

Covington High School

9-12 Student Handbook



807 Chestnut Street
Covington, Ohio 45318
937-473-3746
Fax #937-473-3730

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Amended: JUNE 15, 2026

Welcome to CHS - The Home of the Buccs!

2026-2027

**Covington High School
Student/Parent Handbook**

Welcome to Covington High School! It is a pleasure to have you as a student, and we will do our best to help make your experience here as enjoyable and successful as possible. To help provide a safe and productive learning environment for students, staff, parents and visitors, the Board of Education approves this updated Student/Parent Handbook annually to explain students' opportunities, rights, responsibilities and consequences for misbehavior.

Parents are expected to read, review and discuss the information in this handbook with their children. Teachers will also review this handbook with students at the beginning of the school year.

We have high expectations for all of our students at Covington High School. It is our hope that each student will come to school with a positive attitude and a desire to be successful. We also expect each student to be Kind, Respectful, and Responsible to follow the rules and regulations as set forth in this handbook.

It is our responsibility, as a staff, to do whatever is necessary to help you be successful. We are here for you and we encourage you to make the most of your time at Covington High School. There are numerous clubs, sports teams, and organizations which you can join. However, you must always remember, gaining an education is the reason we are here. Academic success creates limitless options for your future!

Again, please take the time to become familiar with the important information in this Handbook. If you have any questions, please contact us at 937-473-3746.

Thank you, and GO BUCCS!

Website & Socials

www.covington.k12.oh.us

Instagram: @buccshighschool

Civil Rights Compliance

The Covington Exempted Village Schools District Civil Rights Compliance Officer is the Superintendent. The Superintendent may be reached through the school district office at (937) 473-2252.

Time Schedules

Regular Bell Schedule

1st Period	8:10 - 8:53
2nd Period	8:56 - 9:39
3rd Period	9:42 - 10:25
4th Period	10:28 - 11:11
5A Class	11:14 - 11:57
(5A Lunch: 11:14 - 11:44 / 5B Lunch: 12:00 - 12:30)	
5B Class	11:47 - 12:30
6th Period	12:33 - 1:19
7th Period	1:22 - 2:05
8th Period (High School)	2:08 - 2:54
Dismissal of all grades:	9 - 12: 2:54 pm

2 Hour Delay Schedule

1st Period	10:10 - 10:39
2nd Period	10:42 - 11:11
5A Class	11:14 - 11:57
(5A Lunch: 11:14 - 11:44 / 5B Lunch: 12:00 - 12:30)	
5B Class	11:47 - 12:30
3rd Period	12:33 - 1:01
4th Period	1:04 - 1:29
6th Period	1:32 - 1:57
7th Period	2:00 - 2:25
8th Period (High School)	2:28 - 2:54
Dismissal of all grades:	9 - 12: 2:54 pm

Early Dismissal

1st Period	8:10 - 8:37
2nd Period	8:40 - 9:08
3rd Period	9:11 - 9:38
4th Period	9:41 - 10:08
6th Period	10:11 - 10:38
7th Period	10:41 - 11:11
5A Class	11:14 - 11:57
(5A Lunch: 11:14 - 11:44 / 5B Lunch: 12:00 - 12:30)	
5B Class	11:47 -12:30
8th Period (Junior High)	12:33 - 12:57
8th Period (High School)	12:33 - 12:54
Dismissal of all grades: 9-12:	12:54 pm

Homeroom (When Needed)

1st Period	8:10 - 8:48
2nd Period	8:51 - 9:29
3rd Period	9:32 - 10:11
4th Period	10:14 - 10:53
Homeroom	10:56 - 11:11
5A Class	11:14 - 11:57
5A Lunch	11:14 - 11:44
5B Class	11:47 -12:30
5B Lunch	12:00 - 12:30
6th Period	12:33 - 1:19
7th Period	1:22 - 2:05
8th Period	2:08 - 2:54

Lockers

Student lockers are the property of the school and may be inspected at any time. Each student is assigned a locker at the beginning of the school year. It is to be used for storing books, coats, and other personal possessions. Students are encouraged to keep their lockers locked. Students must use a lock purchased from Covington Schools. The office is not responsible for items stolen from lockers. Do not leave valuables in your locker. **Students are to use the locker assigned to them by the office.** Students at Covington HS take pride in their school and will make every effort to keep their lockers clean, orderly, free from food and pop containers and free from markings. Students will also refrain from putting up posters or clippings that depict any type of drugs and/or paraphernalia, alcohol, tobacco products and pornographic material. Lockers will be inspected on a periodic basis. THE BOARD OF EDUCATION OR ITS DESIGNEE RESERVES THE RIGHT TO SEARCH STUDENT LOCKERS AT ANY TIME.

Student Driving/Parking

Students who wish to drive their own vehicles to school must register them in Final Forms. **It is the student's responsibility to up-date their parking registration in the event that they change vehicles and/or license plate number during the year.** Students will receive a Parking Pass which will be displayed on the rearview mirror of their car.

Rules that apply to driving and parking on school property are:

1. Students will park in the South parking lot only.
2. Reckless operation of vehicles will not be tolerated.
3. No driving in front of the elementary school between 7:45 - 8:00 and 2:45 - 3:15.
4. No passing of buses in the school zone.
5. No sitting or loitering in vehicles before or after school.

Failure to comply with these rules will result in:

1. Warning- verbal &/or ticket placed on car.
2. 2-3 violations- \$5 fine/offense payable at Main Office or assessed to student's account
3. 4+ violations- loss of privileges for nine weeks, semester, or year (at administrative discretion) and/or disciplinary actions for a student.

Student Planner/Agenda

Your planner/agenda is an important tool for everyday life, in & out of school. From tracking homework and assignments to scheduling activities, it will help keep you organized. If a student loses the planner, he/she may purchase another one from the office for \$5.00.

Lunch Room & Cafeteria

Covington High School operates on a **CLOSED** lunch period. Students are not permitted to leave the school grounds to obtain their noon meal. Students MAY NOT order food to be delivered to the school, and parents are NOT permitted to carry in take-out food for students. Students should add money to their electronic accounts between 7:50 and 8:10 am. Parents may also apply money to their child's account through PaySchoolsCentral. A link for *PaySchoolsCentral* is on the District website under the "Parents and Students" tab. A student lunch is \$2.85 for the school year. An extra milk is \$.50 and breakfast is \$1.50.

Food is to stay in the K-8 Cafeteria or Commons and should only be in classrooms with the permission of administration; such as a pre-approved reward celebration. Gum is allowed except for in the following classrooms; band, choir and physical education. Students should dispose of gum in an appropriate manner, failure to do so will result in disciplinary consequences.

Drinks are to be in a spill-proof container. Vending machines are completely off limits to students from 8:00am – 3:05pm.

Assemblies

Assemblies are held at various times throughout the school year. A variety of assemblies are held to enhance the cultural experiences of the students and to promote school spirit. Students will be seated at assemblies according to classes and teachers. Students should follow the PrideBuccs behavior expectations for assemblies.

Field Trips

Field trips are academic activities that are held off school grounds. There are also other trips that are part of the School's co-curricular program and extracurricular program. No minor student may participate in any school-sponsored trip without parental consent, and signed/completed Final Forms. Students must be in good academic and attendance standing to attend field trips. The Student Code of Conduct applies to all field trips. Students who violate the Code of Conduct may lose privileges to go on future field trips.

Safety & Evacuation Drills

Fire, tornado, and evacuation (ALICE) drills will be held periodically during the school year. The purpose is to acquaint each student with correct procedures to be used in an emergency. Fire drill and tornado drill procedures are posted in each classroom.

Students are responsible for knowing the exit route from each of their classrooms. Students are to move quickly and quietly to their exit area by following the directions given by your teacher.

Any misbehaviors during a safety drill will be disciplined.

Announcements

All announcements shall be emailed by the organization's advisor to the secretary by 7:50 AM daily. These should also be dated and specified how many times the announcement is to be given. Daily announcements will be made at 12:33 during 6th period. Any announcements pertinent to the students attending the UVCC must be emailed to the secretary. These announcements will be shared with the UVCC on a daily basis.

Family Communication with Students

The secretary will take incoming calls for students and messages will be delivered to them when it is convenient. Students will not be called to the phone during class time unless it is an emergency concerning parents or immediate family. Phone calls for homework or other forgotten items as well as personal calls will not be permitted.

Class Activities

Classes may have money making projects and activities scheduled throughout the year. Projects may be dances, bake sales, candy sales, etc. Classes, under the guidance of their faculty advisor, may organize projects according to their financial needs. Special activities and/or money making activities must be approved by the administration. Class meetings are scheduled, as they are needed, during homeroom periods. Each year, parents will be informed of class expectations and guidelines regarding participation requirements to attend prom and earn funds toward graduation.

Clubs and Organizations

Students are encouraged to join and become involved with clubs and organizations at Covington High School. You should, however, use good judgment in deciding which organizations you will join. Becoming a member of too many clubs may impair your effectiveness as a member in any of them. Following is a list of clubs sponsored for students in grades 9-12: S.A.D.D., Art Club, School Play/Drama Club, Student Council, FFA, Joy Club, Buccs Wellness, BPA, Chess Club, Quiz Bowl, and Spanish Club.

Extra-curricular activities are made available to students to allow them to pursue additional worthwhile activities such as interscholastic sports, drama, and the like.

All students are permitted to participate in the activities of their choosing, as long as they meet the eligibility requirements. Participation in these activities is a privilege and not a right. Authorized school personnel may prohibit students from all or part of their participation in such activities.

Please be advised that all students involved in extracurricular activities could be subjected to random drug testing per the drug testing policy adopted by the Board of Education.

Work Permits

Students under the age of 18 who are holding a part or full time job during the school year are required to have a work permit. The forms for this permit may be picked up and turned in at the main office. A work permit is issued for a specific job and each time a student changes jobs he/she must apply for a new work permit.

Report Cards

Report cards are issued through ProgressBook after each nine-week grading period. Students and parents can view and print grade cards from Progress Book. If a parent does not have access to Progress Book, they can request a printed interim report from the office.

Student Success

School Counseling Program

The school counseling department is an integral part of Covington High School. Each student, teacher and parent has the opportunity as well as the responsibility of using the meaningful services provided by this department. You are encouraged to take advantage of these services.

1. Methods of referral:
 - (a) Self-referrals can be made by simply contacting the school counseling staff or by using the "Visit a Counselor" referral link in the Clever Portal at any time.
 - (b) Staff referrals are made when a teacher feels that a student, or group of students, is in need of counseling.
 - (c) Parent referrals can be made by calling the main office or contacting either guidance counselor directly.

Graduation Requirements

Twenty-one units of credit are presently required for graduation. The minimum requirements shall include the following:

Courses	Credits Required
English Language Arts	4 credits
Health	½ credit
Mathematics	4 credits ¹
Physical Education	½ credit ²
Science	3 credits ³
Social Studies	3 credits ⁴
Electives	6 credits ⁵

You must also receive instruction in financial literacy ⁶ and complete at least two semesters of fine arts ⁵.

1 Mathematics – Students must earn 4 mathematics units, which must include one unit of algebra II or the equivalent of algebra II. Exceptions: Algebra II or advanced computer science is not a requirement for students following a career-technical pathway. However, students still must have four units in mathematics.

2 Physical Education – School districts may adopt policies that would exempt students who participate in interscholastic athletics, marching band or cheerleading for two full seasons or an approved Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps (JROTC) program for two years from the physical education requirement. Starting with the 2019-2020 school year, districts may include show choir as a permissible activity as part of the PE Waiver policy. Students satisfying the physical education waiver must take another course of study of at least 60 hours of instruction (1/2 unit).

3 Science – Science units must include one unit of physical sciences, one unit of life sciences and one unit of advanced study in one or more of the following sciences: chemistry, physics or other physical science; advanced biology or other life science; astronomy, physical geology or other earth or space science.

