Hendersonville High School
Student and Parent Guide

123 Cherokee Road
Hendersonville, TN 37075
(615) 824-6162
(615) 264-6027
hhs.sumnerschools.org

2026-2027

Welcome to Hendersonville High School, where spirit, pride, and tradition are the bywords of a school in which the entire community takes pride!

Along with increasing your knowledge and developing your skills, your major responsibility while at HHS will be to respect your fellow students, teachers, and staff members. They, in return, should respect you. No individual at HHS has the right or privilege to infringe on or to deny the rights of another individual.

This handbook has been prepared to help you get acquainted with Commando tradition and to introduce the rules made for this school year. We hope you will become familiar with the facilities, rules, schedules, and organizations, and that you will make an effort to know your teachers and make new friends. By taking part in all that Hendersonville High School has to offer, you are helping to preserve the tradition and pride of HHS.

Highlighted sections are recent updates for 26-27

Administration

Dr. Mel Sawyers - Principal

Jessica de Araujo Jorge -Assistant Principal/ Registration, Curriculum A-D
Kerry West - Assistant Principal/ Facilities, E-K
Tina Forino - Assistant Principal/Career-Technical Education L-Ri
John Massey -Assistant Principal/ Athletics, Student Activities Ro-Z

Counselors

Stacy DeSchaine A-D
Paula Kolish E-K
Abby Lamberto L-Ri
Nicole Henry Ro-Z

GENERAL INFORMATION

SCHOOL YEAR CALENDAR
2026-2027

The full calendar can be found at sumnerschools.org

First Semester	Second Semester
August 4 Golden Opportunity 4-7PM Seniors/ Juniors	Jan 5 First Day of Instruction
August 5 Golden Opportunity 4-7 PM Sophomores/ Freshman	Jan 18 No School for Students
Sept 7 Labor Day No School	Feb 15 Professional Learning Day- No School
Sept 21 Parent Conferences- No School	Mar 22-26 Spring Break

Oct 5-9 Fall Break	Mar 29 Instructional Focus Day- No School
Oct 12 Instructional Focus Day- No School	May 21, 24-25 Exam Days
Nov 23-27 Thanksgiving Break	
Dec 16-17 Exam Days	
Dec 18 Exam Day /Half Day of Instruction	
Dec 21-Jan 4 Winter Break	

Time is stockpiled as per state law to allow for up to thirteen (13) days of school being missed due to "dangerous or extreme weather conditions" or "upon approval by the [SDE] Commissioner…"(T.C.A. 49-6-3004). Days stockpiled in this manner are not subject to being 'taken off' if not used in the school year.

ACADEMICS

Hendersonville High School is proud of its rich academic excellence and student development. Our chief priority is learning and achievement for every student. Along with state curriculum guidelines and district policies, HHS implements the following academic standards to assist all students in progressing towards a high school diploma and a healthy academic work ethic.

Graduation Requirements: In order to receive a regular diploma, an honors diploma, or a certificate of attendance, a student must earn a minimum of 26 credits. Students must complete the requirements of the ready core curriculum as outlined in the academic catalog. All requirements can be found in our course catalog and on our website. Student-athletes attending an NCAA institution will need to earn 16-unit core classes, which are listed at www.ncaaclearinghouse.net.

Grading-- Method of Reporting: Grades will be reported officially to parents and students after each 45 days (9 weeks) of instruction with a report card issued to students. The two 45-day marking periods will stand alone, accounting for 42.5% of the final term grade, respectively. A final exam or EOC grade will constitute the final 15% of the term grade. Students who take an EOC test will not have to take a final exam in that course. Students will also be issued progress reports at the mid-point of the 9-week grading period. Students may discuss grades with teachers at any time arranged with the teacher or during non-instructional time. Teachers are encouraged to communicate with students and parents at any point when academic and behavioral progress is a concern.

Grading—Scale and Exemption Policy: The basic grading system is expressed by the following values in accordance with Board policy:

A= 90-100
B= 80-89
C= 70-79
D= 60-69
F= 59 and Below
I= Incomplete

Numerical grades will be indicated on report cards and permanent records, such as transcripts. Only final term grades will be shown on permanent records.

Students *may* qualify to be exempt from taking a final exam (not End of Course Tests) in a class if he or she meets the criteria below. A teacher may require a student to take the final exam if the teacher feels it is in the academic interest of the student. The term "absence" for exemptions is *any* absence as defined under attendance.

