2025-2026
Ozark School District
Elementary School Handbook

East Elementary **North Elementary**
South Elementary **West Elementary**

www.ozarktigers.org

Mrs. Karen Capen	**Dr. Zeb Wallace**	**Dr. Kendra Scott**	**Mrs. Rachel Tabuya**
East Principal	*North Principal*	*South Principal*	*West Principal*

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Welcome

Dear Parents/Guardians and Students,

We want to extend a warm welcome to our Ozark Tigers and look forward to a successful year of learning and growing together. We are proud of our strong tradition of excellence maintained by collaborative and active partnerships between home and school.

This handbook will help you understand the expectations and procedures of our elementary schools. We ask that you go over the information with your student. We encourage you to contact us any time with questions. We are expecting another outstanding year!

Principals

Mrs. Karen Capen – East Elementary
2449 E. Hartley, Ozark, MO 65721
417-582-5906

Dr. Zeb Wallace – North Elementary
3608 N. Hwy. NN, Ozark, MO 65721
417-582-5904

Dr. Kendra Scott – South Elementary
1250 W. South St., Ozark, MO 65721
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3105 W. State Hwy. CC, Ozark, MO 65721
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Mission

To provide high-quality education for each student's future-readiness

Vision

An innovative school district preparing students to use their talents for success

Belief/Value Statements

- We believe every student should be prepared for success in the path they choose to pursue.
- We believe student achievement comes through both independence and collaboration.
- We believe in different methods of instruction because students learn in different ways.
- We believe every student regardless of individual challenges, is able to learn in a safe and equitable learning environment.
- We believe all students serve a vital role in the growth and sustainability of our Ozark community.

Ozark School District Calendar

Attendance

Regular attendance is essential for scholastic success. The compulsory attendance laws of Missouri require district resident children between the ages of 7 and 16 years old to attend school 1044 hours per school year (with the exception of those students who may be excused from full-time attendance by the superintendent). If a child will be absent for any reason, a parent/guardian should notify the school office. If a child misses school frequently or is chronically tardy, school personnel will contact the parent/guardian to discuss changes in attendance habits. Frequent absences from regular classroom learning experiences disrupt the continuity of the instructional process. The District is legally obligated to monitor student attendance; excessive absence from school will be reported to the proper authorities including but not limited to the Department of Social Services Children's Division and the Christian County Juvenile Office.

(Board Policy JED)

School Visitors

Parents and all patrons of the school district are welcome to visit the school. For the protection of students, as well as security in the school, it is required that any person entering the building during the school day stop at the office, sign in, and obtain a visitor pass before proceeding to

another part of the building. Picture identification may also be requested. Please call in advance to schedule a visit and/or conference as teachers and students work on a planned schedule.

Arrival

Classes begin at 8:40 a.m. Students should not arrive before 8:15 a.m.

Dismissal

Elementary students are dismissed at 3:55 p.m. Drivers are asked not to block the driveways or bus lanes. Children are not allowed to cross the parking areas unattended. Visitors must follow campus safety dismissal procedures. Changes in student dismissal procedure are permitted with prior **written** parent notification. In the event of an emergency, please contact the school office.

Walkers & Bicycle Riders

Bicycle riders are to walk bikes on the sidewalks adjacent to the school and on school grounds. Bike racks are available. Walkers and bikers should remember to always observe safety rules. Some buildings may require walkers/bike riders to fill out a form to be kept in the school office.

Tiger Care Child Care Program

A before- and after-school child care program is available at a cost for students who need supervised care at all elementary schools. It operates between the hours of 6:30-8:15 a.m. and 3:55-6:00 p.m Information regarding the Tiger Care program is available upon request at each school office.

Early Dismissal

A request to excuse a student from class early should be sent to the school prior to the dismissal. The student remains in the classroom until the teacher is notified by the office to release the student. The parent or authorized person must report to the office to sign the child out of class. Office personnel may ask to see identification.

Food Services

Breakfast and lunch are served daily in the cafeteria at a cost. Students wishing to bring their lunch will also eat in the cafeteria.

Health Services

A registered nurse is available during school hours. If a student is injured or too ill to remain in class, the school will attempt to notify the parent/guardian as soon as possible. Only those persons listed as emergency contacts in PowerSchool may be contacted. If a child is sick, please do not send him/her to school. The school district will contact EMS at district discretion if nurse/admin feels the incident warrants outside assistance.

