

# 2024-2025



## **Centauri High School Student Handbook**

**17889 US Hwy. 285  
La Jara, Colorado 81140  
Telephone: (719) 274-5178  
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### **CENTAURI HIGH SCHOOL ADMINISTRATION**

**Principal:  
Katie Montague  
Counselors  
Jamie Thomas & Erika Medina**

**Assistant Principal, AD  
Jesse Shawcroft  
Secretary  
Sheli Bechaver**

**Non-Discrimination Policy**

The Board is committed to providing a safe learning and work environment where all members of the school community are treated with dignity and respect. The schools in the district are subject to all federal and state laws and constitutional provisions prohibiting discrimination on the basis of disability, race, creed, color, sex, sexual orientation, national origin, religion, ancestry or need for special education services. Accordingly, no otherwise qualified student, employee, applicant for employment or member of the public shall be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to unlawful discrimination under any district program or activity on the basis of race, color, national origin, ancestry, creed, religion, sex (which includes marital status), sexual orientation, disability or need for special education services. Discrimination against employees and applicants for employment based on age and genetic information is also prohibited in accordance with state and/or federal law.

Title IX Coordinator/Compliance Coordinator  
 Darren Edgar, Superintendent  
 PO Box 72, 17890 US Hwy 285  
 La Jara, Co 81140  
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 Katie Montague, CHS Principal  
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**Equal Educational Opportunities**

Every student of this school district shall have equal educational opportunities through programs offered in the school district regardless of race, color, ancestry, creed, sex, sexual orientation, religion, national origin, marital status, disability or need for special education services. This concept of equal educational opportunity shall guide the Board and staff in making decisions related to school district facilities, selection of educational materials, equipment, curriculum and regulations affecting students. Students with identified physical and mental impairments that constitute disabilities shall be provided with a free appropriate public education, consistent with the requirements of federal and state laws and regulations.

**Daily Bell Schedule**

7:50	First Bell
7:54-8:54	1 <sup>st</sup> Hour
8:58-10:08	2 <sup>nd</sup> Hour- Breakfast
10:12-11:12	3 <sup>rd</sup> Hour
11:09- 12:14	4 <sup>th</sup> Hour

12:19-12:50	Lunch
12:54-1:54	5 <sup>th</sup> Hour
1:58-2:58	6 <sup>th</sup> Hour
3:02- 4:02	7 <sup>th</sup> Hour
4:08	Busses Depart

### Late Start Schedule for delays in Weather

9:50	Breakfast
9:54	First Bell
9:54-10:39	1st Hour
10:43-11:27	2nd Hour
11:31-12:15	3rd Hour
12:15-12:47	Lunch
12:51-1:35	4 <sup>th</sup> Hour
1:39-2:23	5th Hour
2:27-3:11	6th Hour
3:15-4:02	7th Hour

The mission of North Conejos School District is to provide a safe, nurturing learning environment where diversity is celebrated, mutual respect among adults and children is practiced and where school and communities are seen as valued partners in creating the foundation for lifelong learning.

## Graduation Requirements

**Centauri High School requires 26 credits for graduation in 2025.**

English	4 Credits
Science	3 Credits
Mathematics	3 Credits
Spanish	1 Credit
Social Studies	3 Credits
Physical Education	1 Credit
Electives	11 Credits

Students must pass **ALL courses** listed above with a minimum grade of 60% to graduate. Finals are given during the last week of each semester. The only instance that a final could be taken early would be for medical reasons. **Students must meet graduation requirements by the end of their senior year, have all bills paid, and attend graduation practice to be allowed to participate in graduation ceremonies.**

### College Prep Recommended Courses

English	4 Credits
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Mathematics	4 Credits
Social Science	3 Credits
Science	4 Credits
Spanish	2 Credits

## GRADING SCALE

**A 100-90   B 89-80   C 79-70   D 69-60   F 59-0**

Grades are determined by each teacher with **attendance, participation, graded work,** and **assessments/tests** considered in the actual determination of a final grade.

Each teacher will issue class rules, grading procedures, and expectations for each class. Students who maintain a **4.0 GPA** during a semester will be granted a personal day during the following semester; however, the student will need advanced absence approval and is responsible for any missed work.

Classes that students may take more than once for credit:

Desktop Publishing (Yearbook)	Physical Education	Office Aide
Mixed Media	Athletic Development	Band
Ceramics	Painting	Drawing
Ed Intern	Ed Media	
Nutrition/Wellness	Computer Tech	

## Graduation Requirements

Students must obtain a minimum of the above stated credits for their class.

- ♦ Semester grades transcript with .5 credit per class per semester with the exception of college concurrent classes which are 1 high school credit and 3 college credits per semester. The student must pass each class with a minimum grade of 60% to receive credit.
- ♦ A grade of incomplete must be made up within 1 week or a grade of F will be issued.

## Suggested Course Sequence

<p style="text-align: center;"><b><u>9<sup>th</sup></u></b></p> <p>English I    1          Math        1          World History 1          Physical Science 1          ***PE      1  <u>Electives</u>   2  <b>7.0</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b><u>11<sup>th</sup></u></b></p> <p>English III   1          US History   1          Science      1          Mathematics 1  <b>Spanish II 1</b>  <u>Electives</u>   2  <b>7.0</b></p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b><u>10<sup>th</sup></u></b></p> <p>English II   1          Math        1          Spanish I   1          Biology     1  <u>Electives</u>   3  <b>7.0</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b><u>12<sup>th</sup></u></b></p> <p>English      1          American Government 1  <b>Mathematics 1</b>  <u>Electives</u>   2  <b>5.0</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>***PE credit may be taken anytime in the four years.</b></p>
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**Classes in BOLD are required if a student plans on attending a 4-year college or university.**

### Weighted Classes

<p><b>AP Calculus</b>  <b>AP Chemistry</b>  <b>Academic Writing 1</b>  <b>Academic Writing 2</b>  <b>A=5 B=4 C=3 D=2</b></p>	<p><b>Pre-Calculus, Honors Chemistry, Human Anatomy &amp; Physiology</b></p> <p><b>A=4.5 B=3.5 C=2.5 D=1.5</b></p>
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## College Concurrent Classes

Each student should pass the prerequisite classes at CHS before enrolling in concurrent classes. If we offer the same class at our school, students will have to take the CHS class or pay for the equivalent class at the college.

