



WANTAGE SCHOOL

815 Route 23

Wantage, NJ 07461

SUSSEX-WANTAGE REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

STUDENT HANDBOOK

The procedures and practices found in this handbook supplement policies of the Board of Education.

From time to time, the handbook will be supplemented with bulletins from the principal and the superintendent.

Wantage Elementary School 2025-2026

Mission Statement

The Sussex-Wantage Regional School District is a responsive, caring, child centered community. Our mission is to educate each individual to become a confident, competent, lifelong learner, and a productive, responsible citizen, by providing challenging opportunities in a safe environment through a partnership of families, schools, and communities.

We Believe Our Children Learn Best When:

- Their physical and emotional needs are met in a safe, caring and supportive environment
- Each child is challenged intellectually and physically
- They are active participants in their own learning
- Their creativity is encouraged
- They are in an environment that promotes good social skills and citizenship
- A partnership among parents, children, teachers and community is essential
- A healthy community benefits from developing well-educated citizens

District Administration

Mr. Michael Gall, Superintendent

Ms. Christina Riker, Board Secretary/Business Administrator

Ms. Stephanie Hennion, Director of Special Services

Mr. Shane Schwarz, Principal - Sussex Middle School

Mr. Dennis Mudrick, Interim VP SMS

Mr. Christopher Gregory, Principal - Wantage School

Mrs. Kaleigh Themelakis, Principal - Clifton E. Lawrence School

Dr. Lisa Hutcheson - Curriculum Director

Mr. Stephen Kronski, Director of Technology

Mr. Frank Pietrowski, Director of Building & Grounds

Board of Education

Ms. Caitlin Space, President

Ms. Stevie Vallone, Vice President

Ms. Danielle Zill-Barry

Ms. Alissa Cecchini

Ms. Taylor Dely

Mr. Joseph Gaccione

Ms. Brittney Simmons

Mr. Jake Little

Ms. Leah Marrocco

DISTRICT PHONE NUMBERS

Central Office	973-875-3175
Superintendent	option 1
Transportation	option 2
Business Admin	option 3
Accounts Payable	option 4
Special Services	option 5
Buildings & Grounds	option 6
Technology	option 7
Curriculum	option 8
Operator	option 0
Main Office Fax	973-875-7175
CST Fax	973-702-0764

Lawrence School	973-875-8820
Absentee Line	option 1
Nurse	option 2
CST	option 3
Speech	option 4
Main Office	option 5
Principal	option 6
Operator	option 0
Main Office Fax	973-875-8933

Wantage School	973-875-4589
Absentee Line	option 1
Main Office	option 2
Principal	option 3
Nurse	option 4
CST	option 5
Operator	option 0
Guidance Counselor	ext 4557
Main Office Fax	973-875-2184

Sussex Middle School	973-875-4138
Absentee Line	option 1
Main Office	option 2
Principal	option 3
VP	option 4
Nurse	option 5
CST	option 6
Operator	option 0
Guidance Counselor	ext 4586
Main Office Fax	973-875-6790

Lost and Found

A lost and found box is kept outside the gym. Please ask our child to check there if they have lost something. Writing your child's name on an inside tag may help expedite returning the item.

Gum Chewing

Gum chewing is not allowed on school buses, on school grounds, nor in any school building.

Games and Toys

Games, toys, radios, etc. are **NOT** permitted in school. These items are expensive and distracting, so it is better to leave them at home.

Cell Phones

Bringing cell phones to school is highly discouraged. If your child must bring his or her cell phone to school, it must stay turned off in their backpack the entire school day. Please remember cell phones, like all other personal items brought by a student into a school zone, may be subject to search. The outcome of that search may result in school sanction and/or criminal investigation by the police. Smartwatches are also not permitted to be worn in school.

Affirmative Action

The Sussex-Wantage Regional School's Board of Education supports initiatives in the area of Affirmative Action, as per mandated requirements.

Policies of the Board of Education stress equal opportunity for students, equal access to all categories of employment for staff, and outline grievance procedures that are available. (4111.1, 6145.4, 5145.5). The Board of Education has charged the Superintendent with the responsibility of ensuring that a working and learning environment, free of sexual harassment, exists for all students and employees.

School Activities

Wantage School offers the following extracurricular activities to students:

- band
- chorus
- school musical
- bowling club
- art club
- ski club
- reading club

Pets

From time to time, students may request to bring animals to school for certain lessons. Teacher permission must be given with administrator approval. Animals must be transported in a private car and not on the bus. For additional information about service animals, please refer to Policy 5337.