4 Social studies – Students must include ½ unit of American history, ½ unit of American government, and ½ unit in world history and civilizations in the three required social studies units.

5 Elective credits – Elective units must include one or any combination of world language, fine arts, business, career-technical education, pre-engineering, technology, agricultural education or English language arts, mathematics, science or social studies courses not otherwise required. Students are required to receive 2 semesters of fine arts instruction in grades 7-12.

Note: While not a state requirement for graduation, many four-year colleges and universities require a minimum of two years of sequential world language study at the secondary level as a college admissions requirement. This is the case for many in-state and out-of-state colleges and universities.

6 Financial Literacy – Ohio law requires students to receive instruction in financial literacy as part of the high school graduation requirements. Starting with the class of 2025, financial literacy must be taught in a standalone course.

In addition to completing all required coursework for a diploma, students are also required to participate in state testing as follows:

Ohio End of Course (EOC) State Testing

All students will take end of course exams as directed by the state department of education. The required tests vary depending on the students' year of entry into high school. Exams that may be taken include: · Algebra I and Geometry or Integrated Math I and II · Biology · American History and American Government · English 10. These exams will be taken during the school year students are enrolled in those particular courses.

For the Class of 2023 and beyond, students must earn a competency score in ELA 2 and Algebra 1 End of Course Exams. Once they have shown competency, students must then earn 2 graduation seals, one of which must be Ohio

designed. If a student does not earn the required score on the end of course exams, they must retake the test at least once. If they still do not receive a competency score, students can show competency through different means. All students will work with a school counselor to create a plan to show competency and earn their 2 seals. These requirements can be changed at any time by legislative action by the State of Ohio.

A diploma will not be issued nor will a student be permitted to participate in commencement exercises until both the credit requirement and the state defined requirements are met.

In addition, to go through commencement, a student must be considered a full time student at Covington High School and attend school throughout the year that they are to graduate. If there is a medical reason or a family emergency as to why attendance is not possible, and a request is made in writing, the principal can waive this requirement.

Honors Diploma

The State Board of Education has established criteria for six different types of Honors Diplomas students may earn upon graduation: Academic, International Baccalaureate, Career Technical, STEM, Arts, Social Science, and Civic Engagement. For further information on the criteria, consult the following information on the Ohio Department of Education website: <http://education.ohio.gov/Topics/Ohio-s-Graduation-Requirements/Honors-Diplomas>

Academic Assistance & Recovery

Credit for tutoring, summer courses, college course work, credit recovery, and correspondence, other than home instruction, shall be granted in cooperation with the principal and school counselor. Students transferring in from non-accredited schools will receive credit based strictly on the decision of the principal.

Grades

Grade point average (GPA) is on the 4.0 scale and will be used to determine class rank. To be officially included in class rank, students must have completed at least ten credits in letter graded classes. Grades from pass/fail courses, correspondence courses, summer school, and homeschooling will not be used in determining GPA. The GPA will be figured on a semester basis.

Covington-High School Grading Scale

A 90 - 100%	D 60 - 69%
B 80 - 89%	F 0 - 59%
C 70 - 79%	

Valedictorian/Salutatorian Selection & Latin Honors

Effective graduation cohort 2026: Qualifying students will be recognized for Latin honors (Summa Cum Laude 4.0, Magna Cum Laude 3.75, Cum Laude 3.5).

The valedictorian and salutatorian shall be determined by the highest and second highest GPA respectively as of the third quarter grading period for graduation cohorts 2026, 2027, and 2028.

Effective graduation cohort year 2029 and forward: Valedictorian and Salutatorian will be determined in this order:

1. Class Rank
2. Honors diploma
3. ACT with superscore

To be recognized as the class valedictorian or salutatorian, the student must be enrolled at Covington High School their entire senior year, and if their senior year is spent at the UVCC or in full-time college credit plus work, they had to have attended Covington High School for at least one semester during the previous three years. Students who graduate in less than the normal four years will not be considered for valedictorian or salutatorian awards.

GPA/Class Rank

In computing Grade Point Average and Class Rank, we use a four point grading scale with the following quality points: A = 4 points, B = 3 points, C = 2 points, D = 1 point, F = 0 points.

Academic Awards

Students in grades 9-12 are honored for academic achievements at the end of each nine-week grading period. Criteria for selection is as follows:

Principal's List-- All A's

Honor Roll--All A's and/or B's

The above lists are based upon all subjects taken by the student.

Pride Buccs Incentive Program

Through the positive incentive emphasis of the PrideBuccs Program, we hope to inspire continued excellence in the three fundamental areas of schooling for our students – academics, attendance and behavior. In order to qualify for the awards associated with the Pride Buccs Program, students must have a full schedule at Covington High School, which may include CCP courses.

In the following guidelines, an *Absence* is defined as any time a student is not in school for any personal reason, such as medical appointments, illness, injury or other NON SCHOOL related reason.

Award:

1. No absences or tardies through May 1st.
2. No C, D, or F on the grade card.
3. No school related disciplinary action (office detentions, in-school assignment, out-of-school suspension, suspension from extracurriculars, failure of drug test).
4. Absence due to a death in the family (parent, grandparent, aunt/uncle and sibling) will be waived.
5. School related absences must have the principal's prior knowledge and approval and do not count towards the absence.
6. Absences associated with Court or Military service will be waived.

Mid/Final Exam/Project Exemption- Semester Classes:

- Grades: Students must have quarter grades of AA, AB, BA, BB.
- Attendance:
 - For those students who attend CHS full time, the student's attendance record must indicate no more than 13 total EXCUSED or UNEXCUSED hours (or the equivalent of two school days) for the semester due to medical appointments, illness, injury, etc.
 - For those students who attend partial days at CHS due to CCP, the student's attendance record must indicate no more than two (2) period absences for the semester, EXCUSED or UNEXCUSED, for **each individual course to be considered for exemption** due to medical appointments, illness, injury, etc.
- The student's attendance record must indicate no more than one (1) school tardy for the CURRENT SEMESTER prior to exams to be exempted.
- Absences due to college visitation or school related activities do not count towards the absences.
- Absences due to a death in the immediate family (parent, grandparent, uncle/aunt and sibling) will be waived.

- Excessive class tardies should be noted and the exam exemption forfeited if a student is regularly tardy to any class (teacher/principal decision).
- No disciplinary action (1 or more office detentions, in-school assignment, out-of-school suspension, suspension from extra-curricular, or any other disciplinary action initiated by the principal).
- Students that are exempted have the option to take the final exam or complete the project.

Final Exam/Project Exemption- Year Long Classes:

- **All students** will take the Midterm exam of every year long course!
- Grades: For the most recent two quarters, students must have quarter grades of AA, AB, BA, BB.
- Attendance:
 - For those students who attend CHS full time, the student's attendance record must indicate no more than 26 total EXCUSED or UNEXCUSED hours (or the equivalent of four school days) for the year due to medical appointments, illness, injury, etc.
 - For those students who attend partial days at CHS due to CCP, the student's attendance record must indicate no more than four (4) period absences for the year, EXCUSED or UNEXCUSED, for **each individual course to be considered for exemption** due to medical appointments, illness, injury, etc.
- The student's attendance record must indicate no more than TWO (2) school tardies for the year.
- Absences due to college visitation or school related activities do not count towards the absences.
- Absences due to a death in the immediate family (parent, grandparent, uncle/aunt and sibling) will be waived.
- Excessive class tardies should be noted and the exam exemption forfeited if a student is regularly tardy to any class (teacher/principal decision).
- No disciplinary action (2 or more office detentions, in-school assignment, out-of-school suspension, suspension from extra-curricular, or any other disciplinary action initiated by the principal).
- Students that are exempted have the option to take the final exam or complete the project.

Sample Exam Schedule

Day 1

8:10 – 9:40 – 1st Period Exam
 9:44 – 11:11 – 3rd Period Exam
 11:14 – 12:30 – 5A/5B Lunch/SH
 12:33 – 2:03 – 5th Period Exam
 2:07-2:54- Make-up Exam Period

Day 2

8:10 – 9:40 – 2nd Period Exam
 9:44 – 11:11 – 4th Period Exam
 11:14 – 12:30 – 5A/5B Lunch and Class
 12:33 – 2:03 – 6th Period Exam
 2:07 – 2:54 – Make-up Exam Period

Day 3

8:10 – 9:40 – 7th Period Exam
 9:44 – 11:11 – 8th Period Exam
 11:14 – 12:54 – Make-up Exam Period

Pride Buccs Tier II Intervention/Response To Intervention

A school program designed to assist students troubled by attendance problems, discipline problems, low grades, chemical use problems, domestic problems, or health-related problems. The program enlists the support and involvement of faculty members while utilizing existing resources. The program's response to these problems is systematic and professional. The program also provides prevention, intervention, instructional and support services to students.

The Response to Intervention Team is composed of the building principal, school counselor, school psychologist, and teachers.

The purpose of the team is to gather and review documentation from school staff that has contact with a student identified as experiencing a problem. Once sufficient factual data is documented indicating that a student has been having the identified problem, the intervention team will meet and the process begins.

Loss Of Credit

There are several reasons causing a student to lose credit in a course:

1. Dropping the course - if a student drops a course, credit cannot be issued.
2. Credit will not be issued if the student does not pass the course.
3. If a student is removed from the course because of violating class rules, refusal to do assignments, disrespect toward the teacher etc., credit will not be issued. If the course of credit was required for graduation, it will have to be repeated before graduation.

Schedule Change Policy

Since students, parents, teachers, counselors and administration are involved in the course selection process, requests for schedule changes after the request sheets are completed will generally be denied. Ample opportunity is given to all concerned to make valid choices after which the entire school resources are committed for the school year. Exceptions may occur only after a thorough review of the individual situation. Students must still carry a full load of subjects as defined by the administration.

Course Drop/Add Policy

A student may, with the principal's permission, drop a course through the fifth day of classes and receive a "W" (withdrawn) if the following criteria are met:

1. A special form must be secured from the school counseling office, completed and be approved by the school counselor and the principal.
2. Permission to drop a course is difficult to obtain. When you elect to take a course you are expected to complete the course. Any student dropping a course after the 5th day of school will receive an "F" in the subject with no credit being granted, unless special permission is attained by the administration.
3. When a student drops a course, another course may not be added if the change occurs after the course to be added has been in progress for two weeks. A student must have permission granted by the instructor and the counselor before adding a class. Final approval shall rest with the principal.

Exceptions to the above drop/add policy may be made by the high school principal when extenuating circumstances warrant. There will be **no auditing** of courses.

Make-Up Work Due to Absence Policy

Students who are absent are required to make up work missed in each class. Students should check Progress Book and Google Classroom regularly for missing work.

- **Absent due to illness:** The number of days absent determines the number of days allowed to make up the work. If a student is made aware of a test or assignment before an absence, the student must make up the test or assignment as soon as possible upon returning to school, unless the teacher prefers other arrangements. After an illness, it is the responsibility of the student to obtain all make-up work from his/her teachers immediately upon return to school. Failure to obtain make-up work is no excuse for not doing the work.
- **Absent due to school event/field trip:** In the event of a school-related absence (field trip, contest, athletics, etc), the student is responsible for any work due that day; extended time is not offered. For example, if a student misses school on Monday to attend a field trip, any assignment is still expected to be submitted by the student ON MONDAY, unless other arrangements are made with the teacher.
- **Absent due to discipline:** Students who are suspended are allowed to make up their work for credit. Tests and large projects should be graded as full credit. Students who have been suspended are expected to work asynchronously, and must turn in their work upon return, and complete tests and/or projects within the number of days suspended. Failure to complete the work in the designated time may result in the student receiving reduced credit for that work, and work may still be required to be completed by the teacher.

