



Squalicum High School

Student Handbook

2026-2027



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SQHS Student Vision and Mission

At Squalicum ALL students **collaboratively engage** in meaningful and authentic learning in and outside the classroom.

Students are supported to find **resilience** when faced with challenging ideas and situations. When students graduate, they have the skills and confidence to create the lives they want.



We believe...

- **You belong here.** Every student has a place at Squalicum. Every student deserves to come to school as their whole, authentic self and be treated with dignity.
- Every student deserves to go to a school that is **positive, loving, and often joyous.**
- Every student deserves to be **healthy, safe, and respected.**
- Every student **belongs in classroom communities** where you are **challenged to learn** and communicate effectively, and where you are engaged with and without technology.

*To achieve this, we will need to work in partnership.
Students, staff and families.*



Together we strive to be...

Engaged. We are present and active in our learning.

Resilient. We respond to challenges and setbacks in ways that help us grow.

Collaborative. We work together to build a community of learners.



Student Rights in Washington State

Public school students are the beneficiaries of the foundational principles of individual liberty and equality, as established in the Declaration of Independence, and are entitled to numerous rights and protections under the Constitution of the United States, the Constitution of the state of Washington, and federal and state laws and regulations.

These rights and protections include, but are not limited to, the following:

- (i) The right to access an amply funded program of basic education, established pursuant to Article IX of the Constitution of the state of Washington, that provides an opportunity to develop the knowledge and skills necessary to meet state-established graduation requirements, which are intended to provide students with the opportunity to graduate with a meaningful diploma that prepares them for postsecondary education, gainful employment, and citizenship as established in RCW 28A.150.200;
- (ii) The right to learn in a safe, supportive learning environment, free from harassment, intimidation, or bullying and the right to file a complaint under RCW 28A.600.477 if they are subject to this behavior;
- (iii) The right to access an academic environment free of discrimination according to the provisions established in chapters 28A.640, 28A.642, and 49.60 RCW;
- (iv) The right to exercise constitutionally protected freedoms as established in the United States and Washington state Constitutions and as further interpreted in applicable case law including, but not limited to, the freedoms of speech, assembly, and exercise of religion;
- (v) The right, in accordance with RCW 28A.300.286 and 24 28A.600.010, to receive copies of all school policies and procedures related to students including, but not limited to: Student conduct; nondiscrimination rules; antiharassment, intimidation, and bullying rules; discipline rules and rules related to due process rights for disciplinary actions; and the opportunity to receive educational services ([Bellingham Schools Policies and Procedures](#));
- (vi) The right of students with qualifying disabilities to receive special education and related services that address their individual needs in accordance with federal law and chapter 28A.155 RCW;
- (vii) The right of youth to access education programs while residing in institutional education facilities, including adult correctional facilities, in accordance with RCW 28A.150.200 and chapters 28A.190 and 28A.193 RCW;
- (viii) The right of qualified students to use education facilities and services established under chapter 72.40 RCW and funded for the benefit of persons who are deaf, blind, or both; and p. 5 ESHB 1296.PL 1
- (ix) The right to access academic courses and instructional materials with historically and scientifically accurate information that includes the histories, contributions, and perspectives of historically marginalized and underrepresented groups in accordance with RCW 28A.345.130.5 6 (3)

The rights identified in this section are not intended to be a comprehensive delineation of student rights, the manner in which they are derived, or the associated legal limits, nor is this section intended to have any application to rights established in other titles or in other provisions of state and federal law. (4) For purposes of this section, "public schools" has the same meaning as in RCW 28A.150.010.12 13 (5) Nothing in this section creates a private right of action. 14 Sec. 203. RCW 28A.230.094 and 2020 c 208 s 9 a



Bellingham Schools Policies & Procedures



Bellingham
Public Schools

a collective commitment

District Policy Manual





Class Schedules

MON/TUES/FRI C DAY

1

8:30 - 9:18

2

9:23 - 10:11

3

10:16 - 11:04

1st

lunch

11:13 -

11:43

4

11:09 -

11:57

4

11:48 -

12:36

2nd

lunch

12:06 -

12:36

5

12:41 - 1:29

6

1:34 - 2:22

7

2:27 - 3:15

updated Fall 2026

				THURSDAY B DAY	
2		8:30 - 9:45			
4	9:55 - 11:15	4	9:55 - 10:30		
2nd lunch	11:25 - 11:55	1st lunch	10:40 - 11:10		
		4	11:15 - 11:55		
6		12:00 - 1:15			
Early Dismissal at 1:15					
updated Fall 2026					