In Order to take a concurrent class one (1) of the following must be met:

1. SAT- Students should pass SAT or PSAT in order to enroll. For juniors passing will mean that they meet the PSAT benchmark according to the state. For seniors, this means they have passed the SAT according to graduation requirements (470 for Math and 500 for English).
2. Cumulative GPA of 2.5 or better.

3. On track to graduate and passing all current classes. (with a C or higher)

Students will have to fill out a form to apply for concurrent enrollment. The form will be in the counselor's office upon request.

Students taking college concurrent classes must earn a "C" or higher in order for North Conejos School District to pay for the class. If not passing with a "C" or better the student must make arrangements to pay for the class prior to graduation.

If a student wishes to drop a concurrent course, the drop date is based on the institutions drop date. After this date the student will receive a withdrawal fail on their high school transcript and have to pay for the college class.

### **Higher Education Admission Requirements**

Colorado has recently established High Education Admission Requirements for students who plan to attend a four-year public college or university in Colorado. The requirements help to ensure academic preparedness and place students on the path to college success.

Private college and universities set their own admissions standards. Please contact those institutions directly for information regarding specific enrollment policies. Additionally, two-year public colleges have open enrollment policies, which mean that students applying to these schools do not need to meet the following admission requirements.

Student planning to attend a four-year public college or university in Colorado will need to complete the following classes in order to fulfill the Higher Education Admission Requirements

English	4 years
Mathematics (Algebra 1 and higher)	4 years
Natural/Physical Sciences (2 years must be lab-based)	3 years
Social Sciences	3 years
Foreign Language	2 years
Academic Electives	2 years

### **Class Retake Policy**

Centauri High School students may repeat a class he/she has failed. Each time a student repeats a class, transcripts will indicate the original grade and any subsequent attempts to pass the class. Credit will be issued upon completion of the class where a grade of "D" or higher is earned. If a student failed a required English or Math class they will be enrolled in an English standards or Math standards to make up the class they failed.

### **Communication with Parents**

Centauri High school will send out important messages via voice phone calls using the school messenger system. Communication regarding discipline will be in the form of mail correspondence and with phone calls home. Any minor violation will be sent home by mail and all suspensions will be a phone call. The attendance secretary will communicate a variety of ways including but not limited to phone calls home, email and mail correspondence to ensure that students are attending school.

## Absences

Attendance at school is compulsory, regular and punctual attendance in every class is a crucial component of the grade earned and vital to student learning. Make-up work is allowed for absences according to policy.

Parents must call the office no later than **10:00 AM** within 2 days after the absence(s) occurs. If parents do not call, the absence will be considered **unexcused**. Only parents, and individuals listed on the student summary, may excuse an absence or release a student from school. If there are extenuating circumstances (for example but not limited to: surgery, accidents, etc.), the parents and student must make arrangements with the principal to meet and hear the circumstances as an appeal, each case and its circumstances will be individually considered. If no extenuating circumstances exist then an RTI/MTSS process will begin.

Students must attend class at least 30 minutes to get credit for the class. Students must check in with the office when reporting to school after 7:54 AM, and must check out with the office when leaving the school grounds before the end of the school day. **Any student who does not check out at the office before leaving school will be considered unexcused and assigned detention.**

Parents will not be allowed to excuse students from one class to attend another. Participation is a key component of learning and mandates quality attendance. Participation is a component of a grade and absences will affect the participation grade.

**Handwritten notes will not be accepted for a student's absence. If a note is given to the office the student will be unexcused until a phone call from a parent or guardian is received.**

**Students are allowed 10 Excused absences in each class per school year, after 10 absences, students will be placed on an attendance contract. The only absences that are excused are doctor's excuses, Mental health notes, DMV, Court appearance and absence for a funeral. (Any absence, excused or unexcused, does have an effect on grades.)**

***Students will be assigned detention for each class period that they are unexcused absent for.***

***After three unexcused tardies, students will be placed in detention.***

***Three tardies will be considered an absence and will count toward the absences a student has.***

***Please refer to the table below for how attendance will be handled.***

Step	# of Absences	Consequences
1	3 absences (excused or unexcused) 21 class periods 7 absences in the same class period	1 <sup>st</sup> letter mailed to student's home
2	5 absences (excused or unexcused) 35 class periods Or 9 absences in the same class period	2 <sup>nd</sup> letter mailed to student's home
3	7 absences (excused or unexcused) 49 class periods Or 11 Absences in the same class	School will contact family to let them know that 3 more absences will result in the creation of an attendance contract

4	<b>10 total absences (70 class periods) 4 unexcused absences in a month (28 class periods)</b>	<b>Parents and Principal meet to sign an attendance contract Student is referred to RTI/MTSS team for attendance supports</b>
5	4 unexcused absences following the creation of The attendance contract (28 class periods)	Student declared chronically absent and receives the "Chronically Absent" letter  Principal and Family meet to create a "Truancy Intervention Plan"
6	10 unexcused absences following the creation of The attendance contract (70 Class periods)	Student receives the "Truancy Letter" documenting steps taken by the district to encourage the child to return to school and notifies the family that further absences will result in court action.
7	15 unexcused absences following the creation of The attendance contract (105 class periods)	The case is referred to truancy officer and paperwork filed in Court to require student to attend school.

#### ATTENDANCE CONTRACT CONDITIONS:

- 1) Any further absences must be accompanied by a doctor's note stating the doctor saw the student, and that he/she cannot attend school that day
  - a) Or, the student may visit the school nurse to determine the severity of the illness and whether attendance is possible
  - b) Absences without a note will be considered "unexcused."
- 2) Family emergencies may be excused but must be verified in writing.
- 3) If the absence is the result of a court appearance, the school must receive documentation of the court order requiring that the student attend.
- 4) Failure to comply with these conditions may result in truancy proceedings.

