

Laurel High School Student Handbook 2026-2027



Locomotive Strong!
Be Respectful Be Responsible
Be A Graduate

Revised June 2026

**Laurel High School
2026-2027**

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Welcome to Laurel High School	4
Profile of a Graduate	5
Laurel High School Mission Statement	5
General Information	6
Personnel	6
Administration	6
Support Staff	6
Faculty Contacts	7
School Calendar	9
Bell Schedule	11
School Breakfast and Lunch Program	12
Closing of School	12
Emergency Drills	12
Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag	12
Guidelines for Success (Expectations at LHS)	13
Attendance	15
10 Day Rule	15
Tardiness	16
Attendance and Participation	17
Sign out procedure for leaving school:	17
Policy for School Related College and Career Visits	17
Health Services	17
Illness Policy	19
General Regulations	20
Library Media Center	25
Responsible Use Policy For Technology/Internet/Electronic Resources	25
Academics and Support	28
Graduation Requirements	30
Grading Scale	31
Medical Release Excuses - Physical Education Policy	32
Semester Tests	33
Semester Test Exemption Policy	33
Activities and Athletics Information	34
Eligibility Requirements	34
High School Clubs	34
Class and Organization Funds	35
National Honor Society	35
Student Council	36
Dances	36
Extracurricular Activities	36
Sportsmanship	37

Cheerleaders	37
School Spirit	37
School Song	37
MHSA Spirit Guidelines	38
Behavior and Discipline	39
The Teacher's Role in Discipline	39
The Administrator's Role in Discipline	39
Forms of Discipline-Definitions	39
Appeal Process	40
Tobacco Free Policy	40
Search and Seizure - Policy Reference 3231 & 3231P	40
Gun Free Schools	41
Behavioral Expectations	41
Progressive Discipline Matrix	42
Definitions of Student Infractions	44
District Information	47
Board of Trustees	47
District Administration	47
Nondiscrimination	47
Student Rights and Responsibilities	48
Student Code of Conduct	48
Equal Educational Opportunity, Nondiscrimination, and Sex Equity	49
Sensitive topics	49
Sexual Harassment	50
Title IX	50
Section 504	51
Immediate Enrollment & Documentation Assistance and Resource Support	51
Missing Child Photo Repository	52

Welcome to Laurel High School
Home of the Locomotives

Our focus at Laurel High School is to create strong, responsible, respectful, skilled young people who graduate as college and career ready. Our school is a place where all students can learn the skills and knowledge they need to become positive and productive members of the community. We encourage students to invest themselves in their own education by being here every day and on time, being engaged in classes, and being part of activities and athletics to expand learning beyond the classroom.

School is a place of growth, not only for students, but also for the staff and the systems and programs we have in place. This year you will see some new faces among the familiar and there will be some new structures among the familiar routines. Below is the Profile of a Graduate developed by the Laurel school community to identify the skills and characteristics we want all of our graduates to have. We intend for this to be a focal point and driving force in helping us make decisions moving forward.

Please take time to review the handbook. It contains important information about life at LHS.

We are excited to welcome you into a shiny, new school year.
We hope it is your best one yet.

Be Responsible; Be Respectful; Be a Graduate.

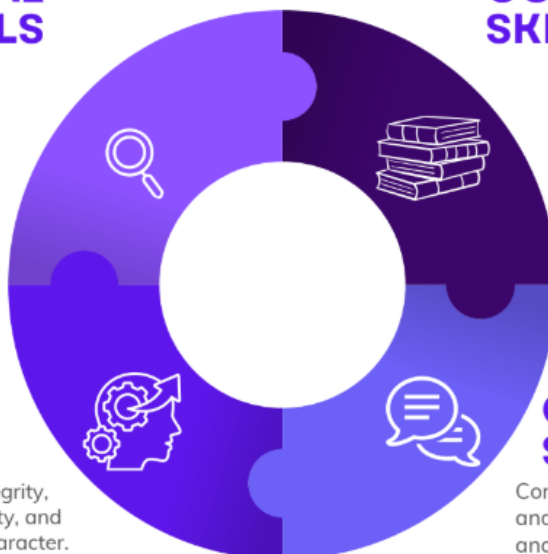
LAUREL PUBLIC SCHOOLS PROFILE OF A GRADUATE

ANALYTICAL SKILLS

Problem solving, critical thinking, and conflict resolution all involve analysis, decision making, and creativity. It requires people to think through situations, consider options, and make informed choices. These skills also share a strong connection with communication skills in collaborating with others, taking input, and disseminating information following decisions or solutions.

SELF- DEVELOPMENT

Self development skills such as integrity, responsibility, discipline, adaptability, and grit help cultivate a strong inner character. These qualities define how one approaches challenges, decisions, and relationships. They help young people achieve their goals and promote lifelong learning.



COGNITIVE SKILLS

Also known as real life skills, these are proficiency in reading, writing, science, and math. These skills are essential for learning how to navigate life, manage resources such as finances and time, and understanding how to continue to learn new things throughout life. They also imply development of organization, planning, and prioritization as thinking skills.

COMMUNICATION SKILLS

Communication skills involve understanding and managing emotions - both your own and others, listening attentively, collaborating as a team, and demonstrating respect, kindness and patience in collaboration. These skills are essential in building healthy relationships and working well with others.

Laurel High School Mission Statement

Laurel Public Schools is dedicated to the individual development of each student, every day, without exception!

Laurel High School will do this by....

- Providing a Safe and Orderly Environment
- Maintaining a Climate of High Expectations
- Implementing Effective Instructional Leadership and Practices
- Supporting a Clear and Focused Mission
- Respecting Time for Students to Learn Essential Skills
- Monitoring Student Progress Frequently
- And Partnering with Our Community and Our Families

General Information

Personnel

Administration

Melissa Byington
Deryk Russell
Andrew Torgerson

melissa_byington@laurel.k12.mt.us
deryk_russell@laurel.k12.mt.us
lpsactivities@laurel.k12.mt.us

Principal
Assistant Principal
Activities Director

Support Staff

Kasey Felder
Rachel Gappa
Marita Grammar
Sonja Palmiter
Becky Butler
Jeremiah Johnson
Celeste Knaub
Jodi Nelson
Linda Risdon
Peggy Schreiner
Sunny Denz
Tamara Raty
Austin Anderson
Wendi Clark
Tanya Sapien
Amanda Foster
Brandi Webinger
Tammie Summers

Secretary
Secretary
Secretary
Nurse
Athletic Trainer
School Resource Officer
Special Education Aide
Special Needs Aide
Special Education Aide
Special Education Aide
Special Needs Aide
Custodian
Custodian
Custodian
Custodian
Custodian
Food Services
Food Services

Faculty Contacts

Teachers can be reached via phone or email. The phone system has voicemail capability which allows you to leave messages for the teachers. These two formats are a valuable tool to facilitate communication between home and school. Please feel free to contact the teachers whenever necessary. Please allow two school days for the message to be returned.

LAUREL HIGH SCHOOL - 203 East Eighth Street 628-3500

<u>Teacher Name</u>	<u>Teacher Role</u>	<u>Email Address</u>	<u>Ext.</u>
Andersen, Doug	CTE - Business	doug_andersen@laurel.k12.mt.us	3517
Bekkedahl, Wendy	PE/Health	wendy_bekkedahl@laurel.k12.mt.us	3541
Berst, Carrie	Special Education	carrie_berst@laurel.k12.mt.us	3521
Branstetter, Kierston	Math	kierston_branstetter@laurel.k12.mt.us	3531
Burghardt, Rhonda	Fine Arts - Choir	rhonda_burghardt@laurel.k12.mt.us	3545
Collins, Larry	Fine Arts - Band	larry_collins@laurel.k12.mt.us	3967
Condon, Lisa	CTE - Business/Marketing	lisa_condon@laurel.k12.mt.us	3566
Cooper, Michelle	Librarian	michelle_cooper@laurel.k12.mt.us	3535
Coy, David	Math	david_coy@laurel.k12.mt.us	3556
Coy, Diana	Spanish	diana_coy@laurel.k12.mt.us	3516
Fox, Brandi	School Counselor	brandi_fox@laurel.k12.mt.us	3510
Gatley, Dan	Social Studies	dan_gatley@laurel.k12.mt.us	3567
Graves, Wendi	Math	wendi_graves@laurel.k12.mt.us	3529
Haskell, Carley	Fine Arts - Art	carley_haskell@laurel.k12.mt.us	3524
Hill, Rebecca	Math	rebecca_hill@laurel.k12.mt.us	3528
Hill, Ted	PE and Social Studies	ted_hill@laurel.k12.mt.us	3581
Hodges, Lori	Librarian	lori_hodges@laurel.k12.mt.us	3534
Kegel, Evawn	Math	evawn_kegel@laurel.k12.mt.us	3543
Kellinger, Hannah	Science	hannah_kellinger@laurel.k12.mt.us	3525
Kimmet, Matt	CTE - Graphic Design	matt_kimmet@laurel.k12.mt.us	3518
Kopp, Hannah	English and Yearbook	hannah_kopp@laurel.k12.mt.us	3511
Krueger, Jacee	School Counselor	jacee_krueger@laurel.k12.mt.us	3508
Ludwig, Mike	PE/Health	mike_ludwig@laurel.k12.mt.us	3539
Marr, Alan	Science	alan_marr@laurel.k12.mt.us	3530
May, Joe	CTE - Industrial Arts/Woods/Welding	joe_may@laurel.k12.mt.us	3583
Moon, Tara	Science	tara_moon@laurel.k12.mt.us	3527
Osborne, Shelby	Social Studies	shelby_osborne@laurel.k12.mt.us	3571

Painter, Jennifer	CTE - Family and Consumer Science	jennifer_painter@laurel.k12.mt.us	3532
Prevost, Andrea	English	andrea_prevost@laurel.k12.mt.us	3526
Puller, Mindy	CTE - Agricultural Education	mindy_puller@laurel.k12.mt.us	3576
Robinson, Nocona	Social Studies	nancy_robinson@laurel.k12.mt.us	3516
Roe, Dylan	Social Studies	dylan_roe@laurel.k12.mt.us	3512
Scott, Brent	English	brent_scott@laurel.k12.mt.us	3561
Stevens, Lisa	Special Education	lisa_stevens@laurel.k12.mt.us	3523
Stinson, Allison	Science	allison_stinson@laurel.k12.mt.us	3533
Tangen, Brittney	Special Education	brittney_tangen@laurel.k12.mt.us	3522
Wald, Ryder	PE/Health	ryder_wald@laurel.k12.mt.us	3540
Ward, Meredith	English	meredith_ward@laurel.k12.mt.us	3538
Williams, Nathan	English	nathan_williams@laurel.k12.mt.us	3549

Parents/Guardian emails: We highly encourage you to provide an up-to-date email address for communication purposes. You can send those directly to our front office staff to be added to our system.

Our District Website has information for all aspects of our school and district. You can access this at: www.laurel.k12.mt.us

School Calendar



Laurel Public Schools 2026 - 2027 District Calendar

District 7 & 7-70
www.laurel.k12.mt.us

July						
Sun	Mon	Tue	We	Thu	Fri	Sat
			01	02	03	04
05	06	07	08	09	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

August						
Sun	Mon	Tue	We	Thu	Fri	Sat
						01
02	03	04	05	06	07	08
09	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

September						
Sun	Mon	Tue	We	Thu	Fri	Sat
		01	02	03	04	05
06	07	08	09	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30			

October						
Sun	Mon	Tue	We	Thu	Fri	Sat
				01	02	03
04	05	06	07	08	09	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

November						
Sun	Mon	Tue	We	Thu	Fri	Sat
01	02	03	04	05	06	07
08	09	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30					

December						
Sun	Mon	Tue	We	Thu	Fri	Sat
		01	02	03	04	05
06	07	08	09	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

January						
Sun	Mon	Tue	We	Thu	Fri	Sat
					01	02
03	04	05	06	07	08	09
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

February						
Sun	Mon	Tue	We	Thu	Fri	Sat
	01	02	03	04	05	06
07	08	09	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28						

March						
Sun	Mon	Tue	We	Thu	Fri	Sat
	01	02	03	04	05	06
07	08	09	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

April						
Sun	Mon	Tue	We	Thu	Fri	Sat
				01	02	03
04	05	06	07	08	09	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	

May						
Sun	Mon	Tue	We	Thu	Fri	Sat
						01
02	03	04	05	06	07	08
09	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

June						
Sun	Mon	Tue	We	Thu	Fri	Sat
		01	02	03	04	05
06	07	08	09	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30			

School Dates

Aug. 17 - Aug. 20	PIR Days (Prior to the Start of School)=
September 7	Labor Day - No School
September 28	PIR Day - No School
Oct. 15-16	PIR Days - No School
November 25	PIR Day - No School
Nov. 26 - 27	Thanksgiving Break
Dec. 23 - Jan. 1	Winter Break
January 15	End of Semester; Half Day
February 19	No School
March 26 - 29	Spring Break
April 23	No School
May 3	PIR Day - No School

Parent / Teacher Conferences

November 10	P/T Conf Grades K - 5, 4 PM - 7 PM
November 12	P/T Conf Grades K - 12, 1 PM - 7 PM; Half Day
March 4	P/T Conf Grades 6 - 12, 4 PM - 7 PM

LEGEND	PIR Day =
	Holiday =
	Half Day =
	First / Last Day of School =

August 25	First Day of School Grades 3 - 12
August 26	First Day of School Grades KB - 2
May 27	Last Day of School / Half Day

Quarters

October 30	End of 1st Quarter
January 15	End of 2nd Quarter
March 19	End of 3rd Quarter
May 27	End of 4th Quarter