Children should stay home or will be sent home for the following:

1. Fever of 100°F or greater – He/she should be fever-free for **24 hours without medication** to reduce the fever before returning to school.
2. Vomiting or diarrhea – Please contact a healthcare provider for symptoms lasting longer than 24 hours. A student should not be vomiting or have diarrhea for 24 hours before returning to school.
3. Strep throat or a sore throat that is accompanied by a fever and enlarged nodules in the neck – Students may return to school 24 hours after beginning antibiotic treatment and being fever-free.
4. Cold and/or persistent cough – If a child is ill with a continuous runny nose, excessive coughing or fatigued, he/she should stay home.
5. Rash of unknown cause – A child should remain home until the cause is determined. If the rash is due to chicken pox, the child should remain home until all the lesions are scabbed.
6. Conjunctivitis/pink eye – If a reddening of the white of the eye and inner eyelids is noted along with drainage, itching, pain and matting of the eyes, a child should not attend school until medical attention has determined if it is conjunctivitis (for which medication is required), allergies, or a cold. Your child may return to school following 24 hours of prescribed treatment.
7. Head lice or nits – Children may return to school after proper treatment.

Students must be toilet trained before attending school. Students must be wearing underwear. A child having accidents daily would not be considered toilet trained. Please note that wearing pull ups is not considered toilet trained. We do understand that even toilet trained children will occasionally have accidents. By definition, “accidents” are unusual incidents and should happen infrequently. In these instances, the school nurse will help children to change their clothes, encouraging independence as much as possible.

We understand that some students may have a medical condition that inhibits full toilet training. We will work with families that have extenuating circumstances. We understand that each child arrives at this milestone differently, therefore we will allow four weeks from the receipt of the notification of a toileting issue for your child to demonstrate accomplishment of this goal. However, if the situation is not manageable within the school environment, we will discuss the issue with the parents/guardians and reserve the right to halt attendance of the child at such time.

A toilet trained child is a child who can do the following:

- Communicate to teachers that he/she needs to go to the restroom before they need to go
- Alert him/herself to stop what he/she is doing, to go and use the bathroom
- Pull down his/her clothes and get them back up without assistance
- Wipe him/herself after using the toilet

- Get on/off the toilet by him/herself
- Wash and dry hands
- Postpone going for short periods of time

Consistent with the decision of the Missouri Supreme Court in RMA v. Blue Springs, students are required to use gender-specific restrooms that align with their birth sex.

Medications

Some students require medication during the school day. Authorization for Medication forms must be filled out by a parent and/or physician. Forms are available from the school nurse. Administering medication to students during school hours is discouraged and restricted to necessary medication that cannot be given at home. If the physician's orders indicate that a medication must be given during school hours, the medication may be administered by complying with the following instructions:

Prescription Medications:

1. The parent or guardian must provide the medication in the original prescription bottle (the pharmacist will provide properly labeled containers).
2. The parent or guardian must provide written permission which includes: the student's name, date, name of medication, dosage, time of administration, and a parent/guardian's signature.
3. The parent should not provide more than a one week supply at a time.
4. Long-term medications (longer than two weeks) must be accompanied by a Physician's Request Form/Physician Medication Order provided by the school.

Non-Prescription Medications:

1. The parent/guardian will provide the medication in the original container. The parent/guardian must provide written permission which includes: the student's name, date, purpose of medication, dosage, and the time the medication is to be administered. This includes all over the counter medications including cough drops.
2. The parent should not provide more than a one week supply at a time. **(Board Policies JHC & JHCD)**

Parents/guardians are required to transport all medication. Please contact the building principal if there are extenuating circumstances regarding the transportation of medications.

Parents should make the school aware of any medical condition a child may have. If a child has a temporary injury or condition and should be excused from or have limited participation in physical activities, we require a note from the parent.

Student Information

Please use PowerSchool to keep student and family information current. This information is vital in the event of an emergency. In cases of determining custody rights, current legal documentation (with raised court seal) MUST be on file in the school office.

Emergency Procedures

Fire and tornado drills are held during the school year. Additional drills may be held for other possible emergencies such as earthquake, bomb threat, or armed intruder. Instructions for such emergencies are explained by teachers and posted in all classrooms. Each student should familiarize himself/herself with the emergency procedures.

