

PARENT/STUDENT HANDBOOK

2026-2027



OTSEGO ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS

**ALAMO ELEMENTARY
DIX STREET ELEMENTARY
WASHINGTON STREET ELEMENTARY**

INTRODUCTION

Letter from the Principals

Welcome to Your Otsego Elementary Schools!

We are looking forward to an exciting and successful school year. We have prepared this handbook so that we may bring about a better understanding between the schools, parents, and students. We ask for your help and cooperation so that together we may effectively provide your child with a rewarding and enriching educational experience. Please take the time to read this handbook thoroughly and then place it in a convenient location for quick reference.

On behalf of our staff, we would like to extend an invitation for you to visit our schools, attend your children's programs, and to become an active member in the Parent Teacher Organization (PTO). As we begin the 2026-27 school year, we hope that if you have any questions or concerns, you will reach out to your child's teacher or us. We are happy to have you and your children with us at Otsego Public Schools.

Sincerely,
Beth Ayotte, Principal, Dix Street Elementary
Jennifer Knight, Principal, Washington Street Elementary
Nicole Knight-Lucas, Principal, Alamo Elementary

Table of Contents

Introduction	1
Table of Contents	1-3
School Directory	3
Non-Discrimination Statement	3
Tobacco Free Schools	4
Building Schedules	4
Attendance Policy	4-6
Policy Statement	4
Notification of Absence	4
Attendance Requirements	4
Two Types of Absences: Excused and Unexcused	5
Pre-Arranged Absences	5
Tardiness	5
Vacations During the School Year	5
Late Arrival - Early Departure	6
Reporting Absences	6
Student Services	6-7
Breakfast and Lunch Programs	6
Textbooks and Supplies	6
Lost and Found	7
Telephone Usage	7
Phone Messages	7

Field Trips	7
School and Health and Safety	7-8
Severe Weather Policy	7
School Closure Due to Inclement Weather	7
Accidents, Illness	7
Closed Campus	8
Weather and Recess	8
Head Lice, Scabies, and Pink Eye	8
Student Medication	8
Discipline & Conduct	8-16
General School Rules	9
Code of Conduct	9
Disruptive Behavior and Safety	9
Procedure	10
Expulsion	11
Violations & Consequences	12-16
Bullying/Harassment	17-18
Restorative Practices	18
Student Behavior and Responsibilities	18-20
Dress and Grooming	18
Shoes and Boots	19
Playground Regulations	19
Lunchroom Behavior	19
Articles Brought to School	20
Electronic Devices/Cell Phones	20
Selling Merchandise at School	20
Behavior at After School Activities	20
Student Conflict Managers	20-21
General Information	21-22
Otsego Virtual Academy	21
Report Cards	21
Parent-Teacher Conferences	21
Bus Notes	21
Visitors	22
Treats	22
Library	22
Pets in School	22
School Newsletters	22
Assignments of Student to Schools, Classes	22
Care of School Property	22
Homework	22-23
Purposes of Homework	22
Time of Expectations	23
Homework and Absences	23
Support for Parents	23
Reading to your Child	23
Additional Opportunities for Your Child	23-25
Technology	23

Music	23
Spanish	24
Art	24
Physical Education	24
Health	24
Individuals with Disabilities	24
Special Services	24
Student Support Services	25
Title I Program	25
Speech Therapy	25
Limited English Proficiency	25
Drug Free Schools	25-26
Technology Acceptable Use Policy	26-28

School Directory

Alamo Office	694-7600
Alamo Attendance	694-7680
Alamo Fax	694-7699
Alamo B.A.S.E.	694-7635
Dix Street Office	694-7700
Dix Street Attendance	694-7780
Dix Street Fax	694-7999
Dix Street B.A.S.E.	694-7745
Washington Street Office	694-7800
Washington Street Attendance	694-7880
Washington Street Fax .	694-7899
Washington Street B.A.S.E.	694-7835
Transportation Office	694-7940
Superintendent's Office	694-7900
Central Office Fax	694-7999
Director of Instruction	694-7904
Community Education	694-7405

Non-Discrimination Statement

The District shall not discriminate against any protected category as required by law. Upon request to the Superintendent, the District shall make reasonable accommodations for a disabled person to participate in any building activity. The Board designates the following individuals to serve as "Compliance Officers/Title IX Coordinators" for the District.

- Anna Starr, Behavioral Health Services Coordinator, 269-694-7500, astarr@otsegops.org
- Alice Hoekstra, OPS Director of Special Education, 269-694-7900, ahoekstra@otsegops.org
- Jamielynne Commissaris, OPS Human Resources & Accounting Coordinator, 269-694-7913, jcommissaris@otsegops.org

Tobacco, Drug and Weapons Free Schools

The Otsego Board of Education passed the following resolution to be effective January 1, 1992:

"To Provide A Positive Role Model for Our Students And To Provide A Healthy Environment For All, Our School Buildings and Grounds Are Designated As TOBACCO FREE AREAS."

The Otsego Public School District is a smoke, drug and weapons free campus. The use or possession of any tobacco products, drugs or drug paraphernalia or weapons on school grounds, in buildings, parking lots and in vehicles on school property is prohibited by state and federal laws. Violators will be prosecuted to the fullest extent of the law. It is hoped that our parents will cooperate with this policy in the best interest of our children.

BUILDING SCHEDULES

Beginning and Ending Times:

Alamo - 8:30 a.m. - 3:53 p.m.

Dix St. - 8:20 a.m. - 3:43 p.m.

Washington St. - 8:30 a.m. - 3:53 p.m.

ATTENDANCE POLICY

Attendance Law and Board Policy - Michigan law requires that whoever has custody or charge of any child between ages 6-18 (unless the child has already completed high school graduation requirements) shall assure that the child attends public school during the entire year. Michigan law requires that the student's attendance be continuous and consecutive for the school year fixed by the school district.

Notification of Absence - If a student must be absent from school, it is the parent's/guardian's responsibility to properly report the absence. To properly report the absence, the parent/guardian must call the attendance line the day of the absence and leave a message before 9:00 a.m. If a parent/guardian has not contacted the office regarding attendance, written notification by the parent/guardian must be within 48 hours or the absence will be coded as unexcused. If a student will be absent for an extended period due to illness, the parent/guardian need not phone in daily but should keep the school updated on the student's condition and request make-up work for completion at home.

Attendance Requirements – Students are expected to be in school on time, every day. Please attempt to schedule appointments during non-school hours. The following guidelines have been established to encourage good attendance habits for your child.

- Five Absences: Parent/guardian will receive a letter from the school
- Seven Absences: Letter will be sent to parent/guardians warning of truancy referral and a meeting will be scheduled with administration. Therefore, after 7 absences the student will be considered unexcused for each additional day, unless proper documentation is provided for the absence. Documentation previous to the 7th day a student is absent can be provided by a

parent/guardian. Verification will be requested for additional absences beyond the 7th day from a physician, dentist, orthodontist, optometrist, or other appropriate medical personnel.