SCHOOL CALENDAR

August 11-13	New Teacher Orientation
August 13	LHS Student Check in (forms and fees only) 8:30-11:30
August 13	LMS New 7th & 8th Grade Student Orientation 10:00-11:30
August 14	LHS Student Check in (forms and fees only) 12-3pm
August 14th	LMS Schedule Pick Up 7th Grade 8:30-10:30, 8th Grade 10:30-12:30
August 19:	LMS 6th Grade orientation 8:30-12
August 19	K-12 Open House 4pm-6pm
August 20	Freshman Orientation/Link Day @ LHS (8:00am—12:00pm)
August 17-20	PIR Days for Teachers
August 25	FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL for students grades 3-12
August 26	FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL for students grades KB - 2
September 2	Fall Pictures High School
September 3	Fall Pictures —Middle School
September 3	Fall Pictures Elementary School
September 4	Fall Pictures Intermediate School
September 7	NO SCHOOL - Labor Day
September 28	NO SCHOOL - Staff Professional Development Day
October 15-16	NO SCHOOL - PIR Days/Teacher Convention
October 30	End of First Quarter
November 10	Parent/Guardian Teacher Conferences (K-5: 4:00pm-7:00pm)
November 12	Parent/Guardian Teacher Conferences (K-12: 1:00pm-7:00pm)
November 25	NO SCHOOL - PIR Day
November 26-27	NO SCHOOL - Thanksgiving Break
Dec. 23-Jan. 1	NO SCHOOL - Winter Break
January 15	End of 2nd Quarter / 1st Semester
January 15	K-12 Half Day
February 19	NO SCHOOL
March 4	P/T Conf (Grades 6-12 4pm-7pm)
March 26-29	NO SCHOOL - Easter Break
March 19	End of 3rd Quarter
April 23	NO SCHOOL
May 3	NO SCHOOL - Staff Professional Development Day
May 7	NO SCHOOL - KINDERGARTEN ONLY
May 7	Kindergarten Round Up
May 23	LHS Graduation
May 25	Last Day of School for PK
May 26	Kinderboost Screening
May 27	Last Day of School - 1/2 Half Day
May 27	End of 2nd Semester/4th Qtr

October 11th is
Columbus day

Jan. 18th is Martin
Luther King Day

Feb. 15th is
Presidents Day

Wednesday Early Dismissal Time

Each month, afternoons of early dismissal will be dedicated to :

- Providing professional development opportunities relevant to each building,
- Allowing additional time for technology creation/integration,
- Horizontal and vertical teacher meetings to discuss curriculum and instruction,
- Staff meetings to discuss school climate/ issues

Bell Schedule

Monday, Thursday, Friday

Period 1:	8:15-9:03
Period 2:	9:07-9:55
FLEX:	9:59-10:29
Period 3:	10:33-11:21
Period 4:	11:25-12:13

LUNCH 12:13-12:58

Period 5:	12:58-1:46
Period 6:	1:50-2:38
Period 7:	2:42-3:30

Tuesday – 3:06 Release

Period 1:	8:15-9:45
Period 3:	9:50-11:19

LUNCH 11:19-12:04

Period 5:	12:04-1:33
Period 7:	1:37-3:06

Wednesday – 2:29 Release

Period 2:	8:15-9:45
FLEX:	9:50-10:40
Period 4:	10:44-12:14

LUNCH 12:14-12:59

Period 6:	12:59-2:29
-----------	------------

School Breakfast and Lunch Program

Breakfast and lunch are served each day in the cafeteria. Good manners as well as good health habits are expected. Meal costs will be \$2.15 for Breakfast and \$4.10 for Lunch for all high school students (Free and Reduced Meal Forms are available). If a student chooses a milk without the school entree, the student's account will be charged \$0.75. Any amount may be deposited into a student's lunch account. Money is carried over to the next school year unless a refund is requested.

As stated in Board Policy #8205, "after an account has a negative balance of \$25.00, a phone call will be made to the parent to inform them that they are responsible for providing their child with a meal. No further meals will be served to the child until there is a positive balance in the meal account. The food service personnel and principal will monitor the student at meal periods to ensure the student is receiving a breakfast/lunch provided by the parent". Qualifying for free or reduced lunch also will qualify a family for free or reduced breakfast.

Closing of School

If it should be necessary to close the school due to bad weather, failure of heating system, or some similar case, arrangements will be made to message all families through our School Messenger System, through social media (Facebook), between 7:00 a.m. and 8:00 a.m. and by automated phone message. Additionally, LHS will post on the High School Facebook page and the District Facebook page.

Emergency Drills

Throughout the school year, a number of school fire/disaster drills will be held. Instructions, routes to be followed, and exits to be used will be given to each class during the first week of school.

The importance of proper attention and sincerity during these school fire/disaster drills cannot be overemphasized. Innumerable lives have been saved where proper training has made possible the quick and orderly evacuation during fires and emergencies. It is against the law as well as a violation of school policy to set off a fire alarm without just cause. Violators will be dealt with accordingly.

Please observe the following:

1. Start as quickly as possible.
2. Follow the designated route.
3. Walk briskly, but do not run.
4. Move well away from the building after getting outside.
5. Gather in designated locations for attendance.
6. Students and staff are not to be in personal vehicles during evacuations.

Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag

Laurel High School will follow the Montana Code and the Pledge of Allegiance will be recited each morning over the PA system. Students or staff are not required to stand, but they are expected to be quietly respectful during the Pledge. Please see Montana Code Annotated 2021 TITLE 20. EDUCATION CHAPTER 7. SCHOOL INSTRUCTION AND SPECIAL PROGRAMS Part 1. Accreditation and Curriculum Pledge Of Allegiance Required -- Exemption For Students And Teachers 20-7-133 for full context.

Guidelines for Success (Expectations at LHS)

At Laurel High School, We . . .

The Basics

- Are polite, honest, and respectful in our interactions.
- Follow instructions from school staff right away.
- Respect others' personal space and belongings.
- Keep hands, feet, and objects to ourselves.
- Use school appropriate language and volume
- Leave any space as good as or better than when we arrived.
- Follow the school dress code in what we wear every day.
- Know that we are here to build our future. We work hard on it every day.
- Represent LHS respectfully.

Arrivals/Departures/Hallway Passing

- Enter the building with your ID. Keep your physical ID on you at all times.
- Are in class by 8:15
- Keep food and beverages in the Depot. (water bottles allowed)
- Are out of the building or to your designated activity by 10 minutes after the final bell.
- Use passing time efficiently and effectively to be on time.
- Do not loiter, horseplay, or wander in the halls.
- Personal electronic devices must be kept out of sight and turned off during the instructional day. (Policy 3630) This includes cell phones, headphones/earbuds, and smart wearables.

Activities/Assemblies

- Walk when entering and exiting.
- Follow instructions from staff.
- Are respectful audience members who are paying attention.
- Personal electronic devices must be kept out of sight and turned off during the instructional day. (Policy 3630) This includes cell phones, headphones/earbuds, and smart wearables.
- Enjoy ourselves.
- Clap when appropriate.
- Participate when appropriate.

Bathrooms and Locker Rooms

- Use the bathroom closest to your classroom.
- Know bathrooms and locker rooms are phone free zones.
- Only allow one student per stall.
- Know possession or use of drugs, alcohol, or tobacco (including vapes) is not allowed.
- Report problems or vandalism to school staff immediately.
- Throw all waste in its proper place to help keep the common area clean.
- Keep our personal belongings in your locked locker.
- Personal electronic devices must be kept out of sight and turned off during the instructional day. (Policy 3630) This includes cell phones, headphones/earbuds, and smart wearables..

Classroom and Instructional settings

- Arrive on time every day with all necessary materials.
- Leave backpacks in our lockers.
- Dress for productivity: no hoods and follow the dress code.
- Are active participants.
- Complete homework/classwork and turn it in on time.
- Do our own work.
- Are respectful of the teacher and others in the classroom.
- Personal electronic devices must be kept out of sight and turned off during the instructional day. (Policy 3630) This includes cell phones, headphones/earbuds, and smart wearables

Flex Time

- Arrive on time daily with appropriate materials.
- Are expected to attend Flex on all scheduled days.
- Coordinate and communicate with all teachers we are working with during Flex.
- Use Flex time wisely to complete homework, make up assignments or assessments, or do work for classes that we need to get caught up.
- Are respectful of teachers, staff members, classmates, and guests.
- Know that behavior expectations are the same for Flex as in any other class.
- Personal electronic devices must be kept out of sight and turned off during the instructional day. (Policy 3630) This includes cell phones, headphones/earbuds, and smart wearables.

Gym use

- Wear clean, light soled shoes on the court.
- Do not walk directly across the main court when entering the gym.
- Do not mess around/horseplay on or under the bleachers.
- Keep any food or beverage other than water in the bleachers only.
- Leave the space as good as or better than we found it.

Lunchroom

- Wait patiently in line. Always go to the back when joining the line.
- Are early or on time returning to our classroom from lunch.
- Maintain appropriate volume and language while socializing.
- Leave the cafeteria space clean - even if it is not our mess.
- Deposit trays and trash in the appropriate area when leaving lunch.

Technology Use (including cell phones and earbuds/headphones)

- Only use Chromebooks for school work and school appropriate uses.
- Cell phones, headphones, earbuds, or smart wearables should never be seen in class or in the hallway.
- Cell phones, headphones, earbuds, or smart wearables may be used during the lunch period.
- Do not use personal laptops, tablets, or other similar computer devices that are not school provided/approved during the school day in the building.
- Specific exceptions for cell phone use during class for academic purposes may be granted to teachers by administration for a limited period.

Attendance

In the State of Montana, education is compulsory for all children aged 7 to 16. Students between those ages, not attending school or registered as homeschooled, are in violation of the law.

At Laurel High School, students are expected to be in class on time and be prepared to learn. Regular, consistent attendance ensures access to a quality education and provides the foundation for workforce, post-secondary, and personal life skills expected of people in society. The school will make every effort to ensure students receive both by enforcing attendance requirements.

Times Students May Leave the Building

- Lunch
- After School
- With permission from a parent/guardian via phone call, note, or email to the secretaries
- Students must sign out at the office if leaving any time other than lunch or after school.

Students who are absent from school will be given the opportunity to make-up their missing work. Missing work must be completed in a timely manner, subject to individual teacher expectations.

Vacation Days

- Parents/guardians must notify the office of any upcoming absences as soon as possible.
- Students must notify their teachers prior to leaving to collect any work to be completed during their vacation.
- Missing work must be completed prior to leaving, if possible, or immediately upon return to school.

Excused absences must be reported within **3 days of the absence**. Parents/guardians can inform the office of such absences through phone, email, or written note. If no information is shared with the office to excuse an absence within 3 days, it will be recorded as unexcused. Teachers have the right to expect regular attendance from their students and will assist students in completing their make-up work for reasonable absences. Parents/guardians are urged to arrange appointments and vacations outside of school hours to ensure their students receive a quality education.

10 Day Rule

The intent of the 10-day rule is to stress to students and parents the importance of class attendance and to provide for greater student accountability, not to punish students who have legitimate absences approved beforehand.

1. Students are encouraged to be in regular attendance; miss no more than 5% of scheduled school days.
2. A student will be allowed ten (10) absences per class, per semester.
An absence is any time the student is not physically present in class.

Students who are absent will be permitted to make up work missed and to receive grades for time absent. The responsibility of contacting the instructors, getting assignments, doing the work, and submitting it to the instructor rests with the student. A student will be permitted one day for each day absent to complete make-up work.

If a student is to be absent, the parent/guardian must call the school any time after 7:30 a.m., email: hsmessage@laurel.k12.mt.us, or send a note to notify the school of the absence. Failure to contact

the school within three days of the absence will result in the absence being considered unexcused and the student is subject to discipline for unexcused absences. The High School phone number is 628-3500. If the parent/guardian does not call, a call will automatically be made to the phone number on file when an absence has occurred.

Administration reserves the right to verify parent/guardian signatures at any time and will spot check validity as deemed necessary.

3. The ONLY absences that WILL NOT be used in calculating the attendance record are:
 - A. Those that occur due to school-sponsored activities, since these are considered an equivalent educational experience. These exemptions will apply to students participating in school sponsored activities.
 - B. Bereavement in the immediate family (grandmother, grandfather, father, mother, sister, brother). A parent/guardian must notify the school. Any extended bereavement (including aunts, uncles, cousins, etc.) or appeals may be reviewed by the administration.
 - C. Subpoenas to appear in court or court-ordered (verified by a court document indicating their presence), out-of-district placements for special services; and
 - D. Long term illness and/or hospitalization verified by a doctor's statement. Medical/Dental appointments verified by a doctor's statement.
 - E. Attending an athletic event as an observer/fan must be excused by a parent/guardian.
4. Monitoring of Unexcused Absences:
 - A. After five (5) unexcused absences from school/class the parent / student will be contacted by letter and/or email. Additional consequences may be determined.
 - B. After seven(7) and eleven (11) unexcused absences from school/class, the parent / student will be contacted again by letter and/or email, and a parent meeting will be requested to sign an attendance contract.
 - C. On the tenth (10) absence (excused or unexcused), a letter will be sent home indicating the severity of the situation and explaining in detail the consequences for missing more than the allowed 10 days. A parent/student meeting may be set up to sign an attendance contract for the student where the student (If 18 years old) or the parent (If student is under 16) could be cited for truancy by law enforcement.
5. Further absences will result in additional consequences.
6. An unexcused or unverified absence can be considered truancy. The consequence for truancy could result in detention up to and including ISS/ OSS. Severe truancy will result in law enforcement contact.

Tardiness

Students are expected to be in class on time. A student is tardy when he/she is not physically in the classroom at the time the bell rings. Tardies are addressed via individual classroom expectations. Tardies are factored into the overall number of unexcused absences and may result in disciplinary action.

Attendance and Participation

Students absent during the day and/or part of the day of an activity or practice will not be permitted to participate in that event. If a student is absent the afternoon before a holiday, they may be permitted to take

part in the activity during that holiday with the written consent of the parent/guardian, the administration and the head coach or group advisor of the event. On overnight trips when the team leaves before a holiday, students who are absent on the day before may not be allowed to accompany the team. Approval for participation will be considered if the absence in question results from a previously scheduled medical/dental appointment, an appointment that satisfies requirements of the law, attendance at a school related activity, senior pictures, DMV / passport appointments, or if DMV/passport appointments, or the absence results from some documented family emergency. A student will not be excused from assigned detention time for a practice or school activity.

