



WESTLAKE CITY SCHOOLS

2021-2022

# STUDENT-PARENT HANDBOOK

## DOVER INTERMEDIATE SCHOOL

2240 Dover Center Rd.  
Westlake, OH 44145

OFFICE: (440) 835-5495

FAX: (440) 250-1060

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

## ATTENDANCE

(440) 250-1100 (24 hours a day)

Mr. Nicholas Miller, *Principal*

Mrs. Bailey Morres, *Assistant Principal*



# CALENDAR OF EVENTS 2021-2022

*(Some dates subject to change)*

Aug 24	T	First Day of School
Sep 6	M	Labor Day - NO SCHOOL
Sep 8-10	W-F	5th Grade Outdoor Education Experience
Sep 13-15	M-W	6th Grade Camp Nuhop Field Trip Session 1
Sep 15-17	W-F	6th Grade Camp Nuhop Field Trip Session 2
Oct 8	F	NEOEA Day - NO SCHOOL
Oct 22	F	Picture Day
Oct 29	F	End of First Quarter
Nov 1	M	Staff Work Day - NO SCHOOL
Nov 18	Th	Evening K-8 Conferences
Nov 22	M	Evening K-8 Conferences
Nov 23	T	Day Conferences - NO SCHOOL (for K-8 Students)
Nov 24-26	W-F	Thanksgiving Break – NO SCHOOL
Dec 22-Jan 4	W-T	Winter Break – NO SCHOOL
Jan 17	M	Martin Luther King, Jr. Day-NO SCHOOL
Jan 20	Th	End of 2 <sup>nd</sup> Quarter/1 <sup>st</sup> Semester
Jan 21	F	Staff Work Day - NO SCHOOL
Feb 21	M	Presidents' Day – NO SCHOOL
Mar 25	F	End of 3 <sup>rd</sup> Quarter
Mar 28	M	Staff Work Day - NO SCHOOL
Apr 15-22	F-F	Spring Break – NO SCHOOL
May 30	M	Memorial Day – NO SCHOOL
Jun 6	M	6th Grade Recognition (PAC)
June 7	T	Field Day/ Last Day of School
Jun 8	W	Staff Work Day - NO SCHOOL





# FORWARD

This Student Handbook was developed to answer many of the commonly asked questions that you and your parents may have during the school year and to provide specific information about certain Board policies and procedures. Please take time to become familiar with the important information contained in this Handbook and keep the Handbook available for frequent reference by you and your parents. If you have any questions that are not addressed in this Handbook, you are encouraged to talk to your teachers or the building principal. This Handbook replaces all prior handbooks and other written material on the same subjects. This Handbook does not equate to an irrevocable contractual commitment to the student, but only reflects the current status of the Board's policies and the School's rules. If any of the policies or administrative guidelines referenced herein are revised, the language in the most current policy or administrative guideline prevails. Copies of current Board policies and administrative guidelines are available from the building principal and on the District's web site. Policies can be found on the district website: <https://go.boarddocs.com/oh/westlake/Board.nsf/Public>





# WESTLAKE CITY SCHOOLS

## MISSION STATEMENT

***WE EDUCATE FOR EXCELLENCE...*** Empowering all students to achieve their educational goals, to direct their lives, and to contribute to society.

### **DOVER INTERMEDIATE EXIT OBJECTIVES**

- Communicate ideas in a variety of forms
- Gather, interpret, and analyze information
- Accept responsibility as citizens of the school, community and world
- Make decisions, make judgments, and solve problems individually and in groups
- Demonstrate respect, responsibility, empathy and integrity

### **EQUAL EDUCATION OPPORTUNITY**

All students of the Westlake City School District will have equal educational opportunities. Students have the right to be free from discrimination on the basis of race, sex, marital status, pregnancy, national origin, physical handicaps, criminal record, political activity, citizenship status, religion, creed or opinion, in all decisions affecting admissions, membership in school-sponsored organizations, clubs or activities, access to facilities, distribution of funds, academic evaluations of any other aspect of school-sponsored activities. Any limitations with regard to participation in a school-sponsored activity will be based on criteria reasonably related to that specific activity.

Any person who believes that s/he has been discriminated against on the basis of his/her race, color, disability, religion, gender, or national origin while at school or a school activity should immediately contact the building principal.

Complaints will be investigated in accordance with the procedures described in this Handbook. Any student making a complaint or participating in a school investigation will be protected from retaliation. The Compliance Officer(s) can provide additional information concerning equal access to educational opportunity.

### **STUDENT WELL BEING**

Student safety is the responsibility of both students and staff. Staff members are familiar with emergency procedures such as evacuation procedures, fire and tornado drills, safety drills in the event of a terrorist or other violent attack, and accident reporting procedures. If a student is aware of any dangerous situation or accident, s/he must notify a staff person immediately.

State law requires that all students have an emergency medical authorization completed and signed by a parent or guardian on file in the school office.

Students with specific health care needs should deliver written notice about such needs, along with physician documentation, to the school office.

### **THE RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF WESTLAKE STUDENTS**

All students have the right to:

- A meaningful education.
- Wear distinctive insignia unless the manner of expression interferes with the orderly operation of



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- the school program, trespasses on the rights of others, or disturbs other students.
- Inspect their tests, grades, and school records, in the presence of a counselor, teacher, or administrator.
  - Symbolic and actual freedom of expression and verbal expression of their personal opinions. Such verbal opinions shall not interfere with the freedom of others. The use of profane or obscene language and threats of harm to persons or property are prohibited.
  - Be protected from unreasonable seizures and searches.
  - Attend school without fear of intimidation.
  - Consultation with teachers, counselors, and administrators.
  - Free election of their peers in student government; moreover, all students have the right to seek and hold office.
  - Present petitions, complaints, or grievances to school authorities and as well the right to receive prompt authoritative replies from school authorities regarding the disposition of their petitions, complaints, or grievances.
  - Inform the school administration that an instructor is consistently late to class.
  - Anonymity when giving information regarding any wrongdoing.
  - Be informed of their rights and responsibilities.
  - Appeal through their teacher, counselor, and principal on a decision affecting their school life.

### **STUDENT RESPONSIBILITIES**

Students have the responsibility to respect the rights of all persons involved in the educational process and to exercise the highest degree of self-discipline in adhering to school rules and regulations. Responsibility is inherent in the exercise of every right. It is impossible to list all student responsibilities, but it must be emphasized that the absence of responsibility means a weakening of rights.

Students have the responsibility to:

- Attend school and attempt to complete the course of study developed by the student and his/her parents.
- Report to classes on time with the necessary materials, be prepared with lessons, and have a positive attitude toward learning.
- Be aware of and adhere to school regulations and respect the authority of school officials who enforce the rules. This responsibility extends to a student's conduct to and from school as well as in the buildings.
- Develop tolerance for verbal and written viewpoints and opinions of others and to recognize the right of other individuals to form different points of view.
- Provide information in disciplinary cases should he/she be asked and have knowledge of any importance in such a case.
- Dress according to the appearance code.
- Respect the school property as well as the property of others.
- Accept the consequences for any wrong act they may commit, subject to the right of appeal as set forth elsewhere in this handbook.
- Respect the authority of all employees of the Westlake City Schools.
- Assist in maintaining cleanliness of all buildings and properties in Westlake City Schools.

School rules and procedures are designed to allow students to be educated in a safe and orderly environment. All students are expected to follow staff members' directions and to obey all school rules.





# SECTION I - ACADEMIC POLICIES

## **GRADING SYSTEM**

The Westlake Board of Education believes students will respond more positively to the opportunity for success than to the threat of failure. The district will therefore seek to make instructional achievement both reachable and possible for students. It will emphasize achievement in its process of evaluating student performance.

## **HOMEWORK**

Homework will be assigned to reinforce learning at school. Student grades will reflect the completion of all work, including outside assignments. Homework is also part of the student's preparation for the assessment tests and future coursework.

## ***Grading Scale***

Letter grades are assigned at the end of each quarter or semester.

<b>Letter Grade</b>	<b>Percentage Grade</b>
A	90-100
B	80-89
C	70-79
D	60-69
N	Below 60

## ***Promotion to Next Grade Level***

The Board of Education recognizes that the personal, social, physical, and educational growth of children will vary and that they should be placed in the educational setting most appropriate to their needs at the various stages of their growth.

It is the Board's intent that each student be moved forward in a continuous pattern of achievement and growth that is in harmony with his/her own development. Such a pattern should coincide with the system of grade levels established by this Board and the instructional objectives established for each.

A student will be promoted to the succeeding grade level when s/he has:

- A. Completed the course and State mandated requirements at the presently assigned grade;
- B. In the opinion of the professional staff, achieved the instructional objectives set for the present grade;
- C. Demonstrated sufficient proficiency to permit him/her to move ahead in the educational program of the next grade;
- D. Demonstrates the degree of social, emotional and physical maturation necessary for a successful learning experience in the next grade.

## ***Retention:***

A student may be retained at his/her current grade level when s/he has, in the opinion of the professional staff, failed to demonstrate proficiency in mathematics and English Language Arts.

A student may be placed at the next grade level when retention would no longer benefit the student.



The Superintendent shall develop administrative guidelines for promotion, placement, and retention of students that:

- A. require the recommendation of the relevant staff members for promotion, placement or retention;
- B. require that parents are informed in advance of the possibility of retention of a student at a grade level;
- C. assure that efforts will be made to remediate the student's difficulties before s/he is retained;
- D. assign to the principal the final responsibility for determining the promotion, placement and retention of each student;
- E. provide parents the opportunity to appeal the decision about their child's promotion, placement or retention.

**Student Assessment**

Unless exempted, each student must pass all portions of the State mandated assessment tests. Ohio State assessments are typically given from March to May every year.

