



STUDENT HANDBOOK

ELEMENTARY 2024-2025



TABLE OF CONTENTS

Mission Statement	1	Alternative to Dissection	15
C.A.R.E. Statement	1	Technology Usage	15
School Counseling	2	Electronic Devices	16
School Enrollment Age Guidelines	2	Photography of Students and Personnel	16
Attendance	2	Use of Personal Computing Devices	17
Extended Absences	3	Computing Resources and Internet Access Consent	17
Enrollment – Students’ Legal Settlement	4	Student Office 365 Accounts	20
Textbook and Rental Fees	4	Conduct	20
Returned Check Policy	5	Access Restriction	20
Health Clinic Services and the School Nurse	5	Security	20
Reporting Absences	5	Privacy	20
Homework Due to Illness	6	Backpack Identification	21
Non-Participation in Class/Activities	6	Birthdays	21
Recess	6	Classroom Celebrations	21
Physical Education	6	Evening School Events	21
After School Activities	7	Study Trips	22
Tardy To School	7	Administration of Medications and Treatments	22
Appointments During the School Day	7	Animals	23
Late Start or Early Release for Non-School Activities	7	Parent-Teacher Organization	23
Walking or Bicycling to/from School	8	Reporting Child Abuse	23
Alternate Route Home/Permanent Change	8	Telephone Calls and Emails	23
Transportation Change During the Day	8	Withdraw/Transfer of Students	24
Lost or Stolen Items	8	What to Do if You Suspect a Disability/Child Find	24
Deliveries From Outside Vendors	8	Behavior Expectations	24
ParentSquare Communication App	8	Student Rules	24
Emergency Phone Numbers	9	Dressing For School	25
Building Visitors/Volunteers	9	Sexual Harassment	26
Directory Information-FERPA	10	Discipline Code	26
Recess	10	Anti-Bullying	26
Playground Rules/Consequences	11	Applicability	27
Lunchroom Rules/Consequences	11	Education	27
Food Service Procedures	12	Reporting	27
Lunch Time Visitors	12	Investigation	28
Food Allergies/Dietary Restrictions	12	Intervention/Responses	28
Milk Allergies	12	Parental Involvement	28
Snacks in the Classroom	13	Reporting to IDOE	28
School Newsletter	13	Discipline Consequences	29
Access to School Before or After School Hours	13	Serious Discipline Consequences	29
Religious Observations/Instruction	13	Student Due Process	29
Academic Evaluation	14	Attending Class Equals Success (Aces) Program	30
Report Cards	14	Bus Expectations	30
Grading Scale	14	Video Surveillance	30
Conferences	14	Criminal Organizations	31
Standardized Testing	14	Non-Discrimination & Non-Harassment Statement	31
Dissection and Dissection Alternatives	15	Notification of Rights Under FERPA	32
Classroom Procedures for Dissection Activities	15		

MISSION STATEMENT

Hamilton Southeastern Schools, as a forward-thinking school district, provides excellence in education and opportunities to ensure the success of each and every student, to become a responsible citizen and to positively influence an ever-changing world community.

C.A.R.E. STATEMENT

Hamilton Southeastern Schools is committed to providing each student with learning experiences that are deep and relevant and encourage the development of each student's unique identity. HSE will meet each student where they are and make the dignity of each individual a priority while respecting all students and teachers' diverse backgrounds and beliefs. HSE supports all students as they foster relationships with character, acceptance, respect, and education for all.

SCHOOL COUNSELING

The school counselor is here to help students have a positive school experience. Our counselor talks with students individually or in small groups, as well as providing classroom guidance for all children. Consulting with teachers, parents/guardians, and other school specialists, our counselor helps facilitate and address children's needs as well as sponsoring school-wide programs that promote a positive school climate and support the school's Social and Emotional education goals. In addition, our counselor serves as a liaison between parents/guardians, the school, and community resources.

Often times, children face difficulties which may prevent them from working well in school. These could include upsetting events, such as divorce, job loss, a recent move, or a death in the family. Sometimes children have trouble adjusting to school or are having difficulty with their friendships. Please let our counselor know if there is a situation in which we can help your child.

SCHOOL ENROLLMENT AGE GUIDELINES

Indiana Law requires anyone between the ages of seven and sixteen to attend school. Indiana Code sets the age requirement for school enrollment as follows:

Kindergarten – Age 5 on or before August 1st

Grade 1 – Age 6 on or before August 1st

ATTENDANCE

It is important that your child is at school each day. Good attendance is one of the keys to achieving your child's full potential in the learning process. The overall rate of attendance is one of four determining factors in our accreditation rating with the Indiana Department of Education. Depending upon the time of year, absence can also have an impact on school funding.

Attendance will be excused but not counted against absence numbers for the following reasons:

- School-sponsored trips;
- Court appearance or witness in judicial proceedings;
- Service as a legislative page;
- Participation in an election;
- Active duty with the Indiana National Guard;
- Active duty with the Indiana wing of civil air patrol;
- Religious instruction;
- Attendance excused by the principal/designee;

- Exhibiting or participating in State Fair-- A student may be excused if the student or member of the student's household participates or exhibits in the Indiana State fair for educational purposes. The student's parent/guardian must provide a written note indicating the educational purpose and the school principal must approve the absence. A student may not miss more than (5) days in a school year due to attending the State Fair. The student must be in good academic standing with the school as determined by HSE.

Attendance will be excused but counted against absence numbers for the following reasons:

- The student's illness or injury (documented);
- Accident involving the student's transportation;
- Death or serious illness in the student's immediate family;
- Religious observations;
- College visits;
- Attendance excused by the principal/designee

Students of active-duty personnel shall have additional excused absences at the discretion of the District for visitations relative to leave or deployment.

Excused absences at the elementary school level means the student is counted as absent, but it falls under one of the legal reasons for an absence. All other absences are considered unexcused.

A student may not be absent from school for more than ten (10) days per school year. Both excused and unexcused absences count toward this maximum of ten days.

Further undocumented absences will be unexcused. Students must have a written explanation from their doctor for every absence above and beyond the maximum of 10 days per year. Parents/guardians are ultimately responsible for their child's school attendance. Students with excessive absences and/or tardies will be referred to the HSE attendance officer.

At the elementary level, the half day absence mark is 10:55AM for student day. Any student arriving after 8:40AM and prior to 10:55AM will be marked half day absence.

EXTENDED ABSENCES

Students who are absent from school for an excess of 10 consecutive school days may be subject to the following actions as each may be deemed appropriate by the School, all subject to further procedure in accordance with this Student Handbook and Indiana law: (i) the School may exit the student as an out of state transfer. The parent/guardian shall be responsible for enrolling the student where they are located and re-enrolling the student upon their return; (ii) at the election of the parent/guardian, the student may be exited as a transfer to Homeschooling; (iii) upon approval of the School, the extended absence may be

excused if the trip is for education purposes in accordance with Ind. Code 20-33-2-17.5; or (iv) the extended absences may be reported as unexcused absences, which may subject the student to truancy or expulsion procedures and require the School to notify DCS or other entities as required by Indiana law.

Parents/guardians should provide the School with advanced notice of any planned extended absences sufficient to satisfy one of the above-referenced options. Failure to provide advanced notice may lead to the extended absence being declared unexcused, which may subject the student to truancy or expulsion procedures and require the School to notify DCS or other entities as required by Indiana law.

ENROLLMENT – STUDENTS’ LEGAL SETTLEMENT

Per Indiana Code, a student may be expelled from school if the student’s legal settlement is not in the attendance area of the school corporation where the student is enrolled.

TEXTBOOK RENTAL AND FEES

The term "Curricular materials" means systematically organized material designed to provide a specific level of instruction in a subject matter category, including: (1) books; (2) hardware that will be consumed, accessed, or used by a single student during a semester or school year; (3) computer software; and (4) digital content. These items have historically been referred to as “textbooks.”

Generally speaking, the district is no longer charging textbook rental fees for curricular materials that are necessary for the implementation of educational standards for our students.