- Ten Unexcused Absences: Student will be reported truant to the Allegan County Truancy Officer

Two Types of Absences: Excused and Unexcused

- Excused absences include: illness, observance of a religious holiday, death in the immediate family, family emergency, circumstances that cause reasonable concern to the parent/guardian for the student's safety or health, or other reason approved by the principal.
- Unexcused absences (i.e., oversleeping, faulty personal transportation, family trips that are not pre-arranged at least 2 days prior to the absence, lack of timely notice to the school office to report the absence). Prearranged excused absences must be approved by the principal.

The school believes that certain reasons for absences are not appropriate for elementary students. Among these are: shopping trips, baby-sitting, and helping at home. The school also believes that it is most appropriate for families to schedule vacations and appointments to correspond with scheduled school vacations and after-school hours in order to avoid taking students out of school. If a student leaves and returns on the same day (for a doctor's appointment, etc.) he or she will be marked absent for ½ day if gone more than one hour. If it becomes necessary to take a vacation during school time, we require that parents notify the school two weeks prior to their child's absence. Make-up work, supervised by parents, will be due the day the child returns. At that time, the child is expected to be prepared to take all missed tests. In some cases, additional make-up assignments may be required. The school may require documentation explaining the reason for the student's absence.

Pre-Arranged Absences - Pre-arranged Absence Forms, which may be obtained in the Office, are required for all absences of more than one day, for which advance notice is available. The forms are only used if a student will be absent an entire day.

Arrangements for an absence of this type should be completed within the required period of time prior to the absence. Failure to properly submit an advance absence form will result in unexcused absences. These forms are generally not used for absences scheduled by the school.

Tardiness – Each student is expected to be in his/her assigned location throughout the school day. Students arriving late to school must come to the office to sign in and get a tardy pass before reporting to class. A student shall be considered tardy if he or she arrives after the starting bell for either morning or afternoon. Students arriving after the first hour will be marked absent for the a.m. Students leaving school more than an hour before the end of the day will also be marked absent in the p.m.

Vacation During the School Year – All vacations must be pre-excused. It is the parent's responsibility to obtain a pre-excused slip from the main office at least five days prior to the scheduled absence. Make up work will be issued according to the recommendation of the teacher (before the student leaves or

upon returning). It is not recommended that students go on vacation while school is in session; however, we will excuse up to 7 additional days for family vacation.

Late Arrival - Early Departure

Parents are required to report to the office and sign students in or out for late arrivals or early departures.

Reporting Absences

Each time a student is going to be absent, parents are expected to call the school. The Attendance Numbers are:

Alamo Elementary 694-7680

Dix Street Elementary 694-7780

Washington Street Elementary 694-7880

Please leave a message reporting the following information:

1. Caller's name and relationship to the student
2. Child's Name
3. Grade and Teacher
4. Reason for Absence

For prolonged absences, homework can be requested to be picked up at the end of the day.

Please call your Elementary School's Attendance Number before 9:00 a.m. for each day of your child's absence. Those parents who have neglected to report their child's absence may be contacted, at work if necessary, to determine their child's whereabouts. This procedure ensures our children's safety.

STUDENT SERVICES

Breakfast and Lunch Programs

Breakfast and lunch will be FREE FOR ALL STUDENTS for the 2026-27 school year!

Please note: Students who take a second meal will be charged the regular meal prices for that meal.

Breakfast- \$1.75, Elementary Lunch- \$2.75, Milk can also be purchased for \$0.75 a la carte.

Students planning to have breakfast at school should arrive no earlier than 10 minutes before classes begin. Students who must charge a lunch can. There is a limit of 2 unpaid charges.

Application forms are available in the school offices for families who may qualify for free or reduced price lunches and breakfasts.

Textbooks and Supplies

All textbooks and workbooks are provided without cost to the parents. If a child loses or damages a book, he or she will be required to pay for the replacement.

Pencils, paper, and other supplies are given to students in reasonable amounts. Many children enjoy bringing some of their own supplies to school but they are not required to do so.

Lost and Found

All articles of clothing which are found should be taken to the lost and found box. Valuables such as money, jewelry, etc. should be turned in to an office person. Children should report a loss of clothing to the teacher. With permission, a child may go to the lost and found to look for lost articles during recess time or at dismissal. Items not claimed by the end of the year will be donated to charity.

Telephone Usage

The office telephones are not to be used by students except in case of emergency.

Phone Messages

On the occasion that a student will need to receive an urgent communication from home, please call the school prior to 2:00 p.m. After that time, we will make every attempt but cannot guarantee a message will be received before dismissal.

Field Trips

As part of our program, students take part in field trips. Parents are notified of such trips. Written permission is required for all out-of-district field trips. Due to our liability insurance regulations, parents who accompany field trips as chaperones are not allowed to bring pre-school age children with them on their buses. Parents who plan to chaperone, and plan to drive themselves, should not bring pre-school age children with them either, since they will not be able to concentrate on their responsibilities as a chaperone.

SCHOOL HEALTH AND SAFETY**Severe Weather Policy**

It is the Otsego School Board's policy that children remain at school during severe weather, a tornado watch, or a tornado warning. When a warning is in effect for the immediate area, school will not be dismissed until the tornado warning is lifted.

Parents and guardians picking their students up are asked to follow the sign-out procedure.

School Closure Due to Inclement Weather

In the event that weather conditions are such that school is to be closed, please listen to any of the following radio or television stations as they will be notified of our status. The district employs the Infinite Campus messenger system to contact families when school is closed or postponed for any reason. Please keep your phone number/email updated in the Infinite Campus Parent Portal so that you will receive the message if school is canceled or delayed. Local radio and television are another resource for school closing information. If school closes all school activities for that day will be canceled and/or postponed.

If school closes during the day, an Infinite Campus message will be sent to notify parents. Again, local radio and television stations will have the information as well. Families should have emergency plans in place (secondary child care; keys; etc.) and children should be aware of these.

Accidents, Illness

Should your child become ill or sustain an injury needing your attention, you will be contacted to pick him/her up at school. If you are not at home, we will keep the student at school unless immediate medical assistance is required. In that case assistance will be secured.

Closed Campus

Students are not permitted to leave the grounds during the day unless a parent or guardian picks the child up. Students will not be allowed to leave school at recess time or lunchtime to go downtown or visit a friend's home. Students who ride the bus to school will not be allowed to visit the grocery store after arriving at school.

Weather and Recess

All students are expected to go outside for the morning, noon and afternoon recesses EVERY day, dressed appropriately for the weather.

EXCEPTIONS:

- a. Inclement weather
- b. If a child has been seriously ill, parents must make a written request for the child to remain indoors for up to three consecutive days. If a longer period of time is necessary, a written statement must be submitted from a physician.

Head Lice, Scabies, and Pink Eye

Please contact the school if your child has been diagnosed with head lice, scabies, or pink eye. Children with any of these problems are excluded from school and may not return until proof of treatment is provided by the parents. In the case of head lice, the student must be totally nit free.

