

# **Covington High School**



## **Student Handbook**

**2025- 2026 School Year**

**COVINGTON COMMUNITY HIGH SCHOOL**  
**STUDENT HANDBOOK 2025-2026**  
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# 2025-2026 School Calendar

## **Semester 1**

August 4th: New Teacher Day

August 5th-6th: First Teacher Days

August 7th: First Student Day/Beginning of 1st 9 Weeks

September 1st: Labor Day (No School)

October 10th: End of 1st 9 Weeks

October 13th: Beginning of 2nd 9 Weeks

October 15th: Parent Teacher Conferences/No Students

October 16th-19th: Fall Break

November 26th-November 30th: Thanksgiving Break

December 20th-January 4th: Holiday Break/End of 2nd 9 weeks

## **Semester 2**

January 5th: School Resumes/Beginning of 3rd 9 weeks

January 19th: No School

February 16th: Flex Day

March 6th: End of 3rd 9 Weeks

March 9th: Beginning of 4th 9 Weeks

March 14th-22nd: Spring Break

April 3rd: Good Friday

April 6th: Flex Day

May 21st: Last Student Day/Last Teacher Day/End of 4th 9 Weeks

May 23rd: Graduation

**COVINGTON COMMUNITY HIGH SCHOOL**  
**Office Staff 2025-2026**

Krista Witsman	Principal
Josh Kersey	Assistant Principal
Brad Short	Athletic Director
Laura Myers	School Counselor
Paul Davis	Technology Coordinator
Marilyn Corey	Nurse
Jennifer Linville	ECA Treasurer
Robin Brown	Guidance / Athletics Secretary
Stephanie Hohenstein	Athletics Secretary
Ana Schanlaub	Attendance / Discipline Secretary

**VISION STATEMENT**

Covington High School provides a safe learning environment where all students are motivated to achieve their highest potential. A balanced, diverse curriculum and professional participation in assessment analysis enable all students to experience success. Excellent communication at every level allows the entire learning community to be involved in educating the whole student.

**MISSION STATEMENT**

Covington High School is committed to serving the academic, physical, social, and emotional needs of its students as they transition from adolescence to adulthood. The school community is committed to creating an orderly, caring environment maintained through fair and consistent discipline. Individual learning styles are accommodated by differentiated instruction and assessment analysis. All aspects of the school's curricular and extracurricular activities are student centered and effectively communicated to the entire learning community. The ultimate goal of the broader educational community is to prepare students for the challenging demands of a competitive global community.

**AHERA NOTIFICATION**

Under the Asbestos Hazard Emergency Response Act (AHERA of 1986), Covington Community School Corporation is required to annually notify all school building employees, building occupants or their legal guardians, of the availability and location of the Asbestos Management Plans and of any post-response action activities, including periodic reinspection and surveillance activities that are planned or in progress.

In the past year, the AHERA related activities conducted have been the Periodic Surveillance and the AHERA Mandated 3 year re-inspection to maintain current information on the condition of materials in our buildings. The 3 year re-inspection was conducted by ASTESCO, Inc. an independent firm. In the coming year the planned activities under the AHERA standard are routine maintenance of building materials and the AHERA Periodic Surveillance of all building materials. These are scheduled for June 2012 and December 2012. The AHERA Management Plans are available for public review at the Superintendent's Office during regular working hours. A reasonable charge will be made for requested copies of the Management Plan(s). Copies are available in the building offices.

**EQUAL EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITY**

Each individual should be given the opportunity to develop and achieve to the maximum extent possible, being limited only by individual differences. Therefore, the district will foster an educational environment that provides equal educational opportunity for all students. Educational programs and services will be designed to meet the varying needs of all students and will not discriminate against any individual for reasons of race, creed, color, sex, national origin, economic status, or handicap.

## SECTION I - GENERAL INFORMATION

### SCHOOL DAY INFORMATION

Students may enter the building at 7:30 a.m. CHS offers a breakfast program. Students may not go upstairs before 7:50 a.m. unless they have an extracurricular meeting scheduled for before school or a prearranged visit to a teacher. First period class will begin at 8:00 a.m. and the school day concludes at 3:00 p.m. Schedule alterations are made on occasion to accommodate student assemblies, special activities and any weather related delay or dismissal.

### CHS DAILY BELL SCHEDULE

<b>Mon, Tues, Thurs, Friday (8:00AM - 3:00PM)</b>			<b>Wednesday Early Release (8:00AM - 2:35PM)</b>		
Period 1	8:00 - 8:45	45 min	Period 1	8:00 - 8:45	45 min
Period 2	8:50 - 9:35	45 min	Period 2	8:50 - 9:35	45 min
Period 3	9:40 - 10:25	45 min	Period 3	9:40 - 10:25	45 min
Period 4	10:30 - 11:15	45 min	Period 4	10:30 - 11:15	45 min
Home Room 5	11:20 - 11:50	30 min	Home Room 5	11:20 - 11:35	15 min
Lunch	11:50 - 12:30	40 min	Lunch	11:35 - 12:05	30 min
Period 6	12:35 - 1:20	45 min	Period 6	12:10 - 12:55	45 min
Period 7	1:25 - 2:10	45 min	Period 7	1:00 - 1:45	45 min
Period 8	2:15 - 3:00	45 min	Period 8	1:50 - 2:35	45 min
<b>2-Hour Delay (10:00AM - 3:00PM)</b>			<b>Wednesday 2-Hour Delay (10:00AM - 3:00 PM)</b>		
Period 1	10:00 - 10:33	33 min	Period 1	10:00 - 10:33	33 min
Period 2	10:37 - 11:07	30 min	Period 2	10:37 - 11:07	30 min
Period 3	11:11 - 11:41	30 min	Period 3	11:11 - 11:41	30 min
Period 4	11:45 - 12:15	30 min	Period 4	11:45 - 12:15	30 min
Lunch	12:15 - 12:45	30 min	Lunch	12:15 - 12:45	30 min
Period 6	12:49 - 1:19	30 min	Period 6	12:49 - 1:19	30 min
Period 7	1:23 - 1:53	30 min	Period 7	1:23 - 1:53	30 min
Period 8	1:57 - 2:27	30 min	Period 8	1:57 - 2:27	30 min
Homeroom	2:31 - 3:00	29 min	Homeroom	2:31 - 3:00	29 min

### SCHOOL CANCELLATION

Occasionally, due to inclement weather or unforeseen circumstances there is a need to delay or cancel the school day. Decisions regarding these matters are made at the earliest possible hour. Information regarding closings and delays will be broadcast on local television, radio stations, and school messenger announcements.

### VISITORS

All visitors to public schools in Indiana are required by law to report to the receptionist when they first arrive at the school. Visitors should be prepared to scan their state issued ID through our Safe Visitor program. To ensure school safety and the privacy of all students, parents/guardians will not be permitted into classrooms during the school day. If parents/guardians wish to have a meeting with a teacher, with the guidance department, or with administration, an appointment must be made in advance. Please contact the front office to schedule any appointment. Students from other schools are not permitted to visit Covington High School students during the school day.

### ENTERING OR REMAINING IN THE SCHOOL BUILDING AFTER SCHOOL HOURS

Unless a student has an extracurricular activity, detention, or scheduled meeting with a staff member or administrator after school, the student should leave the building by 3:15 p.m. Loitering is not permitted and students who do not have one of the above-mentioned justifications for being in the building will be told to leave. For evening activities, students are not to enter the building (including a gymnasium) until the teacher/coach in charge of the activity arrives. Students who enter a building other than during regular school hours without authorization may

be charged with trespassing. Also, students who attend extracurricular events which are held inside the building are expected to participate in or watch those events. Students are not to be in the building on the night of any program except for the purpose of participating in or watching that program. Again, students who loiter in the building will be told to leave.

### **HEALTH SERVICES**

A school nurse is available throughout the day. In all but extreme cases, a classroom teacher or other school personnel should refer students to the nurse. Please contact our school nurse regarding any specific health concerns.

#### **Student Sent Home (by the school Nurse) Due to Illness**

Occasionally a student's illness reaches a degree where the Nurse requests the student to return home. Except for special circumstances, this is generally limited to those students either vomiting or running a fever. Leaving school, because the nurse sent you home, is **NOT COUNTED TOWARD THE 10-DAY/CLASS PERIOD LIMIT**.

#### **Going Home Due to Illness (NOT being sent home by the school Nurse)**

Students who become ill and request to go home must first report to the Nurse's Office; receive parent permission; and sign out in the Office. Students will not be allowed to leave without parent permission, regardless of age. Leaving school due to illness, verified by parent is **COUNTED TOWARD THE 10-DAY/CLASS PERIOD LIMIT**.

### **MEDICATION PROCEDURES**

If students require the taking of medication while at school, the following guidelines must be observed (1) The medication must be in a prescribed bottle from the doctor or pharmacist. (2) The bottle must be labeled with the child's name and correct dosages. (3) The prescription must be kept in the nurse's office. (4) The school nurse, administrators, or their designees will supervise the taking of the medicine. (5) A note from the parent must accompany the prescription stating the reason for the medication. (6) For Daily medication: A permission form must be obtained from the nurse, filled out, signed by doctor and parent, and filed with the nurse.

### **FOOD SERVICE**

The Type-A Regular lunch cost will be posted and advertised at the beginning of the school year. Ala Carte is available. Both regular lunch and ala carte are available on both serving lines. Each student is issued a lunch ID at the beginning of school. Students deposit money in their account and enter the ID each day to purchase their lunch.

### **TEXTBOOK RENTAL**

Covington High School purchases textbooks and workbooks to provide each student with instructional materials that are appropriate to each classroom activity. These are made available to students in exchange for a rental fee based on book cost, but workbooks and other supplies are consumable items to students. It is your responsibility to pay these charges, care for the materials, and return them in good condition. Fines will be assessed to students who damage their textbooks. Students who destroy or lose their textbooks must buy new ones.

### **WRITING CHECKS TO CHS**

Covington High School will accept checks to cover the cost of textbooks, fees, consumable items, lunches, etc. Checks must be written for the exact amount of the purchase. Students may not write a check and receive cash in return.

### **TELEPHONES**

A courtesy phone is available in the high school office during school hours. Please be courteous of others and limit the length of your call.

### **LOST AND FOUND**

All articles found in or near the high school should be turned in to the main office. Lost articles may be claimed from this office, but they will be disposed of if not claimed within a reasonable length of time. Students should

report any loss to the main office as soon as it is discovered. Each student should print in ink his/her name on tablets, gym clothes, tennis shoes, and books which are owned by the student. Students who drive to school should lock their cars. Avoid carrying large sums of money or things of great value to school. If a student must bring something of great value, bring it to the office for safe keeping during the school day. Ask for a receipt for money or the item kept in the office and one will be provided.