Early Dismissal/Pick up

If you plan to pick up your child before regular dismissal, please send a note to school with your child in the morning or call the school office in advance **prior to 1:45 pm**. We need to make arrangements for proper notification of bus drivers which is difficult to do at the last minute.

Please pick up students early only for emergencies. **Students must be in school until 1:00 p.m. to get credit for attending that day.** Class time is important. At **Wantage School** parents should pick up students using the cafeteria entrance in the front of the school at 3:23 p.m.

Dropping Off at School

Wantage School – Parents are asked to drop off students in the rear of the building between 8:15-8:45 am, with all **students exiting the vehicle via the passenger side**. Staff and/or security will be there to greet and allow entry for your child. Please ensure your child enters the school prior to leaving.

Preschool drop off and pick-up - If you will be driving your child to school, drop off is in the front entrance outside the cafeteria between 8:30 am and 8:45 am. If you plan for your child to be a “Permanent Pick-Up”, please notify the office prior to the first day of school, as well as sending a note to their homeroom teacher on the first day of school. Preschool pick up will also be in the front entrance outside the cafeteria between 3:05-3:15 pm. A diagram is included in the Realtime Portal that illustrates our Parent Drop off and Pick-up procedures.

Absence From School

Whenever a student has been absent from school, it is necessary for him or her to have a written excuse from his or her parents or guardian explaining the reason for the absence. School attendance shall be a factor in the determination of a pupil’s promotion or retention. **Only extenuating circumstances should permit the promotion of a pupil who has been in attendance fewer than one hundred sixty-two days during the school year.**

New Jersey State Law is very clear on school attendance. Students are required to attend school on a regular basis. In addition, the law, New Jersey Administrative Code, and court rulings have consistently required attendance and empowered local school boards to enact appropriate policies to enforce attendance.

Absentee Call System

The primary objective of the Absentee Call System is to protect the security and safety of the students on their way to school.

Parents should call in, on a daily basis, to report the absence of their child. Calls should be made regardless of communications with your child's teacher or school nurse. A special number for each school is established exclusively to receive parents' calls. This is an answering service with a recording device. When calling in to report an absence, parents are requested to give their child's name, grade, teacher's name and the reason for absence. The machine will take calls at any hour of the day or night. At 9:00 a.m., a secretary begins the job of taking the messages off of the machine. Please be sure to call before 8:45 a.m. School personnel will call the home, place of business, or a designated emergency number of the parents of an absent child if a call from home is not received.

Absentee Call System Number: (973) 875-4105

Tardiness

Children who arrive after school begins must report to the main office for an admission slip prior to reporting to class. If you know in advance that your child will be late, please call or send a note explaining the reason for tardiness. Pupils who are late to school or to class miss essential portions of the instructional program and create disruptions in the academic process for themselves and other pupils. In grades 3-5, 10 instances of unexcused tardiness will equal one unexcused absence for the purpose of calculating unexcused absences for application of the Board of Education Policy No. 5410 on promotions.

Parents of late children may receive a call from the office. Many times we do not know if a student is late or absent at the time these calls must be made.

Alerts - Realtime Notification System

Beginning in September 2021, the district moved to **Realtime Notification** as its primary means of communication for school closings, emergencies and general notifications. You can receive calls, text messages and emails to multiple contacts.

Maintain your contacts and means of communication in the Parent Portal "Contact" tab.

Emergency Closings/Delayed Opening of School

When a decision is made to have a delayed opening or closing of school, parents will be notified via Realtime Notification. Emergency Closing/Delays will be posted on our District website.

A delayed opening means that school will start 90 minutes later than usual. For example, if your child is normally picked up at 8:15 a.m. he or she will be picked up at approximately 9:45 a.m.

Vacation

Attendance at school is considered to be an important component for both the academic and social success of our students. It is expected that arrangements for extended vacations be made in conjunction with the school calendar, which allows ample time for family outings. We recognize, however, that on rare occasions, this may not be possible. We ask parents to be aware of the following constraints concerning makeup assignments. Parents should provide the office with a note explaining reasons for absence and length of time involved, at least three days prior to the absence. Students will make arrangements with their teachers to obtain a general outline of assignments that will be missed. Students will have ten school days to make up all assignments not completed during the absence. Assignments not made up within the ten- day period will become a failing grade and will be reflected in the quarter grade accordingly. Students are expected to take any tests missed **within three school days of their return.**

Extended absence from school, for reasons other than illness, does not remove the student's responsibility in making up the required assignments or excuse the student from any test or other grade that is required for successful completion of his or her course of study.