Student Medication

Otsego Public Schools shall not be responsible for the diagnosis and treatment of student illness. The administration of prescribed medication to a student during school hours will be permitted only when failure to take such medicine would jeopardize the health of the student, or the student would not be able to attend school if the medicine were not made available during school hours.

For purposes of this policy, "medication" shall include all medicines prescribed by a physician and/or any patented or over the counter drug.

The total responsibility for dispensing or administering any non-prescribed (over-the-counter) drugs, preparations, and/or remedies shall rest solely with the parent(s) or legal guardian, and that student. Before any medication may be administered to any student during school hours, the Board shall require the written request of the parent. This document shall be kept on file in the office of the principal.

Only medication in its original prescription bottle, labeled with the date of prescription, student's name, and exact dosage will be administered and only in the presence of another adult.

DISCIPLINE & CONDUCT

Otsego Public Schools has the responsibility to its students and their parents/guardians to provide an atmosphere that makes it possible for all students to be successful. Students are expected and required to conduct themselves in a reasonable and controlled manner while in school. Courtesy, respect and consideration of others is a must for all students. Enforcement of the school policy is at the discretion of school administrators.

General School Rules for All Buildings

Respect yourself and others

Keep your hands, feet, and objects to yourself.

Only use kind words and actions.

Act safely at all times

Administrative Action May Include Any or All of the Following:

Code of Conduct

On the following pages, is the code of conduct, which the Otsego Board of Education expects students of Otsego Public Schools to adhere to while enrolled in this school system. The codes, as set forth herein, apply to the expected conduct of all pupils from Kindergarten through twelfth grade. It also identifies broad categories of student misconduct, defines the conditions under which students may be suspended or expelled, and specifies the procedural due process safeguards that will be utilized for the benefit of the student in its implementation.

Philosophy Concerning Pupil Discipline & Conduct: The primary objective of student discipline and control is to produce a school environment that is conducive to learning. Every activity must be able to be justified educationally, and complete attention must be directed to the teaching-learning process.

Disruptive Behavior and Safety

Students are prohibited from disrupting teaching or engaging in behavior that poses a threat to the orderly conduct of school activities or any other lawful function of the school or school district. Prohibited conduct includes but is not limited to the following illustrative examples of disruptive behavior: failing to observe established safety rules, standards and regulations, including on the bus and in hallways; intentional verbal, written, or physical acts which result or have the potential to result in blocking access to school functions or facilities or preventing the convening or continuation of school-related functions; appearance or clothing which (1) violates a reasonable dress code adopted and publicized by the school, or (2) is substantially disruptive, or (3) is provocative or obscene; or (4) endangers the health or safety of the student or others; possessing or distributing literature or illustrations which significantly disrupt the educational process or which are obscene or unlawful; engaging in behavior which is lewd or of an overly sexual nature in the school setting; interfering with the operation of school buses, including delaying the bus schedule, getting off at an unauthorized stop, and willfully trespassing upon a school bus; possessing any item prohibited by federal law, state law, board policy or any individual school rule; engaging in any other behaviors prohibited in board policy or school behavior plans and; display of symbols on flags, clothing, literature, online, or in other areas, that school officials conclude pose a risk of serious disruption to school, including the swastika, the confederate battle flag, and other symbols affiliated with violent protest and violence against minority groups, women, LGBTQ people, people with disabilities, and other protected groups.

Discipline may be defined as the control of conduct of the individuals themselves or by external authority. It includes the entire program of the individual student adapting to life in our society and involves two major points of emphasis:

- a. To guide the pupil so that he/she enhances the immediate efforts of teachers and other students in the learning situation; and that, therefore, the pupil's behavior does not have a detrimental effect, in the classroom, on the school system.

- b. To assist the pupil in becoming a responsible, productive and self-disciplined citizen within the school, in preparation for assuming adult responsibilities. At least by the time the pupil reaches high school age, it is expected that he/she will assume personal responsibility for his/her own behavior.

The school system has a responsibility to assist each individual to assume more responsibility for their own actions as they mature and gain experience. The best and most lasting discipline is self-discipline. For this reason:

- a. The best discipline is preventive in nature rather than regulatory and restrictive. A student's behavior in school is directly related to many internal and external factors, including:
 - i. The student's self-image
 - ii. Active participation in both the curricular and extracurricular activities of the school.
 - iii. Motivation to learn.
 - iv. Understanding and support received from parents, teachers and other adults.
- b. Since the students are basically motivated to learn and meet standards of acceptable behavior, the role of the teachers and other school employees should be one of guiding pupils in understanding, establishing and maintaining these acceptable behavioral standards.

The staff should make every effort to solve disciplinary problems within the school setting and without excluding a student from school. Disciplinary action may fall in the following categories:

- **Detention** – A specified amount of time (up to two hours) at recess, at lunch, before school, or after school.
- **In-House** – Isolation of the student within the school. Students' work will be available during suspensions. If the assigned work is not complete upon return, the student will remain in-house suspension or be assigned lunch detention(s) until the work is completed.
- **Suspension** – The exclusion of a student from school for a specific period of time. These suspensions will be for a period not to exceed ten school attendance days. Students may not attend or participate in any school activities or events until the suspension has been completed. Students' work will be made available for suspensions. Therefore, it will be the responsibility of the student and/or parent/guardian to get his/her assigned work and it will be due the day the student returns to school. If the assigned work is not complete upon return, the student will be placed in in-house suspension or assigned lunch detention(s) until the work is completed.

Procedure:

A student shall be fully informed of the charges brought against him or her including the rationale for the action and the condition of time and termination.

The Principal or the Principal's designee shall immediately make a reasonable effort, preferably by telephone, to notify the parent/guardian of action. If telephone contact cannot be made, a note sent home with the student will be considered "reasonable effort." Written notification of such contact, or attempted contact, shall be made in the student's cumulative file.

The initial contact shall be followed by written communication to the parent/guardian, stating the charges, reasons, and conditions of the separation or suspension. A copy of this communication will be placed in the student's file.

The student will not be allowed to attend or participate in any school activities or events until his/her suspension has been completed.

A suspension of more than one school day but not more than 10 may be appealed in writing to the principal and/or superintendent in accordance with board policy.

Expulsion – The permanent exclusion of a student from school. Expulsion requires Board of Education action. Referral to Law Enforcement Agency. Parents should be informed and involved whenever a student exhibits a history of unacceptable conduct. Records of such involvement shall be maintained in the Principal's Office. The Principal or his designee shall be responsible for documenting evidence to support any action of suspension or expulsion, as well as efforts to solve the problems. Such documentation shall be in writing.

The authority of the Board of Education to authorize suspension or expulsion and to make reasonable rules and regulations relative to anything whatsoever necessary for the proper establishment, maintenance, management and carrying on of the public school, including regulations relative to the conduct of pupils concerning their safety while in attendance at school or en route to and from school is granted in sections 340.613 and 340.614 of the SCHOOL CODE OF THE STATE OF MICHIGAN. Also, because the board believes that the students, staff members, and visitors are entitled to function in a safe environment; students are to report knowledge of dangerous weapons or threats of violence to the school administration.

