

**Union City Middle School
Student Handbook**

2022-2023

Student/Parent Handbook

for

UNION CITY MIDDLE SCHOOL

Welcome to Union City Middle School. All the members of the staff and I are pleased to have you as a student and will do our best to help make your experience as productive and successful as you wish to make it.

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Adopted by the Board of Education on August 15, 2022.

WELCOME FROM THE STAFF OF

Union City Middle School

Dear Students/Parents/Guardians:

On behalf of the staff and administration, we extend to each student and family a warm welcome and a wish for a successful school year.

Union City Middle School is a special place in which we all take pride. Every student is an important individual that we believe will be able to draw on a wide variety of educational experiences in the school setting. The growth associated with a good education will better prepare students to take on the responsibilities and decision making that comes in the future years.

Students should review this handbook and share it with their parents. The information provided will help you become better acquainted with Union City Middle School. Once again, welcome and have a great year.

Vision: We see possibility and excellence for all.

Mission: We partner with students, parents, and the community to produce graduates who assume responsibility, show respect, apply reason and are academically ready to move to the next phase of learning.

Union City Community Schools follows an orderly chain of communication when dealing with concerns and/or complaints. If a complaint is made or a concern shared by someone, it is the obligation of the person at that level to deal with the complaint/concern within the means they have available. If the concern is not resolved at this level, it should be taken to the next level. At this time, the person at that level should work to resolve the concern with the person stating the concern and the employee affected. As a general rule of thumb concerns/complaints should be solved at the level closest to the situation. If the concern/complaint is not resolved at each level, it can be taken to the next level. When a situation exists where a level is jumped, the general practice will be to refer the person with the concern/complaint to the appropriate level. This procedure does not limit the right to anyone expressing a complaint/concern to any level at any time.

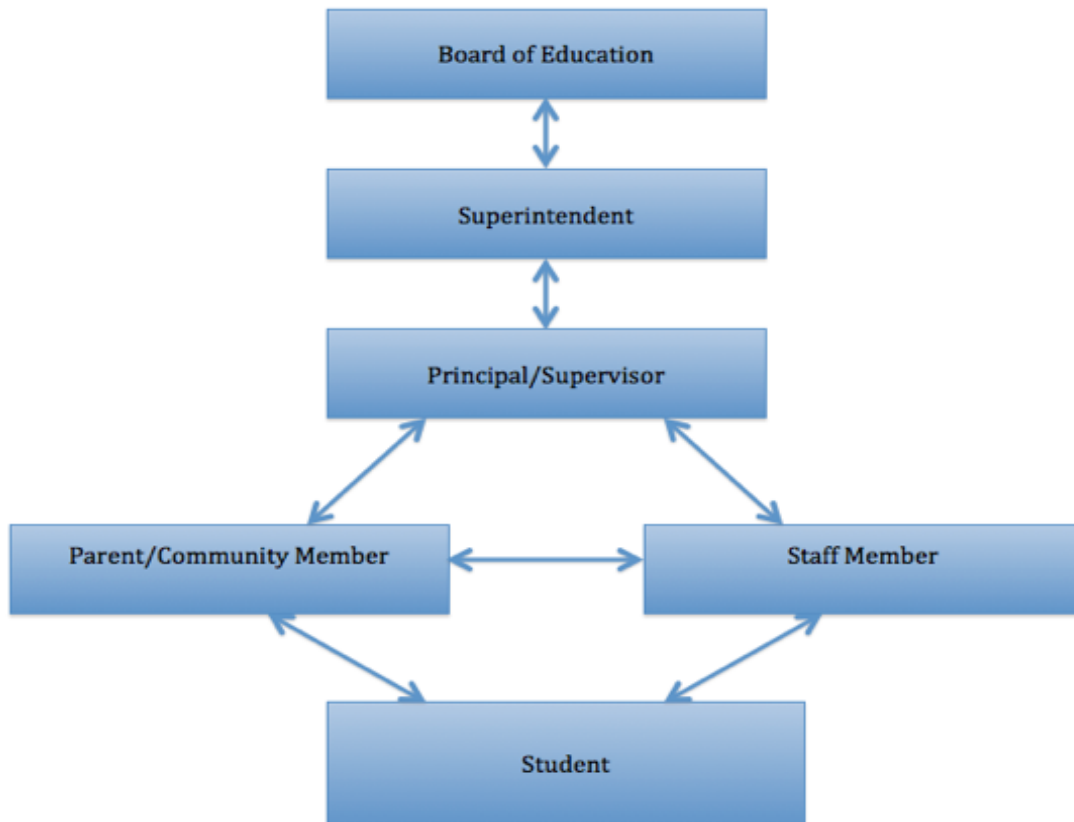


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FOREWORD

This student handbook was developed to answer many of the commonly asked questions that you and your parents may have during the school year and to provide specific information about certain Board policies and procedures. This handbook contains important information that you should know. Become familiar with the following information and keep the handbook available for frequent reference by you and your parents. If you have any questions that are not addressed in this handbook, you are encouraged to talk to your teachers or the building principal.

This handbook summarizes many of the official policies and administrative guidelines of the Board of Education and the District. To the extent that the handbook is ambiguous or conflicts with these policies and guidelines, the policies and guidelines shall control. This handbook is effective immediately and supersedes any prior handbook and other written material on the same subjects.

This handbook does not equate to an irrevocable contractual commitment to the student, but only reflects the current status of the Board's policies and the School's rules as of **August 16, 2021**. If any of the policies or administrative guidelines referenced herein are revised after August 16, 2021 the language in the most current policy or administrative guideline prevails.

MISSION OF THE SCHOOL

Mission: We partner with students, parents and the community to produce graduates who assume responsibility, show respect, apply reason and are academically ready to move to the next phase of learning.

EQUAL EDUCATION OPPORTUNITY

It is the policy of this District to provide an equal education opportunity for all students.

Any person who believes that s/he has been discriminated against on the basis of his/her race, color, disability, religion, gender, or national origin, while at school or a school activity should immediately contact the School District's Compliance Officer listed below:

Jamie Thomas
Middle School Principal
517.741.3368

Complaints will be investigated in accordance with the procedures as described in Board Policy 2260. Any student making a complaint or participating in a school investigation will be protected from any threat or retaliation. The Compliance Officer can provide additional information concerning equal access to educational opportunity.

PARENT INVOLVEMENT

The Board of Education recognizes and values parents and families as children's first teachers and decision-makers in education. The Board believes that student learning is more likely to occur when there is an effective partnership between the school and the student's parents and family. Such a partnership between the home and school and greater involvement of parents in the education of their children generally result in higher academic achievement, improved student behavior, and reduced absenteeism.

The term "families" is used in order to include children's primary caregivers, who are not their biological parents, such as foster caregivers, grandparents, and other family members.

Through this policy, the Board directs the establishment of a Parental Involvement Plan by which a school-partnership can be established and provided to the parent of students in the District. The plan must encompass parent participation, through meetings and other forms of communication. The Parental Involvement Plan shall reflect the Board's commitment to the following:

- A Relationships with Families
 - 1 cultivating school environments that are welcoming, supportive, and student-centered;
 - 2 providing professional development for school staff that helps build partnerships between families and schools; ^{1,2}
 - 3 encourage family activities that relate to various cultures, languages, practices, and customs, and bridge economic and cultural barriers; ^{1,2}
 - 4 assist with technical support and other support to schools in planning and implementing family involvement activities. ²
- B Effective Communication
 - 1 providing information to families to support the proper health, safety, and well-being of their children;
 - 2 providing information to families about school policies, procedures, programs, and activities; ^{1,2}
 - 3 promoting regular and open communication between school personnel and students' family members;
 - 4 communicating with families in a format and language that is understandable, to the extent practicable; ^{1,2}
 - 5 providing information and involving families in monitoring student

- progress; ²
- 6 providing families with timely and meaningful information regarding Michigan's academic standards, State and local assessments, and pertinent legal provisions; ^{1,2}
- 7 encourage families to be involved in meaningful discussions and meetings with school staff. ^{1,2}
- C Volunteer Opportunities
 - providing volunteer opportunities for families to support their children's school activities; ²
- D Learning at Home
 - 1 offering training and resources to help families learn strategies and skills to support at-home learning and success in school; ^{1,2}
 - 2 working with families to establish learning goals and help their children accomplish these goals;
 - 3 encourage families to provide a school and home environment that encourages learning and extends learning at home. ¹
- E Involving Families in Decision Making and Advocacy
 - 1 involving families as partners in the process of school review and continuous improvement planning; ²
 - 2 involving families in the development of its District-wide parent involvement policy and plan, and distributing the policy and plan to families. ^{1,2}
- F Collaborating with the Community
 - building constructive partnerships and connecting families with community-based programs and other community resources; ^{1,2}

SCHOOL DAY

Student day: 7:50 a.m. - 2:55 p.m.
Students may enter the building at 7:35 a.m.

Teacher day: 7:35 a.m. - 2:55 p.m.

Half day dismissal: 11:05 a.m.

STUDENT RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES

The rules and procedures of the school are designed to allow each student to obtain a safe, orderly, and appropriate education. Students can expect their rights to freedom of expression and association and to fair treatment as long as they respect those rights for their fellow students and the staff. Students will be expected to follow teachers' directions and to obey all school rules. Disciplinary procedures are designed to ensure due process (a fair hearing) before a student is removed because of his/her behavior.

Parents have the right to know how their child is succeeding in school and will be provided information on a regular basis and as needed, when concerns arise. Many times it will be the student's responsibility to deliver that information. If necessary, the mail or hand delivery may be used to ensure contact. Parents are encouraged to build a two-way link with their child's teachers and support staff by informing the staff of suggestions or concerns that may help their child better accomplish his/her educational goals.

Students must arrive at school on time, prepared to learn and participate in the educational program. If, for some reason, this is not possible, the student should seek help from the Middle School Principal or school counselor. Adult students must follow all school rules.

STUDENT WELL-BEING

Student safety is a responsibility of the staff. All staff members are familiar with emergency procedures such as fire, lock down and tornado drills and accident reporting procedures. Should a student be aware of any dangerous situation or accident, s/he must notify any staff person immediately.

State law requires that all students must have an emergency medical card completed, signed by a parent or guardian, and filed in the School office. A student may be excluded from school until this requirement has been fulfilled.

Students with specific health care needs should deliver written notice about such needs along with proper documentation by a physician, to the School Office.

INJURY AND ILLNESS

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

A student who becomes ill during the school day should request permission to go to the office. An appropriate adult in the office will determine whether or not the student should remain in school or go home. No student will be released from school without proper parental permission.

Students who become ill or injured at school are required to report to the office for assistance. The building Principal will be contacted to assess the student and provide treatment as needed. If the student is determined to be ill, contagious, or needs further medical treatment, parents/guardians are required to pick the student up from school. At no time should a student leave the school without notifying the office and receiving permission. In emergency cases, when the parent/guardian cannot be reached, the school reserves the right to seek medical attention unless the parent/guardian has specifically directed the school not to do so in advance, and provided in writing.

Communicable Diseases

The school will observe recommendations of the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services, and local public health departments regarding communicable diseases. A communicable disease is an infectious disease transmissible from person to person from direct contact with an infected individual or the individual's discharges.

The student's parent/guardian is required to notify the school office if they suspect their child has a communicable disease. In certain cases, students with a communicable disease may be excluded from school or sent home from school following notification of the parent/guardian. The school will provide written instructions to the parent/guardian regarding appropriate treatment for the communicable disease. A child who has been exempted from a vaccination is considered susceptible to the disease or diseases for which the vaccination offers protection. The child may be subject to exclusion from the school or program, if the local and/or state public health authority advises exclusion as a disease control measure. Readmission will be determined by the local and/or state public health authority. This is for the safety of all students. A student excluded because of a communicable disease will be permitted to return to school only when the parent/guardian provides the school a letter from the student's doctor stating that the student is no longer contagious or at risk of spreading the communicable disease.

Control of Casual-Contact Communicable Diseases and Pests

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

Specific diseases include; diphtheria, scarlet fever, strep infections, whooping cough, mumps, measles, rubella, and other conditions indicated by the Local and State Health Departments. Any removal will only be for the contagious period as specified in the school's administrative guidelines.

Whenever a student is found to be infested with **head lice**, s/he is to be sent home for treatment and not readmitted to school until the parent completes *Form 8450A F3* **and it is confirmed that the child is free of any live bugs or nits.**

The necessary at home treatment for lice is contained in Form 8450A F1. This form and the cover letter (form 8450A F2) shall be provided to the parents/legal guardians of the student.

In situations involving continued active infestation after appropriate treatment, persistent infestation after six consecutive weeks, or three separate cases within one school year, a multidisciplinary group consisting of parents, teachers,

administrators, social workers, and/or other appropriate persons will convene to determine the best approach to address the situation.

Control of Non-Casual-Contact Communicable

In the case of non-casual contact, communicable diseases, the school still has the obligation to protect the safety of the staff and students. In this case the individual in question may have their status reviewed by a panel of resource personnel, including the local county public health department, to ensure the rights of the person affected and those in contact with the person are respected.

Diseases may include sexually transmitted diseases, AIDS, ARC-AIDS related Complex, HIV, HAV, HBV, HCV (Hepatitis A, B, C); and other diseases specified by the State Board of Health.

Management of Chronic Illness and Life-Threatening Allergies

If your student has a chronic illness or life-threatening allergy, please notify the school (also include information on health consent) at (517)-741-5381.

Students with a chronic illness or life-threatening allergy will need an Action Plan authorized by a physician, and signed by the student, parent/guardian, and building Principal each school year. Parents are responsible to obtain the Action Plan, however the building Principal can provide assistance with this.

Students with a chronic illness or life-threatening allergy will provide an Individualized Health Care Plan developed along with the building Principal. Appropriate staff will be notified of the plans with parental consent. Please inform the school of any changes in your student's health, health care plan, or medications so appropriate actions can be taken to provide safe care.

Federal law protects students from discrimination due to a disability that substantially limits a major life activity. If your student has a qualifying disability, an Individualized Section 504 Plan will be developed and implemented to provide needed support and accommodations so he/she can access educational programs and services. For further information, please contact the Building Principal at (517)-741-5381. More information on the district's Section 504 Policy is available at www.unioncityschools.org

Medications – Prescription and Over the Counter

In the circumstances where a student must take prescription or an over the counter (OTC) medication during the school day, the following guidelines are to be observed:

Parents should, with their physician's counsel, determine whether the medication schedule can be adjusted to avoid administering medication during school hours. If your student has a Health Consent on file with the school basic medications (Acetaminophen, Ibuprofen, Loratadine, Cough Drops, Diphenhydramine (Benadryl for allergic reactions), and Tums) may be administered by the building office. A Medication Authorization form must be filed with the school before the student will be allowed to begin taking any medication during school hours. This form includes a physician's and parent's signature. A separate form is needed for each medication. Medication must be transported to the school by a parent/guardian. A month's supply of medication is recommended. Medication May Not be sent to school with the student, except for emergency medications. Any unused medication unclaimed by the parent will be destroyed when a prescription is no longer to be administered or at the end of the school year. Parents/guardians are responsible to instruct their student to take the medication at the scheduled time, and the student has the responsibility to present him/herself on time and for taking the medication.

A log for each medication will be maintained which will note the personnel giving the medication, the date, and time. This log will be maintained along with the medication administration authorization. All medications will be stored in the office in a secure area. Students who are found to have either prescription or over the counter medications in their possession will be disciplined by building administration. Any student who distributes a medication of any kind to another student may be subject to discipline in accordance with the drug-use provision of the Code. Students with appropriate authorization from the physician and parent/guardian may possess, and use emergency medications such as an inhaler or Epi-Pen.

Non-Designated Epi-Pens

In the fall of 2014, the State of Michigan implemented legislation to support the safety of students in the event of an anaphylactic reaction (life-threatening allergic reaction) occurring in the school setting. Michigan's Public Acts 186 and 187 require Michigan School Districts to provide at least two stock epinephrine auto-injectors (Epi-Pens) in each district building. Included in this legislation, is the training of a minimum of two staff members in the recognition of anaphylaxis and the administration of epinephrine.

The purpose of this legislature is to provide emergency medical treatment for individuals with an unknown allergy. If your student has a known life-threatening allergy, parents are still advised to notify the school district of the identified allergy, and provide an epinephrine auto-injector to be kept at the school. Therefore, the school must be notified of all your child's previously known and/or any newly discovered allergies. Each school year, please continue to indicate this on your child's student registration forms, and plan to meet with the building Principal to discuss an emergency action plan for your student.