Future Planning Information

1. Individual conferences with the counselor will begin in the fall for juniors and seniors. At this time, credits and graduation requirements are checked and future plans are discussed.
2. Both Juniors and Seniors will have two college visitation days that are to be taken by April 15. The visitations must be discussed and approved by the principal at least three (3) days before the visitation is to take place. A note from the parents or guardian granting permission and a college permission slip is to be signed by each of the student's teachers and then returned to the counselor. Telephone calls will not be accepted. Failure to follow these procedures may result in an unexcused absence. Juniors and seniors will be permitted to attend the college orientation sessions that are held in the guidance office.
3. ACT and SAT test dates for college are posted in the counseling office so please keep checking these dates. College-bound students are encouraged to take these tests beginning in their junior year. Information for these tests is in the counseling office. All juniors are issued the ACT at the school per state law.
4. College Admissions offices typically open in early fall for receiving applications. Please contact the counselor for guidance with college applications and related paperwork.
5. If you plan on visiting a military recruiter, taking an ASVAB test or a military physical during school hours, you will be required to follow the same procedure as that for a college visit. You will be permitted to have two of these days.

School Policies, Student Code of Conduct, & Disciplinary Procedures

Attendance

The educational program offered by this District is predicated upon the presence of the student and requires continuity of instruction and classroom participation. Attendance shall be required of all students enrolled in the schools during the days and hours that the school is in session or during the attendance sessions to which he/she has been assigned.

[see AG 5200-Attendance]

As used in this policy, parents shall include a parent, guardian or other individual having care of the student.

Because good school attendance is a requisite for high academic achievement, it is essential for students and their parents to support and understand Ohio's compulsory attendance laws.

Attendance Impacts

Regular school attendance is an important ingredient in students' academic success. Excessive absences interfere with students' progress in mastering knowledge and skills necessary to graduate from high school prepared for higher education and the workforce. To support academic success for all students, the district will partner with students and their families to identify and reduce barriers to regular school attendance. The district will utilize a continuum of strategies to reduce student absences including, but not limited to:

- Notifying the parent or guardian of a student's absence;
- Developing and implementing an absence intervention plan on a case-by-case basis, which may include supportive services for students and families;
- Counseling;
- Parent education and parenting programs;
- Mediation

- Intervention programs available through juvenile authorities; or
- Referral for truancy if applicable.

Ohio law requires that if a student is absent with or without legitimate excuse from school 38 hours or 5%, or 65 or more school hours, or 10 days in a school year, the following will occur:

- At 38 hours or 5% absent, excused or unexcused, the parent, guardian or custodian of the student will be notified by the school in writing that the student is considered at risk to become chronically absent.
- At 65 hours or 10 days absent, excused or unexcused, the parent, guardian or custodian will be notified that the student will be required to provide written medical documentation for all subsequent absences for them to be considered excused.
 - Additionally, the student may be referred to the County Attendance Intervention officer at this point to determine root causes of absences, and develop interventions to support the family.
- At 91 hours absent, excused or unexcused, the parent, guardian or custodian of the student will be notified by the school in writing that the student is considered chronically absent.
 - Additionally, the student WILL be referred to the County Attendance Intervention officer at this point to determine root causes of absences, and develop interventions to support the family, and initiate an Attendance Intervention Plan.
- If a student's absences surpass the threshold for a habitual truant, 30 unexcused consecutive hours absent, 42 unexcused hours in a week, or 72 unexcused hours in a year, the student WILL be referred to the County Attendance Intervention officer to determine root causes of absences, and develop interventions to support the family, and initiate an Attendance Intervention Plan.
- Every effort will be made to include a parent, guardian or custodian as a member of the student's absence intervention team.
- Notice of the plan developed by the student's absence intervention team will be provided to the student's parent, guardian or custodian.

At no time, however, will students be expelled or suspended out of school due to excessive absences or truancy.

Definitions:

	Consecutive hours	Hours per school month	Hours per school year
Habitual Truancy	30 <i>without legitimate excuse</i>	42 <i>without legitimate excuse</i>	72 <i>without legitimate excuse</i>
Excessive Absences	--	38 <i>with or without legitimate excuse</i>	65 <i>with or without legitimate excuse</i>
Chronic Absenteeism	--	--	10% <i>with or without legitimate excuse</i>

A. EXCUSED ABSENCE

The Board considers the following factors to be reasonable legitimate excuses for time missed at school:

1. Personal illness
2. Illness in the family
3. Quarantine of home
4. Death of relative
5. Work at home due to absence of parents or guardians. Any absence arising from this shall not extend beyond the period for which the parents or guardians were absent.
6. Observance of religious holiday
7. Emergency set of circumstances, which in the judgment of the principal constitutes a good and sufficient cause for absence from school. This would include students who are receiving instructional services during an out-of-school suspension.
8. Pre-approved absences by the principal.

To Ensure Excused Absence:

When a student is absent from school, a parent/guardian is to phone the school that morning explaining the reason for the absence. In accordance with statute, the principal shall require from the parent or guardian of each student who has been absent from school or from class for any reason, a written statement of the cause for such absence. **Failure to provide a written excuse within two school days will classify the absence as unexcused.** The Board of Education reserves the right to verify such statements and to investigate the cause of each single or prolonged absence. After ten (10) excused or unexcused absences, which include vacation, college visit, or other types of absence, the Covington Board of Education may require a doctor's statement for further absences due to personal illness for the absence to be excused.

Parents are discouraged from taking students out of school for vacation purposes. However, no academic penalty will be imposed by the school on students who are absent five days or less per year because of a family vacation that occurs on school time. Additional days may be granted by the administrator assuming the student has not exceeded 10 absences for the year. Teachers are not expected to make long-range assignments for such students. Students will be permitted to make up tests that are missed during such absences from school. This must be done at the convenience of the teacher and within the time frame specified under the make-up work policy.

It is possible for a student to be unexcused even though parents give permission for the absence. Only the administration has the authority to determine if an absence is excused or unexcused. Absences due to causes other than the eight (8) listed above shall be considered unexcused and no make-up privileges will be granted.

Repeated infractions of Board policy on attendance may result in disciplinary actions being taken including, but not limited to, suspension or expulsion.

Students who are assigned to an Absence Intervention Plan (AIP) with the county attendance officer will lose certain school privileges, such as field trips, assemblies, crew day activities, or other special events until such time as the student is removed from the attendance plan.

Attendance need not always be within the school facilities, but a student will be considered to be in attendance if present at any place where school is in session by authority of the Board.

The Board shall consider each student assigned to a program of other guided learning experiences to be in regular attendance for the program provided that he/she reports to such staff members, he/she is assigned for guidance at the place in which he/she is conducting study, and regularly demonstrates progress toward the objectives of the course of study.

B. UNEXCUSED ABSENCE

Some examples of unexcused absences are truancy, trips not approved in advance, or any absence in which the proper procedures/documentation were not provided, or are deemed unexcused by the principal.

C. COLLEGE VISITATIONS

Both juniors and seniors will be granted two career days for college visitation. Arrangements for these visits must be completed in advance and be approved by the counselor and principal. College visits count as an excused absence.

D. FUTURE ABSENCE

A Future Absence Request Form from school form shall be completed and signed by all teachers and parents at least three days prior to the absence. Depending on the academic standing, and the number of previous absences (excused or unexcused) accrued by the student, the principal reserves the right to deny the request. **If the request is denied, the missed work, tests, etc. cannot be made up and the absence will be unexcused.**

E. APPOINTMENT/ILLNESS DURING THE SCHOOL DAY

One-or-two-period absences due to authorized doctor appointments (dentist, orthodontist, medical doctor) are excused when a pre-arrangement has been made with the office for medical appointments, either the day before or the morning of. **An official note from the doctor or dentist must be turned in to the office.** There may be legitimate reasons for students to leave school during the day for scheduled appointments or illness. As a result, one-or-two period absences may also include an early dismissal due to illness. Appointments for doctor, dentist, orthodontist, etc. will require a note from the parent. If the student is out for more than two periods, that student will be marked a half-day absent. **All students returning to school must report to the office before returning to class.** Whenever possible, parents should make dental and medical appointments when school is not in session.

Students are not permitted to leave the school at any time during the school day when classes are in session. If a student must leave the building because of illness or any other emergency, they must secure permission from the office. Leaving school without permission is classified as truancy.

F. TARDINESS

- Students are expected to be on time to school, class, and study hall. School begins at 8:10 a.m. and students are expected to be in class at that time. Students who arrive late to school during the first two periods of the day will be marked tardy. All tardies to school are unexcused. Tardiness to class will be subject to the discipline established by the individual teacher.
- Students who are more than 10 minutes late to any class will be considered absent, which will impact exemption from exams.

Throughout the assigned time of a school day, students do not enter the building or exit the building without signing in at the office. The office must speak directly to the parent to obtain permission for the student to sign out once the student has arrived on school property, unless an appointment has been pre-arranged.

Senior Early Dismissal

Early dismissal is limited to seniors who have an 8th period study hall. Students must realize this is not a right, but a privilege. There will be no schedule changes made to work in the 8th period to get an early dismissal. Seniors will attend school on a seven period day and be dismissed at 2:05 PM. To be eligible for early dismissal, seniors must meet the following criteria:

1. Passing all of their classes. Eligibility will be reviewed at each grading period (interim and quarter).
2. Have a signed parent permission slip on file.

3. Are on track to graduate: met competency or completed alternate pathway and earned 2 seals or as approved by the school counseling department and principal.
4. Have all school fees (through their junior year) paid in full.
5. Above average attendance. Students with poor attendance/tardiness may have privileges revoked.

Senior early dismissal will be affected at times due to adjusted schedules (weather delays, school assemblies, early dismissals, etc.). Students must realize in those situations they may need to adjust their plans accordingly.

Trespassing and Loitering

No person shall trespass or loiter in the building or school grounds of Covington Exempted Village Schools. All persons, except for students presently enrolled or staff members, shall upon entering the building report immediately to the office of the principal and request a visitor's permit.

No person shall remain in the building or on school grounds after being requested to leave the school premises by the principal, faculty or staff member. Students should not be in any part of the district's campus after 3:05 pm unless authorized, or supervised, by staff or administration.

Bus Regulations

1. Bus riding for secondary students is a privilege. All students are to exercise courtesy and good behavior. Students violating the basic bus rules may be removed from riding the bus.
2. Every bus rider must abide by these rules or be deprived of the right to ride.
3. GET TO THE SCHOOL BUS STOP 5 MINUTES EARLY.
4. Students must wait at their "Designated Point of Safety" location, staying off the road, clear and safe of traffic and boarding only with the driver's direction.
5. Always use the handrail when getting on or off the bus.
6. Load and unload from the bus at its designated stop in an orderly manner.
7. Students must board and/or depart the bus at assigned locations unless they have pre-approval from parents or administrative permission to do otherwise.
8. Keep the aisle clear. Don't pile books, musical instruments, book bags or other belongings in the aisle.
9. Eating, chewing gum, drinks and littering are not permitted on a bus.
10. Noise on the bus should be kept at a minimum. The same behavior is expected on a school bus as in a classroom. Pupils may talk quietly if the driver permits. Radios of any kind are not permitted on the bus.
11. There must be absolute quiet at railroad crossings and other places of danger as specified by the driver.
12. Pupils should not change seats while the bus is in motion.
13. Pupils are not to throw any objects while riding on the bus.
14. Pupils must cross the street at least ten feet in front of the bus and upon the signal of the driver.
15. Pupils must not hang any object or part of their body outside the bus window.
16. Pupils are not permitted to transport animals of any kind, glass items, toy weapons, or balls of any kind on the school bus.
17. Pupils may only bring items that can be carried on their laps.
18. Pupils must go promptly to the bus when dismissed from school. When they are discharged from the bus they should go directly to their home.
19. No smoking, vaping or tobacco use is allowed on the bus.
20. Pupils must sit only in their assigned seats, when assigned by the driver.
21. Inform your driver, if possible, when the rider will be absent.
22. The Emergency Door is not to be used except for emergency situations.
23. These rules apply to all students at any time they are riding a bus, including student-athletes, band, field trips, etc.

