

# **RAVENNA PUBLIC SCHOOLS STUDENT HANDBOOK**

**2016-2017 Edition**

Ravenna Public Schools  
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## WELCOME

Dear Students and Parents:

On behalf of the faculty, administration and board of education, we welcome you to another school year. We are looking forward to helping your children reach their learning potential and achieve their educational goals in the upcoming year.

**Please read this handbook carefully. Students and their parents are responsible for knowing the rules, regulations, and procedures covered in this handbook. The student handbook is an extension of school policies and has the force and effect of board policy when approved by the board of education.**

**There are several forms at the end of this handbook which you must read, sign and return no later than August 22, 2016.**

This handbook contains information of value to every student and parent. It contains explanations of school regulations and procedures necessary for our school to run smoothly and efficiently. If you are ever in doubt about what is the right thing to do, ask a classroom teacher, speak with the building principal, or contact my office.

Sincerely,

*Ken Schroeder*

Dr. Ken Schroeder - Superintendent

## **Intent of Handbook**

This handbook is intended to be used by students, parents and staff as a guide to the rules, procedures, and general information about this school district. Students and their parents must become familiar with the handbook, and parents should use it as a resource and assist their children in following the rules contained in it. The use of the word "parents" refers to any adult who has the responsibility for making education-related decisions about a child, including, but not limited to biological parents, adoptive parents, legal guardians, and adults acting in loco parentis.

Although the information in this handbook is detailed and specific on many topics, it is not intended to be all-encompassing or to cover every situation and circumstance that may arise during a school day or school year. This handbook does not create a "contract" with parents, students or staff, and the administration may make decisions and rule revisions at any time to implement the educational program and to assure the well-being of all students. The administration is responsible for interpreting the rules contained in the handbook. If a situation or circumstance arises that is not specifically covered in this handbook, the administration will make a decision based on applicable school district policies, and state and federal statutes and regulations.

## **Notice of Non-Discrimination**

This school district does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, national origin, sex, marital status, disability, or age or in admission or access to, or treatment of employment, in its programs and activities and provides equal access to the Boy Scouts and other designated youth groups. Any person having inquiries concerning this school district's compliance with the regulations implementing Title VI, Title IX, or Section 504 is directed to contact Superintendent Dr. Ken Schroeder in writing at Ravenna Public Schools, Ravenna, NE 68869 or by telephone at (308) 452-3249. For further assistance, you may also contact Office for Civil Rights (Kansas City Office), U.S. Department of Education, 8930 Ward Parkway, Suite 2037, Kansas City, MO 64114-3302, Telephone: 816-268-0550, FAX: 816-823-1404; TDD: 877-521-2172, Email: [OCR.KansasCity@ed.gov](mailto:OCR.KansasCity@ed.gov). Also see the "Discrimination and Harassment" section below.



## **MISSION STATEMENT**

***FAMILY – COMMUNITY – SCHOOL***

***Preparing Students Today to Succeed***

***Tomorrow***

## **SECTION ONE**

### **BASIC SCHOOL RULES AND GENERAL PRACTICES**

#### **Attendance**

##### **Required Attendance**

Every person residing in the school district who has legal or actual charge or control of any child who is of mandatory attendance age shall cause that child to attend a public or private school regularly unless the child has graduated from high school or has been allowed to disenroll pursuant to this policy.

##### **Mandatory Attendance Age**

All children who are or will turn six years old before January 1 of the current school year are of mandatory attendance age. Children who have not turned eighteen years of age are of mandatory attendance age.

##### **Exceptions**

This policy does not apply when temporary illness or severe weather conditions make attendance impossible or impracticable.

A child who will not reach age 7 before January 1 of the current school year may be excused from mandatory attendance if the child's parent or guardian completes an affidavit affirming that alternative educational arrangements have been made for the child.

##### **Discontinuing Enrollment – 5 Year Old Students**

The person seeking to discontinue the enrollment of a student who will not reach six years of age prior to January 1 of the current school year shall submit a signed, written request to the superintendent using the form which is attached to this policy. The school district may request written verification or documentation that the person signing the form has legal or actual charge or control of the student. The school district shall discontinue the enrollment of any student who satisfies these requirements. Any student whose enrollment is discontinued under this subsection shall not be eligible to reenroll in this

school district until the beginning of the following school year unless otherwise required by law.

### **Discontinuing Enrollment – 16 and 17 Year Old Students**

Only children who are at least 16 years of age may be disenrolled from the district. The person seeking to discontinue the child's enrollment shall submit a signed, written request and submit it to the superintendent using the form which is attached to this policy. The district will follow the procedures outlined on the attached form in considering requests to disenroll.

Only children disenrolling to attend a non-accredited school may be exempt from this policy. The person with legal or actual charge or control of the child must provide the superintendent with a copy of the signed request submitted to the State Department of Education for attending non-accredited schools. The superintendent may confirm the validity of the submission with the State Department of Education.

### **Attendance Officer**

Each building principal is designated as an attendance officer for the district. Each building principal, at his or her discretion, may delegate these responsibilities to any other qualified individual. The attendance officer is responsible for enforcing the provisions of state law relating to compulsory attendance. This responsibility includes but is not limited to filing a report with the county attorney of the county in which a student resides. Compensation for the duties of attendance officer is included in the salary for the superintendent or designee.

### **Excused Absences**

The following absences will be considered excused if they are confirmed by communication to the school from the student's parent/guardian:

1. Physical or mental illness of the student (a physician's verification is required after three (3) consecutive days of absence for illness)
2. Severe weather
3. Medical appointments for the student

4. Death or serious illness of the student's family member
5. Attending a funeral, wedding or graduation
6. Appearance at court or for other legal matters
7. Observance of religious holidays of the student's own faith
8. College planning visits
9. Personal or family vacations

### **Excessive Absenteeism**

When a student receives 10 absences or the hourly equivalent in any semester, the Attendance Officer will address barriers to the student's attendance.

When a student is absent more than 20 days per year or the hourly equivalent and any portion of the absences is unexcused, the Attendance Officer may file a report with the county attorney of the county in which the student resides. For example, if the student accumulates 20 days of excused absences due to documented illness and is tardy one time, the Attendance Officer must file a report with the appropriate county attorney.

### **Absences due to illness**

The school district will contact parents if a student becomes ill at school. A student who is absent due to illness has two days for every day of absence to complete missed assignments.

### **Planned absences**

Parents who know in advance that a student will be absent must call the school or send a written note at the earliest possible date. Students who will be absent for reasons that can be anticipated, such as routine medical appointments and school activities, must complete any work required by the teacher before the absence. Parents should make every attempt to schedule medical and other appointments after school hours when possible.

**Students are obligated to:**

- 1) Complete all class work in advance for any absence that can be anticipated;
- 2) Attend school one half day (four periods) before attending practice or participating in a scheduled student activity except in cases of family emergencies or prearranged absences, it is the responsibility of the student and parent to prearrange the absence with the building principal
- 3) Check out of school at the office if leaving school during the school day; and
- 4) Make up any and all work that is assigned by teachers as make-up work for the instructional time that has been missed.

**Parents are obligated to:**

- 1) Call the appropriate building office to inform the school of the reason for each absence; and
- 2) Submit a doctor's statement, if requested, for each period of absence due to illness that exceeds five days.

**Make up allowance**

Students will have *two school days* after an excusable absence to notify the office (written note, email or phone call by the parent). Doctor excuses will be required for each non-consecutive medical absence and the doctor's notes must be in written form. After the two days, all undocumented absences will be considered unexcused and students may earn zeros for the academic work.

**Loss of Credit**

Once the limitation in a given semester is reached the following may go into effect:

1. Loss of Credit	11-13 days	1 credit per class
	14-16 days	2 credits per class
	17-19 days	3 credits per class
	19+ days	No credit given

2. Approved computer courses may be used to recover credit. Once the student goes over the limitation, the administration will determine credit recovery opportunity. Parents will be informed of excessive absences each quarter and up to date attendance information is available for parents on Power School.

### **Band**

Students may participate in the elementary band and begin taking band lessons in the 5th grade. Students in grades 7-8 may participate in the junior high school band; grades 9-12 may participate in the high school band. Grades 7-12 will be participating in joint marching and any band competitions. Instruments will be provided by students or the school as provided by school policy. Fees may be charged as allowed or provided in the Public Elementary and Secondary Student Fee Authorization Act and the school's student fee policy or other applicable policy.

### **Bills**

Students should pay bills for supplies, fines, shop materials, clothing orders, etc. to the school bookkeeper's office or building secretary. Any check for these payments should be made out to Ravenna Public Schools unless otherwise instructed. Pursuant to board policy, the district will assess an additional penalty of \$30 for any check returned from the bank for insufficient funds.

When students purchase items of significant value, such as class rings and letter jackets, they must make payment at the time of purchase or when the order is placed.

### **Books and Supplies**

Students must take care of books and other supplies provided by the district. The school will assess fines for damage to books, books that are lost, and any damage to school property.

Students must supply their own consumable items such as pens, pencils, tablets, notebooks, erasers, and crayons. Each classroom teacher will prepare a supply list for students at the beginning of the school year.

### **Bulletin Boards**

Bulletin boards are maintained throughout the building to communicate general information, material, and school announcements. Students should check the bulletin boards carefully each school day. Announcements will be made available online through PowerSchool and the school website.

Bulletin board or electronic publishing space may be provided for the use of students and student organizations for notices relating to matters of general interest to students. The following general limitations apply to all posting or publishing:

1. All postings must be approved by the appropriate building principal or designee. Students may not post any material containing any statement or expression that is libelous, obscene, or vulgar; that would violate board of education policies, including the student code of conduct; or that is otherwise inappropriate for the school environment.
2. All postings must identify the student or the student organization posting or publishing the notice.
3. Material shall be removed after a reasonable time to assure full access to the bulletin boards or electronic publishing media.

### **Bullying**

Students are prohibited from engaging in any form of bullying. "Bullying" means any ongoing pattern of physical, verbal, or electronic abuse on school grounds, in a vehicle owned, leased, or contracted by a school being used for a school purpose by a school employee or his or her designee, or at school-sponsored activities or school-sponsored athletic events. The disciplinary consequences for bullying will depend on the severity, frequency, duration, and effect of the behavior and may result in sanctions up to and including suspension or expulsion. Students who believe they are being bullied should immediately inform a teacher or the building principal.

### **Cafeteria Rules**

1. All food is to be eaten by the student or left on the tray when returned to the dishwasher. All straws, papers, milk cartons should be deposited in the trash cans. All leftover food should be scraped off the tray into the correct container.

2. Forks and spoons should be placed in the pan with water, NOT THROWN AWAY!
3. Students are to use proper manners including eating quietly.
4. There will be no throwing of food or other items.
5. Second servings are available to those after the other students have had a chance to go through the line.
6. Students should remain at their tables until they are dismissed.
7. Students must treat lunch personnel with respect.

### **Pop & Candy**

Food, candy, and drink are not to be brought to school by students for consumption during class periods, except for special projects (early morning practices, breakfast club, etc.) that have been scheduled by the instructor and approved by the Principal's office and this must be consumed in the cafeteria or designated area. You may bring your lunch for your noon meal and the lunch is only to be eaten during your lunch time. All lunches are to be eaten in the school cafeteria. Only clear bottles will be allowed for water.

### **Cell Phones and Other Electronic Devices**

Students may not use cellular (cell) phones or other electronic devices while at school, except as permitted in this handbook.

Students may use cell phones or other electronic devices on the school sidewalks, in hallways, and in the common areas of the school before and after school, so long as they do not create a distraction or a disruption. Students may not have cell phones or other electronic devices while they are in locker rooms, classrooms or restrooms. During school hours students must keep their cell phones or other electronic devices in book-bags, lockers, personal vehicle, or on their person and shut off.

In the elementary building all cell phones and personal electronic devices must be turned off and kept in the student's backpack during school hours.

Students may not use cell phones or other electronic devices while riding in a school vehicle unless they have express permission to do so from the vehicle's driver, sponsor or coach.



Students are personally and solely responsible for the security of their cell phones and other electronic devices. The school district is not responsible for theft, loss or damage of a cell phone or any calls made on a cell phone.

Students who violate this policy will have their cell phones or other electronic devices confiscated immediately. The administration will return confiscated devices to the offending student's parent or guardian after meeting with the parent or guardian to discuss the violation. Students who violate this policy may, at the discretion of the school's administration, be subject to additional discipline, up to and including suspension or expulsion.

The taking, disseminating, transferring, or sharing of obscene, pornographic, lewd, or otherwise illegal images or photographs, whether by electronic data transfer or otherwise (commonly called texting, sexting, e-mailing, etc.) may constitute a crime under state and/or federal law. Any person engaged in these activities while on school grounds, in a school vehicle or at a school activity will be subject to the disciplinary procedures of the student code of conduct. Any student found to be in possession of obscene, pornographic, lewd, or otherwise illegal images or photographs will be promptly referred to law enforcement and/or other state or federal agencies, which may result in arrest, criminal prosecution and possible inclusion on sex offender registries.

### **Child Abuse and Neglect**

School employees will report suspected abuse or neglect of a child as required by state law and school policy. Nebraska law defines abuse or neglect as knowingly, intentionally, or negligently causing or permitting a minor child or an incompetent or disabled person to be (1) placed in a situation that endangers his or her life or physical or mental health; (2) cruelly confined or cruelly punished; (3) deprived of necessary food, clothing, shelter or care; (4) left unattended in a motor vehicle, if such child is six years of age or younger; or (5) sexually abused.

### **Class Dismissal**

Classes are in session from the ringing of the tardy bell until the teacher dismisses the class. The bell at the end of the period is not a dismissal bell, and students may not leave their classrooms until they have been excused by their classroom teacher.

### **Classroom Behavior**

Student behavior and attitude in the classroom must be cooperative and serious. All students must:

- arrive to class on time;
- prepare for class with all necessary materials;
- be considerate of others;
- respond promptly to all directions of the teacher; and
- take care of school property and the property of others.

Teachers will establish classroom conduct rules which students must obey.

### **Closed Campus**

Once students arrive at school, they are expected to stay at school for the entire day. Students may not leave the building without permission from an administrator. Students may leave school during the day for legitimate purposes provided the parents have provided written or verbal permission to the office. Students will not be excused during the school day for non-emergency situations, such as running home to get gym shorts, picking up forgotten assignments, retrieving a computer, going off campus for lunch, etc. Students who leave for appointments during the school day will be required to provide an 'appointment card' from the doctor, dentist, or office they visited during their absence in order to verify the purpose for their absence from school.

### **Coats and Boots**

Elementary students must wear coats outdoors when the weather makes it advisable. The staff will decide when coats are required for recess.