Fees and charges that are still applicable include: (1) pre-school charges and fees; (2) field trips; (3) extracurricular activities; (4) lost, stolen, or significantly damaged district hardware, textbooks, etc.

Payments for applicable fees and charges can be made via eFunds. A link to eFunds can be found on Skyward Family Access under the Fee Management tab of the district and school websites under “Quick Links” tab. If you do not have internet access, you may contact your child’s school to request a paper statement.

Up to \$8.35 in processing fees along with collection fees may be added if the balance remains outstanding after the due date. All returned checks will result in a \$15.00 non-sufficient funds fee. Loss, theft, or “beyond use” damage fees will be assessed by the school and collected at the end of each semester or year.

If a student leaves Hamilton Southeastern Schools, no refund of fees aggregating \$20.00 or less will be made unless there are extreme circumstances. Refunds over \$20.00 will be processed through normal procedures.

RETURNED CHECK POLICY

According to HSE Board adopted policy, all returned checks will result in a \$20 non-sufficient funds fee.

HEALTH CLINIC SERVICES AND THE SCHOOL NURSE

A full-time registered nurse is employed by Community Hospital and located in each of the building's school health clinic to assist students with their medical and health needs during the school day. The goal of the school nurse is to provide a safe and healthy environment for the students. Please contact the nurse if you have any health-related questions or concerns.

All routine medications and treatment for students will take place in the health clinic with the exception of those specifically addressed in the student's Individual Health Plan (IHP). The clinic facilities are provided for ill, injured and students with health concerns and should not be abused. Parent/guardian will be notified if a student has frequent visits to the clinic.

The health of our students, health education, and health maintenance are a high priority for our nursing professionals in the school system.

Parents/guardians should refer to Health Services on the HSE website for additional information on all health policies and procedures.

REPORTING ABSENCES

When your child is absent from school, please call the school office before 9:00AM each day he/she is absent. Please report the child's name, classroom teacher, and illness. It is helpful for the school nurse to know the nature of illnesses in our school to identify symptoms of others seen in the clinic. A doctor's permission to return to school may be required dependent upon the length and type of illness your child is experiencing. We ask you to do this to ensure the safety of your child and to confirm that he/she is either here or with you at home. Our voicemail system will take messages concerning absences before and after office hours. If you do not contact the office, contact will be made with you by the school.

HOMEWORK DUE TO ILLNESS

In case of absences, parents/guardians may request homework for their child on the second consecutive day of absence due to illness. Please call the school office by 8:10AM if requesting homework, so that the classroom teachers have adequate time to prepare the assignments. Homework may be picked up in the office between 2:15PM -

3:00PM. Generally speaking, a student has one day for every day absent to complete make up work.

NON-PARTICIPATION IN CLASS/ACTIVITIES

RECESS

All students are expected to participate in recess each day. Recess will be held outdoors on all days in which weather permits. Therefore, students should dress appropriately on all days as they will be expected to go outside with their class. Students not participating may bring a note from home or their physician. Our school policy only allows a student to use a note from home for three (3) school days after which time a parental note should be replaced with a doctor's note. Any student missing physical education, for any reason, will not be permitted to participate in recess activities. They will go outside for recess and may be an observer but may not participate in recess activities. Parents/guardians need to communicate any recess excuse to both the school nurse and the classroom teacher. Parents/guardians who wish to discuss a particular situation may contact their student's classroom teacher.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION

As a vital part of our curriculum, all students are required to participate in physical education. To be excused from participating, a student **MUST** have a doctor's note stating why he/she cannot participate and for how long the student will be excused. If a student is injured and is waiting to go to a doctor, a parental note may be used. However, a parental note will only be good for one day. The student **MUST** have a doctor's note to continue to be excused from physical education class.

Any student with an excused absence/nonparticipation day in physical education is not permitted to participate in active extracurricular functions. This includes sports, camps, bowling, intramural athletics and travel sports teams. Please keep in mind that teachers are not physicians. When notes are being written to our teachers, be specific. The note must contain a stop and start date for the restrictions. Terms such as "limited activity, some activity, not too much activity, and do what they feel like" are very ambiguous and open to varied interpretation. Therefore, any notes which are not specific will be interpreted as no physical activity.

Students who physically do not participate in physical education class will be responsible for everything taught on an informational/knowledge/intellectual basis. However, a student must also participate to earn at least a satisfactory grade in physical education. Prolonged absence from physical education, without a doctor's excuse, could jeopardize the student's grade. Therefore, all communication for excused participation from physical education should be made with the physical education teacher. Parents/guardians who wish to discuss a particular situation may contact their student's physical education teacher.

AFTER SCHOOL ACTIVITIES

Any student who is ill and has either not attended school or has been sent home sick from school may not participate in any after-school activities until symptom free for twenty-four (24) hours. In order to participate in any extra-curricular or after school activity, a student must be in attendance at school a minimum of one-half day on the day of the event.

TARDY TO SCHOOL

If your child is late to school, please sign them in at the front office. Do not, for any reason, drop your child off at the front door. If students are tardy due to circumstances beyond the family's control (power failure, late bus, weather conditions) no tardy report will be filed. Students are marked tardy when a student arrives between 7:40AM – 8:40AM.

APPOINTMENTS DURING THE SCHOOL DAY

If an appointment requires that your child arrive late to school or be released early from school, your child must be signed in and/or signed out at the school office by a parent/guardian or other authorized adult and show a valid picture ID. If your child is routinely arriving late or leaving early from school, they are missing accumulated instructional time.

LATE START OR EARLY RELEASE FOR NON-SCHOOL ACTIVITIES

Late starts or early releases for activities such as lessons, practices, etc. are discouraged as they are not in the best educational interest of the students. However, some circumstances require that a student be late to school or dismissed before the end of the school day on a regular basis. Parents/guardians should contact the building principal for the specific procedure for consideration and approval of a request for regular late start or early release of any student for a non-school activity.

WALKING OR BICYCLING TO/FROM SCHOOL

Students may walk or ride their bike to and from school only when accompanied by a parent or guardian.

ALTERNATE ROUTE HOME/PERMANENT CHANGE

For detailed information regarding permanent dismissal changes, please reference **Daily Procedures** on your school's website.

TRANSPORTATION CHANGE DURING THE DAY

For detailed information regarding transportation changes during the school day, please reference **Daily Procedures** on your school's website.

LOST OR STOLEN ITEMS

The school is not responsible for any lost or stolen items. Any item on school premises or brought to a school function that is considered inappropriate, misused, or prohibited may be confiscated by school personnel.

DELIVERIES FROM OUTSIDE VENDORS

The school will not accept flowers, balloons, or gift deliveries of any kind for students.

SCHOOL CLOSING/EARLY RELEASE

When Hamilton Southeastern Schools are closed for weather related issues, the YMCA school care is closed as well.

PARENTSQUARE COMMUNICATION APP

Schedules change, buses run late, emergencies occur. Hamilton Southeastern Schools has implemented an instant alert system, Parent Square, which can be utilized by district or individual building administrators, as needed. This system allows the school to notify parents/guardians of emergencies and/or changes to the school's regular schedule more quickly and conveniently. Parent Square brings critical and/or changing news directly to the intended audience, as parents/guardians can select how and where they receive messages. Please download the Parent Square app which is available on both iOS and Android devices. Parent Square Directions link includes how to change languages.

https://parentsquare.zendesk.com/hc/enus/articles/217446746-LanguageSettings#h_01HK8E3SK1ZE2C1WZXA33T6N5Y

EMERGENCY PHONE NUMBERS

Upon registration of your child, you were asked to provide the school with phone numbers of people that could be reached in cases of emergency. If these numbers change during the school year, please inform the school so that we will always have up-to-date information on file. Please make sure the people the school is to notify are willing to take responsibility for your child in case you cannot be reached.

