

Westport High School  
Student/Parent/Guardian Handbook  
**2023-2024**

400 Old County Rd  
Westport MA 02790  
508-636-1050  
508-636-1053 Fax

<http://www.westportschools.org/>



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**Questions Regarding the Handbook**

Any questions or concerns regarding the handbook should be brought to the attention of the Principal or Assistant Principals.

**Translations**

Contact the Superintendent of Schools at 508-636-1156 for a translation of this or any other school notice.

**Portuguese:**

Contate por favor o superintendente das escolas pelo telephone 508-636-1137 para qualquer tradução relacionada com esta ou outras noticias da escola.

**Spanish:**

Contacta por favor al superintendente de escuelas en 508-636-1137 para una traducción de esto o de cualquier otro aviso de la escuela.

**French:**

Veillez contactez le surveillant des écoles a 508-636-1137 pour une traduction de ceci ou de n'importe quelle autre notification d'école.

**German:**

Treten Sie bitte mit dem Betriebsleiter der Schulen bei 508-636-1137 für eine Übersetzung von diesem oder von jedem möglichem anderen Schulebegriff in Verbindung.

### **District's Non-Discrimination Statement**

It is the policy of the Westport Community Schools to maintain a learning and working environment that is free from harassment, violence or discrimination based on actual or perceived race, color, creed, religion, national origin, sex/gender, marital status, homelessness, disability, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, age, family care leave status, pregnancy or any condition related to pregnancy, or military/veteran status. For further information or to redress a grievance, contact the district's Civil Rights Compliance Officer by phone at 508-636-1140, or in writing at 17 Main Road, Westport, MA 02790.

### **Westport High School Handbook**

#### **Parents:**

The purpose of this booklet is to provide information that will aid students in adjusting to Westport High School. More detailed information is available in the Westport Community Schools Student Policy Handbook.

#### **Precedence:**

In the event of conflict between the contents of this handbook and those of the Education Policy Manual of the Westport Community Schools, the contents of the Education Policy Manual shall govern. The Policy Manual is available on the Westport Community School website under *School Committee*.

Students and parents are requested to read this booklet carefully. Students should refer to this booklet throughout the school year.

## **Principal's Letter**

Dear Parents/Guardians and Wildcat Students,

I hope this letter finds you in good health and high spirits as we approach the upcoming academic year. On behalf of the entire faculty and staff of Westport Middle High School, I am delighted to present to you the updated edition of our Student Handbook for the 2023-2024 academic year. The Student Handbook serves as a valuable resource that outlines our school policies, procedures, and expectations, fostering a safe and conducive learning environment for all students.

At WMHS we strive to provide an enriching and supportive educational experience that promotes academic excellence, personal growth, and character development. Our Student Handbook plays a vital role in achieving these goals by ensuring a consistent understanding of our school's values, guidelines, and procedures. It is essential for both students and parents/guardians to familiarize themselves with its contents to ensure a successful and harmonious school year.

We have made efforts to ensure that the Student Handbook is comprehensive and reflective of our school's values. However, we also understand that situations may arise where additional clarification or updates are necessary. We encourage open communication between parents/guardians, students, and school staff, and we remain committed to addressing any concerns promptly and effectively.

Please take the time to carefully review the Student Handbook with your child. It is important that both students and parents/guardians understand and support the policies and expectations outlined within. By doing so, we can work together to create an environment that fosters academic growth, personal development, and mutual respect.

We eagerly anticipate another fantastic academic year at Westport Middle High School, filled with exciting learning opportunities and remarkable achievements. With your support, we are confident that our students will thrive both academically and personally.

Thank you for your continued partnership, and we look forward to working together to provide an exceptional educational experience for every student.

Sincerely,

Laura Charette

**Westport High School  
Parent/Guardian Communication Dates**

- Westport High School Open House: Thursday, September 7, 2023
- Westport High School Parent Teacher Conferences: Wednesday, November 15, 2023 from 6-8 PM
- Westport High School Parent Teacher Conferences: Wednesday, March 13, 2024 from 2:15-4:15 PM

**Progress Reports**

- Term 1: Tuesday, October 3, 2023
- Term 2: Monday, December 11, 2023
- Term 3: Friday, March 1, 2024
- Term 4: Friday, May 10, 2024

\*Progress reports are typically posted one week after the above dates in the Community Portal.

**Term Dates**

- Term 1 End Date: Thursday, November 2, 2023
- Term 2/Semester 1 End Date: Monday, January 22, 2024
- Term 3 End Date: Tuesday, April 2, 2024
- Term 4/Semester 2 End Date: Wednesday, June 12, 2024

\*Report cards are typically posted one week after the end date in the Community Portal.

## **Westport High School's Mission Statement**

The mission of the Westport High School is to educate all students to become 21<sup>st</sup> century learners, to seek and value knowledge, and to emerge as productive citizens in a global community.

### **21st Century Learning Expectations**

We believe

- All students can learn
- Students learn best in a safe, supportive, and equitable environment
- Tolerance of individual differences and cooperative resolution of conflicts create a climate of respect
- Inquiry and collaboration help students actively engage in the curriculum
- Essential understanding is demonstrated through effective communication
- Personal responsibility for behavior and learning leads to success
- Collaboration among all stakeholders maximizes achievement

### **Expectations for Student Learning**

#### **Academic**

All students should acquire, integrate and apply enduring understandings, knowledge and skills.

All students should read, write and communicate effectively.

All students should use higher order thinking skills to solve complex problems.

All students should use media and technology effectively.

All students should study, research and work independently and collaboratively.

#### **Social**

All students should demonstrate personal and social responsibility.

#### **Civic**

All students should demonstrate civic responsibility.



## **Administration Directory**

### **Westport Community Schools School Committee**

Nancy Stanton-Cross (Chair), Dr. Melissa Pacheco (Vice-Chair),

Antonio Viveiros, Evan Gendreau, Gloria Cabral

### **Westport Community Schools**

Thomas F. Aubin  
Superintendent of Schools  
[taubin@westportschools.org](mailto:taubin@westportschools.org)  
508-636-1140

Lori Melo  
Executive Secretary to Superintendent  
[lmelo@westportschools.org](mailto:lmelo@westportschools.org)  
508-636-1146 x4001

### **Westport High School**

Laura Charette  
Principal  
[lcharette@westportschools.org](mailto:lcharette@westportschools.org)

Jessica Boga  
Executive Secretary to Principal  
508-636-1050

Michael Grandfield  
Assistant Principal  
[mgrandfield@westportschools.org](mailto:mgrandfield@westportschools.org)

Shelly Morris  
Director of Athletics & Activities  
[smorris@westportschools.org](mailto:smorris@westportschools.org)

Jennifer Gargiulo  
Assistant Principal  
[jgargiulo@westportschools.org](mailto:jgargiulo@westportschools.org)

## **Faculty/Staff Directory**

<i>Name</i>	<i>Position</i>	<i>Email*</i> <i>(@westportschools.org)</i>
Abrahamson, Norm	Social Studies/History	nabrahamson
Amaral, Sherry	Teaching Assistant	samaral
Arruda, Amy	Special Education Clerk	aarruda

Arruda, Cindy	Special Education	carruda
Ayotte, Hannah	English/Language Arts	hayotte
Borges, Christina	Guidance Counselor	cborges
Burrows, Ian	Math	iburrows
Charbonneau, Wendy	Teaching Assistant	wcharbonneau
Charest, Heidi	Teaching Assistant	hcharest
Cipollini, John	Math Teacher	johncipollini
Clark, Kevin	Business	kclark
Clark, Tom	English	tclark
Cohen, Darcy	dcohen	dcohen
Corey, Jackie	Guidance Clerk	jcorey
Cox, Daniel	Math Teacher	dcox
Curylo, Emily	Science Teacher	ecurylo
daLuz, Celia	Physical Education & Health	cdaluz
DeFreitas, Cynthia	Teaching Assistant	cdefreitas
Farias, Edneuza	World Language	efarias
Davis, Scott	School Resource Office	sro
Frost, Scott	Visual/Performing Arts	sfrost
Giblin, Karen	Teaching Assistant	kgiblin
Henry, Audrey	Attendance Clerk	ahenry
Hutchinson, Christian	Science Teacher	chutchinson
Jones, Monique	Special Education	mjones
Lambert, Melissa	Art	mlambert
Marshalek, Benjamin	Physical Education & Health	bmarshalek
McGinnis, Andrew	Science	amcginnis
McMeniman, Laura	Math	lmcmeniman
Medeiros, Mary-Jo	School Adjustment Counselor	mmedeiros
Mekshes, Rebecca	Social Studies/History	rmekshes
Mello, Erin	Special Education	emello
Mercer, Regina	College and Career Readiness	rmerc
Moisiades, Julia	Special Education	jmoisiades
Monast, Richard	Media Center	rmonast
Pacheco, Stephanie	Teaching Assistant	adegagne
Pavao, Caroline	World Language	cpavao
Perry, Kim	Teaching Assistant	kperry
Phenix, Nicole	English/Language Arts	ndias
Rebelo, Jamie	English/Language Arts	jrebello

Rezendes, John	TV/Media	jrezendes
Rowley, Amanda	English Language Arts	arowley
Ruel, Leslie	Guidance	lruel
Shivers, Matthew	English/Language Arts	mshivers
Sliva, Amy	Math	asilva
Silva, Jordan	Science	jsilva
Silva, Katherine	Social Studies/History	ksilva
Silva, Natalia	Teaching Assistant	nsilva
Skov, Sharon	Teaching Assistant	sskov
Souza, Joseph	Special Education	jsouza
Sullivan, Liam	Band/Music Teacher	lsullivan
Thibodeau, Sheldon	Social Studies/History	sthibodeau
Vieira, Michelle	Clerk	mvieira
Walinski, Suzanne	Nurse	swalinski
TBD	Teaching Assistant	

## Student Rights and Responsibilities

The School Committee has the responsibility to afford students the rights that are theirs by virtue of guarantees offered under the federal and state constitutions and statutes. In connection with rights there are responsibilities that must be assumed by students.

Among these rights and responsibilities are the following Civil Rights -- including:

- The **rights** to equal educational opportunity and freedom from discrimination and the **responsibility** not to discriminate against others.
- The **right** to attend free public schools and the **responsibility** to attend school regularly and to observe school rules essential for permitting others to learn at school.
- The **right** to due process of law with respect to suspension, expulsion, and decisions the student believes injure her/his rights and the **responsibility** to respect the rights of others.
- The **right** to free inquiry and expression and the **responsibility** to observe reasonable rules regarding these rights.
- The **right** to privacy, which includes privacy in respect to the student's school records and the **responsibility** to respect the privacy rights of others.

It is the School Committee's belief that as part of the educational process students should be made aware of their legal rights and responsibilities and of the legal authority of the School Committee, the Superintendent, and the principals regarding the orderly operation of the schools and the protection of the rights of other students and staff members.

Students have the right to know the standards of behavior that are expected of them, and the consequences of not respecting school values. The **rights** and **responsibilities** of students, including standards of conduct, will be made available to students and their parents through the publication of student/parent handbooks distributed annually and subject to the approval of the School Committee.

## Chain of Command

If you have a concern with your student, always start the solution with the staff member involved in the circumstance. Please follow the chain of command below:

- Teacher/Guidance Counselor/Nurse
- Assistant Principal
- Principal
- Superintendent
- School Committee

### **School Safety and Security Policies**

To ensure security at Westport Middle High School, exterior doors will remain locked during the school day. Cameras are on and monitored by the School Resource Officer (SRO) and/or other staff members such as building administrators. In addition, the following procedures will be adhered to

- Visitors to the building must have an appointment and are required to register with the Main Office with a driver's license, military ID, or state ID, and are subject to a background check prior to being issued a visitor's pass. Visitors must check out with the Main Office and return the visitor pass when leaving the building.
- Students are prohibited from allowing outsiders access to the school building. Any student allowing outsiders access to the building will be disciplined.
- Staff and students must notify building administration immediately if any breaches of security are observed.
- All students not under the supervision of a teacher or coach must exit the building by 2:15 pm. This includes students attending after school sport events as spectators. Students will be allowed to re-enter the building 30 minutes prior to the start of the athletic event.

The SRO has access to the school cameras and the student management system. The administration carries radios with them throughout the school day. Students are encouraged to immediately notify a teacher if they observe any breach of security.

Student visitors, as defined by a student who is not enrolled at Westport High School, are generally not allowed in the building. Exceptions to this rule are given on an individual basis by the Principal. Information regarding a student visitor must be provided to the Principal at least one day in advance to obtain permission.

Adult visitors or observers must also obtain permission before the planned visit, following a similar protocol as student visitors.

Individuals not adhering to this policy will be removed from the building and/or be prosecuted for trespassing as covered by law under Chapter 266, Section 120.

## **Westport Middle High School Bell Schedule**

Times	Block	
7:30 - 7:35	Homeroom	
7:40 - 8:35 (55 minutes)	Block 1	
8:40 - 9:35 (55 minutes)	Block 2	
9:40 - 10:35 (55 minutes)	Block 3	
10:40 - 12:00 (50 minutes)	Block 4 (WMS)	Grades 7&8 Lunch → 10:40 - 11:10 (Lunch then Class) Grades 5&6 Lunch → 11:10 - 11:40 (Class, Lunch, Class)
10:40 - 11:35 (55 minutes)	Block 4 (WHS)	
12:05 - 1:00	Block 5 (WMS)	
11:40 - 1:00 (50 minutes)	Block 5 (WHS)	Third Lunch → 11:40 - 12:10 (Lunch then Class) Fourth Lunch → 12:10 - 12:40 (Class, Lunch, Class)
1:05 - 2:00 (55 minutes)	Block 6	

### ROTATION OF SCHEDULE

Day 1	Day 2	Day 3	Day 4	Day 5	Day 6
A	B	C	D	E	F
B	C	D	E	F	A
C	D	E	F	A	B
D	E	F	A	B	C
E	F	A	B	C	D
F	A	B	C	D	E

WHS GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS		
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Department	Courses	Minimum Credits
English	English 9	5
	English 10	5
	English 11	5
	English 12	5
Mathematics	Algebra 1	5
	Geometry	5
	Algebra 2	5
	1 Additional Course (Students must take Math every year for a minimum of 4 courses)	5
Social Studies	World History	5
	US History I	5
	US History II	5
Science	Biology	5
	2 Lab Sciences	10
World Language	1 Course	5
Physical Education/Health	9, 10, 11, 12	10
Visual/Performing Arts	1 Course	2.5
Technology	1 Course	2.5
Business	Personal Finance	2.5

20 Hours of Community Service, beginning with the graduating class of 2026

MCAS: Achieving Competency Determination, as determined by the MA Department of Elementary and Secondary Education, on the grade 10 MCAS exams in English/Language Arts, Math, and Science are required to obtain a Westport High School Diploma. Students in any grade who are at risk of not passing the MCAS or have not passed the MCAS will be required to enroll in classes designed to enhance their academic skills.

<b>*Total Required Credits.....</b>	<b>92.5</b>
<b>*Total Elective Credits.....</b>	<b>27.5</b>
<b>*Credits Required for Graduation</b>	<b>110</b>
<b>*Credits Possible for 4 years/8 semesters</b>	<b>120</b>

All students must be enrolled in 30 credits per year

\*Begins with Class of 2027

Needed Credits for Class of 2026	130 Credits (Credits Required - 120)
Needed Credits for Class of 2025	140 Credits (Credits Required - 130)
Needed Credits for Class of 2024	150 Credits (Credits Required - 140)

#### **Class Rank**

Class rank is determined using a weighted grade point average. Students may know their class rank by speaking to their guidance counselor. Edgenuity courses will not be counted towards class rank/GPA.

**Grade point Conversations and the Weighted Grade Point Average shall be computed as follows:**

**Step 1:** Convert the final grade in each course completed to its equivalent grade point value using the Grade to Grade Point Value Conversion Table.

**Step 2:** Total all of the equivalent grade point values derived in Step 1.

**Step 3:** Divide the total grade point values from Step 2 by the total number of courses taken to obtain the Weighted Grade Point Average.

#### **Grade Point Value Chart**

<b>Final Course Grade</b>	<b>Course Grade</b>	<b>Final Standard Course</b>	<b>Honors/Dual</b>	<b>AP Course</b>
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			Enrollment	
A <sup>+</sup>	100	4.5	5.0	5.5
	99	4.4	4.9	5.4
	98	4.3	4.8	5.3
	97	4.2	4.7	5.2
A	96	4.1	4.6	5.1
	95	4.0	4.5	5.0
	94	3.9	4.4	4.9
A <sup>-</sup>	93	3.8	4.3	4.8
	92	3.7	4.2	4.7
	91	3.6	4.1	4.6
	90	3.5	4.0	4.5
B <sup>+</sup>	89	3.4	3.9	4.4
	88	3.3	3.8	4.3
	87	3.2	3.7	4.2
B	86	3.1	3.6	4.1
	85	3.0	3.5	4.0
	84	2.9	3.4	3.9
B <sup>-</sup>	83	2.8	3.3	3.8
	82	2.7	3.2	3.7
	81	2.6	3.1	3.6
	80	2.5	3.0	3.5
C <sup>+</sup>	79	2.4	2.9	3.4
	78	2.3	2.8	3.3
	77	2.2	2.7	3.2
C	76	2.1	2.6	3.1
	75	2.0	2.5	3.0
	74	1.9	2.4	2.9
C <sup>-</sup>	73	1.8	2.3	2.8
	72	1.7	2.2	2.7
	71	1.6	2.1	2.6
	70	1.5	2.0	2.5
D <sup>+</sup>	69	1.4	1.9	2.4
	68	1.3	1.8	2.3
	67	1.2	1.7	2.2
D	66	1.1	1.6	2.1
	65	1.0	1.5	2.0
F	64	0	0	0

#### Grade Level Determination

- 30 credits are needed to be considered a sophomore.
- 70 credits are needed to be considered a junior.
- 110 credits are needed to be considered a senior.