Elementary students may choose to wear overshoes or boots when the playground is wet or muddy. Waterproof boots worn to school should be taken off and regular shoes worn during the day. Boots worn to school must be marked with the student's name.

### **Communicable Diseases**

Any student who has contracted a contagious disease may be restricted from attendance at school until the student is no longer contagious. The school district uses Title 173-Nebraska Health and Human Services/Control of Communicable Disease, Chapter 3 of the Nebraska Administrative Code as a "best practice" guideline for contagious and infectious diseases. If there are questions regarding the communicability of your child's health condition or if

you know your child has contracted a contagious or communicable disease or condition, please call the school nurse, Mrs. Karalee Fiddelke.

### **Communicating with Parents**

Parents shall be kept informed of student progress, grades, and attendance through access to PowerSchool, report cards, and parent/teacher conferences. The school district will notify parents if their students are failing or close to failing. The school district will endeavor to notify parents of failing students prior to entry of the failing grade on the student's report card. Parents will also be notified of their student's possible failure to meet graduation requirements. Other pertinent information will be communicated to parents by mail or by personal contact. Official transcripts of student progress, grades, and attendance will be sent to other school systems upon the student's transfer when the district receives a written request signed by the student's parent or guardian or upon being notified that the student has enrolled in another school.

### **Computer Network Use by Students**

Students are expected to use computers and the Internet as an educational resource. The following procedures and guidelines govern the use of computers and the Internet at school.

#### **I. Student Expectations in the Use of the Internet**

##### **A. Acceptable Use**

1. Students may use the Internet to conduct research assigned by teachers.
2. Students may use the Internet to conduct research for classroom projects.
3. Students may use the Internet to gain access to information about current events.
4. Students may use the Internet to conduct research for school-related activities.
5. Students may use the Internet for appropriate educational purposes.

##### **B. Unacceptable Use**

1. Students shall not use school computers to gain access to material that is obscene, pornographic, harmful to minors, or otherwise inappropriate for educational uses.
2. Students shall not engage in any illegal or inappropriate activities on school computers, including the downloading

- and copying of copyrighted material.
3. Students shall not use electronic mail, chat rooms, instant messaging, or other forms of direct electronic communications on school computers that are not approved by the school.
  4. Students shall not use school computers to participate in on-line auctions, non-educational on-line gaming or file sharing systems.
  5. Students shall not disclose personal information, such as their names, school, addresses, or telephone numbers outside the school network.
  6. Students shall not use school computers for commercial advertising or political advocacy of any kind without the express written permission of the system administrator.
  7. Students shall not publish web pages that purport to represent the school district or the work of students at the school district without the express written permission of the system administrator or supervising teacher.
  8. Students shall not erase, rename or make unusable anyone else's computer files, programs or disks.
  9. Students shall not share their passwords with fellow students, school volunteers or any other individuals, and shall not use, or try to discover, another user's password.
  10. Students shall not copy, change or transfer any software or documentation provided by the school district, teachers or another student without permission from the system administrator.
  11. Students shall not write, produce, generate, copy, propagate or attempt to introduce any computer code designed to self-replicate, damage, or otherwise hinder the performance of any computer's memory, file system, or software. Such software is often called, but is not limited to, a bug, virus, worm, malware or Trojan Horse.
  12. Students shall not configure or troubleshoot computers, networks, printers or other associated equipment, except as directed by a teacher or the system administrator.
  13. Students shall not take home technology equipment (hardware or software) without permission of the system administrator.

14. Students shall not forge electronic mail messages or web pages.

## **II. Enforcement**

### **A. Methods of Enforcement**

1. The district monitors all Internet communications, Internet usage and patterns of Internet usage. Students have no right of privacy to any Internet communications or other electronic files. The computer system is owned by the school district. As with any school property, any electronic files on the system are subject to search and inspection at any time.
2. The school district uses a technology protection measure that blocks access to some Internet sites that are not in accordance with the policy of the school district. Standard use of the Internet utilizes a proxy server-based filter that screens for non-curriculum related pages.
3. Due to the nature of filtering technology, the filter may at times filter pages that are appropriate for student research. The system administrator may override the technology protection measure for the student to access a site with legitimate educational value that is wrongly blocked.
4. The school district staff will monitor students' use of the Internet and cell phone usage through direct supervision and by monitoring Internet use history to ensure enforcement of the policy.

### **B. Consequences for Violation of this Policy**

1. Access to the school's computer system and to the Internet is a privilege, not a right. Any violation of school policy and rules may result in:
  - a. Loss of computer privileges;
  - b. Short-term suspension;
  - c. Long-term suspension or expulsion in accordance with the Nebraska Student Discipline Act;
  - d. Taking a class administered by the district administration for the purpose of reteaching students appropriate use of technology in accordance with this policy; and
  - e. Other discipline as school administration and the school board deem appropriate.

2. Students who use school computer systems without permission and for non-school purposes may be guilty of a criminal violation and will be prosecuted.

### III. **Protection of Students**

#### A. **Children's Online Privacy Protection Act (COPPA)**

1. The school will not allow companies to collect personal information from children under 13 for commercial purposes. The school will make reasonable efforts to disable advertising in educational computer applications.
2. This policy allows the school to act as an agent for parents in the collection of information within the school context. The school's use of student information is solely for education purposes.

#### B. **Education About Appropriate Online Behavior**

1. School district staff will educate students about appropriate online behavior, both in specific computer usage units and in the general curriculum.
2. Staff will specifically educate students on
  - a. Appropriate interactions with other individuals on social networking websites and in chat rooms.
  - b. Cyberbullying awareness and response.
3. The School District's technology coordinator and principal shall inform staff of this educational obligation and shall keep records of the instruction which occurs in compliance with this policy

### **Complaint Procedure**

Good communication helps to resolve many misunderstandings and disagreements. This complaint procedure applies to board members, patrons, students and school staff, unless the staff member is subject to a different grievance procedure pursuant to policy or contract. Individuals who have a complaint should discuss their concerns with appropriate school personnel in an effort to resolve problems. When such efforts do not resolve matters satisfactorily, including matters involving discrimination or harassment on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, marital status, disability, or age, a complainant should follow the procedures set forth below:

1. The first step is for the complainant to speak directly to the person(s) with whom the complainant has a concern. For example, a parent who

is unhappy with a classroom teacher should initially discuss the matter with the teacher. However, the complainant should skip the first step if complainant believes speaking directly to the person would subject complainant to discrimination or harassment.

2. The second step is for the complainant to speak to the building principal, Title IX/504 coordinator, superintendent of schools, or president of the board of education, as set forth below.
  - a) Complaints about the operation, decisions, or personnel within a building should be submitted to the principal of the building.
  - b) Complaints about the operations of the school district or a building principal should be submitted in writing to the superintendent of schools.
  - c) Complaints about the superintendent of schools should be submitted in writing to the president of the board of education.
  - d) Complaints involving discrimination or harassment on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, marital status, disability, or age may also be submitted, at any time during the complaint procedure to the School District's Title IX/504 coordinator. Complaints involving discrimination or harassment may also be submitted at any time to the Office for Civil Rights, U.S. Department of Education: by email at [OCR.KansasCity@ed.gov](mailto:OCR.KansasCity@ed.gov); by telephone at (816) 268-0550; or by fax at (816) 268-0599.
3. When a complainant submits a complaint to an administrator or to the Title IX/504 coordinator, the administrator or Title IX/504 coordinator shall promptly and thoroughly investigate the complaint, and shall:
  - a) Determine whether the complainant has discussed the matter with the staff member involved.
    - 1) If the complainant has not, the administrator or Title IX/504 coordinator will urge the complainant to discuss the matter directly with that staff member, if appropriate.
    - 2) If the complainant refuses to discuss the matter with the staff member, the administrator or Title IX/504 coordinator

shall, in his or her sole discretion, determine whether the complaint should be pursued further.

- b) Strongly encourage the complainant to reduce his or her concerns to writing.
  - c) Interview the complainant to determine:
    - 1) All relevant details of the complaint;
    - 2) All witnesses and documents which the complainant believes support the complaint;
    - 3) The action or solution which the complainant seeks.
  - d) Respond to the complainant. If the complaint involved discrimination or harassment, the response shall be in writing and shall be submitted within 180 days after the administrator or Title IX/504 coordinator received the complaint.
4. A complainant who is not satisfied with the administrator's or the Title IX/504 coordinator's decision regarding a complaint may appeal the decision to the superintendent.
- a) This appeal must be in writing.
  - b) This appeal must be received by the superintendent no later than ten (10) business days from the date the administrator or Title IX/504 coordinator communicated his/her decision to the complainant.
  - c) The superintendent will investigate as he or she deems appropriate. However, all matters involving discrimination or harassment shall be promptly and thoroughly investigated.
  - d) Upon completion of this investigation, the superintendent will inform the complainant in writing of his or her decision. If the complaint involved discrimination or harassment, the superintendent shall submit the decision within 180 days after the superintendent received complainant's written appeal.



5. A complainant who is not satisfied with the superintendent's decision regarding a complaint may appeal the decision to the board.
  - a) This appeal must be in writing.
  - b) This appeal must be received by the board president no later than ten (10) business days from the date the superintendent communicated his/her decision to the complainant.
  - c) This policy allows, but does not require the board to receive statements from interested parties and witnesses relevant to the complaint appeal. However, all matters involving discrimination or harassment shall be promptly and thoroughly investigated.
  - d) The board will notify the complainant in writing of its decision. If the complaint involved discrimination or harassment, the board shall submit its decision within 180 days after it received complainant's written appeal.
  - e) There is no appeal from a decision of the board.
6. When a formal complaint about the superintendent of schools has been filed with the president of the board, the president shall promptly and thoroughly investigate the complaint, and shall:
  - a) Determine whether the complainant has discussed the matter with the superintendent.
    - 1) If the complainant has not, the board president will urge the complainant to discuss the matter directly with the superintendent, if appropriate.
    - 2) If the complainant refuses to discuss the matter with the superintendent, the board president shall, in his or her sole discretion, determine whether the complaint should be pursued further.
  - b) Strongly encourage the complainant to reduce his or her concerns to writing.

- c) Determine, in his or her sole discretion, whether to place the matter on the board agenda for consideration at a regular or special meeting.
- d) Respond to the complainant. If the complaint involved discrimination or harassment, the response shall be in writing and shall be submitted within 180 days after the president received the complaint.

The school district prohibits retaliation against any person for filing a complaint or for participating in the complaint procedure in good faith.

### **Conferences**

Students' academic success has been closely linked to parental involvement in school. The school district has formal parent-teacher conferences during the first and third quarters of the school year.

In addition to formal conferences, classroom teachers will communicate with parents as necessary. Parents are encouraged to communicate with their student's teacher or the building principal to discuss parental concerns, student needs or any other issue.

### **Contact Information**

Parents must supply the school with their student's address and telephone number as well as information about how to reach a responsible adult during the school day. Parents must promptly inform the school if this contact information changes during the school year.

### **Damage to School Property**

Students who damage school property either intentionally or unintentionally may be required to pay to replace or restore the property, at the discretion of the administration.

### **Dances and Outside Dates**

Dances may be held by clubs and organizations at regularly scheduled times and appropriate seasons but outside the regular school hours. Such activities must end by 10 PM on school days and 12:00 PM on Fridays and Saturdays unless changed by the Principal. School events which allow for outside dates must have these dates registered with the principal's office at least one week before the activity is to occur. Forms for registration will be

made available prior to the event. Verification of outside dates must be approved by the guest's school administration. Once at the dance, if a student leaves, they will not be permitted to return.

The Junior-Senior prom is to be held each year during the spring semester. Only Ravenna High School Junior and Senior students (and their dates) may attend. Ravenna High School students in the 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> grades may only attend as dates of Juniors and Seniors. Foreign exchange students and prom servers are also allowed to attend prom. Junior High Students are ineligible to attend prom. Outside dates of Ravenna High School Juniors and Seniors must be at least 9<sup>th</sup> grade students and cannot be older than 20 years old.

### **Dating Violence**

The board prohibits behavior that has a negative impact on student health, welfare, safety, and the school's learning environment. Incidents of dating violence will not be tolerated on school grounds, in district vehicles, or at school sponsored activities or school-sponsored athletic events.

Dating violence is defined as a pattern of behavior where one person uses threats of, or actually uses, physical, sexual, verbal, or emotional abuse to control his or her dating partner. Dating partner means any person, regardless of gender, involved in an intimate relationship with another person primarily characterized by the expectation of affectionate involvement whether casual, serious or long-term.

The district will provide appropriate training to staff and incorporate within its educational program age- appropriate dating violence education that shall include, but not be limited to, defining dating violence, recognizing dating violence warning signs, and identifying characteristics of healthy dating relationships.

Dating violence, as that term is defined by Nebraska law, will not be tolerated by the school district. Students who engage in dating violence on school grounds, in a school vehicle or at a school activity or that otherwise violates the Nebraska Student Discipline Act will receive consequences consistent with the Act and the district's student discipline policies.

The school district shall provide dating violence training to staff deemed appropriate by the administration and in accordance with Nebraska law Neb. Statute 79-2,141.

### **Discrimination and Harassment**

The school district prohibits discrimination and harassment based upon or related to race, color, national origin, sex, religion, marital status, disability, age or any other unlawful basis that (1) has the purpose or effect of creating an intimidating, hostile, or offensive school environment, (2) has the purpose or effect of substantially or unreasonably interfering with a student's school performance, or (3) otherwise adversely affects a student's school opportunities. Students who believe that they have been the subject of unlawful discrimination or harassment due to their disability should contact the following Section 504 Coordinator: High School and Elementary Principals at 308-452-3249, [brad.kjar@ravennabluejays.org](mailto:brad.kjar@ravennabluejays.org) or in person at school. Students who believe that they have been the subject of unlawful discrimination or harassment due to their sex should contact the following Title IX Coordinator: Brad Kjar at 308-452-3249, [brad.kjar@ravennabluejays.org](mailto:brad.kjar@ravennabluejays.org) or in person at school. Students who believe that they have been the subject of any other unlawful discrimination or harassment should contact the High School and Elementary Principals at 308-452-3249, [brad.kjar@ravennabluejays.org](mailto:brad.kjar@ravennabluejays.org) or [paul.anderson@ravennabluejays.org](mailto:paul.anderson@ravennabluejays.org) or in person at school. Students may report discrimination or harassment to any staff member who will then forward it on to the appropriate coordinator or administrator. The staff member will follow school district policies to respond to the report.

### **Sexual Harassment**

It is the policy of the Ravenna Public School District to maintain a learning environment that is free from religious, racial, or sexual harassment. The School District prohibits any form of religious, racial, or sexual harassment and violence.