Medical Emergency Response Team (MERT)

It is the goal of the Union City School District to provide appropriate medical assistance to all students in the event of an accident or injury on school property during regular school hours. Each school has an identified MERT team consisting of a minimum of 5 members who are CPR and First Aid certified, trained in Epi-Pen administration, use of an AED, and carry a First Aid kit. They respond to medical emergencies and follow identified procedures including exposure to blood borne pathogens. The MERT Team operates under the direction of the building Principal. The MERT team will participate in twice-yearly mock drills.

Head Lice

The school will observe the following protocols regarding head lice.

1. The student's parent/guardian is required to notify the school office if their child is suspected of having head lice.
2. Infested students will be sent home following notification to the parent/guardian.
3. The school will provide written instructions to the parent/guardian regarding appropriate treatment for the infestation.
4. A student excluded because of head lice will be permitted to return to school only when the parent/guardian brings the student to school to be checked by the building principal or school counselor and the child is determined to be free of the head lice and eggs (nits). Infested children are prohibited from riding the bus to school to be checked for head lice.

Homebound Instruction

The District shall arrange for individual instruction to students of legal school age who are not able to attend classes because of a physical or emotional disability.

Parents should contact the school administration regarding procedures for such instruction. Applications must be approved by the building principal. The District will provide homebound instruction only for those confinements expected to last at least five (5) days.

Applications for individual instruction shall be made by a physician licensed to practice in this State, parent, student, or other caregiver. A physician must: certify the nature and existence of a medical condition; state the probable duration of the confinement; request such instruction; present evidence of the student's ability to participate in an educational program.

SECTION I - GENERAL INFORMATION

ENROLLING IN THE SCHOOL

In general, State law requires students to enroll in the school district in which their parent or legal guardian resides.

- unless enrolling under the District's open enrollment policy.

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

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

Under certain circumstances, temporary enrollment may be permitted. In such cases, parents will be notified about documentation required to establish permanent enrollment.

Students enrolling from another school must have an official transcript from their previous school in order to have credits transferred. Office staff will assist in obtaining the transcript, if not presented at the time of enrollment.

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

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

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

to review the circumstances of the suspension or expulsion and any other factors the Superintendent determines to be relevant.

SCHEDULING AND ASSIGNMENT

Schedules are provided to each student at the beginning of the school year or upon enrollment. Schedules are based on the student's needs and available class space. Any changes in a student's schedule should be handled through the school principal. Students may be denied course enrollment due to a lack of available space or the need to pass prerequisites. Students are expected to follow their schedules. Any variation should be approved with a pass or schedule change.

EARLY DISMISSAL

No student will be allowed to leave school prior to dismissal time without a written request signed by the parent or a person whose signature is on file in the School office or the parent coming to the school office to request the release. No student will be released to a person other than a custodial parent(s) without written permission signed by the custodial parent(s) or guardian.

TRANSFER OUT OF THE DISTRICT

If a student plans to transfer from **Union City Middle School** the parent should notify the principal. Transfer will be authorized only after the student has completed the arrangements, returned all school materials, and paid any fees or fines that are due. School records may not be released if the transfer is not properly completed. Parents are encouraged to contact office staff for specific details.

School officials, when transferring student records, are required to transmit disciplinary records including suspension and expulsion actions against the student.

WITHDRAWAL FROM SCHOOL

No student under the age of eighteen (18) will be allowed to withdraw from school without the written consent of his/her parents.

Immunizations

Students must be current with all immunizations required by State law or have an authorized waiver meeting the State immunization requirements. A parent or guardian wishing to exempt his or her child from a particular vaccination must provide a Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) Waiver Form that has been certified by a local public health department. A child who has been exempted from a vaccination is considered susceptible to the disease

or diseases for which the vaccination offers protection. The child may be subject to exclusion from the school or program, if the local and/or state public health authority advises exclusion as a disease control measure. Readmission will be determined by the local and/or state public health authority. This is for the safety of all students.

Failure to comply with the State immunization requirements will result in exclusion from school until arrangements are made to receive the required immunizations. Any questions regarding immunizations should be directed to the school Principal at (517)-741-3368.

State Immunization Requirements For Students:

- Four doses DTP or DTaP; one dose must be on or after 4 years of age
- Four doses of Polio; if dose 3 administered on or after 4 years of age, then only 3 required
- Two doses of Measles, Mumps, Rubella (MMR) given on or after 12 months of age
- Two doses of Varicella (chickenpox) vaccine or history (date) of chickenpox disease
- One dose of Meningococcal (meningitis) vaccine at age 11 with booster dose at age 16 (If first dose of Meningococcal vaccine is given after age 16, only 1 dose is required.)
- Three doses of Hepatitis B
- One dose of Tdap (tetanus/diphtheria/acellular pertussis) given after age 11
- Recommendations For Students:
 - Human Papillomavirus (HPV) vaccine series for males and females over 11-12 years of age
 - Hepatitis A vaccine series
 - Influenza (annually)
- All recommended and required vaccine series should be completed.

Emergency Medical Authorization

The student's parent/guardian must complete the school district's Emergency Medical Treatment Authorization Form to indicate their preference of hospital, doctor, and dentist for emergency treatment. A student may be excluded from school until this requirement has been fulfilled. Students needing emergency medical treatment will be transported to the nearest medical facility able to render appropriate care, regardless of parental preferences. The final decision will be made by the EMT or first responder

INDIVIDUALS WITH DISABILITIES

The American's with Disabilities Act (ADA) and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act provide that no individual will be discriminated against on the basis of a disability. This protection applies not just to the student, but to all individuals who have access to the District's programs and facilities.

A student can access special education services through the proper evaluation procedures. Parent involvement in this procedure is important and required by Federal (IDEA) and State law. Contact the building Principal at 517.741.5381 to inquire about evaluation procedures and programs.

LIMITED ENGLISH PROFICIENCY

Limited proficiency in the English language should not be a barrier to equal participation in the instructional or extra-curricular programs of the District. It is, therefore, the policy of this District that those students identified as having limited English proficiency will be provided additional support and instruction to assist them in gaining English proficiency and in accessing the educational and extra-curricular program offered by the District. Parents should contact the building Principal at 517.741.8561 to inquire about evaluation procedures and programs offered by the District.

STUDENT RECORDS

The School District maintains many student records including both directory information and confidential information.

Neither the Board nor its employees shall permit the release of the social security number of a student, or other individual except as authorized by law (see AG 8350). Documents containing social security numbers shall be restricted to those employees who have a need to know that information or a need to access those documents. When documents containing social security numbers are no longer needed, they shall be shredded by an employee who has authorized access to such records.

Directory information includes:

In order to provide appropriate educational services and programming, the Board of Education must collect, retain, and use information about individual students. Simultaneously, the Board recognizes the need to safeguard student's privacy and restrict access to student's personally identifiable information.

Student "personally identifiable information" ("PII") includes, but is not limited to: the student's name; the name of the student's parent or other family members; the address of the student or student's family; a personal identifier, such as the student's social security number, student number, or biometric

record; other indirect identifiers, such as the student's date of birth, place of birth, and mother's maiden name; other information that, alone or in combination, is linked or linkable to a specific student that would allow a reasonable person in the school community, who does not have personal knowledge of the relevant circumstances, to identify the student with reasonable certainty; or information requested by a person who the District reasonably believes knows the identity of the student to whom the education record relates.

The Board of Education is responsible for maintaining records of all students attending schools in this District. Only records mandated by the State or Federal government and/or necessary and relevant to the function of the School District or specifically permitted by this Board will be compiled by Board employees. The Board hereby authorizes collection of the following student records, in addition to the membership record required by law:

- A. observations and ratings of individual students by professional staff members acting within their sphere of competency

- B. information obtained from professional acceptable standard instruments of measurement such as:
 - a. interest inventories and aptitude tests,
 - b. vocational preference inventories,
 - c. achievement tests,
 - d. standardized intelligence tests,

- C. authenticated information provided by a parent or eligible student concerning achievements and other school activities which the parent or student wants to make a part of the record

- D. verified reports of serious or recurrent behavior patterns

- E. rank in class and academic honors earned

- F. psychological tests

- G. attendance records

- H. health records

- I. custodial arrangements

In all cases, permitted, narrative information in student records shall be objectively-based on personal observations or knowledge of the originator.

Student records shall be available only to students and their parents, eligible students, and designated school officials who have a legitimate educational interest in the information, or to other individuals or organizations as permitted by law. The term "parents" includes legal guardians or other persons standing in loco parentis (such as a grandparent or stepparent with whom the child lives, or a person who is legally responsible for the welfare of the child). The term "eligible student" refers to a student who is eighteen (18) years of age or older or a student of any age who is enrolled in a postsecondary institution.

In situations in which a student has both a custodial and a noncustodial parent, both shall have access to the student's educational records unless stipulated otherwise by court order. In the case of eligible students, parents will be allowed access to the records without the student's consent, provided the student is considered a dependent under section 152 of the Internal Revenue Code.

A school official is a person employed by the Board as an administrator, supervisor, teacher/instructor (including substitutes), or support staff member (including health or medical staff and law enforcement unit personnel); and a person serving on the Board. The Board further designates the following individuals and entities as "school officials" for the purpose of FERPA:

- A. persons or companies with whom the Board has contracted to perform a specific task (such as an attorney, auditor, insurance representative, or medical consultant);
- B. contractors, consultants, volunteers or other parties to whom the Board has outsourced a service or function otherwise performed by the Board employees (e.g. a therapist, authorized information technology (IT) staff, and approved online educational service providers).

The above-identified outside parties must (a) perform institutional services or functions for which the Board would otherwise use its employees, (b) be under the direct control of the Board with respect to the use and maintenance of education records, and (c) be subject to the requirements of 34 C.F.R. 99.33(a) governing the use and re-disclosure of PII from education records.

Finally, a parent or student serving on an official committee, such as a disciplinary or grievance committee, or assisting another school official in performing his/her tasks (including volunteers) is also considered a "school official" for purposes of FERPA provided s/he meets the above-referenced criteria applicable to other outside parties.

"Legitimate educational interest" shall be defined as a "direct or delegated responsibility for helping the student achieve one (1) or more of the educational goals of the District" or if the record is necessary in order for the school official to perform an administrative, supervisory or instructional task or to perform a service or benefit for the student or the student's family. The Board directs that reasonable and appropriate methods (including but not limited to physical and/or technological access controls) are utilized to control access to student records and to make certain that school officials obtain access to only those

education records in which they have legitimate educational interest.

The Board authorizes the administration to:

- A. forward student records, including any suspension and expulsion action against the student, on request to a school or school district in which a student of this District seeks or intends to enroll upon condition that the student's parents be notified of the transfer, receive a copy of the record if desired, and have an opportunity for a hearing to challenge the content of the record;
- B. forward student records, including disciplinary records with respect to suspensions and expulsions, upon request to a public school or school district in which a student in foster care is enrolled. Such records shall be transferred within one (1) school day of the enrolling school's request;
- C. provide "personally-identifiable" information to appropriate parties, including parents of an eligible student, whose knowledge of the information is necessary to protect the health or safety of the student or other individuals, if there is an articulable and significant threat to the health or safety of a student or other individuals, considering the totality of the circumstances;
- D. report a crime committed by a child with or without a disability to appropriate authorities and, with respect to reporting a crime committed by a student with a disability, to transmit copies of the student's special education records and disciplinary records including any suspension and expulsion action against the student to the authorities and school officials for their consideration;
- E. release de-identified records and information in accordance with Federal regulations;
- F. disclose personally identifiable information from education records, without consent, to organizations conducting studies "for or on behalf of" the District for purposes of developing, validating or administering predictive tests, administering student aid programs, or improving instruction;

Information disclosed under this exception must be protected so that students and parents cannot be personally identified by anyone other than representatives of the organization conducting the study, and must be destroyed when no longer needed for the study. In order to release information under this provision, the District will enter into a written agreement with the recipient organization that specifies the purpose of the study. (See [Form 8330 F14](#).) Further, the following personally identifiable information will not be disclosed to any entity: a student or his/her family member's social security number(s); religion; political party affiliation; voting history; or biometric information.

This written agreement must include: (1) specification of the purpose, scope, duration of the study, and the information to be disclosed; (2) a statement requiring the organization to use the personally identifiable information only to meet the purpose of the study; (3) a statement

requiring the organization to prohibit personal identification of parents and students by anyone other than a representative of the organization with legitimate interests; and (4) a requirement that the organization destroy all personally identifiable information when it is no longer needed for the study, along with a specific time period in which the information must be destroyed.

While the disclosure of personally identifiable information (other than social security numbers, religion, political party affiliation, voting record, or biometric information) is allowed under this exception, it is recommended that de-identified information be used whenever possible. This reduces the risk of unauthorized disclosure.

- G. disclose personally identifiable information from education records without consent, to authorized representatives of the Comptroller General, the Attorney General, and the Secretary of Education, as well as State and local educational authorities;

The disclosed records must be used to audit or evaluate a Federal or State supported education program, or to enforce or comply with Federal requirements related to those education programs. A written agreement between the parties is required under this exception. (See [Form 8330 F16](#))

The District will verify that the authorized representative complies with FERPA regulations.

- H. request each person or party requesting access to a student's record to abide by the Federal regulations concerning the disclosure of information.

The Board will comply with a legitimate request for access to a student's records within a reasonable period of time but not more than forty-five (45) days after receiving the request or within such a shorter period as may be applicable to students with disabilities. Upon the request of the viewer, a record shall be reproduced, unless said record is copyrighted, and the viewer may be charged a fee equivalent to the cost of handling and reproduction. Based upon reasonable requests, viewers of education records will receive explanation and interpretation of the records.

The Board shall maintain a record of those persons to whom information about a student has been disclosed. Such disclosure records will indicate the student, person viewing the record, information disclosed, date of disclosure, and date parental/eligible student consent was obtained (if required).

Upon written request by a student's parent or legal guardian, the District shall disclose to the parent or legal guardian any personally identifiable information concerning the student that is collected or created by the District as part of the student's education records.

If the District provides any personally identifiable information concerning the student that is collected or created by the District as part of the student's education records to any person, agency, or organization, then the District shall disclose to the student's parent or legal guardian upon his or her written

request:

- A. the specific information that was disclosed;
- B. the name and contact information of each person, agency, or organization to which the information has been disclosed;
- C. the legitimate reason that the person, agency, or organization had in obtaining the information.

This information shall be provided without charge within thirty (30) days after the District receives the written request and without charge to the parent or legal guardian.

The District is not required to disclose to the parent or legal guardian, even upon written request, any personally identifiable information concerning the student that is collected or created by the District as part of the student's education records and is provided to any person, agency, or organization in any of the following situations:

- A. provision of such information to the Michigan Department of Education or CEPI
- B. provision of such information to the student's parent or legal guardian
- C. provision of such information to its authorizing body or to an educational management organization with which it has a management agreement
- D. provision of such information to or from its intermediate school district or to another intermediate school district providing services to the District or its students pursuant to a written agreement
- E. provision of such information to a person, agency, or organization with written consent from the student's parent or legal guardian or, if the student is at least age eighteen (18), the student
- F. provision of such information to a person, agency, or organization seeking or receiving records in accordance with an order, subpoena, or ex parte order issued by a court of competent jurisdiction
- G. provision of such information as necessary for standardized testing that measures the student's academic progress and achievement
- H. provision of such information that is covered by the opt-out form described above, unless the student's parent or legal guardian or, if the student is at least age eighteen (18) or is an emancipated minor, the student has signed and submitted the opt-out form referenced below

Only "directory information" regarding a student shall be released to any person or party, other than the student or his/her parent, without the written consent of the parent; or, if the student is an eligible student, the written consent of the student, except those persons or parties stipulated by the Board policy and administrative guidelines and/or those specified in the law.

The Board shall exempt from disclosure directory information, as requested for the purpose of surveys, marketing, or solicitation, unless the Board determines that the use is consistent with the educational mission of the Board and beneficial to the affected students. The Board may take steps to ensure that

directory information disclosed shall not be used, rented, or sold for the purpose of surveys, marketing, or solicitations. Before disclosing the directory information, the Board may require the requester to execute an affidavit stating that directory information provided shall not be used, rented, or sold for the purpose of surveys, marketing, or solicitation.

DIRECTORY INFORMATION

Each year the Superintendent shall provide public notice to students and their parents of the District's intent to make available, upon request, certain information known as "directory information." The Board designates as student "directory information":

- A. a student's name;
- B. address;
- C. date and place of birth;
- D. major field of study;
- E. participation in officially recognized activities and sports;
- F. height and weight, if member of an athletic team;
- G. dates of attendance;
- H. date of graduation;
- I. awards received;
- J. honor rolls;
- K. scholarships;
- L. school photographs or videos of students participating in school activities, events, or programs.