				WEDNESDAY A DAY	
1		8:30 - 9:45			
3		9:55 - 11:15		3	9:55 - 10:30
2nd lunch		11:25 - 11:55		1st lunch	10:40 - 11:10
				3	11:15 - 11:55
5		12:00 - 1:15			
Storm 1:20 - 1:55					
7		2:00 - 3:15			

updated Fall 2026



Class Schedules

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JL1

To be updated for 2026

Louzao, Jeremy, 2026-08-13T18:49:45.109



SQHS Fight Song

Stand aside for Squalicum, our Storm is on the way,
Mountain, Bay, and Sky unite for victory today (rah, rah, rah),
Lightning, thunder fight for the win,
Awesome power, never give in,
Win one for Squalicum, We're the home of the Mighty Storm,

See our lightning (clap x8)

Hear our thunder (stomp, stomp, stomp, stomp)
(spell out) S. T. O. R. M.!

Stand aside for Squalicum our Storm is on the way,
Mountain, Bay, and Sky unite for victory today (rah, rah, rah),
Lightning, thunder fight for the win,
Awesome power, never give in,
Win one for Squalicum, We're the home of the Mighty Storm!



Dances

- Students can purchase dance tickets at the ASB window. All students need a signed dance contract on file to purchase a ticket.
- Students can bring 1 guest to the dance; prior to purchasing tickets, the guest has their school administration verify they are a student and able to attend a dance safely. Guest contracts are available at the ASB window.



Get Involved!

- Clubs: [Clubs - Squalicum High School](#)
 - If you do not see a club that you are interested in, find an advisor (staff member or community volunteer) and see Mr. Brown to start something new!
- Sports: [Activities & Athletics - Squalicum High School](#)
- ASB: Join the Associated Student Body to dive into a leadership role at SQHS! [ASB - Squalicum High School](#)



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JL1

Do we want a dedicated ASB page?

Louzao, Jeremy, 2026-08-13T18:53:12.732

MT1 0

If we can keep the link then I don't think we need to add more pages. Just my 2 cents

Miller, Trisha, 2026-08-24T17:05:00.253



Keep Our Community Safe

Keeping our students and staff safe at school is a top priority. Our mission is to promote a culture of safety and preparedness and a learning environment in which all students can succeed while feeling happy, healthy, and safe.

To report a concern related to campus or personal safety you can:

- Contact any of the administrators at your school. (email or come to the main office)
- Contact Student Services at the District Office by calling 360-676-6400.
- Use the [Vector Alert](#) tip line system to report online, by text, or by phone.

Reports are anonymous unless you choose to share your name.

- Print and complete the [HIB reporting form \(3207F\)](#) for any harassment-related safety concerns

More information here:

<https://bellingshamschools.org/families/school-day-information/school-safety/>





Policies and Procedures to Support Safety

Policy 3205 and
Procedure 3205

Sexual Harassment of
Students Prohibited

Policy 3207 and
Procedure 3207

Prohibition of
Harassment, Intimidation,
and Bullying

Policy 3209 and
Procedure 3209

Bias Incident and Hate
Speech

Policy 3210 and
Procedure 3210

Nondiscrimination

Policy 3211 and
Procedure 3211

Gender Inclusive Schools





Standard Response Protocol

STANDARD RESPONSE PROTOCOL



HOLD

In your room or area.
Clear the halls.



SECURE

Get inside.
Lock outside doors.



LOCKDOWN

Locks, lights,
out of sight.



EVACUATE

To the announced
location



SHELTER

Using the announced
hazard and strategy.

[Click for Video: Bellingham Standard Response Protocol](#)





Getting Support

If you are struggling in any way at our school, you are not alone. We have many caring staff ready to help you!

Counseling Office: Make an appointment to see your counselor with [Ms. Dexter](#).

Prevention and Wellness Specialist: [Jamie Betz](#)

Campus Safety Team: [Ms. Miller](#) and [Mr. Thomas](#)

Mental Health Supports: See your counselor to get connected with a Compass or Accent Counselor or another local support.

Communities in Schools: [Justin Sanchez](#). Justin is at SQHS to support with attendance, basic needs, and removing barriers to school.



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JL1

To be updated for 2026

Louzao, Jeremy, 2026-08-13T18:50:26.895



SQHS Prevention & Wellness Specialist

Jamie Betz

Hours: Monday, Thursday, and Friday

Mental Health and/or Substance Use Support



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JL1

To be updated for 2026

Louzao, Jeremy, 2026-08-13T18:50:10.577



Jobs, College, and Life Beyond High School

Check out School Links!