State Assessments			
Grade Level	English Language Arts	Mathematics	Science
5	x	x	x
6	x	x	Not applicable

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

- Gifted screeners – ITBS Science and Social Studies is given each winter or spring; new to district students may also take CogAT in the fall; NWEA MAP is given three times per year for screening in Math and Reading
- Math Placement screener- IAAT is given each winter

**Use of Assessments**

State assessment results, NWEA MAP or other diagnostic data will be used to determine proper placement into advanced or accelerated courses, provide differentiated classroom instruction, support student learning with additional academic intervention/enrichment.

**Eligibility-Interscholastic Athletics and Extracurricular Activities for Class of 2027 moving to LBMS next year**

In order to be eligible to participate in interscholastic athletics and extracurricular activities, students shall meet the following criteria:

A student enrolling in the seventh grade for the first time will be eligible for the first grading period regardless of previous academic achievement. Thereafter, in order to be eligible, a student in grade 7 must be currently enrolled and must have been enrolled in the school the immediately preceding grading period and received passing grades during the grading period in 75% of those subjects carried the preceding grading period in which the student was enrolled, and earned a grade point average of 1.50 or above.

Students may participate in interscholastic athletics and extracurricular activities if they receive a failing



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grade for any course in the immediately preceding grading period provided, they meet the eligibility requirements above.

Students with Individual Education Plans will be expected to meet the eligibility standards set forth in this policy unless a specific modification is included in the student's Individual Education Plan.

Extracurricular activities are those activities not for academic credit that meet beyond students' scheduled courses on a regular basis or for a season. The principal of the high school and middle school shall publish a list of all activities and extracurricular activities subject to these standards at the beginning of the school year.

### ***Withholding of Grades and Credits***

The Westlake Board of Education has adopted regulations prescribing a schedule of fees for materials required to be used in specific courses.

There may also be fees for: Equipment, art, musical instruments, library materials, athletic equipment, textbooks, and damage to school buildings. Nonpayment of any fees and charges may result in withholding the grades and credits of the student. Failure to turn in textbooks or pay fines or fees due to the school will cause withholding of the diploma. Students may not be permitted to take part in school activities due to outstanding fees.

## **SECTION II - COUNSELING**

### **STATEMENT OF PHILOSOPHY**

The Westlake City Schools' guidance philosophy is based on the recognition of the dignity, worth, and needs of the individual. Guidance is a cooperative venture that includes students, counselors, teachers, administrators, parents, and all those who provide special services. The Dover Intermediate School's counselor provides an opportunity to each child to grow as an individual according to their interests, needs, and potential.

#### **Staff**

- Miss Kerry Brickman, Counselor
- Mr. Mark Campo, Counselor

### ***Class Scheduling Process***

Every opportunity is made to make schedules as accurate as possible. Scheduling changes may occur for the following reasons: (1) there is a technical error in the scheduling process, (2) it is clear that the student is academically misplaced (please refer to Withdrawal Policy), or (3) there is a scheduling conflict. The counselor (with the administration) will make schedule changes.

Schedules are provided to each student at the beginning of the school year or upon enrollment. Schedules are based on the student's needs and available class space. Any changes in a student's schedule should be handled through the school counselor or building principal. Students may be denied course enrollment due to lack of available space or the need for the student to meet required course prerequisite(s). Students are expected to follow their schedules. Any variation must be approved with a pass or schedule change.



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## **COMMUNICATION OPPORTUNITIES**

### ***Parent/Teacher Conferences***

Communication between the home and school is extremely important. Parent/Teacher Conferences are held formally during the fall of each year: Two evenings and one full day in the fall. Other convenient times are available throughout the year by parent and/or teacher request. More information regarding formal conference schedules will be forthcoming.

### ***Email/Voicemail***

The intent is to establish and maintain open lines of communication. Please visit [www.wlake.org](http://www.wlake.org) and navigate to the staff directory located under the About Us drop down menu. Both email and voicemail contacts are available here.

### ***Parental Comments/Complaint Procedures***

Communication is always the key to a successful learning experience. Communication should always begin with the parent and teacher. Should a situation arise where consensus cannot be reached, then administrative avenues may be pursued.

# **SECTION III - STUDENT RESPONSIBILITIES**

## **ATTENDANCE**

The educational program offered by this District is predicated upon the presence of the student and requires continuity of instruction and classroom participation. Attendance shall be required of all students enrolled in the schools during the days and hours that the school is in session. A student in grades 9 through 12 may be considered a full-time equivalent student provided the student is enrolled in at least five (5) units of instruction, as defined by State law, per school year.

In accordance with statute, the Superintendent shall require from the parent of each student of compulsory school age or from an adult student who has been absent from school or from class for any reason, a statement of the cause for such absence. The Board of Education reserves the right to verify such statements and to investigate the cause of each single absence or prolonged absence.

Students are expected to attend school regularly. Attendance in school is often reflected in a student's grades and achievement. Many studies show that chronically absent students are less likely to be readers in the early grades and less likely to graduate.

In December 2016, the Ohio General Assembly passed House Bill 410 to encourage and support a preventative approach to excessive absence and truancy. Since the 2017-18 school year, a number of changes take effect that includes how and when parents will be notified of students' absences. The district will work to partner with parents to identify and redirect barriers to regular school attendance. The law defines excessive absence as a student who is:

- Absent 38 or more hours in a month with or without an excuse, or
- Absent 65 or more hours in a year with or without an excuse.

Within seven days of your child reaching the number of hours identified, you will receive a letter. The district will need to work with you to develop a truancy intervention plan to prevent truancy in the future.





Further, the law defines habitual truancy as:

- Absent 30 or more consecutive hours without a legitimate excuse
- Absent 42 or more hours in one month without a legitimate excuse
- Absent 72 or more hours in one year without a legitimate excuse.

When a student is habitually truant, the district is now required to assemble an absence intervention team and meet with you to develop an absence intervention plan. Parents are an important member of the team.

The purpose of the team is to identify specific barriers and solutions to attendance. The team will be composed of staff members who are familiar with your child and the programs at school as well as you, the parent. Once the plan is in place, the goal will be to see an improvement in school attendance. If the student refuses to participate in or has failed to make satisfactory progress on the plan within 61 days, the district is required to file a complaint in juvenile court.

### ***School Day***

Classes are in session from 7:50 a.m. - 2:35 p.m. Students are required to be in school on time. Students may not leave the school between classes or before the end of the day without permission from the main office.

### ***Reporting Procedures for Absence***

It is the responsibility of the home to have students in regular attendance. In accordance with the Missing Child Law (ORC 3313.205), the following procedure will be effective.

1. The parent/guardian of the student must call the attendance office by 8:30 a.m. on each day of the absence. The attendance number is (440) 250-1100 and may be called 24 hours per day.
2. If no call is received by 8:30 a.m., the student will be listed as unexcused and an attempt will be made to contact the parent.
3. If parental verification cannot be established, the student will be considered truant and may be disciplined accordingly. Students will not receive credit for assignments/work missed due to unexcused absence.
4. Calls clearing a student's absence or tardiness from school must be received within 48 hours of the absence. If this is not done, the absence/tardiness will remain unexcused.
5. Excusal after 48 hours requires administrative approval.

A student is considered truant until the parent contact has been made ORC 3313.1205 requires a parent/guardian to provide the school with the current address (not P.O. Box), telephone number, parent employment number, and an emergency number.

### ***Missing Children***

The Westlake Board of Education believes in the importance of trying to decrease the number of missing children. Therefore, efforts will be made to identify possible missing children and notify the proper adults or agencies. Also, carefully accounting for the whereabouts of children during the school day is an extremely important task for the home and the school. Parent(s)/guardian(s) must notify the school on the day a student is absent unless previous notification has been given in accordance with the school procedure for excused absences.

### ***Calling an Ill Child's Absence into School***

Please assist our health services in tracking communicable disease by reporting your child's confirmed diagnosis, e.g., strep throat, chicken pox, pink eye, flu, etc., when you call your child's absence into the



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attendance line. If your child has not been seen by a physician, but is still suffering from symptoms, report any/ all of the following symptoms to the absence line:

- Fever
- Headache
- Cough
- Sore throat
- Body aches
- Diarrhea and/or vomiting

### ***Doctor Notes***

Doctor notes and / or medical authorization for absences must be turned in to the main office promptly in order for students to receive make-up work and to accurately reflect the attendance record.

### ***Participation in Extracurricular Activities***

Students absent from school all day will not be permitted to participate in extracurricular activities for that day. Students entering school after 11:30 a.m. or leaving school before the school day ends will not be permitted to participate in extracurricular activities unless permission is granted by the principal. Students who leave school or are absent all day also may not attend activities as a spectator. Students absent from school the day prior to a weekend will need their excuse validated by an administrator prior to weekend participation.

### ***Excused and Unexcused Tardiness***

School starts at 7:50 a.m. Students arriving after 7:50 a.m. are to report directly to the main office where they will be marked tardy. The student will be marked either excused or unexcused tardy. Excused tardy will be only for the following reasons: Medical or dental appointment, religious observance, or emergency circumstances approved by the principal. A doctor's note must be presented for an excused tardy.

\*Tardiness will be cumulative.

### ***Injury or Illness during the School Day***

The main office is the designated area where students are to report when becoming ill during the school day and need to see the nurse or go to the clinic. Students must receive a pass signed by the classroom teacher before entering the main office.

### ***Dismissal during the School Day***

No student may leave school prior to dismissal time without a parent or guardian coming to the main office personally to request the release. All efforts should be made to notify the attendance office of early release prior to the school day beginning if at all possible. No student will be released to a person other than a custodial parent(s) or guardian without a written permission note signed by the custodial parent(s) or guardian. Students leaving during the school day should come to the front office and notify the building secretary that they are being picked up. Students will remain in the office until signed out by their parents/guardians.

### ***Medical Appointments:***

- A parent must call the attendance office prior to, or the morning of, an appointment. A time of return will be needed in order to ensure the student's arrival back to school.
- The student will be listed on the absence list for the time missing from school.
- When the student returns to school, the student must report to the attendance office and notify the attendance secretary. Verification is required from the doctor's office.
- Emergency appointments will require a parent call prior to the student leaving; upon return to



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- school the office will require verification from the doctor's office.
- Failure to follow the procedure will result in an unexcused absence.