The Board designates school-assigned e-mail accounts as "directory information" for the limited purpose of facilitating students' registration for access to various online educational services, including mobile applications/apps that will be utilized by the student for educational purposes. School-assigned email accounts shall not be released as directory information beyond this/these limited purpose(s) and to any person or entity but the specific online educational service provider and internal users of the District's Education Technology.

The Chief Information Officer will also develop a list of uses for which the District commonly would disclose a student's directory information and develop an opt-out form that lists all of the uses or instances and allows a parent or legal guardian to elect not to have his or her child's directory information disclosed for one (1) or more of these uses.

Each student's parent or legal guardian will be provided with the opt-out form within the first thirty (30) days of the school year. The form shall also be provided to a parent or legal guardian at other times upon request.

If an opt-out form is signed and submitted to the District by a student's parent

or legal guardian, the District shall not include the student's directory information in any of the uses that have been opted out of in the opt-out form. A student who is at least age eighteen (18) or is an emancipated minor may act on his or her own behalf with respect to the opt-out form.

Parents and eligible students may also refuse to allow the District to disclose any or all of such "directory information" upon written notification to the District within thirty days after receipt of the District's public notice.

STUDENT FEES, FINES, AND SUPPLIES

Union City Middle School charges specific fees for the following non-curricular activities and programs. Such fees or charges are determined by the cost of materials, freight/handling fees, and add-on fees for loss or damage to school property. The school and staff do not make a profit.

The District will provide all basic supplies needed to complete the required course curriculum. The student and/or his/her family may choose to purchase their own supplies if they desire to have a greater quantity or quality of supplies, or desire to help conserve the limited resources for use by others. The teacher or appropriate administrator may recommend useful supplies for these purposes. (See Policy 6152)

Students using school property and equipment can be fined for excessive wear and abuse of the property and equipment. The fine will be used to pay for the damage, not to make a profit.

Late fines can be avoided when students return borrowed materials promptly. Their use may be needed by others.

Failure to pay fines, fees, or charges may result in the withholding of grades and credits.

STUDENT FUND-RAISING

Students participating in school-sponsored groups and activities will be allowed to solicit funds from other students, staff members, and members of the community in accordance with school guidelines. The following general rules will apply to all fund-raisers.

- Students involved in the fundraiser must not interfere with students participating in other activities when soliciting funds.
- Students must not participate in a fundraising activity for a group in which they are not members without the approval of the student's counselor.

- Students may not participate in fundraising activities off school property without proper supervision by approved staff or other adults.
- Students who engage in fundraisers that require them to exert themselves physically beyond their normal pattern of activity, such as "runs for", will be monitored by a staff member in order to prevent a student from over-extending himself/herself to the point of potential harm.
- Students may not participate in a fundraising activity conducted by a parent group, booster club, or community organization on school property without the approval of the Principal.

STUDENT VALUABLES

Students are encouraged not to bring items of value to school. Items such as jewelry, expensive clothing, electronic equipment, and the like, are tempting targets for theft and extortion. The School cannot be responsible for their safe-keeping and will not be liable for loss or damage to personal valuables.

Students are responsible for the care of their own personal property. The school will not be responsible for personal property. Valuables such as jewelry or irreplaceable items should not be brought to school. The school may confiscate such items and return them to the student's parents.

Therefore, if a student does damage to or loses school property, the student or his/her parents will be required to pay for the replacement or damage. If the damage or loss was intentional, the student will also be subject to discipline according to the Student Discipline Code.

REVIEW OF INSTRUCTIONAL MATERIALS AND ACTIVITIES

Parents have the right to review any instructional materials being used in the school. They also may observe instruction in any class, particularly those dealing with instruction in health and sex education. Any parent who wishes to review materials or observe instruction must contact the principal prior to coming to the School. Parents' rights to review teaching materials and instructional activities are subject to reasonable restrictions and limits.

MEAL SERVICE

The Board believes the development of healthy behaviors and habits with regard to eating cannot be accomplished by the District alone. It will be necessary for the school staff, in addition to parents and the public at large, to be involved in a community-wide effort to promote, support, and model such healthy behaviors and habits.

The school participates in the Community Eligibility Provision Program, which provides breakfasts and lunches free to students everyday. Families are required to complete a Household Information Report at the start of each school year in order to be eligible for this program. Ala carte items are available. Students may also bring their own lunch to school to be eaten in the school's cafeteria. No student shall be allowed to leave school premises during the lunch period without specific written permission granted by the principal.

The Board of Education shall provide cafeteria facilities in all school facilities where space and facilities permit, and will provide food service for the purchase and consumption of lunch for all students.

The Board shall also provide a breakfast program in accordance with procedures established by the Department of Education.

The Board does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex (including sexual orientation or transgender identity), disability, age (except as authorized by law), religion, military status, ancestry, or genetic information (collectively, "Protected Classes") in its educational programs or activities.

Students and all other members of the School District community and third parties are encouraged to promptly report incidents of unlawful discrimination and/or retaliation to a teacher, administrator, supervisor, or other District official so that the Board may address the conduct. See Policy [2260](#) – Nondiscrimination and Access to Equal Educational Opportunity.

The food-service program shall comply with Federal and State regulations pertaining to the selection, preparation, delivery, consumption, and disposal of food and beverages, including but not limited to the current USDA's school meal pattern requirements for Americans and the USDA Smart Snacks in School nutrition standards, as well as to the fiscal management of the program. In addition, as required by law, a food safety program based on the principles of the Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Point (HACCP) system shall be implemented with the intent of preventing food-borne illnesses. For added safety and security, access to the facility and the food stored and prepared therein shall be limited to food service staff and other authorized persons.

Substitutions to the standard meal requirements shall be made, at no additional charge, for students for whom a healthcare provider who has prescriptive authority in the State of Michigan has provided medical certification that the student has a disability which restricts his/her diet, in accordance with the criteria set forth in 7 CFR 15(b). To qualify for such substitutions the medical certification must identify:

- A. the student's disability and the major life activity affected by the disability;
- B. an explanation of why the disability affects the students diet; and
- C. the food(s) to be omitted from the student's diet, and the food or choice of foods that must be substituted (e.g., caloric modifications or use of liquid nutritive formula).

On a case by case basis, substitutions to the standard meal requirements may be made, at no additional charge, for students who are not "disabled persons", but have a signed statement from a qualified medical authority that the student cannot consume certain food items due to medical or other special dietary needs. To qualify for such consideration and substitutions the medical statement must identify:

- A. the medical or dietary need that restricts the student's diet; and
- B. the food(s) to be omitted from the student's diet and the food(s) or choice of foods that may be substituted.

For non-disabled students who need a nutritional equivalent milk substitute, only a signed request by a parent or guardian is required.

Lunch sold by the school may be purchased by staff members and community residents in accordance with the administrative guidelines established by the Superintendent.

The operation and supervision of the food-service program shall be the responsibility of the Food Service Director and the Business Manager. Food services shall be operated on a self-supporting basis with revenue from students, staff, Federal reimbursement, and surplus food. The Board shall assist the program by furnishing available space, initial major equipment, and utensils. Maintenance and replacement of equipment is the responsibility of the program.

A periodic review of the food-service accounts shall be made by the Business Manager. Any surplus funds from the National School Lunch Program shall be used to reduce the cost of the service to students or to purchase cafeteria equipment. Surplus funds from a-la-carte foods purchased using funds from the nonprofit food service account must accrue to the nonprofit food service account.

Bad debt incurred through the inability to collect lunch payment from students is not an allowable cost chargeable to any Federal program. Any related collection cost, including legal cost, arising from such bad debt after they have been determined to be uncollectable are also unallowable.

The Superintendent is authorized to develop and implement an administrative guideline regarding meal charge procedures. This guideline will provide consistent directions for students who are eligible for reduced price or paid meals but do not have funds in their account or in hand to cover the cost of

their meal at the time of service.

This guideline shall be provided in writing to all households at the start of each school year and to households transferring to the school or School District during the school year.

With regard to the operation of the school food service program, the Superintendent shall require:

- A. the maintenance of sanitary, neat premises free from fire and health hazards;
- B. the preparation of food that complies with Federal food safety regulations;
- C. the planning and execution of menus in compliance with USDA requirements;
- D. the purchase of foods and supplies in accordance with State and Federal law, USDA regulations, and Board policy (See Policy [1130](#), Policy [3110](#), and Policy [4110](#));
- E. complying with food holds and recalls in accordance with USDA regulations;
- F. the accounting and disposition of food-service funds pursuant to Federal and State law and USDA regulations;
- G. the safekeeping and storage of food and food equipment pursuant to State and Federal law and USDA regulations;
- H. the regular maintenance and replacement of equipment;
- I. all District employees whose salaries are paid for with USDA funds or non-federal funds used to meet a match or cost share requirement must comply with the District's time and effort record-keeping policy (See Policy [6116](#)).

The District shall serve only nutritious food as determined by the Food Service Department in compliance with the current USDA Nutrition Standards for the National School Lunch and School Breakfast Programs and the USDA Smart Snacks in School nutrition guidelines. Foods and beverages unassociated with the food-service program must comply with the current USDA Nutrition Standards for the National School Lunch and School Breakfast Programs and the USDA Smart Snacks in School nutrition guidelines, and may be vended in accordance with Board Policy [8540](#).

The Superintendent will require that the food service program serve foods in District schools that are wholesome and nutritious and reinforce the concepts taught in the classroom.

Forms for the school's Community Eligibility Provision program are distributed to all students. All families need to complete this form to help with documentation purposes. Any family needing a form may contact the middle school office or Kelly AcMoody in the Superintendent's Office.

We recommend that all students maintain a positive balance in their lunch

account at all times Account balances can be checked online at sendmoneytoschool.com. Deposits can also be made at this web address and parents can sign up to receive email alerts regarding low balances or within the student's building.

FIRE, LOCK DOWN AND TORNADO DRILLS

The school complies with all fire safety laws and will conduct fire drills in accordance with State law. Specific instructions on how to proceed will be provided to students by their teachers who will be responsible for safe, prompt, and orderly evacuation of the building. The alarm signal for fire drills consists of one long tone.

Tornado drills will be conducted during the tornado season using the procedures provided by the State. The alarm signal for tornadoes is different from the alarm signal for fires and lock down drills.

Lock down drills in which the students are restricted to the interior of the school building and the building secured will occur a minimum of two (2) times each school year. The alarm system for a school lock down is different from the alarm system for fires and tornadoes.

EMERGENCY CLOSINGS AND DELAYS

If the school must be closed or the opening delayed because of inclement weather or other conditions, the School will notify the following radio and television stations:

WBCK, WKFR - Battle Creek WWMT - 3

WQLR - Kalamazoo WOOD - 8

WNWN - Coldwater WOTV - 41

Fox - Grand Rapids - 17

Parents and students are responsible for knowing about emergency closings and delays.

PREPAREDNESS FOR TOXIC AND ASBESTOS HAZARDS

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

VISITORS

In order to properly monitor the safety of students and staff, each visitor must report to the office upon entering the school to obtain a pass. Any visitor found in the building without a pass shall be reported to the principal. If a person wishes to confer with a member of the staff, s/he should call for an appointment prior to coming to the School, in order to schedule a mutually convenient time.

Students may not bring visitors to school without prior written permission from the Principal.

USE OF SCHOOL EQUIPMENT AND FACILITIES

Students must receive the permission of the teacher before using any equipment or materials in the classroom and the permission of the Principal to use any other school equipment or facility. Students will be held responsible for the proper use and protection of any equipment or facility they are permitted to use.

LOST AND FOUND

The lost and found area is in a set of identified lockers in the cafeteria. Students who have lost items should check there and may retrieve their items. Unclaimed items will be given to charity at the close of the school year.

STUDENT SALES

No student is permitted to sell any item or service in school without the approval of the building principal. Violation of this may lead to disciplinary action

USE OF TELEPHONES

The end of the school day is full of activity and only emergency messages will be delivered. Please do not call the office to change your students after school destination unless an emergency exists. Unfortunately, we don't offer public phones for student use. In case of an emergency or illness a staff member will contact a parent or emergency contact. Please help us keep students in class by NOT calling the office phone and asking to speak to your student. We strive to ensure your child the best academic environment possible by minimizing classroom disruptions. Please make sure your student knows before they leave for school any information needed at the end of the school day.

ADVERTISING OUTSIDE ACTIVITIES

Students may not post announcements or advertisements for outside activities without receiving prior approval from the principal. The principal will try to respond to requests for approval within twenty-four (24) hours of their receipt.

SECTION II - ACADEMICS

COURSE OFFERINGS

All course offerings are located in the student course guide.

FIELD TRIPS

Field trips are academic activities that are held off school grounds. There are also other trips that are part of the school's co-curricular and extracurricular program. No student may participate in any school-sponsored trip without parental consent. Attendance rules apply to all field trips. Parents/chaperones attending/chaperoning the trip are required to submit a volunteer release form and a copy of photo identification/driver's license at least one week prior to the trip.

GRADES

Union City Middle School students are evaluated using varied methods and instruments during the school year. Every semester parents will receive a report card on the student's achievement. Parents are encouraged to utilize PowerSchool and/or Schoology to regularly monitor student progress. The report card will utilize "letter grading".

The school uses the following grading system:

90 to 100 = A = Excellent Achievement

80 to 89 = B = Above Average/Good Achievement

70 to 79 = C = Average Achievement

60 to 69 = D = Below Average Achievement

59 and Below = E = Failing

I = Incomplete

Grade Point Average

To calculate a grade point average (GPA), assign a weighted point value to each course grade and divide by the total number of credits. For partial-credit courses use the fractional value of the grade. For example, a half credit course with an earned grade of C would be $.5 \times 2=1$. Then add this to the other grades earned for total points earned. This total is then divided by the total credits earned for the GPA. This can be done by grading period, semester, year, or for a series of school years.

Grading Periods

Students shall receive a report card at the end of each semester indicating their grades for each course of study for that portion of the academic term.

When a student appears to be at risk of failure, notification will be provided to the parents so they can talk with the teacher about what actions can be taken to improve poor grades.

PROMOTION, PLACEMENT, AND RETENTION

Promotion to the next grade (or level) is based on the following criteria:

1. current level of achievement
2. potential for success at the next level
3. emotional, physical, and/or social maturity

At the mid-point of semester 1, students will be identified due to lack of success based on overall grades in each core content area. Parents will be invited to attend a meeting with teachers to develop a learning plan to meet the needs of the student. Student progress will be monitored on a bi-weekly basis with necessary notification being sent to parents. Final decision of promotion will be made at the conclusion of the school year.

RECOGNITION OF STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT

Students who have displayed significant achievements during the course of the year are recognized for their accomplishments. Areas that may merit recognition include but are not limited to academics, athletics, performing arts, citizenship, and volunteerism. Recognition for such activities is initiated by the staff and coordinated by the building principal.

Honor Roll(s)

A GPA of 3.0 to 3.99 for a semester earns a student a place on the semester honor roll.

A GPA of 4.0 for a semester earns a student a place on the semester Principal's List.

Athletic Awards

Requirements for athletic awards are developed by each head coach with the approval of the Athletic Director. These requirements will be reviewed with interested students by the appropriate coach.

HOMEWORK

The assignment of homework may happen. Students will be provided a student planner to track assignments and serve as another layer of communication to families. Utilizing a planner will help teach students organization, setting themselves up for success.

COMPUTER TECHNOLOGY AND NETWORKS

Before any student may take advantage of the School's computer network and the internet, s/he and his/her parents must sign an agreement which defines the conditions under which the student may participate. Failure to abide by all of the terms of the agreement may lead to termination of the student's computer account and possible disciplinary action as outlined in the Student Code of Conduct or referral to law enforcement authorities. Copies of the School District's Student Network and Internet Acceptable Use And Safety Policy and the requisite student and parent agreement will be distributed at the time of enrollment.

Students must complete a mandatory training session/program regarding the appropriate use of technology and online safety and security as specified in Policy 7540.03 – Student Network and Internet Acceptable Use and Safety before being permitted to access the Network and/or being assigned an email address.

STUDENT TECHNOLOGY ACCEPTABLE USE AND SAFETY

Technology has fundamentally altered the ways in which information is accessed, communicated, and transferred in society. As a result, educators are continually adapting their means and methods of instruction, and the way they approach student learning, to incorporate the vast, diverse, and unique resources available through the Internet. The Board of Education provides Technology Resources (as defined in Bylaw 0100) to support the educational and

professional needs of its students and staff. With respect to students, District Technology Resources afford them the opportunity to acquire the skills and knowledge to learn effectively and live productively in a digital world. The Board provides students with access to the Internet for limited educational purposes only and utilizes online educational services/apps to enhance the instruction delivered to its students. The District's computer network and Internet system does not serve as a public access service or a public forum, and the Board imposes reasonable restrictions on its use consistent with its limited educational purpose.

