

Westerly High School

Grades 9-12



Student Handbook

2026-2027



"Our mission is to create an inspiring, challenging, and supportive environment where students are encouraged and assisted in reaching their highest potential."

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The WHS Student Handbook Acknowledgement Sheet

Dear Student, Parents/Guardians,

Welcome to Westerly High School! We trust that you have all had a pleasant summer and are ready for the excitement of another school year.

Coming back to school is a wonderful time of year for us all. We challenge you to set your sights high, commit to excellence in your school work and take full advantage of the opportunities that can be found through education. Our expectations for you are high. If everyone works diligently, together, we can make Westerly High School a great place to work and learn. We will all respect one another. We will take responsibility for our own actions, always and in all ways. Each individual student has much potential, and Westerly High School wants you to make the most out of that potential. We are here to help you succeed!

The administration team requests that parents/guardians and students read the student handbook carefully and become familiar with its contents. Within these pages, you will find the rules of our school, an explanation of the services and programs we offer, and our expectations for the education of your child. After reading the student handbook, both you and your child must sign this form and the Handbook Acknowledgement Sheet and return all to the Main Office. Students who fail to submit paperwork are prohibited from participation and entry to extra-curricular activities, including athletics. Completed paperwork (page 5 and the Handbook Acknowledgment Sheet) must be returned within 10 days of the start of school.

Best Wishes,

Westerly High School Administrative Team

Student Signature _____

(Print Name) _____

Parent Signature _____

(Print Name) _____

Date _____

Email address _____

Parent/Guardian Statement of Receipt Westerly Public Schools' Student Expectation Handbook 2026-2027

I am the parent or guardian of the below named child and by my signature I acknowledge that I have received a copy of the Westerly Public Schools' Grades 9-12 Student Expectation Handbook.

By signing this Statement of Receipt, I do not waive or abdicate, but do reserve any rights protected by the Constitution or laws of the United States or the State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations. I further understand that I have the right to express disagreement with the Westerly Public Schools' policies or

decisions.

SEC. 9528. ARMED FORCES RECRUITER ACCESS TO STUDENTS AND STUDENT RECRUITING INFORMATION.

(1) ACCESS TO STUDENT RECRUITING INFORMATION- Notwithstanding section 444(a)(5)(B) of the General Education Provisions Act and except as provided in paragraph (2), each local educational agency receiving assistance under this Act shall provide, on a request made by military recruiters or an institution of higher education, access to secondary school students names, addresses, and telephone listings.

2) CONSENT- A secondary school student or the parent of the student may request that the student's name, address, and telephone listing described in paragraph (1) not be released without prior written parental consent, and the local educational agency or private school shall notify parents of the option to make a request and shall comply with any request.

(3) SAME ACCESS TO STUDENTS- Each local educational agency receiving assistance under this Act shall provide military recruiters the same access to secondary school students as is provided generally to post secondary educational institutions or to prospective employers of those students. (b) NOTIFICATION- The Secretary, in consultation with the Secretary of Defense, shall, not later than 120 days after the date of enactment of the No Child Left Behind Act of 2001, notify principals, school administrators, and other educators about the requirements of this section. (c) EXCEPTION- The requirements of this section do not apply to a private secondary school that maintains a religious objection to service in the Armed Forces if the objection is verifiable through the corporate or other organizational documents or materials of that school. Directory information is limited to name, address, and telephone number.

_____ No. The directory information on my child may not be released to colleges, universities, or military recruiters.

Name/Signature of Student: _____

Signature of Parent/Guardian: _____

Date: _____

*****Please return to your child's school within 10 days of the start of school*****

**Westerly Public Schools
Internet Responsible Use Policy Signature Page (Student)
Network User Acknowledgement and Consent Form**

I hereby acknowledge that I have received a copy of the Westerly Public School Responsible Use Policy and I have read and understand the Terms and Conditions set forth therein.

I understand that it is the responsibility of all users, staff, and students to ensure that Westerly Public School technology resources are being used for educational purposes. Staff members and students that are issued a unique account are responsible for its use at all times. It is therefore important that all users log off the computer at the end of each session.

I further agree and understand that all computer systems and equipment, as well as all information transmitted, received, or stored on such systems, are School District property. I understand I have no expectation of privacy in connection with the use of any of the School District's equipment or the transmission, receipt or storage of information on this equipment or network.

BOOK ACKNOWLEDGEMENT FORM

I also acknowledge and consent to the School District's monitoring and use of this equipment at any time. Such monitoring may include but is not limited to, email, web browsing, and computer files to which I have access. Any computer or user is subject to these rules.

Printed Student Name _____

Signature of Student _____

Signature of Parent/Guardian _____

Date _____

I also have received the Westerly Public Schools' District policy on Internet use and indicate the preference for my child below.

_____ Yes, my child's picture and/or name may appear on a school website*, district communications be printed in a newspaper/online newspaper or be recorded on video for broadcast. *First name only on websites.

_____ No, my child's picture and/or name may NOT appear on a school website, be printed in a newspaper/online newspaper, or be recorded on video for broadcast.

_____ **Yes, I would like to receive email updates regarding issues of importance from Westerly Public Schools, including my child's principal and the Westerly School Committee. My email address is**

(Your email address will not be shared with any other group and will only be used for this purpose.)

Dear Parent:

In accordance with ESSA, Section 1112(e)(1)(A) PARENTS RIGHT-TO-KNOW, this letter serves as notification from the Westerly Public School (WPS) District to every parent of a student attending a WPS school receiving federal Title funding that parents of students in said schools have the right and may request, and the agency will provide the parents upon request (and in a timely manner), information regarding the professional qualifications of the student's classroom teachers, including at a minimum, the following:

1. Whether the teacher has met state qualification and licensing criteria for the grade levels and subject areas in which the teacher provides instruction.
2. Whether the teacher is teaching under emergency or another provisional status through which state qualification or licensing criteria have been waived.
3. Whether the teacher is teaching in the field of discipline or the certification of the teacher

4. Whether the child is provided services by paraprofessionals and, if so, their qualifications.

It is the LEA's duty to notify you if at any time your child has been taught for four (4) or more consecutive weeks by a teacher who does not meet applicable state certification or licensure requirements at the grade level and subject area in which the teacher has been assigned.

If you have any questions please feel free to contact the Assistant Superintendent's office at (401) 315.1503.

Sincerely,

Steven Morrone
Assistant Superintendent
Westerly Public Schools

Servicios de Traducción estan disponibles contactando la oficina de ESL al 401.348.2309

翻译服务可以通过联系ESL办公室401-348-2309.

Westerly Public Schools does not discriminate on the basis of sex and prohibits sex discrimination in any education program or activity that it operates, as required by Title IX and its regulations, including access to educational opportunities and employment.

Inquiries about Title IX may be referred to the Title IX Coordinator, the U.S. Department of Education's Office for Civil Rights, or both. Westerly Public School's Title IX Coordinator is Steven Morrone.

**Westerly Public Schools
23 Highland Ave, Westerly, RI 02891
smorrone@westerly.k12.ri.us
401-315-1500**

**Westerly Public School's nondiscrimination policy and grievance procedures can be located at
<https://www.wpsri.org/departments/department-human-resources/title-ix>.**

To report information about conduct that may constitute sex discrimination or make a complaint of sex discrimination under Title IX, please refer to <https://www.wpsri.org/departments/department-human-resources/title-ix>.

QR CODE TO REPORT BULLYING

Anonymous
Reporting



Use the QR Code to
access the WHS
Bullying Report Form



Report it, don't ignore it

**REPORT
STUDENT
CONCERNS
QUICKLY**



**STOP
BULLYING**

STAND UP. SPEAK OUT.

STOP BULLYING
STOP HARASSMENT
STOP DISCRIMINATION
STOP THREATS

WESTERLY HIGH SCHOOL

BULLYING REPORT FORM

Anonymous reporting of bullying will be managed at the school or district level. Students, parents/guardians and others will be able to make anonymous bullying reports by telephone/cell-phone, text, mail, or submission of this form.

Six types of bullying students and teachers should know about: physical bullying, verbal bullying, cyberbullying, relational aggression, sexual bullying, prejudicial bullying

rev. 5625

WESTERLY HIGH SCHOOL CONTACTS

[Kellie Moulin](#), Principal

[John Connell](#), Assistant Principal, Class of 2028 and 2030

[Kevin Cronin](#), Assistant Principal, Class of 2027 and 2029

[Erin James](#), Dean of Students

CTE Director	<u>Kevin Cronin</u>
CTE Department Chair	<u>Shelby Worsham</u>
English Department Chair	<u>Denise Filippone</u>
Fine Arts Department Chair	<u>John Tedeschi</u>
Guidance Department Chair	<u>Amy Roy</u>
Math Department Chair	<u>Jennifer Oteau</u>
Physical Education Department Chair	<u>Stephen Scott</u>
Science Department Chair	<u>Lesley Fastovsky</u>
Social Studies Department Chair	<u>Anthony Lementowicz</u>
Special Education Department Chair	<u>Michele Azzinaro</u>
World Languages Department Chair	<u>Sarah Steverman</u>
School Nurse	<u>Jodi Perrin</u>

PREAMBLE

The education provided through our local public schools seeks to enable all students to become lifelong learners and responsible, productive members of society. A successful educational process includes not only academic instruction but also student development of marketable job skills and positive behaviors and attitudes towards honesty, hard work, family, environment, modesty, civility, wellness, and country. To these ends, students are expected to observe and demonstrate responsible student conduct and attitudes while at school or at school-related activities, whether or not on campus. This policy, along with other policies and regulations or rules, helps create and sustain a healthy, safe, and effective learning environment for everyone; promotes a school atmosphere with a concentrated focus on formal educational studies, as well as educationally-related development of mutual respect, pride, self-esteem, and cohesiveness; reinforces community values and positive regard for authority and discipline; minimizes distraction and assists students in readying themselves for employment by advancing their mature transition from the world of school to the world of work.

Core Values and Beliefs

Westerly High School is a community of learners who are committed to a positive school culture that honors academic achievement, mutual respect, and personal accountability. We commit to clearly communicating our expectations to all stakeholders and holding ourselves accountable for meeting them. We commit to providing our students with multiple pathways to success so that ALL students can be prepared for life after high school. We believe that innovation, technology, and having a global perspective will advance our learning, and we reject the structures that have traditionally served as limitations to progress. We believe that learning must never be a passive activity, that instruction should inspire, and that schools must operate in an atmosphere that is electric. We believe in the power of collaboration between teachers, students, their families, and the community, and draw upon the strength of our diversity to solve our problems and create our own opportunities.