### ***Types of Absences***

Students will assume responsibility for meeting with each teacher to make up all missed class work.

### ***Planned Absence***

A Planned Absence Request should be completed anytime a student will knowingly be absent for one or more days of school. Planned Absence Requests should not be completed for students missing only part of the school day. Please note that family vacations are considered planned absences are unexcused per board policy (Board Policy 5200).

### ***Family Vacation / Planned Absence Policy***

Students who are going on a family vacation should pick up the "Planned Absence Form" in the main office at least five (5) school days' ahead of the notice of the absence. The form must be signed by the parent/ guardian and each teacher, with assignments given. The form must be returned to the main office before leaving on vacation. The Planned Absence Request is available in the main office and electronically under the "Forms & Documents" section of the Dover Intermediate School website.

Students will assume the responsibility of meeting with each teacher to make up all missed class work.

All homework assignments issued during a planned absence shall be turned in on the first day the student returns from his/her absence. All tests or quizzes missed during a planned absence shall be made up during the first week after a child returns from a planned absence. The final decision for this schedule shall be determined by the principal.

We understand that planned absences are extremely important for the family, however the absences will be listed as unexcused; additionally, we would appreciate that during final exams, consideration be given to your child to make sure s/he successfully completes all course work, including final exams. Their presence during exam days is vitally important.

### ***Make-Up, Incomplete Work, and Long-Term Assignments***

- Except in cases of planned absence, a student has one day for each day of excused absence to make up any incomplete work.
- Parents can call to request assignment materials from the **main office** if your child is absent from school for two or more days. Please contact the **main office** by 9:30 a.m. to request make-up work. Arrangements will be made to pick up available assignments/materials after 2:30 p.m. If your child is absent for a partial or single day, make-up work will be available upon return. An alternative schedule may be established collaboratively between each classroom teacher and the student for completion of missed assignments/assessments.
- Teachers reserve the right to set firm deadlines for long term assignments/projects.

### ***Home Instruction***

Home Instruction may be provided for students who are unable, because of physical disabilities, to attend our regular classes. Application for home instruction should be made through the middle school principals. All home instruction must be approved by the building principal and Director of Student Services.



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### ***Withdrawal of Students***

The Westlake City School System strives to be accurate and thorough in tracking student residency, attendance and enrollment status. As such, students will be withdrawn from the school system upon meeting any of the following circumstances:

- Receipt of signed, written notification from the student's parent/guardian requesting a records transfer to a designated school for the purpose of enrolling in that school.
- Receipt of a written request for records from another school district indicating the student is seeking enrollment or has enrolled in another school district.
- Inability to substantiate continued residency within Westlake, despite District attempts to verify residency, excluding exceptions outlined in ORC3313.64 as permitted by current BOE policy.

## **SECTION IV - STUDENT DISCIPLINE**

### ***Student Discipline***

The Westlake City School District Board of Education recognizes that effective discipline is essential if all students are to attain a quality education. Further, the Board shall require each student of the District to adhere to the rules and regulations promulgated by the administration and to submit to such disciplinary measures as are appropriately assigned for infraction of those rules. The rules that are developed in this fashion may be different according to grade level building structure but should be consistent among schools with the same grade level structure.

### **DISTRICT CODE OF CONDUCT**

A major component of the educational program of Dover Intermediate School is to prepare students to become responsible citizens by learning how to conduct themselves properly and in accordance with established standards. Students are expected to behave in accordance with Federal, State and local laws and rules and Board policies and Administrative Guidelines, and in a way that respects the rights and safety of others. Staff will take corrective action to discipline a student and/or to modify the student's behavior when a student's behavior does not fall within these parameters.

School staff may report suspected criminal misconduct by a student to law enforcement. Law enforcement officers will be permitted to carry out necessary law enforcement functions in the schools, including the removal of a student from school grounds in appropriate circumstances.

### ***Expected Behaviors***

Students are expected to:

- act courteously to adults and fellow students;
- be prompt to school and attentive in class;
- work cooperatively with others when involved in accomplishing a common goal regardless of the other's ability, gender, race, or ethnic background;
- complete assigned tasks on time and as directed;
- help maintain a school environment that is safe, friendly, and productive;
- act at all times in a manner that reflects pride in self, family, and in the School.

### ***Classroom Environment***

It is the responsibility of students, teachers, and administrators to maintain a classroom environment that allows:

- A. a teacher to communicate effectively with all student in the class; and
- B. all students in the class have the opportunity to learn.





### ***Dress and Grooming***

Students are expected to dress appropriately at all times. Any fashion (dress, accessory, or hairstyle) that disrupts the educational process or presents a safety risk will not be permitted.

### ***Zero Tolerance***

No form of violent, disruptive, or inappropriate behavior, including excessive truancy, will be tolerated.

### **STUDENT DISCIPLINE CODE**

Each of the behaviors and/or types of misconduct described below are prohibited and may subject the student to disciplinary action including, but not limited to, student conference, parent/guardian notification, parent/guardian conference, community service, detention, in-school discipline, suspension and/or expulsion from school. Furthermore, any criminal acts committed at or related to the School will be reported to law enforcement officials as well as disciplined at school. Certain criminal acts may result in permanent exclusion from school.

### **SECTION 1 (TIER 1 OFFENSE)**

Rules in this section will generally result in the following disciplinary actions and may be cumulative for any offense in this section. Principals may modify this sequence based on circumstances.

<u>OFFENSE</u>	<u>CONSEQUENCE</u>
1st	Up to 3-day Out-of-School Suspension and/or Friday School
2nd	Up to 5-day Out-of-School Suspension and/or Friday School
3rd	Up to 10-day Out-of-School Suspension and recommendation for expulsion
4th	Up to 10-day Out-of-School Suspension and recommendation for expulsion

#### ***RULE 1. Misconduct; Interference, disruption or obstruction of the educational process***

Any actions or manner of dress that materially and substantially disrupts or interferes with school activities or the educational process, or which threaten to do so are unacceptable. Such disruptions include, but are not limited to, delay or prevention of lessons, assemblies, field trips, athletic and performing arts events. This rule includes, but is not limited to, inappropriate language, gestures, publications, pictures or signs, and/or socially improper behavior.

#### ***RULE 2. Insubordination***

Students are expected to comply with the reasonable directions of staff. Willful refusal or failure to follow or comply with an appropriate direction given by a staff member or acting in defiance of staff members.

#### ***RULE 3. Persistent absence or tardiness***

Attendance requirements are pursuant to rules established by HB410. A student shall not be absent from an assigned location for all or part of any school day without school authorization or parental consent and shall be considered truant when she/he is absent from school for any portion of the school day. This rule includes “class cutting” and/or being out of one’s assigned area.

#### ***RULE 4. Refusing to accept discipline***

Students failing to comply with disciplinary penalties may face enhanced penalties for such action.

#### ***RULE 5. Violation of individual school/classroom rules***

Each learning environment has different rules for students. These rules are for the safe and orderly operation of that environment. Students will be oriented to specific rules within each learning environment, all of which will be consistent with this Code.





***RULE 6. Falsification of school work, identification, forgery, academic dishonesty***

Falsifying signatures or data or refusing to give proper identification or giving false information to a staff member. This prohibition includes, but is not limited to, forgery of hall/bus/parking passes and excuses, as well as use of false I.D.'s. Plagiarism and cheating are also forms of falsification and will subject the student to academic penalties as well as disciplinary action. No student shall fraudulently, dishonestly or deceptively obtain and use the work of another, or otherwise violate a teacher's reasonable requirements with respect to proper test taking or the completion of work assignments. Neither shall any student assist another student in the pursuit of academic dishonesty by providing information or by any other means. For purposes of this Policy, work is broadly construed and includes without limitation, ideas, writings, works in progress, completed work product, examination questions and examination answers.

***RULE 7. Aiding or abetting violation of school rules***

Assisting other students in the violation of any school rule. Students are expected to resist peer pressure and exercise sound decision-making regarding their behavior.

***RULE 8. Knowledge of dangerous weapons or threats of violence***

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

***RULE 9. Improper Dress***

Clothing may not include words or visuals that are lewd, obscene, disruptive, abusive, or discriminatory, or that advertise drugs, alcohol or tobacco. Dress or grooming that is disruptive of the classroom or school atmosphere is not allowed. Shoes must be worn at all times for health and safety reasons. Please see the appearance code in the handbook. The school administration will make the final decision regarding dress code violations.

***RULE 10. Displays of affection/sexual activities***

Affection between students is personal and not meant for public display. This includes touching, petting, or any other contact that may be considered sexual in nature. Sexual activity of any nature is prohibited and will result in disciplinary action.

***RULE 11. Possession of Pornography***

Possessing sexually explicit material.

***RULE 12. Incendiary Devices***

Unauthorized possession or igniting of matches, lighters and other devices that produce flames.

***RULE 13. Possession of electronic equipment***

The School will supply any electronic equipment or devices necessary for participation in the educational program. Students shall not use or possess any electronic equipment on school property or at any school sponsored activity without the permission of a building principal. Examples of prohibited devices include but are not limited to radios, MP3 players, iPods, iPads, portable TV's, electronic games/toys, cell phones or other electronic communication devices, and the like. Unauthorized electronic equipment will be confiscated from the student by school personnel and disciplinary action will be taken.

The District will allow students to bring their own non-disruptive technology devices to use for educational purposes at specified times during the school day. The use of approved non-disruptive devices to





enhance learning in the classroom will be pursued when deemed appropriate at each individual teacher's discretion. Students should be aware that these devices are to be used for educational purposes. Each teacher will have the discretion to limit or forbid the use of students' non-disruptive personal electronic devices in their classroom. A student's use of their non-disruptive personal electronic device on school property is a privilege, not a right. Students may be denied access at any time.

