



# **WCASS Student Handbook**

## **2023-2024**

### **WEST CENTRAL AREA SCHOOLS MISSION STATEMENT**

The mission of the West Central Area Schools is to challenge and support our students, staff and families in each person's growth as an engaged learner and successful citizen of our community.

[www.isd2342.org](http://www.isd2342.org)



In accordance with federal law and USDA policy, this institution is prohibited from discrimination on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, age, or disability.

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

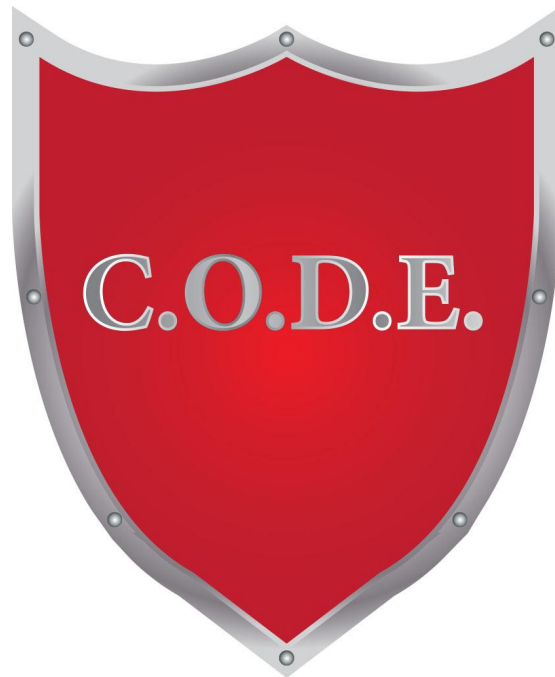
LETTER TO FAMILIES  
TABLE OF CONTENTS  
THE KNIGHT'S CODE  
ADVISORY  
ALCOHOL, TOBACCO, AND DRUG POLICY  
GENERAL ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS  
ATTENDANCE REGULATIONS, EXCUSED ABSENCES  
UNEXCUSED ABSENCES  
ABSENTEE PROCEDURE  
EXCESSIVE ABSENCE PROCESS  
ARRIVE LATE OR LEAVE EARLY PROCEDURE  
SCHOOL ATTENDANCE REQUIREMENT FOR ALL SCHOOL ACTIVITIES  
TARDINESS  
BELL SCHEDULE  
BUILDING USE BY STUDENTS  
BULLYING PROHIBITION POLICY  
BUS DISCIPLINE POLICY  
CHEATING/PLAGIARISM  
CHURCH NIGHT  
COLLEGE COURSE WORK  
DANCES AND SOCIALS  
DISCIPLINE  
DISCIPLINARY ACTION FOR STUDENT MISCONDUCT  
DISRUPTIVE BEHAVIOR OFF SCHOOL PROPERTY  
DRESS CODE  
DRIVING, RIDING, AND PARKING  
DROPPING/ADDING HIGH SCHOOL CLASSES  
EIGHTEEN YEAR OLD/ADULT POLICY  
ELECTRONIC DEVICES/CELL PHONES  
FEES  
FIRE DRILL REGULATIONS  
GRADING SCALES  
GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS  
HONOR ROLL  
INCOMPLETES  
INDEPENDENT STUDY COURSES  
STUDENT ELIGIBILITY PROCEDURES  
FAIL/INELIGIBLE LIST  
LOCKERS  
MEDICATION  
NATIONAL HONOR SOCIETY  
NOON (1/2) HOUR  
PLAYGROUND ACTIVITY AND NOON HOUR RECESS – GRADES 5 & 6  
PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE  
PROM  
REPORT TO PARENTS  
SCHOOL LUNCH  
SECURED ENTRANCE  
SEXUAL HARASSMENT

STUDENT COUNCIL  
TASK MANAGEMENT SKILLS  
THEFT AND VANDALISM  
VALUABLES  
VISITORS  
WEAPONS  
WEATHER WARNINGS  
BEHAVIOR/CONSEQUENCE TABLE  
ATTACHED FORMS  
WCA GRADUATIONS REQUIREMENTS  
SCHOOL BUS SAFETY RULES  
RELIGIOUS, RACIAL OR SEXUAL HARASSMENT VIOLENCE REPORT FORM  
MEDICATION FORM (can be obtained in the principal's office)  
PARENT/GUARDIAN REFUSAL FORM FOR STATE-WIDE ASSESSMENTS

## THE KNIGHT'S C.O.D.E

All staff and students pledge to promote and practice actions that are  
Caring, Open Minded, Disciplined, and Engaged.

We will **teach, model and celebrate positive behaviors** and achievements  
that lead to success in school, home and community.



**KNOW THE C.O.D.E.**

## **ADVISORY**

Students in grades 7-12 will have advisory time each week day during 5th hour.

**ALCOHOL, TOBACCO, AND DRUG POLICY** - the use, possession, and or intent to use/sell are strictly prohibited and will be reported to law enforcement. See Behavior Consequences Rubric under Tobacco, Alcohol, other Illegal Substances for school consequences.

## **ATTENDANCE REGULATIONS**

The administration and faculty of West Central Area High School believe that regular school attendance is a significant and valuable component of a student's education. Regular attendance is important to successful academic achievement and a legal requirement in the United States.. Consistent school attendance is one means of developing responsibility and self-discipline. Excessive absence negatively impacts both the social and academic success of a student and may ultimately affect the graduation status of the student.

### **Excused Absences**

Students are expected to be in school except in the cases of emergency or for reasons outlined below. If you are under eighteen years old, state law requires that you attend school unless you have been excused. The following list details examples of excused absences:

1. Personal illness - Prolonged or repeated absences may necessitate a certificate from a doctor if it is deemed advisable.
2. Illness in the family
3. Death of a relative - In the event that this exceeds three days reasonable cause may be expressed by parent or guardian for a longer absence.
4. Observance of religious holiday - Any student of any religion shall be excused if his absence was for the purpose of observing a religious holiday consistent with his creed or belief.
5. Parents/guardians should call the school one week prior to a scheduled vacation to allow time for teachers to prepare work and a make-up slip can be issued in advance.
6. Medical appointments are excused. It is preferable to schedule these appointments at times other than regular school hours.
7. Miscellaneous Essential or Emergency reasons: family business, family vacation - these must be requested by a Parent/Guardian and approved by administration.

### **Unexcused Absences**

An unexcused absence is defined as an absence without parental request or absences that do not have administrative approval. These absences will be subject to Minnesota Truancy Laws. All daily work is to be made up.

Examples of unexcused absences include, but are not limited to:

1. Requests for absences not accepted by school administration.
2. Non-specific requests (such as "home", "appointment", or "personal", etc.).
3. Requests for excused absences that have not been communicated through a parent/guardian within 2 days will become unexcused.
4. Attending a non-school related activity as a spectator that is not approved by the administration.
5. Babysitting.
6. Parental refusal to excuse an absence.
7. Oversleeping or resting.
8. Missing the bus.
9. Skipping class

## **Statute 260C.007 Subd. 19 Truancy**

"Habitual truant" means a child under the age of 17 years who is absent from attendance at school without lawful excuse for seven school days per school year if the child is in elementary school or for one or more class periods on seven school days per school year if the child is in middle school, junior high school, or high school or a child who is 17 years of age who is absent from attendance at school without lawful excuse for one or more class periods on seven school days per school year and who has not lawfully withdrawn from school under section [120A.22, subdivision 8](#).

### **ABSENTEE PROCEDURE**

1. Custodial parents/guardians should call the school office the morning of the absence, explaining the reason for their student's absence. Absences will be marked unexcused until a parent communication has been received. Students have two days to bring in a note or have a parent/guardian member call and have the unexcused absence changed to an excused absence. The district automated calling system will contact families regarding unexcused absences by 10:00 on the day of the absence. Arrangements can be made for students to receive their homework in the case of extended absences.
2. If telephone/email communication does not occur, a parent or guardian must write an excuse giving your name, date, days of absence, reason for absence and his/her signature.
3. All returning absentees will report to the office to pick up a re-admittance and make-up assignment slip.
4. Present the re-admittance slip to each teacher for their make-up assignment and signature. Each student, working with their teachers, is responsible for seeing that make-up work is completed.
5. Each student will be allowed two days to make up work for each day of absence.
6. Academic work takes priority over all school activities. A pass will be provided for students late to high school activities by the teacher retaining that student for academic reasons.

### **EXCESSIVE ABSENCE PROCESS**

1. The school will notify parents with a letter of concern when a student is at 5, 7 and 11 absences in a semester.
2. If a student accrues 10 or more absences in a semester, a doctor's note will be required to excuse the child from school.
3. The district also has the ability to deny credit after 10 or more absences.
4. A student with 15 consecutive absences will be dropped from enrollment.