## **FALCON FLIGHT PLAN**

### **Student Code of Conduct**

The principal may recommend suspension or expulsion of a student who engages in one or more of the following activities while in school buildings, on district property, when being transported in vehicles dispatched by the district or one of its schools, during a school-sponsored or district-sponsored activity or event and off school property when the conduct has a reasonable connection to school (*including lunch*) or any district curricular or non-curricular event.

1. Causing or attempting to cause damage to school property or private property, or stealing, or attempting to steal school property or private property.
2. Causing or attempting to cause physical injury to another person, except in self-defense.
3. Commission of any acts, which if committed by an adult, would be robbery or assault as defined by state law. Knowingly and willingly concealing information from school administration at the time of event will result in a reprimand.
4. Violation of a criminal law.
5. Violation of district or building regulations.
6. Violation of the district's policy on dangerous weapons in the schools. This violation shall be mandatory in accordance with policy and state law.
7. Violation of the district's alcohol use/drug use policy. Expulsion shall be mandatory for the sale of drugs or controlled substances, in accordance with state law.
8. Violation of the district's smoking and use of tobacco policy.
9. Throwing or shooting objects that are not part of the curriculum that can cause bodily injury or damage to private property.



10. Directing profanity, vulgar language, or obscene gestures toward other students, school personnel, or visitors to the school.
11. Engaging in verbal abuse i.e., name-calling, ethnic or racial slurs, or derogatory statements addressed publicly to others that may precipitate disruption of the school program or incited violence.
12. Bullying.
13. Committing extortion, coercion or blackmail, i.e., obtaining money or other objects of value from an unwilling person, or forcing an individual to act through the use of force or threat.
14. Lying or giving false information, or withholding information, either verbally or in writing, to a school employee.
15. Use of any technology to record actions on school grounds or at school events without approval is strictly prohibited. This includes pictures or videos of any kind taken in the bathroom or locker room. Students who use their device to record any type of student/school offenses will be subject to the same consequences as those committing the offense (ex. A student recording a fight between other students would receive out of school suspension for 3- 5 days).
17. Willfully violating the district's dress code policy.
18. Scholastic dishonesty, which includes but is not limited to: cheating on a test, plagiarism, or unauthorized collaboration with another person in preparing written work.
19. Repeated willful disobedience or open and persistent defiance of proper authority.
20. Behavior on or off school property, which is detrimental to the welfare, safety, or morals of other students or school personnel.
21. Repeated interference with the school's ability to provide educational opportunities to other students.
22. Other scenarios that the administration reasonably deems harmful or detrimental in anyway, but not specified in this code will be handled at the administration's discretion.

Other than suspension or expulsion, other possibilities of consequences may include:

1. Loss of privileges
2. Detention (see section on discipline)
3. Other consequences as deemed appropriate by administration

### **Tobacco**

To promote the general health, welfare and well-being of students and staff, smoking, chewing or any other use of any tobacco product by staff, students and members of the public is prohibited on all school property. Possession of any tobacco product by students is also prohibited on school property. Smoking/chewing and/or the possession of tobacco products, while in or on school property, or under the school's jurisdiction, or while participating in a school sponsored event is strictly prohibited.

### **Alcohol/Drugs**

Students shall not possess or use alcohol, drugs (including look-a-like drugs, drug paraphernalia, and/or electronic cigarettes) on school property. Use of alcohol /drugs is defined as the act of using or being under the influence of, as evident by the actions, odor, and other symptoms, regardless of the quantity consumed. Possession is defined as storing in one's locker, on school property (including vehicles in the parking lot) or on one's person. District policy dictates disciplinary action. **(Sufficient odor is considered evidence of use.) If a vape is confiscated, it will be assumed that it is a drug violation and the vape device will not be returned to the student.**

### **Dangerous Weapons**

Centauri High School follows state law regarding dangerous weapons. State law requires that expulsion shall be mandatory for any student in possession of a dangerous weapon on school grounds, school vehicles, or at any school sponsored activity. Law **defines** "dangerous weapons" as any of the following:

1. A firearm, whether loaded or unloaded, or a firearm facsimile that could be reasonably mistaken for an actual firearm.
2. Any pellet or "BB" gun or other device, whether operational or not, designed to propel projectiles by spring action or compressed air.
3. Any knife with a fixed blade longer than 3 inches, or folding blade longer than 3 ½ inches. If knife is found in possession it will be confiscated and disciplinary action will be taken.
4. Any object, device, instrument, material, or substance used or intended to be used to inflict death or serious bodily injury or threaten others.

***School policy dictates that no "dangerous weapons" will be tolerated.***

***Students who are possessing or shooting any type of battery-operated water bead or gel bead gun will be suspended for 5 days and will have a threat assessment conducted on them and may get referred to the superintendent for expulsion. This includes shooting these types of guns on any school campus in the state. The punishment for this may include a daily search on the student once they return to school after the suspension.***

### **Violent and Aggressive Behavior**

The Board recognizes there are certain behaviors that, if tolerated, would compromise the learning environment to which the students and staff of the district are entitled. These behaviors, categorized as violent or aggressive, will not be tolerated.

Students shall immediately report questionable behavior or potentially violent situations to an administrator, counselor or teacher.

A staff member who witnesses or receives a report of a student's act of violence and aggression shall notify the building principal or designee as soon as possible.

An act of violence and aggression includes but is not limited to the following behaviors:

1. Verbal abuse - includes, but is not limited to, swearing, screaming, obscene gestures or threats directed, either orally (including by telephone) or in writing (including by text, social media or other electronic means), at an individual, his or her family or a group.
2. Intimidation - an act intended to frighten or coerce someone into submission or obedience.
3. Gang activity - as described in the Board's gang activity policy.
4. Stalking - the persistent following, contacting, watching or any other such threatening actions that compromise the peace of mind or the personal safety of an individual.
5. Discriminatory slurs - insulting, disparaging or derogatory comments made directly or by innuendo regarding a person's race, color, ancestry, creed, sex, sexual orientation (which includes transgender), religion, national origin, disability or need for special education services.