Academic Learning Expectations:

- (1) WHS students will communicate effectively.
- (2) WHS students will think critically.
- (3) WHS students will solve problems.
- (4) WHS students will research to reach reasonable conclusions.
- (5) WHS students will engage in self-reflection.

Social Learning Expectations:

- (1) WHS students will manage and direct their own learning.
- (2) WHS students will articulate career goals.

Civic Learning Expectations:

- (1) WHS students will demonstrate their civic responsibility through service learning.

SCHOOL / PARENT / GUARDIAN / STUDENT /COMMUNITY COMPACT

A compact is a written document that defines the shared responsibility of the school, parents/guardians, and community for helping students reach high academic standards. The school/student/parent/community compact is not a legal document, nor is it a document that requires signing; rather, it is a bond of trust that results from a process that allows parents/guardians, school personnel, students, and community to come together to define and agree upon implementation. It is the responsibility of all to create and maintain a school environment that is conducive to learning. Clearly defined roles are essential to carrying out these responsibilities.

I. Families/Parents/Guardians are asked to do as follows:

- Communicate daily about school and stress the importance of education to their child; Provide encouragement and support aimed at motivating the student toward responsible behavior and participation within the school setting;
- Ensure that children are well-rested, nourished and appropriately dressed for school; Assist the child to be in regular attendance and arrive at school on time;

- Assume responsibility for the child's behavior and teach compliance with school guidelines and rules; Help with and check homework assignments;
- Communicate regularly with school staff and schedule at least one teacher conference each year; Provide and return emergency information to enable immediate contact with family/parent/guardian in case of emergency;
- Be an active participant in career and post-high school educational planning.

II. Students are asked to do as follows:

- Come to school regularly, on time and ready to learn with a positive attitude for learning each day; Be prepared each day having homework completed and bringing all necessary books and supplies; Know and comply with all school guidelines and policies;
- Accept responsibility for their learning and actions;
- Show respect for all people and property;
- Maintain respect for the culture and individual self-worth;
- Talk with family/parents/guardians about school.

III. The School will do as follows:

- Recognize that all children can learn and hold high expectations for all;
- Welcome the family as a partner in education and encourage volunteerism, attendance at conferences, meetings, committees, etc.
- Provide a strong curriculum for all and articulate clear academic expectations; Provide a learning environment that is conducive to teaching and learning;
- Provide an environment where responsible behavior is an expectation of all;
- Communicate regularly with homes via newsletters, websites, e-mail, phone calls, etc.; Inform parents/guardians and students of school attendance issues and academic progress; Discuss graduation requirements with high school students and assist with college and career planning.

IV. The Community is asked to do as follows:

- Support family values;
- Partner with places of worship and other organizations to build healthy families; Come into the schools to share information and hold discussions on helpful topics; Encourage students to explore after-school recreational, educational, and career-oriented activities;
- Provide volunteers to the schools when appropriate;
- Build partnerships between businesses and the schools.

Rhode Island General Laws Title 15. Domestic Relations § 15-12-1. Persons of full age, Current as of January 01, 2022

(a) Notwithstanding any general or public law or provision of the common law to the contrary, all persons who have attained the age of eighteen (18) years shall be deemed to be persons of full legal

age.

(b) These persons shall have all the duties and obligations, rights, and privileges imposed or granted by law upon those persons who have previously attained the age of twenty-one (21) years.

Under Rhode Island law, once a student reaches the age of 18, we are no longer permitted to communicate with parents or guardians without the student's written consent.

If you, and your child, wish for us to continue communicating with you regarding their education, we require a notarized document signed by your child granting us permission to do so. Alternatively, your child can sign the document granting the school permission to communicate with parents in front of witnesses in the main office of the Ward building. We will send you notification a few weeks prior to your child's 18th birthday that we need a signed document on file.

Please discuss this matter with your child and determine who they would like to authorize for communication. If we do not receive the signed and notarized document by your child's 18th birthday, we will be required to terminate all communication with parents and guardians per state law. Once we receive the necessary documentation, we will update our student information system accordingly.

Parents do not need to come to the school to sign any documentation, only the student needs to sign the form.

ACADEMIC EXPECTATIONS

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

Westerly Public Schools recognizes the need for all students to assume responsibility for their own work. Academic integrity must be preserved not only for its own sake but also to ensure an objective evaluation of all students. Doing academic work requires that students turn in their own work. Cheating and plagiarism in any form is a violation of trust between students and teachers and is an impediment to true learning; it cannot be permitted. A paper written by AI (artificial intelligence) is not considered a student's own work, it does not matter which AI software/program is used. Using AI is considered a form of plagiarism. Downloading and copying information from websites without appropriate citations is considered cheating and is prohibited. In a case that involves cheating, the following actions will be taken as follows:

1. Parent/guardian(s) will be contacted by the teacher and/or an administrator. A conference will be scheduled.
2. The student's work will not be accepted and a grade of zero will be imposed for the assignment in question. Completion of the make-up work related to the assignment in question will be determined by the classroom teacher and administration for a grade no higher than a 50.
3. The student may be assigned a school consequence at the discretion of the administration.
4. If more than one student is involved in cheating, the same penalty will be applied to all parties concerned. Students who allow their work to be copied are considered to be cheating.

5. The theft of a teacher's grade book or testing materials will result in a suspension.
6. Students found to have plagiarized or to have cheated will have this indicated on his/her discipline record.
7. For the World Languages student this policy also refers to the use of translator apps, sites, extensions, or add-ons where your own language production is compromised
8. Plagiarism, or any form of cheating, could impact acceptance into the RI and/or National Honor Society
9. Students who plagiarize will not be eligible for Honor Roll in the quarter in which the infraction takes place.

ACADEMIC LETTERS

A student earns points each time he/she is named to the honor roll. When a student reaches 100 points, he/she receives an academic letter (similar to a varsity letter). For each additional 100 points, students earn a "lamp of learning" pin. Students earn points after each grading period. High honors with Distinction -- 25 points, High Honors -- 20 points, Honors -- 15 points.

ADD/DROP PROTOCOL

Students may Add/Drop a course within the **first 10 days** of school by visiting their Guidance Counselor. Students should work with their counselor to be sure dropped courses are not needed for graduation. Students should also consider carefully the impact that an Add/Drop may have on their schedule. No classes will be rearranged to accommodate a request to drop a class unless the student is academically misplaced in an academic core class.

1. Students who may be academically misplaced in a course should consider a change as soon as possible. All level changes should occur within the first quarter.
2. Changes requested after the 10th day of the course up to the end of the first quarter the student must speak to the instructor of the course.
 - a. The teacher will write the reason for agreement or disagreement for the requested change and sign the form.
 - b. The student then submits to the department head, who approves or disapproves of the change.
 - c. A parent/guardian must sign the form to acknowledge the request.
 - d. If a change occurs, the student receives a WF (Withdrawn Failure) or WP (Withdrawn Pass) on the transcript for the dropped course based on the current numerical grade of the course.
 - e. If change is not approved, the parent/student may appeal to the principal.
 - f. Students cannot drop a year long course for elective courses
 - g. Dropping an Advanced Placement class is highly discouraged. Students dropping an Advanced Placement course require permission from the principal and parent notification.
3. Communication of Course Changes:

- a. Completed documentation must be properly submitted with all signatures before a course will be considered to be dropped
- b. The Guidance Counselor will facilitate the exchange of information between the student, original teacher, new teacher, department head, administrator, and parent.

CREDIT ADVANCEMENT

Any student who takes a summer enrichment program at a credit-granting college, university, or corporation should give their Guidance Counselor a copy of the explanation of the program. If a grade is given, the granting institution should send a copy of the grade report to the Guidance Office. Westerly High School will not grant credit for these programs. However, a copy of the grade report or explanation of the program will be sent to colleges, along with the college application and high school transcript. Any course offered at Westerly Middle School which is equivalent to a high school course will be counted for placement purposes only at Westerly High School. It will not count towards GPA or high school graduation requirements. This will also apply to transfer students and other students from feeder schools.

EXAMS-MIDTERMS and FINALS

Midterm exams for year-long courses will be at the end of the 2nd quarter. No student is exempt from midterm exams. Midterm exams account for 20% of a student's first-semester grade.

Final exams for first-semester half-credit courses are scheduled for all students at the same time as yearlong midterm exams in January at the conclusion of quarter 2 and during the June final exam schedule for semester 2 half-credit courses. Final exams account for 20% of a student's second-semester grade. The semester 1 and semester 2 averages comprise the student's final average for year-long classes.

On examination days, students are required to report to school only for scheduled examinations or make-up exams. Students who are ill must have a parent call the office no later than 7:45 a.m. on the day of the exam. Students who do not report to an exam will receive a grade of ZERO and will be ineligible for summer school.

Seniors may be exempt from a final examination at the discretion of the teacher if they have achieved a yearly cumulative grade of "A" for a particular course up to the point of the final examination

Students who are in "Good Standing" which means, passing all classes, does not owe any outstanding detention and is not chronically absent, may fill out a permission slip to be signed by parents excusing them from their WIN class during the midterm exams time frame.

GRADE REPORTING

Progress Reports

It is the parent's/student's responsibility to monitor student's grades. Grades will be updated electronically in the student information system weekly and sent home via email four times a year. Parents should contact

the teacher if grades are not available or if there are any questions or concerns regarding them. For grade dates, please refer to the [school calendar](#). For additional information on the Secondary Grade Reporting Policy see: [Secondary Grade Reporting Policy No. 6102](#)

Report Cards

Students and parents will receive notification of student grades through electronic report cards at the end of each quarter. Comments concerning student progress and performance may be made by teachers on report cards.

GRADING SYSTEM/PROCEDURES

The purpose of grading is to report student progress towards and achievement of the learning objectives in a course. Westerly High School's grading policy ensures the integrity, accuracy, and consistency of grading practices across courses in disciplines.

The grading system at Westerly High School is as follows:

A+	(97-100)	B+	(87-89)	C+	(77-79)	D	(65-69)
A	(93-96)	B	(83-86)	C	(73-76)	F	(0-64)
A-	(90-92)	B-	(80-82)	C-	(70-72)		

Additional grading codes:

- **R** reflects a final grade that is below 50 and the student is not eligible for summer school.
- **P** reflects a class that earns a "Passing." grade and credit will be given for the course.
- **MED** reflects a grade that "Medically Excused" with proper documentation, typically only applies to PE course
- **LOC** reflects a "Loss of Credit" due to excessive absences in a course.
- **I** reflects an "Incomplete." This grade is usually given in cases of long-term absence or absence at the end of the marking period. A student receiving this grade must make it up within one week of the end of the term that the "Incomplete" was given. Incompletes not made up within the aforementioned time periods will automatically be adjusted to reflect a grade with all outstanding assignments scored accordingly.
- **WDP** Withdrawn Passing
- **WDF** Withdrawn Failing

A grade of **WDF** will keep a student from the honor roll for that quarter and count as a failure for athletic eligibility. A grade of **WDP** will not be calculated in class rank and will not keep a student from the honor roll.