Grade level determination will be considered at the end of each academic year. For all activities, students will be considered a member of the class by the number of credits.

### **Graduation**

Seniors must have all course work completed, including the final examination on the last day of classes in order to take part in commencement activities. Students must have earned the required number of credits required for graduation, meet all extra-curricular activity eligibility requirements, and have all financial obligations to the school, met in order to take part in the senior activities, including graduation. Seniors must have all disciplinary consequences served by graduation day in order to participate in the ceremony.

Seniors who have a cumulative average of 90 or higher in a course will not be required to take the final exam.

### **Course Changes**

Students who want to change a class must do so by the fifth day of each term. Students who have extenuating circumstances may appeal to the Principal. All appeals will take place after school and students must remain in their class until a decision is rendered. Final appeal may be made to the Principal. Failure to remain in a class until a decision is made will be considered an absence and a class cut.

### **Dual Enrollment**

The Dual Enrollment Program was authorized in the Education Reform Act of 1993. Today, qualifying high school students can earn both high school and college credits through this program.

Interested students must determine eligibility and begin the application process as early as possible. Students must contact the Guidance Office by May 1 for the fall semester and November 1 for the spring semester. Westport High School students have been enrolled at the University of Massachusetts Dartmouth, Bristol Community College, Massachusetts Maritime Academy, and New England Institute of Technology.

### **Dual Enrollment—School Department Policy**

- Only students who have completed their sophomore year and have been enrolled for one full school year at Westport High School will be considered for this program.
- All courses must be approved in advance by the Principal.
- Students may take **no more than two courses per semester for credit, nor can they exceed the total number of possible credits.**
- Upon successful completion of a course, a student will receive high school credit.
- All expenses associated with the program are the responsibility of the student and his/her family. The School Department has no responsibility to provide such funding.

### **Dual Enrollment Eligibility**

- Juniors or seniors with a GPA of 3.0 or higher for UMass Dartmouth and Bristol Community College and a GPA of 2.5 or higher at Massachusetts Maritime Academy.
- Approval of the Principal.
- Letter from parent/guardian granting permission
- Students must be in compliance with the attendance and tardy policy of WHS

### **Dual Enrollment—Student Responsibilities**

- Once eligibility has been determined, the student will research potential courses at the college or university.
- The student must submit a completed dual enrollment course request and college registration form to the Guidance Office. This form will then be submitted to the DESE for funding approval.
- The student may take the course and pay all costs involved.
- At the end of the course, the student must forward a transcript or grade report to the high school for inclusion on the student's high school transcript.

## **Honor Roll Criteria**

### **High School:**

- High Honors = all grades 90 and above
- Honors = all grades 80 and above

Note: Honor Roll status is calculated based upon the term grade. Appeal is taken on an as needed basis.

## **NHS Regulations/Criteria**

### **Selection Process**

Any Junior or Senior who has earned a cumulative, weighted GPA of 3.6 by the completion of their first semester of Junior year is eligible to be considered for membership to the National Honor Society. Each eligible candidate receives a congratulatory letter accompanied with the appropriate instructions, a biographical information sheet, which must be completed by the student and submitted to the NHS advisor according to the stated deadline. A 300-400-word essay on a given topic must also accompany the data sheet, as well as a letter of recommendation from an outside of school contact. After all biographical data sheets, essays, and letters of recommendation have been collected; the advisor provides copies to each member of the Faculty Council. (The Faculty Council is a group of 4 staff members whose purpose is to vote on the selection, probation and/or dismissal of any candidate or member). In addition, members of the staff are asked to rate each candidate on a scale of 1-3 in the areas of leadership, service and character. These ratings are averaged and considered in the selection process.

After each member of the Faculty Council has taken the time to review the application a meeting is held to discuss each candidate. Any candidate that receives a unanimous vote by the Faculty Council is elected as a member. It is the duty of the Faculty Council to consider the 4 criteria upheld by the National Honor Society: scholarship, leadership, service and character. Any candidate that is denied membership would be lacking in one or more of those areas. The Faculty Council must notify the Principal of candidates who have been denied membership. Those candidates who are denied membership have the opportunity to appeal their decision to the Faculty Council. Within 48 hours after receiving a denial notification the student may submit a letter of appeal to the National Honor Society advisor requesting a meeting with the Faculty Council to plead his/her case. If the Faculty Council upholds their decision and the student is still not satisfied, he/she may request a hearing with the Principal by submitting a letter in writing within 48 hours of the Faculty Council meeting. The Principal's decision is final.

### **Induction Ceremony**

New members and NHS officers are required to attend two rehearsals prior to the Induction Ceremony. The date of the ceremony is determined by the advisor and activities coordinator. Senior members are required to attend the Induction Ceremony but not the rehearsals.

### **Responsibility of Members**

Member responsibilities are in accordance with the NHS bylaws, which are available from the advisor and online at <http://westportnhs.weebly.com/information.html>. Students who are in violation of any NHS policy may be put on probation and potentially dismissed from the Honor Society. Members that have been dismissed will never again be eligible for future membership into the National Honor Society. Probation and dismissal of members are at the discretion of the Faculty Council.

## **Academic Expectations**

### **Citizenship Expectations Westport High School**

#### **Overview**

It is one of the school's duties to assist parents in helping students develop responsible attitudes and behavior. This means preparing students for adult citizenship as well as preparing them for jobs and higher education.

For this reason, it is as important for the school to teach and evaluate both citizenship and academic work.

Parents and students should be as interested in citizenship "ability" as in academic, artistic, or athletic ability.

Teachers are required, based on the "Citizenship Rubric" to establish written classroom expectations regarding students' expected classroom behavior. These written expectations will be provided to students at the beginning of the year or when new students transfer into the class.

Teachers are also required to discuss these standards with their students and explain their expectations at the beginning of each semester.

### **The Citizenship Mark**

Students will receive a term citizenship mark from each of their classroom teachers. The mark will be based solely on the citizenship displayed in each teacher's classroom.

Students will receive a mark of "outstanding", "satisfactory", or "unsatisfactory" based on the "Citizenship Guidelines" found below. The citizenship mark for each class will be shown on the student's report card. WHS students who receive two or more "unsatisfactory" citizenship marks may be considered for conditional eligibility to participate in extracurricular clubs and athletics for the next marking period and must adhere to their personalized conditional eligibility contract to continue to participate in the extracurricular clubs and athletics.

### **Appeal of Citizenship Mark**

Students and parents have a right to appeal citizenship marks, which they feel are in error or unjustified. If it is determined that the citizenship grade is not an error, the student and parent may request a meeting with both the teacher and the grade level assistant principal within two weeks after the citizenship marks are released. The Principal is the final arbiter in cases of appeals of the citizenship mark.

## **Westport High School School-Wide Rubrics**

### **WHS CITIZENSHIP RUBRIC**

<b>CRITERIA</b>	<b>OUTSTANDING (3 points)</b>	<b>SATISFACTORY (2 points)</b>	<b>UNSATISFACTORY (1 point)</b>
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<b>Attendance &amp; punctuality</b>	Student has near perfect attendance and punctuality	Student attends class regularly and usually comes to class on time	Student has irregular attendance (7 or more unexcused per semester class, 3 or more per quarter class) and/or irregular punctuality (3 or more unexcused)
<b>Responsibility for learning</b>	Student models preparedness and actively participates in class in meaningful way	Student comes to class prepared to learn	Student is consistently unprepared for class
<b>Classroom behavior</b>	Student serves as a positive role model and leader and demonstrates exemplary conduct	Student shows respect for others and exercises good conduct	Student demonstrates lack of respect for others; conduct disruptive to the educational process
<b>Work ethic</b>	Student works independently and models academic honesty; actively participates in class in meaningful way	Student works independently and models academic honesty; participates in class	Student cannot work independently; has difficulty maintaining focus

**Overall score range and Citizenship grade:**

**10-12 points = Outstanding; 7-9 points = Satisfactory; 4-6 points = Unsatisfactory**

The Citizenship rubric is utilized in all WHS classes each Quarter. All students receive a Citizenship grade each Quarter. Citizenship marks will not be shown on the student's transcript or other permanent records. However, students receiving two or more Unsatisfactory Citizenship grades will not be eligible for school events such as homecoming, semi-formal, and prom, but may be conditionally eligible for extracurricular clubs and athletics participation with the development of a personalized student eligibility contract.

The other WHS school-wide rubrics are utilized for course assignments at teacher discretion. In some instances, teachers may use parts of different school-wide rubrics to create an assignment rubric for a particular assignment in their class.

**WHS READING RUBRIC**

<b>CRITERIA</b>	<b>OUTSTANDING (3 points)</b>	<b>SATISFACTORY (2 points)</b>	<b>UNSATISFACTORY (1 point)</b>
<b>Understands main idea</b>	Student demonstrates an insightful understanding of the main ideas	Student understands main ideas and/or concepts	Student has little to no understanding of the main ideas

<b>Provides evidence to support understanding</b>	Student offers multiple pieces of evidence to support their conclusions.	Student can support conclusions with evidence	Student has little to no evidence supporting their conclusions
<b>Connects new reading to previous readings</b>	Student makes explicit connections to previous readings or experience	Student attempts to connect new reading to previous readings or experiences	Students has demonstrates little to no connection of new reading to previous reading or experiences
<b>Vocabulary</b>	Student understands and extends reading vocabulary	Student understands reading vocabulary	Student has little to no understanding of reading vocabulary

#### WHS PROBLEM-SOLVING RUBRIC

<b>CRITERIA</b>	<b>OUTSTANDING (3 points)</b>	<b>SATISFACTORY (2 points)</b>	<b>UNSATISFACTORY (1 point)</b>
<b>Identifies the problem/question</b>	Student identifies, clarifies and describes the issues and the problem.	Student identifies, clarifies and describes the issues and the problem.	Student identifies and describes the issues and the problem on a limited or no basis
<b>Gathers information</b>	Student locates, organizes and processes information from a variety of sources	Student locates, organizes and processes information from two or more sources	Student locates, organizes and processes information from only one source or no sources
<b>Utilization of strategies</b>	Student utilizes multiple, appropriate reasoning strategies and thinking skills	Student utilizes appropriate reasoning strategies and thinking skills	Student utilizes reasoning strategies and thinking skills
<b>Proposes solution</b>	Student considers, tests and justifies more than one solution and conclusion	Student considers, tests and justifies a solution and a conclusion	Student considers, tests and justifies a solution and a conclusion but evidence is weak

#### WHS WRITING RUBRIC

<b>CRITERIA</b>	<b>OUTSTANDING (3 points)</b>	<b>SATISFACTORY (2 points)</b>	<b>UNSATISFACTORY (1 point)</b>
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<b>Understanding of content in writing</b>	Student demonstrates essential understandings of content in writing	Student demonstrates essential understandings of content in writing	Students demonstrates little to no understanding of content in writing
<b>Support of conceptual understanding</b>	Student supports conceptual understanding with well-supported evidence	Student supports conceptual understanding with evidence	Student has little to no conceptual understanding due to weak or lacking evidence
<b>Use of vocabulary</b>	Student uses appropriate and insightful vocabulary	Student uses appropriate vocabulary	Student's use of vocabulary is Inappropriate or absent at times
<b>Sentence structure</b>	Student uses sentence structure and vocabulary that are appropriate for the task	Students uses sentence structure and vocabulary that are appropriate for the task	Student's sentence structure and vocabulary are inappropriate or absent at times
<b>Mechanics of writing</b>	Student consistently applies the mechanics of writing	Student applies the mechanics of writing with few minor errors	Student demonstrates little to no understanding of writing mechanics due to major errors

#### WHS COLLABORATION RUBRIC

<b>CRITERIA</b>	<b>OUTSTANDING (3 points)</b>	<b>SATISFACTORY (2 points)</b>	<b>UNSATISFACTORY (1 point)</b>
<b>Group contribution</b>	The student's individual contributions go above and beyond the given task	The student makes meaningful contributions	The student does not contribute to the group or task
<b>Active participation</b>	Student participates actively by listening, asking clarifying questions, making connections, and taking notes	Student participates actively by listening, asking questions, and taking notes	Student is not actively participating, as evidenced by not listening, not asking questions, and not taking notes
<b>Effective collaboration</b>	Student works with group members to independently assign roles and shared responsibilities	With teacher support, student works with group members to determine roles and shared responsibilities	Student is unable to work with group members, or perform assigned role



**WHS PRESENTATION RUBRIC**

<b>CRITERIA</b>	<b>OUTSTANDING (3 points)</b>	<b>SATISFACTORY (2 points)</b>	<b>UNSATISFACTORY (1 point)</b>
<b>Eye contact and body language</b>	Eye contact, postures, and gestures enhance communication	Maintains eye contact and appropriate body language.	Limited to no eye contact and/or inappropriate body language
<b>Organization</b>	Student is organized and integrates necessary and additional materials to enhance presentation	Student is organized and integrates necessary materials for the presentation	Student demonstrates little to no organization and is missing necessary materials for the presentation
<b>Audience engagement &amp; pace</b>	Pacing enhances the presentation and is used effectively to create emphasis to build and maintain audience interest	Pacing is appropriate to maintain audience interest	Pacing is uneven and interferes with audience interest
<b>Appropriate dress</b>	Student is dressed professionally for the presentation and their dress enhances the overall impression	Student is dressed appropriately for the presentation	Student is not dressed appropriately for the presentation
<b>Appropriate volume</b>	Student speaks clearly and expressively with a professional tone that enhances the presentation	Student speaks clearly with a tone appropriate for the presentation	Students does not speak clearly or does not utilize an appropriate tone

### WHS RESEARCH RUBRIC

<b>CRITERIA</b>	<b>OUTSTANDING (3 points)</b>	<b>SATISFACTORY (2 points)</b>	<b>UNSATISFACTORY (1 point)</b>
<b>Thesis and hypothesis</b>	Student develops multiple theses/hypotheses/research questions with supporting evidence	Student develops a thesis/hypothesis/research question with supporting evidence	Student does not develop a thesis/hypothesis/research question or is lacking supporting evidence
<b>Information from sources</b>	Student locates, gathers, and organizes information from valid, reliable sources	Student locates, gathers, and organizes information from a variety of sources	Student locates, gathers, and organizes information from a one or limited sources
<b>Quality of sources</b>	Student independently evaluates the quality of sources for validity and reliability	Student evaluates the quality of sources for validity and reliability with some teacher support	Student does not evaluate the quality of sources
<b>Conclusions</b>	Student independently analyzes and interprets information to draw logical conclusions	Student analyzes and interprets information to draw logical conclusions with some teacher support	Student does not analyze or interpret information to draw conclusions
<b>Citations</b>	Student independently utilizes correct citations and formatting to avoid plagiarism	Student utilizes correct citations and formatting to avoid plagiarism with some teacher support	Student does not utilize correct citations and formatting to avoid plagiarism

## Attendance

### Absences

Every student has a right to educational opportunities that will enable the student to develop to his or her fullest potential. There is a strong correlation between good attendance and success in school.

*Massachusetts General Law, Chapter 76, § 1 states that students can have only seven excused day session absences in any period of six months. Further, the law allows the school committee to define “legitimate” reasons for absence.* The Westport Community Schools Attendance Policy defines legitimate reasons for excusing absences as:

- Student’s illness indicated by a doctor’s note;
- a death in the immediate family;
- observance of religious holidays;
- appearance in court;
- temporary relocation due to extreme emergencies such as fire, flood, or hospitalization of a parent;
- business which cannot be reasonably transacted when school is not in session;
- medical and dental appointments which cannot possibly be scheduled outside school hours; and
- college visits with proper documentation.

Excused absences related to illness cannot exceed seven days in six months without specific medical evidence of incapacitation. All absences beyond **seven** day sessions in six months without such documentation are considered unexcused. Notification to state authorities of a parent’s failure to educate their children in the case of absences of more than seven (7) days within a six (6) month period (state law) will occur.

Family vacations or non-school related sports competitions are **not** excused absences.

It is the student’s and parent’s responsibility to document the cause for an absence or tardy for one of the above listed reasons. If a student fails to present a note **within two days** of his/her return, the absence will be “unexcused”. **Notes beyond the two day limit will not be accepted.** School personnel will not contact parents to secure notes. Telephone calls will not be accepted instead of written notes. The note should be brought to the main office.

**If your child is going to be absent, please call 508-636-1050.** The Principal or designee will notify by phone a student’s parent/guardian in the event the school is not informed of the absence.

The Principal or designee shall make a reasonable effort to meet with any student, and that student’s parent/guardian, who has missed six (6) or more unexcused school days (a school day shall be equal to three (3) or more class periods in the same day) in a quarter. The meeting shall be to develop action steps to improve student attendance and shall be developed jointly by the Principal or designee, the student, and the student’s parent/guardian. The parties may seek input from other relevant school staff and/or officials from relevant public safety, health and human services, housing, and nonprofit agencies.

Extremely late arrivals (more than half the school day) and extremely early dismissals (more than half the school day) are considered absences under state attendance regulations. This also applies to dismissals in which the student returns to school later in the day. Excessive absence is a serious matter.