Homework

Homework policies have been formulated to meet the needs of all students. There is no one definitive statement that is all inclusive. Generally, classroom teachers will monitor the amount of homework that a student has. Parents are expected to ensure that each homework assignment is properly completed. Parents who have questions concerning the nature of their child's homework assignments should confer with the assigned teacher. A good guide to follow concerning the amount of time used for homework is as follows:

- Grade 3 - 20 to 40 minutes
- Grade 4 - 20 to 40 minutes
- Grade 5 - 30 to 50 minutes

Homework During Illness

If a student has been ill, the work that has been missed may be assigned as homework. In the event of an illness of more than one day, parents may call the office to request homework assignments. Please call before 9:30 a.m. to make the necessary arrangements to pick up work between 3:30-4:00 pm.

If a child is absent one day, a request for homework is not necessary. It is the child's responsibility to obtain work assignments missed and to make arrangements to make up tests. Teachers will assist students in this process.

Student Behavior

All students are expected to have good manners and to act in a respectful, courteous way. If a student does not behave properly, disciplinary action will be taken. Teachers usually handle discipline

problems within their classrooms. In some cases, however, the principal becomes involved. Parents are usually contacted at this point and a conference may be requested. There is an Anti-Bullying Policy in place at the Wantage School. Students shall not use, threaten, or incite the use of physical force against other pupils, staff members, or visitors to the school. Students shall not engage in the sexual and/or other harassment of pupils or staff members. Students shall not use foul, abusive, derogatory, or demeaning language, including racial and ethnic remarks.

Student Discipline/Code of Conduct

Below is a listing of pupil behaviors that are subject to pupil discipline, including suspension or expulsion, pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:37-2. The behaviors include, but are [Board of Education Policy #5600](#) and [Regulation #5600](#), not limited to:

Offensive Conduct

A) Insubordination

- First offense: Warning and detention. Contact parent/legal guardian
- Second offense: Suspension
- Third offense: Suspension/expulsion

B) Disruption

- First offense: Warning and detention
- Second offense: Additional detention
- Third offense: Suspension

C) Theft, Damage

- First offense: Contact parent/legal guardian, detention, restitution
- Second offense: Contact parent/legal guardian, suspension, restitution
- Third offense: Suspension

D) Sexual Harassment

- First offense: Contact parent/legal guardian, suspension
- Second offense: Suspension
- Third offense: Suspension

E) Weapon Possession

- First offense: Contact police, suspension
- Second offense: Contact police, suspension
- Third offense: Expulsion

F) Language Misuse

- First offense: Warning
- Second offense: Contact parent/legal guardian, detention
- Third offense: Detention – Suspension

G) Falsifications

- First offense: Contact parent/legal guardian
- Second offense: Contact parent/legal guardian, detention
- Third offense: Contact parent/legal guardian, detention

H) Recklessness

- First offense: Warning
- Second offense: Contact parent/legal guardian, detention
- Third offense: Contact parent/legal guardian, detention

I) Extortion

- First offense: Contact parent/legal guardian, suspension
- Second offense: Contact parent/legal guardian, suspension
- Third offense: Contact parent/legal guardian, expulsion

J) Vandalism

- First offense: Contact parent/legal guardian, detention, restitution
- Second offense: Contact parent/legal guardian, detention, restitution
- Third offense: Contact parent/legal guardian, suspension

K) Fighting

- First offense: Contact parent/legal guardian, detention or suspension
- Second offense: Suspension
- Third offense: Suspension

L) Littering

- First offense: Warning.
- Second offense: Contact parent/legal guardian, detention
- Third offense: Contact parent/legal guardian, detention

M) Truancy

- First offense: Contact parent/legal guardian
- Second offense: Contact parent/legal guardian, Contact police/ Family Services

- Third offense: Truancy charges

N) Non-cooperation

- First offense: Warning
- Second offense: Detention
- Third offense: Detention

O) Gambling

- First offense: Contact parent/legal guardian, detention
- Second offense: Contact parent/legal guardian, detention
- Third offense: Contact parent/legal guardian, suspension

P) Smoking

- First offense: Contact parent/legal guardian
- Second offense: Contact parent/legal guardian, counselor, summons, police
- Third offense: Contact parent/legal guardian, counselor, summons, police