Sexual harassment can take two forms, quid pro quo and hostile environment. Quid pro quo sexual harassment occurs when a school district employee explicitly or implicitly conditions a student's participation in an education program or activity or bases an educational decision on the

student's submission to unwelcome sexual advances, requests for sexual favors, or other verbal, nonverbal, or physical conduct of sexual nature, whether or not the student submits to the conduct.

Hostile environment harassment occurs when unwelcome sexual advances, requests for sexual favors, and other verbal, nonverbal, or physical conduct of a sexual nature by another students, a school employee, or a third party are sufficiently severe, persistent, or pervasive to limit a student's ability to participate in or benefit from an educational program or activity or create a hostile or abusive educational environment.

Sexual Harassment - Sexual harassment consists of unwelcome sexual advances, requests for sexual favors, sexually motivated physical conduct or other verbal or physical conduct of a sexual nature when:

- Submission to that conduct or communication is made a term or condition, either explicitly or implicitly, of a student's participation in an education program or activity.
- Submission to or rejection of that conduct or communication by an individual is used as a factor in decisions affecting that individual's participation in an education program or activity.
- That conduct or communication has the purpose or effect of substantially or unreasonably interfering with an individual's education or creating an intimidating, hostile, or offensive educational environment.

Sexual harassment may include but not be limited to:

- Unwelcome verbal harassment of a sexual nature or abuse.
- Unwelcome pressure for sexual activity.
- Unwelcome sexually motivated or inappropriate patting, pinching, or physical contact.
- Unwelcome sexual behaviors or words, including demands for sexual favors, accompanied by implied or overt threats concerning an individual's educational status.
- Unwelcome behavior, verbal or written words or symbols directed at an individual because of gender.

The use of authority to emphasize the sexuality of a student in a manner that prevents or impairs that student's full enjoyment of educational benefits, climate or opportunities.

The prohibition of sexual harassment applies whether the harassment is between people of the same or different gender. The prohibition against sexual harassment does not preclude legitimate, nonsexual contact such as the use of necessary restraints to avoid physical harm to persons or property, or conduct such as a teacher's consoling hug of a young student, or one student's demonstration of a sports move requiring contact with another student. In determining whether alleged conduct constitutes a violation of the policy, the School District should consider the surrounding circumstances, the nature of the behavior, the relationships between the parties involved and the context in which the alleged incidents occurred. Whether a particular action or incident constitutes a violation of this policy required a determination based on all of the facts and surrounding circumstances.

The School District will discipline or take appropriate action against any pupil, teacher, administrator, or other school personnel who retaliates against or attempts to retaliate against, any person who reports alleged harassment or violence, files a complaint of harassment, who testifies, assists or participates in any investigation, hearing or proceeding related to such harassment or violence. Retaliation includes but is not limited to any form of threat, intimidation, reprisal or discrimination.

#### Reporting Procedure

Any person who believes he or she is being harassed or is otherwise the victim of sexual harassment or sexual violence shall report such conduct to the building principal, who serves as our Title IX Compliance Coordinator. Thereafter, the complaint shall be investigated and processed in a manner consistent with district policy.

#### **Dress Code**

Students must come to school dressed in clean, neat and appropriate clothing to conform with educational standards.

Students are prohibited from wearing the following attire:

1. Clothing displaying indecent, suggestive or profane writing, pictures or slogans
2. Clothing that advertises or displays alcohol, tobacco or any illegal substance

3. Caps, hats and bandannas may not be worn during the school day
4. Bare feet (some type of footwear must be worn)
5. Short-shorts, cutoffs, or compression shorts alone (unless under other shorts)
6. Hairstyles which distract from the learning process or the health and safety for either the student or others
7. Any clothing that could cause damage to others or school property
8. Clothing that is torn, ripped, or cut
9. Shirts, blouses, or other clothing worn unbuttoned, unzipped, or otherwise purposely unfastened
10. "Grubby clothes," those which are purposely torn or bedraggled or threadbare, dirty or disheveled
11. Costumes and/or those clothes intended only for leisure, entertaining or special occasions
12. Bare "midriff" (belly button) styles, see-through and low cut blouses, halters, tank tops or thin-strapped tops (spaghetti straps)
13. Pants and shorts worn below the waist so as to expose undergarments
14. Pants that drag on the floor
15. Chains hanging or attached to pants or shorts
16. Coats during school hours unless the student has permission from a faculty member
17. Clothing with tears or holes that expose flesh above the knee or that exposes underclothes
18. No spaghetti strap tops, string backless or plain backless tops will be worn unless there is another shirt worn over these garments that cover the skin and is not see through material.
19. Sleeveless tops are allowed providing the armhole openings are appropriate and do not show chest, undergarments (including sports bras) or side chest portions of the body
20. Tight, form fitting leggings may be worn as long as the top/shirt extends appropriately below the seat.

This list is not all encompassing. The administration reserves the right to determine whether any piece of clothing is appropriate for a school setting and will make the final determination as to whether or not a student's attire is acceptable for a school setting. Students who violate dress code guidelines will be required to correct the violation by changing into something appropriate at school or returning home to change. A detention or suspension may be given to make up the time away from school. Students will also

receive zeros for any class time they miss while correcting the violation. Repeated dress code violations may result in more severe consequences.

### **Driving and Parking Personal Vehicles**

Students who drive privately owned motor vehicles to school must obey the following rules:

1. Students may not move their vehicles during the school day without the permission of the building principal or superintendent. Students will not be allowed to sit in or be around their vehicles during the school day, without administrative permission.
2. Students must drive with care to insure the safety of the pedestrians. Students may not drive carelessly or with excessive speed.
3. By driving personal vehicles to school and parking on school grounds, students consent to having that vehicle searched by school officials when they have reasonable suspicion that such a search will reveal a violation of school rules.
4. Students will park only in the designated student parking.

### **Drug Free Schools**

The board of education has adopted policies to comply with the Federal Drug-Free Schools and Communities Act. Students are prohibited from using, possessing or selling any drug, alcohol or tobacco while on school grounds, at a school activity or in a school vehicle. In addition, students who participate in the school's activities program should refer to the Activities Handbook which prohibits the use or possession of alcohol, controlled substances and tobacco at all times.

Any student who violates any school policy regarding drug, alcohol and tobacco use will be disciplined, up to and including short-term suspension, long-term suspension, or expulsion from school and/or referral to appropriate authorities for criminal prosecution.

### **Emergency Contact Information**

Parents must complete an emergency information card for each child enrolled in the district. The card should list the family physician's name, where parents or a responsible adult can be located, and any necessary emergency instructions.



### **Evacuations**

The school district will hold routine evacuation drills throughout the school year. Whenever the fire alarm sounds, all students and faculty must evacuate the building in a quiet and orderly fashion and remain outside until told to return to the building. Classroom teachers will provide students with detailed instructions on building evacuations.

### **Eye Exams**

All students enrolling in kindergarten or transferring into the school district from out of state must undergo a visual examination by a physician, a physician assistant, an advanced practice registered nurse, or an optometrist, which consists of testing for amblyopia, strabismus, and internal and external eye health, with testing sufficient to determine visual acuity, except that no such physical examination or visual evaluation shall be required of any child whose parent or guardian objects in writing. They must provide evidence of the vision examination within six months prior to entrance. The cost of such physical examination and visual evaluation shall be borne by the parent or guardian of each child who is examined.

### **Food Service Program**

The school district provides a food service program that is designed to provide adequate nutrition and an educational experience for students.

#### **Breakfast**

The school will serve breakfast daily from 7:30 a.m. until 7:50 a.m. Students who qualify for free or reduced-price lunch also qualify for free or reduced-price breakfast. The school district charges students K-6 \$1.85, 7-12 \$1.95 and adults \$2.35 for breakfast.

#### **Lunch**

Lunch prices depend on the federal funding that the program receives. Lunch for K-6 is \$2.65, Lunch for 7-12 lunch is \$2.90 for students and \$3.70 for adults.

#### **Milk break**

The school will offer a milk program to students in grades preK-3. All milk served to a student (except the initial carton served with lunch) will cost \$.40 per half pint and \$.15 per half pint for preschool students. The price for milk may change during the school year.

## **Payment for Meals**

Students are encouraged to pay for meals several weeks in advance. Payment should be made to a building secretary.

Low balance notices will be provided to parents when the account balance reaches  $\frac{1}{2}$  of the minimum required balance or below the minimum required balance. The minimum required balance is  $\frac{1}{2}$  the value of 5 lunches. (Example: If lunches cost \$2.90, the minimum balance would be  $\$2.90 \times 5 \times \frac{1}{2} = \$7.25$ , per student.

Food service charge privileges are denied any student (regular price or reduced price) who is delinquent in his/her payments until such time as the family account is brought current. When the account is delinquent, there will be an optional offering, or the student may bring lunch from home. The opportunity to order second entrees will be denied to free-priced students if their family account is delinquent until the account is brought current.

If a student has a negative or zero balance on their lunch account the student and the parent will be notified at the end of the day that the student will be given credit for one meal. If the family doesn't bring the account current by the end of the following business day, the student will either need to bring a sack lunch or eat an alternate meal provided by the school. Family's accounts will be debited for the alternate meal provided by the school.

## **Notice of Non-discrimination**

In accordance with Federal civil rights law and U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) civil rights regulations and policies, the USDA, its Agencies, offices, and employees, and institutions participating in or administering USDA programs are prohibited from discriminating based on race, color, national origin, sex, disability, age, or reprisal or retaliation for prior civil rights activity in any program or activity conducted or funded by USDA.

Persons with disabilities who require alternative means of communication for program information (e.g. Braille, large print, audiotape, American

Sign Language, etc.), should contact the Agency (State or local) where they applied for benefits. Individuals who are deaf, hard of hearing or have speech disabilities may contact USDA through the Federal Relay Service at [\(800\) 877-8339](tel:8008778339). Additionally, program information may be made available in languages other than English.

To file a program complaint of discrimination, complete the USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form, (AD-3027) found online at: <http://www.ascr.usda.gov/complaintfilingcust.html>, and at any USDA office, or write a letter addressed to USDA and provide in the letter all of the information requested in the form. To request a copy of the complaint form, call [\(866\) 632-9992](tel:8666329992). Submit your completed form or letter to USDA by:

- (1) Mail: U.S. Department of Agriculture  
Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights  
1400 Independence Avenue, SW  
Washington, D.C. 20250-9410
- (2) Fax: [\(202\) 690-7442](tel:2026907442); or
- (3) Email: [program.intake@usda.gov](mailto:program.intake@usda.gov)

This institution is an equal opportunity provider.

### **Field Trips**

Classes occasionally take field trips off school property for educational enrichment. A student's parent must authorize a student to participate in a field trip by signing a permission slip and providing it to the school before the field trip. Students who have not completed classroom work on time may not be allowed to attend field trips. Students must comply with the student code of conduct, any applicable extracurricular conduct codes, and all directives by trip chaperones.

### **First-Aid**

First-aid items may only be used by school staff. Students who need first aid should ask for assistance from their classroom teacher or the nearest staff member.

### **Head Lice**

Students found to have head lice, louse eggs, or nits will not be permitted at school and will be sent home. Upon discovering the presence of any indication of lice, louse eggs, or nits, the student's parent(s) or guardian(s) will be notified, and if appropriate will be asked to pick up the student from school immediately.

Students will not be permitted to return to school until the district finds that no live lice, eggs, or nits can be detected. The parent(s) or guardian(s) will be required to treat the student and accompany the student to school to be examined.

The student cannot ride the school bus until the district has cleared the student to return to school.

### **Health Problems**

Parents who do not want their children to play outdoors or participate in physical education for health reasons must send a written request to school. If a student persistently requests to be excused from these activities, the building principal or classroom teacher may require a doctor's verification.

Parents should notify principal or superintendent if their student has any special health problems such as diabetes, asthma, and the like.

### **Homebound Instruction**

The school district may provide a student with instruction in his or her home and under parental supervision if the student is physically or mentally ill or injured and unable to attend regular classes for an extended period of time. Homebound instruction shall be provided when the student's physical and mental condition are such that the student can benefit from instruction and no other provision will meet the student's educational needs. If you believe that homebound instruction is appropriate for your child, please contact the building principal to initiate the appropriate process to determine eligibility.

### **Homeless Children and Youth**

Homeless students generally include children who lack a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence, as further defined by applicable state and federal law.

It is the school's policy not to stigmatize or segregate homeless students on the basis of their status of being homeless. Transportation for homeless students who enroll in the district shall be furnished by the district under the same guidelines applying to other students or if such transportation is necessary for compliance with federal law.

Each homeless child shall be provided services for which the child is eligible comparable to services provided to other students in the school selected regardless of residency. Homeless children shall be provided access to education and other services that such children need to ensure that they have an opportunity to meet the same student performance standards to which all students are held.

If a homeless child registered to attend school in the district is receiving family reconciliation services pursuant to state law, the district will work in cooperation with any county or department of social services in the district to jointly develop an educational program for the child. The district's homeless coordinator is Dr. Ken Schroeder, who may be contacted at 308-452-3249.

### **Illness or Injury at school**

Students who feel ill or are hurt while at school should seek immediate assistance from their classroom teacher or the nearest staff member. The school will contact parents to pick students up from school whenever necessary. When school officials determine that a student needs immediate medical attention but the parents cannot be reached by phone, emergency services will be summoned or the student will be taken directly to the doctor and/or hospital. Parents must complete an emergency information card for each child enrolled in the district. The card should list the family physician's name, where parents or a responsible adult can be located, and any necessary emergency instructions.

### **Immunizations**

All students must furnish one of the following to school officials:

- proof of adequate immunizations for mumps, measles, rubella; diphtheria, pertussis, tetanus; polio; and hepatitis B series; or
- A signed parental statement of refusal to provide the immunization history. Homeless students who are in need of immunizations will be referred to the homeless coordinator, who shall assist in obtaining necessary immunizations or medical records.

#### Provisional Enrollment.

Students who meet the statutory requirements for provisional enrollment shall be allowed to attend school for sixty days without the necessary immunizations.

Students who are exempted from the immunization requirement may be excluded from school in the event of an outbreak of any contagious disease in the school population.

#### **Initiations and Hazing**

Initiations by classes, clubs, or athletic teams are prohibited except by permission of the administration. Hazing in connection with any school organization is absolutely prohibited. Hazing is defined as any activity by which a person intentionally or recklessly endangers the physical or mental health or safety of an individual for the purpose of initiation into, admission into, affiliation with, or continued membership in any school organization. Hazing activities include, but are not limited to whipping, beating, branding, forced and prolonged calisthenics, prolonged exposure to the elements, forced consumption of any food, liquor, beverage, drug, or harmful substance not generally intended for human consumption, prolonged sleep deprivation, or any brutal treatment or the performance of any unlawful act that endangers the physical or mental health or safety of any person.