### **ARRIVE LATE OR LEAVE EARLY PROCEDURE**

It is essential that school administration know who is in school and who is not at all times; thus, if you must leave early or have arrived late, you must check in or out with office staff. Parental/guardian communication must occur prior to a student signing out of the building. Students, it is your responsibility to follow the above procedure. Failure to check in or out properly will result in a consequence.

### **SCHOOL ATTENDANCE REQUIREMENT FOR ALL SCHOOL ACTIVITIES**

Students are expected to be in school the entire day to practice or compete in extra-curricular activities. Doctor appointments, funerals, or other family matters will be given consideration by the principal and/or activities director. Arrangements should be made in advance. Students who have an unexcused absence one or more periods of the day of a school extra-curricular activity may not participate.

## TARDINESS

Students are expected to be in class when the period begins. Three tardies in a class per 9 week grading period will trigger teacher parent/guardian communication. After five tardies, during a grading period, the teacher will write a referral and administration will call home and assign lunch detention and loss of phone privileges during detention. More severe consequences may be administered for repeat offenders.

## BELL SCHEDULES

<b>Grades 7-12 Regular Schedule</b>		<b>Advisor Time</b>	<b>Lunch Serving times</b>
1st	8:19-9:06		
2nd	9:10-9:57		
3rd	10:01-10:48		
4th	10:52-11:40		
5th Advisory	11:40-12:40	B 12:10-12:40 A 11:40-12:10	A 11:40-12:00 B 12:10-12:30
6th	12:43-1:30		
7th	1:34-2:21		
8th	2:25-3:12		

\*Grades 5 and 6 have an alternate schedule.

## BUILDING USE BY STUDENTS

Students cannot use any facilities in the school unless a coach or an advisor is present to supervise; this includes the weight rooms and gyms. Students should leave the school building at the end of the school day unless they have an activity, appointments with teachers or administrative approval.

## BULLYING POLICY

A safe and civil environment is needed for students to learn and attain high academic standards and to promote healthy human relationships. Bullying, like other violent or disruptive behavior, is conduct that interferes with students' ability to learn and teachers' ability to educate students in a safe environment. The school district cannot monitor the activities of students at all times and eliminate all incidents of bullying between students, particularly when students are not under the direct supervision of school personnel. However, to the extent such conduct affects the educational environment of the school district and the rights and welfare of its students and is within the control of the school district in its normal operations, it is the school district's intent to prevent bullying and to take action to investigate, respond, remediate, and discipline those acts of bullying which have not been successfully prevented. The purpose of this policy is to assist the school district in its goal of preventing and responding to acts of bullying, intimidation, violence, and other similar disruptive behavior.

**GENERAL STATEMENT OF POLICY:** An act of bullying, by either an individual student or a group of students, is expressly prohibited on school district property or at school-related functions. This policy applies not only to students who directly engage in an act of bullying but also to students who, by their indirect behavior, condone or support another student's act of bullying. This policy also applies to any student whose conduct at any time or in any place constitutes bullying that interferes with or obstructs the mission or operations of the school district or the safety or welfare of the student, other students, or employees. The misuse of technology including, but not limited to, teasing, intimidating, defaming, threatening, or terrorizing another student, teacher, administrator, volunteer, contractor, or other employee of the school district by sending or posting e-mail messages, instant messages, text messages, digital pictures or images, or website postings, including blogs, also may constitute an act of bullying regardless of whether such acts are committed on or off school district property and/or with or without the use of school district resources.

- B. No teacher, administrator, volunteer, contractor, or other employee of the school shall permit, condone, or tolerate bullying.
- C. Apparent permission or consent by a student being bullied does not lessen the prohibitions contained in this policy.
- D. Retaliation against a victim, good faith reporter, or a witness of bullying is prohibited.
- E. False accusations or reports of bullying against another student are prohibited.
- F. A person who engages in an act of bullying, reprisal, or false reporting of bullying or permits, condones, or tolerates bullying shall be subject to discipline for that act in accordance with school district's policies and procedures. The school district may take into account the following factors:
  - 1. The developmental and maturity levels of the parties involved;
  - 2. The levels of harm, surrounding circumstances, and nature of the behavior;
  - 3. Past incidences or past or continuing patterns of behavior;
  - 4. The relationship between the parties involved; and
  - 5. The context in which the alleged incidents occurred.

Consequences for students who commit prohibited acts of bullying may range from positive behavioral interventions up to and including suspension and/or expulsion. Consequences for employees who permit, condone, or tolerate bullying or engage in an act of reprisal or intentional false reporting of bullying may result in disciplinary action up to and including termination or discharge. Consequences for other individuals engaging in prohibited acts of bullying may include, but not be limited to, exclusion from school district property and events and/or termination of services and/or contracts.

- G. The school district will act to investigate all complaints of bullying and will discipline or take appropriate action against any student, teacher, administrator, volunteer, contractor, or other employee of the school district who is found to have violated this policy.

**DEFINITIONS:** For purposes of this policy, the definitions included in this section apply.

- A. According to the National Center Against Bullying, "Bullying" is an ongoing and deliberate misuse of power in relationships through repeated verbal, physical and/or social behavior that intends to cause physical, social and/or psychological harm. It can involve an individual or a group misusing their power, or perceived power, over one or more persons who feel unable to stop it from happening.



Bullying can happen in person or online, via various digital platforms and devices and it can be obvious (overt) or hidden (covert). Bullying behavior is repeated, or has the potential to be repeated, over time.

Bullying is not:

- random acts of aggression or intimidation
- mutual arguments, disagreements or fights.
- single incidents and conflict or fights between equals, whether in person or online
- single episodes of social rejection or dislike
- single episodes of nastiness or spite

These actions can cause great distress. However, they do not fit the definition of bullying and they're not examples of bullying unless someone is deliberately and repeatedly doing them.

B. "Immediately" means as soon as possible but in no event longer than 24 hours.

C. "On school district property or at school-related functions" means all school district buildings, school grounds, and school property or property immediately adjacent to school grounds, school bus stops, school buses, school vehicles, school contracted vehicles, or any other vehicles approved for school district purposes, the area of entrance or departure from school grounds, premises, or events, and all school-related functions, school-sponsored activities, events, or trips. School district property also may mean a student's walking route to or from school for purposes of attending school or school-related functions, activities, or events. While prohibiting bullying at these locations and events, the school district does not represent that it will provide supervision or assume liability at these locations and events.

## **REPORTING PROCEDURE**

- A. Any person who believes he or she has been the victim of bullying or any person with knowledge or belief of conduct that may constitute bullying shall report the alleged acts immediately to an appropriate school district official designated by this policy. A person may report bullying anonymously. However, the school district's ability to take action against an alleged perpetrator based solely on an anonymous report may be limited.
- B. The school district encourages the reporting party or complainant to use the report form available from the principal of each building or available from the school district office, but oral reports shall be considered complaints as well.

- C. The building principal, the principal's designee, or the building supervisor (hereinafter building report taker) is the person responsible for receiving reports of bullying at the building level. Any person may report bullying directly to a school district human rights officer or the superintendent. If the complaint involves the building report taker, the complaint shall be made or filed directly with the superintendent or the school district human rights officer by the reporting party or complainant.
- D. A teacher, school administrator, volunteer, contractor, or other school employee shall be particularly alert to possible situations, circumstances, or events that might include bullying. Any such person who receives a report of, observes, or has other knowledge or belief of conduct that may constitute bullying shall inform the building report taker immediately. School district personnel who fail to inform the building report taker of conduct that may constitute bullying in a timely manner may be subject to disciplinary action.
- E. Reports of bullying are classified as private educational and/or personnel data and/or confidential investigative data and will not be disclosed except as permitted by law.
- F. Submission of a good faith complaint or report of bullying will not affect the complainant's or reporter's future employment, grades, or work assignments, or educational or work environment.
- G. The school district will respect the privacy of the complainant(s), the individual(s) against whom the complaint is filed, and the witnesses as much as possible, consistent with the school district's obligation to investigate, take appropriate action, and comply with any legal disclosure obligations.

## **SCHOOL DISTRICT ACTION**

- A. Upon receipt of a complaint or report of bullying, the school district shall undertake or authorize an investigation by school district officials or a third party designated by the school district.
- B. The school district may take immediate steps, at its discretion, to protect the complainant, reporter, students, or others pending completion of an investigation of bullying, consistent with applicable law.
- C. Upon completion of the investigation, the school district will take appropriate action. Such action may include, but is not limited to, warning, suspension, exclusion, expulsion, transfer, remediation, termination, or discharge. Disciplinary consequences will be sufficiently severe to try to deter violations and to appropriately discipline prohibited behavior. School district action taken for violation of this policy will be consistent with the requirements of applicable collective bargaining agreements; applicable statutory authority, including the Minnesota Pupil Fair Dismissal Act; school district policies; and regulations.
- D. The school district is not authorized to disclose to a victim private educational or personnel data regarding an alleged perpetrator who is a student or employee of the school district. School officials will notify the parent(s) or guardian(s) of students involved in a bullying incident and the remedial action taken, to the extent permitted by law, based on a confirmed report.