Q) Cutting Detention

- First offense: Add another detention
- Second offense: Suspension
- Third offense: Suspension

R) Forgery

- First offense: Contact parent/legal guardian, detention
- Second offense: Contact parent/legal guardian, detention
- Third offense: Contact parent/legal guardian, suspension

S) Failure to Wear Seatbelt on School Bus

- First offense: Warning, contact parent/legal guardian
- Second offense: Contact parent/legal guardian, detention
- Third offense: Suspension from bus

T) Arson

- First offense: Contact police and parent/legal guardian, suspension
- Second offense: Contact police and parent/legal guardian, suspension
- Third offense: Contact police and parent/legal guardian, expulsion

U) Exploding Devices

- First offense: Contact police and parent/legal guardian, suspension

- Second offense: Contact police, and parent/legal guardian, suspension
- Third offense: Contact police and parent/legal guardian, expulsion

V) Falsifying Alarm

- First offense: Contact parent/legal guardian, detention
- Second offense: Detention/suspension
- Third offense: Suspension

W) Substance Abuse

- First offense: Referred to Child Study Team

X) Disobedience

- First offense: Warning, detention
- Second offense: Contact parent/legal guardian, detention
- Third offense: Suspension

Y) Misuse of Computer Networks/Computers

- First offense: Warning, contact parent/legal guardian
- Second offense: Loss of privileges
- Third offense: Detention/suspension

“Depending upon the severity of any infraction, the administration reserves the right to impose consequences reflective of the severity by adjusting the leniency and/or harshness of indicated consequences. Also, whereas it is impossible to foresee all possible circumstances where a student could misbehave, the administration reserves the right to use its judgment on items that are not on the above list.”

Detention

Lunch Detention may be given at the discretion of the teacher or principal. Students will be removed from the cafeteria during their lunch but will most likely be able to participate in recess. Restorative recess may also be assigned for which students will participate in alternate activities during recess.

A detention slip will be sent home for an after school detention only. The slip will state the reason for the detention, the teacher assigning the detention, and the date of the detention. The slip should be signed by a parent or guardian and returned to the school. Students who refuse to serve detention may have additional consequences imposed which could include suspension.

Suspension and Expulsion

Students who have materially and substantially interfered with the maintenance of good order in the schools may be suspended. A student who has been suspended by the principal will have this action

reported to the superintendent immediately. Expulsion shall be the permanent exclusion of a student from the schools of this district.

Recess

Except for in the rain or extremely cold weather, children will go outside for recess daily. Children should come to school dressed appropriately. Outside activity is an important part of the school day.

Guidance

Our guidance counselor assists students, teachers, and parents in school, with personal or social problems. The chief purpose of our counselor is to help each student become increasingly self-directive and capable of creative and purposeful living.

Visitors

In accordance with **Board of Education Policy 9150 School Visitors**, the Board of Education welcomes and encourages visits to school by parent(s) or legal guardian(s), other adult residents of the community, and interested educators. Permission to visit a classroom in session must be sought from and granted by the Principal. All guests and visitors must register in the main office. After 3:45 pm building access may not be granted to visitors. A visitor to a classroom shall not interrupt the instructional program, speak to or disturb pupils, or distract the teacher. A visitor who wishes to confer with the teacher must make arrangements for a conference at a later date. **Visitors will not be permitted in the cafeteria or playground.**

Physical Education

The wearing of sneakers is **REQUIRED** for all physical education activities. If your child needs to be excused from physical education class, he or she must have a note from a parent/guardian or a doctor.

Media Center

The media center is the research and reference data bank of the school. Materials are available for the students to accomplish assignments for their studies and engage in independent study and leisure reading. Students are encouraged to use the media center as much as possible. We have a flexible schedule in operation and our librarian is also a student and teacher resource.

Cafeteria

Students may bring a lunch from home or buy separate items or an entire lunch at school. Price lists are available on the swregional.org website under menu. Students sit with their class and are expected to have proper behavior and remain neat and orderly. Upon completion of lunch students may exit to the playground at the direction of the cafeteria aides. Some classes will have recess prior to eating lunch. A breakfast program is available daily. A price list will go home at the beginning of the school year.

Health Office Information

The State of New Jersey has signed into law a regulation concerning administration of medication in school. The law addresses two issues:

1. Medication given in school by the school nurse:

a. Medication will be given in school during regular school hours, only when the pupil's attendance depends on the timely administration of such medication. "Medication" as per this law means, any prescribed drug, or over-the-counter medication, including, but not limited to, aspirin and cough drops.

b. Requests for the administration of medication in school must be made, in writing, and signed by the physician.