#### **Lockers and Other School Property**

The school district owns and exercises exclusive control over student lockers, desks, computer equipment, and other such property. Students should not expect privacy regarding usage of or items placed in or on school property, because school property is subject to search at any time by school officials. Periodic, random searches of lockers, desks, computers and other such property may be conducted at the discretion of the administration. The assignment of a locker is on a temporary basis and may be revoked at any time. School officials may inspect student lockers without any particularized suspicion or reasonable cause.

## **Lost and Found**

All lost and found articles are to be taken to the elementary or high school office. Students may claim lost articles there. Unclaimed articles will be donated to a local charity or otherwise disposed of at the conclusion of each semester.

## **Medications**

Whenever possible, parents should arrange medication schedules to eliminate the need for giving medication during school hours. When it is necessary for school personnel to administer medication to students, the school district will comply with the Nebraska Medication Aide Act, the requirements of Title 92, Nebraska Administrative Code, Chapter 59, (promulgated by the Nebraska Department of Education and entitled *Methods of Competency Assessment of School Staff Who Administer Medication*), and all state and federal regulations. Parents and guardians who wish to have their child receive medication from school personnel must comply with the following procedures:

**Prescription medication.** (1) Parents/guardians must provide a physician's written authorization for the administration of the medication. (2) Parents/guardians must provide their own written permission for the administration of the medication. (3) The medication must be brought to school in the prescription container and must be properly labeled with the student's name, the physician's name, and directions for administering the medication.

**Non-prescription medication.** (1) Parents/guardians must provide written permission for the administration of the medication. (2) The medication must be brought to the school in the manufacturer's container. (3) The container must be labeled with the child's name and with directions for provision or administration of the medication

The district reserves the right to review and decline requests to administer or provide medications that are not consistent with standard pharmacological references, are prescribed in doses that exceed those recommended in standard pharmacological references, or that could be taken in a manner that would eliminate the need for giving them during school hours. The district may request parental authorization to consult with the student's physician regarding any medication prescribed by such physician.

### **Media Center**

Students must check out materials from the librarian on duty. Each borrower is responsible for all books checked out in his/her name. A fine of five cents per day per book may be charged for overdue books. Each student is responsible for any fine which accumulated on a book charged to him/her. If a book is lost and not found by the end of the semester, the student must pay for it. Students must also pay for any damage they cause to library books.

### **Memorials**

Memorials or plaques honoring deceased students are generally not allowed in or on the school grounds. Dedications to students will not be allowed.

Scholarships in the deceased person's name will not be set up by the school. Scholarships set up by outside organizations or individuals will be allowed.

### **Parental Involvement**

The school district recognizes the unique needs of students who are being served in its Title I program, and the importance of parental involvement in the Title I program. Parental Involvement in the Title I Program shall include:

1. An annual meeting to which all parents of participating children will be invited. Invitations may take the form of notes sent with students or announcements in the school newsletter. Additional meetings may be scheduled, based upon need and interest for such meetings.
2. Notification to the parent(s) or guardian of a student's eligibility to participate in the Title I program and assessment information under which the student has qualified.
3. An explanation of the details for the child's participation: curriculum objectives, type and extent of participation, and evaluations of progress. This information may be included in the annual Title I Individual Education Plan (IEP) for the student.
4. Opportunities for parent training on ways to support children's learning. This opportunity may include, but is not limited to, attendance at the annual Nebraska State Title I Parent Involvement Conference.
5. Communication to parents about student progress to be provided in the language used in the home. Responses to parent concerns will be provided in a timely manner.



Opportunities for parent-teacher conferences, in addition to those regularly scheduled by the school district, if requested by the parents or as deemed necessary by school district staff.

### **Parties**

Elementary classes may have seasonal parties during the year. Parents shall communicate with their student's classroom teacher for the teacher's rules regarding birthday and holiday parties.

### **Personal Items**

The school provides the necessary equipment for classroom and school day activities. The school is not responsible for ruined or lost personal equipment. Students should not bring items such as athletic equipment, electronic devices, toys, or other similar personal items to school unless they have the prior permission of their classroom teacher or a school administrator.

### **Physical Education**

The school district requires students to receive physical education to assist them in developing gross and fine motor skills. Students are not required to wear PE uniforms, but are encouraged to wear tennis shoes for P.E.

### **Physical Exam**

Students entering kindergarten and the seventh grade, and those entering school from another state, are statutorily required to show evidence that they have had a physical examination within six months prior to the date of entering school.

### **Pictures**

The school district arranges for a photographer to be present at school in the fall to take class pictures. Parents will be notified of the date. Included in the individual packet is a class composite. Parents who want pictures of their students or of their student's class composite may purchase them directly from the photographer.

### **Playground Rules**

Students must follow these rules to keep the playground safe:

1. Students must obey the playground supervisor at all times.
2. Students may not enter the street/highway to retrieve a ball unless given permission by the playground supervisor.

3. Students must play away from the school windows.
4. Touch and flag football are permitted, but tackle football is prohibited. Students may only play football on grassy areas.
5. Students may throw balls and other authorized play equipment. They may not throw rocks, gravel, snowballs, and clothing.
6. Students must use the playground equipment properly and in a safe manner.
7. Students may not leave the playground after they have arrived at school for the day.

Students who violate these rules will be disciplined with the loss of recess or other privileges, detention and/or other consequences.

School staff supervise the playground during school hours. However, it is not supervised after school, and students should not play on the equipment without adult supervision.

### **Police Questioning and Apprehension**

Police or other law enforcement officers may be called to the school at the request of school administration, or may initiate contact with the school in connection with a criminal investigation. The school district shall inform parents when law enforcement officers seek access to their student prior to the student being questioned unless the officers are investigating charges that the student has been the victim of abuse or neglect. Members of the school district staff will comply with board policy regarding police questioning of students.

### **Protection of Student Rights**

The Board of Education respects the rights of parents and their children and has adopted a Protection of Pupil Rights policy in consultation with parents to comply with the Protection of Pupil Rights Amendment (PPRA) and The No Child Left Behind Act (NCLB). The policy is available on the district's website or upon request from the district's administrative office. Parents may opt their child out of participation in activities identified by the Protection of Pupil Rights policy by submitting a written request to the superintendent. The approximate dates during the school year when such a survey requesting personal information as defined in the Protection of Pupil Rights policy may occur between the timeframe of: August 10<sup>th</sup>-May 20<sup>th</sup>. Parents may have access to any survey or other material described in the Protection of Pupil Rights policy by submitting a written request to the superintendent.

**Public Displays of Affection**

Students may not engage in public displays of affection that is disruptive to the school environment or distracting to others. Prohibited conduct includes hugging, kissing, touching or any other display of affection that a staff member determines to be inappropriate.

**Rights of Custodial and Noncustodial Parents**

The school district will honor the parental rights of natural and adoptive parents unless those rights have been altered by a court.

The term "custodial parent" refers to a biological or adoptive parent to whom a court has given primary physical and legal custody of a child, and a person such as a caseworker or foster parent to whom a court has given legal custody of a child.

The district will not restrict the access of custodial and noncustodial parents to their students and their student's' records, unless the district has been provided a copy of a court order that limits those rights. If the district is provided such a court order, school officials will follow the directives set forth in the order.

The district will provide the custodial parent with routine information about his or her child, including notification of conferences. The district will not provide the non-custodial parent with such information on a routine basis, but will provide it upon the non-custodial parent's request unless it has been denied by the courts.

A non-custodial parent who wishes to attend conferences regarding his or her child will be provided information about conference times so both parents may attend a single conference. The district is not required to schedule separate conferences if both parents have been previously informed of scheduled conference times.

If either or both parents' behavior is disruptive, staff members may terminate a conference and reschedule it with appropriate modifications or expectations.

**Secret Organizations**

Secret organizations are prohibited. School officials shall not allow any person or representative of any such organization to enter upon school grounds or school buildings for the purpose of rushing or soliciting students to participate

in any secret fraternity, society or association.

### **School Day**

The school day typically begins at 8:05 a.m. and ends at 3:27 p.m. Students are to leave the school grounds after dismissal. School staff will provide supervision for students on school grounds 30 minutes before the school day begins. Students are to leave school grounds within 15 minutes after dismissal, unless they are under the direct supervision of a staff member or parent. **There will be no supervision provided by the school before or after these times.** Parents must make arrangements for their children to leave school promptly at the end of the day.

### **Self-Management of Diabetes or Asthma/Anaphylaxis**

The school district will work with the parent or guardian in consultation with a physician to develop a medical management plan for a student with diabetes, asthma, or anaphylaxis subject to school policy. Parents desiring to develop such a plan should contact the School Nurse.

### **Smoking and Tobacco**

Smoking, including the possession or use of vapor products, alternative nicotine products, or any other such look-alike product, is not permitted on school property at any time.

### **Staff Qualifications**

The No Child Left Behind Act of 2001 gives parents the right to get information about the professional qualifications of their child's classroom teachers. Upon request, the school district will give parents the following information about their child's classroom teacher:

1. Whether the teacher has met state qualifications and licensing criteria for the grade levels and subject areas in which the teacher provides instruction.
2. Whether the teacher is teaching under an emergency or provisional teaching certificate.
3. The teacher's baccalaureate degree and major. Parents may also get information about other graduate certification or degrees held by the teacher, and the field of discipline of the certification or degree.

Upon request, the school district will inform parents whether their child is being provided services by a paraprofessional and, if so, the paraprofessional's

qualifications. The request for such information should be made to the appropriate building administrator.

The school district will provide timely notice to parents if their child has been assigned to, or has been taught for four or more consecutive weeks by a teacher who does not meet the requirements of the No Child Left Behind Act.

### **Standardized Testing**

The school will use NWEA MAP testing to check on the progress of student achievement at a local level. Students will take this test at the assigned times as set up by the Assessment Coordinator and the Building Principals.

### **Student Assistance**

If your child has any learning, behavior, or emotional needs that you believe are not being addressed by the school district under existing circumstances, please contact your child's teacher. If appropriate, the teacher may convene the Student Assistance Team (SAT) or MTSS Team (Multi-Tier System of Supports). The SAT & MTSS can explore possibilities and strategies that will best meet the educational needs of your child.

### **Student Fee Policy**

The school district shall provide free instruction in accordance with the Nebraska State Constitution and the Nebraska statutes. The district also provides activities, programs, and services that extend beyond the minimum level of constitutionally required free instruction. Under the Public Elementary and Secondary Student Fee Authorization Act, the district is permitted to charge students fees for these activities or to require students to provide specialized equipment and attire for certain purposes. This policy is subject to further interpretation or guidance by administrative or board regulations. Students are encouraged to contact their building administration, their teachers or their coaches, and sponsors for further specifics.

### **Definitions.**

1. "Students" means students, their parents, guardians or other legal representatives.
2. "Extracurricular activities" means student activities or organizations that (1) are supervised or administered by the district; (2) do not count toward

graduation or advancement between grades; and (3) are not otherwise required by the district.

3. "Post-secondary education costs" means tuition and other fees associated with obtaining credit from a post-secondary educational institution.

### **Listing of Fees Charged by this District.**

- 1. Clothing Required for Specified Courses and Activities.** Students are responsible for complying with the district's grooming and attire guidelines and for furnishing all clothing required for any special programs, courses or activities in which they participate. The teacher, coach, or sponsor of the activity will provide students with written guidelines that detail any special clothing requirements and explain why the special clothing is required for the specific program, course or activity.
- 2. Safety Equipment and Attire.** The district will provide students with all safety equipment and attire that is required by law. Building administrators will assure that (a) such equipment is available in the appropriate classes and areas of the school buildings, (b) teachers are directed to instruct students in the use of such devices, and (c) students use the devices as required. Students are responsible for using the devices safely and as instructed.
- 3. Personal or Consumable Items.** The district does not provide students with personal or consumable items for participation in courses and activities including, but not limited to, pencils, paper, pens, erasers and notebooks. Students who wish to supply their own personal or consumable items may do so, as long as those items comply with the requirements of the district. The district will provide students with facilities, equipment, materials and supplies, including books. Students are responsible for the careful and appropriate use of such property. Students will be charged for damage to school property caused by the student and will be held responsible for the reasonable replacement cost of any school property that they lose.
- 4. Materials Required for Course Projects.** The school district will provide students with the materials necessary to complete all curricular projects. In courses where students produce a project that requires more than minimal cost for materials, the finished product will remain the

property of the district unless the students either furnish or pay for the reasonable cost of materials required for the course project.

- 5. Extracurricular Activities.** The school district may charge students a fee to participate in extracurricular activities to cover the district's reasonable costs in offering such activities. The district may require students to furnish specialized equipment and clothing that is required for participation in extracurricular activities, or may charge a reasonable fee for the use of district-owned equipment or attire. Attached to this policy is a list of the fees charged for particular activities. The coach or sponsor will provide students with additional written guidelines detailing the fees charged, the equipment and/or clothing required, or the usage fee charged. The guidelines will explain the reasons that fees, equipment and/or clothing are required for the activity.

The following list details the maximum dollar amount of all extracurricular activities fees and the specifications for any equipment or attire required for participation in extracurricular activities:

- Student activity card-\$25.00 (covers admission to all home extracurricular events, away events and certain conference and district events are not covered by the student activity card)
- Future Business Leaders of America-\$0
- Cheerleading, drill team, flag corps. Students must purchase uniforms and shoes selected by the sponsor and/or student group.
- Football-Students must provide their own football shoes and undergarments.
- Golf-Students must provide their own golf shoes, undergarments, and clubs.
- Track, volleyball, wrestling and basketball. Students must provide their own shoes and undergarments.
- Future Farmers of America-\$20.00. Students must purchase their own jackets in addition to paying dues.

- 6. Post-Secondary Education Costs.** Some students enroll in postsecondary courses while still enrolled in high school. As a general rule, students must pay all costs associated with such post-secondary courses. However, for a course in which students receive high school credit or a course being taken as part of an approved accelerated or

differentiated curriculum program, the district shall offer the course without charge for tuition, transportation, books, or other fees. Students who chose to apply for post-secondary education credit for these courses must pay tuition and all other fees associated with obtaining credits from a post-secondary educational institution.