In order for students to advance in the Year of Graduation, they must obtain the following credits:

- Sophomores must have earned at least 5 credits
- Juniors must have earned at least 10 credits

- Seniors must have earned at least 16 credits

Students who do not reach these benchmarks by the end of the summer school will be reclassified and reassigned to the appropriate advisory based on earned credits.

Calculation of grades in all courses is as follows:

- Grades are reported formally each quarter.
- Required Anchor Tasks are built into the quarterly average.
- 1st Semester grade = quarter 1 (40%) + quarter 2 (40%) + Exam (20%)
- 2nd Semester grade = quarter 3 (40%) + quarter 4 (40%) + Exam (20%)
- Final grade of a 1 credit course is an average of the two-semester grades.
- Awarding of a 0.5 credit at the successful completion of a semester during a year long course will be at the discretion of the principal.

RUNNING START OR EARLY COLLEGE ENROLLMENT PROGRAMS

Students must successfully complete the following requirements during their first three years at Westerly High School in order to be eligible to participate in any early college programs (including, but not limited to, Dual Enrollment or Running Start) or to enroll in additional advanced coursework during their senior year:

- 3 credits of Math
- 3 credits of English
- World History, U.S. History
- 2 credits of World Language
- 3 credits of P.E.
- Health
- Financial Literacy
- Fine Arts
- WHS 101
- Computer Competency

Students are strongly encouraged to plan for their senior year early in their high school career. This planning should include prioritizing the completion of all graduation requirements to ensure full eligibility for advanced learning opportunities. Any exception to this requirement will be at the discretion of the principal.

Students enrolled in Running Start (RS) or an Early College Enrollment Program may request to audit a course or courses at WHS. Students interested in enrolling in a class at WHS while enrolled in another program must submit the Request to Audit WHS Course or Courses:

- [Request to Audit WHS Course or Courses](#)

EARLY GRADUATION APPLICATION

Westerly High School recognizes that students occasionally satisfy all curricular requirements for graduation before the traditional period of four (4) academic years. If you are interested in pursuing the Early Graduation option please be aware of the following procedures, requirements, conditions, and considerations.

- [Early Graduation Application](#)

VALEDICTORIAN/SALUTATORIAN

This prestigious honor is determined by cumulative class rank. The top two students in the senior class will be selected based on their final rank (end of the eighth semester). Class rank is calculated on a student's cumulative GPA. The GPA is calculated out to four decimal points.

ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE

Graduates will be recognized for academic excellence at Graduation:

Summa Cum Laude - GPA 4.3 or higher

Magna Cum Laude - GPA of 4.0 - 4.29

Cum Laude - GPA 3.8 - 3.99

WHS Weighted GPA Calculation:

Numerical Grade	College Prep	Honors	AP/EEP
97-100	A+ = 4.3	A+ = 5.05	A+ = 5.3
93-96	A = 4.0	A = 4.75	A = 5.0
90-92	A- = 3.7	A- = 4.45	A- = 4.7
87-89	B+ = 3.3	B+ = 4.05	B+ = 4.3
83-86	B = 3.0	B = 3.75	B = 4.0
80-82	B- = 2.7	B- = 3.45	B- = 3.7
77-79	C+ = 2.3	C+ = 3.05	C+ = 3.3

73-76	C = 2.0	C = 2.75	C = 3.0
70-72	C- = 1.7	C- = 2.45	C- = 2.7
65-69	D = 1.0	D = 1.75	D = 2.0
0-64	F = 0	F = 0	F = 0

GRADUATION CEREMONY

Participation in the Graduation Ceremony is reserved for those students who have successfully completed all Graduation Requirements by the deadline communicated by the administration, not less than one week prior to the graduation ceremony. In the event that a student is close or does not meet the required graduation credentials, the appeals process is outlined below.

Graduation Decision Policy: In order to determine whether or not a student graduates from Westerly High School, the principal in coordination with the School Counselors will review the records of each student.

Graduation Decision Appeals Policy: If a student wishes to dispute a judgment regarding his/her school's graduation decision, he/she can pursue a remedy through an appeals process. Any student who disputes the graduation decision must meet with the Principal to appeal his/her case. It is strongly suggested that a parent or guardian attend this appeal. If at this level, the dispute is not resolved, the student may appeal the principal's decision to the superintendent of schools. At each level of the appeals process, the burden of proving that the graduation decision is in error lies with the individual making the appeal.

PBGR Assessment Appeals Policy: If a student wishes to dispute a judgment regarding an individual proficiency-based assessment, he/she can pursue a remedy through our current academic appeals process. In the same way, a student might dispute a grade on an exam or a grade for a course, a student who disputes the score of a proficiency assessment must first meet with his or her teacher to discuss the issue. This may happen with or without a parent. If the dispute cannot be resolved at this level, the student is directed to meet with the Department Head. If the dispute is still not reconciled, a meeting with the Principal is required. If at this level, the dispute is not resolved, the student may appeal the Principal's decision to the Superintendent of Schools. At each level of the appeals process, the burden of proving that a proficiency rating is in error lies with the individual making the appeal.

Students who have earned 21 credits towards graduation and are eligible for summer school at the conclusion of their senior year are eligible to participate in the graduation ceremony, however, they will not receive their diploma until all graduation requirements have been met.

GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

1. Community Service

All students must complete **30 hours** of community service in a pre-approved setting prior to graduation. Students are highly encouraged to accomplish this early in high school and to complete the proper paperwork with the Dean's Office. Community Service opportunities are ongoing. Students should see their Advisor, Guidance Counselor, or Dean for more information. Community Service must be validated and approved.

All students should have 20 hours of community service completed by the beginning of their senior year. If they do not have 30 hours of community service completed by the end of Semester One in their senior year they will be required to stay after school during the mid-terms exams and complete their community service hours.

2. Course Requirements:

Subject	Specific Course(s) Required
WHS 101	All freshmen are required to take WHS 101 in their first semester.
English	1 grade level course each year (total of 4)*
Mathematics	Algebra I* Geometry* 2 additional math courses* (Algebra II & one advanced math course for the Class of 2028 and beyond ¹)
Science	Physical Science* Chemistry* Biology*
Social Studies	Pre-AP World History* US History & Government* Citizenship in a Democracy or AP Government and Politics*
Physical Education Health	1 Physical Education course each year (total of 4)* 1 course*
Fine Arts	1 course*
Computer Competency	1 course*
World Language	2 courses* in the same language for the Class of 2028 and beyond ^{2,3} (<i>At least 3 years of a World Language are strongly recommended for all students for college admissions</i>)
Financial Literacy	1 course*
Global Awareness	1 course for the Class of 2027
Electives	Courses selected by students based on personal interest or in pursuit of a career pathway. World Language and CTE courses are highly encouraged.

*Students must earn credit in these courses in order to graduate.

¹ Students who have successfully completed Algebra 1 in 8th grade will receive placement credit but not a credit towards the 4 year math graduation credit requirement. The student's transcript will reflect the completion of the Algebra 1 course in the 8th grade. The grade will not count towards GPA.

² Successful completion of a World Language course in 8th grade will be reflected on the high school transcript. Students will not receive the credit towards graduation. The grade will not

count towards GPA.

³ World Language Credit by Assessment of Proficiency policy

The total number of credits required to graduate is 23.

From *RIDE Readiness-Based Graduation Requirements: RIDE-Approved Readiness Pathway Guidance for Implementation & Resources...*

“Beginning with the 2024-25 school year, students will have the option to enroll in a RIDE-Approved Readiness Pathway in place of completing Algebra II. This readiness pathway may satisfy the math requirement for graduation in place of Algebra II for all students, regardless of participation in CTE or Dual Enrollment. While the RIDE-Approved Readiness Pathway in place of Algebra II may qualify as an alternative to Algebra II, it is important to note that this may limit a students’ eligibility for attending the University of Rhode Island (URI), Rhode Island College (RIC), and majority of the other in state and regional colleges and universities that Rhode Island students matriculate into. URI, RIC, and the majority of regional colleges require that students complete Algebra II and that this is reflected on their high school transcript. Enrolling in a RIDE-Approved Readiness Pathway in place of Algebra II may also increase the likelihood for a student needing to participate in remedial math coursework, not funded through Rhode Island Promise, upon enrolling in the Community College of Rhode Island. Before allowing your student to enroll in a RIDE-Approved Readiness Pathway in place of Algebra II, please ensure that this decision supports the student’s goals and aspirations for after high school.

Beginning with the 2024-25 school year, students will have the option to enroll in a RIDE-Approved Readiness Pathway in place of completing one or more of the 2 required credits in world language. This readiness pathway may satisfy the world language requirement for graduation for all students. While the RIDE-Approved Readiness Pathway in place of one or both required credits in world language may qualify as an alternative to the world language requirement for graduation, it is important to note that this may limit a students’ eligibility for attending the University of Rhode Island (URI), Rhode Island College (RIC), and majority of the other in state and regional colleges and universities that Rhode Island students matriculate into. URI, RIC, and the majority of regional colleges require that students complete 2 units of world language in the same language and that this is reflected on their high school transcript. Before allowing your student to enroll in a RIDE-Approved Readiness Pathway in place of one or both required world language credits please ensure that this decision supports the student’s goals and aspirations for after high school.”

3. Graduation by Proficiency

In order to graduate from Westerly High School, a student must demonstrate proficiency in the schoolwide learner outcomes. Students will complete Anchor Tasks aligned to school-wide learner outcomes in every course.

4. Senior CAPstone Project

The Senior CAPstone is an opportunity for a student to demonstrate what he or she knows and to showcase his or her achievement through a Civics Action Project (i.e. the CAP in CAPstone). It must be successfully completed as a requirement to graduate from Westerly High School. Capstone projects have

been highly acclaimed and have proven successful in many high schools across the country, and is a fitting conclusion to a student's high school education. Through the project, a student is able to demonstrate the skills that he or she has developed in the areas of time management, research, problem-solving, human interaction, organization, and public speaking. This project is appropriate as the culmination of a student's K-12 education because it supports the very skills and abilities which a student will be expected to demonstrate in his or her post-secondary experiences whether it be in the area of higher education, the military, or employment.

The Senior CAPstone Project includes several components.

Each component must be successfully completed to graduate from Westerly High School.