24. ANY STUDENT WHO INSISTS ON MISBEHAVING SHALL BE DENIED THE PRIVILEGE OF RIDING THE BUS BY THE PROPER AUTHORITY. Students who do not comply with these rules will be subject to disciplinary action including, but not limited to, assigned seat, Saturday School, bus suspension, suspension from school, expulsion from bus, expulsion from school.
25. The bus driver has the authority to assign seats if he/she deems it necessary.

Study Hall Expectations

1. Students should use the restroom, go to lockers, and get drinks between classes. Students will remain in study hall until the bell rings unless they have an emergency. No more than one student may leave the study hall at any one time without a pass.
2. Students will remain quiet for the entire study hall period, but may not sleep or put their heads down.
3. Students will not be permitted to go to another teacher's classroom unless they have a PRE-SIGNED pass from the teacher. If a student has a PRE-SIGNED pass from a teacher requesting they go to that teacher's classroom, they may be permitted to go.
4. Students will work until the bell rings. Bring all necessary supplies to occupy this time for the entire class period. Work may be provided by the teacher/monitor if students do not bring something to do.
5. Students will be permitted to study together if given permission.
6. Chromebook use is permitted and encouraged for coursework, but no games may be played during study hall. Other devices are not permitted. The study hall proctor may use Securly to monitor student websites and computer use.
7. All other school rules will apply.

Library Use

1. All materials leaving the library must be checked out at the circulation desk. To remove materials without checking them out is a serious offense and will be dealt with accordingly.
2. Students damaging or losing materials are expected to pay replacement costs. This cost will be the most current source found. Grades will be withheld until all monies due are paid each grading period.

Cell Phones in School (Ohio Policy)

To support school environments in which students can fully engage with their classmates, their teachers, and instruction, the Board of Education of Covington Exempted Village Schools has determined the use of cell phones by students during school hours should be limited. The objective of this policy is to strengthen Covington's focus on learning, in alignment with our mission to ignite students' passion for learning, cultivate a strong foundation of knowledge, and foster a sense of community within our schools.

I. Research

Research shows that student use of cell phones in schools has negative effects on student performance and mental health. Cell phones distract students from classroom instruction, resulting in smaller learning gains and lower test scores. Increased cell phone use has led to higher levels of depression, anxiety, and other mental health disorders in children.

II. Applicability

This policy applies to the use of cell phones by students while on school property during school hours.

III. Use of cell phones

Students are prohibited from using cell phones during school hours, and devices should be away for the day..

IV. Exception

Nothing in this policy prohibits a student from using a cell phone for a purpose documented in the student's individualized education program developed under Chapter 3323 of the Ohio Revised Code or a plan developed under section 504 of the "Rehabilitation Act of 1973," 29 U.S.C. 794.

A student may use a cell phone to monitor or address a health concern as designated by the IEP or 504.

V. Cell phone storage

Students shall keep their cell phones in a secure place, such as the student's locker, a closed backpack, or a storage device provided by the district, at all times when cell phone use is prohibited.

VI. Discipline

Please see Student Code of Conduct, section Q for progressive discipline.

Academic Dishonesty/Plagiarism Policy

Cheating will be considered as any work that is copied or taken from another source and turned in as the student's own for the benefit of a grade. This includes the use of AI apps such as ChatGPT, or other, for the purpose of completing work assigned to a student. While we recognize the value of such programs, the student's personal engagement in classwork is a fundamental component of school. Students who voluntarily allow another student to use their work, copy assignments, or who provides answers to another will receive the same consequences. The following are the potential outcomes when an incident of academic dishonesty has been determined:

- At the teacher's discretion, the student may receive a zero (0) grade, or partial credit for work that has been plagiarized.
- At the teacher's discretion, the student may be required to complete the assignment for accountability purposes. The teacher may determine if this work will be completed in VIP, or during a teacher-monitored detention.
- On work that will have a significant impact on the student's grade (tests, projects, reports, etc), a disciplinary referral will be made to the office, and the student's parents or guardians will be contacted.
- Disciplinary action may also be assigned to the student from administration.

Covington Acceptable Use Policy

Student Network – Internet Acceptable Use/Safety

The school District makes no warranties of any kind, either express or implied, in connection with its provision of access to and use of its computer networks and the Internet provided under this Policy. It shall not be responsible for any claims, losses, damages or costs (including attorney's fees) of any kind suffered, directly or indirectly, by any user or his or her parents(s) or guardian(s) arising out of the user's use of its computer networks or the Internet under this Policy. By signing this Policy, users are taking full responsibility for his or her use, and the user who is 18 or older or, in the case of a user under 18, the parent(s) or guardian(s) are agreeing to the indemnify and hold the School, the School District, the Local Internet Provider that provides the computer and Internet access opportunity to the School District and all of their administrators, teachers, and staff harmless from any and all losses, costs, claims, or damages resulting from the user's access to its computer network and Internet, including but not limited to any fees or charges incurred through purchases of goods or services by the user.

(For further information: please refer to the Board Policy, Vol. 30, No. 2)

- Due to Covington Sr High School being a "1 to 1" school where each student has a District issued device students are not permitted to bring their personal tablets/laptops/Chromebooks/etc. to school.

Advertising of Student Activities Policy

No announcements or postings of student activities, both internal and external, will be permitted without the approval of the principal. A single copy must be submitted to the Principal with a minimum of twenty-four (24) hours advance notice to ensure that the principal has the opportunity to review the announcement or posting. The principal will indicate approval in writing ON the posting, and return it to the organization to be copied for distribution/posting. All

signs and posters should be placed on bulletin boards rather than taped on the walls. Any unauthorized postings will be removed without notice. All signs/postings should be removed the day after the event has concluded, or before the last day of school. Students are encouraged to read/utilize bulletin boards in the commons area.

Medication Policy

School personnel are occasionally faced with the responsibility of administering medication at school. A student may have an illness that requires medication for relief or cure that does not prevent his attending school. Ideally, all medication should be given in the home under parent supervision. It is recognized that at the present time many children are able to attend regular schools because of the effectiveness of medication in the treatment of chronic disabilities and illnesses. Any student who is required to take prescribed medication during regular school hours should comply with school regulations, particularly in view of widespread concern over the abuse of drugs.

These regulations include the following:

1. The principal in each building shall appoint a responsible person or persons to supervise the storing and dispensing of medication in the absence of the school nurse.
2. A written permission form "Administration of Prescribed Medication" must be signed by a physician and presented by the parent or guardian to the school requesting that the school comply with the physician's written order. The form becomes a part of the student's official school health records and shall become part of the student's cumulative folder.
3. Whenever possible, the medication should be brought to the school by the parent/guardian. The amount of the medication brought to the school should be limited to no more than a one-week supply.
4. Each student's medication should be brought to school in an appropriate container and have affixed a prescription label including the student's name, name of medication, dosage, doctor's name, and directions concerning time and route of administration.
5. All medication dispensed in the school will be stored in a locked or secured place that is not easily accessible to either students or others in the building.
6. Opportunities will be provided for communication between the parent, school personnel, and physician regarding the efficacy of medication administered during school hours.
7. The school nurse or delegated personnel will notify the parent or guardian as quickly as possible if a reaction to medication occurs. The parents' and physician's current telephone number should be available in the student's record specifically for this purpose.
8. Non-prescription medications, e.g., aspirin, ointment, cold tablets, etc. shall not be given or taken without prior written permission of the parent.
9. There should be close cooperation between school personnel and the student's physician so that the medical program can be modified as warranted by changes in the student's condition.
10. The principal shall designate an individual and a "back-up" who will administer "life saving medications and /or injections" if requested by the family with written authorization from the student's physician.

Co-Curricular Activities Drug Testing

All student participation in co-curricular activities are subject to the drug testing policy (see Board Policy 2431.01 on district website).

Classroom Discipline

The teacher has an important role in maintaining the proper conduct during the school day. Each classroom teacher is responsible for the proper discipline in his or her classroom. However, every teacher has the responsibility and the authority to maintain the proper discipline among all pupils of the school.

The Board of Education and the Superintendent of Schools may establish written policies, rules and regulations of general application governing student conduct in all schools.* **In addition, each principal, within his or her school, may establish certain rules and regulations not inconsistent with those established by the Board and superintendent. Teachers are responsible for effective control of their classes.**

Students must comply with regulations set forth by the Administration. The rules and standards set forth in this code apply to conduct on school premises, to conduct on school buses or involving school property, to conduct off school premises, which directly affects other students, the school or its ability to function, and to conduct at school functions of any kind. This code does not define all types and aspects of student behavior; however, the Board of Education has the responsibility to set forth policies to help each student conduct himself/herself in a proper manner as a good citizen of the school community.

* 3313.10 Ohio Revised Code

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Student Code of Conduct

Any conduct which interferes with, or disrupts activities or functions, or the health, safety or rights of others is prohibited. Nothing herein is intended to restrict the exercise of legitimate First Amendment Rights; however, students must be responsible for their actions.

Students should not have to have rules and regulations repeated. By the time a student reaches the High School level, they know right from wrong. Although a student may differ in opinion with a disciplinary procedure, they will abide by the procedure until changes are made through the proper channels.

The preceding statement is a general standard that should be used as a guide by all students. Not all acts of misconduct can be itemized in this code. The following is an enumeration of some of the main types of misconduct, which may lead to disciplinary action, including suspension, expulsion or removal from class or from school:

- A. Interfering with school purposes or with the orderly operation of the school by using, threatening to use, or counseling other persons to use violence, force, coercion, threats, intimidation, fear, or disruptive means, including but not limited to, a boycott, sit-in, stand-in, walk-out or non-peaceful gathering.
- B. Causing or attempting to cause physical injury or harm to any student, teacher, other school employee, or visitor on school grounds or during a school function or event. This includes threatening, intimidating, harassing or bullying any student, teacher, or other school employee or visitor.
- C. Fighting in the school building, on the school grounds, on a school bus, or at school functions. A student may be suspended from school up to three (3) days for the first offense; not more than five (5) days for the second offense; not more than ten (10) days for the third offense. The principal will decide whether the offense is fighting or assault. Repeated offenses will result in a recommendation of expulsion to the superintendent.
- D. Causing damage to or destroying school property or private property, or stealing if done on school premises or related to a school function or event.
- E. Disrespecting the school, staff or students through negative comments will not be tolerated. This includes slurs, slogans, and materials.
- F. Possessing, using, selling, buying, transmitting, secreting or being under the influence of any alcoholic beverage, narcotic or hallucinogenic drug, marijuana, barbiturate, amphetamine, intoxicant, "counterfeit controlled substance", or non-alcoholic, look-alike beers (looks like, smells like, or tastes like).
- G. "Horseplay" and other actions that may interfere with the educational process.
- H. Involvement in any conduct on school premises or during a school function or event which violates local, state, or federal law, where such conduct or the likelihood of engaging in such conduct poses a clear and present danger to the health, welfare or safety of other students, teachers or other employees, or visitors.
- I. Possessing, using, buying, transmitting, or secreting:
 - 1. Materials or items the content of which, in whole or in part, are libelous or slanderous of any person or institution; which are intended to hold up any student, teacher or other employee, race, ethnic group, or religion as such to scorn, ridicule, or contempt; or are profane or vulgar under such circumstances that there is no redeeming social or literary value.
 - 2. Materials or items the contents of which, in whole or in part, pose a clear and present danger to the health or safety of other students, teachers, or other employees, or visitors.
- J. Refusal or failure to comply with state and local attendance laws, including, but not limited to, truancy from specific classes and tardiness to school in general or to specific classes. The first offense for any student "skipping school/class" may result in 2 days of in-school assignment (ISA). Further, the county attendance officer may be notified and the students may face truancy charges. The second offense may result in a suspension up to 3 days. Any subsequent offenses may result in a five-day suspension from school. No makeup work will be permitted for classes skipped.
- K. Gambling on school premises or at school events.
- L. Smoking, vaping, or possessing any nicotine product in the building, school premises, or at a school sponsored event. This includes all smoking paraphernalia, e-cigarettes, and vaping devices. If the vape detectors alert that vaping is occurring, administration will use video data to determine who will be searched. A metal detector wand

may be used in the course of the search. Students discovered smoking, vaping, or possessing any tobacco or look-alike tobacco product in the building or on school premises may be suspended up to 3 days from school on first offense, and/or a Vape Cessation course will be issued in lieu of suspension. A second offense may result in a 10-day suspension from school. A third offense may result in a recommendation of expulsion to the superintendent. If a student is the subject of three (3) or more vape alert searches, the student will face possible disciplinary action, even if a device is NOT found.