### Vacations During School Time

Absence from school for vacation is not an excused absence. The administration and faculty believe that absence from class instruction, for any reason, is detrimental to student learning. It is up to the discretion of the teacher to provide work **prior** to a student leaving for vacation.

### **Make Up Work Policy**

Students are required to make-up any missed work for all absences, excused or unexcused. In general, a student shall receive **two days for every one day** to make-up work in a maximum of two weeks. A written appeal requesting additional time for make-up work may be granted by the Assistant principal and/or Principal.

### **Attendance Requirement for Class Credit for High School Students**

Students who have eight (8) unexcused absences in a semester class or four (4) unexcused absences in a quarter class may receive a grade of “NO CREDIT” and receive no credits for that semester or quarter. Students who receive notification of a “NO CREDIT” grade may appeal to the Principal within 10 days of the posting of the report card in the Community Portal.

#### **At that appeal, the student must:**

- Provide verification of visits to a health care provider for illnesses.
- Provide a proof of a court appearance.
- Provide proof of absence due to the death of a relative.
- Provide proof of temporary relocation due to extreme emergencies such as fire, flood, or hospitalization of a parent.
- The attendance credit recovery will be determined through the appeals process.

Absences accumulated will be carried over to the new class for students who transfer from another class. Individual contracts will be created to provide students with excessive absences the opportunity to recover lost credit due solely to the absenteeism, by adhering to our attendance policy, in its entirety, the following semester or school year. If students feel that their unexcused absences beyond the absence limit for a course were of an exceptional nature, they may appeal their case to the Principal. The appeal for the student must be in writing within ten (10) business days from the posting of the final report card of the school year.

### **Attendance Requirement for Participation in Athletics and Activities**

Students must be present on the day of a game and/or activity in order to participate and must have an accepted excuse as outlined above. If the game/activity is on a weekend, students must be present on the Friday before the weekend in order to participate.

### **Dismissal**

Full day attendance is mandatory every day including special event days, exam days, prom days, etc. Student appointments should be scheduled after school hours if at all possible. If, however, it is necessary to schedule an appointment during school hours, **a note stating the nature of the appointment should be sent in with the student and brought to the Main Office before the first period bell. The note should be dated and signed and include a phone number where a parent or guardian may be reached.** A note confirming that a student attended an appointment needs to be provided to either Athletic Director or coach prior to participating in practice, game or event that same day.

Students will not be dismissed from school without their parent/guardian of record officially requesting dismissal. All students being dismissed will leave through the Main Office entrance for security and tracking purposes. Time missed due to the dismissal will be excused if documentation of the appointment is presented to the office. Students who are dismissed are still responsible for all missed work.

Students who are dismissed for the day before 10:30 AM will be considered absent for the day and cannot participate in sports/activities. Students cannot be dismissed early to go to work. If a student is dismissed from school for health/medical reasons, he/she will not be eligible to participate in sports/activities.

### **Tardy**

Student attendance will be taken every day during homeroom at 7:30. Any student who is not in their homeroom by the 7:30 bell will have to report to the Attendance Clerk in the main office for a late pass.

Students must attend school a **minimum of three hours** in order to participate in interscholastic athletics and extracurricular activities whether excused or unexcused. Students who arrive after 9:00 AM will be excluded from participation in extra-curricular activity that day or which may include, but is not limited to, athletic practices/contests, clubs and dances unless they provide documentation verifying a death in the immediate family, a medical/dental appointment, an appearance in court, or a driver's permit/license appointment. Students who arrive after 10:30 AM will be considered absent for the day without proper documentation.

- Students who are tardy to class will receive a teacher detention.
- Students will be assigned office detention for every three tardies to school or to class.
- Students who receive three or more detentions for tardies within a semester will become automatically ineligible for all extracurricular activities and school-sponsored events.

## **Athletics/Student Activities**

### **Athletic Offerings**

Westport High School offers students the opportunity to play the following sports/Activities budget and enrollment permitting:

#### **Fall:**

Boys' Soccer, Girls' Soccer, Field Hockey, Volleyball, Golf, Co-op Football

#### **Winter:**

Boys' Basketball, Girls' Basketball, Cheerleading, Co-op Ice Hockey

#### **Spring:**

Baseball, Softball, Boys' Tennis, Girls' Tennis, Lacrosse

### **Athletics User Fee**

A non-refundable user fee of \$175.00 is required for student participation in each sport. Cheerleading user fee is \$125 and co-op hockey user fee is \$800. Individual user fee cap is \$350.00 and the family fee cap is \$525.00. The fee must be paid at the time of registration and will only be refunded if a student is cut from the team by the coach or if the student quits the team during the tryout period. These cuts will be made no later than the first regular game of the season.

Waivers are available to students who demonstrate financial hardship. A separate application for the athletic fee waiver must be completed prior to the season and submitted to the athletic director. All documentation must be complete at the time of application for the Superintendent to consider the waiver.

### **Athletic Handbook**

Each year, student-athletes will receive a copy of the athletic handbook which contains necessary information for students and parents/guardians regarding participation in athletics at Westport High School. A copy of

the handbook may also be found on the Westport Community Schools website. If you have any questions, please contact the Athletic Director, Mrs. Shelly Morris, at [smorris@westportschools.org](mailto:smorris@westportschools.org).

### **Clubs and Other Activities**

Westport High School is pleased to offer students the opportunity to explore the following extra-curricular activities. There will be a twenty-five (\$25) fee per club fee for participation in clubs or activities. The fee is used to help provide the funds necessary to offer the club or activity. Clubs and activities will be offered based on the number of participants and funding.

- Anti-Bullying Club
- Drama Club
- Environmental Club
- E-Sports
- GSA
- Gardening Club
- International Exchange
- Medical Club
- Newspaper
- Pep Band
- Robotics
- STEEL
- Student Council
- Yearbook

### **Athletic & Activity Eligibility**

To participate in athletics and extracurricular activities, students must be in good standing in the school, which means academically passing 67% of their classes. This means failing no more than two out of six classes. The eligibility shall be determined by the quarter grades in November, February and April. The final grade of the overall course will determine eligibility for the following Fall season.

Students who receive two or more unsatisfactory citizenship marks (U) may be conditionally eligible for Athletics or Activities through the next marking period and must adhere to the parameters in their personalized conditional eligibility contract.

**Any student who is ineligible at the start of a season shall remain ineligible for the duration of that season.** If a student becomes ineligible during the season, they will be removed from participating and attending all team activities.

Extra-curricular activities are:

- A. Dances, including the prom
- B. School-sponsored trips
- C. Athletics or attending athletic events
- D. Student Council
- E. Clubs

Students who are eligible for dances and prom may bring one guest to the event providing that a Guest Permission slip is submitted prior to the event. Guests must be under 21 years old and must provide a photo ID. School Administration reserves the right to deny admission to any guest who is not enrolled as a student at Westport High School.

### **Summer/Evening School Grades — Effect on Eligibility**

If students fail a course, they must receive approval from the Principal in advance to make it up in evening or summer school. In order to be eligible for summer school, students must have obtained a minimum failing grade of 50 in their class. To receive credit for this work: Students must earn a 65 or higher. There is a 5 credit maximum per course and an eight course maximum per student. English 12 Senior Project can only be taken at Westport High School. The highest final grade that can be achieved by making up a course in summer/evening school is a 70. Summer/evening school grades shall be included in determining academic eligibility from the previous grading period.

#### **Financial Obligations Affecting Eligibility**

Students who have outstanding financial obligations or school debts will not be allowed to participate in related school events to include but are not limited to extra-curricular activities and athletic events. Parents will be notified of the outstanding obligation/debt.

#### **Attendance Requirement for Participation in Athletics and Activities**

Students must be present on the day of a game and/or activity in order to participate and must have an accepted excuse as outlined above. If the game/activity is on a weekend, students must be present on the Friday before the weekend in order to participate.

#### **Suspension**

Any student who is emergency removed, internally suspended, externally suspended, and/or has a pending suspension will not be permitted to participate in or attend any school sponsored events, to include but not limited to, extra-curricular activities and interscholastic athletic events during the suspension. Students are also subject to the rules/by-laws of the club/sport in which they participate.

#### **Leadership Experiences for Students (No activity fee for participation)**

##### **National Honor Society**

The purpose of the National Honor Society is to create enthusiasm for scholarship, to stimulate a desire to render service, to promote worthy leadership, and to encourage the development of character in students at Westport High School.

##### **Student Council**

The Student Council is an organization through which students participate in the governance of the school. The Council promotes leadership, initiative, and self-discipline among its members.

##### **Student Delegate to the School Committee**

The Student Delegate to the School Committee consists of three students who alternate attending school committee meetings. It is their task to update the members of the school committee with regard to events at the high school. They also voice their opinions with regard to school committee issues on behalf of the entire student body.

##### **School Council**

School Councils were established to assist Principals in planning for and implementing goals and practices that enhance the achievement of all students. The School Council consists of the Principal, teachers, students, parents, and community members.

## **School Safety and Discipline**

The Westport High School Student Handbook is annually reviewed by the School Council and approved by the School Committee. The Code of Conduct must be strictly adhered to by all students and enforced by all staff. Its intent is to provide a safe and orderly educational and social environment so that students can challenge themselves academically to be well-prepared to be life-long learners. It is also a reflection of the behavioral expectations of the entire school community for the purpose of helping students develop the necessary character, work-ethic and sense of personal responsibility that are necessary for students to be successful post-secondary students, employees, leaders, citizens and to be prepared to contribute to their family and community.

The Westport High School Student Handbook addresses the following 21st Century Learning Expectations

- ☐ Students will demonstrate growth of character through personal responsibility, ethical behavior, and personal health and fitness.
- ☐ Understand and exercise their rights and responsibilities as students and as citizens.

### **Student Appeals**

Students have the right to the appeal of decisions by faculty and administration. The appropriate appeal process order is teacher, Assistant Principal, Principal, Superintendent, and School Committee.

## **Policies**

### **Actions & Consequences**

The following policies apply to any student who is on school property, including school transportation, who is in attendance at school or at a school-sponsored activity, or whose conduct at any time or in any place interferes with or obstructs the mission or operations of the school district or the safety or welfare of students, employees, or invited guests. The Administration reserves the right to assign appropriate consequences per the WJSHS Student Handbook and Massachusetts General Laws.

Students have a personal responsibility to act in a way that does not violate others' rights. A student whose actions violate the rights of others will be subject to consequences, which may include:

### **Book Distribution**

All books should be stamped, numbered and textbook inventory forms filled out. Textbooks are loaned to the students and each student is financially responsible for their return. If a lost book is not found, the full original price must be paid for by the student. Each student, upon receiving a textbook, will sign a form which records the name of the person, the number of the book, and the condition of the book. Therefore, when a lost book is returned, there will be no question of ownership. Lost and damaged books must be paid for.

### **Cafeteria Misbehavior**

Including the deliberate and excessive creating a mess, folding of the tables, excessive noise, not pushing in chairs, overall disruption of the cafeteria. Students are expected to clean up after themselves.

### **Cell Phones**

Cell phones and ALL electronic devices/smart devices/smart watches are not allowed in the possession of students during the school day, except for in the cafeteria during lunch. Cell phones and all electronic devices/smart devices, if brought to school, must remain in the student's backpack/bag and turned off, except for in the cafeteria during lunch. Cell phones and electronic devices/smart devices will be confiscated if they are visible during the school day. Students who fail to comply with the confiscation policy will be sent home for the remainder of the school day. **A parent/guardian will be required to pick**



**up the item. Saturday School will be assigned.** If a cell phone/smart device is visible during a testing period, the phone or device will be confiscated and the student will receive a zero on the test/quiz. No make-up test/quiz will be granted for such an infraction.

### **Chromebook Policy**

Students should arrive at school with their fully-charged Chromebooks and only utilize their Chromebooks for academic work. Students should also abide by all provisions of the Westport Community Schools Acceptable Use Policy. Students should also not mark the Chromebook with stickers, markers, etc. or intentionally damage the Chromebook. By accepting the school Chromebook, students agree to return the Chromebook and charger to WMS in the same condition it was received if students transfer or withdraw from WMS prior to graduation. Please note that outside devices are not permitted. **It is the responsibility of students and/or families to pay for any damage to Chromebooks. Chromebook repair/replacement charge cost subject to change.**

- Full Chromebook replacement: \$275
- Case replacement: \$25
- Charger replacement: \$30
- Screen replacement: \$60

**\*Prices subject to change due to changes in market costs.**

### **Defiant behavior**

Choosing to blatantly defy classroom or school rules, expectations, or teacher requests.

### **Disrespectful Behavior**

The intentional use of inappropriate words, tone and/or body language.

### **Dress Code**

Students are expected to dress in a manner that does not offend or distract from the learning environment. The administration will enforce reasonable standards of cleanliness, neatness, morality, and safety connected with pupil's apparel. Attire that may be injurious to any person or may damage any portion of the school building will not be allowed. Hats, hoods, bandanas, and blankets are not permitted. Clothing providing indecent exposure or suggestive style is prohibited. These items would include but not limited to: see-through attire, "muscle" shirts, uncovered midriff baring shirts/blouses back baring shirts/blouses, and strapless shirts/blouses. Bottom of the shirt must overlap the bottom of pants/bottoms. Undergarments such as bras and underwear, including boxer shorts, will be covered at all times. Clothing that advertises alcohol, tobacco, or illegal materials are not permitted. Clothing that exhibits language or designs that are explicit, violent, obscene, and sexually suggestive are not allowed.

### **Egregious Disrespect of Staff**

Including verbal attacks of a personal nature towards, threats, and/or profanity to any member of the school community.

### **Food**

Students are not allowed to have food or drinks (water is allowed) in the classrooms. Food may not be taken from the cafeteria at any time. Students who arrive at school with coffee or other drinks must dispose of them immediately upon entering the building. Students may not purchase items from the cafeteria or the vending machines during class time. Additionally, students should not be chewing gum while in the school building, unless an accommodation is specified on a student's individualized education plan. Outside delivery of food is not permitted.

### **Gymnasium Use**

Students are not allowed in the gym or weight room unless under the direct supervision of a staff member or coach.

- All students not under the supervision of a teacher or coach must exit the building by 2:15 pm. This includes students attending after school sport events as spectators. Students will be allowed to re-enter the building 30 minutes prior to the start of the athletic event.

### **Horseplay**

The physical act includes but is not limited to including rough housing, physical joking, and creating an unsafe environment.

### **Inappropriate Displays of affection**

Including but not limited to excessive touching, groping, kissing and hugging.

### **Inciting a Fight**

During the instigating a fight between any students, through any form of communication i.e. verbal, written or electronic, to promote the fight will be considered inciting a fight. Filming of a fight will also be considered inciting of a fight.

### **Intimidate**

Knowingly frighten or threaten someone in order to persuade them to do something that you want them to do.

### **Obligation List**

Obligations to Westport High School for the purpose of this handbook include, but are not limited to, text books, library books, detention hours, and materials fees. It is important that part of the learning process include responsibility and accountability for fulfilling one's obligations. Therefore, students who do not fulfill their obligations to Westport High School by the designated times will receive consequences.

Specifically, students who have outstanding obligations will be restricted from the following:

- participation in or attendance at any extracurricular activity or school sponsored event,
- all sports;
- all dances (including prom);
- participation in the graduation ceremony

The administration holds the right to assign additional, appropriate consequences based upon the circumstance if necessary. Obligations, as well as their consequences, carry over from year to year.

### **Obscenity**

Language/gestures/material; These include but are limited to topics including genitals, sexual intercourse, death and dismemberment.

### **Profanity**

This includes words which are similar to profanity and used in place of profanity.

### **Progressive Discipline**

The Westport High School Code of Conduct provides a list of common infractions and the typical corresponding consequences for violations of school rules. Students who repeat the same offense will receive stronger penalties for each subsequent offense of a similar nature at the discretion of the school administration. For example, a student who receives a 3-day suspension for a violation of school rules will likely receive a 5-day or longer suspension for repeating the violation. **The school administration also reserves the right to impose a stronger penalty for first offenses than are provided on the list of infractions.**

### **Restorative Justice:**

Students who are ready to accept responsibility for their actions and attempt to repair the harm that their actions had on others may be able to participate in a restorative justice process. This process may be an alternative to out of school suspension in order to replace suspension with a positive process that repairs harm, develops accountability, and meets the needs of all affected.

### **Vehicle Use Violation**

Including speeding, driving to endanger, parking violations, driving without permission on school property.

### **Weapon possession/use**

Weapons including; firearms, knives, or any other weapon or ammunition on the grounds, building or any school sponsored events of Westport High School. For the purpose of this document, “firearm” shall mean any pistol, revolver, or pellet that can be discharged by whatever means. A weapon is considered an instrument of combat. All state and local law enforcement statutes will be enforced as applied to firearms/weapons.

### **Consequences**

#### **Conferences**

Conferences are a formal warning where the school administration will clarify the behavior expectations and outline the potential consequences for future infractions. A parent/guardian must participate in the conference or be contacted by the school administrator to review the conversation.

#### **Restricted Pass**

All students must be authorized in writing by a staff member to relocate during class, lunch or other educational activity by being in possession of a pass. Abuse or misuse of a pass may result in the school administration precluding a student from obtaining passes from classes and activities. The **No Pass List** may vary based on an individual’s circumstances and may include specific times, such as intervention, or require the student to be escorted at all times.

