandated practice date of the year (typically on or around August 1) and end with the last day of the school year. As such, the athletes of Westlake must refrain from the following:

- Drinking, possessing, selling or supplying alcoholic beverages.
- Smoking, possessing, selling or supplying tobacco products of any kind.
- Using, possessing, selling or giving away drugs.
- The use of any illegal, performance enhancing drugs.

Drugs are defined as:

- Dangerously controlled substances as so designated and prohibited by Ohio statute.
- All chemicals that release toxic vapors.
- All alcoholic beverages.
- Anabolic steroids.
- Any prescription drug or patent drug, except for those which permission to use in the school has been granted pursuant to Board policy and that are provided by the student's parent (i.e. over-the-counter medications).
- Any substance that is a "look-alike" to any of the above.
- Any illegal performance enhancing drugs.

## CONSEQUENCES FOR VIOLATIONS OF THE DRUG/ALCOHOL/TOBACCO POLICY

### *Use/Possession*

#### **1st Offense of the Policy**

After confirmation, the student-athlete will be denied the privilege to participate in 20 % of the regularly scheduled athletic contests that remain in that season or their next season; this punishment will be carried over into tournaments. Participation denotes competing in events against outside competition, traveling with the team, or dressing for the contest. The athlete may continue to practice with the team at the discretion of the coach and in rare cases the student-athlete may be permitted to travel with the team. The denial of the privilege to compete shall begin with the next scheduled contest. In order for the athlete to meet the requirement should a violation occur, they will have to complete that sport season in good standing with the team. This requires attendance at all practices, competitions and end of season banquet or awards. Should the athlete fail to complete this requirement, the suspension will be carried over to their next sport season.

Example: 10 games remaining = 2 game suspension



The student-athlete and their parents/guardian must meet for a pre-assessment conference with the Chemical Abuse Prevention Coordinator or a WCSD designated professional. Documentation of the conference must be on file with the Athletic Director.

The student-athlete will be required to be tested during all random drug tests given at WHS or LBMS.

The student/athlete may be subject to further consequences as stated in the Westlake City School Student Code of Conduct. The student/athlete may also be subject to further penalties as deemed necessary for team unity by the Head Coach.

This policy begins the first day of official OHSAA mandated practices in the Fall and ends on the last day of the school year. Violations that occur within this time frame will incur penalties. Any violations are cumulative throughout the career of the student-athlete.

## **2nd Offense of the Policy**

When a second violation occurs during the same season,

- The student-athlete's participation will be revoked for the remainder of the season.
- The student-athlete will not receive any awards in that sport.
- The student-athlete may be subject to further consequences as stated in the Westlake City School Student Code of Conduct.
- The student-athlete shall enroll in a drug/alcohol prevention program at their cost.
- The student-athlete will be tested as part of the random drug testing program for the remainder of their career at Westlake High School regardless of participation in athletics.

## ***Selling/Supplying***

### **1st Offense of the policy:**

- Denied participation for the rest of the season.
- The student athlete will not receive any awards in that sport.
- The student/athlete may be subject to further consequences as stated in the Westlake City School Student Code of Conduct.
- A review by administration will be conducted prior to the student-athlete being permitted to return to a team in the following year or season.
- The student-athlete will be required to participate in testing for the remainder of their career at Westlake High School regardless of their participation in athletics.

## **Random Drug Testing**

- The Board of Education approved a random drug testing program for student-athletes, students who possess parking passes, and any student involved in an extracurricular activity that is not for credit.
- The Board of Education reserves the right to test up to six times per year.
- A positive test will result in the Drug/Alcohol/Tobacco policy to be followed.

## **Self-Report**

A student may self report a violation of the Drug/Alcohol/Tobacco policy. The reporting may not take place on the same day as a random drug test. If this is the student's first report, this will not trigger an immediate suspension. The student will be required to complete an assessment with district employed drug/alcohol counselor and will be tested at all subsequent drug tests for the remainder of their high school career.

## **CONSEQUENCES FOR VIOLATING INDIVIDUAL TEAM RULES**

1. Coach and assistant(s) meet with student to inform the student of what team rule they have broken, and what the consequence will be
2. The student should have the opportunity to discuss this with the coaching staff, and then a final decision should be made by the coaching staff on what the final consequences will be
3. The Head Coach should call the parents and inform them of what happened, and what the consequences are.
4. The discussion on the situation should be submitted via email and verbally to the Athletic Director
5. The student/parents can appeal the decision to the Athletic Director and the Principal of WHS or LBMS. A meeting will be set up with all parties involved.
6. The Athletic Director/Principal will inform the parents via phone and email of the appeal decision. The Head Coach or coach involved will also be informed verbally and in writing.
7. This appeal is final.

## **CARE OF EQUIPMENT**

The Westlake Athletic Department has attempted to provide adequate and safe equipment. Student athletes are responsible for the proper care and safekeeping of the uniform and/or equipment issued to them. All athletic equipment used is school property and may be used only during a particular sports season. It is the responsibility of each student athlete who is issued any type of uniform and/or equipment to return that equipment to their coach and/or the Equipment Manager at the completion of their participation of each sports season. Each student athlete will be held financially responsible for lost equipment. The replacement of lost equipment is necessary. The student athlete will be expected to reimburse the school for lost equipment according to actual replacement prices. Many times, these prices can be high as creating one custom piece can add to the cost. School-purchased athletic equipment shall only be worn during practice or contests unless authorized by the coach for game day wearing. All equipment obligations must be completed before an athlete will receive equipment for the next sport season.

## **ATHLETIC & ACTIVITY PARTICIPATION CONFLICTS**

Westlake students are encouraged to participate in many school activities, and it is not uncommon for students to be involved in more than one extra-curricular activity at a time. While such conflict is not encouraged or recommended, it does happen. It is strongly encouraged that student-athletes, their parents, coaches and advisors of other activities openly communicate with each other to maximize the student's participation in all activities.

When conflicts occur, the student should notify the coach and/or advisor of the conflicting activities as soon as possible so a solution may be derived in everyone's best interests. Whenever possible, the staff discussions should consider the following prioritization of activities:

- State level activity
- Regional level activity
- District level activity
- Conference level activity
- Building level activity (banquets or culminating activities, concerts, etc.)
- Practice/rehearsal
- If it is two sports in the same season, then the sport that was designated as the primary sport should be taken into consideration. Club sports, AAU, etc. are not considered a secondary sport and in those cases priority should be given to the school sport.

# TRAINING RULES AND REGULATIONS

It is a privilege to be an athlete and all athletes must follow general training rules for that sport prescribed by the coaching staff. In order to assure parental awareness and involvement, all coaches must conduct a preseason parent meeting to fully explain the athletic policies. Parents and/or guardians must sign all appropriate paperwork prior to the individual participation in that sport. Individual coaches may supplement Athletic Department training rules by adding their own rules and regulations.

Training rules and team rules apply 24 hours a day, seven days a week from the first day of practice through the last contest of that activity.

Examples of times the student is considered under the school's jurisdiction may include but are not limited to the following:

- School sponsored activities on weekends and holidays
- Pre-season, in-season practice, e.g., August practices
- Clinics and camps attended by students if such clinic/group participation is to facilitate participation in, or is a prerequisite to participation in the sport
- Violations of Westlake code of conduct
- Any unlawful activity outside the schools jurisdiction

The Athletic Director or Administrator in charge of student activities or activity will keep records of all violations.

## DROPPING OR TRANSFERRING SPORTS

On occasion, an athlete may find it necessary to drop out of a sport for necessity. If this is the case, a discussion should take place between the athlete and the coach and all issued equipment should be returned should the athlete drop off the team. Those individuals of any athletic team shall be considered members of the team through the completion of that particular sport season unless they are removed for disciplinary reasons, academic issues or mutual agreement between player and coach. They will not be able to participate in other sports pre-seasons until the previous sport season is completed unless agreed upon by both coaches and the Director of Athletics. All team members who complete the season in good standing are expected to participate in the athletic award ceremonies at the end of the season. Any issues pertaining to this should be brought to the Director of Athletics.

## ABSENCES/ATTENDANCE PRIOR TO CONTEST OR PRACTICE

**School Day** - Attendance is required for 1/2 of the school day which means either from first bell to 11:00 a.m or from 11:00 am. until the end of the school day in order to be eligible to participate in an after school or evening practice or performance. The principal and/or athletic director may approve special circumstances.

**Day Preceding a Weekend** - a student who is absent the entire day prior to a Saturday contest or performance may participate only if verification of the absence as being excused is received. If this becomes habitual, the student may be denied permission to participate. Special cases should be communicated to the Athletic Director and/or Principal who will have final say on the athlete's participation if they have not met this requirement.

## TRAVEL

All athletes are expected to travel to and from athletic contests as a team, when transportation is provided by the Athletic Department. Athletes will remain with their squad and under the supervision of a coach while attending away contests. If a parent/guardian wishes to take their child home after a contest due to a special circumstance, that parent/guardian must:

- Sign the waiver list at the game site.
- Make personal contact with the coach. The student will only be released to their parents or guardian. The responsibility for the safety and accountability of each student athlete is too important for coaches and administrators to permit any deviation from the transportation policy. Violations may

result in disciplinary action. No student is permitted to leave an away site with another student's parent unless cleared by the Athletic Director.

## **CANCELLATION POLICY**

If school is cancelled due to inclement weather, contests and practices may still be played. This will be left up to the decision of the Athletic Director in conjunction with the Principal and Superintendent. Student safety will take precedence during these times.

When games are cancelled, every effort will be made to inform student-athletes, coaches, parents and fans of the change. These efforts include the automated event message on the athletic hotline at 440- 835-6354, Twitter, Facebook, the Westlake Athletics website, and group Alert messages. Each coach is also encouraged to set up a group text or use any online product that can communicate calendar changes.

## **COLLEGE RECRUITMENT POLICY**

In the event a college recruiter should contact an athlete, they have an obligation to work through their coach and the Athletic Department. Inform your coach of such a contact as soon as possible. College recruitment information is in the Guidance Office. It is the student's responsibility to meet and complete the requirements of the NCAA Eligibility Center. Please see a Guidance Counselor for more details. The Athletic Director is available to meet with students and/or parents on the college recruiting process and requirements.

NCAA eligibility requirements are subject to change, it is imperative that student-athletes (especially seniors and/or parents) be informed about the "NCAA Initial Eligibility Center" and its eligibility requirements. An internet-based NCAA video for prospective student-athletes, parents and high school administrators is currently available on the internet. Among the topics covered are eligibility requirements to compete in college, the recruiting process and services available for students with disabilities. For more information, call the NCAA membership services staff at 317-917-6222. Based upon this review it may be necessary to initiate schedule changes in order to satisfactorily meet or exceed the NCAA requirements for course work, GPA and/or standardized test scores. If any questions exist, please contact your high school guidance counselor.

It is important to recognize that college coaches are not only looking at the skill and talent level of a student athlete but also the attitude, effort, leadership and discipline. While our coaches and administrators will help student-athletes, in order to make sure their integrity with the colleges and universities that recruit our student-athletes remains strong, they are not expected to lie to recruiters when asked direct questions about skill and other character qualities.

## **PARENT/GUARDIAN EXPECTATIONS**

The Demon Code we hold our student-athletes to consists of the following characteristics: Effort, Mastery, Discipline, Selflessness, Resilience, Respect, Competition, Fun and Pride. Our coaching staff is dedicated to creating good citizens through athletics. It is the Westlake City School District's belief that the highest potential of athletics is reached when competition reflects these characteristics. The district expects the parents of these student-athletes to be our biggest fans and their biggest supporters. We will hold our parents/guardians to these specific codes of conduct:

- All parents/guardians shall refrain from attempting to coach their student-athlete or other student-athlete during the competitions. They will allow the coaches hired by the district to coach.
- All parents/guardians will treat officials, game workers, game personnel with respect and not question their authority whether at home or away contests.
- All parents/guardians will refrain from questioning or confronting a coach at a game or a practice. Any question concerning playing time will not be entertained until proper procedure is followed.
- All parents/guardians will not encourage practices that would endanger the well-being of their student-athlete and will abide by the medical professionals contracted by the WCSD to determine the safety of a student-athlete.

- All parents/guardians will do their best to embody the selflessness principle that team comes first regardless of their individual playing time.
- All parents/guardians will demand their student-athlete respect spectators, officials, opposing coaches, opposing players, fellow players and others with respect regardless of race, creed, color, sex, or ability.
- All parents/guardians will refrain from posting negative comments about any coach, player, official, administrator from either their own team, another school team or an opposing team on any social media platform. They will understand the impact that negative posts and comments can have on the culture of a team and the divisiveness it can cause.
- All parents/guardians will strive to be a positive role model for their student-athlete by demonstrating the respect and courtesy for coaches, administrators, players from their own team and opposing teams.
- Violation of conduct concerning a parent/guardian of a student-athlete may be cause for dismissal from a particular contest, suspension from attending a set number of games or permanent exclusion from attending any future athletic events.

We want our student-athletes and parents to have the opportunity should a question arise during the course of the season to engage the coaching staff in a productive discussion on many different topics to improve the skill level of the individual athlete as well as the overall competitive nature of the team as a whole. It is important to note that playing time is earned by the student-athlete and determined by direct competition or judgement of the coaching staff. It is recommended that playing time questions be handled with discussion between coach and student-athlete. Playing time questions will not proceed past step 3.

If a student-athlete and parent have a concern, the following Chain of Command chart is to be followed except in cases involving serious offenses (assault, complaint of a sexual nature, physical abuse, etc.) The chain of command creates a fair process for all involved. In order to start the chain of command process, the parent/guardian and/or student athlete is asked to observe a 24-hour period from the last practice or game. This chain of command is similar to what is used district wide for professional and classified staff as referenced in Board Policy 9130.

## **CHAIN OF COMMAND FLOW CHART**

1. S/A sets meeting with Head Coach and/or Position or Asst. Coach
2. S/A and Parent sets meeting with Head Coach and/or Asst. or Position Coach
3. S/A and Parent sets meeting with Head Coach and Director of Athletics
4. S/A and Parent sets meeting with Head Coach and Director of Athletics, WHS Principal and Superintendent or Designee

Each step of the chain of command must be scheduled within 5 days from the previous step. If nothing is scheduled, the matter will be considered resolved. The parent or student-athlete can end the chain of command steps at any time once they feel the issue has been resolved.

## **COACHES AND STUDENT ATHLETES - MEDIA RELATIONS AND USE OF SOCIAL MEDIA**

As a member of the Westlake Athletic Department, you should be aware that in certain circumstances, attention will be paid to you and your team's accomplishments in your sport by the surrounding community. Part of the benefit of having success is the increased media attention that it will always seem to draw. The Westlake community and others are very interested in how the Demon teams are doing. We always want you to portray that "Demon Pride".

You have a responsibility to your school, your coaches and your teammates to cooperate with the media whenever possible. There will be times when the Director of Athletics will want you for media appearances. It is the hope of the department that you will always be a good representation of what it means to wear the "W".

Interacting with the print and electronic media is an opportunity to develop communications skills that can be helpful to you not only as a student athlete but in future educational and professional careers. As a coach or a student athlete, you may be nervous about speaking with the media, however, the more experience you acquire will allow you to become more relaxed, confident and articulate when around media members.

### **Dealing with the Media**

Be aware that the image you create for yourself and your team affects the reputation of the whole school and district. With this in mind you are urged to exercise care when making statements to the media.

The longer you are representative of your team, the more likely it becomes that you will become more comfortable with certain members of the media that cover our teams. While this is fine to do, we want you to remember that regardless of what is said, it is the reporter's obligation to report the news. Don't say it if you don't want to see it in print.

If you are unsure as to how to answer certain questions, please see the Director of Athletics, coaching staff members or the Director of Communications for the school district to ask for guidance.

Here are some tips on interviewing:

- Always acknowledge you are part of a team and that you have great coaches. Everyone needs support from coaches (head or assistant) and teammates. Make sure to give them credit.
- Be human. By being honest with everyone, media members and fans will see and learn of the "you" away from the game. Tell stories to demonstrate this human side.
- Be sure to understand the questions asked. If you don't understand ask for clarification.
- Never talk off the record. If you can't say it during an interview, it most likely shouldn't be part of a conversation with a media member.
- Try to answer the question. Don't use the words, "no comment". Rather "I am not familiar with that to give a fair answer." Or, "I'd rather not discuss that subject." You can always refer those types of questions to your coach or the Director of Athletics.
- Organize your thoughts. If you have a scheduled interview, it is always a good idea to jot down some notes and points that you would want to make. If at any time an interview makes you uncomfortable, you have the right to end it in a polite but firm way. Please make sure to inform the Director of Athletics why this happened.
- Be on time. Always respect other's time.
- Never criticize other players or other coaches. If you have concerns about them, discuss with them or the Director of Athletics.
- Never blame officials. There will always be good and bad calls. Almost always, these are not the primary reasons a team loses or wins.
- Be confident and courteous but don't be arrogant or cocky.
- You are always "on". Remember when you are talking to the media, you are always "on". What you say can and will be used.

### **Using Social Media-Tips**

As a Westlake Demon student athlete or coach, you must always keep the "Demon Pride" in mind. We encourage you to be mindful of your team, your coaches, your family and Westlake High School and the Westlake City School District as you take part in social networking sites. While the Westlake City School District does not censor these sites, we do and will monitor should something be reported to the administration that would not follow our student code of conduct or ethical guidelines, the following suggestions are highly recommended.