Assuming the responsibility granted to it by law, the Otsego Board of Education establishes the following categories of misconduct (while a student is under jurisdiction of the school) as those that may result in suspension, or expulsion from the Otsego Public Schools. These categories are general in nature and are not all inclusive:

- Matters pertaining to laws and general rules
- Matters pertaining to citizenship
- Matters pertaining to attendance
- Matters pertaining to safety of themselves or others

When and Where Conduct Rules Apply

The grounds for disciplinary action also apply whenever the student's conduct is reasonably related to school or school activities, including but not limited to:

1. *On, or within sight of, school grounds before, during, or after school hours or at any time;*
2. *Off school grounds at a school-sponsored activity or event, or any activity or event that bears a reasonable relationship to school;*
3. *Traveling to or from school or a school activity, function, or event; or*
4. *Anywhere, if the conduct interferes with, disrupts, or adversely affects the school environment, school operations, or an educational function, including but not limited to, conduct that may reasonably be considered to: (a) be a threat or an attempted intimidation of a staff member; or (b) endanger the health or safety of students, staff, or school property.*

Any student who is dismissed from class for disciplinary reasons must immediately report to the Principal's Office. Failure to do so could result in additional disciplinary action.

Violations and Consequences

Firm, fair and consistent school wide discipline is important to the continuity and effectiveness of the entire school program. We need your parental support for our efforts for this to occur.

The rules and consequences listed below are intended to promote good behavior in our halls, lunchroom, and on our playground. Staff members are here to promote this good behavior and make sure the rules are consistently followed. Flagrant violations of the rules will be noted and turned in to the office. Whenever a disruptive student is sent to the principal's office for disciplinary action, the following alternatives will be considered and used at the discretion of the principal:

Cell Phone	Level 1: Student may pick up device in the office after school Level 2: Loss of privilege and student may pick up device in the office after school Level 3: Additional loss of privilege and parent/guardian may pick up in the office after school
Unexcused Absence	Truancy Officer will be contacted for excessive unexcused absences.
Class Disruption and/or Disrespect	Level 1: -Parent/guardian contact by teacher -Loss of privilege Level 2: -Parent/guardian contact -½ day in-house suspension Level 3: -Up to 5 days suspension
Any actions that persistently disrupt the educational process and/or compromise a safe and orderly environment can be referred to the school board for possible expulsion.	
Persistent Disobedience (characterizes a student who chronically misbehaves regardless of previous corrective measures)	Any Level: -Parent/guardian contact -In house suspension -Up to 10 days suspension -Possible recommendation for expulsion

Forgery, Cheating, and/or Plagiarism (copying material from another source claiming it as your own original work i.e. coping homework, giving answers, etc...)	Level 1: -Parent/guardian contact by teacher -"Zero" grade on assignment -Notify administration Level 2: -Parent/guardian contact by administration -"Zero" grade on assignment -Office Referral and up to 2 days suspension
Insubordination on or off school property or at any school activity/open defiance of a specific direction	Any Level: -Parent/guardian contact -Up to 10 days suspension or possible recommendation for expulsion.
Office Referral by a Substitute Teacher	Level 1: -Parent/guardian contact by teacher -Loss of privilege Level 2: -Parent/guardian contact by administration -½ day in-house suspension Level 3: -Parent/guardian contact by administration -Up to 3 days suspension
Fighting on School Property	Level 1: -Parent/guardian contact -Up to 3 days of suspension Level 2: -Parent/guardian contact -Up to 5 days of suspension Level 3: -Parent/guardian contact -Up to 10 days suspension or possible recommendation for expulsion.
Conduct which jeopardizes the safety of yourself or others	Any Level: -Parent/guardian contact -Up to 10 days suspension -Possible recommendation for expulsion
Arson or Attempted Arson	Any Level: -Parental contact -Up to 10 days suspension -Possible recommendation for expulsion -Police referral
Damaging, Defacing or Destruction of Property	Any Level: -Parent/guardian contact -Up to 10 days suspension -Possible recommendation for expulsion -Possible restitution -Police referral

Theft	Any Level: -Parent/guardian contact -Up to 10 days suspension -Possible recommendation for expulsion -Possible police referral
Extortion	Any Level: -Parent/guardian contact -Up to 10 days suspension -Possible recommendation for expulsion -Police referral
Physical Attack or Assault	Any Level: -Up to 10 days suspension pending parent/guardian conference -Referral to counselor -Possible recommendation for expulsion -Possible police referral
Profane, Obscene or Implied Written and/or Spoken Language or Gestures	Level 1: -Parent/guardian contact -Up to 2 days of suspension Level 2: -Parent/guardian contact -Up to 4 days of suspension Level 3: -Parent/guardian contact -Up to 10 days of suspension -Possible recommendation for expulsion
Forms of Harassment: Gender, Ethnicity, Race, Disability, Physical Characteristics, Religious or Sexual	Level 1: -Parent/guardian contact -In-school suspension or up to 3 days of suspension Level 2: -Parent/guardian contact -Up to 5 days of suspension Level 3: -Parent/guardian contact -Up to 10 days of suspension -Possible recommendation for expulsion
All forms of harassment (racial, ethnic, religious, sexual, etc...) are intolerable and subject to discipline. Harassment should be reported to a teacher or administrator.	
Bullying	Level 1: -Parent/guardian contact -In-school suspension or up to 3 days of suspension Level 2: -Parent/guardian contact -Up to 5 days of suspension

	Level 3: -Parent/guardian contact -Up to 10 days of suspension -Possible recommendation for expulsion
Threatening or Intimidating Acts or Hazing	Level 1: -Parent/guardian contact -In-school suspension or up to 3 days of suspension Level 2: -Parent/guardian contact -Up to 5 days of suspension Level 3: -Parent/guardian contact -Up to 10 days of suspension -Possible recommendation for expulsion
Possession or Use of Tobacco and/or Tobacco Paraphernalia including vape pens and/or Hookah Sticks on school property or during the school day	Level 1: -Parent/guardian contact -1-3 day suspension or can be lowered with completion of vaping education material from the school district -Police referral Level 2: -3-5 day suspension -Police referral Level 3: -10 day suspension -Possible recommendation for expulsion -Police referral
Distribution or Sale of Unlawful Drugs, Behavior Altering Substances, Look-Alike Drugs or Drug Paraphernalia	Any Level: -Parent/guardian contact -10 days suspension -Police referral -Possible recommendation for expulsion
Use and/or Possession of Unauthorized Prescriptions, Unlawful Drugs, Behavior Altering Substances, Look-Alike Drugs, Drug Paraphernalia, Alcohol or any over the Counter Drug Not properly Registered with the office	Any Level: -Parent/guardian contact -Up to 7 days suspension -Police referral -Possible recommendation for expulsion
Drug Assessment: Any student suspended for violating the Substance Abuse Policy is strongly urged to undergo a substance abuse assessment administered by a trained Professional. If the cost is not covered by the parent's insurance, the School Board will pay up to \$55.00 of this fee. The assessment should be scheduled before the student returns to school.	