### **LOCKERS**

Students will be required to utilize their lockers. Students will not be permitted to carry backpacks with them to and from class. All coats must be kept inside lockers. The locker is to be used only by the person to whom it is assigned. Students are to use only the locker assigned to them. Sharing lockers is not permitted. **Students are advised not to place money or items of high value in lockers. The school will not be responsible for lost or stolen items.**

Lockers are school property and may be opened by the principal, assistant principal, or their designees at any time. Nothing is to be placed inside or outside a locker which may damage or deface it. Restitution must be made by the students for damaged lockers and lost locks (PE). The student's use of the locker does not diminish the school corporation's ownership or control of the locker.

The school corporation retains the right to inspect the locker and its contents to insure the locker is being used in accordance with its intended purpose. **(1)** A student who uses a locker that is the property of a school corporation is presumed to have no expectation of privacy in that locker or the locker's contents. **(2)** A law enforcement agency having jurisdiction over the geographic area having a school facility containing a student's locker may: at the request of the school principal; and b. in accordance with rules of the governing body of the school corporation; assist a school administrator in searching a student's locker and the locker's contents.

### **FIRE AND DISASTER DRILLS**

Fire drills will be held once per month during the school year. Disaster drills will be scheduled at least twice per semester. Signs are posted in each room with instructions telling where to report for each type of drill. Please be quiet as you exit the room. This is especially important should an exit or area be blocked, resulting in verbal instructions being needed to change the assigned exit or place of safety posted in each room. It is imperative that you follow these instructions and proceed in an orderly manner.

### **WORK PERMITS**

Work permits are issued through the employer.

### **PUBLICATION OF STUDENT INFORMATION AND/OR PICTURE**

Any parent or guardian wanting the name of his/her child excluded from any listing of honor rolls, athletic awards, or other forms of school activities' participation is asked to notify the Principal's Office in writing by the first week of school.

### **ENROLLMENT**

Students at Covington High School are expected to be in attendance on the first day of school. Those who live in the district have five days to enroll after school starts but will not be allowed to make up their work for credit. If extenuating circumstances prevail, the administration reserves the right to decide on individual cases.

### **WITHDRAWAL FROM SCHOOL**

Each student shall attend school as defined by the compulsory attendance law of the State of Indiana. School attendance is compulsory until the student either graduates or reaches age 18. A student may withdraw from school before graduation but only after attending an exit interview with his/her parent or guardian and the principal or his designee. The parent/guardian must consent in writing to the withdrawal.

## **SECTION II - STUDENT CONDUCT**

### **GENERAL BEHAVIOR**

The students of Covington High School are expected to behave in an appropriate manner while at school or any school-sponsored activity. At no time should an individual student or group of students' behavior impose any limitations on, or detract from, any school related activity or event.

It is expected students will follow common rules of courtesy. Violations of rules of common courtesy include the failure to follow staff members' directions, talking back to a staff member, and the use of abusive or obscene language directed toward a staff member.

It is essential to remember that the purpose of Covington High School is to provide an optimum environment where learning can take place. Any behavior that is deemed inappropriate or interferes with the educational process will not be tolerated and will be subject to disciplinary action.

### **STATE LAWS**

Students are responsible for their conduct under all local, state, and federal laws. The fact that the law may not be mentioned in this handbook does not excuse the student from the consequences of his actions under such law. All local, state, and federal laws are to be followed at all times.

### **SEXUAL HARASSMENT**

The School Corporation is committed to a policy that sexual harassment of school personnel and/or students by agents of employees of the Covington Schools is unacceptable. Any employee or student who believes he/she is a victim of sexual harassment should: (1) Make it clear to the harasser that the conduct is unwelcome; and (2) Report the incident (s) to the building principal and/or Dean of Students for further investigation and/or action.

### **ANTI-HAZING/HARASSMENT**

Hazing activities of any type are inconsistent with the educational process. All such activities are prohibited at any time in school facilities, on school property, and at any corporation-sponsored event.

Hazing is defined for purposes of this policy as performing any act, or coercing another person to perform any act of initiation into any class, group, or organization that causes or creates a risk (mental, emotional, or physical harm). Permission, consent, or assumption of risk by an individual subjected to hazing shall not exempt this policy.

All employees of this Corporation should be particularly alert to possible situations, circumstances, or events which might include hazing. If hazing or planned hazing is discovered, the students involved shall be informed of the prohibitions contained in this policy and shall be ordered to stop such behavior. The students will be disciplined in accordance with the student discipline guidelines of the student handbook. All hazing incidents shall be reported immediately to the Superintendent.

### **DISCIPLINE GUIDELINES**

The purpose of discipline is to maintain the best possible learning atmosphere. Your responsibility is to get an education. A student who is guilty of a behavior infraction may be referred to the office. Each case will be examined on its own merit, and a discipline assignment appropriate with the nature of the infraction will be given. In all cases the goal of discipline will be to bring about a change in the student's behavior rather than to punish. We will strive to remain consistent and fair when dealing with discipline. We do believe that it is in the best interest of both the student and the school to maintain firm discipline.

The following class list of violations is provided to aid in the communication of our expectations and obligations to the student body to insure a proper school atmosphere. It should be understood that discipline is a continual process with the whole year's record of the student being used to determine the necessary penalty for each violation. Repeat offenders will have more severe penalties and could be moved to the next class of punishment. Therefore, a student

who has three violations in Class 1 will be moved to Class 2 and considered to be a repeat offender on the second level in this class.

Each student who is subject to disciplinary action by the school administration will be dealt with according to this philosophy. The unique circumstances of each individual's case will be considered before a decision regarding punishment is made. Similar misbehaviors will normally receive similar penalties depending on the student's whole record. This list is not intended to be the "last word" concerning penalties. The merits of each case require flexibility; however, this list is provided to demonstrate a conscientious attempt to deal consistently and fairly with each individual. Misbehaviors not listed here will also be handled with this stated intent in mind. In cases involving expulsion, Public Law 162 of Student Due Process will be followed. (See Section VII)

Ten or more disciplines accumulated by a student per semester is considered habitual misconduct and can be grounds for expulsion.

The superintendent, principal, school resource officer, assistant principal, other administrative personnel or any teacher of the Covington Community School Corporation shall be authorized to take appropriate action in connection with student behavior based on but not exclusively restricted to, the following classes of disciplinary actions:

It is mandatory to serve assigned detentions. In situations where transportation is not available, where a student is absent from school due to illness, or when a student is employed outside of school and there is a work related conflict, the detention date may be reassigned at the discretion of administration. All detentions must be served prior to the end of the year. Senior students who owe a detention or who have accrued multiple hours of detention, will be required to serve all of their time prior to graduation or they will not be permitted to walk in the graduation ceremony.

**CLASS 1:** (Handled by teacher/staff member with possible office discipline referral)

**Violations:**

- Tardy to class or school;
- Unprepared for class;
- Improper use of computers (notes, games, etc.)
- Class disruptions

**Possible Consequence:**

- Conference with a parent/guardian;
- Assignment of 1-hour detention;
- Recommendation to restrict participation in and/or attendance at extra-curricular activities.

**CLASS 2:** (Discipline referral sent to office)

**Violations:**

- Leaving class without permission, cutting class, not reporting to the office
- Failure to comply with directions of school personnel;
- Obscenity;
- Public displays of affection;
- Unexcused Absences;
- Interfering with orderly school operation by any means.
- Inappropriate use of technology device (cell phone, smart watch, chromebook) which includes, but not limited to: videos, photos, messaging, social media posts, and mistreatment of chromebook
- Leaving school grounds without permission

**Possible Consequence:**

- 1-hour detention;
- 2-hour detention;
- In-school detention;
- Assigning multiple clean-up work periods;
- Assigning multiple detentions after school;
- Removal from class with loss of credit;
- Rearranging the student class schedule;

### CLASS 3 (Student referral to office)

#### Violations:

- Fighting;
- Physical contact with staff (shove, push, kick, ect...)
- Harassment (sexual, racial, ethnic, verbal, physical and/or emotional); (severe cases will be considered a Class 4 Violation)
- Intimidation, threats causing physical and/or emotional harm or hazing (severe cases will be considered as a Class 4 Violation);
- Forged documents/cheating;
- Possession, distribution, purchase, selling, or use of tobacco or nicotine-containing products of any form or any kind or lighters/matches on school grounds or at school activities;
- Truancy;
- Interfering with orderly school operation by any means;
- Unauthorized access to computer files and malicious use of files;
- Gang activity;
- Driving/Parking Lot violations

#### Possible Consequence:

- Suspension out of school;
- Multiple In-school detention;
- Combination of In-School and 2 hour detention;
- Combination of 1 day out of school and 2 hour detention;
- Removal from class with loss of credit;
- Restriction of driver's license;
- Restriction of driving privilege;

### CLASS 4 (Student referral to office)

#### Violations:

- Possession or use of firecrackers, smokes bombs, etc.;
- Theft;
- Knowingly possessing, using, transmitting, having in one's body or being under the influence of any narcotic drug, hallucinogenic drug, amphetamine, barbiturate, marijuana, look-alike substances, alcoholic beverage, or intoxicant of any kind and/or the possession of drug paraphernalia; (*see page 10 substance abuse*)
- Vandalism;
- Alcohol, possession, use of ;
- Possession of, use, or threatened use of a weapon;
- Unauthorized access to computer files and malicious use of files;
- Sexting;
- Gang activity;
- Excessive/Habitual Misconduct problem;
- Interfering with orderly school operation by any means;
- Gross disrespect and/or insubordination directed toward a staff member;
- Lewd or obscene behavior;
- Carrying a pocket knife of any size

#### Possible Consequence:

- In school detention;
- Up to 10 days out of school;
- Up to 10 days out of school and expulsion;
- Restitution as needed;
- Notification of local law enforcement

### WEAPON POSSESSION

**An armed offender is a person possessing a weapon capable of deadly force, whose intent is to pose a threat, to inflict harm, or to carry out a personal objective. The armed person may be a student, staff member, parent, or community member. The CCSC code of conduct forbids possession of weapons – carrying, storing, or using deadly weapons on school grounds. No student shall possess, handle, or transmit any firearm on school property.**

## **POSSESSION OF FIREARM.**

As defined by Indiana Code 20-33-8-16:

Possession of firearms, deadly weapons, or destructive devices

Sec. 16. (a) As used in this section, "firearm" has the meaning set forth in IC 35-47-1-5.

