

# Westwood High School

## Student/Parent Handbook



***Strength*** - ***Integrity*** - ***Excellence***

# SCHOOL YEAR 2026-2027 DISTRICT CALENDAR

AUGUST 2026					SEPTEMBER 2026					OCTOBER 2026					NOVEMBER 2026				
M	T	W	TH	F	M	T	W	TH	F	M	T	W	TH	F	M	T	W	TH	F
3	4	5	6	7		1	2	3	4				1	2	2	3	4	5*	6*
10	11	12	13	14	7	8	9	10	11	5	6	7	8	9	9	10	11	12	13
17	18	19	20	21	14	15	16	17	18	12	13	14	15	16	16	17	18	19	20
24	25	26	27	28	21	22	23	24	25*	19	20	21	22	23	23	24	25*	26	27
31					28	29	30			26	27	28	29	30*	30				
Teacher Days: 0 Student Days: 0					Teacher Days: 18 Student Days: 17					Teacher Days: 22 Student Days: 22					Teacher Days: 19 Student Days: 19				
DECEMBER 2026					JANUARY 2027					FEBRUARY 2027					MARCH 2027				
M	T	W	TH	F	M	T	W	TH	F	M	T	W	TH	F	M	T	W	TH	F
	1	2	3	4					1	1	2	3	4	5	1	2	3	4	5
7	8	9	10	11	4	5	6	7	8	8	9	10	11	12*	8	9	10	11	12
14	15	16	17	18*	11	12	13	14	15*	15	16	17	18	19	15	16	17	18	19*
21	22	23	24	25	18	19	20	21	22	22	23	24	25	26	22	23	24	25	26
28	29	30	31		25	26	27	28	29						29	30	31		
Teacher Days: 14 Student Days: 14					Teacher Days: 20 Student Days: 20					Teacher Days: 20 Student Days: 20					Teacher Days: 17 Student Days: 17				
APRIL 2027					MAY 2027					JUNE 2027					KEY				
M	T	W	TH	F	M	T	W	TH	F	M	T	W	TH	F	MI STUDENT COUNT DAYS				
			1	2	3	4	5	6	7		1	2	3	4	PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT				
5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	7	8	9	10	11*	HOLIDAYS/VACATION				
12	13	14	15	16*	17	18	19	20	21	14	15	16	17	18	PARENT/TEACHER CONFERENCES				
19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28*	21	22	23	24	25	* DENOTES EARLY DISMISSAL				
26	27	28	29	30	31					28	29	30			FIRST DAY: 9/8 LAST DAY: 6/11				
Teacher Days: 22 Student Days: 22					Teacher Days: 20 Student Days: 20					Teacher Days: 9 Student Days: 9									
Total Teacher Days = 181 Student Days = 180										End of Marking Periods: 10/30/26, 1/15/27, 3/19/27, 6/11/27									
Early Dismissal: 9/25/26, 10/30/26, 11/5/26, 11/6/26, 11/25/26, 12/18/26, 1/15/27, 2/12/27, 3/19/27, 4/16/27, 5/28/27, 6/11/27										Parent/Teacher Conferences: 11/5/26 - 12:30-4:30 & 5:00-7:00									
										Teacher PD Days: 9/3/26, 9/25/26, 10/30/26, 12/18/26, 1/15/27, 2/12/27, 3/19/27, 4/16/27, 5/28/27									



**Superintendent of Schools**  
Bryan DeAugustine

**High School Principal**  
Cliff Fossitt

**Director of Special Education**  
Nathan Longton

**Athletic Director**  
Blake Hewitt

**School Counselor**  
Abigail Moffett  
Maria Young

**9-12 Secretary**  
Colleen Maki

**Attendance/Athletics Secretary**  
Stephanie McIntyre

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

Foreword	5
Equal Education Opportunity	5
Parent Involvement	5
School Day	6
Student Rights and Responsibilities	6
Injury and Illness	6
Homebound Instruction	7

### **Section I - General Information**

Enrolling in the School	7
Scheduling and Assignment	8
Early Dismissal	8
Transfer Out of the District	8
Withdrawal from School	8
Immunizations	8
Emergency Medical Authorization	9
Use of Medications	9
Control of Casual-Contact Communicable Disease and Pests	10
Control of Non Casual-Contact Communicable Diseases	10
Individuals with Disabilities	11
Student Records	11
Student Valuables	13
Review of Instructional Materials and Activities	13
Evacuation Drills - Fire, Lock Down and Tornado Drills	13
Emergency Closings and Delays	14
Preparedness for Toxic and Asbestos Hazards	14
Visitors	14
Advertising Outside Activities	14

### **Section II - Academics**

Course Offerings	14
Field Trips	15
Grades	15
Promotion, Placement, and Retention	16
Graduation Requirements	16
Postsecondary (Dual) Enrollment	17
Homework	17
Acceptable Use Policy For Technology	18
Student Assessment	19
Limited English Proficiency	19

### **Section III - Student Activities**

School-Sponsored Clubs and Activities	19
Non School-Sponsored Clubs and Activities	20
Athletics	20

## Section IV - Student Conduct

Attendance	21
Student Attendance at School Events	23
Code of Conduct	23
Student Discipline Code	25
Harassment	32
Bullying Policy	34
Definitions	36
Discipline	39
Due Process Rights	40
Search and Seizure	42
Student Rights of Expression	44
Student Concerns, Suggestions, and Grievances	43

## Section V - Transportation

Bus Transportation to School	43
Bus Conduct	44
Videotapes on School Buses	44
Penalties for Infractions	44
Self-Transportation to School	44

<b>NOTE:</b>	This Student/Parent Handbook is based in significant part on policies adopted by the Board of Education and Administrative Guidelines developed by the Superintendent. Those Board Policies and Administrative Guidelines are incorporated by reference into the provisions of this Handbook. The Policies and Administrative Guidelines are periodically updated in response to changes in the law and other circumstances. Therefore, there may have been changes to the documents reviewed in this Handbook since it was printed in August of 2022. If you have questions or would like more information about a specific issue or document, contact your school principal or access the document on the District's website: <a href="https://nice.k12.mi.us/">https://nice.k12.mi.us/</a> and finding the specific policy or administrative guideline in the Table of Contents for that section.
--------------	--

## **FOREWORD**

This student handbook was developed to answer many of the commonly asked questions that you and your parents may have during the school year and to provide specific information about certain Board policies and procedures. This handbook contains important information that you should know. Become familiar with the following information and keep the handbook available for frequent reference by you and your parents. If you have any questions that are not addressed in this handbook, you are encouraged to talk to your teachers or the building principal.

This handbook summarizes many of the official policies and administrative guidelines of the Board of Education and the District. To the extent that the handbook is ambiguous or conflicts with these policies and guidelines, the policies and guidelines shall control. This handbook is effective immediately and supersedes any prior handbook and other written material on the same subjects.

This handbook does not equate to an irrevocable contractual commitment to the student, but only reflects the current status of the Board's policies and the School's rules as of **August 6, 2024**. If any of the policies or administrative guidelines referenced herein are revised after, **August 6, 2024** the language in the most current policy or administrative guideline prevails.

## **MISSION OF THE SCHOOL**

The NICE Community School District will promote learning in a positive, dynamic environment that is both physically safe and emotionally supportive and will encourage cooperation with the home and community to maximize the academic, social, and physical achievements of each student.

## **EQUAL EDUCATION OPPORTUNITY**

It is the policy of this District to provide an equal education opportunity for all students.

Any person who believes that s/he has been discriminated against on the basis of his/her race, color, disability, religion, gender, or national origin, while at school or a school activity should immediately contact the School District's Compliance Officer listed below:

Bryan DeAugustine  
Superintendent  
906.485.1021

Complaints will be investigated in accordance with the procedures as described in Board Policy 2260. Any student making a complaint or participating in a school investigation will be protected from any threat or retaliation. The Compliance Officer can provide additional information concerning equal access to educational opportunity.

## **PARENT INVOLVEMENT**

The Board of Education recognizes and values parents and families as children's first teachers and decision-makers in education. The Board believes that student learning is more likely to occur when there is an effective partnership between the school and the student's parents and family. Such a partnership between the home and school and greater involvement of parents and family members in the education of their children

generally result in higher academic achievement, improved student behavior, and reduced absenteeism. This policy shall serve as the District policy, as well as the Parent and Family Engagement policy for each school in the District. See district policy 2112 for more information

### **SCHOOL DAY**

Students can enter the building at 7:45am. The following is the daily schedule:

1 <sup>st</sup> Hour	8:05-9:00 am
2 <sup>nd</sup> Hour	9:05-9:55 am
3 <sup>rd</sup> Hour	10:00-10:50 am
4 <sup>th</sup> Hour	10:55-11:45 am
Lunch	11:45-12:15 am
5 <sup>th</sup> Hour	12:15-1:05 pm
6 <sup>th</sup> Hour	1:10-2:00 pm
7 <sup>th</sup> Hour	2:05-3:00 pm

\*Busses depart between 3:05-3:15 pm daily

### **STUDENT RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES**

The rules and procedures of the school are designed to allow each student to obtain a safe, orderly, and appropriate education. Students can expect their rights to freedom of expression and association and to fair treatment as long as they respect those rights for their fellow students and the staff. Students will be expected to follow teachers' directions and to obey all school rules. Disciplinary procedures are designed to ensure due process (a fair hearing) before a student is removed because of his/her behavior.

Parents have the right to know how their child is succeeding in school and will be provided information on a regular basis and as needed, when concerns arise. Many times it will be the student's responsibility to deliver that information. If necessary, the mail or hand delivery may be used to ensure contact. Parents are encouraged to build a two-way link with their child's teachers and support staff by informing the staff of suggestions or concerns that may help their child better accomplish his/her educational goals.

Students must arrive at school on time, prepared to learn and participate in the educational program. If, for some reason, this is not possible, the student should seek help from the High School Principal or Guidance Counselor. Adult students (age eighteen (18) or older) must follow all school rules. If residing at home, adult students should include their parents in their educational program.

### **INJURY AND ILLNESS**

All injuries must be reported to a teacher or the office. If minor, the student will be treated and may return to class. If medical attention is required, the office will follow the School's emergency procedures.

A student who becomes ill during the school day should request permission to go to the office. An appropriate adult in the office will determine whether or not the student should remain in school or go home. **No student will be released from school without proper parental permission.**

## **HOMEBOUND INSTRUCTION**

The District shall arrange for individual instruction to students of legal school age who are not able to attend classes because of a physical or emotional disability.

Parents should contact the school administration regarding procedures for such instruction. Applications must be approved by the High School Administration. The District will provide homebound instruction only for those confinements expected to last at least five (5) days.