2. NOTE: ALL MEDICATION MUST BE IN THE ORIGINAL PRESCRIPTION CONTAINER WITH THE PHARMACY LABEL ATTACHED.

IMPORTANT: PARENTAL HAND-WRITTEN NOTES ALONE CAN NO LONGER BE ACCEPTED TO ADMINISTER MEDICATION. THE NEW REGULATION REQUIRES PHYSICIAN ORDERS. ALSO, AS EXPLAINED ABOVE, PARENTS MAY CALL PHYSICIAN TO FAX ORDERS TO THE BUILDING NURSE.

Listed below are other school health requirements. Please review and comply with these regulations:

1. Students who are not feeling well should not be sent to school. Parents will be notified if a child becomes ill at school. The child will be sent home if he/she has an elevated temperature, exposing others to infection, or, if he/she feels so ill that he/she cannot participate in classroom activities. Parents are responsible to provide transportation for sick students when they are notified.
2. It is the parent or guardian's responsibility to notify the school of their child's absence by calling and leaving a message on the absentee call system. Wantage School - (973) 875-4589 Option 1.
3. Any student who returns from an absence must bring a note from a parent or guardian stating the reason for absence. After a five-day absence, a doctor's note is required.
4. Students returning to school following a communicable illness must be seen by the school nurse before returning to class. A physician's statement may be required.

If you have any questions concerning these matters, please contact Mrs. Flynn.

Phone: (973) 875-4589 Option 4

Fax: (973) 875-2184

Parents are requested to inform the school nurse of any medication being taken by a student. This will assist us in handling more effectively any emergency involving students.

If a child is to be excused from physical education and/or playground activities for more than a day or two, a doctor's statement giving the reason for the request will be required.

During the course of the school year, students will have a vision and hearing screening, as well as height and weight measurements. We suggest having children checked by a specialist, if a referral is recommended.

Scoliosis screening is done, as required by law, for students in 4th grade or age 10 or older. To help us in a case of emergency, please be sure to update emergency contacts in the Realtime parent portal.

A Sound Mind in a Sound Body

Children need strong, healthy bodies to cope with the activities of each day. They will meet the challenge of their school experiences better if you help with the following matters:

- It is best if bedtime is at a regular hour each night. At least 10 to 12 hours of sleep each night are recommended. A tired child may be irritable and easily upset. Tired children cannot always do their best work.
- A good breakfast, unhurried, helps to begin the day alertly. It also helps to maintain the stamina required to work through their day.
- Help your child take pride in personal cleanliness. Tell them how nice they look when they are clean. Teach them not to put anything in their mouth, except clean food and drink.

Don't risk sending a sick child to school. Look for:

- Complaint of pain
- Earache
- Red or discharging eyes
- Coughing and/or sneezing
- Fever or sore throat

The above signs may suggest that the child should be kept home. If your child has a rash, fever, discharging eyes, or is vomiting, you will probably want to keep him/her home and contact your doctor for advice. The school nurse appreciates a call when your child is absent, as this helps us keep track of what type of illnesses are currently in the school.

In Class Birthdays, Holidays, and other Celebrations

Parents are encouraged to bring in healthy snacks (apple slices) or non edible treats such as pencils. Children and teachers will not be permitted to distribute or share any home prepared food of any kind. All food or snacks need to be approved by the school nurse prior to distribution to students. Party favors and invitations are not permitted for sharing or distribution unless shared with the entire class.

Bus Transportation

Ms. Jeanette Leggour, Coordinator – (973) 875-3175 option 2

Student Bus Assignments

At the start of the school year or upon enrollment in school, students shall be assigned to a specific bus and specific bus stop. Students shall board and leave buses at those assigned spots.

Bus Rules and Regulations

Before Boarding the Bus

1. Be on time at your bus stop.
2. Remain well away from the roadway while awaiting the arrival of the bus. Refrain from throwing things or playing at the bus stop. Wait until the bus stops in the loading zone.
3. Students who must cross the highway to reach their destination shall cross in front of the stopped bus while the red lights are flashing.
4. Students shall enter the bus in an orderly fashion and go directly to a seat and remain seated until the destination is reached.