- Hot jobs list, volunteer opportunities, career and college field trips, and more!

Ms. Gardisky

- Here to help! Located in the counseling office.

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JL1

Add info...

Louzao, Jeremy, 2026-08-13T18:52:25.088



Storm Exchange

What: Resource Closet (clothing, shoes, toiletries, etc.)

Where: By the entry way to the weight and mat room.

Who: Any student at SQHS!

How: Check in with counseling, main office, or Communities in School to access.



Attendance Expectations – Show Up!

- Great things happen when you **SHOW UP!** It's the most important part of being a student at Squalicum High School.
- Prioritize being at school, on time, each and every day.
- 10/10 – all students should in class during the first and last 10 minutes.

If you are going to be absent, work with your parent/guardian to excuse the absence, within 48 hours. These are the accepted reasons:

Absence due to:

- A. Physical health or mental health symptoms, illness, health condition or medical appointment for the student or person for whom the student is legally responsible. Examples of symptoms, illness, health conditions or medical appointments include, but are not limited to medical, counseling, mental health wellness, dental, optometry, pregnancy and behavioral health treatment (which can include in-patient or out-patient treatment for chemical dependency or mental health).
- B. Family emergency including, but not limited to, a death or illness in the family.
- C. Religious or cultural purposes including observance of a religious or cultural holiday or participation in religious or cultural instruction.
- D. Court, judicial proceeding, court-ordered activity or jury service.
- E. Post-secondary, technical school or apprenticeship program visitation or scholarship interview.
- F. State-recognized search and rescue activities consistent with RCW [225.055](#);
- G. Absences directly related to the student's homelessness or foster care/dependency status
- H. Absences related to deployment activities of a parent/guardian who is an active-duty member consistent with RCW [705.010](#);
- I. Absences due to suspensions, expulsions or emergency expulsions imposed pursuant to chapter [392-400](#) WAC if the student is not receiving educational services and is not enrolled in qualifying "course of study" activities as defined in WAC [392-121-107](#);
- J. Absences due to student safety concerns, including absences related to threats, assaults or bullying.
- K. Absences due to a student's migrant status.
- L. An approved activity that is consistent with district policy and is mutually agreed upon by the principal or designee and a parent/guardian or emancipated youth.
- M. Absences due to the student's lack of necessary instructional tools, including internet access or connectivity.





Unexcused Absences – What to Expect

The state calculates a “full day” unexcused absence as more than 2 periods absent. This can be 2 periods plus STORM.

- Each unexcused absence results in an automated call home and a ParentSquare message.
- Student athletes and performers are unable to participate in extracurricular activities on the days they are absent. This includes excessively tardy periods.
- After 3 unexcused absences, the school begins to engage in attendance interventions (these include letters, family meetings, student meetings, attendance plans, etc.)
- At 15 unexcused absences, the school is expected to initiate a [“Becca Bill” process](#) to petition the Court to compel student attendance.

IMPORTANT: Arriving more than 10 minutes late to a class unexcused results in an “Absent—Excessively Tardy” mark. This is considered an unexcused absence for that period, even if a student is in class the rest of the period.





Tardies – What to expect

- Tardy = a student arrives after the bell, ***within the first 10 minutes*** of class.
- ***After*** 10 minutes, students go the attendance kiosk for an A-ET mark. This means excessively tardy in Skyward. This is an unexcused absence!
- After 5 tardies per class, a student serves detention and families are contacted.
- Beyond 5 tardies/class, a student is referred to the attendance team for more intensive interventions.
- If a student is found to be regularly arriving late from off-campus lunch, an attendance plan will be made, which may including losing off-campus lunch privileges.





Field Trips

Field Trips are an important part of the high school experience.

For each field trip, students needs a [signed permission slip](#).

Students are expected to make up missed work and coordinate with staff to ensure they are in good academic standing prior to leaving for the trip.



Cell Phones and Headphones: Off and Away During Class Time

- During class time, ALL cell phones will be OFF AND AWAY, which includes the hallways, bathrooms, and commons. Phones should be stored by the student in the student's personal belongings.
- Students can access their cell phones before and after school, during passing periods, during lunch and in emergency situations that involve imminent physical danger.
- During class, teachers may allow phones to be used for instructional purposes, to facilitate parent/guardian communications, or for specific health needs.