- M. Insubordination - willful failure to comply with the directions and reasonable requests of teachers, student teachers, school aides, bus drivers, principals, or other authorized school personnel. This includes, but is not limited to being forthright and honest when questioned regarding incidents at school.
- N. Repeated violation of any rules or regulation governing student conduct.
- O. Subject to the lawful exercise of First Amendment rights, participating in any activity which substantially disrupts or materially interferes with, or is likely to so disrupt or interfere with, any school function, activity, or purpose.
- P. Dressing or grooming in a manner which presents a clear and present danger to a student's health and safety or in a manner that causes an interference with schoolwork or which creates a classroom or school disruption.
- Q. Personal Electronic Devices (radio/CD player, cell phone, tablet, earbuds, headphones, smart watches, etc.) can be used before and after school. Due to recent changes in state law, carrying a personal electronic device is no longer permitted during the school day, and if found in possession of a personal electronic device without permission students must submit the device to a staff member when asked to do so. Earbuds/headphones are NOT permitted to be used in the hallways, and may be used in class ONLY with teacher permission.

First offense – The **device** will be confiscated by a school employee and brought to the main office to be picked up in the office by the student at the end of the day, at which time the student will be issued a warning by the principal. Additionally, the student may be given detention by the teacher for disrupting class.

Second offense – The **device** will be confiscated by a school employee and brought to the main office to be picked up in the office by the student at the end of the day. A parent or guardian may be required to pick up the **device**. It will be the student's responsibility to contact his/her parents after school hours to notify him/her of the violation. Additionally, the student may be given detention by the teacher for disrupting class.

Third offense – The **device** will be confiscated by a school employee and brought to the main office. The student's parent or guardian will be notified by the administration that this is the third offense. A parent or guardian will be required to pick up the **device**. Additionally, the student may be placed in ISA or may be assigned detentions by the principal.

Fourth and final offense – The **device** will be confiscated by a school employee and brought to the main office. The parent will also be required to pick up the device. The student's parent or guardian will be notified that this is the fourth and final offense and that the student **must leave the device in the office during school hours for a period to be determined by the administrator**. If the student does not submit the device to the office daily, they may be assigned appropriate discipline for repeated insubordination and/or charged with unruliness.

- R. Students are not permitted to eat outside the Commons or K-8 cafeteria without prior permission. Students may have water in a spill-proof container during the school day. Caution should be observed regarding the safety of Chromebooks and spillage of liquid.
- S. A student is not permitted to use, create, or distribute any language or materials deemed inappropriate, obscene, or objectionably offensive by any staff member, either written or verbal to annoy, humiliate, or harass others, and/or to disrupt the educational process. This prohibition includes, but is not limited to, the use of obscene gestures, signs, pictures, publications, printed materials, and/or any AI generated materials.
- T. Dangerous weapons and instruments - A student shall not possess, handle, transmit, or conceal any weapons or instruments capable of harming another person. This includes but is not limited to brass knuckles, switchblades, ice picks, rifles, handheld tasers, lighters, chemicals and gasses such as mace, smoke or stink bombs or sprays, etc. Possession of a weapon includes conventional objects like guns, pellet guns, knives, chains, or club type implements. It may also include any toy that is presented as a real weapon or reacted to as a real weapon or an object converted from its original use to an object used to threaten or injure another. This includes but is not limited to padlocks, pens, pencils, chairs, jewelry, and so on. Unauthorized igniting of matches, lighters, and

other devices that produce flames or sparks is prohibited. Criminal charges may be filed for any violation of this policy. Possession of a weapon will subject a student to expulsion and possible permanent exclusion. It will make no difference whether or not the weapon belongs to someone else, unless the student can provide convincing evidence that the weapon was placed in the student's possession without his/her knowledge. If it can be confirmed that a student other than the one who possessed the weapon brought a weapon on district property, that student shall also be subject to the same disciplinary action. Knives or knife holsters are prohibited. This includes any accessory that could be used as a weapon (i.e. belt chains, wallet chains, or any other sizable chains).

- U. Vandalism - Any student who willfully damages school property may be suspended until parents have made arrangements to reimburse the school for the damages. The administration will not hesitate to refer students to the proper authorities when the situation warrants.
- V. Stealing - Stealing, attempting to steal, or possession of stolen property, either on school grounds or during school activities may result in suspension for not more than 10 days. Subsequent offenses shall warrant expulsion.
- W. Skipping School/Teacher Assigned Discipline - Any student who knowingly skips discipline will be assigned additional discipline. The second offense may result in a suspension from school up to three (3) days.
- X. Outside of Building/Door Security - No student will be permitted outside the building at any time during the school day, without permission. Any student outside the building during school hours without permission of the principal or secretary will be subject to appropriate disciplinary action. Student(s) who enable unauthorized entry/reentry of any individual to the school building at any time will be subject to appropriate disciplinary action.
- Y. Improper Use of Technology - No computer action disrespecting students or staff will be tolerated. This includes posting to websites and/or social media from off-school locations if these posts cause a disruption to the regular school day. Non-academic usage of district provided technology, including devices, apps, programs, etc, will not be tolerated. Any abusive or improper use of artificial intelligence (AI) will not be tolerated.
- Z. Displays of affection, including but not limited to kissing, extended embracing or handholding will not be tolerated.
- AA. Carrying book bags, backpacks, and sling bags are not permitted during the school day unless medically prescribed.
- BB. Commission of any act on school premises, or at a school activity, in violation of the Ohio Criminal Code, Ohio Traffic Code, or the Ohio Juvenile Code. Any other activity by a pupil which the pupil knows, or should know, will disrupt the academic process or a curricular or extracurricular activity. Certain situations may dictate an exception to this policy based upon a principal's decision.
- CC. Loitering, unauthorized entry, or improper use of facilities, including all areas of the school campus, will not be tolerated.

Bullying/Aggressive Behavior

Harassment, intimidation, or bullying behavior by any student/school personnel in the Covington Exempted Village School District is strictly prohibited, and such conduct may result in disciplinary action, including suspension and/or expulsion from school. "Harassment, intimidation, or bullying", in accordance with House Bill 276, means any intentional written, verbal, graphic or physical act including electronically transmitted acts i.e., Internet, cell phone, personal electronic device, either overt or covert, by a student or group of students toward other students/school personnel with the intent to harass, intimidate, injure, threaten, ridicule, or humiliate. Such behaviors are prohibited on or immediately adjacent to school grounds, at any school-sponsored activity, on school provided transportation, or at any official school bus stop that a reasonable person under the circumstances should know will have the effect of:

- A. Causing mental or physical harm to the other student/school personnel including placing an individual in reasonable fear of physical harm and/or damaging of students' personal property; and,
- B. Is sufficiently severe, persistent, or pervasive that it creates an intimidating, threatening, or abusive educational environment for the other student/school personnel.

Dress Code

Covington High School should be looked upon as a professional learning environment and the clothing our students and staff wear should reflect this. Covington High School encourages students to dress and groom themselves in an appropriate manner. Since students are constantly on public display, they should take pride in their personal appearance. With this attitude, a favorable impression will be made upon the people of the community and visitors. Clothing, accessories or other aspects of appearance which are not consistent with safety, good health practices, or are disruptive to the educational process are unacceptable. The dress code is formulated to observe common rules of modesty, decency, neatness, cleanliness, and safety.

Students should consider the following questions when dressing for school:

1. Does my clothing reveal too much?
2. Does my clothing advertise something that is prohibited to minors?
3. Are there obscene, profane, drug-related, gang-related, or inflammatory messages on my clothing?
4. Am I dressed appropriately for the weather?
5. Is my clothing appropriate for a professional learning environment?

Expectations for Dress:

- Shirts/Blouses should have at least three inch wide shoulder straps. Tank style tops are not permitted. Shirts should be of sufficient length to cover the back and midriff when arms are raised, or the student is standing or sitting, and must have a full back. Tops are to be of a tight or closed weave. Open mesh, sheer, or fishnet tops are not acceptable, unless an appropriate top is worn underneath.
- Pants are to be worn at or above the waist. Any cuts/holes/tears in the pants must be below the acceptable shorts length, OR there must be tights/leggings or shorts worn underneath at least to the acceptable shorts length.
- Fleece, flannel, or pajama bottoms are NOT permitted for regular wear, unless on a designated spirit day.
- Shorts may be worn as long as they are ONE THIRD the length of the upper leg or longer, and the fit is decent and tasteful.
- Hats and wallet chains or other clothing/apparel/accessories that have no purpose inside the school are not to be worn.
- Sunglasses with 5% tint or more, unless medically prescribed, are not permitted in the building, except on designated spirit days.
- Appropriate footwear must be worn at all times.
- Clothing with inappropriate slogans and/or illustrations is not permitted, including clothing bearing suggestive, abusive, or provocative statements.
- Clothing displaying or promoting chemical advertisements (alcohol, drugs, tobacco, drug paraphernalia, vape devices, etc) is not permitted.
- Clothing that refers to or promotes any profanity, sexual reference, or disrespect or hatred toward others is not allowed.
- Clothing that degrades race, ethnic, sexual orientation, or religious viewpoints is not permitted.

Students who violate this code will be expected to rectify the situation at school upon the immediate request of ANY staff member. Every attempt will be made to notify a parent. **In the event that the student does not have access to alternate clothing at school, and a parent can not bring the student appropriate clothing to wear, the student will be provided clean clothing from our “spirit wear” closet.** If the student refuses to wear provided clothing, OR rectify the code violation themselves, they will be sent home. **If there is any question regarding apparel in the above dress code, the principal’s decision will be final.**

Students will follow the dress code as written. Staff will work together to address questionable dress by students. **The students should comply with staff requests first, but have the right to discuss the dress code with the principal.** After three dress code violations, progressive disciplinary action will follow, in which parents will be involved, including potential suspension from school for insubordination.

Disciplinary Courses Of Action & Restorative Practices

The superintendent, principal, administrative personnel, any teacher, or any other person authorized to be in charge of a school facility, function or event, including, but not limited to bus drivers in the course of conveying students to and from school or school functions, are authorized to take such action in connection with student behavior as is reasonably desirable or necessary. Such action shall be taken to help any student, to further school purposes or to prevent an interference therewith. These additional actions may include, but are not limited to, counseling, parent conferences, assignment of additional work, rearrangement of class schedules, requiring the student to remain in school after regular school hours, restriction of extracurricular activity, or becoming involved with the intervention assistance program.

Whenever possible, the first step in the disciplinary procedure may include restorative practices that attempt to determine the underlying cause(s) of the conflict, and how to repair harm. The goal of any disciplinary action is to teach students about consequences and taking responsibility for their actions. Restorative practices provide a framework for exploration and learning, along with a fair procedure for determining appropriate outcomes which satisfy all parties. When a restorative conference is not practical, or where parties are unwilling to participate, then the disciplinary procedure will be followed.