BUILDING VISITORS/VOLUNTEERS

Parents/guardians are welcome to visit classrooms and our school. Please give your child time to adjust to his/her new environment. Per Board Policy, we ask that you schedule visits with the teacher at least one school day before any such visit to set up an appropriate time and length of visit in order to keep class disruptions to a minimum. All visitors must check in at the office to sign in, receive, and wear Visitor's Badge before going to other parts of the building. Any time your destination changes, please stop by the office and make note of your new location on the sign in forms. Stop by the office on your way out of the building to sign out. Please silence your cell phones upon entering the building to minimize disruption to the educational environment. Visitors should refrain from taking photos of students due to FERPA privacy.

Generally speaking, teachers as well as parents/guardians, appreciate knowing when they may expect visitors. Most teachers like to have the day on its way before visitors arrive. Parents/guardians can understand why the first and last weeks of each semester, days prior to vacation, and scheduled testing times would preclude visitation.

It is not just a mere courtesy, but for the children's safety and education, we cannot allow parents/guardians and/or visitors to walk into classrooms unexpectedly. With uncertain situations and restraining orders, it is in the interest of all that our school personnel are aware of who is in the building. Pick up or delivery of items for students must be cleared through the office. We ask you to drop off items at the office. We can deliver items to students without interrupting the classroom. We must try to keep classroom interruptions to a minimum in order to maximize learning time.

Parents/guardians are welcome to volunteer in classrooms. Please contact the teacher to arrange the appropriate date and time. Younger siblings are not permitted to accompany parents/guardians to classrooms when volunteering. Any individual who volunteers in Hamilton Southeastern Schools or on a school related function must have an approved background check on file.

DIRECTORY INFORMATION-FERPA

The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act ("FERPA") ensures that personally identifiable information of students in school records are kept confidential. The law specifies, however, that certain non-sensitive "Directory Information" may be released for

any purpose at the discretion of the school corporation, with general notification of such intent. Please consider this notice as a general notification for the current school year.

Hamilton Southeastern Schools considers “Directory Information” to be: Student’s name, Age, Grade level, School, Photographs, Honors and awards, Participation in officially recognized activities or athletics, Dates of attendance, Enrollment status, Address, Phone numbers, Email Address, Teacher of record

This Directory Information is used for a variety of purposes such as yearbook or student newspaper, printed programs for extracurricular activities, news releases to the local media, corporation publications, and interviews with local news media. It can also be used on the corporation website, corporation videos, podcasts, and interviews with local news media for broadcast on TV or radio. In the case of high school students, information can be released to colleges.

Please know that you have the right to request that the school not disclose any or all directory information. Please consider very carefully your decision to request the school not to disclose directory information. This information is typically used in news stories about our students’ achievements and classroom activities, honor roll lists, the yearbook, and school directories, and school and corporation newsletters. **Should you deny permission for the release of information, any future requests for such information from news media and other individuals will be refused for the duration of the school year.**

To request that the school not disclose directory information, please notify your child’s school in writing within 14 days of the start of the school year or within 14 days of enrolling your child. Otherwise, your student’s directory information may be released without further permission.

Also, please note that United States armed forces recruiters also have a right to a student’s name, address and phone number unless the student’s parent/guardian or the adult student specifically requests in writing that this information is not released to the armed forces recruiters.

RECESS

Recess supervision is provided by responsible school personnel. For every child’s safety and the school’s liability, parents/guardians may not accompany students to recess. Recess will be held outdoors whenever possible. Precipitation, sunshine, cloud cover, wind chill, temperature, etc. are all considered when a decision is made for indoor recess. In general, recess will be held indoors when it is raining, or the temperature/wind chill falls below 15 degrees Fahrenheit. Conversely, if 90 degrees Fahrenheit or higher heat index (relative humidity and temperature) is reached, the school will take special precautions for any outdoor activity and teachers will use extreme caution while monitoring students at recess. In addition, students will be provided ample amounts of

water before and during recess; Recesses will be shortened or may be moved indoors at the discretion of the principal or designee; Children will be watched/monitored carefully for necessary action. These temperatures are based on recommendations from the American Academy of Pediatrics and National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. ***Includes chart and explanation of chart.

PLAYGROUND RULES/CONSEQUENCES

- All students will go out to recess unless they have a note from home. Extended periods of time (more than three days) require a physician's excuse.
- Students should not use any electronic devices during recess—indoor or outdoor.
- Students should take necessary coats and playground equipment with them.
- Students should enter and leave the building in a quiet and orderly manner.
- Students are responsible for the return of all equipment that they took out to recess.
- Students should play in the designated playground areas at each respective building and away from the actual building.
- Students should use the swings as they were designed. Jumping from, standing on, or twisting the chains is not appropriate.
- Students should slide down the slide one at a time and feet first.
- Students should not participate in the following activities: wrestling, tripping, fighting (real or pretend), and tackle football.
- Students are expected to line up immediately when the signal is given for the end of recess.

Additional rules may be added dependent upon the needs of each individual elementary school, grade level, or classroom.

Procedures for the playground and consequences for when they are not followed are created at the building level and per the principal/designee's discretion.

LUNCHROOM RULES/CONSEQUENCES

- Students should walk while in the lunchroom.
- Students should not use any electronic devices during lunch.
- Students should keep hands, feet, and personal items to themselves.
- Students should follow lunchroom procedures by eating their own food and refraining from throwing or playing with their food, napkins, and utensils.
- Students should use an inside voice when speaking with their peers and adults.
- Students should follow all instructions given by adults and be respectful to all.

Additional rules may be added dependent upon the needs of each individual elementary school, grade level, or classroom.

Procedures for the lunchroom and consequences for when they are not followed are created at the building level and per the principal/designee's discretion.

FOOD SERVICE PROCEDURES

All Hamilton Southeastern Elementary Schools follows the same general guidelines with respect to the school lunch program. Parents/guardians should refer to Food Services on the HSE website for additional information on all lunchroom policies.

LUNCH TIME VISITORS

Parents/guardians are permitted to eat with their child any time after the first two weeks of school. Advanced notice needs to be given to the school office. Each building will set the procedure for lunch visitors. Due to enrollment, some buildings may not be able to accommodate providing lunch for visitors. Schools will alert parents/guardians if this is to occur via the school newsletter. Per Hamilton Southeastern Schools' policy, outside drinks or commercially prepared/vendor prepared foods, are not permitted during meal time. In addition, a background check is required to join a student for lunch. Visitors should refrain from taking photos of students during lunch due to FERPA privacy.

FOOD ALLERGIES/DIETARY RESTRICTIONS

If a child has a severe food allergy, requiring an Epi-pen, emergency medication orders must be signed by a student's physician each new school year. Please notify the school of any food allergies or dietary restrictions of specific foods for your child. For ingredients of daily meals please refer to the Food Service page on the website.

MILK ALLERGIES

All milk allergies must be reported to the school nurse. A written doctor's statement must be submitted every year. A carton of milk is included with the price of a school lunch. All students must take a milk carton unless we have a written note from a physician stating your child has a milk allergy. The school has water and juice to offer these students. For safety, we ask parents/guardians to refrain from sending in beverages that are in glass containers or are carbonated. Colas are prohibited.

SNACKS IN THE CLASSROOM

In accordance with the HSE Wellness policy and procedure, the need for a classroom snack will be determined on an individual classroom basis by the building principal. In the

event that snacks are allowed, each student should bring a snack for him/herself only. With the large number of food allergies in schools today, the building principal, school nurse, and nurse coordinator will determine if snacks are not possible for classrooms or entire grade levels for the safety of all students. In these cases, an alternate option can be offered.

SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

Most elementary schools publish a school newsletter and email the newsletter to parents/guardians via Parent Square. For parents/guardians without internet access, a copy will be sent home upon request. Regular features of the newsletter include lunch menus for the upcoming week, PTO News, announcement of upcoming events, related arts rotation for the upcoming week, and more. We encourage you to take the time to read the newsletter so that you can be better informed and aware of upcoming events and deadlines.