Applications for individual instruction shall be made by a physician licensed to practice in this State, parent, student, or other caregiver. A physician must: certify the nature and existence of a medical condition; state the probable duration of the confinement; request such instruction; present evidence of the student's ability to participate in an educational program.

## **SECTION I - GENERAL INFORMATION**

### **ENROLLING IN THE SCHOOL**

In general, State law requires students to enroll in the school district in which their parent or legal guardian resides, unless enrolling under the District's open enrollment policy, or enrolling and paying tuition.

New students under the age of eighteen (18) must be enrolled by their parent or legal guardian. When enrolling, parents must provide copies of the following:

- A. a birth certificate or similar document
- B. court papers allocating parental rights and responsibilities, or custody (if appropriate)
- C. Proof of residency
- D. proof of immunizations

Under certain circumstances, temporary enrollment may be permitted. In such cases, parents will be notified about documentation required to establish permanent enrollment.

Students in grades 9-12 enrolling from another school must have an official transcript from their previous school in order to have credits transferred. The High School Office staff will assist in obtaining the transcript, if not presented at the time of enrollment.

Homeless students who meet the Federal definition of homeless may enroll and will be under the direction of the District Liaison for Homeless Children with regard to enrollment procedures.

New students eighteen (18) years of age or older are not required to be accompanied by a parent when enrolling. When residing with a parent, these students are encouraged to include the parents in the enrollment process. When conducting themselves in school, adult students have the responsibilities of both student and parent.

A student who has been suspended or expelled by another public school in Michigan may be temporarily denied admission to the District's schools during the period of suspension or expulsion even if that student would otherwise be entitled to attend

school in the District. Likewise, a student who has been expelled or otherwise removed for disciplinary purposes from a public school in another state and the period of expulsion or removal has not expired, may be temporarily denied admission to the District's schools during the period of expulsion or removal or until the expiration of the period of expulsion or removal which the student would have received in the District had the student committed the offense while enrolled in the District. Prior to denying admission, however, the Superintendent shall offer the student an opportunity for a hearing to review the circumstances of the suspension or expulsion and any other factors the Superintendent determines to be relevant.

### **SCHEDULING AND ASSIGNMENT**

Schedules are provided to each student at the beginning of the school year or upon enrollment. Schedules are based on the student's needs and available class space. Any changes in a student's schedule should be handled through the Counseling Office. Students may be denied course enrollment due to a lack of available space or the need to pass prerequisites. Students are expected to follow their schedules. Any variation should be approved with a pass or schedule change.

Foreign students and foreign-exchange students (from recognized and approved student programs) are eligible for admission on the same basis as other non-resident students.

### **EARLY DISMISSAL**

No student will be allowed to leave school prior to dismissal time without a contact from a parent/guardian or a person whose signature is on file in the School. No student will be released to a person other than a custodial parent(s) without written permission signed by the custodial parent(s) or guardian.

### **TRANSFER OUT OF THE DISTRICT**

Parents must notify the principal about plans to transfer their child to another school. If a student plans to transfer from **Westwood High School**, the parent must notify the building office. Transfer will be authorized only after the student has completed the arrangements, returned all school materials, and paid any fees or fines that are due. School records may not be released if the transfer is not properly completed. Parents are encouraged to contact the High School Office for specific details.

School officials, when transferring student records, are required to transmit disciplinary records including suspension and expulsion actions against the student.

### **WITHDRAWAL FROM SCHOOL**

No student under the age of eighteen (18) will be allowed to withdraw from school without the written consent of his/her parents.

### **IMMUNIZATIONS**

Students must be current with all immunizations required by law or have an authorized waiver from State immunization requirements. If a student does not have the necessary shots or waivers, the principal may remove the student or require compliance with a set deadline. This is for the safety of all students and in accordance with State law. Any questions about immunizations or waivers should be directed to the High School Office.

## **EMERGENCY MEDICAL AUTHORIZATION**

The Board has established a policy that every student must have an Emergency Medical Authorization Form completed and signed by his/her parent in order to participate in any activity off school grounds. This includes field trips, spectator trips, athletic and other extracurricular activities, and co-curricular activities.

The Emergency Medical Authorization Form is provided at the time of enrollment and at the beginning of each year. Failure to return the completed form to the school will jeopardize a student's educational program.

### **USE OF MEDICATIONS**

In those circumstances where a student must take prescribed medication during the school day, the following guidelines are to be observed:

- A. Parents should, with their physician's counsel, determine whether the medication schedule can be adjusted to avoid administering medication during school hours.
- B. The Medication Request and Authorization Form must be filed with the respective building principal before the student will be allowed to begin taking any medication during school hours. Forms can be obtained in the building offices.
- C. All medications must be registered with the building office.
- D. Medication that is brought to the office will be properly secured.
- E. Medication may be conveyed to school directly by the parent or transported by transportation personnel (bus driver and/or bus aide) at parental request. This should be arranged in advance. A two to four (2-4) week supply of medication is recommended.
- F. Any unused medication unclaimed by the parent will be destroyed by school personnel when a prescription is no longer to be administered or at the end of a school year.
- G. The parents shall have sole responsibility to instruct their child to take the medication at the scheduled time, and the child has the responsibility for both presenting himself/herself on time and for taking the prescribed medication.
- H. A log for each prescribed medication shall be maintained which will note the personnel giving the medication, the date, and the time of day. This log will be maintained along with the physician's written instructions and the parent's written permission release.

### **Asthma Inhalers and Epi-pens**

Students, with appropriate written permission from the physician and parent, may possess and use a metered dose inhaler or dry powder inhaler to alleviate asthmatic symptoms. Epinephrine (Epi-pen) is administered only in accordance with a written

medication administration plan developed by the school principal and updated annually.

### **Non Prescribed (Over-the-Counter) Medications**

Parents may authorize the school to administer a non prescribed medication using a form which is available at the school office. A physician does not have to authorize such medication.

If a student is found using or possessing a non prescribed medication without parent authorization, s/he will be brought to the school office and the parents will be contacted for authorization. The medication will be confiscated until written authorization is received.

Any student who distributes a medication of any kind to another student or is found to possess a medication other than the one authorized is in violation of the school's Code of Conduct and will be disciplined in accordance with the drug-use provision of the Code.

### **CONTROL OF CASUAL-CONTACT COMMUNICABLE DISEASES AND PESTS**

Because a school has a high concentration of people, it is necessary to take specific measures when the health or safety of the group is at risk. The school's professional staff has the authority to remove or isolate a student who has been ill or has been exposed to a communicable disease or highly-transient pest, such as lice.

Specific diseases include; diphtheria, scarlet fever, strep infections, whooping cough, mumps, measles, rubella, and other conditions indicated by the Local and State Health Departments.

Any removal will only be for the contagious period as specified in the school's administrative guidelines.

### **CONTROL OF NON CASUAL-CONTACT COMMUNICABLE DISEASES**

In the case of non casual-contact, communicable-diseases, the school still has the obligation to protect the safety of the staff and students. In these cases, the person in question will have his/her status reviewed by a panel of resource people, including the County Health Department, to ensure that the rights of the person affected and those in contact with that person are respected. The school will seek to keep students and staff persons in school unless there is definitive evidence to warrant exclusion.

Non Casual-contact communicable diseases include sexually transmitted diseases, AIDS (Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome), ARC-AIDS Related Complex (condition), HIV (Human immunodeficiency), HAV, HBV, HCV (Hepatitis A, B, C); and other diseases that may be specified by the State Board of Health.

As required by Federal law, parents will be requested to have their child's blood checked for HIV, HBV, and other blood-borne pathogens when the child has bled at school and students or staff members have been exposed to the blood. Any testing is subject to laws protecting confidentiality.

## INDIVIDUALS WITH DISABILITIES

The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act provide that no individual will be discriminated against on the basis of a disability. This protection applies not just to the student, but to all individuals who have access to the District's programs and facilities.

A student can access special education services through the proper evaluation procedures. Parent involvement in this procedure is important and required by Federal (IDEA) and State law. Contact the Special Education Department at 906.485.1023 to inquire about evaluation procedures and programs.

## STUDENT RECORDS

The School District maintains many student records including both directory information and confidential information.

Neither the Board nor its employees shall permit the release of the social security number of a student, or other individual except as authorized by law (see AG 8350). Documents containing social security numbers shall be restricted to those employees who have a need to know that information or a need to access those documents. When documents containing social security numbers are no longer needed, they shall be shredded by an employee who has authorized access to such records. Directory information includes: **student name, participation in officially recognized activities and sports, awards received, honor roll, scholarships, school photographs or videos of students participating in school activities, events or programs**

Directory information can be provided upon request to any individual, other than a for profit organization, even without the written consent of a parent. Parents may refuse to allow the Board to disclose any or all of such "directory information" upon written notification to the Board. For further information about the items included within the category of directory information and instructions on how to prohibit its release you may wish to consult the Board's annual *Family Education Rights and Privacy Act* (FERPA) notice which can be found on the school website.

Other than directory information, access to all other student records is protected by (FERPA) and Michigan law. Except in limited circumstances as specifically defined in State and Federal law, the School District is prohibited from releasing confidential education records to any outside individual or organization without the prior written consent of the parents, or the adult student, as well as those individuals who have matriculated and entered a postsecondary educational institution at any age.

Confidential records include test scores, psychological reports, behavioral data, disciplinary records, and communications with family and outside service providers.

Students and parents have the right to review and receive copies of all educational records. Costs for copies of records may be charged to the parent. To review student records please provide a written notice identifying requested student records to the high school office. You will be given an appointment with the appropriate person to answer any questions and to review the requested student records.

Parents and adult students have the right to amend a student record when they believe that any of the information contained in the record is inaccurate, misleading or violates

the student's privacy. A parent or adult student must request the amendment of a student record in writing and if the request is denied, the parent or adult student will be informed of their right to a hearing on the matter.

Individuals have a right to file a complaint with the United States Department of Education if they believe that the District has violated FERPA.

Consistent with the Protection of Pupil Rights Amendment (PPRA), no student shall be required, as a part of the school program or the District's curriculum, without prior written consent of the student (if an adult, or an emancipated minor) or, if an unemancipated minor, his/her parents, to submit to or participate in any survey, analysis, or evaluation that reveals information concerning:

- A. political affiliations or beliefs of the student or his/her parents;
- B. mental or psychological problems of the student or his/her family;
- C. sex behavior or attitudes;
- D. illegal, anti-social, self-incriminating or demeaning behavior;
- E. critical appraisals of other individuals with whom respondents have close family relationships;
- F. legally recognized privileged and analogous relationships, such as those of lawyers, physicians, and ministers;
- G. religious practices, affiliations, or beliefs of the student or his/her parents; or
- H. income (other than that required by law to determine eligibility for participation in a program or for receiving financial assistance under such a program).