**REPRISAL:** The school district will discipline or take appropriate action against any student, teacher, administrator, volunteer, contractor, or other employee of the school district who retaliates against any person who makes a good faith report of alleged bullying or against any person who testifies, assists, or participates in an investigation, or against any person who testifies, assists, or participates in a proceeding or hearing relating to such bullying. Retaliation includes, but is not limited to, any form of intimidation, reprisal, harassment, or intentional disparate treatment.

### **BUS DISCIPLINE POLICY**

Because student safety is the first priority, bus drivers must be given the necessary cooperation to do the job right. Students are expected to follow the same behavioral standards while riding school buses as are expected on school property or at school activities, functions, or events. WCA transportation services are contracted through a 3rd party vendor. All students are expected to follow the rules and procedures set by the transportation vendor.

### **CHEATING/PLAGIARISM**

A discipline referral will be written and consequences will follow as outlined by the behavior table. These consequences are the same for students who assist with cheating. Each department may have additional consequences or requirements to restore credit for assignments. The student will be suspended from National Honor Society, if they are a member, for the remainder of the year and must reapply the following year.

### **CHURCH NIGHT**

The WCA communities work to keep activities away from Wednesdays and Sundays, as these are considered church and family days. Students will not be penalized for missing extracurricular activities on Wednesdays for church events.

### **COLLEGE COURSE WORK**

WCA students enrolled in college courses must adhere to the requirements prescribed by the individual institution. Students enrolled in E-Campus online courses will be scheduled into an independent study hour to ensure that they have a predictable and quiet place to complete coursework. WCA offers various college credit opportunities on our campus.

### **DANCES AND SOCIALS**

Dances are typically for grades 7-12 WCA students; however, students may seek administrative approval for a student from another school to attend a dance provided they are no older than 18. Prom is held for the juniors and seniors, with sophomores allowed to attend if they are invited by a WCA junior or senior. A WCA junior or senior may have a guest attend prom if they have been registered in the office and are under the age of 21. Doors close 30 minutes after the start of the dance. Students who wish to leave a dance early must have parent permission.

\*\*\*Alumni may attend the homecoming dance with administrative approval.

### **DISCIPLINE**

All staff and students pledge to promote and practice actions that are Caring, Open Minded, Disciplined, and Engaged. We will **teach, model and celebrate positive behaviors** and achievements that lead to success in school, home and community.

It is the responsibility of the school board, administrators, and teachers to safeguard the health and safety of each student. The school board and district administrators will support district personnel who, in dealing with students on disciplinary matters, act in accordance with state statute, state board of education regulation, and this policy.

The district discipline policy is in effect for students at school, bus stops, in school vehicles and at all school events, on or off school property.

### **Rules of Conduct**

Disciplinary action may be taken against students for any behavior which is disruptive or violates the rights of others. The following acts are examples of unacceptable behavior subject to disciplinary action by the school district. Consequences will be served by the violators.

- A. Truancy and Unauthorized Absences.
- B. Damage to School or Personal Property.
- C. Physical Assault
- D. Verbal Assault
- E. Threats and Disruptions
- F. Dangerous, Harmful, and Nuisance Substances and Articles including the use or possession of alcohol, drugs, tobacco or harmful or nuisance articles.
- G. The violation of any state or local law or the violation of any federal law is unacceptable behavior.
- H. The following constitute unacceptable behavior:
  - 1. Willful conduct which materially and substantially disrupts the rights of the others to an education.
  - 2. Willful conduct which endangers school district employees, the pupil or other pupils, or other property of the school; or
  - 3. Willful violation of any rule of conduct specified in this discipline policy, or the student handbook.

### **DISCIPLINARY ACTION FOR STUDENT MISCONDUCT**

Disciplinary action is intended to teach individuals to obey rules or a code of behavior. Preventive disciplinary actions at WCA are based upon our C.O.D.E which details expected behavior while in the classroom or engaged in other activities such as lunch or recess. In addition, staff implement "Nonexclusionary" practices that are alternatives to removing a student from the classroom or other school events as a primary first step in correcting behavior. Nonexclusionary behavior practices include teacher and support staff interventions that involve support, processing time and teachable moment interactions between the student and the teacher. However, on some occasions where safety is a concern, student removal from a classroom may be an immediate first step. In addition, repeated refractions of misbehavior that have not responded to nonexclusionary practices will result in an office referral.

Verbal reprimand	Conference with student	Parent call
Detention – Noon, a.m. or p.m.	Loss of school privileges	Removal from class
Restitution	In School Suspension (ISS)	Family Conference
Out of School Suspension (OSS)	Family Conference	Expulsion/Exclusion

**REMOVAL FROM CLASS/IN SCHOOL DETENTION (ISS):** Removal from class/ISS is the short- term exclusion of a student from school during which the school retains custody of the student. Students removed from class shall be the responsibility of the principals or his lawful designees. Students shall be removed from class only upon agreement of the appropriate teacher and principal after an informal administrative conference with the pupil. The decision to remove shall ultimately be up to the principal. The removal from class may be imposed without an informal administrative conference where it appears that the student will create an immediate and substantial danger to himself or to persons or property around him. The length of time of the removal from class shall be the discretion of the principal after consultation with the teacher. Students shall be

returned to class upon completion of the terms of the removal established at the informal administrative conference, including but not limited to the completion of any make-up work.

**DETENTION:** Detention is assigned to students for violating minor school regulations. Failure to report for assigned detention may result in suspension from school.

## **ADDITIONAL DEFINITIONS RELATED TO STUDENT DISCIPLINE**

**NONEXCLUSIONARY DISCIPLINARY POLICIES AND PRACTICES:** policies and practices that are alternatives to dismissing a pupil from school, including but not limited to evidence-based positive behavior interventions and supports, social and emotional services school-linked mental health services, counseling services, social work services academic screening for Title 1 services or reading interventions and alternative education services.

**RECESS DETENTION:** excluding or excessively delaying student from participating in a scheduled recess period as a consequence for student behavior. Recess detention does not include, among other things, providing alternative recess at the student's choice.

**PUPIL WITHDRAWAL AGREEMENT:** a verbal or written agreement between a school administrator or district administrator and a pupil's parent to withdraw a student from the school district to avoid expulsion or exclusion dismissal proceedings. The duration of the withdrawal agreement cannot be for more than a 12-month period.

**DISMISSAL:** the denial of the current educational program to any student, including exclusion, expulsion, and suspension. Dismissal does not include removal from class or dismissal from school for less than one school day, except as provided under Minnesota Statutes and federal law for a student receiving special education services.

The school district shall not dismiss any student without attempting to use nonexclusionary disciplinary policies and procedures before dismissal proceedings or pupil withdrawal agreements, except where it appears that the student will create an immediate and substantial danger to self or to surrounding persons or property.

Expulsions and exclusions may be used only after resources outlined under Nonexclusionary discipline have been exhausted, and only in circumstances where there is an ongoing serious safety threat to the child or others.

**DISCIPLINE COMPLAINT PROCEDURE:** Students, parents and other guardians, and school staff may file a complaint and seek corrective action when the requirements of the Minnesota Pupil Fair Dismissal Act, including the implementation of the local behavior and discipline policies, are not being implemented appropriately or are being discriminately applied.

**SUSPENSION:** Suspension is the short-term exclusion of the student from school during which the school is relieved of custody of the child. Suspension, exclusion and expulsion shall be used in accordance with The Pupil Fair Dismissal Act.

**EXPULSION:** from school may be imposed by the school board upon the recommendation of the superintendent and principal for a period of time of more than five days up to one school year. Expulsions may

be imposed only after the student has the opportunity to present evidence at a hearing as to why he or she should not be expelled. Hearings will be conducted in accordance with the Minnesota Pupil Fair Dismissal Act.

## **E-LEARNING EXPECTATIONS**

E-Learning occurs when the district needs to cancel in person learning for weather related reasons or other short term emergencies.

### **Expectations for ELearning Include:**

- Be prepared - be out of bed, dressed and ready for school
- Have materials on hand to complete work - charged Chromebook, etc.
- Login to Google Classroom by 8:20 A.M.
- Check each Google Classroom and complete the assignments for the day

## **DRESS CODE/APPEARANCE**

### **DRESS CODE/APPEARANCE**

All students should be able to dress comfortably and should not face unnecessary barriers to school attendance, WCA adheres to the CROWN Act in regards to dress and appearance. Dress that creates a distraction in learning and/or an unsafe or unhealthy environment is not permitted.

-Clothing that advertises or displays tobacco, alcohol, or drug related products and/or any profanity, vulgarity, or innuendo will be strictly forbidden to be worn at school or school events.

-Clothing that interferes with the health and safety of any student and/or contributes to a hostile or intimidating atmosphere will be strictly forbidden to be worn at school or school events.

-Caps, hats, hoods or other headwear will not be permitted during the school day - bell to bell.

-Backpacks will not be allowed to be carried around the building during the day.