ACCESS TO SCHOOL BEFORE OR AFTER SCHOOL HOURS

It is important to encourage student responsibility and organization of student belongings, but it is also understandable that students may forget items in the classroom from time to time. The office staff will happily work with parents/guardians or students to return to the classrooms before or after school during normal office hours to get items they may have forgotten. In order to maintain building security, classrooms are locked outside of school hours. Therefore, students will be escorted to the classroom by school personnel to retrieve these items.

RELIGIOUS OBSERVATIONS/INSTRUCTION

In accordance with Ind. Code 20-33-2-19, as amended, when the parent of a student who is enrolled in public school provides a written notice, the principal shall allow the student to attend a school for religious instruction that is conducted by a church, an association of churches, or an association that is organized for religious instruction and incorporated under Indiana law. After receiving the notice, the principal shall work in a collaborative manner with the parent or entity offering religious instruction to provide assistance in determining a period or periods not to exceed one hundred twenty (120) minutes in total in any week for the student to receive religious instruction. An entity offering religious instruction to a student (as described herein) shall work in a collaborative manner with the principal to ensure that the period or periods in which the student receives religious instruction are the least disruptive to the instruction time (as defined by IC 20-30-2-1) of the student. Any notice provided under this section is valid for only a year.

ACADEMIC EVALUATION

REPORT CARDS

Report Cards of student progress will be available for review through Skyward every nine weeks for students in grades kindergarten through four. Related Arts classes: Art, Music, and Physical Education record grades one time per semester. Report Cards can be discussed with teachers during family conferences at the end of the first nine weeks.

GRADING SCALE

A district-wide grading scale was adopted by Hamilton Southeastern Schools on October 12, 2009.

A+	100	C+	77-79
A	93-99	C	73-76
A-	90-92	C-	70-72
B+	87-89	D+	67-69
B	83-86	D	63-66
B-	80-82	D-	60-62
		F	59 and below

CONFERENCES

Communication between families and teachers is vitally important to the academic achievement of each student. Scheduled family conferences will be held in the fall. Please call the school office if you would like to meet with your child's teacher at any other point in the school year. We can help arrange a conference. We encourage parents/guardians to take an active role in requesting student information. Please feel free to call the classroom teacher to see how your child is doing.

STANDARDIZED TESTING

Students in grades three and four will take standardized tests during the school year. These tests measure a student's achievement at the time of testing. The ILEARN test will be administered to grades three and four as mandated by law. Grade three students will also take the State IREAD-3 test. Students that are designated as English as a New Language learner will be administered the WIDA test annually. Results of these tests are furnished to parents/guardians for their information. Please keep in mind that achievement tests are not absolute in their results. Various factors may alter the validity of the scores.

DISSECTION AND DISSECTION ALTERNATIVES

Participation in hands-on science is important to learning science, and students are encouraged to participate in dissection activities that are part of the curriculum. Schools will provide alternative activities for students who have objections to animal dissections.

CLASSROOM PROCEDURES FOR DISSECTION ACTIVITIES

When dissection is used in the classroom: Teachers will thoroughly explain the learning objectives of the lesson; All specimens will be treated with respect; All students will be informed prior to the dissection that they have the option of discussing individual concerns about dissection with their teacher; Upon completion of the dissection, the remains will be appropriately disposed of as recommended by the local board of public health.

PROCEDURES FOR STUDENTS REQUESTING AN ALTERNATIVE TO DISSECTION

When dissection is part of the curriculum, schools will provide alternative activities for students who object to dissections. Expectations for student learning is the same for students who participate in dissections and those who opt for an alternative to dissection. The procedure and expectations for a student requesting an alternative to dissection is as follows: At least one week prior to the dissection activity, a student's parent or guardian will submit in writing a request for an alternative to dissection; The teacher will determine an acceptable alternative to dissection and will specify in writing what is expected of the student. Alternative to dissection activities will allow students to gain the same content knowledge as a dissection activity and will require a comparable investment of time and effort by the student; The student will complete the alternative activity within the assigned time and will be expected to learn the same content knowledge as if the student performed the dissection activity; The student will be subject to the same course standards and assessments as other students in the class.

TECHNOLOGY USAGE

The mission of HSE21 is to equip students with the content knowledge, unique skills, and new literacies they will need to contribute positively in their communities and succeed in the 21st-century global economy. HSE will use electronic resources as a powerful and compelling means for students to learn core subjects and applied skills in relevant and rigorous ways.

It is the district's goal to provide students with rich and ample opportunities to use technology for important purposes in schools just as individuals in workplaces and other real-life settings. The technology will enable educators and students to communicate, learn, share, collaborate and create, to think and solve problems, to manage their work, and to take ownership of their lives.

ELECTRONIC DEVICES

Teacher discretion may be used regarding the instructional use of electronic devices in the classroom to support student achievement. If school personnel have reasonable suspicion to believe a student has used an electronic device to violate a school rule or interfere with school purpose, that device may be confiscated and subject to reasonable search. All parts of the item(s) will be confiscated which includes batteries and memory cards. When released by school officials, confiscated items must be picked up by parent or guardian.

Cell phones, smartwatches, and other wireless or electronic devices are to be used for educational purposes only. Teacher discretion may be used to permit the use of electronic devices in the classroom. Additionally, a student may use a wireless device in an emergency, to manage the student's health care, or to use a wireless device as part of the student's Individual Education Plan (IEP) or 504 plan. When not used for an educational purpose, these items should be turned off and secured in backpacks during the school day. These items used or possessed inappropriately during the school day or during regular school bus routes will be confiscated and parents/guardians will be notified.

All users of electronic resources will be held responsible for their actions and activity. There is no expectation of privacy when using Hamilton Southeastern Schools' network. Unacceptable uses of these resources will result in the suspension or revoking of these privileges. Some examples of such unacceptable use include but are not limited to:

1. Using electronic resources for any illegal activity, including violation of copyright or other contract, harassment, or plagiarism.
2. Using the electronic resources of our school district for financial or commercial gain.
3. Degrading or disrupting equipment or system performance including the intentional promotion of computer viruses.
4. Vandalizing data of another user.
5. Gaining unauthorized access to resources or entities.
6. Invading the privacy of individuals.
7. Using an account owned by another user.
8. Posting personal communications without the author's consent.
9. Deliberately sending, retrieving, or displaying text or graphics which may reasonably be construed as obscene or abusive.

PHOTOGRAPHY OF STUDENTS AND PERSONNEL

Students may not use any audio or video devices to photograph or record the activities of other students or district personnel while on school property or a school-sponsored activity unless authorized in advance by the staff member supervising the activity and with the consent of the individual(s) being recorded. Students who violate this expectation may face appropriate disciplinary consequences. At the time of registration, families may request to opt out of photo and video events.

***NEITHER THE SCHOOL NOR THE SCHOOL CORPORATION IS RESPONSIBLE FOR ANY
LOST OR STOLEN ITEMS***

USE OF PERSONAL COMPUTING DEVICES

Hamilton Southeastern Schools (HSE) permits student to bring personal laptops or other computing devices to school for academic purposes.

- HSE accepts no responsibility or financial liability for personal laptops or other computing devices that are brought to school by students.
- Laptops or other devices that are lost, stolen, or damaged are the responsibility of the student and his/her parents/guardians, regardless of how the loss, theft, or damage occurs.
- Students are advised to take steps to guard against damage, loss, or theft.
- HSE's technology department will not provide technical support for any personal laptop or other computing device.

STUDENT COMPUTING RESOURCES AND INTERNET ACCESS CONSENT

Hamilton Southeastern Schools desires to fairly and consistently address the issues that arise with student technology usage. While it is recognized that students have freedom of expression, it is not absolute. In the interest of preserving school order and safety, the HSE School Board has established a policy (I05.03) and guidelines (I05.3.1) for technology usage. The goal of these guidelines is to inform students, parents/guardians, and educators how the Board of School Trustees and school corporation will define student conduct with respect to the use of technology that could result in denial, suspension or expulsion. Indiana State statute, Indiana Criminal Code, and U.S. Supreme Court decisions are used in establishing these guidelines.