Consistent with the PPRA and Board policy, the Superintendent shall ensure that procedures are established whereby parents may inspect any materials used in conjunction with any such survey, analysis, or evaluation.

Further, parents have the right to inspect, upon request, a survey or evaluation created by a third party before the survey/evaluation is administered or distributed by the school to the student. The parent will have access to the survey/evaluation within a reasonable period of time after the request is received by the building principal.

The Superintendent will provide notice directly to parents of students enrolled in the District of the substantive content of this policy at least annually at the beginning of the school year, and within a reasonable period of time after any substantive change in this policy. In addition, the Superintendent is directed to notify parents of students in the District, at least annually at the beginning of the school year, of the specific or approximate dates during the school year when the following activities are scheduled or expected to be scheduled:

- A. activities involving the collection, disclosure, or use of personal information collected from students for the purpose of marketing or for

selling that information for otherwise providing that information to others for that purpose); and

- B. the administration of any survey by a third party that contains one or more of the items described in A through H above.

The Family Policy Compliance Office in the U.S. Department of Education administers both FERPA and PPRA. Parents and/or eligible students who believe their rights have been violated may file a complaint with:

Family Policy Compliance Office  
U.S. Department of Education  
400 Maryland Avenue, SW 20202-4605  
Washington, D.C.  
[www.ed.gov/offices/OM/fpco](http://www.ed.gov/offices/OM/fpco)

Informal inquiries may be sent to the Family Policy Compliance Office via the following email addresses:

[FERPA@ED.Gov](mailto:FERPA@ED.Gov); and  
[PPRA@ED.Gov](mailto:PPRA@ED.Gov).

### **STUDENT VALUABLES**

Students are encouraged not to bring items of value to school. Items such as jewelry, expensive clothing, electronic equipment, and the like, are tempting targets for theft and extortion. The School cannot be responsible for their safe-keeping and will not be liable for loss or damage to personal valuables.

### **REVIEW OF INSTRUCTIONAL MATERIALS AND ACTIVITIES**

Parents have the right to review any instructional materials being used in the school. They also may observe instruction in any class, particularly those dealing with instruction in health and sex education. Any parent who wishes to review materials or observe instruction must contact the principal prior to coming to the School. Parents' rights to review teaching materials and instructional activities are subject to reasonable restrictions and limits.

### **FIRE, LOCK DOWN AND TORNADO DRILLS**

The school complies with all fire safety laws and will conduct fire drills in accordance with State law. Specific instructions on how to proceed will be provided to students by their teachers who will be responsible for safe, prompt, and orderly evacuation of the building. The alarm signal for fire drills consists of a siren type alert.

Tornado drills will be conducted during the tornado season using the procedures provided by the State. Lock down drills in which the students are restricted to the interior of the school building and the building secured will occur a minimum of two (2) times each school year.

## **EMERGENCY CLOSINGS AND DELAYS**

If the school must be closed or the opening delayed because of inclement weather or other conditions, the School will send text notifications and contact local news outlets. Parents and students are responsible for knowing about emergency closings and delays.

## **PREPAREDNESS FOR TOXIC AND ASBESTOS HAZARDS**

The School is concerned for the safety of students and attempts to comply with all Federal and State Laws and Regulations to protect students from hazards that may result from industrial accidents beyond the control of school officials or from the presence of asbestos materials used in previous construction. A copy of the School District's *Preparedness for Toxic Hazard and Asbestos Hazard Policy* and asbestos management plan will be made available for inspection at the Board offices upon request.

## **VISITORS**

Visitors, particularly parents, are welcome at the school. In order to properly monitor the safety of students and staff, each visitor must report to the office upon entering the school to obtain a pass. Any visitor found in the building without a pass shall be reported to the principal. If a person wishes to confer with a member of the staff, s/he should call for an appointment prior to coming to the School, in order to schedule a mutually convenient time.

Students may not bring visitors to school without prior written permission from the Principal.

## **ADVERTISING OUTSIDE ACTIVITIES**

Students may not post announcements or advertisements for outside activities without receiving prior approval from the principal. The principal will try to respond to requests for approval within twenty-four (24) hours of their receipt. The school has bulletin boards located throughout the building which may be used for posting notices after receiving permission from the principal.

## **SECTION II - ACADEMICS**

### **COURSE OFFERINGS**

Westwood High School offers a variety of classes to meet the needs of our students. Here is a link to the WHS Curriculum Guide:

<https://sites.google.com/nice.k12.mi.us/whs-counseling/academic-resources>

## **FIELD TRIPS**

Field trips are academic activities that are held off school grounds. There are also other trips that are part of the school's co-curricular and extracurricular program. No student may participate in any school-sponsored trip without parental consent. Attendance rules apply to all field trips.

## **GRADES**

Westwood High School has a standard grading procedure, as well as additional notations that may indicate work in progress or incomplete work. The purpose of a grade is to indicate the extent to which the student has acquired the necessary learning. In general, students are assigned grades based upon test results, homework, projects, and classroom participation. Each teacher may place a different emphasis on these areas in determining a grade and will inform the students at the beginning of the course work. If a student is not sure how his/her grade will be determined, s/he should ask the teacher.

The school uses the following grading system:

A = 4.0	C = 2.0
A- = 3.667	C- = 1.667
B+ = 3.333	D+ = 1.333
B = 3.0	D = 1.0
B- = 2.667	D- = .667
C+ = 2.333	E = 0

F = Failure    I = Incomplete    CR = Credit    NC = No Credit

Semester grades are calculated using 40% for the 1st marking period, 40% for the 2nd marking period, and 20% for the final exam.

### **Final Exams**

All classes offered at Westwood High School will give a final exam.

### **Grading Periods**

Students shall receive a report card at the end of each 9 week period indicating their grades for each course of study for that portion of the academic term.

When a student appears to be at risk of failure, notification will be provided to the parents so they can talk with the teacher about what actions can be taken to improve poor grades.

## PROMOTION, PLACEMENT, AND RETENTION

### High School

A student's progress toward graduation and receiving a diploma is determined by completing required coursework, earning the necessary credits and passing the State mandated tests. A student is only promoted when the necessary requirements are met or the student has completed the goals and objectives of an Individualized Education Plan (IEP) or in a personal curriculum. It is the student's responsibility to keep in contact with his/her counselor and teachers to ensure that all requirements are being met. Information about credit and course requirements is available in the Counseling Office.

### GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

#### Regular Diploma

Normally, a student will complete graduation requirements in four (4) years. In order to receive a diploma and graduate, a student will need to meet the school requirements for basic course work, and earn the total number of minimum credits. A student enrolled in special education may be exempted from the State mandated-test. Such an exemption is made by the IEPC Team. The student may still need to earn the required credits indicated by the IEP or in a personal curriculum. For more information about the different methods by which credits can be earned, refer to Policy 5460 in the Board Policy manual, a copy of which is accessible either electronically at <https://nice.k12.mi.us/>

The following courses and credits are required for graduation from Westwood High School:

	<u>Required</u>
<b>English Language Arts</b>	4 cr.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• English 9</li><li>• English 10</li><li>• English 11</li><li>• English 12</li></ul>	
<b>Mathematics</b>	4 cr.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Algebra I</li><li>• Geometry</li><li>• Algebra II</li><li>• (1) Additional Class</li></ul>	
<b>Science</b>	3 cr.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Physical or Earth Science</li><li>• Biology or Applied Biology</li><li>• Chemistry or Physics or Applied Chemistry</li></ul>	
<b>Social Studies</b>	3 cr.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• World History</li><li>• U.S. History</li><li>• Economics/Personal Finance (1 cr.)</li><li>• Government (½ cr.)</li></ul>	

<b>Visual, Performing and Applied Arts</b>	1 cr.
<b>Physical and Health Education</b>	1 cr.
• P.E./Swimming (½ cr.)	
• Health (½ cr.)	
<b>Other Electives</b>	<u>10 cr.</u>
<b>Total</b>	<b>26 cr.</b>

\*\*Students will need to earn two credits of World Language. Students may substitute a CTE Program or Visual & Performing Arts credit to meet the 2nd year of the World Language requirement. The same Visual & Performing Arts credits cannot be used to meet both the World Language and Visual & Performing Arts requirements.

### **POSTSECONDARY (DUAL) ENROLLMENT OPTIONS PROGRAM**

Any student in grades 9-12 may enroll in a postsecondary (dual) enrollment program providing s/he meets the requirements established by law and by the District. Any interested student should contact the counseling office to obtain the necessary information.

### **HOMEWORK**

The assignment of homework can be expected. Student grades will reflect the completion of all work, including outside assignments. Homework is also part of the student's preparation for the State mandated test and graduation.

Homework will not generally be used for disciplinary reasons but only to enhance the student's learning.

### **ACCEPTABLE USE POLICY FOR TECHNOLOGY**

#### **INTRODUCTION:**

The NICE Community School District is committed to the effective use of technology to enhance both the quality of student learning and the efficiency of district operations. NICE Community Schools uses a Sonicwall appliance to filter internet access in accordance with existing federal requirements for privacy and Internet safety (i.e., The Children's Internet Protection Act [CIPA]) based on group membership in Active Directory.

This Acceptable Use of Technology Guideline is published to ensure that staff and students are making appropriate and ethical use of district technology (NICE Community School District Board of Education Acceptable Use Policy for Internet/ Technology Use IIAD and IIAF).

#### **GENERAL TECHNOLOGY GUIDELINES:**

- Only authorized individuals will be allowed to use any hardware or software.
- Individuals using technology will accept responsibility for the preservation and care of that hardware and software.

- Individuals will use district technology for the support of education, research and information consistent with the goals of the district.
- Individuals who receive user ids and passwords are responsible for those user ids and passwords and are liable for activity associated with those passwords.
- As a representative of the NICE Community School District on a public system, you may be alone at your computer, but what you say and do can be viewed globally. Electronic mail (e-mail) or any communication is not guaranteed to be private, including digital correspondence through programs such as Zoom, Google Meet, etc., for the purpose of online learning.
- Messages relating to or in support of illegal activities must be reported to the technology coordinator or a building administrator.
- Personal technology devices will be allowed under special circumstances.

#### **USERS WILL:**

- Obey all copyright laws.
- Follow all school rules and district policies concerning the use of technology.
- Keep passwords confidential.
- Report any misuse of networks and technology including viruses, illegal access to accounts or illegal tampering to the technology coordinator or to a building administrator.
- Keep all food and drinks away from computers.
- Use a variety of educational technology resources.
- Access online educational services through web-based tools provided by a third party.

