



# **HUNTLEY**

COMMUNITY SCHOOL DISTRICT **158**

## **2023-2024**

### **Middle School**

### **Student Academic, Activities,**

### **and Athletics Handbook**

#### **Square Barn Road Campus**

Heineman Middle School



#### **Reed Road Campus**

Marlowe Middle School



***MISSION: OUR LEARNING COMMUNITY WILL INSPIRE,  
CHALLENGE AND EMPOWER ALL STUDENTS ALWAYS***

## **Huntley School District 158 Middle Schools**

### **Heineman Middle School**

725 Dr. John Burkey Drive  
Algonquin, IL 60102  
(847) 659-4300 - Office  
(847) 659-4311 - Attendance Line

Office Hours: 7:00 am to 3:00 pm  
School Day: 7:30 am to 2:25 pm

Mr. Andrew Gibbs, Principal  
Ms. Rebecca La Porta, Assistant Principal  
Mrs. Alicia Parker, Assistant Principal



### **Marlowe Middle School**

9625 Haligus Road  
Lake In The Hills, IL 60156  
(847) 659-4700 - Office  
(847) 659-4711 - Attendance Line

Office Hours: 7:00 am to 4:00 pm  
School Day: 7:30 am to 2:25 pm

Mr. William Johnson, Principal  
Ms. Teresa Brandt, Assistant Principal  
Ms. Gabrielle Clark, Assistant Principal  
Mrs. Jillian Pearce, Assistant Principal



## Schedule of Events 2023-2024

### Institute Days

August 14, 2023  
August 15, 2023  
October 6, 2023  
February 15, 2024

### Non Attendance Days - No School

November 22, 2023  
February 16, 2024  
March 29, 2024

### Waived Holidays - School in Session

Casimir Pulaski Day - March 4, 2024

### Holidays - No School/Offices Closed

Independence Day - July 4, 2023  
Labor Day - September 4, 2023  
Columbus Day - October 9, 2023  
Thanksgiving Holiday - November 23-24, 2023  
Christmas Holiday Observation - December 25-26, 2023  
New Year Holiday Observation - January 1-2, 2024  
Dr. Martin Luther King's Birthday - January 15, 2024  
Presidents Day - February 19, 2024  
Memorial Day - May 27, 2024  
Juneteenth - June 19, 2024

### SIP Early Release Days

September 21, 2023  
December 22, 2023  
January 25, 2024  
March 7, 2024  
April 18, 2024  
May 22, 2024

Middle School Dismissal at 12:30 pm on SIP Early Release Days

### School Begins

August 16, 2023

### Middle School Grading Periods

October 13, 2023 - End of 1st Quarter (40 days)  
December 22, 2023 - End of 2nd Quarter (45 days)  
March 18, 2024 - End of 3rd Quarter (41 days)  
May 22, 2024 - End of 4th Quarter (48 days)

### Parent Teacher Conferences

November 20, 2023 – 9:00 am to 8:00 pm  
November 21, 2023 – 7:00 am to 12:00 pm

### Winter Break

December 25, 2023 – January 5, 2024

### Spring Break

March 25, 2024 – March 29, 2024

### Miscellaneous

December 22, 2023 – Last day before Winter Break  
January 8, 2024 – First day after Winter Break  
March 22, 2024 – Last day before Spring Break  
April 1, 2024 – First day after Spring Break

### 8th Grade Promotions

May 21, 2024 - Heineman Middle School  
May 22, 2024 - Marlowe Middle School

\* Wednesday, May 22, 2024 will be the earliest last day of school if NO emergency days are used.

\* Thursday, May 30, 2024 will be the last day of school if ALL 5 emergency days are used.

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## **Handbook Disclaimer**

To ensure continued compliance with federal, state or local regulations, the rules, guidelines, and Board Policies published in this handbook are subject to review and may be amended during the year without notice as necessary for the routine operation of the school or District. Any amendment(s) made during the year will be posted to the school website.

Nothing in this handbook shall be construed in a manner contrary to Board of Education Policies, State, or federal law.



## **General Information and Notices**

### ***Accommodating Individuals with Disabilities***

Individuals with disabilities will be provided an opportunity to participate in all school-sponsored services, programs, or activities. Individuals with disabilities should notify the Superintendent or Building Principal if they have a disability that will require special assistance or services and, if so, what services are required. This notification should occur as far in advance as possible of the school-sponsored function, program, or meeting.

### ***Animals on School Property***

In order to ensure student health and safety, animals are not allowed on school property except in the case of a service animal accompanying a student or other individual with a documented disability. This rule may be temporarily waived by the Building Principal in the case of an educational opportunity for students, provided that: (a) the animal is appropriately housed, humanely cared for, and properly handled, and (b) students will not be exposed to a dangerous animal or an unhealthy environment.

### ***Awareness and Prevention of Child Sexual Abuse, Grooming Behaviors, and Boundary Violations***

Child sexual abuse, grooming behaviors, and boundary violations harm students, their parent, the District's environment, its school communities, and the community at large, while diminishing a student's ability to learn.

#### **Warning Signs of Child Sexual Abuse**

Physical signs:

- Sexually transmitted infections (STIs) or other genital infections
- Signs of trauma to the genital area, such as unexplained bleeding, bruising, or blood on the sheets, underwear, or other clothing
- Unusual weight gain or loss

Behavioral signs:

- Excessive talk about or knowledge of sexual topics
- Keeping secrets
- Not talking as much as usual
- Not wanting to be left alone with certain people or being afraid to be away from primary caregivers
- Regressive behaviors or resuming behaviors that the child had grown out of, such as thumb sucking or bedwetting
- Overly compliant behavior
- Sexual behavior that is inappropriate for the child's age
- Spending an unusual amount of time alone
- Trying to avoid removing clothing to change or bathe

Emotional signs:

- Change in eating habits or unhealthy eating patterns, like loss of appetite or excessive eating
- Signs of depression, such as persistent sadness, lack of energy, changes in sleep or appetite, withdrawing from normal activities, or feeling "down"
- Change in mood or personality, such as increased aggression
- Decrease in confidence or self-image
- Anxiety, excessive worry, or fearfulness
- Increase in unexplained health problems such as stomach aches and headaches
- Loss or decrease in interest in school, activities, and friends
- Nightmares or fear of being alone at night
- Self-harming behaviors or expressing thoughts of suicide or suicidal behavior
- Failing grades
- Drug or alcohol use

#### **Warning Signs of Grooming Behaviors**

School and District employees are expected to maintain professional and appropriate relationships with students based upon students' ages, grade levels, and developmental levels.

Prohibited grooming is defined as (i) any act, including but not limited to, any verbal, nonverbal, written or electronic communication or physical activity, (ii) by an employee with direct contact with a student, (iii) that is

directed toward or with a student to establish a romantic or sexual relationship with the student. Examples of grooming behaviors include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Sexual or romantic invitations to a student
- Dating or soliciting a date from a student
- Engaging in sexualized or romantic dialog with a student
- Making sexually suggestive comments that are directed toward or with a student
- Self-disclosure or physical exposure of a sexual, romantic, or erotic nature
- Sexual, indecent, romantic, or erotic contact with a student
- Failing to respect boundaries or listening when a student says “no”
- Engaging in touching that a student or student’s parents have indicated as unwanted
- Trying to be a student’s friend rather than filling an adult role in the student’s life
- Failing to maintain age-appropriate relationships with students
- Talking with students about personal problems or relationships
- Spending time alone with a student outside of their role in the student’s life or making up excuses to be alone with a student
- Expressing unusual interest in a student’s sexual development, such as commenting on sexual characteristics or sexualizing normal behaviors
- Giving a student gifts without occasion or reason
- Spending a lot of time with a student
- Restricting a student’s access to other adults

#### Warning Signs of Boundary Violations

School and District employees breach employee-student boundaries when they misuse their position of power over a student in a way that compromises the student’s health, safety, or general welfare. Examples of boundary violations include:

- Favoring a certain student by inviting the student to “hang out” or by granting special privileges
- Engaging in peer-like behavior with a student
- Discussing personal issues with a student
- Meeting with a student off-campus without parent knowledge and/or permission
- Dating, requesting, or participating in a private meeting with a student (in person or virtually) outside of a professional role
- Transporting a student in a school or private vehicle without administrative authorization
- Giving gifts, money, or treats to an individual student
- Sending a student on personal errands
- Intervening in a serious student problem instead of referring the student to an appropriately trained professional
- Sexual or romantic invitations toward or from a student
- Taking and using photos/videos of students for non-educational purposes
- Initiating or extending contact with a student beyond the school day in a one-on-one or non-group setting
- Inviting a student to an employee’s home
- Adding a student on personal social networking sites as contacts when unrelated to a legitimate educational purpose
- Privately messaging a student
- Maintaining intense eye contact with a student
- Making comments about a student’s physical attributes, including excessively flattering comments
- Engaging in sexualized or romantic dialog
- Making sexually suggestive comments directed toward or with a student
- Disclosing confidential information
- Self-disclosure of a sexual, romantic, or erotic nature
- Full frontal hugs
- Invading personal space

If you believe you are a victim of child sexual abuse, grooming behaviors, or boundary violations, or you believe that your child is a victim, you should immediately contact the Building Principal, a school counselor, or another trusted adult employee of the school.

Board Policy 4:165, *Awareness and Prevention of Child Sexual Abuse and Grooming Behaviors*, is available on the District website and a copy may be obtained by calling the District 158 Administrative Office at (847) 659-6158.

### ***Education of Homeless Children***

Each child of a homeless individual and each homeless youth has equal access to the same free, appropriate public education as provided to other children and youths, including a public pre-school education. Any homeless child shall be immediately admitted, even if the child or child's parent is unable to produce records normally required for enrollment. Board Policy 6:140, *Education of Homeless Children*, and its implementing administrative procedures govern the enrollment of homeless children.

### ***Equal Educational Opportunities***

Equal educational, co-curricular, and extracurricular opportunities shall be available for all students without regard to color, race, nationality, religion, sex, sexual orientation, ancestry, age, physical or mental disability, gender identity, status of being homeless, immigration status, order of protection status, actual or potential marital or parental status, including pregnancy. Any student may file a discrimination grievance by using Board Policy 2:260, *Uniform Grievance Procedure*, or by completing and submitting a [Formal Public Complaint form](#).

### ***Sex Equity Policy***

No student shall, on the basis of sex, sexual orientation, or gender identity be denied equal access to programs, activities, services, or benefits or be limited in the exercise of any right, privilege, advantage, or denied equal access to educational, co-curricular, and extracurricular programs and activities. Any student may file a sex equity complaint by using Board Policy 2:260, *Uniform Grievance Procedure*, or by completing and submitting a [Formal Public Complaint form](#).

### ***Video and Audio Monitoring System***

A video and audio monitoring system is in use on school buses and a video monitoring system is in use in public areas of the school building. These systems have been put in place to protect students, staff, visitors and school property. If a discipline problem is captured on audiotape or videotape, these recordings may be used as the basis for imposing student discipline. If criminal actions are recorded, a copy of the tape may be provided to law enforcement personnel.

### ***Weapons Policy***

It is the policy of District 158 to prohibit the possession or the assistance of possession of weapons on school grounds, at any school activity, on school transportation vehicles, or in any designated school transportation waiting area.

## **Emergency Communications**

### ***Emergency Notifications***

District 158 will send out notification alerts in critical situations, such as emergency weather closures, crisis incidents, and other incidents affecting school operations through the SwiftReach SwiftK12 program. This system integrates with PowerSchool, and parents can manage their contact information and preferences through the PowerSchool Parent Portal. For more information, please visit the Safety and Security webpage and select "Alerts" from the dropdown menu or click [Managing Your Information and Preferences in SwiftK12](#) to view instructions.

### ***School Day Cancellations***

The Superintendent is authorized to close school(s) in the event of hazardous weather or other emergency that threatens the safety of students, staff members, or school property. Should the need to close occur, parents will be notified via SwiftReach SwiftK12, the District's automated messaging system. Information will also be posted to the District 158 website at [www.huntley158.org](http://www.huntley158.org). In the event school is closed, all after-school, co-curricular, and extracurricular activities are also cancelled.

## **Enrollment Information**

### ***Birth Certificate Requirement***

Illinois law requires at registration, or within 30 days of registration, a certified copy of the student's birth certificate to be on file with the District. If a certified copy is not available at the time of registration, the District must be furnished at a minimum: the student's full legal name and date of birth. If a person enrolling a student fails to provide a certified copy of the student's birth certificate within 30 days of registration, the Superintendent or designee shall immediately notify the local law enforcement agency, and shall also notify the person enrolling the student in writing that, unless the person complies within 10 days, the case will be referred to the local law enforcement authority for investigation. If compliance is not obtained within that 10-day period, the Superintendent or designee shall refer the case.

### ***Custody Arrangements***

In order for school personnel to be aware of any custody arrangements, please provide legal custody/divorce settlement documents to the school prior to the beginning of the school year or as situations change.

### ***Fees and Waivers***

Waiver of student fees will be granted to those students who qualify. Parents may apply for waiver of school fees by completing and submitting the [Application for Fee Waiver form](#) and proof of current income.

**Please note:** In order to be eligible for a waiver of student registration fees, applications must be received *within thirty (30) days of the date your child enters school for the current school year*. Fees will not be waived until the Application for Fee Waiver form is received, reviewed and approved. If approved, other fees incurred after the date the application is received will be eligible for a fee waiver.

Board Policy 4:140, *Waiver of Student Fees*, is available on the District website and a copy may be obtained by calling the District 158 Administrative Office at (847) 659-6158.

### ***Homeless Child's Rights***

When a child loses permanent housing and becomes a homeless person as defined by law, or when a homeless child changes his or her temporary living arrangements, the parent of the homeless child has the option of either:

1. continuing the child's education in the school of origin for as long as the child remains homeless or, if the child becomes permanently housed, until the end of the academic year during which the housing is acquired; or
2. enrolling the child in any school that non-homeless students who live in the attendance area in which the child or youth is actually living are eligible to attend.

For additional information, please contact:

D158 Homeless Liaison  
(847) 659-6158

### ***Student Transfers to and from Non-District Schools***

A student may transfer into or out of the District according to State law and procedures developed by the Superintendent. A student seeking to transfer into the District must serve the entire term of any suspension or expulsion, imposed for any reason by any public or private school, in this or any other state, before being admitted into the District.

## **School and Community Relations**

### ***Care Solace***

We are committed to the well-being of our students, staff and families to create a safe and healthy learning environment. In support of this ongoing commitment, Huntley 158 has partnered with [Care Solace](#) to provide an additional layer of care for our community.

If students, staff or their family members are looking for help with mental health or substance use, Care Solace can help you quickly find treatment options matched to your needs regardless of the circumstance. Care Solace is a complimentary and confidential service provided to students, staff, and their families by District 158. Care Solace's team is available 24 hours a day, 7 days per week, 365 days a year and can support you in any language.

If you would like to use Care Solace to help find a provider:

- Call 888-515-0595
- Visit [www.caresolace.com/huntley](http://www.caresolace.com/huntley) and either search on your own OR click "Book Appointment" for assistance by video chat, email, or phone.

Care Solace is not an emergency response service or mental health services provider. In the event of a life threatening emergency, please call 9-1-1 or the National Suicide Hotline 1-800-273-8255.

### ***Faith's Law Notifications – Employee Conduct Standards***

School districts are required to include in their student handbook notification of the District's Employee Code of Professional Conduct. These standards, in part, define appropriate conduct between school employees and students.

Board Policy 5:120, *Employee Ethics; Code of Professional Conduct; and Conflict of Interest*, is available on the District website and a copy may be obtained by calling the District 158 Administrative Office at (847) 659-6158.

### ***Gun-Free, Tobacco, Alcohol, and Drug-Free Zones***

All District 158 buildings and grounds are gun-free, tobacco, alcohol, and drug-free zones. Cigarettes and alternative nicotine products are not permitted. This includes all after school activities and school-related events.

### ***Mandated Reporter***

All school personnel, including teachers, administrators, and support staff members, are required by law to immediately report any and all suspected cases of child abuse or neglect to the Illinois Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS).

### ***Pesticide Application Notice***

District 158 maintains a registry of employees and parents of students who have registered to receive written or telephone notification prior to the application of pesticides to school grounds. To be added to the list, please contact the Director of Communications and Public Engagement at (847) 659-6158.

Notification will be given before application of the pesticide. Prior notice is not required if there is imminent threat to health or property.

### ***PowerSchool***

Huntley 158 uses an internet-based student information system called PowerSchool. The PowerSchool Parent Portal gives parents access to real-time information including their child's schedule, attendance, assignments, and grades. Students also have their own accounts to access school information from home or at school.

Instructions to create a PowerSchool account, to add/link a student, along with information on the PowerSchool app and a login link is available on the [PowerSchool](#) page of the District website. Password information for students and parents is available from the District Registration Office at (847) 659-6147.

### ***Sex Offender & Violent Offender Notification Law***

State law prohibits a convicted child sex offender from being present on school property when children under the age of 18 are present, except in the following circumstances as they relate to the individual's child:

1. To attend a conference at the school with school personnel to discuss the progress of their child.
2. To participate in a conference in which evaluation and placement decisions may be made with respect to their child's special education services.
3. To attend conferences to discuss issues concerning their child, such as retention or promotion.

In all other cases, convicted child sex offenders are prohibited from being present on school property unless they obtain written permission from the Superintendent or Board.

Any time a convicted child sex offender is present on school property for any reason – including the three reasons above – the individual is responsible for notifying the Building Principal upon arrival and upon departure. The convicted child sex offender must remain under the direct supervision of a school official at all times while in the presence or vicinity of children. A violation of this law is a Class 4 felony.

In addition, State law requires schools to notify parents that information about sex offenders and violent offenders against youth is available to the public on the Illinois Department of State Police (ISP) website. The ISP website contains the following:

- Illinois Sex Offender Registry, <https://isp.illinois.gov/Sor>
- Illinois Murderer and Violent Offender Against Youth Registry, <https://isp.illinois.gov/MVOAY>
- Frequently Asked Questions Concerning Sex Offenders, <https://isp.illinois.gov/Sor/FAQs>

### ***Suicide and Depression Awareness and Prevention***

Youth suicide impacts the safety of the school environment. It also affects the school community, diminishing the ability of surviving students to learn and the school's ability to educate. Suicide and depression awareness and prevention are important goals of the District.

The District maintains resources on suicide and depression awareness and prevention. Much of this information, including Board Policy 7:290, *Suicide and Depression Awareness and Prevention*, is available on the District website and a copy may be obtained by calling the school office.

In the event of a life threatening emergency, please call  
**9-1-1** or the National Suicide Hotline at **1-800-273-8255**.

### ***Visitor Guidelines***

The safety and security of your children is our number one concern. In an effort to maintain a safe, disruption free educational environment for all students, we ask all visitors to use the same procedures when entering the building. The District expects mutual respect, civility, and orderly conduct among all individuals on school property or at a school event.