Computing resources and Internet access is provided to facilitate communications in support of research and education both curricular and extracurricular. To maintain eligibility to this access, students and parents/guardians must be in support of, and consistent with, the educational objectives and policies established by Hamilton Southeastern Schools. The use of any technology resources in Hamilton Southeastern Schools is a privilege, not a right, and it is subject to regulation and monitoring. Violation of any school rules and corporation policy may result in denial and disciplinary actions.

Students and parents/guardians will be informed about disciplinary action to be taken in cases of misuse and/or abuse of technology.

Situations which will be considered in determining if an individual has violated the technology usage policy are as follows:

A student shall not create or otherwise access technology content that:

- a) violates any school rule, including any student discipline rule and any school policy;
- b) causes or is likely to cause a substantial and material disruption to the school; c) is a “true threat”;
- c) is considered as lewd, vulgar, indecent or plainly offensive;
- d) generates a legitimate educational concern; or
- e) is considered an unlawful activity.

Details and definition to the above situations are found in HSE Technology Usage Policy I5.3 and Guidelines I5.3.1. Students should not have any expectation of privacy with respect to files stored on school-based computing equipment. Hamilton Southeastern Schools reserves the right to monitor Internet access or other network or computer-related activities, engage in routine computer maintenance and housekeeping, carry out internal investigations, prepare responses to request for public records, or disclose messages, data, or files to law enforcement or other legal authorities.

The Corporation recognizes the need to educate students regarding appropriate behavior on social networking and sites about cyber bullying. The Corporation recognizes the need to educate students regarding appropriate behavior on social networking and internet application including cyber bullying awareness and response.

Hamilton Southeastern Schools makes no warranties of any kind, neither expressed nor implied, for the computing resources and Internet access it provides. Hamilton Southeastern Schools will not be responsible for any damages students suffer, including, but not limited to, loss or corruption of data resulting from delays or interruptions in Internet or computing services.

Hamilton Southeastern Schools will not be responsible for the accuracy, nature, or quality of information stored on portable media, hard drives, file servers, or other computing resources; nor for the accuracy, nature, or quality of information gathered through corporation-provided computing resources and Internet access.

Hamilton Southeastern Schools will not be responsible for personal property used to access corporation computers or networks or for corporation provided computing resources and Internet access. Hamilton Southeastern Schools will not be responsible for unauthorized financial obligations resulting from corporation provided access to computing resources and the Internet.

Students utilizing corporation-provided computing resources and Internet access are responsible for good online behavior similar to the good behavior expected are in a classroom or other area of school.

Students’ use of personal technology including computing resources, internet access, and communication devices is subject to the conditions as found in Guidelines I5.3.1 and student handbooks. Inappropriate use of such technology may result in disciplinary action.

Families should be aware that some material accessible via the Internet may contain items that are tasteless, illegal, defamatory, inaccurate, or potentially offensive to some people. In addition, it is possible to purchase goods and services via the Internet, which could result in unwanted financial obligations for which a student's parent or guardian would be liable.

While Hamilton Southeastern Schools' intent is to make Internet access available in order to further educational goals and objectives, students may find ways to access other materials as well. Any Hamilton Southeastern Schools computer used by students will have an Internet filtering process in place when accessing the Internet. Nevertheless, the HSE School Board recognizes that no current technology will prevent all abuses or improper use.

Ultimately, parents/guardians of minors are responsible for setting and conveying the standards that their children should follow when using media, computing, and information sources. There is a fine balance between encouraging autonomous learning and maintaining adequate supervision. Hamilton Southeastern makes the corporation's complete Technology Usage Policy I.5.3 and Guidelines I5.3.1 available online on the HSE's website (www.hse.k12.in.us) for review by all parents/guardians, and other member of the community.

Corporation-provided computing resources and Internet access is designed for educational purposes only, curricular or extracurricular. It is impossible for Hamilton Southeastern Schools to completely restrict access to controversial materials, and HSE will not be held responsible for materials acquired on Hamilton Southeastern School's computing resources or over the Internet.

Students and parents/guardians understand and will abide by the Hamilton Southeastern Schools Technology Usage Policy I05.03 and Guidelines I05.3.1. And further understand that should they commit any violation, their access and /or privileges may be revoked and disciplinary action (up to suspension or expulsion) may be taken as deemed necessary by the Superintendent/designee. This may include legal action. There is no expectation of privacy in respect to the use of electronic information, resources, data files, or other records generated, stored, or maintained on Hamilton Southeastern Schools' computer resources. This also applies to the use of personal technology.

Parents/guardians also are provided the option of requesting alternative activities not requiring computing resources and/or Internet use for their minor children by contacting their school principal in writing within 14 days of the start of the school year or enrolling their child.

STUDENT OFFICE 365 ACCOUNTS

Hamilton Southeastern Schools has the ability to create Office 365 accounts for all students to allow for collaborative sharing using our custom implementation. These accounts will be used for school related projects. The rules governing proper electronic communications by students are included in the Technology Acceptable Use Policy.

Students will be assigned a **hsestudents.org** account. This will be considered the student's official Office 365 account until such time as the student is no longer enrolled in Hamilton Southeastern Schools. The naming convention will be Skyward Name Key (excluding spaces) followed by @hsestudents.org (i.e. harrijef000@hsestudents.org). All students will have access to the features within Office 365 including but not limited to, Mail (email), OneDrive (cloud storage), Word, Excel, PowerPoint, etc.

CONDUCT

Students are responsible for good behavior just as they are in a traditional school building. Students should inform their teacher of inappropriate use. Any disciplinary actions taken pursuant to the Board Policy shall incorporate the procedural due process rights of the student and/or parent/guardian as provided by law, Board policy, and the Student Rights Handbook. Please refer to Board HSE Procedure: I05.3.1 Technology Usage Guidelines URL: <http://www.boarddocs.com/in/hses/Board.nsf/goto?open&id=86X5PF6D71E7>

ACCESS RESTRICTION

Access to and use of student Office 365 account is considered a privilege accorded at the discretion of Hamilton Southeastern Schools. The district maintains the right to immediately withdraw the access and use of the account when there is reason to believe that violations of law or school board policies have occurred. In such cases, the alleged violation will be referred to the principal for further investigation and application of necessary consequences.

SECURITY

Hamilton Southeastern Schools cannot and does not guarantee the security of electronic files located on any of its technology or on Microsoft systems. Although a powerful content filter is in place, the school board cannot assure that users will not be exposed to non-educational material. We encourage parents/guardians and students to review Office 365's privacy policy.

PRIVACY

Hamilton Southeastern Schools reserves the right to access and review content in the student's Office 365 account at any time. Hamilton Southeastern Schools complies with all state and federal privacy laws. Parents/guardians are encouraged to know how to access their student's Office 365 account.

If a parent/guardian wishes for their child(ren) to not have access to Mail (email), please contact the Director of Educational Technologies (jharrison@hse.k12.in.us) in writing

within 14 days of the start of the school year or enrolling your child. However, these students will still retain access to the other features within their Office 365 account.

BACKPACK IDENTIFICATION

All students are required to have a school issued ID tag on their backpack and any other bag that is used to transport materials to school. All lunch boxes need to be marked on the outside with the student's first and last name. These rules have been established to keep our students and staff safe. It allows for school officials to quickly determine if an unmarked bag, box, etc. could be of danger to anyone.

BIRTHDAYS

Birthdays are a special time, but due to the number of Hamilton Southeastern students who have various food allergies, no birthday treats will be allowed at school. Birthday party invitations should be mailed and not handed out at school. The school will not accept flowers, balloons, or gift deliveries of any kind for students. They not only cause a disruption in the classroom, but they also cannot be taken on the bus because they may restrict the driver's visual field. Instructional time cannot be used for birthday parties or celebrations.

CLASSROOM CELEBRATIONS

Schools may have up to two classroom celebrations during the year. It is the decision of the individual building administrator as to what the celebrations will entail and when they will take place. Examples of the celebrations are traditional classroom parties, presentations of student learning, or service learning projects. Treats may be provided through HSE food services in conjunction with payment by the PTO. Students should not bring in candy or other food items during these celebrations.