Grade Cards

Reports on PowerSchool of student progress in areas of academic work, social conduct and study/work habits are made approximately at the close of each eight/nine-week period.

Bus Transportation

Bus service is provided by the school for all children in accordance with Missouri school transportation regulations.

1. Basic standards of classroom conduct are expected of all students while riding the school bus.
2. Fighting, scuffling, horseplay, profanity, harassment of other students, and loud or disruptive conduct is prohibited and subject to disciplinary action.
3. Students must remain seated while the bus is in motion and must cooperate with the driver at all times in order to maintain safe operation of the vehicle.
4. Any type or form of vandalism of the bus by students will be subject to disciplinary action and reimbursements to the school may be required to repair any damage.
5. Live animals, balloons, or glass are not allowed on the school bus. Food is not allowed to be eaten on the bus.
6. Students must ride the bus they are assigned to unless prior arrangements are made through the District Transportation Department. If it is necessary for a student to exit the bus at a stop other than the designated stop, a written request from a parent or guardian is required prior to boarding the bus.

Disciplinary action for offenses on the bus may include: specific seating restrictions, temporary suspension of bus riding privileges, permanent removal from the bus, or suspension from school, dependent upon the nature of the offense, the past behavior of the student, and the necessity of maximum safety for all students. **(Board Policy JFCC)** **Transportation Link**

Return Checks Procedure

Ozark School District has contracted with Envision Payment Solutions to facilitate the District with check recovery. If a check is returned, it may be re-presented for payment electronically. In presenting a check for payment, service charges and processing fees are authorized to be debited from the same account should the check not be honored. Each item not honored is subject to the

applicable state returned check fees. Please direct any inquiries to: Envision Payment Solutions, (877) 290-5460. **Return Checks Procedure Link**

Student Transfer

If a student requires transfer to another school, please notify the school office and the teacher as soon as possible. Textbooks and library books must be returned and any monetary obligation must be met before leaving. Students must attend the school within the boundaries of the parents'/guardians' primary residence. Exceptions can be made only by the superintendent or his/her designee. **(Board Policy JCB)**

Educational Trips

Field trips within the District and to nearby points of interest are scheduled by teachers throughout the school year. These trips are designed to supplement the curriculum and to introduce students to the resources of the community. Notices of field trips are sent to parents prior to scheduled trip dates. At times, a fee may be requested for admission/food costs. Transportation is provided for students and school personnel only.

To participate in educational trips, students must maintain good behavioral standing. Specifically, students who have received an out-of-school suspension may not meet the behavior requirement for participation.

If a student has been assigned an out-of-school suspension or has shown a pattern of inappropriate behavior, the building principal will determine the appropriate course of action. The options may include: the student remaining at school during the trip, the student staying home on the day of the trip, or the student being allowed to attend the trip if accompanied by their parent or guardian as a chaperone.

Make-Up Homework

It is in every student's best interest to pursue assignments missed during an extended absence from school. In the event that a child misses more than one day consecutively, the parent/guardian may request the child's missed work by calling the school office. A reasonable effort will be made to provide the missed work in a timely manner. The classroom teacher will need time to get the work together. Please know that many classroom activities require participation in class and cannot be made up outside of the school day. Consistent daily attendance is essential.

PTA

The Ozark Parent-Teacher Association is an important part of the total school program. It serves the students and school in many ways. To function effectively, the PTA needs volunteers with a broad range of talents and skills. All parents and any interested patrons are urged to become involved.

Use of Phone or Smartwatch

Students may use the school phone for emergencies only. Students are not permitted to use cell phones or smartwatches during the school day. Students cannot receive calls or messages during classes. Parents wishing to leave a message for their child or contact a teacher may call the school office.

Parent-Teacher Conferences

Parent-Teacher Conferences are scheduled with parents at the end of the first eight/nine week grading period.

Parties & Celebrations

Birthday parties are not hosted at school. In order to honor a child, a parent/guardian may provide a store-bought treat for the student to share at the teacher's discretion.