(b) As used in this section, "deadly weapon" has the meaning set forth in IC 35-31.5-2-86. The term does not include a firearm or destructive device.

(c) As used in this section, "destructive device" has the meaning set forth in IC 35-47.5-2-4.

(d) Notwithstanding section 20 of this chapter, a student who is:

(1) identified as bringing a firearm or destructive device to school or on school property; or

(2) in possession of a firearm or destructive device on school property;

must be expelled for at least one (1) calendar year, with the return of the student to be at the beginning of the first school semester after the end of the one (1) year period.

(e) The superintendent may, on a case by case basis, modify the period of expulsion under subsection (d) for a student who is expelled under this section.

(f) Notwithstanding section 20 of this chapter, a student who is:

(1) identified as bringing a deadly weapon to school or on school property; or

(2) in possession of a deadly weapon on school property; may be expelled for not more than one (1) calendar year.

(g) The superintendent or the superintendent's designee shall immediately notify the appropriate law enforcement agency having jurisdiction over the property where the school is located if a student engages in a behavior described in subsection (d). The superintendent may give similar notice if the student engages in a behavior described in subsection (f). Upon receiving notification under this subsection, the law enforcement agency shall begin an investigation and take appropriate action.

(h) A student with disabilities (as defined in IC 20-35-7-7) who possesses a firearm on school property is subject to procedural safeguards under 20 U.S.C. 1415.

*As added by P.L.1-2005, SEC.17. Amended by P.L.114-2012, SEC.42.*

## **SUBSTANCE ABUSE**

It is a violation of the disciplinary code of Covington School Corporation to:

1. Possess, provide to another person, any substance which is or contains - alcohol, marijuana, a stimulant, an intoxicant, a narcotic, a depressant, or a hallucinogen - whether a prescription or sold over the counter (without a prescription), or any substance represented by the provider to be any of the listed substances - on sponsored grounds at any time or at any school sponsored activity at any location including the school bus, bus stop, or off campus facilities. Use of medication by a student prescribed by a medical doctor, a dentist, or other health care provider authorized by law to prescribe medication for that student, does not violate this rule. Medication must be stored in the nurse's office.
2. Possess or provide to any person anything used or designed to be used primarily for the storage, processing, delivery or consumption of - alcohol, marijuana, stimulants, intoxicants, depressants, or hallucinogens - on school premises at any time or at any school sponsored activity at any location including the school bus. Examples of things which are not to be possessed or provided to another person are: pipes, rolling papers, clips, - the lists given here are examples and not intended to be all inclusive.
3. Engage in the unlawful selling of narcotics or other violation of criminal law which constitutes a danger to other students, or constitutes an interference with school purposes.
4. Should a violation of this section occur, the building level administrator shall make every effort to contact parents/guardians, contact local law enforcement agencies, and make a detailed written report to the prosecuting attorney.

## **TOBACCO/VAPING USE**

Use of or possession of any tobacco products, nicotine gum, nicotine pouches, electronic cigarettes, and/or lighter or matches at school, or at any school related function or activity is not permitted.

All Covington Community School Corporation facilities where pre-school, kindergarten, elementary and/or secondary education services are being provided to children are to be smoke/tobacco free environments. Smoking

and use of tobacco products in any building that Covington Community Schools utilizes to provide education to its students is prohibited.

Students caught in the possession of tobacco, vape, or any other illegal product/substance will be subject to drug testing under the “Just-Cause” clause in the student handbook.

**Consequences as follows:**

First offense: Minimum 3 Day In School Detention

Second offense: 3 Day Out of School Suspension

Third offense: 10-Day Out of School Suspension pending expulsion

**\*\*Each offense will result in a ticket issued by the School Resource Officer\*\***

## **GANG ACTIVITY**

Gang-Like Behavior: The following examples of misconduct will constitute grounds for suspension or expulsion of students. These examples are illustrative only and do not preclude other examples of student misconduct as grounds for suspension or expulsion period. In a continuing effort to provide a safe and orderly environment for our students and toward the goal of keeping our schools free from the harmful influence of any groups or gangs which advocate and/or provoke dangerous disruptive, violent and/or intimidating behavior, the following information is provided:

A gang is any identifiable group of people who:

1. are perceived as a distinct group by the principal,
2. are perceived by the students, parents, and/or staff of the school as interfering with normal school activities by participating in dangerous, disruptive, violent, and/or intimidating acts of behavior,
3. are involved in the commission of disruptive, violent and/or intimidating acts of behavior.

Gang-like behavior will not be tolerated in the schools of Covington Community School Corporation. Disciplinary measures ranging from a warning to expulsion from school shall be taken upon the observance of gang-like behavior.

## **BULLYING**

This rule applies when a student is:

1. On school grounds immediately before or during school hours, immediately after school hours or at any other time when the school is being used by a school group (including summer school);
2. Off school grounds at a school activity, function, or event;
3. Traveling to or from school or a school activity, function, or event; or using property or equipment provided by the school.

Bullying by a student or groups of students against another student with the intent to harass, ridicule, humiliate, intimidate, or harm the other student through overt, repeated acts or gestures, including verbal or written communications transmitted, and/or physical acts committed, or any other similar behavior is prohibited.

Parents or students who suspect that repeated acts of bullying are taking place should report the matter to the school principal or designee. School personnel will investigate all reports of bullying.

Counseling, corrective discipline, and/or referral to law enforcement will be used to change the behavior of the perpetrator. This includes appropriate intervention(s), restoration of a positive climate, and support for victims and others impacted by the violation.

Educational outreach and training will be provided to school personnel, parents, and students concerning the identification, prevention, and intervention in bullying.

All schools in the corporation are encouraged to engage students, staff and parents in meaningful discussions about the negative aspects of bullying. The parent involvement may be through parent organizations already in place in each school.

**DISCIPLINE RULES REGARDING BULLYING (SMITH V)** Provides that discipline rules adopted by the governing body of a school corporation must include timetables for reporting bullying incidents to parents of both the targeted student and the alleged perpetrator in an expedited manner that is not later than five business days after the incident is reported. (Current law provides that discipline rules adopted by the governing body of a school corporation must include timetables for reporting bullying incidents to parents of both the targeted student and the bully in an expedited manner.) Provides that discipline rules adopted by the governing body of a school corporation: (1) must include provisions that require a school to prioritize the safety of the victim; (2) may include provisions to determine: (A) the severity of an incident of bullying; and (B) whether an incident of bullying may warrant the transfer of the victim or the alleged perpetrator to another school in the school corporation; and (3) must include policies to allow a parent of a child in the school corporation to review any materials used in any bullying prevention or suicide prevention program. Requires public schools to document acts of bullying and abusive behaviors against a victim and committed by a verified perpetrator.

**Current Status: Public Law 238**

### **DRESS CODE & APPEARANCE**

The Covington Community School Corporation feels that high levels of self-esteem and respect are important to the educational process. It is important to the CCHS staff for our students to dress in a manner as to reflect positively and respectfully on themselves, their families, their school, and their community. Therefore, we encourage students to dress in a safe, clean, and neat manner. While the school recognizes that styles of dress come and go, certain standards of reasonable dress should be expected. Students are expected to wear their clothing and manage their appearance in a manner *consistent with the guidelines*. No policy will address all situations, but the following guidelines are to be followed:

1. Students should not wear clothing or hairstyles that can be hazardous or distracting to them or others in their school activities such as shop, lab work, physical education, and art. Grooming and dress which prevent students from doing their best work because of blocked vision or restricted movement are discouraged, as are dress styles that create a disruption of teaching or of classroom order. All footwear must have solid soles.
2. Jewelry will not be worn in physical education class.
3. No torn or tattered clothing or clothing with excessive frays where skin is visible is to be worn during school hours. This applies all pants, shorts, etc. in the area above the knee. Clothing used as undergarments are NOT acceptable as cover-ups. Patches are acceptable coverings.
4. Tube-tops, halter-tops, tank-tops, cut-off shirts, or any shirt that exposes excessive cleavage, undergarments (i.e. bra straps), or bare shoulders should not be worn. Shirts must have at least 2.5 inches (approx. 3 finger widths) width strap in the area between the neck and the arms.
5. **The mid-drift should not be visible or exposed under any garment. No crop-tops.**
6. Visible body piercings are limited to pierced ears and/or a nostril. Hoops/rings are not allowed in the lip, eyebrow, or any other visible body part other than the ear or nose. Clear spacers or inserts are allowed, unless size is abused and determined as an educational distraction.
7. Students must wear shoes.
8. Students are prohibited from wearing . . . “messages on clothing, jewelry, and personal belongings that relate to drugs, alcohol, tobacco, weapons, violence, sex, vulgarity, or that reflect adversely upon persons because of their race or ethnic group.”
9. Clothing with inappropriate language will not be tolerated.
10. Fishnet shirts or other types of mesh or "see through" shirts are to be worn only if an undershirt is also worn underneath them.
11. No hats or hoods to be worn on heads.
12. All shorts (including running/cycling shorts) must be fingertip length when the student is standing straight up.
13. Coats will not be worn in the classrooms unless the teacher grants special permission.
14. Wallet chains or other chains hooked to clothing are not permitted.
15. Pants, shorts, and skirts are to be worn at the waistline.
16. Inappropriate display of Confederate flag

If students wear the types of clothing named in the above paragraph to school, or if they wear other types of clothing or dress in such a fashion as to disrupt the educational process, then such students will be sent home to change into appropriate clothing. Such students will be considered unexcused for the time that it takes them to go home, change clothes, and return to school. Students who repeatedly violate the dress code will be subject to disciplinary action.

**Final determination of appropriate dress lies with the school administration.**

## ELECTRONIC DEVICES

Radios, Recorders, IPODS, IPADS, Electronic Music Devices and/or Electronic Games are not permitted during class time, except those approved by a teacher or administrator or as required by a student's IEP. Such items are a disruption to the educational process. Often these items may be lost or damaged. If these items are found at school, they will be taken by the Principal, Dean of Students, or Assistant Principal and not returned until the end of the day.

### Cell Phones / Personal Communication Devices

Students may use personal communication devices (PCDs)/Cell phones...

1. Before and after school
2. During their lunch break
3. In between classes (Passing Periods)

...as long as they do not create a distraction, disruption or otherwise interfere with the educational environment (as determined by school personnel). Students **MAY NOT** use a PCD/Cell phone while in the locker room or bathroom. Any cell phone use deemed inappropriate or distracting by any means by any school personnel may result in confiscation of the device.