- A. The Westlake City Schools Digital Driver's License Agreement (BYOD electronic device policy) will be distributed the first day of school and will be provided to transfer students when they receive their Handbook. Students are granted the limited right to use their personally owned technology resources at Westlake City School District upon the return of this signed Digital Driver's License Agreement.
- B. Consequences for Inappropriate Use of ECD

Any user who does not comply with these guidelines will be subject to the Student Handbook and related disciplinary measures and may lose the privilege of bringing their device to school for a period of time, that period of time to be set at the discretion of the Principal or his/her designee. Students who have repeated or severe infractions of the policy will be subject to disciplinary action by the Principal. Violations of federal and state regulations, such as sending threatening email and accessing or distributing obscene material, will be reported to and dealt with by the local Police Department and any other governing law enforcement agency.

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

***RULE 14. Unauthorized sale or distribution***

Distribution or selling unauthorized materials on school property, or attempting to distribute or sell such items, is not permitted.

***RULE 15. Gambling***

Gambling (i.e., playing a game of chance for stakes) includes casual betting, betting pools, organized-sports betting, and any other form of wagering. Students who bet on any school activity in which they are involved may also be banned from that school activity.

***RULE 16. Harassment and/or Aggressive Behavior (including Bullying/Cyberbullying)***

The Board encourages the promotion of positive interpersonal relations between members of the school community. Harassment and/or aggressive behavior (including bullying/cyberbullying) toward a student, whether by other students, staff, or third parties is strictly prohibited and will not be tolerated. This prohibition includes physical, verbal, and psychological abuse, and any speech or action that creates a hostile, intimidating, or offensive learning environment. The Board will not tolerate any gestures, comments, threats, or actions which cause or threaten to cause bodily harm or personal degradation. Individuals engaging in such conduct will be subject to disciplinary action.

Conduct constituting sexual harassment, may include, but is not limited to:

- A. verbal harassment or abuse;
- B. pressure for sexual activity;



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

Note: An inappropriate boundary invasion by a District employee or other adult member of the School District community into a student's personal space and personal life is sexual harassment. Further, any administrator, teacher, coach, other school authority who engages in sexual or other inappropriate physical contact with a student may be guilty of criminal "child abuse" as defined in State law. Conduct constituting harassment on the basis of race, color, national origin, religion, or disability may take different forms, including, but not limited to, the following:

- A. Verbal: The making of offensive written or oral innuendos, comments, jokes, insults, threats, or disparaging remarks concerning a person's race, color, national origin, religious beliefs, or disability.
- B. Nonverbal: Placing offensive objects, pictures, or graphic commentaries in the school environment or making insulting or threatening gestures based upon a person's race, color, national origin, religious beliefs, or disability.
- C. Physical: Any intimidating or disparaging action such as hitting, pushing, shoving, hissing, or spitting, on or by a fellow staff member, students, or other person associated with the District, or third parties, based upon the person's race, color, national origin, religious beliefs, or disability.

Aggressive behavior is defined as inappropriate conduct that is repeated enough, or serious enough, to negatively impact a student's educational, physical, or emotional well-being. This type of behavior is a form of intimidation and harassment, although it need not be based on any of the legally protected characteristics, such as sex, race, color, marital status, or disability. It would include, but not be limited to, such behaviors as stalking, bullying/cyberbullying, intimidating, menacing, coercion, name-calling, taunting, making threats, and hazing.

Any student who believes that s/he is the victim of any of the above actions or has observed such actions by another student, staff member, or other person associated with the District, or by third parties should contact the District's Anti-Harassment Complaint Coordinators.

The Complaint Coordinators are available during regular school hours to discuss a student's concerns related to harassment and/or bullying/cyberbullying, to assist a student who seeks support or advice when informing another individual about "unwelcome" conduct, or to intercede informally on behalf of the student.

The student may report his/her concerns to the Anti-Harassment Complaint Coordinators either by a written report, telephone, or personal visit. In reporting his/her concerns, the student should provide the name of the person(s) who s/he believes to be responsible for the harassment and or bullying/cyberbullying and the nature of the harassing and/or bullying/cyberbullying incident(s). The Anti-Harassment Complaint Coordinators will promptly compile a written summary of each such report that will be forwarded to the Principal.





Each report will be investigated in a timely manner and as confidentially as possible. The District will respect the privacy of the complainant, the individual(s) against whom the complaint is filed, and the witnesses as much as possible, consistent with the Board's legal obligations to investigate, to take appropriate action, and to conform to any discovery or disclosure obligations. While a charge is under investigation, no information will be released to anyone who is not involved with the investigation, except as may be required by law or in the context of a legal or administrative proceeding. All records generated under the terms of this policy and its related administrative guidelines shall be maintained as confidential to the extent permitted by law. All individuals involved in an investigation as either a witness, victim or alleged harasser and/or bully/cyberbully will be instructed not to discuss the subject outside of the investigation.

If an investigation reveals that a harassment and/or bullying/cyberbullying complaint is valid, appropriate remedial and or disciplinary action will be taken promptly to prevent the continuance of the harassment and/or bullying/cyberbullying or its recurrence.

Given the nature of harassing and/or bullying/cyberbullying behavior, the School recognizes that false accusations can have serious effects on innocent individuals. Therefore, all students are expected to act responsibly, honestly, and with the utmost candor whenever they present harassment and/or bullying/cyberbullying allegations or charges.

Some forms of sexual harassment of a student may reasonably be considered child abuse that must be reported to the proper authorities.

These guidelines shall not be interpreted to infringe upon the First Amendment rights of students (i.e., to prohibit a reasoned and civil exchange of opinions, or debate, that is conducted at appropriate times and places during the school day and is protected by State or Federal law). Retaliation against any person who reports, is thought to have reported, files a complaint, or otherwise participates in an investigation or inquiry concerning allegations of harassment and/or aggressive behavior is prohibited and will not be tolerated.

Such retaliation shall be considered a serious violation and independent of whether a complaint is substantiated. Suspected retaliation should be reported in the same manner as harassment and aggressive behavior. Making intentionally false reports about harassment or aggressive behavior for the purpose of getting someone in trouble is similarly prohibited and will not be tolerated. Retaliation and intentionally false reports may result in disciplinary action as indicated above.

The Board is committed to promptly and equitably resolving student complaints alleging Sexual Harassment. The District's response to allegations of Sexual Harassment will treat Complainants and Respondents equitably, including providing supportive measures to the Complainant and Respondent, as appropriate, and following this Grievance Process before imposition of any disciplinary sanctions or other actions, other than supportive measures, against the Respondent.

Any person may report sex discrimination, including Sexual Harassment (whether or not the person reporting is the person alleged to be the victim of conduct that could constitute sex discrimination or Sexual Harassment), in person, by mail, by telephone, or by electronic mail, using the Title IX Coordinator's(s') contact information listed above, or by any other means that results in the Title IX Coordinator receiving the person's oral or written report. Reports may be made at any time (including during non-business hours), by using the telephone number(s) or electronic mail address(es), or by mail to the office address(es), listed for the Title IX Coordinator(s). Reports should be made to the Director of



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Student Services at 440-871-7300 or via email at TitleXCoordinator@wlake.org or mailed to Title IX Coordinator at 24365 Hilliard, Blvd., Westlake, Ohio 44145.

Anyone having further questions concerning prohibited behaviors and/or the complaint process should request a copy of Board policies and administrative guidelines.

***RULE 17. Hazing***

Performing any act, or coercing another, including the victim, to perform any act of initiation into any class, team, or organization, that causes or creates a substantial risk of causing mental or physical harm. Permission, consent, or assumption of risk by an individual subjected to hazing shall not lessen the prohibitions contained in this rule.

Hazing by any individual, school group, club, or team is not permitted. This includes any form of initiation that causes or creates a risk of causing mental or physical harm, no matter how willing the participant may be.

Hazing activities are prohibited at any time in school facilities, on school property, and/or off school property but connected to activities or incidents that have occurred on school property.

All incidents of hazing must be reported immediately to any of the following individuals: the building principal or other administrator; teacher; coach; student club advisor/supervisor, and/or Superintendent. Students who engage in hazing may also be liable for civil and criminal penalties.

***RULE 18. Trespassing***

Although schools are public facilities, the law allows the Board to restrict access to school property. Being present in any Board-owned facility or portion of a Board-owned facility when it is closed to the public or when the student does not have the authorization to be there, or unauthorized presence in a Board-owned vehicle; or unauthorized access or activity in a Board-owned computer, into district, school or staff computer files, into a school or district file server, or into the Network. When a student has been removed, suspended, expelled, or permanently excluded from school, the student is prohibited from being present on school property without authorization of the principal.

***RULE 19. Unauthorized use of school or private property***

Students must obtain permission to use any school property or any private property located on school premises. Any unauthorized use of school property, or private property located on school premises, shall be subject to disciplinary action.

***RULE 20. Violation of bus rules***

No student, while under the authority of a school bus driver, may interfere with the safe operation of the bus through destructive actions or words either to other students, the bus driver or passing motorists. For further clarification see the Transportation section in the student handbook.

***RULE 21. Driving/Parking (applicable to high school students only)***

Any student driving to school must keep his/her vehicle under control at all times, follow established safety procedures, and comply with school parking regulations. Failure to follow these guidelines may result in the student's driving privileges being withdrawn. While parked on school property, student vehicles are subject to routine patrols and exterior inspections that may be conducted without the student's consent, and without a search warrant. The inside of student vehicles may also be searched when school officials have reasonable suspicion to believe that illegal or unauthorized materials are



contained therein.

***RULE 22. Unauthorized use of vehicles (applicable to high school students only)***

Occupying or using vehicles during school hours without parental permission and/or school authorization.

***RULE 23. Misconduct off school grounds***

Students may be subject to discipline for their misconduct even when it occurs off school property when the misconduct is connected to activities or incidents that occurred on property owned or controlled by the District. Misconduct is defined as any violation of the Student Discipline Code.