Care of School & Personal Property

The District strives to instill in students a sense of pride in the appearance of their school. Students must not vandalize school property in any way. Anyone who willfully destroys school property through vandalism, arson, larceny, or who creates a hazard to the safety of the students is subject to disciplinary action and may require restitution. **(Board Policy JG-R1)**

The school is not responsible for any loss of personal property. Personal belongings should be clearly marked with the student's name. The school maintains a lost and found where articles may be claimed. Students may not bring large amounts of money, toys, or electronic/battery-operated devices to school. Items that pose a disruption in the school setting will be confiscated and placed in the school office where they will remain until a parent/guardian picks them up.

General School-Wide Discipline Plan

We are committed to creating a positive and productive learning environment for all students and faculty. We strive to promote safety, respect and responsibility. Here are our expectations and responsibilities.

Student Responsibilities

1. **Respect Others:** I will treat classmates, teachers and school staff with kindness and respect.
2. **Be Responsible:** I will take care of my belongings, school property, and complete my work on time.

3. **Be safe:** I will act in a way that ensures my safety and the safety of others.
4. **Follow Instructions:** I will listen to and follow the directions given by teachers and staff.
5. **Stay on Task:** I will focus on my schoolwork and participate in classroom activities.

Guardian Responsibilities

1. **Support Learning:** I will encourage my child to do their best in school and support them with their work and school projects.
2. **Communicate:** I will maintain open communication with my child's teacher and school staff. I will communicate respectfully in both written and verbal forms.
3. **Attend Meetings:** I will attend parent-teacher conferences and other important school meetings.
4. **Promote Positive Behavior:** I will encourage my child to follow school rules and behave respectfully towards others.
5. **Ensure Attendance:** I will ensure that my child attends school regularly and on time.

School Responsibilities

1. **Provide a Safe Environment:** We will maintain a safe and supportive learning environment for all students.
2. **Teach Respect and Responsibility:** We will teach and reinforce positive behavior and respect for others.
3. **Communicate with Families:** We will keep families informed about their child's progress and any concerns that arise.
4. **Support Learning:** We will provide high-quality instruction and the resources needed for students to succeed.
5. **Address Behavioral Issues:** We will address behavioral issues and provide support to help students improve.

Each elementary building practices **P**ositive **B**ehavior **I**ntervention **S**upport. **PBIS** is a program for creating safer and more effective schools by structuring the learning environment to support the academic and social success of all students. The process supports the adoption and long-term implementation of efficient and effective discipline throughout the school environment. PBIS methods are research-based, proven to significantly reduce the occurrence of problem behaviors in schools, and supported by a three-tiered model.

The District believes all students can behave appropriately while at school. It will allow no student to prevent a teacher from teaching, or to prevent other students from learning. Classroom rules, rewards, and consequences are established. There are also guidelines for out-of-class behavior in the hallway, restroom, cafeteria, playground, and bus. Behavior choices are made by the student. District policies on discipline and consequences apply. Please refer to the OZARK

SCHOOL DISTRICT DISCIPLINE POLICY located on the District website. **(Board Policies JG & JG-R1)**

Student Dress Code

The Board of Education and district administrators reserve the right to regulate clothing and grooming when it relates to modesty, cleanliness, or disruption and distraction to the educational process. **(Board Policy JFCA)**

Bullying Policy

Bullying – In accordance with state law, bullying is defined as intimidation, unwanted aggressive behavior, or harassment that is repetitive or is substantially likely to be repeated and causes a reasonable student to fear for his or her physical safety or property; that substantially interferes with the educational performance, opportunities or benefits of any student without exception; or that substantially disrupts the orderly operation of the school. Bullying includes, but is not limited to: physical actions including violence, gestures, theft, or property damage; oral, written, or electronic communication including name-calling, put-downs, extortion, or threats; or threats of reprisal or retaliation for reporting such acts.

Cyberbullying – Cyberbullying is a form of bullying committed by the transmission of a communication including, but not limited to, a message, text, sound or image by means of an electronic device including, but not limited to, a telephone, wireless telephone or other wireless communication device, computer, or pager. The District has jurisdiction over cyberbullying that uses the District's technology resources or that originates on District property, at a District activity, or on District transportation. Even when cyberbullying does not involve District property, activities or technology resources, the District may impose consequences and discipline for those who engage in cyberbullying if there is a sufficient nexus to the educational environment, the behavior materially and substantially disrupts the educational environment, the communication involves a threat as defined by law, or the District is otherwise allowed by law to address the behavior.