- It is not recommended you post personal information such as cell phone numbers, date of birth, social security numbers, address, class schedules, etc.
- Consider that once any written text or photo is posted online, it becomes available to anyone with internet access.

- Consider that many colleges, employers, internship services and scholarship committees now monitor and search these sites doing research on possible applicants.
- Only “friend” individuals that you would consider a friend.
- Don’t post anything privately that you wouldn’t want to be public
- Monitor default privacy settings.
- Never post negative information about your coaches, teammates, school or opponents.

The Athletic Department can decide on appropriate punishment based on the Student Code of Conduct if poor use of social media platforms occur.

## **STUDENT SPORTS FAN CONDUCT**

At all school athletic contests, Westlake students are a reflection of the school and community. As such, students are expected to conduct themselves with the ethics of good sportsmanship as a top priority. Students are expected to cheer for Westlake athletes, not against the opposing team or referees.

Students who wish to attend a home event and are not directly participating in the event as players or designated, supervised helpers are to arrive back on campus no earlier than 15 minutes before the first athletic event of the day (e.g., arrive at 4:15pm for a 4:30pm event). Otherwise, students will be loitering and subject to disciplinary action, according to the Code of Conduct.

At all home contests, students are required to sit in the bleachers designated as the home side. At all away contests, students are required to sit in the bleachers that are designated for the visiting school.

Only the official designated Westlake cheerleading squads will be permitted on the floor, field, or track area to conduct cheers. All others must remain in stands.

# **ATTENDANCE**

## **ATTENDANCE PROCEDURE**

The educational program offered by this District is predicated upon the presence of the student and requires continuity of instruction and classroom participation. Attendance shall be required of all students enrolled in the schools during the days and hours that the school is in session. A student in grades 9 through 12 may be considered a full-time equivalent student provided the student is enrolled in at least five (5) units of instruction, as defined by State law, per school year.

In accordance with statute, the Superintendent shall require from the parent of each student of compulsory school age or from an adult student who has been absent from school or from class for any reason, a statement of the cause for such absence. The Board of Education reserves the right to verify such statements and to investigate the cause of each single absence or prolonged absence.

Students are expected to attend school regularly. Attendance in school is often reflected in a student’s grades and achievement. Many studies show that chronically absent students are less likely to be readers in the early grades and less likely to graduate.

## **REPORTING PROCEDURES FOR ABSENCE**

It is the responsibility of the home to have students in regular attendance. In accordance with the Missing Child Law (ORC3313.205), the following procedure will be effective. The parent/guardian of the student must call the attendance office by 8:00 a.m. on each day of the absence. The attendance number is (440) 835-6779 and may be called 24 hours per day. If no call is received by 8:00 a.m., the student will be listed as unexcused and an attempt will be made to contact the parent. If parental verification cannot be established, the student will be considered truant and may be disciplined accordingly. Students will not receive credit for assignments/work

missed due to unexcused absence. Calls clearing a student's absence or tardiness from school must be received within 48 hours of the absence. If this is not done, the absence/tardiness will remain unexcused. A student is considered truant until the parent contact has been made; ORC 3313.1205 requires a parent/guardian to provide the school with the current address (not P.O. Box), telephone number, parent employment number and an emergency number.

## **REPORTING PROCEDURES FOR MEDICAL APPOINTMENTS:**

A parent must call the attendance office prior to, or the morning of, an appointment. When the student returns to school, the student must report to the attendance office and notify the attendance secretary. Verification is required from the doctor's office. Failure to follow the procedure will result in an unexcused absence.

## **SCHOOL DAY**

Classes are in session from 7:50 am until 2:55 pm. Students are required to be in school on time. Students may not leave the school between classes or before the end of the day without permission from the high school office.

## **CALLING AN ILL CHILD'S ABSENCE INTO SCHOOL**

Please assist our health services in tracking communicable disease by reporting your child's confirmed diagnosis, e.g., strep throat, chicken pox, pink eye, flu, etc., when you call your child's absence into the attendance line. If your child has not been seen by a physician, but is still suffering from symptoms, report any/all of the following symptoms to the absence line: Fever, Headache, Cough, Sore throat, Body aches, Diarrhea and/or vomiting.

## **DOCTOR'S NOTES**

Doctor's notes and/or medical authorization for absences must be turned in to the high school office promptly in order for students to receive make-up work and to accurately reflect the attendance record.

## **EXCUSED ABSENCE**

The school administration is the determining agent for excused absences. Parents may request that a student be excused for the following: personal illness, family illness, death in the family, appointment with a health care provider, observation or celebration of a bona fide religious holiday, college visitation, absences due to a student's placement in foster care or change in foster care placement or any court proceedings related to their foster care status, absences due to a student being homeless, or court. Other requests for extenuating circumstances may also be considered by the building administrator.

## **EXCESSIVE ABSENCES**

When a student is absent from school with combined nonmedical excused absences and unexcused absences in excess of thirty-eight (38) or more hours in one (1) school month, or sixty-five (65) or more hours in a school year, that student is considered excessively absent from school. The school will notify the child's parent or guardian of the child's absences, in writing. At the same time written notice is given, any appropriate intervention action listed herein may be taken.

No further absences will be excused unless a doctor's excuse, court document, or funeral verification is submitted to justify the need for absence.

A medically excused absence occurs any time a student is out of school due to illness or medical visit (physician, dentist, mental health, etc.). A medical excuse for personal illness will be accepted in the form of doctor's note within five (5) school days of the absence or parent call-in on the day of the absence due to illness or doctor's visit.



## **HABITUALLY TRUANT**

A student is considered habitually truant if the student is absent without a legitimate excuse for 30 or more consecutive hours, 42 hours in a month or 72 or more hours in a school year. Within ten (10) days of a student becoming habitually truant, the building administration shall assign the student to an absence intervention team.

Within fourteen (14) school days after the assignment of a student to an absence intervention team, the team shall develop an intervention plan for that student in an effort to reduce or eliminate further absences. Each intervention plan shall vary based on the individual needs of the student, but the plan shall state that the attendance officer shall file a complaint not later than sixty-one (61) days after the date the plan was implemented, if the child has refused to participate in, or failed to make satisfactory progress on, the intervention plan. Within seven (7) school days after the development of the plan, reasonable efforts shall be made to provide the student's parent/guardian/custodian, with written notice of the plan.

As part of the absence intervention plan, the building administration may contact the appropriate juvenile court and ask to have a student informally enrolled in any alternative to adjudication described in R.C. 2151.27(G).

Each absence intervention team may vary based on the needs of each individual student but shall include a representative from the child's building, another representative from the child's building who knows the child, and the child's parent or parent's designee, or the child's guardian, custodian, guardian ad litem, or temporary custodian. The team also may include a school psychologist or counselor, to assist students and their families in reducing absences.

The members of the absence intervention team shall be selected within seven (7) school days of the student meeting the habitually truant threshold. Within the same period of seven (7) school days, the building administration shall make at least three (3) meaningful, good faith attempts to secure the participation of the student's parent/guardian/custodian, guardian ad litem, or temporary custodian on that team. A good faith attempt to secure the participation of the parent shall include, but not be limited to, contacting (or attempting to contact) the parent by telephone, email, or regular mail. If the student's parent responds to any of those attempts, but is unable to participate for any reason, the building administration shall inform the parent of the parent's right to appear by designee. If seven (7) school days elapse and the student's parent/guardian/custodian, guardian ad litem, or temporary custodian fails to respond to the attempts to secure participation, the attendance officer shall investigate whether the failure to respond triggers mandatory abuse or neglect reporting to the public children services agency. At the same time, the absence intervention team shall continue to develop an intervention plan for the child notwithstanding the absence of the child's parent/guardian/custodian, guardian ad litem, or temporary custodian.

## **INTERVENTION STRATEGIES**

In order to address the attendance practices of a student who is habitually truant, the intervention team may, as part of an intervention plan, take any of the following intervention actions:

- provide counseling to the student
- request or require the student's parent to attend a parental involvement program
- request or require a parent to attend a truancy prevention mediation program
- notify the Registrar of Motor Vehicles of the student's absences
- take appropriate legal action
- assignment to an alternative school

In the event that a student becomes habitually truant within twenty-one (21) school days prior to the last day of instruction of a school year, the Superintendent may, in their discretion, assign the Principal or Assistant Principal to work with the child's parent/guardian/custodian, guardian ad litem, or temporary custodian to develop an absence intervention plan during the summer.

The absence intervention process shall commence upon the first day of instruction of the next school year.

## **REPORTING REQUIREMENTS**

The attendance officer shall file a complaint in the juvenile court against a student on the sixty-first (61<sup>st</sup>) day after the implementation of an absence intervention plan or other intervention strategies, provided that all of the following apply:

- The student is habitually truant.
- The school district or school has made meaningful attempts to re-engage the student through the absence intervention plan, other intervention strategies, and any offered alternatives to adjudication, if applicable.
- The student has refused to participate in or failed to make satisfactory progress on the plan, as determined by the absence intervention team, or any offered intervention strategies or alternative to adjudication.

If the student, at any time during the implementation phase of the absence intervention plan or other intervention strategies, is absent without legitimate excuse for thirty (30) or more consecutive hours or forty-two (42) or more hours in one school month, the attendance officer shall file a complaint in juvenile court against that student, unless the absence intervention team has determined that the student has made substantial progress on the absence intervention plan.

In the event that the sixty-first (61<sup>st</sup>) day after the implementation of the absence intervention plan or other intervention strategies falls on a day during the summer months, the absence intervention team may extend the implementation of the plan and delay the filing of the complaint for an additional thirty (30) days from the first day of instruction of the next school year.

## **CLASS CUTTING**

Class cutting is defined as an unauthorized absence from class. Cutting class will be classified as an unexcused absence; therefore, students may not receive credit for work or tests missed during the period(s) skipped and are subject to further disciplinary action.

## **COLLEGE VISITATION**

Juniors/Seniors only, limit three. An official letter from the college/university must be submitted to the Attendance Office upon return to school.

## **FAMILY VACATION**

We understand that planned absences are extremely important for the family, however the absences will be listed as unexcused; additionally, we would appreciate that during final exams, consideration be given to your child to make sure they successfully complete all course work, including final exams.

Students who are going on a family vacation should pick up the "Planned Absence Form" in the counseling office at least five (5) school days' ahead of the notice of the absence. The form must be signed by the parent/guardian and each teacher, with assignments given. The form must be returned to the main office before leaving on vacation.

Students will assume responsibility of meeting with each teacher to make up all missed class work. All homework assignments issued during a planned absence shall be turned in the first day the student returns from their absence. All tests or quizzes missed during a planned absence shall be made up during the first week after a child returns from a planned absence. The final decision for this schedule shall be determined by the building administration.

Students travelling out of the country for greater than ten school days will be withdrawn from school during the period of absence and re-enrolled upon return.

## HOME INSTRUCTION

Home Instruction may be provided for students who are unable because of physical disabilities to attend regular classes. Application for home instruction should be made through the school principal. All home instruction must be approved by the building principal and Director of Student Services.

## MAKE-UP WORK

Except in cases of planned absence, a student has one day for each day of excused absence to make up any incomplete work. Parents can call to request assignment materials from teachers if your child is absent from school for two or more days. Please contact the main office by 9:30 a.m. to request make-up work. Arrangements will be made to pick up available assignments/materials after 2:30 p.m. If your child is absent for a partial or single day, make-up work will be available upon return. Teachers reserve the right to set firm deadlines for long term assignments/projects.

## PARTICIPATION IN EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

Students absent from school all day will not be permitted to participate in extracurricular activities for that day. Students entering school after 11:00 a.m. or leaving school before the school day ends will not be permitted to participate in extracurricular activities unless permission is granted by the principal. Students who leave school or are absent all day also may not attend activities as a spectator. Students absent from school the day prior to a weekend will need their excuse validated by the high school administration prior to weekend participation.

## TARDY POLICY

A student who arrives at school after 7:50am and before 8:35am is considered tardy. If the student is arriving late because they attended an appointment with a health care provider, it would be considered a partial day absence.

- 1st - 5th Tardy: Warning
- 6th Tardy: After School Detention
- 7th - 9th Tardy: Warning
- 10th Tardy: (Referral to Office) - Friday school
- 11th - 13th Tardy: Warning
- 14th Tardy:(Referral to Office) - In School Assignment
- 15th - 17th Tardy: Warning
- 18th Tardy - After School Detention
- 19th - 21st Tardy - Warning
- 22nd Tardy - (Referral to Office) - Friday school
- 23rd - 25th Tardy - Warning
- 26th Tardy - (Referral to Office) - In School Assignment

## WITHDRAWAL OF STUDENTS

The Westlake City School System strives to be accurate and thorough in tracking student residency, attendance and enrollment status. As such, students will be withdrawn from the school system upon meeting any of the following circumstances:

- Receipt of signed, written notification from the student's parent/guardian requesting a records transfer to a designated school for the purpose of enrolling in that school
- Receipt of a written request for records from another school district indicating the student is seeking enrollment or has enrolled in another school district
- Receipt of "Planned Absence" form indicating international travel exceeding 10 school days.
- Inability to substantiate continued residency within Westlake, despite District attempts to verify

residency, excluding exceptions outlined in ORC3313.64 as permitted by current BOE policy.

## **WITHDRAWAL/TRANSFER OUT OF DISTRICT**

If a student is moving out of the district, a withdrawal form must be obtained from the Counseling Office. All books must be returned, the locker emptied, and all bills paid before credits are transferred. Student's records will be transferred to the new school at the parent / guardian's written request providing there are no outstanding debts.

## **COMPUTER TECHNOLOGY AND NETWORKS**

The district provides Internet services to its students. The district's Internet system has a limited educational purpose and has not been established as a public access service or a public forum. Student use of the district's computers, network and Internet services/connection ("Network") are governed by the following principles and guidelines and the Student Code of Conduct. Users have a limited privacy expectation in the content of their personal files and records of their online activity while on the Network.

Parents and students are advised that the Board may not be able to technologically limit access through the Board's Internet connection to only those services that have been authorized for the purpose of instruction, study and research related to the curriculum. Because it serves as a gateway to any publicly available file server in the world, the Internet opens classrooms and students to electronic information resources that have not been screened by educators for use by students of various ages. The district utilizes a Technology Protection Measure, which is a specific technology that will protect against (e.g., filter or block) access to visual displays/depictions that are obscene, pornographic and materials that are harmful to minors, as defined by the Children's Internet Protection Act. At the discretion of the Board or the Superintendent, the Technology Protection Measure may be configured to protect against access to other material considered inappropriate for students to access.

The district further utilizes software and/or hardware to monitor online activity of students to restrict access to child pornography and other material that is obscene, objectionable, inappropriate and/or harmful to minors. Nevertheless, parents/guardians are advised that a determined user may be able to gain access to services on the Internet that are not authorized for educational purposes. In fact, it is impossible to guarantee students will not gain access through the Internet to information and communications that they and/or their parents/guardians may find inappropriate, offensive, objectionable or controversial. Parents/Guardians assume risks by consenting to allow their child to participate in the use of the Internet. Parents/Guardians of minors are responsible for setting and conveying the standards that their children should follow when using the Internet. The district supports and respects each family's right to decide whether to apply for independent student access to the Internet.

Students are encouraged to use the "Network" for educational purposes. Use of the Network is a privilege, not a right. When using the Network, students must conduct themselves in a responsible, efficient, ethical and legal manner. Students are responsible for good behavior on the district's computers/network and the Internet just as they are in classrooms, school hallways and other school premises and school sponsored events.

Communications on the Internet are often public in nature. General school rules for behavior and communication apply. Unauthorized or inappropriate use of the Network, including any violation of these rules, may result in cancellation of the privilege, disciplinary action consistent with the Student Code of Conduct, and/or civil or criminal liability. Prior to accessing the Network, students must sign the Student Network and Internet Acceptable Use and Safety Agreement. Parent permission is required for minors. Parents are encouraged to discuss their values with their children so that students can make decisions regarding their use of the Network that is in accord with their personal and family values, in addition to the Board's standards.

Students must complete a mandatory training session/program regarding the appropriate use of technology and online safety and security as specified in Policy 7540.03 – Student Network and Internet Acceptable Use and

Safety before being permitted to access the Network and/or being assigned an e-mail address. Smooth operation of the Network relies upon users adhering to the following guidelines. The guidelines outlined below are not exhaustive but are provided so that users are aware of their general responsibilities. Students are responsible for their behavior and communication on the Network. For more information see Board Policies.

## **DISCIPLINE**

### **STUDENT DISCIPLINE**

The Westlake City School District Board of Education recognizes that effective discipline is essential if all students are to attain a quality education. Further, the Board shall require each student of the District to adhere to the rules and regulations promulgated by the administration and to submit to such disciplinary measures as are appropriately assigned for infraction of those rules. The rules that are developed in this fashion may be different according to grade level building structure but should be consistent among schools with the same grade level structure.