Sign out procedure for leaving school:

Students are not to leave school campus during the school day without parent/guardian permission and must sign out in the office before leaving. The following procedure must be followed:

1. A note or call from home detailing time and purpose for leaving. The call or note must be presented to the office before the student leaves the building.
2. The office personnel will issue a pass to the student with the time listed.
3. **Before leaving, the students must sign out on the appropriate sheet in the attendance office.** If the student is to return that day, he/she must sign back in on the same sheet. Legitimate absences that can be substantiated with appropriate documentation may be turned in by students upon their return.
4. Ill students report to the office. Office personnel will contact the parent/guardian to excuse the student from school and to pick up the student if necessary.
5. Students failing to follow this sign out procedure could face disciplinary action per administrator discretion.

Policy for School Related College and Career Visits

1. Juniors and Seniors are allowed two (2) visits per semester
2. Student must fill out an application form prior to leaving
3. When a student applies to visit a school/career site, he/she must meet the eligibility requirements as they apply for extracurricular activities and meet the entrance requirements of the school they are visiting.
4. Homework should be made up as determined by the instructor
5. **Proof of visitation is required (i.e. a letter with college/military/career letterhead with official signature and phone number)**

If a student chooses to abuse these privileges, they will be counted as an absence and all remaining college/career visits will be revoked for the year. If a student requires more than two visits in one semester, they must meet with administration before the college visits will be excused.

Health Services

1. If a student has health-related problems he/she would like to discuss with the school nurse, they are encouraged to check in at the high school office for nurse availability.
2. The school nurse informs teachers about students with health needs and how to make accommodations in the classroom if necessary.
3. Per LPS Policy 3416, high school students may keep in their possession, in original containers, a small quantity of nonprescription medication and/or no more than a forty-five (45)-day supply of a prescription medication, and self-administer in accordance with parent instruction. It is the responsibility of the parent/guardian to ensure that their child understands the proper administration of medications prior to

sending the medication to school with their student. Students must not provide medication to any other student.

4. Designated school personnel may, only upon written request from parents/guardians and written direction from a physician/dentist, accept and store prescription medication in its original container. It is the student's responsibility to come to the office to take the medication. Students are responsible for self-administration of medication with designated school personnel supervision.
5. School staff will not store over-the-counter medications for the student or supervise the administration of over-the-counter medications except under special circumstances. If circumstances exist, please see the school website to "Departments", then "Nursing Services", then "Prescription and Over-the-Counter Medications" to complete the appropriate form for your student.
6. Please notify the school nurse if your student has any emergency medications (including but not limited to, epinephrine autoinjectors, inhalers, rescue seizure medications, and glucagon).
7. Per state law, LHS maintains a stock supply of an opioid antagonist to be administered by a school nurse or other authorized personnel to any student or nonstudent as needed for an actual or perceived opioid overdose. In the event this opioid antagonist is used, emergency services will be called and parent/guardian will be contacted.
8. Per state law, LHS also maintains a stock supply of auto-injectable epinephrine to be administered by a school nurse or other authorized personnel to any student or nonstudent as needed for actual or perceived anaphylaxis. This medication is not meant to be a replacement for students who are already prescribed an epinephrine auto-injector; please ensure your student carries their epinephrine auto-injector as prescribed. In the event the school stock supply of epinephrine is used, emergency services will be called and parent/guardian will be contacted
9. Students who receive immunizations should bring documentation to the school nurse so the information can be entered on the individual State of Montana Immunization record. Seniors will be provided a copy of their immunization records prior to graduation to be used for post-secondary or job applications.
10. The school nurse will do vision and blood pressure screening for any students or staff upon request by students, parents/guardians, or teachers.
11. Parents will be notified per Policy 3410 of all medical screenings and screenings will not be done without parental consent. Pure tone screening is mandated for students in grades K, 1, and 10. Students in other grades will also be screened if they are new to the school, on the annual hearing recheck screening, or does not pass the pure tone screening, they will be referred for a hearing rescreen. The Hearing Conservation Program audiologist will conduct the hearing rescreen and, in addition to the pure tone screening, may also conduct one or both of the following: Optoacoustic Emissions (OAEs) Screening, which is a measure of cochlear (inner ear) function that does not require the child to respond and/or Emittance Screening, which measures the movement of the eardrum by putting positive and negative air pressure into the ear canal.

Illness Policy

In most situations the school prefers students come to school and if they become ill at school, the parent/guardian will be notified. However, here are a few guidelines to help parent/guardian in deciding when to keep your child home from school.

Symptom	Student must be at home?
Diarrhea Frequent, loose or watery stools compared to child's normal pattern: not caused by diet or medication	Yes -If your child looks or acts ill: if the child has diarrhea with a fever and/or vomiting. Make sure your sick child stays well hydrated. <i>Student can return when he/she has not had diarrhea during the last 24 hours.</i>
Fever Fever is the body's way of destroying the germs making it sick, and it's a common symptom of infections.	Yes - When fever > 100.0 is accompanied by other symptoms of illness, such as rash, sore throat, vomiting, headache, muscle aches, loss of appetite, etc. <i>Student can return when fever has been gone for 24 hours without medication and the child's appetite and energy level returned to normal.</i>
Flu The flu can be serious. Symptoms of the flu typically come on suddenly and can include: fever, chills, headache, body aches, sore throat, nausea, vomiting, dry cough	Yes - If your child has a fever > 100.0 or will be unable to participate in class. <i>Student can return when fever has been gone for 24 hours without medication and energy level has returned to normal.</i>
Coughing Severe, uncontrolled coughing or wheezing, rapid or difficulty breathing <u>Note:</u> Children with asthma may be cared for in school with a written health care plan and authorization for medication/treatment	Yes - Medical attention is necessary
Mild Respiratory or Cold Symptoms Stuffy nose with clear drainage, sneezing, mild cough	No - Child may attend school if able to participate in class.
Rash	No - Body rash without fever or other symptoms usually does not require student to remain at home Yes -Seek medical advice for rash with fever, open and weeping wounds, or quickly spreading rash
Vomiting Vomiting is another way for the body to rid itself of the germs making it sick and is usually caused by a stomach virus or infection.	Yes - Keep students home if they have vomited 2 or more times in the last 24 hours. <i>Student can return when he/she has not had vomiting during the last 24 hours.</i>
Pinkeye (conjunctivitis) Symptoms of pinkeye include eye redness, itchiness, discharge that forms a crust during the night that may prevent	Yes - If given antibiotics, please keep at home until he/she has taken the antibiotics for at least 24 hours.

your eye or eyes from opening in the morning	If your health provider decides not to treat your child, a note is needed.
--	--

References: Mayo Clinic Signs and symptoms, Denver Children's Hospital illness policy, and WebMD.

General Regulations

- 1. ANNOUNCEMENTS:** Announcements can be submitted daily to Lisa Condon via Google Form to be read and shared on internal monitors.
- 2. ID BADGES-REQUIRED DAILY:** Students should always wear their ID visibly or have it available on their person. If a staff member asks for a student's ID they should be able to show it. This is to increase safety measures as well as to provide students with access to the building, copying/printing, charging breakfasts/lunches on student accounts, and checking out materials from the library.
- 3. ACCESS/ID BADGE REPLACEMENT:**
Freshmen and Juniors receive new badges after school picture day. Students new to the district will have their picture taken by staff and be issued a badge. If a badge is lost or damaged, the first replacement is free. Subsequent reprints incur a fee that increases by \$5.00 each time, capped at \$25.00 (e.g., 2nd reprint is \$10, 3rd is \$15, 4th is \$20).
- 4. BUILDING HOURS:** The High School building is open regularly from 7:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Students should leave the building at the end of the school day just as soon as their work is completed. Students should not be on school grounds after school hours if not under the direct supervision of a district employee.
- 5. CAFETERIA:** The high school students have the choice of staying on campus and using the ala carte bar, or going off campus. Money must be deposited in a student's account for the student to be served. While eating in the school, all students are expected to be orderly, neat and quiet. Students will eat in the Depot or designated meeting areas. Any violations observed by supervisors will result in school consequences including loss of privilege of eating in the school.

High School students will maintain a separate lunch account from elementary siblings. See lunch policy guidelines under Board Policy #8205

Students are not to have food delivered to campus outside of lunch period by food delivery services.

- 6. CARE OF BUILDING AND GROUNDS:** Please consider the cost and efforts which go into the construction and maintenance of your school. Those who damage school property will be required to make restitution.

Students must take the initiative to keep the school grounds and the inside of the school clean by depositing their trash in the waste disposals that have been provided. The appearance of the school grounds reflect on all of us. Let's be proud of our school and be positive about our school grounds.
- 7. CELLULAR PHONES, HEADPHONES, EARBUDS, SMART WEARABLES, AND PERSONAL**

ELECTRONIC DEVICES:

In order to maintain an educational environment free from distraction cellular phones, headphone/earbuds, MP3 players, ipods, smart wearables - including smart glasses and watches must be kept out of sight and turned off during the instructional day. (Policy 3630) Personal laptops or other personal electronic devices may not be used during school hours. Personal devices may be used during the lunch period. Administration may temporarily permit teachers to offer cell phone use on a case by case basis for educational purposes only. If a parent/guardian needs to contact a student, we ask that they call the office and leave a message.

A staff member will take the electronic device and the student will receive consequences. (See progressive discipline matrix for consequences). Failure to submit an electronic device to a staff member is considered insubordination and will result in additional consequences including, but not limited to suspension.

****Headphones for noise cancellation only must be listed as a specific accommodation in IEPs and 504s. Wired headphones for audible books and text to speech options should also be identified as an accommodation and used only with school provided devices for academic requirements.**

At no time will any student operate a cell phone or other electronic device with video capabilities in a locker room, bathroom, or other location where such operation may violate the privacy rights of another person. (Policy 3630)

8. **CHROMEBOOKS:** Each student will be issued a chromebook at the beginning of their 7th grade year or upon initial entry to LHS. Students and Parents/Guardians are required to review and sign the Responsible Use Policy yearly. Please review the LPS One-to-One Device Handbook for more information regarding the responsible use of these devices and expectations. Students are required to use the school issued device for school related work during the school day.
9. **DISTRIBUTION OF MATERIALS:** It is the district's policy to limit the distribution of materials to parent and student organizations sponsored by the district or other governmental agencies. Materials which provide information valued or needed by the school district may also be distributed. All organizations must have the approval of the administration before materials may be distributed. See Board policy 3222.

10. DRESS AND GENERAL APPEARANCE:

Student dress must support a safe, respectful, and focused learning environment. Clothing choices must adhere to the following standards while on school grounds or at school-sponsored functions:

A. Coverage Requirements

- Fabric must cover the body from the armpits down to the waistband (front, back, and sides).
- Tops must have straps over the shoulders; strapless tops and spaghetti straps are prohibited.
- Clothing must be opaque (non-see-through), and undergarments must be fully covered by outer clothing.
- Private areas must be fully covered; swimwear is prohibited.
- Safe and appropriate footwear must be worn at all times.

B. Prohibited Imagery and Text Clothing, accessories, or tattoos may not display:

- Profanity, obscenity, or sexually suggestive words/images.
- Promotion of tobacco, alcohol, drugs, or illegal substances.
- Gang-related symbols or identifiers.
- Content that is libelous, bullying, harassing, or discriminatory.

C. Head Coverings & Safety

- Hats, beanies, and bandanas may be worn in the building, provided they do not cover the student's

face or ears.

- Hoods must remain down at all times while inside the school building.

D. Classroom Environment & Course Safety

- **Comfort Items:** Blankets and pillows are prohibited in classrooms. Students are encouraged to dress in layers to adjust for varied building temperatures.
- **Course-Specific Standards:** Teachers of specialized classes (e.g., Science labs, Career & Technical Education/Shop, P.E.) may require additional safety dress standards. This may include requirements for closed-toe footwear, specific fabric types, safety goggles, or tying back hair/headwear. Non-compliance may result in disciplinary action or removal from the activity for safety reasons.

E. Enforcement and Consequences School administration reserves the final right to determine appropriate student dress.

- **First Offense:** Students in violation will be required to correct the issue before returning to class. This may involve contacting a parent/guardian for a change of clothing or wearing school-provided loaner clothes.
- **Insubordination:** Refusal to comply with correcting a dress code violation will be treated as insubordination.
- **Repeated Violations:** Chronic non-compliance with the dress code policy will result in progressive disciplinary action.

A good guideline is to dress in a manner that would be acceptable in the 'professional' and 'craft' job settings. A teacher may require additional standards of student dress as deemed appropriate in order to ensure a proper safety standard for the coursework/activities required in the class (i.e. science, vocational classes, P.E. and any special project, etc.). This may extend to footwear, fabric content requirements, head coverings, safety protection, etc. Failure to comply with these requirements may result in disciplinary action or the student may be unable to complete as a result of non-compliance with the regulation.

School administration reserves the right to determine appropriate dress. Students in violation of the dress code will be asked to contact parents/guardians for a change of clothing. If parents/guardians are unable to provide a change of clothing, the student may be asked to change into clothing provided by the office. Refusal to comply with fixing a dress code issue will be considered insubordination. Repeated dress code violations will be considered disciplinary offenses.

- 11. EVENTS SPONSORED BY THE SCHOOL:** Students at school-sponsored events on or off the school campus shall be governed by school district rules and regulations and are subject to the authority of school district personnel. A student's attendance at such events is conditional upon his/her observance of school rules and regulations.
- 12. FEES, FINES AND OUTSTANDING BILLS:** Students will be provided with basic educational material at no charge. Students are expected to provide their own paper, pens, pencils, erasers and notebooks; physical education attire and athletic equipment; extracurricular attire which becomes property of the student; and elective tuition for courses offered off campus. Occasionally student fees will be collected for the costs of materials related to class projects that the students keep; voluntarily purchased pictures, rings, publications, announcements, etc.; musical instrument rental fees and uniform maintenance; library fees for lost, damaged or overdue books; and driver training courses.

Students are responsible for the reasonable care of school property such as books and lockers. Damage or loss of school property (including Chromebooks) will result in fines which must be paid before grades and transcripts will be issued. It is the student's responsibility to make sure that they do not owe the school money for whatever the reason. Fines and charges not paid will result in withholding of report cards and/or diplomas. At the end of the year, a notation is attached to the permanent record which causes any transfer of credits or issuing of a diploma to be held until the charge is paid. Fees should be paid during the school year in which they are accrued.