A average and no more than 3 absences
B average and no more than 2 absences
C average and no more than 1 absence
Students may not have a combination of more than 5 tardies
Students may not have any ISS or OSS

Grading—Cheating Policy: As an academic institution with high expectations, cheating of any kind will not be tolerated. If a student is suspected of academic dishonesty (cheating), the teacher will consider an alternative test or measure. If a teacher has absolute proof of academic dishonesty, the student will receive a "0" (zero) for the work and the parent will be notified. Further disciplinary action may be levied by the administration in certain instances.

Grading—Department of Transportation: Students under the age of 18 that do not maintain satisfactory attendance may have their driving privileges revoked or suspended by the department of transportation.

Computer Assisted Instruction—Edgenuity: Through a state articulated curricular program, students may qualify to participate in "Computer Assisted Instruction", provided certain criteria are met. Computer Assisted Instruction is a computer-based program set up in curricular modules that provides remediation and individual practice to students, either before, after regular school hours or during Commando Time. There is a small financial charge for this opportunity, and more information is available in our Counseling office.

ATTENDANCE

Recognizing that absenteeism is a hindrance to education and that the progress of a student at school depends on the regularity of attendance, the Sumner County School Board has adopted the following rules and regulations for grades 9-12 based on the State Compulsory Attendance Law. Any parent, guardian, or other person who has control of a child or children, and who shall violate the provisions of this law shall be guilty of a Class C misdemeanor. Each day's unlawful absence shall constitute a separate misdemeanor.
Effective for the 2015/16 School Year regarding Attendance

TENNESSEE COMPULSORY ATTENDANCE LAW
NOTICE TO PARENTS- NEW LAW- PLEASE READ

School attendance is extremely important to student success and is a popular topic with local lawmakers. This letter is to inform you of a few changes that will affect you and your family regarding school attendance for the 2018/19 SY. T.C.A. 49-6-3007 states the following:

(A) If the student is absent from school for an aggregate of five (5) days during the school year without adequate excuse, then the student is subject to referral to juvenile court; and

(B) It is a parental duty to monitor the student's school attendance and require the student to attend school.

The law also states that each district shall implement progressive truancy interventions for students who violate the Compulsory Attendance Law. Below you will find Sumner County Schools tiered approach in reducing the amount of unexcused absences in effort to produce successful students.

Sumner County Schools Progressive Truancy Intervention Tiers

Tier 1-School level interventions and reward programs

At 3 unexcused absences
*Parents must conference with administration
*Attendance contract signed at 5 unexcused absences

Tier 2-initiated with 5 unexcused absences
School Based Attendance Review Team
* Individualized Assessment completed and one of the following:
Individualized Action Plan or Improvement Plan
Referral to school counselor
Referral to community-based services
Referral to school nurse-Health plan created
Referral to Attendance Student Support counselor

Tier 3-initiated with 10 unexcused absences/ referral to Truancy Officer
*Truancy officer intervention
*Parent could be required to attend Pre-Court Diversion Program
*Potential Juvenile Petition filed

These efforts of collaboration are to support your student to become a confident, productive and successful student.

Definitions of Absences, and School Business:

- ***Absent:*** A student is absent if he/she misses more than 30 minutes of any class period.
- ***Excused Absence:*** A written notice from a parent or legal guardian that explains why a student was not present. Excused absences must be presented upon returning to school. Board policy allows a maximum of 5 excused absences. Absences that exceed five will be considered "unexcused" by the administration.
- ***Verified Absence:*** Absences are classified as "verified" if documentation is presented to and accepted by school administration. These absences can include medical appointments, dental visits, required court appearances, attendance at funerals, religious holiday observance, and in some instances college visits. Prior administrative approval must be obtained whenever possible. By definition, these are still absences and will count against exemptions.
- ***College Visits or College Exposure Events:*** Students will be allowed 3 total days (to include travel days) for college visits or College Exposure Events each semester that will not count against exam exemptions.
- ***Unexcused Absence:*** Absences that have no supporting documentation or administrative approval.
- ***Tardy:*** A student is considered tardy if he/she arrives after 8:00 but before 8:30 am, and any time he/she arrives to a class after the bell has rung. A student will also be considered tardy if he/she must report to the office to obtain an admittance note following an absence and must miss instruction time to do so. 25 Tardies to school are considered grounds for an Unruly Petition to be filed with Juvenile Court.