#### **Social Probation**

Any student who is placed on probation at Westport High School will be allowed to attend only regularly scheduled classes. The student will not be allowed to participate in or attend any extracurricular activities, including athletics. Students on social probation may appeal to the school administration to be able to participate in some activities while on probation. Administrative approval of this participation request is contingent upon the student making a contractual commitment to adhere to academic and/or disciplinary improvement goals. Students may also be placed on social probation for disciplinary reasons at the discretion of the school administration.

#### **Detentions**

All students are expected to be on time and attend assigned detentions and must be prepared to be silent and complete work. Students are not allowed to have or use cell phones or electronic devices. The use of a prohibited electronic device will result in the student not receiving credit for serving detention. Detention begins at 2:15 and concludes at 3:15 P.M. Students are expected to arrange their own transportation. All detentions need to be served within 5 school days. Failure to appear for detentions will result in further consequences.

- **Teacher Detention**

- At their discretion teachers may require students to stay after school as a penalty for violating class or school rules or require students who have not completed work as expected to stay for extra help. Teachers will provide a minimum of a 1-day notice for teacher detention or mandatory extra help.

- **Lunch Detention**

- Students who violate class or school rules and are referred to the office may be required to serve detention during lunchtime. Students assigned to lunch detention are expected to get their lunch and immediately report to the designated location. Students will have to sign into the lunch detention in order to earn credit for serving. Cell phones and chromebooks are prohibited during lunch detentions.

- **Office Detention**

- Students who violate class or school rules and are referred to the office may be required to stay after school and serve an office detention. Office Detentions are held Monday through Thursday 2:15 PM-3:15 P.M. Use of cell phones and Chromebooks are prohibited during detention. The use of prohibited electronic devices will result in the student not receiving credit for serving detention.

### **In-School Restriction (ISR)**

When a student is unable to be in a classroom setting for disciplinary or other reasons, the student may be assigned by an administrator to serve an in-school restriction for the remainder of the block. No cell phones or electronic devices are allowed during ISR.

### **In-School Suspension (ISS)**

When a student is assigned in-school suspension (ISS) by an administrator, the student must report to the ISS room by 7:30 and must remain in the ISS room until 2:00. Students are expected to complete school work as well as any other disciplinary intervention material that may be assigned. Students assigned to ISS may not attend school events on the date(s) of their suspension. No cell phones or electronic devices are allowed during ISS.

### **Out of School Suspension (OSS)**

When a student is suspended from school they are prohibited from attending school, may not attend school events, and are prohibited from being on school grounds without prior permission from the Principal.

**Suspended students are responsible to communicate with teachers and complete all assigned work while they are prohibited from attending school.** If a student needs to meet with a teacher on a day they are suspended to get clarification on or assistance with an assignment, the student must obtain permission from the school administration, must be supervised at all times, and must leave school grounds immediately following the completion of their appointment. Students who are required to take the MCAS Test when they are suspended will take the MCAS Test in ISS on the Scheduled MCAS days.

## **Disciplinary Infractions, Expectations, and Consequences**

The following is a table of the common infractions of the School Code of Conduct. The table also includes behavioral expectations and the typical consequences for violating those expectations. However, each infraction has its own unique set of circumstances and the school administration reserves the right to deviate from these guidelines based on the specific details of the incident. **The school administration also reserves the authority to take disciplinary action for other offenses not listed below.**

### **Code of Conduct**

The School Committee and the administration expect students to respect and obey the rules and regulations of the school. Therefore, all disciplinary actions and procedures are directed toward serving educational ends. Those who enjoy the privileges and rights the school provides must also accept the responsibilities, including respect for and compliance with school rules.

Students, parents, and staff should be aware that the following chart is included in the Student Handbook as a quick reference for general consequences. It is not designed to be all inclusive or reflect extenuating circumstances. The opposite holds true as well. The consequence grid contains infractions not referenced in the general narrative of the Student Handbook. This fact does not detract from their ability to be enforced or consequences assigned to students for violating them. Administrators will be the final arbitrator in all disciplinary actions. Consequences for infractions are at the discretion of the administrator, provided that the consequences are compliant with state and federal law. When more than one response is available, the school administrator will use the most appropriate choice according to the severity of the offense(s) and all other aggravating and mitigating factors including, but not limited to:

- Existence of, and/or severity of, injury to person(s), damage to property, and/or disturbance or significant disruption of the school
- Situations which create safety risks and/or participation in dangerous activity
- Consideration of the vulnerability of the victim

- Consideration of a student acting alone or in concert with others
- Disciplinary offense which also include unlawful conduct (i.e. sexual harassment)
- Premeditation & consideration of the lapse of time (or interim progress) between offenses
- Situations in which upperclassmen have involved younger students in a violation; and/or whether multiple infractions occur with the same incident

### CODE OF CONDUCT

<b>Conduct Infraction</b>	<b>Potential Consequence</b>
<b>Alcohol possession/use</b>	Parent notification and hearing to determine Suspension and police notification
<b>Assault or Threatening remarks to staff or student</b>	Hearing to determine: Suspension or Expulsion Hearing (See MGL chapter 71, section 37H) and police notification
<b>Bullying</b>	Hearing to determine: In/Out-of-School Suspension, No Contact Order, and possible police notification
<b>Bus Referral</b>	1 <sup>st</sup> Offense: Warning and written parent notification 2 <sup>nd</sup> Offense: Office detention 3 <sup>rd</sup> Offense: Suspension 4 <sup>th</sup> Offense: Loss of bus privileges.
<b>Cafeteria Misbehavior</b>	1 <sup>st</sup> Offense: Parent notification and Lunch Detention or Restorative Justice 2 <sup>nd</sup> Offense: Parent Notification, Office Detention or Restorative Justice 3 <sup>rd</sup> Offense: Assigned Table for one week or Restorative Justice 4 <sup>th</sup> : Lunch restriction in ISR for the week and Parent Meeting
<b>Cell phone/Electronic Device/Accessory Violation</b>	Cell phone device will be turned into office. Student will be assigned two detentions or turn phone/ device into the office for the next three school days.
<b>Cheating/Plagiarism</b>	1 <sup>st</sup> Offense: Zero on the assignment, teacher detention, parent notification and "U" on the Citizenship grade 2 <sup>nd</sup> Offense: Loss of Credit for the class and ineligible from all school sponsored activities.  *This policy is per class; NOT across a student's yearly schedule.
<b>Chromebook Misuse in Class</b>	1 <sup>st</sup> Offense- Student forfeits the right to use the device for the remainder of class. Missed classwork needs to be made up at home. Teacher notification to parent. 2 <sup>nd</sup> Offense- Office Detention and Student forfeits the right to use the device for the remainder of class. Missed classwork needs to be made up at home. Teacher notification. 3 <sup>rd</sup> Offense- Office Detention. Student forfeits the right to use the device for the remainder of class. Parent meeting to develop chromebook usage plan.
<b>Chronic Tardiness</b>	Letter sent home to parents and parent conference, Detention & Social Probation
<b>Cut Class</b>	1 <sup>st</sup> Offense: Office Detention 2 <sup>nd</sup> Offense: Two Office detentions 3 <sup>rd</sup> Offense: Administration determines Restorative Justice consequence
<b>Cut Office Detention</b>	1 <sup>st</sup> Offense: Reassigned Office Detention, plus additional detention assigned. 2 <sup>nd</sup> Offense: ISS and reassigned Office Detention 3 <sup>rd</sup> Offense: Restorative Justice in lieu of Office Detention
<b>Cut Teacher Detention</b>	Office detention in lieu of teacher detention
<b>Failure to serve assigned Restorative Justice Opportunity</b>	ISS

<b>Damaging school property/Vandalism</b>	Hearing to determine ISS/OSS, restitution and possible police notification
<b>Defiant Behavior</b>	1 <sup>st</sup> Offense: Teacher Detention and parent notification 2 <sup>nd</sup> Offense: Office Detention and parent notification 3 <sup>rd</sup> Offense: Restorative Justice Opportunity and parent notification 4 <sup>th</sup> Offense: ISS
<b>Dishonesty or Lying to any members of the school community</b>	1 <sup>st</sup> Offense: Office Detention and parent notification 2 <sup>nd</sup> Offense: Restorative Justice 3 <sup>rd</sup> Offense: ISS
<b>Disrespectful Behavior</b>	1 <sup>st</sup> Offense: Teacher Detention and parent notification 2 <sup>nd</sup> Offense: Office Detention and parent notification 3 <sup>rd</sup> Offense: Restorative Justice Opportunity and parent notification.
<b>Disturbance of the School Assembly</b>	1 <sup>st</sup> offense: Parent notification and removal from assembly & Office Detention 2 <sup>nd</sup> Offense: ISS and removal from future assemblies 3 <sup>rd</sup> Offense: Hearing to determine In/Out-of-School Suspension and removal from future assemblies.
<b>Dress Code Violation</b>	1 <sup>st</sup> Offense: Warning, restating expectations and change of clothes if necessary. 2 <sup>nd</sup> Offense: Parent Notification, Office Detention, and change of clothes 3 <sup>rd</sup> Office: Parent Notification, Restorative Justice Opportunities
<b>Drug possession/use</b>	Hearing to determine: Parent notification and Suspension or Expulsion (See MGL chapter 71, section 37H) and police notification
<b>Egregious Disrespect of Staff</b>	Parent notification and hearing to determine In/Out-of-School Suspension
<b>Excessive Absences</b>	8 or more unexcused absences in a semester class or 4 in a quarter class may result in loss of credit
<b>Failure to comply with Administrative requests or search as per Search Policy</b>	Emergency Removal and Hearing to determine: Suspension and police notification
<b>Fighting</b>	Hearing to determine: Suspension and police notification
<b>Food or Drink violation</b>	1 <sup>st</sup> offense: Warning & Disposal of Food/Beverage 2 <sup>nd</sup> Offense: Teacher Detention 3 <sup>rd</sup> Offense: Office Detention
<b>Harassment, Racial, Ethnic, and Sexual Slurs</b>	Hearing to determine the level of harassment, consequence up to and including suspension and police notification and possible Title IX investigation.
<b>Horseplay</b>	1 <sup>st</sup> Offense: Office Detention 2 <sup>nd</sup> Offense: Two Office Detentions 3 <sup>rd</sup> : Restorative Justice Opportunity 4 <sup>th</sup> Offense: ISS
<b>Horseplay Causing Injury</b>	Hearing to determine consequences
<b>Inappropriate Displays of affection</b>	1 <sup>st</sup> Offense: Warning & Notification of both student's parents. 2 <sup>nd</sup> Offense: Parent conference, Office Detention 3 <sup>rd</sup> Offense: Parent Conference and Restorative Justice Opportunities
<b>Inciting a fight</b>	Hearing to determine: Parent notification and In/Out-of-School Suspension
<b>Intimidation</b>	Hearing to determine: In/Out-of-School Suspension, no contact order and possible police notification
<b>Illegal Parking</b>	Car subject to tow at student's expense
<b>Leaving Class without permission</b>	1 <sup>st</sup> Offense: ISR for the remainder of the class and Office Detention 2 <sup>nd</sup> offense: ISR for the remainder of the class and Two Office Detentions 3 <sup>rd</sup> Offense: Hall Restriction- No pass list

<b>Leaving School without permission</b>	Parent notification, ISR for the remainder of the school day, and Restorative Justice Opportunity
<b>Obscene Gestures</b>	1 <sup>st</sup> Offense: Teacher detention and parent notification 2 <sup>nd</sup> Offense: Office Detention and parent notification 3 <sup>rd</sup> Offense: Restorative Justice Opportunities
<b>Profanity</b>	1 <sup>st</sup> Offense: Teacher or Office detention and parent notification 2 <sup>nd</sup> Offense: Office Detention and parent notification 3 <sup>rd</sup> Offense: Restorative Justice Opportunities
<b>Profanity</b>	1 <sup>st</sup> Offense: Teacher or Office detention and parent notification 2 <sup>nd</sup> Offense: Office Detention and parent notification 3 <sup>rd</sup> Offense: Restorative Justice Opportunities
<b>Pushing/Shoving</b>	Office Detention or ISR
<b>Refusal to comply with the request of an administrator</b>	1 <sup>st</sup> Offense: Parent notification and ISR 2 <sup>nd</sup> Offense: Parent notification and Alternative consequence
<b>Tardy to Class</b>	1 <sup>st</sup> Offense: Warning 2 <sup>nd</sup> Offense: Teacher Detention 3 <sup>rd</sup> Offense: Office Detention
<b>Tardy to School</b>	Detention for every 3 unexcused tardies. After 3rd detention, student will be placed on social probation.
<b>Taunting, teasing, annoying other students</b>	1 <sup>st</sup> Offense: Teacher Detention and parent notification 2 <sup>nd</sup> Offense: Office Detention and parent notification 3 <sup>rd</sup> Offense: Restorative Justice Opportunity and parent notification
<b>Threat/Verbal Assault towards another student</b>	Hearing to determine: Parent notification and In/Out-of-School Suspension, no contact order and possible police notification
<b>Throw/propel an object</b>	1st Offense: Teacher detention 2nd Offense: Office detention 3rd Offense: Alternative Consequence
<b>Tobacco use/Possession</b>	1 <sup>st</sup> Offense: Hearing to determine 2 Day Out-of-School suspension, Confiscation of paraphernalia 2 <sup>nd</sup> Offense: Hearing to determine 4 Day Out-of-School suspension, Confiscation of paraphernalia
<b>Use of a cell phone or electronic device which promotes/incites a violation of the Code of Conduct</b>	Parent notification and Hearing to determine In/Out of School Suspension
<b>Theft</b>	Parent notification and hearing to determine In-School Suspension, restitution and possible police notification.
<b>Vaporizer possession/use</b>	1 <sup>st</sup> Offense: Hearing to determine 2 Day Out-of-School suspension, Confiscation of Vaporizer 2 <sup>nd</sup> Offense: Hearing to determine 4 Day Out-of-School suspension, Confiscation of Vaporizer and parent notification  *Additional consequences can be applied once the substance is identified. If it is determined a vape contains THC, consequence will be 5 day Out-of School suspension.
<b>Violation of Nondiscrimination Policy (including Harassment, Racial, Ethnic, and Sexual Slurs)</b>	Hearing to determine the level of harassment, consequence up to and including suspension, and police notification
<b>Violation of Sexual Harassment Policy</b>	Hearing to determine level of harassment, consequences up to and including suspension and police notification

<b>Vehicle Use Violation</b>	1st Offense: Parent notification and revoke parking permit for 1 week. 2nd Offense: parent notification and revoke parking permit for 2 weeks. 3rd Offense: parent notification and revoke parking permit for the remainder of the year.
<b>Wandering: Students with a pass should return to class within 5 minutes</b>	1 <sup>st</sup> Offense: Teacher detention 2 <sup>nd</sup> Offense: Office detention 3 <sup>rd</sup> Offense: Hall restriction for remainder of quarter
<b>Weapon possession/use</b>	Hearing to determine 10 days out of school suspension minimum, Expulsion hearing (See MGL chapter 71, section 37H) and police notification
<b>Wearing a hat, hood or blanket in school</b>	1st Offense: Warning & Confiscation of Hat 2nd Offense: Teacher or Office Detention, Parent notification, Confiscation of Hat 3rd Offense: Restorative Justice Opportunity, Confiscation of Hat, & Parent notification.
<b>Knowingly making false statements or knowingly submitting false information during a grievance process, including but not limited to harassment/bullying reports.</b>	Hearing to determine the level of harassment, consequence up to and including suspension

#### **Westport Public Schools District Bus Safety/Rider Privileges:**

Bus rider-ship is a privilege, it can be suspended if students exhibit unsafe behavior and/or violate school rules. If the severity of the incident warrants, a student can be suspended from riding from the first incident reported to the Principal/designee.

1. Only the Principal/designee can suspend transportation privileges.
2. The bus driver or monitor shall immediately report in writing any conduct difficulties with students to the Principal/designee.
3. If the school Principal/designee, as a result of the misconduct, denies bus riding privileges, it shall be for one week. The Principal/designee shall notify the parents or guardians by telephone explaining the reason for denial. This shall be immediately followed by the written communication from the bus driver, sent by the administration.
4. If a student is denied the riding privilege for a second time within one school year, it shall be for a period of two (2) weeks. Communication to parents will be as above.
5. If a student is denied riding privileges a third time within one school year, they shall not be permitted to ride the bus again until approval has been given by the Superintendent of schools.

Student behaviors, which may lead to a suspension for up to one school year:

- Unsafe boarding/departing
- Possession of an unsafe, dangerous/illegal item
- Failure to remain properly seated
- Tampering with or damaging property
- Throwing object at or from the bus
- Loud talk or yelling
- Failure to obey the bus driver
- Physical/verbal assault or intimidation of others including the driver
- Failure to ride in assigned seat
- Consuming food/drink
- Other behavior that endangers the safety and well-being of others.



No student will be suspended from the bus without notice to the parent(s)/guardian(s). Whenever possible, parents will be given reasonable advance notice to make other transportation arrangements. However, the school district reserves the right to refuse to allow a student to board a school bus on short notice if there is an obvious safety issue and/or potential disruption that would negatively impact school disciplinary standards.

### **General School Behavior**

#### **Racial, Ethnic and Sexual Slurs**

A racial, ethnic or sexual slur is defined as any derogatory remark, word, phrase, act, picture or gesture referencing or directed at or to any individual or group(s) which is of a racial, ethnic or sexual nature. The district recognizes that, regardless of intent, such slurs substantially harm both the individuals to whom slurs are addressed and the educational community as a whole.