The Board regulates the use of District Technology Resources by principles consistent with applicable local, State, and Federal laws, the District's educational mission, and articulated expectations of student conduct as delineated in the Student Code of Conduct. This policy and its related administrative guidelines and the Student Code of Conduct govern students' use of District Technology Resources and students' personal communication devices when they are connected to the District computer network, Internet connection, and/or online educational services/apps, or when used while the student is on Board-owned property or at a Board-sponsored activity (see Policy [5136](#)).

Users are required to refrain from actions that are illegal (such as libel, slander, vandalism, harassment, theft, plagiarism, inappropriate access, and the like) or unkind (such as personal attacks, invasion of privacy, injurious comment, and the like). Because its Technology Resources are not unlimited, the Board has also instituted restrictions aimed at preserving these resources, such as placing limits on use of bandwidth, storage space, and printers.

Users have no right or expectation to privacy when using District Technology Resources (including, but not limited to, privacy in the content of their personal files, e-mails, and records of their online activity when using the District's computer network and/or Internet connection).

First, the Board may not be able to technologically limit access, through its Technology Resources, to only those services and resources that have been authorized for the purpose of instruction, study and research related to the curriculum. Unlike in the past when educators and community members had the opportunity to review and screen materials to assess their appropriateness for supporting and enriching the curriculum according to adopted guidelines and reasonable selection criteria (taking into account the varied instructional needs, learning styles, abilities, and developmental levels of the students who would be exposed to them), access to the Internet, because it serves as a gateway to any publicly available file server in the world, opens classrooms and students to electronic information resources that may not have been screened by educators for use by students of various ages.

Pursuant to Federal law, the Board has implemented technology protection measures that protect against (e.g., filter or block) access to visual displays/depictions/materials that are obscene, constitute child pornography, and/or are harmful to minors, as defined by the Children's Internet Protection Act. At the discretion of the Board or the Superintendent, the technology protection measures may be configured to protect against access to other material considered inappropriate for students to access. The Board also utilizes software and/or hardware to monitor online activity of students to restrict access to child pornography and other material that is obscene, objectionable, inappropriate and/or harmful to minors. The technology protection measures may not be disabled at any time that students may be using District Technology Resources, if such disabling will cease to protect against access to materials that are prohibited under the Children's Internet Protection Act. Any student who attempts to disable the technology protection measures will be subject to discipline.

The Superintendent or Chief Information Officer may temporarily or permanently unblock access to websites or online educational services/apps containing appropriate material, if access to such sites has been inappropriately blocked by the technology protection measures. The determination of whether material is appropriate or inappropriate shall be based on the content of the material and the intended use of the material, not on the protection actions of the technology protection measures.

Parents are advised that a determined user may be able to gain access to services and/or resources on the Internet that the Board has not authorized for educational purposes. In fact, it is impossible to guarantee students will not gain access through the Internet to information and communications that they and/or their parents may find inappropriate, offensive, objectionable or controversial. Parents of minors are responsible for setting and conveying the standards that their children should follow when using the Internet.

Pursuant to Federal law, students shall receive education about the following:

- A. safety and security while using e-mail, chat rooms, social media, and other forms of direct electronic communications
- B. the dangers inherent with the online disclosure of personally identifiable information
- C. the consequences of unauthorized access (e.g., "hacking", "harvesting", "digital piracy", "data mining", etc.), cyberbullying and other unlawful or inappropriate activities by students online, and
- D. unauthorized disclosure, use, and dissemination of personally-identifiable information regarding minors

Staff members shall provide instruction for their students regarding the

appropriate use of technology and online safety and security as specified above. Furthermore, staff members will monitor the online activities of students while at school.

Monitoring may include, but is not necessarily limited to, visual observations of online activities during class sessions; or use of specific monitoring tools to review browser history and network, server, and computer logs.

Building principals are responsible for providing training so that Internet users under their supervision are knowledgeable about this policy and its accompanying guidelines. The Board expects that staff members will provide guidance and instruction to students in the appropriate use of District Technology Resources. Such training shall include, but not be limited to, education concerning appropriate online behavior, including interacting with other individuals on social media, including in chat rooms, and cyberbullying awareness and response. All users of District Technology Resources (and their parents if they are minors) are required to sign a written agreement to abide by the terms and conditions of this policy and its accompanying guidelines.

Students will be assigned a school e-mail account that they are required to utilize for all school-related electronic communications, including those to staff members, peers, and individuals and/or organizations outside the District with whom they are communicating for school-related projects and assignments.

Further, as directed and authorized by their teachers, they shall use their school-assigned e-mail account when signing-up/registering for access to various online educational services, including mobile applications/apps that will be utilized by the student for educational purposes.

Students are responsible for good behavior when using District Technology Resources – i.e., behavior comparable to that expected of students when they are in classrooms, school hallways, and other school premises and school sponsored events. Communications on the Internet are often public in nature. General school rules for behavior and communication apply. The Board does not approve any use of its Technology Resources that is not authorized by or conducted strictly in compliance with this policy and its accompanying guidelines.

Students may only use District Technology Resources to access or use social media if it is done for educational purposes in accordance with their teacher's approved plan for such use.

Users who disregard this policy and its accompanying guidelines may have their

use privileges suspended or revoked, and disciplinary action taken against them. Users are personally responsible and liable, both civilly and criminally, for uses of District Technology Resources that are not authorized by this policy and its accompanying guidelines.

The Board designates the Superintendent and Chief Information Officer as the administrators responsible for initiating, implementing, and enforcing this policy and its accompanying guidelines as they apply to students' use of District Technology Resources.

STUDENT ASSESSMENT

The M-STEP is a 21st Century online test that all Union City Middle School students are administered in the spring. It is designed to gauge how well students are mastering state standards. These standards broadly outline what students should know and be able to do in order to be prepared to enter the workplace, career education training, and college.

The PSAT 8/9 will be administered to 8th graders in place of the M-STEP English Language Arts (ELA) and Mathematics assessments in April. Eighth graders will continue to take the M-STEP science and social studies as digital assessments.

The NWEA MAP Test (Measures of Academic Progress) creates a personalized assessment experience by adapting to each student's learning level—precisely measuring progress and growth for each individual student. Students at Union City Middle School are tested in the fall, winter, and spring in the areas of reading, mathematics, and science.

Parents and students should watch school newsletters and the local press for announced testing times.

Vocational and interest surveys may be given to identify particular areas of student interest or talent. These are often given by the school counselor. If necessary, intelligence tests, speech and language evaluations, individually administered achievement tests, and other special testing services are available to students needing these services.

Students will not be required, as part of the school program or District curriculum, to submit to or participate in any survey, analysis, or evaluation that reveals information of a personal nature in accordance with Board policy and Federal guidelines.

Depending on the type of testing and specific information requested, parent (or student) consent may need to be obtained. Union City Middle School will not violate the rights of consent and privacy of a student participating in any form of evaluation.

Additional group tests are given to students to monitor progress and determine educational mastery levels. These tests are used to help the staff determine instructional needs.

Classroom tests will be used to assess student progress and assign grades. These are selected or prepared by teachers to assess how well the students have achieved specific objectives.

SECTION III - STUDENT ACTIVITIES

SCHOOL-SPONSORED CLUBS AND ACTIVITIES

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

A student's use of a performance-enhancing substance is a violation that will affect the student's extracurricular participation.

The Board authorizes many student groups that are sponsored by a staff member. Authorized groups include: Student Activities Committee, Youth in Government, Quiz Bowl, and a variety of athletic opportunities.

All students are permitted to participate in the activities of their choosing, as long as they meet the eligibility requirements.

NON-SCHOOL SPONSORED CLUBS AND ACTIVITIES

Non-school sponsored student groups organized for religious, political, or philosophical reasons may meet during non-instructional hours. The applicant for permission can be obtained from the principal. The applicant must verify that the activity is being initiated by students, that attendance is voluntary, that no school staff person is actively involved in the event, that the event will not interfere with school activities and that nonschool persons do not play a regular role in the event. All school rules will still apply regarding behavior and equal opportunity to participate.

Membership in any fraternity, sorority, or any other secret society as prescribed by law is not permitted. All groups must comply with School rules and must provide equal opportunity to participate.

No non-district sponsored organization may use the name of the school or school mascot.

ATHLETICS

Union City Middle School provides a variety of athletic activities in which students may participate providing they meet any eligibility requirements that may apply. A student's use of a performance-enhancing substance is a violation that will affect the student's athletic eligibility and participation. The following is a list of activities currently being offered. For further information, contact the Athletic Director, at 517.741.3306.

Middle School Football (Grades 7 & 8)

Middle School Cross Country (Grades 6, 7 & 8)

Middle School Cheerleading (Sideline & Competitive) (Grades 6, 7 & 8)

Middle School Volleyball (Grades 7 & 8)

Middle School Boys Basketball (Grades 7 & 8)

Middle School Girls Basketball (Grades 7 & 8)

Middle School Wrestling (Grades 6, 7 & 8)

Middle School Track (Grades 7 & 8)

All athletic programs of the District shall comply with the concussion protocols of the Michigan High School Athletic Association, the requirements of state law, and Department of Community Health guidelines regarding concussion awareness training and protection of youth athletes.

STUDENT EMPLOYMENT

The school does not encourage students to take jobs outside of school that could interfere with their success in school. If a student believes that s/he must maintain a job in addition to going to school, s/he must first make contact with his/her counselor to discuss any legal requirements and obtain any needed documents.

SECTION IV - STUDENT CONDUCT

ATTENDANCE

School Attendance Policy

It is imperative that students be in attendance each school day in order not to miss a significant portion of their education. Many important learnings result from active participation in the classroom and other school activities which cannot be replaced by individual study. Attendance is important in the development of a high quality work ethic which will be a significant factor in a student's success with future employers. One of the most important work habits that employers look for in hiring and promoting a worker is his/her dependability in coming to work every day and on time. This is a habit the School wants to help students develop as early as possible in their school careers.

Truancy

Unexcused absence from school (truancy) is not acceptable. Students who are truant will receive no credit for school work that is missed. After 70 hours of truancy in any grading period, a student will be considered an "habitual truant" which can result in:

- a hearing before a judge in a court of law;
- a report to local authorities concerning lack of parental responsibility in providing proper care and supervision of a child.

Excused Absences

Students may be excused from school for one or more of the following reasons and will be provided an opportunity to make-up missed school work and/or tests:

The Board of Education as an agency of the State is required to enforce the regular attendance of students. The Board recognizes that the presence in the classroom enables the student to participate in instruction, class discussions, and other related activities. As such, regular attendance and classroom participation are integral to instilling incentives for the student to excel.

Attendance shall be required of all District students, except those exempted under Policy [5223](#) or by other provisions of State law, during the days and hours that the school is in session, or during the attendance sessions to which

s/he has been assigned.

Attendance procedures shall be published annually in the Student Handbook for each building within the District.

The Superintendent shall develop procedures for the attendance of students which govern the keeping of attendance records in accordance with the rules of the State Board and the Michigan Department of Education Pupil Accounting Manual, including a written electronic attendance procedure, if applicable.

Students with a health condition that causes repeated absence are to provide the school office with an explanation of the condition from a registered physician.

Parents must provide an explanation for their child's absence by no later than 8:30AM on the day of the absence or by the following day. They are to call the Attendance Line at 517.741.7265 and explain the reason for the absence. If the absence can be foreseen and the "good cause" must be approved by the principal, the parent should arrange to discuss the matter as many days as possible before the absence will occur so that arrangements can be made to assist the student in making up any missed school work.

Students who are excusably absent for more than 10% of a grading period, regardless of the reasons, will be considered "frequently absent". If there is a pattern of frequent absence for "illness", the parents will be required to provide a statement from a physician describing the health condition that is causing the frequent illness and the treatment that is being provided to rectify the condition. Without such a statement, the student's permanent attendance record will indicate "frequent unexplained illness".

A "chronically absent" student will be monitored and provided support whether or not the pattern continues. If it continues, the student may be denied the opportunity to participate in non-curricular school activities and events, documentation in Powerschool as a log entry, and possible notification to the Calhoun Intermediate School District Truancy officer. Such a report may be provided to postsecondary institutions and/or possible employers.

If a student is absent from school because of suspension or vacation, the absence will not be considered a truancy, and s/he may be given the opportunity to make up the school work that is missed.

Unexcused Absences

Any student who is absent from school for all or any part of the day without a legitimate excuse shall be considered truant and the student and his/her parents shall be subject to the truancy laws of the State.

If a student, under the age of eighteen (18), is truant for more than ten (10) consecutive or fifteen (15) total days of truancy during a semester, s/he will be considered a “habitual” truant and will be reported to the proper authorities.

Suspension from School

Absence from school due to suspension shall be considered an authorized absence, neither excused or unexcused.

- A suspended student will be responsible for making up school work lost due to suspension. It is recommended that a student complete missed assignments during the suspension and turn them in to the teacher upon his/her return from school. Assignments may be obtained from online, via email or by contacting the office beginning with the first day of a suspension. Make up of missed tests may be scheduled when the student returns to school.
- The student will be given credit for properly-completed assignments and a grade on any made-up tests.

Notification of Absence

If a student is going to be absent, the parents must contact the school 517.741.7265 by 8:30AM and provide an explanation. If prior contact is not possible, the parents should provide a written excuse as soon as possible. When no excuse is provided, the absence will be unexcused and the student will be considered truant. If the absence of a student appears to be questionable or excessive, the school staff will try to help parents improve their child's attendance.

An excused or unexcused absence allows the student to make up all possible work. It is the responsibility of the student to obtain missed assignments. It is possible that certain kinds of school work such as labs or skill-practice sessions cannot be made up and, as a result, may negatively impact a student's grade.

The skipping of classes or any part of the school day is considered an unexcused absence and no make-up of class work will be permitted. Disciplinary action will follow.

Tardiness

To avoid unnecessary disruption of classes and to emphasize to students that being on time is an important habit to form in order to succeed in life, the Middle School will deal with tardiness in the following ways:

1. Bus students are admitted to the building at 7:35 A.M.

2. The school day for students begins at 7:50 A.M. They are expected to be in their seats in their 1st hour class at that time, as that is when attendance is taken.
3. If a student reports to school after the first hour bell, s/he must check in to the office to correct our attendance records, receive an admit slip, and then report to his/her classroom. In all cases, tardies should be recorded in both the office and the classroom. Any student reporting to school after 8:20 A.M. will be considered absent.
4. Any time a student reports to school after 7:50 A.M., parents must sign in their child, send a note explaining their student's tardiness or contact the office.
5. The principal will have the final say in accepting or rejecting excuses.

Vacations During the School Year

Parents are encouraged not to take their child out of school for vacations. When a family vacation must be scheduled during the school year, the parents should discuss the matter with the principal and the student's teacher(s) to make necessary arrangements. It may be possible for the student to receive certain assignments that are to be completed during the trip.

Make-up of Tests and Other School Work

Students who are excusably absent from school or who have been suspended shall be given the opportunity to make-up work that has been missed. The student should contact the classroom teacher as soon as possible to obtain assignments.

Students will be given the number of days of excused absence within which to make-up work.

If a student misses a teacher's test due to excused absence, s/he may make arrangements with the teacher to take the test. If s/he misses a State mandated test or other standardized test, the student should consult with the school counselor to arrange for taking the test.

STUDENT ATTENDANCE AT SCHOOL EVENTS

The school encourages students to attend as many school events held after school as possible, without interfering with their school work and home activities. Enthusiastic spectators help to build school spirit and encourage those students who are participating in the event.

However, in order to ensure that students attending evening events as nonparticipants are properly safe-guarded, it is strongly advised that students be accompanied by a parent or adult chaperone when they attend the event. The School will not be able to supervise unaccompanied students nor will it be responsible for students who arrive without an adult chaperone.

The school will continue to provide adequate supervision for all students who are participants in a School activity. Students must comply with the Code of Conduct at school events, regardless of the location.

Students wishing to attend after school events must be in attendance at school on the day of the event in order to attend, unless pre-excused by the building principal.

POSITIVE BEHAVIOR INTERVENTIONS & SUPPORTS

We have a building wide effort to create a school climate that maximizes academic achievement and behavioral competence. PBIS gives priority to prevention by using proactive strategies for defining, teaching, and supporting appropriate student behaviors in order to create positive school environments. PBIS creates and models clear expectations for students. A unified system for responding effectively and efficiently to problem behaviors is also developed.