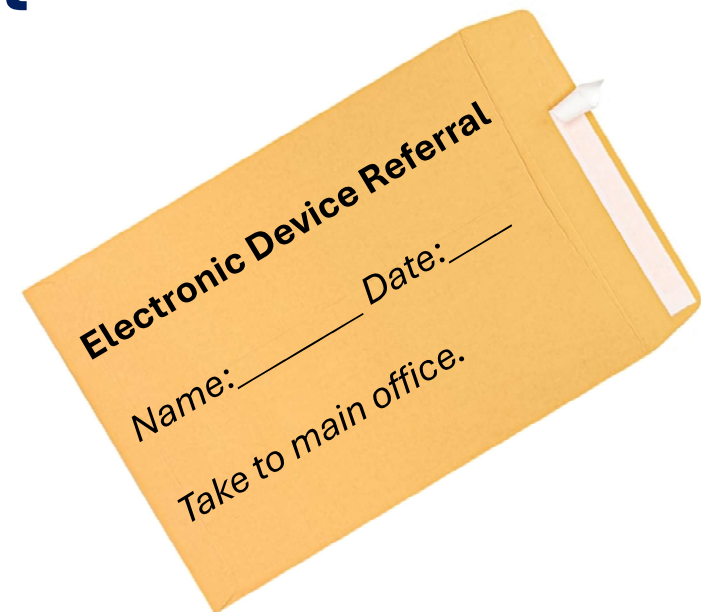


*BPS Policy 3245



What happens if my cell phone or headphones are not **OFF and AWAY?**

- The teacher may walk over and give you a cell phone envelope. You may need to turn in headphones as well.
 - You will bring the envelope and your device to the main office.
- The teacher will notify the main office that you are headed to the office to turn in your cell phone.
- You will fill out the envelope in the office, seal the phone in the envelope, and the office will place it in the lockbox. You can pick up your cell phone at an assigned time.
- You will get a pass back to class to return to learning.



1st time: Half-Day (pick up after lunch or at dismissal)

2nd time: Rest of the day

3rd time: Rest of the day, plus parent/guardian pick-up

In all cases, the school will call home to inform families.

4th time: Family meeting; referral to Prevention Wellness Specialist; restrict cellphone use/access at school preventatively.



Hallways, Passes, and Truancy



Everyone is in class for the first and last 10 minutes of each period.



1 student out from class at a time. Respect those who are waiting by returning to class quickly.



All students in hall required to have a hall pass. Must follow teacher's hall pass expectations.



Cell phones off and away in the hallways.



Out of class for more than 15 minutes=truancy (skipping). Family called and disciplinary offense in Skyward.





If You Need to Go To...

Health Room: Tell your teacher. Get a signed pass (if it's urgent, they will have someone walk you). Check-in first in the Main Office.

Library: Tell your teacher, including why during class time. Get a signed library pass. Go to the library and return quickly.

Counseling Office: Email your counselor or Ms. Dexter to make an appointment. A pass will be sent for you. If a teacher agrees that it is more urgent, they can write you a pass.

ASB, Communities in Schools, STORM Exchange, Other Teachers' Classes: Usually not during class time, except with special teacher permission.



Bathroom Expectations

Every student deserves to feel safe going to the bathroom.

Respect the common bathrooms and be mindful of time spent in our gender-neutral bathrooms so all students have access.





What is STORM?

Study
Tutorial
Organization
Reading
Mentorship

STORM is your weekly dedicated academic work time.

Use it to catch up, get ahead, seek help, get organized, grow your reading, or learn something new.

Wednesdays
1:20-1:55pm



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JL1

Update for 2026

Louzao, Jeremy, 2026-08-13T18:48:21.888

MT1 0

Are we saying we're Open gym on storm days??

Miller, Trisha, 2026-08-24T17:27:38.945



STORM Grading and Expectations

Two graded expectations for STORM:

- Attendance. Show up, on time, all period!
- Completing key High School and Beyond lessons with [schoolinks](#) 

ADVISORY GRADING

1 point for attendance, 2 points for lesson completion.
50% required for Advisory credit (.125 per semester)

	S1 ADV	S1 HSBP	S1 TOTAL	S2 ADV	S2 HSBP	S2 TOTAL
Grade 9	35	24	59	33	14	47
Grade 10	35	24	59	33	14	47
Grade 11	35	24	59	33	18	51
Grade 12	35	26	61	33	18	51



JL1

Update for 2026

Louzao, Jeremy, 2026-08-13T18:48:38.770



Where Can I Eat at Lunch?