- All schools are accessible only via the secured main entrance (Door #1).
- All visitors to elementary and middle school buildings must press the call button outside the front door, state their purpose for visiting, and wait to be buzzed into the building.
- All visitors must provide valid ID and be scanned into the Raptor Visitor Management System which will run an instant background check.
- Visitors with histories that appear on the Raptor check will be either denied access to the building, limited to conducting business in the front office, or will be provided escorted access to other parts of the building as is necessitated by circumstances and/or applicable law.
- Student Visitors - Students are not permitted to bring guests to school during the school day.

### ***Visits to Classrooms and Conferences***

- All visits to classrooms must be pre-arranged with the teacher.
- Conferences will be held outside school hours or during the teacher's conference/preparation period.
- All visitors must follow the Visitor Guidelines as outlined above.

### ***Volunteers***

District 158 is fortunate to have extensive community and parent involvement. Those interested in volunteering must complete a Volunteer Registration form each school year. In keeping with District guidelines, younger siblings are not permitted to accompany volunteers during volunteer activities. We appreciate everyone's understanding.

The Volunteer Registration form along with additional information is available on the [Volunteer](#) webpage. If you are interested in volunteering, please contact the District's Volunteer Coordinator at (847) 659-6152.

## **School Guidelines**

### ***School Hours***

School hours for students in grades 6-8 are 7:30 am to 2:25 pm, and 7:30 am to 12:30 pm on early release days. We ask that students arrive no earlier than 30 minutes prior to the start of the school day. Students remaining in the building after school hours are to report to a club, sport, or activity directly supervised by a staff member.

### ***Access to Student Social Networking Passwords and Websites***

Social networking websites and platforms means an Internet-based service that allows students to: (1) construct a public or semi-public profile within a bounded system created by the service, (2) create a list of other users with whom they share a connection within the system, and (3) view and navigate their list of connections and those made by others within the system. Social networking websites include, but are not limited to, Facebook, Instagram, Twitter, TikTok, Snapchat, and ASKfm.

If a student has an account on a social networking website, school officials may conduct an investigation or require a student to cooperate in an investigation if there is specific information about activity on the student's account on a social networking website that violates a school behavior rule or policy. In the course of an investigation, the student may be required to share the content that is reported in order to allow school officials to make a factual determination. School officials may not request or require a student or the student's parent to provide a password or other related account information to gain access to the student's account or profile.

### ***After School Hours***

Students who are in the building after school is dismissed must be there for a specific activity or reason, including, but not limited to, participating in an extracurricular activity, meeting with a teacher for academic reasons, an assigned detention, or staying as a spectator for an athletic or other special event. All students staying after school are subject to the student behavior expectations and discipline consequences.

→ *Students must make arrangements in advance for a ride home from school. If an activity concludes early, students must report to the supervised area until their ride arrives.*

### ***Closed Campus***

The middle schools maintain a closed campus policy. This means all students eat lunch at school. Students may only leave school with a written excuse for a doctor or dental appointment and must be signed out at the office by a parent.

### ***Hall Passes***

With the exception of passing periods, students in the halls must have a pass issued by a staff member.

### ***Homework***

Homework is an extension of learning in the classroom and is assigned to challenge, reinforce and motivate, and is not given for disciplinary reasons. The quantity of homework will increase throughout the grade school years as students are able to assume greater responsibilities and independence. Whenever possible, supervised study

time will be given in the classroom to help students get off to a good start on their assignments. Homework is a good way of involving parents in the learning process and keeping them informed about their child's progress. It is important, however, that assignments be completed by the student in order for the teacher to make an accurate assessment of the student's learning. Both long-term and short-term homework assignments will help students establish regular study habits, learn to budget time, develop an interest in the work assigned and learn the importance of accomplishing and turning in the work on time.

#### ***Academic Limitations on Homework***

- Homework will not account for more than 40% of a student's overall grade.
- Late assignments are defined as assignments not turned in to the teacher when they are requested.
- Late assignments may be accepted for partial credit during a particular unit of study. Assignments may not be accepted for credit when that unit of study has been completed.
- Extra credit may or may not be available in any given class at the discretion of the classroom teacher or team. Extra credit assignments shall not exceed 2% of a student's overall grade.

#### ***Academic Dishonesty***

District 158's middle schools promote academic honesty. Students are expected to complete their own work. Therefore, credit will only be assigned to those students who submit their own original work.

Academic dishonesty is defined as, but is not limited to, the following:

**Plagiarism** – using another person's ideas, expressions, or writings as one's own.

**Cheating** includes, but is not limited to:

- cheat sheets for tests or quizzes
- copying another person's work and turning it in
- using notes or technology without permission and turning it in
- telling other students what's on tests or quizzes

#### ***Consequences for Academic Dishonesty***

Students who are academically dishonest will be subject to one or more of the following consequences:

- phone call to parent(s)
- notification of and consequence assigned by a school administrator
- parent conference with parent(s), student, teachers, and administrator(s)

#### ***Identification Cards***

Students will be given an identification card and a breakaway lanyard at the beginning of the school year. Students are required to wear and properly display the ID for the current school year. The ID card must be attached to a breakaway lanyard, worn around the neck, and visible at all times during the school day except when specifically exempted on a temporary basis by a staff member. Students may not embellish their ID card with any drawing or writing. Students without an ID card or lanyard must obtain a replacement card or lanyard immediately upon entering the school building. Lost ID cards must be replaced at the student's expense by reporting to the Main Office.

#### ***Lockers***

Lockers are school property and are to be used only for the purpose of storing books, notebooks, lunches, coats, and other school related items. Students have no reasonable expectation of privacy in the locker assigned to them. Students may not display or store inappropriate or illegal materials in their lockers. Sharing of lockers is not permitted. Opening another student's locker or locker tampering of any kind may result in disciplinary action. Backpacks should be kept in lockers at all times unless authorized by an administrator due to a specific intervention or other special need.

School lockers are subject to random search, without notice or consent. Individual lockers may be searched where there is reasonable suspicion to do so. Additional information regarding locker searches is available under the "Search and Seizure" section of this Handbook and Board Policy 7:140, *Search and Seizure*, is available on the District website and a copy may be obtained by calling the District 158 Administrative Office at (847) 659-6158.



### ***Messages and Dropping Off Items for Students***

Delivering messages to students during class time is disruptive to the teaching and learning process. With this in mind, parents are urged to reserve such requests only for serious emergency situations. Arranging for medical appointments, transportation requests, or family activities is best done before school. If an urgent and necessary message must be sent to your child, please call the school's main office.

Occasionally, students may forget homework or other school related items and may ask that you drop these items off. Please note that we will not interrupt classroom instruction to call the student down. The school has two general call-down times during the day in which students will be asked to pick up items.

### ***Peer Relationships***

In order that peer relationships remain at the highest level, the middle schools have established a "Hands Off Policy." Public displays of affection and inappropriate or unwanted touching are unacceptable behaviors and subject to disciplinary consequences. This policy is strictly adhered to in the building, on the campus, and at school related events.

### ***Personal Electronic Devices***

Electronic devices are prohibited from being seen, heard, or used during school hours unless the Building Principal has expressly authorized the use of a particular device. Cell phones and other electronic devices are not to create a disturbance to the educational environment. Students choosing to bring these items to school must store them in backpacks in the "off" position. Smartphones, e-readers, and other educational electronic devices may be used for instructional purposes when deemed appropriate by the classroom teacher.

Consequences for inappropriate cell phone or device usage may result in confiscation of the device, loss of privileges to have such device on school grounds, and/or parent pick-up of the device. Please be aware the school is not liable for the loss, damage, or theft of personal property.

### ***Prohibited Personal Items***

Personal items that students may not bring to school include, but are not limited to, cards (playing, trading, magic, etc.), electronic games, matches, lighters, fireworks, over the counter and prescription medications.

### ***Respect for Property***

Students are to respect the property of others including that of students, staff and school. School issued materials such as textbooks, lab materials, etc. are on loan to students. Any damage or replacement costs are the student's responsibility. Student storage areas are school property and are to be used only for the purpose of storing books, notebooks, lunches, coats, etc. These areas are subject to search by school authorities.

### ***School Dance Guidelines***

Student Council, the staff for grades 6-8, and the school's parent organization sponsor a variety of school dances each year. It is expected that parent transportation will arrive and depart within 15 minutes of starting and ending times of the dance.

### ***Student Appearance, Clothing, and Hygiene***

Students are expected to keep themselves well-groomed and neatly dressed at all times. A student's appearance, including dress and hygiene, must not disrupt the educational process or compromise standards of health and safety. The District does not prohibit hairstyles historically associated with race, ethnicity, or hair texture, including, but not limited to, protective hairstyles such as braids, locks, and twists. Students who disrupt the educational process or compromise standards of health and safety must modify their appearance.

Both research and experience have shown that a student's personal appearance and mode of dress impact student conduct, identification with the school's purposes and activities, personal pride and self-respect, and even the student's level of learning responses. Students should dress neatly but simply for school, rejecting extreme fads concerning hairstyles, make-up or clothing.

We ask parents and students to become involved in supporting a "level of dress" that helps to promote a good atmosphere for learning. Through our health curriculum and in cooperation with community programs, we share in the effort of prevention and education regarding drug, marijuana and alcohol use and abuse among school age

children. In view of this effort, the school does not view as appropriate dress clothing that advertises drugs, marijuana or alcoholic beverages. Articles of clothing that are considered inappropriate include, but are not limited to, shoes with wheels, overly revealing clothing, dangerous or disruptive accessories, and clothing making reference to drugs, marijuana, or alcoholic beverages. Outerwear (jackets) must be kept in the student's locker and not carried around or worn during school hours.

In addition to dress, cleanliness is of utmost importance. Since the physical well-being of all individuals in the school setting is at stake, building administration may at any time take disciplinary action against any student if the administrator reasonably believes the student's clothing or physical cleanliness is unsafe or interferes with the educational process.

### ***Appearance/Dress Code***

District 158 middle schools recognize there is a direct correlation between a student's appearance and the student's academic achievement. Our dress code is designed to eliminate distractions to students, staff, or other visitors that make up our school community while allowing for student comfort by promoting an environment that is conducive to academic success.

#### **Acceptable clothing for students to wear:**

- T-shirts that are free from inappropriate language, symbols, or graphics that make reference to drugs, marijuana, alcohol, tobacco, gangs, or innuendos that are suggestive in nature
- Shorts, slacks, skirts, or dresses that are worn and kept at the waist, that are free from writing across the seat and preferably extend to the knees
- Shoes that do not pose potential safety problems
  - State law requires that shoes be worn at all times in public buildings
- Coats and jackets are to be worn only when entering and departing from the building

#### **Unacceptable clothing for students to wear:**

- Clothing, jewelry, or other garments that threaten the educational process and compromise the safety of the school's occupants including, but not limited to, hanging chains, protruding objects, or revealing attire
- Clothing that allows boxer shorts or undergarments to be seen
- Face painting or face drawings
- Halter tops, swim suit tops, tank tops with straps less than 1" in width, off the shoulder or one shoulder tops, open back tops, bare midriff blouses and shirts, or any other clothing that bares the chest or midriff are not to be worn in school or at school sponsored events.

The administration reserves the right to make the final interpretation of the dress code guidelines. In addition, exceptions to this appearance code may be made for special school functions. Students will not be allowed to attend class until dressed properly. Parents should recognize that fad and fashion are not always appropriate for school and advise their children that appearance that is likely to be disruptive or dangerous will be prohibited.

### ***Telecommunication Device Possession and Use***

Students are allowed to possess cellular, radio, and/or other telecommunication devices at school, on school property, or at school-sponsored activities, but use of these devices is restricted to areas designated by the Building Principal before and after school hours only. During the school day, students will be expected to leave these devices in their backpacks or lockers in the "off" position. Cellular, radio, and other telecommunication devices found in a student's possession during the school day or outside designated areas may be confiscated, and the student may be subject to additional discipline. Parents are required to pick up confiscated items.

Students will not be allowed to make phone calls during the school day except as permitted by a staff member. Students generally are not called to the telephone from classes except for emergencies.

The District also restricts parents' and/or visitors' use of cellular, radio, and other telecommunication devices to appropriate areas to be used only in such instances in which either an emergency exists or the use of the device is not disruptive to the ongoing activity. Parents or visitors who violate this policy may be asked to leave the school building.

### ***Trespassing***

Suspended students are not permitted to be on campus or at school sponsored activities, either on or off campus, without specific permission from the Building Principal's office. Failure to obtain permission may result in arrest for trespassing and/or appropriate school consequences.

Students in the building during non-school times must receive prior permission or be subject to a charge of trespass. Students should not be in the school building after school is dismissed unless participating in an extracurricular activity, meeting with a teacher for academic reasons, or for an assigned detention. Loitering can result in disciplinary action or possible arrest for trespassing.

### ***Uniforms for Physical Education Class***

All students in grades 6-8 are required to wear a PE uniform while participating in Physical Education classes. In addition, we ask that all students purchase gym shoes to be worn exclusively for use during PE class.

## **Parents' Rights Notifications**

### ***Annual Report Card***

Each year, the District is required to disseminate an annual report card that includes information on the District as a whole and each school served by the District, with aggregate and disaggregated information for each required subgroup of students including: student achievement on academic assessments (designated by category), graduation rates, district performance, teacher qualifications, and other information required by federal law. We encourage you to explore [illinoisreportcard.com](http://illinoisreportcard.com) to view the Illinois School Report Card for District 158 or your child's school.

### ***Assessments/Standardized Testing***

Assessments are essential to a student's learning experience as they assist in providing information for determining individual student achievement and instructional needs, curriculum and instruction effectiveness, and school performance measured against District student learning objectives and statewide norms. Testing includes local assessments and State assessments as required by federal law.

#### **Local Assessments**

Assessment	Purpose	Dates
<b>AimsWeb Literacy &amp; Math</b>	Administered to select grade 6-12 students in order to better identify specific strengths and areas of support for math and literacy skills.	Fall, Winter, Spring
<b>STAR Reading and Math</b>	Administered to all grade K-11 students in order to better identify specific strengths and areas of support in reading and math standards.	Fall, Winter, Spring

#### **State Assessments**

Assessment	Purpose	Dates
<b>ACCESS</b>	Administered to grade K-12 English Learners. Scores are used to assess progress and proficiency in English as well as determine placement in the EL program the following school year.	January - March
<b>DLM</b>	Administered to grade 3-12 students eligible for alternative assessment in the areas of reading/language arts, mathematics, and science.	March 16 - May 4
<b>IAR</b>	Achievement assessment for grade 3-8 students for reading/language arts and mathematics.	April 11-22
<b>ISA</b>	Achievement assessment for grade 5, 8, and 11 students for science.	March 14-18

Additional information regarding student assessments and information regarding interpreting scores is available on the [Curriculum webpage](#) of the District website.

### ***School Visitation Rights for Parents***

The School Visitation Rights Act permits employed parents, who are unable to meet with educators because of a work conflict, the right to time off from work under certain conditions to attend necessary school functions such as parent-teacher conferences, academic meetings and behavioral meetings. Letters verifying participation in this program are available from the school office upon request.

### ***Student Data Privacy; Notice to Parents About Educational Technology Vendors***

School districts throughout the State of Illinois contract with different educational technology vendors for beneficial K-12 purposes such as providing personalized learning and innovative educational technologies, and increasing efficiency in school operations.

Under Illinois' Student Online Personal Protection Act, or SOPPA (105 ILCS 85/), educational technology vendors and other entities that operate Internet websites, online services, online applications, or mobile applications that are designed, marketed, and primarily used for K-12 school purposes are referred to in SOPPA as operators.

SOPPA is intended to ensure that student data collected by operators is protected, and it requires those vendors, as well as school districts and the Illinois State Board of Education, to take a number of actions to protect online student data.

Depending upon the particular educational technology being used, our District may need to collect different types of student data, which is then shared with educational technology vendors through their online sites, services, and/or applications. Under SOPPA, educational technology vendors are prohibited from selling or renting a student's information or from engaging in targeted advertising using a student's information. Such vendors may only disclose student data for K-12 school purposes and other limited purposes permitted under the law.

In general terms, the types of student data that may be collected and shared include personally identifiable information (PII) about students or information that can be linked to PII about students, such as:

- Basic identifying information, including student or parent name and student or parent contact information, username/password and student ID number
- Demographic information
- Enrollment information
- Assessment data, grades, and transcripts
- Attendance and class schedule
- Academic/extracurricular activities
- Special indicators (e.g., disability information, English Language Learner, free/reduced meals or homeless/foster care status)
- Conduct/behavioral data
- Health information
- Food purchases
- Transportation information
- In-application performance data
- Student-generated work
- Online communications
- Application metadata and application use statistics
- Permanent and temporary school student record information

Operators may collect and use student data only for K-12 purposes, which are purposes that aid in the administration of school activities, such as:

- Instruction in the classroom or at home (including remote learning)
- Administrative activities
- Collaboration between students, school personnel, and/or parents
- Other activities that are for the use and benefit of the school district

Board Policy 7:345, *Student Data Privacy; Notice to Parents About Educational Technology Vendors*, is available on the District website and a copy may be obtained by calling the District 158 Administrative Office at (847) 659-6158.

### ***Teacher Qualifications***

Under Title I of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act, parents may request the professional qualifications of their child's classroom teachers and the paraprofessionals, if any, who assist them, including:

1. Whether the teacher has met the 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 other provisional status through which State qualification or licensing criteria have been waived;
3. Whether the teacher is teaching in the field of discipline of the teacher's licensure; and
4. Whether any instructional aides or paraprofessionals provide services to your child, and, if so, their qualifications.

This notice is required by federal law (20 U.S.C. §6312(e)(1)(A)). If you would like to receive any of this information, please contact the District 158 Administrative Office at (847)659-6158.

### **Absences, Attendance, and Tardies**

Conscientious school attendance is one of the most important tasks of a student. The attendance maintained while in school will be looked upon by future employers as one of the basic criteria of employment. Students who stay home for trivial illnesses or because they do not feel like attending school are, in effect, hurting no one but themselves. They are missing vital instruction in their education and, therefore, placing their future in jeopardy. We will closely monitor all absences and hope for the cooperation of parents in improving school attendance.

#### ***Absences***

If your child will be absent because of illness, you are required to call the school before 9:00 a.m. and report the absence each day. If your child is absent and we do not receive a call, we will call you at home or your place of employment to verify the absence. The purpose of this procedure is to determine if your child has arrived safely to school.

During a long-term illness, a parent may call on the first day and notify the office of the anticipated length of the absence. School policy requires a doctor's written excuse for any student who is absent from school due to illness in excess of four days per quarter cumulative. **Any absences in excess of four days per quarter will be marked unexcused without a doctor's note.** A doctor's note provided for an illness will be changed to "Medical Verification" for attendance purposes. These days will not count towards the four days per quarter cumulative absences for illness. Parents are encouraged to communicate with their child's teachers if their child is absent three or more consecutive days.