### **Bullying**

North Conejos School District is committed to providing a safe and positive learning environment, free from bullying. Bullying means any written/verbal expression, physical act/gesture, or pattern thereof that is intended to cause distress upon one or more students in the school, on school grounds, in school vehicles, at a designated school bus stop, at school activities or sanctioned events. Any student who engages in bullying behavior is subject to appropriate discipline, up to and including, but not limited to suspension, expulsion and/or referral to law enforcement. The high school principal will follow the North Conejos school board policy JICDE when investigating and following up on a bullying claim.

## Cyberbullying

Cyberbullying is the willful and repeated use of cell phones, computers, and other electronic communication devices to harass and threaten others.

- Changes in Colorado law now expose "cyberbullies" to a misdemeanor charge that carries a possible fine of up to \$750 and up to six months in jail.
- Cyberbullying is criminal intent to alarm, annoy or harass; and it can be either direct or indirect. An online posting need not be sent directly to an individual victim to fall under the statute.
- All possible threats will be turned over to the Conejos County Sheriff's Office for investigation.
- People shouldn't do or say anything in the cyber world that they wouldn't say or do in person.

## Sexual Harassment

Sexual harassment is recognized as a form of sex discrimination and is thus a violation of the laws that prohibit sex discrimination. Sexual harassment will not be tolerated. It shall be a violation of policy for any staff member to harass students or for students to harass other students through conduct or communications of a sexual nature. Students may file a formal grievance of sexual harassment with the principal. If the alleged harasser is the principal, the student may file the grievance with the superintendent of schools. All matters involving sexual harassment complaints shall remain confidential to the fullest extent possible.

## Discipline

Centauri High School utilizes contraband K-9 inspections randomly, at undisclosed dates and on a number of unspecified occasions, to ensure the utmost safety for our students in our learning environment. Routinely, lockers, classrooms, including the parking lot and surrounding premises are inspected by these detection canines.

The North Conejos School District conducts an instructional program for the benefit of the pupils living in the school district. It is desirable to have all students remain in school until they have graduated from senior high school. Every resource available to the school district and parents shall be used to achieve this.

Students are expected to be reasonably diligent in carrying out their school obligations. Failure to be diligent in study or in adhering to school regulations means that a student is guilty of misconduct and may lose the privilege of attending school. Students will be given every opportunity to achieve scholastic success, but those who persist in creating behavior problems will be subject to disciplinary action.

Any discipline issue that has happened the prior year does count the next school year. If a student is on a behavioral plan, the plan will follow them until they are no longer enrolled in North Conejos School District. For example, if a student was engaged in 2 major violations the year before and gets in another fight the next year. This student will be referred for expulsion for having three major violations. The major violations do not restart each year but instead build on each other for the student's time in the district.

Discipline is under the control of the Principal and Assistant Principal, with **noon detention** being the usual method of discipline for minor infractions and **out-of-school suspension** for successive minor infractions and major infractions.

Any of the following offenses will cause a student to be assigned **detention**.

1. Truancy
2. Use or possession on school grounds of water guns, water balloons, eggs, making or throwing of snowballs, firecrackers. Cigarette lighters, pocket knives with less than a 3" blade, laser pointers. All articles will be confiscated.
3. Rudeness, vulgarity, profanity toward other students.
4. Second and succeeding unexcused absences.
5. Inappropriate displays of affection.
6. Misconduct in/at cafeteria, assemblies, classroom, hallways, activities and/or on the bus.
7. Driving and parking violations.
8. Use or possession of tobacco. Sufficient odor is cause to suspect use of tobacco product:

1<sup>st</sup> offense – 3 days of detention

2<sup>nd</sup> offense – 1 day suspension

3<sup>rd</sup> offense – 3 days suspension

9. Whistling, marking of school property with gang graffiti, gang graffiti on personal notebooks used in classroom, or displays of gang related signs or symbols on school grounds.
10. Loitering in off limit areas. (See page 15 & 16)
11. Unexcused tardiness.
12. Electronic devices. See policy JICJ.

Under normal circumstances, detention will be assigned in the following manner:

**First offense** - one to two days

**Second offense** - two to four days

**Third offense** - three to five days

**Fourth and subsequent offenses** - out-of-school suspension

Any of the following infractions will cause a student to be considered for **out-of-school** suspension and a parent conference with an appropriate administrator before re-admittance, these infractions may also be referred to the legal authorities:

1. Fourth and subsequent detention infractions.
2. Fighting and/or abusive harassment and/or bullying of other students will not be tolerated and will be dealt with severely according to district policy. Filming fights or taking Videos or pictures of students in the bathrooms or locker rooms will result in suspension. Students who use their device to record any type of student/school offenses will be subject to the same consequences as those committing the offense (ex. A student recording a fight between other students would receive out of school suspension for 3-5 days).
3. Drug or alcohol violations or sufficient odor to suspect the use thereof, including aerosol and other materials that are known to be used for getting "high" are prohibited, including but not limited to electronic cigarettes. (see District Policy)
4. Theft and/or possession of stolen items.
5. Vandalism (Destruction of school property)
6. Abusive, disrespectful, or defiant language/actions toward staff. Defiance of Administration and refusing to attend detention will result in 5-day suspension.
7. Extortion/Harassment
8. Knives with blades 3½" or longer (see Dangerous Weapons) is an automatic suspension and referral to Superintendent for expulsion hearing.
9. Possessing or using weapons (automatic suspension and hearing for expulsion). When warranted, legal authorities will be notified and charges filed.
10. "Safe School" legislation has mandated expulsion for the following offenses:
  - a. Bringing, carrying, using or possession of a deadly weapon.
  - b. Sale of a drug or controlled substance.
  - c. Commission of an act, which if committed by an adult, would be robbery or assault.
  - d. Declaration as a habitually disruptive student.
11. Sexual Harassment- exposing or causing the exposure or accentuation of undergarments, genitalia, or other body parts of oneself or another normally or intended to be covered either by the individual or in accordance with North Conejos School District Policy, including but not limited to mooning, streaking, flashing, pulling down pants, or skirt-flipping.