Students wearing inappropriate clothing, per administrator determination, will be asked to change the clothing.

## **DRIVING, RIDING AND PARKING**

Students will not be allowed to drive or ride with another student during the school day unless the school has permission from his or her legal guardian and he/she has permission from an administrator. Students will park their vehicles in the east parking lot in designated parking spaces. Visitor spots are reserved for visitors and may not be used by students or staff during school hours.

## **DROPPING/ADDING HIGH SCHOOL COURSES**

Students have ten school days to request permission to drop or add a class to their schedule. Requests within the ten-day drop/add period will be honored if there is room in a requested class and the request is not detrimental to graduating on time.

## **EIGHTEEN YEAR - OLD / ADULT POLICY**

Any student 18 years of age or older still enrolled in high school is subject to the same rules that govern all other students. Adult status does not exempt students from rules and regulations prescribed by the Board of Education and the administration.

## **ELECTRONIC DEVICES/CELL PHONES**

Students in grades 7-12 may use their phone, headphones/earbuds & gaming devices before and after school, during lunch and passing times at their discretion. Students may only use their phones during class per teacher permission. Location of phones during class for students in grades 7-12 is determined by the teacher and clearly communicated to students. Students in grades 5 & 6 store phones, headphones/earbuds and gaming devices in their locker and do not bring them to class, lunch or recess unless a teacher grants permission. Students may check their electronic devices during passing periods. Pictures/video recordings that contribute to a disruptive environment and/or violate other district policies are prohibited.

Consequences for offenders are specified in the consequence table. Confiscation offenses are cumulative regardless of the type of device confiscated. **Note: Items capable of using wireless internet are subject to the WCA Acceptable Use Policy.**

## **FEES**

Public Education in Minnesota is free to all students who are residents. However, fees may be charged to you under the following circumstances.

1. A project in art, home economics, industrial arts or some other course that is in excess of the material requirements of the minimum course outline, provided that the student elects to do such projects with the approval of the instructor. The student may elect to take such projects home, and costs of such projects must be paid as the material is used. Students may provide their own materials for such projects with approval of the instructor.
2. Cost of school equipment or materials destroyed or broken or unduly damaged through carelessness or failure to follow instructions, must be paid for by the student in the amount necessary to restore the items involved to service.
3. Deposit for lab or shop breakage, such deposit to be returned at the end of the school year in the unused amount. This deposit is applicable only if the student is enrolled in a course involving laboratory or shop work.
4. Costs of field trips which are made available from time to time but are not required as a part of a course, should the student elect to participate in the field trip.
5. Costs of the school paper, yearbook, graduation announcements or class rings, should the student elect to order any of these.
6. Admission fees for concerts, plays, athletic events, and other programs or activities which the students may attend at their option.

Students are required to furnish their own paper, pencils, pens, notebooks, graph paper, sketch pads, gym suits, athletic shoes and other items of personal equipment.

## **FIRE DRILL REGULATIONS**

When the fire alarm is sounded, students should go directly to the designated exit using doors and stairs prescribed for that section of the building. Students should become familiar with the fire exit diagram. Since our traffic procedure could be determined by the location of a fire, it will be especially important for all students to pay attention to the directions given by the teachers. This means you should pass as quickly as possible without running or shoving. Under no circumstances should there be any talking or stopping at lockers, etc. Students are to remain in these areas until notified to return. Students are to remain in a group according to the class they were attending.

## GRADING SCALE

%	Grade	GPA points
100-94	A	4.000
93-90	A-	3.666
89-87	B+	3.333
86-83	B	3.000
82-80	B-	2.666
79-77	C+	2.333
76-73	C	2.000
72-70	C-	1.666
69-67	D+	1.333
66-63	D	1.000
62-60	D-	0.666
	F	0.000

It is the policy and philosophy of this school that no student will earn a failing grade if s/he puts out his/her best effort. Class rank is computed on a 4.0 scale. Class ranks will be computed at the end of the 9<sup>th</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup>, and 12<sup>th</sup> grades. Class rank for determination of Valedictorian and Salutatorian will occur after the 3rd quarter of the senior year.

## GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

All course requirements are listed in the student's registration materials and in the back of this handbook. 2023-2024 Seniors need 100 credits including all required courses to earn their diploma. To participate in the June 2nd, 2023 graduation ceremony, all seniors must have their school work completed and fines paid one day prior to graduation ceremony

## HONOR ROLL

The WCA School Honor Roll is divided into 2 levels: "A" Honor Roll = 3.65-4.0 and "B" Honor Roll = 3.00-3.64. The honor roll is posted at the end of each grading period and put in the local newspaper. Making the honor roll is truly an "honor" and is something you should strive toward.

## INCOMPLETES

Any student receiving an incomplete will be given ten school days into the next grading period to make up his or her work. Failure to make up an incomplete will result in a final grade posting reflective of work completed on the last day of the grading period.

## INDEPENDENT STUDY COURSES

Students who take an independent study course from a WCA teacher are expected to successfully complete the course within one semester. Independent study courses require administrator and teacher approval.

## FAIL/INELIGIBLE LIST

**All students will maintain passing grades.** An in progress failure grade report will be run on weeks 3, 5, & 7. Students on that list will be on "No Pass" during the school day and required to report to the intervention room during Advisory until the next marking week (ie. 3rd week to 5th week). Students will be removed from the "No Pass" list by completing the "Eligibility Grade Improvement" form with Administration approval and signatures from their teachers or by no longer being on the "no pass" list the following report week.



“Ineligibility” will be determined after week nine (quarter grades). Any students on the failure list at that time will become ineligible to participate in any MSHSL activities and/or WCA student activities/clubs/organization for 2 events or 2 weeks, whichever is greater.

\*Teachers, Coaches, Advisors, and Administration will inform students that they have been placed on the Fail List.

## **LOCKERS**

Students are assigned lockers and locks at the beginning of each school year. Lockers should be locked. Items brought to school are your responsibility. Your locker is the property of the school and is provided for your use by the school. Backpacks will be kept in lockers during the school day.

Your locker is subject to periodical inspection for cleanliness, and may be entered by the administration at any time it might be suspected of containing alcohol, narcotics, or other items considered potentially harmful to other students or to the school building, or unlawfully obtained.

All students enrolled in a gym course or participating in a sport are provided with a lock to be used in the locker area. Students are expected to lock their locker during gym classes as well as during practice and games/matches.

## **MEDICATION**

If a student must bring medication to school (either prescription or non-prescription), a written physician's signature is needed before the medication can be given by school personnel. Parents may use the physicians order form at the back of this handbook or they may pick one up at the school office or from their doctor. The form will request the child's name, dosage instructions, doctor's name, any potential side effects, and a prescription date.

*By law the following requirements must be met pertaining to Prescription Medications:*

1. Must be clearly identified as to the name and type of medication.
2. Must be in the original container.
3. Must carry a prescription label with the child's name, drug identity, dosage instructions, doctor's name and prescription date.
4. The prescription must be current.
5. Medication will be given by school personnel under the supervision of the school nurse

*An individualized non-prescription medication plan to possess and self-administer may be implemented with written approval by the RN and the parent/guardian.*

## **NATIONAL HONOR SOCIETY**

West Central Area High School maintains a chapter of the National and Minnesota Association of Honor Societies. Membership in this chapter is based upon scholarship, service, leadership, and character. To be eligible for selection to membership in this chapter, the candidate must have been in attendance for a period of one semester at West Central Area. Candidates eligible for selection to this chapter must be members of the sophomore, junior, or senior class. Candidates shall have a minimum of a 3.5 cumulative grade point average. Those students who are eligible scholastically at the end of each 4th quarter shall be notified along with their parents. If the student wishes to seek membership at that time, he/she will be asked to complete and submit the Candidate Form. The selection of members to this chapter shall be by a majority vote of the Faculty Council. Candidates become members when inducted at a special ceremony.

## **CLOSED CAMPUS LUNCH**

The middle school and high school have a closed noon hour. This means no student may leave the school building without permission to get lunch off campus.

## **PLAYGROUND ACTIVITY AND NOON HOUR RECESS – GRADES 5 & 6**

The playground is supervised during the noon break. We encourage students to enjoy themselves and their friends on the playground. Observance of the playground rules is expected of all students. Children are not allowed to throw snowballs, fight, or play games involving bodily contact such as king-on-the-hill, tackle football, etc. Also, disruptive behavior toward supervisory personnel will not be tolerated.

In most cases, if a child is well enough to be in class, we do not feel it would be detrimental for that child to be outside. A written excuse should be provided to the teacher each day a child is to stay in from recess.

The school district is not responsible for accidents on the playground after school hours. Students can play on the playground with parental supervision after school hours

## **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

At the start of each week students will have the option in their classroom to honor the flag by joining in the Pledge of Allegiance, led by a peer over the PA system.