### **CODE OF CONDUCT**

A major component of the educational program for Westlake High School is to prepare students to become responsible citizens by learning how to conduct themselves properly and in accordance with established standards. Students are expected to behave in accordance with Federal, State and local laws and rules and Board policies and Administrative Guidelines and in a way that respects the rights and safety of others. Staff will take corrective action to discipline a student and/or to modify the student's behavior when a student's behavior does not fall within these parameters. School staff may report suspected criminal misconduct by a student to law enforcement. Law enforcement officers will be permitted to carry out necessary law enforcement functions in the schools, including the removal of a student from school grounds in appropriate circumstances.

### **EXPECTED BEHAVIORS**

Students are expected to:

- act courteously to adults and fellow students;
- be prompt to school and attentive in class;
- work cooperatively with others when involved in accomplishing a common goal regardless of the other's ability, gender, race or ethnic background;
- complete assigned tasks on time and as directed;
- help maintain a school environment that is safe, friendly and productive;
- act at all times in a manner that reflects pride in self, family and the School.

### **CLASSROOM ENVIRONMENT**

It is the responsibility of students, teachers and administrators to maintain a classroom environment that allows:

- a teacher to communicate effectively with all student in the class;
- all students in the class the opportunity to learn.

## DRESS AND GROOMING

Students are expected to dress appropriately at all times. Any fashion (dress, accessory or hairstyle) that disrupts the educational process or presents a safety risk will not be permitted.

## GANGS

Gangs that initiate, advocate or promote activities that threaten the safety or well-being of persons or that are disruptive to the school environment will not be tolerated.

Incidents involving initiations, hazing, intimidations or related activities that are likely to cause harm or personal degradation are prohibited.

Students wearing, carrying or displaying gang paraphernalia or exhibiting behaviors or gestures that symbolize gang membership or causing and/or participating in activities that are designed to intimidate another student will be disciplined. Prohibited gang paraphernalia will be specifically identified and posted by the principal.

## CARE OF PROPERTY

Students are responsible for the care of their own personal property. The School is not responsible for personal property. Valuables such as jewelry or irreplaceable items should not be brought to school.

Damage to or loss of school equipment and facilities wastes taxpayers' money and undermines the school program. Therefore, if a student damages or loses school property, the student and/or their parents will be required to pay for the replacement or repair. If the damage or loss was intentional, the student will be subject to discipline according to the Student Discipline Code.

## ZERO TOLERANCE

No form of violent, disruptive or inappropriate behavior, including excessive truancy, will be tolerated.

## STUDENT DISCIPLINE CODE

Each of the behaviors and/or types of misconduct described below are prohibited and may subject the student to disciplinary action including, but not limited to, student conference, parent/guardian notification, parent/guardian conference, community service, detention, structured schedules, in-school discipline, suspension and/or expulsion from school. The building administrator(s) reserves the right to determine final disciplinary action unless it is specified that the action is to be immediately escalated to the Superintendent, law enforcement, or another official. Furthermore, any criminal acts committed at or related to the School will be reported to law enforcement officials as well as disciplined at school. Certain criminal acts may result in permanent exclusion from school.

## SECTION 1 (TIER 1 OFFENSE)

Rules in this section will generally result in the following disciplinary actions and may be cumulative for any offense in this section. Principals may modify this sequence based on circumstances.

Offense	Consequence
1 <sup>st</sup>	Up to 3-day Out-of-School Suspension and/or Friday School
2 <sup>nd</sup>	Up to 5-day Out-of-School Suspension and/or Friday School
3 <sup>rd</sup>	Up to 10-day Out-of-School Suspension and recommendation for expulsion
4 <sup>th</sup>	Up to 10-day Out-of-School Suspension and recommendation for expulsion

## **RULE 1: MISCONDUCT**

Interference, disruption or obstruction of the educational process. Any actions or manner of dress that materially and substantially disrupts or interferes with school activities or the educational process, or which threaten to do so are unacceptable. Such disruptions include, but are not limited to, delay or prevention of lessons, assemblies, field trips, athletic and performing arts events. This rule includes, but is not limited to, inappropriate language, gestures, publications, pictures or signs and/or socially improper behavior.

## **RULE 2: INSUBORDINATION**

Students are expected to comply with the reasonable directions of staff. Willful refusal or failure to follow or comply with an appropriate direction given by a staff member or acting in defiance of staff members.

## **RULE 3: PERSISTENT ABSENCE OR TARDINESS**

Attendance requirements are pursuant to rules established by HB410. A student shall not be absent from an assigned location for all or part of any school day without school authorization or parental consent and shall be considered truant when they are absent from school for any portion of the school day. This rule includes "class cutting" and/or being out of one's assigned area.

## **RULE 4: REFUSING TO ACCEPT DISCIPLINE**

Students failing to comply with disciplinary penalties may face enhanced penalties for such action.

## **RULE 5: VIOLATION OF INDIVIDUAL SCHOOL/CLASSROOM RULES**

Each learning environment has different rules for students. These rules are for the safe and orderly operation of that environment. Students will be oriented to specific rules within each learning environment, all of which will be consistent with this Code.

## **RULE 6: FALSIFICATION OF SCHOOL WORK, IDENTIFICATION, FORGERY AND ACADEMIC DISHONESTY**

Falsifying signatures or data or refusing to give proper identification or giving false information to a staff member. This prohibition includes, but is not limited to, forgery of hall/bus/parking passes and excuses, as well as use of false ID's. Plagiarism and cheating are also forms of falsification and will subject the student to academic penalties as well as disciplinary action. No student shall fraudulently, dishonestly or deceptively obtain and use the work of another or otherwise violate a teacher's reasonable requirements with respect to proper test taking or the completion of work assignments. Neither shall any student assist another student in the pursuit of academic dishonesty by providing information or by any other means. For purposes of this Policy, work is broadly construed and includes without limitation, ideas, writings, works in progress, completed work product, examination questions and examination answers.

## **RULE 7: AIDING OR ABETTING VIOLATION OF SCHOOL RULES**

Assisting other students in the violation of any school rule. Students are expected to resist peer pressure and exercise sound decision making regarding their behavior.

## **RULE 8: KNOWLEDGE OF DANGEROUS WEAPONS OR THREATS OF VIOLENCE**

Because the Board believes that students, staff members and visitors are entitled to function in a safe school environment, students are required to report knowledge of dangerous weapons or threats of violence to the Principal. Failure to report such knowledge may subject the student to discipline.

## **RULE 9: IMPROPER DRESS**

Clothing may not include words or visuals that are lewd, obscene, disruptive, abusive or discriminatory or that advertise drugs, alcohol or tobacco. Dress or grooming that is disruptive of the classroom or school atmosphere is not allowed. Shoes must be worn at all times for health and safety reasons. Please see appearance code in handbook. The school administration will make the final decision regarding dress code violations.

## **RULE 10: DISPLAYS OF AFFECTION/SEXUAL ACTIVITIES**

Affection between students is personal and not meant for public display. This includes touching, petting or any other contact that may be considered sexual in nature. Sexual activity of any nature is prohibited and will result in disciplinary action.

## **RULE 11: POSSESSION OF PORNOGRAPHY**

Possessing sexually explicit material.

## **RULE 12: INCENDIARY DEVICES**

Unauthorized possession or igniting of matches, lighters and other devices that produce flames.

## **RULE 13: POSSESSION OF ELECTRONIC EQUIPMENT**

While in some instances that possession and use of electronic equipment or devices by a student at school may be appropriate, often the possession and use of such equipment or devices by students at school can have the effect of distracting, disrupting and/or intimidating others in the school environment and leading to opportunities for academic dishonesty and other disruptions of the educational process. Consequently, the Board of Education will supply any electronic equipment or devices necessary for participation in the educational program. Students shall not use any electronic equipment or devices on school property or at any school-sponsored activity without the permission of the Principal or the classroom teacher.

Students may use the following electronic equipment/devices on school property for an educational or instructional purpose (e.g. taking notes, recording a class lecture, writing papers) with the Principal or teacher's permission and supervision: laptops, tablets (e.g., iPad-like devices), smartphones, e-readers (e.g., Kindle-like devices), personal digital assistants (PDAs), portable CD/MP3 players.

Students may use the following electronic equipment/devices while riding to and from school on a school bus or other vehicle provided by the Board or on a school bus or Board-provided vehicle during school-sponsored activities, at the discretion of the bus driver, classroom teacher, sponsor/advisor/coach, or building principal: laptops, tablets (e.g., iPad-like devices), e-readers (e.g., Kindle-like devices), personal digital assistants (PDAs), portable CD/MP3 players with headphones, smartphone/cell phone.

Distracting behavior that creates an unsafe environment will not be tolerated.

The preceding prohibitions do not apply to Board-owned and issued laptops, tablets, e-readers, PDAs, or authorized assistive technology devices.

Students are prohibited from using electronic equipment or devices in a manner that may be physically harmful to another person (e.g. shining a laser in the eyes of another student). Further, at no time may any camera or other electronic equipment/device be utilized by a student in a way that might reasonably create in the mind of another person an impression of being threatened, humiliated, harassed, embarrassed, or intimidated. See Policy 5517.01 – Bullying and Other Forms of Aggressive Behavior. In particular, students are prohibited from using a camera or other electronic equipment/device to: (1) transmit material that is threatening, obscene, disruptive, or sexually explicit or that can be construed as harassment or disparagement of others based upon their race, national origin, sex, (including sexual orientation/transgender identity), age, disability, religion, or political beliefs; and (2) send, share, view or possess pictures, text messages, e-mails or other materials of a sexual nature (i.e., sexting) in electronic or any other form. Violation of these prohibitions shall result in disciplinary action. Furthermore, such actions will be reported to local law enforcement and child services as required by law.



Students are prohibited from using cameras and other electronic equipment/devices to capture, record or transmit test information or any other information in a manner constituting fraud, theft, or academic dishonesty. Similarly, students are prohibited from using cameras and other electronic equipment and devices to capture, record or transmit the words (i.e. audio) and/or images (i.e. pictures/video) of any student, staff member or other person in the school or while attending a school-related activity, without express prior notice and explicit consent for the capture and/or recording of such words or images. Using a camera or other electronic equipment/devices to capture, record or transmit audio and/or pictures/video of an individual without his/her consent is considered an invasion of privacy and is not permitted, unless authorized by the building principal. Cameras and electronic equipment/devices are expressly banned from and may not be possessed, activated, or utilized at any time in any school situation where a reasonable expectation of personal privacy exists. These locations and circumstances include but are not limited to locker rooms, shower facilities, restrooms, classrooms, and any other areas where students or others may change clothes or be in any stage or degree of disrobing or changing clothes. The building principal has authority to make determinations as to other specific locations and situations where possession of a camera or other electronic equipment/device is absolutely prohibited.

Unauthorized electronic equipment and devices will be confiscated from the student by school personnel and disciplinary action taken.

If a camera or other electronic equipment/device is confiscated, it will be released/returned to the student or the student's parent/guardian after the student complies with any other disciplinary consequences that are imposed.

Any electronic equipment/device confiscated by District staff will be marked in a removable manner with the student's name and held in a secure location in the building's central office until it is retrieved by the parent/guardian. Electronic equipment/devices in District custody will not be searched or otherwise tampered with unless school officials reasonably suspect that the search is required to discover evidence of a violation of the law or other school rules (e.g. a student is observed using a camera in a prohibited area). Any search will be conducted in accordance with Policy 5771 – Search and Seizure.

Students are personally and solely responsible for the care and security of any electronic equipment or devices they bring to school. The Board assumes no responsibility for theft, loss, damage, or vandalism to electronic equipment and devices brought onto its property, or the unauthorized use of such devices.

The District will allow students to bring their own non-disruptive technology devices to use for educational purposes at specified times during the school day. The use of approved non-disruptive devices to enhance learning in the classroom will be pursued when deemed appropriate at each individual teacher's discretion. Students should be aware that these devices are to be used for educational purposes. Each teacher will have the discretion to limit or forbid the use of students' non-disruptive personal electronic devices in their classroom. A student's use of their non-disruptive personal electronic device on school property is a privilege, not a right. Students may be denied access at any time.

A. The Westlake City Schools Digital Driver's License Agreement (BYOD electronic device policy) is provided as part of the annual back-to-school information update. Students are granted the limited right to use their personally owned technology resources at Westlake City School District upon the return of this signed Digital Driver's License Agreement.

B. Consequences for Inappropriate Use of ECD

Any user who does not comply with these guidelines will be subject to the Student Handbook and related disciplinary measures and may lose the privilege of bringing their device to school for a period of time, that period of time to be set at the discretion of the Principal or designee. Students who have repeated or severe infractions of the policy will be subject to disciplinary action by the Principal. Violations of federal and state regulations, such as sending threatening email and accessing or distributing obscene material, will be reported to and dealt with by the local Police Department and any other governing law enforcement agency.

▪ "Sexting" is prohibited at any time on school property or at school functions. Sexting is the electronic transmission of sexual messages or pictures, usually through cell phone text messaging. Such conduct not only is potentially dangerous for the involved students, but can lead to unwanted exposure of the messages and images to others, and could result in criminal violations related to the transmission or possession of child pornography. Such conduct will be subject to discipline and possible confiscation of the personal communication device.

## **RULE 14: UNAUTHORIZED SALE OR DISTRIBUTION**

Distribution or selling unauthorized materials on school property, or attempting to distribute or sell such items, is not permitted.

## **RULE 15: GAMBLING**

Gambling (i.e., playing a game of chance for stakes) includes casual betting, betting pools, organized sports betting, and any other form of wagering. Students who bet on any school activity in which they are involved may also be banned from that school activity.

## **RULE 16: HARASSMENT AND/OR AGGRESSIVE BEHAVIOR (INCLUDING BULLYING/CYBERBULLYING)**

The Board encourages the promotion of positive interpersonal relations between members of the school community. Harassment and/or aggressive behavior (including bullying/cyberbullying) toward a student, whether by other students, staff or third parties is strictly prohibited and will not be tolerated. This prohibition includes physical, verbal and psychological abuse and any speech or action that creates a hostile, intimidating or offensive learning environment. The Board will not tolerate any gestures, comments, threats or actions which cause or threaten to cause bodily harm or personal degradation. Individuals engaging in such conduct will be subject to disciplinary action. Conduct constituting sexual harassment, may include, but is not limited to:

- verbal harassment or abuse;
- pressure for sexual activity;
- repeated remarks with sexual or demeaning implications;
- unwelcome touching;
- sexual jokes, posters, cartoons, graphic pictures, drawn or on an electronic device, etc.;
- suggesting or demanding sexual involvement, accompanied by implied or explicit threats concerning one's grades or safety;
- a pattern of conduct, which can be subtle in nature that has sexual overtones and is intended to create or has the effect of creating discomfort and/or humiliation to another;
- remarks speculating about a person's sexual activities or sexual history or remarks about one's own sexual activities or sexual history.

Note: An inappropriate boundary invasion by a District employee or other adult member of the School District community into a student's personal space and personal life is sexual harassment. Further, any administrator, teacher, coach or other school authority who engages in sexual or other inappropriate physical contact with a student may be guilty of criminal "child abuse" as defined in State law. Conduct constituting harassment on the basis of race, color, national origin, religion, or disability may take different forms, including, but not limited to, the following:

- Verbal:
  - The making of offensive written or oral innuendoes, comments, jokes, insults, threats or disparaging remarks concerning a person's race, color, national origin, religious beliefs or disability.
- Nonverbal:
  - Placing offensive objects, pictures or graphic commentaries in the school environment or making insulting or threatening gestures based upon a person's race, color, national origin, religious beliefs or disability.
- Physical:
  - Any intimidating or disparaging action such as hitting, pushing, shoving, hissing or spitting on or by a fellow staff member, students or other person associated with the District, or third parties, based upon the person's race, color, national origin, religious beliefs or disability.

Any student who believes that they are victim of any of the above actions or has observed such actions by another student, staff member, or other person associated with the District or by third parties should contact the District's Anti-Harassment Complaint Coordinator: WUSD Director of Human Resources at 440-871-7300.

The Complaint Coordinators are available during regular school hours to discuss a student's concerns related to harassment and/or bullying/cyberbullying, to assist a student who seeks support or advice when informing another individual about "unwelcome" conduct, or to intercede informally on behalf of the student.

The student may report their concerns to the Anti-Harassment Complaint Coordinators either by a written report, telephone, or personal visit. In reporting their concerns, the student should provide the name of the person(s) who they believe to be responsible for the harassment and or bullying/cyberbullying and the nature of the harassing and/or bullying/cyberbullying incident(s). The Anti-Harassment Complaint Coordinators will promptly compile a written summary of each such report that will be forwarded to the Principal.

Each report will be investigated in a timely manner and as confidentially as possible. The District will respect the privacy of the complainant, the individual(s) against whom the complaint is filed and the witnesses as much as possible consistent with the Board's legal obligations to investigate, to take appropriate action and to conform to any discovery or disclosure obligations. While a charge is under investigation, no information will be released to anyone who is not involved with the investigation, except as may be required by law or in the context of a legal or administrative proceeding. All records generated under the terms of this policy and its related administrative guidelines shall be maintained as confidential to the extent permitted by law. All individuals involved in an investigation as either a witness, victim or alleged harasser and/or bully/cyberbully will be instructed not to discuss the subject outside of the investigation. If an investigation reveals that a harassment and/or bullying/cyberbullying complaint is valid, appropriate remedial and or disciplinary action will be taken promptly to prevent the continuance of the harassment and/or bullying/cyberbullying or its recurrence.