#### **USERS WILL NOT:**

- Use the Internet to send or receive messages that are inconsistent with district policy. This includes messages that are inflammatory, harassing in nature, sexist, racist or containing obscene or pornographic material.
- Allow others to use their accounts to access the Internet or any school network.
- Use district technology for commercial or profit purposes.
- Use district technology to obtain illegal copies of software, printed materials or other materials to which they do not have ownership of or license to use. This includes the use of artificial intelligence or AI. AI is a “tool” to enhance the educational process. Misuse of AI could be considered cheating and falls under the scope of academic dishonesty.
- Tamper with technology (including computers or network systems) in a way that will make them either temporarily or permanently inoperable.
- Publish school related material on the Internet without approval of building administrator and district webmaster.
- Remove, relocate, modify or copy any hardware, software, or other people’s files.
- Install software on school district computers.
- Scan, access or print pornographic or obscene material.
- Use addresses, phone numbers or individually identified pictures of students or colleagues without appropriate permission.
- Reveal home address or personal phone numbers.

**Violation of the Acceptable Use Policy for Technology will result in disciplinary action as dictated by administration and/or as set forth in NICE Community School District Board of Education Acceptable Use Policy for Internet/Technology Use IIAD and IIAF).**

## **STUDENT ASSESSMENT**

The Michigan M-STEP, which will include the SAT and PSAT for high school students, has replaced the Michigan Educational Assessment Program assessments at the high school level.

This means that all 11th graders will take this state assessment test in April of each year. It will provide students with a regular SAT score report that they can use to apply to a college or a university. SAT scores are used during the college admission process to assess high school students' general educational development and their ability to complete college-level work.

Additional group tests are given to students to monitor progress and determine educational mastery levels. These tests are used to help the staff determine instructional needs.

Classroom tests will be used to assess student progress and assign grades. These are selected or prepared by teachers to assess how well the students have achieved specific objectives.

Students may receive credit toward high school graduation who successfully completes, prior to entering high school, a State mandated curriculum requirement, provided the course meets the same content requirements as the high school course, and the student has demonstrated the same level of proficiency on the material as required of the high school students.

Students will not be required, as part of the school program or District curriculum, to submit to or participate in any survey, analysis, or evaluation that reveals information of a personal nature in accordance with Board policy and Federal guidelines.

Depending on the type of testing and specific information requested, parent (or student) consent may need to be obtained. WHS will not violate the rights of consent and privacy of a student participating in any form of evaluation.

## **LIMITED ENGLISH PROFICIENCY**

Limited proficiency in the English language should not be a barrier to equal participation in the instructional or extra-curricular programs of the District. It is, therefore, the policy of this District that those students identified as having limited English proficiency will be provided additional support and instruction to assist them in gaining English proficiency and in accessing the educational and extra-curricular program offered by the District. Parents should contact the high school office at 906.485.1023 to inquire about evaluation procedures and programs offered by the District.

## **SECTION III - STUDENT ACTIVITIES**

### **SCHOOL-SPONSORED CLUBS AND ACTIVITIES**

**Westwood High School** provides students the opportunity to broaden their learning through curricular-related activities. A curricular-related activity may be for credit, required for a particular course, and/or contain school subject matter.

Extra-curricular activities do not reflect the School curriculum, but are made available to students to allow them to pursue additional worthwhile activities such as recreational sports, drama, and the like.

All students are permitted to participate in the activities of their choosing, as long as they meet the eligibility requirements.

### **NON SCHOOL-SPONSORED CLUBS AND ACTIVITIES**

Non School-sponsored student groups organized for religious, political, or philosophical reasons may meet during non instructional hours. The applicant for permission can be obtained from the principal. The applicant must verify that the activity is being initiated by students, that attendance is voluntary, that no school staff person is actively involved in the event, that the event will not interfere with school activities and that nonschool persons do not play a regular role in the event. All school rules will still apply regarding behavior and equal opportunity to participate.

Membership in any fraternity, sorority, or any other secret society as prescribed by law is not permitted. All groups must comply with School rules and must provide equal opportunity to participate.

No non district-sponsored organization may use the name of the school or school mascot.

### **ATHLETICS**

**Westwood High School** provides a variety of athletic activities in which students may participate providing they meet any eligibility requirements that may apply. A student's use of a performance-enhancing substance is a violation that will affect the student's athletic eligibility and participation.

#### **Eligibility**

Student must be passing 6 out of 7 classes in order to be eligible to participate. Eligibility reports are run on Mondays and students and coaches are notified of their status.

#### **Previous Semester Record**

No student shall compete in any extracurricular activity during any semester for a period of 60 scheduled school days following a deficiency. A student must have at least (30) credit hours of work (passing 6 out of 7 classes) for the last semester during which he/she was enrolled. Transfer students shall have met the academic eligibility standards of the school in which they had been enrolled during the previous semester.

#### **Current Semester Record**

No student shall participate in any extracurricular contest or event who does not have a passing grade in 6 of their 7 classes.

All athletic programs of the District shall comply with the concussion protocols of the Michigan High School Athletic Association, the requirements of state law, and

Department of Community Health guidelines regarding concussion awareness training and protection of youth athletes.

## **SECTION IV - STUDENT CONDUCT**

### **ATTENDANCE**

#### **School Attendance Policy**

It is imperative that students be in attendance each school day in order not to miss a significant portion of their education. Many important learnings result from active participation in the classroom and other school activities which cannot be replaced by individual study. ***Attendance is important in the development of a high quality work ethic which will be a significant factor in a student's success with future employers. One of the most important work habits that employers look for in hiring and promoting a worker is his/her dependability in coming to work every day and on time. This is a habit the School wants to help students develop as early as possible in their school careers.***

#### Truancy

Unexcused absence from school (truancy) is not acceptable. Students who are truant will receive no credit for school work that is missed. After 15 days of truancy in any grading period, a student will be considered a "habitual truant" which can result in the following:

- Teacher and/or peer tutorial program
- make up work plan
- required doctors excuse
- make up time issued in detention or Saturday school
- referral to Probate Court
- Suspension or recommendation for expulsion

#### Excused Absences

Students may be excused from school for one or more of the following reasons and will be provided an opportunity to make-up missed school work and/or tests:

- illness
- recovery from accident
- required court attendance
- professional appointments
- death in the immediate family
- observation or celebration of a bona fide religious holiday
- such other good cause as may be acceptable to the Superintendent

Students with a health condition that causes repeated absence are to provide the school office with an explanation of the condition from a registered physician. Students will have an equal number of days plus one day to make up work for excused absences.

***Parents must provide an explanation for their child's absence by 10:00 am the day of the absence. Failure of the parent to call the school within 2 days will cause the absence to be recorded as unexcused. Parents are to call the***

***attendance secretary at 906.485.1023 and explain the reason for the absence.*** If the absence can be foreseen and the "good cause" must be approved by the principal, the parent should arrange to discuss the matter as many days as possible before the absence will occur so that arrangements can be made to assist the student in making up the missed school work.

During the next grading period, a "frequently-absent" student may be placed on "attendance watch" to monitor whether or not the pattern continues. If it continues, the student may be denied the opportunity to participate in non curricular school activities and events.

### **Suspension from School**

Absence from school due to suspension shall be considered an authorized absence, neither excused nor unexcused.

A suspended student will be responsible for making up school work lost due to suspension. It is recommended that a student complete missed assignments during the suspension and turn them in to the teacher upon his/her return from school. Assignments may be obtained by contacting the teachers beginning with the first day of a suspension. Make up of missed tests may be scheduled when the student returns to school.

### **Excusable, Non Approved Absence**

If a student is absent from school because of suspension or vacation, the absence will not be considered a truancy, and s/he may be given the opportunity to make up the school work that is missed.

### **Unexcused Absences**

Any student who is absent from school for all or any part of the day without a legitimate excuse shall be considered truant and the student and his/her parents shall be subject to the truancy laws of the State. No credit shall be given for any school work not completed as a result of truancy.

If a student, under the age of eighteen (18), is truant for more than ten (10) consecutive or fifteen (15) total days of truancy during a semester, s/he will be considered a "habitual" truant and may be reported to the proper authorities.

### **Notification of Absence**

If a student is going to be absent, the parents must contact the school 906.485.1023 by 10:00 am and provide an explanation. If prior contact is not possible, the parents should provide a written excuse as soon as possible. When no excuse is provided, the absence will be unexcused and the student will be considered truant. If the absence of a student appears to be questionable or excessive, the school staff will try to help parents improve their child's attendance.

An excused absence allows the student to make up all possible work. It is the responsibility of the student to obtain missed assignments. It is possible that certain kinds of school work such as labs or skill-practice sessions cannot be made up and, as a result, may negatively impact a student's grade. If the absence is unexcused or unauthorized by the principal, a student may not make up the work.

The skipping of classes or any part of the school day is considered an unexcused absence and no make-up of class work will be permitted. Disciplinary action will follow.

### **Tardiness**

Each student is expected to be in his/her assigned location throughout the school day. If a student is late in arriving at school, s/he is to report to the school office before proceeding to his/her first assigned location. Students who are more than 10 minutes late will be considered absent for that instructional period.

- ***Students who accumulate more than three tardies in a class will be issued a detention.***
- ***If a student continues to be late for class, a meeting with the principal, counselor, and parents may be scheduled.***

### **Make-up of Tests and Other School Work**

Students who are excusably absent from school or who have been suspended shall be given the opportunity to make-up work that has been missed. The student should contact their teachers as soon as possible to obtain assignments. Students will be given the number of days of excused absence plus one additional day within which to make-up work.

### **STUDENT ATTENDANCE AT SCHOOL EVENTS**

The school encourages students to attend as many school events held after school as possible, without interfering with their school work and home activities. Enthusiastic spectators help to build school spirit and encourage those students who are participating in the event.

However, in order to ensure that students attending evening events as nonparticipants are properly safe-guarded, it is strongly advised that students be accompanied by a parent or adult chaperone when they attend the event. The School will not be able to supervise unaccompanied students nor will it be responsible for students who arrive without an adult chaperone.

The school will continue to provide adequate supervision for all students who are participants in a School activity. Students must comply with the Code of Conduct at school events, regardless of the location.

### **CODE OF CONDUCT**

A major component of the educational program at **Westwood High School** is to prepare students to become responsible workers and citizens by learning how to conduct themselves properly and in accordance with established standards.

## **Expected Behaviors**

Each student shall be expected to:

- abide by National, State, and Local laws as well as the rules of the school
- respect the civil rights of others
- act courteously to adults and fellow students
- be prompt to school and attentive in class
- work cooperatively with others when involved in accomplishing a common goal, regardless of the other's ability, gender, race, religion, height, weight, disability, or ethnic background
- complete assigned tasks on time and as directed
- help maintain a school environment that is safe, friendly, and productive
- act at all times in a manner that reflects pride in self, family, and in the school.

## **Dress and Grooming**

WHS believes in creating and maintaining a professional and safe learning environment which promotes positivity and limits distracting and/or offensive dress. All students are expected to attend school appropriately dressed and properly groomed.