## **PROM**

Seniors and juniors may attend prom. Sophomores may also attend if they are invited by a WCA junior or senior. All guests must be at least a sophomore and not older than 20 years of age. Students must be dressed appropriately or will not be allowed to participate in the grand march or dance.

## **PSEO**

Postsecondary Enrollment Options (PSEO) is a program that allows 10th-, 11th- and 12th-grade students to earn both high school and college credit while still in high school, through enrollment in and successful completion of college nonsectarian courses at eligible participating postsecondary institutions. Most PSEO courses are offered on the campus of the postsecondary institution; some courses are offered online. Each participating college or university sets its own requirements for enrollment into the PSEO courses. Eleventh and 12th-grade students may take PSEO courses on a full- or part-time basis; 10th graders may initially take one Career and Technical Education (CTE) PSEO course. If 10th graders taking a CTE PSEO course earn at least a grade C in that class, they may take additional CTE PSEO courses. Students must meet the PSEO residency and eligibility requirements and abide by participation limits specified in Minnesota Statutes, section 124D.09.

## **REPORT TO PARENTS**

Report cards are issued every 9 weeks. Ineligibility reports will be mailed/emailed to parents of students who are placed on the failing list. Progress reports will be available upon parent request. Parents are encouraged to sign up for Synergy parent access to view their children's progress. The internet access includes assignments, grades, and attendance.

## **SECURED ENTRANCE**

With the addition of our new secured entrances, parents and students will need to enter the main door of the school whenever coming to school once the school day has begun. There will be a sign-in sheet for those entering during the school day and a student sign-out sheet for parents picking up students throughout the day and at the end of the school day. Non-student Individuals requesting to enter the building during the school day will be required to wear a visitor badge.

## **SEXUAL HARASSMENT**

WCA schools maintain a firm policy prohibiting all forms of discrimination based on sex. Sexual harassment against students or employees is sex discrimination. All persons are to be treated with respect and dignity. Sexual advances or other forms of personal harassment by any person, male or female, which creates an intimidating, hostile or offensive environment, will not be tolerated under any circumstances. The building principal is the person responsible for receiving oral or written reports of sexual harassment at the building level. Report forms may be secured in the district offices and a copy of the complete policy can be obtained at the district offices. The complaint form is located in the back of this handbook.

## **STUDENT COUNCIL**

The student council is the governing body of the students. It is the responsibility of the council representatives to bring to the attention of the administration any problems pertaining to the welfare of the student body. Council members are also to bring to the students the final policy decisions agreed upon in council meetings. The high school's student council president must be a senior.

## **TASK MANAGEMENT SKILLS**

Task management points are limited to 10% of the grade unless administrative approval is obtained. Teachers may elect to use or not use task management points as a component of their grading system.

## **THEFT AND VANDALISM**

Students stealing school property, property from other schools, or other student's property will be dealt with severely. Law enforcement may be notified and assist in handling the offense. The student will also serve a discipline consequence for the infraction.

## **VALUABLES**

It is recommended that students not bring valuables to school. If at times it is necessary to bring valuables to school, check them in with the principal or principal's secretary.

## **VISITORS**

Prior permission from the principal is required for all 5-12 grade school visitors. Visitors are to report immediately to the principal's office so that the school is aware of the visitors. All visitors will be required to wear a visitor badge.

## **WEAPONS/DANGEROUS ITEMS**

Bringing a dangerous weapon on school property is a violation of Minnesota law. -You may not possess a dangerous weapon at any time on school property. A dangerous weapon/item can be many things. It includes guns (loaded or unloaded), switchblades, brass knuckles, nunchucks, certain liquids and pellet guns. A dangerous weapon includes any device or instrument designed as a weapon or through its use is capable of producing great bodily harm or death.

You should also know that possession on school property includes on a school bus, in a school property leased by the school and whether the school is public or private.

Violations of the terms of Minnesota law will result in penalties including expulsion from school in addition to statutory penalties which may include significant fines and prison.

### BEHAVIOR/CONSEQUENCE TABLE

The consequences for misbehavior are designed to be fair, firm and consistent for all students at West Central Area. Because it is not possible to list every inappropriate behavior, misbehaviors not included here will be responded to as necessary by staff. Minor misbehaviors are dealt with by bus drivers, chaperones, classroom teachers, counselors, administrators, and other appropriate district staff.

In addition to the consequences detailed on this and following pages the school may respond to student misbehavior in a variety of ways which include, but are not limited to: removal from school, removal from class, reports to probation and social services, criminal reports, fines, and chemical evaluation. Law enforcement will be involved when a violation of the law has occurred.

Administration may recommend longer suspensions, expulsions or other discipline on a case-by-case basis. This may include more severe consequences for students with multiple offenses in different categories of misbehavior or for a first offense that is particularly severe.

Disciplinary action is intended to teach individuals to obey rules or a code of behavior. Preventive disciplinary actions at WCA are based upon our C.O.D.E which details expected behavior while in the classroom or engaged in other activities such as lunch or recess. In addition, staff implement "Nonexclusionary" practices, whenever possible, that are alternatives to removing a student from the classroom or other school events as a primary first step in correcting behavior. Nonexclusionary behavior practices include teacher and support staff interventions that involve support, processing time and teachable moment interactions between the student and the teacher. However, on some occasions where safety is a concern, student removal from a classroom may be an immediate first step. In addition, repeated refractions of misbehavior that have not responded to nonexclusionary practices will result in an office referral.

#### Consequence Definitions

**Detention:** Lunch, Before/ After School or Saturday School

**Removal from School:** Sent from school for the remainder of the school day

**In School Suspension (ISS):** Student attends school but not in one or more classes

**Dismissal from School: OSS:** Student suspended from school and may not be on school property one or more days or **Expulsion:** Per school board action, student is prohibited from attending school for up to 12 months from date of expulsion

#### Appropriate Dress:

Behaviors	1 <sup>st</sup> Offense	2 <sup>nd</sup> Offense	3 <sup>rd</sup> / Future Offenses
1- Inappropriate clothing is worn at school.	Student required change into appropriate clothing.	Detention & student required to change into appropriate clothing	Habitual violations may lead to in or out of school suspension
2- Caps and headwear are worn during the school day.	Headwear stored in office until end of the day	Detention & headwear stored in office until end of the day	Habitual violations may lead to in or out of school suspension. Headwear stored in office for parent pick-up

<b>Damage or Destruction to School or Personal Property:</b>			
<b>Behaviors</b>	<b>1<sup>st</sup> Offense</b>	<b>2<sup>nd</sup> Offense</b>	<b>3<sup>rd</sup> / Future Offenses</b>
1- Vandalism including defacing or damaging property that belongs to the school, to the students, staff, or anyone involved in school activities. This also includes creating permanent decor to the interior or exterior of lockers.	Possible but not limited to detention. & retribution.	1 - 3 Day In School Suspension & Retribution or 1-3 Day Suspension & Retribution.	1-10 Days Suspension & Retribution or Expulsion & Retribution
2- Misuse of school books, supplies, or equipment - destroying them in any way so as to hamper use by another student.	Replacement costs will be charged to the student.		
3- Driving recklessly on school property so as to endanger persons or property.	Possible but not limited to detention. Possible loss of parking privileges	1-3 Day In School Suspension or Suspension. Loss of parking privileges	Up to 10 Days Suspension or Expulsion
4- Igniting matches, lighter or any device that produces flames.	Possible but not limited to detention, ISS or OSS.	Detention, In School Suspension or Out of School Suspension	In School Suspension or Out of School Suspension
5- Tampering with Emergency or Safety Equipment – Unauthorized use of emergency or safety equipment on the bus or on a school property, including first aid kits, fire extinguishers, and emergency kits, fire extinguishers, and emergency doors or hatches.	Up to 10 Days Suspension	Expulsion / Exclusion	
6- Burglary – Entering a district building without consent and intent to commit a crime, or entering a building without consent and committing a crime.	Up to Expulsion / Exclusion		
7- Trespassing – Being present in any district facility or portion of a district facility when it is closed to the public or unauthorized presence in a district vehicle. <b>Also includes being on school property while skipping or serving out school suspension.</b>	Up to 3 Day Suspension	3-5 Day Suspension	Up to 10 Days Suspension or Expulsion
8- Theft or Possession of school or student property.	Up to 3 Day Suspension	3-5 Day Suspension	Up to Expulsion