Procedures for tardies:

1st tardy is a warning from teacher
2nd tardy warning and phone call home from teacher
3rd tardy lunch detention submitted to Coach West and phone call home from teacher
4th tardy is an office referral to student's principal for ISS
Following serving ISS, tardy process will reset at step 1.

- ***Early Dismissal:*** Students who need to leave before the 3:00 dismissal bell must sign out in the main office prior to leaving. Parents who need to have their students dismissed early need to send written permission to the main office before the 8:00 bell so that dismissal can be confirmed. Please plan ahead as calls for dismissal are disruptive to the school day. Students who do not check out in the main office will be considered "skipping" and disciplined accordingly.
- ***Truancy:*** Students who habitually are absent from school or late to school are especially at risk for not succeeding academically. Since adequate instructional time is necessary to progress in classes, excessive absences and tardies are subject to additional discipline. Referral to the Sumner County Attendance Office may result in a subpoena to juvenile court, and any student under the age of 18 who is considered truant (defined as fifteen total absences) may have his/her driver's license suspended or revoked (T.C.A. 49-6-3017 (b)).
- ***School Business:*** When a student misses class directly related to a school activity that has been approved by the administration and are supervised by a school official. These are the only times missed classes are not considered absences.

Make Up Work: High School (9-12) -Upon the first day of returning to school, it is the student's responsibility in middle and high school and the parent's responsibility in elementary school to make contact with the teacher(s) regarding make-up work. During the school year, make-up work must be completed within a number of days equal to the number of consecutive days of absence.

SCHOOL CLIMATE AND STUDENT ACCOUNTABILITY

Hendersonville High School strives to work closely with students to maintain the safest and highest quality learning environment. Students are expected to communicate with teachers and administrators regarding any individual, behavior, or other situation that compromises the school climate and learning process. The administration also welcomes input from parents and members of the community. More information relating to school safety and student resources can be found in other sections of this handbook.

Hendersonville High School Event Policy:

Students will not be able to attend field trips, HOCO Dance, Senior Snowball or Prom if they incur the following:

-3 days OSS -5 days ISS -7 or more unexcused absences for full year

Hendersonville High School Parking Rules:

1. Vehicle Searches: Any vehicle parked on school grounds is subject to search by the high school principal or his designee at any time.

2. Vehicle Security & Accidents: Students should lock their vehicles. The school district is NOT responsible for lost or stolen contents in vehicles.

3. Handicapped Zones: Students may NOT park in the Handicapped (BLUE) Parking Zones without a valid permit.

4. Replacing a Vehicle: If you wish to replace a vehicle you must see Mrs. Harris in room 229, otherwise a ticket may be issued to a car that is not registered to your tag number. There is NO fee for replacing a vehicle.

5. Transfer of Permits Between Students: TRANSFER OF PARKING PERMITS IS STRICTLY PROHIBITED. All parties involved may lose their parking privileges. Students that withdraw from school or graduate early must return their parking tag to Mrs. Harris so that it may be re-assigned to any students on the waiting list.
6. Parking Lot Conditions: Students are responsible for the condition of the parking areas. All refuse should be deposited in the appropriate trash receptacles. Students observed littering will receive a disciplinary referral.

7. Parking Without a Current, Valid Permit: Students who park on school property without a current, valid permit will receive a ticket.

8. Tickets: All tickets must be paid before a student will be issued a parking permit for any subsequent school years.

9. Failures: Any student that is not passing a majority of his or her classes may have his or her parking privileges revoked.

10. Lost Tags: If you lose your parking tag, please see Mrs. Fitzwilson in room 224 for a replacement tag.

READ THIS CAREFULLY:

Violations Levels:

● The 1st violation of the parking rules will result in a $5 fee.

● The 2nd violation will result in a $10 fee.

● The 3rd violation will result in a $15 fee and one week parking suspension

● The 4th violation will result in a $20 fee, and forfeiture of current parking spot assignment and revocation of parking privileges for the remainder of the school semester. At the end of that semester, the student may apply for a new parking permit, but will be placed at the bottom of a waiting list and may not receive the same parking spot.

● The 5th and subsequent violations can result in the car being towed at the owner's expense and permanent revocation of parking privileges for the remainder of the year.