Given the nature of harassing and/or bullying/cyberbullying behavior, the school recognizes that false accusations can have serious effects on innocent individuals. Therefore, all students are expected to act responsibly, honestly and with the utmost candor whenever they present harassment and/or bullying/cyberbullying allegations or charges.

Some forms of sexual harassment of a student may reasonably be considered child abuse that must be reported to the proper authorities.

These guidelines shall not be interpreted to infringe upon the First Amendment rights of students (i.e., to prohibit a reasoned and civil exchange of opinions or debate that is conducted at appropriate times and places during the school day and is protected by State or Federal law).

Retaliation against any person who reports, is thought to have reported, files a complaint, or otherwise participates in an investigation or inquiry concerning allegations of harassment and/or aggressive behavior is prohibited and will not be tolerated. Such retaliation shall be considered a serious violation and independent of whether a complaint is substantiated. Suspected retaliation should be reported in the same manner as harassment and aggressive behavior. Making intentionally false reports about harassment or aggressive behavior for the purpose of getting someone in trouble is similarly prohibited and will not be tolerated. Retaliation and intentionally false reports may result in disciplinary action as indicated above. Anyone having further questions concerning prohibited behaviors and/or the complaint process should request a copy of Board policies and administrative guidelines.

## **RULE 17: HAZING**

Performing any act, or coercing another, including the victim, to perform any act of initiation into any class, team or organization that causes or creates a substantial risk of causing mental or physical harm. Permission, consent or assumption of risk by an individual subjected to hazing shall not lessen the prohibitions contained in this rule.

Hazing by any individual, school group, club or team is not permitted. This includes any form of initiation that causes or creates a risk of causing mental or physical harm no matter how willing the participant may be. Hazing activities are prohibited at any time in school facilities, on school property, and/or off school property but connected to activities or incidents that have occurred on school property.

All incidents of hazing must be reported immediately to any of the following individuals: the building principal or other administrator, teacher, coach, student club advisor/supervisor, and/or Superintendent. Students who engage in hazing may also be liable for civil and criminal penalties.

### **RULE 18: TRESPASSING**

Although schools are public facilities, the law allows the Board to restrict access to school property. Being present in any Board-owned facility or portion of a Board-owned facility when it is closed to the public or when the student does not have the authorization to be there, or unauthorized presence in a Board-owned vehicle; or unauthorized access or activity in a Board-owned computer, into district, school or staff computer files, into a school or district file server, or into the Network. When a student has been removed, suspended, expelled or permanently excluded from school, the student is prohibited from being present on school property without authorization of the principal.

### **RULE 19: UNAUTHORIZED USE OF SCHOOL OR PRIVATE PROPERTY**

Students must obtain permission to use any school property or any private property located on school premises. Any unauthorized use of school property, or private property located on school premises, shall be subject to disciplinary action.

### **RULE 20: VIOLATION OF BUS RULES**

No student, while under the authority of a school bus driver, may interfere with the safe operation of the bus through destructive actions or words either to other students, the bus driver or passing motorists. For further clarification see the Transportation section in the student handbook.

### **RULE 21: DRIVING/PARKING (APPLICABLE TO HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS ONLY)**

Any student driving to school must keep their vehicle under control at all times, follow established safety procedures and comply with school parking regulations. Failure to follow these guidelines may result in the student's driving privileges being withdrawn. While parked on school property, student vehicles are subject to routine patrols and exterior inspections that may be conducted without the student's consent, and without a search warrant. The inside of student vehicles may also be searched when school officials have reasonable suspicion to believe that illegal or unauthorized materials are contained therein.

### **RULE 22: UNAUTHORIZED USE OF VEHICLES**

Occupying or using vehicles during school hours without parental permission and/or school authorization.

### **RULE 23: MISCONDUCT OFF SCHOOL GROUNDS**

Students may be subject to discipline for their misconduct even when it occurs off school property when the misconduct is connected to activities or incidents that occurred on property owned or controlled by the District. Misconduct is defined as any violation of the Student Discipline Code.

### **RULE 24: GANG RELATED ACTIVITY**

Subject to any applicable legal and constitutional limitations, no students dress, apparel, activities, acts of behavior or manner of grooming will be condoned: a.) cause school officials to have reasonable suspicion that such behavior, apparel, activity, acts or other attributes are gang-related and would disrupt or interfere with the school environment or activity and/or educational objectives; b.) present a physical safety hazard to the student in question, other students, staff members or other employees; c.) create an atmosphere in which a student's, staff member or other person's well-being is hindered by undue pressure, behavior, intimidation, overt gesture or threat of violence; or d.) imply gang membership or affiliation by written communication, marks, drawing, painting, design or emblem whether on school or personal property or one's person.

## **RULE 25: REPEATED VIOLATION OF SCHOOL RULES**

No student shall fail to comply with school rules and regulations or with the directions of teacher or any adult school personnel.

## **SECTION 2 (TIER 2 OFFENSE)**

These examples of misconduct, which are cumulative, will generally result in a 10-day suspension and a possible recommendation for expulsion and/or police/court referral due to the serious nature of these offenses. The principal may modify this sequence based on circumstances.

## **RULE 26: FIGHTING**

Engaging in adversarial physical contact (differentiated from poking, pushing, shoving or scuffling) in which one or the other party(ies) or both contributed to the situation by verbally instigating a fight and/or physical action. Promoting or instigating a fight (i.e., contributing to a fight verbally or through behavior).

<b>Offense</b>	<b>Consequence</b>
1 <sup>st</sup>	Up to 10-day Out-of-School Suspension.
2 <sup>nd</sup>	Up to 10-day Out-of-School Suspension with possible recommendation for expulsion.
3 <sup>rd</sup>	10-day Out-of-School Suspension and recommendation for expulsion.

## **RULE 27: POSSESSION/USE OF TOBACCO**

Possession, consumption, distribution, purchase or attempt to purchase, and/or use of tobacco products or electronic cigarettes or similar devices in school, on school grounds, on school buses, and at any Inter-scholastic competition, extra-curricular event, or other school-sponsored event. Tobacco products include, but are not limited to cigarettes, cigars, pipe tobacco, chewing tobacco, snuff or any other matter or substance that contains tobacco. Smoking of electronic, "vapor", other substitute forms of cigarettes, or clove cigarettes is also prohibited.

Electronic cigarettes and vaping continue to present challenges for schools and raise significant health concerns, especially related to the use of these devices by youth. House Bill (HB) 166, the state biennial budget legislation, increased the age at which individuals can purchase tobacco or tobacco products to 21. These changes, including the various definitions for tobacco and electronic cigarettes, took effect upon the governor's signing. Although electronic cigarettes were added to Ohio's juvenile tobacco laws in 2014, the definition of what constitutes an e-cigarette was revised under HB 166.

Under the revised definitions of Ohio Revised Code (RC) 2927.02, for purposes of Ohio's juvenile tobacco laws (now for individuals under age 21), a "tobacco product" now means any product that is made or derived from tobacco or that contains any form of nicotine, if it is intended for human consumption or is likely to be consumed, whether smoked, heated, chewed, absorbed, dissolved, inhaled, or ingested by any other means, including, but not limited to, a cigarette, electronic smoking device, cigar, pipe tobacco, chewing tobacco, snuff or snus. Tobacco product also means any component or accessory used in the consumption of a tobacco product, such as filters, rolling papers, pipes, blunt or hemp wraps, and liquids used in electronic smoking devices, whether or not they contain nicotine.

Alternative nicotine products are now defined as "an electronic smoking device (previously electronic cigarette), vapor product or any other product or device that consists of or contains nicotine that can be ingested into the body any means, including, but not limited to chewing, smoking, absorbing, dissolving or inhaling." The definition of "electronic cigarettes" is replaced with a definition for "electronic smoking device" that is defined as any device that can be used to deliver aerosolized or vaporized nicotine.

<b>Offense</b>	<b>Consequence</b>
1 <sup>st</sup>	3-Day Out-of-School Suspension or 3-Day In-School Assignment and mandatory attendance at an educational seminar sponsored by the American Lung Association,

	American Cancer Society, or another like health organization approved by the Board of Education. Student may be issued a ticket by the Westlake Police Department under O.R.C. 2151.87.
2 <sup>nd</sup>	Up to 5-day Out-of-School Suspension, and issued a ticket under O.R.C. 2151.87.
3 <sup>rd</sup>	10-day Out-of-School Suspension and/or recommendation for expulsion, and issued a ticket under O.R.C. 2151.87.

## **RULE 28: POSSESSION/USE OF DRUGS AND/OR ALCOHOL**

Possessing, using, transmitting or concealing, or being under the influence of any alcoholic beverage, controlled substance including, but not limited to, narcotics, mood altering drugs, counterfeit controlled substances, look-alikes, over the counter stimulants or depressants, anabolic steroids or drug-related paraphernalia. If a building principal has a reasonable individualized suspicion of drug or alcohol use, they may request the student in question to submit to any appropriate testing, including but not limited to, a breathalyzer test or urinalysis. In such circumstances, the student will be taken to a private administrative or instructional area on school property for such testing with at least one other member of the teaching or administrative staff present as a witness to the test. If a student refuses to take the test, they will be advised that such denial leaves the observed evidence of alcohol or drug use unrefuted thus leading to possible disciplinary action. The student will then be given a second opportunity to take the test.

<b>Offense</b>	<b>Consequence</b>
1 <sup>st</sup>	5/10 Option* and/or referral to an assessment with the recommendation being followed. 5 days of Out-of-School Suspension are in effect with the remainder held. If not the 5/10 Option, then a 10-day Out-of-School Suspension and/or police contact and/or court referral and/or recommendation for expulsion.
2 <sup>nd</sup>	10-day Out-of-School Suspension and a police contact, and/or a recommendation for expulsion.

**5/10 Option:** If made available, the student and family will sign a 5/10 Option Agreement Form that will include, but is not limited to, the following stipulations:

- Participation in a comprehensive substance abuse assessment from a qualified professional
- Completion of a two-way release and returned to a designated school counselor so that the counselor may confirm that an assessment has taken place or is scheduled
- If applicable, the student and family will follow any professional recommendations made as a result of the assessment, which may include periodic drug testing and the student will meet regularly with a designated school counselor
- Failure to comply with any 5/10 Option requirement will result in the remaining 5 days of Out-of-School Suspension being enforced and/or a recommendation for expulsion being reinstated

## **RULE 29: USE AND/OR POSSESSION OF A FIREARM**

Bringing a firearm (as defined in the Federal Gun-Free Schools Act of 1994) onto school property or to any school-sponsored activity, competition, program, or event, regardless of where it occurs, will result in a mandatory one (1) year expulsion under Ohio law. This expulsion may be reduced on a case-by-case basis by the Superintendent using the guidelines set forth in Board Policy 5772 and 5610.

- Firearm is defined as any weapon (including a starter gun) that will or is designed to or may readily be converted to expel a projectile by the action of an explosive; the frame or receiver of any such weapon; any firearm muffler or firearm silencer; or any destructive device (as defined in the Federal Gun-Free Schools Act of 1994). Firearms include any unloaded firearm and any firearm that is inoperable but that can be readily operated.
- Students are prohibited from knowingly possessing an object on school premises, in a school or a school building, at a school activity or on a school bus that is indistinguishable from a firearm, whether

or not the object is capable of being fired, and indicating they are in possession of such an object and that it is a firearm or knowingly displaying or brandishing the object and indicating it is a firearm.

Offense	Consequence
1 <sup>st</sup>	Up to a 10-day Out-of-School Suspension with possible recommendation for one-year expulsion from school.
2 <sup>nd</sup>	10-day Out-of-School Suspension and recommendation for one-year expulsion from school.

### **RULE 30: USE AND/OR POSSESSION OF A WEAPON**

The term "weapon" includes any object which, in the manner in which it is used, is intended to be used, or is represented, is capable of inflicting serious bodily harm or property damage, as well as endangering the health and safety of persons. Weapons include, but are not limited to, firearms, guns of any type whatsoever, including air and gas-powered guns (whether loaded or unloaded), knives, razors, clubs, electric weapons, metallic knuckles, martial arts weapons, ammunition, incendiary devices, explosives, and other objects defined as dangerous ordinances under State law. It may also include any toy that is presented as a real weapon or reacted to as a real weapon. Possession and/or use of a weapon may subject a student to expulsion and possible permanent exclusion.

A knife is defined as any cutting instrument consisting of a sharp blade fastened to a handle, a razor blade or any similar device that is used for or is readily capable of causing death or serious bodily injury.

Offense	Consequence
1 <sup>st</sup>	Up to a 10-day Out-of-School Suspension with possible recommendation for one-year expulsion from school.
2 <sup>nd</sup>	10-day Out-of-School Suspension and recommendation for one-year expulsion from school.

### **RULE 31: USE OF AN OBJECT AS A WEAPON**

Any object that is used to threaten, harm or harass another may be considered a weapon. This includes but is not limited to padlocks, pens, pencils, laser pointers and jewelry.

Offense	Consequence
1 <sup>st</sup>	Up to a 10-day Out-of-School Suspension with possible recommendation for one-year expulsion from school.
2 <sup>nd</sup>	10-day Out-of-School Suspension and recommendation for one-year expulsion from school.

### **RULE 32: ARSON**

Intentional or purposeful destruction or damage to school or district buildings or property by means of fire. Anything, such as fire, that endangers school property and its occupants will not be tolerated. Arson is a felony.

Offense	Consequence
1 <sup>st</sup>	10-day Out-of-School Suspension, police contact, court referral, recommendation for expulsion.

### **RULE 33: PHYSICALLY ASSAULTING A STAFF MEMBER/STUDENT/PERSON ASSOCIATED WITH THE DISTRICT.**

Acting with intent to cause fear in another person of immediate bodily harm or death, or intentionally bullying, inflicting or attempting to inflict bodily harm upon another person. Physical assault of a staff member, student,

or other person associated with the District, regardless of whether it causes injury, will not be tolerated. Any intentional, harmful or potentially harmful physical contact or bullying initiated by a student against a staff member will be considered to be assault. Assault may result in criminal charges and may subject the student to expulsion.

Offense	Consequence
1 <sup>st</sup>	Up to 10-day Out-of-School Suspension and/or court referral and/or recommendation for expulsion.
2 <sup>nd</sup>	10-day Out-of-School Suspension and recommendation for expulsion.

**RULE 34: VERBALLY THREATENING (EITHER ORALLY, IN WRITING OR OTHERWISE EXPRESSED) A STAFF MEMBER/STUDENT/ PERSON ASSOCIATED WITH THE DISTRICT.**

Any oral or written statement or otherwise expressed action that a staff member, student or other person associated with the District reasonably feels to be a threat will be considered a verbal assault. Profanity directed toward a staff member in a threatening tone may also be considered a verbal assault. Confrontation with a student or staff member that bullies, intimidates or causes fear of bodily harm or death is also prohibited.

Offense	Consequence
1 <sup>st</sup>	Up to 10-day Out-of-School Suspension with possible recommendation for expulsion. 2 <sup>nd</sup> 10-day Out-of-School Suspension and recommendation for expulsion.

**RULE 35: MISCONDUCT AGAINST A SCHOOL OFFICIAL OR EMPLOYEE, OR THE PROPERTY OF SUCH A PERSON, REGARDLESS OF WHERE IT OCCURS.**

The Board prohibits misconduct committed by a student against a school official or employee, including, but not limited to, harassment (of any type), vandalism, assault (verbal and/or physical), and destruction of property.

Offense	Consequence
1 <sup>st</sup>	Up to 10-day Out-of-School Suspension and/or court referral and/or recommendation for expulsion.
2 <sup>nd</sup>	10-day Out-of-School Suspension and recommendation for expulsion.

**RULE 36: EXTORTION**

Extortion is the use of threat, intimidation, force, or deception to take or receive something from someone else. Extortion is against the law.

Offense	Consequence
1 <sup>st</sup>	Up to 10-day Out-of-School Suspension and/or court referral and/or recommendation for expulsion.
2 <sup>nd</sup>	10-day Out-of-School Suspension and recommendation for expulsion.

**RULE 37: BOMB THREATS AND OTHER FALSE ALARMS AND REPORTS**

Making a bomb threat (i.e., intentionally giving a false alarm of a bomb) against a school building or on any premises at which a school activity is being held at the time the threat is made may result in expulsion for a period of up to one (1) school year. Additionally, intentionally giving a false alarm of a fire, or tampering or interfering with any fire alarm is prohibited. It should be remembered that false emergency alarms or reports endanger the safety forces that are responding to the alarm/report, the citizens of the community and the



persons in the building. What may seem like a prank, is a dangerous stunt that is against the law and will subject the student to disciplinary action.

Offense	Consequence
1 <sup>st</sup>	Up to 10-day Out-of-School Suspension, police contact, court referral and recommendation for expulsion of up to one year.
2 <sup>nd</sup>	10-day Out-of-School Suspension and recommendation for expulsion.

### **RULE 38: TERRORISTIC THREAT**

Threatening, directly or indirectly, to commit a crime of violence with the purpose to terrorize another or with reckless disregard of the risk of causing terror in another.