Possession of Explosives or Fireworks	Any Level: -Parent/guardian contact -Up to 10 days suspension -Police referral -Possible recommendation for expulsion
Possession of Stolen Property	Any Level: -Parent/guardian contact -Up to 10 days suspension -Possible recommendation for expulsion -Possible police referral
Possession of Pornographic Materials	Any Level: -Parent/guardian contact -Up to 10 days suspension -Possible recommendation for expulsion -Possible Police Referral
Possession of a Weapon	Any Level: -Parent/guardian contact -Up to 10 days suspension -Police referral -Possible recommendation for expulsion
Possession of a Weapon - A weapon includes conventional objects like guns, pellet guns, knives, or club type implements. It may also include any toy that is presented as a real weapon. Criminal charges may be filed for this violation. Possession of a weapon may subject a student to expulsion. It will make no difference whether or not the weapon belongs to someone else, unless the student can provide convincing evidence that the weapon was placed in the student's possession, without his/her knowledge. If it can be confirmed that a student brought a weapon on district property, other than the one who possessed the weapon, that student shall also be subject to the same disciplinary action. State law may require that a student be expelled from school for a period of one (1) school year if he/she brings onto or has in his/her possession on school property or at a school-related activity of any of the following: Any explosive, incendiary, or poison gas including bombs, grenades, or rockets, missiles, mines, or devices that can be converted into such a destructive item. Any cutting instrument consisting of a sharp blade over three (3) inches long fastened to a handle. Any similar object that is intended to invoke bodily harm or fear of bodily harm.	
Use Of An Object As a Weapon - any object that is used to threaten, or harass another may be considered a weapon. This includes but is not limited to padlocks, pens, pencils, laser pointers, jewelry and so on. Intentional injury to another can be a felony and/or a cause for Civil Action. This violation may be subject to expulsion. Knowledge of Dangerous Weapons or Threats of Violence - Because the Board believes the students, staff members, and visitors are entitled to function in a safe school environment, students are required to report knowledge of dangerous weapons or threats of violence to the Principal. Failure to report such knowledge may subject the student to discipline.	
Violation of State or Local Fire Codes	Any Level: -Up to 10-day suspension and parent/guardian contact -Possible recommendation for expulsion -Police Referral

BULLYING/HARASSMENT

Bullying is any repeated mean look gesture, word, or action that hurts a person's body, feelings, friendships, reputation, or property.

Bullying, intimidation and harassment diminish a student's ability to learn and a school's ability to educate. Preventing students from engaging in these disruptive behaviors and providing all students equal access to a safe, non-hostile learning environment are important school goals.

Bullying on the basis of actual or perceived race, color, national origin, immigration status, military status, unfavorable discharge status from the military service, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender-related identity or expression, ancestry, age, religion, physical or mental disability, order of protection status, status of being homeless, or actual or potential marital or parental status, including pregnancy, association with a person or group with one or more of the aforementioned actual or perceived characteristics, or any other distinguishing characteristic is prohibited in each of the following situations:

1. During any school-sponsored education program or activity.
2. While in school, on school property, on school buses or other school vehicles, at designated school bus stops waiting for the school bus, or at school-sponsored or school-sanctioned events or activities.
3. Through the transmission of information from a school computer, a school computer network, or other similar electronic school equipment.
4. Through the transmission of information from a computer that is accessed at a non-school-related location, activity, function, or program or from the use of technology or an electronic device that is not owned, leased, or used by the school district or school if the bullying causes a substantial disruption to the educational process or the orderly operation of a school.

Bullying includes cyber-bullying (bullying through the use of technology or any electronic communication) and means any severe or pervasive physical or verbal act or conduct, including communications made in writing or electronically, directed toward a student or students that has or can be reasonably predicted to have the effect of one or more of the following:

1. Placing the student or students in reasonable fear of harm to the student's or students' person or property;
2. Causing a substantially detrimental effect on the student's or students' physical or mental health;
3. Substantially interfering with the student's or students' academic performance; or
4. Substantially interfering with the student's or students' ability to participate in or benefit from the services, activities, or privileges provided by the school.

Examples of prohibited conduct include derogatory slurs, stalking, sexual violence, causing psychological harm, threatening or causing physical harm, threatened or actual destruction of property, or wearing or possessing items depicting or implying hatred or prejudice of one of the characteristics stated above.

Students are encouraged to immediately report bullying. A report may be made verbally, in writing, or through OK2SAY at <http://www.michigan.gov/ok2say>, which can also be submitted by calling 855-565-2729. OK2SAY is an anonymous line for students to use. Parents are encouraged to contact the school with concerns. Anyone, including staff members and parents/guardians, who has information about actual or threatened bullying is encouraged to report it to the school administration or any staff member. Anonymous reports are also accepted by phone call or in writing.

Any student who is determined, after an investigation, to have engaged in intimidation or harassment will be subjected to disciplinary consequences as provided in this handbook, including but not limited to suspension and expulsion consistent with the school and district's discipline policy. Parents/guardians of students who have engaged in the above behavior will be notified. Any student making a knowingly false accusation regarding harassment may also be subject to disciplinary consequences.

RESTORATIVE PRACTICES

The administrative team at Otsego Public Schools realizes that suspension and expulsion are serious consequences, and we also value the importance of healthy relationships between students and staff. With disciplinary actions that warrant a suspension or expulsion, the administration shall consider restorative practices.

Restorative Practices defined: If the District determines that it will utilize restorative practices in addition to or as an alternative to suspension or expulsion of a student, it will engage in restorative practices which emphasize repairing the harm to the victim and school community caused by the student's misconduct. Restorative practices may include victim-offender conferences that:

- a) are initiated by the victim;
- b) are approved by the victim's parent or legal guardian
- c) are attended voluntarily by the victim, a victim advocate, the offender, members of the school community, and supporters of the victim and the offender (the "restorative practices team");
- d) would provide an opportunity for the offender to accept responsibility for the harm caused to those affected, and to participate in setting consequences to repair the harm, such as requiring the student to apologize; participate in community service, restoration of emotional or material losses, or counseling; pay restitution; or any combination of these.

The selected consequences and prior to suspending or expelling a student, the Board (Superintendent) shall consider the following factors:

- a) the student's age
- b) the student's disciplinary history
- c) whether the student has a disability
- d) the seriousness of the violation or behavior
- e) whether the violation or behavior committed by the student threatened the safety of any student or staff member
- f) whether restorative practices will be used to address the violation or behavior
- g) whether a lesser intervention would properly address the violation or behavior

STUDENT BEHAVIOR AND RESPONSIBILITIES

Dress and Grooming

Good grooming is important to the well being of every student. Children should be dressed appropriately for the existing weather conditions. During warm weather, students may wear shorts, T-shirts, and tank tops. However, halter tops, spaghetti straps, tube tops, half-shirts, mesh T-shirts, and tank tops with large arm or neck openings that expose the student's chest are not considered appropriate dress for school. Shoes must be worn at all times! Extremely short shorts, dresses and skirts are not to be worn to school.