- 13. HARASSMENT, INTIMIDATION, BULLYING (includes Cyber Bullying and Harassment), HAZING and MENACING:** Laurel High School will strive to provide a positive and productive learning and working environment. Harassment, intimidation, menacing, hazing or bullying is prohibited and shall not be tolerated. A school effort to provide learning opportunities for students about these topics will be a priority. If a student or parent/guardian knows of an incident such as described above, they should contact the Assistant Principal or Principal as soon as possible. More than likely the behavior will continue unless acted upon. Discretion will be used when dealing with offenders and victims.

Students whose behavior is found to be in violation of this policy will be subject to discipline up to and including expulsion. Please see district policy 3226.

- 14. LOCKERS and BACKPACKS:** Due to limited space, larger class sizes and safety concerns. Students in all grades will be required to use a locker during the school day and not allowed to carry a backpack, bag, briefcase, computer bag, purse, crossbody, or any other bag larger than a pencil pouch from class to class. Locker assignments will stay the same as the previous year. New students will be assigned lockers at the beginning of the year. Students should keep combinations confidential and not share lockers. If a student has a special circumstance arise such as a medical issue that limits students carrying their materials, the student and family can meet with administration to ask for special permission to use a backpack for a certain period of time. Administration has final decision making authority pertaining to backpacks and will communicate the decision to the student and their teachers.

- 15. MOTOR VEHICLE AND PARKING LOT REGULATIONS:** The student parking lot is for your convenience. Students are permitted to park on school premises as a matter of privilege, not of right. Certain parking and driving regulations are in effect and will be enforced in the interest of safety and convenience.

1. State law stipulates that the maximum driving speed on and adjacent to school property is 10 m.p.h.
2. Students must obey posted signs, proper parking procedures and traffic routing at all times. This includes the gravel area. Illegal parking will be monitored by school personnel/SRO and violators will be notified.
3. No students are to be loitering in the parking lot or vehicles during classes or between classes.
4. Failure to obey parking/traffic regulations may result in detention, parental notification, loss of parking privileges, referral to law enforcement, and/or towing at the owner's expense.
5. If there is a reasonable suspicion that illegal or unauthorized items/substances are in a vehicle parked on school property, the school administration has the right to search the vehicle. Parents and students will be contacted at the time of the search. Items not allowed on school property may be seized. Appropriate disciplinary action will be taken.

- 16. PASSES:** Students are expected to be in classes at all times. In order to be out of the classroom, all students must have a valid hall pass. This pass will be issued to the student by the teacher of the class to

which the student is assigned for that particular period. Abuse of hall passes will result in loss of pass privileges and/or further disciplinary action.

- 17. RELEASE OF STUDENT DIRECTORY INFORMATION:** Information considered as student directory information may be released without written consent. The following information will be released to the proper agencies as the need arises: student's name, address, telephone number, date and place of birth, major field of study, participation in officially recognized activities and sports, weight and height of members of athletic teams, photographs, dates of attendance, degrees and awards received, and most recent school attended by the student. If the individual does not want this information released, he/she must tell the school to remove his/her name from the directory.
- 18. STUDENT FILES:** The maintenance, transfer, and disclosure of student educational records shall be provided for as required in the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act. A student's record shall be available only to school personnel on a "need-to-know" basis, and these records are open to inspection by the student and his/her parents/guardians by making an appointment during regular school hours.
- 19. SKATEBOARDS, SKATES, SCOOTERS AND BICYCLES:** Due to increased liability and damage to school property, the use of skates, skateboards, scooters, bicycles, and other such devices on school property is not allowed. Failure to comply can lead to school-based consequences. Students may store skateboards, small scooters, and skates in the approved area in the main office during the school day. They will not be allowed to carry such items in the hallway or classrooms. Bicycles should be locked up outside on one of our bicycle racks.
- 20. STUDENT GUESTS:** Student aged guests are not allowed due to space constraints and disruptions to the learning environment.
- 21. STUDENT MEETINGS:** No student or group of students may hold meetings in the building unless under the direct supervision of a faculty member.
- 22. TELEPHONE USE:** There is a phone located at the main office for student use with permission. The secretary phones are not to be used by the students, unless it is an emergency. Because there is only one "student" phone available, please restrict its use for business calls only. Students will be respectful and use appropriate language while using the office phone. Students will be called out of class for an emergency only. The office will take messages for the student. **No phone calls are to be made during class time.**
- 23. TEXTBOOKS:** Laurel High School will occasionally loan textbooks to the students. Many textbooks also have available online forms and classes have classroom sets for students to use while in the classroom. Students are responsible for all books not returned, or rendered useless, regardless of the reason for loss or damage. Students will be charged for the replacement cost of the book. At the time the book is issued, the student should check the book for wear. If pages are missing or the book is otherwise damaged, the student should discuss this with the teachers so he/she will not be charged with the damage. **All fines need to be satisfied before a student can graduate or be officially withdrawn.**
- 24. TRANSFERRING OR DROPPING SCHOOL:** Any student transferring to another school or dropping out of school for any reason must have their parent or guardian contact the counselor or administrator to make necessary arrangements.

25. USE OF VIDEO/AUDIO TAPING CAMERAS-Policy Reference 3235: The district uses video/audio cameras on District property to ensure the health, welfare, and safety of all staff, students and visitors to District property, and to safeguard District facilities and equipment. Video cameras may be used in locations as deemed appropriate by the Superintendent. Students in violation of board policies, administrative regulations, building rules, or law shall be subject to appropriate disciplinary action. Others may be referred to law enforcement agencies. Video/audio recordings may become a part of a student's educational record. The district will comply with all applicable state and federal laws related to maintenance and retention.

26. VENDING MACHINE USE DURING SCHOOL HOURS: Currently the vending machines are accessible throughout the day. Students should be in class during class time and get their snacks before/after school, during lunch, or if they have time during passing periods. Access will be continually reviewed in light of cleanliness of the building, promptness to class, and responsible actions by students.

Library Media Center

Use of Library

Hours:	7:30 AM to 3:55 PM	Monday-Thursday
	7:30 AM to 3:35 PM	Friday

Services

- Reference and Research Assistance
- Instruction in locating and using library materials/equipment
- Reading Promotion and Guidance
- Automated check-out and card catalog searches

Student Conduct

The library is a learning environment which provides a comfortable climate for students to do research and reading. Students who engage in off-task behavior or who disturb others will be asked to leave the library. Serious or persistent misconduct may result in loss of library privileges or discipline referrals. Students using computers will adhere to the District Responsible Use Policy RUP.

Circulation and Fines

Students may check out books and ebooks for 3 weeks at a time. Students are allowed to check out up to 3 books or ebooks at a time. Fines will accrue after the three week checkout time at a rate of 10 cents per day up to the value of the book. Books may be renewed for an additional 3 weeks to avoid overdue fines. Students with lose books will be charged the replacement cost. If the book is found a refund will be issued to the student minus the accrued late fee. Damaged books will be assessed according to its condition. Students are asked to report lost or damaged books immediately to avoid excessive fines.

Overdue Notices are sent weekly to students through their school email account.

Responsible Use Policy For Technology/Internet/Electronic Resources

Laurel High School strongly believes in the educational value of technology and electronic services and recognizes the potential of such to support our curriculum and student learning. The use of technology and information systems is a privilege not a right.

Responsible Use: Individual users of the district computer networks are responsible for their behavior and communications over those networks. Users will comply with the district standards. The use of the Internet and

electronic resources must be in support of educational research and the educational goals and objectives of Laurel High School. Network storage areas may be treated like school lockers. Network managers may review files and communications to maintain system integrity and ensure that users are using the system responsibly. Users should recognize that files stored on district computer systems are NOT private.

Within reason, freedom of speech and access to information will be honored. During school hours, teachers will guide students toward appropriate use of technology resources and the Internet. Outside of school, parents/guardians bear the same responsibility for such guidance as they exercise with information sources such as television, movies, and other potentially offensive media.

Privileges: The use of the District's electronic networks is a privilege, not a right, and inappropriate use will result in a cancellation of those privileges. The system administrator (and/or building principal) will make all decisions regarding whether or not a user has violated these procedures and may deny, revoke, or suspend access at any time. His or her decision is final. Consequences of misuse of these resources, depending upon the severity of the situation may include one or more of the following:

- A warning followed by re-clarification of the appropriate use guidelines.
- Loss of access to District technology resources.
- Notification of parents/guardians and administrators by phone or personal conference.
- Referral to proper authorities for disciplinary and/or legal action.
- Students who have lost Internet or network privileges may not use personal equipment in lieu of district or school equipment.

Unacceptable Use: The user is responsible for his or her actions and activities involving the network. Some examples of unacceptable uses are:

- Using the network for any illegal activity, including violations of copyright or other contracts, or transmitting any material in violation of any United States or Montana law;
- Unauthorized downloading of software, regardless of whether it is copyrighted or reversed;
- Downloading copyrighted material for other than personal use;
- Using the network for private financial or commercial gain;
- Wastefully using resources, such as file space;
- Hacking or gaining unauthorized access to files, resources, or entities;
- Invading the privacy of individuals, which includes the unauthorized disclosure, dissemination, and use of information of a personal nature about anyone;
- Using another user's account or password
- Posting material authored or created by another, without his/her consent;
- Posting anonymous messages;
- Using the network for commercial or private advertising;
- Accessing, submitting, posting, publishing, or displaying any defamatory, inaccurate, abusive, obscene, profane, sexually oriented, threatening, racially offensive, harassing, or illegal material; and
- Using the network while access privileges are suspended or revoked.
- Online shopping unless required for a class or activity;
- Chatting or using chat lines for other than educational purposes;
- Playing games without teacher approval;
- Printing for other than educational purposes

Network Etiquette: The user is expected to abide by the generally accepted rules of network etiquette. These include, but are not limited to:

1. Be polite. Do not become abusive in messages to others.
2. Use appropriate language, do not swear or use vulgarities or any other inappropriate language.
3. Do not reveal personal information, including the addresses or telephone numbers, of students or teachers.

4. Recognize that electronic mail (e-mail) is not private. People who operate the system have access to all mail. Messages relating to or in support of illegal activities may be reported to the authorities.
5. Do not use the network in any way that would disrupt its use by other users.
6. Consider all communications and information accessible via the network not to be private property.

No Warranties: The District makes no warranties of any kind, whether expressed or implied, for the services it is providing.

Indemnification: The user agrees to indemnify the District for any losses, costs or damages, including reasonable attorney fees, incurred by the District, relating to or arising out of any violation of these procedures.

Security: Network security is a high priority. If the user can identify a security problem on the Internet, the user must notify the system administrator or building principal.

Vandalism: Vandalism will result in cancellation of privileges and other disciplinary action. Vandalism is defined as any malicious attempt to harm or destroy data of another user, the Internet, or any other network. This includes, but not limited to, the uploading or creation of viruses.

Telephone Charges: The District assumes no responsibility for any unauthorized charges or fees, including telephone charges, long-distance charges, per-minute surcharges, and/or equipment or line charges.

Copyright Web Publishing Rules: Copyright law and District policy prohibit the republishing of text or graphics found on the Web or on District Websites or file servers, without explicit written permission.

1. For each republication (on a Website or file server) of a graphic or text file that was produced externally, there must be a notice at the bottom of the page crediting the original producer and noting how and when permission was granted.
2. The absence of a copyright notice may not be interpreted as permission to copy the materials.
3. The "fair use" rules governing student reports in classrooms are less stringent and permit limited use of graphics and text.
4. Student work may only be published if there is written permission from both the parent/guardian and the student.

Consequence Chart for Violations of the Laurel Public Schools Student Responsible Use Policy

Please view the Student Responsible Use Policy on our website at laurel.k12.mt.us under Departments > Curriculum, Instruction & Assessment > Teaching & Learning with Technology Responsible Use Policy (under Links on the right side of the page)

First Violation	Second Violation	Third Violation	Fourth [or Above] Violation
2 Weeks in the GoGuardian Penalty Box Online access will be restricted to only school approved, educational resources	4 Weeks in the GoGuardian Penalty Box Online access will be restricted to only school approved, educational resources	6 Weeks in the GoGuardian Penalty Box Online access will be restricted to only school approved, educational resources	Consequences for any violations beyond the third are at the discretion of the building administrators and can include, but are not limited to, the revoking of technology rights, indefinite GoGuardian penalty box restrictions, restriction of Chromebook access time, etc.

DISCLAIMER: Consequences are determined on a case by case basis. If the standard consequences are not deemed adequate by the building administrator, alternative consequences will be determined and implemented.

Academics and Support

ACADEMIC HONESTY:

Learning is the most important behavior our students can exhibit. Academic honesty is highly valued in school. A student must always submit work that represents his or her original words or ideas for the school to evaluate a student's learning. If any words or ideas are used that do not represent the student's original words or ideas, the student must cite all relevant sources. Words or ideas that require citations include, but are not limited to, all hardcopy or electronic publications, whether copyrighted or not, and all verbal or visual communication when the content of such communication clearly originates from an identifiable source.

Academic dishonesty includes but is not limited to:

- **Unauthorized Collaboration:** Having a tutor, parent, peer, or any other individual complete any portion of an assignment.
- **Copying & Sharing:** Copying work from another student or allowing another student to copy your work.
- **Plagiarism:** Submitting work that is entirely or mostly someone else's work (even with citations), or using information from print, online, or AI-generated sources without proper citation.
- **Purchased or Outsourced Work:** Submitting a paper or project that was purchased, pre-written, or completed by a third party.
- **Unauthorized AI & Technology Use:** Using artificial intelligence (AI) tools, translation services, or other technology in a manner not explicitly permitted by the teacher or assignment guidelines.

Any incidences of academic dishonesty will be submitted as a behavioral referral. See the Progressive Discipline Matrix for consequences.

GUIDANCE SERVICES:

Please refer to the district website under the counselor page for more information.

As a student of Laurel High School, you should assume responsibility for yourself and for your actions. Looking to the future, you should develop goals and plans to meet these goals. Your school offers you opportunities. Your teachers and counselors stand ready to help you, but do not expect that things will be done for you. Assume responsibilities for yourself. Look at your problems and your shortcomings realistically. Review your plans at least yearly to assure yourself that you may expect to reach your goals. Revise your plans as necessary. To help, the following guidance services are available: counseling, testing, and course selection.