A student must be in attendance for a minimum of 5 consecutive hours (300 minutes) to be considered a full school day. When your child arrives after the official start time, parents are required to sign their child in at the office. Students who leave school early for reasons of illness, appointments, or notes from home will be released only to the parent unless prior arrangements have been made through the Building Principal. Parents are required to sign their child out in the office.

#### ***Excused Absences***

An excused absence is defined as an absence due to sickness or an emergency in a family in accordance with State law. Students who have been excused from school are expected to hand in missed schoolwork. It is the student's responsibility to work with the teacher for missed assignments. Please contact the appropriate teacher(s) to make these arrangements.

#### ***Acceptable Absences***

For planned absences, such as family vacations during the school year, parents should notify the academic team and office in writing in advance. While such absences are discouraged, makeup work will be provided as long as teachers have sufficient notice. Please review the District [calendar](#) to view days of non-attendance and if possible, schedule appointments and vacations on these dates.

Examples of absences that may be excused include, but are not limited to:

1. Illness of the student
2. Mental or Behavioral Health Days – Students may utilize up to five mental or behavioral health days. After use of the second mental or behavioral health day, the student may be referred to the appropriate school support personnel.
3. Medical or dental appointments (with a note from doctor or dentist)
4. Death in the immediate family
5. Family emergency\*
6. Religious holiday observance
7. Attending a military honors funeral to sound TAPS
8. A student will be excused for up to 5 days in cases where the student's parent is an active duty member of the uniformed services and has been called to duty for, is on leave from, or has immediately returned from deployment to a combat zone or combat-support postings.
9. Court appearance
10. School sponsored activity

\* "Needed at home" is not a sufficient excuse. The note from the parent must indicate the reason for the emergency requiring the student to miss school.

### ***Unacceptable Absences***

Examples of absences that cannot be excused include, but are not limited to:

1. Errands which could be scheduled when a student is not required to be in school
2. Oversleeping
3. Car trouble or missing the bus

### ***Diagnostic Procedures for Identifying Student Absences and Support Services to Truant or Chronically Truant Students***

State law requires every school district to collect and review its chronic absence data and determine what systems of support and resources are needed to engage chronically absent students and their families to encourage the habit of daily attendance and promote success. This review must include an analysis of chronic absence data from each attendance center. Any student who has 10% or more absences of the school days each month will receive a letter or phone call home to discuss attendance and determine if there is a need to develop a plan of support. A meeting may be set with the family and school to determine if further absences would be marked unexcused without documentation for the remainder of that trimester.

Furthermore, State law provides that school districts are encouraged to provide a system of support strategies to students who are at risk of reaching or exceeding chronic absence levels. School districts are also encouraged to make resources available to families such as those available through the State Board of Education's Family Engagement Framework to support and engage students and their families to encourage heightened school engagement and improved daily school attendance.

"Chronic absence" means absences that total 10% or more of school days of the most recent academic school year, including absences with and without valid cause, and out-of-school suspensions.

The school and District use the following diagnostic procedures for identifying the causes of unexcused student absences: Interviews with the student, the student's parent(s) and any school officials who may have information about the reasons for the student's attendance problems.

Supportive services to truant or chronically truant students include: parent conferences, student counseling, family counseling, and information about existing community services.

### ***Attendance Requirements for Participation in After School, Co-Curricular, or Extracurricular Activities***

A student must be present at school a minimum of five (5) hours to be eligible for participation in after school, co-curricular, or extracurricular activities such as athletics, clubs, concerts, plays, musicals, trips, etc. A student who goes home is ineligible to participate that day.

### ***Prearranged Absences***

For planned absences, such as family vacations during the school year, parents should notify the academic team and office in writing in advance. While such absences are discouraged, makeup work will be provided as long as teachers have sufficient notice. Please review the District [calendar](#) to view days of non-attendance and if possible, schedule appointments and vacations on these dates.

### ***Release Time for Religious Instruction/Observation***

A student will be released from school, as an excused absence, because of religious reasons, including to observe a religious holiday, for religious instruction, or because the student's religion forbids secular activity on a particular day or time of day. The student's parent must give written notice to the Building Principal at least five (5) calendar days before the student's anticipated absence. Students excused for religious reasons will be given an opportunity to make up any missed work, including homework and tests. A parent may request that a student be excused from physical activity in PE during a period of religious fasting, by notifying the physical education teacher in writing.

### ***Requests for Make-Up of Missed School Work***

Parents are urged to request missed school work if their child is absent two or more consecutive days. Homework must be requested by 9:00 a.m. and may be picked up in the office between 2:30 and 3:30 p.m. Please be aware that requests made after 9:00 a.m. may not be ready for pick up the same day.

### ***Tardy to School or Class***

It is very important that children arrive at school on time. The educational process is disrupted for all concerned when this does not occur. When tardy to school, a student must report to the office to sign in before attending class. Excused tardies are orthodontist, dentist, doctor, eye doctor appointments, etc. Unexcused tardies include oversleeping or missing the bus. All tardies to school are cumulative each quarter.

A tardy to school will be entered in PowerSchool with the code of Unexcused Tardy (UT).

Tardiness to class is defined as when a student is not in their assigned seat by the time the bell rings at the start of the class period. If a student has a pass from a teacher or other staff member, the student will be excused for being late to class. Students may be held accountable for an unexcused tardy to class based on teacher, grade level, or team discretion. All tardies to class are cumulative each quarter.

A tardy to class will be entered in PowerSchool with the code of Hall Tardy (HT).

### ***Truancy***

Student attendance is critical to the learning process. Truancy is therefore a serious issue and will be dealt with in a serious manner by the school and District.

Students who miss more than 1% but less than 5% of the prior 180 regular school days without valid cause (a recognized excuse) are truant. Students who miss 5% or more of the prior 180 regular school days without valid cause are chronic truants. Students who are chronic truants will be offered support services and resources aimed at correcting the truancy issue.

If chronic truancy persists after support services and other resources are made available, the school and District will take further action, including:

- Referral to the truancy officer
- Reporting to officials under the Juvenile Court Act
- Referral to the State's Attorney
- Appropriate school discipline

A student who misses 15 consecutive days of school without valid cause and who cannot be located or, after exhausting all available support services, cannot be compelled to return to school is subject to expulsion from school.

## **Behavior and Discipline**

One of the core values of the middle school is the maintenance of a pleasant, orderly, supportive atmosphere. To achieve this requires a spirit of cooperation among students, teachers, parents, and administrators. This cooperation promotes an atmosphere that enables and encourages excellence in education. In an effort to support this cooperation, all students and their parents should review the student rules.

### ***Aggressive Behavior***

Illinois law requires school districts to notify the parent of a child who demonstrates behaviors that put the student at risk for aggressive behavior. Board Policy 7:190, *Student Behavior*, prohibits a student while at school or a school-related activity from: (1) engaging in any kind of behavior that causes physical or psychological harm to someone else, and/or (2) urging other students to engage in such conduct.

### ***Bullying, Intimidation, Harassment, Hazing, and Sexting***

Bullying, intimidation, harassment, hazing, and sexting diminish a student's ability to learn and a school's ability to educate. Preventing students from engaging in these disruptive behaviors and providing all students equal access to a safe, non-hostile learning environment are important District goals.

### ***Bullying***

Bullying is defined as: (1) an act that is repetitive in nature (similar behavior which occurs more than once); (2) creates a power imbalance (by size, age, numbers or emotionally); and/or (3) is intended to hurt or harm the victim (socially, emotionally, or physically).

Bullying on the basis of actual or perceived race, color, national origin, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender-related identity or expression, ancestry, age, religion, physical or mental disability, order of protection status, status of being homeless, immigration status, or actual or potential marital or parental status, including pregnancy, association with a person or group with one or more of the aforementioned actual or perceived characteristics, or any other distinguishing characteristic **is prohibited** in the following situations:

1. During any school sponsored education program or activity;
2. While in school, on school property, on school buses or other school vehicles, at designated school bus stops, or at school sponsored or school-sanctioned events or activities;
3. Through the transmission of information from a school computer, a school computer network, or other similar electronic school equipment.

Bullying includes *cyberbullying* and means any severe or pervasive physical or verbal act or conduct, including communications made in writing or electronically, directed toward a student or students which can reasonably be expected to have one or more of the following effects:

1. Placing the student or students in reasonable fear of harm to their person or property;
2. Causing a substantially detrimental effect on the student's or students' physical or mental health;
3. Substantially interfering with the student's or students' academic performance, or ability to participate in or benefit from the services, activities, or privileges provided by the school.

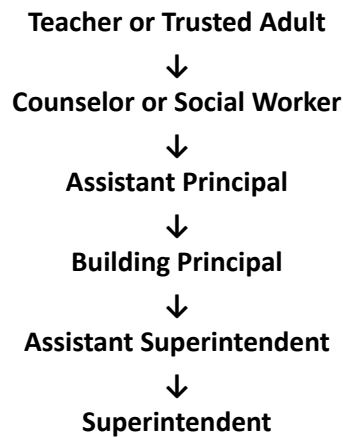
Students who feel they have been bullied should report the incident by:

1. Contacting the Complaint Manager or other administrator, counselor, teacher, or social worker
2. Using the ***Student Helpline***: Heineman students (815) 889-0583; Marlowe students (815) 889-0576
3. Using the [District Bullying Report form](#) found on the District website.
4. Following the process outlined in Board Policy 2:260, *Uniform Grievance Procedure*, and this Handbook.

At its discretion, the District may make referrals of students who have demonstrated bullying behaviors to counselors or mental health professionals. Students determined to have committed an act of bullying may face disciplinary consequences up to and including a recommendation of expulsion, as well as possible referral to the appropriate law enforcement agency for criminal charges.



Questions or concerns should first be discussed with the staff member closest to the situation. It is always best to follow the chain of command to ensure that all parties involved are properly informed of the situation. Parents should expect a response from the staff member or their designee within 24 hours to discuss the concern. If no contact has been made, please proceed to the next step in the chain.



**Information Hotlines:**

District Tip Line: (815) 889-0584

McHenry County Crisis Line: (800) 892-8900

National Suicide Prevention and Crisis Lifeline: Dial 988

Heineman Student Helpline: (815) 889-0583

Marlowe Student Helpline: (815) 889-0576

Board Policy 7:180, *Prevention of and Response to Bullying, Intimidation, and Harassment*, is available on the District website and a copy may be obtained by calling the District 158 Administrative Office at (847) 659-6158.

***Harassment***

It is the policy of District 158 to provide an educational environment free of verbal, physical, or other conduct or communications constituting harassment. No person, including an employee or student, shall harass, intimidate, or bully a student on the basis of actual or perceived race, color, nationality, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender-related identity or expression, ancestry, age, religion, physical or mental disability, order of protection status, status of being homeless, immigration status, marital status, pregnancy, association with a person or group with one or more of the aforementioned actual or perceived characteristics, or any other distinguishing characteristic.

Sexual harassment of students is prohibited. Sexual harassment means sexual advances, requests for sexual favors, or other verbal or physical conduct of a sexual or sex-based nature, imposed on the basis of sex, that:

1. Denies or limits the provision of educational aid, benefits, services, or treatment, or that makes such conduct a condition of a student's academic status; or
2. Has the purpose or effect of:
  - a. Substantially interfering with a student's educational environment;
  - b. Creating an intimidating, hostile, or offensive educational environment;
  - c. Depriving a student of educational aid, benefits, services, or treatment; or
  - d. Making submission to or rejection of such conduct the basis for academic decisions affecting a student.

The terms intimidating, hostile, and offensive include conduct that has the effect of humiliation, embarrassment, or discomfort. Examples of sexual harassment include touching, crude jokes or pictures, discussions of sexual experiences, teasing related to sexual characteristics, and spreading rumors related to a person's alleged sexual

activities. The term sexual violence includes a number of different acts. Examples of sexual violence include, but are not limited to, rape, sexual assault, sexual battery, sexual abuse, and sexual coercion.

Students are encouraged to report claims or incidences of sexual harassment to the Non-Discrimination Coordinator or Complaint Manager. Any student who believes they are being harassed may file a complaint by using the process outlined in Board Policy 2:269, *Uniform Grievance Policy*, and this Handbook.

A student's good faith action in reporting harassment will not result in any adverse actions against the complainant. However, if a student or witness is found to have made an intentionally false report of harassment, the student or witness shall be subject to discipline.

Board Policy 7:20, *Harassment of Students Prohibited*, is available on the District website and a copy may be obtained by calling the District 158 Administrative Office at (847) 659-6158.

### ***Hazing***

Soliciting, encouraging, aiding, or engaging in hazing is prohibited. Hazing means any intentional, knowing, or reckless act directed to or required of a student for the purpose of being initiated into, affiliating with, holding office in, or maintaining membership in any group, organization, club, or athletic team whose members are or include other students.

### ***Sexting***

Sexting is defined as an electronic transfer of any material that depicts an individual or multiple individuals fully or partially nude or engaged in any sexual or lewd conduct. Electronic transfers include any transfers made via computer or any other electronic communications device including cellular telephones and other handheld devices. It is a violation of Illinois law for anyone to possess or electronically transfer any material that depicts a minor fully or partially nude or engaged in any sexual or lewd conduct. Further, it is against District policy for any student—minor or above the legal age of consent—to partake in sexting or be in possession of any image procured through sexting. The District prohibits students from engaging in sexting, including possessing sexually explicit photographs, videos, or images on any electronic device regardless of whether the depiction violates State law. Any electronic device may be searched upon reasonable suspicion of sexting. All students involved in sexting may be disciplined. In all cases where sexting is suspected, school administrators may contact the police.

### ***Conduct Motivated by Prohibited Discrimination***

Conduct motivated in whole or in part by prohibited discrimination may be subject to increased disciplinary measures where determined to be appropriate by the administration. The Board of Education may also consider whether conduct was motivated in whole or in part by prohibited discrimination when determining whether to expel a student based on such conduct.

Prohibited discrimination means conduct based upon actual or perceived color, race, nationality, religion, sex, sexual orientation, ancestry, age, physical or mental disability, gender identity, status of being homeless, immigration status, order of protection status, actual or potential marital or parental status, or pregnancy.

### ***Dangerous Weapons***

Board Policy 7:190, *Student Behavior*, prohibits the possession or the assistance of possession of weapons on school grounds, at any school activity, on school transportation vehicles, or in any designated school transportation waiting area.

A student who is determined to have brought one of the following objects to school, any school-sponsored activity or event, or any activity or event that bears a reasonable relationship to school shall be expelled for a period of at least one calendar year but not more than two calendar years:

1. A *firearm*, meaning any gun, rifle, shotgun, or weapon as defined by Section 921 of Title 19 of the United States Code (18 U.S.C. §921), firearm as defined in Section 1.1 of the Firearm Owners Identification Card Act (430 ILCS 65/), or firearm as defined in Section 24-1 of the Criminal Code of 1961 (720 ILCS 5/24-1).
2. A knife, brass knuckles, or other knuckle weapon regardless of its composition, a billy club, or any other object if used or attempted to be used to cause bodily harm, including *look-alikes* of any *firearm* as defined above.

The expulsion requirement under either paragraph one or two above may be modified by the Superintendent, and the Superintendent's determination may be modified by the Board on a case-by-case basis. Any item determined to have been possessed, used, transferred, or controlled in violation of this policy will be confiscated and retained by school officials, and either turned over to a parent at the end of the school year, or to the appropriate local law enforcement agency.

Board Policy 7:190, *Student Behavior*, is available on the District website and a copy may be obtained by calling the District 158 Administrative Office at (847) 659-6158.

### ***Gang and Gang-Related Activity***

The Board of Education affirms its position that schools in District 158 shall provide an orderly place for learning. Board Policy 7:190, *Student Behavior*, prohibits students from engaging in gang activity on school property or at any activity associated with or under the general guidance of school authorities. Gangs are defined as any group of two or more persons who associate with each other primarily for criminal, disruptive and/or other activities prohibited by law and/or by the District's policies, rules, and regulations.

No student:

1. Shall wear, possess, use, distribute, display or sell any clothing, jewelry, emblem, badge, symbol, sign or other insignia which is evidence of membership or affiliation with any gang.
2. Shall draw gang graffiti or distribute gang related literature.
3. Shall use any speech, either verbal or non-verbal (such as gestures or hand-shakes), or act in furtherance of gang activity.
4. Shall solicit others for membership in any gang.
5. Shall request any person to pay protection or otherwise intimidate or threaten any person.
6. Shall commit any other illegal act or other violation of District policies in furtherance of gang related activities.
7. Shall incite other persons to inflict physical violence against any other person.
8. Shall participate in any activity that could be interpreted as relating to gangs or gang activity.

Penalties for Violations:

Any student found to have violated this policy shall be guilty of gross misconduct. All gang related paraphernalia or materials will be confiscated. Violation of this policy may result in disciplinary measures up to and including 10-days suspension with consideration for expulsion, and referral to appropriate law enforcement agency if a violation of the law is involved.

### ***Teen Dating Violence Prohibited***

Engaging in teen dating violence that takes place at school, on school property, at school-sponsored activities, or in vehicles used for school-provided transportation is prohibited. For purposes of this policy, the term *teen dating violence* occurs whenever a student who is 13 to 19 years of age uses or threatens to use physical, mental, or emotional abuse to control an individual in the dating relationship; or uses or threatens to use sexual violence in the dating relationship.

The Superintendent or designee shall develop and maintain a program to respond to incidents of teen dating violence.

Board Policy 7:185, *Teen Dating Violence Prohibited*, is available on the District website and a copy may be obtained by calling the District 158 Administrative Office at (847) 659-6158.

### ***Discipline Plan***

A good plan for discipline includes organization to prevent problems along with praise, appreciation, and recognition for effort and achievement in addition to consequences for unacceptable behavior. The following disciplinary plan does not define all types and aspects of students' behavior, but rather basic areas to help each student conduct themselves in a proper manner as a member of the school community, treating others as they want to be treated, with respect and courtesy.

### ***Discipline of Special Education Students***

The District will comply with the Individuals With Disabilities Education Improvement Act of 2004 and the Illinois State Board of Education's Special Education rules when disciplining special education students. No special education student shall be expelled if the student's particular act of gross disobedience or misconduct is a manifestation of the student's disability. However, all students must conform to the Student Behavior policies as outlined in this Handbook.

Additional information regarding discipline of students with disabilities is located in the Special Education section of this handbook.

### ***Disciplinary Measures***

Potential disciplinary measures include, without limitation, any of the following:

1. Verbal warning
2. Notifying parent(s)
3. Disciplinary conference
4. Withholding of privileges
5. Temporary removal from the classroom
6. Lunch or teacher detention
7. Return of property or restitution for lost, stolen, or damaged property
8. Restorative Practices and Intervention strategies
9. After-school detention
10. In-school suspension
11. Seizure of contraband, confiscation and temporary retention of personal property that was used to violate Board Policy or school disciplinary rules
12. Suspension of bus riding privileges
13. Out-of-school suspension
14. Expulsion
15. Notifying juvenile authorities or other law enforcement
16. Other disciplinary action as deemed appropriate by the administration

### ***Level/Step Disciplinary System***

The middle school level-step disciplinary system identifies three levels of misbehavior and clearly states the consequences for each rule infraction. Consequences are progressively more serious as infractions accumulate and severity increases. It is the hope and intent that this system will deter future misconduct and engender in students a respect for the rights of others and the need for the rule of law both in school and society.