1. Seniors are required to complete a **Civic Action Project**. The project may be an actual physical product, a performance, demonstration, or service. It must be safe, ethically sound, and respect the diverse perspectives of our community. It must identify specific local stakeholders who are directly impacted by this issue. And it must include a plan to gather primary evidence (surveys, interviews, town meeting observations) from real people in our community. Students are encouraged to select a product within their financial budget, keeping in mind that he or she is not expected to spend money in order to complete the project. However, if a student selects a project that requires a financial commitment, he or she will be responsible for those expenses.
2. Throughout the year, students will be documenting their progress toward project completion via the **Senior CAPstone Project portfolio**. Students must keep good records of progress and preserve everything which demonstrates their journey throughout the entire project. These physical and digital documents could include personal notes, photographs, videos, a time log documenting hours with a mentor, as well as independent work, interviews with experts in the field, journal entries, receipts, letters, research, etc.
3. The final phase of the project is the **oral presentation**. This is a presentation of between eight to twelve minutes, with an additional three to five minute answer period, given before a board of judges. The panel of judges is composed of teachers, parents, and community members. The presentation is scored according to the established rubric. All judges will be trained in the use of the rubric. Presentations will take place in May.

The Senior CAPstone Project is an individual project which involves independent work as well as classroom support. Topics for CAPstone will be chosen and approved in September of the senior year during the Citizenship in a Democracy and AP US Government and Politics courses and all other components will be supported through this course. All seniors are required to establish action plans; attend workshops on research skills; write; conduct fieldwork; develop and create their project; maintain a portfolio; and prepare for their final presentations. It is imperative that students maintain good attendance so that they can be aware of any changes in dates or other vital information that becomes necessary as they progress through the year.

HOMEWORK and HOMEWORK REQUEST

Homework is an integral part of the learning process and teachers have the right to both assign and hold students accountable for it. Homework provides an opportunity for students to practice skills, read class materials, and improve retention of information. All of this maintains continuity of instruction by requiring the student to focus on the material at the end of the school day.

Students who miss three or more consecutive days of school should be afforded the opportunity to request their homework and additional time, not to exceed 5 days past the last excused absence and/or at the discretion of the teacher and student. Students who exceed 10 days of school due to illness are encouraged to request homebound tutoring. Contact your Guidance Counselor for more information.

HONOR ROLL

Honor Roll will be calculated quarterly based on the quarter GPA

- Honors with Distinction: GPA of 4.3 or higher
- High Honors: GPA of 4.0-4.29
- Honors: GPA of 3.0-3.99

Students are ineligible for Honor Roll if:

- They have a D or F in any course
- They have an "I" for Incomplete grades unresolved
- They have plagiarized in that quarter

HONOR SOCIETY-NATIONAL

The process for eligibility, induction, and continued membership in the NHS:

Initial Criteria Letter

- Candidates will receive an initial criteria letter and student information packet, which will need to be completed and returned to the NHS advisor(s), complete with parent and student signatures, by the stated deadline.

Evaluations

- Candidates will be evaluated by an administrator or a Dean, a community member, and a teacher (all of their choice, by requesting them to fill out the recommendation form) all to be submitted to the NHS advisor(s). Westerly High School staff will be notified who has received an initial criteria letter. Faculty members will evaluate the candidate on the qualities of leadership, character, and service. All evaluations will

remain confidential, only to be seen by the NHS advisor and Faculty Council.

Faculty Council Meeting

- Five faculty members, who are appointed by the principal and will remain anonymous, will serve as the Faculty Council. The chapter advisors will serve as ex officio, non-voting, members of the council. No principal or assistant principal shall be included on the Faculty Council.

Selection

- The selection of each candidate to the chapter shall be by a majority vote of the Faculty Council. Prior to notification of any candidates, the NHS advisor(s) shall review with the principal the results of the Faculty Council's deliberations. If a candidate meets the criteria and evaluation standards set forth by the national and local NHS Constitutions, the candidate will be admitted into the NHS. Students who do not meet criteria will be denied admission. Candidates will be notified of their selection status. A formal induction ceremony will follow.

Appeals

1. NHS Advisor

A student wishing to appeal the Faculty Council's decision may submit an appeal request in writing to a NHS advisor. The student may submit additional documentation that he/she believes may be helpful in the appeal. The Faculty Council will reconvene to make a determination. If the student is not admitted into NHS, the advisor will notify the student in writing.

2. Principal

The student may appeal the Faculty Council's decision in writing to the principal. The principal will gather additional information, if necessary, from the student and the NHS advisor and issue a ruling. The ruling will be based on whether the Faculty Council appropriately followed the NHS constitution and policies and procedures in arriving at the decision. The principal will notify the student in writing of the ruling.

3. Superintendent

As a final option, the student may appeal the principal's decision to the superintendent. The superintendent will issue a ruling and notify the student in writing.

Students are expected to maintain excellence in each standard and serve as a tutor for five hours. Please refer to the information packet for the standards of each pillar. By submitting an information packet, the candidate acknowledges that the information packet will be reviewed by a 5-member Faculty Council exclusive of the NHS advisor(s) and the administration. Each year, members of the National Honor Society will present the expectations for acceptance into the NHS to the freshmen class. All students must complete 30 hours of

community service by the information packet deadline.

Invitation to the National Honor Society is determined by a formula that differentiates weighted and non-weighted courses. Based on this formula, a student's grade must be an average of 3.7 GPA to be invited to apply. This average cannot be attained if a student takes all non-weighted courses and receives a grade of B+ in every class. Students are advised to see their school Guidance Counselor prior to course registration for further clarification regarding this formula. In addition to academic criteria, the submission of the application includes community service hours, attendance records, and school discipline records.

For continued membership, students must maintain a 3.7 GPA (without rounding) after each quarter and continue to meet the requirements of leadership, character, and service. Transcript reviews will take place to determine a student's status. Any student found in violation of school rules as outlined in the Student Handbook will have his/her name submitted to a committee, which will determine if dismissal from the National Honor Society is warranted. Similarly, non-selection may result from a violation of school rules and/or illegal activity during the student's high school enrollment.

HONOR SOCIETY-RHODE ISLAND

The Rhode Island Honor Society is composed of seniors whose grade averages out to a numerical 3.5 GPA (without rounding) and who have demonstrated leadership, service, and good character during their first seven semesters of high school. The same formula that applies to the National Honor Society to determine averages is also used for the Rhode Island Honor Society. Therefore, a student who takes all non-weighted courses and receives a grade of B in every class will not qualify for the Rhode Island Honor Society. School Counselors should be contacted to explain this situation and assist students with course selection. Any student found in violation of school rules as outlined in the student handbook will have his/her name submitted to a committee, who will determine if dismissal from the Rhode Island Honor Society is warranted.

**Reminder: Students found to have plagiarized or to have cheated will be immediately referred to the Faculty Council for non-selection in the National Honor Society and Rhode Island Honor Society.*

LATE WORK

It is the expectation that all work is turned in by the established due date. Students with unexcused absences are expected to submit work electronically when possible, on time. Excused absences allow a student up to five days to complete missing work. Long-term assignments and homework are expected to be electronically submitted when possible or submitted on the first day of return.

LOSS OF CREDIT

1. In a course worth one (1) credit, a student will receive a grade of LOC (loss of credit) if the student exceeds twenty (14) days of unexcused absences. This attendance record will be kept by the Dean's Office and will be based on school attendance.
2. In a half-credit course, a student will receive a grade of LOC (loss of credit) if the student exceeds ten (7) days absent.
3. Class attendance is taken every block by the classroom teacher. Reports of daily and class attendance are reviewed regularly and communicated to the home by the Deans' Office.
4. The Deans of Students will review the absences and communicate LOC to the Assistant Principal that oversees PowerSchool Grades and Guidance
5. Teachers, students, and parents have the right to bring attendance concerns to the administration if the student's class attendance differs from the school attendance.
6. A student who loses credit due to the absence limitation may make up the credit if summer school is provided and the cumulative absence has not exceeded 25 days in a one-credit course and 15 days in a half-credit course.

Review Process:

1. An Appeal Committee will hear all cases of appeal. It is the responsibility of the student and/or parent to initiate an appeal and request a hearing.
2. The committee is composed of at least one Dean, two faculty members, and one Guidance Counselor.
3. It will be incumbent upon the parent/guardian/student to submit to the committee all necessary documentation (doctor appointments, court appearances, religious obligations, etc.) at that hearing. The parent/student must be aware that documentation must be supplied for every absence, not just enough to bring the total under 10/20.
4. At any stage of the intervention, an administrator may convene the Appeal Committee and recommend for its approval an alternate strategy to address an individual situation.

REMEDIATION FOR A FAILED COURSE

Students are eligible to attend a certified summer school program provided they have met the attendance requirement, have taken the final exam and obtained a minimum numerical average of 50 for a final average. Students may choose to repeat the course the next school year and earn a passing grade. Students are encouraged to recover credits to maintain the year of graduation status with their cohort.

DAILY PROCEDURES

ATTENDANCE POLICY

The faculty and staff of Westerly High School expect every student to be present the entire school day as many of the school days as possible. Attendance is the responsibility of the student and parents/guardians. Therefore, we are seeking to develop a partnership with parents/guardians to encourage this attendance. The experiences of the classroom are important to the student's education and any missed days can never be fully regained. As such, the scheduling of vacations while school is in session is discouraged. At all stages of this attendance policy, parents/guardians, teachers, administrators, and School Counselors will work with the student in a positive manner to encourage the student's attendance and to address specific concerns. Research shows that a student's attendance is often related to his/her success in school. It should also be pointed out that attendance will become a part of a student's permanent record.

Each student must be in class every day of the school year unless there is a serious reason for not doing so, in accordance with the General Laws of the State of RI 16-19-1 and/or 16-19-6. Each school day is important.

A student who is absent from school without proper authorization is truant.

[Rhode Island General Laws, Section 16-19-1](#), states in part:

“Every child who has completed six (6) years of life and has not completed eighteen (18) years of life shall regularly attend some public day school during all the days and hours that the public schools are in session in the city or town wherein the child resides; and every person having under his or her control a child as above described in this section shall cause the child to attend school as required by the above-stated provisions of this section, and for every neglect of this duty the person having control of the child shall be fined not exceeding fifty dollars (\$50.00) for each day or part of a day that the child fails to attend school, and if the total of these days is more than thirty (30) school days during any school year, then the person shall, upon conviction, be imprisoned not exceeding six (6) months or shall be fined not more than five hundred dollars (\$500) or both.”

In general, any absence from class due to unexcused illness, early dismissals, tardiness to school, (more than half a class), family vacations, etc. will be counted toward loss of credit. Absences for students will be recorded as a full day or half-day depending upon the time that they arrive or leave school. Arrival after 11:00 a.m. will be considered an absence. Other examples of unexcused absences, but not limited to, are absences due to minor incidents, cold or inclement weather, car problems, oversleeping, or missing the bus.