- 7. Copies of Student Files or Records.** The school district will charge a fee for making copies of a student's files or records for the student's parents or guardians. The Superintendent or the Superintendent's designee shall establish a schedule of student record fees. Students' parents have the right to inspect and review the students' files or records without the payment of a fee, and the district shall not charge a fee to search for or retrieve any student's files or records. The district will charge a fee of 5 cents per page for reproduction of student records.
- 8. Participation in Before-School, After-School or Pre-Kindergarten Services.** The district may charge reasonable fees for participation in before-school, after-school or pre-kindergarten services offered by the district pursuant to statute.
- 9. Participation in Summer School.** The district may charge reasonable fees for participation in summer school. The maximum dollar amount for summer and night school shall be \$200.
- 10. Charges for Food Consumed by Students.** The district will charge for items that students purchase from the district's breakfast and lunch programs. The fees charged for these items will be set according to applicable federal and state statutes and regulations. The district will charge students for the cost of food, beverages, and the like that students purchase from a school store, vending machine, booster club or from similar sources. Students may be required to bring money or food for field trip lunches and similar activities.

The maximum dollar amount charged by the district for the breakfast and lunch programs is as follows:

- Breakfast Program – Grades K-6
  - Regular Price    \$1.85
  - Reduced Price    \$.30
- Breakfast Program – Grades 7-12
  - Regular Price    \$ 1.95



- Reduced Price    \$ .30
- Lunch Program – Grades K-6
  - Regular Price    \$ 2.65
  - Reduced Price    \$ .40
- Lunch Program – Grades 7-12
  - Regular Price    \$ 2.90
  - Reduced Price    \$.40
- Second milk or second entrée (each)    \$.40 and 1.25

**11. Charges for Musical Extracurricular Activities.** Students who qualify for fee waivers under this policy will be provided, at no charge, the use of a musical instrument in optional music courses that are not extracurricular activities. For musical extracurricular activities, the school district will require students to provide the following equipment and/or attire:

- Band students shall provide their own instruments. Ravenna Public Schools will have a select number of instruments available for use.
- Swing choir students must purchase outfits and shoes selected by the sponsor and/or student group.
- **Contributions for Class Extracurricular Activities.** Students are eligible to participate in a number of extracurricular activities during their years in Junior/ Senior High school, including prom, various senior recognitions, and graduation. In order to fund these extracurricular activities, the school district will ask each student to make a contribution to their class's fund beginning in seventh grade. This contribution is completely voluntary. Through fundraising activities throughout the 7th-12th grade years, students may choose to work for the contributions to the class. Students who choose to work in lieu of contributions to the class fund are still eligible to participate in the extra activities. The suggested donation to the class fund will be \$10.00 to \$20.00 per year.

### **Waiver Policy.**

Students who qualify for free or reduced-price lunches under United States Department of Agriculture child nutrition programs shall be provided a fee waiver or be provided the necessary materials or equipment without charge for (1) participation in extracurricular activities, (2) materials for course projects, and (3) the use of a musical instrument in optional music courses that are not extracurricular activities. Students are not required to participate

in the free or reduced-price lunch program to qualify for the waivers provided in this section. The district is not obligated to provide any particular type or quality of equipment or other material to eligible students. Students who wish to be considered for waiver of a particular fee must submit a completed fee waiver application to their building principal. Application forms are available in each school building office.

### **Voluntary Contributions to Defray Costs.**

When appropriate, the district will request donations of money, materials, equipment or attire from parents, guardians and other members of the community to defray the costs of providing certain services and activities to students. These requests are not requirements, and staff members of the district are directed to communicate that fact clearly to students, parents and patrons.

### **Student Illness**

Students who suffer from a significant illness which has an actual or expected duration of six months or more may be eligible for accommodations and supports under Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act or under the Individuals with Disabilities in Education Act. The school will provide accommodations to students who are returning to school after a prolonged absence due to illness, including pediatric cancer, through a 504 plan or an IEP, as appropriate. The student's plan will include informal or formal accommodations, modifications of curriculum and monitoring by medical or academic staff as determined by the student's IEP team or 504 committee. Parents and staff will engage in ongoing communication about the needs of a student who is facing these circumstances.

Students who become ill at school will be sent to the building office where the school nurse or other school employee will determine the appropriate response. When a child is too ill to remain at school, a school employee will contact the child's parent(s) and make arrangements for the child to be picked up or sent home. If an illness or injury requires immediate medical attention, school officials shall attempt to contact the child's parent(s) regarding treatment for the child. If the parents cannot be contacted, school officials may have the child treated by an available physician. Students who show symptoms of a contagious disease may be sent home, and the district may require a physician's statement before allowing such students to return to school.

## **Student Government**

Students are encouraged to formulate and participate in elective and representative student government activities. The organization, operation and scope of the student government shall be administered by the superintendent or designee.

Class meetings will be held when needed and arranged by sponsors. Times will be announced in advance. All class meetings must be prearranged with the sponsor. Class secretaries are to keep a record of all meetings and turn in after each meeting to the sponsor. Treasurers should check each month before a meeting in order to have an accurate account of their financial condition. Organization meetings will be held at the beginning of the year. All meetings must be cleared with the Principal.

## **Student Records**

The Family Education Rights and Privacy Act ("FERPA") provides parents certain rights with respect to their student's education records. These rights include the right to inspect and review the student's education records within 45 days of the date the school receives a request for access; and the right to request the amendment of the student's education records that you believe to be inaccurate.

If parents believe one of their student's records is inaccurate, they should write to the school principal, clearly identify the part of the record they want changed, and specify why they believe it is inaccurate. If the school decides not to amend the record as requested, it will notify the parents of the decision and advise them of their right to a hearing regarding the request for amendment.

**Directory Information.** FERPA and the Nebraska Public Records Law authorize school districts to make "directory information" available for review at the request of non-school individuals. These laws also give parents and guardians a voice in the decision-making process regarding the disclosure of directory information regarding their children. The school district has designated the following as directory information:

name and grade, address, telephone number, including the student's cell phone number, e-mail address, date and place of birth, dates of attendance, the image or likeness of students in

pictures, videotape, film or other medium, major field of study, participation in activities and sports, degrees and awards received, weight and height of members of athletic teams, most recent previous school attended, certain class work which may be published onto the Internet, classroom assignment and/or home room teacher, student ID number, user ID, or other unique personal identifier used by the student for purposes of accessing or communicating in electronic systems (but only if the identifier cannot be used to gain access to education records except when used in conjunction with one or more factors that authenticate the user's identity, such as a personal identification number (PIN), password, or other factor known or possessed only the authorized user). Directory information does not include a student's social security number.

Directory information about students may also be disclosed to outside organizations without a parent's prior written consent. Outside organizations include, but are not limited to, companies that market or manufacture class rings, sell student photographs or publish student yearbooks.

Federal law requires school districts to provide military recruiters and institutions of higher education with the names, addresses and telephone listings of high school students unless parents have notified the school district that they do not want this information disclosed without prior written parental consent.

Parents who **OBJECT** to the disclosure of any directory information about their student should write a letter to the principal. This letter should specify the particular categories of directory information that the parents do not wish to have released about their child or the particular types of outside organizations to which they do not wish directory information to be released. This letter must be received by the school district no later than September 1st.

### **Non-Directory Information**

All of the other personally identifiable information about students that is contained in this school district's education records will generally not be disclosed to anyone outside the school system except under one of two circumstances: (1) in accordance with the provisions of the FERPA statutes and related administrative regulations, or (2) in accordance with the parent's written instructions.

## **Transfer of Records Upon Student Enrollment**

Upon request, the school discloses education records without consent to officials of another school district in which a student seeks or intends to enroll. The school is not obligated to inform parents when it makes a disclosure under this provision.

## **Complaints**

Individuals who wish to file a complaint with the U.S. Department of Education concerning alleged failures by the School to comply with the requirements of FERPA may contact the Office that administers FERPA:

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

## **Student Class Requirements**

### **REQUIREMENTS FOR JUNIOR HIGH STUDENTS**

Junior High students will have to pass a minimum of 110 credits or a minimum amount of credits approved by the school administration during their 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade years to move on to high school. This would include 60 units from core classes and 50 units from electives or satisfy their IEP.

### **HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS**

1. All students will be required to take at least 7 subjects per day for a 1-8 period day during the school year and a maximum of 1 study hall unless there are special circumstances. Any special circumstances must have prior approval of the principal.
2. The requirements for graduation are:
  - **English (Language Arts):**                      **40** credits required in 9th, 10th, 11th and 12th grade
  - **Speech:**    **5** credits required during 10th grade
  - **Mathematics:**                                      **30** credits required in 9th, 10th and 11th
  - Beginning with the 2011-2012 school year, the minimum math requirements will reflect the following to earn the 30 credits (requirements are for all incoming 9th grade students in fall 2011)
    - 9th Grade Students > Algebra I OR Pre-Algebra
    - 10th Grade Students > Geometry OR Algebra I

- 11th Grade Students > Algebra II OR Geometry
- 
- **Science:** **30** credits required 9th, 10th and 11th grades.

9th Grade Students >Physical Science

10th Grade Students > Biology

- **Social Studies:** **30** credits--Including 10 credits of American Government
- **Physical Education:** **10** credits
- **Health** **5** credits (beginning in 2012-2013 for all sophomores)
- **Business:** **10** credits—Info Tech I
- **Electives:** **90** credits--Must pass a minimum of 90 credits

250 credits are required for graduation. Commencement ceremonies will be conducted for graduates and eligible attendees. The majority of our classes that are offered are scheduled to be offered on a year long basis. If a student is enrolled in a class of this type then at the end of the first semester decides to drop the class, the student will receive credit for the semester taken. If the class dropped is a requirement for graduation, that class will have to be retaken for the semester dropped.

### **Tardiness**

A little late is too late. Tardiness is usually created by a lack of planning or caring. Students are expected to be prompt and on time. Students who are tardy in the morning will be issued a tardy pass by the office to their first period class. Students must have a pass prior to attending any class if they are late. Teachers will address and record tardiness to all other classes during the school day. Students arriving to school after 8:05-will be considered tardy. If a student misses more than 1/3 of a given period (including the ACCESS period), they will be considered as absent. Detention will be served after three incidents of tardiness for any particular class, to be served in the classroom.

### **Telephone Calls**

The school's telephone may be used only with permission of staff. Students are not permitted to use cellular telephones during school hours or on school property without the express permission of a member of the staff.

### **Threat Assessment and Response**

The board of education is committed to providing a safe environment for members of the school community. Students, staff and patrons are urged to immediately report any statements or behavior that makes the observer fearful or uncomfortable about the safety of the school environment.

#### **1. Obligation to Report threatening Statements or Behaviors.**

All staff and students must report any threatening statements or behavior to a member of the administration. Staff and students must make such report regardless of the nature of the relationship between the individual who initiated the threat or threatening behavior and the person(s) who were threatened or who were the focus of the threatening behavior. Staff and students must also make such reports regardless of where or when the threat was made or the threatening behavior occurred.

THREATS OR ASSAULTS WHICH REQUIRE IMMEDIATE INTERVENTION SHOULD BE REPORTED TO THE POLICE AT 911.

#### **2. Threat Assessment Investigation and Response**

All reports of violent, threatening, stalking or other behavior or statements which could be interpreted as posing a threat to school safety will immediately be forwarded to the superintendent. Upon receipt of an initial report of any threat, the superintendent will take steps to verify the information, make an initial assessment, and document any decision involving further action. This investigation may include interviews with the person who made the statement(s) or engaged in the behavior of concern, interviews with teachers and other staff members who may have information about the individual of concern, interviews with the target(s) of the threatening statements or behavior, interviews of family members, physical searches of the individual of concern's person, possessions, and home (as allowed by law and in cooperation with law enforcement), and any other investigatory methods that the superintendent determines to be reasonable and useful.

At the conclusion of the investigation, the superintendent will determine what, if any, response to the threat is appropriate. The superintendent is authorized to disclose the results of his/her investigation to law enforcement and to the target(s) of any threatened acts. The superintendent may refer the individual of concern to the appropriate school administrator for consequences under the school's student discipline policy or, if appropriate, report the results of his/her investigation to the student's individualized education plan team.

### 3. Communication with the Public about Reported Threats

To the extent possible, the team will keep members of the school community informed about possible threats and about the team's response to those threats. This communication may include oral announcements, written communication sent home with students, and communication through print or broadcast media. However, the team will not reveal the identity of the individual of concern or of any target(s) of threatened violence if that individual is a minor.

## **Transportation Services**

The district operates school buses as a convenience for students and parents. They represent a substantial investment, and students are expected to care for and respect them.

### **Transportation to School**

Students who ride the bus to school will arrive in time for them to eat breakfast at school. Parents must contact their bus driver if a student will not ride the bus on a given day. Bus drivers endeavor to adhere to their schedule, and will wait for riders only a short period of time so as not to jeopardize the time remaining for the rest of their schedule.

Non-resident or option enrollment students may ride the buses, if their transport does not interfere with the efficient and economical operation of the transportation schedule, but they may be charged a reasonable fee to be established by the board of education. The Superintendent will schedule bus routes, and questions concerning them should be directed to that office. The superintendent, in consultation with the transportation director, will make the final determination regarding whether or not the transport of non-resident or option enrollment students is feasible for the school district.



## **Bus Regulations**

Riding school vehicles is a privilege, not a right. The bus drivers have the same authority as teachers while transporting students. Students must comply with the following rules and all school conduct rules and directives while riding in school vehicles. In addition, students must also comply with the student code of conduct while riding in school vehicles. If misconduct is recurring, the student will not be allowed to ride the bus.

### **a) Rules of Conduct on School Vehicles:**

- 1) Students must obey the driver promptly.
- 2) Students must wait in a safe place for the bus to arrive, clear of traffic and away from where the vehicle stops.
- 3) Students are prohibited from fighting, engaging in bullying, harassment or horseplay.
- 4) Students must enter the bus without crowding or disturbing others and go directly to their assigned seats.
- 5) Students must remain seated and keep aisles and exits clear while the vehicle is moving.
- 6) Students are prohibited from throwing or passing objects on, from, or into vehicles.
- 7) Students may not use profane language, obscene gestures, tobacco, alcohol, drugs or any other controlled substance on the vehicles.
- 8) Students may not carry weapons, look-a-like weapons, hazardous materials, nuisance items or animals onto the vehicle.
- 9) Students may carry on conversations in ordinary tones, but may not be loud or boisterous and should avoid talking to the driver while the vehicle is in motion. Students must be absolutely quiet when the vehicle approaches a railroad crossing and any time the driver calls for quiet.
- 10) Students may not open windows without permission from the driver. Students may not dangle any item (e.g. legs, arms, backpacks) out of the windows.
- 11) Student must secure any item or items that could break or produce injury if tossed about the inside of the vehicle if the vehicle were involved in an accident
- 12) Student must respect the rights and safety of others at all times.