CODE OF CONDUCT

A major component of the educational program at **Union City Middle School** is to prepare students to become responsible workers and citizens by learning how to conduct themselves properly and in accordance with established standards.

Expected Behaviors

Each student shall be expected to:

- abide by national, State, and local laws as well as the rules of the school;
- respect school property;
- act courteously to adults and fellow students;
- be prompt to school and attentive in class;
- complete assigned tasks on time and as directed;
- help maintain a school environment that is safe, friendly, and productive;

- act at all times in a manner that reflects pride in self, family, and in the school.
- work cooperatively with others when involved in accomplishing a common goal, regardless of the other's ability, gender, race, religion, height, weight, disability, or ethnic background

STUDENT CODE OF CONDUCT

The Board of Education has adopted the following Student Code of Conduct. The Code includes the types of misconduct that will subject a student to disciplinary action. The Board has also adopted the list of behaviors and the terms contained in the list.

It is the school staff's responsibility to provide a safe and orderly learning environment. History has shown that certain student actions are not compatible with a "safe" and "orderly" environment. Discipline is within the sound discretion of the School's staff and administration. Due process ensures that disciplinary action is imposed only after review of the facts and/or special circumstances of the situations.

MAJOR OFFENSES

These are offenses that are of a serious nature that may pose a threat to the health, safety or property of any person. Staff persons must notify an administrator when a major offense occurs. The notification should take the form of a discipline referral. The administrator must complete an investigation of the incident and gather written statements from all witnesses. The administrator must notify the student and parent/guardian of all charges, consequences and applicable due process rights during the disciplinary process. Discipline may include any of the above discipline definitions up to permanent expulsion.

1. Abusive Language/ Inappropriate Language/ Profanity

- a. Profanity & vulgarity/verbal altercation (student) - Student delivers verbal messages that include swearing, name calling, or use of words in an inappropriate way towards another student.
- b. Profanity & vulgarity/verbal altercation (toward staff) - Student delivers verbal messages that include swearing, name calling, or use of words in an inappropriate way towards a staff member.
- c. Verbal Assault - Verbal Assault at school directed against school employees, volunteers, contractors or other authorized personnel or students will not be tolerated. Verbal assault is to be considered any communication or behavior that, by its nature, poses a serious threat to the safety or well-being of others. These actions will result in mandatory hearing with the board with the possibility of an expulsion or suspension.

2. **Arson** - A student shall not burn or attempt to burn any school building, structure or property, or intentionally set or attempt to set a fire on school property, or cause or attempt to cause an explosion, or be in possession of materials which may be used in the aforementioned activities. Arson is a felony and will subject a student to expulsion.
3. **Bomb Threat/False Alarm** - Students making bomb threats, false alarms, or “similar threats” that place or that are perceived as placing the safety of one or more persons or of property at risk, will not be tolerated (grade 6-12 may qualify for a mandatory expulsion per MCL 380.1311a)
4. **Bullying** - Bullying includes cyber-bullying (bullying through the use of technology or any electronic communication) and means any severe or pervasive physical or verbal act or conduct, including communications made in writing or electronically, directed toward a student or students that has or can be reasonably predicted to have the effect of one or more of the following:
 - Placing the student or students in reasonable fear of harm to the student’s or students’ person or property;
 - Causing a substantially detrimental effect on the student’s or students’ physical or mental health;
 - Substantially interfering with the student’s or students’ academic performance; or Substantially interfering with the student’s or students’ ability to participate in or benefit from the services, activities, or privileges provided by a school.

Examples of prohibited conduct include name-calling, using derogatory slurs, stalking, sexual violence, causing psychological harm, threatening or causing physical harm, threatened or actual destruction of property, or wearing or possessing items depicting or implying hatred or prejudice of one of the characteristics stated above.

- a. Race, Color, Origin
- b. Disability
- c. Sexual Orientation
- d. Religion
- e. Other
- f. Sex

5. **Defiance/Insubordination/Non-Compliance**

a. **Falsification of Records** - A student shall not use the name of another person or falsify times, dates, grades, addresses or other data on School District forms or records. A student shall not provide false, misleading or inaccurate statements or information on School District forms or records.

b. **Unauthorized presence of students on school property** –

- A. On School Grounds: A student shall not be on any portion of the school grounds where his/her presence is unauthorized, nor remain after having been either

ordered or requested to leave by any school employee possessing apparent authority over student conduct. A student should not be:

1. On the school grounds where the student is regularly enrolled during any period of suspension which includes exclusion from the school of regular enrollment where such order of exclusion has been in fact made known to the student prior to the incident of unauthorized appearance.

2. On the school grounds of any school or site of required school programming other than that student's school of regular enrollment or attendance, at any time other than when a school activity, function, or event is being held and the student's presence is either required or permitted, based on predetermination by the principal of the school at which the activity is being held. Presence on the school grounds while in the company of a parent or guardian for the purpose of meeting with a school employee to discuss the student's status, or presence on the school grounds for the purpose of proceeding directly to the school office with prior permission of the principal shall not be considered a violation of this rule.

B. On Private or Public Property: During school hours students must be in school unless they have an approved reason for absence. Students who are habitually truant from school as described in this Code may be charged with truancy.

c. **Failure to Cooperate** - A student shall not refuse to cooperate with School District administrators and/or teaching staff investigating a possible violation of this Code of Conduct and/or building rules, and no student shall make false statements or give false evidence to School District administrators and/or teaching staff. A student shall not refuse to testify or otherwise cooperate with School District personnel in any disciplinary proceeding.

d. **Failure to Comply with Directions of School Personnel** - A student shall not be insubordinate or fail to comply with district policies or instructions and directions of District employees (including substitute teachers and student teachers), volunteers or persons acting in a chaperone or supervisory capacity. Students who persistently violate school policy may receive disciplinary action. The violation of this code can lead to suspension or expulsion.

6. Disrespect

a. Coercion, Extortion, or Blackmail - A student shall not commit or attempt to commit extortion, coercion or blackmail. A student shall not engage in the act of securing or attempting to secure money or other items of value from an unwilling person, nor shall a student, by threats and/or

violence, force another person to perform an unwilling act. Violations of this code can lead to suspension or expulsion.

b. Threats or conspiracies to commit violent acts - Any acts, in writing, verbally, or otherwise that are considered threatening.

c. Academic dishonesty - A student shall not engage in academic cheating. Cheating includes, but is not limited to, the actual giving or receiving of any unauthorized aid or assistance or the actual giving or receiving of unfair advantage on any form of academic work. A student shall not engage in plagiarism, which includes the copying of language, structure, idea and/or thought of another and represent it as one's own original work.

d. False Allegations - A student shall not libel or slander, or make false allegations against another student, School District employee (including substitute and student teachers), Board of Education members or volunteers.

7. Disruption

a. General disruption of class - Where a student is creating an unsafe classroom environment or creating a situation where a teacher is not able to teach due to the disruption.

b. Inciting a Disturbance or Melee - Causing a serious disruption or fight amongst a group of individuals, which leads to a major commotion.

8. Fighting - A physical altercation resulting in pushing, shoving, or exchanging of blows between students will not be tolerated.

9. Forgery/Theft/Plagiarism - A student shall not engage in academic cheating. Cheating includes, but is not limited to, the actual giving or receiving of any unauthorized aid or assistance or the actual giving or receiving of unfair advantage on any form of academic work. A student shall not engage in plagiarism, which includes the copying of language, structure, idea and/or thought of another and represent it as one's own original work. The violation of this code can lead to suspension or expulsion.

10. Gang Affiliation Display - A student shall not wear or possess any clothing, jewelry, symbol or other object that may reasonably be perceived by administrator as evidence of membership in or affiliation with any gang; a student shall not commit any act, verbal or nonverbal (gestures, handshakes, graffiti, etc.), that may reasonably be perceived by a teacher or administrator as evidence of membership in or affiliation with any gang; a student shall not commit any act, verbal or nonverbal in furtherance of the interests of any gang or gang activity, including, but not limited to, (a)

soliciting others for membership in any gang or gang related activity, (b) requesting any person to pay protection or otherwise intimidating or threatening any person, committing any other illegal act or violation of School District rules or policies, or (d) inciting other students to act with physical violence on any person.

The term “gang” as used in this policy, means a group of two (2) or more persons whose purposes or activities include the commission of illegal acts or violations of this Code of Conduct, District rules or policies, or whose purpose or activities cause disruption or is likely to cause disruption to the educational process.

11. Harassment - Any threatening, insulting or dehumanizing gesture. Verbal, physical, electronic or written harassment for the purposes of this policy shall be defined as behavior that:

- Intimidates individuals or groups on any basis including race, color, national origin, sex (including sexual orientation and transgender identity), disability, age, religion, height, weight, marital or family status, military status, ancestry, or genetic information (collectively, “Protected Classes”).
- Involves an expressed or implied threat to personal safety or has the effect of interfering with an individual’s participation in the curricular or extracurricular activities of the school district.
- Bullies or hazes another student or teammate.
- Is disruptive to the educational process that may have originated in or outside of school, on or off campus.
 - a. Race, Color, Origin
 - b. Disability
 - c. Sexual Orientation
 - d. Religion
 - e. Other
 - f. Sexual Harassment - for the purposes of this policy consists of unwelcome sexual advances, requests for sexual favors, sexually motivated physical conduct or other verbal or physical conduct or communication of a sexual nature that is severe or pervasive enough to create a hostile or intimidating school environment. Sexual harassment may involve the behavior of a person of either gender, against a person of the same or opposite gender. Examples of prohibited behavior that is sexual in nature and is unsolicited and unwelcome include, but are not limited to:
 - Written contact: sexually suggestive or obscene letters, notes, invitations, drawings, verbal contact; sexually suggestive or obscene comments, threats, jokes, any sexual propositions, comments about a person’s body or sexual characteristics that are used in a negative or embarrassing way.

- Physical contact: any intentional pats, squeezes, touching, pinching, repeatedly brushing up against another's body, assault, blocking movement, or coercing sexual intercourse.
- Visual contact: suggestive looks or staring at another's body, gesturing, displaying sexually suggestive objects or pictures, cartoons, posters, magazines, graffiti, calendars or clothing.

A student who feels he/she is being harassed by peers or by a staff member of the Union City School District, or is aware of the harassment of another student(s), shall report such incidents to a building administrator, counselor, teacher, school psychologist, school social worker, teacher aide, etc. The staff member receiving a student's report, a parent's report or observing an incident of alleged harassment is expected to examine the circumstances surrounding the alleged incident. If the receiving staff determines that harassment has occurred, they will take steps to end the harassment. In the event that the magnitude of the incident(s) warrants further follow-up measures, staff/faculty members will report charges of harassment to the building principal or his/her designee. The building principal or his/her designee will initiate a further investigation of the harassment charges and implement follow-up measures that he/she believes are appropriate. Should the investigation of the harassment incident(s) reveal that disciplinary action is warranted, it will be taken in accordance with the policies and procedures adopted by the Board of Education.

g. Sexual Violence (Criminal Sexual Conduct), as used in this policy, refers to physical sexual acts perpetrated against a person's will or where a person is incapable of giving consent (e.g., due to the student's age, intellectual or other disability, or use of drugs or alcohol). Sexual violence includes rape, sexual assault, sexual battery, sexual abuse, and sexual coercion. Sexual violence can be carried out by school employees, other students, or third parties. All such acts of sexual violence are forms of sexual harassment and, in turn, sex discrimination prohibited by Title IX. Harassing conduct creates a hostile environment when it interferes with or limits a student's ability to participate in or benefit from the school's program. A single or isolated incident of sexual harassment may create a hostile environment if the incident is sufficiently severe

12. Inappropriate Display of Affection - Student engages in inappropriate, consensual (as defined by school) verbal and/or physical gestures/contact, of a sexual nature to another student/adult. The violation of this code can lead to suspension or expulsion.

13. Inappropriate Location

a. On School Grounds: A student shall not be on any portion of the school grounds where his/her presence is unauthorized, nor remain after having

been either ordered or requested to leave by any school employee possessing apparent authority over student conduct.

A student should not be:

- i. On the school grounds where the student is regularly enrolled during any period of suspension which includes exclusion from the school of regular enrollment where such order of exclusion has been in fact made known to the student prior to the incident of unauthorized appearance.
- ii. On the school grounds of any school or site of required school programming other than that student's school of regular enrollment or attendance, at any time other than when a school activity, function, or event is being held and the student's presence is either required or permitted, based on predetermination by the principal of the school at which the activity is being held.

Presence on the school grounds while in the company of a parent or guardian for the purpose of meeting with a school employee to discuss the student's status, or presence on the school grounds for the purpose of proceeding directly to the school office with prior permission of the principal shall not be considered a violation of this rule.

b. On Private or Public Property: During school hours students must be in school unless they have an approved reason for absence.

The violation of this code can lead to suspension or expulsion.

14. Other Behavior Criminal Acts - A student shall not commit or participate in any conduct or act defined as a crime by federal or state law or local ordinance

15. Physical Aggression - A student shall not physically assault another student, a person employed by or engaged as a volunteer or contractor of the school (including substitute and student teachers). Physical Assault is defined as intentionally causing or attempting to cause harm to another through force or violence (grade 6-12 may qualify for a mandatory expulsion per MCL 380.1311a for assault of a staff member)

- a. With Injury
- b. Without Injury

16. Property Damage/Vandalism - A student shall not intentionally cause or attempt to cause damage to school property or the property of another person, or steal, or attempt to steal, or knowingly be in the unauthorized possession of school property or the property of another person. The violation of this code can lead to suspension or expulsion.

17. Skipping Class - Student leaves or misses class without permission.

18. Technology Violation - A student shall not engage in any act that violates the District's Network Usage and Safety Policy, any individual school computer use guidelines or mobile computing device program guidelines, including, but not limited to the following: Non-school-related work

- Hate mail, discriminatory remarks, and offensive and inflammatory communications
- Sexting or accessing obscene or pornographic materials
- Transmission of sexually suggestive language or images
- Loading or use of unauthorized games, programs, files, or other electronic media
- Destruction, modification or abuse of network hardware, software, or information
- Impersonation of another user, anonymity and pseudonyms
- Creation of links to other networks whose content or purpose would tend to violate the District's Network Usage and Safety Policy
- Videotaping fights or videotaping someone in a place where they have an expectation of privacy I. Posting videos of inappropriate student conduct to a social media site that affects the school community or individuals within the school community in a negative manner.
- The violation of this code can lead to suspension or expulsion.

19. Truancy - A student shall not be absent from school (a full day, or any part of a day, skipping class) without permission. A student shall not leave the school campus without following the proper check out procedure. Please refer to your school's administration policy on proper check out procedures.

20. Use/Possession of Alcohol - Alcoholic beverages or intoxicants, including, but not limited to glue, aerosol paint, lighter fluid, or other chemical substance for the purpose of becoming intoxicated or under the influence.

21. Use/Possession of Drugs -

- a. Any drug, narcotic drug, marijuana, hallucinogen, stimulant, depressant or other controlled substance, analogue intended for human consumption, as defined in Article VII of the Public Health Code, being MCL 33.7101, et seq., and as defined in other Michigan or Federal Statute. If Article VII of the Public Health Code, being MCL 33.7101, et seq., is amended or repealed, then the definitions of a drug, narcotic drug, and controlled substance analogue shall be defined under the existing State Law.
- b. Any prescription or nonprescription drug, medicine, vitamin or chemical substance, with exception of an inhaler (e.g. pain relievers,

stimulants, diet pills, pep pills, No-Doze pills, cough medicines, laxatives, stomach or digestive remedies), nor shall a student use or possess these substances for an improper purpose.

- c. Any legal substance represented as an illegal or controlled substance (e.g. No-Doze as “speed” or “crack.”)
- d. Any drug paraphernalia or items used as such.
- e. Manufacture, sale, delivery, transfer or intent to sell, deliver or transfer of any of the above substances

22. Use/Possession of Combustibles - A student shall not possess, handle or transmit any substance or prepared chemical that can explode, is capable of inflicting bodily injury, or is reasonably likely to cause physical discomfort to another person. The violation of this code can lead to suspension or expulsion.

23. Use/Possession of Tobacco - A student shall not smoke, chew, vape, or otherwise use tobacco, nicotine products or a “look alike” product. A student shall not, while on District property or in proximity of campus, in District owned vehicles, and at District-related events have in his/her possession or under his/her control tobacco in any form, or paraphernalia related to its use. The school is a drug free zone that extends a 1000 feet beyond the school property. Possession of or use of tobacco can lead to suspension or expulsion.