The administrators, as they work through the discipline plan with staff, will at every stage be concerned with finding causes for misconduct for which the actions of the student are symptoms. It will be the goal to seek and find appropriate help for students who are in need.

The administration will establish the discipline philosophy and procedures for the middle school. They will also serve as a resource for all discipline related problems. The Building Principal is the final level of appeal at the school in the due process procedure.

### ***Level A - School Rule Infractions that Disrupt the Educational Environment***

- Such as, but not limited to, classroom disruption, insubordination, personal dishonesty, academic dishonesty, throwing objects, public display of affection, profanity, failure to report to an assigned disciplinary action, bus violations, dress code violations, electronic device/cell phone violation, being in an unauthorized area, violation of normal school rules, unexcused tardiness to class or school, and unexcused absence from class.

Level A infractions may result in warnings, loss of a school privilege, detention, parent conference, Restorative Practices and Intervention strategies, or suspension in or from school.

### **Level B - Serious Rule Infractions that Infringe Upon the Rights or Safety of Others**

- Such as, but not limited to, repeated Level A infractions, aggressive behavior (includes play fighting), fighting, aiding and abetting the violation of school rules, vandalism, locker tampering, theft or attempted theft, extortion, possession of inappropriate objects or material, technology violations, forgery, harassment of other students, chronic misbehavior, tampering with fire extinguisher or health safety equipment, false fire alarm, and truancy.

Level B infractions may result in disciplinary measures up to and including suspension in or from school (up to ten days), recommendation to the Board for expulsion (up to two years), and police notification and involvement.

### **Level C - Gross Disobedience / Illegal Behavior**

- Such as, but not limited to, repeated Level B infractions, an act that endangers oneself or others, felonious acts, threats or physical attacks of a staff member on or off campus, threats towards others, possession or assisting in the possession of a weapon, arson, possession of or use of illegal drugs, marijuana or alcohol, participation in a transaction or transfer of or attempted transaction or transfer of drugs, marijuana or alcohol, use or possession of tobacco, tobacco products including, but not limited to, look-alike tobacco products, electronic cigarettes or vape devices, chewing tobacco, herbal cigarettes or alternative nicotine products, gambling, gang activity, and assault.

Level C infractions may result in disciplinary measures up to and including suspension from school (up to ten days), a recommendation to the Board of Education for expulsion (up to two years), and police notification and involvement. Any student who possesses a weapon, as defined in Section 10-22.6(d) of the School Code or Board Policy 7:190, *Student Behavior*, shall be expelled for not less than one year.

In the event any type of contraband (vape devices, cigarettes, drugs, marijuana, etc.) is discovered as part of an investigation, it will be retained by the school and may be turned over to local law enforcement for destruction.

### **Disciplinary Consequences**

#### ***Warning***

A teacher/administrator/student conference may be held in hopes of eliminating further discipline consequences.

#### ***Lunch Restriction/Isolated Lunch***

Lunch restrictions/isolated lunches are 30-minute detentions during the lunch period assigned by classroom teachers and served with staff. Students will be permitted to get their lunch and then should report to the supervising teacher for the remaining lunch period. Lunch restrictions/isolated lunches are assigned in cases of first time or infrequent misconduct of a lesser nature. The staff member will inform the student, and when appropriate, will call home.

#### ***Teacher Assigned Detentions***

Teacher assigned detentions are detentions assigned by classroom teachers. They are served with the designated detention supervisor and are 75 minutes in length (1 hour and 15 minutes). Teacher assigned detentions are assigned in cases of first time or infrequent misconduct. The staff member will inform the student and parent, and when appropriate, will call home. Parents are responsible for providing transportation home. Transportation inconveniences are not a valid excuse for missing a detention. Failure to appear for an assigned detention may result in further disciplinary consequences.

#### ***Office Assigned Detentions***

Detentions can be issued by any staff member. However, office assigned detentions are assigned in cases of serious misconduct and/or frequent misconduct of the same nature. An office assigned detention will be 75 minutes in length (1 hour, 15 minutes) and commence immediately after classes are dismissed for the day. Students and parents will be notified of the assigned date(s) of the consequence. Parents are responsible for providing transportation. Transportation inconveniences are not a valid excuse for missing a detention. Failure to appear for an assigned detention may result in additional disciplinary consequences.

Absence on the day of a detention will cause the detention to be served on the next detention day. Detentions will be assigned Tuesday through Thursday.

### **Contracts**

An administrator may write a behavioral contract to provide a more structured setting for a student in hopes of eliminating inappropriate and unacceptable behaviors.

### **Restorative Practices and Interventions**

The purpose of restorative practices is to engage students in an educational process including reflection, restoring the environment, and repairing relationships. Such interventions may include checking in with a teacher, administrator, or other staff member, targeted intervention groups with the counselor or social worker, peer mediation, peer mentoring, adult mentoring, reflection, apology, restorative projects such as reading articles, cleaning, or community service.

### **In-School or Out-of-School Suspension**

Administration may assign a student an in-school suspension or out-of-school suspension for, but not limited to, chronic acts of misconduct, single acts of gross misconduct, gross insubordination, truancy, or dangerous and threatening actions to self and/or others. Parents will be notified of any in or out-of-school suspensions directly by an administrator, both in writing and by phone.

- **In-School Suspension**

Administration may assign a student an in-school suspension for serious misconduct or frequent misconduct of the same nature. The student will be assigned to the in-school suspension room for their classes that day. Any disruption may result in further disciplinary consequences.

- **Out-of-School Suspension**

Administration reserves the right to require a parent meeting prior to reentering the student population following the suspension. Students may not participate in or attend after school, co-curricular, or extracurricular activities while under suspension. At the time of an out-of-school suspension, the student will remain in the office until a parent or their designee comes to pick up the student from school.

A suspension may not exceed ten days. Prior to a suspension, a student will be advised of the reason for the proposed suspension and afforded an opportunity to present information on their own behalf. The student's parents will receive written notice that includes a statement of the reasons for the suspension.

A suspended student shall have the opportunity to make up any assignments and tests missed during the suspension period. The school will provide work for the student so that future learning is not affected by the suspension. A student will receive credit for these assignments.

Parents have a right to request a review before the Board or an appointed hearing officer.

### **Right to Review Suspension**

The Appeals process must follow these 3 steps:

- A. Appeal to the Building Principal
- B. Appeal to the Associate Superintendent or Designee
- C. Appeal to the Board of Education

Board Policy 7:200, *Suspension Procedure* is available on the District website and a copy may be obtained by calling the District 158 Administrative Office at (847) 659-6158.

### **Expulsion**

A student may be expelled for gross disobedience or misconduct. Expulsion shall take place only after the parents have been requested by registered or certified mail to appear at a meeting of the Board, or to meet with a hearing officer appointed by the Board to discuss their child's behavior.

The request shall include:

- a. Details regarding the specific act of gross disobedience or misconduct resulting in the recommendation for expulsion;
- b. The time, date, and place of the hearing;
- c. A brief description of what will happen during the hearing;

- d. A list of the student's previous suspensions;
- e. A statement indicating that the School Code allows the Board to expel a student for a definite period of time not to exceed two calendar years; and
- f. A request that the student or parent inform the District if the student will be represented by counsel at the hearing.

During the hearing, the student and the student's parent(s) may be represented by counsel, offer evidence, present witnesses, cross-examine witnesses who testified on behalf of the administration, and otherwise present reasons why the student should not be expelled. After presentation of evidence, the Board shall decide the issue of guilt and take such action as it deems appropriate. If the Board decides to expel the student, the written expulsion decision will detail the specific reasons why removing the student from the learning environment is in the best interest of the school, as well as the rationale for the duration of the expulsion. If a hearing officer is appointed by the Board, the hearing officer shall provide a written summary of the evidence heard to the Board. A student may be readmitted to school after expulsion by official action of the Board.

Board Policy 7:210, *Expulsion Procedure* is available on the District website and a copy may be obtained by calling the District 158 Administrative Office at (847) 659-6158.

## **Educational Programs**

### ***English Learners***

District 158 provides programs to meet the needs of students whose native language is a language other than English. Opportunities are offered to support the growth of English language skills and academic skills for students so they may achieve at high levels in academic subjects and meet the same challenging State standards expected of all students.

- ***Transitional Bilingual Education (TBE)***

At attendance centers with more than 20 students who speak the same language and qualify for English Learner services, the District is required to establish a Transitional Bilingual Education Program (TBE) for those students. The TBE program is for English language learners who have not reached the language proficiency criteria required by the State. Students receive explicit language instruction in the four domains: listening, speaking, reading and writing. This program provides instruction in the student's native language to facilitate the transition into English, and helps students acquire the concepts in the core academic subjects and acquire English skills at the same time.

- ***Transitional Program of Instruction (TPI)***

At attendance centers with less than 20 students who speak the same language and qualify for English Learner services, the District will implement a Transitional Program of Instruction (TPI). The TPI program is an English program that serves identified English learners by providing a full-time teacher certified to provide supplementary instruction for all content area instruction. The program integrates English-as-a-second-language instruction with subject-matter instruction that focuses not only in learning a second language, but also using that language as a medium to learn mathematics, science, social studies, or other academic subjects.

- ***Two-Way Dual Language***

For our Spanish speaking English Learners, we implement the dual language two-way model. The Spanish Dual Language program is made up of approximately half Spanish-speaking students and half English-speaking students. Students have access to a specially trained bilingual teacher. Students are integrated for instruction so that both groups of students serve in the role of language model and language learner at different times. The goal of the Dual Language program is to develop bilingualism, biliteracy, academic achievement, and cross-cultural competencies for students.

### **Parent Advisory Committee for English Learners**

Parents of English learners will be informed how they can: (1) be involved in the education of their children; (2) be active participants in assisting their children to attain English proficiency, achieve at high levels within a well-rounded education, and meet the challenging State academic standards expected of all students; and (3) participate and serve on the District's Transitional Bilingual Education Program's Parent Advisory Committee.

### ***Family Life and Sex Education Classes***

Students will not be required to take or participate in any class or courses in comprehensive sex education, including in grades 6-12, instruction on both abstinence and contraception for the prevention of pregnancy and sexually transmitted diseases, including HIV/AIDS; family life instruction, including in grades 6-12, instruction on the prevention, transmission, and spread of AIDS; instruction on diseases; recognizing and avoiding sexual abuse; or instruction on donor programs for organ/tissue, blood donor, and transplantation, if the student's parent submits a written objection. The parent's decision will not be the reason for any student discipline, including suspension or expulsion. Nothing in this Section prohibits instruction in sanitation, hygiene or traditional courses in biology.

Parents may examine the instructional materials to be used in any District sex education class or course by contacting the Building Principal.

### ***Field Trips***

We encourage all students to participate in field trips. We believe the whole world is a classroom and many sound educational activities that support the curriculum are best appreciated by actually visiting specific sites. Any admission fee and a prorated cost for transportation are assessed and payable prior to the trip. Occasionally a lunch stop is scheduled at a fast food restaurant and may be part of the fee. Students always have the option to bring a sack lunch if they so desire. Permission slips will be required and parents will be given appropriate time to complete the form and pay the fee.

### ***Gifted and Talented Program***

District 158 is committed to the belief that each student is a unique and valuable human being who possesses individual educational needs and abilities. It is the responsibility of the school to not only acknowledge this, but to identify those needs and abilities and then to provide appropriate educational experiences to optimize each child's individual development.

Although formal identification of eligibility for the Gifted and Talented Program starts at the end of grade 2, identification of students for the Gifted Program is an ongoing process that uses both formal and informal data, and requires the collection of a body of evidence over time to substantiate a student's talent in specific areas.

Students identified are placed in the program based upon Standardized test scores in math, reading and language arts, teacher input and Student Ability Index (SAI) scores. These measures are placed on a matrix for final selection. Students selected for the Gifted and Talented Program are placed with a teacher who has formal gifted training or experience with gifted students whenever possible.

The program is based on the Consultation Model. Consultation is a collaborative problem solving process between the teacher(s) and coordinator(s) through a sharing of expertise with the ultimate goals of better serving students. This model is based upon best practice in the field of Gifted Education.

### ***Home and Hospital Instruction***

A student who is absent from school, or whose physician, physician assistant or licensed advanced practice registered nurse anticipates the student's absence from school, because of a medical condition may be eligible for instruction in the student's home or hospital.

Appropriate educational services from qualified staff will begin no later than five school days after receiving a written statement from a physician, physician assistant, or licensed advanced practice registered nurse. Instructional or related services for a student receiving special education services will be determined by the student's individualized education program.

### ***Library Resource Center***

The Library Resource Center (LRC) provides materials that support the mission and curriculum of the District as well as the mission, philosophy, and goals of the middle school. Materials circulate for a period of two weeks. A student ID is required for library check out. All materials will be due two weeks before the end of the school year for inventory. Periodicals, reference materials and media materials are available for students to use in the LRC but do not circulate.



Students are charged a fine of .10¢ per day for overdue books. Students having overdue materials or fines will not be allowed to check out additional materials until their account is clear. In addition, students will be required to pay for books that are lost or damaged before any more materials can be checked out.

The LRC is a classroom. Student conduct as mentioned in other sections of this handbook will apply to the LRC. The LRC staff work with both students and staff to provide reference/research assistance and bibliographic instruction to meet the needs of the curriculum.

Parents, employees, students, and community members who believe that library media program resources violate rights guaranteed by any law or Board policy may file a complaint using the procedure described in Board Policy 2:260, *Uniform Grievance Procedure*. Individuals who would like to submit feedback and/or complaints about the school's library media resources should complete and submit the [Library Media Resource Objection form](#) available on the District website.

### ***Multi-Tiered Systems of Support***

Multi-Tiered Systems of Support (MTSS) is a multi-tier approach for early identification and support of students with learning and behavior needs. The MTSS process begins with high-quality instruction and universal screening of all students. Students with identified needs are provided with interventions at increasing levels of intensity to accelerate their rate of learning. These interventions may be provided by a variety of personnel, including general education teachers, special educators, paraprofessionals, and specialists. Progress is closely monitored to assess both the learning rate and level of performance of individual students. Educational decisions about the dynamics, intensity and duration of interventions are based on individual student response to instruction. MTSS is designed for use when making decisions in both general education and special education, creating a well-integrated system of instruction and intervention guided by student outcome data.

The State of Illinois provides districts and schools with a framework for using MTSS to determine a student's eligibility for and entitlement to special education services. Effective, research-based core instruction, interventions, and assessment plays a critical role in this process and data from the core curricula and instruction, as well as interventions, are used in the eligibility determination process. If the intervention plan shows the student demonstrates performance discrepancy as indicated by national, state and local assessments AND does not demonstrate educational progress through those established national, state or local norms, the team will then refer the student to the Individual Problem Solving Team to discuss the process of special education entitlement.

### ***Physical Education***

Physical education is taught in all grades and promotes the development of movement skills, enhances health-related fitness, increases students' knowledge, offers direct opportunities for students to learn how to work cooperatively in a group setting, and encourages healthy habits and attitudes for a healthy lifestyle.

All students will be expected to participate in PE except those who have a written doctor's excuse. Normally a student who provides a note from a parent can be excused from PE for up to three days. After three days, a doctor's note must be provided. Parent notes will only be honored twice per semester. **An excuse from PE class applies to extracurricular sports as well.** A parent may request that a student be excused from physical activity in PE during a period of religious fasting by notifying the physical education teacher in writing.

### ***School Wellness***

District 158 promotes student wellness, including good nutrition and physical activity, throughout the educational program, school activities, and meal programs. Schools will foster the positive relationship between healthy nutrition, physical activity, and the capacity of students to develop and learn. In addition, schools will support and promote an active lifestyle.

Physical education is taught in all grades and promotes the development of movement skills, enhances health-related fitness, increases students' knowledge, offers direct opportunities to learn how to work cooperatively in a group setting, and encourages healthy habits and attitudes for a healthy lifestyle.

Students will be offered and schools will promote nutritious food and beverage choices during the school day that are consistent with Board Policy 4:120, *Food Services* (requiring compliance with the nutrition standards specified in the U.S. Dept. of Agriculture's (USDA) *Smart Snacks* rules).

## **Section 504**

Students with disabilities who do not qualify for an Individualized Education Plan (IEP) under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act and Illinois School Code may qualify for services under Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 if the child: (1) has a physical or mental impairment that substantially limits one or more major life activities, (2) has a record of a physical or mental impairment, or (3) is regarded as having a physical or mental impairment. Any parent who is deaf or does not typically communicate using spoken English and who participates in a Section 504 meeting with a District representative shall be entitled to the services of an interpreter. Parents seeking information about Section 504 rights and services should contact the Assistant Principal at their child's school.

## **Food Services and Cafeteria Expectations**

### ***Food Services Staff***

The Food Services Department is made up of a team of food and nutrition professionals dedicated to students' health, well-being and their ability to learn. We support learning by promoting healthy habits for lifelong nutrition and fitness practices.

Meals, foods and beverages sold or served at schools meet state and federal requirements which are based on the USDA Dietary Guidelines. We provide students with access to a variety of affordable and appealing foods that meet the health and nutrition needs of students. All items are prepared and served by qualified child nutrition professionals.

### ***Free and Reduced-Price Food Services Eligibility Criteria and Selection***

A student's eligibility for free and reduced-price food services shall be determined by the income eligibility guidelines and family-size income standards set annually by the U.S. Department of Agriculture. Those who feel they are in need are encouraged to complete the [Application for Free and Reduced Meals](#) form. Eligibility requirements, the application process and other required information is made available through a secure, private, online form. Individuals who do not have access to a computer or are unable to apply online may pick up an application at the District Administrative Office. Once the application is processed, the parent(s) will receive a notification letter regarding eligibility status.

### ***Breakfast and Lunch Menus***

Monthly menus and meal prices are available on the [Food Services](#) webpage. Please visit the Food Services webpage to view menus, nutrition, fitness, and education information, the District Wellness Policy, or for information regarding prepayment options.

### ***MySchoolbucks***

District 158 schools offer MySchoolBucks as a convenient method to pay for student meals. This online payment service provides parents with a quick and easy way to add money to your child's meal account by using a credit/debit card or electronic check wherever you have Internet access.

By creating a secure online account, parents can manage their child's account easily and conveniently by taking advantage of some of its popular features:

- Spending History – View a seven day history of your child's purchases.
- Low Balance Email Notification – Receive email notification when your child's account balance is low.
- Smart Pay – Set accounts to automatically replenish.
- Expired Credit Card Notification – Receive email notification prior to credit card expiration.
- Multi Student Funding – Fund multiple children at the same time.
- Spending Limit Settings – Set daily and weekly spending limits for your child by calling the District's Food Service Office at (847) 659-6158.