<b>Tobacco, Alcohol &amp; other Illegal Substances</b>			
<b>Behaviors</b>	<b>1<sup>st</sup> Offense</b>	<b>2<sup>nd</sup> Offense</b>	<b>3<sup>rd</sup> / Future Offenses</b>
1- Alcohol or Chemicals, Possession or Use – Possessing or using any narcotic, inhalants, or controlled substances where possession or use is prohibited by Minnesota or federal law. (Any prescription medication a student is required to take, with the exception of prescribed inhalers, must be left with and administered by the school nurse, in accordance with district administrative regulations.	Up to 10 Days Suspension	Up to 10 Days Suspension	Expulsion
2- Alcohol, Possession with intention to Distribute or Sell – Selling or distribution or intending to sell alcohol where sale or distribution is prohibited by Minnesota or federal law.	Up to 10 Days Suspension	Expulsion	
3- Chemicals – Possession with intention to Distribute or Sell – Selling or distribution or intending to sell any narcotic inhalants or controlled substance where sale or distribution is prohibited by Minnesota or federal law.	10 Day Suspension or Expulsion	Expulsion	
4- Tobacco/Vape, Possessing or using in district buildings, on district grounds, in district vehicles or at district events, in violation of district administrative regulations.	Up to 1day In School or Out of School Suspension	2 days In School or Out of School Suspension	3 Days In School or Out of School Suspension
<b>Food and Beverage</b>			
<b>Behaviors</b>	<b>1<sup>st</sup> Offense</b>	<b>2<sup>nd</sup> Offense</b>	<b>3<sup>rd</sup> / Future Offenses</b>
1- Food or beverage is inappropriately located out of the commons area such as in halls lockers, classrooms, w/o staff permission..	Possible but not limited to detention.	Detention	Habitual violations may lead to suspension consequences.
2- Students violate closed lunch rule and leave the school grounds during lunch hours.	Possible but not limited to detention to Isolated Lunch	Isolated Lunch and Detention	Up to and including suspension.
<b>Insubordinate and Disrespectful Behavior Towards Others</b>			
<b>Behaviors</b>	<b>1<sup>st</sup> Offense</b>	<b>2<sup>nd</sup> Offense</b>	<b>3<sup>rd</sup> / Future Offenses</b>
1- Insubordination – Willful refusal to follow an appropriate direction or order by a staff member.	Possible but not limited to detention or In School Suspension	1 - 5 Day In School or Out of School Suspension	3 to 10 Days Suspension 2-10 Days In School or Out of Schools Suspension

2- Disorderly conduct, interference, disruption or obstruction – Any action taken to attempt to prevent a staff member or student from exercising his / her assigned duties.	1 Day In School or Out of School Suspension	2 - 5 Days Suspension	5 -10 Days Suspension
3- Student displays verbal abuse and / or directs profanity / obscenity at a staff member.	Detention/Suspension	1 – 3 days Suspension.	Habitual/repeated violations may lead to maximum suspension or expulsion.
4- Student disrupts a school activity by shouting, throwing items, spitting, or other rude behavior.	Possible but not limited to detention.	Detention or In School or Out of School Suspension	1-5 Days out of School Suspension
5- Student uses physical force to attack a teacher or staff member.	Up to 10 Days Suspension or Expulsion	Expulsion	
6- Identification or Record Falsification – refusing to give proper identification, giving false information to a staff member or falsifying signatures or data.	Up to 1 Day In School or Out of School Suspension	3 Days Suspension	5-10 Days Suspension & Zero on assignment or Expulsion
7- Academic dishonesty including but not limited to cheating or plagiarism, individually or with another student to take credit for work that is not their own.	In-School Suspension, (the day after the cheating is discovered). Zero on the Assignment	1- 3 Days In School or Out of School Suspension. Zero on assignment.	4-10 In School or Out of School Suspension. Zero on assignment. Habitual violations may lead to Expulsion.
8- Student show inappropriate displays of affection or unacceptable consensual sexual behavior toward others.	Possible but not limited to detention.	Up to 1 Day In School or Out of School Suspension	2 -5 Days In School Suspension or Out of School Suspension
9- Unauthorized participation in hacky sack, cards, gambling, or gaming of any kind.	Possible but not limited to detention.	Detention	1-5 Days In School or Out of School Suspension
10- Bomb Threat, False – Intentionally giving a false alarm of a bomb.	Expulsion		
11- Fire Alarm, False – Intentionally giving false alarm of a fire, or tampering or interfering with any fire alarm.	5 Days Suspension	Expulsion	
12- Bullying Behavior – Conduct by a student that a reasonable person knows or should know has the effect of: harming a student, damaging a student’s property, placing a student in fear of harm to his or her person or property, or creating a hostile educational environment for a student.	Possible but not limited to detention.	Detention and/or In School or Out of School Suspension up to 5 days	6- 10 days In School or Out of School Suspension for habitual violations
13- Unauthorized use of electronic equipment, headsets, cell phones, video games, earbuds, recreational equipment including skate boards, rollerblades, etc.	Two Lunch Detentions	Electronic devise in office for remainder of day and student turns in electronic devise the following day as well	Administrator may keep phone for parent pick-up or another appropriate consequence.

<b>Gang Activity</b>			
<b>Behaviors</b>	<b>1<sup>st</sup> Offense</b>	<b>2<sup>nd</sup> Offense</b>	<b>3<sup>rd</sup> / Future Offenses</b>
1- Student uses gang graffiti on school property or on their own property while at school.	Possible but not limited to detention. Suspension Possible	Habitual and repeated violations may lead to maximum suspension.	
2- Student displaying gang emblems, gang symbolism, signs, signals, slang, terminology, gang related jewelry or clothing.	Possible but not limited to detention. Suspension Possible	Habitual and repeated violations may lead to maximum suspension.	
<b>Violence/Abuse Towards Others</b>			
<b>Verbal Aggression Toward Others</b>			
<b>Behaviors</b>	<b>1<sup>st</sup> Offense</b>	<b>2<sup>nd</sup> Offense</b>	<b>3<sup>rd</sup> / Future Offenses</b>
1- Abuse, Verbal – Arousing alarm in others through the use of language that is discriminatory, abusive, obscene, threatening, or intending to provoke physical aggression.	Student Conference, Parent Notification, Detention, and possible In School or Out of School Suspension	Detention, Parent Notification, referral to counselor, and In School or Out of School Suspension	Habitual Violation lead up to 10 Days Suspension to Expulsion
2- Assault, Verbal or Written – Verbal confrontation directly or indirectly with a student or staff member which is intended to cause fear of bodily harm or death.	1 or more days In School or Out of School Suspension	3 - 10 days In School or Out of School Suspension	Up to 10 Days In School or Out of School Suspension or Expulsion
3- Robbery or Extortion – Obtaining property from another person where his/her consent was induced by use of force, threat of force or under false pretenses.	1- 10 Days Suspension	Expulsion	
<b>Physical Violence Toward Others</b>			
<b>Behaviors</b>	<b>1<sup>st</sup> Offense</b>	<b>2<sup>nd</sup> Offense</b>	<b>3<sup>rd</sup> / Future Offenses</b>
1- Assault, Aggravated – Committing an assault upon another person with a weapon or an assault which inflicts great bodily harm.	Expulsion		
2- Assault, Physical – Acting with intent to cause fear in another person of immediate bodily harm or death, or intentionally inflicting or attempting to inflict bodily harm upon another person.	1 - 10 Days In School or Out of School Suspension	Up to 10 Days Suspension or Expulsion	Expulsion
3- Bodily Harm, Inflicting – Committing a reckless act that unintentionally causes bodily harm to another person.	1 - 10 Days In School or Out of School Suspension	Up to 10 Days Suspension or Expulsion	Expulsion



4- Disruptive Physical Contact/aggression – Engages in actions involving serious physical contact where injury may occur 5- Fighting – Mutual combat (differentiated from poking, pushing, shoving, or scuffling) in which one or the other parties or both contributed to the situation by verbal and / or physical action.	Possible but not limited to detention, In School or Out of School Suspension 3-5 Days In School or Out of School Suspension	3-5 days In School or out of School Suspension  Up to 10 Days Suspension or Expulsion	5-10 days Out of School Suspension  Expulsion
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**Harassment**

<b>Behaviors</b>	<b>1<sup>st</sup> Offense</b>	<b>2<sup>nd</sup> Offense</b>	<b>3<sup>rd</sup> / Future Offenses</b>
1- Harassment - Participating in or conspiring with others to engage in acts that injure, degrade, intimidate or disgrace other individuals, including indecent exposure, displaying pornography, and words or actions that negatively impact an individual or group based on their racial, cultural or religious background, their sex, their sexual orientation, any disabilities they may have or their color, creed, national origin, marital status, status with regard to public assistance or age.	1-3 days In School or Out of School Suspension	3-5 Day In School or Out of School Suspension or Expulsion	10 Day Suspension or Expulsion.
2- Sexual Violence - A physical act of aggression or force, or the threat of aggression or force, which involves nonconsensual sexual contact or sexual intercourse with another person, including intentional touching of clothing covering a person's intimate parts, intentional touching of a person's intimate parts, or forcing a person to touch any person's intimate parts, or intentional attempted or actual removal of clothing covering a person's intimate parts or undergarments	5-Day Suspension or Expulsion	10 Day Suspension or Expulsion	

**Weapons Possession**

<b>Behaviors</b>	<b>1<sup>st</sup> Offense</b>	<b>2<sup>nd</sup> Offense</b>	<b>3<sup>rd</sup> / Future Offenses</b>
1- Firearms Possession. Firearm means any firearm, whether loaded or unloaded, (includes BB and pellet guns) in school zone.	Expulsion		