Harassment or discriminatory behavior that denies civil rights or equal educational opportunities includes comments, name calling, physical conduct or other expressive behavior directed at an individual or group that intentionally demeans the actual or perceived race, color, creed, religion, national origin, sex/gender, marital status, homelessness, disability, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, age, family care leave status, pregnancy or any condition related to pregnancy, or military/veteran status or creates an intimidating, hostile or demeaning environment.

Students may file a complaint regarding such discrimination with the Principal or directly to the Superintendent. The district will thoroughly investigate the complaint and will protect the rights of all parties to the complaint. A district staff member must also take such complaints to his/her supervisor.

Students may be expelled from Westport High School for violations of Massachusetts General Law, Chapter 71, Section 37H.

### **Threats to School or Property**

#### **Definition of a Threat**

Expression of intent to inflict harm; aggressive or hostile words or actions intended to harm others or oneself physically or emotionally and/or destroy property.

#### **Assessment of a Threat**

Students and staff should notify a building administrator without hesitation whenever they hear of a person who:

- Has a weapon at school;
- Is planning to bring one to school;
- Is planning an act of destruction; or
- Is planning a violent act at school or outside the school.

While most rumors will prove false, schools must follow up on rumors or overheard conversations. It should be stressed to students that it is their **duty** to report what they hear regarding any threat of violence. All reports must and will be taken seriously. Until investigated, comments should be taken at face value. To ensure that rumors of threatening comments are dealt with properly, trained personnel will follow up on student hearsay reports.

#### **Procedures**

When an alleged violation of this definition comes to the attention of school personnel, the building Principal or, in his/her absence, the Assistant Principal or, in the event of his/her absence, other school administration, shall immediately notify the Superintendent and assemble the members of the "Crisis Team". The team may consist of the Principal, Assistant Principal, School Resource Officer, and other administrators as appropriate

to the situation. The Westport Police Department will be notified if the School Resource Officer is not present or upon recommendation of the School Resource Officer and/or the Superintendent.

### **Discipline**

If a student is considered to be a threat to oneself or others, the following may occur:

1. Notification of the Westport Police Department;
2. Immediate emergency removal until the threat is investigated and a determination of the severity of the threat is determined;
3. Long-term suspension;
4. Possible exclusion or expulsion.
5. The student will undergo a dangerousness assessment by the district's school psychologist.

### **Breathalyzer Testing**

The breathalyzer test is an effective deterrent to student drinking and sends a message to students and parents that there is no tolerance for drinking. By adopting a breathalyzer test regulation, we can provide parents with a reasonable assurance that their child, and his or her date, will not be drinking prior to, or during school social events.

Therefore, all Westport High School students and their guests attending proms, after-prom parties, school dances, and similar school social events, are required to take and pass a breathalyzer test. It shall be done at the conclusion of the event, as well. If the results of the first test are positive, a second test using a different portable unit will be administered. If the second test is positive, a third test will be administered. Students testing positive will be denied admission to the event, held until a parent or guardian arrives to take custody of the student, suspended from school, and/or recommended for participation in a drug/alcohol awareness program.

### **Lockers/Locker Searches**

Students are assigned lockers for storing books and coats, however, such assignment does not restrict the right of the school officials to examine the lockers when they believe it necessary to ensure the safe operation of the school. The lockers are at all times the sole property of the school.

Search of lockers is permissible by school authorities, without prior warning, when the principal has a reasonable suspicion that the health, welfare, and safety of the students under their care is in question.

School officials from time to time may invite local and/or state police to assist in such searches with or without the aid of a trained canine unit.

If a properly conducted search yields illegal or contraband materials, such findings will be turned over to the proper legal authorities for ultimate disposition.

Students may not share lockers.

### **Parking/Lot Searches**

The policy concerning authorization for students to drive personal cars to school will be that students enrolled in 11th and 12th grades will have permission to drive to school, subject to availability of parking spaces in the designated student parking spots. Student drivers must park in the designated student parking spots.

Students may apply for permission to obtain parking privilege. Requests for permission are to be considered only under conditions of a student possessing a valid driver's license, with parental consent and evidence of insurance coverage or vehicle registration. Permits will be issued to students once they have

submitted the parking application and the \$15 fee. A parking permit will be issued and must be displayed at all times when parked on school grounds.

The following will be minimum requirements for consideration of application for a student-parking permit:

1. Parental consent in written form
2. Possession of valid Massachusetts's driver's license
3. Copy of vehicle registration
4. Current valid vehicle inspection.
5. Students are required to attend orientation briefing by school staff designed by the high school Principal. Students may obtain a permit for only one vehicle for the school year. The principal may authorize multiple car permits based on special circumstances.

Regular review of valid parking permits will be completed by the Principal (or assigned staff member). Parking privileges may be terminated for students whose status no longer qualifies them for a permit, for students who are suspended from school, or students who operate vehicles in a reckless or unsafe manner.

All student drivers are expected to drive in a careful and prudent manner. Speed limit on the school grounds is 15 mph. Driving on the school premises, "cruising" around the school or in the parking lot is not allowed.

Students are permitted to park on school premises as a matter of privilege, not of right. The school retains authority to conduct routine patrols of student parking lots and inspections of the exterior of student automobiles on school property. The interiors of student vehicles may be inspected whenever a school authority has reasonable suspicion to believe that illegal or unauthorized materials are contained inside. Such patrols and inspections may be conducted without notice, without student consent, and without a search warrant.

**School officials from time to time may invite local and/or state police to assist in such searches with or without the aid of a trained canine unit.**

If a properly conducted search yields illegal or contraband materials, such findings will be turned over to the proper legal authorities for ultimate disposition.

All parents must be aware of the following state laws:

- (a) Any student who is found on school premises or at a school-sponsored or school-related events, including athletic games, in possession of a dangerous weapon, as defined by statute, including but not limited to, a gun or knife; or a controlled substance as defined in chapter 94C of the Massachusetts General Laws, including, but not limited to, marijuana, cocaine, and heroin, may be subject to expulsion from the school or school district by the principal.
- (b) Any student who assaults a Principal, Assistant Principal, teacher, or teacher's aide or other educational staff on school premises or at school sponsored or school-related events, including athletic games, may be subject to expulsion from the school or school district by the Principal. A Principal may, in her/his discretion, decide to suspend rather than expel a student who has been determined by the Principal to have violated either paragraph (a) or (b).
- (c) When a Principal determines not to issue an expulsion order for a violation of sections (a) or (b) above against possession of a dangerous weapon as defined by statute, or for possession of a controlled substance as defined by statute, the Principal must, within 48 hours of the incident,

notify the Superintendent in writing of the circumstances and rationale for imposing a consequence short of expulsion.

(d) When a student is expelled under the provisions of sections (a) or (b) above, state law provides that no school or school district within the commonwealth is required to admit such student or to provide educational services to said student. If the student does apply for admission to another school or school district, the Superintendent of the school district to which the application is made may request and shall receive from the Superintendent of the school expelling said student a written statement of the reasons for said expulsion. (e) Any student who is found on school premises or at school-sponsored or school-related events, including athletic games, in possession of any weapon or object that might injure, threaten, or intimidate a person or destroy property, or for threatening physical harm to staff or other students may be subject to suspension or expulsion. When imposing a consequence of less than a forty-five day out-of-school long-term suspension for violation of this section, the Principal must include with the Actions and Consequences report, a memorandum to the Superintendent stating the relevant circumstances and rationale for the imposed consequence.

(f) Upon the issuance of a criminal complaint charging a student with a felony or upon the issuance of a felony delinquency complaint against a student, the Principal or designee of the school in which the student is enrolled may suspend such student for a period of time determined appropriate by said Principal if said Principal determines that the student's continued presence in school would have a substantial detrimental effect on the general welfare of the school.

(g) Upon a student being convicted of a felony or upon an adjudication or admission in court of guilt with respect to such a felony or felony delinquency, the Principal or designee of a school in which the student is enrolled may expel said student if such principal determines that the student's continued presence in school would have a substantial detrimental effect on the general welfare of the school. Upon expulsion of the student, no school or school district shall be required to provide educational services to the student.

(h) When a Principal knows that a student has been charged with or convicted of a felony and does not issue a hearing notice for long-term suspension or expulsion, the Principal will document her/his assessment supporting her/his finding that the student does not pose a substantial detrimental effect on the general welfare of the school. Such a report will be filed with the Superintendent within 48 hours of learning of the felony charge or conviction.

## **DISCIPLINE/STUDENT CONDUCT**

### **STUDENT CONDUCT**

Students are expected to conduct themselves in a manner consistent with school rules and regulations to the end that a positive learning atmosphere be established. Among other things, student conduct shall reflect care and respect for all other members of the Whittier school community.

Certain breaches of conduct are so serious that the Principal may long term suspend or expel a student under the provisions of M.G.L. c. 71, §37H and 37H ½. These include:

- Possession of a dangerous weapon while on school grounds or at a school-sponsored event
- Possession of a controlled substance while on school grounds or at a school-sponsored event
- An assault on a School Administrator, teacher, teacher's aide, or other staff person.
- A felony charge or conviction

Violations of the code of conduct will subject a student to disciplinary action up to and including mediation, detention, suspension, or expulsion.

## **STUDENT DISCIPLINE**

The Principal or designee has the authority to impose consequences when a student violates the student Code of Conduct.

### **Mediation**

Mediation is an alternative remedy to punitive discipline which allows students and staff to resolve disputes. It is a way of looking at a problem, identifying the issues, and thinking through the alternatives and consequences.

### **Conflict Resolution**

Conflict resolution is an alternative remedy to punitive discipline which allows students and staff to resolve conflict in a peaceful way.

### **Restorative Justice**

Restorative justice is an alternative remedy to punitive discipline. Restorative justice seeks to repair harm by providing an opportunity for students who have been harmed and students who have taken responsibility for the harm to communicate, understand the harm, and address the students' needs.

### **Collaborative Problem Solving**

Collaborative problem solving is an alternative remedy to punitive discipline. It is an approach to assist students in identifying alternative behavioral choices.

### **Detention**

All students are expected to be on time and attend assigned detentions and must be prepared to be silent and complete work period students are not allowed to have or use cell phones or electronic devices. Students are expected to range their own transportation. All detentions must be served within 5 school days. Failure to appear for detention will result in further consequences. Detentions may be: teacher detention mandatory extra help, lunch detention, office detention, or Saturday school.

### **In-school Restriction (ISR)**

When a student is unable to be in a classroom setting for disciplinary or other reasons, the student may be assigned by an administrator to serve an in-school restriction for the remainder of the block. All in school suspension expectations and rules applied during this restriction. No cell phones or electronic devices are allowed during ISR.

### **Suspension**

A suspension is a short term or long term removal from regular classroom activities.

Short term suspension is the removal of a student from the school premises and regular classroom activities for 10 consecutive days or less.

Long term suspension means the removal of a student from the school premises and regular classroom activities for more than 10 consecutive days, or for more than 10 days cumulatively for multiple disciplinary offenses in any school year.

A suspended student is restricted from entering the school buildings, or coming onto school grounds; and a suspended student may not participate in any school sponsored activities or functions during the suspension period. It is also recommended that parents restrict the activities of a student during the suspension period to reinforce the importance of the disciplinary consequence and to demonstrate cooperation between the school and family.

The Principal or his/her designee has the sole responsibility for determining who is suspended. The suspended student may not be permitted to return to school until a parental conference has been held.

### In-school Suspension

At the discretion of the Principal, in-school suspension may also be imposed where a student is determined to have committed a suspendable offense. In-school suspension means the student is removed from regular classroom activities, but not from the school premises, for no more than 10 consecutive school days. Students will be subject to limitations on their movements and activities as determined by the Principal. In-school suspension for less than 10 days shall not be considered a short-term suspension. An in-school suspension of more than 10 days shall be deemed a long-term suspension.

For an in-school suspension, the principal shall inform the student of the disciplinary offense charged and the basis for the charge, and provide the student an opportunity to dispute the charges and explain the circumstances surrounding the alleged incident. If the principal determines that the student committed the disciplinary offense, the principal shall inform the student of the length of the student's in-school suspension, which shall not exceed 10 days, cumulatively or consecutively, in a school year.

On the same day as the in-school suspension decision, the principal shall make reasonable efforts to notify the parent orally of the disciplinary offense, the reasons for concluding that the student committed the infraction, and the length of the in-school suspension. The principal shall also invite the parent to a meeting to discuss the student's academic performance and behavior, strategies for student engagement, and possible responses to the behavior. Such meeting shall be scheduled on the day of the suspension if possible, and if not, as soon thereafter as possible. If the principal is unable to reach the parent after making and documenting at least (2) attempts to do so, such attempts shall constitute reasonable efforts for purposes of orally informing the parent of the in-school suspension.

The principal shall send written notice to the student and parent about the in-school suspension, including the reason and the length of the in-school suspension, and inviting the parent to a meeting with the principal, if such meeting has not already occurred. The principal shall deliver such notice on the day of the suspension by hand-delivery, certified mail, first-class mail, email to an address provided by the parent for school communications, or by other method of delivery agreed to by the principal and the parent.

### Removal from Extracurricular Activities and Attendance at school sponsored events

The principal may remove a student from privileges, such as extracurricular activities and attendance at school-sponsored events, based on the student's misconduct. Such a removal is not subject to the procedures in M.G.L. c. 71, § 37H¾ or 603 CMR 53.00.

### Opportunity for Academic Progress During Suspension/Expulsion

Any student receiving in-school suspension, short-term suspension, or long-term suspension shall have the opportunity to make up assignments, tests, papers, and other school work as needed to make academic progress during the period of removal from the classroom or school.

Any student who is expelled or suspended from school for more than 10 consecutive days shall have an opportunity to receive educational services that will enable the student to make academic progress toward meeting state and local requirements through the school-wide educational services plan.

### Student due process rights

In administering discipline, school officials will be careful to observe the right to due process under the law for each student. The nature of the violation determines the due process that school officials follow.

1. DUE PROCESS RIGHTS FOR STUDENTS CHARGED WITH POSSESSION OF A DANGEROUS WEAPON, POSSESSION OF A CONTROLLED SUBSTANCE, ASSAULT ON SCHOOL STAFF AND/OR STUDENTS WHO HAVE BEEN CHARGED WITH OR CONVICTED OF A FELONY (M.G.L. c. 71, §37H and M.G.L. c. 71, §37H ½).

Short Term Disciplinary Sanctions: Prior to the imposition of any disciplinary sanction that might result in a student's suspension from school for ten (10) consecutive school days or less, the student will be given oral notice of the offense with which he/she is charged and an opportunity to

respond. In the event that the Principal or designee determines that the student will be suspended from school, the student's parent(s)/guardian(s) will be notified by telephone and in writing.

Long Term Disciplinary Sanctions: Prior to the imposition of any disciplinary sanction that might result in the student's suspension from school for more than ten (10) consecutive school days or expulsion, the parents/guardians will be given written notice of a hearing at which they may be represented by an attorney at their expense and may examine and present witnesses and documentary evidence. Following this hearing, a written decision will be issued. The parent(s)/guardian(s) will have the right to appeal any decision imposing a long term suspension or expulsion from school to the Superintendent. Where the student is excluded in accordance with M.G.L. c. 71, §37H, the student shall have ten (10) days from the effective date of the exclusion to file a written appeal with the Superintendent of Schools. For exclusions imposed pursuant to M.G.L. c. 71, §37H ½, the student shall have five (5) days from the effective date of the exclusion to file a written appeal with the Superintendent. For exclusions imposed by the School Committee in accordance with M.G.L. c. 76, §17, the student shall have the right to file a written request for reconsideration by the committee within ten (10) days of the effective date of the exclusion. Pending the outcome of any such appeal, the disciplinary sanction imposed shall remain in effect. M.G.L. c. 76, §17, M.G.L. c. 71, §37H and M.G.L. c. 71, §37H ½.

2. DUE PROCESS RIGHTS FOR STUDENTS CHARGED WITH OTHER VIOLATIONS (M.G.L. c. 71, §37H ¾ )

Notice and principal's meeting:

For any suspension under this section, the principal or a designee shall provide notice of the charges and the reason for the suspension or expulsion to the parent(s)/guardian(s) in English and the primary language spoken in the student's home. The student shall receive written notice of the charges and the opportunity to meet with the principal or designee to discuss charges and reasons for the suspension and/or exclusion prior to suspension/exclusion taking effect.

The principal or designee shall make reasonable efforts to notify the parent orally of the opportunity to attend the hearing. The meeting may take place without the student's parent(s)/guardian(s) so long as if the principal has sent written notice and has documented at least two (2) attempts to contact the parent in the manner specified by the parent for emergency notification.

The purpose of the principal's hearing is to hear and consider information regarding the alleged incident for which the student may be suspended, provide the student an opportunity to dispute the charges and explain the circumstances surrounding the alleged incident, determine if the student committed the disciplinary offense, and if so, the consequences for the infraction.

The principal shall determine the extent of the rights to be afforded the student at a disciplinary hearing based on the anticipated consequences for the disciplinary offense.

a. Short-term Suspension

The principal shall discuss the disciplinary offense, the basis for the charge, and any other pertinent information. The student also shall have an opportunity to present information, including mitigating facts, that the principal should consider in determining whether other remedies and consequences may be appropriate. The principal shall provide the parent, if present, an opportunity to discuss the student's conduct and offer information, including mitigating circumstances, that the principal should consider in determining consequences for the student.