Under normal circumstances, the following penalties will apply:

**First offense** - one to two days and a parent phone call.

**Second offense** -three to four days with parent conference.

**Third offense** -five days with parent and superintendent conference.

**Fourth offense** -five days with recommendation for expulsion for the remainder of the school year

Students that are suspended may not participate in any activities, including performances, games, dances, etc. for the duration of the suspension. Student may not attend practices of any sort during actual days of suspension. The administration reserves the right to consider each case individually and to develop a disciplinary plan accordingly.

### **Off Limits**

There are certain areas that are off limits to students before school, during breaks and at lunch time. These include the area **between** Centauri Middle School, the administration building and Centauri High School, **behind** the vocational shops and Centauri High School, and the area **south** of Centauri High School. Students are not allowed to loiter in or around the bathrooms, doorways, entryways or stairways.

### **Lockers**

The Board of Education seeks to maintain a climate in the schools which is conducive to learning and protective of the safety and welfare of staff and students. To achieve this goal, it may be necessary for school personnel to search the person and/or the personal property of the student and to seize any property deemed injurious or detrimental to the safety and welfare of students and staff.

If the school official has reasonable grounds to suspect that such a violation has occurred, they may search a student and/or the student's personal property while on school premises or during a school activity in accordance with this policy and may seize any illegal, unauthorized or contraband materials.

School lockers, desks and other storage areas are school property and remain at all times under the control of the school. All such lockers, desks and other storage areas, as well as their contents, are subject to inspection at any time, with or without notice.

Students shall assume full responsibility for the security of their lockers. Students shall be responsible for whatever is contained in desks and lockers assigned to them by the school as well as for any loss or damage relating to the contents of such desks and lockers.

The principal or designee may search the person of a student or a student's personal effects such as a purse, backpack, book bag, or briefcase on school property or at school-sponsored events or activities if the school official has reasonable grounds to suspect that a violation is present.

Student lockers are property of the school and the students are only using them as storage spaces. Lockers can be searched any time by administration. Periodically, K-9 inspections occur unannounced, randomly and at unspecified times to check the building and the parking lots. Students are supplied with locks that are to remain on lockers. (Centauri High School and/or the district is not responsible for lost or stolen contents from lockers or locker rooms).

### **Parking Lot**

Students driving to school are to use the parking lot in front of the school building. Vehicles should remain parked during the day. **Student shall not move their cars to the shops throughout the day.** Students are expected to park appropriately in designated areas. All isles and bus lanes must be kept clear. When administration deems necessary, students may be required to turn in keys during the school day. Keys must be turned in to an appropriate administration. The speed limit on school grounds is 10 m.p.h. **(The school and/or district is not responsible for vehicles or their contents while on school property.)** Be advised, all vehicles are subject to search. The

school administration has the right to search vehicles in the parking lot when reasonable suspicion exists and warrants a search. The school administration has the right to deny any student the privilege of parking on school property when the student has abused the privilege or displayed unsafe driving habits. Observe and respect designated handicap parking spaces.

### **Public Addresses**

Students have the right to express their points of view in a non-disruptive manner. However, at a school sponsored activity, from pep assemblies, class meetings, to graduation speeches, as per Supreme Court, the school not only has the right, but the duty to ensure that the student abides by reasonable standards. Centauri High School has the right of editorial control over the style and content of a speech in a school setting, from formal to informal addresses.

### **School-Related Student Publications**

School-sponsored publications are a public forum for students as well as an educational activity through which students can gain experience in reporting, writing, editing and understanding responsible journalism. Because the Board recognizes creative student expression as an educational benefit of the school experience, it encourages freedom of comment, both oral and written, in a school setting with a degree of order in which proper learning can take place. The Board encourages students to express their views in school-sponsored publications and to observe rules for responsible journalism. This means expression which is false or obscene, libelous, slanderous or defamatory under state law; presents a clear and present danger of the commission of unlawful acts, violation of school rules or material and substantial disruption of the orderly operation of the school; violates the privacy rights of others; or threatens violence to property or persons shall not be permitted.

### **Dress Code**

A safe and disciplined learning environment is essential to a quality educational program. District-wide standards on student attire are intended to help students concentrate on schoolwork, reduce discipline problems, and improve school order and safety. The Board recognizes that students have a right to express themselves through dress and personal appearance; however, students shall not wear apparel that is deemed disruptive or potentially disruptive to the classroom environment or to the maintenance of a safe and orderly school. Any student deemed in violation of the dress code shall be required to change into appropriate clothing, or make arrangements to have appropriate clothing brought to school immediately. If the student cannot promptly obtain appropriate clothing, the student shall remain in the administrative office until appropriate clothing can be obtained. In these cases, there shall be no further penalty.

Repeated violations of the district dress code, may lead to detention, suspension or other disciplinary action as outlined in the school discipline code.

## **Unacceptable items**

The following items are deemed disruptive to the classroom environment or to the maintenance of a safe and orderly school and are not acceptable in school buildings, on school grounds, or at school activities:

1. Shorts, dresses, skirts or other similar clothing shorter than mid-thigh length.
2. Sunglasses, hats, sweatbands, and bandanas worn inside the building
3. Inappropriately sheer, or low-cut clothing (i.e., midriffs, halter tops, backless clothing, tube tops, garments made of fishnet mesh or similar material, muscle tops, jeans with holes above the fingertips, etc.) that bare or expose traditionally private parts of the body including, but not limited to, the stomach, buttocks, back and breasts. **Pants may not expose skin above the fingertips. Slits in jeans above the fingertips will be permitted as long as there are not significant amounts of skin exposed. Large holes in the jeans will not be permitted above the fingertips.**
4. Tank Tops or other similar clothing with straps narrower than the width of a dollar bill.
5. Sagging or wearing pants below the waist and/or in a manner that allows underwear or bare skin to show, or the wearing of excessively baggy pants with low hanging crotches are prohibited. Belt ends may not hang down more than 2 inches.
6. Clothing and hair accessories that are unsafe and/or dangerous are not permitted (For example, studded belts, chains, spikes, or handcuffs.
7. Any clothing, paraphernalia, grooming, jewelry, hair coloring, accessories, or body adornments that are or contain any advertisement, symbols, words, slogans, patches, or pictures that
  - Refer to drugs, tobacco, alcohol, or weapons
  - Are of a sexual nature
  - By virtue of color, arrangement, trademark, or other attribute denote membership in gangs which advocate drugs use, violence, or disruptive behavior
  - Are obscene, profane, vulgar, lewd, or legally libelous
  - Threaten the safety or welfare of any person
  - Promote any activity prohibited by the student code of conduct
  - Otherwise disrupt the teaching-learning process

Clothing for special occasions must be prior-approved with the principal (homecoming, spirit-day, etc.)