Detention/In-School Assignment/Saturday School

Discipline may be assigned by a principal or staff member for violation of school or individual classroom rules. Students must be given at least one day's notice for detention so that they may make transportation arrangements. Students are expected to make their own transportation arrangements. Office and/or staff issued detention will be served after school on either Monday, Wednesday or Friday in the HS library. Saturday school will be served from 8-12 as needed in the HS library. In-school assignments will be issued for violations that are deemed more severe than those receiving detentions. Students will be given class work and will receive credit, but will not be allowed in the regular classroom setting.

PLEASE CONTINUE TO THE NEXT PAGE...

Procedures For Pupil Suspension, Expulsion and Removal

In accordance with the provisions of the law, the Covington Board of Education has adopted a code specifying the types of misconduct for which a pupil may be suspended, expelled or removed from school. No pupil shall be suspended, expelled or removed except in accordance with the code adopted by the Board and the following procedures:

Suspensions:

1. The superintendent or principal may suspend.
2. No suspensions are to **exceed ten (10) school days**.
3. The superintendent or principal must give **written** notice of intention to suspend and the reasons why to the pupil.
4. The pupil must have an opportunity to appear at an **informal** hearing before the principal, superintendent or his designee, and has the right to challenge the reasons for the intended suspension or otherwise explain his actions. The hearing may take place immediately.
5. Within 24 hours of suspension, a designee will notify in writing, the parent guardian or custodian of the pupil, superintendent **and** clerk of the board of the suspension.
6. Suspensions may be out-of-school or in-school assignment. Notice must include the reasons for the suspension, and the right of pupil/parent to appeal to the Board of Education or to the Board's designee, the right to be represented at the appeal, and to request that the hearing or appeal be held in executive session.

Removals:

1. If a pupil's presence poses a continuing danger to persons or property or an ongoing threat of disrupting the academic process, then:
 - a. The superintendent or principal may remove the student from the premises or extracurricular activity.
 - b. A teacher may remove the student from curricular or extracurricular activities under his/her supervision.
 - c. If a teacher makes an emergency removal, the reasons must be submitted to the principal in writing as soon after the removal as practical.
2. In the event of an emergency removal, written notice to the pupil and the informal hearing prior to removal is not required, but an informal hearing will be held on the next school day after the removal is ordered.
3. Written notice of the hearing and the reason for the removal and any intended disciplinary action must be given to the pupil as soon as practical prior to the hearing.
 - a. The pupil must have the opportunity to appear at an informal hearing before the principal, superintendent, or his designee, and has the right to challenge the reasons for the intended suspension or otherwise explain their actions.
 - b. The person who ordered or requested the removal must be at the hearing.
 - c. Within 24 hours of the decision to suspend, the school official must notify the parent, guardian, or custodian of the pupil, the superintendent and the Clerk of the Board of the suspension.
4. If the superintendent or principal reinstates a pupil prior to the hearing for emergency removal, the teacher may demand and shall be given written reasons for the reinstatement. The teacher cannot refuse to reinstate even though reasons are given.
5. In all cases of normal disciplinary procedures where a pupil is removed from a curricular or extracurricular activity for less than 24 hours and is not subject to further suspension or expulsion the due process

requirement of 3313.66 or 3313.661 O.R.C, DOES NOT APPLY. The provisions of H.B. 421 apply to all suspensions, including “in-school” suspension.

6. In an emergency removal, a pupil can be kept from class until the matter of his misconduct is disposed of either by reinstatement, suspension or expulsion.

Expulsion:

1. Only the superintendent may expel.
2. The superintendent must give the pupil **and** his parent or guardian written notice of the intended expulsion.
 - a. The notice is to include reasons for the intended expulsion.
 - b. The pupil and parent or representative have the opportunity to appear on request before the superintendent or his designee to challenge his action or to otherwise explain the pupil's actions. The administration cannot compel such hearing in the event the pupil and parent choose not to have a hearing.
 - c. The notice is to state the time and place to appear which must not be less than 3 days nor later than 5 days after the notice.
 - d. The superintendent may grant an extension of time at the request of the pupil, his parent, guardian, custodian or representative. If the extension is granted, the superintendent shall notify all parties of the new time and place to appear.
3. Within 24 hours of the expulsion, notify in writing, the parent, guardian, or custodian of the pupil and the Clerk of the Board of the action to expel. The notice must include the reasons for the expulsion and the right of pupil, parent, or custodian to appeal to the Board of Education or its designee to be represented at the **appeal**, and to request the hearing to be held in executive session.

Permanent Exclusion:

The Board may seek the permanent exclusion of a student 16 years of age or older who is either convicted in criminal court or adjudicated delinquent by a juvenile court of any of the following offenses that occur on school grounds or at a school function:

1. Illegal conveyance or possession of a deadly weapon, dangerous ordinance, or a look-a-like deadly weapon, carrying a concealed weapon, aggravated trafficking, trafficking in drugs, trafficking involving the possession of a bulk amount of a controlled substance or the sale of a controlled substance and/or
2. Aggravated murder, murder, voluntary or involuntary manslaughter, felonious or aggravated assault, rape, gross sexual imposition or felonious sexual penetration. In addition, complicity in any of the above acts may be the basis for permanent exclusion.

Appeal to Board:

1. A pupil or the parent, guardian, or custodian may appeal an expulsion or suspension by the superintendent or principal to the board of education or to its designee. Such pupil or parent, guardian, or custodian may be represented in all such appeal proceedings and shall be granted a hearing before the board or its designee in order to be heard against such suspension or expulsion. In cases of suspensions or expulsions by the superintendent, the Board of Education or some other central office administrative designee shall be the appellate board or officer.
2. A verbatim, word for word, record is required for appeal hearing procedures (This may be a tape recording, etc.)
3. No formal procedure for the hearing to follow is required by statute.
4. Formal action to affirm, vacate or modify the disciplinary action on the **appeal** may be taken only at a “public meeting”.

5. The decision of the Board or its designee may be appealed to the Court of Common Pleas under O.R.C. 2506.

Special Note: Mailing of Notice

No special mailing or handling of notices is required by 3313.66 or 3313.661 O.R.C.

Regular first class mail with “proof of mailing” by the post office is recommended. Since “proof of mailing” is not proof of contents, a copy of the letter contents shall be attached to the corresponding proof of mailing slip.

Chemical Abuse Regulation

A. Policy Statement

The Covington Exempted Village Board of Education believes that personal use of mood-altering chemicals (drug/alcohol) represents:

- (1) inappropriate behavior that interferes with the learning process AND
- (2) a possible primary medical problem (chemical dependency).

The Board further believes that co-dependents (those having a relationship with a chemical abuser or chemically dependent person) are also at risk. This relationship may affect a student by:

- a. promoting or increasing chemical experimentation
- b. promoting behavior disorders, and/or
- c. influencing academic achievement.

To meet these concerns, the Covington Board of Education wishes to work cooperatively with students, staff, parents/guardians, and the community.

To this end, the Board of Education pledges to help students in the following ways:

- (1) to promote a strict code of conduct, thereby establishing the safe living environment;
- (2) to provide on-going informative programs to students, staff, parents/guardians and community; AND
- (3) to establish appropriate prevention, intervention and support programs to assist the affected students.

B. Code of Conduct Statement

- (1) Alcoholic Beverages, Drugs and Narcotics

No student shall possess, (including but not limited to purses, wallets, lockers, desks, cars, etc.) consume, use, handle, give, store, conceal, offer to sell, sell, transmit, acquire, buy, represent, make, apply, or * be under the influence of any narcotic drug, hallucinogenic drug, amphetamine, barbiturate, marijuana, tranquilizer, **prescription drug, alcoholic beverage, intoxicant, solvent, gas, or mood altering chemical, or any ***counterfeit controlled substance of any kind.

No student shall have in their possession, use, handle, conceal, offer to sell, sell, deliver, transmit, buy or make any instrument used for drug abuse, or actual paraphernalia (including but not limited to hypodermic needles, syringes, pipes, roach clips, rolling paper, etc.)

C. Terminology

1. ***Under the Influence:** is defined as manifesting signs of chemical use such as staggering, reddened eyes, odor of chemicals, nervousness, restlessness, falling asleep in class, memory loss, abusive language, or any other behavior not normal for that particular student.
2. ****Prescription Drug:** is defined as a drug authorized by a medical prescription from a licensed physician and shall not be considered a violation of this rule **as long** as a signed physician's statement and prescription label is presented to the school nurse or principal's office. Such medication shall be kept in the security of the school officials.
3. *****Counterfeit Controlled Substance or "Look Alikes":**

(as defined in the Ohio Revised Code 2925.01)

- a. Any drug that bears, or whose container or label bears, a trademark, trade name, or other identifying mark used without authorization of the owner of rights to such trademark, trade name, or identifying mark.
- b. Any unmarked or unlabeled substance that is represented to be a controlled substance manufactured, processed, packed or distributed by a person other than the person that manufactured, processed, packed or distributed it.
- c. Any substance that is represented to be a controlled substance but it is not a controlled substance or is a different controlled substance.
- d. Any substance other than a controlled substance that a reasonable person would believe to be a controlled substance because of its similarity in shape, size, and color, or its marking, labeling, packaging, distribution, or the price for which it is sold, or offered for sale.

*No person shall possess any counterfeit controlled substance.

*No person shall make, offer to sell, or deliver any substance.

*No person shall make, possess, sell, offer to sell, or deliver any punch, die, plate or stone or other device knowingly or having reason to know that it will be used to print or reproduce a trademark, trade name, or other identifying mark upon a counterfeit controlled substance.

*No person shall directly or indirectly represent a counterfeit controlled substance as a controlled substance by describing its effects as the physical or psychological effects associated with the use of a controlled substance.

*No person shall directly or indirectly falsely represent or advertise a counterfeit controlled substance as a controlled substance.

*Whoever violates any or all parts of this section will be reported to the appropriate law enforcement agency for possible prosecution.

Alcohol, Drugs and/or Narcotics Violations

A. Procedures for:

- | | | | |
|--------------|-----------|---------------|-------------------|
| - possession | - storing | - consumption | - concealing |
| - use | - making | - handling | - under influence |
| - giving | | | |

1st Violation:

1. 10 days Out-of-School Suspension
2. Notify parent/guardian
3. Notify appropriate law enforcement agency (or other appropriate criminal justice agencies)
4. Notify Response to Intervention Team
 - a. Recommend professional Assessment Agency*
 - b. Communicate with Assessment Agency
5. If Assessment is done and recommendations are followed, the 10-day O.S.S. may be reduced.

2nd Violation:

1. 10 days Out-of-School Suspension
2. Notify parent/guardian
3. Recommend expulsion
4. Notify appropriate law enforcement agency (or other appropriate criminal justice agencies)
5. Notify Response to Intervention Team
 - a. Refer student to professional Assessment Agency*
 - b. Communicate with Assessment Agency-
6. Expulsion may be held in abeyance if recommendations of assessing agency are followed.

3rd Violation:

1. 10 days Out-of-School Suspension
2. Notify parent/guardian
3. Recommend expulsion
4. Notify appropriate law enforcement agency (or other appropriate criminal justice agencies)
5. Notify Response to Intervention Team
 - a. Assist (if requested by student/parent) with referral to professional Assessment Agency.

B. Procedures for:

- supplying
 - offering to sell
 - dealings
 - selling
1. 10 days Out-of-School Suspension
 2. Notify parent/guardian
 3. Recommend expulsion
 4. Referral to appropriate law enforcement agency (or other appropriate criminal justice agencies).

C. Procedures for Paraphernalia*

- possession
- using
- handling
- concealing
- offering to sell
- delivering
- transmitting
- buying
- making

*(Paraphernalia includes hypodermic needles, syringes, pipes, roach clips, rolling papers, etc.)