BUS BEHAVIOR

The bus driver has complete authority over the students while they are on the bus and is to be obeyed at all times. Below is a list of rules that all students are expected to follow:

- Be respectful to the bus driver and other students on the bus.
- There is no food (including gum) or drinks permitted on the bus.
- Remain seated at all times.
- No pushing, shoving, throwing objects, or shouting on the bus.
- Using profane or abusive language is prohibited.
- Do not litter. Keep the bus clean by throwing away all garbage.
- Extending any body parts or throwing objects out of the windows is prohibited.
- No balloons, skateboards, etc. on the bus.
- Students will be held financially responsible for any damage that they do to the school bus.

- Personal devices of any means are to never be used for the purposes of live-streaming, photographing, and/or video/audio recording any other students or staff members, under any circumstances, while on school property, including on buses.
- Students who violate the rules of conduct while riding the bus are subject to discipline according to the chart in the discipline section listed above.

After Leaving the Bus

1. Move quickly away from the side of the bus.
2. When it is necessary to cross the road, always walk in front of the crossing bar.
3. Never go to the rear of the bus and cross the road.

Bus Discipline

Depending upon the severity of any infraction and/or developmental age of the student, the administration reserves the right to impose consequences reflective of the severity by adjusting the leniency and/or harshness of indicated consequences. Also, whereas it is impossible to foresee all possible circumstances where a student could misbehave, the administration reserves the right to use its judgment on items that are not on the above list.

Bus Behavior	<u>Not following bus rules.</u> See Student Handbook for specifics.	Notify Parent/Legal Guardian, warning, possible detention	Contact Parent/Legal Guardian, detention(s)	Contact Parent/Legal Guardian, detention(s)/possible suspension from bus
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RULES FOR A CHANGE OF BUS

Because of considerations of safety, we may not permit buses to be overloaded. Therefore, students will normally ride the bus to which they are assigned. If, for reasons of family emergency or hardship, or for other good reasons in the opinion of the principal, a need to ride another bus arises, the following procedure must be followed:

1. Parents must call Ms. Jeanette Leggour at the Board Office (973) 875-3175 to check for seat availability prior to requesting a temporary bus change.
2. The student must bring a note to school signed by his/her parent. The note must state the reason for the request, and must also include the number of the student’s regular bus and the number of the bus the student needs to ride for the time of emergency.
3. The note must be forwarded to the office during the early morning homeroom period.
4. The student will present the approved request to the driver of the emergency bus.

5. No bus driver will permit a student, who is not assigned to his/her bus, to ride without proper approval.

* If a student needs to get off at a different stop, but will be riding the same bus to which he/she is assigned, the same process must be followed.

Bus Accident Procedure

In the event of a bus accident the medical personnel and chief administrator on scene will determine the medical condition of the students involved in the bus accident and will decide the necessity of transportation to the hospital. Only children needing medical attention will be referred to the hospital; all other students will be transported to their designated schools either on the affected bus or by a replacement bus.

Transfers

Children transferring to another school must obtain a transfer card from our school office. All library books and class texts must be returned before the transfer request will be honored. School records will be mailed upon receipt of request from the new school.

Student Records*

As the parents or guardian of a child in New Jersey public schools, you have certain legal rights concerning the records on your child kept by the school system. As a general rule, you have the right to:

- See and get copies of all records kept for your child.
- Keep people outside the school from seeing your child's records.
- Have inaccurate, incomplete, or irrelevant information corrected or removed from the records.
- Ask for a hearing if any of these rights have been denied to you.

As with most general rules, this one has many exceptions and limitations.

* Taken from "Your Child's School Records" published by the Education Law Center, Inc.

Emergency Drills

Fire drills and other emergency drills will be conducted periodically during the school year. It is extremely important that the drills receive serious attention by all students. During fire drills,

instructions for leaving the building are posted in each classroom. Close attention should be given to the teacher(s) in charge. During a fire drill, students are expected to leave the building in a quiet and orderly manner. Students are not permitted to talk during emergency drills. Teacher's commands supersede written or posted instruction.

School Photographs

As a service to families, we make arrangements for a photograph to be taken each fall. Watch for an announcement in the **NEWSLETTER** and on the school website.

Report Cards

Closing dates for the marking period report cards will be posted in our school newsletter and on our school calendar. We also have a Parent Portal System with regularly updated grades and information.

2624. GRADING SYSTEM

A. Purpose of Grading

1. The purpose of grading is to assist pupils in the process of learning. All grading systems will be subject to continual review and revision to that end.