We believe that it is the student's and parents' responsibility to promote the highest level of student behavior in all areas, including dress. To this end, it is required that students avoid inappropriate extremes and dress in good taste while attending school and school-sponsored activities. Health and safety standards must be maintained at all times; if dress is unhealthy, unsafe, or curtails the educational process, the student will be excluded from school classes until dress has been corrected. While fashions change, the reason for being in school does not. Students are in school to learn. Any fashion (dress, accessory, or hairstyle) that presents a health or safety problem, causes a disturbance or distraction, or does not provide adequate body coverage will not be permitted. Personal expression is allowed within the general guidelines listed below. It is your responsibility to dress appropriately for school. Neatness of appearance and cleanliness of a person reflect pride in one's self, in one's family, in one's school, and in one's community. Student clothing must adhere to the following or a change of clothing will be required:

- Skirts, dresses, and shorts should be as close to mid-thigh in length as possible.
- Clothing and accessories, backpacks, jewelry, notebooks, etc. must be free of profanity, obscenity, drug related (alcohol, tobacco or illegal substances) slogans, gang related slogans, vulgarity, double meanings, sexually suggestive sayings and anything racially, ethnically or religiously offensive.
- Inappropriate attire may include, but is not limited to; tube tops, halter tops, muscle shirts and tops with spaghetti straps, unless appropriately covered. No see-through apparel. Clothing should reflect modesty and pride.
- Hats are permitted in the halls during passing time. The wearing of hats in the classroom will be at the discretion of the teacher.
- No sunglasses are to be worn in school.
- Footwear that is conducive to both indoor and outdoor use must be worn at all times. Rollerblades and roller shoes are not to be worn in or near the building.
- Dress which distracts attention from school routine or is the cause of behavior which is distracting either to others or to the ability of the wearer to behave appropriately is subject to review by the building administrator or his/her designee.

Students who dress inappropriately will be required to change before returning to class or may be sent home to change.

Students who are representing Westwood High School at an official function or public event may be required to follow specific dress requirements. Usually, this applies to athletic teams, cheerleaders, bands, and other such groups

### **Care of Property**

Students are responsible for the care of their own personal property. The school will not be responsible for personal property. Valuables such as jewelry or irreplaceable items should not be brought to school. The school may confiscate such items and return them to the student's parents.

Damage to or loss of school equipment and facilities wastes taxpayers' money and undermines the school program. Therefore, if a student does damage to or loses school property, the student or his/her parents will be required to pay for the replacement or damage. If the damage or loss was intentional, the student will also be subject to discipline according to the Student Discipline Code.

## **STUDENT DISCIPLINE CODE**

The Board of Education has adopted the following Student Discipline Code. The Code includes the types of misconduct that will subject a student to disciplinary action. The Board has also adopted the list of behaviors and the terms contained in the list.

It is the school staff's responsibility to provide a safe and orderly learning environment. History has shown that certain student actions are not compatible with a "safe" and "orderly" environment. Discipline is within the sound discretion of the School's staff and administration. Due process ensures that disciplinary action is imposed only after review of the facts and/or special circumstances of the situation.

### **EXPLANATION OF TERMS APPLYING TO THE STUDENT DISCIPLINE CODE**

(Organized by Rule Number)

Each of the behaviors described below may subject the student to disciplinary action including suspension and/or expulsion from school.

#### **1. Use of drugs**

A student's use or sale of a performance-enhancing substance is a violation that will affect the student's athletic eligibility and extracurricular participation.

The Department of Community Health periodically distributes to the District the list of banned drugs based on bylaw 31.2.3.1 of the National Collegiate Athletic Association. Use of any drugs or substances appearing on this list will affect the student's athletic and extracurricular participation.

- The school has a "Drug Free" zone that extends 1000 feet beyond the school boundaries as well as to any school activity and transportation. This means that any activity, possession, sale, distribution, or use of drugs, alcohol, fake drugs, steroids, inhalants, or look-alike drugs is prohibited. Attempted sale or distribution is also prohibited. If caught, the student could be suspended or

expelled and law enforcement officials may be contacted. Sale also includes the possession or sale of over-the-counter medication to another student.

- The sale, distribution, possession, or use of drugs, alcohol, fake drugs, steroids, inhalants, or look-alike drugs that have a negative effect on the school environment is prohibited. Attempted sale or distribution is also prohibited. This includes nonalcoholic beers and wines, and the like. Many drug abuse offenses are also felonies. Sale also includes the possession or sale of over-the-counter medication to another student.

The use of illicit drugs and unlawful possession and use of alcohol is harmful and has no place in the lives of our students. Any student of Westwood High School, regardless of age, who is in possession of, under the influence of, exhibits evidence of having consumed an alcoholic beverage or other substance, or transfers drugs or alcoholic beverages, or other substances which produce abnormal behavior while at school, on school grounds, or at a school function on or off school property will be subject to disciplinary action up to and including expulsion from school.

**1. First offense - 45 day suspension from school**

**2. Second offense - up to expulsion from school**

3. A senior student may be suspended from participation in all graduation exercises. The student's diploma will be mailed to the student's home.
4. Law enforcement officers may be informed of a student's conduct relative to the situation(s) described in this section.

Resources are available to parents and students who believe they are struggling with a drug or alcohol issue.

Resource #1	U.P Health System- Marquette	906.449.1600
Resource #2	Great Lakes Recovery	906.485.2347

**2. Use of Breath-Test Instruments**

The principal may arrange for a breath test for blood-alcohol to be conducted on a student whenever s/he has individualized reasonable suspicion to believe that a student has consumed an alcoholic beverage.

The student will be taken to a private administrative or instructional area on school property with at least one (1) other member of the teaching or administrative staff present as a witness to the test.

The purpose of the test is to determine whether or not the student has consumed an alcoholic beverage. The amount of consumption is not relevant, except where the student may need medical attention.

If the result indicates a violation of school rules as described in this handbook, the student will be disciplined in accordance with disciplinary procedures described in this handbook. If a student refuses to take the test, s/he will be advised that such denial will be considered an admission of alcohol use with the consequent discipline invoked. The student will then be given a second opportunity to take the test.

### **3. Use of tobacco**

Smoking and other tobacco uses are a danger to a student's health and to the health of others. The school prohibits the sale, distribution, use, or possession of any form of tobacco or electronic cigarettes or similar devices during school time or at any school activity. This prohibition also applies when going to and from school and at school bus stops. Violations of this rule could result in suspension or expulsion. "Use of tobacco" shall mean all uses of tobacco, including cigars, cigarettes, or pipe tobacco, chewing tobacco, snuff, or any other matter or substance that contains tobacco, in addition to papers used to roll cigarettes. The display of unlighted cigars, cigarettes, pipes, other "smoking" paraphernalia or tobacco products on one's person is also prohibited by this policy.

### **4. Student disorder/demonstration**

Students will not be denied their rights to freedom of expression, but the expression may not infringe on the rights of others. Disruption of any school activity will not be allowed. If a student (or students) feels there is a need to organize some form of demonstration, s/he is encouraged to contact the Principal to discuss the proper way to plan such an activity. Students who disrupt the school may be subject to suspension or expulsion.

### **5. Possession of a weapon**

A weapon includes, but is not limited to, firearms, guns of any type whatsoever including air and gas-powered guns (whether loaded or unloaded), knives, razors, clubs, electric weapons, metallic knuckles, martial arts weapons and explosives. It may also include any toy that is presented as a real weapon or reacted to as a real weapon. Criminal charges may be filed for this violation. Possession of a weapon may subject a student to expulsion and possible permanent exclusion. It makes no difference whether or not the weapon belongs to someone else, unless the student can provide convincing evidence that the weapon was placed in the student's possession without his/her knowledge. If it can be confirmed that a weapon was brought on District property by a student other than the one who possessed the weapon, that student shall also be subject to the same disciplinary action.

State law may require that a student be permanently expelled from school, subject to a petition for possible reinstatement if s/he brings onto or has in his/her possession on school property or at a school-related activity any of the following:

- A. any explosive, incendiary, or poison gas including bombs, grenades, rockets, missiles, mines, or device that can be converted into such a destructive item
- B. any cutting instrument consisting of a sharp blade over three (3) inches long fastened to a handle
- C. any similar object that is intended to invoke bodily harm or fear of bodily harm (e.g. air gun, blow-gun, toy gun, etc.)

### **6. Use of an object as a weapon**

Any object that is used to threaten, harm, or harass another may be considered a weapon. This includes but is not limited to padlocks, pens, pencils, laser pointers,

jewelry and so on. Intentional injury to another can be a felony and/or a cause for civil action. This violation may subject a student to expulsion.

#### **7. Knowledge of Dangerous Weapons or Threats of Violence**

Because the Board believes that students, staff members, and visitors are entitled to function in a safe school environment, students are required to report knowledge of dangerous weapons or threats of violence to the principal. Failure to report such knowledge may subject the student to discipline.

#### **8. Purposely setting a fire**

Anything, such as fire, that endangers school property and its occupants will not be tolerated. Arson is a felony and will subject the student to expulsion.

#### **9. Physically assaulting a staff member/student/person associated with the District**

Physical assault at school against a District employee, volunteer, or contractor which may or may not cause injury may result in charges being filed and subject the student to expulsion. Physical assault is defined as “intentionally causing or attempting to cause physical harm to another through force or violence.”

#### **10. Verbally threatening a staff member/student/person associated with the District**

Verbal assault at school against a District employee, volunteer, or contractor or making bomb threats or similar threats directed at a school building, property, or a school related activity will be considered verbal assault. Verbal threats or assault may result in suspension and expulsion. Verbal assault is a communicated intent to inflict physical or other harm on another person, with a present intent and ability to act on the threat.

#### **11. Extortion**

Extortion is the use of threat, intimidation, force, or deception to take, or receive something from someone else. Extortion is against the law. Violations of this rule will result in disciplinary action up to and including suspension or expulsion.

#### **12. Gambling**

Gambling includes casual betting, betting pools, organized-sports betting, and any other form of wagering. Students who bet on an activity in which they are involved may also be banned from that activity. Violations of this rule could result in suspension or expulsion.

#### **13. Falsification of school work, identification, forgery**

Forgery of hall/bus passes and excuses as well as false IDs are forms of lying and are not acceptable.

Plagiarism and cheating are also forms of falsification and subject the student to academic penalties as well as disciplinary action. Violations of this rule could result in suspension or expulsion.

#### **14. False alarms, false reports, and bomb threats**

A false emergency alarm, report or bomb threat endangers the safety forces that are responding, the citizens of the community, and persons in the building. What may seem like a prank is a dangerous stunt. Violations of this rule could result in suspension or expulsion.

#### **15. Explosives**

Explosives, fireworks, and chemical-reaction objects such as smoke bombs, pipe bombs, bottle bombs, small firecrackers, and poppers are forbidden and dangerous. Violations of this rule could result in suspension or expulsion.