- 13) Students must help keep the vehicle clean, sanitary and orderly. Students must remove all personal items and trash upon exiting.
- 14) Students may not leave or board the vehicle at locations other than the assigned stops at home or school unless approved prior to departure by the superintendent or designee.
- 15) Video cameras may be placed on buses, at random, to monitor student behavior on the bus.

b) **Consequences**

Drivers must promptly report all student misconduct to the administration. These reports may be oral or written. Students who violate the Rules for Conduct will be referred to their building principal for discipline. Disciplinary consequences may include a note home to parents, suspension of bus riding privileges, exclusion from extracurricular activities, in-school suspension, short term or long term suspension from school, and/or expulsion.

These consequences are not progressive, and school officials have discretion to impose any listed punishment they deem appropriate, in accordance with state and federal law and board policy.

c) **Records**

Records of vehicle misconduct will be forwarded to the appropriate building principal and will be maintained in the same manner as other student discipline records. Reports of serious misconduct may be forwarded to law enforcement.

Requests to be dropped off at a point **not** on the regular route will not be accommodated, unless extenuating circumstances arise and the request is approved by the transportation director or administration.

Parents of students who are not regular route riders and plan to have their students ride the bus home with a friend or family member are strongly encouraged to communicate those travel plans to the school office and to the regular route driver. Ideally, the parent should provide the written permission to the office and the route driver which includes the date, the non-route rider's name, the signature of the non-rider's parent, and the place approved for drop

off. Parents communicating this information to the school office and the route driver will help everyone develop a common understanding and avoid confusion. It will also ensure there is not overcrowding on the regular routes.

### **Transportation to Activities**

The school district provides transportation to students who are participating in school-sponsored events and they must ride to those events in a school vehicle. Students who wish to take private transportation home from a school event must submit a release form to the sponsor which has been signed by that student's parent.

### **Video Surveillance and Photographs**

The Board of Education has authorized the use of video cameras on school district property to ensure the health, welfare and safety of all staff, students and visitors, and to safeguard District facilities and equipment. Video cameras may be used in locations deemed appropriate by the Superintendent. If a video surveillance recording captures a student or other building user violating school policies or rules or local, state, or federal laws, it may be used in appropriate disciplinary proceedings against the student or other building user and may also be provided to law enforcement agencies.

The school district generally prohibits students from taking photographs or making video recordings on school grounds, in a school vehicle, or at a school event except as provided in this policy or as otherwise required by law. Students may take photographs and make video recordings only after receiving permission from the building principal or superintendent. An exception will be made to this policy if photographs or video recordings are necessary to accommodate a student's disability or are required by the student's Individualized Education Plan (IEP) or Section 504 Plan. In no event shall photographs or video recordings be taken or made in restrooms, locker rooms, or other areas where there is a reasonable expectation of privacy. Students who violate this policy may be subject to discipline up to and including expulsion.

### **Weather-Related School Closing**

The Superintendent will occasionally announce an emergency early school dismissal, late start, or cancellation of school due to extreme heat, snow or ice. School closings will be announced on NTV Television Network and through the School Messenger Alert System. Parents should assume that school is open and a regular schedule is being followed if there is no announcement

concerning the school district. Please do not call the school or individual staff members to find out whether school is being canceled. Parents who do not believe it is safe to transport their students to school may keep their students home after contacting the district office.

If schools are closed due to severe weather conditions, all after-school activities will be canceled.

### **Withdrawal from School**

Students who are moving from the district must notify the school office.

### **Work Permits**

The building principal or other authorized school official shall be responsible for the issuance of work permits for children in accordance with state law.

## **SECTION TWO**

### **ACADEMIC INFORMATION**

#### **Certificate of Attendance**

To qualify for a Certificate of Attendance, which will be awarded at the commencement exercises, a student must attend four complete years of high school.

#### **Class Rank**

Student class rank shall be determined by using a numeric grade point average derived from all classes graded on a numeric basis. To be included in the class ranking, a student must have received a numeric grade for each core curriculum class in which he/she was enrolled. For the purposes of this policy, core curriculum shall include all courses in the areas of language arts, mathematics, science, and social studies.

Students who transfer into the school district will be eligible to be included in class ranking after two semesters of attendance.

Students who transfer into the school district in middle of their senior year will be eligible to be included in class ranking, although a mid-year transfer will not displace the ranking of a student who has not transferred mid-year. In those circumstances there will be two students holding the relevant class ranking. Mid-year transfer students will not be eligible to receive senior awards such as valedictorian and salutatorian unless the student has been enrolled in the district's high school for the last two semesters.

#### **Credit for Non-Academic Work**

Credit is not awarded for participation in extracurricular activities such as sports, speech, drama, etc. However, all such activities in which the student participates, as well as honors earned, are noted on the student's permanent record.

#### **Correspondence and Online Courses**

The district will not be liable for the costs of correspondence or online courses, unless otherwise approved by the board of education.

## **Grades**

Students will receive letter grades for their academic core classes.

A+	98-100	Superior 4.00	B+	90-92	Excellent 3.50
A	95-97	Superior 4.00	B	88-89	Excellent 3.00
A-	93-94	Superior 3.75	B-	85-87	Excellent 2.75
C+	82-84	Average 2.50	D+	75-77	Needs Additional Help 1.50
C	80-81	Average 2.50	D	72-74	Needs Additional Help 1.00
C-	78-80	Average 1.75	D-	70-71	Needs Additional Help .75
F	0-69	Failure of Subject 0.00			Incomplete 0.00
NG	No Grade				P - Pass 0.00

A student may earn an incomplete when he or she fails to complete classroom assignments. Any student in grades 7-11 who receives an incomplete will have this grade recorded on his/her permanent record until the required work is completed to the teacher's satisfaction. If a student does not remove an incomplete by completing the minimum classroom assignments, the incomplete will be calculated as a failing grade in determining the student's grade point average.

If a student does not remove an incomplete by completing the necessary work within two weeks of the end of the grading period, the incomplete will become a failing grade which the student may make up only by taking the entire course again. The two-week period may be extended by mutual agreement of the teacher, principal, and student.

A student who receives an incomplete during his/her senior year must satisfactorily complete the classroom assignments to participate in the graduation ceremony. Seniors with incompletes will not be dismissed from school attendance until the classroom assignments are completed to the teacher's satisfaction.

## **Graduation Awards**

Graduating seniors will be awarded for their academic achievements during the annual commencement activities. The winners of these awards will be determined on the basis of student academic achievement.

The valedictorian and salutatorian of the graduating class shall be the students with the highest and second highest cumulative percentage grade

point averages respectively in curriculum course work completed in grades nine through twelve. These students will receive their awards during commencement exercises.

## **Graduation Requirements**

1. All students will be required to take at least 7 subjects per day for a 1-9 period day during the school year and a maximum of 1 study hall unless there are special circumstances. Any special circumstances must have prior approval of the principal.

2. The requirements for graduation are:

- **English (Language Arts):** **40** credits required in 9th, 10th, 11th and 12th grade
- **Speech:** **5** credits required during 10th grad
- **Mathematics:** **30** credits required in 9th, 10th and 11th
- Beginning with the 2011-2012 school year, the minimum math requirements will reflect the following to earn the 30 credits (requirements are for all incoming 9th grade students in fall 2011)
  - 9th Grade Students > Algebra I OR Pre-Algebra
  - 10th Grade Students > Geometry OR Algebra I
  - 11th Grade Students > Algebra II OR Geometry
- **Science:** **30** credits required 9th, 10th and 11th grades.

9th Grade Students > Physical Science

10th Grade Students > Biology

- **Social Studies:** **30** credits--Including 10 credits of American Government
- **Physical Education:** **10** credits
- **Health** **5** credits (beginning in 2012-2013 for all sophomores)
- **Business:** **10** credits—Info Tech I
- **Electives:** **90** credits--Must pass a minimum of 90 credits

250 credits are required for graduation. Commencement ceremonies will be conducted for graduates and eligible attendees. The majority of our classes that are offered are scheduled to be offered on a year-long basis. If a student is enrolled in a class of this type then at the end of the first semester decides to drop the class, the student will receive credit for the semester taken. If

the class dropped is a requirement for graduation, that class will have to be retaken for the semester dropped.

Transfer students must meet the minimum hour requirement for graduation both in terms of total number and specific subject areas. Substitutions may be made for deficiencies in required courses, provided that it was not possible to include the courses on the student's schedule while enrolled at this school district.

Students who receive special education services are mainstreamed into the regular education curriculum when appropriate. The curriculum content of regular education classes may be modified to accommodate the individual needs and abilities of verified special education students. Each curriculum modification will be included on the student's Individual Education Plan by the Multidisciplinary Team and/or school staffing teams composed of special and regular education staff. Hours in special education will be counted toward a high school diploma.

Parents of students who may not qualify for their high school diploma because of academic deficiencies will be notified of this possibility by the beginning of the second semester of the student's senior year.

### **Homework**

Classroom teachers will often assign homework. Parents who have questions about homework or concerns about class work should contact the teacher. Questions not resolved by the teacher should be referred to the administration.

Each student is expected to spend some time preparing for studies outside of school hours. The amount of time that is needed will depend upon each student. The APL Instructional model provides a guideline that time spent on homework should be approximately 10 minutes x Grade level (i.e. 3rd grade = 30 min).

Students who struggle to complete assignments or who must spend an inordinate amount of time completing an assignment should seek the help and advice of their teachers and consult with the principal and/or the guidance counselor.



## **Honor Roll**

Roll of Excellence: Average that falls between 97.00 and 100.00. No grade below a 70.00. Roll of Honor: Average that falls between 93.00 and 96.9999. No grade below a 70.00.

## **Honor Days Rewards**

The purpose of this program is to recognize those students who have worked to achieve to the best of their ability in all facets of school. This includes student behavior. The administration will maintain the authority to deny the request for an honor day for any reason that the administration deems appropriate. Students who work diligently deserve to be rewarded for their hard work. This program may be utilized only by students in grades 9-12.

1. At the end of each nine weeks, students who reach the "Roll of Excellence" honor roll will earn a ½ day release time from school.
2. At the end of the semester, students who make the "Roll of Honor" honor roll for both nine weeks or who make the "Roll of Honor" honor roll for one of nine weeks and the semester "Roll of honor" honor roll will earn ½ day release time from school.
3. Students earning release time must request and fill out the release form, signed by their parents, and file it with the principal designating the day or ½ day they plan to be gone from school. Students must take release time in ½ or full days; four periods constitute ½ day. The form must be returned to the principal prior to taking the Honor Day or the absences will be counted as an "unexcused absence". Students may not use an honor day if they are failing a class. All grades must be passing.
4. All work must be made up before students can take release time. Once the work is handed in, the teachers will then sign the release form.
5. Students will not be counted absent during release time.
6. Students may only earn two full days of release time per year and can only carry over a maximum of two release days into the next school year.
7. Students who are over the attendance limit for a semester cannot use honor days.

### **Mid-Term Graduation**

Students are generally required to attend four years of high school (minimum of seven semesters) to be eligible to receive a diploma from the school district.

The Board of Education, upon receiving administrative recommendation, may grant mid-term exit from high school to students who have completed the requirements for graduation. To be considered for mid-term exit from high school, the student and his/her parents or guardian should apply during the first quarter of the student's senior year. The Board of Education will act on all requests. Any student who is granted mid-term exit from high school forfeits all privileges of high school enrollment, except the right to participate in commencement exercises.

### **Report Cards**

Report cards are sent home the week following the end of the nine-week reporting period.

### **Study Halls**

A study hall is maintained each period of the day for students not having classes that period. This is a place for study and, consequently, quiet must be maintained. All students are to be in their seats and in order when the tardy bell begins to ring. To assist in maintaining more uniform study halls, the following regulations have been listed and are to be in effect in all study halls.

1. Student must sit in an assigned seat when coming into the room.
2. Students must get a tardy slip if late for study hall.
3. Roll shall be taken and recorded.
4. The study hall must be quiet.
5. Students must have studies to work on or material to read with them upon arrival.
6. Students shall not talk or whisper except with the teacher's permission.
7. Students wishing to study together may do so with the teacher's permission.
8. Sleeping will not be allowed.
9. Students shall not have their feet on the furniture nor re-arrange the furniture.
10. No more than one student at a time may go to the restroom, unless an emergency arises.

11. Students shall not leave unless in possession of a student pass from a teacher.
12. Study hall teachers may issue a student a pass to see another teacher. Students are encouraged to pre-arrange visits to classroom teachers during study hall by securing a pass from the teacher they wish to see during the study hall, before reporting to study hall.
13. A student pass may be issued to a student to go to the administration or guidance offices if it is necessary.
14. No food, pop, or candy is allowed in study halls.
15. No online computer games unless it is an educational program approved by the instructor or administration.
16. Ear buds may be worn with the permission of the supervising instructor only. iPods and other music devices are prohibited.

## **SECTION THREE**

### **STUDENT DISCIPLINE**

#### **General Discipline Philosophy**

The school district has the authority to discipline students who behave inappropriately on the way to school, at school, during lunch, on the way home, and at all school activities (home and away or any time while on school or district property).

The school district's discipline is guided by the following principles:

1. The school district's discipline policy is intended to ensure that students take responsibility for their behavior.
2. Behavior expectations and the consequences for failing to meet those expectations will be clearly communicated to all students and their parents.
3. The severity of consequences for violating behavior expectations will generally be progressive in nature. That is, sanctions will increase with each instance of misconduct; however, each instance will be assessed on its own facts, and sanctions will be imposed based on the severity of the misconduct.
4. Parents play a vital role in supporting and reinforcing the school district's expectations of their students.
5. Behavior expectations apply to all students; consequences are enforced consistently without regard to a student's academic record or achievement.

Extracurricular activities including athletics, cheerleading, band, chorus, and club activities, are governed by the Student Activity Handbook. Students who are involved in extracurricular activities may face consequences related to the activity in addition to the consequences discussed in this handbook.

The school district reserves the right to refer to the appropriate non-school agency any act or conduct of its students which may constitute a crime under federal, state, county, or local law. The administration will cooperate with these agencies in their investigations.

#### **Forms of School Discipline**

Administrative and teaching personnel may take actions regarding student behavior which are reasonably necessary to aid the student, further school purposes, or prevent interference with the educational process. Such actions

may include, but need not be limited to, counseling of students, parent conferences, rearrangement of schedules, requirements that a student remain in school after regular hours to do additional work, restriction of extracurricular activity, or requirements that a student receive counseling, psychological evaluation, or psychiatric evaluation upon the written consent of a parent or guardian to such counseling or evaluation. The actions may also include in-school suspensions during the day. When in-school suspensions, after-school assignments, or other disciplinary measures are assigned, the student is responsible for complying with such disciplinary measures; and a failure to serve such assigned discipline as directed will serve as grounds for further discipline, up to expulsion from school. District administrators may develop building-specific protocols for the imposition of student discipline.