School employees, substitutes or volunteers are expected to intervene to prevent student bullying, appropriately discipline the perpetrator, assist the victim, and report the incident to the building principal or designee for further investigation and action. Any school employee, substitute, or volunteer who witnesses or has firsthand knowledge of bullying of a student must report the incident. Students who have been subjected to bullying, or who have witnessed or have knowledge of bullying, are encouraged to promptly report such incident to a school employee. Any school employee receiving such a report shall promptly transmit the report to the building principal or designee. If the bullying incident involves students from more than one District building, the report should be made to the principal or designee of the building in which the incident took place, or, if more appropriate, to the principal or designee of the building attended by the majority of the participants in the incident. **(Board Policy JFCF)**

Acceptable Use Policy

Click on the following link to access the acceptable use policy. **(AUP Policy)**

MOCAP

In compliance with Missouri state law, students are allowed to seek full-time virtual learning and choose their own virtual learning provider. If you are interested in pursuing 100% virtual education, you will need to begin the application process with one of the virtual providers. You may be asked to provide information such as immunizations, copy of a student's birth certificate, recent IEP or 504 (if applicable), latest transcript and/or grade card, and proof of residency.

As outlined in Missouri House Bill 1552, students who choose to enroll with a MOCAP provider for full-time online learning will cease to be a student of the Ozark RVI School District. Therefore, such students will ultimately earn a diploma from the virtual provider, rather than from Ozark High School.

To apply, parents should begin the application process with the vendor (online school) of their choice. For a complete listing of all providers and more information, visit the MOCAP site.

Parents interested in 100% online courses should notify the school counselor and request that their student be unenrolled from Ozark Schools.

(AMI) Inclement Weather Procedures

In case Ozark School District needs to cancel school, use late start procedures or early release procedures due to inclement weather, we want you to be informed of the process. Student and faculty safety is the primary concern in making the call for cancelation versus late start or early release. See the district procedures in the link above.

Federal Programs (ESSA)

Please go to the following links for updated notifications:

Parent Letter

Complaint Procedure

Notices

NONDISCRIMINATION
AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT
FAMILY EDUCATIONAL RIGHTS AND PRIVACY ACT
PUBLIC NOTICE – IDEA
MEDICAID DIRECT SERVICE CLAIMING
PROTECTION OF PUPIL RIGHTS AMENDMENT

TEACHING ON HUMAN SEXUALITY
STUDENT HEALTH SERVICES & REQUIREMENTS
WELLNESS/NUTRITION

Notice of Nondiscrimination

Applicants for admission or employment, students, parents of elementary and secondary school students, employees, sources of referral and applicants for employment, and all professional organizations that have entered into agreements with the Ozark School District ("District") are hereby notified that the District does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, age, or disability in admission or access to, or treatment or employment in, its programs and activities. In addition, the District provides equal access to the Boy Scouts of America and other designated youth groups.

Any person having inquiries concerning the District's compliance with the laws and regulations implementing Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (Title VI), Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 (Title IX), the Age Discrimination Act, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (Section 504), Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (ADA) or the Boy Scouts of America Equal Access Act, is directed to the respective Compliance Coordinator listed below, who oversees the District's efforts to comply with the laws and regulations implementing the laws and regulations cited above.

The District has established grievance procedures for persons unable to resolve problems arising under the statutes above. The District's Compliance Coordinator will provide information regarding those procedures upon request.

Any person who is unable to resolve a problem or grievance arising under any of the laws and regulations cited above may contact the Office for Civil Rights, Region VII, 8930 Ward Parkway, Suite 2037, Kansas City, MO 64114; telephone (816) 268-0550.

Nondiscrimination

(Click the following link to access **Board Policy AC**.)

Compliance Coordinator

Dr. Philip Link
Executive Director of Human Resources
1600 W. Jackson St.
Ozark, MO 65721
Phone: (417) 582-5900
Fax: (417) 582-5960

Commitment to Compliance under the Americans With Disabilities Act

In accordance with the requirements of Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 ("ADA"), the Ozark School District ("District") does not discriminate on the basis of disability against qualified individuals with a disability with respect to the District's services, programs or activities.

Employment: The District does not discriminate on the basis of disability in its hiring or employment practices. The District complies with the federal regulations under Title I of the ADA (which governs the application of the ADA in the hiring and employment setting).