### ***Nutritious Food***

All students are offered a complete meal that includes milk, grains, meat and meat alternatives, fruits, and vegetables that meet federal guidelines. Additional food items are also offered at a la carte pricing.

### ***Purchasing Food***

District 158 uses an electronic system for purchasing lunch which requires all students to use their ID card to make food purchases in the cafeteria. Parents may add funds to the student's lunch account by creating a secure online account at [MySchoolbucks.com](http://MySchoolbucks.com) (funds may take 24 to 48 hours to be available in the students' account) or by bringing cash or a check (made payable to Huntley Community School District 158) to the designated area in an envelope marked with their name and student ID number. The cafeteria staff will place these payments in the student's lunch account.

Students should only be purchasing food and drink that they can consume during their regular lunch period. Open food and beverage items (excluding water bottles with a cap) are not to be taken to lockers for future consumption.

### ***Providing Lunch/Food for Your Child***

Lunches or food not purchased at school should be limited to just your child. Large quantities of lunches or food brought in during the school day causes an unnecessary disturbance in the building. If you choose to drop off food for your child, please note that we will not interrupt classroom instruction to call the student down. The school has two general call-down times during the day in which students will be asked to pick up items.

### ***Cafeteria Expectations***

Students are expected to cooperate with the following procedures:

1. Place all lunch account checks/cash in the designated area upon arrival to school.
2. Deposit litter in the garbage cans provided.
3. Return all trays and utensils to the dishwashing area.
4. Leave the table and floor around the area in a clean condition for others.
5. Cafeteria lines will move with order and efficiency if all students have their ID card ready at the cash register and are patient and polite while waiting their turn.
6. Be considerate of others.

## **Health Services**

### ***Health Office Staff***

The health program is designed primarily to maintain health and prevent serious injury or illness. A Registered School Nurse is employed by the District in each school to be on duty when children are present during school hours.

### ***Accident, Illness or Injury Procedure***

When a student becomes ill at school, the student may visit the Health Office. The nurse will assess the seriousness of the illness or injury and administer first aid. If warranted, parents will be notified. Possible outcomes after being assessed by the nurse: (1) the student may return to class, (2) the student may be picked up by the parent, or (3) the student may be sent to the hospital via EMS.

If the student has a fever of 100.4° F or greater, the student **MUST** be picked up from school. Other situations where a student must be picked up from school include, but are not limited to: vomiting, diarrhea, open lesions that cannot be covered, lethargy, serious head injuries, undiagnosed persistent or disruptive cough, eye drainage or redness, undiagnosed or new rashes, and serious limb injuries. These situations will be given a "nurse home" attendance code. Parents are required to sign their child out in the office before leaving the building.

**NOTE:** Students must call their parents from the Health Office. Per school rules regarding cell phone use, students should not text or call their parents during the school day even if it pertains to illness.

### ***Administering Medication to Students***

Every attempt should be made to schedule medication administration outside of school hours. However, if under exceptional circumstances a child is required to take prescribed medication during school hours, all medication shall be transported to and from school by a parent. Students are not to transport or have medications in their possession except for the self-administration of diabetes medication, asthma medication, or epinephrine auto-injectors, as outlined below.

The School Nurse, principal, or designee will administer the medication in compliance with the following regulations:

### ***Prescription Medication***

- A “[Request for Administration of Medication Form](#)” (which can be obtained on the website) signed by the parent.
- A “[Request for Administration of Medication Form](#)” (which can be obtained on the website) *signed by the medical doctor*, renewed annually at the beginning of the school year.
- The original prescription bottle must be brought to school by the parent (children may NOT carry the medication to school).
- The prescription bottle label must contain the student’s name, name of medication, time to be administered, dosage, possible side effects and termination date of administering the medication.
- Except for diabetes medication, asthma medication and epinephrine auto-injectors maintained by students authorized to self-medicate, all student prescription medication must be stored in an appropriate locked cabinet in the Health Office, accessible to authorized personnel only.

### ***Non-Prescription Medication***

- A “[Request for Administration of Medication Form](#)” (which can be obtained on the website) signed by the parent.
- A “[Request for Administration of Medication Form](#)” (which can be obtained on the website) *signed by the medical doctor*, renewed annually at the beginning of the school year. Some non-prescription medications may be supplied by the school – please check your school for specifics.
- All medication needs to be labeled with the student’s name and brought to school by a parent.
- Except for diabetes medication, asthma medication and epinephrine auto-injectors maintained by students authorized to self-medicate, all student non-prescription medication must be stored in an appropriate locked cabinet in the Health Office, accessible to authorized personnel only.

### ***Administration of Medical Cannabis***

The Compassionate Use of Medical Cannabis Program Act allows a medical cannabis infused product to be administered to a student on school property or on the school bus by a parent under the following guidelines:

1. The parent of a student who is a minor must be registered with the Ill. Dept. of Public Health (IDPH) as a *designated caregiver* to administer medical cannabis to their child.
2. Both the student and parent possess valid registry identification cards issued by the IDPH.
3. Copies of the registry identification cards are provided to the Health Office.
4. A “School Medication Authorization Form - Medical Cannabis” (which can be obtained on the website) signed by the parent and medical doctor.
5. After administering the product to the student, the parent must immediately remove the product from school property.

Medical cannabis infused products include oils, ointments, foods, and other products that contain usable cannabis but are not smoked or vaped. Smoking and/or vaping medical cannabis on school property or on the school bus is prohibited.

The product may not be administered in a manner that, in the opinion of the District, would create a disruption to the educational environment or cause exposure of the product to other students. A school employee shall not be required to administer the product.

Discipline of a student for being administered a product by a designated caregiver pursuant to this policy is prohibited. The District may not deny a student attendance at school solely because they require administration of the product during school hours.

### ***Undesignated Epinephrine Auto Injectors (Epi-Pens)***

The Emergency Epinephrine Act, P.A. 97-0361 (the Act) became law in Illinois in 2011. The Act permits schools to stock a supply of Epinephrine Auto-Injectors, authorizes physicians to provide school districts and non-public schools with a prescription to obtain the emergency auto-injectors from local pharmacists, and gives School Nurses or other trained personnel the authority to provide/administer the epinephrine to any person (including parents, visitors, and guests) the School Nurse believes in good faith is having an anaphylactic reaction. Undesignated epi-pens are available in all schools during school hours. The standing order and emergency auto-injectors are kept in the Health Office.

### ***Undesignated Opioid Antagonists***

Illinois School Code (105 ILCS 5/22-30(f)) and District Policy 7:270, *Administering Medicines to Students*, permits schools to maintain a supply of undesignated opioid antagonists in the name of the District and provide or administer them as necessary according to State law. Opioid antagonist means a drug that binds to opioid receptors, including, but not limited to, naloxone hydrochloride (Narcan) or any other similarly acting drug approved by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration. A School Nurse or trained personnel, as defined in State law, may administer an undesignated opioid antagonist to a person when they, in good faith, believe that person is having an opioid overdose.

A copy of Policy Policy 7:270, *Administering Medicines to Students*, is available on the District's website.

Huntley District 158 and its employees and agents, including the physician, physician assistant, or advance practice nurse providing the standing protocol or prescription for School District Supply of Undesignated medications, shall incur no liability or professional discipline, except for willful and wanton conduct, as a result of any injury arising from the administration of an undesignated medication, including, but not limited to, asthma medication (inhaler), epinephrine auto injectors (Epi-Pen), diabetes medication (glucagon), or opioid antagonists, regardless of whether authorization was given by a student's parent/guardian, the student's physician, physician assistant, or advance practice nurse.

### ***Self-Administration of Medication***

Students are permitted by law to carry and self-administer diabetes medication, asthma inhalers, pancreatic enzymes, and epinephrine auto-injectors, where appropriate. The parent must sign a statement acknowledging that the District shall incur no liability as a result of any injury or claim arising from the self-administration of the medication or use of an epinephrine auto-injector regardless of whether authorization was given by the student's parent or by the appropriate medical official, and that the parent will indemnify and hold harmless the school district and its employees and agents against any such claims.

### ***Asthma Medication***

Students may carry and self-administer their own asthma inhaler. Occasionally parents will provide an additional inhaler to be kept as a back up in the Health Office.

- If the parent would like their child to carry their own inhaler, the parent must provide:
  - Written authorization through the "[Request for Self Administration of Asthma Medication](#)" form (which can be obtained on the website) signed by the parent, submitted annually at the beginning of the school year.
  - A prescription label with the name of the medication, the prescribed dosage and the time(s) or circumstances under which the medication is to be administered.
- Please also provide an [Asthma Action Plan](#) form (which can be obtained on the website) completed by the student's physician and submitted every year at the beginning of the school year.

### ***Diabetes Medication***

Students may carry and self-administer their own diabetes medication. However, parents may prefer the nurse monitor the student's diabetes.

- If the parent would like their child to administer the medication and glucose test independently, the parent must provide:

- Written authorization through the “[Request for Self Administration of Diabetic Insulin and Glucose Testing](#)” form (which can be obtained on the website) signed by the parent documenting the student has been instructed in the use and self-administration of the medication and glucose meter.
- A “[Request for Self Administration of Diabetic Insulin and Glucose Testing](#)” form (which can be obtained on the website) *signed by the medical doctor*, renewed annually at the beginning of the school year.
- A prescription label with the name of the medication, the prescribed dosage and the time(s) or circumstances under which the medication is to be administered.

### ***Epinephrine Auto Injectors (Epi-Pens)***

Students may carry and self-administer an Epi-pen. However, parents may prefer the Epi-Pen be kept in the Health Office.

- If the parent would like their child to administer their own Epi-pen, the parent must provide:
  - Written authorization through the “[Request for Self Administration of Anaphylactic Medication](#)” form (which can be obtained on the website) signed by the parent documenting the student has been instructed in the use and self-administration of the anaphylactic medication.
  - A “[Request for Self Administration of Anaphylactic Medication](#)” form (which can be obtained on the website) *signed by the medical doctor*, renewed annually at the beginning of the school year.

### ***Anaphylaxis Prevention***

While it is not possible for the school or District to completely eliminate the risks of an anaphylactic emergency, the District maintains a comprehensive policy on anaphylaxis prevention, response, and management in order to reduce these risks and provide accommodations and proper treatment for anaphylactic reactions. Parents and students who desire more information may contact the School Nurse.

Board Policy 7:285, *Anaphylaxis Prevention, Response, and Management Program*, is available on the District website and a copy may be obtained by calling the District 158 Administrative Office at (847) 659-6158.

### ***Communicable Diseases***

Please notify the school office as soon as possible if your child contracts any contagious disease. If such a disease is contracted, the child must be excluded from school. Communicable diseases such as chicken pox, German measles, impetigo, influenza, measles, mumps, scarlet fever, infectious mononucleosis, norovirus, coronavirus, and strep throat are contagious before they reach a stage where they can be recognized and diagnosed. Certain communicable diseases will require a doctor’s release for the student to re-enter school or may require documentation from the County Department of Health to re-enter school or school related activities. Please check with the school Health Office for specifics.

### ***Concussions***

If a student sustains a concussion, please notify the Health Office. The school will support a student with a concussion working with the student’s physician and by providing a Return-to-Learn protocol. The student will check in with the School Nurse daily to evaluate symptom severity.

The Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH) has adopted the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention’s (CDC) *Heads Up* campaign brochures which include concussion fact sheets for parents available on the [IDPH website](#).

If an accident or illness merits being excused from school and/or physical education or recess, a doctor’s note is required that specifies when the student may return to normal activity. **The School Nurse will not be able to write a note to excuse the student from PE.** A physician’s release to return to PE and/or extracurricular athletic activities is required whenever a doctor’s note for no PE has been issued for a concussion or other reason.



### ***Emergency Contact Information***

There are times when a student's illness or injury requires transportation to the hospital. The local rescue squad will transport the student to the appropriate medical facility. Every attempt will be made to notify the parent before transport. In order to contact parents quickly, it is required that we have complete and current information in PowerSchool on the following items:

- Your home address and telephone number
- Working status of parent(s), including the name of the company, the address and phone number where you can be reached
- The name and phone number of a neighbor, friend, or relative who is willing to attend to your child in an emergency.

It is the responsibility of the parent to notify the Registration Department at [studentupdate@district158.org](mailto:studentupdate@district158.org) of any changes in the aforementioned items.

### ***Epilepsy or Seizure Disorder***

Parents of students who are diagnosed with epilepsy or a seizure disorder must submit a [Seizure Action Plan](#) (available on the District website) at the beginning of each school year.

### ***Life-Threatening Food Allergies or Life-Threatening Chronic Illnesses***

State law requires District 158 to annually inform parents of students with life-threatening allergies or life-threatening chronic illnesses of the applicable provisions of Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and other applicable federal statutes, state statutes, federal regulations and State rules.

Parents of students with food allergies should provide a [Food Allergy Emergency Action Plan and Treatment Authorization](#) form (which can be obtained on the District website) completed by the student's physician and submitted every year at the beginning of the school year.

Federal law protects students from discrimination due to a disability that substantially limits a major life activity. If your student has a qualifying disability, an individualized Section 504 Plan will be developed and implemented to provide the support needed for your student to access their education effectively.

While not all students with life-threatening allergies and life-threatening chronic illnesses may be eligible under Section 504, we may be able to appropriately meet a student's needs through other means.

### ***Physical Examination and Immunization Requirements***

In accordance with the Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH) and the Illinois School Code, physical examinations are required for all students entering Kindergarten, sixth grade and ninth grade, and students transferring from out-of-state. Physicals are also required for students trying out for or participating in extracurricular athletics. The physical examination must include a record of all immunizations the child has received.

Every child who enters Preschool, Kindergarten, sixth or ninth grade and every child who enters an Illinois school for the first time, irrespective of grade, must present evidence of immunization as prescribed by the rules and regulations of the Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH) and the Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE).

Students failing to meet the required immunizations against measles, tetanus, diphtheria, poliomyelitis, varicella, pertussis (whooping cough), meningitis, rubella, mumps, and Hepatitis B, will be excluded from all District schools. There are two exceptions to this State law:

- Children whose parents object to immunizations on religious grounds must present the IDPH's [Certificate of Religious Exemption](#) form to the Superintendent or designee. Upon receipt of the form, the Superintendent or designee shall immediately inform the parent of exclusion procedures if there is an outbreak of one or more diseases from which the student is not protected.
- Per Illinois School Code, if the physical condition of the child is such that any one or more of the immunization agents should not be administered on medical grounds, the examining physician responsible for the performance of the health examination shall endorse such fact upon the health examination form.

**All physical and immunizations must be submitted prior to the first day of school or students will not be allowed to attend school.** The [Illinois Certificate of Child Health Examination](#) (school physical) form is available on the District website.

### ***Dental and Vision Exam Requirements***

A dental exam must be provided to the Health Office before May 15 of the current year for students in Kindergarten, second, sixth, and ninth grades. A vision exam must be provided to the Health Office for students entering Kindergarten or transfer students entering Illinois schools for the first time. The [Dental Exam](#) and [Vision Exam](#) forms are available on the District website. A student may be exempt from the dental or vision examination requirements if the student's parent shows an undue burden or lack of access to a dentist or qualified physician/optometrist. Examination waiver forms are available on the [Forms](#) page of the District website.

### ***Reporting to the Health Office***

Except in emergencies, students need a hall pass from their teacher to visit the Health Office. If a student decides they need to see the nurse during a passing period, the student should report to class and receive a hall pass from the teacher. If the nurse is not there or the Health Office is closed, the student should report to the office.

The Health Office is to be used for acute illness or injury, emergencies, or medication administration.  
It is **NOT** to be used by students to sleep, congregate with others, or eat due to missed meals.  
Our goal is to ensure the best possible education for our students by keeping students in class.

### ***Restrictions for Activity or Physical Education***

At times, individual students may require special restrictions to their activity level due to a medical condition. Restrictions for activity or physical education class need to be submitted by a medical physician and must specify the amount of time the student is restricted from participation. Please note any physician directives for activity restrictions need to be reviewed and resubmitted each school year.

### ***When To Keep Your Child at Home***

Please keep your child at home during an illness to decrease the number of students who are exposed to the illness. Students who have been running a fever (100.4° F or greater) should be kept home fever-free for 24 hours before they return to school unless guidelines from the CDC or IDPH increase this timeframe. Students should also remain at home for 24 hours after vomiting has stopped and the student can tolerate a solid diet, and/or until diarrhea-free for 24 hours.

## **Internet and Technology**

### ***Access and Use***

All use of the District's electronic networks shall be consistent with the District's goal of promoting educational excellence by facilitating resource sharing, innovation, and communication. These procedures do not attempt to state all required or prohibited behaviors by users. However, some specific examples are provided. **Failure of any user to follow these procedures will result in the loss of privileges, disciplinary action, and/or legal action.**

### ***Privileges***

Use of the District's electronic network is a privilege, not a right, and inappropriate use will result in a cancellation of those privileges, disciplinary action, and/or appropriate legal action. The technology administrator will make all decisions regarding whether or not a user has violated these procedures and may deny, revoke, or suspend access at any time. The decision of the technology administrator is final. The technology administrator will work with the building administrator and the building administrator will deal directly with the violator.



### ***Terms and Conditions for Internet Access***

The term electronic networks includes all of the District's technology resources, including, but not limited to:

1. The District's local-area and wide-area networks, including wireless networks (Wi-Fi), District-issued Wi-Fi hotspots, and any District servers or other networking infrastructure;
2. Access to the Internet or other online resources via the District's networks or to any District-issued online account from any computer or device, regardless of location;
3. District-owned or District-issued computers, laptops, tablets, phones, or similar devices.

### ***Acceptable Use***

Access to the District's electronic network must be: (a) for the purpose of education or research, and be consistent with the District's educational objectives, or (b) for legitimate business use. Use of the Internet, email, and other communication and collaboration tools to enhance productivity and enhance student learning is encouraged.

If students have been provided with a 1:1 technology device, the following are guidelines for the expectation of using technology responsibly:

- a. Bringing a charged device to school every day;
- b. Storing the device in the provided case when not in use;
- c. Moving safely through the hallway while carrying the device;
- d. Respecting the property and privacy of others by not using another student's device or account;
- e. Using the device, app, and other information resources to support learning, complete school assignments, and gain understanding of how technology works; and
- f. Using the Internet to gather information related to school, and to communicate with other students, teachers, and experts as it relates to school work.