Building principals, in conjunction with the school accountability committee, may develop and adopt school-specific dress codes that are consistent with this policy.

## **Public Displays of Affection**

Displays of affection other than holding hands do not have a place in our school. The following steps can be taken if students go beyond this limit:

1. Student Conference
2. Noon Detention
3. Parents Notified

## **Lunch and Cafeteria**

Students may bring lunches from home. We encourage all students to use the cafeteria as a place for pleasant relaxation, conversation and leisurely eating. Students are expected to leave the table where they have eaten clean and orderly. The school administration reserves the right to deny a

student the privilege of eating in the cafeteria for misbehavior. If students utilize outdoor tables, cafeteria or use utensils/trays, students must return lunch utensils/trays and leave the area cleans.

### **Breakfast**

Breakfast will now be served at the beginning of Second hour. Students will be eating breakfast in a timely manner so that classroom instruction is not hindered. Students will clean up after they eat and wipe the table down if a mess occurs. All students will have the opportunity to eat if they are present in class at the beginning of class. Students are encouraged to eat breakfast to get a good start to their day.

### **Truancy**

Truancy is considered absence from school/class without permission or leaving school without properly checking out through the office. Penalties for truancy are detention and subsequent suspension according to policy.

### **Lunch Passes**

Parents must sign and return a lunch pass form if they want their son or daughter excused during lunch. Students that abuse this privilege by returning tardy to fifth period will lose their lunch pass.

The administration may revoke lunch passes for fighting off school grounds, stealing from local businesses or any other infractions of school regulations or failure to possess passing grades in any/all classes. Lunch passes will be revoked for taking/or attempting to take students without a lunch pass off campus. ***Remember—A Lunch Pass is a Privilege!!!***

The administration has the right to close the campus during noon hour for all students when student behavior warrants such action. The school is not responsible to monitor with whom student's ride.

**Once a student is issued a year-long lunch pass he/she will not be issued a daily pass.** Lost year-long passes need to be replaced by purchasing a new pass from the office and a student cannot leave campus until a new pass is secured.

### **Make Up Work**

Students who have an excused absence may make up missed class work; however, it is the responsibility of students to obtain assignments from teachers. Students shall be allowed one day plus the number of days absent to complete assignments. (Example--If a student is absent Monday and Tuesday and returns to class on Wednesday, he/she must have make-up work turned in by class Monday). Students who miss a class because of school-related activities must make arrangements with teachers prior to departure to secure make-up work. **If a student is enrolled in a college class the college syllabus takes precedent over school policy.**

### **Tardiness**

**Tardies are considered unacceptable behavior** and are unnecessary. **Each unexcused tardy** will be assigned noon detention. **Four excused tardies** will result in noon detention also. If a student arrives late to school, he or she must report to the office for a late slip. If a student has been detained in the office or by a teacher, a tardy slip must be obtained before going to the next class. **(Any student arriving late that does not check in at the office will be assigned detention.)**



## School Sponsored Activities

All students must be in good standing to attend activities that are sponsored through the school. Good Standing includes that students must be academically eligible (No F's) and that students have not violated any of the major school rules within the last 2 weeks.

-All students must attend school the day before and the day of the activity. The only absences that are exempt from this are medical, funeral, driver's license, court or school excused absences.

### School Dances

Dances at Centauri High School are for the benefit of CHS students only. Students may bring a guest by obtaining a pass from the office prior to the day of the dance. Administration reserves the right to refuse admittance to any guest.

- No student **below** the 9th grade is permitted to attend.
- No one can leave the building and expect to return to dance.
- Students under the influence of alcohol or drugs may not attend and are subject to school penalties and may be referred to law enforcement
- School dress code will be enforced. (No hats, chains, etc.) Certain dances will be declared as formal wear. Students are expected to dress appropriately for a school dance.
- Prom –Only Juniors and Seniors may bring out-of-district dates after securing a Dance Guest Pass, Freshman must attend with a CHS upper classman student.
- Homecoming – All Sophomores, Juniors and Seniors may bring out-of-district dates after securing a Dance Guest Pass, all Freshman may attend.
- All other school rules will apply.
- All students must be in good standing to attend school dances. Good Standing includes that students must be academically eligible (No F's) and that students have not violated any of the major school rules within the last 2 weeks.
- All students must attend school the day before and the day of the dance. The only absences that are exempt from this are medical, funeral, driver's license, court or school excused absences.

### Fire Drills

Fire drills at regular intervals are required by law and are an important safety precaution. It is essential that everyone obeys orders promptly and clears the building by the prescribed route as quickly as possible. Each classroom has an emergency exit procedure posted and each teacher has been trained in fire drill procedures.

### Lock-down Procedures

Lock-down drills will be held occasionally as outlined in the district crisis management plan.

**Lock-out** – Whereby students may move inside the building as usual. When students need to move to the band room or shop areas, administration in conjunction with the band/shop teachers will monitor the transition zones.

**Lock-down** – Will occur whenever the safety of students and staff are jeopardized due to situations deemed dangerous. All individuals will be confined to a room until administration deems the situation is safe and rooms will be notified individually.

## **Guidance/Counseling Services**

Guidance services are available for every student in school. Services include assistance with educational planning, interpretation of test scores, occupation and career planning, study assistance, help with home, school, and/or social concerns or any questions or problems the students may wish to discuss with the counselor. Students wishing to see the counselor should make an appointment in the office and will be called by the counselor as soon as feasible.