Effective Communication: The District will comply with the ADA with respect to providing auxiliary aids and services leading to effective communication for qualified persons with disabilities so they can participate equally in District programs, services, and activities. These aids and services are designed to make information and communications accessible to people who have impairments, in areas such as speech, hearing, and vision. The District will not place a surcharge on a qualified individual with a disability, or any group of qualified individuals with disabilities, to cover the cost of providing auxiliary aids/services or reasonable modifications of policy (for example, retrieving items from locations that are open to the public but inaccessible to users of wheelchairs).

Anyone who requires an auxiliary aid or service for effective communication, or a modification of policies or procedures to participate in a service, program, or activity of the District should contact the respective Compliance Coordinator, whose contact information is listed below. Such contact should be made as soon as possible, but not later than 48 hours before the scheduled event, and, preferably, at least five (5) business days before the event.

Modifications to Policies and Procedures: The District will make reasonable modifications to policies and programs to ensure that qualified individuals with disabilities have an equal opportunity to enjoy its services, programs, and activities.

The ADA does not require the District to take any action that would fundamentally alter the nature of its programs or services or impose an undue financial or administrative burden.

Complaints that a District service, program, or activity is not accessible to persons with a disability may be directed to the Compliance Coordinator. In addition, as stated in the District's Notice of Nondiscrimination, a person who is unable to resolve a problem or grievance arising under Title II of the ADA may contact the Office for Civil Rights, Region VII, 8930 Ward Parkway, Suite 2037, Kansas City, MO 64114; (816) 268-0550.

Notification under Family Educational Rights & Privacy Act

The *Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act* (FERPA), a Federal law, requires that Ozark School District ("District"), with certain exceptions, obtain your written consent prior to the

disclosure of personally identifiable information from your child's education records. However, the District may disclose appropriately designated "directory information" without written consent, unless you have advised the District to the contrary in accordance with District procedures. The District complies fully with FERPA, which affords parents/guardians ("parents") and students who are at least age 18 ("eligible students") the following rights:

Right to Inspect: Parents or eligible students have the right to inspect and review the student's "educational records," as that term is defined under FERPA, within 45 days of the date upon which the District receives a request for access. The District is not required to provide copies of records unless, for reasons such as great distance, it is impossible for parents or eligible students to review the records. The District may charge a fee for copies.

Right to Prevent Disclosure: Parents or eligible students have the right to prevent disclosure of educational records to third parties with certain limited exceptions. The District will attempt to limit the disclosure of information contained in educational records to those instances when prior written consent has been given for the disclosure. However, upon request, the District will disclose information to officials of other schools in which a student seeks or intends to enroll. The District may also disclose information under the provisions of FERPA that allow disclosure without prior written consent, as well as directory information (unless you have refused to permit such disclosure of directory information), in accordance with FERPA regulations. The District will disclose educational records to school officials who have a legitimate educational interest in the records. Officials include those persons employed by the District, whether paid or unpaid, as an administrator, supervisor, instructor, or support staff member, including health or medical staff; persons retained by or under contract to the District to perform a special task, such as an attorney, auditor, etc.; or persons who are employed by the District's law enforcement unit. School officials have a legitimate educational interest if the officials are: performing a task related to a student's education; performing a task related to the discipline of a student; providing a service or benefit relating to the student or student's family, such as health care, counseling, job placement, or financial aid; or maintaining the safety and security of the campus.

Designation of Directory Information: The District has designated certain information contained in the educational records of its students as directory information for purposes of FERPA. The District considers the following to be directory information:

Students in kindergarten through eighth grade (Board Policy JO-1) – Student's name; parent's name; grade level; participation in school-based activities and sports; weight and height of members of athletic teams; honors and awards received; artwork or coursework displayed by the district; and photographs, videotapes, digital images, and recorded sound unless such photographs, videotapes, digital images and recorded sound would be considered harmful or an invasion of privacy.

The District may disclose such directory information for any purpose in its discretion without the consent of a parent of a student or an eligible student. Parents of students and eligible students have the right, however, to refuse to permit the designation of any or all of the above information

as directory information. In that case, the information will not be disclosed except with the consent of a parent or student, or as otherwise allowed by FERPA. Any parent or student refusing to have any or all of the designated directory information disclosed must file written notification to this effect with the principal of the school which the student attends. In the event a notification of refusal is not filed, the District assumes that neither a parent of a student or an eligible student objects to the release of the directory information designated.