Offense	Consequence
1 <sup>st</sup>	10-day Out-of-School Suspension and/or court referral and/or recommendation for expulsion.

### **RULE 39: POSSESSION AND/OR USE OF EXPLOSIVES AND/OR FIREWORKS**

Possessing or using any compound or mixture, the primary or common purpose of which is to function by explosion with substantially instantaneous release of gas and heat (including, but not limited to explosives and chemical-reaction objects such as smoke bombs and poppers). Additionally, possessing or offering for sale any substance, combination of substances or article prepared to produce a visible and/or audible effect by combustion, explosion, deflagration or detonation.

Offense	Consequence
1 <sup>st</sup>	Up to 10-day Out-of-School Suspension with possible recommendation for one-year expulsion from school.
2 <sup>nd</sup>	10-day Out-of-School Suspension and recommendation for one-year expulsion from school.

### **RULE 40: THEFT, OR KNOWINGLY RECEIVING OR POSSESSING STOLEN PROPERTY**

Unauthorized taking of property of another person or receiving or possessing such property. Students caught stealing will be disciplined and may be reported to law enforcement officials. Students should not bring anything of value to school without prior authorization from the building principal. The School is not responsible for personal property.

Offense	Consequence
1 <sup>st</sup>	Up to 10-day Out-of-School Suspension and/or court referral with possible recommendation for expulsion.
2 <sup>nd</sup>	10-day Out-of-School Suspension and recommendation for expulsion.

### **RULE 41: DAMAGING PROPERTY (VANDALISM)**

Defacing, cutting, or otherwise damaging property that belongs to the school, district, other students, employees or others and disregard for school property.

Offense	Consequence
1 <sup>st</sup>	Up to 10-day Out-of-School Suspension and/or court referral with possible recommendation for expulsion.
2 <sup>nd</sup>	10-day Out-of-School Suspension and recommendation for expulsion.

## **RULE 42: VIOLENT CONDUCT**

Students may be expelled for up to one school year for committing an act at school, on other school property, at an interscholastic competition, extracurricular event or any other school program, or directing an act at a Board official or employee, regardless of where or when that act may occur, or their property that would be a criminal offense if committed by an adult and results in serious physical harm to person(s) or property.

Offense	Consequence
1 <sup>st</sup>	Up to 10-day Out-of-School Suspension and/or court referral and/or recommendation for possible one-year expulsion from school.
2 <sup>nd</sup>	10-day Out-of-School Suspension and recommendation for expulsion.

## **RULE 43: BURGLARY**

Entering a building or a specific area of a building without consent and with intent to commit a crime or entering a building without consent and committing a crime.

Offense	Consequence
1 <sup>st</sup>	Up to 10-day Out-of-School Suspension and/or court referral and/or recommendation for expulsion.
2 <sup>nd</sup>	10-day Out-of-School Suspension and recommendation for expulsion.

## **DISCIPLINE**

It is important to remember that the school's rules apply going to and from school, at school, on school property, at school-sponsored events, on school transportation and on property not owned or controlled by the Board but that is connected to activities or incidents that have occurred on property owned or controlled by the Board. Furthermore, students may be disciplined for conduct that, regardless of where or when it occurs, is directed at a Board official or employee or the property of such official or employee. In some cases, a student can be suspended from school transportation for infractions of school bus rules.

The School is committed to providing prompt, reasonable discipline consistent with the severity of the incident. The consequences for misbehavior are designed to be fair, firm and consistent for all students in the School.

Because it is not possible to list every misbehavior that occurs, misbehaviors not listed above will be responded to as necessary by staff.

## **DETENTION PROCEDURES**

Students' assigned detentions must report to the designated area and will serve from 3:00 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. Transportation is the student's responsibility. Students must report to detention and work quietly on study materials for the entirety of the detention. Cutting a detention or being asked to leave may result in progressive discipline from an assistant principal. Students have 24 hours to serve any detention assigned (1 school day). Serving detentions is the student's responsibility.

## **FRIDAY EVENING DETENTION**

Friday Evening detention begins promptly at 3:15 p.m. on the scheduled date. No one will be admitted after 3:15 p.m. Friday evening detention will end at 6:15 p.m. and all students must leave the building immediately. Students are to bring textbooks or supplemental readings for classes, paper, writing utensils and other equipment necessary to complete work. No one will be allowed to go to their locker for materials.

Friday evening detention is an alternative to suspension. Failure to attend, being late and/or being removed from Friday evening detention for violations of guidelines or rules may result in a referral to an administrator for additional discipline. Students are not to communicate with other students in any way between the hours of 3:15 and 6:15 p.m. Sleeping is not permitted. Students are expected to work on school-related assignments and/or read appropriate materials approved by the supervisor. Students are to remain busy on school related work for the entire 3 hours. No reading magazines, newspapers (unless for a class assignment) or leisure reading is permitted.

Only excused absences from school on the assigned Friday will be accepted as a valid reason for missing Friday evening detention. Assignments that have been rescheduled must be served on next available date. Once Friday evening detention has been rescheduled it will not be rescheduled again.

## **IN-SCHOOL ASSIGNMENT AS AN ALTERNATIVE TO OUT-OF-SCHOOL SUSPENSION**

This step in the Progressive Discipline Program is issued at the discretion of the administration, upon infractions of the Code of Conduct, behavior referral from a teacher or continual violation of school rules. The ISA (In-School Assignment) philosophy centers around student isolation as a consequence for inappropriate behavior, while permitting the student to complete schoolwork within a controlled, separated environment from the school population. The ISA schedule is the same as the normal school day, beginning at 7:50 a.m. and ending at 2:55 p.m. with students receiving periodic restroom breaks and lunch (held in the ISA room). The purpose of this program is to offer an alternative to being suspended from school. However, failure to follow ISA procedures & rules may result in an out-of-school suspension pursuant to the Code of Conduct. Section I, Rule 24- Failure to accept discipline.

## **SUSPENSION**

Formal discipline involves removal of the student from school. It includes emergency removal for up to three (3) school days, suspension for up to ten (10) school days, expulsion for up to eighty (80) school days or the number of days remaining in a semester, whichever is greater, and permanent exclusion. Suspensions and expulsions may carry over into the next school year. Any student who is expelled from school for more than twenty (20) days or for any period of time if the expulsion will extend into the following semester or school year will be provided with information about services or programs offered by public and private agencies that work toward improving those aspects of the student's attitude and behavior that contributed to the incident that gave rise to the student's expulsion. The Superintendent at their discretion may require/allow a student to perform community service in conjunction with or in place of an expulsion. The Superintendent may impose a community service requirement beyond the end of the school year in lieu of applying the expulsion to the following school year. Removal for less than one (1) school day without the possibility of suspension or expulsion may not be appealed. Suspension, expulsion and permanent exclusion may be appealed.

Students being considered for suspension are entitled to an informal meeting with the building administrator prior to removal. Also, students being considered for expulsion are entitled to an informal meeting with the Superintendent or designee prior to removal. During the informal meeting, the student will be notified of the charges and given the opportunity to respond.

Students involved in co-curricular and extracurricular activities such as band and athletics can lose their eligibility for violation of the School rules.

If a student commits a crime while under the School's jurisdiction, they may be subject to school disciplinary action as well as action through local law enforcement.

## **DUE PROCESS RIGHTS**

Before a student is suspended, expelled, or permanently excluded from school, there are specific procedures that must be followed. As long as the in-school discipline is served entirely in the school setting, it will not require any notice or meeting or be subject to appeal.

## **SUSPENSION FROM SCHOOL**

When a student is being considered for a suspension, the administrator in charge will notify the student of the basis for the proposed suspension. The student will be given an opportunity to explain their view of the underlying facts. After that informal hearing, the Principal (or assistant principal or another administrator) will determine whether or not to suspend the student. If the decision is made to suspend the student, they and his/her parents will be given written notification of the suspension within one (1) school day setting forth the reason for the suspension, the length of the suspension and the process for appeal. The suspension may be appealed within 14 calendar days after receipt of the suspension notice to Treasurer or Superintendent of the Board of Education. The request for an appeal must be in writing.

If the appeal is heard by the Board's designee, the appeal shall be conducted in a private hearing. If the appeal is heard by the Board of Education, the appeal shall be conducted in executive session unless the student or their representative requests otherwise. A verbatim transcript will be made and witnesses will be sworn in prior to giving testimony. If the appeal decision is to uphold the suspension, the next step in the appeal process is to the Court of Common Pleas.

## **EMERGENCY REMOVAL**

If a student's presence poses a continuing danger to persons or property, or an ongoing threat of disrupting the academic process taking place either in a classroom or elsewhere on the school premises, the Superintendent, principal or assistant principal may remove the student from any curricular or extracurricular activity or from the school premises. A teacher may remove the student from any curricular or extracurricular activity under the teacher's supervision but not from the premises.

If a teacher makes an emergency removal, the teacher will notify a building administrator of the circumstances surrounding the removal in writing within one (1) school day. No prior notice or hearing is required for any removal under this procedure. In all cases of normal disciplinary procedures where a student is removed from curricular or extracurricular activity for less than one school day, and is not subject to further suspension for expulsion, the following due process requirements do not apply.

If the emergency removal exceeds one (1) school day, then a hearing will be held within three (3) school days after the removal is ordered. Written notice of the hearing and the reasons for removal and any intended disciplinary action will be provided to the student as soon as practical prior to the hearing. If the student is subject to an out of school suspension, the student will have the opportunity to appear at an informal hearing before the principal, assistant principal, Superintendent or a designee, and may challenge the reasons for the removal or otherwise explain their actions.

Within one (1) school day of the decision to suspend, written notification will be given to the parent(s)/guardian(s) or custodian(s) of the student. This notice will include the reasons for the suspension, the right of the student or their parent(s)/guardian(s) or custodian(s) to appeal to the Board or its designee and the student's right to be represented in all appeal proceedings. If it is likely that the student may be subject to expulsion, the hearing will take place within three (3) school days and will be held in accordance with the procedures outlined in the Student Expulsion Policy. The person who ordered or requested the removal will be present at the hearing. In an emergency removal, a student may be kept from class until the matter of the alleged misconduct is resolved either by reinstatement, suspension or expulsion.

## **EXPULSION FROM SCHOOL**

When a student is being considered for expulsion, the student and parent will be provided with a formal notice of the proposed expulsion. This written notice will include the reasons for the intended expulsion, notification of the opportunity to appear in person before the Superintendent or the Superintendent's designee to challenge

the reasons for the expulsion and/or explain the student's action and notification of the time and place to appear. Students being considered for expulsion may be removed immediately. A hearing will be scheduled no earlier than three (3), nor no later than five (5) school days after the notice is given. Parents may request an extension of time for the hearing. The student may be represented by their parents, legal counsel, and/or by a person of their choice at the hearing.

In accordance with Board Policy 5610, the Superintendent shall initiate expulsion proceedings against a student who has committed an act that warrants expulsion under Board policy even if the student withdraws from school prior to the hearing or decision to impose the expulsion. The expulsion will be imposed for the same duration that it would have been had the student remained enrolled.

If a student is expelled, the student and the student's parents will be provided with written notice within one school day of the imposed expulsion. The notice will include the reasons for the expulsion, the right of the student or the student's parent(s)/guardian(s) or custodian(s) to appeal the expulsion to the Board or its designee, the right to be represented in all appeal proceedings, the right to be granted a hearing before the Board or its designee and the right to request that the hearing be held in executive session.

Within 14 calendar days after the Superintendent notifies the parents of the expulsion. The expulsion may be appealed in writing to the Board of Education or its designee. A hearing on the requested appeal will be formal with an opportunity for sworn testimony. If the expulsion is upheld on appeal, a student's parents may pursue further appeal to the Court of Common Pleas.

Students serving expulsions will not be awarded grades or credit during the period of expulsion. Expulsion for certain violations including use or possession of alcohol or drugs may result in revocation of student's driver's license. When a student is expelled, the Superintendent will notify any college in which the expelled student is enrolled under the Postsecondary Enrollment Option at the time the expulsion is imposed.

## **PERMANENT EXCLUSION**

State law provides for the permanent exclusion of a student 16 years of age or older who engages in certain criminal activity. Permanently excluded students may never be permitted to return to school anywhere in the State of Ohio. A permanent exclusion may be considered if the student is convicted or adjudicated delinquent for committing one or more of the following crimes while on the property of any Ohio school:

- conveying deadly weapons onto school property or to a school function;
- possessing deadly weapons onto school property or at a school function;
- carrying a concealed weapon onto school property or at a school function;
- trafficking in drugs onto school property or at a school function;
- murder, aggravated murder on school property or at a school function;
- voluntary or involuntary manslaughter on school grounds or at a school function;
- assault or aggravated assault on school property or at a school function;
- rape, gross sexual imposition or felonious sexual penetration on school grounds, or at a school function, when the victim is a school employee;
- complicity in any of the above offenses, regardless of the location.

This process is formal and may follow an expulsion with the proper notification to the parents.

## **DISCIPLINE OF STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES**

Students with disabilities are entitled to the rights and procedures afforded by the Individuals with Disabilities Education Improvement Act (I.D.E.I.A.) and, where applicable, the Americans with Disabilities Act (A.D.A.), and/or Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973.

## **SUSPENSION OF BUS RIDING/TRANSPORTATION PRIVILEGES**

When a student is being considered for suspension of bus riding/transportation privileges, the administrator in charge will notify the student of the reason. The student will be given an opportunity to address the basis for the

proposed suspension at an informal hearing. After that informal hearing, the principal or assistant principal or other administrator, will decide whether or not to suspend their bus riding/transportation privileges for all or part of the school year. If a student's bus riding/transportation privileges are suspended, they and their parents will be notified in writing within one day of the reason for and the length of the suspension.

## **SEARCH AND SEIZURE**

Administrators may search a student or their property (including vehicles, purses, knapsacks, gym bags, etc.) with or without the student's consent whenever they reasonably suspect that a search will lead to the discovery of evidence of a violation of law or school rules. The extent of the search will be governed by the seriousness of the alleged infraction and the student's age. General housekeeping inspection of school property may be conducted with reasonable notice. Student lockers are the property of the District and students have no reasonable expectation of privacy in their contents or in the contents of any other District property including desks or other containers. School authorities may conduct random searches of the lockers and their contents at any time without announcement. Unannounced and random canine searches may also be conducted.

Additionally, students have NO reasonable expectation of privacy in their actions in public areas including but not limited to, common areas, hallways, cafeterias, classrooms and gymnasiums. The District may use video cameras in such areas and on all school vehicles transporting students to and from regular and extracurricular activities.

Anything that is found in the course of a search may be used as evidence of a violation of school rules or the law and may be taken, held or turned over to the police. The School reserves the right not to return items that have been confiscated.

## **INTERROGATION OF STUDENTS**

The School is committed to protecting students from harm that may be connected with the school environment and also recognizes its responsibility to cooperate with law enforcement and public child welfare agencies. While the School believes these agencies should conduct their investigations off school property if possible, investigations can take place at school in emergency situations or if the violation being investigated occurred on school property.

Before students are questioned as witnesses or suspects in an alleged criminal violation, the building administrator will attempt to contact a parent prior to questioning and shall remain in the room during questioning.

If a student is questioned as the subject of alleged child abuse or neglect, the building administrator will attempt to contact a parent prior to questioning, and they (or a designated guidance counselor) will remain in the room during questioning. If the agency investigating the alleged child abuse or neglect suspects the parent is the perpetrator, neither parent will be contacted prior to questioning, but the building administrator (or a designated guidance counselor) will remain in the room during questioning.

If law enforcement or children's services agency removes a student from school, the building administrator will notify a parent.

## **BULLYING, HARASSMENT AND INTIMIDATION**

The Board of Education is committed to providing a safe, positive, productive and nurturing educational environment for all of its students. The Board encourages the promotion of positive interpersonal relations between members of the school community.

Harassment, intimidation, or bullying toward a student, whether by other students, staff or third parties is strictly prohibited and will not be tolerated. This prohibition includes aggressive behavior, physical, verbal and psychological abuse, and violence within a dating relationship. The Board will not tolerate any gestures, comments, threats or actions which cause or threaten to cause bodily harm or personal degradation. This policy applies to all activities in the District, including activities on school property, on a school bus or while en route

to or from school. In addition, those occurring off school property if the student or employee is at any school-sponsored, school-approved or school-related activity or function, such as field trips or athletic events where students are under the school's control, in a school vehicle, or where an employee is engaged in school business.

This policy has been developed in consultation with parents, district employees, volunteers, students and community members as prescribed in R.C. 3313.666 and the State Board of Education's Model Policy.

Harassment, intimidation or bullying means:

- any intentional written, verbal, electronic or physical act that a student or group of students exhibits toward another particular student(s) more than once and the behavior both causes mental or physical harm to the other student(s) and is sufficiently severe, persistent or pervasive that it creates an intimidating, threatening or abusive education environment for the other student(s); or
- violence within a dating relationship.

"Electronic act" means an act committed through the use of a cellular telephone, computer, pager, personal communication device or other electronic communication device.

Aggressive behavior is defined as inappropriate conduct that is repeated enough, or serious enough, to negatively impact a student's educational, physical or emotional well-being. This type of behavior is a form of intimidation and harassment, although it need not be based on any of the legally protected characteristics, such as sex, race, color, national origin, marital status or disability. It would include, but not be limited to, such behaviors as stalking, bullying/cyberbullying, intimidating, menacing, coercion, name calling, taunting, making threats and hazing.