**Cell phones are not to be seen, heard, or used by students during class time/instructional time for any reason. Cell phones are to remain secured in the students locker and will not be permitted into the classroom.**

Any cell phone seen, heard, carried, or used in any manner other than previously mentioned will be confiscated (including SIM card and battery) by an adult, turned into the building administrator, and returned in the manner described below. Failure to forfeit the cell phone (including SIM card and battery) to an adult will be an act of insubordination and will result in an automatic suspension in addition to the consequence as prescribed according to the following numbered offense.

- **1st offense:** 1-hour detention
- **2nd offense:** 2-hour detention
- **3rd offense:** 2-hour detention and cell phone ban while at school. Length of ban will be determined by the school administration on a case-by-case basis.
- **Multiple Thereafter:** In-school detention, possible OSS, extended cell phone ban from school

Any student who allows another student to use his/her cell phone will be subjected to the same consequences as the person using the phone.

Smart watches are allowed to be worn as a timepiece. They are not permitted for any other use during class time.

The reason for a cell phone policy is to deter classroom disruptions, cheating, cyber bullying, "sexting", and other acts that violate child exploitation and child pornography laws.

Cell phones will be searched if administrators have reasonable suspicion that a student has violated a school rule or the law. Law enforcement will be contacted if the student violates a law such as but not limited to, harassment, bullying, or child pornography.

## FIELD TRIPS

Students that are participating in school-sponsored field trips will be held accountable for all rules found in the student handbook. A signed permission slip must be turned into the office prior to the student leaving for the field trip. **Students with 6 or more unexcused absences or students failing one or more classes may be excluded from attending the field trips.**

## CHEATING/PLAGIARISM POLICY

Cheating/Plagiarism will not be tolerated at Covington High School. Cheating includes copying homework, assignments, assigned class work, as well as copying or using notes on exams. Cheating also includes having other people complete work on a student's behalf. Using ChatGPT and AI to write papers or provide answers to classroom assignments, tests, and quizzes will also be considered cheating/plagiarism. Students who share required graded assignments, exams, or tests, will receive the following consequences listed below.

***The following penalties are to be applied on a Semester basis.***

- 1<sup>st</sup> Offense - 0% on test or assignment and a warning from principal/assistant principal.
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Offense -0% on test or assignment and a 2 hour detention.
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Offense - 0% on test or assignment, a 2 hour detention, and one letter grade lower.
- 4th Offense -F for the semester

## **VANDALISM**

The Board of Trustees of the Covington Schools has provided the students with great facilities, and are continuing to improve them. Vandalism in any form will not be permitted. All Covington school buildings, grounds, equipment and facilities are covered under this rule. Payment for damages may be enforced.

## **LEAVING SCHOOL GROUND**

Permission to leave school at any time during the school day must be given by the Principal or the Assistant Principal and must be approved by the Parent (s) or guardian (s). Students who receive permission to leave school during the school day must sign out in the High School Office before leaving, and likewise sign in upon their return if they return while that same school day is in session. Medical, dental, or legal appointments for students which must take place during the regular school day will require either a parent note or parent call-in prior to the appointment in order for the student to be released by the Principal or the Assistant Principal. Students who leave school without following these procedures will be considered truant. **A student tardy to first class is required to sign in at the main office at the secretary's desk.**

## **STUDENT DRIVING/PARKING**

Driving to and from school is a privilege extended to students. Drivers need to be fully aware that many students are walking to and from school each day; therefore, all safety and defensive driving practices should be utilized. Yield the right of way to students walking and to our buses as they arrive and depart the property. If a student is found to be driving recklessly, the privilege of driving to school may be revoked or suspended. Student drivers should adhere to the following guidelines:

1. Be safety conscientious at all times.
2. Each driver must possess a valid Driver's License
3. A vehicle owned or possessed by a student and parked on school premises may be searched by the principal or his designee. In some instances the principal or his designee may request the presence of law enforcement officials to assist in the vehicle search.
4. Students are required to park in designated areas. Vehicles are to be locked while parked on school premises.
5. Students are not to loiter in the parking areas
6. The school is not responsible for any damage due to accidents, theft, or vandalism of vehicles or its contents while parked on school premises.
7. Be respectful of our neighbors and their properties near the parking areas.
8. Vehicles not registered or parked in unrestricted areas may be towed at the owner's expense.
9. Must participate in random drug testing.
10. Must have a CT parking pass

**The following areas are designated for Student Parking:**

1. Parking lot south of the Varsity Gym in non designated parking spots.
2. Parking lot south of the Annex.

**Areas not available for student parking include:**

1. Fifth and Sixth Street
2. Church parking lot
3. Middle School parking lot
4. Teacher lot outside of Door 1

**Failure to abide by the above regulations may result in loss of driving privileges and/or other disciplinary action including suspension or expulsion from school.**

## DANCE DECORUM AND POLICIES

Students need to be aware of certain procedures that take place before and during Covington High School dances, which includes prom:

- The sponsoring group and school administration will determine whether a dance will be open or closed. For open dances, guests must fill out a School Dance Guest Request Form ahead of time to gain approval from the school administration.
- Students must have an RDT (Random Drug Testing) form on file in the office to attend all school dances.
- Once students enter the dance, they will not be allowed to leave and re-enter the dance without special circumstance and administrative pre-approval.
- Students who have incomplete assignments will not be eligible to attend dances until assignments are completed.
- **All students and guests may be required to submit to a breathalyzer test at any school dance before, during, or after the event.**

The following rules will be enforced at all dances with regards to dance behavior. The rules apply to individual, partner, group or large circle dancing.

1. No crowd surfing
2. No sandwiching or moshing
3. No lifting legs above the waist
4. Hands must be appropriately placed
5. All forms of inappropriate body contact are prohibited
6. No lying down or sitting on the dance floor
7. No removing of primary articles of clothing

The administration will use its discretion in determining what type of dancing is inappropriate and may dismiss students violating these rules from the dance.

## SECTION III - DISCIPLINARY ACTIONS

### DEFINITIONS AND PROCEDURES

**1-Hour Detention** - Additional time assigned at school, either before or after regular school hours, under supervision. Students who have detention time to serve are responsible for arranging their own transportation. The detention will be served on the day or days assigned by the principal or his designee. Detentions will be served from 3:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. Failure to serve an assigned detention will result in further disciplinary action.

**2-Hour Detention** - Its main purpose is to help the student realize the consequences of inappropriate behavior. A student can only be sent to a 2-hour detention by a member of the administration. He/she will remain there under the supervision of a certified staff member for two hours. The student should report to the office area promptly after school. 2-hour detention will last from 3:05 until 5:05 p.m. A restroom break will be given at 4:00 p.m. only.

1. Transportation will not be provided by the corporation.
2. It may be necessary for a parent conference during the session, and the parent will be notified prior to the detention period.
3. Failure to show for 2-hour detention will result in
  - Out-of-School Suspension.

**In-School Detention** - Time will be spent, during regular school hours, in an assigned area with supervision. Work missed or its equivalent may be made up for full credit. The student's teachers will be notified of the suspension and the student will receive assignments for completion. The completed make-up work is due at the end of the day's suspension period. In-school detention may be assigned two times to a student during a semester. Each assignment could be for multiple days. The student is not to participate in any school activity or function on a day when the student has served an In-School Detention.

**Out-Of-School Suspension-** Disciplinary action whereby a student is separated from school attendance for a period of up to ten (10) days and which does not constitute an expulsion. The student is not to participate in any school activity or function during the time of this suspension. It is the responsibility of the student to obtain assignments from their teachers no later than the day they return to school. Students will be allowed to make up work or its equivalent for 1/2 credit, with the exception of all assessments which will be given upon return for full credit. If the work is obtained while on out of school suspension, the work is due the day the student returns from suspension. If the work is obtained the day the student returns from suspension, the work is due the next school day.

Students may be suspended or expelled for any act which, if committed by an adult, would be an offense, or crime, including any felony, misdemeanor or infraction.

Indiana Public Law 121-1989, went into effect on July 1, 1989. This law prohibits the Indiana Bureau of Motor Vehicles from issuing a driver's license or permit to a student under 18 who is under:

1. at least a second suspension from school for the school year;
2. an expulsion from school; or
3. an exclusion from school due to misconduct

The Bureau of Motor Vehicles is also required to invalidate a student's license or permit for the same reasons. A student whose license or permit has been denied or invalidated for the above reasons will be eligible for a license or permit or have a license or permit revalidated upon the earliest or one of the following:

1. the student turns 18;
2. the end of the semester if the student is reinstated in school; or
3. the suspension, expulsion, or exclusion is reversed after a hearing.

**Expulsion:** Student is suspended by the principal for up to ten (10) days and a Due Process hearing is requested by the principal. The student may not participate in or attend any school activity during the time of this suspension. Public Law 162 is followed.

## **Student Assistance Policy**

### **Introduction:**

The Covington Community School Corporation will provide students/families with a list of resources that offer treatment and counseling for alcohol, drugs, addictions, and mental health conditions. The programs offered will include identification, intervention, assessment, and treatment recommendations to include in/out school support services for students experiencing school-related difficulties as a result of alcohol, drugs, behavioral, or other personal family problems. Covington Community School Corporation bears no financial responsibility for these programs. It is the responsibility of the student/family to enroll in a SAP program of their choice and provide documentation to the administration of enrollment and scheduled treatment dates. The use of SAP can also be a component of a behavior contract or a Form 16-A, used for the continuation of educational services at Covington High School.

## **ALCOHOL AND DRUGS**

### **1.1 Self-referral**

Except for violations reported under section 1.4, a student who self refers to a Student Assistance Program (SAP) and who is making satisfactory progress in following his/her recommendations will not be liable to suspension, extracurricular ineligibility, or denied attendance to any school sponsored activity, or other disciplinary action for behavior that occurs prior to self-referral unless:

1. The student discloses conduct already reported under section 1.4 as a witnessed violation, OR
2. The student fails to follow an SAP Coordinator's recommendations or to comply with SAP policy guidelines.

### **1.2 Compliance Evaluations**

Evaluations concerning agreed upon compliance with SAP policy guidelines will be made by the building SAP Coordinator in consultation with the building administrator, support group facilitators, and other members of the Core Team.

### **1.3 Voluntary Participation**

Participation in a Student Assistance Program is voluntary. At all times it is the prerogative of the student and/or parent(s)/guardian(s) to accept or reject referral to the SAP Coordinator or to community-based services.