Right to Request Amendment: Parents or eligible students have the right to request that the District correct any parts of an educational record believed to be inaccurate, misleading or otherwise in violation of their rights. A parent or eligible student must submit the request to the Director of Special Services, Ozark School District, 1600 W. Jackson St. , Ozark, MO 65721.

The request must identify, in writing, the part of the record sought to be corrected and specify why it is inaccurate/misleading. If the District decides not to amend the record, it will notify the parents or eligible student and provide information of their right to a hearing to present evidence that the record should be changed.

Right to Complain to FERPA Office: Parents or eligible students have the right to file an external complaint regarding the District's implementation of FERPA, and such complaint may be filed with the Family Policy Compliance Office, U.S. Department of Education, 400 Maryland Avenue, SW, Washington, D.C. 20202.

Public Notice IDEA

All responsible public agencies are required to locate, evaluate, and identify children with disabilities who are under the jurisdiction of the agency, regardless of the severity of the disability, including children attending private schools, children who live outside the District but are attending a private school within the District, highly mobile children, such as migrant and homeless children, children who are wards of the state and children who are suspected of having a disability and in need of special education even though they are advancing from grade to grade. The Ozark School District assures that it will provide a free appropriate public education (FAPE) to all eligible children with disabilities between the ages of 3 and 21 under its jurisdiction. Disabilities include autism, deaf/blindness, emotional disorders, hearing impairment and deafness, mental retardation/intellectual disabilities, multiple disabilities, orthopedic impairment, other health impairments, specific learning disabilities, speech or language impairment, traumatic brain injury, visual impairment/blindness, and young child with a developmental delay.

The Ozark School District assures that it will provide information and referral services necessary to assist the State in the implementation of early intervention services for infants and toddlers eligible for the Missouri First Steps program.

The Ozark School District assures that personally-identifiable information collected, used, or maintained by the agency for the purposes of identification, evaluation, placement or provision of FAPE of children with disabilities may be inspected and/or reviewed by their

parents/guardians. Parents/guardians may request amendment to the educational record if the parent/guardian believes the record is inaccurate, misleading, or violates the privacy or other rights of their child. Parents/Guardians have the right to file complaints with the U.S. Department of Education or the Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education concerning alleged failures by the District to meet the requirements of the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA).

The Ozark School District has developed a Local Compliance Plan for the implementation of State Regulations for the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA). This plan contains the agency's policies and procedures regarding storage, disclosure to third parties, retention and destruction of personally identifiable information and the agency's assurances that services are provided in compliance with the General Education Provision Act (GEPA). This plan may be reviewed at the District Office located at 1600 W. Jackson Street between the hours of 8 a.m.-4 p.m.

Any inquiries concerning the District's compliance may be directed to:

Dr. Laura Eakins, Director of Special Services, 1600 W. Jackson Street, Ozark, MO 65721, (417) 582-5900, 8 a.m.-4 p.m. Or you may contact the Office of Civil Rights, Region VII, 8930 Ward Parkway, Suite 2037, Kansas City, MO 64114; (816) 268-0550

This notice will be provided in native languages as appropriate.

Notification Direct Service Claiming

The Ozark School District's School Agency receives funding from the Medicaid Direct Service Claiming (DSC) program for IEP covered services to eligible children through the State's Medicaid agency. This is a state-approved program that allows the School Agency to receive reimbursement from federal funds for providing some health-related covered services to eligible children in our school system. Examples of covered services include speech therapy, assistance with daily living skills, physical therapy, and nursing services. The District is required to notify parents/guardians of the District's participation and the IDEA regulations stated below.

The School Agency, working with the State Medicaid agency, will need to determine if a child is eligible or should become eligible in the school-based Medicaid program. Written consent indicates that parents/guardians understand and agree that the District will submit their child's information to the State Medicaid agency and their authorized agencies to verify eligibility and submit claims for the DSC program. The school may use Medicaid benefits in which a child participates to provide or pay for services documented in the Individualized Education Program (IEP). Parents are not required to sign up for or enroll in Medicaid to receive IEP services or a free appropriate public education, nor are they responsible for any out of pocket expenses for these IEP services. Also, the School Agency's access to these benefits is not allowed if it would have a negative impact on your public insurance.