<p>2- The use of a Replica firearm or look-alike possession for intimidation and other inappropriate use. “Replica firearm” means a device or object that is not defined as a dangerous weapon that is a facsimile and reasonably appears to be a pistol, revolver, shotgun, saw-off shotgun, rifle, machine gun, rocket launcher or any other type of fire arm.</p>	<p>Expulsion</p>		
<p>3- Possession of Dangerous Weapons – any device designed as a weapon and capable of producing death or bodily harm, or any flammable liquid or other device or instrument that, in the manner it is used or intended to be used, is calculated or likely to produce death or bodily harm in school zone.</p>	<p>Up to 10 Days Suspension or Expulsion</p>	<p>Expulsion</p>	
<p>4- Ammunition Possession -- possession of bullets or other projectiles designed to be used in a weapon.</p>	<p>Possible but not limited to 1-10 days Detention / In School Suspension or Out of School Suspension</p>	<p>1-10 Days Suspension 2-10 Days In School or Out of School Suspension</p>	<p>1- 10 Days Suspension or Expulsion</p>
<p>5- Explosives. Possession and / or Use – Possession or using any compound or mixture, the primary or common purpose of which is to function by explosion, with substantially instantaneous release of gas and heat.</p>	<p>Expulsion</p>		
<p>6- Dangerous Items – Matches, Lighters, and Fireworks are examples of dangerous items.</p>	<p>1-10 Days Suspension Possible but not limited to 1-10 days Detention / In School Suspension or Out of School Suspension</p>	<p>1-10 Days Suspension 2-10 Days In School or Out of School Suspension</p>	<p>5-10 Days Out of School Suspension or Expulsion</p>
<p>7- Committing arson - Intentional destruction or damage to school buildings, or property by means of fire.</p>	<p>Expulsion</p>		

<p>8- Throwing objects to / from vehicles – Throwing any items inside a bus, from outside a bus to inside a bus, or from inside a bus to outside a bus.</p>	<p>* See Transportation Guidelines. Students may receive consequences from the schools as well as from the bus company</p>		
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# West Central Area Secondary School 2020-2021 Graduation Requirements

## 100 Credits Required for Graduation

(72 required credits & 28 elective credits)

### Language Arts

**Minimum of 16 credits = 4 years**

English 9 (full year course)	4 credits
English 10 (full year course)	4 credits
English 11 (full year course)	4 credits
English 12 (semester course)	2 credits
English Electives (all semester courses – select 1)	2 credits

### Math

**Minimum of 12 credits = 3 years**

Geometry 9 (full year course)	4 credits
Algebra II (full year course)	4 credits
Probability & Stats (full year course)	4 credits

*Or*

Business Math (semester course) & Personal Finance (semester course)

### Science

**Minimum of 12 credits = 3 years**

Physical Science 9 (full year course)	4 credits
Biology 10 (full year course)	4 credits
Chemistry (Full year or one semester Consumer Chemistry)	2-4 credits
Science Electives (one semester course if Consumer Chemistry is selected)	2 credits

### Social Studies

**Minimum of 14 credits = 3.5 years**

American History: The Young Republic (full year course – Grade 9)	4 credits
The Modern American Century (semester course – Grade 10)	2 credits
World History: Old World (semester course – Grade 10)	2 credits
World History: Colonialism to Today (semester course -Grade 11)	2 credits
Economics (semester course – grade 12)	2 credits
Government and Politics (semester course – grade 12)	2 credits

### PE/Health

**Minimum of 8 credits = 2 years**

Physical Education 9 (full year course)	4 credits
Physical Education/Health 10 (full year course)	4 credits

### Arts

**Minimum of 4 credits = 1 year**

Music and/or art electives (all semester courses)	4 credits
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### Additional WCA High School Requirements

**6 Credits required = 1.5 years**

Careers 9 (2 credits), Agriculture 9 (2 credits) and Senior Seminar 12 (2 credits)

**Preparing for a 4-year college:** Take a minimum of 4 years English, 3 years math, 3 years of science, 3 ½ years social studies, 1 year art/music & 2 years foreign language (many universities require 2 years of high school foreign language course work)

### 4-year Colleges consider:

Class Rank	ACT or SAT score	Rigor of courses	Senior Courses
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## **PALMER BUS RULES**

Riding the school bus is a privilege, not a right. Students are expected to follow the same behavioral standards while riding school buses as are expected on school property or at school activities, functions, or events. All school rules are in effect while a student is riding the bus or at the bus stop.

The school bus safety rules are posted on every bus. If these rules are broken, the discipline procedures will be followed. Consequences are progressive and may include suspension of bus privileges. It is the school bus driver's responsibility to report unacceptable behavior to the Transportation Office.

### **RULES AT THE BUS STOP**

- o Get to your bus stop 3-5 minutes before your scheduled pick up time. The school bus driver will not wait for late students.
- o Respect the property of others while waiting.
- o Keep your arms, legs, and belongings to yourself.
- o Use appropriate language.
- o Stay away from the road when waiting for the bus. Wait until the bus stops before approaching the bus.
- o After getting off the bus, move away from the bus.
- o If you must cross the street, **always cross in front of the bus where the driver can see you**. Wait for the driver to signal to you before crossing the street.
- o No fighting, harassment, intimidation, or horseplay.
- o No use of alcohol, tobacco, or drugs.

### **RULES ON THE BUS**

- o Immediately follow the instructions of the driver.
- o Sit in your seat facing the front.
- o Talk quietly and use appropriate language.
- o Keep all parts of your body inside the bus.
- o Keep your arms, legs, and belongings to yourself.
- o No fighting, harassment, intimidation, or horseplay.
- o Do not throw any object.
- o No eating, drinking, or use of tobacco or drugs
- o Do not bring any weapon or dangerous objects on the school bus.
- o Do not damage the bus.

### **STUDENT TRAINING**

The School District shall provide students enrolled in grades Kindergarten through 10 with school bus safety training. The training shall be results-oriented and shall consist of both classroom instruction and practical training using a school bus. Upon completion of the training, a student shall be able to demonstrate knowledge and understanding of at least the following competencies and concepts:

- o Transportation by school bus is a privilege not a right;
- o Policies for student conduct and school bus safety;
- o Appropriate conduct while on the bus;
- o The danger zones surrounding the school bus;
- o Procedures for safely boarding and leaving the school bus;
- o Procedures for safe vehicle lane crossing; and
- o School bus evacuation and other emergency procedures.

### **CONSEQUENCES FOR MISBEHAVIOR**

Consequences for school bus/bus stop misconduct will be imposed by the Building Principal or designee in conjunction with the Transportation Director. Serious misconduct may be reported to local law enforcement.

Consequences for school bus/bus stop misconduct will apply to all regular routes and shuttles. Decisions regarding a student's ability to ride the bus in connection with co-curricular and extra-curricular events (for example, field trips or competitions) will be in the sole discretion of the School District. Parents or guardians will be notified of any suspension of bus privileges.

## **ELEMENTARY (K-6)**

1st offense Written warning

2nd offense 3 school day suspension from the bus. Call parent/guardian

3rd offense 5 school day suspension from the bus. Call and meet with parent/guardian

4th offense 10 school day suspension from the bus and a meeting with parent/guardian

Further offenses will be individually considered. Students may be suspended for longer periods of time, including the remainder of the school year.

## **SECONDARY (7-12)**

1st offense Written warning

2nd offense 5 school day suspension from the bus, Call parent/guardian

3rd offense 10 school day suspension from the bus, Call and meet with parent/guardian

4th offense Suspended from riding the bus for the remainder of the year.

Based on the severity of a student's conduct, more serious consequences may be imposed at any time. Depending on the nature of the offense, consequences such as suspension or expulsion from school may also result from school bus/bus stop misconduct.

## **RECORDS**

Records of school bus/bus stop misconduct will be forwarded to the individual school building and will be retained in the same manner as other student discipline records. Records will also be maintained in the transportation office.

## **VANDALISM/BUS DAMAGE**

Students damaging school buses will be responsible for the damages. Failure to pay such damages (or make arrangements to pay) within two weeks may result in the loss of bus privileges until damages are paid.

## **NOTICE**

Students will be given a copy of school bus and bus stop rules. Rules will be posted on each bus.

## **CRIMINAL CONDUCT**

In cases involving criminal conduct (for example, assault, weapons possession, or vandalism), the Superintendent and local law enforcement officials will be informed.

## **PARENT/GUARDIAN RESPONSIBILITIES FOR TRANSPORTATION SAFETY**

- o Become familiar with rules and policies, regulations, and principles of school bus safety.
- o Assist students in understanding safety rules and encourage them to abide by them.
- o Recognize their responsibilities for the actions of their students.
- o Support safe riding practices and reasonable discipline efforts.
- o When appropriate, assist students in safely crossing local streets before boarding and after leaving the bus.
- o Support procedures for emergency evacuation, and procedures in emergencies as set up by the School District.
- o Respect the rights and privileges of others.
- o Communicate safety concerns to transportation office.
- o Monitor bus stops, if possible.
- o Support all efforts to improve school bus safety.