Harassment, intimidation or bullying also means cyberbullying through electronically transmitted acts (i.e., internet, email, cellular telephone, personal digital assistance (PDA), or wireless hand-held device) that a student(s) or a group of students exhibits toward another particular student(s) more than once and the behavior both causes mental and physical harm to the other student and is sufficiently severe, persistent, or pervasive that it creates an intimidating, threatening or abusive educational environment for the other student(s).

Any student or student's parent/guardian who believes they have been or is the victim of aggressive behavior should immediately report the situation to the building principal or assistant principal, or the Superintendent. The student may also report concerns to teachers and other school staff who will be responsible for notifying the appropriate administrator or board official. Complaints against the building principal should be filed with the Superintendent. Complaints against the Superintendent should be filed with the Board President.

Every student is encouraged, and every staff member is required, to report any situation that they believe to be aggressive behavior directed toward a student. Reports may be made to those identified above.

All complaints about aggressive behavior that may violate this policy shall be promptly investigated. The building principal or appropriate administrator shall prepare a written report of the investigation upon completion. Such report shall include findings of fact, a determination of whether acts of harassment, intimidation, and/or bullying were verified and when prohibited acts are verified, a recommendation for intervention, including disciplinary action, shall be included in the report. Where appropriate, written witness statements shall be attached to the report.

If the investigation finds an instance of harassment, intimidation, and/or bullying/cyberbullying by an electronic act or otherwise has occurred, it will result in prompt and appropriate remedial and/or disciplinary action. This may include suspension or up to expulsion for students, up to discharge for employees, exclusion for parents, guests, volunteers, and contractors, and removal from any official position and/or a request to resign for Board members. Individuals may also be referred to law enforcement officials.

If, during an investigation of a reported act of harassment, intimidation and/or bullying/cyber bullying, the principal or appropriate administrator believes that the reported misconduct may have created a hostile learning environment and may have constituted unlawful discriminatory harassment based on a Protected Class, the principal will report the act of bullying and/or harassment to one of the Anti-Harassment Compliance Officers so that it may be investigated in accordance with the procedures set forth in Policy 5517 - Anti-Harassment.

Retaliation against any person who reports, is thought to have reported, files a complaint, or otherwise participates in an investigation or inquiry concerning allegations of aggressive behavior is prohibited and will not

be tolerated. Such retaliation shall be considered a serious violation of Board policy and independent of whether a complaint is substantiated. Suspected retaliation should be reported in the same manner as aggressive behavior. Retaliation may result in disciplinary action as indicated above.

Deliberately making false reports about harassment, intimidation, and bullying and/or other aggressive behavior for the purpose of getting someone in trouble is similarly prohibited and will not be tolerated. Deliberately making false reports may result in disciplinary action as indicated above.

If a student or other individual believes there has been aggressive behavior, regardless of whether it fits a particular definition, they should report it and allow the administration to determine the appropriate course of action. The District shall implement intervention strategies to protect a victim or other person from new or additional harassment, intimidation or bullying and from retaliation following such a report.

This policy shall not be interpreted to infringe upon the First Amendment rights of students (i.e., to prohibit a reasoned and civil exchange of opinions, or debate, that is conducted at appropriate times and places during the school day and is protected by State or Federal law).

The complainant shall be notified of the findings of the investigation, and as appropriate, that remedial action has been taken. If after investigation, acts of bullying against a specific student are verified, the building principal or appropriate administrator shall notify the custodial parent/guardian of the victim of such finding. In providing such notification care shall be taken to respect the statutory privacy rights of the perpetrator of such harassment, intimidation, and/or bullying.

If after investigation, acts of harassment, intimidation, and/or bullying by a specific student are verified, the building principal or appropriate administrator shall notify in writing the custodial parent/guardian of the perpetrator of that finding. If disciplinary consequences are imposed against such student, a description of such discipline shall be included in the notification.

## **COMPLAINTS**

Students and/or their parents/guardians may file reports regarding suspected harassment, intimidation or bullying. Such reports shall be reasonably specific including person(s) involved, number of times and places of the alleged conduct, the target of suspected harassment, intimidation, and/or bullying, and the names of any potential student or staff witnesses. Such reports may be filed with any school staff member or administrator and they shall be promptly forwarded to the building principal for review, investigation and action.

Students, parents/guardians, and school personnel may make informal or anonymous complaints of conduct that they consider to be harassment, intimidation, and/or bullying by verbal report to a teacher, school administrator, or other school personnel. Such complaints shall be reasonably specific including person(s) involved, number of times and places of the alleged conduct, the target of suspected harassment, intimidation, and/or bullying, and the names of any potential student or staff witnesses. A school staff member or administrator who receives an informal or anonymous complaint shall promptly document the complaint in writing, including the information provided. This written report shall be promptly forwarded by the school staff member and/or administrator to the building principal or Superintendent Designee for review, investigation and appropriate action.

Individuals who make informal complaints as provided above may request that their name be maintained in confidence by the school staff member(s) and administrator(s) who receive the complaint. Anonymous complaints shall be reviewed and reasonable action shall be taken to address the situation, to the extent such action may be taken that (1) does not disclose the source of the complaint, and (2) is consistent with the due process rights of the student(s) alleged to have committed acts of harassment, intimidation, and/or bullying.

When an individual making an informal complaint has requested anonymity, the investigation of such complaint shall be limited as is appropriate in view of the anonymity of the complaint. Such limitation of investigation may include restricting action to a simple review of the complaint subject to receipt of further information and/or the withdrawal by the complaining student of the condition that their report be anonymous.



## **PRIVACY/CONFIDENTIALITY**

The School District will respect the privacy of the complainant, the individual(s) against whom the complaint is filed, and the witnesses as much as possible, consistent with the Board's legal obligations to investigate, to take appropriate action and to conform to any discovery or disclosure obligations. All records generated under this policy and its related administrative guidelines shall be maintained as confidential to the extent permitted by law.

## **REPORTING REQUIREMENT**

At least semi-annually, the Superintendent shall provide to the President of the Board a written summary of all reported incidents and post the summary on the District web site (if one exists). The list shall be limited to the number of verified acts of harassment, intimidation, and/or bullying, whether in the classroom, on school property, to and from school, or at school-sponsored events.

Allegations of criminal misconduct and suspected child abuse will be reported to the appropriate law enforcement agency and/or to Child Protective Services in accordance with statute. District personnel shall cooperate with investigations by such agencies.

## **IMMUNITY**

A school district employee, student, or volunteer shall be individually immune from liability in a civil action for damages arising from reporting an incident in accordance with this policy and R.C. 3313.666 if that person reports an incident of harassment, intimidation, and/or bullying promptly, in good faith, and in compliance with the procedures specified in this policy. Such immunity from liability shall not apply to an employee, student, or volunteer determined to have made an intentionally false report about harassment, intimidation, and/or bullying.

## **NOTIFICATION**

Notice of this policy will be annually circulated to and posted in conspicuous locations in all school buildings and departments within the District and discussed with students, as well as incorporated into the teacher, student and parent/guardian handbooks. At least once each school year, a written statement describing the policy and consequences for violations of the policy shall be sent to each student's custodial parent or guardian. The statement may be sent with regular student report cards or may be delivered electronically.

The policy and an explanation of the seriousness of bullying by electronic means shall be made available to students in the District and to their custodial parents or guardians. State and Federal rights posters on discrimination and harassment shall also be posted at each building. All new hires will be required to review and sign off on this policy and the related complaint procedures.

## **EDUCATION AND TRAINING**

In support of this policy, the Board promotes preventative educational measures to create greater awareness of aggressive behavior, including bullying and violence within a dating relationship. The Superintendent or designee shall provide appropriate training to all members of the School District community related to the implementation of this policy and its accompanying administrative guidelines. All training regarding the Board's policy and administrative guidelines about aggressive behavior and bullying in general, will be age and content appropriate.

Annually, the District shall provide all students enrolled in the District with age-appropriate instruction regarding the Board's policy, including a written or verbal discussion of the consequences for violations of the policy to the extent that State or Federal funds are appropriated for this purpose.

Students in grades seven (7) through twelve (12) shall receive age-appropriate instruction in dating violence prevention education, including instruction in recognizing dating violence warning signs and characteristics of healthy relationships. Parents, who submit a written request to the building principal to examine the dating violence prevention instruction materials used in the school, will be afforded an opportunity to review the materials within a reasonable period of time.

The District shall provide training, workshops, and/or courses on this policy for school employees and volunteers who have direct contact with students, to the extent that State or Federal funds are appropriated for these purposes. Time spent by school staff in these training programs shall apply toward mandated continuing education requirements.

In accordance with Board Policy 8462, the Superintendent shall include a review of this policy on bullying and other forms of harassment in the required training in the prevention of child abuse, violence and substance abuse and the promotion of positive youth development.

The Superintendent shall develop guidelines to implement this policy. Guidelines shall include reporting and investigative procedures, as needed. The complaint procedure established by the Superintendent shall be followed.

## **STUDENT RIGHTS OF EXPRESSION**

The School recognizes the right of students to express themselves. With the right of expression comes the responsibility to do so appropriately. Students may distribute or display, at appropriate times, non-sponsored, non-commercial written material and petitions, buttons, badges or other insignia; clothing, insignia and banners and audio and video materials. All items must meet school guidelines.

Material cannot be displayed if it:

- is obscene to minors, libelous or pervasively indecent or vulgar;
- advertises any product or service not permitted to minors by law;
- intends to be insulting or harassing;
- intends to incite fighting; or
- presents a clear and present likelihood that, either because of its content or manner of distribution or display, it will cause or is likely to cause a material and substantial disruption of school or school activities, a violation of school regulations or the commission of an unlawful act.

Material may not be displayed or distributed during class periods or between classes. Permission may be granted for display or distribution during lunch periods, and/or before or after school in designated locations, as long as exits are not blocked and there is proper access and egress to the building.

Students who are unsure whether materials they wish to display meet school guidelines may present them to the building principal(s) twenty-four (24) hours prior to display.

## **APPEARANCE CODE**

The Westlake Board of Education realizes that the dress and appearance of students is the joint responsibility of the schools and the home. While it is not the intent of the Westlake Board of Education to dictate styles of dress, it does accept its responsibility in the areas of appearance by providing the following standard of appearance for students in Westlake Schools. Westlake High School is not the forum for inappropriate expressions of appearance. Students' appearance shall be appropriate to education, activities and the environment of the school. Attire or appearance that is considered unsafe, unclean, immodest, vulgar, and/or gang-related will not be permitted. In general, dress and grooming should be appropriate and be governed by good sense, good taste and cleanliness. Violations of the appearance code may result in progressive discipline.

- Any type of dress, appearance, or hairstyle constituting a disruption of the educational process are not permitted
- Any type of dress, appearance, or hairstyle constituting a safety issue are not permitted.
- Any type of clothing that reveals undergarments are not permitted.
- Any type of clothing with excessive or distracting rips or holes are not permitted. Pants that are excessively baggy and do not stay above the student's waist are not permitted.
- Shirts/tops with shoulder straps measuring less than one inch across the top of the shoulder are not permitted. Shirts that expose the midriff, underarm area, or are see-through are not permitted.
- Shorts and skirts that do not sufficiently cover the buttocks and upper thigh while students are

standing, seated, and performing normal school activities (e.g., retrieving items from their locker) are not permitted.

- Clothing that depicts or advocates violence, or exhibits obscene statements, pictures, or gestures are not permitted.
- Hats, hoods, bandanas or other types of headwear are not permitted (except as a genuine religious observance).
- Appropriate footwear must be worn at all times, including close toed shoes for physical education class.
- Coats are to be put in lockers and not worn around the building or in classes without permission.

In situations where a disagreement exists as to whether or not attire is appropriate, the administration shall make the final decision.

Teachers may prescribe proper dress in any given laboratory, gymnasium or special situations for the purposes of safety and/or participation requirements.

Any student representing Westlake High School in any co-curricular activities may be required to adhere to a more rigid and specific appearance pattern. Therefore, it is the student's choice as to whether they want to participate under these circumstances. The advisor, teacher or coach, in conjunction with the building principal, may establish these appearance guidelines.

## **CAFETERIA REGULATIONS**

The use of the cafeteria is a privilege: all students are expected to adhere to the following:

- All students using the cafeteria are encouraged to use a tray.
- Keep the cafeteria clean and free of litter.
- Return and empty the trays promptly when finished eating.
- Be considerate of others and clean/bus your table and surrounding area.
- During a student's lunch period, food and beverage items are to be consumed in the cafeteria only.
- Possession of any food or beverage item is prohibited in the classroom unless given permission by the classroom teacher.
- No glass containers are permitted.
- One table is designated-free table. This table is made available for students who have a medical history of an allergic reaction to nut products. While sitting at this table is voluntary, it is required that no nuts or products containing nuts be brought to or consumed while seated at the nut-free table.
- Outside food source deliveries are not permitted.

During the lunch periods, all students will remain in the cafeteria for entire period. Only specified restrooms can be used during lunch periods. All other areas are restricted unless special authorization is granted by administration and/or teacher.

## **FOOD GUIDELINES**

No food shall be outside of the school cafeteria without consulting with School Food Service Professional, School Nurse, **and** School Administrator first for pre-approval.

The general guidelines for all Westlake City Schools still applies at the Intermediate, Middle, and High School. We also recognize, however, that students in Grades 5-12 are generally more equipped to manage their known food allergies and dietary restrictions and recognize an allergic reaction. Food labels need to be ready for students to read and make informed decisions, and those serving the food should honor a student's decision unless there is a documented reason.

**All classroom staff members will be made aware of food allergies and special dietary needs by school nurse.** Parents/guardians should inform school nurse and school food service professional of any allergies and/or special dietary needs at the beginning of the school year or when newly identified. Peanuts and tree nuts are not to be any classroom. Other life-threatening food allergens will be restricted on a class by class basis as deemed necessary by the school nurse. Tree nuts and peanuts must be consumed only in the cafeteria during lunchtime. (Nut-free table in cafeteria)

- Clearly marked, peanut/tree nut-free tables will be available in the cafeteria for students with allergies. Any additional student is permitted to sit at the peanut/tree nut free table as long as they purchase their lunch at the cafeteria.
- Only district-provided **and** administrator pre-approved food is permitted to be in classrooms\* (\*unless as otherwise indicated in an IEP or 504). Approved food will be consumed in pre-approved designated areas.
- *According to Board Policy, **any** food sold during the school day (the period from the midnight before, to thirty (30) minutes after the end of the official school day), shall comply with the current USDA Dietary Guidelines for Americans and the USDA Smart Snacks in School nutrition standards **and** be administrator pre-approved.*
- All food needs to be factory sealed or made in a commercial kitchen, with the ingredient label visible on the original packaging (no homemade treats permitted).
- All food items must be served in the cafeteria or administrator pre-approved designated area.
- Food may be used as instructional material in science labs, and classes where course lesson plans contain a food-specific educational component. All food used as instructional material must be administrator pre-approved based upon current student needs and instructional objectives.
- Westlake City Schools has Epi-Pens in every building and has provided and/or provides training for all staff on food allergies and special dietary needs.
- Reference Board Policy 5335, 5830, 8500, and 8550 for more information.

## GENERAL INFORMATION

### BICYCLES

Students may ride their bicycles to school. There are bicycle racks available. Please lock your bicycles when parking it for the day. Bicycles may not be locked to trees, poles, or the building.

### BUILDING HOURS

The building is open at 6:30am during days when school is in session. Students must remain in the Rotunda until the 7:30am morning release bell. Any student or group of students remaining in the building after 3:00pm should only do so if they are participating in an extracurricular activity. The Main Office will be open from 7:30am – 3:30pm on days that school is in session.

### DELIVERIES TO STUDENTS

Only emergency messages will be delivered to the classroom. An emergency is an accident, illness or serious family problem. We cannot accept gift deliveries for students. Items such as balloons, flowers, etc. should be sent to the home address and not the school.

Academic or other school function necessary items that students may have forgot at home can be dropped off to the main office for students to come pick up. Food orders for students are not permitted.

## **DRINKS / OPEN CONTAINERS / FOOD**

Students may carry only water to class. Water should be contained in clear bottles. Open containers of drinks such as coffee, juice pop, etc., are not to be brought into the building upon arriving to school. Upon return from Jr/Sr Privilege, students are not permitted to bring fast food for others.

## **ELEVATOR**

The elevator is used for transporting approved people and materials to the second floor. Students who have a disability or temporary injury and need to use the elevator must obtain permission and an elevator electronic key. Students who ride the elevator without permission are subject to disciplinary action.

## **ENROLLING IN THE SCHOOL**

In general, State law requires students to enroll in the school district in which their parent or legal guardian reside. The Board of Education shall not allow students from other school districts to enroll in programs of this District on a non-tuition basis under an open-enrollment plan.

New students under the age of 18 must be enrolled by their parent or legal guardian. When enrolling, parents must provide copies of the following:

- a birth certificate or similar document
- court papers allocating parental rights and responsibilities, or custody (if appropriate)
- proof of residency
- proof of immunizations

Under certain circumstances, temporary enrollment may be permitted. In such cases, parents will be notified about documentation required to establish permanent enrollment. Students enrolling from another school must have an official transcript from their previous school in order to have credits transferred. School officials will assist in obtaining the transcript if not presented at the time of enrollment.