The District will provide the required services to children at no cost to the parents/guardians whether or not they grant written consent. Consent is voluntary and may be revoked at any time. The School Agency's use of this reimbursement program does not in any way affect or impact other Medicaid benefits to which the child is entitled, including any otherwise eligible services out of the school.

Please contact Dr. Laura Eakins at lauraeakins@ozarktigers.org or (417) 582-5900 with questions.

Protection of Pupil Rights Amendment Notice

The federal Protection of Pupil Rights Amendment ("PPRA") affords parents certain rights regarding a school district's initiation of certain federally funded surveys, collection and use of information for marketing purposes, and certain physical exams. These include the right to:

Consent before students are required to submit to a survey that concerns one or more of the following protected areas ("protected information survey") if the survey is funded in whole or in part by a program of the U.S. Department of Education: Political affiliations or beliefs of the student or student's parent; Mental or psychological problems of the student or student's family; Sex behavior or attitudes; Illegal, anti-social, self-incriminating, or demeaning behavior; Critical appraisals of others with whom respondents have close family relationships; Legally recognized privileged relationships, such as with lawyers, doctors, or ministers; Religious practices, affiliations, or beliefs of the student or parents; or Income, other than as required by law to determine program eligibility.

Receive notice and an opportunity to opt a student out of: Any other protected information survey, regardless of funding; any non-emergency, invasive physical exam or screening required as a condition of attendance, administered by the District or its agent, and not necessary to protect the immediate health and safety of a student, except for hearing, vision, or scoliosis screenings, or any physical exam or screening permitted or required under State law; and activities involving collection, disclosure, or use of personal information obtained from students for marketing or to sell or otherwise distribute the information to others.

Inspect, upon request and before administration or use: Protected information surveys of students; Instruments used to collect personal information from students for any of the above marketing, sales, or other distribution purposes; and Instructional material used as part of the educational curriculum.

These rights transfer from the parents to a student who is 18 years old or an emancipated minor under State law. The District has adopted policies regarding these rights, as well as arrangements to protect student privacy in the administration of protected information surveys

and the collection, disclosure, or use of personal information for marketing, sales, or other distribution purposes.

The District will notify parents of these policies at least annually at the start of each school year and after any substantive changes. The District will also directly notify, such as through U.S. Mail or email, parents of students who are scheduled to participate in the specific activities or surveys noted below and will provide an opportunity for the parent to opt his or her child out of participation of the specific activity or survey. The District will make this notification to parents at the beginning of the school year if the District has identified the specific or approximate dates of the activities or surveys at that time. For surveys and activities scheduled after the school year starts, parents will be provided reasonable notification of the planned activities and surveys listed below and be provided an opportunity to opt their child out of such activities and surveys. Parents will also be provided an opportunity to review any pertinent surveys. Following is a list of the specific activities and surveys covered under this requirement: Collection, disclosure, or use of personal information for marketing, sales or other distribution; Administration of any protected information survey not funded in whole or in part by the U.S. Department of Education; Any non-emergency, invasive physical examination or screening as described above. Individuals who believe their rights under the PPRA have been violated may file a complaint with the Family Policy Compliance Office, U.S. Department of Education, 400 Maryland Avenue, SW, Washington, D.C. 20202-5920.

Teaching about Human Sexuality

Click the following link to access **(Board Policy IGAEB)**

Student Health Services & Requirements

Click on the following link to access **(Board Policy JHC)**

Wellness/Nutrition

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

Nutrition Guidelines: Nutrition guidelines do not apply to food or beverages brought from home by students for consumption solely by the student or food or beverages created or used by students as part of the district's instructional program. It is the policy of the Ozark School District that all foods and beverages sold to students during the school day on any property under the jurisdiction of the district will meet the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) school meal and Smart Snacks in School (Smart Snacks) nutrition standards. These nutrition standards apply to all food and beverages sold to students, including those sold in vending machines, school stores, and

through district-sponsored fundraisers, unless an exemption applies. In addition, established district standards apply to all food and beverages provided, but not sold, to students outside the reimbursable school meals program during the school day. For the purposes of this policy, the school day is the time period from the midnight before to 30 minutes after the official school day.

Board Policies

Ozark Board Policies can be found **here**.

Printed copies of board policies are available at the school office.