Based on the available information, including mitigating circumstances, the principal shall determine whether the student committed the disciplinary offense, and, if so, what alternative remedy or consequence will be imposed.

When deciding the consequences for the student, the principal, headmaster, superintendent or person acting as a decision-maker shall consider ways to re-engage the student in the learning process; and shall not suspend or expel a student until alternative remedies have been employed and their use and results documented, following and in direct response to a specific incident or incidents, unless specific reasons are documented as to why such alternative remedies are unsuitable or counter-productive, and in cases where the student's continued presence in school would pose a specific, documentable concern about the infliction of serious bodily injury or other serious harm upon another person while in school. Alternative remedies may include, but shall not be limited to: (i) mediation; (ii) conflict resolution; (iii) restorative justice; and (iv) collaborative problem solving.

The principal shall notify the student and parent of the determination and the reasons for it, and, if the student is suspended, the type and duration of suspension and the opportunity to make up assignments and such other school work as needed to make academic progress during the period of removal. The determination shall be in writing and may be in the form of an update to the original written notice.

b. Long Term Suspension

In addition to the rights afforded a student in a short-term suspension hearing, the student shall also have the opportunity to review the student's record and the documents upon which the principal may rely in making a determination to suspend the student or not; the right to be represented by counsel or a lay person of the student's choice, at the student's/parent's expense; the right to produce witnesses on his or her behalf and to present the student's explanation of the alleged incident, but the student may not be compelled to do so; the right to cross-examine witnesses presented by the school district; the right to request that the hearing be recorded by the principal, and to receive a copy of the audio recording upon request. If the student or parent requests an audio recording, the principal shall inform all participants before the hearing that an audio record will be made and a copy will be provided to the student and parent upon request.

If present, the Parent shall have an opportunity to discuss the student's conduct and offer information, including mitigating circumstances, that the principal should consider in determining consequences for the student.

Based on the evidence, the principal shall determine whether the student committed the disciplinary offense, and, if so, after considering mitigating circumstances and alternatives to suspension, what alternative remedy or consequence will be imposed, in place of or in addition to a long-term suspension.

When deciding the consequences for the student, the principal, headmaster, superintendent or person acting as a decision-maker shall consider ways to re-engage the student in the learning process; and shall not suspend or expel a student until alternative remedies have been employed and their use and results documented, following and in direct response to a specific incident or incidents, unless specific reasons are documented as to why such alternative remedies are unsuitable or counter-productive, and in cases where the student's continued presence in school



would pose a specific, documentable concern about the infliction of serious bodily injury or other serious harm upon another person while in school. Alternative remedies may include, but shall not be limited to: (i) mediation; (ii) conflict resolution; (iii) restorative justice; and (iv) collaborative problem solving.

The principal shall send the written determination to the student and parent by hand-delivery, certified mail, first-class mail, email to an address provided by the parent for school communications, or any other method of delivery agreed to by the principal and the parent.

If the student is suspended for more than 10 days for a single infraction or for more than 10 days cumulatively for multiple infractions in any school year, the notice will include written notification of the right to appeal to the Superintendent and the process for appealing in English and the primary language spoken in the student's home. No student will be suspended for greater than 90 days, beginning on the first day the student is removed from the building.

#### Emergency Removal:

The principal may remove a student from school temporarily when a student is charged with a disciplinary offense and the continued presence of the student poses a danger to persons or property, or materially and substantially disrupts the order of the school, and, in the principal's judgment, there is no alternative available to alleviate the danger or disruption. The principal shall immediately notify the superintendent in writing of the removal and the reason for it, and describe the danger presented by the student. The temporary removal shall not exceed two (2) school days following the day of the emergency removal.

In the event of an emergency removal, the principal shall make immediate and reasonable efforts to orally notify the student and the student's parent of the emergency removal, the reason for the need for emergency removal. The principal shall provide written notice to the student and parent as provided above, and provide the student an opportunity for a hearing with the principal as provided above, and the parent an opportunity to attend the hearing, before the expiration of the two (2) school days, unless an extension of time for hearing is otherwise agreed to by the principal, student, and parent.

The principal shall render a decision orally on the same day as the hearing, and in writing no later than the following school day, which meets the requirements as described above.

In the event of an emergency removal from school, the principal will not release the student until adequate provisions have been made for the student's safety and transportation.

#### Superintendent's hearing:

The parent(s)/guardian(s) shall have 5 calendar days following the effective date of the suspension or expulsion to submit a written request for an appeal to the Superintendent but may be granted an extension of time of up to 7 calendar days. If the appeal is not timely filed, the superintendent may deny the appeal, or may allow the appeal in his or her discretion, for good cause.

The Superintendent will hold a hearing with the student and the parent(s)/guardian(s) within 3 school days of the student's request for an appeal. The time may be extended up to 7 calendar days if requested by the parent(s)/guardian(s). The Superintendent's hearing may proceed without the parent(s)/guardian(s) if a good faith effort was made to include parent(s)/guardian(s). The superintendent shall be presumed to have made a good faith effort if he or she has made efforts to find a day and time for the hearing that would allow the parent and superintendent to participate. The superintendent shall send written notice to the parent of the date, time, and location of the hearing.

At the hearing, the superintendent shall determine whether the student committed the disciplinary offense of which the student is accused, and if so, what the consequence shall be. Students shall have all of the rights afforded to students at the principal's hearing for long-terms suspension. The Superintendent will issue a written decision within 5 calendar days of the hearing. If the superintendent determines that the student committed the disciplinary offense, the superintendent may impose the same or a lesser consequence than the principal, but shall not impose a suspension greater than that imposed by the principal's decision. The Superintendent's decision is the final decision of the district.

### **Discipline and Students with Disabilities**

All students are expected to meet the requirements for behavior as set forth in this handbook. In addition to those due process protections afforded to all students, the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act and related regulations require that additional provisions be made for students who have been found eligible for special education services or who the school district knows or has reason to know might be eligible for such services. Students who have been found to have a disability that impacts upon a major life activity, as defined under §504 of the Rehabilitation Act, are, generally, also entitled to increased procedural protections prior to imposing discipline that will result in the student's removal for more than ten (10) consecutive school days or where there is a pattern of short term removals exceeding ten (10) school days in a given year. The following additional requirements apply to the discipline of students with disabilities:

1. The IEP for every student eligible for special education or related services shall indicate whether the student can be expected to meet the regular discipline code of the school or whether the code should be modified to address the student's individual needs.
2. Students with disabilities may be excluded from their programs for up to ten (10) school days to the extent that such sanctions would be applied to all students. Before a student with a disability can be excluded from his/her program for more than ten (10) consecutive school days in a given school year or ten (10) cumulative school days in a given school year, building administrators, the parents/guardians and relevant members of the student's IEP or 504 team will meet to determine the relationship between the student's disability and behavior (Manifestation Determination). During disciplinary exclusions exceeding ten (10) school days in a single school year, the student shall have the right to receive services identified as necessary to provide him/her with a free appropriate public education during the period of exclusion.
3. If building administrators, the parents/guardians and relevant members of the student's IEP or 504 Team determine that the student's conduct was not a manifestation of the student's disability, the school may discipline the student in accordance with the procedures and penalties applicable to all students but will continue to provide a free appropriate public education to those students with IEPs. The student's IEP team or 504 Team will identify the services necessary to provide a free appropriate public education during the period of exclusion, review any existing behavior intervention plan or where appropriate, conduct a functional behavioral assessment.
4. If building administrators, the parents/guardians, and relevant members of the student's IEP or 504 Team determine that the conduct giving rise to disciplinary action was a manifestation of the student's disability, the student will not be subjected to further removal or exclusion from the student's current educational program based on that conduct (except for conduct involving weapons, drugs or resulting in serious bodily injury to others) until the IEP or 504 Team develops, and the parent/guardians consent to, a new placement, or unless the District obtains an order from a court or from the Bureau of Special Education Appeals (BSEA) authorizing a change in the student's placement. The Student's Team shall also review the

student's IEP, and modify as appropriate, any existing behavioral intervention plan or arrange for a functional behavioral assessment.

5. If a student with a disability possesses or uses illegal drugs, sells or solicits a controlled substance, possesses a weapon, or causes serious bodily injury to another on school grounds or at a school function, the District may place the student in an interim alternative educational placement (IAES) for up to forty-five (45) school days. A court or BSEA hearing officer may also order the placement of a student who presents a substantial likelihood of injury to self or others in an appropriate interim setting for up to forty-five (45) school days.

### **Media Center**

The Media Center provides faculty, staff, and students of Westport High School with access to a variety of information sources and assistance in learning to use these sources effectively. An open and flexible schedule allows for resources to be available whenever the student or staff member needs information.

#### **Hours of Operation**

The Media Center is open Monday through Friday from 7:15 A.M. to 2:15 P.M.

#### **Circulation**

Student IDs serve as library cards in the media center. Students are responsible for all materials checked out in his/her name. Materials are loaned for the following periods of time:

General collection	2 weeks
Reserve materials	1 class period or overnight
Reference collection	Media Center use only
Periodicals	Current issues do not circulate

#### **Research Specialist**

By appointment, the Media Center specialist can be utilized for special projects/research assignments etc. to aid in the gathering, acquisition, and implementation of relevant materials.

#### **Z-Space Computers**

Students are not allowed to use the Z- space computers located in the Media Center without approved supervision. Any student who uses computers without permission will face disciplinary action determined by administration.

#### **Overdue Material**

Materials not returned on time are considered overdue. Overdue notices will be posted on a regular basis. Students are required to pay the current cost of materials that are lost or damaged beyond repair.

#### **Media Center Website**

The Westport High School Media Center web page provides links to Internet search engines, subscription data-bases, reference tools, and curriculum related web sites. Students may access these resources at <https://www.westportschools.org/westport-junior-senior-high-school/media-center/>.

#### **Student Protocol**

Students are here to work

- Students must present a valid pass and complete the Media Center sign-in procedure or be accompanied by their teacher.
- Students on a pass must report back to their classes before the period ends.
- Students must not play games.

- Students may only use the Internet for educational purposes.
- Students are to allow others to work
- Students must speak quietly.
- Students on a pass and students accompanied by their teacher will sit in separate areas.
- Students are respectful of Media Center property
- Water containers are not allowed in the lab areas or on a table with a laptop computer.
- Students must ask before printing.
- Students must not change computer settings.
- Students must use chairs and tables properly.
- Students must clean up after themselves.

### **Consequences**

- 1st offense: Student is told to comply with the rules.
- 2nd offense: Student is again asked to comply, with the additional warning that the student will be asked to leave if behavior continues.
- 3rd offense: Teacher Detention assigned to the student and return to appropriate class. If behavior is disrespectful, the student will be directed to the appropriate grade level administrator.

## **Massachusetts General Laws**

### **Chapter 71: Section 37H Policies relative to conduct of teachers or students; student handbooks**

The Superintendent of every school district shall publish the district's policies pertaining to the conduct of teachers and students. Said policies shall prohibit the use of any tobacco products within the school buildings, the school facilities or on the school grounds or on school buses by any individual, including school personnel. Copies of these policies shall be provided to any person upon request and without cost by the principal of every school within the district.

Each school district's policies pertaining to the conduct of students shall include the following: disciplinary proceedings, including procedures that assure due process; standards and procedures for suspension and expulsion of students; procedures pertaining to discipline of students with special needs; standards and procedures to assure school building security and safety of students and school personnel; and the disciplinary measures to be taken in cases involving the possession or use of illegal substances or weapons, the use of force, vandalism, or violation of other student's civil rights. Codes of discipline, as well as procedures used to develop such codes shall be filed with the department of education for informational purposes only.

In each school building containing the grades nine to twelve, inclusive, the Principal, in consultation with the School Council, shall prepare and distribute to each student a student handbook setting forth the rules pertaining to the conduct of students. The School Council shall review the student handbook each Spring to consider changes in disciplinary policy to take effect in September of the following school year, but may consider policy changes at any time. The annual review shall cover all areas of student conduct, including but not limited to those outlined in this section.

Notwithstanding any general or special law to the contrary, all student handbooks shall contain the following provisions:

- (a) Any student who is found on school premises or at school-sponsored or school-related events, including athletic games, in possession of a dangerous weapon, including, but not limited to, a gun or a knife; or a controlled substance as defined in chapter ninety-four C, including, but not limited to, marijuana, cocaine, and heroin, may be subject to expulsion from the school or school district by the Principal.
- (b) Any student who assaults a Principal, Assistant Principal, teacher, teacher's aide or other educational staff on school premises or at school-sponsored or school-related events, including athletic games, may be subject to expulsion from the school or school district by the Principal.
- (c) Any student who is charged with a violation of either paragraph (a) or (b) shall be notified in writing of an opportunity for a hearing; provided, however, that the student may have representation, along with the opportunity to present evidence and witnesses at said hearing before the Principal. After said hearing, a Principal may, in his discretion, decide to suspend rather than expel a student who has been determined by the Principal to have violated either paragraph (a) or (b).
- (d) Any student who has been expelled from a school district pursuant to these provisions shall have the right to appeal to the Superintendent. The expelled student shall have ten days from the date of the expulsion in which to notify the Superintendent of his appeal. The student has the right to counsel at a hearing before the Superintendent. The subject matter of the appeal shall not be limited solely to a factual determination of whether the student has violated any provisions of this section.
- (e) When a student is expelled under the provisions of this section, no school or school district within the Commonwealth shall be required to admit such student or to provide educational services to said student. If said student does apply for admission to another school or school district, the Superintendent of the school district to which the application is made may request and shall receive from the Superintendent of the school expelling said student a written statement of the reasons for said expulsion.

**Chapter 71: Section 37H 1/2 Felony complaint or conviction of student; suspension; expulsion; right to appeal**

Notwithstanding the provisions of section eighty-four and sections sixteen and seventeen of Chapter seventy-six:

Upon the issuance of a criminal complaint charging a student with a felony or upon the issuance of a felony delinquency complaint against a student, the Principal or designee of a school in which the student is enrolled may suspend such student for a period of time determined appropriate by said Principal or designee if said Principal or designee determines that the student's continued presence in school would have a substantial detrimental effect on the general welfare of the school. The student shall receive written notification of the charges and the reasons for such suspension prior to such suspension taking effect. The student shall also receive written notification of his right to appeal and the process for appealing such suspension; provided, however, that such suspension shall remain in effect prior to any appeal hearing conducted by the Superintendent.

The student shall have the right to appeal the suspension to the Superintendent. The student shall notify the Superintendent in writing of his request for an appeal no later than five calendar days following the effective date of the suspension. The Superintendent shall hold a hearing with the student and the student's parent or guardian within three calendar days of the student's request for an appeal. At the hearing, the student shall have the right to present oral and written testimony on his behalf, and shall have the right to counsel. The Superintendent shall have the authority to overturn or alter the decision of the Principal or designee, including recommending an alternate educational program for the student. The Superintendent shall render a decision on the appeal within five calendar days of the hearing. This decision shall be the final decision of the city, town or regional school district with regard to the suspension.

Upon a student being convicted of a felony or upon an adjudication or admission in court of guilt with respect to such a felony or felony delinquency, the Principal or designee of a school in which the student is enrolled may expel said student if such Principal or designee determines that the student's continued presence in school would have a substantial detrimental effect on the general welfare of the school. The student shall receive written notification of the charges and reasons for such expulsion prior to such expulsion taking effect. The student shall also receive written notification of his right to appeal and the process for appealing such expulsion; provided, however, that the expulsion shall remain in effect prior to any appeal hearing conducted by the Superintendent.

The student shall have the right to appeal the expulsion to the Superintendent. The student shall notify the Superintendent, in writing, of his request for an appeal no later than five calendar days following the effective date of the expulsion. The Superintendent shall hold a hearing with the student and the student's parent or guardian within three calendar days of the expulsion. At the hearing, the student shall have the right to present oral and written testimony on his behalf, and shall have the right to counsel. The Superintendent shall have the authority to overturn or alter the decision of the Principal or designee, including recommending an alternate educational program for the student. The Superintendent shall render a decision on the appeal within five calendar days of the hearing. This decision shall be the final decision of the city, town or regional school district with regard to the expulsion.

Upon expulsion of the student, no school or school district shall be required to provide educational services to such student.

## Appendix

### Westport Community Schools Policies

#### Equal Educational Opportunities

State and federal laws as well as School Committee policy guarantee that no person shall be excluded from or discriminated against in admission to a public school of any town, or in obtaining the advantages, privileges and courses of study of a public school on account of actual or perceived race, color, creed, religion, national origin, sex/gender, marital status, homelessness, disability, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, age, family care leave status, pregnancy or any condition related to pregnancy, or military/veteran status and any other class of individuals protected from discrimination under state or federal law in any aspect of the access to, admission, or treatment of students in its programs and activities, or in employment and application for employment. Furthermore, School Committee policy includes prohibitions of harassment of students and employees, i.e., racial harassment, sexual harassment, and retaliation for filing complaints of discrimination.

This law makes it clear that all aspects of public school education must be fully open and available to all students, without discrimination. We may not exclude students from any course, activity service or resource available on account of actual or perceived race, color, creed, religion, national origin, sex/gender, marital status, homelessness, disability, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, age, family care leave status, pregnancy or any condition related to pregnancy, or military/veteran status under state or federal law in any aspect of the access to, admission, or treatment of students in its programs and activities, or in employment and application for employment. Furthermore, School Committee policy includes prohibitions of harassment of students and employees, i.e., racial harassment, sexual harassment, and retaliation for filing complaints of discrimination.