Students will have one week to pay any parking violation fees. Failure to do so will result in a Commando Court referral. Failure to follow the recommendations from Commando Court may result in parking suspension and revocation of parking privileges.

Any parking violation fees that are unpaid at the end of the school year will be placed on the student debt list and will not be considered for future parking permits until the debts are paid in full. Seniors who have outstanding parking fees may have their diploma held until the debts are paid in full.

The HHS Administration reserves the right to change or modify all or any parking rules at their discretion.

Deliveries to Students There will be no food deliveries to students.

Checking In-Checking Out: Any time a student enters or leaves the building between the hours of 8:00 and 3:00 he or she must do so through the main office. Students failing to do so will be considered “skipping,” and disciplined according to the attendance and discipline policy.

Hands Off Policy: Hendersonville High School maintains that in order to show respect, individuals should maintain the policy of “hands-off.” Respecting the personal space of each individual will keep others from misjudging a person’s intentions.

STUDENT DRESS AND GROOMING
STUDENT RESOURCES

Values

Commit to minimizing personal distractions to prioritize learning.
Communicate clear dress code expectations to preserve a positive learning environment. Cultivate relationships between staff, students, and families.

Goals

Ensure students' class time is minimally impacted by dress code violations.
Use consistent discipline practices.
Encourage students to express individual styles that are appropriate for school.

Basic Principles

The primary responsibility for a student’s attire resides with the student and families. The school district and individual schools are responsible for seeing that students' clothing choices do not interfere with the health, safety, and learning for any student.

1. **Basic Principle: Certain body parts must be covered for** all **students.**

Clothing must be worn in such a way that undergarments are always covered. TN law prohibits exposing body parts in an indecent manner that disrupts the learning environment. 2. **Students MUST Wear**

Tops

must have sleeves or **wide** straps at the shoulder
non-see-through fabric from underarm to waistband
overlap waistband
hoods must remain down

Bottoms
sweatpants, non-see-through leggings, yoga pants, jeans, pants
holes or tears must be below mid-thigh as a halfway point between the hip and knee leggings or yoga pants must be paired with tops that extend past the students' wrist with arms by their side
shorts, skirts, dresses
mid-thigh as a halfway point between the hip and knee

Shoes
students' shoes must be secured as designed
elementary students' shoes must have heel straps

3. **Student MAY Wear**

(Within the guidelines provided in section 1 and 2)

Hooded tops
Jeans
Skinny jeans
Pants
Yoga pants
Leggings
Shorts
Sandals, slides, tennis shoes, boots
Non-natural hair color
Religious headwear
Hats
Outdoors on school property
Special occasion days
Health and/or safety requirements for certain classes

4**. Students CANNOT Wear**

Images, logos, or language depicting drugs, alcohol, illegal items or activities
Images of violence, demeaning or derogatory speech, profanity, or pornography Sleepwear or slippers
Shoes with wheels
Clothing that reveals undergarments
Accessories that are considered a weapon, pose a threat, or are a potential safety hazard Items that hide any part of the face
Examples include but are not limited to bandanas and hoods
Exceptions are masks for medical reasons
Articles of clothing that are not compliant with section 1 and/or 4

School Agreements

Ensure ALL students are treated equitably.

Clearly convey dress code guidelines to students and families in a variety of ways. i.e., student handbook, social media, posters, announcements etc.

Maintain a safe learning environment where protective clothing, shoes, & accessories are needed. i.e., eye wear in chemistry, athletic shoes in PE, etc.