Homeless students who meet the Federal definition of homeless may enroll and will be under the District Liaison Homeless Children with regard to enrollment procedures.

New students 18 years of age or older are not required to be accompanied by a parent when enrolling. When residing with a parent, these students are encouraged to include the parents in the enrollment process. When conducting themselves in school, adult students have the responsibilities of both student and parent.

In addition, if a new student resides in the District with a grandparent and is the subject of a: (1) power of attorney designating the grandparent as the attorney-in-fact; or (2) a caretaker authorization affidavit executed by the grandparent that provides the grandparent with authority over the care, physical custody, and control of the child, including the ability to enroll the child in school, consent in all school related matters, and discuss with the District the child's educational progress, the student's grandparent may enroll the child in school on a tuition-free basis. However, in addition to the above-referenced documents that are typically required for enrollment, the grandparent must provide the District with a duly executed and notarized copy of a power of attorney or caretaker authorization affidavit.

A student suspended or expelled by another public school in Ohio may be temporarily denied admission to the District's schools during the period of suspension or expulsion even if that student would otherwise be entitled to attend school in the District. Likewise, a student expelled or otherwise removed for disciplinary purposes from a public school in another state and the period of expulsion or removal has not expired may be temporarily denied admission to the District's schools during the period of expulsion or removal or until the expiration of the period of expulsion or removal which the student would have received in the District had the student committed the offense while enrolled in the District. Prior to denying admission, however, the Superintendent shall offer

the student an opportunity for a hearing to review the circumstances of the suspension or expulsion and any other factors the Superintendent determines to be relevant.

If a student has been recently discharged or released from the custody of the Department of Youth Services (DYS) and is seeking admittance or re-admittance into the District, the student will not be admitted until the following records, which are required to be released by DHS to the Superintendent, have been received:

- an updated copy of the student's transcript;
- a report of the student's behavior while in DHS custody; 48
- the student's current IEP, if one has been developed for the child; and
- a summary of the instructional record of the child's behavior.

Foreign students and foreign-exchange students (from recognized and approved student programs) are eligible for admission on the same basis as other non-resident students.

## **HOMELESS STUDENTS**

Homeless students will be provided with a free and appropriate public education in the same manner as other students served by the District. Homeless students are eligible to receive transportation services (K-8 only), participate in education programs for students with disabilities or limited English proficiency, participate in gifted and talented programs and receive meals under school nutrition programs. Homeless students will not be denied enrollment based on lack of proof of residency. For additional information contact the liaison for Homeless Students. Westlake City School District's Homeless Liaison is the Director of Student Services. Please contact the Director of Student Services at 440-871-7300.

## **CHILDREN AND YOUTH IN FOSTER CARE**

Students who meet the Federal definition of "in foster care", including those who are awaiting foster care placement, will be provided a free appropriate public education (FAPE) in the same manner as all other students of the District. For additional information see Policy 5111.03.

## **EXTRA-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES**

Extra-curricular activities are specifically designed for grades 9-12. High school dances, for example, may only be attended by students in grades 9-12 and their dates. This includes Homecoming and Prom Dates may be graduates and under the age of 21, but may not be younger than those in the 9<sup>th</sup> grade. The administration has the final authority to approve dates who are not Westlake students.

Note: The Prom, in particular, is a formal affair and proper attire is required. Homecoming is a semiformal and jeans and other dress down clothing are not permitted.

## **FEES**

All fees must be paid by the end of the first grading period, or as assessed in the event they are assigned later in the school year. All fines, lost textbooks, lost library books, assessments for damage to any school property, or any other event resulting in student financial liability must be paid prior to the end of the grading period in which the debt was incurred. Upon a student's graduation date, all financial obligations for all of a student's previous years in the Westlake Schools must be paid in full or the student will not be permitted to participate in Commencement and a diploma will not be issued. In addition, academic school records will not be released for any reason until all financial obligations are met.

School fees can be paid online using the EZPay system. This system can be accessed through the Westlake City Schools website. The fees for high school classes can also be paid with cash or check (payable to Westlake BOE) and turned in to the high school office. Families unable to pay fees should contact the principal.

Some courses at Westlake High School have fees associated with them. These fees can be found in the Course Catalog published on the Westlake High School website. Other student fees will be assessed throughout the year for various charges including testing fees, field trip fees, etc. Charges may also be imposed for loss,

damage or destruction of school apparatus, equipment, musical instruments, library materials, textbooks and for damage to school buildings or property. Students using school property and equipment can be fined for excessive wear and abuse of the property and equipment.

Students participating in any of the following activities will be assessed the corresponding Pay to Participate fees. For more information regarding Pay to Participate guidelines, forms can be found on the Westlake High School website.

Academic Challenge \$35	Swimming/Diving (T) \$55	National Honor Society \$15
Gymnastics (T) \$55	Computer Club \$35	WHBS TV \$35
Show Choir \$15	Marching Band (T) \$55	Football (T) \$125
Baseball (T) \$125	Tech Mates \$35	Newspaper \$35
Key Club \$15	Cross Country (T) \$55	Wrestling (T) \$125
Soccer (T) \$125	Men's Chorus and Octet \$15	Forensics \$35
Basketball (T) \$125	Tennis (T) \$55	Pep Band \$15
Lacrosse - Boys (T) \$55	Debonaires (T) \$55	Yearbook \$35
Softball (T) \$125	Musical \$15	French Club \$15
Cheerleading Fall (T) \$55	Track (T) \$55	Science Olympiad (Gr.10 - 12 - Div. C) (T) \$35
Latin Club \$15	Demonettes (T) \$55	Science Olympiad (Gr.9 - Div. B) (T) \$15
Spanish Club \$15	National Art Honor Society \$15	** (T) Transportation Fee* \$65
Cheerleading Winter (T) \$55	Volleyball (T) \$125	
Chorus (Symphonic, Choral, Women's Ensemble, Mixed) \$15	Drama Club \$35	

## FIELD TRIPS

Field trips are academic activities that are held off school grounds. There are also other trips that are part of the school's co-curricular and extracurricular program. No minor student may participate in any school-sponsored trip without parental consent and a current emergency medical form on file in the office. Medications normally administered at school will be administered while on field trips. The Student Code of Conduct applies to all field trips. Attendance and code of conduct policies apply to all field trips.

## FUNDRAISING

Students participating in school-sponsored groups and activities may solicit funds from other students, staff members and members of the community in accordance with school guidelines. The following general rules apply to all fundraisers:

- Student fund-raising by approved school organizations off school grounds may be permitted under guidelines of the Superintendent.
- Students may not sell any item or service in school without the prior approval of the Principal. Violation of this policy may lead to disciplinary action.

## HALL PASSES

All students must carry a hall pass at all times. No student shall be permitted in the hallway without a pass.

## **ID CARDS**

All students will be provided with a proper picture identification card. This must be on their person or in their possession at all times. Students must produce their ID upon staff request to maintain school safety and order. ID cards will be used for library, book assignment, attendance, lunch purchase and may also be requested for: hall pass permission, computer use, student altercations in the building, discipline, riding the school bus and co- curricular activities such as dances and athletic events.

## **LIBRARY/MEDIA CENTER**

The use of the library/media center is a privilege for students at Westlake High School. Students are encouraged to utilize the resources and services available there. Refer to the Library Information packet for more details. In order to avoid late fees, all materials checked out of the library must be returned by the designated date.

## **LOCKERS**

Lockers are school property and are under the control of Westlake High School. Students accepting use of the lockers must also accept the related responsibilities including, keeping the assigned locker clean both inside and outside. The contents of the locker and the student's belongings are subjected to a search at any time when there is reasonable suspicion that the contents may violate the student code of conduct or when the health, safety or welfare of other students may be at risk. Westlake High School assumes no responsibility for lost or stolen property or money kept in hallway or locker room lockers. Lockers are assigned to specific students and should not be shared with another student.

## **LOST AND FOUND**

The lost and found area is in the main office. Students who have lost items should check there and may retrieve their items if they give a proper description. Unclaimed items will be given to charity at the close of the school year.

## **MEAL SERVICE**

The school participates in the National School Lunch Program and makes lunches available to students for a fee. Ala carte items are available. Students may also bring their own lunch to school to be eaten in the school cafeteria.

Information for the school's Free and Reduced-Priced Meal program can be found on the district website.

## **NON SCHOOL-SPONSORED CLUBS AND ACTIVITIES**

Non School-sponsored student groups may meet in the school building during non-instructional hours. The application for permission to use school facilities can be obtained from the Principal. The applicant must verify that the activity is being initiated by students, that attendance is voluntary, that no school staff person is actively involved in the event, that the event will not interfere with school activities and that non-school persons do not play a regular role in the meeting. All school rules relating to student conduct and equal opportunity to participate apply to such activities.

Membership in any fraternity, sorority or other secret society as proscribed by law is not permitted. All groups must comply with School rules and must provide equal opportunity to participate. No non-district-sponsored organization may use the name of the school or school mascot on any materials or information.



## **POSTERS/ADVERTISING IN THE BUILDING**

All posters must be approved through the principal/assistant principals' office. Posters must be neat, professional looking with appropriate language. Posters may be posted on information boards, hallways and the cafeteria. The sponsoring group following the event must remove posters.

Students may not post announcements or advertisements for outside activities without receiving prior approval from the principal. The principal will attempt to respond to a request for approval within one school day of its receipt. The Board designates the following official, school-sponsored student media to be limited-purpose public forums: WHS Broadcasting and High School Yearbook.

## **RESTRICTED AREAS**

There are specific areas that are off limits to Westlake High School students during school hours. Students found in these areas may be subject to discipline. Leaving campus without permission may result in student discipline including suspension. The following areas are restricted:

- Any area outside of the school building.
- During lunch periods, all students must remain in the cafeteria; all other areas are restricted.

## **SCHOOL CLOSINGS**

When early morning weather and road conditions are deemed hazardous, especially for school transportation, the district will announce closure of schools on local radio/television stations and through electronic communication. All activities scheduled in district facilities are cancelled. Interscholastic sports events, games and practices are postponed. Parents and students are responsible for knowing about emergency closings and delays.

## **SCHOOL DAY**

Classes are in session from 7:50 am until 2:55 pm. Students are required to be in school on time. Students may not leave the school between classes or before the end of the day without permission from the high school office.

## **SCHOOL RESOURCE OFFICER (SRO)**

The SRO's office is located in the Westlake High School main office. He can be contacted at 440-250-1032. The SRO is present in an effort to assist with the education of our students. The SRO may be involved in situations that require a police presence.

Students can access the SRO for a variety of different reasons. The Westlake Schools will at all times and in all circumstances cooperate to the fullest extent with the Westlake Police Department. Any request to interview a student will automatically follow the established Board Policy. The Westlake Police telephone number is 440-871-3311.

## **SCHOOL-SPONSORED CLUBS AND ACTIVITIES**

The Westlake City School District provides students the opportunity to broaden their learning through curricular-related activities. A curricular-related activity may be taken for credit, required for a particular course, and/or contain school subject matter.

Extra-curricular activities do not reflect the School curriculum, but are made available to students to allow them to pursue additional worthwhile activities such as recreational sports, drama and the like.

All students are permitted to participate in the activities of their choosing, as long as they meet the eligibility requirements. Participation in these activities is a privilege and not a right, and students may be prohibited from

all or part of their participation in such activities by authorized school personnel without further notice, hearing and/or appeal rights in accordance with Board Policy 5610.05.

The Board authorizes the following student groups that are sponsored by a staff member.

Academic Challenge	Dance Team	Physics Club
African Diaspora	Debonaires	Pre-med Society Club
Appreciation Project for	Demonettes	Project Support
Togetherness Club	Environmental Club	SADD
Anime Club	French Club	Science Olympiad
Arabic Culture Club	GSA	Shakespeare Club
Art & Animation Club	Game Club	Ski & Snowboard Club
Asian American Club	Green & White Newspaper	Spanish Club
Best Buddies	Handlettering/Calligraphy	Spikeball Club
Business Club	Club	Student Council
Cheerleading	Key Club	TechMates
Chess Club	Latin Club	WHBS
Computer Club	Literature Society	Womens Leadership Club
Crochet Club	Model UN	Yearbook

## **SELECTIVE SERVICE REGISTRATION**

Westlake High School offers Selective Service Registration. Information is available through the counseling office.

## **STUDENT PUBLICATIONS**

Official student publications such as the school newspaper, yearbook, class newsletters, etc., are a part of the school curriculum and, as such, editorial control remains with school authorities.

## **STUDENT SPORTS FAN CONDUCT**

At all school athletic contests, Westlake students are a reflection of the school and community. As such, students are expected to conduct themselves with the ethics of good sportsmanship as a top priority. Students are expected to cheer for Westlake athletes, not against the opposing team or referees.

Students who wish to attend a home event and are not directly participating in the event as players or designated, supervised helpers are to arrive back on campus no earlier than 15 minutes before the first athletic event of the day (e.g., arrive at 4:15pm for a 4:30pm event). Otherwise, students will be loitering and subject to disciplinary action, according to the Code of Conduct.

At all home contests, students are required to sit in the bleachers designated as the home side. At all away contests, students are required to sit in the bleachers that are designated for the visiting school.

Only the official designated Westlake cheerleading squads will be permitted on the floor, field, or track area to conduct cheers. All others must remain in stands.

## **STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES**

The American's with Disabilities Act (A.D.A.) and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act (Section 504) prohibit discrimination against persons with a disability in any program receiving Federal financial assistance. This protection applies not just to students, but to all individuals who have access to the District's programs and facilities.

The laws define a person with a disability as anyone who:

- Has a mental or physical impairment that substantially limits one or more major life activities.
- Has a record of such an impairment;
- Or Is regarded as having such an impairment.

The District has specific responsibilities under these two laws, which include identifying, reviewing and, if the child is determined to be eligible, affording access to appropriate educational accommodation.

Additionally, in accordance with State and Federal mandates, the District seeks out, assesses and appropriately services students with disabilities. Staff members use a comprehensive child study process to systematically screen, assess and, if appropriate, place students in special education and related services. Students are entitled to a free appropriate public education in the "least restrictive environment."

A student can access special education and related services through the proper evaluation procedures. Parent involvement in this procedure is important and required by Federal (IDEIA and A.D.A. Section 504) and State law. Contact your building principal to inquire about evaluation procedures, programs and services.

## **STUDY HALLS**

Students are able to have study halls built into their schedule. Study Halls are for study purposes and are viewed as such. Study halls are staff member directed.

## **TELEPHONE USAGE**

Office telephones may not be used for personal calls. Except in an emergency, students will not be called to the office to receive a telephone call. Office personnel will initiate all calls on behalf of a student seeking permission to leave school.

## **TEXTBOOKS**

All basic hardbound textbooks are loaned to students for their use during the school year. Lost textbooks must be paid for so they may be replaced. Books or other materials, which are assigned to students, are the responsibilities of the student. Excessive damage or the loss of articles may mean that the student will be assessed the value of the article. Should a student fail to meet his / her financial obligation, grades and credits may be withheld.

## **USE OF SCHOOL EQUIPMENT AND FACILITIES**

Students must receive teacher permission before using any equipment or materials in the classroom. Students must seek permission from the principal prior to using any other school equipment or facility. Students are responsible for the proper use and protection of any equipment or facility they are permitted to use.

## **VALUABLES**

Students should not bring items of value to school. Items such as jewelry, expensive clothing, electronic equipment, and the like, are tempting targets for theft and extortion. The School is not liable for any loss or damage to personal valuables.

## **VIDEO SURVEILLANCE**

All students, parents and staff are advised that as a public-school facility, students, parents, staff and building visitors do not have to expect privacy in connection with their actions and activities while in, on or about the campus. In an effort to increase school district security, provide greater safety for students, parents, staff and building visitors, and to reduce vandalism and theft, many areas of the high school campus, both internally and

externally, shall be subjected to video surveillance 24 hours a day/7 days a week. The recordings of such observations shall be available for use by the administrative staff if necessary to enforce the student Code of Conduct provisions by the school district and the law.

## **VISITORS**

Visitors, particularly parents, are welcome at the School. Visitors must report to the office upon entering the school to sign in and obtain a pass. A driver's license will be required to be scanned and applied to an offender database before being granted permission to enter the school. Any visitor found in the building without signing in for a visitor's pass shall be reported to the principal. If a person wishes to confer with a member of the staff, they should call for an appointment prior to coming to the School in order to schedule a mutually convenient meeting time. Students may not bring visitors to school without prior written permission from the Principal.

## **VISITORS (STUDENTS)**

Westlake High School is a closed campus and has a "No visitor" policy. Under very special circumstances, prior permission may be granted by the administration. The Westlake High School student must present a signed written request from their parent or guardian to the assistant principal. Upon the evaluation of this request and the intended purpose of the visit, the assistant principal will make a decision and advise the student accordingly. If the request is granted, the following protocol must take place prior to the visit: (1) on the day of the student visit, the visitor must have permission in written form from their parent or guardian with phone numbers available; (2) on the day of the student visit, host student must present all documentation to the assistant principal; and (3) the assistant principal will be afforded the opportunity to meet with the host student and visiting student prior to issuing a visitor badge; (4) Administration and/or Guidance will notify staff of the visit. Failure to follow these procedures will result in denial of the request.