It is important to note, that absences above 10%, just 18 days a year, or 2 days a month, are statistically proven to impact learning. Regardless of excused or unexcused, absence from instruction affects learning.

Please make every attempt to schedule routine appointments outside of the school day when possible. When it is not possible, a note must be presented for the absence to be considered excused. Submit notes within three days of the appointment. If you have a chronic condition or issue that you know will require special accommodations, please notify the school as soon as possible to discuss the potential need for an alternate instructional plan. Extended absences may impact credit attainment.

ATTENDANCE PROCEDURES

Absence from school procedure

1. When students are absent from school, it is required that a parent/guardian call the school before 9 a.m. at 401-315-1597.
2. When a parent or guardian does not call by 8:30 am, the school will contact the parent/guardian at home or work via an automated call. In cases where telephone contact cannot be made, a member of the attendance team may reach out, up to including our Attendance Officer.
3. An absence may be excused by a note from a physician, school nurse, or court. Notes or calls from parents do not excuse an absence but do verify the absence. A medical note or a court document must be submitted within 2 days of the student's return to school. Accepted notes may include up to three days for college visits (verified), driver's tests (verified), or another court-related matter.
4. When a student reaches 10 days absent/tardy, a meeting may be scheduled with the school to define the problem and explain the potential academic consequences to the student and parent/guardian. The appropriate referral will be made on/or before this time to the Support Services Team or RI Family Court Truancy Court.
5. All make-up work (due to an excused absence) must be completed within a reasonable amount of time, as defined by the teacher, upon the student's return. Students are expected to access Google Classroom and submit work on time electronically when appropriate. Unexcused absences will require students to be academically prepared following the absence.
6. A student absent from school on a regular school day (or the Friday before a weekend function) may not attend or participate in any school activity. Any exception to this rule must be made by the administration prior to the student attending the activity. The administration reserves the prerogative to exercise judgment in cases where extenuating circumstances exist.

Absence Protocol Due to Illness at School

When a child becomes ill at school and must leave, the parent/guardian is notified by the school nurse. In the event, the parent/guardian is not available, the next name is on the emergency contact list and is required to sign out the student at dismissal. A dismissal through the nurse's office is considered excused medical. General Regulations: since most contagious diseases begin with symptoms of a common cold, sore throat, cough, or fever; parents/guardians are asked to

watch their children carefully and not send any child showing these symptoms. This is important not only for the protection of other children but to assure, as much as possible, a quick uncomplicated recovery for the child.

Contagious medical excusal of children from school:

1. Conjunctivitis – excluded from school while inflammation and drainage are present.
2. Infectious Mononucleosis – exclude until cleared by physician
3. Streptococcal Infection and Scarlet Fever – excluded from school until 48 hours after the beginning of antibiotic treatment.
4. Students with a temperature (fever) of 101° F or above will be sent home from school. Students must be free of a fever before returning to school.
5. Students suffering from gastrointestinal symptoms of diarrhea and/or vomiting will be sent home from school. Students must be symptom-free before returning to school.

Parents are requested to notify the school nurse at 401-315-1538, at once, when their child has a contagious disease and are asked to cooperate when a child is excluded for a specific period of time for such a disease.

Classroom Attendance

Attendance is taken in each classroom every period. Students who skip class will receive a "0" for that day's classroom activities and will be subject to the penalties of the school discipline code.

Student Tardiness and Early Dismissals

1. Students who arrive at their first class after the 7:20 a.m. bell must report to the Ward Hall Main Office for a tardy slip. Students who are not excused by an administrator/dean must serve office detention within **24 hours**. Legitimate excuses such as doctor appointments and court appointments are acceptable, a note must be given within three days to be considered an excused absence.
2. Excuses such as oversleeping or car trouble are not considered legitimate. The acceptance of excuses will be at the discretion of the administrative team. Each semester, the first three offenses of being late to school will result in a verbal warning. All subsequent tardies will result in one-hour office detention. Chronic tardiness may result in more severe consequences, including social suspension and/or Saturday School. Students missing any part of the school day without valid documentation after three offenses will be prohibited from participating in any after-school, extra-curricular activities, including athletics and dances.
3. Excessive tardiness should be monitored by students and parents via PowerSchool. The

Dean of Students may request to meet with the parent and the student; students may be placed on social suspension (i.e. no entry to PM/Weekend school events and /or participation in after-school clubs, groups, athletic teams, school dances, and senior week events). Please refer to the Absence Policy for similar interventions for chronic tardiness.

4. The first three times a student is late to a class, the student will be addressed by the classroom teacher. Beginning with the fourth tardy, the student should be referred to the Dean's office and office detention will be assigned. Teachers report students at the beginning of every block if they are missing. Students who are tardy are to be admitted to the class and the main office is notified of their arrival.
5. Students are required to have a written request from a parent or guardian in order to be dismissed early. Requests for early dismissal must be presented to the main office before the 7:20 a.m start bell. The Attendance Secretary will verbally verify with the parent/guardian about the time and reason for dismissal. As with absences, approved dismissals MAY be excused with proper documentation, when submitted in a timely manner. Each semester, the first three instances being dismissed early without being an excused dismissal will result in a verbal warning. All subsequent dismissals will result in one-hour office detention.
6. Students who are 18 or older, must present a written request to the principal for permission to be dismissed early. Legitimate excuses such as doctor appointments and court appointments are acceptable. Students leaving campus without permission will face discipline. Students missing any part of the school day without valid documentation after three offenses will be prohibited from participating in any after-school, extra-curricular activities, including athletics and dances.
7. Students who are dismissed from school are responsible for securing classroom assignments for those classes missed. Students missing any part of the school day will be prohibited from participating in any after-school extra-curricular activities, including athletics and dances.
8. For reasons of personal safety and security, a parent/guardian must come to the office to pick up all dismissed students, and students must sign out of school from the main office in the Ward building. If the student is a registered driver on campus and needs to drive themselves for an early dismissal, a parent must grant permission by either writing an email to the Attendance Office or a physical note to the Attendance Office. The Attendance Office will get verbal permission to confirm permission for the dismissal.

BEFORE SCHOOL

1. Students are invited to come into school prior to the 7:20 bell. Students have access to all 3 floors in both buildings but are limited to the corridor areas and the Ward cafeteria. Students may not go into any classroom without the approval and supervision of a faculty/staff member.

2. A 7:15 am bell will ring to signal students to proceed to the first block.
3. Student entrance will be gained through the use of the student's badge during passing time. Students can access the Ward building through the four front entrances. They include the main entrance (W-A3), the doors labeled (W-A4) and (W-A1), or the front entrance at the gym foyer (W-A13).
4. Entrance to Babcock Hall can be gained through the bridge entrance (B-C1), this is the only permitted entrance to Babcock Hall for WHS students and families. Parents may drop off their children in front of Babcock Hall on the corner of Highland Avenue and Park Avenue, in front of the Ward building in the parent loop, by the parent drop-off near Ward and Bellevue, or by the Babcock Hall bridge office at the corner of Linden and Park. The Vose Street lot is not to be used by families or students during arrival or dismissal.
5. Parents are strongly encouraged to not use the bus loop for drop-off due to bus, faculty, and student traffic.

BUS TRANSPORTATION AND SAFETY

School bus transportation is a privilege provided by the Westerly Public Schools. Because conduct on buses is directly related to the driver's control of the vehicle and to the safety of all students, Westerly Public Schools considers bus misconduct to be a serious offense and subject to disciplinary action. Bus drivers have the authority to enforce all bus rules and regulations. Student behavior may be monitored electronically. Students must assume responsibility for their actions and behavior. They also have the responsibility to learn and follow the rules and regulations of bus and bus stop behavior.

Parents/Guardians must also assume responsibility for the behavior of their children riding the bus as well as knowing the bus and bus stop rules and regulations. Parents/Guardians are responsible for their child's behavior and safety too, from, and at the bus stop.

When school administrators receive written notification of student misbehavior, parents/guardians will be contacted and appropriate action will be taken. If permission to ride the bus is revoked, the parent/guardian must provide transportation to and from school until such time as bus privileges are reinstated.

Bus loops are for buses only. Please be aware of areas designated for buses.

Students must be dropped off in the parent drop-off loop located in front of the Ward building.

LATE BUS

A late bus leaves the high school Monday through Friday (except a day before a holiday), typically at 3:45 pm. Like morning arrival, riding the late bus is a privilege. Students using the late bus should be doing so because they were conducting Westerly High School business and are in need of transportation. Students must inform the main office they will be using the late bus that day.

LOCKERS

Lockers are available to students upon request from the Dean's office. Since Westerly High School is a campus-style school, most students choose to carry their backpacks with them and have coats for inclement weather. If requested, a student will be assigned a locker. The student is expected to supply their own lock and to keep their locker locked at all times. WHS assumes no responsibility for theft of locker items. Lockers are property of WHS and thus are subject to be searched if there is reasonable suspicion of a school violation.

MORNING and AFTERNOON ACTIVITIES

A bell will ring at 7:20 a.m. signaling the beginning of the day. Students arriving after this bell are tardy and should report directly to the main office in the Ward Hall building and to the bridge office in the Babcock Hall building. The following will take place at the beginning of the day:

1. "The Pledge of Allegiance" will be recited.
2. A moment of silence will be observed.
3. Important notices are announced digitally. Please save the announcements to your Google Drive for 24/7 access to information.
4. Daily attendance will be taken.
5. Afterschool: If activities are available, students who need to access the school building for after-school help or activities between 1:55 pm - 2:30 pm must use their badge to enter either building. Students may access the normally accessible doors used throughout the regular school day.

GENERAL INFORMATION

ADVISORY

Advisory is a program that makes a large school smaller by creating a more personalized learning environment. With this purpose in mind, small groups of students will interact regularly with one adult. This advisory program will continue for the entire duration of each student's experience at Westerly High School. Students meet officially every Wednesday between the second and third block of the day.

ATHLETIC/CLUB PARTICIPATION

1. The policy will cover students engaged in all extracurricular activities including sports.
2. A one (1) "F" policy will be followed.
3. Students who fail more than one subject will be ineligible to participate in extracurricular activities including sports until the next report card is issued.
4. If you retake and pass a course it does not count as a failure at the end of the school year (June). This also applies to courses made up in summer school.
5. Excessive absences/tardies may result in social suspension and the removal of participation.

BULLETIN BOARDS

Any student wishing to post any information on a bulletin board must receive permission from an administrator or designee. The information must abide by all school rules. Students who post information are responsible for the removal of content once the event has passed.