EVENING SCHOOL EVENTS

We ask that evening performances be events the entire family can enjoy together. Please keep all members of your family together to enjoy our special event. Children in the audience will be asked to sit with their parents/guardians throughout the entire performance. As a courtesy to all performers, we request our families remain seated for the entire performance. Please remember all HSE schools are tobacco-free and vape-free. In addition, a student must be in attendance at school a minimum of one-half day on the day of the event to participate.

STUDY TRIPS

When classroom teachers schedule a study trip for the class away from school, a permission slip will be sent home with the needed information on it. This slip must be signed and returned. Students without a signed permission slip, or anyone not returning the permission slip by the deadline set by the classroom teachers, will not be allowed to attend the trip. Medications may be given by the school nurse, or their designee, when students are out of the building or on a study trip. Before a parent/guardian is chosen to help chaperone a study trip, they must have a criminal background check approved and on file in order to accompany the class. These forms are only valid for three years, after which time a new application may be submitted. In addition, siblings are not permitted to attend the study trip. Parents/guardians not chosen as a chaperone are not permitted to join the class at the destination. This causes a major breach in our safety measures of keeping students safe while in our charge.

ADMINISTRATION OF MEDICATIONS AND TREATMENTS

As a result of the growth in enrollment in our school system, there has been a corresponding increase in the number of students with special needs. These needs often include administration of medication or treatment requiring informed judgment. Asthma and diabetes management are examples of these special needs.

The priority of the school nurse has to remain with the greater number of students at the school campus. Thus, on a field trip, or other student activity which takes place away from school, the school nurse will rarely, if ever, be able to accompany special needs students. In addition, most of the teachers are not qualified to administer certain medications or treatments, or to judge the use of these for chronic medical conditions.

The parents/guardians of the student with special medical needs are expected to work with the school to arrange for an adult other than the school nurse to accompany their child on field trips or other activities when it is deemed necessary by the school nurse and school principal. If a parent/guardians cannot accompany the child, the parent/guardians:

- May select an adult (other than the school nurse) to accompany their child; or
- May work with the school to arrange for adult supervision for their child; or
- May waive the need for an adult to specifically accompany their child; or
- May elect to decline participation in the field trip experience.

A student, trained in the use of their inhaler, glucometer, insulin therapy, or epi-pen, may be allowed to administer their own emergency medication on a field trip. For this to occur, each student's ability to self-administer emergency medication must be addressed in the student's Individual Health Plan and a signed physician authorization form must be completed.

ANIMALS

Per Board Policy, animals are not permitted on school property unless approved by the building principal. Animals can be prohibited from school for various reasons including possible attacks, allergies, and communicable diseases.

PARENT-TEACHER ORGANIZATION

Each Elementary School in the district has an active Parent-Teacher Organization. The PTO provides our children with many items and services throughout the school year. You automatically become a member of the PTO by enrolling your child. General PTO meetings will be determined at the beginning of the school year by the PTO Executive Board and the school principal. The PTO Executive Board meets regularly during their term in office. If you have any questions or comments that need to be addressed by the PTO, contact one of the Executive Board members. A list of those officers and committee chairpersons are posted on the school website.

REPORTING CHILD ABUSE

It is a felony for school officials to fail to report suspected child abuse to the proper authorities. School personnel will report suspected child neglect as well.

TELEPHONE CALLS AND EMAILS

The school is always ready to render necessary services in delivering important messages to teachers and students. We cannot, however, call either students or teachers to the phone during class time, except for emergencies. Voice mail is available twenty-four hours for parents/guardians to leave messages for teachers. If a message is to be relayed before the end of the school day, please make sure the office takes the message.

In order to encourage student responsibility, students cannot use the school telephone except for emergencies. We do not allow calls for forgotten items or notes. Each staff member has an HSE email account. Please make sure you reference your child in the subject line of the email. We often do not open mail that is not identified. Please remember that staff members may not get to email during the school day.

WITHDRAW/TRANSFER OF STUDENTS

Parents/guardians who will be withdrawing their child from school should notify the school office as least one full day in advance so the appropriate forms, library obligations, lunch charges, and textbooks can be addressed. Student iPad and charger should be returned to

school. School records will be sent directly to the new school. Health forms may be copied and sent with the parents/guardians. A request for these copies should be made as far in advance as possible.

WHAT TO DO IF YOU SUSPECT A DISABILITY/CHILD FIND

Identification and evaluation of a student in need of educational services is a part of Indiana law. Please access Suspect a Disability under the Exceptional Learners site for more specific information.

BEHAVIOR EXPECTATIONS

This handbook gives parents/guardians of elementary school students written discipline rules which have been adopted by the Hamilton Southeastern School Board of Trustees annually. Many of these rules are common sense rules for a safe school. However, for parents/guardians they are written from a legal perspective. Teachers will work with students to devise classroom rules. These rules will be easily understood by elementary students. Classroom and school rules will be made available to parents/guardians. All students are expected to follow all school and classroom rules and procedures. This handbook meets legal requirements for those few students who need behavior intervention and serious consequences. Failure to follow rules and procedures may result in the student being suspended, expelled, or excluded from the regular school day. Hamilton Southeastern Schools has adopted a plan for the safe restraint and seclusion of students. The plan is available via the HSE website under Board Docs policy J10.00.

STUDENT RULES

1. Students are expected to show respect to everyone in the school setting. This includes, but is not limited to, peers, teachers, instructional assistants, custodians, dining room staff, bus drivers, parents/guardians, and special visitors.
2. Students are expected to walk in the hallways while attending school.
3. Students may not leave school grounds without written permission or signed out at the school office by a parent/guardian or other authorized adult.
4. Students are expected to respect other students by not putting hands on other students.
5. Students are expected to respect school property and the property of others.
6. Students are expected to have and use backpacks to bring books and school related items to and from school. Backpacks are required to be labeled with the student's name and teacher per building policy.
7. Students are not allowed in unsupervised areas before, during or after school.
8. Students are not allowed to sell or trade items at school.
9. Food is not to be taken from the cafeteria, nor to be consumed at any time other than lunch without specific permission from a staff member. Chewing gum and

- candy are not allowed during the school day unless under the direct supervision of an adult. Carbonated beverages are not allowed to be brought to school for lunch.
10. No student will be allowed to disrupt the educational process.
 11. Students are not allowed to possess dangerous or illegal items, including drugs, weapons, or any item that can reasonably be considered to be a weapon. Students with knowledge of such items on school grounds are to report the information to school personnel.
 12. Students are to refrain from the use of force, violence, noise, coercion, threats, intimidation, fear, passive resistance, or other comparable conduct constituting an interference with school purposes or urging others to engage in such conduct.
 13. All types of tobacco, electronic cigarettes, drugs, or alcohol are strictly prohibited.
 14. Students will be subject to reasonable disciplinary action for any behavior (verbal, written, digital) committed with the intent to harass, ridicule, humiliate, intimidate, or harm another student or staff.
 15. Except as approved either by a teacher in connection with a class assignment, project, or demonstration or by the building principal, a student may not possess in a school building:
 - a. Knives, laser pointers or any object that is readily capable of causing injury.
 - b. Animals
 - c. Explosives, including all fireworks, model rocketry engines, smoke bombs, stink bombs and similar devices.

DRESSING FOR SCHOOL

Hamilton Southeastern Schools' students are expected to maintain an appearance that is appropriate for school and conducive to the educational atmosphere. The appearance and dress of any student is the primary responsibility of both the student and the parent/guardian.

Student clothing and appearance should not draw undue attention from other students or faculty or disrupt the normal routine. If there is doubt about the appropriateness of a garment, it should not be worn. Attire typically worn at the beach is not appropriate for school. Clothing and/or any adornment displaying messages or images not appropriate for school should not be worn. Examples would be messages containing profanity; sexual innuendo; references to drugs, alcoholic beverages, tobacco products, or violence; or messages that incite hate towards other students or student groups. Culturally and religious-based head coverings are permitted. Hoods will be in the down position and hats will be off unless given permission by a staff member for that instructional period. Attire that may damage school property (such as chains) or pose a danger to the safety of students and staff members (such as "Heelies") shall not be worn. Shoes shall be worn at all times.