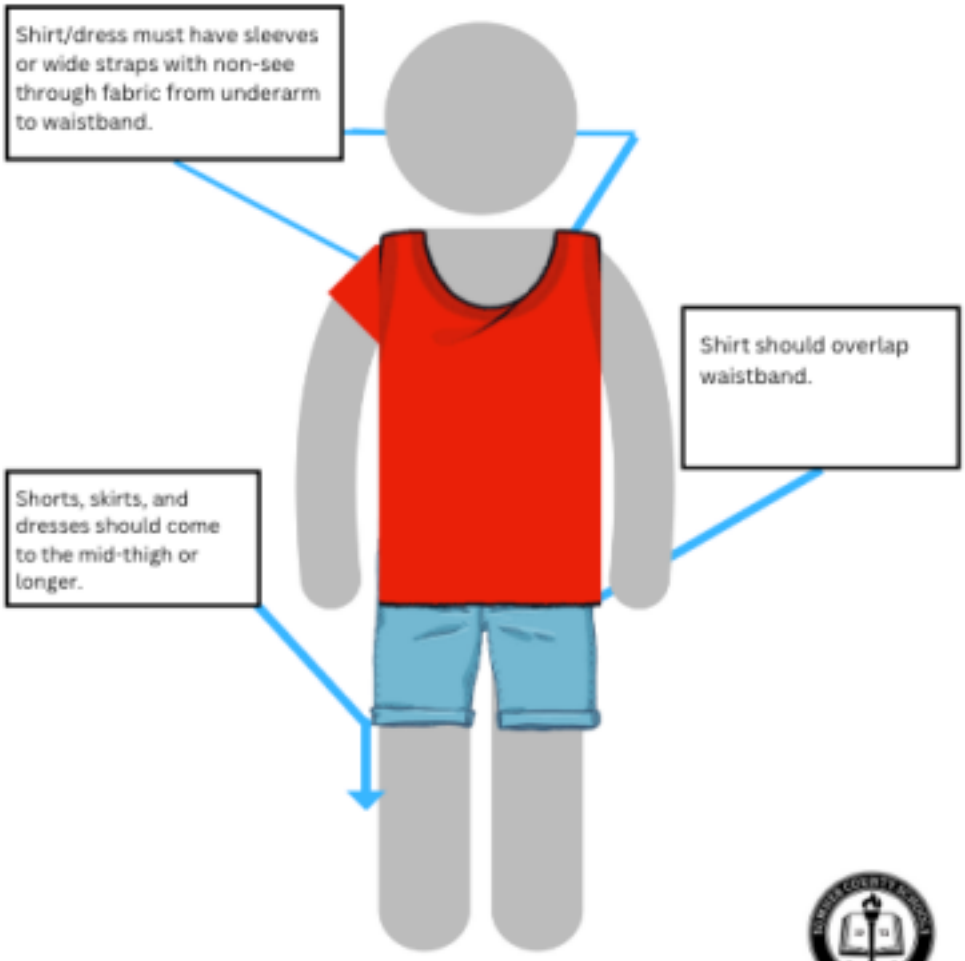
Exceptions for attire for special occasions is at the discretion of the administrative team. i.e., school-wide programs, special performances, or dress up days etc.

Students out of compliance, section 1 and/or 4, deemed by the administrative team, options are: Students will be asked to change into their own alternative clothing.

Students' guardian(s) will be contacted and asked to provide alternative clothing. If available, alternative clothing may be provided by the school. (Optional)

If a student refuses to change or is a habitual offender, the school administration has the right to assign consequences.

Dress Code Guidelines



Dress Code Guidelines



Tops paired with leggings or yoga pants should extend past the student's wrist with arms by their sides.

Counseling Office: Each student is assigned to a Guidance Counselor based on his/her last name. These counselors provide academic counsel and personal guidance for a student's four year high school career. Counselors also help facilitate parent conferences and advise upperclassmen on options after graduation. Guidance counselors are available to students by appointment and between classes.

Media Center: HHS Library: The library is open daily from 7:00 am until 3:15 pm unless otherwise announced. After 8:00 am students must report to their class before coming to the library. Students may come to the library any time throughout the day but must have a pass or note from their teacher. All students have a sumnerk12 Google account to create and save documents to their personal portfolio. When entering and leaving the library during school hours students must sign in/out using their Google account. Students are encouraged to use the library before and after school to research/complete/print assignments, or just enjoy the reading area. Two full-time librarians are available for assistance. Thousands of book titles, online databases, newspapers, and periodicals are available for student use. For additional information and links to our online catalog, research resources, databases, student resources, etc. please check the HHS Library website.

School Resource Officer: As a result of a joint project with the Sumner County Sheriff's office, a school resource officer (SRO) has been assigned to work with the students, faculty, and community to ensure a safe school environment. The SRO is available full time throughout the school day to work with students, instruct in classes, and assist staff in matters that require police intervention.

S.T.A.R.S.: Students Taking a Right Stand (STARS) is a school-based program committed to assisting students with everyday lifestyle choices. The goal is to increase knowledge about drugs and violence so that adolescents will decide for themselves to abstain from the use of alcohol, drugs, and violence. Discreet appointments can be made in the counselor's office or by telephone at 824-4028. Peer counseling activities are also available in this program.