Students planning to attend institutions of higher learning should follow the post-secondary preparatory course of four years. This course would include courses in English, science, mathematics, social studies, and possibly foreign language. Students are strongly urged to consult the catalog of the school they intend to enter to make sure of meeting the entrance requirements.

Certain post-secondary courses require specific high school prerequisites. In the event a student does not have these, he/she may be required to take high school level courses without credit, which may delay his/her meeting post-secondary requirements on schedule, or may even cause him/her not to be admitted as a student.

Be sure to check prerequisite requirements, test data needed, application filing deadlines, financial payment schedules, requirements for financial aid, etc.

CREDIT RECOVERY:

Laurel High School, through several accredited providers, offers a number of credit recovery core classes for students who have failed required and elective courses. Students who need more than 3.5 credits per semester to graduate are encouraged to take credit recovery options. In order to take on-line courses, a student needs to petition his/her counselor and revise his/her four year plan.

A summer school program may be offered where credit recovery courses may be an option. **A cost to students may be assessed.** A determination of whether a summer program is held will be determined by May 1 each year.

ONLINE LEARNING COURSES:

Credit for online, summer school, college, or night school courses may be granted provided the following requirements are met:

1. Prior permission has been granted by the principal.
 - A. Courses offered on campus will take precedence over external courses.
 - B. If the course cannot be taken during the regular school day, an LHS credit recovery option will be the next alternative.
 - C. If neither a nor b is an option, outside providers may be considered for approval.
2. The course(s) fits the education plan developed for the student.

Transfer students who (1) are seniors, (2) who have transferred from an accredited high school, and will only lack the additional 1/2 credit of Civics required at Laurel to graduate may request waiver of that 1/2 credit. The high school principal shall have the discretion to issue that waiver if in his/her judgment the student has not used the transfer to avoid taking the additional credit. Further, the student may be required to do makeup work for the part of the year missed in civics in order to insure success in the remainder of the course.

SCHEDULE CHANGES:

Laurel High School counselors work collaboratively with students as they plan a course of study that fulfills the Laurel School District graduation requirements and prepares them for their post-high school goals. Students should select their classes based on graduation requirements, post-secondary goals, and areas of interest. As classes are scheduled our counselors have a goal of keeping class sizes balanced as much as possible across courses and staff members.

Factors beyond the control of Laurel High School such as budget decisions, legislation, student enrollment, equipment, space, staffing needs, and availability impact the master schedule and the courses being offered. It is expected that students honor the selections they made during registration.

There will be no schedule changes allowed throughout the summer prior to school starting due to new student enrollment meetings.

First Semester - students will attend all classes during the first day; no schedule changes will be made. ONE schedule change will be allowed per student by day three and four of the semester. No classes may be dropped after this time.

Second Semester - students may make ONE schedule change the last two days of semester one or the first two days of semester two. No classes may be dropped after this time.

WHAT KIND OF SCHEDULE CHANGES CAN BE MADE

Changes will be made to schedules ONLY if one or more of the following conditions exists:

- you are not scheduled for enough classes
- you have an unscheduled period and need to add a class

- you are in the wrong level of a class (e.g., should be in Spanish II, scheduled for Spanish I)
- you need a class required for graduation this year (SENIORS ONLY)
- you are scheduled in a class you have already passed including summer classes
- you need to retake a required class that you did not pass
- you do not have the prerequisite for a class you are scheduled for
- you are retaking a failed class and scheduled with the same teacher

Graduation Requirements

Twenty-three (23) credits are required for graduation. Students who have not met the graduation requirements will not participate in graduation exercises. Participation in the graduation ceremony is an earned privilege, not a right.

The following specific subjects are required of all students and are included in the required total:

1. Four (4) credits in English- sequential and non-repetitive.
2. Three (3) credits in Mathematics - full year courses, sequential, non-repetitive unless allowed by IEP.
3. Two (2) credits in Science - one (1) in Earth Science and one (1) in Biology 1. Two (2) years of Agriculture Sciences may be counted as one (1) Biological Science credit. Transfer students could have exceptions made based on course descriptions from previous school.
4. Three credits of Social Science - one (1) credit in United States History, one (1) credit in Civics, and one (1) credit in World History.
5. One (1) credit in Physical Education/Health: one half credit (.5) at the 9th grade level and one half credit (.5) at the 10th grade level, unless excused upon the advice of a doctor. Students being excused from Physical Education for medical reasons will be required to take units of Health.
6. One (1) credit in Fine Arts.
7. One half (.5) credit in Information Literacy & Technology.
8. One half (.5) credit in Career Financial Education

The above requirements are minimal standards required of all students. The three (3) credits in mathematics and the two (2) credits in science required for graduation must be completed in full year courses. All students must carry at least seven (7) credits each year. Appeals may be made to the principal if students want to participate in other academic pursuits.

The following classes may be repeated for credit: All Music Classes, Advanced PE, Strength and Conditioning 1 and 2, Welding 2, Woodworking, Intermediate Painting, Intermediate Drawing, Advanced Art, and Yearbook.

Grade 9 Required	Grade 10 Required	Grade 11 Required	Grade 12 Required
English 9	English 10	English 11	English 12
Earth Science	World History	U.S. History	Civics
Math	Math	Math	
PE 9- one semester	Biological Science		
Information Literacy & Technology	PE 10-one semester		
	Personal Finance		

A foreign exchange student who has completed a successful year of attendance and is a student in good standing may choose to participate in commencement ceremonies where he/she will receive a certificate of attendance.

A student who wishes to graduate early must secure permission and file a plan for early graduation before the second semester of his/her junior year of study. For details, please visit with a counselor or administrator. This request must go through school board approval.

Grading Scale

The following grading scale will be used in all high school courses.

A = 90-100
B = 80-89
C = 70-79
D = 65-69
F = 64 and below

Please refer to the most recent Course Catalog for more information.

HOMEWORK ACCESS:

Students are encouraged to be in class for the full class period every day to have access to direct instruction from certified teachers along with discussions and hands-on learning opportunities. Occasionally the use of Google Classroom is appropriate for sharing assignments and lesson review.

PROGRESS REPORTS AND REPORT CARDS:

Both students and parents are provided with access to student information through the Infinite Campus portal. If you need user ID or password assistance, please contact the district administration office.

Students and parents/guardians are encouraged to use Infinite Campus on a regular basis to monitor student progress. Midterm grades are posted in Infinite Campus approximately 4 weeks after the start of each quarter. Quarter grades are posted approximately every 45 days/nine weeks. Quarter 1 and 2 grades are cumulative for Semester 1. Quarter 3 and 4 grades are cumulative for Semester 2. End of the year transcribed grades are available in Infinite Campus and mailed home.

INCOMPLETE GRADES:

An incomplete grade may be issued when a student has extenuating circumstances which prevent the student from completing all required work during the grading period. An incomplete grade must be changed to a letter grade within one week following the posting of quarterly grades. For the second semester, students must complete all assignments and tests by the end of Finals week. Alternate arrangements may be made through the teacher and approved by administration which allows the student to complete work due to extreme extenuating circumstances past the end of the school year.

HONOR ROLL:

Those students having a 3.50 average in all academic subjects for any nine week quarter are listed on the Honor Roll.

This average is computed by using the following formula:

Standard High School Courses

A = 4.00
B = 3.00
C = 2.00
D = 1.00
F = 0.00

Dual Credit, Honors, and AP Courses

A = 5.00
B = 4.00
C = 3.00
D = 2.00
F = 0.00

All grades are used when figuring the Honor Roll. The school administration office, the academic counselors office, and the faculty are available to discuss and advise needed steps for improvement. We will do our best to keep the parent/guardian informed of the student's status and encourage the student and parent/guardian to monitor progress through the use of Infinite Campus.

CLASS RANK:

Students' class rank will be calculated at the end of each semester as they progress through their coursework. Individuals who complete online courses, Montana Digital Academy, or other courses honored by LHS will have the course grades added to their transcript upon the closing of the next semester of study. The GPA from these courses will be reflected in their on-going rank.

Final class rank will be reflective of the student's full course of study and will be posted on the final transcript. Individuals who graduate early will be ranked with the next full graduating class. In other words, a student who completes graduation requirements after a graduation ceremony will be considered a member of the next graduation class and will be ranked accordingly.

Class ranking will reflect weighted grades when used for internal purposes. On occasion, institutions and scholarship guidelines will request unweighted transcripts. The counseling department will generate both weighted and unweighted transcripts upon request.

A student who passes a course of study and elects to repeat that course of study will only be awarded credit once unless that course has been specifically recognized as a course eligible for multiple credits. Upon completion of the course the second time, a student may petition the counselor and principal for the higher of the two course grades to be calculated in the cumulative GPA. If a student fails a course and retakes the course, both marks stand in the cumulative GPA calculation.

Valedictorian and Salutatorian honors will be based on highest cumulative grade point averages based on full-time attendance and a weighted scale at the conclusion of seven semesters of course study. Students receiving these honors must have been enrolled in an accredited high school, as recognized by the state of Montana, for a minimum of three full academic years.

GRADUATION ATTIRE:

Regarding graduation ceremonies, graduates are expected to abide by the grooming and dress recommendations in order to participate in the ceremony. The pride the community takes in its graduates should appropriately be reflected in the dress of those participating. Students are expected to dress business casual or semi-formal for the formal occasion of graduation ceremony including the agreed upon cap and gown. Mortar boards may be decorated according to the agreed upon expectations and guidelines. Decorated mortar boards must have administrative approval four days before the ceremony. Students may wear traditional American Indian tribal regalia or objects of cultural significance at public events including but not limited to graduation ceremonies per Policy 2333.

FAMILY NIGHT:

Family Night will be observed in the district on Wednesday every week. The following are applicable:

- No scheduled activities after 6:00 p.m. (Unless special circumstances arise and superintendent approval.)
- Homework or tests cannot be assigned on Wednesday due on Thursday.
- Homework or tests can be assigned earlier in the week due on Thursday.

Medical Release Excuses - Physical Education Policy

If a student has a parent/guardian excuse exempting him/her from P.E. because of illness, etc., then he/she will receive an excuse from the school office for one (1) day only. Any excuse beyond this time limit must come from a doctor. It is the parent/guardian responsibility to get this checked and the excuse delivered to the proper personnel at the school.

Any student in grades nine through twelve who has a medical release from a doctor will not participate in any physical education activity until the doctor supplies written permission for him/her to continue in the P.E. activity. It is the parent/guardian responsibility to obtain this written permission. The student will be required to satisfactorily complete written assignments or perform other non-participating activities as required.

MUSIC:

The school district may charge students a fee for use of a school owned instrument. Such fee shall be for a nine (9) month school year, with a lesser fee to be assessed for the summer program. In the case of proven financial hardship, the Band Director and the Superintendent may make arrangements so that no one shall be deprived of an opportunity to participate. Refunds will be made only to students who are transferring to another school; such refunds to be made on a percentage basis depending on the condition of the returned instrument. All funds received from rentals will be used for instrument repairs.

Once a student becomes a member of a music group, he/she is expected to observe the same rules as listed for all classes. He/she is also expected to be available for all outside performances.

Semester Tests

- The school will be considered a "Quiet Zone" during the two (2) day Final Exam Schedule.
- Students who finish testing early must wait until the end of the testing period to leave.
- All teachers will give a final exam that will reflect Montana State Standards and the Essential Learnings for the course.
- If a teacher wants to give a longer exam or a two-part exam, he/she can start the exam the day before Day One.
- Semester finals count no less than 10% and no more than 20% of the student's semester grade. Students may not retake exams so they should prepare well and take the tests seriously.
- Students should not be in the building during periods in which they are not scheduled to test. Students may use the Library for studying, taking exams, or waiting for the bus. Students are not required to report unless directed by a teacher to do so.
- Early finals will not be allowed.
- Students who are absent and miss a final can choose to make up the final(s) by the end of finals week or to incur a reduction in semester grade (equal to the percentage value of the final).
- The Make-up period may be used by any student for any exam with teacher approval.
- Prep periods are for teachers to correct semester exams and enter grades into the computer. Students may also make up exams during this time with teacher approval.
- Textbook check-in will occur prior to semester final exams. Books will be available in the classroom for students to use if the final exam is open book.
- Students on 504 plans and IEPs will have the opportunity to exercise accommodations and modifications for exams in the Title and/or the Resource rooms if appropriate (during exam periods and during the Prep period).

Semester Test Exemption Policy

Upon teacher discretion, the semester test may be waived if the following criterion applies:

- For each class on a student's schedule: Must have a grade of 90% or above in that particular class, no more than 2 tardies in that class, no unexcused absences in that class, and not more than 10 days of absence in total from the class not counting school related absences..
- A student cannot have any outstanding detention time for any reason, for any class.
- Those students who have received ISS or OSS, for any reason, in any class, are not exempt.
- For AP classes, those students who choose to take the AP approved exam at a cost as set by the Advanced Placement Board may have the semester exam waived only at the discretion of the AP Instructor.
- Students, at their discretion, may take the exam to raise their grade to a higher percentage if desired.
- Upon teacher discretion a student may be exempt if all above criteria applies.

Activities and Athletics Information

Eligibility Requirements

All students must meet the eligibility requirements of the Montana High School Association and the local requirements of Laurel High School to compete in extracurricular activities. For participation in extracurricular activities the student needs to be enrolled in at least four (4) periods per day.

In general, students are eligible by meeting the following requirements and the Montana High School Association regulations, the Laurel High School student handbook, and student participation pledge.

- Student is in regular attendance and is enrolled in and receiving a passing grade in all but one subject, at the end of each mid-term and quarter grading period. At the end of the semester grading period, the semester grade will be the determining factor at the high school level. All class grades are computed for eligibility requirements. For incoming freshmen students' 4th quarter grades from Middle School will carry over to determine eligibility.
- Student must not have reached his/her nineteenth (19th) birthday on or before midnight August 31 of a given year.
- Student must not have been in attendance in any secondary school for more than eight (8) semesters.
- A physical examination is required for each student in order to be considered eligible for participation in an Association Contest. This examination must be certified by a doctor for the current school year. A medical release card must also be signed and on file in the school office. Other rules are found in the LPS Student Activities Handbook and in the Montana High School Association Handbook. The pledge form must be signed, or the student will not be eligible to participate in practices or games.
- All athletes and cheerleaders must have a signed drug and alcohol pledge form on file in the office for each school year, or they will not be eligible to participate in practices or games. A student will only have to sign one athletic pledge form for the school year.
- Students who participate in activities that require performances outside the classroom but are part of a regular academic class will be allowed to participate in performances presented only at the High School. Any student who does not meet the basic eligibility standards as outlined will not be allowed to travel with a group to participate or perform at any in-town or out-of-town activities. This will not jeopardize a student's grade in any academic class where performances are required.
- All royalty candidates must meet the academic eligibility requirements.