The wearing of clothing advertising, promoting, or depicting tobacco products, alcoholic beverages, other drugs, profanity, vulgar suggestions, or making reference to anything that is of questionable moral value or is disruptive or detrimental to the learning environment is not permitted.

Students not dressed appropriately will not be allowed to attend class until the situation has been corrected. All decisions regarding dress code will be left to the discretion of the building principal.

Shoes and Boots

When playgrounds are extremely wet, muddy, or snowy, children should wear boots and remove them as soon as they enter the building. We request that parents send extra shoes for them to keep at school for indoor wear during the wet season. In addition, tennis type shoes are required for gym class. No heelys allowed.

Playground Regulations

Boys and girls who have good sportsmanship show it in the ways they act on the playground.

Following are rules for good behavior on the playground:

- Use the playground in a safe manner for the following reasons:
 - To protect themselves from injury.
 - To protect others from injury and unpleasant playing conditions.
- Share equipment with others and take their turns in a fair way.
- Play in the proper area for the activity being played.
- Walk around groups at play rather than across the area of play when such walking can interfere with the activity taking place.
- Allow others to join in the game being played.
- Learn the rules of the game then play and follow them fairly.
- Settle misunderstandings and arguments in a peaceful way, seeking help if needed.
- Listen carefully to those in charge of the playground and follow their directions.
- Ask questions in a polite manner when they don't understand something.
- Understand that the playground rules are set up so that all may get the most benefit from the playground in the safest ways possible
- Respect others by speaking nicely to them and by refraining from name calling and mean teasing.
- Seek help from the Playground Supervisors or Conflict Managers in time of trouble.
- In case of a playground accident, keep out of the way, unless help is needed.
- Stop playing and enter the building appropriately when the bell rings.
- Understand that recess and lunch recess are a privilege-- not a right--and those who misbehave can lose the privilege of play.

These requirements are for your safety and happiness. Please accept these responsibilities in order that you may have these privileges.

Lunchroom Behavior

When in the lunchroom, students are expected to behave in a polite manner at all times.

Students should:

- Wait quietly in line without pushing or shoving.
- Talk only in conversational tones.
- After receiving their lunch, sit at tables as assigned and remain seated until dismissed.
- Eat politely, using good manners.
- Clean up their eating area before leaving. This includes removing all paper products, food wrappers, food scraps and spills from the table and floor. All trash should be placed in appropriate receptacles. Lunchroom staff will be available to assist students with materials to clean up spills.

Parents wishing to visit with their children at lunch time must check in at the office by signing in and receiving a visitor badge. Parents also should check in with lunchroom employees.

Students who bring sack lunches should bring their own catsup, mustard, napkins, silverware, salt, pepper, etc.

Articles Brought to School

Students are to bring only those items to school which are necessary for the completion of class assignments. Examples of items which are NOT allowed at school include: knives, lighters, matches, squirt guns and squirt bottles, caps, fireworks, bullets, toys, trading cards, gum, tobacco and alcohol products, and electronic devices.

Scooters, skateboards, roller skates and blades, used for transportation must be checked into the office during the school day.

Electronic Devices/Cell Phones

Students may not be in possession of, or use, cell phones or other electronic communication devices (ECD) during the school day. Upon entering the building cell phones and other ECD's need to be stored in backpacks and kept in lockers. Students found to have a disallowed electronic device in class will earn a referral and the device will be confiscated. Students refusing to give their device to the teacher and/or administration will be disciplined for insubordination. Confiscated devices may be picked up during office hours.

Selling Merchandise at School

Selling of merchandise or distribution of literature by students is not allowed unless given permission in advance by the principal.

Behavior at After School Activities

Students are expected to follow school rules whenever they are in any school building or on school property. This includes students attending after school functions such as events at the high school.

STUDENT CONFLICT MANAGERS

Conflict Managers serve their school by helping other students resolve conflicts. They work in pairs and are trained and scheduled for duty by the elementary counselor. It is recommended that students from upper grades serve as Conflict Managers for their peers. When they are on duty, Conflict Managers assist disputing students in the peaceful expression and resolution of their conflicts by using a prescribed problem-solving process. The process is voluntary. No one is forced to see Conflict Managers to resolve a dispute; students have the option to speak to the playground supervisors or principal if necessary. Conflict Managers are facilitators, not judges or disciplinarians. They help students express their conflicts and find their own best resolutions.

Pairs of Conflict Managers watch the playground during lunch recess. At least two pairs of students are on duty at once and wear bright vests with "Conflict Manager" on the back. When the Conflict Managers see students in conflict, they offer them assistance. If the disputing students agree, Conflict Managers take them to a quieter part of the playground to work through the process.

Conflict Managers are scheduled to be on duty once a week during lunch recess. Because they work for all grade level lunch times, the Conflict Managers are out of class for approximately one hour on duty days. They are responsible for making up any work missed during this time.

GENERAL INFORMATION

Otsego Virtual Academy

Students participating in the Otsego Virtual Academy K-12 are expected to comply with guidelines and rules in effect in the Michigan Pupil Accounting Manual regarding attendance procedures. The school will share these expectations with students and parents at the start of each year. These students will be expected to have contact with their teacher of record and/or their mentor at least twice per week. Virtual academy students are welcome to come to the school if they need help in any way. Virtual academy students will be afforded the same opportunities as other students in terms of participation in extracurricular activities, awards, and school services. They also will be expected to participate in mandatory state assessments. Virtual Academy students will receive their own student handbook which outlines other requirements, academic integrity, discipline, attendance/truancy and other aspects of student life.

Report Cards

Progress reports are sent home three times a year. Students in Developmental Kindergarten through Grade 2 do not receive letter grades for all academic subjects. The end of the year report will indicate promotion, placement, or retention. Promotion shows the student is ready for the next grade, placement indicates the child is not completely prepared for the next grade but retention is not beneficial at this time, and retention places the student in the same grade level as the previous year. Parents are asked to review and discuss the report card with their child and contact the school immediately if they have questions.

Parent-Teacher Conferences

Parent-Teacher Conferences are scheduled twice during the school year, fall and spring. Parents are encouraged to participate in these meetings as they play an important part in their child's education. Parents shouldn't hesitate to contact the teachers at school if they are concerned about their child's

academic or social progress. Open communications between the school and parents are essential for a good overall learning environment.

Bus Notes

A note from the parent must be sent to school when a child must ride a different bus, get off at a different stop, or be picked up during or after school. When picking up students, the parents must go directly to the office and the student will be called from his/her classroom by the office. Children may then leave the school accompanied by the parent.

Visitors

Parents are welcome to visit after registering at the school office. Students may not bring visitors to school without permission of the principal and teacher.