***RULE 24. Gang Related Activity***

Subject to any applicable legal and constitutional limitations, no student's dress, apparel, activities, acts of behavior or manner of grooming will be condoned: a.) cause school officials to have reasonable suspicion that such behavior, apparel, activity, acts or other attributes are gang-related and would disrupt or interfere with the school environment or activity and/or educational objectives; b.) present a physical safety hazard to the student in question, other students, staff members or other employees; c.) create an atmosphere in which a student's, staff member or other person's well-being is hindered by undue pressure, behavior, intimidation, overt gesture or threat of violence; or d.) imply gang membership or affiliation by written communication, marks, drawing, painting, design or emblem whether on school or personal property or one's person.

***RULE 25. Repeated Violation of School Rules***

No student shall fail to comply with school rules and regulations or with the directions of the teacher or any adult school personnel.

**SECTION 2 (TIER 2 OFFENSE)**

These examples of misconduct, which are cumulative, will generally result in a 10-day suspension and a possible recommendation for expulsion and/or police/court referral due to the serious nature of these offenses. The principal may modify this sequence based on circumstances.

***RULE 26. Fighting***

Engaging in adversarial physical contact (differentiated from poking, pushing, shoving or scuffling) in which one or the other party (ies) or both contributed to the situation by verbally instigating a fight and/or physical action. Promoting or instigating a fight (i.e., contributing to a fight verbally or through behavior).

<u>OFFENSE</u>	<u>CONSEQUENCE</u>
1st	Up to 10-day Out-of-School Suspension.
2nd	Up to 10-day Out-of-School Suspension with possible recommendation for expulsion.
3rd	10-day Out-of-School Suspension and recommendation for expulsion.

***RULE 27. Possession/use of tobacco***

Possession, consumption, distribution, purchase or attempt to purchase, and/or use of tobacco products or electronic cigarettes or similar devices in school, on school grounds, on school buses, and at any Inter-scholastic competition, extra-curricular event, or other school-sponsored event. Tobacco products include, but are not limited to cigarettes, cigars, pipe tobacco, chewing tobacco, snuff or any other matter or substance that contains tobacco. Smoking of electronic, "vapor", other substitute forms of cigarettes, or clove cigarettes is also prohibited.

Electronic cigarettes and vaping continue to present challenges for schools and raise significant health



concerns, especially related to the use of these devices by youth. House Bill (HB) 166, the state biennial budget legislation, increased the age at which individuals can purchase tobacco or tobacco products to 21. These changes, including the various definitions for tobacco and electronic cigarettes, took effect upon the governor's signing. Although electronic cigarettes were added to Ohio's juvenile tobacco laws in 2014, the definition of what constitutes an e-cigarette was revised under HB 166.

Under the revised definitions of Ohio Revised Code (RC) 2927.02, for purposes of Ohio's juvenile tobacco laws (now for individuals under age 21), a "tobacco product" now means any product that is made or derived from tobacco or that contains any form of nicotine, if it is intended for human consumption or is likely to be consumed, whether smoked, heated, chewed, absorbed, dissolved, inhaled, or ingested by any other means, including, but not limited to, a cigarette, electronic smoking device, cigar, pipe tobacco, chewing tobacco, snuff or snus. Tobacco product also means any component or accessory used in the consumption of a tobacco product, such as filters, rolling papers, pipes, blunt or hemp wraps, and liquids used in electronic smoking devices, whether or not they contain nicotine.

Alternative nicotine products are now defined as "an electronic smoking device (previously electronic cigarette), vapor product or any other product or device that consists of or contains nicotine that can be ingested into the body any means, including, but not limited to chewing, smoking, absorbing, dissolving or inhaling." The definition of "electronic cigarettes" is replaced with a definition for "electronic smoking device" that is defined as any device that can be used to deliver aerosolized or vaporized nicotine.

**OFFENSE CONSEQUENCE**

1st	3-Day Out-of-School Suspension or 3-Day In-School Assignment and mandatory attendance at an educational seminar sponsored by the American Lung Association, American Cancer Society, or another health organization approved by the Board of Education. Students may be issued a ticket by the Westlake Police Department under O.R.C. 2151.87
2nd	Up to 5-day Out-of-School Suspension, and issued a ticket under O.R.C. 2151.87.
3rd	10-day Out-of-School Suspension and/or recommendation for expulsion, and issued a ticket under O.R.C. 2151.87.

***RULE 28. Possession/use of drugs and/or alcohol***

Possessing, using, transmitting or concealing, or being under the influence of any alcoholic beverage, controlled substance including, but not limited to, narcotics, mood altering drugs, counterfeit controlled substances, look-alikes, over the counter stimulants or depressants, anabolic steroids, or drug-related paraphernalia.

If a building principal has a reasonable individualized suspicion of drug or alcohol use, s/he may request the student in question to submit to any appropriate testing, including but not limited to, a breathalyzer test or urinalysis. In such circumstances, the student will be taken to a private administrative or instructional area on school property for such testing with at least one other member of the teaching or administrative staff present as a witness to the test. If a student refuses to take the test, s/he will be advised that such denial leaves the observed evidence of alcohol or drug use unrefuted thus leading to possible disciplinary action. The student will then be given a second opportunity to take the test.

<u>OFFENSE</u>	<u>CONSEQUENCE</u>
1st	5/10 Option* and/or referral to an assessment with the recommendation being followed. 5 days of Out-of-School Suspension are in effect with the remainder held. If not the 5/10 Option, then a 10-day Out-of-School Suspension and/or police contact and/or





2nd court referral and/or recommendation for expulsion.  
 10-day Out-of-School Suspension and a police contact, and/or a recommendation for expulsion.

\*5/10 Option: If made available, the student and family will sign a 5/10 Option Agreement Form that will include, but is not limited to, the following stipulations:

- Participation in a comprehensive substance abuse assessment from a qualified professional
- Completion of a two-way release and returned to a designated school counselor so that the counselor may confirm that an assessment has taken place or is scheduled
- If applicable, the student and family will follow any professional recommendations made as a result of the assessment, which may include periodic drug testing, and the student will meet regularly with a designated school counselor
- Failure to comply with any 5/10 Option requirement will result in the remaining 5 days of Out-of-School Suspension being enforced and/or a recommendation for expulsion being reinstated.

***RULE 29. Use and/or possession of a firearm***

Bringing a firearm (as defined in the Federal Gun-Free Schools Act of 1994) onto school property or to any school-sponsored activity, competition, program, or event, regardless of where it occurs, will result in a mandatory one (1) year expulsion under Ohio law. This expulsion may be reduced on a case-by-case basis by the Superintendent using the guidelines set forth in Board Policy 5772 and 5610.

- Firearm is defined as any weapon (including a starter gun) that will or is designed to or may readily be converted to expel a projectile by the action of an explosive; the frame or receiver of any such weapon; any firearm muffler or firearm silencer; or any destructive device (as defined in the Federal Gun-Free Schools Act of 1994). Firearms include any unloaded firearm and any firearm that is inoperable but that can be readily operated.
- Students are prohibited from knowingly possessing an object on school premises, in a school or a school building, at a school activity or on a school bus that is indistinguishable from a firearm, whether or not the object is capable of being fired, and indicating they are in possession of such an object and that it is a firearm or knowingly displaying or brandishing the object and indicating it is a firearm.

<u>OFFENSE</u>	<u>CONSEQUENCE</u>
1st	Up to a 10-day Out-of-School Suspension with possible recommendation for one-year expulsion from school.
2nd	10-day Out-of-School Suspension and recommendation for one-year expulsion from school.

***RULE 30. Use and/or possession of a weapon***

A weapon is any device that may be used for offensive or defensive purposes, including but not limited to conventional objects such as guns, pellet guns, knives, or club type implements. It may also include any toy that is presented as a real weapon or reacted to as a real weapon. Possession and/or use of a weapon may subject a student to expulsion and possible permanent exclusion.

A knife is defined as any cutting instrument consisting of a sharp blade fastened to a handle, a razor blade or any similar device that is used for, or is readily capable of causing death or serious bodily injury.

<u>OFFENSE</u>	<u>CONSEQUENCE</u>
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1st	Up to a 10-day Out-of-School Suspension with possible recommendation for one-year expulsion from school.
2nd	10-day Out-of-School Suspension and recommendation for one-year expulsion from school.

***RULE 31. Use of an object as a weapon***

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

<u>OFFENSE</u>	<u>CONSEQUENCE</u>
1st	Up to a 10-day Out-of-School Suspension with possible recommendation for one-year expulsion from school.
2nd	10-day Out-of-School Suspension and recommendation for one-year expulsion from school.

***RULE 32. Arson***

Intentional or purposeful destruction or damage to school or district buildings or property by means of fire. Anything, such as fire, that endangers school property and its occupants will not be tolerated. Arson is a felony.

<u>OFFENSE</u>	<u>CONSEQUENCE</u>
1st	10-day Out-of-School Suspension, police contact, court referral, recommendation for expulsion.

***RULE 33. Physically assaulting a staff member/student/person associated with the District.***

Acting with intent to cause fear in another person of immediate bodily harm or death, or intentionally bullying, inflicting or attempting to inflict bodily harm upon another person. Physical assault of a staff member, student, or other person associated with the District, regardless of whether it causes injury, will not be tolerated. Any intentional, harmful or potentially harmful physical contact or bullying initiated by a student against a staff member will be considered to be assault. Assault may result in criminal charges and may subject the student to expulsion.

<u>OFFENSE</u>	<u>CONSEQUENCE</u>
1st	Up to 10-day Out-of-School Suspension and/or court referral and/or recommendation for expulsion.
2nd	10-day Out-of-School Suspension and recommendation for expulsion.

***RULE 34. Verbally threatening (either orally, in writing or otherwise expressed) a staff member/student/person associated with the District.***

Any oral or written statement or otherwise expressed action that a staff member, student, or other person associated with the District reasonably feels to be a threat will be considered a verbal assault. Profanity directed toward a staff member in a threatening tone may also be considered a verbal assault. Confrontation with a student or staff member that bullies, intimidates, or causes fear of bodily harm or death is also prohibited.