24. Use/Possession of Weapons - A student shall not possess, handle or transmit a gun, knife, blackjack, brass knuckles, baton, martial arts device, paintball gun, spring, airsoft and gas-powered guns, or other object or instrument that can be considered or used as a weapon that will expel a BB, pellet, or paint balls. No knives, razors, clubs, electric weapons, metallic knuckles, martial arts weapons, ammunition, and explosives or any other weapon. No "look-a-like" weapon or instrument (e.g., starter pistol, rubber knife, toy gun, etc.). Also no Personal Protection Devices (e.g., pepper gas, mace, stun gun, electric shock device, etc.) capable of inflicting bodily injury or causing physical discomfort to another person.

- a. for weapons/dangerous instruments, including “look-a-like”guns – suspension to expulsion
- b. for possession, handling or transmitting a gun, including a BB gun or pellet gun – expulsion
- c. for possession of a knife with a blade over three inches in length – expulsion
- d. for possession of a knife with a blade equal to or less than three inches in length when used in a threatening manner - expulsion
- e. for possession of a knife with a blade equal to or less than three inches in length – suspension - expulsion

However, the district is not required to expel or permanently expel a student if the student can prove in a clear and convincing manner that at least one (1) of the following statements is true:

- A. The object or instrument possessed by a student was not possessed by the student for use as a weapon, or for direct or indirect sale, or delivery to another person(s) for use as a weapon.
- B. The weapon was not knowingly possessed by the student.
- C. The student did not know or have reason to know that the object or instrument in the student's possession was a dangerous weapon.
- D. The weapon was possessed by the student at the suggestion, request, direction, or permission of police or school authorities.

There is a rebuttable presumption that expulsion for possession of a weapon is not justified if both of the following are met:

- (a) The superintendent or designee determines in writing that at least 1 of the factors listed in subsections (A) through (D) above has been established in a clear and convincing manner.
- (b) The student has no history of suspension or expulsion. Under MCL 380.1308, police must be notified.

The following is an example list of discipline interventions that can be used by administration:

Additional Attendance/Saturday School

Alternative Placement

- Alcohol/drug evaluation referral
- Change in schedule or class (with notification to parent/guardian)

Community Service

- Referral to mentoring
- Referral to district approved community organization

Conference with Student

- Intervention by counseling staff/guidance
- Intervention by administration

Expulsion (90 days to permanent)

In-School Suspension

- Partial day
- Full day
- Restorative reflection

Individualized Instruction

- Reteach/model expectations
- Written reflection assignment

Loss of Privilege/Increased Supervision

- Suspension of field trips, assemblies, or other special privileges

- Exclusion from special events or promotion exercises
- Exclusion from extracurricular activities

Other Actions

- Develop, review, or revise individual student planning tools (e.g., Behavior Support Plan)
- Individual/group counseling
- Use of restorative practices (e.g. affective statements, circles, small impromptu conferences, etc.)

Out of School Suspension

- Out-of-school suspension (1–10 days)
- Out-of-school suspension (11–expulsion)

Parent Contact Restitution

- Pay for damage
- Community service
- Restorative conference with victim

Time in Office

Time Out/Detention

- Lunch detention
- After school detention

MANDATORY FACTORS

Before suspending or expelling a student, school must consider:

- Age
- Disciplinary history
- Disability
- Seriousness of behavior
- Whether behavior posed safety risk
- Restorative practices
- Whether lesser interventions would address behavior

MINOR OFFENSES

These are offenses that are of a less serious nature that do not necessarily pose a threat to the health, safety or property of any person. Staff persons must use appropriate forms of positive, school-wide behavioral interventions and supports to correct misbehavior in less serious infractions. Staff persons should keep a record of interventions and share this documentation at the request of a student, parent/guardian or administrator. Minor infractions are not referred to an administrator. If minor behaviors are repetitive after appropriate interventions have been made, the student should then be referred to an administrator for a major offense.

1. Defiance

- a. Possession of cell phone or other electronic device - A student shall not use a cell phone or an electronic communication device in

school without prior approval from their classroom teacher. For safety reasons, a principal may ban cell phones as needed.

b. Refusal to comply with posted and published school norms - Violation of specific posted or written school or class rules that are not necessarily disruptive behaviors (for example; misuse of hall pass or classroom procedures).

2. Disrespect

a. Academic dishonesty - A student shall not engage in academic cheating. Cheating includes, but is not limited to, the actual giving or receiving of any unauthorized aid or assistance or the actual giving or receiving of unfair advantage on any form of academic work. A student shall not engage in plagiarism, which includes the copying of language, structure, idea and/or thought of another and represent it as one's own original work.

b. Pestering, teasing, or bothering other students - Non-confrontational activity that is not appropriate in a school setting and disruptive to the educational process. Engaging in rowdy, rough behavior that interferes with the safe and/or purposeful order of a school. Examples: horseplay; chasing another student in the hallway or classroom, etc.

3. Disruption

a. General disruption of class - Repeatedly talking out in class or out of turn, being exceptionally loud, running, throwing objects, failure to follow classroom rules, or other disruptive behavior not defined elsewhere among minor Infractions

b. Inappropriate personal property - Possession and/or use of items designated by the school as inappropriate materials such as, rollerblades, skateboards, cards, hats, food, etc. AND any other items that cause distraction or damage to persons or property or otherwise intervene with the learning process.

4. Dress Code - A student shall not dress or groom in a manner which, in the judgment of a building administrator, is unsafe to the student, or others, or to the educational process. Specific guidelines for appropriate student dress are included in this code of conduct on page 60.

5. Inappropriate Language (to students) - Written or verbal remarks or gestures that show a lack of respect, rudeness, or are inappropriate. The use of words or acts which demean, degrade, antagonize, or humiliate a person or group of persons.

6. Physical Contact/ Physical Aggression - Student engages in non-serious, but inappropriate physical contact.

7. Property Misuse - Student engages in low-intensity misuse of property.

8. Tardy - Arriving late to school or class after the posted school start time without an appropriate excuse

9. Technology Violation - Student engages in non-serious, non-sexual, but inappropriate use of cell phone, pager, music/video players, camera, and/or computer.

Teachers may use the following interventions listed below...

- Conference with student
- Individualized instruction
- Natural consequences
- Parent contact
- Restorative conference

The following are also examples of other possible teacher interventions.

Positive Classroom Supports	Teacher Based Action to Reduce and Eliminate Behavior
Create positive classroom expectations that are clearly defined and taught.	Provide lessons to teach or reteach the student how to behave responsibly.
Continuously teach and reteach classroom expectations throughout the year.	Change student seating.
Model and practice expectations in appropriate setting (e.g., group work, individual work).	Pace the lesson more quickly to promote on-task behavior.
Use pre-correction strategies to remind students of expectations before the next task.	Actively ignore misbehavior.
Use more positive than corrective interactions.	Respond calmly, restating the desired behavior.
Utilize fluent and consistent corrections for early-stage misbehavior.	Restructure classroom practices based on student needs (e.g., structured recess, structured lunch, visual schedules)
Create classroom acknowledgment systems to increase responsible student behavior.	Use progress-monitoring tools (e.g., on-task monitoring form, replacement behavior worksheet, ratio of interactions tracking form, reflection sheets, behavior contracts, student point sheets).

DEFINITIONS OF DISCIPLINE***

Alternative Placement - Consequence for referral results in a student being placed in a different educational setting (moved to different classroom, removed from a class, etc...)

Community Service - Consequence for referral results in involvement in community service activities or projects (community service organization and project must be approved by administration).

Conference with Student - Consequence for referral results in student meeting with administrator, teacher, and/or parent (in any combination).

Detention / Time Out - Consequence for referral results in student spending time in a specified area away from scheduled activities/classes.

Expulsion - The permanent exclusion of the student from the school system upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools and by action of the School Board.

Individualized Instruction - Consequence for referral results in student receiving individualized instruction specifically related to the student's problem behaviors.

Loss of Privilege - Consequence for referral results in student being unable to participate in some type of privilege.

Other Action Taken - Consequence for referral results in an administrative decision that is not listed. Staff using this area will specify the administrative action taken.

Parent Contact - Consequence for referral results in parent communication by phone, email, or person-to-person about the problem.

Restitution - Consequence for referral results in apologizing or compensating for loss, damage, or injury; community services. Saturday School - Consequence for referral results in student attending classes on a Saturday.

Suspension - Exclusion of a student from school for a specific period of time or exclusion of a student from school which exclusion terminates upon the fulfillment of a specific set of conditions.

Time in Office - Consequence for referral results in student spending time in the office away from scheduled activities/classes.

Snap Suspension - Administrators are authorized to suspend a student for up to one (1) day from a class or activity for misconduct resulting in the serious disruption of the class/activity.

(MCL 380.1390(1)(2))

***RESTORATIVE PRACTICES A disciplinary option in which students who have committed offenses will do the following: Meet with the offended parties, take responsibility for their actions, apologize, and make restitution. Any option may be invoked at an administrator's discretion and may be used in conjunction with, or instead of, any other disciplinary action.

Per MCL 380.1310c schools "shall consider using restorative practices as an alternative or in addition to suspension or expulsion."

DRESS CODE

(modeled after the 2016 Oregon NOW Model Student Dress Code)

Student dress codes should support equitable educational access and should not reinforce gender stereotypes. Student dress codes and administrative enforcement should not reinforce or increase marginalization or oppression of any group based on race, gender, ethnicity, religion, sexual orientation, household income, gender identity or cultural observance.

Our values are:

- All students should be able to dress comfortably for school without fear of or actual unnecessary discipline or body shaming.
- All students and staff should understand that they are responsible for managing their own personal "distractions" without regulating individual students' clothing/self-expression.
- Teachers can focus on teaching without the additional and often uncomfortable burden of dress code enforcement.
- Students should not face unnecessary barriers to school attendance.
- Reasons for conflict and inconsistent discipline should be minimized whenever possible.

Our goals are:

- Maintain a safe learning environment in classes where protective or supportive clothing is needed, such as chemistry/biology (eye or body protection) or PE (athletic attire/shoes).
- Allow students to wear clothing of their choice that is comfortable.
- Allow students to wear clothing that expresses their self-identified gender.
- Allow students to wear religious attire without fear of discipline or discrimination.
- Prevent students from wearing clothing with offensive images or language, including profanity, hate speech, and pornography.
- Prevent students from wearing clothing with images or language depicting or advocating violence or the use of alcohol or drugs.
- Ensure that all students are treated equitably regardless of gender/gender identification, sexual orientation, race, ethnicity, body type/size, religion, and personal style.

The primary responsibility for a student's attire resides with the student and parents or guardians. The school district and individual schools are responsible for seeing that student attire does not interfere with the health or safety of any student, and that student attire does not contribute to a hostile or intimidating atmosphere for any student.

Students should be given the most choice possible in how they dress for school. Any restrictions must be necessary to support the overall educational goals of the school and must be explained within the dress code.

1. Basic Principle: Certain body parts must be covered for all students. Clothes must be worn in a way such that genitals, buttocks, midriff, and nipples are covered with material that cannot be seen through.

All items listed in the categories below must meet this basic principle.

2. Students Must Wear:

- Shirt that meets the top of the bottoms while standing upright and cannot be seen through.
- Bottom: pants/sweatpants/shorts/skirt/dress/leggings/etcetera.
- Shoes; activity-specific shoes requirements are permitted (for example for sports)

3. Students Cannot Wear:

- Violent language or images.
- Images or language depicting drugs or alcohol (or any illegal item or activity) or the use of the same.
- Hate speech, profanity, pornography.
- Images or language that creates a hostile or intimidating environment based on any protected class.
- Visible undergarments (not including straps).
- Bathing suits.
- Helmets or hats that obscure the face (except as a religious observance).

EXPLANATION OF DISCIPLINARY TERMS

Each of the behaviors described below may subject the student to disciplinary action including suspension and/or expulsion from school.

1. Use of drugs

A student's use or sale of a performance-enhancing substance is a violation that will affect the student's athletic eligibility and extracurricular participation.

The Department of Community Health periodically distributes to the District the list of banned drugs based on bylaw 31.2.3.1 of the National Collegiate Athletic Association. Use of any drugs or substances appearing on this list will affect the student's athletic and extracurricular participation.

- The school has a "Drug Free" zone that extends 1000 feet beyond the school boundaries as well as to any school activity and transportation. This means that any activity, possession, sale, distribution, or use of drugs, alcohol, fake drugs, steroids, inhalants, or look-alike drugs is prohibited. Attempted sale or distribution is also prohibited. If caught, the student could be suspended or expelled and law enforcement officials may be contacted. Sale also includes the possession or sale of over-the-counter medication to another student.
- The sale, distribution, possession, or use of drugs, alcohol, fake drugs, steroids, inhalants, or look-alike drugs that has a negative effect on the school environment is prohibited. Attempted sale or distribution is also prohibited. This includes nonalcoholic beers and wines, and the like. Many drug abuse offenses are also felonies. Sale also includes the possession or sale of over-the-counter medication to another student.

2. Use of Breath-Test Instruments

The principal may arrange for a breath test for blood-alcohol to be conducted on a student whenever s/he has individualized reasonable suspicion to believe that a student has consumed an alcoholic beverage.

Parents will be contacted and the student will be taken to a private administrative or instructional area on school property with at least one (1) other member of the teaching or administrative staff present as a witness to the test.

The purpose of the test is to determine whether or not the student has consumed an alcoholic beverage. The amount of consumption is not relevant, except where the student may need medical attention.

If the result indicates a violation of school rules as described in this handbook, the student will be disciplined in accordance with disciplinary procedures described in this handbook. If a student refuses to take the test, s/he will be advised that such denial will be considered an admission of alcohol use with the consequent discipline invoked. The student will then be given a second opportunity to take the test.

3. Student disorder/demonstration

Students will not be denied their rights to freedom of expression, but the expression may not infringe on the rights of others. Disruption of any school activity will not be allowed. If a student (or students) feels there is a need to organize some form of demonstration, s/he is encouraged to contact the Principal to discuss the proper way to plan such an activity. Students who disrupt the school may be subject to suspension or expulsion.

4. Use of an object as a weapon

Any object that is used to threaten, harm, or harass another may be considered a weapon. This includes but is not limited to padlocks, pens, pencils, laser pointers, jewelry and so on. Intentional injury to another can be a felony and/or a cause for civil action. This violation may subject a student to expulsion.

5. Knowledge of Dangerous Weapons or Threats of Violence

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

6. Gambling

Gambling includes casual betting, betting pools, organized-sports betting, and any other form of wagering. Students who bet on an activity in which they are involved may also be banned from that activity. Violations of this rule could result in suspension or expulsion.

7. Theft

When a student is caught stealing school or someone's property, s/he will be disciplined and may be reported to law enforcement officials. Students are encouraged not to bring anything of value to school that is not needed for learning without prior authorization from the Principal. The school is not responsible for personal property. Theft may result in suspension or expulsion.

8. Aiding or abetting violation of school rules

If a student assists another student in violating any school rule, they will be disciplined and may be subject to suspension or expulsion. Students are expected to resist peer pressure and exercise sound decision-making regarding their behavior.

9. Possession of Wireless Communication Devices (WCDs)

1. All cell phones must be turned off and kept in the student's locker. They are not allowed to carry the phone or device with them during the school day.
 2. Students are prohibited from using electronic devices besides the school issued iPad. These items will be confiscated and turned into the office.
 3. If an electronic device is confiscated, it will be turned into the office and can only be picked up by a parent/guardian.
- A student may possess a wireless communication devices (WCDs) or other electronic communication devices (ECDs) and electronic storage devices (ESDs) in school, on school property, at after school activities, and at school related functions provided that during school hours, school events, and on a school vehicle its use is not disruptive or distracting to the educational process, the scheduled activity, or other participants, provided that the WCD or other ECD/ESD remains off and follows expectations 1-3 above.

Except as authorized under Board policy, use of WCDs and electronic storage devices in school, on school property, at after school activities and at school-related functions will be subject to disciplinary action.

The school prohibits the use of any video device from any restroom, locker room or other location where students and staff "have a reasonable expectation of privacy." A student improperly using any device to take or transmit images will face disciplinary action up to and including suspension, loss of privileges, and may be recommended for expulsion.

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

Taking or transmitting images or messages during testing is also prohibited. If a student is caught transmitting images or messages during testing, s/he will fail the exam and receive an Alternate Day Assignment or be suspended. S/He also faces automatic withdrawal from the class depending on the severity of the incident. Loss of privileges is an accompanying penalty, and expulsion is a possibility, even on the first offense.