CLASS OFFICERS

Annually, each class at Westerly High School elects six officers, (President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, Social Chairperson, and Student Council Representative) to oversee its affairs. Working with the class advisors, these officers coordinate the fundraising, social activities, and other affairs of the school. Class meetings are held periodically during the school year to conduct necessary class business, so attendance is mandatory. *NOTE:* To be eligible to hold a class office or to run for an office on the Student Council, students must meet the same requirements as those established by the Rhode Island Secondary Principals' Rules on Interscholastic Athletics. Any inappropriate behavior by a class officer or a candidate for class office may result in that student being removed from office or losing the privilege of running for office as determined by the administration.

CLUBS

[Click here for a full listing and description of Clubs and Activities](#) available for students

Students are welcomed to join clubs so long as they are in good academic and attendance standing.

DANCES AND FUNCTIONS

Various functions are scheduled during the school year by classes and student organizations. Westerly High School dances will ordinarily be held on Friday nights from 7:00 pm to 10:00 pm. Proms are from 6:00 pm to 10:00 pm. A student absent from school or missing any part of the school day on a regular school day (or the Friday before a weekend function) may not attend or participate in any school activity. Any exception to this rule must be made by the administration prior to the student attending the activity. The administration reserves the prerogative to exercise judgment in cases where extenuating circumstances exist. For policy applying to school dances and functions see [School Dances and Functions Policy No. 7200](#).

WHS School Dance/Function Procedure

Eligible students are allowed to invite a guest to a WHS dance/prom. No guest who is twenty-one (21) years of age or older will be permitted to attend. No student younger than 9th grade is allowed to attend a WHS dance. A completed dance form is required of all Westerly High School students prior to attending his/her first dance. All tickets must be purchased in advance; tickets will NOT be sold at the door.

The student must have their parents complete the guest registration form and submit the form three (3) days prior to the dance to the Westerly High School administration. The request must be approved by the Westerly High School administration.

Westerly High School students assume the responsibility for the behavior of the guest and are subject to disciplinary action for any misbehavior or wrongdoing of the guest, including but not limited to, forfeiting all dance privileges for either one (1) or all four (4) years at Westerly High School.

Any student attending a prom held on a school day will not be allowed to leave school prior to 1:00 p.m. For all other dances, students must be present for the entire school day (or Friday of the weekend function) to enter the dance.

ELECTRONIC COMMUNICATION DEVICES

A student may possess an electronic communication device (ECD) (including, but not limited to cellular phones) in school provided that during school hours the device remains silent/turned off and put away. The only exceptions are for documented medical needs (e.g. glucose monitors) emergencies, or assistive technology outlined in an IEP or 504 plan.

Cell Phones, smartphones and ear buds must be out of sight and turned off, in a backpack, purse or teacher provided area during the school day. The first violations of this policy will result in confiscation of the cellular telephone or electronic communication device, the student's parents will be notified and the student can retrieve the ECD from the principal's office at the end of the school day. The second violation of this policy will result in confiscation of the cellular telephone or electronic communication device, the student's parents will be notified and the parents will have to collect the ECD from the main office at their earliest convenience. The third violation will result in confiscation of the ECD and a parent meeting to discuss student behavior and strategies to ensure the ECDs are not in sight during the school day. [WHS ECD Policy](#). The student who possesses a cellular telephone or ECD is responsible for its care. Westerly Public Schools are not responsible for preventing theft, loss, damage, or vandalism to it. (Visit www.wpsri.org for more details on Policies [Electronic Communication Devices Policy 7500](#))

The use of electronic devices for activities involving, among others, laser pointers, radios, and electronic/video games is not permitted during the school day. Use or possession of said devices will result in confiscation by the school administration.

If a student refuses to turn over the ECD when requested, they will be and the parents called to collect the ECD. If the student signs out of school, it will be counted as an absence and could lead to truancy depending on the frequency.

EVACUATION/FIRE DRILLS

When the alarm sounds, all students are to leave the building quietly, in a prompt and orderly manner with their classroom teacher. Students will follow the evacuation route that is posted in all spaces. Students will assemble in designated areas and return directly to class when allowed to reenter the building. Students are not allowed to go to lockers or restrooms at this time.

EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

Extracurricular activities are a privilege, not a right. The school can revoke this privilege any time a student violates a school rule, exhibits inappropriate behavior, or has excessive absences/tardies,

including participation as spectators at assemblies and athletic events. A student absent from school or missing any part of the school day on a regular school day (or the Friday before a weekend function) may not attend or participate in any school activity. Any exception to this rule must be made by the administration prior to the student attending the activity.

FIELD TRIPS

Field trips are considered part of our regular classroom activities and are intended to enrich the students' experience and broaden their knowledge. Since some field trips extend beyond the end of the normal school day, students will be returned to school, and students or parents are responsible for transportation home. Permission slips for field trips must be signed by parents and returned to the subject teacher prior to or on the day of the field trip. Rules and guidelines for field trips will be distributed to all students with permission forms. Those students choosing not to participate in a field trip activity are required to attend school that day. There will be no field trips scheduled during the months of January and June. Students should be in good academic standing and are responsible for making up work. Participation is contingent upon administrative/teacher approval.

FOOD AND BEVERAGES

Food or drinks are prohibited in the classroom unless permission is given by the teacher. Students are allowed to have water at any given time so long as it does not interfere with classroom routines.

FUNDRAISING

All fundraising activities by school groups must be coordinated by a faculty advisor and must be scheduled in advance and approved by the administration. No students/student groups should begin fundraising before receiving proper approval. Additionally, fundraising approval will be considered to give all interested groups equal access without monopolizing another group.

HOMEWORK REQUESTS

Students who are absent should access their Google Classroom for missing content and assignments. Additionally, students should reach out to their teacher to arrange additional support for excused absences. If a student has an extended absence due to illness, (more than 3 days) please reach out to the school nurse, dean of students, and/or assigned school guidance counselor for additional support.

LAVATORY USE

When in class, sign out and use a pass. Please keep the facilities clean. Students must adhere to lav pass policies. Students should not congregate in restrooms. Please report any damages or unethical use to the dean's office to ensure a clean and safe environment for all students. Gender-neutral restrooms are accessible in the nurse's office and near the guidance office.

LOST OR DAMAGED CHROMEBOOKS/MATERIALS

Textbooks, Chromebooks, and study materials are issued on a loan basis. Care and protection of such equipment becomes the sole responsibility of the student to whom it is issued. All Chromebooks should be protected upon issuance by suitable covers. Each student is responsible for other books and materials and will be requested to pay for any that are lost, damaged, or defaced. Failure to pay will result in other sanctions being imposed, up to, and including holding student transcript information.

Students who need a loaner Chromebook have lost a Chromebook, or need a repair should see the Librarian in Ward Hall. Students who lose other school materials should let their teacher know.

LUNCH

1. All students are required to eat lunch in the cafeteria in Ward Hall or the lunchroom at Babcock Hall during the assigned lunch period.
2. All students must report directly to the cafeteria for their assigned lunch.
3. Students are not allowed to leave the cafeteria until the lunch period is over.
4. Students may use the bathrooms located inside the cafeteria.
5. Any student who fails to observe proper behavior or decorum in the cafeteria may be assigned a seat in the cafeteria or removed for a determined period of time.
6. Cleanliness of the cafeteria is the responsibility of all students.
7. Food ordered and delivered to school is prohibited.

PARENT/TEACHER CONFERENCES

Parent Teacher Conferences are scheduled annually, please refer to the district calendar for the fall date. Appointments are scheduled through our PowerSchool Student Information System. That said, parents/guardians are encouraged to reach out to teachers at any time they are concerned about their student's academic performance.

PASSES

Bathroom: Students should use the lanyard from their assigned classroom when using the restroom

Building: Before a student is excused from any room he/she must have a signed pass by a teacher with the date, time, and destination completed.

Guidance: Appointments to see School Counselors should be made with the guidance secretary in the guidance office at least one day in advance. Students must report to class and present a guidance pass prior to leaving for an appointment.

WIN: Students must report to their assigned WIN teacher and present a pass to go to any alternative location.

SCHOOL CANCELLATIONS

When school is canceled, delayed, or dismissed early due to inclement weather or other emergencies, parents will receive an automated phone call announcing the decision. In addition, an announcement is made over social media, local radio and television stations and is also available by accessing the district website (wpsri.org).

Middle and high school students are bused home first. All students will be expected to follow their usual routines when an early dismissal occurs (bus students on buses, walkers walk, etc). If early dismissal requires a change of the normal routine, parents/guardians must inform the school of the change in advance so the school can assist when an early dismissal arises; without such a plan, the a normal dismissal routine will be followed by school personnel.

SCHOOL VISITORS

All visitors must report to the main office in the Ward building when entering Westerly High School. Student visitors from other schools must have prior approval from the principal in order to spend the day at Westerly High School. Visitors are restricted to one day and must attend the entire school day in the company of a host student. Visitors should be prepared to present a valid ID and wear a visitor badge at all times.

STUDENT REPRESENTATIVES

School Committee Student Representative and Rhode Island Student Advisory Council Representative:

Each year junior students can apply for two different positions to represent WHS during their senior year, School Committee Student Representative and Rhode Island Student Advisory Council Representative.

WHS School Committee Student Representative:

Description and Responsibilities: A WHS senior is expected to attend all regularly scheduled School Committee meetings, usually held on the second and fourth Wednesday of each month. (approximately 16 meetings) The meetings typically start at 5:30 pm and can adjourn as late as 10:00 pm. The student representative informs the school committee members of pertinent information, happenings and upcoming activities at the high school. The student representative usually gives their report early in the meeting and is excused after the report, however they are welcome to stay for the duration of the meeting. Otherwise, the student representative is allowed to leave at 9:00 pm.

Qualifications: The student must be in junior student academic good standing with a GPA of 3.0 or higher.

Process: All students will be made aware of the application process, via email, by no later than March 15th. Application will be available in the Ward Main office and will be due no later than April 15th. A committee of administrators, a teacher and guidance counselor will select one student from the applications for each position. The chosen student representatives will be submitted to the superintendent and school committee for approval before May 1st.

Rhode Island Student Advisory Council Representative:

Description: The Rhode Island Student Advisory Council (SAC) is a group of students representing various districts across Rhode Island, established by the Rhode Island Department of Education (RIDE). Its purpose is to provide a platform for students to discuss important issues, advise on policies, and participate in district and college governance. The council also works to promote student attendance and academic achievement. The RI Student Advisory Council meets at least four times annually, as specified in the Rhode Island Code of Regulations. They may meet more frequently if necessary to conduct their business. The meeting takes place in Providence and usually begins at 4:00 pm.