High School Clubs

These clubs do not require the students to pay an activity fee. Participation in fundraising activities may be required and may have other fees associated with specific activities and/or competitions. Clubs may or may not be offered based on interest and staff availability. All clubs are approved annually by administration. The following list of clubs may or may not exist from one school year to the next. If a student chooses to participate, they are required to follow the expectations of the club along with all of the rights and responsibilities associated with the club.

- Academic Challenge
- Art/Culture Club
- Business Professionals of America (BPA)**
 - Students must have taken one Business class before joining.
- Club America/TPUSA
- Drama Club Fall Musical/Spring Play
- Family, Career and Community Leaders of America (FCCLA)**

- Open to current or previous Family and Consumer Science (FACS) students.
- Future Farmers of America (FFA)**
 - Students should be enrolled in a current Agricultural Education class preferably during the first semester to participate in FFA competitions.
- International (Spanish) Club
- LinkCrew Link Leaders
 - Juniors and Seniors and elected through an application process.
- Locomotive Express (Coffee Cart)
- National Honor Society
 - By invitation only.
- Outdoors/Adventure Club
- Poetry Slam/Club
- Science Olympics/Science Olympiad
- Student Council
 - Students selected through an application process.
- Western Way of Life
- We The People/Model UN

****CTSO = Career and Technical Student Organizations**

Class and Organization Funds

This section is designed to govern the gathering, depositing, disbursing and control of the funds of all student organizations, activities, clubs and associations.

All matters listed are considered as integral and legal parts of the general control of the school and shall at all times be the prerogative and the responsibility of the school administration or their delegate. No money making projects, special assessments or disbursements will be made without prior approval of the school administration or their delegate.

Specific rules designed to implement the above are as follows:

1. Levying of class dues will be permitted only if needed and then only with the permission of the principal. Disbursement and activities must be planned to keep within the income derived from accepted money making activities.
2. Money making projects or concessions granted to a particular group will continue only as long as needed to meet the needs of that group.
3. Monies derived from concessions or other approved money making projects are funds belonging to the high school and are not considered the property of individuals or individual groups. Therefore, funds will not be used for the personal gain or pleasure of individuals, but rather funds will be used for the benefit of the school activity or the school itself.
4. All faculty members are employees of the school district, and as part of their contract, are assigned extra duties, such as class or club sponsors, or as coaches, directors, or advisors. In fairness to all and to eliminate competition in giving, no gifts purchased from activity funds will be permitted.
5. No class or organizational funds shall be used for private parties, banquets, or other activities, except of those that may be held on school property and have the prior approval of the school administration.

National Honor Society

The purpose of the Laurel High School Chapter of the National Honor Society shall be to create an enthusiasm for scholarship, to stimulate a desire to render services, to promote worthy leadership, and to encourage the

development of character in students.

- Membership is eligible to students having a 3.25 cumulative grade point average. Failure to maintain a 3.00 GPA is cause for dismissal.
- All eligible students who desire to join may apply at the announced time.
- All participants will be reviewed by a faculty committee appointed by the high school principal. This committee will be composed of teachers, counselors, and administrators. The students will be judged in the areas of scholarship, leadership, character, and service. The students need a majority vote of approval by the committee to be inducted. Students may apply for membership any time after the first semester of their sophomore year.

Student Council

Qualifications for Student Body Officers: The President, Vice President, Secretary shall have been a member of the student council for at least one year previous to the date of election. Officers shall meet all eligibility requirements set down by the district and the MHSA.

Qualifications for Class Representatives: Officers shall meet all eligibility requirements set down by the district and the MHSA and shall be members of that class.

Current officers and representatives will be listed on the building webpage and posted inside of the building.

Dances

The school holds 2-3 dances per year (homecoming, winter formal or twirp, and prom). School dances are held Saturday nights on approved dates starting at 8:00pm and ending at 11:00pm. All students are expected to wear appropriate attire for the event. All students entering the building will be required to remain inside the dance area. Anyone leaving the designated area will not be permitted to return after the entrance time has passed.. No outside beverages or filled water bottles are allowed. The administration will lock the doors by 10:00pm. No one will be admitted to the dance after that time. Attendance will be confined to only Laurel High School students except where permission is granted. LHS students may bring a guest but must have Dance Guest paperwork ON FILE in the office at least 3 days in advance of the dance. Guests must be in 9th grade through age 20. If there are extenuating circumstances, please contact administration five days prior to the dance. Sponsoring groups are responsible for obtaining proper supervision and cleaning of the facility following the dance.

Extracurricular Activities

Laurel High School is a member of the South-Eastern Division Class "A" of the Montana High School Association. The sports are listed below. Interested students should contact the activities department.

Try-outs/auditions may be required.

There will be a \$75 Activity Fee per student, per activity, for any student who participates in any of the following activities. An activity card is included with this fee.

Girls Basketball
Boys Basketball
Girls Cross Country
Boys Cross Country
Girls Volleyball
Boys Football
Boys Wrestling
Girls Wrestling
Girls Softball
Cheerleading: Fall
Cheerleading: Winter

Girls Track and Field
Boys Track and Field
Girls Golf
Boys Golf
Girls Soccer
Boys Soccer
Speech, Drama, and Debate
Pep Band (must be enrolled in band)
Laurelares (must be enrolled in choir)
Boys Baseball

Sportsmanship

Laurel High School takes pride in its programs and fans and students alike are asked to project that Locomotive Pride by practicing sportsmanship at all our athletic events whether home or away. Please honor the following guidelines:

1. Know and demonstrate good sportsmanship. Good sportsmanship means always being positive with your response to the contest.
2. Be positive. Cheer for your team rather than against the opposition.
3. Respect and cooperate with the cheerleaders.
4. Respect the property of the school and the authority of the school officials and their designees.
5. Show respect for an injured player and do not heckle or jeer the opposing team.
6. Remember athletic contests and mood altering substances do not mix.
7. Do not use profanity in cheers or direct profane statements at officials, players, coaches or opposing cheering sections. Refrain from booing and name calling.
8. Do not single out opposing players personally and heckle them by directing derogatory or profane statements/chants at them. Racist remarks are never acceptable.
9. Do not advance on the court or field to protest or communicate with officials, coaches or players.
10. Do not direct offensive cheers/chants at opposing cheering sections.
11. Shirts must be worn at all contests.

Cheerleaders

Laurel High School has two (2) sets of cheerleading squads; one for the fall varsity sports and one for winter varsity sports. If enough students are interested in participating and if funding allows, there will be a Junior Varsity squad for each season. Each cheerleading squad consists of members chosen in the spring. The fall cheer squad will cheer for boys' football and girls' volleyball. The winter cheer squad will cheer boys' basketball and girls' basketball.

All efforts are made to accommodate cheerleaders who participate in other school activities during the year. Any conflicts will be addressed on an individual basis.

School Spirit

High School is a time for learning, growing, making good friends and having fun. One way to do this is to get involved in your school in a spirit of caring, sharing and good sportsmanship. Organizations, clubs and sports are here for you to become active in. They offer you not only a chance to make friends and have fun, but to give something of yourself -- your time and your talent to your school. Without you the extracurricular programs at LHS simply won't work. You are an important part of this school. You have something to give! Only with SPIRIT, DEDICATION and ENTHUSIASM can LHS be all it can be. Show your SCHOOL SPIRIT -- GET INVOLVED!!

School Song

Go Laurel High School,
Break right through that line.
With your colors flying,
We will cheer you all the time.
Go! Rah! Rah!
Go Laurel High School,
Fight for victory. - VICTORY!
Fight for the fame of our fair name
And Laurel High School win this game.

- - - Laurel High School Go!
- - - Laurel High School Go!

Go Laurel High School,
Break right through that line.
With your colors flying,
We will cheer you all the time.
Go! Rah! Rah!

Go Laurel High School,
Fight for victory. - VICTORY!

Fight for the fame of our fair name
And Laurel High School win this game

MHSA Spirit Guidelines



SUPPORT ITEMS ALLOWED AT POST SEASON EVENTS

The following sport support items are allowed for the specified sport. **ONLY** those items marked with "YES" are allowed during post season play (district, divisional, and state). It is recommended that schools follow these regulations during regular season play.

SPORT	BB	CC	FB	GO	SB	SO	SW	TE	TR	VB	WR
Banners on wall/stadium	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Confetti/Paper debris	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No
Air Horns	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No
Noise makers (horns, cow bells, bells, buzzers, clickers, plastic containers, or any artificial or mechanical noisemakers – including Thundersticks)	No	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	No	No	Yes	No	No
Running flag around the floor, field	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No
50-50 drawings	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No
Formation of "rally lines" by spectators, fans, and/or students	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No
During introductions – players leaving the playing floor or entering spectator section	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No
Players (or anyone else) throwing objects into spectator section	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No
Laser Lights	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No
Pom Poms (shakers)	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Spirit Towels	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Balloons	The use of balloons will be determined by each individual facility or site for district and divisional tournaments. <u>Balloons are not allowed at indoor state tournaments.</u> Balloons cannot be used as noisemakers, e.g. popped or squeezed, at any basketball game (regular season or tournament).										

Additional items/activities that are deemed unsafe and/or unsporting or that interfere with competition may be prohibited by tournament management.

Legend:

BB — Basketball	SB — Softball	TR — Track & Field
CC — Cross Country	SO — Soccer	VB — Volleyball
FB — Football	SW — Swimming	WR — Wrestling
GO — Golf	TE — Tennis	

M:\Word Docs\Reference Manual\SUPPORT ITEMS Allowed at Post Season.doc

Behavior and Discipline

The school recognizes the need for a fair and reasonable procedure to assure each individual of his/her rights. Faculty and administration will make every effort to informally resolve student disciplinary problems at the earliest indication that a problem exists. If informal procedures do not correct the disciplinary problem, students will be given the opportunity to know what rule was broken, the basis for the accusation, and the right to present his/her side of the situation. Parents/guardians may be notified depending upon the severity of the offense.

The Teacher's Role in Discipline

The teacher has the primary responsibility and authority for the maintenance of discipline in the classroom, in the school building, and on the school grounds. The teacher and student should first try to solve problems on an informal basis. The teacher should contact parents/guardians to seek their support in working out problems when difficulties arise. The teacher will follow the student handbook and the classroom management plan when addressing classroom behaviors. If this fails to resolve the problem, the teacher should contact the principal or assistant principal for advice and help to work out the conflict as much as possible.

Teachers have the authority to:

- Deny certain classroom privileges.
- Assign specific tasks to assist the resolution of the problem.
- Use such reasonable measures as may be necessary to maintain control in the classroom, in the school building, on the school grounds, and on the way to and from school.
- Remove a student temporarily from the classroom by sending them to the office.
- Partner with counselors and administration to determine next steps.
- Complete a discipline referral to document the situation and request further remediation.

The Administrator's Role in Discipline

Teachers exercising reasonable disciplinary judgment will be supported by the principal/assistant principal and other administrators of the school district. If the teacher's efforts to solve the problem are unsuccessful, the student may be referred to the principal or assistant principal.

The principal and assistant principal have the authority to assign detention time or impose suspension on students for failure to comply with school regulations. If it should become necessary, the principal can recommend to the Superintendent of Schools the exclusion or expulsion of students.

Forms of Discipline-Definitions

The LHS Progressive Discipline Plan will be the first document of referral.

A. Suspension

A suspension may be an in-school (ISS) or an out-of-school (OSS) placement. ISS will begin at 8:15 am and go through the end of the school day including lunch. The student will be supervised, will not be allowed to leave campus throughout the day, and should plan to bring lunch or get lunch from the cafeteria. If a student has an out of school suspension, the student will not be allowed to attend any school activity or be on any school property during the time of the out of school suspension. In special cases, the principal may request an extension of suspension from the Superintendent of Schools or his/her designee.

B. Expulsion from School

A student may be expelled only by the Board of Trustees.

When deciding the consequence, the administration will first consult the LHS Progressive Discipline Plan and then consider the following:

1. Severity of the action
2. Frequency of the action

3. Student's discipline history
4. Potential for further inappropriate action

Appeal Process

Parents or guardians may appeal a disciplinary action by contacting the assistant principal or principal requesting an appeal. The assigned discipline will be suspended pending the outcome of the appeal. A disciplinary appeal will involve a reassessment of the circumstances of the incident and a determination of whether the discipline assigned was appropriate or not. The progression of appeal begins with either the assistant principal or the principal and then if necessary proceeds to the district superintendent and then the school board.

The following Board of Trustees Policies are a few that are in effect related to student discipline, expectations, and consequences. The updated and complete policies are available for reference on the Laurel Public Schools Website: STUDENT DISCIPLINE-POLICY 3310

Tobacco Free Policy

All school district property is hereby declared tobacco-free for all students. Use of possession of tobacco products by minors is both against the law and district policy. No use or possession of tobacco will be permitted on Laurel School District grounds or facilities. Limitations or prohibitions on tobacco use are applicable during all hours. Additionally, the high school includes in this category all e-cigarettes and supplies, vape devices and supplies.

Policies 2337 and 2337P

All penalties for infractions related to any of these policies are addressed using the LHS Progressive Discipline Plan first. Additionally, there are penalties assessed for students participating in extracurricular athletics and activities. Refer to the LPS Student Activities Handbook for more information.

Search and Seizure - Policy Reference 3231 & 3231P

Please see noted policies for full updated text of the policy. In summary, the principal, the superintendent or other such staff designated by the superintendent shall have the authority to conduct student searches. School authorities may inspect and search school property and equipment owned or controlled by the school (such as lockers, desks, and parking lots), as well as personal effects left there by the student, without notice to, or consent of, the student. This includes search of student automobiles when there is a reasonable suspicion and it is parked on school property.