#### **16. Trespassing**

Although schools are public facilities, the law does allow the school to restrict access on school property. If a student has been removed, suspended, or expelled, the student is not allowed on school property without authorization of the Principal. In addition, students may not trespass onto school property at unauthorized times or into areas of the school determined to be inappropriate. Violations of this rule could result in suspension or expulsion.

#### **17. Theft**

When a student is caught stealing school or someone's property, s/he will be disciplined and may be reported to law enforcement officials. Students are encouraged not to bring anything of value to school. The school is not responsible for personal property. Theft may result in suspension or expulsion.

#### **18. Disobedience**

School staff is acting "in loco parentis," which means they are allowed, by law, to direct a student as would a parent. This applies to all staff, not just teachers assigned to a student. If given a reasonable direction by a staff member, the student is expected to comply. Chronic disobedience can result in expulsion.

#### **19. Damaging property**

Vandalism and disregard for school property will not be tolerated. Violations could result in suspension or expulsion.

#### **20. Persistent absence or tardiness**

Attendance laws require students to be in school all day or have a legitimate excuse. It is also important to establish consistent attendance habits in order to succeed in school and in the world-of-work. Excessive absence could lead to suspension from school.

## **21. Unauthorized use of school or private property**

Students are expected to obtain permission to use any school property or any private property located on school premises. Any unauthorized use shall be subject to disciplinary action. This includes use of the internet and communication networks in a manner not sanctioned by policy and administrative guidelines. Violations of this rule could result in suspension or expulsion.

## **22. Refusing to accept discipline**

The school may use informal discipline to prevent the student from being removed from school. When a student refuses to accept the usual discipline for an infraction, the refusal can result in a sterner action such as suspension or expulsion.

## **23. Aiding or abetting violation of school rules**

If a student assists another student in violating any school rule, they will be disciplined and may be subject to suspension or expulsion. Students are expected to resist peer pressure and exercise sound decision-making regarding their behavior.

## **24. Displays of affection**

Students demonstrating affection between each other is personal and not meant for public display. This includes touching, petting, or any other contact that may be considered sexual in nature. Such behavior may result in suspension from school or possibly expulsion.

## **25. Closed Campus**

Westwood High School has a closed campus. Students are to remain on campus during the school day, **which includes lunch**, unless they have permission from a parent to leave for an appointment, a POA class, or dual enrollment. In addition, students are not to be in their cars during the school day without permission from school personnel. Violations for this rule may result in detention, up to suspension from school

## **26. Cell Phone/Electronic Device Policy**

Cell Phones/electronic devices may serve as an outstanding instructional tool and learning resource if used appropriately. We encourage our staff members and our students to use electronics and other 21st-century devices to supplement instruction and learning. However, it has been proven that students who are on cell phones or other electronic devices when it is not part of the instructional lesson are not fully engaged in learning. To preserve the teaching and learning environment, this document is to clarify the cell phone/electronic devices policy for Westwood High School.

Students may possess and use cellular phones or other electronic communication devices (ECD) and electronic storage devices (ESD) before school, between classes, at lunch, and after school as long as they do not create a distraction, disruption, or otherwise interfere with the educational environment. The use of cell phones, ECD, or ESD is **NOT** permitted in classrooms, the media center, common areas, or restrooms during instructional time. Possession and/or use of cellular phones, ECD, or ESD except those approved by a teacher or administrator, at any other time is prohibited.

The school prohibits the use of any video device from any restroom, locker room or other location where students and staff “have a reasonable expectation of privacy.” A student improperly using any device to take or transmit images will face disciplinary action up to and including suspension from school, loss of privileges, and may be recommended for expulsion.

*“Sexting” is prohibited at any time on school property or at school functions. Sexting is the electronic transmission of sexual messages or pictures, usually through cell phone text messaging. Such conduct not only is potentially dangerous for the involved students, but can lead to unwanted exposure of the messages and images to others, and could result in criminal violations related to the transmission or possession of child pornography. Such conduct will be subject to discipline and possible confiscation of the ECD.*

Taking or transmitting images or messages during testing is also prohibited. If a student is caught transmitting images or messages during testing, s/he will fail the exam and may be suspended from school. S/He also faces automatic withdrawal from the class depending on the severity of the incident. Loss of privileges is an accompanying penalty, and expulsion is a possibility, even on the first offense.

The respectful, non-disruptive use of cell phones is permitted before school, between classes, during lunch, and after school. Cell phone use will not be permitted during instructional time. As students enter the classroom their cell phone must be put away. Cell phones need to be made undetectable (i.e., silenced without vibration). Earbuds/headphones must be removed. Violations of the cell phone rule will result in disciplinary action up to suspension from school.

#### **Discipline Procedures:**

1. **First offense** - phone is placed in a designated area for the remainder of the instructional period - detention assigned
2. **Second offense** – student is sent to the office. The phone is taken for the remainder of the day. Parents are contacted, and after-school detention will be assigned.
3. **Third offense** – Student sent to the office – Saturday detention or suspension for the remainder of the school day. Parent meeting.
4. **Fourth offense** – suspension from school. Parent meeting.

***Refusal to hand over the device: Gross Insubordination: Automatic 1 day of out-of-school suspension.***

#### **27. Violation of individual school/classroom rules**

Each learning environment has different rules for students. Individual rules are for the safe and orderly operation of that environment. Students will be oriented to specific rules, all of which will be consistent with the policy of the school. Persistent violations of rules could result in suspension or expulsion.

#### **28. Violation of bus rules**

Any action or manner not in accordance with bus rules or safety procedures will lead to disciplinary action up to permanent removal from the bus.

## 29. Disruption of the educational process

Any actions or manner of dress that interferes with school activities or disrupts the educational process is unacceptable. Such disruptions also include delay or prevention of lessons, assemblies, field trips, athletic, and performing arts events.

## 30. Harassment

Harassment of students is prohibited, and will not be tolerated. This includes inappropriate conduct by other students as well as any other person in the school environment, including employees, Board members, parents, guests, contractors, vendors and volunteers. It is the policy of the District to provide a safe and nurturing educational environment for all of its students. This policy applies to all activities on school property and to all school sponsored activities whether on or off school property.

Harassment is defined as inappropriate conduct that is repeated enough, or serious enough, to negatively impact a student's educational, physical or emotional well being. This would include harassment based on any of the legally protected characteristics, such as sex, race, color, national origin, religion, height, weight, marital status or disability. This policy, however, is not limited to these legal categories and includes any harassment that would negatively impact students.

Harassment through any means, including electronically transmitted methods (e.g., internet, telephone or cell phone, personal digital assistant (PDA), computer or wireless handheld device), may be subject to District disciplinary procedures. Such behavior is considered harassment whether it takes place on or off school property, at any school-sponsored function, or in a school vehicle if it is considered to have a negative impact on the school environment.

Any student that believes s/he has been/or is the victim of harassment should immediately report the situation to the teacher, the principal or assistant principal. Complaints will be investigated in accordance with AG 5517.

Every student should, and every staff member **must** report any situation that they believe to be improper harassment of a student. Reports may be made to those identified above.

If the investigation finds harassment occurred it will result in prompt and appropriate remedial action. This may include up to expulsion for students, up to discharge for employee, exclusion for parents, guests, volunteers and contractors, and removal from any officer position and/or a request to resign for Board members.

Retaliation against any person for complaining about harassment, or participating in a harassment investigation, is prohibited. Suspected retaliation should be reported in the same manner as harassment. Intentionally false harassment reports, made to get someone in trouble, are also prohibited. Retaliation and intentionally false reports may result in disciplinary action as indicated above.

The following definitions are provided for guidance only. If a student or other individual believes there has been harassment, regardless of whether it fits a particular definition, s/he should report it and allow the administration to determine the appropriate course of action.

### **Harassment (defined)**

- A. submission to such unwelcomed conduct or communication is made either an explicit or implicit condition of utilizing or benefiting from the services, activities, or programs of the School District;
- B. submission to, or rejection of, the unwelcomed conduct or communication is used as the basis for a decision to exclude, expel or limit the harassed student in the terms, conditions or privileges of the School District;
- C. The unwelcomed conduct or communication interferes with the student's education, creates an intimidating, hostile or offensive environment, or otherwise adversely affects the student's educational opportunities. This may include racial slurs, mocking behavior, or other demeaning comments.

**Sexual Harassment**, may include, but is not limited to:

- A. verbal harassment or abuse;
- B. pressure for sexual activity;
- C. repeated remarks with sexual or demeaning implications;
- D. unwelcome touching;
- E. sexual jokes, posters, cartoons, etc.;
- F. suggesting or demanding sexual involvement, accompanied by implied or explicit threats concerning one's grades, or safety,;
- G. a pattern of conduct, which can be subtle in nature, that has sexual overtones and is intended to create or has the effect of creating discomfort and/or humiliation to another;
- H. remarks speculating about a person's sexual activities or sexual history, or remarks about one's own sexual activities or sexual history.

### **30a. Hazing**

The Board of Education believes that hazing activities of any type are inconsistent with the educational process and prohibits all such activities at any time in school facilities, on school property, and at any District-sponsored event.

Hazing shall be defined for purposes of this policy as performing any act or coercing another, including the victim, to perform any act of initiation into any class, group, or organization that causes or creates a risk of causing mental, emotional, or physical harm. Permission, consent, or assumption of risk by an individual subjected to hazing shall not lessen the prohibitions contained in this policy.

Hazing – any type of initiation procedure for any school related activity, which involves conduct such as but not limited to:

- A. illegal activity, such as drinking or drugs;
- B. physical punishment or infliction of pain
- C. intentional humiliation or embarrassment;
- D. dangerous activity;
- E. activity likely to cause mental or psychological stress;
- F. forced detention or kidnapping;
- G. undressing or otherwise exposing initiates.

### **30b. Bullying and Other Aggressive Behavior**

It is the policy of the District to provide a safe and nurturing educational environment for all of its students.

This policy protects all students from bullying/aggressive behavior regardless of the subject matter or motivation for such impermissible behavior.

Bullying or other aggressive behavior toward a student, whether by other students, staff, or third parties, including Board members, parents, guests, contractors, vendors, and volunteers, is strictly prohibited. This prohibition includes written, physical, verbal, and psychological abuse, including hazing, gestures, comments, threats, or actions to a student, which cause or threaten to cause bodily harm, reasonable fear for personal safety or personal degradation.

Demonstration of appropriate behavior, treating others with civility and respect, and refusing to tolerate harassment or bullying is expected of administrators, faculty, staff, and volunteers to provide positive examples for student behavior.