The Equal Educational Opportunity Regulations, adopted by the Massachusetts Board of Education in 1975, address five areas of school policy: school admissions, admission to courses of study, guidance services, course content, and extra-curricular and athletic activities.

If you have any questions or concerns regarding this law and how it affects your children, please contact your school principal, or the Superintendent of Schools, at 508 636-1140 x 4001, or the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education. Copies of the law and the regulations can be obtained from the Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education, 350 Main Street, Malden, MA 02148-5023, 617 388-3300x285 or x242, and are also available on the Internet at <http://info.doe.mass.edu>.

The Title IX Coordinator and the Civil Rights Coordinator, is the Director of Special Education. Direct any complaints regarding any found discrimination to the Superintendent of Schools, Westport Community Schools, 17 Main Road, Westport, MA 02790 or phone 508-636-1140.

### **Military**

Section 9528 of the [2001 No Child Left Behind Act](#), requires high school administrations to release student contact information to military recruiters. Students and parents may “Opt-Out” of the information release by completing the “Option Out” form included in the beginning of the year packet and submitting to the Principal’s Office.

### **Prohibition of Hazing**

In accordance with Massachusetts General Laws, the School Committee hereby deems that no student, employee or school organization under the control of the School Committee shall engage in the activity of hazing a student while on or off school property, or at a school sponsored event regardless of the location. No organization that uses the facilities or grounds under the control of the School Committee shall engage in the activity of hazing any person while on school property.

Any student who observes what appears to them to be the activity of hazing another student or person should report such information to the Principal including the time, date, location, names of identifiable participants and the types of behavior exhibited. Students and employees of the District are obligated by law to report incidents of hazing to the police department.

Any student who is present at a hazing has the obligation to report such an incident. Failure to do so may result in disciplinary action by the school against that student and could involve suspension from school for up to three days.

Any student who participates in the hazing of another student or other person may, upon the approval of the Superintendent of Schools, be suspended from school for up to ten (10) school days.

Any student determined by the Principal to be the organizer of a hazing activity may be recommended for expulsion from school but will receive no less disciplinary action than that of a participant.

In all cases relating to hazing, students will receive procedural due process.

Whoever is a principal organizer or participant in the crime of hazing as defined herein shall be punished by a fine of not more than three thousand dollars or by imprisonment in a house of correction for not more than one year, or by both such fine and imprisonment.

The term "hazing" as used in this section and in sections eighteen and nineteen, shall mean any conduct or method of initiation into any student organization, whether on public or private property, which willfully or recklessly endangers the physical or mental health of any student or other person. Such conduct shall include whipping, beating, branding, forced calisthenics, exposure to the weather, forced consumption of any food, liquor, beverage, drug or other substance, or any other brutal treatment or forced physical activity which is likely to adversely affect the physical health or safety of any such student or other person, or which subjects such student or other person to extreme mental stress, including extended deprivation of sleep or rest or extended isolation. Notwithstanding any other provisions of this section to be contrary, consent shall not be available as a defense to any prosecution under this action.

#### **CH. 269, S.18. Duty to Report Hazing**

Whoever knows that another person is the victim of hazing as defined in section seventeen and is at the scene of such crime shall, to the extent that such person can do so without danger or peril to himself or others, report such crime to an appropriate law enforcement official as soon as reasonably practicable. Whoever fails to report such crime shall be punished by a fine of not more than one thousand dollars.

#### **CH. 269, S.19. Hazing Statutes to be provided; Statement of Compliance and Discipline Policy Required**

Each secondary school and each public and private school or college shall issue to every group or organization under its authority or operating on or in conjunction with its campus or school, and to every member, plebe, pledge or applicant for membership in such group or organization, a copy of this section and sections seventeen and eighteen. An officer of each such group or organization, and each individual receiving a copy of said sections seventeen and eighteen shall sign an acknowledgment stating that such group, organization or individual has received a copy of said sections seventeen and eighteen.

Each secondary school and each public or private school or college shall file, at least annually, a report with the regents of higher education and in the case of secondary schools, the Board of Education, certifying that such institution has complied with the provisions of this section and also certifying that said school has adopted a disciplinary policy with regards to the organizers and participants of hazing. The Board of Regents and, in the case of secondary schools, the Board of Education shall promulgate regulations governing the content and frequency of such reports, and shall forthwith report to the attorney general any such institution which fails to make such a report.

#### **Sexual Harassment**

All persons associated with Westport Community Schools including, but not necessarily limited to, the Committee, the administration, staff, and students, are expected to conduct themselves at all times so as to provide an atmosphere free from sexual harassment. Any person who engages in sexual harassment while acting, as a member of the school community, will be in violation of this policy. Further, any retaliation against an individual who has complained about sexual harassment or retaliation against individuals for cooperating in an investigation of a sexual harassment complaint is similarly unlawful and will not be tolerated.\



Because the Westport School Committee takes allegations of sexual harassment seriously, we will respond promptly to complaints of sexual harassment and where it is determined that such inappropriate conduct has occurred, we will act promptly to eliminate the conduct and impose such corrective action as is necessary, including disciplinary action where appropriate.

Please note that while this policy sets forth our goals of promoting a workplace and school environment that is free of sexual harassment, the policy is not designed or intended to limit our authority to discipline or take remedial action for workplace or school conduct which we deem unacceptable, regardless of whether that conduct satisfies the definition of sexual harassment.

**Definition of Sexual Harassment:** Unwelcome sexual advances; requests for sexual favors; or other verbal or physical conduct of a sexual nature may constitute sexual harassment where:

1. Submission to such conduct is made either explicitly or implicitly a term or condition of a person's employment or educational development.
2. Submission to or rejection of such conduct by an individual is used as the basis for employment or education decisions affecting such individual.
3. Such conduct has the purpose or effect of unreasonably interfering with an individual's work or educational performance or creating an intimidating, hostile, or offensive working or educational environment.

**The Grievance Officer:**

Ms. Nancy Tavares - Special Education Director K-4

17 Main Road, Westport, MA 02790

508-636-1140 x4011

The Superintendent will appoint a sexual harassment grievance officer who shall be vested with the authority and responsibility of processing all sexual harassment complaints in accordance with the procedure set out below:

**Complaint Procedure:**

1. Any member of the school community who believes that he/she has been subjected to sexual harassment will report the incident (s) to the Grievance Officer. All complaints shall be investigated promptly and resolved as soon as possible.
2. The Grievance Officer will attempt to resolve the problem in an informal manner through the following:
  - a. The Grievance Officer will confer with the charging party in order to obtain a clear understanding of that party's statement of the facts, and may interview any witnesses.
  - b. The Grievance Officer will then attempt to meet with the charged party in order to obtain his/her response to the complaint.
  - c. The Grievance Officer will hold as many meetings with the parties as is necessary to establish the facts.
  - d. On the basis of the Grievance Officer's perception of the situation he/she may:
    - Attempt to resolve the matter informally through reconciliation.
    - Report the incident and transfer the record to the Superintendent or his/her designee, and so notify the parties by certified mail.
3. After reviewing the record made by the Grievance Officer, the Superintendent may attempt to gather any more evidence necessary to decide the case, and thereafter impose any sanctions deemed appropriate, including a recommendation to the committee for termination or expulsion. At this stage of the proceedings the parties may present witnesses and other evidence, and may also be represented. The parties, to the extent permissible by law, shall be informed of the disposition of the complaint. All matters involving sexual harassment complaints will remain confidential to the extent possible. If it is determined

- that inappropriate conduct has occurred, we will act promptly to eliminate the offending conduct.
4. The Grievance Officer, upon request, will provide the charging party with government agencies that handle sexual harassment matters.

### **Student Records: Regulations**

#### **Inspection of Record**

A parent, or a student who has entered the ninth grade or is at least 14 years old, has the right to inspect all portions of the student record upon request. The record must be made available to the parent or student no later than two days after the request, unless the parent or student consents to a delay. The parent and student have the right to receive copies of any part of the record, although a reasonable fee may be charged for the cost of duplicating the materials. Finally, the parent and student may request to have parts of the record interpreted by a qualified professional of the school, or may invite anyone else of their choosing to inspect or interpret the record with them.

Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 71, Section 34H specifies detailed procedures that govern access to student records by parents who do not have physical custody of their children. For more information, please contact the school principal.

#### **Confidentiality of Record**

No individuals or organizations but the parent, student, and the school personnel working directly with the student are allowed to have access to information in the student record without the written consent of the parent or the student.

#### **Amendment of Record**

The parent and student have the right to add relevant comments, information, or other written materials to the student record. In addition, the parent and student have a right to request that information in the record be amended or deleted. The parent and student have a right to a conference, and the Principal must render a decision in writing. If the parent and student are not satisfied with the decision, the regulations contain provisions under which decision may be appealed to the Superintendent.

#### **Destruction of Records**

A student's temporary record is destroyed within five years after the student transfers, graduates, or withdraws from the school system. School authorities are also allowed to destroy misleading, outdated or irrelevant information in the record from time to time while the student is enrolled in the school system.

In either case, the school must first notify the parent and eligible student and give them the opportunity to receive a copy of any of the information before it is destroyed.

### **Wellness Policy on Physical Activity & Nutrition – Policy ADF**

The School Committee recognizes the relationship between student well-being and student achievement as well as the importance of a comprehensive district wellness program. Therefore, the school district will provide developmentally appropriate and sequential nutrition and physical education as well as opportunities for physical activity. The wellness program will be implemented in a multidisciplinary fashion and will be evidence based.

#### **Wellness Committee**

The school district will establish a wellness committee that consists of at least one (1): parent, student, nurse, school food service representative, School Committee member, school administrator, member of the public, and other community members as appropriate. If available, a qualified, credentialed nutrition professional will be a member of the wellness committee. The school committee designates the following individual(s) as wellness program coordinator(s): Nurse Leader or Superintendent designee. Only employees of the district who are members of the wellness committee may serve as wellness program coordinators. Wellness coordinators, in consultation with the wellness committee, will be in charge of implementation and evaluation of this policy.

### **Nutrition Guidelines**

It is the policy of the school district that all foods and beverages made available on campus during the school day are consistent with School Lunch Program nutrition guidelines. Guidelines for reimbursable school meals will not be less restrictive than regulations and guidance issued by the Secretary of Agriculture pursuant to law. The district will create procedures that address all foods available to students throughout the school day in the following areas:

- guidelines for maximizing nutritional value by decreasing fat and added sugars, increasing nutrition density and moderating portion size of each individual food or beverage sold within the school environment;
- separate guidelines for foods and beverages in the following categories:
  1. foods and beverages included in a la carte sales in the food service program on school campuses;
  2. foods and beverages sold in vending machines, snack bars, school stores, and concession stands;
  3. foods and beverages sold as part of school-sponsored fundraising activities; and
  4. refreshments served at parties, celebrations, and meetings during the school day; and
  5. specify that its guidelines will be based on nutrition goals, not profit motives.

Please see the *Dietary Guidelines for Americans* at <https://health.gov/dietaryguidelines/2015/>

### **Nutrition and Physical Education**

The school district will provide nutrition education aligned with standards established by the USDA's National School Lunch Program and the School Breakfast Program in all grades. The school district will provide physical education training aligned with the standards established by the Dept. of Elementary and Secondary Education. The wellness program coordinators, in consultation with the wellness committee, will develop procedures that address nutrition and physical education.

### **Nutrition Education**

- Students receive nutrition education that teaches the skills they need to adopt and maintain healthy eating behaviors.
- Nutrition education is offered in the school cafeteria as well as in the classroom, with coordination between the foodservice staff and other school personnel, including teachers.
- Students receive consistent nutrition messages from all aspects of the school program.
- Division health education curriculum standards and guidelines address both nutrition and physical education.
- Nutrition is integrated into the health education or core curricula (e.g., math, science, language arts).
- Schools link nutrition education activities with the coordinated school health program.
- Staff who provide nutrition education have appropriate training.
- The level of student participation in the school breakfast and school lunch programs is appropriate.

### **Physical Education Activities**

- Students are given opportunities for physical activity through a range of programs including, but not limited to, intramurals, interscholastic athletics, and physical activity clubs.
- Schools work with the community to create ways for students to walk, bike, rollerblade or skateboard safely to and from school.

- Schools encourage parents and guardians to support their children's participation in physical activity, to be physically active role models, and to include physical activity in family events.
- Schools provide training to enable staff to promote enjoyable, lifelong physical activity among students.

### **Other School-Based Activities**

The wellness program coordinators, in consultation with the wellness committee, are charged with developing procedures addressing other school-based activities to promote wellness.

- An adequate amount of time is allowed for students to eat meals in adequate lunchroom facilities.
- All children who participate in subsidized food programs are able to obtain food in a non-stigmatizing manner.
- Environmentally-friendly practices such as the use of locally grown and seasonal foods, school gardens, and non-disposable tableware have been considered and implemented where appropriate.
- Physical activities and/or nutrition services or programs designed to benefit staff health have been considered and, to the extent practical, implemented.

### **Evaluation**

The wellness committee will assess all education curricula and materials pertaining to wellness for accuracy, completeness, balance and consistency with the state and district's educational goals and standards. Wellness program coordinators shall be responsible for devising a plan for implementation and evaluation of the district wellness policy and are charged with operational responsibility for ensuring that schools meet the goals of the district wellness policy. Wellness program coordinators will report to the School Committee annually.

### **WCS Education Policy After Hours**

WHEREAS, the school committee wishes to address the circumstances under which students may be allowed to remain in its buildings after the conclusion of the academic school day so as to avoid having students unsupervised and/or to prohibit students from behaving in a disruptive manner without appropriate supervision;

Now, therefore, The Westport School Committee does hereby establish the following policy on "Use of School Buildings After School:"

- Students who are not otherwise engaged in extracurricular activities within the school or the school district, which shall include but not be limited to, interscholastic athletics, intramural athletics sponsored by the school department, or other school-sponsored clubs, must exit the school buildings and grounds by no later than the end of the school day. In each such instance, the extra-curricular activity in question must be supervised by either a member of the professional staff and/or an adult authorized by the Westport School Department to supervise the activity in question.
- Students who are staying after school to receive additional academic assistance shall be deemed to be in compliance with this policy. However, at the conclusion of receiving after-school help from a teacher or other member of the Westport School Department staff, the student in question shall be expected to promptly exit the building.
- The school department shall ensure that this policy is distributed to all students either as part of the student handbook or as a separate handout. Violations of this policy shall be deemed to be knowing and shall be addressed through the student disciplinary process.
- Repeated violations of this policy shall be referred to the superintendent of schools for additional disciplinary action consistent with the nature of the violation(s).

## **Internet Acceptable Use Policy**

The Internet is a vast electronic network linking computers at universities, high schools, science labs, and other sites throughout the world. Use of the Internet provides the opportunity for students and staff to research and support educational and curriculum initiatives by enabling users to explore thousands of libraries, databases, museums, and other repositories of information and to exchange communications with other Internet users around the world. Because of its enormous size, the Internet's potential is boundless. However, with such great potential for education also comes some potential for abuse. It is the purpose of the Acceptable Use Policy as well as the associated Contract for Internet Use, to ensure that all who use the Internet through the Westport Community Schools use this valuable resource in an appropriate manner.

The Westport Community Schools offer students and staff access to the Internet through their classrooms, libraries and school computer labs. To gain access, all Internet users must agree to abide by the guidelines set forth in the Acceptable Use Policy. Students will be required to have parental permission for Internet access. Should a parent prefer that a student not have Internet access, she/he will have use of the computer for traditional educational purposes.

To use the Internet through the Westport Community Schools, the user agrees to take full responsibility for his or her own actions. The Westport Community Schools, along with the other organizations sponsoring this Internet link-up, will not be held liable for the actions of anyone connecting to the Internet through this hook-up. Therefore, all users shall assume full liability, legal, financial, or otherwise, for their actions.

Due to the manner in which information can readily be placed on the Internet, the school system will not be held responsible for the accuracy or the quality of the information obtained by the user through the Internet. System and building facilitators will make reasonable efforts to maintain reliable service and user privacy, but they cannot absolutely guarantee that the system will always be available, that files will always be saved, and that privacy will be completely guaranteed.

The Westport Community Schools' Internet connection is provided to further the educational goals of the school system and those of the students and staff using the service. In keeping with the educational purposes intended with its use, the Internet connection is not to be used for any non-educational purposes such as commercial solicitations, product advertisement, political lobbying, etc. No attempt will be made to obtain computer software illegally, known as pirating, through the provided Internet connection.

The user of the Internet connection becomes an extension of the Westport Community Schools throughout the Internet. Westport Community Schools Internet users are expected to abide by the rules of the Student or Staff Handbook where applicable, and follow accepted network etiquette. Inappropriate behavior will not be condoned. The use of vulgar, profane or obscene language is not to be used. Threatening or sexually harassing language is unacceptable and against school rules as well as the law.

The safety of the Internet user as well as the system itself is of utmost concern. Personal safety of the user means never giving out personal information such as home addresses or telephone numbers for yourself or others. A user must never agree to meet with someone contacted through the Internet. The safety of the system is also a concern of the Westport Community Schools. Users will not give out their passwords or anyone else's nor attempt to gain access to any files for which the user is not authorized. Users will not download software (Freeware, Shareware), files or documents which may compromise the system by means of a virus, tying up the Internet connection for extended periods of time or some other activity which places the server system at risk.