Students are permitted to park on school premises as a matter of privilege, not of right. The school district retains the authority to conduct routine patrols of student parking lots. The interiors of student vehicles may be subject to search whenever a school official has reasonable suspicion to believe the vehicle contains contraband, a substance or object the possession of which is illegal, or any material which poses a hazard to the safety and order of the school.

A student shall be free from searches of his/her clothing and other personal property unless there is reasonable suspicion to believe that the student is concealing contraband. If that cause exists, an administrator shall request the student to remove all items from pockets or other personal effects. If the student refuses and there is no immediate danger, the administrator shall refrain from a search until the parent, guardian or, in the case of possible criminal activity, law enforcement officers are contacted. If a search produces evidence that the student has violated or is violating either the law or the district's policies or rules, such evidence may be seized and impounded by school authorities, and disciplinary action may be taken. When appropriate, such evidence may be transferred to law enforcement authorities.

School authorities may request the presence of law enforcement officials to conduct inspections and searches of lockers, desks, parking lots, and other school property and equipment for illegal drugs, weapons, or other illegal or dangerous substances or material including searches conducted through the use of specially trained dogs. School authorities may authorize the use of canines whose reliability and accuracy for sniffing out contraband has been established to aid in the search for contraband in school owned property and in automobiles on school property.

Gun Free Schools

In accordance with the provisions of the Gun-Free Schools Act. 20 YUSC 3351 and applicable state law, any student who brings a firearm onto school property, except as provided below, shall be expelled for a period of not less than one calendar year unless modified by the board of trustees, upon a recommendation from the district superintendent. In accordance with the provisions of the Gun-Free School Zones Act. 18 USC 922(q) and applicable state law, students and other authorized persons may bring unloaded firearms onto school property for use in instructional activities with the prior written permission of the district superintendent. At the conclusion of the activity, the firearms must be immediately removed from school property. No student shall possess any firearm, without authorization, on the way to and from school, or during intermission or recess. Violation of this provision shall result in discipline up to and including expulsion. The term "firearm" shall be defined as provided in 18 USC 921. This term shall include any weapon which is designed, or may be readily converted, to expel a projectile by the action of an explosive, the frame or receiver of any such weapon, a muffler, or silencer of such a weapon, or any explosive, incendiary or poison gas. In addition, this policy shall apply to any object brought to school with the expressed purpose of being used to threaten or cause bodily injury. If a student violating this policy is identified as a child with disabilities either under the IDEA or Section 504, a determination must be made whether the child's conduct is related to the disability. If the violation of the policy is due to a disability recognized by the IDEA or Section 504, lawful procedures for changes in placement must be followed for suspensions of greater than ten days. Any student subject to expulsion shall be entitled to a hearing before the board of trustees in accordance with Section 20-5-202, MCA. Nothing in this policy shall prevent the board of trustees from making an alternative placement for a student in lieu of expulsion provided that such placement removes the student from the regular school program. The district shall keep a record of all students disciplined under this policy and the circumstances surrounding their discipline, including the number of students expelled and the types of weapons involved. This information shall be provided to local law enforcement authorities and other governmental agencies as required by law. Items which are used to disrupt or interfere with the educational process may be temporarily removed from a student's possession. Confiscated materials may, at the discretion of school personnel, be turned over to law enforcement authorities.

Behavioral Expectations

The Laurel School District believes in a positive approach to supporting students in developing a healthy, well-balanced way of life.

Student Infractions

Along with parents/guardians, it is our responsibility to teach students behavioral expectations which will allow them to be successful not only as a young person but as an adult. Teachers are encouraged to redirect and reteach expected behaviors; however, if the student does not make the choice to correct their behavior, they may receive consequences from the teacher or an office referral.

If a student's actions require an out-of-school suspension (OSS), parents will be notified in writing. Parents/guardians will have complete custody and jurisdiction of their child during the suspension. Students are expected to reach out to teachers for assignments and complete schoolwork during their suspension for full credit. Make up quizzes/tests should be completed as soon as possible upon return. If students need assistance while completing the work, it is the family's responsibility to contact the student's teachers and administration so arrangements can be made.

A student who is suspended cannot be on any Laurel School District property or at any District sponsored activities during the suspension time. If a student is directed by administration to be on school grounds for academic assistance all necessary parties will be notified.

Progressive Discipline Matrix

Laurel High School administration uses a progressive discipline matrix. Consequences will vary from student conferences with administrators to detentions or suspensions, possibly including expulsion with many variations in between. The matrix is a reference and guidance tool for administration. All final disciplinary consequences will remain at the discretion of the administrator investigating the behavior. Parents will be contacted for repeated or serious infractions (beyond detention). For minor first time infractions, administrators like for the student to improve their behavior independently. *Disciplinary measures include but are not limited to those found in the rubric.

Infraction (per high school career) All infractions in this section require parent notification.	1st offense	2nd offense	3rd offense
- Alcohol/illegal substance: under influence, possession or distribution (including THC vapes) - Weapons other than firearms (district policy 3311) - Assault - Explosives/fireworks - Vandalism/destruction of property	Up to 5 days OSS. Notify law enforcement. Possibly ask to cite. Possible expulsion. (Vandalism/destruction of property includes school restitution for all offenses.)	Up to 10 days OSS. Notify law enforcement. Possibly ask to cite. Possible expulsion.	Administrative determination. Notification of law enforcement. Possibly ask to cite. Possible expulsion.
Tobacco/E-Cigs/Vape devices (possession or use)	1 day OSS. Notify law enforcement. Ask to cite.	Up to 3 days OSS. Notify law enforcement. Ask to cite.	Up to 5 days OSS. Notify law enforcement. Ask to cite.
Academic dishonesty	ISS or OSS. Repeat alternate assignment under supervision. Parent conference	Up to 3 days OSS. Parent conference. Repeat alternate assignment.	Administrative determination.
- Theft/possession of stolen item(s) - Fighting/inciting a fight - Involvement with or failure to report false fire alarm, bomb threat or arson - Threats (verbal or written) - Pornographic material (RUP also applies for consequences)	Up to 3 days OSS. Notify law enforcement.	Up to 5 days OSS. Notify law enforcement. Possible expulsion.	Administrative determination. Notification of law enforcement. Possible expulsion.
- False fire alarm - Bomb threat - Arson	Up to 10 days OSS. Notify law enforcement. Ask to cite. Possible expulsion. School restitution.	Administrative determination. Notification of law enforcement. Ask to cite. Possible expulsion. School restitution.	

Infractions (per year)	1st offense	2nd offense	3rd offense
• Inappropriate or disruptive behavior • Insubordinate/disrespectful to school staff • Inappropriate paraphernalia (lighters, matches, poppers, etc.) • Profanity/inappropriate gestures	Student conference. Up to 3 days detention. Possible ISS/OSS which would include parent contact.	Up to 5 days detention. Possible ISS/OSS. Parent contact.	Up to 3 days ISS/OSS. Parent meeting. Possible behavior contract.
• Electronic device violation (cell phone, headphones, earbuds, smart wearables) (per semester) • Unauthorized computer device in use at school.	Student conference. Device returned at the end of the day	Parent pick up of device	Detention/ISS; parent pick up of device. Parent/student/admin meeting as needed.
4th offense - ISS/daily check in for the next 20 school days. 5th offense - administrator discretion, may include behavior plan, parent meeting, and/or detention/suspension.			
• Dress code violations	Warning/correction required.	Up to 3 days detention. Parent notification. Dress correction required.	Possible ISS. Parent contact. Dress correction required.
• In the hallway without a pass • Public display of affection. • Refusal to identify one's self	Warning/student conference.	Up to 3 days detention. Student conference.	Up to 5 days detention or ISS. Parent contact.
• Bullying, harassment, intimidation	Student conference. Detentions or ISS depending on severity. Parent contact. No-contact contract offered.	Up to 3 days ISS/OSS. Parent contact. Student conference. Possible behavior contract. No-contact contract implemented.	Up to 5 days OSS. Parent conference. Notify law enforcement. Possible expulsion. No-contact contract implemented.
• Dishonesty to staff	Possible detentions or up to 3 days ISS/OSS depending on severity. Parent contact. Student	Up to 5 days OSS depending on severity. Parent contact. Student conference. Academic dishonesty	Administrative determination.

	conference. Academic dishonesty includes alternate assignment.	includes alternate assignment.	
- Excessive tardies - Truancy	Student conference. Warnings. Detentions	Parent contact. Detention or ISS.	Parent meeting, Attendance plan
Other offenses not listed, including parking lot infractions	Administrative discretion. Will include student conferences, parent contacts. May include school restitution, detention, suspensions, parking restrictions, or notification of law enforcement. ** See policy 3310		

Definitions of Student Infractions

Abusive or Threatening Language	Any communication that includes swearing, name-calling or use of words which immediately creates fear of harm. This is completed without displaying a weapon and without subjecting the victim to actual physical attack. Making a threat either direct or veiled toward another student or a staff member.
Arson	Student plans and/or participates in malicious burning of school or personal property. The damage, or attempted damage, is intentional and unlawful. The fire may be started with any type of incendiary device.
Assault	One student intentionally causes or attempts to cause physical bodily harm to another individual (staff or student). These actions differ from fighting in that the second individual does not participate.
Bullying Behaviors	The act of one or more individuals intimidating one or more persons (who have difficulty defending themselves) negatively and over time through verbal, physical, mental, cyber or written interactions.
Disrespect/insubordination/non-compliance	Repeated refusal to follow directions, repeatedly talking back, and/or socially rude interactions. Students who definitely swear or use profanity at staff members or adults will receive an automatic office referral.
Disruption of Learning Environment	Sustained behavior that causes an interruption in a class or activity. Disruption may include the following: sustained loud talk, yelling, screaming, noise with material, and/or sustained out-of-seat behavior.
Dress Code Violation	The wearing of clothing that does not fit within the dress code guidelines.
Encouraging a Conflict	Behavior encouraging two (2) or more students to engage in physical contact /verbal conflict while not being directly involved in the conflict.
False Fire Alarm/Bomb Threat	The student deliberately triggers the fire alarm or delivers a message/threat of a pending fire. Student delivers a message of possible explosive materials being on-campus, near campus, and/or pending explosion.

Abusive or Threatening Language	Any communication that includes swearing, name-calling or use of words which immediately creates fear of harm. This is completed without displaying a weapon and without subjecting the victim to actual physical attack. Making a threat either direct or veiled toward another student or a staff member.
Arson	Student plans and/or participates in malicious burning of school or personal property. The damage, or attempted damage, is intentional and unlawful. The fire may be started with any type of incendiary device.
Assault	One student intentionally causes or attempts to cause physical bodily harm to another individual (staff or student). These actions differ from fighting in that the second individual does not participate.
Bullying Behaviors	The act of one or more individuals intimidating one or more persons (who have difficulty defending themselves) negatively and over time through verbal, physical, mental, cyber or written interactions.
Disrespect/insubordination/non-compliance	Repeated refusal to follow directions, repeatedly talking back, and/or socially rude interactions. Students who definitely swear or use profanity at staff members or adults will receive an automatic office referral.
Fighting	Actions involving serious physical contact where injury may occur. Students are mutually participating in the conflict. There is no one main offender and no major injury. Examples may include the following: hitting, punching, hitting with an object, kicking, hair pulling, scratching, etc. These actions differ from assault in that both individuals are participants.
Forgery/Theft	A student is in possession of, having passed on, or being responsible for removing someone else's property. This includes signing a person's name without the person's permission.
Insubordination	Failing to follow the reasonable and appropriate directions of school personnel; disrespect or profanity towards school personnel. Failure to cooperate with school personnel which interferes with the educational process, verbal abuse or defiance of school personnel, failure to follow a reasonable request or directive from school personnel and/or failure to identify one's self to proper school authorities are prohibited
Harassing/Intimidating Behaviors	defined as threatening, insulting, and dehumanizing gestures, use of technology, computer software or written, verbal or physical conduct directed against a student or employee that places a student or employee in reasonable fear of harm to his or her person or damage to his or her property.
Larceny (theft, stealing)	The unlawful taking of another person's property without threat, violence or bodily harm. This differs from robbery in that larceny does not involve a threat or battery.
Possession or Use of Alcohol	Student is in possession of alcohol or is using alcohol.
Possession or Use of Drugs	Student is in possession of illegal drugs/substances, is using illegal drugs/substances, or is under the influence of illegal drugs/substances. This also includes imitations. The selling, manufacturing, or distributing of illegal drugs/substances is considered being in possession or use of drugs.
Possession or Use of Inhalants	Student is in possession of inhalants or is under the influence of inhalants. This includes "huffing" or inhaling mind-altering substances.

Possession or Use of Weapons	Student is in possession of knives or guns (real or look alike) or other objects designed or converted to cause bodily harm. This also covers a device designed as a weapon capable of threatening or producing great bodily harm or death. A firearm must expel a projectile by the action of an explosive or a propelled object.
Public Display of Affection (PDA) / Inappropriate Display of Affection	Physical contact including, but not limited to intimate touching, hand holding, fondling, cuddling, and kissing between students. This type of behavior can quickly become a distraction for the students engaging in or observing the situation. These actions are consensual (without force or threat of force) but are not appropriate to the environment.
Refusal to identify self	All persons must, upon request, identify themselves to proper school authorities in the school building, on school grounds, or at school-sponsored events. All students, staff and visitors MUST have an ID Badge or visitor badge for identification purposes during the school day. Students must be able to present their ID badge upon request to staff.
Robbery	Taking, or attempting to take, anything of value that is owned by another person or organizations. Items are taken under confrontational circumstances by violence, force, or threat of force. This differs from larceny in that robbery involves threat or battery.
Skiping/Tuancy	Student leaves class/school without permission or stays out of class/school without permission.
Technology/Electronic Device Violation	Student engages in inappropriate (as defined by OSD) use of school email, cell phone, ear buds, smart wearables, pager, music/video players, camera, and/or computer.
Tobacco	Student is in possession of tobacco or is using tobacco. The selling or distribution of tobacco products is considered being in possession of tobacco.
Vandalism	Student participates in an activity that results in substantial destruction, disfigurement, or defacement of school or personal property. This destruction is willful and/or malicious. Tagging is considered to be an act of vandalism.