This policy applies to all "at school" activities in the District, including activities on school property, in a school vehicle, and those occurring off school property if the student or employee is at any school-sponsored, school-approved or school-related activity or function, such as field trips or athletic events where students are under the school's control, or where an employee is engaged in school business. Misconduct occurring outside of school may also be disciplined if it interferes with the school environment.

#### **Notification**

Notice of this policy will be annually circulated to and posted in conspicuous locations in all school buildings and departments within the District and discussed with students, as well as incorporated into the teacher, student, and parent/guardian handbooks. State and Federal rights posters on discrimination and harassment shall also be posted at each building. All new hires will be required to review and sign off on this policy and the related complaint procedure.

Parents or legal guardians of the alleged victim(s), as well as of the alleged aggressor(s), shall be promptly notified of any complaint or investigation as well as the results of the investigation to the extent consistent with student confidentiality requirements. A

record of the time and form of notice or attempts at notice shall be kept in the investigation file.

To the extent appropriate and/or legally permitted, confidentiality will be maintained during the investigation process. However, a proper investigation will, in some circumstances, require the disclosure of names and allegations. Further, the appropriate authorities may be notified, depending on the nature of the complaint and/or the results of the investigation.

### **Implementation**

The Superintendent is responsible to implement this policy, and may develop further guidelines, not inconsistent with this policy.

This policy is not intended to and should not be interpreted to interfere with legitimate free speech rights of any individual. However, the District reserves the right and responsibility to maintain a safe environment for students, conducive to learning and other legitimate objectives of the school program.

### **Procedure**

Any student who believes s/he has been or is the victim of bullying, hazing, or other aggressive behavior should immediately report the situation to the Principal or assistant principal. The student may also report concerns to a teacher or counselor who will be responsible for notifying the appropriate administrator or Board official. Complaints against the building principal should be filed with the Superintendent. Complaints against the Superintendent should be filed with the Board President.

Every student is encouraged, and every staff member is required, to report any situation that they believe to be aggressive behavior directed toward a student. Reports shall be made to those identified above. Reports may be made anonymously, but formal disciplinary action may not be taken solely on the basis of an anonymous report.

The Principal (or other administrator as designated) shall promptly investigate and document all complaints about bullying, aggressive or other behavior that may violate this policy. The investigation must be completed as promptly as the circumstances permit and should be completed within three (3) school days after a report or complaint is made.

If the investigation finds an instance of bullying or aggressive behavior has occurred, it will result in prompt and appropriate remedial action. This may include up to expulsion for students, up to discharge for employees, exclusion for parents, guests, volunteers and contractors, and removal from any official position and/or a request to resign for Board members. Individuals may also be referred to law enforcement or other appropriate officials.

The individual responsible for conducting the investigation shall document all reported incidents and report all verified incidents of bullying, aggressive or other prohibited behavior, as well as any remedial action taken, including disciplinary actions and referrals, to the Superintendent. The Superintendent shall submit a compiled report to the Board on an annual basis.

## **Non-Retaliation/False Reports**

Retaliation or false allegations against any person who reports, is thought to have reported, files a complaint, participates in an investigation or inquiry concerning allegations of bullying or aggressive behavior (as a witness or otherwise), or is the target of the bullying or aggressive behavior being investigated, is prohibited and will not be tolerated. Such retaliation shall be considered a serious violation of Board policy, independent of whether a complaint of bullying is substantiated. Suspected retaliation should be reported in the same manner as bullying/aggressive behavior.

Making intentionally false reports about bullying/aggressive behavior for the purpose of getting someone in trouble is similarly prohibited and will not be tolerated. Retaliation and intentionally false reports may result in disciplinary action as indicated above.

## **Definitions**

The following definitions are provided for guidance only. If a student or other individual believes there has been bullying, hazing, harassment or other aggressive behavior, regardless of whether it fits a particular definition, s/he should report it immediately and allow the administration to determine the appropriate course of action.

"Aggressive behavior" is defined as inappropriate conduct that is repeated enough, or serious enough, to negatively impact a student's educational, physical, or emotional well-being. Such behavior includes, for example, bullying, hazing, stalking, intimidation, menacing, coercion, name-calling, taunting, making threats, and hitting/pushing/shoving.

"At School" is defined as in a classroom, elsewhere on school premises, on a school bus or other school related vehicle, or at a school-sponsored activity or event whether or not it is held on school premises. It also includes conduct using a telecommunications access device or telecommunications service provider that occurs off school premises if either owned by or under the control of the District.

**"Bullying"** is defined as

1. A power imbalance between the person initiating conflict and the person's target.
2. A single student engaged in initiating relentless conflict against another student or students.
3. A student teaming together with another student or other students to initiate conflict with a single student.
4. Initiating conflict can arise through spoken or written words, social media posts, and/or physical contact or physical intimidation.

In addition any gesture or written, verbal, graphic, or physical act (including electronically transmitted acts – i.e. internet, telephone or cell phone, personal digital assistant (PDA), or wireless handheld device) that, without regard to its subject matter or motivating animus, is intended or that a reasonable person would know is likely to harm one (1) or more students either directly or indirectly by doing any of the following:

- A. substantially interfering with educational opportunities, benefits, or programs of one (1) or more students;
- B. adversely affecting the ability of a student to participate in or benefit from the school district's educational programs or activities by placing the student in reasonable fear of physical harm or by causing substantial emotional distress;
- C. having an actual and substantial detrimental effect on a student's physical or mental health; and/or
- D. Causing substantial disruption in, or substantial interference with, the orderly operation of the school.

Bullying can be physical, verbal, psychological, or a combination of all three. Some examples of bullying are:

- A. Physical – hitting, kicking, spitting, pushing, pulling; taking and/or damaging personal belongings or extorting money, blocking or impeding student movement, unwelcome physical contact.
- B. Verbal – taunting, malicious teasing, insulting, name calling, making threats.
- C. Psychological – spreading rumors, manipulating social relationships, coercion, or engaging in social exclusion/shunning, extortion, or intimidation. This may occur in a number of different ways, including but not limited to notes, emails, social media postings, and graffiti.

**If you suspect bullying, call one of the following numbers and ask for the corresponding person:**

- Aspen Ridge Elementary School: 906-485-3175 Principal Chris Marana
- Aspen Ridge Middle School: 906-485-3176 Principal Griffin Lawson
- Westwood High School: 906-485-1021 Principal Cliff Fossitt

"Harassment" includes, but is not limited to, any act which subjects an individual or group to unwanted, abusive behavior of a nonverbal, verbal, written or physical nature, often on the basis of age, race, religion, color, national origin, marital status or disability, but may also include sexual orientation, physical characteristics (e.g., height, weight, complexion), cultural background, socioeconomic status, or geographic location (e.g., from rival school, different state, rural area, city, etc.).

"Intimidation/Menacing" includes, but is not limited to, any threat or act intended to: place a person in fear of physical injury or offensive physical contact; to substantially damage or interfere with a person's property; or to intentionally interfere with or block a person's movement without good reason.

"Staff" includes all school employees and Board members.

"Third parties" include, but are not limited to, coaches, school volunteers, parents, school visitors, service contractors, vendors, or others engaged in District business, and

others not directly subject to school control at inter-district or intra-district athletic competitions or other school events.

For further definition and instances that could possibly be construed as:  
Harassment, see Policy 5517;  
Hazing, see Policy 5516.

### **31. Possession of a Firearm, Arson, and Criminal Sexual Conduct**

In compliance with State law, the Board shall permanently expel any student who possesses a dangerous weapon in a weapon-free school zone or commits either arson or criminal sexual conduct in a District building or on District property, including school buses and other school transportation.

A dangerous weapon is defined as "a firearm, dagger, dirk, stiletto, knife with a blade over three (3) inches in length, pocket knife opened by a mechanical device, iron bar, or brass knuckles" or other devices designed to or likely to inflict bodily harm, including, but not limited to, air guns and explosive devices.

Students shall be subject to disciplinary action (Suspension/Expulsion) as required by statute for such specified offenses as physical and verbal assault (see Policy 5610.01).

Students with disabilities under IDEA or Section 504 shall be expelled only in accordance with Board Policy 2461 and Federal due process rights appropriate to students with disabilities. A student who has been expelled under this policy may apply for reinstatement in accordance with guidelines which are available in the principal's office.

#### **Criminal acts**

Any student engaging in criminal acts at or related to the school will be reported to law enforcement officials as well as disciplined by the school. It is not considered double jeopardy (being tried twice for the same crime), when school rules and the law are violated.

Students should be aware that state law requires that school officials, teachers and appropriate law enforcement officials be notified when a student of this District is involved in crimes related to physical violence, gang related acts, illegal possession of a controlled substance, analogue or other intoxicants, trespassing, property crimes, including but not limited to theft and vandalism, occurring in the school as well as in the community.

#### Safety Concerns

Students should not use roller blades, bicycles, skateboards, scooters, or any other form of personal transportation device in school hallways or District pedestrian traffic areas. Exceptions may be made to reasonably accommodate students with mobility impairments. Use of any means of travel within buildings and on grounds by other than generally accepted practices where appropriate is prohibited. Students violating this expectation will be subject to disciplinary action.

## Profanity

Any behavior or language, which in the judgment of the staff or administration, is considered to be obscene, disrespectful, vulgar, profane and/or violates community held standards of good taste will be subject to disciplinary action.

## **DISCIPLINE**

It is important to remember that the school's rules apply going to and from school, at school, on school property, at school-sponsored events, and on school transportation. In some cases, a student can be suspended from school transportation for infractions of school bus rules.

Ultimately, it is the principal's responsibility to keep things orderly. In all cases, the School shall attempt to make discipline prompt and equitable and to have the punishment match the severity of the incident.

Two types of discipline are possible, informal and formal.

### **Informal Discipline**

Informal discipline takes place within the school. It includes, writing assignments, change of seating or location, detention, in-school restriction, Saturday school.

### Detentions

A student may be detained after school or asked to come to school early by a teacher, after giving the student and his/her parents one (1) day's notice. The student or his/her parents are responsible for transportation. Failure to timely serve detention may lead to Saturday detention.

### In-School Discipline

The Saturday school will be in session from 8:00 am to 12:00 pm.

Failure to timely serve Saturday school assignment(s) may lead to a suspension from school for a period not to exceed three days. Any such suspension shall be in accordance with District guidelines on suspension and expulsion.

Transportation to and from Saturday school shall be the responsibility of the student.

### **Formal Discipline**

Formal discipline removes the student from school. It includes emergency removal for up to seventy-two (72) hours, suspension for up to ten (10) school days, and expulsion from school. Suspensions and expulsions may carry over into the next school year. Removal for less than one (1) school day without the possibility of suspension or expulsion may not be appealed. Suspension and expulsion can be appealed.

Students being considered for suspension or expulsion are entitled to an informal hearing with the building administrator, prior to removal, at which time the student will be notified of the charges against him/her and given an opportunity to make a defense.