### ***Unacceptable Use***

Staff and students are responsible for their own actions and activities involving the use of computers and the network. Some examples of unacceptable uses include, but are not limited to, the following:

- a. Using the electronic networks for any illegal activity, including violation of copyright or other contracts, or transmitting any material in violation of any State or federal law;
- b. Using the electronic networks to engage in conduct prohibited by Board Policy;
- c. Unauthorized downloading of software or other files, regardless of whether it is copyrighted or scanned for malware;
- d. Unauthorized use of personal removable media devices (such as flash or thumb drives);
- e. Downloading of copyrighted material for other than personal use;
- f. Using the electronic networks for private financial or commercial gain;
- g. Wastefully using resources, such as file space;
- h. Hacking or attempting to hack or gain unauthorized access to files, accounts, resources, or entities by any means;
- i. Invading the privacy of individuals, including the unauthorized disclosure, dissemination, and use of information about anyone that is of a personal nature, such as a photograph or video;
- j. Using another user's account or password;
- k. Disclosing any network or account password (including your own) to any other person, unless requested by the system administrator;
- l. Posting or sending material authored or created by another without their consent;
- m. Posting or sending anonymous messages;
- n. Creating or forwarding chain letters, spam, or other unsolicited messages;
- o. Using the electronic networks for commercial or private advertising;
- p. Accessing, sending, posting, publishing, or displaying any abusive, obscene, profane, sexual, threatening, harassing, illegal, or knowingly false material;
- q. Misrepresenting the user's identity or the identity of others; and
- r. Using the electronic networks while access privileges are suspended or revoked.

### ***Indemnification***

The user agrees to indemnify the District for any losses, costs, or damages, including reasonable attorney fees, incurred by the District relating to, or arising out of, any violation of these procedures.

### ***Internet Safety***

Internet access is limited to only those acceptable uses as detailed in these procedures. Staff members shall supervise students while students are using District Internet access to ensure students abide by the Terms and Conditions for Internet access contained in these procedures.

Each District computer with Internet access has a filtering device that blocks entry to visual depictions that are: (1) obscene, (2) pornographic, or (3) harmful or inappropriate for students, as defined by the Children's Internet Protection Act and as determined by the Superintendent or designee.

The technology administrator and Building Principal shall monitor student and staff Internet use.

### ***Internet and Network Security***

Internet and network security is a high priority. If the user can identify a security problem on the network or Internet, the user must notify the Technology Department or Building Principal. If reported to the Building Principal, the Building Principal is responsible for notifying the Technology Department. Do not demonstrate the problem to other users. Attempts to log-on to the network or Internet as a system administrator will result in cancellation of user privileges. Any user identified as a security risk may be denied access to the network. **Keep your accounts and passwords confidential and do not use another individual's account.**

### ***Network Etiquette***

Staff and students are expected to abide by the generally accepted rules of network etiquette while using any means of electronic communication such as email, blogs, wikis, discussion boards, instant messaging, etc. These include, but are not limited to, the following:

- a. Be polite. Do not become abusive in messages to others.
- b. Use appropriate language. Do not swear, use vulgarities, or any other inappropriate language.
- c. Do not reveal personal information, including the addresses or telephone numbers of students or staff.
- d. Recognize that the District's electronic networks are not private. People who operate the District's technology have access to all email and other data. Messages or other evidence relating to or in support of illegal activities may be reported to the authorities.
- e. Do not use the network in any way that would disrupt its use by other users.
- f. Consider all communications and information accessible via the network to be private property.

### ***No Warranties***

The District makes no warranties of any kind, whether expressed or implied, for the service it is providing. The District will not be responsible for any damages the user suffers. This includes loss of data resulting from delays, non-deliveries, missed-deliveries, or service interruptions caused by its negligence or the user's errors or omissions. Use of any information obtained via the Internet is at the user's own risk. The District specifically denies any responsibility for the accuracy or quality of information obtained through its services.

### ***Telephone Charges***

The District assumes no responsibility for any unauthorized charges or fees, including telephone charges, texting or data use charges, long-distance charges, per-minute surcharges, and/or equipment or line costs.

### ***Use of Email***

The District's email system, and its constituent software, hardware, and data files, are owned and controlled by the District. The District provides email to aid students and staff members in fulfilling their duties and responsibilities, and as an education tool.

- a. The District reserves the right to access and disclose the contents of any account on its system, without prior notice or permission from the account's user. Unauthorized access by any student or staff member to an email account is strictly prohibited.

- b. Each person should use the same degree of care in drafting an email message as would be put into a written memorandum or document. Nothing should be transmitted in an email message that would be inappropriate in a letter or memorandum.
- c. Electronic messages transmitted via the District's Internet gateway carry with them an identification of the user's Internet domain. This domain is a registered name and identifies the author as being with the District. Great care should be taken, therefore, in the composition of such messages and how such messages might reflect on the name and reputation of the District. Users will be held personally responsible for the content of any and all email messages transmitted to external recipients.
- d. Any message received from an unknown sender via the Internet, such as spam or potential phishing emails, should either be immediately deleted or forwarded to the technology administrator. Downloading any file attached to any Internet-based message is prohibited unless the user is certain of that message's authenticity and the nature of the file so transmitted.
- e. Use of the District's email system constitutes consent to these regulations.

### ***Vandalism***

Vandalism will result in cancellation of privileges and other disciplinary action. Vandalism is defined as any malicious attempt to harm or destroy data of another user, the Internet, or any other network. This includes, but is not limited to, the uploading or creation of malware, such as viruses and spyware.

### ***Web Publishing Copyright Rules***

Copyright law and District policy prohibit the re-publishing of text or graphics found on the Internet or on District websites or file servers/cloud storage without explicit written permission.

- a. For each re-publication (on a website or file server) of a graphic or a text file that was produced externally, there must be a notice at the bottom of the page crediting the original producer and noting how and when permission was granted. If possible, the notice should also include the web address of the original source.
- b. Students and staff engaged in producing web content must have written permission from the original producer before adding the material to their web page.
- c. The absence of a copyright notice may not be interpreted as permission to copy the materials. Only the copyright owner may provide the permission. The manager of the website displaying the material may not be considered a source of permission.
- d. The fair use rules governing student reports in classrooms are less stringent and permit limited use of graphics and text.
- e. Student work may only be published if there is written permission from both the parent and student.

## **Progress Reports, Report Cards, Grading, Retention and Promotion**

### ***Progress Reports***

Mid quarter progress report grades will be available on PowerSchool. A notification will be sent to parents via the SwiftReach SwiftK12 program on the day that mid quarter progress report grades are updated. Parents may also access current grades at any time by using their parent account on PowerSchool.

### ***Report Cards***

Report cards for students in grades 6-8 are completed on a quarterly basis. Students will be assessed on end of the year grade-level standards in order to show what the student knows, or is able to do, in relation to the standard. The report cards show student progress towards mastery of specific learning targets. A notification will be sent to parents via the SwiftReach SwiftK12 program on the day that report cards are distributed.

### **Grade Point Average (GPA) Calculation**

In figuring grade point average, points are earned for each quarter grade. The points are then totaled and divided by the number of classes attempted.

A+ = 4.3	A = 4.0	A- = 3.7
B+ = 3.3	B = 3.0	B- = 2.7
C+ = 2.3	C = 2.0	C- = 1.7
D+ = 1.3	D = 1.0	D- = 0.7
		F = 0

Principal's List:	3.795 or better
High Honors:	3.495 – 3.794
Honors:	2.995 – 3.494

All classes are 1 credit. If a student is enrolled in ½ band or orchestra and ½ chorus, they will receive 0.5 credit for each class. Below is an example of how to calculate a GPA for a student who received the following grades in each class.

Example for calculation:

<b>Class</b>	<b>Credit</b>	<b>Grade</b>	<b>Points</b>
Art	1	A-	3.7
PE	1	A-	3.7
½ Band	.5	A+	2.15
½ Chorus	.5	A+	2.15
Science	1	A	4
Math	1	A-	3.7
Literacy	1	B+	3.3
History	1	A	4
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>7</b>		<b>26.7</b>

**26.7/7= GPA 3.814**

### **Grade Point Average (GPA) Calculation with Honors Courses**

Algebra 1 (H), Geometry (H), and English 1 (H) are courses that have been determined to be taught at the rigor of an honors high school course and are therefore given extra consideration in determining grade point average.

Honor's weighted courses will use the following point system.

A+ = 4.8	A = 4.5	A- = 4.2
B+ = 3.8	B = 3.5	B- = 3.2
C+ = 2.8	C = 2.5	C- = 2.2
D+ = 1.3	D = 1.0	D- = 0.7
		F = 0

Principal's List:	3.795 or better
High Honors:	3.495 – 3.794
Honors:	2.995 – 3.494

Again, all classes are 1 credit. If a student is enrolled in ½ band or orchestra and ½ chorus, they will receive 0.5 credit for each class. Below is an example of how to calculate a GPA for a student enrolled in honors classes who received the following grades.

Example for calculation (with Honors classes):

<b>Class</b>	<b>Credit</b>	<b>Grade</b>	<b>Points</b>
Art	1	A-	3.7
PE	1	A-	3.7
½ Band	.5	A+	2.15
½ Chorus	.5	A+	2.15
Science	1	A	4
Algebra 1 (H)	1	A-	4.2
English 1 (H)	1	B+	3.8
History	1	A	4
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>7</b>		<b>27.7</b>

**27.7/7= GPA 3.957**

### ***Honor Roll***

In order to recognize hard working, conscientious and high achieving students in grades 6-8, an honor roll will be published each quarter shortly after report cards have been issued.

- Students must earn a grade point average between 3.095 and 3.494 to qualify for Honors.
- Those earning a grade point average between 3.495 and 3.794 will be acknowledged with High Honors.
- Students with a grade point average of 3.795 or higher will be placed on the Principal's List.

Grades in literacy, math, social studies, science, exploratory, band/chorus/orchestra, skills-based studies, and physical education will be used to calculate honor roll.

### ***Remediation, Retention, and Promotion***

The decision to retain or promote a student to the next grade level shall be based on successful completion of the curriculum, attendance, and performance on the standardized tests required by the Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE) and/or other assessments. A student shall not be promoted based upon age or any other social reason not related to academic performance.

Research indicates a negative outcome regarding retention, and as such, effective decision-making regarding retention will include a remediation plan developed throughout the school year in which administration will track student core class grades.

The remediation/retention process is a continuous process that may include communication home, team supports, MTSS supports, meeting with administration, and/or social-emotional supports. The plan becomes more intensive and restrictive as a student progresses through the remediation process.

Students who have failed two or more quarters of a core class at the end of the school year will be considered for summer school and/or retention. Retention will only occur if the remediation process is not successful. The Building Principal will have the final decision-making authority over retention decisions.

## **Rights and Responsibilities**

One of the core values of the middle schools in District 158 is the maintenance of a pleasant, orderly, supportive atmosphere. A spirit of cooperation among students, teachers, parents and administrators promotes a positive learning climate that enables and encourages excellence in education. In an effort to support this cooperation, all students and their parents should review the following rights and responsibilities:

### ***Student Responsibilities***

- Attain the best possible level of academic achievement.
- Respect the rights of fellow students and school personnel.
- Obey all school rules as well as city, state and federal laws.

### ***Uniform Grievance Procedure***

Any individual may file a sex equity, sexual harassment, Section 504 disability, or other discrimination complaint by using the procedure described in Board Policy 2:260, *Uniform Grievance Procedure*, a copy of which is available in the District Administrative Office, on the District website, or by contacting any of the individuals named below.

Concerns or complaints related to potential violations should be directed to:

#### **Nondiscrimination Coordinators/Title IX Coordinators:**

Dr. Adam Zehr	Mrs. Karrie Baughman
650 Dr. John Burkey Drive	650 Dr. John Burkey Drive
Algonquin, IL 60102	Algonquin, IL 60102
(847) 659-6158	(847) 659-6158

#### Complaint Managers:

Dr. Amy MacCrimble	Mrs. Karrie Baughman	Mrs. Deanna Gill	Mr. Mark Altmayer
650 Dr. John Burkey Drive	650 Dr. John Burkey Drive	650 Dr. John Burkey Drive	650 Dr. John Burkey Drive
Algonquin, IL 60102	Algonquin, IL 60102	Algonquin, IL 60102	Algonquin, IL 60102
(847) 659-6158	(847) 659-6158	(847) 659-6158	(847) 659-6158

A student may appeal the Board's resolution of a complaint filed to the Regional Superintendent of Schools, and thereafter, to the State Superintendent of Education.

For concerns or complaints against District 158 or its employees other than a discrimination complaint, parents are encouraged to first contact the appropriate staff member directly. If the problem is not resolved, parents should then contact the Building Principal. If the problem remains unresolved, the parent should then contact the District Administrative Office.

### **Safety and Security**

All District operations, including the education program, shall be conducted in a manner that will promote the safety and security of everyone on District property or at a District event. As such, District 158 has developed and maintains a comprehensive safety and security plan that includes, without limitation:

1. An emergency operations and crisis response plan addressing prevention, preparation, response, and recovery for each school;
2. Provisions for a coordinated effort with local law enforcement, fire officials, and emergency medical services personnel;
3. A school safety drill plan;
4. Instruction in safe bus riding practices; and
5. A clear, rapid, factual, and coordinated system of internal and external communication.

#### ***Campus Resource Officers***

District 158 has established a Campus Resource Officer (CRO) program in partnership with the Algonquin, Huntley, and Lake in the Hills Police Departments. As part of an intergovernmental agreement, this partnership helps create "effective and positive school student discipline that: (1) is part of District 158's larger effort to address school safety and climate, (2) includes proactive and restorative methods rather than only punitive, and (3) is clear, consistent and equitable."

Each CRO is equipped with a body worn camera as provided by law in accordance with Police Department policies. The CRO's body worn camera will not record during the school day unless and until the CRO has reason to believe that a crime has been or is in the process of being committed. Further, in the event a CRO is in a hostile situation or perceives that a complaint will be raised, at the CRO's discretion, the body worn camera can begin recording.

#### ***Emergency Procedure Terms***

- **Code Red:** A code red is declared when, in the opinion of an administrator, Campus Resource Officer, or staff member, a situation exists that threatens the safety of students and staff and requires them to remain in the classroom.
- **Hold in Place and Teach:** This protocol is enacted when there is a situation *inside the building* that requires immediate action for all persons to remain in place. It is non-life threatening to the general population and to the school.
- **Secure the Building and Teach:** This protocol is enacted when there is a situation *outside the building* that requires all persons to remain inside the school building.

- **Severe Weather/Shelter in Place:** This protocol is enacted when there is a severe weather/tornado warning indicated in the area of the school(s). All staff and students, inside or outside of the school, will be advised to move to their designated safe areas within the school.

Should a severe weather/tornado warning occur at dismissal time, students will be kept in the building until conditions improve or an all-clear signal is issued.

In the event buses are in transit and a severe weather/tornado warning is announced, buses will go to the closest school building or predetermined location based on movement of the potential weather.

- **Tornado Watch:** A tornado watch is used when conditions are favorable for tornadoes to form.
- **Tornado Warning:** A tornado warning is used when a tornado funnel is signed or indicated by weather radar. Shelter should be taken immediately.

### ***School Safety Drill Plan***

In accordance with the School Safety Drill Act (105 ILCS 128/) and Board Policy 4:170, *Safety*, the following drills will be conducted:

1. Three school evacuation drills;
2. Two bus evacuation drills;
3. One severe weather and shelter-in-place drill;
4. One law enforcement lockdown drill.

Emergency drill procedures will be discussed with all students by their classroom teachers prior to each drill. If a parent would like to opt their child out of participating in the law enforcement lockdown drill, they must request this in writing to the Building Principal each school year.

### ***School Bus Safety***

All students shall be provided with instruction in safe bus riding practices at least twice during each school year. The instruction shall include two emergency bus evacuation drills, as well as the operation and use of the emergency door, windows (as a means of escape), and fire extinguisher.

### ***Student Drop-Off and Pick-Up***

In the interest of safety and security of all students and staff, parents are asked to please review the following drop-off and pick-up procedures:

#### **Morning Drop-Off**

All students should be dropped off in the single lane drop off area as designated curbside in the front of the school. Please use the entire front of the building to drop off, helping to efficiently drop off as many students in the quickest time possible.

Only buses are allowed in the back of the school. **No student should be dropped off in the parking lot.** Students will be allowed to enter the building at 7:15 a.m.

#### **Afternoon Pick-Up**

All students being picked up must be picked up in the single lane pick up area as designated curbside in the front of the school. Please use the entire front of the building to pick up, helping to efficiently pick up as many students in the quickest time possible.

Only buses are allowed in the back of the school. **No student should be picked up in the parking lot.** Adult supervision of car riders ends at 2:35 p.m. Students not involved in a school-sponsored activity may not remain on campus. If you cannot pick up your child by this time, please arrange for them to ride the bus home.

Vehicles MAY NOT be parked or located in the bus lanes or fire lanes at ANY TIME.  
Vehicles located in these locations may be ticketed and/or towed by the police.

### ***Walking or Riding Bicycles To and From School***

For safety purposes, it is not recommended that students walk or ride bicycles to or from school.

## **Search and Seizure**

In an effort to maintain order and security in the schools, school authorities are authorized to conduct reasonable searches of school property and equipment, as well as of students and their personal effects. School authorities include school liaison police officers (Campus Resource Officers).

### ***School Property and Equipment***

#### ***As Well as Personal Effects Left by Students***

School authorities may inspect and search school property and equipment owned or controlled by the school (such as lockers, desks, and parking lots), as well as personal effects left there by a student, without notice to or consent of the student. Students have no reasonable expectation of privacy in these places or areas or in their personal effects left there.

The Superintendent may request the assistance of law enforcement officials to conduct inspections and searches of lockers, desks, parking lots, and other school property and equipment for illegal drugs, weapons, or other dangerous substances or materials, including searches conducted through the use of specially trained dogs.

#### ***Search of Student Accounts or Profiles on Social Networking Websites***

In accordance with the Right to Privacy in the School Setting Act, 105 ILCS 75/:

1. School officials may not request or require a student or the student's parent to provide a password or other related account information to gain access to the student's account or profile on a social networking site.
2. School officials may conduct an investigation or require a student to cooperate in an investigation if there is specific information about activity on the student's account on a social networking website that violates the school's disciplinary rule or policy. In the course of the investigation, the student may be required to share the content that is reported in order for the school to make a factual determination.

#### ***Searches of Students and/or Student's Personal Effects***

School authorities may search a student and/or the student's personal effects in the student's possession (purses, wallets, knapsacks, book bags, lunch boxes, etc.), when there is reasonable grounds for suspecting that the search will produce evidence the particular student has violated or is violating either the law or the school or District's rules and policies.

The search will be conducted in a manner that is reasonably related to its objective of the search and not excessively intrusive in light of the student's age and sex, and the nature of the infraction. When feasible, the search will be conducted as follows:

- Outside the view of others, including students;
- In the presence of a school administrator or adult witness; and
- By a certificated employee or school liaison police officer (Campus Resource Officer) of the same sex as the student.

#### ***Seizure of Property***

If a search produces evidence that a student has violated or is violating either the law or the school or District's rules or policies, such evidence may be seized and impounded by school authorities, and disciplinary action may be taken. When appropriate, such evidence may be transferred to law enforcement authorities. The student's parent(s) shall be notified of the search as soon as possible.