Qualifications: No person shall be eligible to be elected to the student advisory council unless at the time of his or her election he or she is enrolled as a student in a secondary school between the grades of nine (9) and eleven (11) within the state of Rhode Island. If at any time during his or her term of office a member of the student advisory council ceases to be so enrolled, his or her membership shall be terminated and his or her position shall be deemed vacant. This vacancy shall be filled by the public secondary school within thirty (30) school days of the opening of the vacancy.

Responsibilities: The student advisory council will serve from the first (1st) day of May of the year it is elected until the last day of April of the following year. A student may serve no more than three (3) terms.

- Said student advisory council shall meet from time to time and shall consider such matters as it deems appropriate.
- Prior to the first (1st) day of June of each annual session the student advisory council shall adopt a set of bylaws.
- Members of the council shall not be compensated for service in attending meetings except that they shall be reimbursed for necessary expenses incurred in traveling to and from meetings.

Process: An email informing students of this opportunity will go to all students via email no later than March 1st. An election for a representative to the Rhode Island Student Advisory Council will take place no earlier than the first (1st) day of March and no later than the end of the second (2nd) full week

of April. The elected representative shall be notified of their election on or before the Friday of the third (3rd) week of April of the year of their election.

TRANSFER STUDENTS

Prior to entry/exit into/from WHS, the guidance office will request all transcripts and records from previous educational settings. These records will be reviewed and School Counselors will determine how to best integrate the student into WHS. Depending on the time of entry, some graduation requirements (proficiencies, community service, etc.) may be prorated for the student. Such determinations are always to be made for the purpose of ensuring the academic success of the student. It is the responsibility of the guidance department to disseminate all pertinent information to classroom teachers so the teacher can best assimilate the student into class.

VIDEO SURVEILLANCE

The School Committee, having carefully weighed and balanced the privacy of students and staff against the district's duty to maintain order and discipline, finds that it is appropriate to provide for the use of video camera surveillance in its transportation vehicles and on school grounds. Video surveillance shall only be used to promote the order, safety, and security of students, staff, and property.

Surveillance may be used to investigate incidents that lead to investigation, consequences, and restitution. See [School Bus Video Camera Policy 8900](#)

WITHDRAWAL FROM SCHOOL

When it becomes necessary for a student to withdraw from Westerly High School, students should make an appointment to discuss this intention with their guidance counselor and principal. All obligations need to be met prior to withdrawal. All students leaving school must have the signature of the principal. Guidance personnel will assist students during the withdrawal period in terms of transitioning them into other career opportunities. If a student is under the age of eighteen at the time of his/her withdrawal from school, a parent or guardian must sign the withdrawal paperwork and permission from the principal is required.

WORKING PAPERS

Application for the standard employment certificate, commonly called working papers, is available in the Guidance Office.

Guidelines:

1. You must have a job before working papers can be issued. You must know how many hours your employer is having a student work and what kind of machinery you will be working. The laws of the State of Rhode Island prohibit young people from working more than a specified number of hours and also prohibit them from working on dangerous machinery or power tools.
2. When a student has secured the job, ask the employer to give the employee an *Intent to*

Employ slip. That slip must be filled out by the employer and then filled out and signed by the student's parent/legal guardian.

3. Working papers are issued for people from 14 to 17 years of age.

STUDENT EXPECTATIONS

Progressive Discipline Philosophy

Westerly High School is committed to building a positive, cohesive, caring school community. We believe that building relationships with students, and their families, is paramount to students' academic, social and lifetime success. Each day in our schools, we influence our students' social-emotional learning and development through use of progressive practices. We are focused on building healthy, positive relationships; preventing harmful behavior; productively resolving conflict among individuals; and fostering a positive and inclusive learning environment. We value open dialogue in order to repair relationships, and we remain unequivocally committed to the principle that disorderly and disruptive behavior shall not be permitted to interfere with other students' access to learning.

The two goals of progressive practices are to 1) build positive relationships and an inclusive school community and 2) repair/restore relationships and community whenever harm has been done. To make this a reality in our school, we need the support of all stakeholders, especially our families. Our intentions for progressive practices and discipline are aligned with the following principles:

- Acknowledge that relationships are central to building community
- Build systems that address misbehavior and harm in a way that strengthens relationships
- Focus on the harms done rather than only on rule breaking
- Give voice to the person harmed
- Engage in collaborative problem-solving
- Empower change and growth
- Enhance responsibility

Every reasonable effort will be made to keep students in their learning environment, using suspension and/or expulsion only as a last resort. [Rhode Island General Laws, Section 16-2-17](#). At WHS, all staff and students partner to create a positive learning culture across all settings in the school community. While we encourage and value the building of, and when necessary the restoration, positive relationships, students are reminded that:

1. The exercise of any student's rights ceases when it impacts the rights of another individual or group.

2. No student has the right to disrupt the educational process within a school or designated learning environment.
3. All students have the right to due process in matters that affect their ability to actively engage in their learning. This includes suspension and expulsion.
4. Any form of physical punishment of students is against the law and strictly prohibited. Any permissible use of physical contact is covered through Westerly Public Schools Policy No. 5011: [Procedures Regarding Prevention and Crisis Intervention/Physical Restraint Policy](#) in accordance with [Rhode Island Department of Education's Physical Restraint Regulations](#).
5. A search of a student or their personal property in the presence of a second adult may be performed if a school administrator considers that there is a reasonable suspicion concerning violation of the law or school rules and policies. See section re: Search of Personal and School Property.
6. To ensure the safety and optimal learning of all students, Westerly High School is a drug and alcohol free zone, including any type of tobacco and vape device.
7. The carrying or wearing of any object which may be considered or used as a weapon, including but not limited to firearms and knives of any size, is forbidden on school property.

BEHAVIOR EXPECTATIONS

At Westerly High School, all staff and students will be:

- Present
 - Attend School all day, every day
 - Be prepared and ready to learn
 - Be focus
- Accountable
 - Take ownership of your words, choices and actions
 - Be where you are expected to be
 - Be responsible for yourself and materials
- Welcoming
 - Respect Peers, staff and property
 - Include others
 - Value different opinions
- Safe
 - Follow expectations
 - Keep hand, feet and objects to yourself
 - Use equipment and materials as intended

Infractions to the above expectations will be handled in a progressive manner, with emphasis on repairing and restoring the harmed relationship and/or community. Students may be asked to engage in progressive interventions after school. In this event, students will be given 24 hours notice and

parent/guardian(s) may be responsible for providing transportation. It is important to note that violations of the law and/or significant violations of school rules and policies may result in time away from the school community (i.e. in-school or out-of-school suspension) before effective restoration can occur. These decisions will be based on the severity, frequency and duration of behavioral infractions.

Westerly Public Schools expects that students will act in an exemplary manner while in school. The conduct of students in schools has an important impact on the school climate for learning. The ultimate responsibility for student behavior rests with the students themselves and is reinforced by the parents/guardians. The schools provide leadership to be sure that appropriate standards of behavior are maintained while students are under school supervision. Schools shall exercise the right to determine and request appropriate school behavior from the student in order to encourage the positive social and educational development of the child.

The establishment of appropriate procedures to maintain good student discipline is an administrative responsibility of the Superintendent. The superintendent shall establish clearly defined procedural steps to be followed by all school employees in dealing with disciplinary problems. These steps will be as follows:

1. Ensure that respect for the individual and commitment to student success will be the top priorities in all disciplinary actions;
2. Recognize the limits of individual freedom in order to maintain the integrity of the educational community when dealing with disciplinary issues;
3. Make ample provision for procedural due process in all disciplinary actions;
4. Inform parents/guardians of the school system's concern for procedural due process in disciplinary actions;
5. Respect age when rendering disciplinary action;
6. Be consistent with appropriate RI state statutes.

Any student who owes a detention of any kind will not be eligible for any after school activity, game, practice or performance.

Behavioral infractions include (according to RIDE State Specifications):

Academic Dishonesty-Cheating or Plagiarism

- Alcohol-Possession or Under the Influence of
 - See WPS [Substance Abuse Policy 5040](#)
- Arson
- Assault/Battery of a member of the school community; Student or Teacher (verbal or physical)
 - See WPS [Violence Prevention Policy 2032](#)
- Attendance-Cut/Skipped Class(es), Tardy, leaving school grounds without permission,
- Bomb Threat

- Communication/Electronic Devices
 - See WPS [Social Networking and Text Messaging Policy 2321](#);
 - See WPS [Electronic Communications Devices Policy 7500](#)
- Controlled Substances- Sale of /Possession with Intent to Sell
 - See WPS [Substance Abuse Policy 5040](#)
- Controlled Substances-Possession or Under Influence
 - See WPS [Substance Abuse Policy 5040](#)
- Disorderly Conduct
- Fighting/Physical Altercation
- Fire Regulations Violation
- Forgery
- Gambling
- Gang Activity-Non violent Incident
- Harassment-Stalking, Sexual, Prejudice/Hate Crimes
 - See WPS [Sexual Harassment Policy 2050/4146](#)
- Hazing
- Insubordination/Disrespect
- Kidnapping/Abduction
- Larceny/Theft
- Obscene/Abusive Language Toward Student
- Robbery
- Sexual Assault/Battery
- Sexual Misconduct
- Technology-Unauthorized Use of Computers/Other Tech
 - See WPS [Responsible Use and Internet Safety Policy 2300](#)
- Threat/Intimidation (verbal, cyber or physical)
 - See WPS [Threats of Violence or Harm Policy 2033](#)
- Tobacco
- Trespassing/Restricted Area
- Vandalism
- Weapon Possession
 - See WPS [Violence Prevention Policy 2032](#)

AUTOMOBILES/PARKING

Parking on campus is a privilege that can be revoked if students do not remain in good standing. Seniors and juniors are welcome to apply for parking during the summer. Information will be emailed to students regarding the process. Students must be in good academic standing, not have exceeded 10% attendance, failed more than one course nor owe more than 5 detentions. Students must have the proper WHS Parking Sticker adhered to their car. Violations could result in towing of vehicles at the owner's expense.

DRESS EXPECTATIONS

In an effort to maintain a professional working environment for all members of the WHS school community, members are expected to dress accordingly in a manner that is appropriate for a school setting. Students are asked to consider cleanliness, academic setting and appropriateness in the selection of clothing to be worn in school. However true it is that one's appearance is a personal choice, it is nevertheless the responsibility of the student to maintain a reasonable standard of conduct and appearance.