YES:

- Commons
- Skybridge benches
- The main entrance stairs
- Outside tables at main entrance and bus loop
- Classrooms where teachers allow students in
- Communities in Schools with Justin

NO:

- Houses are for classes to use. **NO** eating or passing lunch in the houses.
- NO eating in library, Open Gym, fields, sidewalks.

After finishing eating and putting trays in Commons, students are welcome to spend time in library, Open Gym, or fields.



Trash and Trays

We have to work together to keep our campus clean.

Return ALL trays to the carts in the Commons!

Use garbage cans for all trash...do NOT leave in parking lot, on fields, or around the neighborhood.

Students who leave messes, disrespect the campus/neighborhood, or vandalize will repair the harm through detention or restorative community service.

Show pride in our campus and school.



Leaving Campus During the School Day

Students must remain on campus during all registered class periods.

- To leave campus during class time, students must sign out, with guardian/parent permission.

The parking lot is **off-limits** during class time unless entering or leaving campus. If you need to get something from *your* car, it must be during passing period, or else check-in first with the main office. Students must have the driver of the car present if opening someone else's car.

Campus is open to all grade levels during **lunch time only**.

- Students are **expected** to return from lunch and be in class on time. Off-campus privileges will be suspended after 10 lunch tardies.



Over 18? Signing Yourself Out

Students who are eighteen or older are allowed by law to excuse themselves from school for absences that are legitimate. These absences can be excused in lieu of parents/guardians excusing them.

Per district policy, students who are 18 or older can excuse themselves for **the following reasons only**:

1. Illness, health condition of family emergency
2. Family emergency
3. Religious Holiday
4. Disciplinary reasons (i.e., short term suspension, etc.).
5. School-sponsored events
6. Pre-arranged medical and dental appointments.
7. Pre-arranged (through school contracts) family business - families are discouraged from planning vacations that result in extended student absences).

Students must excuse their absences within 24 hours via the attendance secretary. If students arrive late to campus or leave campus in the middle of the day, they must check in/out through the main office. School officials have the right to request students produce notes from doctor/dentist's office verifying their appointments.

Failure to follow these procedures will result in the absence being unexcused. If students lie about their attendance, the school will no longer honor their right to excuse themselves.



Where Can I Go on Campus?

Green=Open
for responsible
student use

**Red=Out of
Bounds**

Will result in:

- escort to office
- phone call home
- search

**Yellow=Limited
Access**





Substance Abuse

SQHS is a drug and alcohol-free campus.

- If a student has a substance abuse violation, the Campus Security Team and Wellness and Prevention Specialist will engage in the following:
 - Offense 1 → Campus Safety Team Intervenes and Campus Safety Team meet with student, notifies family, and engages Wellness and Prevention Specialist.
 - Student assigned to Thursday Group for 3 weeks.
 - In addition, the Campus Safety Team will use [Policy 3241: Student Discipline Matrix](#) to determine discipline.
- Students should be aware of the following Student Privacy and Search [Policy/Procedure](#).
- If students are impaired at school, the Campus Security Team will work with the student's family to ensure they get home safely.





Parking Passes

Parking passes are FREE and are REQUIRED to park in the student UPPER lot.

Get your parking pass from the ASB window.



Parking Lot Expectations

- Drive safely, obeying all traffic laws, on and OFF campus (unsafe driving is reported to police).
- Students **MUST** register for parking pass with ASB office (must show valid license).
- Students may park or be dropped off in **student** parking lot only
- Parking lots are for entering and leaving campus only
 - No extended time in cars
 - No coming and going to and from cars or between cars during class time
- Visitor spaces are for visitors only
- Handicapped spaces only with a valid handicapped parking pass
- Students may not enter other students' vehicles without the registered driver present
- School staff are authorized to search cars if there is reasonable suspicion of illegal or unsafe activity
- Parking privileges can be revoked or restricted if these expectations are not met





School Appropriate Dress

Part of [The Bellingham Promise](#), our strategic plan, strives to develop students and graduates who are *respectful and compassionate humans*. We want students to respect themselves and others. While we encourage individuality, the district's dress code aims to foster a positive and healthy environment.

- Students should dress casually and comfortably for school, while wearing clothing that is well-suited for a school environment.
- Clothing, drawings, tattoos and accessories that display or promote negative messages are not permitted. These could include drug, gang, weapon, alcohol or tobacco-related information, obscenities, put-downs, stereotypes, sexual innuendo, offensive words or graphics.
- A violation of the dress code will require a change of clothing. Special circumstances will be considered on a case-by-case basis.