1. Possible suspension
2. Notify parent/guardian
3. Notify Intervention Assistance Team
4. Possible referral to appropriate law enforcement agency (or other appropriate criminal justice agencies)

Intent to cooperate with appropriate law enforcement or other criminal justice agencies:

It is the intent of the Board of Education that cooperation takes place between school and law enforcement agencies, with regard to the following:

- A. The preservation and submission of physical evidence to investigating officers.
 - B. The prompt providing of written statements of observations and discoveries by school employees to investigating officers; and,
 - C. The availability of school employees to testify, if necessary, in subsequent proceedings.
-

Title IX Procedures

A student who believes he/she has valid reason or cause for a complaint related to Title IX shall, within ten (10) school days of the complainant's first knowledge of the alleged condition or action upon which the complaint is based, notify a staff member in writing and/or personally. Please see Board Policy 2266 for more information about timelines and procedures related to Title IX.

Athletic Department Rules And Procedures

Philosophy

The Board of Education recognizes that a complete athletic program based upon student interest assists in the total education of students. While emphasis is given to intellectual growth, diversified opportunities are provided for students who wish to participate in the athletic program.

The Board of Education, Superintendent of Schools, and Building Principal may establish written policies, rules and regulations, of general application governing an athlete's conduct. In addition, every coach has the responsibility and the authority to maintain the proper discipline among athletes of the school and may establish certain rules and regulations in conjunction with those established by the Board of Education, Superintendent, and Building Principal.

Definition Of An Athlete

A student is considered to be an athlete from the first day he/she starts to practice with any interscholastic team in school until he/she graduates from high school or fails to report for any other athletic squad while attending Covington Schools.

PRE-SEASON - Any training occurring six weeks prior to the established Ohio High School Athletic Association's designated beginning date. In-season athletes may not participate in pre-season activities of another sport.

IN-SEASON - The first day of practice will be established by the head coach who will use the Ohio High School Athletic Association's requirements as a point of reference.

POST-SEASON - The completion of the state tournament or individual/team advancement in the Ohio High School Athletic Association Sponsored State Tournament. Upon completion of a sport season, all in-season athletes are required to be offered three (3) school days of noninvolvement in the athletic programs. The athlete may or may not choose to use these three days.

High School Sports

<u>FALL</u>	<u>WINTER</u>	<u>SPRING</u>
Cheerleading	Basketball	Baseball
Cross Country	Cheerleading	Softball
Football	Wrestling	Track & Field
Golf		
Volleyball		

Expectations of Athletes

Athletes representing Covington Schools must realize their conduct reflects on themselves, their school, and their community. Therefore, all Covington School athletes shall:

- A. Have a high standard of social behavior.
- B. Display proper sportsmanship in defeat, as well as in victory.
- C. Respect authority - parents, officials, teachers, coaches and others.
- D. Have a proper spirit of cooperation.
- E. Be dedicated to hard work and training.
- F. Display proper behavior in school and all school related activities.

Interscholastic Activities

Covington High School is a member of the Three Rivers Conference. Our opponents in this league are Bethel, Riverside, Nortridge, Milton-Union, Miami East, Lehman Catholic and Troy Christian. Within the league we participate in golf, baseball, track, basketball, wrestling, cross-country, football, softball and volleyball.

Interscholastic Activity Policy

The rules and regulations of the Ohio High School Athletic Association must be provided for the Covington Board of Education and the general policies of Covington High School govern the conduct of interscholastic activities.

Appearance

Athletes are expected to have a well-groomed appearance. The athlete's clothes must be clean. His/her hairstyle must be appropriate for each athletic activity and conform to the rules set by each individual coach. It is not to interfere with the individual's performance nor present a situation that could cause a hazardous condition for the athlete or for other athletes.

General Rules And Guidelines

- A. A student on out-of-school suspension is ineligible to participate in a practice or contest during the term of the suspension. A student on in-school suspension may be declared ineligible to participate in a practice or contest during the term of the suspension. The principal, depending on the severity of the offense, will make this determination.
- B. An athlete must travel to and from the contest he/she is involved in with the rest of the team, unless the coach excuses him. To be excused, the athlete must submit a written notice from his/her parent and can only leave with his/her parent.
- C. An athlete is responsible for the uniform issued to him/her. If the athlete does not return this uniform to the athletic department, his/her athletic awards will be held. Once the uniform is returned or paid for, the athlete will receive his/her award.
- D. If an athlete participating in "Athletic Activity A" is suspended from the squad, he/she is not eligible to join the organized conditioning program or go out for "Athletic Activity B" until the other members of "Athletic Activity A" are eligible to come out.
- E. If an athlete participating in "Athletic Activity A" quits the team after the first regularly scheduled game or match, he/she is not eligible to try out, practice, or participate in any other athletic activity, including intramurals, that may be going on during that season. In addition, the athlete will not be permitted to join an organized conditioning program or go out for "Athletic Activity B" until other members of "Athletic Activity A" are eligible to come out.
- F. Parents are responsible for proper medical insurance programs. Covington Exempted Village School will assume no responsibility for athletic injuries. No athlete will be allowed to participate in practice sessions until the required OHSA physical card and waiver sheets are turned in to the coach or Athletic Director signed by the examining physician and parent.
- G. If an athlete goes out for an athletic activity but is "cut", the athlete is eligible to participate in another athletic activity during that season.
- H. No athlete will be allowed to participate in two (2) different athletic activities during the same season, i.e. track and softball, basketball and wrestling, etc. The only exception to this rule is that a cheerleader may participate in a sport during the season in which they are a cheerleader. The following guidelines will be adhered to: 1) The OHSA sport takes precedence in all cases at all times (practice and/or contests); 2) In unusual situations, the Building Principal and Athletic Director will have the final decision. In addition, an athlete that participates in an athletic activity, and his/her season ends, will not be allowed to be picked up by another athletic activity. For example, at the conclusion of the baseball season, the baseball player could not participate on the track team.

- I. An athlete may be denied eligibility to participate or be part of an athletic team if they are arrested, indicted, facing or convicted of any felony charges within the judicial system.
- J. When there is a conflict between a school sponsored activity and a non-school activity, the student shall participate in the school sponsored activity.

Athletic Code Of Conduct

As representatives of their school, athletes should strive to develop and maintain a high set of standards both in the classroom and in their respective sport.

The Covington Schools have set standards, i.e., rules, that every athlete is expected to abide by. It is the responsibility of each coach to inform his/her athletes of the rules and regulations that govern their sport, including the Covington Schools Athletic Code.

Infractions of the coaches' rules, the Student Code of Conduct as outlined in the Student Handbook, drug testing policy as adopted by the Covington Board of Education, the Covington Schools Athletic Code, the Ohio High School Athletic Association's Policies, or the Ohio Revised Code shall be reported to the Athletic Director and/or the Principal.

Each case needs to be reviewed by the Athletic Director and Principal to determine the context in which the violation occurred, extenuating circumstances surrounding the violation, and whether or not the violation is subject to penalty.

Infractions that occur during scheduled OHSAAs contests or scrimmages by an athlete (any student ejected for unsportsmanlike conduct or flagrant foul) will be handled by following established procedures and penalties set down by the OHSAAs General Sports Regulations.

Offenses

- A. Substance abuse
 - 1. An athlete shall not possess, use, transfer, conceal, sell, attempt to sell, deliver, or be under the influence of any narcotic, hallucinogenic drug, marijuana, barbiturate, amphetamine, or any other non-prescriptive drug. (See letter G under consequences)
 - 2. An athlete shall not possess, drink or be under the influence of alcohol or possess, use, or be in the presence of any form of tobacco or nicotine product (includes vaping). This could include if a student is in the presence of vaping as alerted by the vape detectors. (See student code of conduct)
- B. Theft, damage, or misuse of school and private property
 - 1. No athlete shall steal or intentionally damage any school or private property.
- C. Assault on or physical injury to students and/or adults
 - 1. No athlete shall intentionally assault, cause, or attempt to cause physical injury to other students and/or adults.
- D. Sexual misconduct
 - 1. No athlete shall intimidate or be a party to the intimidation of another student for the purpose or sexual interests, or engage in any form of exhibitionism, or act of sexual misconduct.
- E. General misconduct
 - 1. An athlete shall not display character or conduct deemed to reflect discredit upon the team and/or the school.
 - 2. An athlete must follow any rules or requests set down by the coach.
 - 3. An athlete is prohibited from exhibiting obscene and lewd gestures during a school function or event.
- F. Bullying/Harassment
 - 1. No athlete shall use or be part of a group that uses unwanted, aggressive behavior to intimidate or cause harm to other students and/or adults.

Consequences

These are minimum standards. Each coach may have additional training rules, provided the rules are submitted, in writing, to the Athletic Director for approval prior to the beginning of the respective sport and are distributed to the team members.

- A. The first offense during a school year (beginning August 1 for fall participants and ending on June 5) will result in the athlete being denied the opportunity to participate in their present sport interscholastic contests for a minimum of 20% of scheduled Ohio High School Athletic Association contests. (Note: Any fractional part of a contest is rounded up to the next whole number.)
- B. The second violation during the same school year will result in denial to participate with the team in their present sport interscholastic contests for a minimum of 50% of scheduled Ohio High School Athletic contests.
- C. If the second offense occurs during the same competitive season as the first offense, the athlete will be removed from the team and will not be allowed to participate with the team for the remainder of that season and will forfeit the right to receive any awards for that season.
- D. If an athlete has a violation at the end of his/her season, the remaining consequence will be served in the athlete's next competitive season — that is the remaining contests in the sport the athlete was participating in when the infraction occurred PLUS any remaining contests of the original percentage to be served in the athlete's next competitive sport season. (This could transcend over into the next school year.)
- E. The third offense during a school year would result in referral to the Covington Athletic Disciplinary Panel (A.D.P.).

This panel, composed of the high school principal, middle school principal or designee, and the high school athletic director, will review the circumstances and details of the situation. They will meet with the athlete and/or the athlete's parents and render a decision based on the best interest of all individuals involved, the team and its members, the total athletic program, and the school and community.

- 1. Substance abuse violators will be referred to a professional assessment agency. In addition, the school psychologist and/or guidance counselor will become part of the A.D.P.
- 2. Theft, damage, or misuse of school or private property at all levels will include full monetary restitution.
- F. If an offense occurs at any time during a school year (See Consequence "A") when the student is not involved in a sport (between seasons or prior to the official start of a sport season), the violation will be treated the same as if the offense occurred during the season. The athlete will be denied the opportunity to participate for a minimum of 20% of scheduled Ohio High School Athletic Association contests of the first sport that they participated in after the first offense occurs. Each offense thereafter will be treated just as if they occurred during the season.
- G. Random Drug Testing Policy (See adopted Board policy on district website for consequences).

SEVERITY CLAUSE: If an athlete's conduct is determined by the coach to be severe and/or flagrant, the coach will recommend a meeting of the Athletic Disciplinary Panel to resolve the situation and establish the consequence. The consequence does not necessarily need to follow the established stages or guidelines (Example: A student/athlete arrested for DUI, any violation in which police arrests were made).

TWENTY-FOUR HOUR DISMISSAL: A coach may suspend an athlete from practice for a period of time no greater than twenty-four hours for a violation of training rules or for actions or behaviors which are detrimental to the program. This action may not be appealed through the Athletic Due Process.

Procedures For Handling Athletic Violations

A coach suspecting an athlete of violating the Athletic Code will confer with the Athletic Director and the building administrator to determine what action will be taken. During the conference the coach and athletic director will both be present and will give the athlete an explanation of the suspicions/allegations, and ask the athlete to explain his/her involvement.

The athletic director and coach will evaluate the evidence and render a decision. A tape recording of the proceedings will be used.