1. Regardless of whether a student accepts or rejects assistance it remains his/her responsibility to behave properly and to improve grades.
2. If a student accepts treatment for chemical dependency, that fact will be regarded as it would for any other illness with respect to the student's rights, benefits, and privileges.
3. Any student judged by the building administrator to present a risk of imminent danger to himself/herself or others may be removed from the school pending the results of a professional evaluation.
4. The Covington Community School Corporation regards chemical dependency to be a chronic progressive illness that is fatal if left untreated. Consequently, refusal by parents to seek treatment for a chemically dependent child will result in a report to the Department of Welfare for suspected child abuse/neglect.

#### **1.4 Violations**

A violation would be defined as (but not inclusive) as a student possessing, providing to another person, or being under the influence of any substance which is or contains alcohol, marijuana, a narcotic, a depressant, or a hallucinogen, whether prescription or sold over the counter without a prescription, or any substance represented by the provider to be any of the listed substances on the school grounds at any time or at any school sponsored activity at any location- including but not limited to on the school bus, in one's vehicle, parking lot, or school sports facility.

##### **A. FIRST OFFENSE CONSEQUENCES:**

Parents and law enforcement officials will be contacted immediately upon verification of the violation. The student will be suspended for 10 days, recommended for expulsion, and ineligible for participation in all extracurricular activities, driving privileges and athletics for a period of one calendar year from the date of offense. **Physically bringing, holding, possessing, keeping in one's vehicle illegal drugs on campus is an automatic 10 days of suspension pending expulsion. The health and safety of the school, students, and staff are paramount and expulsion from Covington High School will be imminent. SAP opportunities will still be provided for the student and a Form 16-A will be mandatory if the student returns to Covington High School after their expulsion time is complete.** The building administrator may table the recommendation for expulsion when extenuating circumstances are present, reduce the loss of extracurricular eligibility, and reduce the loss of the right to attend any school-sponsored activity if the following criteria are met:

1. During the 10 day period of suspension from school, the student and/or parent(s)/guardian(s) shall contact the Student Assistance Program (SAP) Coordinator and make necessary arrangements for a preliminary assessment of chemical use and to make other arrangements that might be part of the recommendations of the SAP Coordinator.
2. Should the student and/or parent(s)/guardian(s) fail to make the required contact with the Student Assistance Program Coordinator during the 10 day period of suspension from school, the student will be subject to due process related to expulsion.
3. The student and parent(s)/guardian(s) will sign a conditional agreement to defer expulsion proceedings, and will satisfactorily complete all of the terms and conditions provided in the agreement. This SAP contract will contain a "Waiver of Rights" requiring parental and student signatures resulting in forfeiture of due process procedures should the student violate the terms and conditions of the SAP contract.
4. Failure to comply with the SAP Coordinator's recommendations will result in the student being subject to expulsion after due process.

##### **B. SECOND OFFENSE CONSEQUENCES:**

Parents and law enforcement officials will be contacted immediately upon verification of the violation. The building administrator will make a recommendation for expulsion for the remainder of the school year to the superintendent. If the request for expulsion takes place during the second semester of a school year, the expulsion, if imposed, shall remain in effect for summer school and for the first semester of the following school year, subject to the provisions of IC 20-8.1-5-11 (f).

#### **1.5 Life Threatening Situations**

In the event of a life threatening situation where a student exhibits evidence of acute intoxication, incapacitation, or a drug overdose, in a school sponsored event, his/her parents and the police will be immediately notified, and the

student will be transported to the local hospital by an appropriate emergency vehicle. Following his/her return to school, Section 1.4A. of this policy will be implemented.

### **1.6 Failure to Comply with SAP Guidelines**

Reductions in length of suspension or extracurricular ineligibility, or withholding of expulsion may be revoked by the building administrator whenever a student fails to demonstrate compliance with the agreed upon SAP guidelines.

### **1.7 Referrals by School Staff to the Building Administrator**

All school staff members are expected to refer to the building administrator:

1. Any student whom they witness in violation of section 1.4 above.
2. Any student's self-disclosed alcohol/drug-related behavior places them or others at risk or in imminent danger.

### **1.8 Referrals by School Staff to the SAP Coordinator**

All school staff members are expected to refer to the SAP Coordinator:

1. Any student who exhibits a definite and repeated pattern of unacceptable school performance that does not respond to usual and customary attempts to correct it.
2. Any student exhibiting signs, symptoms, or indications of an alcohol or drug-related problem.

(REFERRAL OF A STUDENT TO THE STUDENT ASSISTANCE PROGRAM BY ITSELF DOES NOT CONSTITUTE AN ALLEGATION THAT A STUDENT HAS AN ALCOHOL/DRUG-RELATED PROBLEM.)

## **COVINGTON HIGH SCHOOL SUSPENSION AND EXPULSION POLICY**

Recognizing that the behavior of some students may be so disruptive that it interferes with school purposes or educational functions of the school corporation, the administration may find it necessary to remove a student from the school. In this event and in accordance with the provisions of State Law, the Board of School Trustees authorizes Principals and staff members to take the following actions:

1. **REMOVAL FROM CLASS OR ACTIVITY - TEACHER:** 1) A high school teacher will have the right to remove a student from his/her class or activity for a period of 1 school day if the student is assigned regular or additional work to be completed in another school setting.
2. **SUSPENSION FROM SCHOOL - PRINCIPAL:** A school principal, dean of students, or assistant may deny a student the right to attend school or take part in any school function for a period of up to 10 school days.
3. **EXPULSION:** In accordance with the due process procedures a student may be expelled from school for a period no longer than the remainder of the current semester plus the following semester, with the exception of a violation of rule 13 listed under the grounds for Suspension and Expulsion in this policy.

### **GROUND FORSUSPENSION OR EXPULSION**

Grounds for suspension or expulsion are student misconduct or substantial disobedience. The following includes examples of student misconduct or substantial disobedience. Examples can be found in Class I, II, III, IV Violations. In addition to the grounds listed above a student may be suspended or expelled for engaging in unlawful activity on or off school grounds 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. This includes any unlawful activity meeting the above criteria which takes place during weekends, holidays, on the campus of another school, other school breaks, and the summer period when a student may not be attending classes or other school functions. An out of school suspension may require the student to go through the Fountain Circuit Court procedure, which requires the student and parent/guardian to be present at a scheduled court date.

### **OUT-OF-SCHOOL SUSPENSION PROCEDURES**

When a principal (or designee) determines that a student should be suspended, the following procedures will be followed:

1. A meeting will be held prior to the suspension of any student. At this meeting the student will be entitled to:
  - a. a written or oral statement of the charges.
  - b. if the student denies the charges, a summary of the evidence against the student will be presented and,
  - c. the student will be provided an opportunity to explain his or her conduct.
2. The meeting shall precede suspension of the student except where the nature of the misconduct requires immediate removal. In such situations, the meeting will follow the suspension as soon as reasonably possible following the date of the suspension.
3. Following the suspension, the parents or guardians of suspended students will be notified in writing. The notification will include the dates of the suspension, describe the student's misconduct, and the action taken by the principal.
4. Depending on the severity of the situation and under administrative discretion, students may be able to still complete classwork online for full credit. Tests and quizzes will not be available online and must be completed as soon as possible under the supervision of the classroom teacher.

### **EXPULSION PROCEDURES**

When a principal recommends to the superintendent that a student be expelled from school, the following procedures will be followed.

1. The superintendent may conduct an expulsion meeting, or may appoint one of the following persons to conduct the expulsion meeting:
  - a. legal counsel
  - b. a member of the administrative staff who did not expel the student and was not involved in the events giving rise to the expulsion.
2. An expulsion will not take place until the student and the student's parents are asked to appear at an expulsion meeting conducted by the superintendent or the person designated above. Failure by a student or a student's parents to appear at this meeting will be deemed a waiver of rights administratively to contest the expulsion or to appeal it to the school board.
3. The request to appear at the expulsion meeting will be in writing, delivered by certified mail or by personal delivery, and contain the reasons for the expulsion and the date, time, place, and purpose of the meeting.
4. At the expulsion meeting, the principal (or designee), will present evidence to support the charges against the student. The student or parent will have the opportunity to answer the charges against the student, and to present evidence to support the student's position.
5. If an expulsion meeting is held, the person conducting the expulsion meeting will make a written summary of the evidence heard at the meeting, take any action found to be appropriate, and give notice of the action taken to the student and the student's parents.

The parent has the right to appeal the decision of the person conducting the expulsion meeting to the school board within 10 days of the receipt of notice of the action taken. The student or parent appeal to the school board to vote not to hear the appeal. If the board hears the appeal, it will consider the written summary of the expulsion meeting and the arguments of both the school administration and the student and/or the student's parents. The board will then take any action deemed appropriate.

## **SECTION IV - BUS DISCIPLINE POLICY**

### **BEHAVIOR GUIDELINES AND CONSEQUENCES**

The following procedures are in place to maintain proper student conduct while being transported on school buses contracted by the Covington Community School Corporation. Any improper conduct will be deemed as either a Class I or Class II Offense. Class I offenses are viewed as general misconduct; Class II offenses are considered violations regarding safety issues, vandalism, or multiple offenses.

#### **Class I Offenses**

- ❖ Spitting
- ❖ Excessive noise

- ❖ Horseplay
- ❖ Eating/Drinking/Littering
- ❖ Leaving seat/standing
- ❖ Use of liquid containers
- ❖ Profanity, verbal abuse, harassment, obscene gestures
- ❖ False identification
- ❖ Riding unassigned bus or using unassigned stops
- ❖ Lowering windows beyond limit no
- ❖ Riding/attempting to ride during suspension
- ❖ Disobedience to the driver
- ❖ Other offenses reported by the driver/supervisor

**Class II Offenses**

- ❖ Hanging out windows
- ❖ Throwing/shooting objects
- ❖ Physical aggression
- ❖ Possession/use of tobacco or controlled substance
- ❖ Vandalism to bus or others property (Restitution will be made)
- ❖ Grasping or attempting to grasp any portion of the exterior of the bus
- ❖ Possession/use of lighters, matches or flammable substances/objects
- ❖ Unauthorized entering/exiting through emergency exits
- ❖ Possession or threat of weapons/explosives/flammables
- ❖ Other offenses reported by the driver/supervisor
- ❖ Any offense committed outside of regular transportation will be deemed a Class II Offense. (activities, field trips, etc.)