10. Harassment

Harassment of students is prohibited, and will not be tolerated. This includes inappropriate conduct by other students as well as any other person in the school environment, including employees, Board members, parents, guests, contractors, vendors and volunteers. It is the policy of the District to provide a safe and nurturing educational environment for all of its students. This policy applies to all activities on school property and to all school sponsored activities whether on or off school property.

Harassment is defined as inappropriate conduct that is repeated enough, or serious enough, to negatively impact a student's educational, physical or emotional well-being. This would include harassment based on any of the legally protected characteristics, such as sex, race, color, national origin, religion, height, weight, marital status or disability. This policy, however, is not limited to these legal categories and includes any harassment that would negatively impact students.

Harassment through any means, including electronically transmitted methods (e.g., internet, telephone or cell phone, personal digital assistant (PDA), computer or wireless hand-held device), may be subject to District disciplinary procedures. Such behavior is considered harassment whether it takes place on or off school property, at any school-sponsored function, or in a school vehicle if it is considered to have a negative impact on the school environment.

Any student that believes s/he has been/or is the victim of harassment should immediately report the situation to a teacher, the principal or school counselor.

Every student should, and every staff member **must** report any situation that they believe to be improper harassment of a student. Reports may be made to those identified above.

If the investigation finds harassment occurred it will result in prompt and appropriate remedial action. This may include up to expulsion for students, up to discharge for an employee, exclusion for parents, guests, volunteers and contractors, and removal from any officer position and/or a request to resign for Board members.

Retaliation against any person for complaining about harassment, or participating in a harassment investigation, is prohibited. Suspected retaliation should be reported in the same manner as harassment. Intentionally false harassment reports, made to get someone in trouble, are also prohibited. Retaliation and intentionally false reports may result in disciplinary action as indicated above.

The following definitions are provided for guidance only. If a student or other individual believes there has been harassment, regardless of whether it fits a

particular definition, s/he should report it and allow the administration to determine the appropriate course of action.

Harassment

- A. submission to such unwelcome conduct or communication is made either an explicit or implicit condition of utilizing or benefiting from the services, activities, or programs of the School District;
- B. submission to, or rejection of, the unwelcomed conduct or communication is used as the basis for a decision to exclude, expel or limit the harassed student in the terms, conditions or privileges of the School District;
- C. the unwelcomed conduct or communication interferes with the student's education, creates an intimidating, hostile or offensive environment, or otherwise adversely affects the student's educational opportunities. This may include racial slurs, mocking behavior, or other demeaning comments.

Sexual Harassment, may include, but is not limited to:

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

11. Hazing

The Board of Education believes that hazing activities of any type are inconsistent with the educational process and prohibits all such activities at any time in school facilities, on school property, and at any District-sponsored event.

Hazing shall be defined for purposes of this policy as performing any act or coercing another, including the victim, to perform any act of initiation into any class, group, or organization that causes or creates a risk of causing mental, emotional, or physical harm. Permission, consent, or assumption of risk by an individual subjected to hazing shall not lessen the prohibitions contained in this policy.

Hazing – any type of initiation procedure for any school related activity, which involves conduct such as but not limited to:

- A. illegal activity, such as drinking or drugs;
- B. physical punishment or infliction of pain
- C. intentional humiliation or embarrassment;
- D. dangerous activity;
- E. activity likely to cause mental or psychological stress;
- F. forced detention or kidnapping;
- G. undressing or otherwise exposing initiates.

12. Bullying and Other Aggressive Behavior

It is the policy of the District to provide a safe and nurturing educational environment for all of its students. This policy protects all students from bullying/aggressive behavior regardless of the subject matter or motivation for such impermissible behavior. Bullying or other aggressive behavior toward a student, whether by other students, staff, or third parties, including Board members, parents, guests, contractors, vendors, and volunteers, is strictly prohibited. This prohibition includes written, physical, verbal, and psychological abuse, including hazing, gestures, comments, threats, or actions to a student, which cause or threaten to cause bodily harm, reasonable fear for personal safety or personal degradation. Demonstration of appropriate behavior, treating others with civility and respect, and refusing to tolerate harassment or bullying is expected of administrators, faculty, staff, and volunteers to provide positive examples for student behavior. This policy applies to all "at school" activities in the District, including activities on school property, in a school vehicle, and those occurring off school property, if the student or employee is at any school-sponsored, school-approved or school-related activity or function, such as field trips or athletic events where students are under the school's control, or

where an employee is engaged in school business. Misconduct occurring outside of school may also be disciplined if it interferes with the school environment.

Notification

Notice of this policy will be annually circulated to and posted in conspicuous locations in all school buildings and departments within the District and discussed with students, as well as incorporated into the teacher, student, and parent/guardian handbooks. State and Federal rights posters on discrimination and harassment shall also be posted at each building. All new hires will be required to review and sign off on this policy and the related complaint procedure.

Parents or legal guardians of the alleged victim(s), as well as of the alleged aggressor(s), shall be promptly notified of any complaint or investigation as well as the results of the investigation to the extent consistent with student confidentiality requirements. A record of the time and form of notice or attempts at notice shall be kept in the investigation file. To the extent appropriate and/or legally permitted, confidentiality will be maintained during the investigation process. However, a proper investigation will, in some circumstances, require the disclosure of names and allegations. Further, the appropriate authorities may be notified, depending on the nature of the complaint and/or the results of the investigation.

Reporting

No later than May 30, 2015, the District shall submit to the Department of Education a copy of this Policy. The District shall report incidents of bullying to the Department of Education on an annual basis according to the form and procedures established by the Department of Education.

Should this Policy be amended or otherwise modified, the District shall submit a copy of the amended or modified Policy to the Department of Education no later than thirty (30) days after adopting the modification.

Implementation

The Superintendent is responsible to implement this policy, and may develop further guidelines, not inconsistent with this policy. This policy is not intended to and should not be interpreted to interfere with legitimate free speech rights of any individual. However, the District reserves the right and responsibility to maintain a safe environment for students, conducive to learning and other legitimate objectives of the school program.

Procedure

Any student who believes s/he has been or is the victim of bullying, hazing, or other aggressive behavior should immediately report the situation to the Principal or assistant principal. The student may also report concerns to a teacher or counselor who will be responsible for notifying the appropriate administrator or Board official. Complaints against the building principal should be filed with the Superintendent. Complaints against the Superintendent should be filed with the Board President.

A student may also submit a report or complaint to any of the above designated individuals through email, voicemail, regular mail or by leaving a sealed note addressed to the individual at that person's office or desk. The student may submit a report or complaint anonymously, but this may affect the ability to fully investigate the matter, when the complaining student is not available to provide additional information during the course of the investigation.

The identity of a student who reports bullying, hazing or aggressive behavior, as well as those students who provide information during an investigation will remain confidential to the extent possible and to the extent allowable by law. Only school personnel directly involved in the investigation of the complaint or responsible for remedying any violations will be provided access to the identity of the complaining student(s) and student witnesses, and then only to the extent necessary to effectively deal with the situation.

The identity of the student who files the report or complaint will not be voluntarily shared with the alleged perpetrator(s) or the witnesses unless the student (and his/her parent/guardian) give written permission to do so. Any investigation report will likewise not be voluntarily produced with the names of the reporting student(s) or witnesses. However, under certain circumstances, the District may be required by law to disclose the report and/or the student(s) names. Also, under certain circumstances, the identity of the reporting student may become obvious even without disclosure by school personnel.

Every student is encouraged, and every staff member is required, to report any situation that they believe to be aggressive behavior directed toward a student. Reports shall be made to those identified above. While reports may be made anonymously, formal disciplinary action may not be taken solely on the basis of an anonymous report without other corroborating evidence.

The Principal (or other designated administrator) shall promptly investigate and document all complaints about bullying, aggressive or other behavior that may violate this policy. The investigation must be completed as promptly as the circumstances permit after a report or complaint is made.

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

If, during an investigation of a reported act of harassment, intimidation and/or bullying/cyberbullying, the Principal or appropriate administrator believes that the reported misconduct may have created a hostile learning environment and may have constituted unlawful discriminatory harassment based on a Protected Class, the Principal will report the act of bullying and/or harassment to one of

the Anti-Harassment Compliance Officers so that it may be investigated in accordance with the procedures set forth in Policy [5517](#) - Anti-Harassment.

The individual responsible for conducting the investigation shall document all reported incidents and report all verified incidents of bullying, aggressive or other prohibited behavior, as well as any remedial action taken, including disciplinary actions and referrals, to the Superintendent. The Superintendent shall submit a compiled report to the Board on an annual basis.

Non-Retaliation/False Reports

Retaliation or false allegations against any person who reports, is thought to have reported, files a complaint, participates in an investigation or inquiry concerning allegations of bullying or aggressive behavior (as a witness or otherwise), or is the target of the bullying or aggressive behavior being investigated, is prohibited and will not be tolerated. Such retaliation shall be considered a serious violation of Board policy, independent of whether a complaint of bullying is substantiated. Suspected retaliation should be reported in the same manner as bullying/aggressive behavior.

Making intentionally false reports about bullying/aggressive behavior for the purpose of getting someone in trouble is similarly prohibited and will not be tolerated. Retaliation and intentionally false reports may result in disciplinary action as indicated above.

Definitions

The following definitions are provided for guidance only. If a student or other individual believes there has been bullying, hazing, harassment or other aggressive behavior, regardless of whether it fits a particular definition, s/he should report it immediately and allow the administration to determine the appropriate course of action.

"Aggressive behavior" is defined as inappropriate conduct that is repeated enough, or serious enough, to negatively impact a student's educational, physical, or emotional well-being. Such behavior includes, for example, bullying, hazing, stalking, intimidation, menacing, coercion, name-calling, taunting, making threats, and hitting/pushing/shoving.

"At School" is defined as in a classroom, elsewhere on school premises, on a school bus or other school-related vehicle, or at a school-sponsored activity or event whether or not it is held on school premises. It also includes conduct using a telecommunications access device or telecommunications service provider that occurs off school premises if either owned by or under the control of the District.

"Bullying" is defined as any written, verbal, or physical acts, including cyber bullying (i.e. any electronic communication, including, but not limited to electronically transmitted acts, such as internet, telephone or cell phone, personal digital assistant (PDA), or wireless handheld device) that, without

regard to its subject matter or motivating animus, is intended or that a reasonable person would know is likely to harm one (1) or more students either directly or indirectly by doing any of the following:

- A. substantially interfering with educational opportunities, benefits, or programs of one (1) or more students;
- B. adversely affecting the ability of a student to participate in or benefit from the school district's educational programs or activities by placing the student in reasonable fear of physical harm or by causing substantial emotional distress;
- C. having an actual and substantial detrimental effect on a student's physical or mental health; and/or
- D. causing substantial disruption in, or substantial interference with, the orderly operation of the school.

Bullying can be physical, verbal, psychological, or a combination of all three. Some examples of bullying are:

- A. Physical – hitting, kicking, spitting, pushing, pulling; taking and/or damaging personal belongings or extorting money, blocking or impeding student movement, unwelcome physical contact.
- B. Verbal – taunting, malicious teasing, insulting, name calling, making threats.
- C. Psychological – spreading rumors, manipulating social relationships, coercion, or engaging in social exclusion/shunning, extortion, or intimidation. This may occur in a number of different ways, including but not limited to notes, emails, social media postings, and graffiti.

"Harassment" includes, but is not limited to, any act which subjects an individual or group to unwanted, abusive behavior of a nonverbal, verbal, written or physical nature, often on the basis of age, race, religion, color, national origin, marital status or disability, but may also include sexual orientation, physical characteristics (e.g., height, weight, complexion), cultural background, socioeconomic status, or geographic location (e.g., from rival school, different state, rural area, city, etc.).

"Intimidation/Menacing" includes, but is not limited to, any threat or act intended to: place a person in fear of physical injury or offensive physical contact; to substantially damage or interfere with a person's property; or to intentionally interfere with or block a person's movement without good reason.

"Staff" includes all school employees and Board members.

"Third parties" include, but are not limited to, coaches, school volunteers, parents, school visitors, service contractors, vendors, or others engaged in District business, and others not directly subject to school control at inter-district or intra-district athletic competitions or other school events.

It is the policy of the District to provide a safe and nurturing educational environment for all of its students.

This policy protects all students from bullying/aggressive behavior regardless of the subject matter or motivation for such impermissible behavior.

Bullying or other aggressive behavior toward a student, whether by other students, staff, or third parties, including Board members, parents, guests, contractors, vendors, and volunteers, is strictly prohibited. This prohibition includes written, physical, verbal, and psychological abuse, including hazing, gestures, comments, threats, or actions to a student, which cause or threaten to cause bodily harm, reasonable fear for personal safety or personal degradation.

Demonstration of appropriate behavior, treating others with civility and respect, and refusing to tolerate harassment or bullying is expected of administrators, faculty, staff, and volunteers to provide positive examples for student behavior.

This policy applies to all "at school" activities in the District, including activities on school property, in a school vehicle, and those occurring off school property if the student or employee is at any school-sponsored, school-approved or school-related activity or function, such as field trips or athletic events where students are under the school's control, or where an employee is engaged in school business. Misconduct occurring outside of school may also be disciplined if it interferes with the school environment.

Notification

Notice of this policy will be annually circulated to and posted in conspicuous locations in all school buildings and departments within the District and discussed with students, as well as incorporated into the teacher, student, and parent/guardian handbooks. State and Federal rights posters on discrimination and harassment shall also be posted at each building. All new hires will be required to review and sign off on this policy and the related complaint procedure.

Parents or legal guardians of the alleged victim(s), as well as of the alleged aggressor(s), shall be promptly notified of any complaint or investigation as well as the results of the investigation to the extent consistent with student confidentiality requirements. A record of the time and form of notice or attempts at notice shall be kept in the investigation file.

To the extent appropriate and/or legally permitted, confidentiality will be maintained during the investigation process. However, a proper investigation will, in some circumstances, require the disclosure of names and allegations. Further, the appropriate authorities may be notified, depending on the nature of the complaint and/or the results of the investigation.

Implementation

The Superintendent is responsible to implement this policy, and may develop further guidelines, not inconsistent with this policy.

This policy is not intended to and should not be interpreted to interfere with legitimate free speech rights of any individual. However, the District reserves the right and responsibility to maintain a safe environment for students, conducive to learning and other legitimate objectives of the school program.

Procedure

Any student who believes s/he has been or is the victim of bullying, hazing, or other aggressive behavior should immediately report the situation to the Principal or assistant principal. The student may also report concerns to a teacher or counselor who will be responsible for notifying the appropriate administrator or Board official. Complaints against the building principal should be filed with the Superintendent. Complaints against the Superintendent should be filed with the Board President.

Every student is encouraged, and every staff member is required, to report any situation that they believe to be aggressive behavior directed toward a student. Reports shall be made to those identified above. Reports may be made anonymously, but formal disciplinary action may not be taken solely on the basis of an anonymous report.

The Principal (or other administrator as designated) shall promptly investigate and document all complaints about bullying, aggressive or other behavior that may violate this policy. The investigation must be completed as promptly as the circumstances permit

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

The individual responsible for conducting the investigation shall document all reported incidents and report all verified incidents of bullying, aggressive or other prohibited behavior, as well as any remedial action taken, including disciplinary actions and referrals, to the Superintendent. The Superintendent shall submit a compiled report to the Board on an annual basis.

Non-Retaliation/False Reports

Retaliation or false allegations against any person who reports, is thought to have reported, files a complaint, participates in an investigation or inquiry concerning allegations of bullying or aggressive behavior (as a witness or otherwise), or is the target of the bullying or aggressive behavior being

investigated, is prohibited and will not be tolerated. Such retaliation shall be considered a serious violation of Board policy, independent of whether a complaint of bullying is substantiated. Suspected retaliation should be reported in the same manner as bullying/aggressive behavior.

Making intentionally false reports about bullying/aggressive behavior for the purpose of getting someone in trouble is similarly prohibited and will not be tolerated. Retaliation and intentionally false reports may result in disciplinary action as indicated above.

Definitions

The following definitions are provided for guidance only. If a student or other individual believes there has been bullying, hazing, harassment or other aggressive behavior, regardless of whether it fits a particular definition, s/he should report it immediately and allow the administration to determine the appropriate course of action.

"Aggressive behavior" is defined as inappropriate conduct that is repeated enough, or serious enough, to negatively impact a student's educational, physical, or emotional well-being. Such behavior includes, for example, bullying, hazing, stalking, intimidation, menacing, coercion, name-calling, taunting, making threats, and hitting/pushing/shoving.

"At School" is defined as in a classroom, elsewhere on school premises, on a school bus or other school related vehicle, or at a school-sponsored activity or event whether or not it is held on school premises. It also includes conduct using a telecommunications access device or telecommunications service provider that occurs off school premises if either owned by or under the control of the District.