## **Tutoring Services**

It is critical to earn quality grades in preparation for college, to stay eligible for athletics and academics. Tutoring services are provided to students by faculty after school on designated days when announced. NHS members will be providing tutoring during lunch detention in Mrs. Parrish's classroom upon request.

## **Office and Telephone**

The office and guidance office telephones are for school business and emergency calls only. Students may use the office phone to contact parents with office permission.

**Students are not to be in the office unless invited after checking in.**

## **Other Rules and Regulations**

1. Student visitors are not allowed.
2. Parents and legal guardians are welcome to visit the school at any time after checking with the principal.
3. Food and beverages are not allowed in gym.
4. Sunflower seeds and pinon nuts are not allowed in the building.
5. Students are responsible for all their valuables, band instruments, athletic equipment, valuables, etc. The school attempts to monitor the hall, lockers and locker rooms, but does not assume responsibility for lost or stolen items.
6. Hall passes are required by any student not in class during class period.
7. The gym is opened for use during lunch and between classes. Students not using acceptable behavior in the gym will be subject to disciplinary action.
8. All financial obligations must be met by students before participation in graduation exercises.
9. Transportation is provided to and from school for all students. Students riding the bus must adhere to rules and regulations adopted by the North Conejos School District. Misconduct on buses will result in disciplinary action.
10. Internet Use - Students will have a signed contract on file. Failure to comply with the contract will cause student to lose privilege for time determined by administration. Repeated offense will result in disciplinary action.
11. **Cell phones** and **all electrical devices** and **accessories** can only be seen and/or in use before and after school. Use during school time in any manner will result in confiscation and detention will be assigned. **Parents must arrange to pick up the confiscated items upon second and subsequent offenses.**

## **Athletics and Extracurricular Activities**

Centauri High School offers a variety of extracurricular activities and encourages all students to participate. Centauri High is a member of the Intermountain League. To be eligible to participate in athletics and extracurricular activities, a student must meet scholastic requirements; have parental consent and the approval of a medical doctor (athletics only). All students wishing to participate in

extracurricular activities will be provided with a copy of the athletic handbook. Any students who wants to participate in extracurricular activities will meet the following eligibility requirements.

### **Drug Testing Policy**

**RANDOM DRUG TESTING FOR STUDENTS IN SCHOOL-SPONSORED EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES** For the health, safety, and success of its students, North Conejos School District has a compelling interest in providing a learning environment that is free of drugs and alcohol. Toward this end, the District has adopted disciplinary policies that prohibit students from possessing, using, and distributing illegal drugs and alcohol on school property, at school events, on school vehicles, and off school property when such conduct has a nexus to school. Despite this prohibition, the District has noted and documented, both formally and informally, an increase in the use of illegal drugs and alcohol among District middle school and high school students, particularly among high school students who participate in extracurricular activities. This trend poses a significant threat to student health and safety and indicates that students require additional incentives to make good decisions related to drug and alcohol use. For these reasons, the District, with the support of the community, is authorizing and implementing a program of random drug testing in accordance with this policy JJJ-1, Random Drug Testing for Students in School-Sponsored Extracurricular Activities and its accompanying regulation, JJJ-1R, Extracurricular Activities Random Drug Testing Regulation, for all students in grades six through twelve who participate in extracurricular activities. Participation in extracurricular activities is a privilege, not a right, and students exercising this privilege are expected to accept the responsibilities that accompany it, including the responsibilities of refraining from, or getting treatment for, drug and alcohol use. The purposes of this program are to provide for the health and safety of students by deterring drug and alcohol use, to undermine the effects of peer pressure by providing a legitimate reason for students to refuse to use drugs and alcohol, and to encourage students who use drugs and/or alcohol to participate in available treatment programs. The purpose of this program is not to punish students who have made poor decisions related to drug and alcohol use

### **Eligibility**

Standards for athletic eligibility are set by the Colorado High School Activities Association. Centauri High School will follow the state requirements:

#### **Listed are the general eligibility rules as set by CHSAA:**

A student shall be eligible to represent his/her school in an interscholastic activity sanctioned by the Colorado High School Activities Association if such student meets the following specific requirements:

1. The student is a bona fide undergraduate member of his/her school.
2. In the judgment of the principal of the student's school he/she is a representative of the school's ideals in matter of conduct and sportsmanship.
3. During the period of participation, the student must be enrolled in courses which offer, in aggregate, a minimum of 2.5 Carnegie units of credit per semester and must not be failing more than the equivalent of one-half Carnegie units of credit.
4. No make-up work shall be permitted after the close of the semester and/or the designated periodic eligibility check for the purpose of becoming eligible.
5. Age requirement: A student may not participate in the upcoming school year if he/she reaches his/her 19th birthday prior to August 1 of the school year.
6. **(Attendance requirement)** --A student must be in attendance **all day** to be eligible to participate in a practice, game, or participate in any extracurricular activity. If the activity is after regular school hours, student must be in attendance all day. If the activity is on a day when school is not in session then the attendance must be on the last day school was in session prior to the activity. (Ex: For Friday and Saturday activities Thursday's attendance is required).  
Exceptions to this rule will have to be **Pre-arranged** with the Assistant Principal or Principal. Medical appointments, Dept. of Motor Vehicles, court dates and Funerals may be excused, but must be pre-arranged with administration or cleared via a doctor's note if applicable. The health of the student is first priority, if students are sick and cannot be in school, they are too sick to participate in games or practice.

7. Alcohol and Drug use is prohibited, this is to include athletes that are in attendance at gatherings, parties, etc., where drugs and alcohol are known to be available. First offense not on a school activity will be an automatic suspension from participation in interscholastic competition (see Athletic Handbook). A suspension at the end of a given sports season will carry over to the next sport season, and may extend into the next academic year. The athlete is expected to attend regular practices if he/she plans to remain with the team.