COMMANDO CODE OF DISCIPLINE

The following Code of Discipline is a set of rules and policies designed to enhance the total school environment and support student learning. It contains state and federal laws, Sumner County School Board policy, as well as policies implemented by HHS for this one purpose: to maintain a healthy, safe, and orderly school atmosphere conducive to learning and free from behavior that impedes the rights and privileges of students and teachers. The administration recognizes and appreciates the input from students concerning anything that they feel presents a problem to students and the school.

Student Rights, Responsibilities, and Privileges: HHS recognizes that:

- Each student has the **right** to a full day of instruction each day in a safe, orderly environment, free from disruption and harassment. Each student has the **right** to be treated fairly and respectfully from everyone else at HHS.
- Each student has the **responsibility** to know and follow the rules and procedures of HHS, so that all students may succeed academically and personally. Each student has the **responsibility** to conduct himself or herself as a high school young lady or gentleman at all times.
- Each student may be extended **privileges** throughout the school year so long as the school environment is preserved. These **privileges** may include exam exemptions, pep rallies, breaks between classes, vending machines, campus parking, and other extracurricular activities. **Privileges** by their very nature are outside the realm of rights and can be revoked at any time for good and sufficient reasons.

Building Level Discipline: Every teacher may establish rules and policies pertaining to his/her own classroom to create an optimal learning environment, which will be posted in the room, so long as they do not compromise the safety and climate of the school. All teachers have been presented with several classroom management models that facilitate learning and student responsibility. In addition, teachers will contact parents any time a student's behavior is interfering with learning of that student or the other students in the class.

- Detention: A detention is a written notice that requires a student to serve additional time before or after school for minor infractions of school rules that cannot be resolved at the classroom level. An administrator will assign the detention and the date by which it must be served before further disciplinary action will be taken. Transportation to and from detention is the responsibility of the student.
- ISS: In-School Suspension may be assigned by an administrator for more severe infractions of school rules. The number of days a student is assigned to ISS is dependent upon the severity of the infraction and the student's disciplinary history. Students will complete their class assignments in isolation while under the

supervision of a faculty member. Students may have their building privileges revoked while serving ISS, such as attendance to assemblies, class breaks, and Co-Op dismissal for seniors.

- OSS: Any principal or designee of any public school in Tennessee is authorized to suspend a student (Out of-School Suspension) from attendance at such school, including its sponsored activities, or from riding a school bus, for good and sufficient reasons. Sumner County Board policy also states that any student suspended from school may not be on the property of any Sumner County School for the duration of the suspension, and may not attend any school function. Students serving OSS are encouraged to request their missed work in order to keep up in the class and must complete make-up work within the allotted time per SCS policy. "Willful and persistent" violations of the school rules and/or conduct prejudicial to an orderly learning environment may warrant OSS as defined above. Students may also be suspended out of school for severe violations of school rules and policy and referred to a hearing at the Board of Education for possible removal to an alternative setting.

Uniform Classroom Cell Phone Policy

Cell Phones should be put away in classrooms between 8-3 with the exception of the student's lunch period inside the cafeteria and between classes. Students' cell phones should be stored with their belongings and all student belongings will be placed in a designated area in the classroom. Students will only take out the belongings they need for class that day. (ex: all backpacks to the back of the room)

Earbuds/headphones are not permitted in the hallways, cafeteria or classrooms until 3pm..

Policy MUST be followed by every teacher in every classroom.

Students may use cell phones during their lunch period. Students may not make calls, take pictures/videos nor post on social media during lunch.

Use of cameras on personal communication devices is strictly prohibited.

School staff have the right to administer the following consequences for violation of the policy.

1st Offense: Warning: Phone will be turned in to the student's administrator and may be picked up by the student at the end of the school day.
2nd Offense: Detention issued; Phone will be turned in to the student's administrator. Phone may be picked up by the student from the administrator at the end of the school day.
3rd Offense: Student assigned ISS; Phone will be turned in to the student's administrator. Phone may be picked up by the student at the end of the school day.
4th & Subsequent Offenses: Student assigned consequence up to and including OSS; Phone will be turned in to student's administrator. Phone may be picked up by the parent at the end of the school day.