Board Policy 7:140, *Search and Seizure*, is available on the District website and a copy may be obtained by calling the District 158 Administrative Office at (847) 659-6158.



## **Special Education**

### ***Education of Children with Disabilities***

The District shall provide a free appropriate public education in the least restrictive environment and any necessary related services to all students with disabilities enrolled in District 158, as required by the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA). The term “children with disabilities” means children between ages 3 and the day before their 22nd birthday for whom it is determined that special education services are needed, except those children with disabilities who turn 22 years of age during the school year are eligible for special education services through the end of the school year. It is the intent of the school to ensure that students with disabilities are identified, evaluated and provided with appropriate educational services.

Once a student is determined to have a disability under IDEA, an Individualized Education Program (IEP) will be developed by a team of educators along with parents.

For additional information, please contact the Special Services Department at (847) 659-6158.

### ***Services and Programs***

District 158 provides a continuum of services to students with IEPs. Every effort is made to educate the student within their home school and classroom environment. The Individualized Education Program team, including the student’s parent(s) and educators, meets annually to determine the needs of the student and the least restrictive environment. Students who move into District 158 with an IEP will be provided with the services listed in the Individualized Education Program plan.

Students with IEPs are afforded the safeguards and rights described in the parent guide, [\*Educational Rights and Responsibilities: Understanding Special Education in Illinois\*](#), available on the Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE) website.

Students with disabilities who do not qualify for an Individualized Education Program, as required by the federal Individuals with Disabilities Education Act and implementing provisions of this Illinois law, may qualify for services under Section 504 of the federal Rehabilitation Act of 1973 if the student: (1) has a physical or mental impairment that substantially limits one or more major life activities, (2) has a record of a physical or mental impairment, or (3) is regarded as having a physical or mental impairment.

### ***Access to Classroom for Special Education Observation or Evaluation***

The parent of a student receiving special education services, or being evaluated for eligibility, is afforded reasonable access to educational facilities, personnel, classrooms, and buildings. This same right of access is afforded to an independent educational evaluator or a qualified professional retained by or on behalf of a parent or child.

For further information, please contact the Building Principal.

### ***Discipline of Special Education Students***

The District will comply with the Individuals With Disabilities Education Improvement Act of 2004 and the Illinois State Board of Education’s Special Education rules when disciplining special education students. No special education student shall be expelled if the student’s particular act of gross disobedience or misconduct is a manifestation of the student’s disability.

Additional information, [\*including laws, regulations, and guidance\*](#), is available at the Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE) website.

- ***Behavioral Interventions***

Behavioral interventions shall be used with students with disabilities to promote and strengthen desirable behaviors and reduce identified inappropriate behaviors. The Board will establish and maintain a committee to develop, implement, and monitor procedures on the use of behavioral interventions for children with disabilities.

- ***Physical Restraint, Time Out, and Isolated Time Out (RTO)***

Isolated time out, time out, and physical restraint shall only be used if the student's behavior presents an imminent danger of serious physical harm to the student or others, and other less restrictive and intrusive measures were tried and proven ineffective in stopping it. The school may not use isolated time out, time out, or physical restraint as discipline or punishment, convenience for staff, retaliation, as a substitute for appropriate educational or behavioral support, a routine safety matter, or to prevent property damage in absence of imminent danger of serious physical harm to the student or others. The use of prone restraint is prohibited.

Additional information for parents, including [\*The Physical Restraint, Time Out, and Isolated Time Out Bill of Rights\*](#), is available on the Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE) [website](#).

### ***Exemption From PE Requirement for Special Education Students***

A student who is eligible for special education may be excused from physical education courses in either of the following situations:

1. The student (a) is in grades 3-12, (b) has an IEP that requires that special education support and services be provided during physical education time, and (c) the parent agrees or the IEP team makes the determination; or
2. The student (a) has an IEP, (b) is participating in an adaptive athletic program outside of the school setting, and (c) the parent documents the student's participation as required by the Superintendent or designee.

A student requiring adapted physical education will receive that service in accordance with the student's Individualized Education Program.

### ***Related Service Logs***

For a student with an IEP, the District must create related service logs that record the type of related services administered under the student's IEP and the minutes of each type of related service that has been administered.

## **Student Privacy Protections**

### ***Surveys***

All surveys requesting personal information from students, as well as any other instrument used to collect personal information from students, must advance or relate to the District's educational objectives, or assist students' career choices. This applies to all surveys, regardless of whether the student answering the questions can be identified or who created the survey.

### ***Surveys by Third Parties***

Before a school official or staff member administers or distributes a survey or evaluation created by a third party to a student, the student's parent may inspect the survey or evaluation, upon their request and within a reasonable time of their request. This applies to every survey: (1) that is created by a person or entity other than a district official, staff member, or student, (2) regardless of whether the student answering the questions can be identified, and (3) regardless of the subject matter of the questions.

Parents who object to disclosure of information concerning their child to a third party may do so in writing to the Building Principal.

### ***Surveys Requesting Personal Information***

School officials and staff members will not request, nor disclose, the identity of any student who completes any survey or evaluation (created by any person or entity, including the school or District) containing one or more of the following items:

1. Political affiliations or beliefs of the student or the student's parents.
2. Mental or psychological problems of the student or the student's family.
3. Behavior or attitudes about sex.

4. Illegal, anti-social, self-incriminating, or demeaning behavior.
5. Critical appraisals of other individuals with whom students have close family relationships.
6. Legally recognized privileged or analogous relationships, such as those with lawyers, physicians, and ministers.
7. Religious practices, affiliations, or beliefs of the student or the student's parent.
8. Income other than that required by law to determine eligibility for participation in a program or for receiving financial assistance under such programs.

The student's parent may: (1) inspect the survey or evaluation upon, and within a reasonable time of, their request, and/or (2) refuse to allow their child to participate in the survey. The school will not penalize any student whose parent exercised this option.

### ***Instructional Material***

A student's parent may inspect, upon their request, any instructional material used as part of their child's educational curriculum within a reasonable time of their request.

The term "instructional material" means instructional content that is provided to a student, regardless of its format, printed or representational materials, audio-visual materials, and materials in electronic or digital formats (such as materials accessible through the Internet). The term does not include academic tests or academic assessments.

### ***Prohibition on Selling or Marketing Students' Personal Information***

No school official or staff member may market or sell personal information concerning students (or otherwise provide that information to others for that purpose). The term personal information means individually identifiable information including: (1) a student or parent's first and last name, (2) a home or other physical address (including street name and the name of the city or town), (3) a telephone number, (4) a Social Security identification number or (5) driver's license number or State identification card.

Unless otherwise prohibited by law, the above paragraph does not apply: (1) if the student's parent have consented; or (2) to the collection, disclosure or, use of personal information collected from students for the exclusive purpose of developing, evaluating or providing educational products or services for, or to, students or educational institutions, such as the following:

1. College or other postsecondary education recruitment, or military recruitment.
2. Book clubs, magazines, and programs providing access to low-cost literary products.
3. Curriculum and instructional materials used by elementary schools and secondary schools.
4. Tests and assessments to provide cognitive, evaluative, diagnostic, clinical, aptitude, or achievement information about students (or to generate other statistically useful data for the purpose of securing such tests and assessments) and the subsequent analysis and public release of the aggregate data from such tests and assessments.
5. The sale by students of products or services to raise funds for school-related or education-related activities.
6. Student recognition programs.

Under no circumstances may a school official or staff member provide a student's personal information to a business organization or financial institution that issues credit or debit cards.

A parent who desires to opt their child out of participation in activities provided herein or who desires a copy or access to a survey or any other material described herein may contact the Building Principal.

A complete copy of the District's [Student and Family Privacy Rights](#) policy is available on the District's website.

## **Student Records**

The District will maintain two sets of records for each student: a permanent record and a temporary record.

### ***Permanent Records***

All student permanent records are maintained for at least 60 years after the student transfers, graduates, or permanently withdraws.

A student's permanent record may include:

- basic identifying information
- academic transcripts
- attendance records
- accident and health reports
- honors and awards
- school-sponsored activities and athletics
- information pertaining to the release of this record

### ***Temporary Records***

Student temporary records are maintained for at least five years after the student transfers, graduates, or permanently withdraws. Temporary records that may be of assistance to a student with a disability who graduates or permanently withdraws, may, after five years, be transferred to the parent or to the student when the student reaches 18 years of age, graduates from high school, marries, or enters military service, whichever comes first. Such students are called *eligible students*.

A student's temporary record may include:

- family background information
- intelligence and aptitude test scores
- psychological reports
- achievement test results
- participation in extracurricular activities, including any offices held in school-sponsored clubs or organizations
- honors and awards received
- teacher anecdotal records
- disciplinary information
- special education files
- records associated with plans developed under Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973
- verified reports of information from non-educational persons, agencies or organizations of clear relevance to the student's education
- information pertaining to the release of this record

### ***Rights and Privacy Regarding Student Records***

The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) and the Illinois School Student Records Act (ISSRA) afford parents and students over 18 years of age ("eligible students") certain rights with respect to the student's education records. They are:

#### **1. The right to inspect and copy the student's education records within 10 business days after the date the District receives a request for access.**

A parent or student 18 years of age has the right to inspect and copy their permanent record. The parent or student should submit to the Building Principal or the Official Records Custodian a written request that identifies the record(s) they wish to inspect. The Building Principal will make arrangements for access and notify the parent or student of the time and place where the records may be inspected.

These rights are denied to any person against whom an order of protection has been entered concerning a student (105 ILCS 5/10-22.3c, 105 ILCS 10/5a, and 750 ILCS 60/214(b) (15).

2. **The right to request the amendment of the student's education records that the parent or eligible student believes are inaccurate, misleading, irrelevant, or improper.**

A parent or eligible student may ask the District to amend a record that they believe is inaccurate, misleading, irrelevant, or improper. They should write to the Building Principal or the Official Records Custodian, clearly identify the part of the record they want changed, and specify the reason.

If the District decides not to amend the record as requested by the parent or eligible student, the District will notify the parent or eligible student of the decision and advise the individual of their right to a hearing regarding the request for amendment. Additional information regarding the hearing procedures will be provided to the parent or eligible student when notified of the right to a hearing.

3. **The right to permit disclosure of personally identifiable information contained in the student's education records, except to the extent that the FERPA or ISSRA authorizes disclosure without consent.**

Disclosure without consent is permitted to school officials with legitimate educational or administrative interests. A school official is a person employed by the District as an administrator, supervisor, instructor, or support staff member (including health or medical staff and law enforcement unit personnel); a person serving on the Board. A school official may also include a volunteer, contractor, or consultant who, while not employed by the school, performs an institutional service or function for which the school would otherwise use its own employees and who is under the direct control of the school with respect to the use and maintenance of personally identifiable information from education records (such as an attorney, auditor, medical consultant, therapist, or educational technology vendor); or any parent or student serving on an official committee, such as a disciplinary or grievance committee, or assisting another school official in performing his or her tasks. A school official has a legitimate educational interest if the official needs to review an education record in order to fulfill professional responsibility or contractual obligations with the District.

Upon request, the District discloses education records without consent to officials of another school district in which a student has enrolled or intends to enroll, as well as to any person as specifically required by State or Federal law. Before information is released to individuals, the parent or eligible student will receive prior written notice of the nature and substance of the information, and an opportunity to inspect, copy, and challenge such records.

Academic grades and references to expulsions or out-of-state suspensions cannot be challenged at the time a student's records are being forwarded to another school to which the student is transferring.

Disclosure is also permitted without consent to: any person for research, statistical reporting or planning, provided that no student or parent(s) can be identified; any person named in a court order; appropriate persons if the knowledge of such information is necessary to protect the health or safety of the student or other persons; and juvenile authorities when necessary for the discharge of their official duties who request information before adjudication of the student.

4. **The right to a copy of any school student record proposed to be destroyed or deleted.**

Student temporary records are reviewed every four years or upon a student's change in attendance centers, whichever occurs first.

5. **The right to prohibit the release of directory information.**

Throughout the school year, the District may release directory information regarding students, limited to: name, address, grade level, birth date and place, parent names and addresses, academic awards, degrees, and honors, information in relation to school-sponsored activities, organizations, and athletics, major field of study, or period of attendance in school.

*Any parent or eligible student may prohibit the release of any or all of the above information by delivering a written objection to the Building Principal within 30 days of the date of this notice. No directory information will be released within this time period unless the parent or eligible student is specifically informed otherwise.*

6. **The right contained in this statement: No person may condition the granting or withholding of any right, privilege or benefits or make as a condition of employment, credit, or insurance the securing by any individual of any information from a student's temporary record which such individual may obtain through the exercise of any right secured under State law.**
7. **The right to file a complaint with the U.S. Department of Education concerning alleged failures by the District to comply with the requirements of FERPA.**

The name and address of the Office that administers FERPA is:

U.S. Department of Education  
Student Privacy Policy Office  
400 Maryland Avenue, SW  
Washington, DC 20202

## **Student Services**

### ***Counseling and Guidance***

The guidance counseling staff are a resource to students in educational, social/emotional development, and career awareness activities. Academic counseling is available when students appear to have organizational or motivational problems in school. The counseling staff will help coordinate home-school communication as necessary and also act as a liaison between students and teachers.

Individual counseling may be provided upon request of the student, parent, or teacher. Such confidential discussions may be on any topic of concern including school adjustment problems and personal problems. Counselors do not provide therapy for students, but can and will provide referrals as needed. In addition to the above services, it is the goal of the counseling staff to provide for the personal growth and development of all students regarding such issues as self-esteem, decision making, social skills, life safety, etc.

### ***Erin's Law Counseling Options, Assistance, and Intervention***

Each middle school's counseling staff has identified counseling options for students who are affected by sexual abuse and grooming behaviors, along with District and community-based options for victims of sexual abuse and grooming behaviors to obtain assistance and intervention.

### ***Problem Solving Team***

Students who are experiencing academic, behavioral or social/emotional concerns, which affect academic performance, may be referred to our Problem Solving Team (P.S.T.) This program is designed to assist and support students at-risk of academic failure. Staff and/or parents may refer students for this program to the student's guidance counselor. Based on the student's needs, an action plan will be developed and monitored to assist the student in achieving academic success.

## **Transportation**

School bus transportation is an important part of each student's education experience and the Transportation Department will assist in making this experience as pleasant as possible. It is the responsibility of the Transportation Department to design and implement routes and stops according to guidelines set forth by the Illinois State Board of Education and Illinois State Law. Decisions regarding special education students will take into account related disabilities and the student's IEP pertaining to transportation.

### ***Transportation Department Staff***

The District 158 Transportation Department and its staff are dedicated to the service, safety and well-being of all students that it transports. Bus drivers are responsible for the students riding their buses just as teachers are responsible for the students in their classrooms. The bus driver is required to report students who violate the bus rules of proper behavior and conduct while riding the bus.

Bus drivers are not authorized to change routes or make unauthorized stops unless approved through the Transportation Department.

### ***Bus Conduct, Expectations, and Discipline***

Every student has a right to a safe and enjoyable ride to and from school free from intimidation, threat or harassment. Bus drivers are responsible for the lives of all students on their bus and will not be required to transport any student who is a disciplinary problem. The school discipline system applies to students at the bus stop, bus loading and unloading locations, on the ride, and throughout the school day. If a student's behavior is not acceptable, the right of riding the bus may be suspended and the student may face further consequences.

#### **Bus Expectations**

- Be on time
- Walk to and away from the bus
- Find a seat immediately and remain seated
- Maintain an appropriate noise level and use appropriate language
- Keep your hands, arms, feet, and all objects inside the bus and to yourself
- Follow directions from the bus driver and other adults
- Help keep the bus clean
- Report unsafe behavior to the bus driver
- Use only approved items on the bus

#### **Bus Discipline**

The bus is an extension of the school and classroom in which all school rules, regulations and discipline policies and procedures apply.

- Transportation is a right that can be suspended.
- Each student is responsible for their behavior while on the bus and in the school bus loading and unloading areas.
- Unacceptable conduct on the school bus or at a school stop may result in a warning, detention, suspension or expulsion from school.

Should a student's bus riding privilege be suspended, it then becomes the responsibility of the parent to transport the student. Revocation of a student's bus riding privilege is not considered an exclusion, expulsion or suspension from school. Students suspended from the school bus who do not have alternate transportation to school will have the opportunity to make up missed school work for equivalent academic credit. It is the responsibility of the parent to notify the school that the student does not have alternate transportation.

#### ***Bus Routes***

Students are required to ride their designated routes and get on and off at their designated stops. Students must be picked-up and dropped-off at the same location Monday through Friday. Transportation needs to keep track of students riding their designated routes in the event of an emergency (i.e. bus collision, lost or missing students, etc.). Due to the number of students being transported, it is not feasible to let students ride home on routes other than their designated routes.

In the event of an emergency, the parent must call the Transportation Department at (847) 659-3000 to request a change in their child's designated route. Requests for changes will be accepted or denied based on the number of students assigned to a particular bus route. If the request is approved, the Transportation Department will notify the school of the change.

#### ***Bus Stops***

Students need to be at their designated bus stop five minutes prior to the scheduled bus arrival time. Bus drivers are required to report any student who is consistently tardy for their bus, as corrective action may be necessary. It is important that buses maintain a timely schedule.

In areas where sidewalks are provided, students need to stand a safe distance on the sidewalk away from the curb and street. In areas where sidewalks are not provided, students need to stay off the road and out of harm's way of motorists using the roadway. The private property of those living near the bus stop is to be respected.

Students waiting for the bus are not to approach the bus until the bus has come to a complete stop and the driver has opened the door. Students are to get on the bus in single file in an orderly fashion without pushing and shoving, and find a seat immediately.

When students need to cross a road before boarding or after exiting the bus, they must wait on the curb or edge of the roadway until the driver signals the student giving them permission to cross the road. Students should cross the road far enough in front of the bus (approximately 10 feet) so the driver can see the student and the student can see the driver.

Not following these guidelines is a serious safety offense and drivers have been directed to submit bus conduct reports of students who do not follow these guidelines.

### ***Danger Zones Surrounding School Buses***

Statistically school bus transportation is the safest means of transportation that a student can take to and from school. A student has a 150 times greater risk of being in an accident to and from school via another vehicle other than a school bus.

The area within 10 feet in the front, sides, and rear of the bus are known as the DANGER ZONE. As such, precautionary guidelines must be adhered to when students are loading and unloading.

At no time should a student walk directly alongside the bus nor should a student cross the road behind the bus. Students need to remain at least 10 feet away from the bus before loading. When unloading, students must exit and immediately step at least 10 feet away from the bus and proceed immediately to their destination.

If a student drops an item in front of, alongside of, or at the rear of the bus, the student should not retrieve the item until notifying the driver. The driver will then decide if it is safe for the student to retrieve the dropped item.

Not following these guidelines is a serious safety offense and drivers have been directed to submit bus conduct reports for students not following these guidelines.

### ***Electronic Recordings on School Buses***

The Board of Education has adopted a policy authorizing the use of electronic recordings on school buses when transportation is provided for a school activity.