\*During this time the coach will set up certain criteria, approved by Principal/Athletic Director for the athlete to participate in such applicable actions such as counseling, extra practices, and/or parental contracts. (In addition, violators will be subject to applicable school policy). A mandatory parent, player and coach's meeting within the first week of the suspension will occur.

\*First offense on a school activity is dismissal from the team.

Second violation during the same academic year will result in dismissal of athletic participation for an entire calendar year.

### **Coaches of interscholastic athletics are listed in the athletic handbook.**

All clubs and organizations, except athletics, are chartered by the CHS STUCO and are required to have a copy of their constitutions, charter, and financial statements placed in the office under the direction of the student council adviser. All clubs and classes must have all activities approved by the principal or assistant principal.

### **Safe To Tell**

Save To Tell – is an anonymous way to report unsafe behavior. Behavior such as but not limited to: Bullying, Animal cruelty, Theft, Threats, Graffiti, Alcohol abuse, Sexual abuse, Vandalism, Gangs and/or gang behavior, Internet safety, drugs, Fire starting, Suicide threats.

1-877-542-7233 [www.safe2tellco.org](http://www.safe2tellco.org)

### **SAFER STUDENTS SAFER SCHOOLS**

### **School Resource Officer**

North Conejos School District works in collaboration with a school resource officer (SRO). The role of the SRO is to ensure the safety and security of the school. As a member of the school staff, the resource officer will be present in the school throughout the school year, as well as serving on the school threat assessment team and Emergency Response team. The SRO also serves as an on-site law enforcement officer and liaison to the county sheriff's office and local law enforcement. All in school discipline issues will be investigated and carried out by the school administration.

### **Club Organizations and Sponsors**

NATIONAL HONOR SOCIETY	Mrs. Stephanie Parrish
Family, Career, and Community Leaders of America (FCCLA)	Mrs. Bechaver
SKILLS - USA	Mr. Roberts
SPANISH CLUB	Mr. Harmsen
STUDENT COUNCIL	Mrs. Crowther
CHESS CLUB	Mr. Huffaker
FUTURE BUSINESS LEADERS OF AMERICA (FBLA)	Mrs. Kalee Buhr
SENIOR CLASS	Mr. Pawloski
JUNIOR CLASS	Mrs. Armstrong
SOPHOMORE CLASS	Mrs. Kristi Jarvies
FRESHMAN CLASS	Mrs. Crowther
AG/FFA	Ms. Hoyt
HOSA	Mrs. White

KNOWLEDGE BOWL  
DRAMA CLUB

Mr. Forster  
Mrs. Larsen

### Faculty at CHS

#### English

Mr. Nikolai Pawloski  
Mrs. Kelanee Crowther  
Mr. Cole Miller  
Mrs. Amy Larsen  
Mrs. Kim Mortensen  
Mrs. Misty Espinoza

#### Science

Mr. Mark Parrish  
Mrs. Sandra Archuleta  
Mrs. Stephanie Parrish

#### CTE

Mrs. Tanya White- Med Prep  
Mrs. Kalee Buhr- Business  
Mr. Clint Huffaker- Welding  
Mr. John Sowards- Auto  
Mrs. Mystie Hoyt- Agriculture  
Mr. Thomas Roberts- Wood Shop

Librarian- Kristi Jarvies  
School Resource Officer- Rodney Noga

#### Math

Mr. Bart Shawcroft  
Mr. David Ruybal  
Mr. Cade Huffaker  
Mrs. Misty Espinoza

#### History

Mrs. Cammi Sowards  
Mrs. Chelsea Bechaver  
Mr. Brandon Gonzales

#### Electives

Mrs. Kirsten Riccatone- Art  
Mr. Kyle Forster- PE  
Mr. Brian Garrison- Band  
Mr. Glenn Harmsen- Spanish

## North Conejos School District Calendar

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

Sep 2024						
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29	30					

Oct 2024						
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Nov 2024						
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Dec 2024						
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29	30	31				

Jan 2025						
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Feb 2025						
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Mar 2025						
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30	31					

Apr 2025						
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May 2025						
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Jun 2025						
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29	30					

Jul 2025						
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27	28	29	30	31		

1st Semester	
Aug. 7-8	Student Registration
Aug. 5-8 & 12	Teacher Flex Day
Aug. 13	Teacher Inservice
Aug. 14	First Day of School
Aug. 28-28	School Open Houses
Sept. 2	Labor Day – No School
Sept. 16 & 18	Elem. PT Conference
Sept. 23 & 24	MS-HS PT Conference
Oct. 4	Teacher Inservice
Oct. 17	First Quarter Ends
Nov. 25-28	Thanksgiving Break
Dec. 13	Teacher Workday
Dec. 19	Semester Ends
Dec. 23 – Jan. 2	Winter Break

Student Contact Days: 146
Student Contact Hours: 1,084
Teacher Contracted Days: 162
1st Semester: 88 days
1st Quarter: 37 days / 2nd Quarter: 32 days
2nd Semester: 78 days
3rd Quarter: 40 days / 4th Quarter: 38 days

  

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<span style="background-color: #f4cccc; border: 1px solid black; display: inline-block; width: 15px; height: 10px;"></span> Semester Begins
<span style="background-color: #d9ead3; border: 1px solid black; display: inline-block; width: 15px; height: 10px;"></span> Quarter Ends
<span style="background-color: #f4cccc; border: 1px solid black; display: inline-block; width: 15px; height: 10px;"></span> Teacher In-service
<span style="background-color: #fff2cc; border: 1px solid black; display: inline-block; width: 15px; height: 10px;"></span> Vacation / No School
<span style="background-color: #f4cccc; border: 1px solid black; display: inline-block; width: 15px; height: 10px;"></span> Graduation
* Employee Blackout Days

2nd Semester	
Jan. 6	School Resumes
Jan. 31	Teacher Inservice
Feb. 3 & 5	Elem. PT Conference
Feb. 10 & 11	MS-HS PT Conference
Mar. 13	Third Quarter Ends
Mar. 17-20	Spring Break
Mar. 28	Teacher Workday
May 22	Semester Ends
May 23	Teacher Workday
May 24	Graduation