With all the information available to the Internet user, the temptation to use obtained or uncredited information is great. The user agrees not to plagiarize the works, ideas or thoughts of others, and abide by the Copyright Infringement Laws.

The manner in which information is placed on or accessed through the Internet allows for the possibility of the user to encounter inappropriate material. The user agrees not to access material that is obscene, advocates illegal acts of violence or discriminates toward other people. Should a user encounter an unacceptable or inappropriate Web Site, the user will immediately close the connection to the site and refrain from downloading any material. The user will not identify or share the Web Site address with anyone and

will report the access of the site to the person in charge of the Internet hook-up site where the violation took place. The Westport Community Schools reserve the right to periodically review the Web Sites accessed by individual users. These reviews will help to assure that the educational purposes for which the Internet connection is provided are being followed.

Violations of the Acceptable Use Policy carry serious consequences and will result in the immediate suspension of the users' Internet privileges. Further disciplinary actions may be taken by the Administration of the Westport Community Schools and/or Town, State, or Federal authorities. Any questions or allegations concerning adherence to the Acceptable Use Policy should be brought to the attention of the Education Technology Coordinator, Principal or a faculty member immediately.

### **Health Services/Nurse's Office**

Students who need the services of the nurse's office must go to their classroom first and procure a pass from their classroom teacher. Students may go to the nurse after school without a pass. Students must have a pass at all other times in order to visit the nurse's office. Students who are obviously ill will be sent out of class to the nurse's office by their classroom teacher. This time out of class will be considered an absence for that class.

The nurse's office will be closed daily for lunch from 12:10 p.m. to 12:40 P.M. Students will not be seen during this time unless it is an emergency.

### **Vision / Hearing Testing**

Testing is completed during the school year. Parents will be notified if a student fails to pass either test.

### **Immunizations**

Students who receive the required school immunizations by a hospital or private physician must notify the school nurse so that records can be kept up-to-date.

### **Medications**

1. All medications prescribed by physicians must be delivered to the school by a parent or guardian.
2. All medications must be in properly marked containers with the following information:
  - A. Student Name
  - B. Name of Medication
  - C. Physician's Name
  - D. Amount and Time to be Dispensed
3. All medication will be administered by the school nurse according to prescription. Regulations: No medicines, including over the counter, will be administered without a doctor's note and parent signature.

### **Emergency Forms**

It is the parents'/students' responsibility to ensure that the school's emergency form is returned to the school nurse immediately at the beginning of the school year. The information provided on the form is necessary to insure the safety and well-being of our students.

### **Rights Under the Protection of Pupil Rights Amendment (PPRA)**

PPRA affords parents/guardians and students who are 18 or emancipated minors (eligible students) certain rights regarding our conduct of surveys, collection and use of information for marketing purposes, and certain physical exams.

These include the right to: Consent before students are required to submit to a survey that concerns one or more of the following protected areas ("protected information survey") if the survey is funded in whole or in part by a program of the U.S. Department of Education (ED) –

- Political affiliations or beliefs of the student or student's parent/guardian; · Mental or psychological problems of the student or student's family;

- Sex behavior or attitudes;
- Illegal, anti-social, self-incriminating, or demeaning behavior;
- Critical appraisals of others with whom respondents have close family relationships;
- Legally recognized privileged relationships, such as with lawyers, doctors, or ministers;
- Religious practices affiliations, or beliefs of the student or parent/guardians; or
- Income, other than as required by law to determine program eligibility. Receive notice and an opportunity to opt a student out of any other protected information survey, regardless of funding;
- Any non-emergency, invasive physical exam or screening required as a condition of attendance, administered by the school or its agent, and not necessary to protect the immediate health and safety of a student, except for hearing, vision, or scoliosis screenings, or any physical exam or screening permitted or required under State law; and
- Activities involving collection, disclosure, or use of personal information obtained from students for marketing or to sell or otherwise distribute the information to others. Inspect, upon request and before administration or use
- Protected information surveys of students;
- Instruments used to collect personal information from students for any of the above marketing, sales, or other distribution purposes; and
- Instructional material used as part of the educational curriculum.

Parent/guardians/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 Washington, D.C. 20202-4605

### **Homelessness**

In compliance with the McKinney Vento Act and the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education, the Westport Community Schools acknowledges the following definition of homeless children and youth:

- Individuals who lack a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence or have a primary nighttime residence in a supervised (publicly or privately) operated shelter for temporary accommodations including welfare hotels, congregate shelters, and transitional housing for the mentally ill.
- Sharing the housing of other persons due to loss of housing, economic hardship, or a similar reason.
- Living in motels, hotels, trailer parks, or camping grounds due to the lack of alternative adequate accommodations.
- Living in cars, parks, public spaces, abandoned buildings, substandard housing, bus or train stations, or similar settings.
- Living in emergency or transitional shelters.
- Abandoned in hospitals.
- Awaiting foster care placement.
- Unaccompanied youth (a homeless youth who is not in the physical custody of a parent/guardian, and not in the custody of a state agency).

Students who are considered homeless will be able to attend his/her school of origin (the school where the child/youth attended when permanently housed or last enrolled), and fully participate in all school activities and services including preschool programs, Title 1, Special Education, English Language Learner Program, School Nutrition Programs and all other programs available to resident students.

If you have any questions about McKinney Vento, please contact the school principal. All information is kept confidential.

### **Notification of Rights Under FERPA**

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

These rights are:

- The right to inspect and review the student's educational records within 45 days of the day the School 38 receives a request for access. Parent/guardians or eligible students should submit to the School principal a written request that identifies the record(s) they wish to inspect. The School official will make arrangements for access and notify the parent/guardian or eligible student of the time and place where the records may be inspected.
- The right to request the amendment of the student's education records that the parent/guardian or eligible student believes are inaccurate. Parents/guardians or eligible students may ask the School to amend a record that they believe is inaccurate. They should write the School principal, clearly identify the part of the record they want changed, and specify why it is inaccurate. If the School decides not to amend the record as requested by the parent/guardian or eligible student, the School will notify the parent/guardian or eligible student of the decision and advise them of their right to a hearing regarding the request for amendment. Additional information regarding the hearing procedures will be provided to the parent/guardian or eligible student when notified of the right to a hearing.
- The right to consent to disclosures of personally identifiable information contained in the student's education records, except to the extent that FERPA authorizes disclosure without consent.
- One exception, which permits disclosure without consent, is disclosure to school officials with legitimate educational interests. A school official is a person employed by the School as an administrator, supervisor, instructor, or support staff member (including health or medical staff and law enforcement unit personnel); a person serving on the School Board; a person or company with whom the School has contracted to perform a special task (such as an attorney, auditor, medical consultant, or therapist); or a parent/guardian or student serving on an official committee, such as a disciplinary or grievance committee, or assisting another school official in performing his or her tasks.
- A school official has a legitimate educational interest if the official needs to review an education record in order to fulfill his or her professional responsibility.
- Upon request, the school discloses education records without consent to officials of another school district in which a student seeks or intends to enroll.

The right to file a complaint with the U.S. Department of Education concerning alleged failures by Westport Middle High School to comply with the requirements of FERPA. The name and address of the Office that administers FERPA are:

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

### **Non-Custodial Parent Guardian Rights**

As required by G.L.Ch. 71, § 34H, a non-custodial parent/guardian may have access to the student record in accordance with law and Department of Education Regulations. The school district will follow the law and the attachments recommended by the Massachusetts Department of Education to standardize the process by which public schools provide student records to parents/guardians who do not have physical custody of their children ("non-custodial parent/guardians"). The implementation of this policy will hopefully encourage parents/guardians to be involved in and informed about the education of their children, while protecting the rights and safety of all parties.

### **Nondiscrimination on the Basis of Physical Challenge**

The School Committee has designated the Student Services Supervisor as the responsible employee to coordinate school district compliance with Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act and its administrative regulations. The Student Services Supervisor, as the district's Section 504 compliance officer, shall be responsible for continuing compliance with Section 504 and its administrative regulations. Any student has a ready means of resolving any claim of discrimination on the basis of physical challenge in the educational



programs or activities of the district. In the event a student believes that there has been a violation of Section 504, s/he shall deliver to the Student Services Supervisor a written statement setting out the alleged violations, describing the incident or activity involved, the individuals involved and the dates, times and locations involved. The Student Services Supervisor shall provide the individual filing the written statement an 15 opportunity to discuss the matter personally, if requested. The Student Services Supervisor shall make such investigation as is necessary to determine the complete facts involved. The Superintendent shall then take action as appropriate to bring the district in compliance with all federal and state regulations or refer the matter to the School Committee for action as appropriate. If the student submitting the written statement of an alleged violation is not satisfied with the handling of the matter by the district, s/he may present the matter directly to the School Committee by contacting the Committee Chairperson.

### **Admission to Classes and Course of Study**

Each and every course of study offered by a public school shall be open and available to students regardless of actual or perceived race, color, creed, religion, national origin, sex/gender, marital status, homelessness, disability, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, age, family care leave status, pregnancy or any condition related to pregnancy, or military/veteran status of the access to, admission, or treatment of students in its programs and activities, or in employment and application for employment. Furthermore, School Committee policy includes prohibitions of harassment of students and employees, i.e., racial harassment, sexual harassment, and retaliation for filing complaints of discrimination. This does not prohibit the use of prerequisite requirements that have been demonstrated to be essential to success in a given program. However, if participation in a course or program is dependent upon completion of a prerequisite which was previously limited to students of one gender, or if scrutiny reveals that administrative arrangements have limited the opportunities of any class of students to participate in such prerequisites, then all members of the previously excluded group shall be given the opportunity to acquire the prerequisites or be allowed to enter the program without such prerequisites. If it cannot be shown that a prerequisite is essential for success in a given program, the prerequisite shall be abolished. The determination of what courses or units of study are to be required of any student shall also be made without regard to the actual or perceived race, color, creed, religion, national origin, sex/gender, marital status, homelessness, disability, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, age, family care leave status, pregnancy or any condition related to pregnancy, or military/veteran status of the access to, admission, or treatment of students in its programs and activities, or in employment and application for employment. Furthermore, School Committee policy includes prohibitions of harassment of students and employees, i.e., racial harassment, sexual harassment, and retaliation for filing complaints of discrimination. This policy shall not be construed to prevent particular segments of a program of instruction from being offered separately to each gender when necessary in order to respect personal privacy.

### **Bullying Prevention**

The School Committee is committed to providing a safe, positive and productive educational environment where students can achieve the highest academic standards. No student shall be subjected to harassment, intimidation, bullying, or cyber-bullying.

“Bullying” is the repeated use by one or more students or school staff members of a written, verbal, or electronic expression, or a physical act or gesture, or any combination thereof, directed at a target that:

- causes physical or emotional harm to the target or damage to the target’s property;
- places the target in reasonable fear of harm to him/herself, or of damage to his/her property;
- creates a hostile environment at school for the target;
- infringes on the rights of the target at school; or
- materially and substantially disrupts the education process or the orderly operation of a school.

“Cyber-bullying” means bullying through the use of technology or any electronic communication, which shall include, but shall not be limited to, any transfer of signs, signals, writing, images, sounds, data or intelligence of any nature transmitted in whole or in part by a:

- wire
- radio
- electromagnetic
- photo-electronic or photo-optical system, including, but not limited to, electronic mail, internet communications, instant messages or facsimile communications.

Cyber-bullying shall also include the creation of a web page or blog in which the creator assumes the identity of another person or knowingly impersonates another person as author of posted content or messages, if the creation or impersonation creates any of the conditions enumerated in the definition of bullying.

Cyber-bullying shall also include the distribution by electronic means of a communication to more than one person or the posting of material on an electronic medium that may be accessed by one or more persons, if the distribution or posting creates any of the conditions enumerated in the definition of bullying.

Bullying and cyber-bullying may occur in and out of school, during and after school hours, at home and in locations outside of the home. When bullying and cyber-bullying are alleged, the full cooperation and assistance of parents and families are expected.

For the purpose of this policy, whenever the term bullying is used it is to denote either bullying, or cyber-bullying.

Bullying is prohibited:

- On school grounds;
  - On property immediately adjacent to school grounds;
  - At school-sponsored or school-related activities;
  - At functions or programs whether on or off school grounds
  - At school bus stops;
  - On school buses or other vehicles owned, leased or used by the school district; or,
  - Through the use of technology or an electronic device owned, leased or used by the school district;
- Bullying and cyber-bullying are prohibited at a location, activity, function or program that is not school-related or through the use of technology or an electronic device that is not owned, leased or used by the school district if the act or acts in question:

- create a hostile environment at school for the target;
- infringe on the rights of the target at school; and/or
- materially and substantially disrupt the education process or the orderly operation of a school.

### **Prevention and Intervention Plan**

The Superintendent and/or his/her designee shall oversee the development of a prevention and intervention plan, in consultation with all district stakeholders, which may include teachers, school staff, professional support personnel, school volunteers, administrators, community representatives, local law enforcement agencies, students, parents and guardians, consistent with the requirements of this policy, as well as state and federal laws. The bullying prevention and intervention plan shall be reviewed and updated at least biennially.

The Principal is responsible for the implementation and oversight of the bullying prevention and implementation plan within his or her school.

### **Reporting**

Students, who believe that they are a target of bullying, observe an act of bullying, or who have reasonable

grounds to believe that these behaviors are taking place, are obligated to report incidents to a member of the school staff. The target shall, however, not be subject to discipline for failing to report bullying.

Each school shall have a means for anonymous reporting by students of incidents of bullying. No formal disciplinary action shall be taken solely on the basis of an anonymous report.

Any student who knowingly makes a false accusation of bullying shall be subject to disciplinary action.

Parents or guardians, or members of the community, are encouraged to report an incident of bullying as soon as possible.

A member of a school staff shall immediately report any instance of bullying the staff member has witnessed or become aware of to the school principal or their designee.

### **Investigation Procedures**

The Principal or their designee, upon receipt of a viable report, shall promptly contact the parents or guardians of a student who has been the alleged target or alleged perpetrator of bullying. The actions being taken to prevent further acts of bullying shall be discussed.

The school Principal or a designee shall promptly investigate the report of bullying, using a Bullying/Cyber-bullying Report Form which may include interviewing the alleged target, alleged perpetrator, staff members, students and/or witnesses.

Support staff shall assess an alleged target's needs for protection and create and implement a safety plan that shall restore a sense of safety for that student.

Confidentiality shall be used to protect a person who reports bullying, provides information during an investigation of bullying, or is witness to or has reliable information about an act of bullying.

If the school Principal or a designee determines that bullying has occurred he/she shall take appropriate disciplinary action and if it is believed that criminal charges may be pursued against the perpetrator, the principal shall consult with the school's resource officer and the Superintendent to determine if criminal charges are warranted. If it is determined that criminal charges are warranted, the local law enforcement agency shall be notified.

The investigation shall be completed within fourteen school days from the date of the report. The parents or guardians shall be contacted upon completion of the investigation and informed of the results, including whether the allegations were found to be factual, whether a violation of this policy was found, and whether disciplinary action has or shall be taken. At a minimum the Principal or his/her designee shall contact the parents or guardians as to the status of the investigation on a weekly basis.

Disciplinary actions for students who have committed an act of bullying or retaliation shall be in accordance with district disciplinary policies.

Each school shall document any incident of bullying that is reported per this policy and a file shall be maintained by the Principal or designee. A monthly report shall be provided to the Superintendent.

Confidentiality shall be maintained to the extent consistent with the school's obligations under law.

### **Retaliation**

Retaliation against a person who reports bullying, provides information during an investigation of bullying, or witnesses or has reliable information about bullying, shall be prohibited.

### **Target Assistance**

The school district shall provide counseling or referral to appropriate services, including guidance, academic intervention, and protection to students, both targets and perpetrators, affected by bullying, as necessary.

### **Training and Assessment**

Annual training shall be provided for school employees and volunteers who have significant contact with students in preventing, identifying, responding to, and reporting incidents of bullying.

Age-appropriate, evidence-based instruction on bullying prevention shall be incorporated into the curriculum for all K to 12 students.

#### **Publication and Notice**

Annual written notice of the relevant sections of the bullying prevention and intervention plan shall be provided to students and their parents or guardians, in age-appropriate terms.

Annual written notice of the bullying prevention and intervention plan shall be provided to all school staff. The faculty and staff at each school shall be trained annually on the bullying prevention and intervention plan applicable to the school.

Relevant sections of the bullying prevention and intervention plan relating to the duties of faculty and staff shall be included in the school employee handbook. The bullying prevention and intervention plan shall be posted on the school district website.

### **Westport High School**

Laura Charette - Principal

Michael Grandfield - Assistant Principal

Jen Gargiulo- Assistant Principal

The Westport High School Student-Parent Handbook can be found on the Westport Community Schools website under the Westport High School tab. Please review the Handbook at [www.westportschools.org](http://www.westportschools.org) and complete this acknowledgement receipt via DocuSign.

I acknowledge, with my signature below, the receipt of the required annual notification of parent/student rights on behalf of my son/daughter. We have reviewed the information together and understand the expectations of Westport High School.

Please PRINT the name, birth date and grade of your child.

STUDENT NAME: \_\_\_\_\_ Grade: \_\_\_\_\_ DOB : \_\_\_\_\_

Signature of Parent/Guardian: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature of Student (Grades 9-12): \_\_\_\_\_

Please provide us with an updated phone number and email you prefer we use for our primary methods of communication. We will be sending emails and phone calls to keep families updated each week on any school news and information.

EMAIL: \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_

CELL PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_