- Dissent: HHS is an educational institution; it is not a vehicle for political or social change. Demonstrations, sit-ins, marches, or protests which disrupt normal academic and institutional pursuits cannot be tolerated. Any grievances will be heard on an individual basis at any time by the administration.
- Student Disrespectful Conduct: Students are expected to be respectful and courteous to all faculty and staff members. Disrespect to any staff member, including substitutes and guests in the building, will be considered a serious infraction of school policy. Students and teachers will find that proper respect of one another creates the best school climate in which to learn and succeed.
- Fighting: HHS promotes positive ways for students to resolve conflicts and handle disagreements with other students. These include opportunities to speak with administration, counselors, and conferencing with all parties involved. Students who seek help in settling disputes before a problem or fight occurs will find a positive response from the administration. Students who choose to incite or resort to physical violence against other students will be dealt severe discipline up to and possibly including arrest by local police and/or juvenile detention.
- Profanity: HHS finds no educational relevance for any type of written, spoken, suggested, or implied profanity, including slang terms, degrading remarks, and personal insults. Profanity in any form is not permitted or tolerated.
- Medication: From time to time, a student may medically need over the counter or prescribed medication administered during the school day. Since students are strictly prohibited from carrying and/or dispensing any type of medication, parents will need to bring the medication into the main office in its original packaging and sign a consent form for administration. The school may additionally require verification from a doctor or health official. Failure to secure medication according to this policy may violate the Board's "zero tolerance" policies regarding drugs and illegal substances.
- Bathroom behavior: Students deserve a safe and positive learning environment and this right extends to our bathroom facilities. Students should not loiter (gather socially) in the bathroom. In addition, students found in the same stall of the bathroom will automatically receive 1 day In School Suspension.

Sumner County Board Discipline, State Law:

- Search of Persons and Containers: A person may be subject to physical search, or a student's pockets, purse/bag, or other container may be required to be emptied because of the results of a locker search, or because information received by the administration gives cause for the person to be searched. Student vehicles are also subject to be searched with reasonable cause. All of the following standards are considered "reasonable" to conduct a search:
  A particular student has violated school policy;
  The search will yield evidence of the violation of school policy or will lead to the disclosure of a dangerous weapon, drug, or other prohibited item;
  The search is in pursuit of the legitimate interest of the school maintaining order and safety, supervision and education of students, and to be used in criminal prosecution
  Lockers and other storage areas are property of Sumner County Schools and are loaned/leased to students. They are subject to search for drugs, weapons, or any property not properly in possession of the student. (T.C.A. 49-6-4202)

- Tobacco/E-Cigarette Use/Possession: HHS is committed to safeguarding the health of students. Therefore, the use and/or possession of any form of tobacco/e-cigarette or accompanying paraphernalia will not be permitted. A student in violation of this policy shall automatically receive a three (3) day In-School suspension for the first offense. During this suspension, the student will complete an online learning course regarding tobacco/e-cigarette dangers. This policy applies to all school-sponsored activities and events, even if conducted off campus.

- Discrimination, Harassment, Bullying and Retaliation: The Sumner County School Board and HHS strive to ensure that students and employees shall not be subject to unlawful discrimination, harassment, bullying, or retaliation. We are committed to safeguarding the right of all students and employees within the school system, on school campuses, at school events, and on school buses to learn and work in an environment free from all forms of discrimination, harassment, bullying and retaliation.
  Sexual harassment of any individual will not be tolerated. Sexual harassment is defined as conduct, advance, gestures, or statements of a sexual nature which: interferes with the student's work and educational opportunities; creates an intimidating, hostile, or offensive learning environment; and/or implies that submission to such conduct is made an explicit or implicit term of receiving grades or credit and/or participation in student activities. Victims of sexual harassment shall report such conditions to school administration or guidance counselors. Confidentiality will be maintained and no reprisals or retaliation will occur as a result of a good faith reporting of sexual harassment charges. The administration has strict policy on how sexual harassment charges are documented, investigated, and reported to the Board. Bullying is defined as physically harming a student or employee or damaging his/her property, or knowingly placing the student or employee in reasonable fear of such, or creating a hostile education or work environment. In accordance with strict Board policy, a thorough investigation will be conducted by the administration, and the Board and HHS do not tolerate any type of retaliation towards students who report alleged incidents of discrimination, harassment, or bullying.