SEXUAL HARASSMENT

It is the policy of the Hamilton Southeastern Schools Corporation to maintain learning and working environments that are free from sexual harassment. It is a violation of this policy for any employee or student to harass another employee or student through conduct or communications of a sexual nature.

DISCIPLINE CODE

This student code of conduct has been established in accordance with Indiana State Law. Students will not be allowed to engage in any activity forbidden by the laws of Indiana that constitute an interference with school purposes or an educational function. Those activities could include but are not inclusive of possessing explosives, detonating devices, and fireworks and/or possession or being under the influence of tobacco, harmful drugs, alcoholic beverage, non-alcoholic beer, stimulant, caffeine-based drug, or intoxicant or inhalants of any kind. Indiana law authorizes the school board to prohibit unlawful activity by a student on or off school grounds. This includes before, during, and after school hours. It also includes any school activity or function (including summer school) or traveling to or from school or any school activity or function. If the unlawful activity may reasonably be considered to be an interference with school purposes or an educational function or the student's removal is necessary to restore order or protect persons on school property, a student may be expelled or suspended.

ANTI-BULLYING

Bullying is prohibited by HSE schools. Students who commit any acts of bullying are subject to discipline including but not limited to suspension, expulsion, arrest, and/or prosecution.

“Bullying” is defined as overt, unwanted, repeated acts or gestures, including verbal or written communications or images transmitted in any manner (including digitally or electronically); physical acts committed; aggression; or any other behaviors committed by a student or group of students against another student with the intent to harass, ridicule, humiliate, intimidate, or harm the targeted student, creating for the targeted student an objectively hostile school environment that:

- a) places the targeted student in reasonable fear of harm to his or her person or property;
- b) has a substantially detrimental effect on the targeted student's physical or mental health;
- c) has the effect of substantially interfering with the targeted student's academic performance; or
- d) has the effect of substantially interfering with the targeted student's ability to participate in or benefit from the services, activities, or privileges provided by the school.

Bullying does not include, and should not be interpreted to impose any burden or sanction on, the following:

- participating in a religious event;
- acting in an emergency involving the protection of a person or property from an imminent threat of serious bodily injury or substantial danger;
- participating in an activity consisting of the exercise of a student's freedom of speech rights;
- participating in an activity conducted by a nonprofit or governmental entity that provides recreation, education, training, or other care under the supervision of one (1) or more adults;
- participating in an activity undertaken at the prior written direction of the student's parent/guardian; or
- engaging in interstate or international travel from a location outside Indiana to another location outside Indiana.

Applicability – HSE Schools prohibits bullying in all forms. This policy may be applied regardless of the physical location in which the bullying behavior occurred, whenever the individual committing the bullying behavior and any of the intended targets of the bullying behavior are students attending a school within the school district and disciplinary action is reasonably necessary to avoid substantial interference with school discipline or prevent an unreasonable threat to the rights of others to a safe and peaceful learning environment. HSE schools prohibits bullying through the use of data or computer software that is accessed through any computer, computer system, or computer network.

Education – HSE Schools schools will provide training and/or instruction on anti-bullying prevention and policy to all students in grades 1 through 12, as well as staff, in accordance with Indiana law.

Reporting – Anyone who believes that a student has possibly been or is the victim of bullying is encouraged to immediately report the situation to an appropriate staff member such as a teacher, school counselor, or administrator (including the school district lead administrator). All staff, volunteers, and contracted service providers who observe or receive a report of suspected bullying shall notify a designated school administrator in charge of receiving reports of suspected bullying within the same day. If a staff member does not know who to make a report to, he or she should report directly to the building principal or school district lead administrator. Bullying reports to the department of child services and/or law enforcement must be made as required by law, such as when a staff member believes that a student is the victim of abuse or neglect. Any person who makes a report of bullying and requests to remain anonymous will not be personally identified as the reporter or complainant to extent permitted by law. HSE schools will act appropriately to discipline staff members, volunteers, or contracted service providers who receive a report of bullying and fail to initiate or conduct an investigation of a bullying incident and for persons who falsely report an incident of bullying. The school district will act appropriately

to discipline students, staff members, visitors, or volunteers who make false reports of bullying.

Investigation – Once a report of suspected bullying is received by the designated school administrator, an expedited investigation shall follow. The investigation should be facilitated by the designated school administrator or other appropriate school staff. Information relating to the investigation will be gathered using means including, but not limited to: witness interviews, request for written witness statements, record identification and review, and an assessment of whether bullying occurred. The investigation will be initiated within one (1) school day of the report to the designated school administrator and will ordinarily be completed within ten (10) school days.

Intervention/Responses – If a report of suspected bullying is substantiated through an investigation, then the school district shall take appropriate intervention and responses as consistent with policy and procedure. HSE schools will take prompt and effective steps reasonably calculated to stop the bullying, remedy the bullying, and prevent the bullying from recurring. Interventions and responses include, but are not limited to: separating the bully and the target; follow-up school counseling for the target; bullying education for the bully; and prompt disciplinary action against the bully. These steps should not penalize the target of the bullying. Disciplinary actions against the bully may include, but are not limited to suspension and expulsion. Also, if the acts of bullying rise to the level of serious criminal offense the matter may be referred to law enforcement. HSE schools shall inform the parents/guardians of all students involved in alleged incidents, and, as appropriate, may discuss the availability of counseling and other intervention services.

Parental Involvement – Parents/guardians are encouraged to be involved in the process of minimizing bullying. Parents/guardians should report suspected acts of bullying to an appropriate school official. In addition, parents/guardians of students suspected of bullying will be notified with a phone call or through other appropriate means of communication. Conversely, parents/guardians of students suspected of being the target of acts of bullying will also be notified with a phone call or through other means of appropriate communication.

Parent/guardian notifications will occur in an expedited manner within two (2) school days after the designated school administrator receives the report of suspected bullying. Parents/guardians of students who are disciplined for acts of bullying will be involved in the disciplinary process consistent with the law and school district policy.

Reporting to IDOE – Each school within the school district will record and report to the district lead administrator or his or her designee the frequency of bullying incidents in the following categories: verbal bullying, physical bullying, social/relational bullying, and electronic/written communication bullying (or a combination of two or more of the above categories). The corporation lead administrator or his or her designee shall report the number of bullying incidents by category for each school and the entire corporation for each school term to the Indiana Department of Education by July 1.

DISCIPLINE CONSEQUENCES

School Building Authority – A student violating a school rule may be subject to consequences including timeout, loss of recess, lunch detention, in and out of school suspensions, and expulsion. Those rules should emphasize developing positive behavior and attitudes rather than purely imposing punishment and may require restitution in the case of damage to property.

SERIOUS DISCIPLINE CONSEQUENCES

In-School Suspension – In-school reassignment is a method of school discipline that provides the student with the opportunity to remain in a school setting. Classroom assignments will be provided to the student for completion and full credit before returning to regular classes. Students who are assigned in-school reassignment remain in that atmosphere for the school day under the supervision of office or school personnel. If the student becomes uncooperative or does not follow the rules established for the classroom, suspension out of school will substitute for in-school reassignment. Students serving an in-school reassignment will not be able to attend any extracurricular activities on the in-school reassignment day.

Out-of-School Suspension – In some cases it becomes necessary to assign out-of-school-suspension. This is usually the result of a serious infraction, refusal to comply with lesser disciplinary penalty, or chronic misbehavior. Indiana law defines grounds for suspension or expulsion as “student misconduct or substantial disobedience”. During such suspension, the student is in the care of parents/guardians. The student should not be present on school grounds without the permission of the school principal. Students are not to attend any extra-curricular activities while they are suspended out of school.

Corporal Punishment – Hamilton Southeastern Schools will not use corporal punishment as a method to correct misbehavior.