District Information

Board of Trustees

Christopher Lorash, Chair	christopher_lorash@laurel.k12.mt.us
Jennifer Jones, Vice Chair	jennifer_jones@laurel.k12.mt.us
Donnie McVee	donnie_mcvee@laurel.k12.mt.us
Kayla Gray	kayla_gray@laurel.k12.mt.us
Nowell Hoff	nowell_hoff@laurel.k12.mt.us
Raelynn Meissner	raelynn_meissner@laurel.k12.mt.us
Vanessa Lawrence-Long	vanessa_lawrence-long@laurel.k12.mt.us

District Administration

Matt Torix matthew_torix@laurel.k12.mt.us
Charla Wetsch charla_wetsch@laurel.k12.mt.us

Superintendent
Director of Curriculum, Assessment, and
Professional Development
Director of Student Services

Christina Petersen christina_petersen@laurel.k12.mt.us

Nondiscrimination

Discrimination in education because of sex, race, color, creed, religion, national origin, age, and physical or mental handicap, and political belief, marital or parental status is prohibited unless based upon reasonable grounds as provided by law. The district is committed to taking any appropriate and feasible remedial action necessary to eliminate existing discrimination and its effects. (Policy 3210) Please see District Policy manual for the most up to date policy.

Inquiries regarding sexual harassment, sex discrimination, or sexual intimidation should be directed to the District Title IX Coordinator, to the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights of the Department of Education, or both. The Board designates the following individual to serve as the District's Title IX Coordinator:

Title: Christina Petersen, Director of Student Services
Office address: 606 S. 5th Street, Laurel, MT
Email: christina_petersen@laurel.k12.mt.us
Phone number: 406-628-3360

Inquiries regarding discrimination on the basis of disability or requests for accommodation should be directed to the District Section 504 Coordinator. The Board designates the following individual to serve as the District's Section 504 Coordinator:

Title: Christina Petersen, Director of Student Services
Office Address: 606 S. 5th Street, Laurel, MT
Email: christina_petersen@laurel.k12.mt.us
Phone number: 406-628-3360

Any individual may file a complaint alleging violation of this policy, Policy 3200-Student Rights and Responsibilities, Policy 3225/3225P-Sexual Harassment, or Policy 3226-Bullying/Harassment/Intimidation/Hazing by following those policies or Policy 1700-Uniform Complaint Procedure.

Student Rights and Responsibilities

RIGHT	RESPONSIBILITY
Obtain an education at public expense and participate in the school program.	Attend all classes daily, prepared and on time. Pursue courses of study prescribed by state and local authorities and carefully select electives based upon interest and need.
Expect the schools to be a reasonably safe place for all students to gain an education.	Assist and cooperate with the school faculty, staff, and administrators who are responsible for providing a safe school.
Attend and participate in school meetings, assemblies and other co-curricular activities conducted for business or entertainment.	Be on time, participate and show consideration for performers, and remain until the event is finished.
Use school equipment, books and materials.	Take care of them and return them upon request.
Attend classes in which teachers are providing learning environments, materials and instruction and in which grades are fairly assigned.	Attend school, be an active learner, complete all work and participate as an active learner in the classroom.
Receive the benefits of education programs without restrictions based on race, color, national origin.	Take discrimination grievances to officials according to the grievance procedure.
Observe any religion without the school requiring, establishing or conducting religious exercises.	Respect the religious beliefs and observances of others.
Benefit from any educational program without restrictions based on sex discrimination.	Take any discrimination grievance to the appropriate person according to the school's grievance procedure.
Be represented by an active student government selected by school elections.	Take an active part in student government by running for office or voting for the best candidates; make student problems known through the student council.
Express opinions orally or in writing.	Express opinions in a respectful manner.

Student Code of Conduct

Our mission: The Laurel School District is dedicated to the individual development of each student every day, without exception.

This Code of Conduct outlines the expectations for student behavior in our school community and provides a framework for a positive and productive educational experience.

Respect:

- Treat everyone in the school community – peers, staff, and visitors – with respect, kindness, and dignity.

- Creating a supportive and respectful environment is our priority. We encourage kindness and positive interactions. Let's work together to promote a community where everyone feels safe and valued.
- Safety is a priority; therefore, physically aggressive behavior will not be tolerated. This includes, but is not limited to, disrespecting personal space, inappropriate physical contact (hitting, spitting, kicking, pushing, grabbing, etc.).
- Actively listening and respecting others is encouraged at Laurel Public Schools. Being open minded, showing empathy, and understanding differences are part of our culture.
- Use appropriate language at all times. Derogatory, discriminatory, or harmful language is unacceptable.
- Respect personal space and the property of others. Keep hands, feet, body, and objects to yourself. Respect the belongings of others.

Academic Integrity:

- Academic excellence and honesty are important at Laurel Public Schools. Submit your own work.
- Complete all assignments to the best of your ability and on time.
- Seek help from teachers or peers if you are struggling with your work.

Attendance and Punctuality:

- Attend school regularly and arrive at class on time.
- Upon return to school, it is the responsibility of the student to complete work missed.

Safety and Security:

- Follow all school rules and safety procedures.
- Follow the directions of all school staff.
- Report any concerns regarding safety, including bullying/intimidation, threats, or possession of prohibited items to a teacher or administrator immediately.
- Possession of weapons (including facsimile weapons), drugs, alcohol, or any illegal substances is strictly forbidden on school grounds.

Use of Technology:

- Use technology resources and internet access responsibly for educational purposes only.
- Keep your information and the information of others private.
- Always have a person's permission to record, photograph, or share.
- Cyberbullying or using technology to harm others is unacceptable.

Dress Code:

- Dress in a manner that is appropriate for a learning environment.
- Follow all dress codes as addressed in each student handbook.

Equal Educational Opportunity, Nondiscrimination, and Sex Equity

Sensitive topics

Policy #2335 states: Health, family life, and sex education, including information about parts of the body, reproduction, and related topics, will be included in the instructional program as appropriate to grade level and course of study (lines 7-9). In accordance with Board policy, parents may ask to review materials to be used and may request that their child be excluded from human sexuality education or instruction class sessions without prejudice. (lines 10-12). Please ensure that your contact information, especially your mailing address, is kept up to date at the school office.

9	HIV/AIDS	Health Enhancement Curriculum	PE/Health Teacher(s)
	Teen Health Risks (STIs)	Health Enhancement Curriculum	PE/Health Teacher(s)
10	Teen Relationships	Health Enhancement Curriculum	PE/Health Teacher(s)
	Sexual/Asexual Reproduction (no direct instruction on human sexuality)	Biology Curriculum: Science of Biology, Cell Reproduction, Genetics	Science Teacher(s)
11/12	Sexual/Asexual Reproduction (no direct instruction on human sexuality)	Biology 2 Curriculum: Evolution of Populations	Science Teacher(s)
	Animal Reproduction & Embryonic Development (no direct instruction on human sexuality)	Biology 2 Curriculum: Animal Systems	Science Teacher(s)
	Fertility Rates (no direct instruction on human sexuality)	Honors Environmental Science Curriculum: Populations	Science Teacher(s)

Sexual Harassment

Our goal is to have a school where students can learn without pressure from sexual harassment. Any student who feels they have been sexually harassed is encouraged to report this violation to the Principal, Assistant Principal, or any teacher, or parent/guardian. Students have the right to learn and participate in activities free of sexual harassment, the right to get help from your school to stop it, the right to be free from retaliation or intimidation if you report it. Students also have the responsibility to learn about sexual harassment, to take it seriously, to tell the harasser to stop, and to stop your friends and classmates when they harass others. Please report all forms of harassment. The full up to date policy on this topic can be found in the district policy manual, Policy 3225, 3225-P(1), 3225-NF (1)

Title IX

Title IX is a federal civil rights law passed as part of the Education Amendments of 1972 in the United States, which states: "No person in the United States shall, on the basis of sex, be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any education program or activity receiving Federal financial assistance." This law applies to all public education institutions.

Laurel Public Schools takes violations of Title IX very seriously and will investigate all complaints immediately. If you feel your student has been the victim of a Title IX violation, whereas the harassment or discrimination is sexual in nature, you are urged to immediately reach out to your school principal or the Title IX Coordinator.

When a school receives a complaint that could be a potential violation of Title IX, it is required to act promptly and effectively to investigate and resolve the complaint. The school's actions must be in compliance with Title IX regulations and guidance from the U.S. Department of Education's Office for Civil Rights (OCR) and District Policy 3225. Here are the steps our district takes upon receiving such a complaint:

1. Immediate Action: The school takes immediate action to ensure that the parties are safe. This might involve temporary measures such as changing class schedules or providing extra support. The school will notify the Title IX Coordinator.
2. Formal Investigation: The Title IX Coordinator will initiate a formal investigation into the complaint. This investigation will be fair, impartial, and provide both parties an opportunity to present their side of the story and any evidence they have. If the Title IX Coordinator deems that it does not rise to the level of Title IX, the matter will be forwarded to the principal of the school for a Code of Conduct violation.
3. Resolution Process: Based on the investigation, the Title IX Decision Maker will determine whether a Title IX violation occurred. The determination will be based on a preponderance of the evidence (whether it is more likely than not that a violation occurred).
4. Taking Action: If a Title IX violation has occurred, the district will take appropriate action to stop the discrimination, prevent its recurrence, and remedy its effects. This may include disciplinary actions against the respondent, providing support services to the parties, and implementing school-wide training or policy changes, if necessary.
5. Right to Appeal: Both parties will be informed of the outcome of the investigation and will have the right to appeal the decision if the conditions of appeal are met as outlined in District Policy 3225.

Title IX Coordinator

Christina Petersen christina_petersen@laurel.k12.mt.us 406-628-3360

Homeless Assistance Letter

Laurel Public Schools
Christina Petersen Director of Student Services
School District No. 7 & 7-70
606 South 5th St.
Laurel, Montana 59044
Office (406)628-3360 ext. 3311 Christina_Petersen@laurel.k12.mt.us
Fax (406)628-3375
Website: www.laurel.k12.mt.us

June 6, 2026

Dear Families,

Immediate Enrollment & Documentation Assistance and Resource Support

(McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act, 42 U.S.C. § 11432(g)(1)(J); ESSA Title IX, Part A)

Laurel Public Schools ensures immediate enrollment of students experiencing homelessness, regardless of whether they can produce records typically required for enrollment, including proof of residency, birth certificates, immunization/medical records, school records, or guardianship documentation.

Once a student is identified as experiencing homelessness (through the enrollment questionnaire, referral, or self-identification), the district's McKinney-Vento Liaison, Christina Petersen, in the Student Services Office, works directly with the family to identify which documents are missing and assists in obtaining them. This assistance includes:

- Contacting the student's previous school(s) to request transfer of academic records, special education records (IEPs/504 plans), and attendance history
- Coordinating with local or state vital records offices to help families obtain copies of birth certificates
- Working with the local health department or clinic to access or update immunization records, and coordinating access to immunization services if needed
- Assisting families with proof of guardianship or custody documentation when a student is not living with a parent
- Referring families to community partners (e.g., Department of Public Health and Human Services, shelters, or other social service agencies) for additional document assistance as needed
- Assisting with food, shelter, and other resources and necessities

Christina Petersen maintains contact with the family throughout this process until all necessary records are obtained. All outreach and assistance is documented and maintained on file, including a contact log, email correspondence with families and outside agencies, any completed forms, and case notes from meetings with families. No student is denied enrollment or excluded from full participation in school activities while these records are being obtained. Christina will assist with housing appointments and contacting local shelters if parents or unaccompanied youth need assistance.

Thank you,
Christina Petersen

Director of Student Services
Office: 406-628-3360 ext 3311
Email: Christina_Petersen@laurel.k12.mt.us

Section 504

SECTION 504 prohibits discrimination on the basis of handicap in admission or treatment of

students, or in most employment practices.

SECTION 504 COORDINATORS	SECTION 504 CASE MANAGERS	504 COMPLIANCE OFFICER
Student Services Director	Building Counselor	Student Services Director
606 S. 5th Street	203 East Eighth Street	606 S. 5th Street
Laurel, Montana 59044	Laurel, Montana 59044	Laurel, Montana 59044
(406) 628-3360	(406) 628-3500	(406) 628-3360

Immediate Enrollment & Documentation Assistance and Resource Support

(McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act, 42 U.S.C. § 11432(g)(1)(J); ESSA Title IX, Part A)

Laurel Public Schools ensures immediate enrollment of students experiencing homelessness, regardless of whether they can produce records typically required for enrollment, including proof of residency, birth certificates, immunization/medical records, school records, or guardianship documentation.

Once a student is identified as experiencing homelessness (through the enrollment questionnaire, referral, or self-identification), the district's McKinney-Vento Liaison, Christina Petersen, in the Student Services Office, works directly with the family to identify which documents are missing and assists in obtaining them. This assistance includes:

- Contacting the student's previous school(s) to request transfer of academic records, special education records (IEPs/504 plans), and attendance history
- Coordinating with local or state vital records offices to help families obtain copies of birth certificates
- Working with the local health department or clinic to access or update immunization records, and coordinating access to immunization services if needed
- Assisting families with proof of guardianship or custody documentation when a student is not living with a parent
- Referring families to community partners (e.g., Department of Public Health and Human Services, shelters, or other social service agencies) for additional document assistance as needed
- Assisting with food, shelter, and other resources and necessities

Christina Petersen maintains contact with the family throughout this process until all necessary records are obtained. All outreach and assistance is documented and maintained on file, including a contact log, email correspondence with families and outside agencies, any completed forms, and case notes from meetings with families. No student is denied enrollment or excluded from full participation in school activities while these records are being obtained. Christina Petersen will assist with housing appointments and contacting local shelters if parents or unaccompanied youth need assistance.

Office: 406-628-3360 ext 3311

Email: Christina.Petersen@laurel.k12.mt.us

Missing Child Photo Repository

The repository is authorized by Montana Code Annotated (20-7-1317, MCA) and requires the Montana Office of Public Instruction (OPI) to create and maintain an electronic directory photograph repository of all Montana students for the exclusive purpose of locating missing school-age children. Please visit <https://doimt.gov/missing-persons/> to find more information about missing school-age children.

LOCOMOTIVE STRONG:

**BE RESPONSIBLE;
BE RESPECTFUL;
BE A GRADUATE**