"Bullying" is defined as any gesture or written, verbal, graphic, or physical act (including electronically transmitted acts – i.e. internet, telephone or cell phone, personal digital assistant (PDA), or wireless hand-held device) that, without regard to its subject matter or motivating animus, is intended or that a reasonable person would know is likely to harm one (1) or more students either directly or indirectly by doing any of the following:

- A. substantially interfering with educational opportunities, benefits, or programs of one (1) or more students;
- B. adversely affecting the ability of a student to participate in or benefit from the school district's educational programs or activities by placing the student in reasonable fear of physical harm or by causing substantial emotional distress;

- C. having an actual and substantial detrimental effect on a student's physical or mental health; and/or
- D. causing substantial disruption in, or substantial interference with, the orderly operation of the school.

Bullying can be physical, verbal, psychological, or a combination of all three. Some examples of bullying are:

- A. Physical – hitting, kicking, spitting, pushing, pulling; taking and/or damaging personal belongings or extorting money, blocking or impeding student movement, unwelcome physical contact.
- B. Verbal – taunting, malicious teasing, insulting, name calling, making threats.
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"Harassment" includes, but is not limited to, any act which subjects an individual or group to unwanted, abusive behavior of a nonverbal, verbal, written or physical nature, often on the basis of age, race, religion, color, national origin, marital status or disability, but may also include sexual orientation, physical characteristics (e.g., height, weight, complexion), cultural background, socioeconomic status, or geographic location (e.g., from rival school, different state, rural area, city, etc.).

"Intimidation/Menacing" includes, but is not limited to, any threat or act intended to: place a person in fear of physical injury or offensive physical contact; to substantially damage or interfere with person's property; or to intentionally interfere with or block a person's movement without good reason.

"Staff" includes all school employees and Board members.

"Third parties" include, but are not limited to, coaches, school volunteers, parents, school visitors, service contractors, vendors, or others engaged in District business, and others not directly subject to school control at inter-district or intra-district athletic competitions or other school events.

For further definition and instances that could possibly be construed as:
Harassment, see Policy 5517;
Hazing, see Policy 5516.

13. Possession of a Firearm, Arson, and Criminal Sexual Conduct

In compliance with State law, the Board shall permanently expel any student who possesses a dangerous weapon in a weapon-free school zone or commits either arson or criminal sexual conduct in a District building or on District property, including school buses and other school transportation.

A dangerous weapon is defined as "a firearm, dagger, dirk, stiletto, knife with a blade over three (3) inches in length, pocket knife opened by a mechanical device, iron bar, or brass knuckles" or other devices designed to or likely to inflict bodily harm, including, but not limited to, air guns and explosive devices.

Students shall be subject to disciplinary action (Suspension/Expulsion) as required by statute for such specified offenses as physical and verbal assault (see Policy 5610.01).

Students with disabilities under IDEA or Section 504 shall be expelled only in accordance with Board Policy 2461 and Federal due process rights appropriate to students with disabilities. A student who has been expelled under this policy may apply for reinstatement in accordance with guidelines which are available in the principal's office.

14. Criminal acts

Any student engaging in criminal acts at or related to the school will be reported to law enforcement officials as well as disciplined by the school. It is not considered double jeopardy (being tried twice for the same crime), when school rules and the law are violated.

Students should be aware that state law requires that school officials, teachers and appropriate law enforcement officials be notified when a student of this District is involved in crimes related to physical violence, gang related acts, illegal possession of a controlled substance, analogue or other intoxicants, trespassing, property crimes, including but not limited to theft and vandalism, occurring in the school as well as in the community.

15. Safety Concerns

Students should not use roller blades, bicycles, skateboards scooters, or any other form of personal transportation device in school hallways or District pedestrian traffic areas. Exceptions may be made to reasonably accommodate students with mobility impairments. Use of any means of travel within buildings and on grounds by other than generally accepted practices where

appropriate is prohibited. Students violating this expectation will be subject to disciplinary action.

DISCIPLINE

It is important to remember that the school's rules apply going to and from school, at school, on school property, at school-sponsored events, and on school transportation. In some cases, a student can be suspended from school transportation for infractions of school bus rules.

Ultimately, it is the principal's responsibility to keep things orderly. In all cases, the School shall attempt to make discipline prompt and equitable.

Formal Discipline

Formal discipline removes the student from school. It includes emergency removal for up to seventy-two (72) hours, suspension for up to ten (10) school days, and expulsion from school. Suspensions and expulsions may carry over into the next school year. Removal for less than one (1) school day without the possibility of suspension or expulsion may not be appealed. Suspension and expulsion can be appealed.

Students being considered for suspension or expulsion are entitled to a meeting with the building administrator, prior to removal, at which time the student will be notified of the charges against him/her and given an opportunity to make a defense.

If a student is suspended, the parents may request the opportunity to be heard regarding the suspension decision to the Principal. An appeal may be addressed to the Superintendent, in writing, whose decision will be final. The appeal must be made within two days of receiving the Principal's decision. Written appeal must contain the reason(s) the decision is being appealed.

- Suspension from co-curricular and extra-curricular activities may not be appealed.
- When a student is being considered for expulsion, a formal hearing is scheduled with the Board of Education whose decision is final. In the case of expulsion, the student remains out of school during the appeal period. Work missed during an expulsion is the responsibility of the student to complete the course work.

If a student commits a crime while at school or a school-related event, s/he may be subject to school disciplinary action as well as to action by the community's legal system. These are separate jurisdictions and do not constitute double jeopardy (being tried twice for the same crime)

Discipline of Students with Disabilities

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

DUE PROCESS RIGHTS

Before a student may be suspended or expelled from school, there are specific procedures that must be followed.

Suspension from School

When a student is being considered for a suspension of ten (10) days or less, the administrator in charge will notify the student of the charges. The student will then be given an opportunity to explain his/her side and the administrator will then provide the student the evidence supporting the charges. After the investigation, the principal will make a decision whether or not to suspend. If a student is suspended, s/he and his/her parents will be notified, in writing within one (1) day, of the reason for and the length of the suspension. The suspension may be appealed, within two (2) school days after receipt of the suspension notice, to the Principal. The request for an appeal must be in writing.

- Suspension from co-curricular and extra-curricular activities may not be appealed.

During the appeal process,

- the student is allowed to remain in school unless safety is a factor. If that is the case, the student shall be immediately removed under the Emergency Removal Procedure.

When a student is suspended, s/he **should complete missing** assignments and keep up on school work while on suspension. School work can be accessed via Schoology.

Any learning that cannot be made up such as labs, field trips, skill-practices, or any learning that the student chooses not to make-up may be reflected in the grades earned.

A student being considered for suspension of more than ten (10) days will be given due process as described in the expulsion section below.

Long-term suspension or expulsion from school

When a student is being considered for long-term suspension (more than ten (10) days) or expulsion, the student will receive a formal letter of notification addressed to the parents which will contain:

- * the charge and related evidence;
- * the time and place of the Board meeting;
- * the length of the recommended suspension or a recommendation for expulsion;
- * a brief description of the hearing procedure;
- * a statement that the student may bring parents, guardians, and counsel;
- * a statement that the student and/or parent may bring a translator or request a transfer for hearing impaired students or parents;
- * a statement that the student may give testimony, present evidence, and provide a defense;
- * a statement that the student may request attendance of school personnel who were party to the action or accused the student of the infraction;

Students being considered for long-term suspension or expulsion may or may not be immediately removed from school.

If, in the Principal's opinion or as required by statute, the alleged infraction warrants a long-term suspension or expulsion, s/he shall refer the case to the Superintendent and submit the following documentation.

The parents may appeal the expulsion to the Board, in writing, within 10 days after receipt of the notice. The parents shall state in the appeal the reasons they think the Superintendent's decision is not justified and provide any extenuating circumstances they wish the Board to consider.

The Board may conduct a hearing or respond with its decision in writing within 30 days after it receives the appeal. The Board of Education must conduct the hearing in compliance with the Open Meetings Act.

Notice of expulsion will be sent to the Juvenile Division of the Probate Court for students at ages six (6) through fifteen (15). The court should be informed that the Board has expelled the student and provided the reason for expulsion.

Notice may be sent to the Juvenile Division of the Probate Court for students, ages sixteen (16) and seventeen (17), where the District believes that the court should review the circumstances surrounding the expulsion. The District may provide a copy of the public record to the court.

UCMS makes a sincere effort to have disciplinary actions take place that will allow the student to remain in school. If a disciplinary action does not result in removal from school, it is not appealable. Should a student or parent have questions regarding the propriety of an in-school disciplinary action, they should contact the Principal.

SEARCH AND SEIZURE

Search of a student and his/her possessions, including vehicles, may be conducted at any time the student is under the jurisdiction of the Board of Education, if there is a reasonable suspicion that the student is in violation of law or school rules. A search may also be conducted to protect the health and safety of others. All searches may be conducted with or without a student's consent.

Students are provided lockers, desks, and other equipment in which to store materials. It should be clearly understood that this equipment is the property of the school and may be searched at any time if there is reasonable suspicion that a student has violated the law or school rules. Locks are to prevent theft, not to prevent searches. If student lockers require student-provided locks, each student must provide the lock's combination or key to the principal.

Anything that is found in the course of a search that may be evidence of a violation of school rules or the law may be taken and held or turned over to the police. The school reserves the right not to return items which have been confiscated. In the course of any search, students' privacy rights will be respected regarding any items that are not illegal or against school policy.

All computers located in classrooms, labs and offices of the District are the District's property and are to be used by students, where appropriate, solely for educational purposes. The District retains the right to access and review all electronic, computer files, databases, and any other electronic transmissions contained in or used in conjunction with the District's computer system, and electronic mail. Students should have no expectation that any information contained on such systems is confidential or private.

Review of such information may be done by the District with or without the student's knowledge or permission. The use of passwords does not guarantee confidentiality, and the District retains the right to access information in spite of a password. All passwords or security codes must be registered with the instructor. A student's refusal to permit such access may be grounds for disciplinary action.

STUDENT RIGHTS OF EXPRESSION

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

- A. A material cannot be displayed if it:
 - 1. is obscene to minors, libelous, indecent and pervasively or vulgar,
 - 2. advertises any product or service not permitted to minors by law,
 - 3. intends to be insulting or harassing,
 - 4. intends to incite fighting or presents a likelihood of disrupting school or a school event.
 - 5. Presents a clear and present likelihood that, either because of its content or manner of distribution or display, it causes or is likely to cause a material and substantial disruption of school or school activities, a violation of school regulations, or the commission of an unlawful act.

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

Students who are unsure whether or not materials they wish to display meet school guidelines may present them to the Principal twenty-four (24) hours prior to display.

STUDENT CONCERNS, SUGGESTIONS, AND GRIEVANCES

The school is here for the benefit of the students. The staff is here to assist each student in becoming a responsible adult. If a student has suggestions that could improve the school, s/he should feel free to offer them. Written suggestions may be presented directly to the principal or to the student government.

When concerns or grievances arise, the best way to resolve the issue is through communication. No student will be harassed by any staff member or need fear reprisal for the proper expression of a legitimate concern. Any suggestions, concerns, and grievances may be directed to the principal or to the student government.

A student may have the right to a meeting with the appropriate administrator if the student believes s/he has been improperly denied participation in a school activity or has been subjected to an illegal rule or standard. A student may not petition to have a change in grade.

SECTION V - TRANSPORTATION

BUS TRANSPORTATION TO SCHOOL

The school provides transportation for all students who live farther than the city limits from school. The transportation schedule and routes are available by contacting the transportation supervisor at 517.741.8571

Students may only ride assigned school buses and must board and depart from the bus at assigned bus stops. Students will not be permitted to ride unassigned buses for any reason other than an emergency, except as approved by the principal.

The transportation supervisor may approve a change in a student's regular assigned bus stop to address a special need, upon the transportation supervisor's approval of a note from a parent stating the reason for the request and the duration of the requested change.

BUS CONDUCT

The district provides bus transportation to and from school. A list of bus stops will be published at the beginning of the school year before student registration. Parent/guardians must, at the beginning of the school year, select one bus stop at which a student is to be picked up, and one stop at which a student is to be dropped off. Students are not permitted to ride a bus other than the bus to which they are assigned.

While students are on the bus, they are under the supervision of the bus driver. In most cases, bus discipline problems can be handled by the bus driver. In the case of a written disciplinary referral, student bus problems will be investigated and handled by the transportation supervisor.

Parents will be informed of any and all inappropriate student behavior on a bus. Parents are encouraged to discuss bus safety and appropriate behavior with their children before the beginning of the school year and regularly during the year.

In the interest of the student's safety, students are expected to observe the following rules:

1. Choose a seat and sit in it immediately upon entering the bus. Do not stand in the entrance or in the aisle.
2. Do not move from one seat to another while on the bus.
3. Keep all parts of the body and all objects inside the bus.
4. Loud conversation, singing, boisterous conduct, unnecessary noise, or profanity is not allowed.
5. Enter and exit the bus only when the bus is fully stopped.
6. All school rules apply while on the bus, at a bus stop, or waiting for the bus.
7. Use the emergency door only in an emergency.
8. In the event of an emergency, stay on the bus and await instructions from the bus driver.
9. Good behavior and behavior that will not distract the bus driver from operating the bus safely is required. Crowding, pushing, scuffling, and other needless commotion are grounds for disciplinary action.
10. Do not open windows w/o permission of the bus driver.
11. Keep the bus neat and clean.
12. Athletic footwear equipped with cleats or spikes are not allowed on the bus.
13. Inappropriate behavior will be reported to school authorities and failure to observe safety rules may result in suspension from bus services.
14. Be waiting at your bus stop on time.
15. Never tamper with, damage, or deface anything in or on the bus, or any of the bus or school equipment.
16. Keep book bags, books, packages, coats, and other objects out of the aisles.
17. Keep all body parts clear of the aisles when seated.
18. Eating is not permitted on the bus.
19. Parents will be liable for any defacing or damage students do to the bus.

If you take the bus to a career center, math & science center, or a field trip you are **REQUIRED** to take it back to school unless permission has been granted by the building Principal. Students who do otherwise will be disciplined.

Students may be suspended from riding the school bus for engaging in misconduct. Video cameras may be active on busses to record student conduct and may be used for the purposes of investigation into misconduct or accidents on the bus.

The driver will not discharge students at places other than their regular stop at home or at school unless s/he has proper authorization from school officials

VIDEOTAPES ON SCHOOL BUSES

The Board of Education has installed video cameras on school buses to monitor student behavior. Actual videotaping of the students on any particular bus will be done on a random-selection basis.

If a student misbehaves on a bus and his/her actions are recorded on videotape, the tape will be submitted to the principal and may be used as evidence of the misbehavior. Since these tapes are considered part of a student's record, they can be viewed only in accordance with Federal law.

PENALTIES FOR INFRACTIONS

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

SELF-TRANSPORTATION TO SCHOOL

Parking on school property is a privilege which can be revoked at any time. Students who are provided the opportunity to ride school transportation are encouraged to do so. Students and their parents assume full responsibility for any transportation (bikes included) to and from school not officially provided by the school.

USE OF MOTORIZED UTILITY VEHICLES

Because of the clear and present danger of accidents, the Board of Education prohibits the use of motorized utility vehicles by students on school grounds or for school activity purposes.

NOTE: Be advised that the following forms must be available in the School Office as they are referenced in the Student/Parent Handbook.

- **Title VI, IX, 504 Grievance Form 2260 F2**
- **Notice of Nondiscrimination and Grievance Procedures for Title II, Title VI, Title VII, Title IX, Section 504 and ADA Form 2260 F8**
- **Memorandum to Parents Regarding School Board Policy on Drug-Free Schools Form 5530 F2**
- **Notification to Parents Regarding Student Records Form 8330 F9**
- **Notification to Parents on Blood-Borne Pathogens Form 8453.01 F5**

- **Parent/Student Acknowledgement of Student Handbook Form 5500 F1**
- **Authorization for Prescribed Medication or Treatment Form 5330 F1**
- **Authorization for Non-prescribed Medication or Treatment (Secondary Version) Form 5330 F1a**
- **Authorization for Non-prescribed Medication or Treatment (Elementary Version) Form 5330 F1b**
- **Authorization for Use of Asthma Inhalers, Epi-pens or Prescribed Emergency Medication Form 5330F1c**
- **Parent Request to Inspect Materials Used in Conjunction with any Survey, Analysis, or Evaluation Form 2416 F2**
- **Request That Directory Information not be Released to Recruiters Without Prior Written Consent. Form 8330 F13**
- **Parent Notification Regarding Student Records. Form 8330F9**