<b>Consequences</b>					
	<b>1<sup>st</sup> offense</b>	<b>2<sup>nd</sup> offense</b>	<b>3<sup>rd</sup> offense</b>	<b>4<sup>th</sup> offense</b>	<b>5<sup>th</sup> offense</b>
<b>Class I</b>	Written Warning and parent /guardian contacted	Parent/Guardian contacted 1 day suspension assigned by admin.	Parent/guardian contacted 3 day suspension assigned by admin.	1. Parent/Guardian contacted. 2.5 day suspension assigned by admin. 3. Possible loss of bus service 4. Parent Conference	Parent/guardian contacted Loss of bus service
<b>Class II</b>	Parent/guardian contacted 5 day suspension assigned by admin.	Parent/guardian contacted 10 day suspension assigned by admin.	Parent/guardian contacted 1. 10 day suspension assigned by admin. 2. Possible loss of bus service 3. Parent Conference	Parent/guardian contacted Loss of Bus service	

*The bus is an extension of the school day. Bus consequences may be superseded by the Covington Community School Corporation board policy. The bus driver has the authority to assign seats. The sexual/racial/harassment policy, the weapons policy, and hazing prohibition policy of the C.C.S.C. will be strictly enforced on the bus as well as school.*

**SECTION V - DRUG TESTING POLICY/PROCEDURES**

**DRUG TESTING POLICY**

The Board of School Trustees of the Covington Community School Corporation recognizes the health risks and dangers associated with the use of unlawful drugs and/or alcohol. The abuse of tobacco, alcohol, and other drugs in the school is a threat to the safety and health of students, faculty, and staff. It jeopardizes the efficiency and the quality of our educational programs. The risks associated with drug abuse include impaired judgment, deterioration

of the organs of the body, and addiction. These are conditions that substantially inhibit students from performing to their fullest natural ability. The Board of School Trustees encourages all students to participate in school athletics and allows students to drive to school but believes the opportunity for such participation is not an absolute right, it is a privilege. The primary purpose of this policy is to educate and protect our students.

The Board of School Trustees has approved random drug testing for the following populations in grades 6-12.

1. student involved in school-sponsored athletics;
2. extra curricular activities;
3. student registered drivers
4. students, with parent/guardian consent, who volunteer to participate in the Drug Testing Program

Students who are exhibiting behaviors or are involved in activities, which give school authorities just cause to suspect the student is under the influence of a controlled substance or alcohol may be tested at the discretion of the building principal or assistant principal.

Each student who participates in school sponsored athletics, extracurricular activities, or drives to school must sign the online consent form upon registration for school. Failure to comply will result in non-participation in athletics, extracurricular activities, and/or loss of driving privileges to school. All students who are part of the volunteer drug testing during the current school year will automatically be in the drug-testing pool during the next school year. Those parents who **wish** to withdraw their students from the volunteer drug-testing program need to sign a release form.

## **DRUG TESTING PROCEDURE**

### **Consent Form**

All students shall be provided with an online consent form, which must be signed by the student and be a custodial parent or guardian before such student shall be eligible to participate in any school sponsored athletics, extra curricular activities, or drive a vehicle on school grounds. Students who are 18 years of age or older may be included in the testing program at their own request.

### **Selection**

Students to be tested will be selected randomly, except for those for whom there is probable cause to believe that there is a controlled substance or alcohol in their system. Each student will be assigned a number. A cross-reference list of names and numbers will be maintained by each school. A certified system of random selection will be employed by the school administrator to determine which students will be tested at a particular time.

### **Drug Testing Procedure**

Upon being selected for testing, each student will be required to provide a sample of his or her saliva in a verifiable manner.

1. The collection of the sample shall be taken/swabbed by the school nurse.
2. The student's number and the date shall be written on the sample.
3. The student and school nurse or school designee shall date and initial the cross-reference list establishing that the sample container has the proper identification number.
4. The school nurse or school designee shall then be responsible for turning over the samples to the testing laboratory.

### **Drugs Tested**

Testing shall be done by a certified laboratory through saliva analysis. The Covington Community School Corporation will pay for testing that it requests. Each sample will be tested for tobacco, alcohol, and those drugs, which may include all drugs listed as controlled substances under the laws of the State of Indiana. If over-the-counter or prescription medications contribute to "positive" test results, then the student should inform the school nurse or administrator of this fact at the time the urine sample is taken. The student will be given 24 hours to produce the prescription in order to be verified by the school nurse.

### **Laboratory Report**

The laboratory will report the results of each test to the administrator by the numbers on each sample container. The test results shall be made known to the student, the student's custodial parent (s), the school nurse, and school administrator. Results are deemed confidential.

## **Test Results**

Tests are “positive” if the student’s system shows any level of tobacco, alcohol, or other drug residue substances from drugs previously covered on page 1 of this policy. (Zero Tolerance) The school administrator, if the results are “positive” will advise the student and the student’s custodial parent (s) or guardian (s).

The school administrator will explain the type of substance, which was found, and the health hazards involved. The student will then fall under the guidelines for positive tests through random and just-cause testing.

## **DRUG TESTING PROGRAM GUIDELINES POSITIVE TEST CONSEQUENCES**

### **I. Just Cause - Drugs and/or Alcohol**

#### **A. First Offense**

1. Juvenile authorities notified if criminal offenses or probationary violations involved
2. Retest at a later date
3. In-school detention (3-day minimum) to obtain an assessment for re-admittance to school
4. If assessment results come back positive, students will be issued a minimum of a 3 day out of school suspension, pending expulsion.
5. No extracurricular or athletic participation for five weeks, including the loss of driving privileges
6. Non-compliance may result in expulsion.

#### **B. Second Offense**

1. Juvenile authorities notified if criminal offenses or probationary violations involved
2. Suspension with recommendation for expulsion

### **II. Random Testing- Drugs and/or Alcohol**

#### *1. First Offense*

1. No extracurricular or athletic participation for five weeks including the loss of driving privileges.
2. Athletes/Cheerleaders will also comply with the athletic handbook for drugs and alcohol.
3. One week of in-school detention followed by a retest at a later date. See discipline guidelines on page 9.
4. Non-compliance may result in the loss of all athletic, extracurricular, and student driving participation for one calendar year.

#### *2. Second Offense (even if first offense was a self-report)*

1. Juvenile authorities notified criminal offenses or probation violations involved.
2. No extra curricular, athletic and student driving participation for one calendar year.
3. Re-testing during the exclusion period with one test during the month prior to reinstatement of participation.
4. Non-compliance may result in loss of all athletic, extracurricular, and driving participation during the remainder of the student’s enrollment at Covington Middle School and/or Covington High school.
5. Minimum of 3 days out of school suspension.

#### *3. Third Offense (even if first offense was a self-report)*

1. Juvenile authorities are notified if criminal offenses or probationary violations are involved.
2. Loss of all athletic, extracurricular, and driving participation during the remainder of the student’s enrollment at Covington Middle School and/or Covington High School.
3. Possibility of expulsion.

### **III. Random Testing/Just Cause - Tobacco**

- A. Juvenile authorities are notified if criminal offenses or probationary violations are involved.
- B. Parents notified.
- C. Loss of driving privilege for five weeks.
- D. Athletes and extracurricular participants must also comply with their respective handbooks, guidelines, or rules for tobacco use.
- E. In school detention for 3 days.

## **COVINGTON SCHOOL CORPORATION DRUG SEARCH PROCEDURES**

The purpose of these procedures is to find out if there are illegal substances in Covington Middle/High Schools, and if so, to eliminate them from the premises for the safety of our students. Searches can include student backpacks, lockers, vehicles, and personal belongings belonging to or on the student with just cause.

The following are the procedures for all searches of the buildings and parking lots to take place:

1. School Administrators may meet with the Fountain County Sheriff and/or his designee prior to a search to explain the area to be searched and the procedures and rules to follow in case that an illegal substance is located on school property. The time and dates of the search will be set at this meeting. This information will not be given to any other school personnel.
2. On the days of the search:
  - a. A dog trained in locating illegal substances will be used to make the search.
  - b. The Sheriff or Deputy will bring the dog to the High/Middle School
  - c. All students will be notified by the intercom to go to their rooms and remain there until the building search is completed.
  - d. The dog will check all student lockers in both the upper and lower levels of the Middle/High Schools. The Principal or his designee will accompany the Sheriff on his search.
  - e. If the dog “hits” on a locker, the Principal or his designee will write down the locker number and locate the student of the locker.
  - f. After the dog completes the search of the lockers, the Principal will take the student to his/her locker for a search.
  - g. If an illegal substance is found, the student will be taken to the office and disciplinary procedure will be initiated in accordance with the rules of the student handbook.
  - h. Any illegal substance found will be turned over to the Sheriff or his designee and a receipt will be given to the school.
  - i. Upon completion of the building search, the dog will be taken to the school parking lots, where all vehicles will be searched. The Principal or his designee will accompany the officers and dog as they search.
  - j. If a student’s vehicle is “hit” upon by the dog, that student will be called to the office and taken to his car by the Principal or his designee and the vehicle searched. If the student refuses to permit the search, the matter will be turned over to the local law enforcement agencies, and the individual referred to the Superintendent of Schools. If a search takes place and an illegal substance is found, the matter will be turned over to the Superintendent of Schools.

### **SECTION VI - STUDENT ATTENDANCE (ISBA Code 4320)**

The Covington Community School Corporation has adopted an attendance policy that limits the number of days/class periods a student may be absent from school each semester. This policy places the responsibility for attending school upon the student and his/her parents.

In Fountain County, a student may be referred to the Truancy Program for one or all of the areas of school attendance stated below. The Department of Child Services and prosecutors consult when determining whether a child has violated Indiana’s Compulsory School Attendance Law.

All students are expected to attend school regularly and to be on time for class in order to benefit from the instructional program and to develop habits of punctuality, self-discipline, and responsibility. A student, who is not regular in attendance, loses interest, tends to feel isolated, and drops out of school. The procedures we follow eliminate chronic absences, yet provide a manner in which a student may miss if there is a need – provided the school is notified.

**CLASSIFICATION OF ABSENCES**  
**Covington Community School Corporation Attendance Policy**

Regular, on-time attendance is essential for student learning and success. Attending school daily is a shared responsibility between students and their parents or guardians. Consistent attendance helps students benefit fully from instruction, build responsibility, and develop good habits.

This policy defines absence types, documentation requirements, and procedures for addressing excessive absences, in line with Indiana law.

**Indiana State Definitions**

Absence: Any time a student is not in school when school is in session, regardless of the reason.

Chronically Absent: Missing 10% or more of the school year for any reason (excused or unexcused).

Habitual Truant: More than 10 unexcused absences in one school year.

**Categories of Absences**

**1. Exceptions (Exempt from Being Recorded as Absent)**

Indiana law identifies certain absences that **do not count as absences at all**. In these cases, students are marked present, must be authorized by the school, and cannot be penalized in any way.