In this section, references to "Principal" shall include building principals, the principal's designee, or other appropriate school district administrators.

Any statement, notice, recommendation, determination, or similar action specified in this section shall be effectively given at the time written evidence thereof is delivered personally to or upon receipt of certified or registered mail or upon actual knowledge by a student or his or her parent or guardian.

Any student who is suspended or expelled from school pursuant to this section may not participate in any school activity during the duration of that exclusion including adjacent school holidays and weekends. The student activity eligibility of a student who is mandatorily reassigned shall be determined on a case-by-case basis by the principal of the building to which the student is reassigned.

### **After School Sessions and Detentions**

Teachers and administrators may require students to stay after school or to serve a detention when the student violates any of the rules contained in this handbook or violates classroom-specific conduct rules set by individual teachers.

Students who ride the bus home from school will be given a 24-hour notice of after-school time or a detention so that the parents may make plans to pick up the student the following day.

- After-school sessions will not exceed 30 minutes from the time of dismissal and are to be served in the teacher's room. A student who fails to attend an after school session may be given a detention by the teacher or may face additional disciplinary consequences up to and including long-term suspension and/or expulsion. A student who has a conflict with an after-school session is responsible for working it out with the teacher.
- Detentions are 30 minutes, served in the central office or the detention room designated by the building principal.

### **In-School Suspension**

The building administrator may require a student to serve in-school suspension. Students may be required to attend up to 7 hours per day of school-sponsored suspension a day at a designated location where they will study and participate in campus clean up. There will be zero tolerance for behavior problems from students placed in in-school suspension. Students not completing their in-school suspension will face further disciplinary action.

### **Emergency Exclusion**

Students may be emergency excluded from school pursuant to the board's separate policy on emergency exclusion or state law.

### **Short-Term Suspension**

The Principal or the Principal's designee may exclude a student from school or any school function for a period of up to five school days (short-term suspension) on the following grounds:

1. Conduct constituting grounds for expulsion as hereinafter set forth; or
2. Other violations of rules and standards of behavior adopted by the board of education or the administrative or teaching staff of the school, which occur on or off school grounds, if such conduct interferes with school purposes or there is a nexus between such conduct and school.

The following process will apply to short-term suspensions:

1. The Principal shall make a reasonable investigation of the facts and circumstances. Short-term suspension shall be imposed only after a determination that the suspension is necessary to help any student, to

further school purposes, or to prevent an interference with school purposes.

2. Prior to commencement of the short-term suspension, the student will be given oral or written notice of the charges against the student. The student will be advised of what he/she is accused of having done, an explanation of the evidence the authorities have, and an opportunity to explain his/her version of the facts.
3. Within 24 hours or such additional time as is reasonably necessary following the suspension, the Principal will send a written statement to the student and the student's parent or guardian, describing the student's conduct, misconduct or violation of the rule or standard and the reasons for the action taken. An opportunity will be given to the student, and the student's parent or guardian, to have a conference with the Principal ordering the short-term suspension before or at the time the student returns to school. The Principal shall determine who, in addition to the parent or guardian, is to attend the conference.
4. Students who are short-term suspended will be given the opportunity to complete classwork, including but not limited to examinations, under the following conditions: all assignments due during the time of suspension will be finished/completed upon reentry to school.

### **Weapons and/or Firearms**

**Firearms.** No person may bring, possess, handle or transmit a firearm on school grounds, in a school owned vehicle, or at a school activity or event off school grounds except as permitted by this policy.

**Definition of Firearm.** The term firearm is defined as any object which is designed to or may readily be converted to expel any projectile by the action of an explosive or frame or receiver of any such weapon.

**Weapons.** Students and visitors under the age of 18 may not knowingly possess, handle, or transmit any weapon while on school grounds or at any school activity or event off school grounds except as permitted by this policy.

**Definition of Weapon.** The term weapon is defined as a firearm or any object or material that is ordinarily or generally considered a weapon.

**Exceptions Regarding Firearms.** This prohibition does not apply to (1) the issuance of firearms to or possession by members of the armed forces of the United States, active or reserve, National Guard of this state, or Reserve Officers Training Corps or peace officers or other daily authorized law enforcement officers when on duty or training, (2) firearms which may lawfully be possessed by a person who is receiving instruction at the school under the immediate supervision of an adult instructor, or (3) firearms contained within a private vehicle **operated by a non-student adult** which are not loaded and are encased or are in a locked firearm rack that is on a motor vehicle.

**Definition of encased.** The term encased shall mean enclosed in a case that is expressly made for the purpose of containing a firearm and that is completely zipped, snapped, buckled, tied, or otherwise fastened with no part of the firearm exposed.

**Exceptions for Students.** The only exceptions for a student to bring or possess a weapon, including a firearm, are as follows:

1. The firearm or weapon has been brought to school grounds or to an activity or event off school grounds for some educational purpose; and
2. The person bringing the firearm or weapon has requested and received the prior approval of both the instructor and the building principal to do so; and
3. All arrangements to use and store the firearm or weapon safely while it is on school premises have been agreed to and carried out.

**Consequences.** Federal Law requires that a student who brings a firearm onto school grounds be expelled from school for a year. State law and this policy provide that any student who violates this policy may be expelled for two semesters, suspended on a long - term basis or mandatory reassigned.

**Confiscation of Firearms.** Administrative and teaching personnel are statutorily authorized, without a warrant, to confiscate any firearm possessed in violation of this policy. By statute, any firearm which is confiscated by school personnel shall be delivered to a peace officer as soon as practicable. Such firearms are subject to being destroyed by law



enforcement authorities. All school personnel are required to report any violations of this policy to a principal or the superintendent of schools.

## **Long-Term Suspension**

Students may be excluded by the Principal from school or any school function for a period of more than five school days but less than twenty school days (long-term suspension) for any conduct constituting grounds for expulsion as hereinafter set forth. The process for long-term suspension is set forth below.

## **Expulsion**

1. **Meaning of Expulsion.** Expulsion means exclusion from attendance in all schools, grounds and activities of or within the system for a period not to exceed the remainder of the semester in which it took effect unless the misconduct occurred (a) within ten school days prior to the end of the first semester, in which case the expulsion shall remain in effect through the second semester, or (b) within ten school days prior to the end of the second semester, in which case the expulsion shall remain in effect for summer school and the first semester of the following school year, or (c) unless the expulsion is for conduct specified in these rules or in law as permitting or requiring a longer removal, in which case the expulsion shall remain in effect for the period specified therein. Such action may be modified or terminated by the school district at any time during the expulsion period.
2. **Summer Review.** Any expulsion that will remain in effect during the first semester of the following school year will be automatically scheduled for review before the beginning of the school year. The review will be conducted by the hearing officer who conducted the initial expulsion hearing, or a hearing officer appointed by the Superintendent in the event no hearing was previously held or the initial hearing officer is no longer available or willing to serve, after the hearing officer has given notice of the review to the student and the student's parent or guardian. This review shall be limited to newly discovered evidence or evidence of changes in the student's circumstances occurring since the original hearing. This review may

lead to a recommendation by the hearing officer that the student be readmitted for the upcoming school year. If the school board or board of education or a committee of such board took the final action to expel the student, the student may be readmitted only by action of the board. Otherwise the student may be readmitted by action of the Superintendent.

3. **Suspension of Enforcement of an Expulsion:** Enforcement of an expulsion action may be suspended (i.e., "stayed") for a period of not more than one full semester in addition to the balance of the semester in which the expulsion takes effect, and as a condition of such suspended action, the student may be assigned to a school, class, or program/plan and to such other consequences which the school district deems appropriate.
4. **Alternative School or Pre-expulsion Procedures:** The school shall either provide an alternative school, class or educational program for expelled students or shall follow the pre-expulsion procedures outlined in Neb. Rev. Stat. 79-266.

**Grounds for Short-Term Suspension, Long-Term Suspension, Expulsion or Mandatory Reassignment:**

The following conduct constitutes grounds for long-term suspension, expulsion, or mandatory reassignment, subject to the procedural provisions of the Student Discipline Act, Neb. Rev. Stat. § 79-254 through 79-296, when such activity occurs on school grounds, in a vehicle owned, leased, or contracted by a school being used for a school purpose or in a vehicle being driven for a school purpose by a school employee or by his or her designee, or at a school-sponsored activity or athletic event:

1. Use of violence, force, coercion, threat, intimidation, or similar conduct in a manner that constitutes a substantial interference with school purposes;
2. Willfully causing or attempting to cause substantial damage to property, stealing or attempting to steal property of substantial value, or repeated damage or theft involving property;
3. Causing or attempting to cause personal injury to a school employee, to a school volunteer, or to any student. Personal injury caused by accident, self-defense, or other action undertaken on the reasonable

belief that it was necessary to protect some other person shall not constitute a violation of this subdivision;

4. Threatening or intimidating any student for the purpose of or with the intent of obtaining money or anything of value from such student;
5. Knowingly possessing, handling, or transmitting any object or material that is ordinarily or generally considered a weapon (*see also board policy on weapons and firearms*);
6. Engaging in the unlawful possession, selling, dispensing, or use of a controlled substance or an imitation controlled substance, as defined in section 28-401, a substance represented to be a controlled substance, or alcoholic liquor as defined in section 53-103.02 or being under the influence of a controlled substance or alcoholic liquor (*note: the term "under the influence" for school purposes has a less strict meaning than it does under criminal law; for school purposes, the term means any level of impairment and includes even the odor of alcohol on the breath or person of a student; also, it includes being impaired by reason of the abuse of any material used as a stimulant*);
7. Public indecency as defined in section 28-806, except that this prohibition shall apply only to students at least twelve years of age but less than nineteen years of age;
8. Engaging in bullying as defined in section 79-2,137 and in these policies;
9. Sexually assaulting or attempting to sexually assault any person if a complaint has been filed by a prosecutor in a court of competent jurisdiction alleging that the student has sexually assaulted or attempted to sexually assault any person, including sexual assaults or attempted sexual assaults which occur off school grounds not at a school function, activity, or event. For purposes of this subdivision, sexual assault means sexual assault in the first degree as defined in section 28-319, sexual assault in the second degree as defined in section 28-320, sexual assault of a child in the second or third degree as defined in section 28-320.01, or sexual assault of a child in the first degree as defined in section 28-319.01, as such sections now provide or may hereafter from time to time be amended;
10. Engaging in any other activity forbidden by the law of the State of Nebraska which activity constitutes a danger to other students or interferes with school purposes; or
11. A repeated violation of any of the following rules if such violations

constitute a substantial interference with school purposes:

- a. The use of language, written or oral, or conduct, including gestures, which is profane or abusive to students or staff members. Profane or abusive language or conduct includes, but is not limited to, that which is commonly understood and intended to be derogatory toward a group or individual based upon race, sex, national origin, or religion;
- b. Dressing or grooming in a manner which violates the school district's dress code and/or is dangerous to the student's health and safety, a danger to the health and safety of others, or which is disruptive, distracting or indecent to the extent that it interferes with the learning and educational process;
- c. Violating school bus rules as set by the school district or district staff;
- d. Possessing, using, selling, or dispensing tobacco, drug paraphernalia, or a tobacco imitation substance or packaging, regardless of form, including cigarettes, chewing tobacco, and any other form of tobacco or imitation, such as electronic cigarettes, vapor pens, etc.;
- e. Possessing, using, selling, or dispensing any drug paraphernalia or imitation of a controlled substance regardless of whether the actual substance possessed is a controlled substance by Nebraska law;
- f. Possession of pornography;
- g. Sexting or the possession of sexting images (a combination of sex and texting - the act of sending sexually explicit messages or photos electronically);
- h. Engaging in hazing, defined as any activity expected of someone joining a group, team, or activity that humiliates, degrades or risks emotional and/or physical harm, regardless of the person's willingness to participate. Hazing activities are generally considered to be: physically abusive, hazardous, and/or sexually violating and include but are not limited to the following: personal servitude; sleep deprivation and restrictions on personal hygiene; yelling, swearing and insulting new members/rookies; being forced to wear embarrassing or humiliating attire in public; consumption of vile substances or smearing of such on one's skin; branding; physical beatings;

binge drinking and drinking games; sexual stimulation and sexual assault;

- i. Bullying which shall include cyber-bullying, defined as the use of the internet, including but not limited to social networking sites such as Facebook, cell phones or other devices to send, post or text message images and material intended to hurt or embarrass another person. This may include, but is not limited to; continuing to send e-mail to someone who has said they want no further contact with the sender; sending or posting threats, sexual remarks or pejorative labels (i.e., hate speech); ganging up on victims by making them the subject of ridicule in forums, and posting false statements as fact intended to humiliate the victim; disclosure of personal data, such as the victim's real name, address, or school at websites or forums; posing as the identity of the victim for the purpose of publishing material in their name that defames or ridicules them; sending threatening and harassing text, instant messages or emails to the victims; and posting or sending rumors or gossip to instigate others to dislike and gang up on the target;
- j. Violation of the district's computer acceptable computer use policy are subject to discipline, up to and including expulsion; and
- k. Any other violation of a rule or regulation established by a school district staff member pursuant to authority delegated by the board.

The length of any suspension, expulsion, or mandatory reassignment shall be as provided or allowed by law.

### **Due Process Afforded to Students Facing Long-term Suspension or Expulsion**

The following procedures shall be followed with regard to any long-term suspension, expulsion or mandatory reassignment.

1. On the date of the decision to discipline, the Principal shall file with the Superintendent a written charge and a summary of the evidence supporting such charge.

2. The Principal shall serve the student and the student's parents or guardian with a written notice by registered or certified mail or personal service within two school days of the date of the decision to recommend long-term suspension or expulsion. The notice shall include the following:
  - a. The rule or standard of conduct allegedly violated and the acts of the student alleged to constitute a cause for long-term suspension, expulsion, or mandatory reassignment, including a summary of the evidence to be presented against the student;
  - b. The penalty, if any, which the principal has recommended in the charge and any other penalty to which the student may be subject;
  - c. A statement that, before long-term suspension, expulsion, or mandatory reassignment for disciplinary purposes can be invoked, the student has a right to a hearing, upon request, on the specified charges;
  - d. A description of the hearing procedures provided by the act, along with procedures for appealing any decision rendered at the hearing;
  - e. A statement that the principal, legal counsel for the school, the student, the student's parent, or the student's representative or guardian has the right (i) to examine the student's academic and disciplinary records and any affidavits to be used at the hearing concerning the alleged misconduct and (ii) to know the identity of the witnesses to appear at the hearing and the substance of their testimony; and
  - f. A form on which the student, the student's parent, or the student's guardian may request a hearing, to be signed by such parties and delivered to the principal or superintendent in person or by registered or certified mail.
3. When a notice of intent to discipline a student by long-term suspension, expulsion, or mandatory reassignment is filed with the superintendent, the student may be suspended by the principal until

the date the long-term suspension, expulsion, or mandatory reassignment takes effect if no hearing is requested or, if a hearing is requested, the date the hearing examiner makes the report of his or her findings and a recommendation of the action to be taken to the superintendent, if the principal determines that the student must be suspended immediately to prevent or substantially reduce the risk of (a) interference with an educational function or school purpose or (b) a personal injury to the student himself or herself, other students, school employees, or school volunteers.