STUDENT DUE PROCESS

The procedures for administering student discipline and due process are provided by Indiana law. The Hamilton Southeastern School Board adopts the Indiana Statutes as the official policy and administrative procedures of Hamilton Southeastern Schools unless applicable federal law requires otherwise. Per Indiana law, authorities are to inform law enforcement agencies, in writing, when violations involving controlled substances occur within a school environment. Under Indiana law, a student bringing a firearm or destructive device to school or on school property or in possession of a firearm or destructive device on school property must be expelled from school for a period of at least one calendar year. Under Indiana law, a student bringing a deadly weapon, other than a firearm, to school or on school property or in possession of a deadly weapon on school property may be expelled for a period of not more than one calendar year.

ATTENDING CLASS EQUALS SUCCESS (ACES) PROGRAM

ACES is a proactive program sponsored by the Hamilton County Prosecutor's Office. Its purpose is to promote good school attendance by enforcing the legal obligations of compulsory school attendance noted in Indiana Law.

Students may be referred by HSE Schools to the Hamilton County Deputy Prosecutor for the Town of Fishers for participation in the program for being truant from school or having unexcused absences.

Students with absences without a doctor's note that exceed 10 days per school year are considered unexcused and may also result in a referral to the ACES program.

BUS EXPECTATIONS

All students can ride the school bus to and from school daily. Families can access specific bus expectations on the Transportation page of the website.

VIDEO SURVEILLANCE

The School Board authorizes the use of video cameras on corporation property to assist in protecting the health, welfare, and safety of all staff, students, and used in locations deemed appropriate by the Superintendent or his/her designee.

The corporation will notify staff and students through student/parent/guardians and staff handbooks that video surveillance may occur on corporation property.

Recorded information from these cameras ("security videos") showing identifiable students will be treated as an "education record" and will not be produced outside of the corporation except pursuant to a subpoena, court order, or release in accordance with the Family Education Rights and Privacy Act. ("FERPA", 20 United States Code 1233 (g), 34 CFR Part 99.)

Security videos showing identifiable employees will be treated as personnel file information under the Indiana Access to Public Records Act and board adopted policy implementing that act.

For the purpose of this policy, restrooms, locker rooms, and areas reserved exclusively for staff use shall be considered a "private area" of the facility and shall not be equipped with video security equipment. The term "nonprivate area" shall therefore mean any area on school corporation property not meeting the definition of a "private area".

All speech and conduct in the non-private areas of the school corporation facilities is subject to being observed, recorded, preserved, and examined by means of security video equipment. No person will have a legitimate expectation of privacy with respect to his or her conduct or speech in the non-private area of a school corporation property.

By this policy, the Board does not mandate or warrant that every non-private location in every school corporation facility will be equipped with security video equipment, nor that the security video equipment will record specific conduct or expression.

The Superintendent or his/her designee will develop and maintain procedures to implement this policy.

CRIMINAL ORGANIZATIONS

Hamilton Southeastern Schools prohibits criminal organizations and criminal organization activity. Per Indiana law, "Criminal Organization" means a formal or informal group with at least three members that specifically either:

- a) promotes, sponsors, or assists in; or participates in;
- b) requires as a condition of membership or continued membership; or
- c) has as one of its goals; the commission of a felony or an act that would be a felony if committed by an adult or the offense of battery. For more details, HSE's Criminal Organization Policy is available via the HSE website under Board Docs policy J05.11

NON-DISCRIMINATION & NON-HARASSMENT STATEMENT

It is the policy of the Hamilton Southeastern Schools not to discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, national origin, age, or disability in its educational programs or employment policies as required by the Indiana Civil Rights Act (IC 22-9-1), (IC 20-33-1), Titles VI and VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, the Equal Pay Act of 1973, Title IX (1972 educational amendment), and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973.

Hamilton Southeastern School Corporation will not discriminate or tolerate any form of discrimination in its educational or employment activities for any reason or on any basis prohibited by applicable federal and state laws, including race, color, religion, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, national origin, age or disability. This includes but is not limited to a characteristic, trait, belief, practice, association or other attribute. Hamilton Southeastern Schools will foster a culture and environment that does not marginalize, treat unfairly or disrespect any member of our school community and will recognize the uniqueness and individuality of all students, educators, staff and administrators, so they have an opportunity to succeed.

This commitment applies to all School Corporation operations, programs, and activities. All students, administrators, teachers, staff, and all other school personnel share responsibility for avoiding, discouraging, and reporting any form of harassment or discrimination. This policy applies to conduct occurring on school grounds immediately before, during, or immediately after school hours; in any school program or activity taking place in school facilities, on school transportation, or at other off-campus locations, such as at school-sponsored field trips or a training program; or using property or equipment

provided by the school, including school-owned computers and the school's computer network.

The immediate remedy for any act of discrimination shall be to end it, treat the individuals involved equitably, and, as much as practically possible, eradicate any effects of discrimination. The school corporation may impose discipline as appropriate.

If you feel you have experienced or witnessed a violation of the HSE non-discrimination policy, please [Click Here](#).

Inquiries regarding compliance with, Section 504, or the Americans with disabilities Act should be directed to Dr. Barb Walters, Director of Exceptional Learners, Hamilton Southeastern Schools 13485 Cumberland Road, Fishers, Indiana 46038 or the Office for Civil Rights, U.S. Department of Education, Washington D.C.

Inquiries regarding compliance with Title IX and Title VI and VII of the Civil Rights Act 1964 should be directed to Brian Murphy, Assistant Superintendent, Hamilton Southeastern Schools, 13485 Cumberland Road, Fishers, Indiana 46038 the Office for Civil Rights, U.S. Department of Education, Washington D.C.

NOTIFICATION OF RIGHTS UNDER FERPA

The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) affords parents/guardians and students over 18 years of age, certain rights with respect to the student's education records. For purposes of FERPA, "school official" includes: teachers, professors, instructors, administrators, health staff, counselors, attorneys, clerical staff, trustees, school board members, members of committees and disciplinary boards, contractors, including online service providers, volunteers, or other party to whom the school has outsourced institutional services or functions. Additionally for purposes of FERPA, "legitimate educational interest" means the school official needs to review an educational record in order to fulfill his/her professional responsibility. They are:

- The right to inspect and review the student's education record within 45 days of the day the school corporation receives a request for access. Parents/guardians or eligible students should submit to the school principal, a written request that identifies the record(s) they wish to inspect. The principal will make arrangements for access and notify the parent/guardians or eligible student of the time and place where the records may be inspected.
- The right to request the amendment of the student's education records that the parent /guardians or eligible student believes is inaccurate or misleading. Parents/guardians or eligible students may ask Hamilton Southeastern Schools to amend a record that they believe is inaccurate or misleading. They should write the school principal, clearly identify the part of the record they want changed, and specify why it is inaccurate or misleading. If the school corporation decides not to amend the record as requested by the parent/guardians or eligible

student, the school corporation will notify the parent/guardians or eligible student of the decision and advise him/her of his/her right to a hearing regarding the request of amendment. Additional information regarding the hearing procedures will be provided to the parent/guardians or eligible student when notified of the right to a hearing.

- The right to consent to disclosure of personally identifiable information contained in the student's education record, except to the extent that FERPA authorized disclosure without consent. One exception which permits disclosure without consent is disclosure to school officials with legitimate educational interest. A school official is a person employed by the school corporation as an administrator, supervisor, instructor, or support staff member, (including health or medical staff and law enforcement unit personnel); a person serving on the school board; a person or company with whom the school corporation has contracted to perform a special task (such as an attorney, auditor, medical consultant or therapist); or a parent/guardians or student serving on an official committee, such as a disciplinary or grievance committee, or assisting another school official in performing his or her task. A school official has a legitimate educational interest if the official needs to review an education record in order to fulfill his or her professional responsibility.
- The right to file a complaint with the US Department of Education concerning alleged failures by the school corporation to comply with the requirements of FERPA.

The name and address of the office that administers FERPA is: Family Policy Compliance Office, US Department of Education, 600 Independence Avenue, S.E., Washington, DC 20202-4605.