## **VOTER REGISTRATION**

Voter Registration is available at Westlake High School. Information is available through the counseling office.

# **MEDICAL NEEDS**

## **STUDENT WELL BEING**

Student safety is the responsibility of both students and staff. Staff members are familiar with emergency procedures such as evacuation procedures, fire and tornado drills, safety drills in the event of a terrorist or other violent attack and accident reporting procedures. If a student is aware of any dangerous situation or accident, s/ he must notify a staff person immediately.

State law requires that all students have an emergency medical authorization completed and signed by a parent or guardian on file in the School office. Students with specific health care needs should deliver written notice about such needs, along with physician documentation, to the School office.

## **INJURY AND ILLNESS**

All injuries must be reported to a teacher or the office. If the injuries are minor, the student will be treated and may return to class. If medical attention is required, the office will follow the School's emergency procedures and attempt to make contact with the student's parents.

A student who becomes ill during the school day should request permission to go to the office. An appropriate adult in the office will determine whether the student should remain in school or go home. No student will be released from school without proper parental permission.

## **USE OF MEDICATIONS**

Students who must take prescribed medication during the school day, must comply with the following guidelines:

- Parents should, determine with the counsel of their child's prescriber whether the medication schedule can be adjusted to avoid administering medication during school hours.
- The appropriate form must be turned into the school nurse before the student will be allowed to begin taking any medication during school hours or to use an inhaler to self-administer asthma medication. Such forms must be filed annually and as necessary for any change in the medication.
- All medications must be registered with the Principal's Office and must be delivered to school in the original containers in which they were dispensed by the prescribing physician or licensed pharmacist, labeled with the date, the student's name, and the exact dosage to be administered.
- Medication that is brought to the office will be properly secured. Except as noted below, medication must be delivered to the Principal's Office by the student's parent or guardian or by another responsible adult at the parent or guardian's request. Except as noted below, students may not bring medication to school. Students may carry emergency medications for allergies and/or reactions, or asthma inhalers during school hours provided the student has written permission from a parent or physician and has submitted the proper forms. In the case of epinephrine auto-injectors ("epi-pens"), in addition to written permission and submission of proper forms, the parent or student must provide a backup dose to the school nurse. Students are strictly prohibited from transferring emergency medication, epi-pens, or inhalers to any other student for their use or possession.
- Medication may be conveyed to school directly by the parent or transported by transportation personnel (bus driver and/or bus aide) at parental request. This should be arranged in advance.
- If, for supportable reasons, the Principal wishes to discontinue the privilege of a student self-administering a medication, except for the possession and use of asthma inhalers, the parent(s) shall be notified of the decision in sufficient time for an alternative means of administration to be established.
- Any unused medication unclaimed by the parent will be destroyed by school personnel when a prescription is no longer to be administered or at the end of a school year.
- The parents shall have sole responsibility to instruct their child to take the medication at the scheduled time.
- The principal will maintain a log noting the personnel designated to administer medication, as well as the date and the time of day that administration is required. This log will be maintained along with the prescriber's written request and the parent's written release.

## **NON-PRESCRIBED (OVER-THE-COUNTER) MEDICATIONS**

No staff member will dispense non-prescribed, over-the-counter (OTC) medication to any student without prior parent authorization. Parents may authorize administration of a non-prescribed medication on forms that are available from the school nurse. Physician authorization is not required in such cases.

If a student is found using or possessing a non-prescribed medication, the student will be brought to the School office while the student's parents are contacted for authorization. The medication will be confiscated until written authorization is received.

Any student who distributes medication of any kind or who is found in possession of unauthorized medication is in violation of the School's Code of Conduct and will be disciplined in accordance with the drug-use provision of the Code.

Students shall be permitted to possess and self-administer over-the-counter topical sunscreen products, provided the student has submitted prior written approval of their parent/guardian to the principal, while on school property or at a school-sponsored event.

A student may possess and use a metered dose inhaler or a dry powder inhaler to alleviate asthmatic symptoms or before exercise to prevent the onset of asthmatic symptoms, at school or at any activity, event, or program sponsored by or in which the student's school is a participant if the appropriate form is completed and on file in the Principal's Office.

A student who is authorized to possess and use a metered dose or dry powder inhaler may not transfer possession of any inhaler or other medication to any other student.

## **IMMUNIZATIONS**

Students must be current with all immunizations required by law, including but not limited to poliomyelitis, measles, diphtheria, rubella, pertussis, tetanus, and mumps, or have an authorized exemption from State immunization requirements. Students must be immunized against Hepatitis B and chickenpox. For the safety of all students, the school principal may remove a student from school or establish a deadline for meeting State requirements if a student does not have the necessary immunizations or authorized exemption. In the event of a chicken pox epidemic, the Superintendent may temporarily deny admission to a student otherwise exempted from the chicken pox immunization requirement. Any questions about immunizations or exemptions should be directed to school nurse or building principal.

## **EMERGENCY MEDICAL AUTHORIZATION**

A complete Emergency Medical Authorization Form must be on file with the school in order for a student to participate in any activity off school grounds, including field trips, spectator trips, athletic and other extracurricular activities and co-curricular activities. The Emergency Medical Authorization must be submitted by 50 the first day of school each year.

## **CONTROL OF CASUAL-CONTACT COMMUNICABLE DISEASES**

Because a school has a high concentration of people, it is necessary to take specific measures when the health or safety of the group is at risk. The school's professional staff may remove or isolate a student who has been ill or has been exposed to a communicable disease or highly-transient pest, such as lice.

Specific communicable diseases include diphtheria, scarlet fever, strep infections, whooping cough, mumps, measles, rubella, and other conditions indicated by the Local and State Health Departments.

Any removal will be limited to the contagious period as specified in the school's administrative guidelines.

## **CONTROL OF NON-CASUAL CONTACT COMMUNICABLE DISEASES**

The school district has an obligation to protect staff and students from non-casual contact communicable diseases. When a non-casual-contact communicable disease is suspected, the student's health will be reviewed by a panel of resource people, including the County Health Department. The school will protect the privacy of the person affected and those in contact with the affected person. Students and staff will be permitted to remain in school unless there is definitive evidence to warrant exclusion.

Non-casual contact communicable diseases include sexually transmitted diseases, AIDS, ARC-AIDS Related Complex, HIV, Hepatitis B, and other diseases that may be specified by the State Board of Health.

As required by Federal law, parents will be requested to have their child's blood checked for HIV and HBV when the child bleeds at school and students or staff members are exposed to the blood. Any testing is subject to laws protecting confidentiality.

## **CONTROL OF BLOOD-BORNE PATHOGENS**

The school district seeks to provide a safe educational environment for students and take appropriate measures to protect those students who may be exposed to blood borne pathogens in the school environment and/or during their participation in school-related activities. While the risks of students being exposed to blood borne pathogens may be low, students must assume that all body fluids are potentially infectious and must take precaution to follow universal procedures in order to reduce such risks and minimize and/or prevent the potential for accidental infection.

Whenever a student has contact with blood or other potentially infectious material, they must immediately notify any staff member.

The parents of a student who is exposed will be contacted immediately regarding the exposure and encouraged to have the student's blood tested for Hepatitis B and HIV either by their physician or Cuyahoga County Health Department. The student's parents are encouraged to consult with the student's physician concerning any necessary post-exposure treatment.

The parents of the student who caused the exposure will also be contacted immediately and advised to have the student's blood tested for Hepatitis B and HIV virus either in cooperation with their physician or Cuyahoga County Health Department.

## **SAFETY INFORMATION**

The school complies with all fire safety laws and will conduct fire drills in accordance with State law. The school conducts tornado drills during the tornado season following procedures prescribed by the State. Teachers will provide specific instructions on how to proceed in the case of fire or tornado and will oversee the safe, prompt and orderly evacuation of the building in such cases.

Safety drills will be conducted throughout the school year. Teachers will provide specific instruction on the appropriate procedures to follow in situations where students must be secured in their building rather than evacuated. These situations can include a terrorist threat, a person in possession of a deadly weapon on school property or other acts of violence.

## **CRISIS PROCEDURES**

In accordance with Ohio Revised Code, Westlake High School has adopted a Crisis Manual, which specifies both guidelines and procedures for crisis situations. Fire and tornado drills along with lockdowns will be practiced on a regular basis. In the interest of safety for all parties involved with crisis situations, practice or real, students are required to behave appropriately and according to staff directives. Inappropriate behavior or a lack of seriousness towards the event will result in disciplinary measures.

## **FIRE DRILLS**

Fire drill procedures are posted in every classroom. Teachers will brief classes at the beginning of each semester regarding fire drill procedures. Students are to exit the building in a quiet, orderly manner. Upon leaving the building students are to remain with their classes and proceed to a designated area so attendance may be taken. Everyone must be at least 40 feet from the building and beyond access drives used by emergency vehicles.

Students will return to the building in the same manner and route in which they left the building. Students will not return until teachers give the instructions upon hearing a re-entry signal. Pulling a fire alarm is a serious offense and will result in suspension, and possible recommendation and referral to municipal authorities for possible legal proceedings.

## **TORNADO DRILLS**

Tornado drill procedures are posted in every classroom. Teachers will brief their classes at the beginning of each semester regarding tornado drill procedures, specifically during spring semester. In the event of a drill or actual severe weather, proceed to the designated area in a quiet, orderly manner. Assume the safety position as instructed by your teacher and listen attentively for additional instructions.

## **PREPAREDNESS FOR TOXIC AND ASBESTOS HAZARDS**

The school is concerned for the safety of students and attempts to comply with all Federal and State Laws and Regulations to protect students from hazards that may result from industrial accidents beyond the control of school officials or from the presence of asbestos materials used in previous construction. A copy of the School District's Preparedness for Toxic Hazard and Asbestos Hazard Policy and asbestos management plan is available for inspection at the Board office upon request.

## **STUDENT EMPLOYMENT**

It is recommended that students not take jobs outside of school that could interfere with their success in school. If a student elects to maintain a job in addition to going to school, they must first contact their counselor to discuss any legal requirements and to obtain any required documents.

## **SAFE OPERATION OF MOTORIZED UTILITY VEHICLES BY STUDENTS**

Motorized utility vehicles may be used on school property and/or in conjunction with approved school activities only if operated for the approved purpose. All operators must be at least sixteen (16) years of age and licensed to drive a motor vehicle in the State of Ohio. Prior written permission by the student operator's parent/guardian and release of liability is required.

All operators must be approved in advance by the Superintendent, the administrative supervisor and must be accepted in the District's liability insurance program. Student operators shall only operate utility vehicles at the direction and under the supervision of the approved teacher/activity sponsor/coach.

Operators shall participate in basic safety training for operation of motorized utility vehicles, as prescribed in the administrative guidelines, prior to operating any such vehicle(s). Individuals authorized to operate such utility vehicles may not allow anyone else to use the vehicle (e.g., other students, relatives, friends, etc.). The utility vehicle may only be used for the specific activity and function that has been assigned.

# **TRANSPORTATION GUIDELINES**

## **BUS CONDUCT**

Students who are riding on District-provided transportation must follow all basic safety rules. This applies to school-owned buses as well as any contracted transportation. The driver may assign seating or direct students in any reasonable manner to maintain transportation safety.

Students must comply with the following basic safety rules:

- Prior to loading each student shall:
  - Be on time at the designated loading zone.
  - Stay off the road at all times while walking to and waiting for school transportation.
  - Wait until the bus is completely stopped before entering.



- Properly board and depart the bus or school vehicle.

It is the parent's responsibility to inform the bus driver when their child will not be aboard school transportation. Drivers will not wait for students who are not at their designated stops on time.

- During the trip – Each student shall:
  - Remain seated while the school transportation is in motion.
  - Keep head, hands, arms and legs inside the school transportation at all times.
  - Not push, shove or engage in scuffling.
  - Not litter in the school vehicle or throw anything in, into or from the vehicle.
  - Keep books, packages, coats and all other objects out of the aisle.
  - Be courteous to the driver and to other riders.
  - Not eat or play games, cards, etc.
  - Not use nuisance devices (e.g., laser pointers) on the bus in a way that disrupts the safe transportation of students and/or endangers students or employees.
  - Not tamper with the school vehicle or any of its equipment (including, but not limited to emergency and/or safety equipment).
- Exiting the school vehicle - Each student shall:
  - Remain seated until the vehicle has stopped.
  - Cross the road, when necessary, at least 10 feet in front of the vehicle, but only after the driver signals that it is safe.
  - Be alert to a possible danger signal from the driver.
  - The driver will not discharge students at places other than their regular stop at home or at school unless s/ he has proper authorization from school officials.

The Board of Education has installed video cameras on school buses to monitor student behavior. If a student misbehaves on a bus and their actions are recorded on a videotape, the tape will be submitted to the principal and may be used as evidence of misbehavior.

## **PENALTIES FOR INFRACTIONS**

A student who misbehaves on the bus shall be disciplined in accordance with the Student Discipline Code and may lose the privilege of riding on the bus.

## **PARKING ON CAMPUS**

Students can purchase a parking permit from the attendance office. Upon permit pickup, the student must show their driver's license (temporary permits are not acceptable) and proof of insurance. If these two items cannot be shown, a parking permit will not be distributed. Each permit must be clearly displayed in the inside of the car at all times when the vehicle is on school property.

Driving to school is a privilege that can be revoked at any time. No student will be permitted to drive a car to school without written application from a parent or guardian. The completed application does not guarantee parking privileges for the student. Parking privileges may be denied for various reasons, including (but not limited to) code of conduct violations and/or not being in good standing (grades/credits, service learning hours, etc.)

When permission is granted, it will be under the following conditions:

- The vehicle driven to school must display an official tag issued by the school.
- Upon arrival at school, the car is to be parked and locked for the duration of the student's school day in the student lot.
- Students are only permitted to park in student designated spots.
- Students may lose their driving privilege for violation of either Code of Conduct or other school rules.

Violations of parking rules and regulations, including parking illegally may be subject to disciplinary actions and loss of parking permit.

- No sharing of parking permits.
- The attendance office will not excuse students who miss classes due to a flat tire, engine trouble or other car related reasons.
- The speed limit in the Westlake High School parking lot is 5 mph. Students are not permitted to drive behind the school or in the faculty lot.
- At the conclusion of the school day, drivers must exit the property. At no time should students drive between parked cars or cut through the lot. Inappropriate driving will result in loss of permit.
- Accidents on school property may result in parking permit suspension for the person(s) at fault.
- Student's cars parked on school premises are subject to search.
- Students who park in the school parking lot will also be enrolled in the student random drug testing program and may be tested in accordance with our policy.
- Students may lose their parking privilege if they have excessive tardiness or truancy to school.
- Students are not permitted to loiter in cars in the parking lot or the parking lot itself.
- Any other misconduct as determined by the administration.

Any student found in violation of the campus parking rules will be subject to disciplinary action and their vehicle may be towed at the owner's expense.

# 2023-2024 DISTRICT CALENDAR

## Westlake City School District Calendar 2023-24

**AUGUST**

18 Opening Staff Day – PAC  
 17-22 Staff Work Days  
 23 First Day for Students  
 23 Kdgn Orientation/First Day (A-I)  
 24 Kdgn Orientation/First Day (M-Z)  
 25 All Kindergarten First Day  
 25-29 Preschool Orientation

AUGUST 2023						
S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

**SEPTEMBER**

4 Labor Day - No School  
 5 Preschool First Day

SEPTEMBER 2023						
S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30

**OCTOBER**

13 NEOEA Day - No School  
 26 End of Quarter 1  
 27 Teacher Work Day

OCTOBER 2023						
S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

**NOVEMBER**

6 PD Day No School  
 16 PK-8 PM Conferences  
 20 PK-8 PM Conferences  
 21 PK-8 Day Conferences –  
 No School for PK-8  
 Students  
 22-24 Thanksgiving Break

NOVEMBER 2023						
S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30		

**DECEMBER**

25-29 Winter Break

DECEMBER 2023						
S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30

**JANUARY**

1-5 Winter Break  
 8 Classes Resume  
 15 MLK Day-No School  
 18 End of Qtr 2/Sem 1  
 19 Staff Work Day

JANUARY 2024						
S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

**FEBRUARY**

7 WHS Day Conferences  
 No School for WHS  
 Students ONLY  
 16 PD Day-No School  
 19 Presidents Day-No School

FEBRUARY 2024						
S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30

**MARCH**

18 PD Day-No School  
 22 End of Quarter 3  
 25 Teacher Work Day  
 29 - Spring Break

MARCH 2024						
S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30

**APRIL**

1-5 Spring Break  
 8 Calamity Day (Eclipse)

APRIL 2024						
S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30				

**MAY**

27 Memorial Day  
 Commencement TBD  
 30 Preschool Last Day

MAY 2024						
S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

**JUN**

5 End of Qtr 4/Sem 2  
 6 Staff Records Day – No Students

JUNE 2024						
S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29

**JULY**

Legend  
 \*Dates in RED indicate no school for students  
 \*End of Quarter/Semester  
 \*Staff Work Day-No Students

JULY 2024						
S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

Revised 06/28/2023