- ZERO Tolerance: In order to ensure a safe and secure learning environment, the following offenses shall not be tolerated:[1]
  1. Unauthorized possession of a firearm on school property;[2]

  2. Unlawful possession of any drug, including any controlled substance, controlled substance analogue, or legend drug on school grounds or at a school-sponsored event;[3] and

  3. Aggravated assault[4] or assault that results in bodily injury[5] upon any teacher, principal, administrator, any other employee of the school, or school resource officer.

  Committing any of these offenses shall result in a student being expelled from regular attendance at school for at least one (1) calendar year, unless modified by the Director of Schools. Modification to the length of time shall be granted on a case-by-case basis. Students that commit zero tolerance offenses shall be assigned to an alternative school or program if staff and space are available as determined at the time of the infraction[6]
  When it is determined that a student has violated this policy, the principal of the school shall notify the student's parent(s)/guardian(s) and the criminal justice or juvenile delinquency system as required by law.[7]
  Legal
  TCA 49-6-4209; TCA 39-17-1312; 20 USCA § 7961(h)(1)
  TCA 49-6-3401(g)(2); TCA 49-6-3042
  TCA 39-13-101(a)(1)
  TCA 39-13-102
  TCA 39-17-454; TCA 53-10-101
  18 USCA § 921(a)(3); 20 USCA § 7961(b)(3)
. TCA 49-6-3401(g)

- **Definition of Terms:**
- Alcoholic Beverages include alcohol, spirits, liquor, wine, beer and every liquid or solid containing those listed above which is fit for beverage purposes either alone or when diluted, mixed or combined with other substances.
- Illegal Drugs include controlled substances, prescriptions not intended for the possessor or user, over-the counter substances for pain relief, substances used as an intoxicating inhalant, or any other substances which is portrayed as one of the above.
- Possession shall mean either having illegal drugs or alcoholic beverages on the person, or in the immediate vicinity of the person or among the student's personal effects (locker, car, etc.)
- Use shall mean the introduction of illegal drugs or alcoholic beverages into the body in any manner or the indication of action or behavior that such an introduction has taken place.
  Upon receiving information that a student is suspected of violating this policy, the principal shall be notified immediately. If it is determined that Board policy has been violated, the principal shall notify the student's parent or guardian and the appropriate law enforcement officials, and the student shall be subject to suspension for not less than one (1) calendar year. The Sumner County Board of Education has a complete explanation of policies, terms, and consequences termed "Zero-tolerance."
- Weapons and Dangerous Instruments: HHS in accordance with the Sumner County Board of Education has a zero tolerance for weapons and bomb threats. Any student found to have brought a weapon to school or is found to be in possession of a weapon on school property or at a school-sponsored event, or any student that makes a knowingly false bomb threat, shall be immediately removed from the general student population. Within ten school days, a disciplinary committee shall recommend the disposition, including expulsion, of the student. When appropriate, criminal charges will be brought against the student and/or parent. Toy weapons or facsimiles will not be permitted, either. Students who possess toy weapons, such as water or cap guns, will be suspended as determined by the principal. Depending on the circumstances, the principal may also refer the student possessing a toy weapon to the disciplinary hearing authority at the Board for a disposition to be determined by the committee. The term "weapon" shall be defined as any dangerous instrument. The term "dangerous instrument" shall include, but is not to be limited to: knives, box cutters, razor blades, pellet guns, paint ball guns, chains, any firearm, any explosive device (including all forms of fireworks), any object used in such a way as to cause bodily harm or inflict damage to person or property, and any item which could be perceived to be a dangerous instrument such as a toy, facsimile, or non-working device. This list is not all inclusive; therefore, the principal shall use his discretion in ascertaining whether an object is a weapon as defined by this policy. Each case, regardless of the circumstances, must be reported to the Director of Schools with supporting documentation and written statements from all witnesses. The principal shall also notify the parents of the student of the results of the investigation.

Non-Discrimination Policy: It is the policy of the Sumner County School system not to discriminate on the basis of sex, race, national origin, or handicap in its educational programs or activities; and provides equal access to all programs and youth groups. The following individuals are responsible for coordinating and monitoring activities necessary for compliance with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, and the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990.

Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA): Information regarding the rights afforded to parents/guardians and students over the age of 18 is available from the principal of each school. The Board also produces a policy booklet available to all students and parents at the beginning of the school year.