Athletic Due Process

- A. In the case of an athlete being suspended or dismissed from an athletic squad, the head coach and athletic director will talk with the athlete and explain the reasons for the suspension or dismissal. The head coach and/or athletic director will give the athlete, the parent, guardian or custodians, the athletic director, and principal, a written report of the situation to include the...
 - 1. Infraction of the Athletic Code.
 - 2. Action taken by the coach according to Athletic Code.
 - 3. Right to appeal to the appeal board.
- B. If the athlete or parent, guardian, or custodian is not satisfied with the explanation of the coach and/or athletic director, he/she has the right to appeal within seventy-two (72) hours after the coach has given the written report to the athlete. The appeal must be requested in writing and filed with the athletic director. The Appeal Board shall meet with the appealing student and parents/guardians no later than five (5) school days after the appeal request. The Appeal Board will be made up of the high school athletic director, the high school principal, and the middle school principal or Designee. The athlete and his/her parents/guardians will be allowed to meet with the Appeal Board and present their position. If the coach and athletic director is the same person, another school official will be appointed to the Appeal Board by the respective building principal. The high school principal may appoint a replacement for any member of the Appeal Board if a conflict of interest presents itself.

The Appeal Board will give the athlete, parent, guardian or custodian, head coach and the superintendent a written report of the decision. The decision will then be presented to the athlete, parent, guardian or custodian within forty-eight (48) hours after the Appeal Board has made its decision. The decision must be made within seventy-two (72) hours after the hearing. The decision of the Appeal Board shall be final. The appealing student's parent(s) should also be at the review.
- C. An athlete is under suspension during the appeal process.

Note 1: If circumstances not listed in this handbook develop, the head coach may bring the information (written) to the athletic director. The coach will meet with the Athletic Disciplinary Panel and this group will determine the procedure for solving the situation.

Note 2: Changes or additions in this handbook will be presented to the athletic director and then taken to the Athletic Board for approval. If approved by the Athletic Board, it will be presented to the Covington Board of Education. If approved by the Board of Education, the changes or additions will go into effect immediately.

Athletic Chain Of Command

Any questions or concerns regarding athletes should adhere to the following chain of command: coach, building level athletic director, building level principal, superintendent.

Academic Eligibility

It is expected that all student/athletes will strive to attain the highest possible level of academic achievement. Minimum academic standards must be met in order to remain eligible for athletic participation. A student/athlete should not drop a class without first consulting with their coach or counselor to determine whether it will affect eligibility. Eligibility for each grading period is determined by grades received the preceding grading period. Semester average, the final examination, and yearly average have no effect on eligibility. Students may participate with a failing grade in a specific course as long as they earn a minimum G.P.A. of 1.5 each quarter, and do not fail two or more classes.

- A. In order to be eligible in grades 9-12, a student must be currently enrolled and must have been enrolled in school the immediately preceding grading period. During the preceding grading period, the student must have received passing grades in a minimum of five one-credit courses or the equivalent, which count toward graduation. **Students in 8th grade must have received passing grades in a minimum of five (5) one-credit courses in the fourth quarter, and at least three of the passing grades must be in core classes, to be eligible in the fall of the freshman year.**
- The eligibility or ineligibility of a student continues until the start of the fifth (5th) school day of the next grading period, at which time the grades from the immediately preceding grading period become effective. EXCEPTION: Eligibility or ineligibility for the first grading period commences with the start of the fall sports season. **A student enrolled in the first grading period after advancement from the eighth grade must have passed a minimum of 5 subjects carried the preceding grading period in which the student was enrolled.**
- B. Summer School: Grades may not be used to substitute for failing grades received during the final grading period of the regular school year.
- C. A student/athlete ineligible at the beginning of a season may practice with the team upon permission from the coach.
- D. An incomplete (I) may be given on a students' grade card in situations approved by the administration. However, the previously scheduled work and/or exams must be completed within the five (5) school days following the end of the preceding grading period, and Exception 3 of the OHSA Scholarship Bylaw 4-4-1 must be met to restore athletic eligibility. Exception 3 of this bylaw is listed below.
- EXCEPTION 3: If a student's failure to meet the requirements of this bylaw are due to an "incomplete" given in one or more courses which the student was taking during the grading period in question, the student may have his/her eligibility restored by the Executive Director's office once the "incomplete" has been changed to a passing letter grade provided:
- a) the failure to complete the required coursework during the grading period was due to calamity day(s), family tragedy, or illness or accident as verified by a physician; and
 - b) the "incomplete" was given in accordance with Board of Education/other governing board adopted policies and procedures and is applicable to all students in the school; and
 - c) the previously scheduled work and/or exams is/are completed within the time period provided in Board policy for completing work required to convert an "incomplete" into a letter grade; and
 - d) there is no evidence that the "incomplete" was given in order to afford the student extended time in order to provide the student tutoring or other educational services simply to avoid a failing grade.
- Note: This exception only applies where an "incomplete" has been issued and not a letter grade that is subsequently changed as a result of the extended time/additional work. (OHSA Scholarship Bylaw)
- E. Awards: An athlete that is declared ineligible for a nine-week period during the season that encompasses the remainder of the schedule and is more than 25% of the regular scheduled games, forfeits all awards that may have been earned that season.

Attendance

All athletes are strongly encouraged to be prompt in their daily attendance. However, when unavoidable circumstances are present, the following guidelines shall be used. Students who miss classes without authorization on date of a contest may not represent their school on that day unless special permission is granted by the Principal (i.e. Funeral, Doctor's Appointment, college visit, death in the family). Participants must be in school for at least the second half of the school day (4 periods, and by the start of 5th period) on the day of the activity, unless the student has special permission from the Principal to practice or play that day. If the student is out of school all day or in the afternoon due to "illness", he/she will not be permitted to participate in the contest or practice. If the student is out of school after the start of 5th period for a reason such as a doctor's appointment, college visit, etc., the proper documentation must be turned in, in order to play that day.

Coaches are responsible for checking the absence list for the purpose of determining who may or may not be eligible to participate that evening.

Notification Of Rights Under The Protection Of Pupil Rights Amendment (PPRA)

PPRA affords parents and students who are 18 or emancipated minors ("eligible students") certain rights regarding our conduct of surveys, collection and use of information for marketing purposes, and certain physical exams. These include the right to:

- *Consent* before students are required to submit to a survey that concerns one or more of the following protected areas ("protected information survey") if the survey is funded in whole or in part by a program of the U.S. Department of Education (ED)–

1. Political affiliations or beliefs of the student or student's parent;
2. Mental or psychological problems of the student or student's family;
3. Sex behavior or attitudes;
4. Illegal, anti-social, self-incriminating, or demeaning behavior;
5. Critical appraisals of others with whom respondents have close family relationships;
6. Legally recognized privileged relationships, such as with lawyers, doctors, or ministers;
7. Religious practices, affiliations, or beliefs of the student or parents; or
8. Income, other than as required by law to determine program eligibility.

· *Receive notice and an opportunity to opt a student out of –*

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

· *Inspect, upon request and before administration or use –*

1. Protected information surveys of students;
2. Instruments used to collect personal information from students for any of the above marketing, sales, or other distribution purposes; and
3. Instructional material used as part of the educational curriculum.

Covington Exempted Village School District has developed and adopted policies, in consultation with parents, regarding these rights, as well as arrangements to protect student privacy in the administration of protected surveys and the collection, disclosure, or use of personal information for marketing, sales, or other distribution purposes. Covington Exempted Village School District will directly notify parents and eligible students of these policies at least annually at the start of each school year and after any substantive changes. Covington Exempted Village School District will also directly notify parents and eligible students, such as through U.S. Mail or email, at least annually at the start of each school year of the specific or approximate dates of the following activities and provide an opportunity to opt a student out of participating in:

1. Collection, disclosure, or use of personal information for marketing, sales or other distribution.
2. Administration of any protected information survey not funded in whole or in part by ED.
3. Any non-emergency, invasive physical examination or screening as described above.
4. *Parents/eligible students who believe their rights have been violated may file a complaint with:*

Family Policy Compliance Office
U.S. Department of Education
400 Maryland Avenue, SW
Washington, D.C. 20202-4605

Notice And Consent/Opt-Out For Specific Activities

The Protection of Pupil Rights Amendment (PPRA), 20 U.S.C. § 1232h, requires Covington Exempted Village Schools to notify you and obtain consent or allow you to opt your child out of participating in certain school activities. These activities include a student survey, analysis, or evaluation that concerns one or more of the following eight areas ("protected information surveys"):

1. Political affiliations or beliefs of the student or student's parent;
2. Mental or psychological problems of the student or student's family;
3. Sex behavior or attitudes;
4. Illegal, anti-social, self-incriminating, or demeaning behavior;
5. Critical appraisals of others with whom respondents have close family relationships;
6. Legally recognized privileged relationships, such as with lawyers, doctors, or ministers;
7. Religious practices, affiliations, or beliefs of the student or parents; or
8. Income, other than as required by law to determine program eligibility. This requirement also applies to the collection, disclosure or use of student information for marketing purposes ("marketing surveys"), and certain physical exams and screenings.

Notification Of Rights For Elementary And Secondary Schools

The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) affords parents and students over 18 years of age ("eligible students") certain rights with respect to the student's education records. These rights are:

1. The right to inspect and review the student's education records within 45 days of the day the School receives a request for access. Parents or eligible students should submit to the School Principal or Superintendent a written request that identifies the record(s) they wish to inspect. The School official will make arrangements for access and notify the parent or eligible student of the time and place where the records may be inspected.
2. The right to request the amendment of the student's education records that the parent or eligible student believes are inaccurate or misleading. Parents or eligible students may ask the School to amend a record that they believe is inaccurate or misleading. They should write the School Principal or Superintendent clearly identify the part of the record they want changed, and specify why it is inaccurate or misleading. If the School decides not to amend the record as requested by the parent or eligible student, the School will notify the parent or eligible student of the decision and advise them of their right to a hearing regarding the request for amendment. Additional information regarding the hearing procedures will be provided to the parent or eligible student when notified of the right to a hearing.
3. The right to consent to disclosures of personally identifiable information contained in the student's education records, except to the extent that FERPA authorizes disclosure without consent. One exception, which permits disclosure without consent, is disclosure to school officials with legitimate educational interests. A school official is a person employed by the School as an administrator, supervisor, instructor, or support staff member (including health or medical staff and law enforcement unit personnel); a person serving on the School Board; a person or company with whom the School has contracted to perform a special task (such as an attorney, auditor, medical consultant, or therapist); or a parent or student serving on an official committee, such as a disciplinary or grievance committee, or assisting another school official in performing his or her tasks. A school official has a legitimate educational interest if the official needs to review an education record in order to fulfill his or her professional responsibility. Upon request, the School discloses education records without consent to officials of another school district in which a student seeks or intends to enroll.

4. The right to file a complaint with the U.S. Department of Education concerning alleged failures by the School to comply with the requirements of FERPA. The name and address of the Office that administers FERPA are:

**Family Policy Compliance Office
U.S. Department of Education
400 Maryland Avenue, SW
Washington, DC 20202-4605**

Asbestos Management Program Annual Notice

On October 22, 1986, President Reagan signed the Asbestos Hazard Emergency Response Act (AHERA, Public Law 99-519). The act required the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to develop regulations for addressing asbestos in public and private elementary and secondary schools. On October 30, 1987, the EPA published the Asbestos-Containing Materials in Schools Rule (40 CFR Part 763 Subpart E). This rule stipulated, and our district has complied with, the following key requirements:

- Identification of asbestos-containing materials in all school buildings.
- Development and implementation of asbestos management plans for each school.
- Regular surveillance and reinspections of the condition of asbestos in the buildings.
- Designation and training of a person to oversee asbestos activities within the district and to ensure compliance with the regulations.

This memorandum is to advise you that asbestos management plans for the district schools were developed following the EPA ruling and subsequently approved by the State of Ohio, Department of Health. These plans are regularly updated and are available for you to review.

Should you have any questions regarding this program or would like to review an asbestos management plan, please contact the Board of Education offices during normal business hours.