<u>OFFENSE</u>	<u>CONSEQUENCE</u>
1st	Up to 10-day Out-of-School Suspension with possible recommendation for expulsion.
2nd	10-day Out-of-School Suspension and recommendation for expulsion.

***RULE 35. Misconduct against a school official or employee, or the property of such a person, regardless***

*of where it occurs.*

The Board prohibits misconduct committed by a student against a school official or employee, including, but not limited to, harassment (of any type), vandalism, assault (verbal and/or physical), and destruction of property.

<u>OFFENSE</u>	<u>CONSEQUENCE</u>
1st for expulsion.	Up to 10-day Out-of-School Suspension and/or court referral and/or recommendation
2nd	10-day Out-of-School Suspension and recommendation for expulsion.

***RULE 36. Extortion***

Extortion is the use of threat, intimidation, force, or deception to take, or receive something from someone else. Extortion is against the law.

<u>OFFENSE</u>	<u>CONSEQUENCE</u>
1st for expulsion.	Up to 10-day Out-of-School Suspension and/or court referral and/or recommendation
2nd	10-day Out-of-School Suspension and recommendation for expulsion.

***RULE 37. Bomb Threats, and other false alarms and reports***

Making a bomb threat (i.e., intentionally giving a false alarm of a bomb) against a school building or any premises at which a school activity is being held at the time the threat is made may result in expulsion for a period of up to one (1) school year. Additionally, intentionally giving a false alarm of a fire, or tampering or interfering with any fire alarm is prohibited. It should be remembered that false emergency alarms or reports endanger the safety forces that are responding to the alarm/report, the citizens of the community, and the persons in the building. What may seem like a prank, is a dangerous stunt that is against the law and will subject the student to disciplinary action.

<u>OFFENSE</u>	<u>CONSEQUENCE</u>
1st	Up to 10-day Out-of-School Suspension, police contact, court referral, and recommendation for expulsion of up to one year.
2nd	10-day Out-of-School Suspension and recommendation for expulsion.

***RULE 38. Terroristic Threat***

Threatening, directly or indirectly, to commit a crime of violence with the purpose to terrorize another or with reckless disregard of the risk of causing terror in another.

<u>OFFENSE</u>	<u>CONSEQUENCE</u>
1st expulsion.	10-day Out-of-School Suspension and/or court referral and/or recommendation for

***RULE 39. Possession and/or use of explosives and/or fireworks***

Possessing or using any compound or mixture, the primary or common purpose of which is to function by explosion, with substantially instantaneous release of gas and heat (including, but not limited to explosives and chemical-reaction objects such as smoke bombs and poppers). Additionally, possessing or offering for sale any substance, combination of substances or article prepared to produce a visible and/or audible effect by combustion, explosion, deflagration or detonation.

<u>OFFENSE</u>	<u>CONSEQUENCE</u>
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1st	Up to 10-day Out-of-School Suspension with possible recommendation for one-year expulsion from school.
2nd	10-day Out-of-School Suspension and recommendation for one-year expulsion from school.

***RULE 40. Theft, or knowingly receiving or possessing stolen property***

Unauthorized taking of property of another person or receiving or possessing such property. Students caught stealing will be disciplined and may be reported to law enforcement officials. Students should not bring anything of value to school without prior authorization from the building principal. The School is not responsible for personal property.

<u>OFFENSE</u>	<u>CONSEQUENCE</u>
1st	Up to 10-day Out-of-School Suspension and/or court referral with possible recommendation for expulsion.
2nd	10-day Out-of-School Suspension and recommendation for expulsion.

***RULE 41. Damaging property (Vandalism)***

Defacing, cutting, or otherwise damaging property that belongs to the school, district, other students, employees or others and disregard for school property.

<u>OFFENSE</u>	<u>CONSEQUENCE</u>
1st	Up to 10-day Out-of-School Suspension and/or court referral with possible recommendation for expulsion.
2nd	10-day Out-of-School Suspension and recommendation for expulsion.

***RULE 42. Violent Conduct***

Students may be expelled for up to one school year for committing an act at school, on other school property, at an interscholastic competition, extracurricular event, or any other school program, or directing an act at a Board official or employee, regardless of where or when that act may occur, or their property that would be a criminal offense if committed by an adult and results in serious physical harm to person(s) or property.

<u>OFFENSE</u>	<u>CONSEQUENCE</u>
1st	Up to 10-day Out-of-School Suspension and/or court referral and/or recommendation for possible one-year expulsion from school.
2nd	10-day Out-of-School Suspension and recommendation for expulsion.

***RULE 43. Burglary***

Entering a building or a specific area of a building without consent and with intent to commit a crime, or entering a building without consent and committing a crime.

<u>OFFENSE</u>	<u>CONSEQUENCE</u>
1st	Up to 10-day Out-of-School Suspension and/or court referral and/or recommendation for expulsion.
2nd	10-day Out-of-School Suspension and recommendation for expulsion.

**DISCIPLINE**

It is important to remember that the School's rules apply going to and from school, at school, on school property at school-sponsored events, on school transportation, and on property not owned or controlled





by the Board but that is connected to activities or incidents that have occurred on property owned or controlled by the Board. Furthermore, students may be disciplined for conduct that, regardless of where or when it occurs, is directed at a Board official or employee, or the property of such official or employee. In some cases, a student can be suspended from school transportation for infractions of school bus rules.

The School is committed to providing prompt, reasonable discipline consistent with the severity of the incident. The consequences for misbehavior are designed to be fair, firm and consistent for all students in the School.

Because it is not possible to list every misbehavior that occurs, misbehaviors not listed above will be responded to as necessary by staff.

### ***Detention Procedures at DIS***

Students assigned a morning detention must report to the main office at 7:20 am. Morning detentions will be assigned as needed. Transportation is the parent's responsibility. Students failing to comply with disciplinary penalties may face enhanced penalties for such action.

### ***Academic and Major Detentions***

Academic and Major detentions will be assigned as needed. Transportation is the parent's responsibility. Students assigned detentions must report to the designated area and will serve after school from 2:45 - 4:45 p.m.

### ***In-School Assignment as an Alternative to Out-of-School Suspension***

This step in the Progressive Discipline Program is issued at the discretion of the administration, upon infractions of the Code of Conduct, behavior referral from a teacher or continual violation of school rules. In-school suspensions are served in the main office.

### ***Suspension***

Formal discipline involves removal of the student from school. It includes emergency removal for up to three (3) school days, suspension for up to ten (10) school days, expulsion for up to eighty (80) school days or the number of days remaining in a semester, whichever is greater, and permanent exclusion. Suspensions and expulsions may carry over into the next school year. Any student who is expelled from school for more than twenty (20) days or for any period of time if the expulsion will extend into the following semester or school year will be provided with information about services or programs offered by public and private agencies that work toward improving those aspects of the student's attitude and behavior that contributed to the incident that gave rise to the student's expulsion. The Superintendent at his/her discretion may require/allow a student to perform community service in conjunction with or in place of an expulsion. The Superintendent may impose a community service requirement beyond the end of the school year in lieu of applying the expulsion to the following school year. Removal for less than one (1) school day without the possibility of suspension or expulsion may not be appealed. Suspension, expulsion, and permanent exclusion may be appealed.

Students being considered for suspension are entitled to an informal meeting with the building administrator prior to removal. Also, students being considered for expulsion are entitled to an informal meeting with the Superintendent or designee prior to removal. During the informal meeting, the student will be notified of the charges and given the opportunity to respond.

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





If a student commits a crime while under the School's jurisdiction, s/he may be subject to school disciplinary action as well as action through local law enforcement.

### **DUE PROCESS RIGHTS**

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

As long as the in-school discipline is served entirely in the school setting, it will not require any notice or meeting, or be subject to appeal.

### ***Suspension from School***

When a student is being considered for a suspension, the administrator in charge will notify the student of the basis for the proposed suspension. The student will be given an opportunity to explain his/her view of the underlying facts. After that informal hearing, the Principal (or assistant principal or other administrator) will determine whether or not to suspend the student. If the decision is made to suspend the student, s/he and his/ her parents will be given written notification of the suspension within one (1) school day setting forth the reason for the suspension, the length of the suspension and the process for appeal. The suspension may be appealed within 14 calendar days after receipt of the suspension notice to the Treasurer or Superintendent of the Board of Education. The request for an appeal must be in writing. If the appeal is heard by the Board's designee, the appeal shall be conducted in a private hearing. If the appeal is heard by the Board of Education, the appeal shall be conducted in executive session unless the student or his/her representative requests otherwise. A verbatim transcript will be made and witnesses will be sworn in prior to giving testimony. If the appeal decision is to uphold the suspension, the next step in the appeal process is to the Court of Common Pleas.

### ***Emergency Removal***

If a student's presence poses a continuing danger to persons or property, or an ongoing threat of disrupting the academic process taking place either in a classroom or elsewhere on the school premises, the Superintendent, principal or assistant principal may remove the student from any curricular or extracurricular activity or from the school premises. A teacher may remove the student from any curricular or extracurricular activity under the teacher's supervision but not from the premises.

If a teacher makes an emergency removal, the teacher will notify a building administrator of the circumstances surrounding the removal in writing within one (1) school day. No prior notice or hearing is required for any removal under this procedure. In all cases of normal disciplinary procedures where a student is removed from curricular or extracurricular activity for less than one school day, and is not subject to further suspension for expulsion, the following due process requirements do not apply. If the emergency removal exceeds one (1) school day, then a hearing will be held within one (1) school day after the removal is ordered. Written notice of the hearing and the reasons for removal and any intended disciplinary action will be provided to the student as soon as practical prior to the hearing. If the student is subject to an out of school suspension, the student will have the opportunity to appear at an informal hearing before the principal, assistant principal, Superintendent or a designee, and may challenge the reasons for the removal or otherwise explain his/her actions.