Treats

Generally the use of food prepared at home is not recommended. Wrapped candies and baked goods from commercial establishments are encouraged.

Library

Students regularly check books out of the library. Lost or damaged books are expected to be paid for by the student. If a book is found after it has been paid for, the money will be reimbursed to the student.

Pets in School

Pets may only be brought to school after the parents have contacted the teacher. Generally, they should be brought to school by the parents for the visit and then taken home immediately. They are not to be left at school or sent to school with the student.

School Newsletters

Each school publishes a weekly newsletter. Information about procedures, events as well as celebrations of learning are included each week. The school newsletter is one of the best sources of information specific to your school. Class or grade level newsletters are sent home periodically, too.

Assignments of Student to Schools, Classes

Elementary students are assigned to specific schools and classes by the administrative team. Such factors as geographic location, transportation, and class sizes are considered in these assignments. The Otsego Board of Education has also adopted a formal request form to be used for class placement. We ask parents to use this form if there are special circumstances that need to be considered in the placement process. This form is available at the school office and due on the last Friday of April for the following school year. Fulfillment of any request will be attempted but cannot be assured.

Care of School Property

One of the goals of public education is to teach young children to observe the rights of private and public property. The Board of Education is willing to accept the responsibility of repair and maintenance of all facilities and equipment as a result of the educational program, but cannot accept the responsibility of damage done maliciously to any part of the building or its equipment. Therefore, parents and/or guardians will be held responsible for damage done maliciously to any school property.

HOMEWORK

Purposes of Homework

The Otsego Elementary staff and administration believe that limited amounts of homework on a regular basis will create a number of growth opportunities for our students. Some of the benefits of homework are:

- extend/develop concepts learned in school
- develop higher order thinking and problem solving processes
- develop school-related learning practices: responsibility, self-discipline, skill practice, test preparation, information sorting and gathering, organizational skills and study and focusing skills
- allow parents to be included in their child's learning and school experience.

Time expectations

Homework time at the elementary level should be age appropriate and should increase gradually as children grow through the elementary years. Individual differences in abilities, study habits and concentration levels will all play a role in the time required to complete an assignment.

Often, homework will consist of work not completed during school that day. These assignments are generally due the next school day. Sometimes, practice work may be assigned, especially in the primary grades: practice with reading, math facts, spelling words or test preparation. Students in the primary grades may have tasks which require a few minutes while those in the later elementary may have from 30-60 minutes of work.

Homework and Absences

Generally, students will be allowed two days to complete work missed for each day they are absent. For example, if a child is absent Monday, those missed assignments will be due on Thursday at the beginning of class. This will allow for students to gradually increase their work load as they recover from an illness. All missed work should be due within one week, except in cases of extended absence. Extended absences will be worked out on an individual basis.

Support for Parents

We offer these tried and proven practices to parents for successful homework experiences:

- ask to see your child's homework daily
- provide a quiet place to work away from distractions (TV, music, etc.)
- establish a consistent homework time (before or after dinner)
- let your child know that you would like to see completed homework
- use incentives and praise for completing homework

Reading to Your Child

We strongly encourage parents to read daily with your child all through the elementary grades even if no homework has been assigned. Research clearly shows a strong relationship between one-on-one reading activity and reading progress.

ADDITIONAL OPPORTUNITIES FOR YOUR CHILD

Technology

Students in grades Kindergarten-5th will receive 30 minutes of technology instruction each week. There will be an emphasis on integrating technology into everyday curriculum.

Music

General Music class will be an important part of your child(ren)'s education. Students will learn about basic musical concepts such as rhythm, melody, harmony and form through the singing of songs, moving and listening to music of various styles and cultures and through the playing of simple percussion instruments.

Spanish

Our Elementary Foreign Language Program has expanded to include all Kindergarten through fifth grade students. Each child will receive thirty minutes of instruction in Spanish per week. Vocabulary will be introduced by the Spanish teacher. In the course of the year, pupils will learn many useful words and expressions. This will make it possible for them to say things in Spanish almost as easily as they say the same things in English.

Art

The Elementary Art Program is designed to give students a wide range of experiences through the use of various media. The sequential program also focuses on individual creativity, interpretation, and presentation. With ever increasing knowledge and skills, art students develop from kindergarten through fifth grade.

Physical Education

Physical Education is part of the total elementary curriculum in the Otsego Public Schools.

In order for your child to have a rewarding experience in physical education, have your child do the following:

1. Always wear gym shoes. This is important for your child's SAFETY.
2. Always try to do their best in each activity.
3. Be ready to listen and follow directions.
4. Respect others and be a good sport.

If a child has been seriously ill, parents must make a written request for a child not to participate for up to three consecutive days. If a longer period of time is necessary, a written statement from a physician may be requested.

Health

All students in grades K-5 receive 30 minutes of Health instruction each week.

Individuals with Disabilities

The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act provide that no individual will be discriminated against on the basis of a disability. This protection applies not just to the students, but to all individuals who have access to Otsego Public School's programs and facilities. A student can access special education services through the proper evaluation procedures. Parent involvement in this procedure is required by Federal and State law. Contact the special education office at 269-692-6233 or the building principal to inquire about evaluation procedures and programs.

Special Services

Education encompasses much more than the three R's. At the elementary level, we are concerned with the social and emotional development of students in addition to their academic progress. To this end, Otsego provides social work, elementary counseling, and school psychology services for students with special needs. If you are concerned with your child's social, emotional, or academic progress, feel free to contact us or to make a referral through the classroom teacher or building principal.

Student Support Services

The Student Support Services Staff consults and collaborates with parents/guardians, support staff and other professionals as necessary in the role of advocating for children.

All children may work with the Student Support Services Staff through classroom guidance activities, small educational support groups, or individual one on one discussion. Children may request to see the Student Support Services Staff themselves or they may be referred by parents/guardians, staff or other adults. Parental permission is required for a student to participate in educational support groups.

Confidentiality is maintained except:

1. In cases of suspected abuse or neglect.
2. If a child poses a danger to self or others.
3. The child and/or parent/guardian gives permission to share information.

The Student Support Services Staff strives to work together with parents/guardians to help their children achieve to the best of their ability. Please schedule appointments with the Student Support Services Staff by contacting the school office.

Title I Program

Otsego Public Schools offer many educational opportunities to its students. One of these is the Title I. This program provides academic support to students.

Speech Therapy

Speech therapy is available to eligible students having difficulty communicating. Milestones in speech development include the development of complex sentences after the age of five with the ability to relate two or more ideas in a single sentence. As a rule, children use understandable speech by age four and all speech sounds correctly by age eight.

Limited English Proficiency

Limited proficiency in the English Language should not be a barrier to equal participation at school. It is a policy of Otsego public Schools that students identified as having limited English proficiency will be provided additional support and instruction to assist them in gaining English proficiency. Parents should contact the building principal to inquire about evaluation procedures and programs offered by the district.