2. Grades acknowledge a pupil's demonstrated proficiency in the New Jersey State Learning Standards and locally established learning goals and objectives:

- a. Active participation in and attention to daily lessons;
- b. Frequent contribution to discussions;
- c. Prompt, thorough, accurate, and neat preparation of assignments;
- d. Thorough preparation and performance on tests and assessments;
- e. Display of an eagerness to learn and an inquisitive approach to lessons;
- f. Attention to the need for proper materials;
- g. Cooperation with the teacher's efforts;
- h. Willingness to work to the best of his/her ability and to do more than the minimum expected.

B. Grading Periods

1. Grades will be awarded at the end of four marking periods in each school year.
2. Pupils will be given notice of their mid-term grades at mid-point of each marking period.
3. Pupils will be given a final grade in each subject at the end of the school year.
4. Grades will be recorded on report cards for parent(s) or legal guardian(s) notification in accordance with Policy No. 5420 and Regulation No. 5420.

C. Meaning of Grades

1. The following grades will be given in each academic subject at the end of each marking period:
 - a. A grade of “A” indicates superior performance. It may be given to a pupil whose achievement is significantly above grade level, whose work achieves a quality and quantity that consistently excels, and who demonstrates a high degree of initiative, application, and purpose.
 - b. A grade of “B” indicates on grade level, whose work frequently excels, and who generally demonstrates strength in the subject.
 - c. A grade of “C” indicates average performance. It should be given to a pupil whose achievement in most areas of the subject is average, whose work is acceptable, and who demonstrates a satisfactory degree of proficiency.
 - d. A grade of “D” indicates below average performance. It should be given to a pupil whose achievement in the subject is barely passing, whose work is the minimum acceptable for credit, and who demonstrates only weak proficiencies in the subject.
 - e. A grade of “F” indicates failing performance and that no credit can be given for the subject. It should be given to a pupil who has not met the minimum requirements of the course, who has demonstrated an inability or unwillingness to master the basic elements of the course, or who has failed to meet the minimum attendance standards necessary to pass a course of study.
 - f. Letter grades may be modified by plus or minus signs.

2. The following grading scale and indicators shall be used:

A+	=	98-100
A	=	92-97
A-	=	90-91
B+	=	88-89
B	=	82-87
B-	=	80-81
C+	=	78-79
C	=	72-77
C-	=	70-71
D+	=	68-69
D	=	62-67
D-	=	60-61
F	=	0-59

Dress Code Guidelines

The Sussex-Wantage Regional School District recognizes the right of the students and their parents to determine the style and type of clothing that is appropriate for school. In accordance with **Policy 5511 Dress and Grooming**, the Board of Education does reserve the right to limit the type of clothing students wear when it negatively affects the educational program of the school. Building principals are authorized to prohibit pupil dress or grooming practices which:

1. Present a hazard to the health or safety of the pupil, himself/herself or to others in the school.
2. Materially interfere with school work, create disorder, or disrupt the educational program.
3. Cause excessive wear or damage to school property.
4. Prevent the pupil from achieving his/her own educational objectives because of blocked vision or restricted movement.

Minimum standards shall also include cleanliness, neatness, health and appropriateness. In all cases, the school administrator shall act as the arbiter of pupil dress and grooming. In a more specific sense, clothing should be appropriate and should be neat, clean, inoffensive and decent. Some examples of inappropriate attire are:

- Head wear of any type
- Sun glasses, except prescription glasses
- Bare midriffs
- Obscene or profane language or symbols on clothing including advertisements for alcoholic beverages or narcotics of any kind.
- Shorts or dresses which cause undergarments to be noticeable, which cause restricted mobility, or which distract other students.
- Clothing which allows undergarments to be visible when the student is sitting or walking.
- Off-the-shoulder, strapless tops, tank tops or tube tops which are worn without a jacket or vest covering.
- Beach-like clothing, such as parts of a bathing suit.
- Shoes or sneakers designed for laces that are worn without laces.
- Dresses or pants which are so long that they become a safety concern, or too tight so as to inhibit movement or cause distraction.
- Please note that hair coloring is a matter of style decided at home by parents and students. Students may not alter the color of their hair on school grounds, as this is inappropriate behavior, which has caused student distraction in the past and will no longer be tolerated.
- Shoes and sneakers, in reasonable repair, are to be worn at all times. This listing does not state all types of inappropriate attire, but has cited some examples of clothing deemed improper to be worn in school. Any pupil who comes to school without proper attention having been given to personal cleanliness or neatness shall be required to prepare themselves before entering the classroom. Any parent/guardian who does not wish to have his/her child comply with these dress guidelines is asked to discuss the matter with the building principal.