## **OTHER INFORMATION FOR PARENT/GUARDIAN**

- o No driver is to make changes in the pick-up or drop-off schedule for their route without prior authorization.
- o Only authorized passengers may be transported in a bus. Any other passenger must be specifically approved.
- o No weapons or articles that may be classified as dangerous may be transported on a school bus. This includes any or all weapons, gasoline cans, animals, and other dangerous or objectionable items.
- o Any denial of bus-riding privileges must come from the Principal or Transportation Director.

INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT 2342

RELIGIOUS, RACIAL, OR SEXUAL HARASSMENT AND VIOLENCE REPORT FORM

General Statement of Policy Prohibiting Religious, Racial, or Sexual Harassment

Independent School District No. 2342 maintains a firm policy prohibiting all forms of discrimination. Religious, racial, or sexual harassment or violence against students or employees is discrimination. All persons are to be treated with respect and dignity. Sexual violence, sexual advances or other forms of religious, racial, or sexual harassment by any pupil, teacher, administrator or other school personnel, which create an intimidating, hostile or offensive environment, will not be tolerated under any circumstances.

Complainant \_\_\_\_\_  
Home Address \_\_\_\_\_  
Work Address \_\_\_\_\_  
Home Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Work Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Alleged Incident(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Circle as appropriate **sexual \ racial \ religious.**

Name of person you believe harassed or was violent toward you or another person. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

If the alleged harassment or violence was toward another person, identify that person. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Describe the incident(s) as clearly as possible, including such things as: what force, if any, was used; any verbal statements (i.e. threats, requests, demands, etc.); what, if any, physical contact was involved; etc. (Attach additional pages if necessary.) \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Where and when did the incident(s) occur? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

List any witnesses that were present \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

This complaint is filed based on my honest belief that \_\_\_\_\_ has harassed or has been violent to me or to another person. I hereby certify that the information I have provided in this complaint is true, correct and complete to the best of my knowledge and belief.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Complainant Signature                      Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Received by \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

## CHEMICAL ELIGIBILITY & GENERAL ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

1. During the calendar year, regardless of the quantity, a student shall not:
  - A. use/have in possession\* a beverage containing alcohol;
  - B. use/have in possession\* tobacco; or
  - C. use or consume, have in possession, buy, sell or give away any other controlled substance.

\*Possession: Possession is any situation that implies that said article belongs to, or is in the property of an individual, such as having in one's hand, having on one's person, sitting in front of, present in a vehicle wherever alcohol is present, or any other situation that is generally defined as an act of ownership as may be determined by school administration.

2. Consequences and Recommendations for Category I Activities

Category I Activities are those that have a regular schedule of interscholastic contests.

\* Athletic Activities included in Category I are:

- 1) Football, 7-12
- 2) Volleyball, 7-12
- 3) Boys' & Girls' Basketball, 7-12
- 4) Wrestling, 7-12
- 5) Boys' & Girls' Golf, 7-12
- 6) Boys' & Girls' Track, 7-12
- 7) Baseball, 7-12
- 8) Softball, 7-12
- 9) Cheerleading, 7-12
- 10) Girls' Tennis, 7-12

\* Fine Arts Activities:

- 1) Speech
- 2) One Act Play

### A. **First Violation Consequence**

After confirmation of the first violation the student shall lose eligibility for the next two (2) consecutive interscholastic contests or two (2) weeks, 14 calendar days, of a season in which the student is a participant, whichever is greater. No exception is permitted for a student who becomes a participant in a treatment program.

### B. **Second Violation Consequence**

After confirmation of the second violation the student shall lose eligibility for the next eight (8) consecutive interscholastic contests or four (4) weeks, 28 calendar days, whichever is greater, in which the student is a participant. No exception is permitted for a student who becomes a participant in a treatment program. It is recommended that, when appropriate, the school refer a student to a community agency or a professional individual outside the school for assessment of potential chemical abuse or misuse.

### C. **Third Violation Consequence**

After confirmation of the third violation the student shall lose eligibility for the next sixteen (16) consecutive interscholastic contests or eight (8) weeks, 56 calendar days, whichever is greater, in which the student is a participant.

- 1) Must obtain Rule 25 Chemical Dependency Assessment and complete any recommendations made through that assessment process.

### D. **Fourth & Subsequent Violation Consequences**

After confirmation of the fourth and subsequent violations the student shall lose eligibility for one calendar year. If the student wishes to become a participant in school activities after that year, the student must make a request to the School Board to be reinstated.

E. Accumulative Penalties:

Penalties shall be accumulated beginning with the student's first participation (7-12) on a school team or activity--Junior High (7-8 grade), 9th Grade, B-squad, Junior Varsity or Varsity--and continuing throughout the student's high school career.

## 3. **Penalties for Category II Activities**

Category II Activities: those school-sponsored activities in which the school does not have a schedule of interscholastic contests, exclusive of MSHSL-sponsored tournaments. Those activities include but are not limited to:

Instrumental music	Spelling Bee	Vocal music
School musical	Mock Trial	FFA competitions
LifeSmarts	Knowledge Bowl	Academic Decathlon

### A. **First Violation Consequence**



After confirmation of the first violation, the student shall lose eligibility for the next event or one (1) week, whichever is greater.

For the first offense only--if a student stands to miss a one-time event, an alternative penalty will be assessed. The student will be allowed to complete a minimum of 10 hours of community service (outside of regular school hours) in lieu of the one event suspension. The community service project must be approved by the Activities Director.

**B. Second Violation Consequence**

After confirmation of the second violation, the student shall lose eligibility for the next three (3) consecutive events. It is recommended that, when appropriate, the school refer a student to a community agency or a professional individual outside the school for assessment of potential chemical abuse or misuse.

**C. Third Violation Consequence**

After confirmation of the third violation, the student shall lose eligibility for the next six (6) consecutive events. A recommendation shall be made for chemical dependency. Must obtain Chemical Dependency Assessment and complete any recommendations made through that assessment process.

**D. Fourth & Subsequent Violation Consequences**

The student shall lose eligibility for one calendar year. If the student wishes to become a participant in school activities after that year, the student must make a request to the School Board to be reinstated.

E. A student who participates in Category I Athletics and Category II Co-Curricular Activities will be ineligible in both categories until penalties are fulfilled.

**BYLAW 206.00**

**1. Good standing/Student Code of Responsibility**

In order to be eligible for regular season and MSHSL tournament competition, a student must be a fully enrolled (as defined by the Minnesota Department of Children, Families and Learning) undergraduate member of his or her school in good standing as defined in board policy, Bylaw 111.00.

**2. Student Code of Responsibility**

The member schools of the Minnesota State High School League believe that participation in interscholastic activities is a privilege which is accompanied by responsibility.

As a student participating in my school's interscholastic activities, I understand and accept the following responsibilities:

- I will respect the rights and belief of others and will treat others with courtesy and consideration.
- I will be fully responsible for my own actions and the consequences of my actions.
- I will respect the rights and property of others.
- I will respect and obey the rules of my school and the laws of my community, state and country.
- I will show respect to those who are responsible for enforcing the rules of my school and the laws of my community, state and country.

Assault on any person will not be condoned by the League and will be dealt with by the school administration and the local authorities.

NOTE: Any allegation of sexual, racial, religious harassment, violence and/or hazing may also constitute a violation of the Student Code of Responsibilities.

Penalty:

A student who is dismissed or who violates the Student Code of Responsibilities is not in good standing and is ineligible for a period of time as determined by the school principal, acting on the authority of the local board of education. The League specifically recognizes by this policy that certain conduct requires penalties that may exceed those penalties typically imposed for first violations.

### 3. **Student/Coach Ejection from a Contest**

#### Penalties:

Any student or coach disqualified from an interscholastic contest by game officials will be ineligible for the next regularly scheduled game/meet at that level of competition and all other games/meets in the interim at any level of competition.

The second violation carries a four (4) regularly scheduled game/meet ineligibility. If penalties are imposed at the end of the sport season and no contest remains, the penalty is carried over in that particular sport until the next school year. In the case of a senior, the penalty will continue to the next sport season.

**Student:** Anytime a student-athlete is ejected from a game/meet, he/she does not participate for the remainder of that day. The student is also suspended from the next scheduled, rescheduled or contracted date at that level of competition and all games/meets in the interim at other levels of competition.

**Coach:** Anytime a coach is ejected from a game/meet, he/she does not coach the remainder of that day. The coach is also suspended from the next scheduled, rescheduled or contracted date at that level of competition and all games/meets in the interim at other levels of competition.

**Appeal:** A basketball coach may appeal the penalty only when he/she is disqualified for technical fouls and his/her actions did not contribute to the disqualification. The appeal will be heard by the local school administration. A complete report must be sent to the League for review.