DRUG FREE SCHOOLS

In accordance with Federal law, the Otsego Board of Education prohibits the use, possession, concealment, or distribution of drugs by students on school grounds, in school or school approved vehicles, or at any school-related event. Drugs include any alcoholic beverage, anabolic steroid, dangerous controlled substance as defined by State statute, or substance that could be considered a "look-alike" controlled substance. Compliance with this policy is mandatory for all students. Any student who violates this policy will be subject to disciplinary action, in accordance with due process

and as specified in this student handbook, up to and including expulsion from school. When required by State law, the District will also notify law enforcement officials.

The District is concerned about any student who is a victim of alcohol or drug abuse and will facilitate the process by which he/she receives help through programs and services available in the community. Students and their parents should contact the school principal or counseling office whenever such help is needed.

TECHNOLOGY ACCEPTABLE USE POLICY

Preamble

Otsego Public Schools provides access to technology resources including access to the Internet. These resources all interact internally within the district and externally to systems located all over the world. These resources are limited to educational purposes only. These purposes are to provide access to electronic resources to promote and enhance student and staff learning consistent with district educational goals and objectives. This acceptable use policy ensures that the use of the network by students and staff is done in an appropriate manner. Use of technology is a privilege and not a right. Users are obligated to respect and protect the rights of every other user and act in a responsible, ethical and legal manner. Failure to abide by this policy may result in loss of privileges, disciplinary action and/or legal action..

District Resources

Educational technology resources consist of, but are not limited to:

- Computers (Desktops, Laptops, and iPads)
- Handheld Devices (Palms)
- Software
- Communication Lines and Devices
- Graphing Calculators
- Printers
- CD-ROM Devices
- Scanners
- Digital Cameras
- Data Projectors
- Email
- Classroom Performance Systems
- Document Cameras
- Classroom Sound Systems
- MP3 Players

Internet Safety Measures

Internet Filtering – Federal:

The Superintendent shall be responsible for directing appropriate District technology staff to bring all computers used by students and staff into full compliance with all federal requirements regarding Internet filtering software to assure that District discounts for Internet access and internal connection under the federal E-rate program are not jeopardized.

Student Internet activities will be monitored by the District to ensure that students are not accessing inappropriate sites. The District's Network Operations Center shall have an internet filtering device that blocks access to content that is obscene, pornographic, inappropriate for students, or harmful to minors.

Acceptable Uses/Net Etiquette

Among "acceptable use" items listed might include (but not limited to):

- Classroom activities as assigned and sanctioned by the school/teacher.
 - Research activities for classroom assignments.
 - Peer review of assigned work.
 - The exchange of project-related ideas, opinions and questions via email, message boards and other means.
1. Accessing information via the Internet for limited educational purposes such as: Local, state, national and worldwide information and news; correspondence with scientists and scholars; collaboration with peers on projects and problem-solving strategies.
 2. Access, via the Internet, the Science Learning Network (SLN), Library of Congress, Educational Resources and Information center (ERIC), Smithsonian Museums, university library catalogs, and other like sources in the pursuit of legitimate curricular goals.
 3. Proper e-mail and Internet etiquette is acceptable and expected, and should include:
 - Being polite and courteous in all communications and language.
 - Assisting others in the use of the system, and helping others who are looking for ideas or information.
 - Posting and sharing information that is interesting and helpful to other users.
 - Always using the network as a resource to further one's own education and that of others.
 - Being mindful of network security, and immediately reporting any bugs, errors, or security problems to the system administrator.

Unacceptable Uses

Among "unacceptable use" items listed might be (but not limited to):

- Transmitting or downloading any material in violation of any U.S. or state regulations. Including, but not limited to material that is copyrighted, threatening, harmful, sexist, racist, sexually explicit, obscene or protected by trade secrets.
- Accessing non-educational multi-use (chat rooms) talk sessions or "recreational" games.
- Engaging in any unauthorized commercial activity, product advertisement or political lobbying.
- Use of the school's equipment by businesses or non-school sponsored community activities. Applications for such use should be submitted by request and shall be reviewed on a case-by-case basis by the system administrators or advisory committee.
- Use of technology to distort the truth, lie, or to misrepresent someone else.
- Use of any technology intentionally to harm or harass anyone
- Vandalism – defined as any attempt to harm, destroy, or disrupt the operation of the network, hardware, software, or the data of any other use on the system or any other system including, but not limited to, the uploading, creation, or knowing transmission of computer viruses.
- Use of Social Networking Sites (i.e. MySpace, Facebook, Instagram, Twitter, Snapchat and others).
- Tunneling or use of proxy sites to bypass the district's internet filter.
- Posting of unauthorized pictures/videos of faculty/staff members/students on social networking sites (i.e. MySpace, Facebook, Instagram, Twitter, Snapchat and others).

- Use of streaming music sites.

Disclaimer

The school district makes no warranties of any kind, whether expressed or implied, for the services it provides. This includes loss of data resulting from delays, non-deliveries, missed deliveries or service interruptions caused by unforeseen network problems or a user's errors or omissions. Use of any information obtained via the Internet is at the user's own risk. The district specifically denies any responsibility for the accuracy or quality of information obtained through its services. The district does not guarantee that materials stored on the system will be private. Network administrators may review the information stored on the system to determine whether it is being used properly.

Safety Warning

As a school district participant, it is expected that you will be respectful of the rights and privacy of others. When engaging in activities on web pages, email, and two-way communications, the following guidelines should be strictly adhered to:

- Never ask for or give information about (you, friends, teachers, locations).
 - o Never list personal information, pictures, last names, or rosters on web sites or web pages.
 - o Never give your password to anyone for any reason
 - o Do not reveal your identity in any way. This includes your name, personal address, phone number, location, city, school name, team name or any other information that may give others information to identify you in any way.
 - o Do not reveal the identity of others. This includes their name, personal address, phone number, location, city, school name, team name or any other information that may give anyone information to identify others (friends, teachers) in any way.
 - o Immediately tell an adult if you receive anything that is inappropriate, threatening or uncomfortable.
 - o Never agree to get together or meet with anyone you meet online without permission of an adult.
 - o Never send photographs or anything else without the permission of an adult.
 - o Never use or accept abusive language, threats, or harassment.
 - o Never get involved with discussions on violence, hate issues, race or ethnic issues.
- Never violate ethical issues.
 - o Never send or receive software that you have not created.

Consequences for Violation of Policy

Any user violating or demonstrating the intent to violate any of the guidelines set forth in the acceptable use policy may face disciplinary action. Depending on the nature and severity of the policy violation or number of past violations, the district may take one or more of the following disciplinary actions (possible consequences may be, but are not limited to, the following):

1. Restriction or loss of use of technology resources
 - If technology is an essential component of education or job function it should be revoked only as a final option.
2. Disciplinary action imposed by the Administration up to and including expulsion from the district.
3. Restitution
 - Replacement cost
 - Reimbursement of cost for repair
 - Reimbursement of technician time
 - Law enforcement notification
 - Responsibility for unauthorized charges, expenses and fees

- Mandatory training / in-service before further use is allowed

4. Legal action