These absences require **advance notice and/or documentation** as needed:

- **Serving as a Page or Honoree** of the Indiana General Assembly
- **Serving on the Precinct Election Board** or as a helper to a political candidate or party on the day of a municipal, primary, or general election
- **Subpoenaed to Testify in Court**
- **Active Duty Armed Forces or National Guard Service** for at least 15 days in a school year
- **Civil Air Patrol Service** for up to 5 days
- **Approved Educationally Related Non-Classroom Activity**
  - Field Trips or School Sponsored Activities
- **Participation in or Exhibition at the Indiana State Fair** for educational purposes by the student or a household member
- **Participation in Scheduled Competitions, Exhibitions, or Events** offered by:
  - The National FFA Organization
  - The Indiana FFA Association
  - The 4-H Club

**2. Excused Absences (*Counted as Absent, but Excused*)**

These absences **are recorded as absences** but **do not** count toward the limit that triggers disciplinary referral. ( If they are indicating that after 5 absences they are at risk of becoming “chronically absent” .....would this not be considered a disciplinary action? They require **appropriate documentation**.

Examples include:

- **Medical:**
  - Illness or injury documented by a doctor's note
  - Sent home by the school nurse.
  - Mental health treatment or school avoidance with provider or parent documentation.
- **Court-Related:** Appearances or probation office appointments.
- **Funeral or Bereavement:** Attendance at funeral services or related family responsibilities for a close family member or loved one.
- **Approved College Visits:** Must be pre-approved by administration (especially for out-of-state visits).
- **Parent/Guardian Verified Absences:** Parents/guardians may keep their child home for the child's best interest for personal, discretionary purposes with a written note signed by the parent (**limit: 5 per school year**).
- **Vacation (with Prior Approval):** Vacation or travel during the school year is **strongly discouraged**. However, families wishing to request vacation days must follow these guidelines:
  - Vacation absences may be approved **only if they fall within the 5 allowable parent-written excuses for the year.**
  - Once the 5 parent notes have been used, **additional vacation or travel absences will be considered unexcused.**
  - Families must submit a **written request** in advance (at least 1 calendar week before vacation) to the principal or designee for consideration.
  - Students must arrange with teachers for assignments before leaving.
  - Vacation Approval is at the discretion of school administration, taking into account the student's attendance record and academic standing.

**Important:** All absences require parent/guardian notification **on the day of the absence**. Please call the appropriate school by noon.

**Elementary School 765-793-2254**

**Middle School 765-793-4451**

**High School 765-793-2286**

### 3. Unexcused Absences

Unexcused absences occur **without proper authorization or required documentation**. Indiana law (HEA 1243) limits students to **10 unexcused absences per year** before mandatory referral to the county truancy program or the Department of Child Services.

Examples include (but are not limited to):

- Truancy (skipping school without permission)
- Family vacations without required prior approval
- Illness not documented by a physician or school nurse
- Parent call-ins beyond the 5 allowed Parent/Guardian Verified Absences per semester
- Oversleeping, transportation issues, or other unapproved reasons

### **Chronically Absent Students**

**Chronically absent”** means **missing ten percent (10%) or more of the school year for any reason**, including both excused and unexcused absences. A student who reaches **five (5) absences (excused or unexcused)** will be identified as *at risk for chronic absenteeism* and monitored closely.

#### **School, Parent, and Student Responsibilities**

- Identification: Students who are chronically absent will be designated as such in their school record to ensure appropriate support and monitoring.
- Within **10 instructional days after a student reaches five (5) total absences**, the school will hold a **conference with the student, parent/guardian, and appropriate school staff**.
- At this meeting, the team will **develop an attendance improvement plan** designed to support the student’s success and reduce further absences.
- The plan may include:
  - Counseling or mental health support,
  - Family assistance services,
  - Academic help or tutoring,
  - Strategies to remove barriers to regular attendance.
- Schools will **follow up regularly** to monitor progress and adjust the plan as needed.
- Parents and students are expected to **actively participate** in the conference and plan, communicate challenges, and work together with the school to improve attendance.

### **Habitually Truant Student**

A habitual truant student is defined as a student who is chronically absent by having unexcused absences from school for more than ten (10) days in one (1) school year.

#### **School, Parent, and Student Responsibilities**

- **Identification:** Students identified as habitual truants will have this designation in their school records to ensure appropriate monitoring and support .
- The school is required to make reasonable efforts to **address the root causes of truancy** and support the student and family.
- This includes **developing an intervention plan** and offering referrals to services such as counseling, mental health care, family support, or academic help.
- Parents and students are expected to **actively participate** in the conference and plan, communicate challenges, and work together with the school to improve attendance.

### **Tiered Response to Unexcused Absences (Grades 6–12)**

- **1st–2nd Unexcused Absence:**
  - Email notification to parent/guardian and student

- **3rd–4th Unexcused Absence:**
  - Parent phone call
- **5th Unexcused Absence:**
  - Mandatory conference with student, parent/guardian, and staff to develop an intervention plan
- **6th Unexcused Absence:**
  - Second email notification
  - Conference with student by administration
- **7th Unexcused Absence:**
  - Discipline referral
  - 1-hour detention
- **8th Unexcused Absence:**
  - Discipline referral
  - 2-hour detention
  - Parent notification
- **9th Unexcused Absence:**
  - Discipline referral
  - In-School Suspension (ISS)
  - Parent notification
- **10th Unexcused Absence:**
  - Mandatory referral to the Fountain County Truancy Program or DCS
- **11th Unexcused Absence:**
  - Potential loss of academic credit
  - Second meeting with Attendance Board

All attendance matters will be evaluated individually. Final determination of any resulting actions, interventions, or requirements will remain at the discretion of the building administrator or their designated representative.

**Tiered Response to Unexcused Absences (Grades K–5)**

- **3rd Unexcused Absence:**
  - Email notification to parent/guardian
- **4th Unexcused Absence:**
  - parent phone call
- **5th Unexcused Absence:**
  - Mandatory in-person conference to develop an intervention plan
- **6th Unexcused Absence:**
  - Second email notification
  - Conference with student and counselor or designee not monitor well-being will be conducted
- **7th Unexcused Absence:**
  - Academic Intervention/ Enrichment: The student will stay after school for one hour to make up for lost instructional minutes.
- **8th Unexcused Absence:**

- Academic Intervention/ Enrichment: The student will stay after school for one hour to make up for lost instructional minutes.
- **9th Unexcused Absence:**
  - Mandatory in-person conference with student, parent/guardian, and staff to review/revise intervention plan
  - Warn that next unexcused absence will result in county referral
- **10th Unexcused Absence:**
  - Mandatory referral to the Fountain County Truancy Program and/or DCS
- Students with **10 or more unexcused absences** in a school year may affect their academic progress or success. This may include, but is not limited to, required participation in summer school or consideration for retention at the current grade level.

All attendance matters will be evaluated individually. Final determination of any resulting actions, interventions, or requirements will remain at the discretion of the building administrator or their designated representative.

### **Extra Curricular and Co-Curricular Activities**

Students are expected to demonstrate regular and responsible attendance to participate in extracurricular and co-curricular activities.

Students who have an **unexcused absence** for the school day, or who miss **three or more class periods considered unexcused** on the day of an event, will **not be permitted to participate in or attend** any extracurricular or co-curricular activities scheduled for that day.

Exceptions may be considered in advance for documented, excused absences at the discretion of school administration.

**Please note:** Additional requirements and expectations for student-athletes are outlined in the **Athletic Handbook** and must also be followed.

### **Reporting an Absence**

Parents or guardians **must notify the school on the day of the absence.**

- Please call the appropriate school by noon.  
**Elementary School 765-793-2254**  
**Middle School 765-793-4451**  
**High School 765-793-2286**
- **Documentation:** For absences requiring verification (doctor's note, funeral notice, court paperwork), materials **must be submitted within 2 days of returning to school.**

### **Attendance Board of Appeals (ABA)**

Parents/guardians may request a review if **special circumstances** justify absences that exceed limits (e.g., hospitalization, chronic illness requiring extended time away).

The **Attendance Board of Appeals (ABA)** includes school administrators, guidance staff, the school nurse, and at least one teacher.

Families may submit documentation and invite others with relevant information. The ABA may grant additional excused days, modify the attendance plan, or recommend further action.

### **Questions?**

For questions about this policy or to report an absence, please contact the school office.

### **MAKE-UP WORK**

**Students who are absent from school are permitted to make up missing work according to the following formula: upon returning to school, students are entitled to at least the number of make-up days equal to the number of days absent. Work missed due to truancy will be recorded as zeros. IT IS THE STUDENT'S RESPONSIBILITY TO CONTACT THE TEACHER TO REQUEST ALL MAKE UP WORK.**

### **TRUANCY**

Truancy is defined as absence from school without parental verification and knowledge; or leaving school grounds without consent of parents and school administration. Truancy includes:

1. Any unexcused absence that is not verified by the parent.
2. If a student leaves school without following the proper procedures he/she may be deemed truant.
3. Habitually truant cases may be referred to the Fountain County Court. The student and parent will be asked to meet with the Assistant Principal and probation officer to solve the truancy problem. If the problem continues the student may be subject to suspension pending expulsion for the remainder of the semester.

#### **Penalties for truancy shall be as follows:**

- 1<sup>st</sup> offense -2-hour detention
- 2<sup>nd</sup> offense - 3 day In-School Detention.
- 3<sup>rd</sup> offense - 5 day Out of-school suspension and a potential referral to the Fountain County Truancy Mediation Board as needed.

### **TARDY POLICY (Per Semester)**

Tardies are of two types. 1. Tardy to school at the beginning of the day. 2. Tardy to class within the school day. A student is considered absent if he/she is 15 or more minutes late to a class. Upon the 4<sup>th</sup> **beginning of the day** tardy the student will be referred to the Dean of Students. 1<sup>st</sup> Referral - Tardy pass to class, one 1-hour detention. 2<sup>nd</sup> Referral- Tardy pass to class, one 3-hour detention, 3<sup>rd</sup> Referral - Tardy pass to class, plus one day ISS, plus parent conference. Additional tardies to school will result in additional disciplinary action.

Classroom tardies will be referred to the Dean of Students.

1. Upon the 3<sup>rd</sup> tardy - 1-hour detention
2. Upon the 4<sup>th</sup> tardy - 2-hour detention
3. Upon the 5<sup>th</sup> tardy - In-School Detention plus parent conference
4. Additional tardies will result in further disciplinary action

## **SECTION VII - GUIDANCE & ACADEMIC INFORMATION**

### **COUNSELORS**

Guidance services are available to students and parents during the school year and for two weeks before and after school is in session. In addition to individual counseling the guidance department responsibilities include, but are not limited to the following: Testing information (PSAT, SAT, ASVAB, dual credit placement) and College Admission information. - Financial Aid Information - Local Scholarships - Scheduling - Military Information - Career Information - Career Technical Information.

## GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

Specific information pertaining to diploma types and/or graduation requirements is available in the Covington High School Course Description Guide or on the guidance page of the website, [www.covington.k12.in.us](http://www.covington.k12.in.us).

### *Early Graduation*

CHS offers a 6-semester or a 7-semester early graduation plan. Anyone interested should contact the guidance office for specific requirements and plan options. Application deadlines are:

- May 1st of sophomore year for 6-Semester Plan
- May 1st of junior year for 7-Semester Plan

### ***MITCH DANIELS EARLY SCHOLARSHIP (IC 21-12-10):***

The Mitch Daniels Early Graduation Scholarship is a one-time \$4,000 scholarship for students who graduate from a publicly supported high school at least one year early. The scholarship may be used toward tuition and fees. All information regarding eligibility and application process is available at [www.in.gov/che/state-financial-aid/state-financial-aid-by-program/](http://www.in.gov/che/state-financial-aid/state-financial-aid-by-program/). Any student interested in pursuing this scholarship should see the school counselor during the spring of their sophomore year in order to plan their junior schedule. Student must be pursuing a Core 40 Diploma.

## REGISTRATION

Returning student course registration for the next school year takes place each spring. Registration for classes calls for careful planning on the part of students, parents, and the school. Certain courses are required for graduation, and others are elective. Students with specific goals after high school must select courses that will help to attain those goals. Course selections are finalized by the last day of the current school year and no changes will be made in the fall. The principal will evaluate any extenuating situations but changing classes will not be encouraged and only under very extenuating circumstances will it be allowed.

## FULL - TIME STUDENT STATUS

All students at Covington High School must maintain a full time status. To be considered full-time a student must attend all 8 periods of the school day (includes Homeroom). He/she must be enrolled in classes for at least 6 periods and may have only one study hall. Any need for an exception to this rule must be submitted in writing to the Principal who may grant permission.

## STUDENTS ENROLLING FROM HOMESCHOOL POLICY/REQUIREMENTS

- Students must be enrolled in a minimum/maximum of two classes per day, one of which must be either ELA or Mathematics. The other class can be of their choosing.
- Parents/Guardians must present a portfolio for each student coming from homeschool to Covington Community Schools from their previous school year. The portfolio must contain at least four artifacts per class.
- Students must be continuously enrolled in two periods and both semesters in order to participate in athletics.
- Students must be enrolled in homeschool for three previous years in order to be eligible for athletics.
- Students must complete required state testing.
- Covington High School/Covington Middle School will not accept credits from a non-accredited homeschool.

## **CHANGE OF ADDRESS**

Any change of address will require proof of residency. If your address, phone number, or email address changes, please notify the guidance office immediately. It is important that your school records are accurate in case of an emergency.

## **OUT OF DISTRICT STUDENTS/OUT OF STATE STUDENTS**

Any student who is living outside of the Covington Community School District will be required to fill out an Out of District Form each year. This form will need to be approved by both the school principal and corporation superintendent. Out of state students will not be eligible to attend Covington Community Schools unless tuition and approval by the superintendent has been agreed upon.

## **FINANCIAL AID**

Application for state and federal grants will be available online October 1st FAFSA at [www.FAFSA.gov](http://www.FAFSA.gov). Following the 2023 legislative session, high school seniors are required to file the FAFSA with opt out provisions available.

## **GRADE LEVEL CLASSIFICATION**

At the end of each school year all student transcripts are checked to determine the number of credits each student has earned to date. All students prior to and up until the class of 2028, are required to earn at least 40 credits to graduate from Covington High School.

Beginning with the class of 2029, students will be required to earn at least 42 credits to graduate from Covington High School.

Covington High School/Covington Middle School will not accept credits from a non-accredited school.

## **REPEATING A COURSE**

If you fail a required class you must repeat the class as soon as possible. You may not repeat a class you have already taken and received credit, (except for band and chorus). Any exception to this policy must have principal and school counselor approval.

## **MIDDLE SCHOOL COURSES FOR HIGH SCHOOL**

Students may earn credit for a high school level course taught at the Middle School level. These courses can count toward the "honors" diploma. See **the high school counselor** for details.

#### 4.0 SEMESTER AWARD

Students who earn Straight A's will be invited to attend a free luncheon at the Beef House after grades are posted each semester. This luncheon will only occur after the first semester.

#### HONOR ROLL

The Honor Roll is computed at the end of each grading period. All grades are counted in computing Honor Roll.

#### VALEDICTORIAN AND SALUTATORIAN

Cumulative grades for 7 semesters plus 9 weeks will be used to determine the valedictorian and salutatorian only (rounded to the nearest hundredth). The valedictorian will be number one and the salutatorian will be number two in their graduating class. Students must be pursuing an academic honors diploma and students must have been enrolled at Covington High School for at least 2 full semesters prior to the 7<sup>th</sup> semester.

#### CUM LAUDE AND MAGNA CUM LAUDE

Students earning a cumulative grade point average of at least 3.25 (rounded to the nearest hundredth) at the end of seven semesters will be denoted on the graduation program as earning the distinction of Cum Laude.

Students earning a cumulative grade point average of at least 3.75 (rounded to the nearest hundredth) at the end of seven semesters earn the distinction of Magna Cum Laude and will wear cords at graduation. Any student meeting the requirements after eight semesters will receive their cord prior to graduation.

#### COMMENCEMENT

Except in extreme emergencies, all members of the graduating class will take part in graduation exercises. Exceptions would be those students who have not met graduation requirements, those who have not paid all their school fees, bills and obligations, and those who do not attend the graduation practice exercises. Special instructions will be given to those students graduating concerning the rules and appropriate dress.

#### WEIGHTED GRADES

Beginning with the Class of 2021, a weighted grading scale will be used for the following classes:

- All AP courses (Calculus AB, Statistics, US History, Computer Science)
- Priority Liberal Arts Dual Credit Courses (English, Math)

The courses listed above will receive a 0.014 weight/increase to student GPA at the end of each semester. Semester grade must be a C- or higher to receive the weight.

#### MARKING SYSTEM

Class rank is determined by ascertaining grade point average and ranking all students in a class in descending order on a 4.0 scale using the weighted GPA. This essentially is done by dividing quality points by the number of credits attempted.

#### Standard Grading Scale

A=4.0	C=2.0
A-=3.67	C-=1.67
B+= 3.33	D+ = 1.33
B = 3.00	D = 1.00
B- = 2.67	D- = .67
C+ = 2.33	F = 0.00

## FINAL EXAMINATIONS AND SEMESTER GRADES

Final examinations are considered an important part of each course. Final examinations represent 20% of the final grade, with the two included nine weeks grading periods being 40% each. Students are expected to pass two of the three indicators (nine weeks, nine weeks, final exam) in order to earn a passing grade for the semester. Semester grades are calculated by using the above 4.0 scale (percentages are not used).

- Students are not allowed to take final exams early. Any exception to this rule must have principal approval.
- Students who are absent during final exams will receive a failing grade (0%) on any missed exam. Only students with verified excused absences (see below) will be allowed to make up missed final exams. The student must make up the exam by the deadline listed below or the grade will remain a 0%.
- Semester 1: Exams must be made up within the first two days of the 2nd semester.
- Semester 2: Exams must be made up within two days of the last day of school.

Verified Excused Absences Requires Verification As Follows:

1. Doctor's notes verifying visit/illness
2. Sent home by school nurse due to illness
3. Family member funeral or visitation
4. Court related absence
5. Probation office appointment
6. Prearranged approval from administration

## HONOR JACKETS

Honor Jacket and Chevron Awards are based on semester grades. Students are eligible for seven semesters of high school (through the first semester of the senior year). All classes will count, except applied courses and credit recovery on APEX. In order to qualify for the award students must meet the following criteria:

- 9th & 10th Grades - earn straight As
- 11th & 12th Grades - must be taking a minimum of one weighted class - allowed one "B;" all other grades must be As

This award is sponsored 100% by Fountain Trust and Steel Grip.

Weighted Classes: Dual Credit English and Math classes and all AP courses taught at CHS

## SECTION VIII - ACTIVITIES AND ATHLETICS

### CLUBS, ORGANIZATIONS AND CLASS ELECTIONS

Clubs and other extracurricular groups will meet either before or after school, depending on which times are most convenient and desirable for the sponsor and the group members. Students are urged to take advantage of the growth opportunities which membership in organizations affords. The following activities are available to students of Covington High School:

FFA	FCCLA	Letterman Club	Class Officers
FCA	Art Club	NHS	Yearbook
French Club	Spanish Club	Pep Band	Student Council
Chess Club	E-Sports	Drama Club	

To be eligible for these clubs, class officer positions or participation in extracurricular activities, you must meet their requirements as well as be passing five (5) of the six (6) subjects you are taking each grading period. Check the High School office for a list of clubs and petitions for class officers. Class Officer elections will be held in the first nine-weeks of each school year. Those running for class office must complete a petition to qualify for placement on the ballot.

## ATHLETICS

Covington High School provides many opportunities for students who enjoy athletics. Covington High School offers the following sports/activities:

Baseball	Boys' Cross Country	Boys' Soccer	Boys' Track	Dance
Boys' Basketball	Girls' Cross Country	Girls' Soccer	Girls' Track	Cheer
Girls' Basketball	Girls' Golf	Boys' Tennis	Volleyball	Softball
Football	Boys' Golf	Girls' Tennis	Wrestling	

Student athletes should all receive a copy of the Covington High School Athletic Handbook. This handbook is to be read carefully and the form on the last page signed digitally by the parent and athlete. Information regarding athletic participation can be obtained in the Athletic Office. CHS offers the opportunity to earn a varsity athletic letter for each of the sports/activities listed above.

### **Athletic Conference: WABASH RIVER CONFERENCE**

#### *Members:*

Attica	Covington	Fountain Central	North Vermillion
Parke Heritage	Riverton Parke	Seeger	South Vermillion

### **SCHOOL SONG**

#### **"ONWARD TROJANS"**

Onward Trojans, Onward Trojans  
Fight for our defense  
Kick the ball, clear 'round the field  
and make that score immense.  
Rah Rah Rah  
Onward Trojans, Onward Trojans  
Fight on for our fame.  
So fight Trojans fight and we will  
win this game.

**School Nickname** - Trojans

**School Colors** – Black & Gold