Within one (1) school day of the decision to suspend, written notification will be given to the parent(s)/ guardian(s) or custodian(s) of the student. This notice will include the reasons for the suspension, the right of the student or his/her parent(s)/guardian(s) or custodian(s) to appeal to the Board or its designee and the student's right to be represented in all appeal proceedings. If it is likely that the student may be



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subject to expulsion, the hearing will take place within three (3) school days and will be held in accordance with the procedures outlined in the Student Expulsion Policy. The person who ordered or requested the removal will be present at the hearing. In an emergency removal, a student may be kept from class until the matter of the alleged misconduct is resolved either by reinstatement, suspension or expulsion.

### ***Expulsion from School***

When a student is being considered for expulsion, the student and parent will be provided with a formal notice of the proposed expulsion. This written notice will include the reasons for the intended expulsion, notification of the opportunity to appear in person before the Superintendent or the Superintendent's designee to challenge the reasons for the expulsion and/or explain the student's action and notification of the time and place to appear. Students being considered for expulsion may be removed immediately. A hearing will be scheduled no earlier than three (3), nor no later than five (5) school days after the notice is given. Parents may request an extension of time for the hearing. The student may be represented by his/her parents, legal counsel, and/or by a person of his/her choice at the hearing.

In accordance with Board Policy 5610, the Superintendent shall initiate expulsion proceedings against a student who has committed an act that warrants expulsion under Board policy even if the student withdraws from school prior to the hearing or decision to impose the expulsion. The expulsion will be imposed for the same duration that it would have been had the student remained enrolled.

If a student is expelled, the student and the student's parents will be provided with written notice within one (1) school day of the imposed expulsion. The notice will include the reasons for the expulsion, the right of the student or the student's parent(s)/guardian(s) or custodian(s) to appeal the expulsion to the Board or its designee, the right to be represented in all appeal proceedings, the right to be granted a hearing before the Board or its designee and the right to request that the hearing be held in executive session.

Within 14 calendar days after the Superintendent notifies the parents of the expulsion. The expulsion may be appealed in writing to the Board of Education or its designee. A hearing on the requested appeal will be formal with an opportunity for sworn testimony. If the expulsion is upheld on appeal, a student's parents may pursue further appeal to the Court of Common Pleas.

Students serving expulsions will not be awarded grades or credit during the period of expulsion. Expulsion for certain violations including use or possession of alcohol or drugs may result in revocation of a student's driver's license. When a student is expelled, the Superintendent will notify any college in which the expelled student is enrolled under the Postsecondary Enrollment Option at the time the expulsion is imposed.

### ***Permanent Exclusion***

State law provides for the permanent exclusion of a student 16 years of age or older who engages in certain criminal activity. Permanently excluded students may never be permitted to return to school anywhere in the State of Ohio. A permanent exclusion may be considered if the student is convicted or adjudicated delinquent for committing one or more of the following crimes while on the property of any Ohio school:

- A. conveying deadly weapons onto school property or to a school function;
- B. possessing deadly weapons onto school property or at a school function;
- C. carrying a concealed weapon onto school property or at a school function;



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- D. trafficking in drugs onto school property or at a school function;
  - E. murder, aggravated murder on school property or at a school function;
  - F. voluntary or involuntary manslaughter on school grounds or at a school function;
  - G. assault or aggravated assault on school property or at a school function;
  - H. rape, gross sexual imposition or felonious sexual penetration on school grounds, or at a school function, when the victim is a school employee;
  - I. complicity in any of the above offenses, regardless of the location.

This process is formal and may follow an expulsion with the proper notification to the parents.

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

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

### ***Suspension of Bus Riding/Transportation Privileges***

When a student is being considered for suspension of bus riding/transportation privileges, the administrator in charge will notify the student of the reason. The student will be given an opportunity to address the basis for the proposed suspension at an informal hearing. After that informal hearing, the principal [or assistant principal or other administrator] will decide whether or not to suspend his/her bus riding/transportation privileges for all or part of the school year.

If a student's bus riding/transportation privileges are suspended, s/he and his/her parents will be notified, in writing within one day, of the reason for and the length of the suspension.

### ***Search and Seizure***

Administrators may search a student or his/her property (including vehicles, purses, knapsacks, gym bags, etc.) with or without the student's consent, whenever they reasonably suspect that a search will lead to the discovery of evidence of a violation of law or school rules. The extent of the search will be governed by the seriousness of the alleged infraction and the student's age. General housekeeping inspection of school property may be conducted with reasonable notice. Student lockers are the property of the District and students have no reasonable expectation of privacy in their contents or in the contents of any other District property including desks or other containers. School authorities may conduct random searches of the lockers and their contents at any time without announcement. Unannounced and random canine searches may also be conducted. Additionally, students have no reasonable expectation of privacy in their actions in public areas including but not limited to, common areas, hallways, cafeterias, classrooms and gymnasiums. The District may use video cameras in such areas and on all school vehicles transporting students to and from regular and extracurricular activities.

Anything that is found in the course of a search may be used as evidence of a violation of school rules or the law, and may be taken, held or turned over to the police. The School reserves the right not to return items that have been confiscated.

### ***Interrogation of Students***

The School is committed to protecting students from harm that may be connected with the school environment and also recognizes its responsibility to cooperate with law enforcement and public child welfare agencies.

While the School believes these agencies should conduct their investigations off school property if





possible, investigations can take place at school in emergency situations or if the violation being investigated occurred on school property.

Before students are questioned as witnesses or suspects in an alleged criminal violation, the building administrator will attempt to contact a parent prior to questioning and shall remain in the room during questioning.

If a student is questioned as the subject of alleged child abuse or neglect, the building administrator will attempt to contact a parent prior to questioning, and s/he (or a designated guidance counselor) will remain in the room during questioning. If the agency investigating the alleged child abuse or neglect suspects the parent is the perpetrator, neither parent will be contacted prior to questioning, but the building administrator (or a designated guidance counselor) will remain in the room during questioning.

If law enforcement or children's services agency removes a student from school, the building administrator will notify a parent.

### **STUDENT RIGHTS OF EXPRESSION**

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

- A. Material cannot be displayed if it:
  - a. is obscene to minors, libelous, or pervasively indecent or vulgar;
  - b. advertises any product or service not permitted to minors by law;
  - c. intends to be insulting or harassing;
  - d. intends to incite fighting; or
  - e. presents a clear and present likelihood that, either because of its content or manner of distribution or display, it will cause or is likely to cause a material and substantial disruption of school or school activities, a violation of school regulations, or the commission of an unlawful act.
- B. Material may not be displayed or distributed during class periods, or between classes. Permission may be granted for display or distribution during lunch periods, and/or before or after school in designated locations, as long as exits are not blocked and there is proper access and egress to the building. Students who are unsure whether materials they wish to display meet school guidelines may present them to the building principal(s) twenty-four (24) hours prior to display.

### **APPEARANCE CODE**

The Westlake Board of Education realizes that the dress and appearance of students is the joint responsibility of the schools and the home. While it is not the intent of the Westlake Board of Education to dictate styles of dress, it does accept its responsibility in the areas of appearance by providing the following standard of appearance for students in Westlake Schools. Dover Intermediate School is not the forum for inappropriate expressions of appearance. Students' appearance shall be appropriate to education, activities and the environment of the school. Attire or appearance that is considered unsafe, unclean, immodest, vulgar, and/or gang-related will not be permitted. In general, dress and grooming should be appropriate and be governed by good sense, good taste and cleanliness. Violations of the appearance code may result in progressive discipline.

1. Any type of dress, appearance, or hairstyle constituting a safety issue are not permitted.
2. Any type of dress, appearance, or hairstyle constituting a disruption of the educational process





are not permitted.

3. Any type of clothing that reveals undergarments are not permitted.
4. Any type of clothing with excessive or distracting rips or holes are not permitted. Pants that are excessively baggy and do not stay above the student's waist are not permitted.
5. Shirts/tops with shoulder straps measuring less than one inch across the top of the shoulder are not permitted. Shirts that expose the midriff, underarm area, or are see-through are not permitted.
6. Shorts and skirts that do not sufficiently cover the buttocks and upper thigh while students are standing, seated, and performing normal school activities (e.g., retrieving items from his/her locker) are not permitted.
7. Clothing that depicts or advocates violence, or exhibits obscene statements, pictures, or gestures are not permitted.
8. Hats, hoods, bandanas or other types of headwear are not permitted (except as a genuine religious observance).
9. Appropriate footwear must be worn at all times, including close toed shoes for physical education class.
10. In situations where a disagreement exists as to whether or not attire is appropriate, the administration shall make the final decision.

Teachers may prescribe proper dress in any given laboratory, gymnasium or special situations for the purposes of safety and/or participation requirements.

Any student representing Dover Intermediate School in any co-curricular activities may be required to adhere to a more rigid and specific appearance pattern. Therefore, it is the student's choice as to whether he/she wants to participate under these circumstances. The advisor, teacher or coach, in conjunction with the building principal, may establish these appearance guidelines.

### ***Cafeteria Regulations***

The use of the DIS cafeteria is a privilege: All students are expected to adhere to the following:

- A. All students using the cafeteria are encouraged to use a tray.
- B. Keep the cafeteria clean and free of litter.
- C. Return the empty trays when your table is released to do so by the lunch monitors. Students should not walk around or be out of their seats to dispose of trash/trays until allowed to do so.
- D. Be considerate of others and clean/bus your table and the surrounding area.
- E. During a student's lunch period, food and beverage items are to be consumed in the cafeteria only.
- F. Possession of any food or beverage item is prohibited in the classroom unless given permission by the classroom teacher.
- G. No glass containers are permitted.
- H. One table is designated-free table. This table is made available for students who have a medical history of an allergic reaction to nut products. While sitting at this table is voluntary, it is required that no nuts or products containing nuts be brought to or consumed while seated at the nut free table.
- I. Outside food source or ordering food to be delivered or not permitted.