- Tank tops may be worn at the Wantage School, at administrator's discretion. The straps of the shirt should be at least three fingers wide.

Sussex Wantage Regional School District Policy Guide

8505. SCHOOL NUTRITION (M)

The Board of Education recognizes child and adolescent obesity has reached epidemic levels in the United States and that poor diet, combined with the lack of physical activity, negatively impacts on pupils' health and their ability and motivation to learn. The Board is committed to providing pupils with healthy and nutritious foods; encouraging the consumption of fresh fruits and vegetables, low fat milk and whole grains; supporting healthy eating through nutrition education; encouraging pupils to select and consume all components of the school meal; and providing pupils with the opportunity to engage in daily physical activity.

The following items may not be served, sold, or given out as free promotion anywhere on school property at any time before the end of the school day:

1. Foods of minimal nutritional value (FMNV) as defined by U.S. Department of Agriculture regulations;
2. All food and beverage items listing sugar, in any form, as the first ingredient;
3. All forms of candy.

All snack and beverage items sold or served anywhere on school property during the school day, including items sold in a la carte lines, vending machines, snack bars, school stores, and fundraisers shall meet the following standards:

1. Based on manufacturers' nutritional data or nutrient facts labels:
 - a. No more than eight grams of total fat per serving, with the exception of nuts and seeds;
 - b. No more than two grams of saturated fat per serving.
2. All beverages shall not exceed 12 ounces, with the following exceptions:
 - a. Water;
 - b. Milk, containing 2% or less fat;
3. Whole milk shall not exceed eight ounces.

In elementary schools, 100% of all beverages offered shall be milk, water, or 100% fruit or vegetable juices.

This policy does not apply to medically authorized special needs diets pursuant to 7 CFR Part 210; school nurses using FMNVs during the course of providing health care to individual pupils; or special needs pupils whose Individualized Education Plan (IEP) indicates their use for behavioral modification.

The school district's curriculum shall incorporate nutrition education and physical activity consistent with the New Jersey Department of Education Core Curriculum Standards.

The Board of Education is committed to promoting this School Nutrition Policy with all food service

personnel, teachers, nurses, coaches, and other school administrative staff, so they have the skills needed to implement this Policy and promote healthy eating practices. The Board will work toward expanding awareness about this Policy among pupils, parent(s) or legal guardian(s), teachers, and the community at large.

HARASSMENT, INTIMIDATION, AND BULLYING

Board of Education Policy 5512 Harassment, Intimidation, and Bullying states that, “The Board of Education prohibits acts of harassment, intimidation, or bullying of a pupil. A safe and civil environment in school is necessary for pupils to learn and achieve high academic standards. Harassment, intimidation, or bullying, like other disruptive or violent behaviors, is conduct that disrupts both a pupil’s ability to learn and a school’s ability to educate its pupils in a safe and disciplined environment. Since pupils learn by example, school administrators, faculty, staff and volunteers should be commended for demonstrating appropriate behavior, treating others with civility and respect, and refusing to tolerate harassment, intimidation, or bullying.”

“Harassment, intimidation, or bullying” means any gesture, any written, verbal or physical act, or any electronic communication, as defined in N.J.S.A. 18A:37-14, whether it be a single incident or a series of incidents that:

1. Is reasonably perceived as being motivated by either any actual or perceived characteristic, such as race, color, religion, ancestry, national origin, gender, sexual orientation, gender identity and expression, or a mental, physical or sensory disability; or
2. By any other distinguishing characteristic; and that
3. Takes place on school property, at any school-sponsored function, on a school bus, or off school grounds, as provided for in N.J.S.A. 18A:37-15.3, that substantially disrupts or interferes with the orderly operation of the school or the rights of other pupils; and that
4. A reasonable person should know, under the circumstances, that the act(s) will have the effect of physically or emotionally harming a pupil or damaging the pupil’s property, or placing a pupil in reasonable fear of physical or emotional harm to his/her person or damage to his/her property; or
5. Has the effect of insulting or demeaning any pupil or group of pupils; or
6. Creates a hostile educational environment for the pupil by interfering with a pupil’s education or by severely or pervasively causing physical or emotional harm to the pupil.

“Electronic communication” means a communication transmitted by means of an electronic device, including, but not limited to, a telephone, cellular phone, computer, or pager.

This policy can be viewed in its entirety on the Sussex-Wantage Regional School District’s website or by requesting a copy of the policy from your child’s school or Board of Education Office.

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