If a student is suspended, the parents may appeal the suspension, in writing, to the Superintendent and a formal appeal hearing will be held.

\*Suspension from co-curricular and extra-curricular activities may not be appealed.

When a student is being considered for expulsion, a formal hearing is scheduled with the Board of Education and the parents will be given written notice of the hearing and will be expected to attend. School administration then takes testimony and determines if a recommendation to expel is to be made to the Board of Education. This decision may also be appealed. In the case of expulsion, the student remains out of school during the appeal period. Work missed during an expulsion cannot be made up and usually results in a loss of credit.

Students involved in co-curricular and extra-curricular activities such as band and athletics can lose their eligibility for violation of the School rules.

If a student commits a crime while at school or a school-related event, s/he may be subject to school disciplinary action as well as to action by the community's legal system. These are separate jurisdictions and do not constitute double jeopardy (being tried twice for the same crime)

### **Discipline of Students with Disabilities**

Students with disabilities are entitled to the rights and procedures afforded by the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (I.D.E.A.) and the Americans with Disabilities Act (A.D.A.), or Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973.

## **DUE PROCESS RIGHTS**

Before a student may be suspended or expelled from school, there are specific procedures that must be followed.

### **Suspension from School**

When a student is being considered for a suspension of ten (10) days or less, the administrator in charge will notify the student of the charges. The student will then be given an opportunity to explain his/her side and the administrator will then provide the student the evidence supporting the charges. After that informal hearing, the principal will make a decision whether or not to suspend. If a student is suspended, s/he and his/her parents will be notified, in writing within one (1) day, of the reason for and the length of the suspension. The suspension may be appealed, within two (2) school days after receipt of the suspension notice, to the school superintendent. The request for an appeal must be in writing.

During the appeal process, the student shall not be allowed to remain in school.

The appeal shall be conducted in a private meeting and the student may be represented. Sworn, recorded testimony shall be given. If the appeal is heard by the Board of Education, the hearing is governed by the Open Meetings Act. Under the Open Meetings Act, the hearing must be public unless the parents request that the meeting be conducted in a closed session.

When a student is suspended, s/he may make-up work missed during the suspension or upon return to school.

Any learning that cannot be made up such as labs, field trips, skill-practices, or any learning that the student chooses not to make-up may be reflected in the grades earned.

A student being considered for suspension of more than ten (10) days will be given due process as described in the expulsion section below.

### **Long-term suspension or expulsion from school**

When a student is being considered for long-term suspension (more than ten (10) days) or expulsion, the student will receive a formal letter of notification addressed to the parents which will contain:

- \* The charge and related evidence;
- \* The time and place of the Board meeting;
- \* The length of the recommended suspension or a recommendation for expulsion;
- \* A brief description of the hearing procedure;
- \* A statement that the student may bring parents, guardians, and counsel;
- \* A statement that the student and/or parent may bring a translator or request a transfer for hearing impaired students or parents;
- \* A statement that the student may give testimony, present evidence, and provide a defense;
- \* A statement that the student may request attendance of school personnel who were party to the action or accused the student of the infraction;
- \* The ability of the student and/or parent to request, potentially at their own cost, a transcript of the hearing, if Board/hearing officer approved.

Students being considered for long-term suspension or expulsion may or may not be immediately removed from school. A formal hearing is scheduled with the principal during which the student may be represented by his/her parents, legal counsel, and/or by a person of his/her choice.

Within 10 days (as in AG 5610) after notification of long-term suspension or expulsion, the long-term suspension or expulsion may be appealed, in writing, to the school superintendent. The appeal will also be formal in nature with sworn testimony before official(s) designated by the Board of Education. The appeal will be heard in an open session unless the student or the student's parent or guardian requests a closed session. Again, the right to representation is available. All opportunity to earn grades or credit ends when a student is expelled.

**Westwood High School** makes a sincere effort to have disciplinary actions take place that will allow the student to remain in school. If a disciplinary action does not result in removal from school, it is not appealable. Should a student or parent have questions regarding the propriety of an in-school disciplinary action, they should contact the building principal.

## **Discipline of Students with Disabilities**

Students with disabilities are entitled to the rights and procedures afforded by the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (I.D.E.A.) and the Americans with Disabilities Act (A.D.A.).

### **SEARCH AND SEIZURE**

Search of a student and his/her possessions, including vehicles, may be conducted at any time the student is under the jurisdiction of the Board of Education, if there is a reasonable suspicion that the student is in violation of law or school rules. A search may also be conducted to protect the health and safety of others. All searches may be conducted with or without a student's consent.

Students are provided lockers, desks, and other equipment in which to store materials. It should be clearly understood that this equipment is the property of the school and may be searched at any time if there is reasonable suspicion that a student has violated the law or school rules. Locks are to prevent theft, not to prevent searches. If student lockers require student-provided locks, each student must provide the lock's combination or key to the principal.

Anything that is found in the course of a search that may be evidence of a violation of school rules or the law may be taken and held or turned over to the police. The school reserves the right not to return items which have been confiscated. In the course of any search, students' privacy rights will be respected regarding any items that are not illegal or against school policy.

All computers located in classrooms, labs and offices of the District are the District's property and are to be used by students, where appropriate, solely for educational purposes. The District retains the right to access and review all electronic, computer files, databases, and any other electronic transmissions contained in or used in conjunction with the District's computer system, and electronic mail. Students should have no expectation that any information contained on such systems is confidential or private.

Review of such information may be done by the District with or without the student's knowledge or permission. The use of passwords does not guarantee confidentiality, and the District retains the right to access information in spite of a password. All passwords or security codes must be registered with the instructor. A student's refusal to permit such access may be grounds for disciplinary action.

### **STUDENT RIGHTS OF EXPRESSION**

The School recognizes the right of students to express themselves. With the right of expression comes the responsibility to do it appropriately. Students may distribute or display, at appropriate times, non sponsored, noncommercial written material and petitions; buttons, badges, or other insignia; clothing, insignia, and banners; and audio and video materials. All items must meet the following school guidelines:

- A. A material cannot be displayed if it:
  - 1. is obscene to minors, libelous, indecent and pervasive or vulgar,
  - 2. advertises any product or service not permitted to minors by law,

3. intends to be insulting or harassing,
4. intends to incite fighting or presents a likelihood of disrupting school or a school event.
5. Presents a clear and present likelihood that, either because of its content or manner of distribution or display, it causes or is likely to cause a material and substantial disruption of school or school activities, a violation of school regulations, or the commission of an unlawful act.

B. Materials may not be displayed or distributed during class periods, or during passing times between classes. Permission may be granted for display or distribution during lunch periods and after school in designated locations, as long as exits are not blocked and there is proper access and egress to the building.

Students who are unsure whether or not materials they wish to display meet school guidelines may present them to the principal twenty-four (24) hours prior to display.

### **STUDENT CONCERNS, SUGGESTIONS, AND GRIEVANCES**

The school is here for the benefit of the students. The staff is here to assist each student in becoming a responsible adult. If a student has suggestions that could improve the school, s/he should feel free to offer them. Written suggestions may be presented directly to the principal or to the student government.

When concerns or grievances arise, the best way to resolve the issue is through communication. No student will be harassed by any staff member or need fear reprisal for the proper expression of a legitimate concern. Any suggestions, concerns, and grievances may be directed to the principal or to the student government.

A student may have the right to a hearing if the student believes s/he has been improperly denied participation in a school activity or has been subjected to an illegal rule or standard. A student may not petition to have a change in grade.

## **SECTION V - TRANSPORTATION**

### **BUS TRANSPORTATION TO SCHOOL**

The school provides transportation for all students who live within the district

Students may only ride assigned school buses and must board and depart from the bus at assigned bus stops. Students will not be permitted to ride unassigned buses for any reason other than an emergency, except as approved by the principal.

The building principal may approve a change in a student's regular assigned bus stop to address a special need, upon the principal's approval of a note from a parent stating the reason for the request and the duration of the requested change.

## **BUS CONDUCT**

Students who are riding to and from school on transportation provided by the school are required to follow all basic safety rules. This applies to school-owned buses as well as any contracted transportation.

### **VIDEOTAPES ON SCHOOL BUSES**

The Board of Education has installed video cameras on school buses to monitor student behavior. Actual videotaping of the students on any particular bus will be done on a random-selection basis.

If a student misbehaves on a bus and his/her actions are recorded on videotape, the tape will be submitted to the principal and may be used as evidence of the misbehavior. Since these tapes are considered part of a student's record, they can be viewed only in accordance with Federal law.

### **PENALTIES FOR INFRACTIONS**

A student who misbehaves on the bus shall be disciplined in accordance with the Student Discipline Code and may lose the privilege of riding on the bus.

### **SELF-TRANSPORTATION TO SCHOOL**

Parking on school property is a privilege which can be revoked at any time. Students who are provided the opportunity to ride school transportation are encouraged to do so. Students and their parents assume full responsibility for any transportation to and from school not officially provided by the school.

Students wishing to enter the school grounds with motor vehicles (car, motor bikes, etc.) must comply with all of the following regulations:

The students shall:

1. Have issued to them a valid Michigan driver's license.
2. Have insurance that adequately covers property damage and public liability for that person driving onto school grounds.
3. Purchase a parking permit decal from the office of the Principal.
4. Vacate their car immediately upon arrival in the student parking lot. There will be absolutely no loitering in cars, anytime during the school day.

Students who choose to drive to school must obtain a permit from the high school office and pay a fee of \$2.00 for the entire school year.

**NOTE: Be advised that the following forms must be available in the School Office as they are referenced in the Student/Parent Handbook.**

- **Title VI, IX, 504 Grievance Form 2260 F2**
- **Notice of Nondiscrimination and Grievance Procedures for Title II, Title VI, Title VII, Title IX, Section 504 and ADA Form 2260 F8**
- **Memorandum to Parents Regarding School Board Policy on Drug-Free Schools Form 5530 F2**
- **Notification to Parents Regarding Student Records Form 8330 F9**
- **Notification to Parents on Blood-Borne Pathogens Form 8453.01 F5**
- **Parent/Student Acknowledgement of Student Handbook Form 5500 F1**
- **Authorization for Prescribed Medication or Treatment Form 5330 F1**
- **Authorization for Non Prescribed Medication or Treatment (Secondary Version) Form 5330 F1a**
- **Authorization for Non Prescribed Medication or Treatment (Elementary Version) Form 5330 F1b**
- **Authorization for Use of Asthma Inhalers, Epi-pens or Prescribed Emergency Medication Form 5330F1c**
- **Parent Request to Inspect Materials Used in Conjunction with any Survey, Analysis, or Evaluation Form 2416 F2**
- **Request That Directory Information not be Released to Recruiters Without Prior Written Consent. Form 8330 F13**