Must Wear Items:

- Students are expected to wear clothing that is considered a top, clothing that is considered a bottom and footwear.
- That clothing must be opaque and amply cover areas of the body that would be deemed private in nature.
- A top is defined as material that covers the front, back, over the shoulders, and the sides up to the underarms.
- A bottom is defined as pants, sweatpants, leggings, skirts, shorts or a dress.
- Footwear should be comfortable and suitable for specific learning environments (ie, sneakers for PE).

May Wear Items:

- Students may wear hats that are school appropriate so long as they do not interfere with the learning environment and students are identifiable, meaning the face is not obstructed. If asked to remove a hat in the classroom, students should comply.
- Clothing that reflects their personality or beliefs so long as the clothing does not contain graphic or obscene language, threatening images or language, images or symbols that are offensive to others.
- Specific attire and/or grooming methods may be required in special areas such as industrial tech, physical education, or labs.

Students Cannot Wear:

- Any clothing or items that imply an obscene, drug/alcohol-related message or a violent message are prohibited. Students wearing such apparel will not be allowed to attend classes until such time as the clothing in question is changed, a parent/guardian will be notified.
- Sunglasses or hoods that are obstructive to identifying a student
- Any attire, accessory, or body piercing that is of a health or safety concern, exposes undergarments and/or *exposes any part of the torso* and upper thigh are prohibited.
- Undergarments, pajamas, blankets, bathing suits, or slippers are not acceptable school attire.
- Regardless of gender, strapless attire or attire that overly exposes the chest.

Means of interventions for Behavior Expectations

- **Teacher Detention** – Teachers may assign detention held for a specified amount of time after school. Students will be given 24 hours' notice and parent/guardian(s) may be responsible for providing transportation.
- **Office Detention** – Office Detention is held for a specified amount of time after school under supervision by a faculty/staff member. Students will be given 24 hours' notice and parent/guardian(s) may be responsible for providing transportation.
- **Saturday School** - Students will attend Saturday School from 8 am to Noon on a designated Saturday under supervision by an administrator or dean of the school. Students will be given 24 hours' notice and parent/guardian(s) may be responsible for providing transportation.
- **Social Suspension**- Restriction will be set for a fixed period of time or until certain specified requirements have been met. This corrective measure applies to all school-sponsored activities.
- **In-School Suspension** – ISS is designed to maintain educational services and to provide an additional response to inappropriate behavior prior to out-of-school suspension. ISS may last for half a school day or a full school day based on the discretion of the administration team.
- **Out of School Suspension** - OSS may be given to any student who engages in behavior that disrupts the normal operation of any activity occurring on property under the control and/or direction of the Westerly Public Schools.
- **Expulsion**-At the discretion of the Superintendent, Building Principal and the Director of Pupil Services, expulsion may be necessary when a student presents as unsafe to the learning environment

SEARCH OF PERSONAL AND SCHOOL PROPERTY

All students will be free from unreasonable searches of their persons, clothing, and other personal property. A student is subject to search by school officials of personal items, however, if reasonable suspicion exists to suspect that the search will yield evidence of a student's violation of the law or school rules governing student conduct. Any possession of WPS is accessible to a search, including but not limited to lockers, desks, and parking areas. Vehicles parked on school property or school-controlled areas are also subject to search. Parking on school property or at school functions is a privilege that may be revoked.

Any search of a student conducted by a school district employee must be reasonably related to the discovery of contraband or other evidence of a student's violation of the law or school rules. For the purpose of this policy, "contraband" means items, materials, or substances the possession of which is prohibited by law or district policy, including but not limited to, controlled substances, alcoholic beverages, tobacco products, or any device which could pose a disruption to the learning environment or could be reasonably considered a firearm or a

dangerous weapon. All criminal infractions, not limited to the above, will be referred to the Westerly Police Department for potential prosecution.

Administrators and/or Dean Of Students will conduct searches in a manner that is not excessively intrusive in light of the age and sex of the student and the nature of the suspected infraction. Parents will be notified of all searches and the rationale for the search. Students/parents who refuse a search will accept a decision of guilt and applicable consequences will be applied for the suspected infraction. No student will be subject to a strip search or body cavity search by school employees.

SOCIAL SUSPENSION

At the principal's discretion, students absent or tardy for more than 10% of the school year may be placed on social suspension until their attendance number falls below 10%. Participation in athletics, school clubs, school dances, and nighttime events may be prohibited. Each unexcused absence will count for one day. Each unexcused tardy will count for one-fifth of the school day. At the principal's discretion, students with three disciplinary infractions above office detention may be placed on social suspension for 30 days. If the student's conduct improves and they have no disciplinary infractions during the social suspension timeline, they will be removed from social suspension. At the principal's discretion, if the student's conduct does not improve and additional consequences are assigned, the 30-day social suspension may be extended. Once off social suspension, large infractions may cause a student to go back on social suspension for another 30-days.

The administration reserves the right to adjust disciplinary consequences as deemed necessary.

STUDENT SUPPORT SERVICES

SCHOOL COUNSELING

The School Counseling Department is in the process of implementing a developmental guidance program for all students at Westerly High School. This program will bring together a student's academic, career, personal interests, and abilities with the following goals:

Understanding the school environment, understanding self and others, decision making and problem-solving, interpersonal and communication skills, school success skills (study skills, time management), career awareness and educational planning, community pride and involvement.

Westerly Public Schools' guidance and counseling consist of the following:
Personal counseling, vocational counseling, college application, and scholarship assistance,

testing and interpretation, and program planning.

Students' school counselor assignments can be found [here](#).

Each student at Westerly High School will be assigned a school counselor for that student's tenure at the high school.

SCHOOL LIBRARY

The school library is open to students from 7:15 a.m. – 1:55 p.m. All students must sign into the library and have a pass from a teacher. Passes are not needed before and after school. Library materials are loaned for a two week period and may be renewed if they are not needed by others. Some reference materials may be taken overnight only. Students are asked to be considerate of other students' needs and to return all materials promptly. Students are expected to work quietly and courteously while in the library and those students who disturb others may have their library privileges temporarily revoked.

SCHOOL NURSE

The school nurse teacher will be in the clinic near the main office each day from 7:15 a.m. to 1:55 p.m. You may visit the nurse when you are ill, in need of an early dismissal for medical reasons, or to discuss any type of health related problem. All accidents/injuries occurring on school property must be reported immediately.

Medication: Medication prescribed by a doctor must be taken only with written parental/guardian approval, under the supervision of the school nurse, and kept in the clinic at all times. With parental approval, inhalers and Epi-pens may be carried by the student and self-administered.

Physical Education Excuses: The school nurse will issue physical education excuses during the time before the first period with a written note by a physician.

Medical Passes: Students with physical disabilities will be issued a pass by the school nurse to permit that student, and possibly a helper, to leave class 2 to 5 minutes before the bell. These passes are to be shown to the classroom or study hall teacher. Students who are unable to use the stairs may use the elevator.

Note: Westerly Public Schools is not responsible for any fees accrued if an ambulance is called for a student.

STUDENT ASSISTANCE COUNSELOR

A substance abuse counselor is available for discussions on any addiction problem that occurs with a student, a student's friend, or family/relations. This service is free to you. Parents may call for an appointment at 401-315-1570.

STUDENT SERVICES

Under the Federal Law IDEA on education for the handicapped and applicable Rhode Island laws, you are entitled to public education even if you require special services instead of, or in addition to, the school's regular program. All students may obtain the services of the following: School Psychologist, Diagnostic Teacher, Social Worker, Speech Therapist, Occupational/Physical Therapist, English Language Learners Program, and Transitional Coordinator

STUDENT SUPPORT SERVICES

Westerly High Schools offers consultation, referral, evaluation, and/or supportive service from the school psychologists and social workers. These professionals offer a variety of recommendations to meet each student's and/or family's individual needs. These concerns include social, emotional, cognitive, and behavioral issues that may be occurring at home, in school, in the community, or across multiple settings. These issues warrant attention, particularly when learning is impacted and/or impairment in daily functioning is observed. Meet our staff:

[Ms. Nichole Cherenzia](#) School Social Worker

[Mrs. Erin Unkuri](#) School Social Worker

[Mr. Scott Simone](#) School Psychologist

[Ms. Kendra Racine](#) School Social Worker

SENIOR PRIVILEGES

Eligibility Requirements:

- **Attendance:** Chronic absenteeism may result in a loss of Senior Lounge privileges. Chronic absenteeism means missing 10% or more of the school year. And because the school year keeps moving forward, the number of days you can miss before being considered “chronically absent” also goes up.

Month	Approx. School Days Passed	10% = Chronic Absences (unexcused)
September	~20 days	2 or more days
Month	Approx. School Days Passed	10% = Chronic Absences (unexcused)
October	~40 days	4 or more days
November	~60 days	6 or more days
December	~80 days	8 or more days

January	~100 days	10 or more days
February	~120 days	12 or more days
March	~140 days	14 or more days
April	~160 days	16 or more days
May	~175 days	17 or more days
June	~180 days	18 or more days

- **Behavior:** Students must not have any owed detentions. All detentions must be completed before a student is allowed access to senior privileges. (This includes behavioral infractions and detentions owed due to excessive tardies)
- **Grades:** Seniors must be passing all of their classes. Access to privileges will be reviewed every 5 weeks, based on progress reports and report cards. If a student is failing any class, they will lose access to senior privileges until the next grading period.
- **WIN Period:** Students must report to their WIN teacher for attendance before visiting the Senior Lounge. After checking in with their teacher, students will receive a pass allowing them entry.

Senior Lounge

- The Senior Lounge offers a designated space for students to enjoy their WIN (What I Need) period and lunch in a relaxed, exclusive environment. Located in the back area of the cafeteria, the Senior Lounge provides a comfortable, partitioned-off section just for seniors to unwind during their breaks.

Privileges of the Senior Lounge:

- A more relaxed, senior-only area for eating and socializing.
- A chance to enjoy a quieter and more comfortable space during lunch and WIN periods.
- The opportunity to build a sense of senior community in an exclusive environment.

Note: The Senior Lounge is a privilege, not a right. Students who do not meet the eligibility criteria (attendance, behavior, or grades) will temporarily lose access to the lounge until their status is re-evaluated during the next grading period.

WIN Period 1

- Seniors who are scheduled for Period 1 or 1A WIN have the opportunity to arrive at school for the start of Period 1B or Period 2 class (depending on their individual schedule). Students should report directly to the assigned class so that attendance can be properly documented.

WIN Period 4

- Seniors who are scheduled for Period 4 or 4B WIN have the opportunity to leave school for the start of Period 4B or Period 4 class (depending on their individual schedule). Students are required to sign out with the Ward main office before leaving so that attendance can be properly documented.

Students who access senior privileges while not in good standing (as cited above) will be issued consequences that may include detention, in-school suspension, and the revocation of senior privileges, regardless of eligibility.