Electronic video and audio recordings are viewed to investigate incidents reported by a bus driver, administrator, CRO, supervisor, student, or other person. They are also viewed at random.

Viewing and/or listening to electronic video and/or audio recordings is limited to CROs and District personnel. These individuals must have (1) a law enforcement, security, or safety reason, or (2) a need to investigate and/or monitor student or driver conduct. A written log will be kept of those individuals viewing the recording stating the time, name of individual viewing, and date the recording was viewed.

The content of the recordings are student records and are subject to District policies and procedures concerning school student records. If the content of a recording becomes the subject of a student disciplinary hearing, it will be treated like other evidence in the proceeding.

### ***Transportation of Students with Disabilities***

All students with an IEP are provided transportation entirely at District expense. The mode of transportation will be determined via the IEP conference. A parent wishing to waive the right to District approved transportation and desiring reimbursement for such services must seek reimbursement through the State of Illinois. District 158 will not provide reimbursement for expenses incurred by the parent.



# Middle School Extracurricular Handbook for Activities, Clubs and Athletics

Middle school students are encouraged to become involved in activities outside the classroom. A variety of experiences, including clubs, sports, theater, music, and more, are offered in an effort to provide an enjoyable and healthful experience for students to develop present and future physical, social, mental, and moral maturity. Students who are involved in extracurricular activities learn time management skills, how to work with others, and develop social skills. In addition, students seem to enjoy their middle school years more and are less apprehensive about entering the high school environment.

## **Activities and Clubs**

A wide variety of fun, enriching, hands-on, collaborative activities and clubs designed to extend student learning are available to all students in grades 6th, 7th, and 8th. Below is a list of those offered at both Heineman Middle School and Marlowe Middle School:

Academic Team	Newspaper Club
Art Club	Play Performance
Chamber Orchestra	Service Club
Ecology Club	Ski & Snowboarding Club
Foods Club	Spanish Club
Gender & Sexuality Alliance Club (GSA)	Student Council
Honors Choir	Yearbook Club
Jazz Band	
Musical Performance	

In addition, the following activities and clubs are also available:

### **Heineman Middle School**

Disc Golf Club  
Chinese Culture and Language Club  
Performance Readings  
Tabletop Games Club

### **Marlowe Middle School**

Coding Club  
Dungeons and Dragons Club  
Junior Buddies Club  
Lego Club  
National Junior Honor Society  
Police Explorer's Club  
Robotics Club

Activities and clubs may be added based on student interest. For a complete list, please visit the Activities & Clubs page on your school's website at [Heineman Middle School](#) or at [Marlowe Middle School](#).

## **Athletic Teams**

District 158 middle schools are participating members of the Illinois Elementary School Association (IESA) for all athletics including the following:

### **Boys Sports**

Basketball  
Volleyball

### **Girls Sports**

Basketball  
Volleyball

### **Coed Sports**

Cheerleading  
Cross Country  
Dance/Poms  
Track  
Wrestling

## **Philosophy and Objectives**

Extracurricular activities in District 158 are considered an important supplement to the educational program. As such, coaches and sponsors in the various activities are considered teachers in their respective areas and will conduct themselves in a professional and ethical manner at all times. Participation in extracurricular activities is a privilege. As representatives of District 158, students will conduct themselves in a positive manner at all times.

The general objectives of the extracurricular programs in District 158 are:

1. Provide a highly competitive experience grounded in sound educational practice.
2. Assist in the healthy development of the mind and body of the student and help promote healthy living and lifelong fitness.
3. Create an enjoyable experience for the players, student body, fans, and community by promoting sportsmanship, morale, and school spirit.
4. Instill qualities such as teamwork, pride, work ethic, personal responsibility, self-sacrifice and discipline in its participants.

## **Eligibility for Participation**

Participation in extracurricular activities is dependent upon school attendance, behavior, and academic performance.

**Attendance:** Students must be in school a minimum of 5 hours of attendance. Students who go home sick are ineligible to participate in those days' activities.

**Behavior:** All students are expected to follow school, classroom, and team rules. They are expected to project an image of positive leadership in the school and to show respect to students, teachers, administrators, and staff alike. If a participant must serve a detention because of a discipline consequence, the coach or activity/club sponsor will be notified by the Athletic/Activities Directory. Students who have a detention which prevents them from reporting to the bus on time for away activity or athletic events may not participate. Additionally, students assigned to an in-school or out-of-school suspension are ineligible to participate during the consequence.

**Academic Performance/Grades:** Students must maintain a high academic standard to be eligible to participate in extracurricular activities. A coach or activity/club sponsor may deny a student who is academically ineligible at the time of tryouts, auditions, etc., the ability to tryout, audition, or participate.

In addition, students participating in the following activities or athletics will be checked for academic eligibility on a weekly basis:

Academic Team	Dance/Poms	School Musical
Boys Basketball	Girls Basketball	School Play
Boys Volleyball	Girls Volleyball	Track
Cheerleading	Jr. Buddies Club	Wrestling
Cross Country	Performance Readings	

The Athletic/Activity Director or secretary will run a grade report on Monday for all students participating in any of the above activities or athletics. The Athletic/Activity Director will check eligibility and school staff will have the opportunity to address any necessary changes. The student and parent will receive written or verbal confirmation on Monday that indicates the period of ineligibility. It is our expectation that the student will take on the responsibility of letting the parent(s) know when they are ineligible.

The period of ineligibility runs from Monday to Sunday. The first eligibility check shall be made following the first full week of attendance in any new quarter. Students must be passing each subject each week in order to be eligible. Any student receiving an F in any class will be ineligible to participate for the following week beginning on Monday. Ineligible means the student may not participate in practices, games, events, or any team/club activity for the week.

Attendance at games or events during a period of ineligibility is at the discretion of the coach or activity/club sponsor. If a student is required by the coach or activity/club sponsor or chooses to attend a home or away game or event with the team while ineligible, the student may not dress in uniform.

During the week of ineligibility, the student will be required to go to the content area teacher of the class involved during all available study hall periods or before or after school. In addition, it is highly recommended that any ineligible student attend Homework Club after school during the period of ineligibility.

Any participant who is ineligible for a total of three weekly periods due to unsatisfactory school work may be removed from the team or activity. **Activity fees are non-refundable for any student who is removed from an extracurricular activity.**

If you have any questions regarding your child's grades or academic eligibility, please contact the teacher(s) or team leader. If you have any questions regarding the eligibility procedures, please contact the Athletic/Activities Director. **Please do not contact the coach or activity/club sponsor.**

### **Sports Physical Requirement for Extracurricular Athletics**

All students are required to have a current sports physical on file at school before they can tryout or participate in any extracurricular athletics. The physical must remain current during the entire duration of the athletic season for the particular sport (i.e. volleyball season, basketball season, cheerleading season, etc.). If a student's physical lapses prior to the end of that sports season, the student will be excluded from future participation until a new sports physical form is submitted.

A "current" sports physical is defined as a physical for participation in extracurricular athletics that has been completed within the previous 395 days of the tryout or participation date. An [IESA/IHSA Pre-participation Examination](#) form or an [Illinois Certificate of Child Health Examination](#) (school physical) form must be completed by the physician and parent. If your child is in 8th grade, it is advisable to have the [Illinois Certificate of Child Health Examination](#) (school physical) form filled out by the physician, as it will meet the physical form requirement needed for entry into 9th grade. Both forms are available on the District website.

### **Athletic Clearance/Concussion Screening**

In addition to the requirement of a sports physical, all athletes must have a concussion baseline test completed before they can tryout. Concussion screening for students 12 and older is valid for 2 years, and concussion screening for students under the age of 12 is valid for 1 year. Concussion screenings are conducted at the school.

### **Code of Conduct for Extracurricular Activity, Club, and Athletic Participants**

The Code of Conduct applies to all students and places an emphasis on the values and commitments necessary to create a safe and healthy environment. The Code of Conduct will: (1) take effect the first time a student becomes a member of an activity, and (2) is in effect year round, in and out of season, on and off school grounds, until the student is promoted from 8th grade.

Participants are considered representatives of District 158 and their school, and as such, are expected to conduct themselves in a manner that will give honor to self, the team, school, and community. Students should:

1. follow and demonstrate good rules of conduct and sportsmanship;
2. be good students working up to their capability in all school work and maintain satisfactory grades;
3. avoid detentions or misbehavior;
4. attend practices, games, meetings, etc. as scheduled by the coach or activity/club sponsor;
5. abstain from the use of alcohol, tobacco, drugs, marijuana, and other substances which are injurious to health, and minimize the effectiveness of the student's mind and body.

Students who do not adhere to the above guidelines are subject to penalty or ineligibility as deemed appropriate by the coach, activity or club sponsor, and/or school administrators. Students and their parents are encouraged to talk to the coaches, activity/club sponsors, or administrators regarding situations not indicated above.

## **Code of Conduct Violations**

A verifiable Code of Conduct violation is deemed to have occurred when a District employee or law enforcement official, or representative thereof, personally confirms:

- the student's possession or consumption of illegal substances;
- a student's activity has violated the rights or property of others;
- the student has associated with or attended an activity involving violations of the Code of Conduct or involving criminal or immoral activities as determined by State statute or certified school personnel.

Violations of the Code of Conduct include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Acts of unsportsmanlike conduct in which the student is involved, such as cheating, fighting, or verbal abuse of students, school personnel, officials, contestants, coaches, sponsors, or spectators. This includes being ejected from a game, meet, or contest.
- Association with or attendance at activities involving a violation of the Code of Conduct in which the student does not leave upon learning of said activities.
- Any behavior that warrants an in-school or out-of-school suspension (including Level A & B offenses of the Middle School Student Handbook).
- Any Level C offense as outlined in the Middle School Student Handbook will result in immediate removal from the extracurricular activity, club, or athletic team.

## **Consequences for Code of Conduct Violations**

The following is a list of steps that may be used as disciplinary action for Code of Conduct violations. These steps are subject to change depending on the severity of the violation.

- **First Offense:** Suspension from 20% of the total scheduled games, meets, or contests.
- **Second Offense:** Suspension from 50% of the total scheduled games, meets, or contests.
- **Third Offense:** Suspension from all extracurricular activities, clubs, or athletics for one academic year.
- **Fourth Offense:** Student forgoes the opportunity to participate in any extracurricular activities, clubs, or athletics for the remainder of the student's middle school career.

All violations will carry over to the next extracurricular activity, club, or athletic sport in which the student is involved if not completed in the current extracurricular activity, club, or athletic sport.

## **Clarifications/Definitions**

- For suspensions that carry over to the next activity, club, or athletic sport, the student must complete the "next" season in good standing.
- A violation will be considered a second or third offense if it is committed within the same academic year of the previous violation. After the academic school year is completed, the violation will be dropped.
- A first violation in a season will not automatically result in forfeiting eligibility for school awards. A second violation in a season will result in forfeiture of all school awards.

## **Ultimate Authority**

If any cases arise that are not covered by these policies or in some way requires special interpretation, the Building Principal will provide the decision. Appeals concerning the Code of Conduct may be made in accordance with provisions of the Code of Conduct. Appeals relating to other matters may be made to the Associate Superintendent and Board of Education within three school days of the Building Principal's decision.

## **Suspension Appeal Process**

1. If the student and parent(s) wish to appeal a suspension decision, they may do so by contacting the Athletic/Activities Director within three school days of being notified of the suspension.
  - a. The Athletic/Activities Director will organize an appeal committee consisting of the Athletic/Activities Director, Building Principal, and two coaches or sponsors not involved in the activity, club, or athletic sport.

- b. The committee will hear the suspension evidence and testimony of the student, parent(s), and coaches/sponsors of the activity, club, or athletic sport from which the student has been suspended.
  - c. After reviewing the information, the committee will decide to uphold or reverse the original suspension.
2. If the suspension is upheld by the committee, the student and parent(s) may appeal the decision by contacting the Associate Superintendent at the District 158 Administrative Office at (847) 659-6158 within three (3) school days of the committee's decision.
3. If the suspension is upheld by the Associate Superintendent, the student and parent(s) may appeal to the Board of Education.
4. If, during any step of the appeal process, the original suspension is reversed, the suspension will be declared void and all records of the suspension will be purged. The student will return to the extracurricular activity, club, or athletic sport in good standing and without further consequence.

## Additional Information for Extracurricular Athletics

### **Athletic Dual Participation**

As member participants of the IESA for all athletics, IESA by-laws permit middle school athletes to participate on more than one school-sponsored athletic team at a time. Any athlete may participate in camps, clinics, or club teams as long as the middle school team takes first priority. Missed practices or games due to attendance at an out of school activity will result in disciplinary action at the coaches' discretion.

### **Organization of Teams**

Teams will be composed of 7th and 8th graders for basketball, cheerleading, dance/poms, and volleyball. Students in grades 6th, 7th, and 8th may participate in cross country, track, and wrestling. Coaches will stress the importance of good sportsmanship while instilling a competitive and winning attitude. Playing time of participants is at the discretion of the coach.

### **Athletic Uniforms**

Each student athlete will be issued a uniform. It is the responsibility of the participant to return the uniform in a good condition at the end of the season to the coach or Athletic/Activities Director if the coach is not a staff member. If the uniform is not returned within two weeks after the completion of the season, it is the responsibility of the parent to pay the replacement cost of the uniform.

### **General Practice Schedule**

Coaches will make their practice schedules conform to the following regulations:

1. No practice will extend beyond two hours from the designated starting time for that practice. For example, if the starting time for basketball practice is set for 2:45 pm, it must end by 4:45 pm.
2. The total number of practices and athletic contests in a given week will not exceed six days.
  - a. A practice or athletic contest may be rescheduled if an emergency school closing forces the cancellation of practice or contest.
  - b. Coaches are urged to be reasonable in scheduling practices on holidays and during scheduled school breaks (Winter Break or Spring Break) by respecting a family's right to want their children with them on or near acknowledged family holidays. During scheduled school breaks, daytime practices should be scheduled while parents are normally at work.
  - c. Coaches will finish practices on time and parents are asked to pick up their child on time or have other arrangements made in advance. On game days, participants are to be picked up immediately after the home contest is over. For away games, participants will know approximately what time to be picked up.

## **Schedule Conflicts**

Occasionally students may have schedule conflicts with games and/or practices and to avoid confusion, the following policy will apply.

### **➤ *School Sponsored Activity as Part of the Educational Program***

Educational field trips generally do not conflict with practices or games. However, there are rare occasions when conflicts arise. The school will do everything possible to see that conflicts are not scheduled. As a general policy, student athletes will not be penalized for missing or coming late to practice because of a school sponsored activity conflict.

### **➤ *School Sponsored Social Activity***

Students participate in athletics with the understanding that attendance at all practices and games is required. Attendance at school sponsored social activities (dances, dance preparations, clubs, etc.) does not exempt the athlete from their team responsibilities. An athlete must attend all practices except for the following reasons:

- Illness
- Emergency
- Doctor's appointment that cannot be rescheduled
- Family vacation
- Death in the family, or
- Conflicts with other scheduled school activities (arrangements must be made with the respective coach, activity or club sponsor)

Athletes who miss games or practices without the coach's permission do so with the understanding they suffer the penalty that would be imposed for anyone who earned an unexcused absence. The second unexcused absence will result in the athlete missing one game. A third unexcused absence will result in the athlete missing two consecutive games for a total of three. A fourth unexcused absence will result in removal from the team.

### **➤ *Participation in Extracurricular Activities Outside of Regular Season***

It is not stated or implied that student athletes will suffer any penalty for participation in other school related activities during school hours. However, coaches will use their professional discretion when making decisions in regard to student participation in an event or practice based on the individual coach, sport, activity attendance and participation policy.

## **Parent/Coach Relationship**

Being a parent or a coach are very difficult vocations and each offers unique perspectives of a child's involvement in athletics. While there are times when perceptions of parents and coaches will be aligned, it is unrealistic to expect that this will always be the case. We believe it is important to clearly define what you can expect of our coaches. It is also important that parents have an understanding of the procedures for communications with the coach. Finally, providing support for all students participating in athletic competition is an important role played by both the parent and coach.

## **Coach Communications to the Parent**

No later than the first practice, the following information will be provided in writing from the coach to all parents:

- A brief statement of the coach's philosophy
- Expectations the coach has for all team members
- Location and times of scheduled practices and games
- Procedures that will be followed in the event of an injury
- Discipline procedures the coach may implement
- Anticipated costs associated with participation and possible fundraising activities

## **Parent Communications to the Coach**

Communication between a parent and coach is important and can play a vital role in resolving concerns. Parents are asked to communicate directly with the coach about concerns at an appropriate time and in a manner that is suited to both parties. Before, during, or immediately following a practice or game is not the appropriate time for addressing concerns, as it is not conducive to the successful resolution of a problem.

### **➤ *Appropriate Concerns to Discuss with the Coach***

As a student becomes involved in athletic activities, the inevitable highs and lows that are a part of athletic competition are bound to occur. These experiences will provide participants with an opportunity to grow and learn skills and lessons the student can apply in life beyond the gym or playing field. If the lows, however, begin to get a student down, the parent is encouraged to speak with the coach. Other concerns to discuss with the coach include:

- Treatment of your child mentally, emotionally, and physically
- Ways to help your child improve
- Your child's behavior, attitude, and performance

### **➤ *Inappropriate Concerns to Discuss with the Coach***

One of the most potentially problematic issues between coaches, players, and parents is playing time. As professionals, coaches make decisions based on what they believe to be best for the team and all students involved. Obviously, there may be times when parents do not agree with a coach's decision, but it is important to recognize some decisions are non negotiable and inappropriate for discussion between the parent and coach including the following:

- Playing time
- Team strategy
- Play calling
- Other student athletes

### **➤ *Setting Up a Conference***

There may be situations that arise in which a conference between the parent, student athlete, and coach may require a conference. Such a meeting can lead to increased understanding between the parent, student athlete, and coach. When a conference is needed, please follow these steps:

- Call or email the coach to schedule an appointment
- If the coach cannot be reached, contact the Athletic/Activities Director and the Athletic/Activities Director will arrange a meeting time for the parent, student athlete, and coach

While, ideally, it is hoped that a conference with the coach will alleviate concerns, it should be recognized there may be times when the coach and parent do not achieve a shared understanding as a result of the conference. Should this occur, please call the school to schedule a meeting with the Athletic/Activities Director.

## **Supporting All Athletes**

Your child's participation in athletics can be extremely rewarding, and we invite all parents, families, and community members to support all students by attending games and cheering in a positive and encouraging manner. A positive comment from any adult following a great victory or a tough loss means a great deal to a child. We would also encourage everyone to support all students through displaying good sportsmanship at all games. Each student athlete, regardless of individual skill and talent, normally tries to do their best. No one intentionally makes mistakes, but mistakes happen. By treating our opponents and the officials respectfully, we acknowledge their efforts and can express our appreciation through our applause and positive comments. By supporting everyone involved in the competition and displaying good sportsmanship, spectators provide an important and wonderful example for all students.