4. Nothing in this policy shall preclude the student, student's parents, guardian or representative from discussing and settling the matter with appropriate school personnel prior to the hearing stage.
5. If a hearing is requested within five days after receipt of the notice, the Superintendent shall appoint a hearing officer who shall follow the "hearing procedures" outlined below.
6. If a hearing is requested more than five school days following the receipt of the written notice, but not more than thirty calendar days after receipt, the Superintendent shall appoint a hearing officer who shall follow the "hearing procedures" outlined below, except that the time constraints set forth may differ as provided by law and this policy. The student shall be entitled to a hearing but the consequence imposed may continue in effect pending final determination.
7. If a request for hearing is not received within thirty calendar days following the mailing or delivery of the written notice, the student shall not be entitled to a hearing.

In the event a hearing is requested, the hearing, hearing procedures, the student's rights and any appeals or judicial review permitted by law shall be governed by the applicable provisions of the Nebraska Student Discipline Act (Neb. Rev. Stat. § 79-254 to 79-294). The school district will provide parents with copies of the relevant statutes upon request.

## SECTION FOUR

### STAFF DIRECTORY

#### Members of the Board of Education:

Misti Fiddelke ..... President  
Tara Schirmer..... Vice-President  
Dawn Standage .....Secretary  
Larry Behrendt..... Member  
Marilyn Bohn..... Member  
Marc Vacek..... Member

#### Administrative Staff:

Dr. Ken Schroeder .....Superintendent  
Mr. Brad Kjar ..... High School Principal  
Mr. Paul Anderson ..... Elementary Principal

#### Teaching Staff:

Lisa Anderson.....Speech Pathologist  
Michelle Abels.....Grade One  
Heath Ahrens.....Agricultural Education  
Libby Clark.....Art  
Sara Bock.....Grade Two  
Wayne Bock.....Special Education  
Mikki Bohling.....Speech Path  
Dan Bolling.....Grade Six  
Brandy Brodersen.....Special Education  
Tiffani Drabek.....Grade Three  
Angie Drahota.....Counselor, K-12  
Karalee Fiddelke.....Nurse  
Caley Greer.....Kindergarten  
Haley Greer.....Grade Fifth  
James Habe.....Grade Four  
Paige Havranek.....English, Journalism  
Erin Jarvi.....Grade Three  
Tiffany Jacobsen.....Social Studies  
Kelley Jarzynka.....Science/Robotics  
Lisa Jones.....Preschool  
Becky Keilig.....Media Specialist/Assessment Coordinator



Katie Lewandowski .....	Grade One
Julie Maulsby.....	English, Reading
Noah Maulsby.....	Social Studies
Adam Mingus.....	Math
Teresa Mingus.....	Elem & High School Music/Band
Sherry Nelson.....	Grade Four
Elijah Neitzel.....	Business
Melodie Nozicka.....	Grade Five
Sonya Rasmussen.....	Life Skills
Dawn Reicks.....	Grade Two
Dominic Reicks.....	Industrial Arts/Activities Director
Michelle Riens.....	Grade Six
Stephanie Rodenborg.....	Science, Health
Tony Schirmer.....	Math
Abby Sorensen.....	Kindergarten
Judy Strate.....	Science
Jeff Thober.....	P.E. Elem. & High School
Rhonda Vertrovsky.....	English
Korina Wick.....	Instructional Coach
Cindy Wilke.....	Special Education
Alison Yendra.....	Spanish
Teresa Zinnel.....	Special Education

### **Para Professionals**

Brenda Adams, Angie Barent, Denise Bochart, Judith Dunning(elementary librarian), Cindy Habe, Terry Hervert, Kyle Moore, Julie McGuigan, Doris Russell, Vickie Sieczkowski, Victoria Tonniges, Stephanie Yost, Jean Luth

**Support Staff:**

**Office Staff**

Hilary Bolling .....	Bookkeeper
Shari Spaulding.....	Principal's/Superintendent's Secretary
Pat Shrader .....	Payroll/HR/Benefits
Lacey Rager .....	Elementary Secretary

**Child Nutrition Program**

Lynda Endecott - Manager	Nancy Chizek
Chris Bruning	Marcie Gross
Violet Wiese	

**Custodians**

Dan Cyboron (head)	Ruth Bergmeier	Kristi Hagge
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**Transportation Department**

Groundskeeper/Transportation - Todd VanWinkle

**Bus Drivers**

Cheryl Deines	Peg Dethlefs
Steve Luth	Iris Luth
Mary Pernicek	Gary Psota

(Substitutes: Heidi Downer, Cindy Grimes, Jill Manring)

# SCHOOL CALENDAR SECTION FIVE

## RAVENNA PUBLIC SCHOOLS

# 2016-17

July 2016						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

August 2016						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

September 2016						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	

October 2016						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

November 2016						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30			

December 2016						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

July 11	Board Meeting
Aug 6	Board Meeting
Aug 11-12	Teacher In-Service/Work Day
Aug 15	First Day of School - Noon Dismissal
Sep 5	Labor Day
Sep 12	Board Meeting
Sep 16	Teacher In-Service
Oct 10	Board Meeting
Oct 14	End of First Quarter
Oct 21	Fall Break, No School
Nov 4	Teacher In-Service
Nov 14	Board Meeting
Nov 23	Noon Dismissal
Nov 24-25	Thanksgiving Vacation
Nov 28	District Play - No School (Tentative)
Dec 2	Wrestling Invite, Noon Dismissal
Dec 12	Board Meeting
Dec 20	End of First Semester
Dec 21 - Jan 3	Christmas Break
Jan 3	Teacher In-Service/Work Day
Jan 4	School Resumes
Jan 9	Board Meeting
Feb 3	Teacher In-Service
Feb 13	Board Meeting
Mar 9-10	Spring Break
Mar 13	Board Meeting
Mar 17	End of Third Quarter
Apr 10	Board Meeting
Apr 13	Ravenna Track Meet - Noon Dismissal
Apr 14-17	Easter Break
May 8	Board Meeting
May 13	Graduation
May 24	Last Day of School, Noon Dismissal
May 25	Teacher Workday
Jun 12	Board Meeting

January 2017						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

February 2017						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28				

March 2017						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

April 2017						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30						

May 2017						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

June 2017						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	

Student and Teacher Days			
1st Qtr	Student: 43	Teacher: 46	
2nd Qtr	Student: 42	Teacher: 43	
3rd Qtr	Student: 50	Teacher: 52	
4th Qtr	Student: 46	Teacher: 47	
Totals	Student: 181	Teacher: 188	

	School Day		Parent Teacher Conferences
	School Closed		First/Last Day of School - Noon Dismissal
	2:00 Dismissal		Noon Dismissal
	Board Meeting		Graduation
	Teacher In-Service (no school for students)		
	Tentative Non-School Day		

## **FORMS**

This section contains forms which students and their parents must complete and return to the school office **NO LATER THAN August 22, 2016.**

## RECEIPT

This Student Handbook is distributed in accordance with Nebraska State Law, Section 79-262, paragraph three which states in part: "Rules and Standards which form the basis for discipline shall be distributed to students and parents at the beginning of each school year or at the time of enrollment..."

***Parents (or guardians) and students are required to sign & return the receipt form below and return it to the school office before August 22, 2016.***

### PARENT/STUDENT AGREEMENT

I have received and read the Student Handbook or reviewed the electronic copy of the Student Handbook on the school's website that describes the Ravenna School District's discipline policies, regulations, rules, and expectations to be followed by students enrolled in the Ravenna Public Schools, including the Drug Free School Policy & Computer Network Use by Students. My child and I have discussed these policies and understand that we must comply with them.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Student's Signature                      Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Parent/Guardian's Signature      Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Social Security Number

\_\_\_\_\_  
Cell Phone Number (Optional)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Parent's Email Address (Optional)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Parent's Email Address (Optional)

## STUDENT CENSUS SHEET

Student's Name (Print) \_\_\_\_\_ Student Grade \_\_\_\_\_

Place of Birth (town and state) \_\_\_\_\_ Male \_\_\_\_\_ Female \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Birth \_\_\_\_\_ Social Security Number \_\_\_\_\_

Parent's Name \_\_\_\_\_ Home Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_

Cell #'s (Dad's) \_\_\_\_\_ (Mom's) \_\_\_\_\_

Emergency Number \_\_\_\_\_ e-mail address \_\_\_\_\_

Home Address \_\_\_\_\_ Town \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Last School Attended \_\_\_\_\_  
(School) (Address) (City) (State) (Zip)

Parents/Guardian Work (Dad's) \_\_\_\_\_ (Mom's) \_\_\_\_\_

Place \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone No. \_\_\_\_\_

Contact person besides Parent \_\_\_\_\_ Phone # \_\_\_\_\_

Family Physician \_\_\_\_\_ Phone no. \_\_\_\_\_ Hospital Preference \_\_\_\_\_

Race: (**Choose one**) Asian/Pacific \_\_\_\_\_ Black \_\_\_\_\_ Hispanic \_\_\_\_\_ Am. Indian \_\_\_\_\_ White \_\_\_\_\_ Other \_\_\_\_\_

(Definitions are below)

### Race Ethnicity

**White, Not Hispanic** – A person having origins in any of the original peoples of Europe, North Africa, or the Middle East.

**Asian or Pacific Islander** - A person having origins in any of the original peoples of the Far East, Southeast Asia, the Indian subcontinent, or Pacific Islands. This area includes, for example, China, Japan, Korea, the Philippine Islands, Samoa, India, and Vietnam.

**Hispanic** – A person of Mexican, Puerto Rican, Cuban, Central or South American, or other Spanish culture or origin, regardless of race.

**American Indian/Alaska Native** – A person having origins in any of the original peoples of North America, or who maintains cultural identification through tribal affiliation or community recognition.

**Black, Not Hispanic** – A person having origins in any of the black racial groups of Africa

Parent's Signature \_\_\_\_\_

**PARENTAL AUTHORIZATION AND RELEASE FORM  
ADMINISTRATION OF PRESCRIPTION DRUGS TO STUDENTS**

The undersigned are the parent(s), guardian(s), or person(s) in charge of

\_\_\_\_\_  
(name of the student)

It is necessary that the student receive (name of drug) \_\_\_\_\_, a physician-prescribed drug, during school intervals beginning on (date) \_\_\_\_\_ and continuing through \_\_\_\_\_. (date)

I hereby request that the School District, or its authorized representative, administer the drug named above to my child named above, in accordance with the prescribing physician's instructions, and agree to:

1. Submit this request to the teacher.
2. Make certain the Physician's Request for the Administration of Prescription Medication by School Personnel is submitted to the teacher.
3. Make sure personally that the drug is received by the teacher and/or county nursing service administering it, in the container in which it was dispensed by the prescribing physician or licensed pharmacist.
4. Make sure personally that the container in which the drug is dispensed is marked with the drug name, dosage, interval dosage, and date after which no administration should be given.
5. Submit a REVISED STATEMENT signed by the physician prescribing the drug to the teacher IF ANY OF THE INFORMATION PROVIDED BY THE PHYSICIAN CHANGES.
6. Release the School District and the Board of Education of the School District and all employees, agents, and the representatives of the School District from any liability concerning the giving or non-giving of the drug to the student.

DATED this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 20\_\_.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Parent/Guardian

**ADMINISTRATION OF MEDICATION TO STUDENTS  
PHYSICIAN'S REQUEST FOR ADMINISTRATION OF PRESCRIPTION  
MEDICATIONS BY SCHOOL PERSONNEL**

DATE \_\_\_\_\_

CHILD'S FULL NAME \_\_\_\_\_ is under my care and must take medication which I have prescribed during the school day.

Name of medication (as it appears on container in which the drug is stored) \_\_\_\_\_

Dosage and time \_\_\_\_\_  
Date administration of drug is to begin

Possible adverse reactions to be reported to physician \_\_\_\_\_

Special instructions for the administration and storage of the drug \_\_\_\_\_

I or my designee(s) have trained school personnel or approved alternative training as adequate to administer the medication, have evaluated the situation, the general administration plan and if applicable, the self-administration plan or emergency care plan, and deemed each to be safe and appropriate, and if applicable authorize the use of hypodermic syringes and needles or similar medical terms.

Name of Physician and Designee \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Print or Type

\_\_\_\_\_  
Primary Phone Number

\_\_\_\_\_  
Secondary Phone Number

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Physician



**RECORD OF THE ADMINISTRATION OF  
SELF-ADMINISTRATION OF MEDICATION**

Parent's Phone \_\_\_\_\_  
Student Name \_\_\_\_\_ Grade \_\_\_\_\_  
Date to Begin \_\_\_\_\_ Date to End \_\_\_\_\_  
Name of Medication \_\_\_\_\_  
Dosage of Medication \_\_\_\_\_ Time \_\_\_\_\_  
Doctor \_\_\_\_\_ Phone #1 \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone # \_\_\_\_\_  
Possible Adverse Reaction: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ gives permission for \_\_\_\_\_ our son/daughter to self-administer specific medications at school. This medication cannot be taken at any other non-school time.

DATED this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 20\_\_\_\_.

Students who are able to self administer specific medication may do so provided:

1. The physician provides written authorization allowing self-administration of said medication.
2. The parent provides written authorization allowing self-administration of said medication.
3. Such medication is transported to the school and maintained under the student's control in the original, properly labeled package and (a) is not opened except when self-administering the medication, (b) is not self-administered during instructional time or in the presence of other students unless medically necessary, and (c) is not shown or exhibited to other students.
4. The student's physician or physician's' designee has (1) evaluated the situation and deemed it to be safe and appropriate; (2) documented this on the physician's authorization for the student's cumulative health record, and (3) approved the general administration plan.
5. The student and the student's physician or physician's designee have developed a plan for reporting and supervising self-administration.
6. The principal and appropriate teacher are informed that the student is self-administering prescribed medication.

Doctor's Signature \_\_\_\_\_