During the lunch periods, all students will remain in the cafeteria for the entire period. Only specified restrooms can be used during lunch periods. All other areas are restricted unless special authorization is granted by administration and/or teacher.

### ***Food Guidelines***



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NO FOOD shall be outside of the school cafeteria without consulting with School Food Service Professional, School Nurse, **and** School Administrator first for pre-approval.

### **General Guidelines**

- **All classroom staff members will be made aware of food allergies and special dietary needs by the school nurse.** Parents/guardians should inform school nurses and school food service professionals of any allergies and/or special dietary needs at the beginning of the school year or when newly identified. Peanuts and tree nuts are not to be in any classroom. Other life-threatening food allergens will be restricted on a class by class basis as deemed necessary by the school nurse. Tree nuts and peanuts must be consumed only in the cafeteria during lunchtime. (Nut-free table in cafeteria)
- Clearly marked, peanut/tree nut-free tables will be available in the cafeteria for students with allergies. Any additional student is permitted to sit at the peanut/tree nut free table as long as they purchase their lunch at the cafeteria.
- Only district-provided **and** administrator pre-approved food is permitted to be in classrooms\* (\*unless as otherwise indicated in an IEP or 504). Approved food will be consumed in pre-approved designated areas.
- *According to Board Policy, **any** food sold during the school day (the period from the midnight before, to thirty (30) minutes after the end of the official school day), shall comply with the current USDA Dietary Guidelines for Americans and the USDA Smart Snacks in School nutrition standards **and** be administrator pre-approved.*
- All food needs to be factory sealed or made in a commercial kitchen, with the ingredient label visible on the original packaging (no homemade treats permitted).
- All food items must be served in the cafeteria or administrator pre-approved designated area.
- It is recommended that all food items selected be communicated to parent/guardians at least 24 hours in advance. Communication includes the name of the item and ingredients. (Suggestion: Photo of product ingredients can be emailed out).
- Suggestion: Snack Safely (<https://snacksafely.com>) is a good resource for finding allergen free options to identify the district-provided, administrator-approved foods if and when provided. Consider culturally-sensitive options.
- No food is allowed for birthday parties or used as student rewards (with the exception of food rewards designated in an individual student's IEP or 504. This reward must be tree nut and peanut free and eaten in the designated area).
- No food, gum, or treat bags with food will be sent home with any students (this includes birthdays, celebrations, holiday parties, etc...). Valentine cards (without candy) are permitted.
- Field trips or special events off-site involving food will require at least one week of advanced planning and communication with all parties **and** pre-approval from the school nurse, school food service professional, and school administrator to develop a plan based on individual needs and circumstances.
- Food may be used as instructional material in science labs, and classes where course lesson plans contain a food-specific educational component. All food used as instructional material must be administrator pre-approved based upon current student needs and instructional objectives.
- All events, including holiday parties, PTA events, and classroom teacher-led activities, held during the school day for PreK-8 are subject to these same guidelines.
- No food may be consumed on K-12 school buses (with the exception of students with diabetes) without pre-approval from a school nurse and/or administrator.
- Westlake City Schools has Epi-Pens in every building and has provided and/or provides training for all staff on food allergies and special dietary needs.
- Reference Board Policy 5335, 5830, 8500, and 8550 for more information.



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### **Dover Intermediate, Lee Burneson Middle, Westlake High School General Guidelines:**

The general guidelines for all Westlake City Schools still apply at the Intermediate, Middle, and High School. We also recognize, however, that students in Grades 5-12 are generally more equipped to manage their known food allergies and dietary restrictions and recognize an allergic reaction. Food labels need to be ready for students to read and make informed decisions, and those serving the food should honor a student's decision unless there is a documented reason.

#### ***Gangs***

Gangs that initiate, advocate or promote activities that threaten the safety or well-being of persons or that are disruptive to the school environment will not be tolerated.

Incidents involving initiations, hazing, intimidations or related activities that are likely to cause harm or personal degradation are prohibited.

Students wearing, carrying or displaying gang paraphernalia or exhibiting behaviors or gestures that symbolize gang membership or causing and/or participating in activities that are designed to intimidate another student will be disciplined. Prohibited gang paraphernalia will be specifically identified and posted by the principal.

#### ***Care of Property***

Students are responsible for the care of their own personal property. The School is not responsible for personal property. Valuables such as jewelry or irreplaceable items should not be brought to school. Damage to or loss of school equipment and facilities wastes taxpayers' money and undermines the school program. Therefore, if a student damages or loses school property, the student and/or his/her parents will be required to pay for the replacement or repair. If the damage or loss was intentional, the student will be subject to discipline according to the Student Discipline Code.

#### ***Bullying, Harassment, and Intimidation***

##### ***BOE Policy 5517.01 - Bullying and Other Forms of Aggressive Behavior***

The Board of Education is committed to providing a safe, positive, productive, and nurturing educational environment for all of its students. The Board encourages the promotion of positive interpersonal relations between members of the school community.

Harassment, intimidation, or bullying toward a student, whether by other students, staff, or third parties is strictly prohibited and will not be tolerated. This prohibition includes aggressive behavior, physical, verbal, and psychological abuse, and violence within a dating relationship. The Board will not tolerate any gestures, comments, threats, or actions which cause or threaten to cause bodily harm or personal degradation. This policy applies to all activities in the District, including activities on school property, on a school bus, or while en route to or from school, and those occurring off school property if the student or employee is at any school- sponsored, school-approved or school-related activity or function, such as field trips or athletic events where students are under the school's control, in a school vehicle, or where an employee is engaged in school business.

This policy has been developed in consultation with parents, District employees, volunteers, students, and community members as prescribed in R.C. 3313.666 and the State Board of Education's Model Policy.

Harassment, intimidation, or bullying means:



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- A. any intentional written, verbal, electronic or physical act that a student or group of students exhibits toward another particular student(s) more than once and the behavior both causes mental or physical harm to the other student(s) and is sufficiently severe, persistent or pervasive that it creates an intimidating, threatening or abusive education environment for the other student(s); or
  - B. violence within a dating relationship.

“Electronic act” means an act committed through the use of a cellular telephone, computer, pager, personal communication device, or other electronic communication device.

Aggressive behavior is defined as inappropriate conduct that is repeated enough, or serious enough, to negatively impact a student’s educational, physical, or emotional well-being. This type of behavior is a form of intimidation and harassment, although it need not be based on any of the legally protected characteristics, such as sex, race, color, national origin, marital status, or disability. It would include, but not be limited to, such behaviors as stalking, bullying/cyberbullying, intimidating, menacing, coercion, name calling, taunting, making threats, and hazing.

Harassment, intimidation, or bullying also means cyberbullying through electronically transmitted acts (i.e., internet, e-mail, cellular telephone, personal digital assistant (PDA), or wireless hand-held device) that a student(s) or a group of students exhibits toward another particular student(s) more than once and the behavior both causes mental and physical harm to the other student and is sufficiently severe, persistent, or pervasive that it creates an intimidating, threatening, or abusive educational environment for the other student(s).

Any student or student’s parent/guardian who believes s/he has been or is the victim of aggressive behavior should immediately report the situation to the Building Principal or assistant principal, or the Superintendent. The student may also report concerns to teachers and other school staff who will be responsible for notifying the appropriate administrator or Board official. Complaints against the Building Principal should be filed with the Superintendent. Complaints against the Superintendent should be filed with the Board President.

Every student is encouraged, and every staff member is required, to report any situation that they believe to be aggressive behavior directed toward a student. Reports may be made to those identified above.

All complaints about aggressive behavior that may violate this policy shall be promptly investigated. The Building Principal or appropriate administrator shall prepare a written report of the investigation upon completion. Such a report shall include findings of fact, a determination of whether acts of harassment, intimidation, and/or bullying were verified, and, when prohibited acts are verified, a recommendation for intervention, including disciplinary action shall be included in the report. Where appropriate, written witness statements shall be attached to the report.

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

If, during an investigation of a reported act of harassment, intimidation and/or bullying/cyber bullying, the





Principal or appropriate administrator believes that the reported misconduct may have created a hostile learning environment and may have constituted unlawful discriminatory harassment based on a Protected Class, the Principal will report the act of bullying and/or harassment to one of the Anti-Harassment Compliance Officers so that it may be investigated in accordance with the procedures set forth in Policy 5517 - Anti-Harassment.

Retaliation against any person who reports, is thought to have reported, files a complaint, or otherwise participates in an investigation or inquiry concerning allegations of aggressive behavior is prohibited and will not be tolerated. Such retaliation shall be considered a serious violation of Board policy and independent of whether a complaint is substantiated. Suspected retaliation should be reported in the same manner as aggressive behavior. Retaliation may result in disciplinary action as indicated above. Deliberately making false reports about harassment, intimidation, bullying, and/or other aggressive behavior for the purpose of getting someone in trouble is similarly prohibited and will not be tolerated. Deliberately making false reports may result in disciplinary action as indicated above.

If a student or other individual believes there has been aggressive behavior, regardless of whether it fits a particular definition, s/he should report it and allow the administration to determine the appropriate course of action.

The District shall implement intervention strategies to protect a victim or other person from new or additional harassment, intimidation, or bullying and from retaliation following such a report.

This policy shall not be interpreted to infringe upon the First Amendment rights of students (i.e., to prohibit a reasoned and civil exchange of opinions, or debate, that is conducted at appropriate times and places during the school day and is protected by State or Federal law).

The complainant shall be notified of the findings of the investigation, and as appropriate, that remedial action has been taken. If after investigation, acts of bullying against a specific student are verified, the Building Director or appropriate administrator shall notify the custodial parent/guardian of the victim of such finding. In providing such notification care shall be taken to respect the statutory privacy rights of the perpetrator of such harassment, intimidation, and/or bullying.

If after investigation, acts of harassment, intimidation, and/or bullying by a specific student are verified, the Building Director or appropriate administrator shall notify in writing the custodial parent/guardian of the perpetrator of that finding. If disciplinary consequences are imposed against such a student, a description of such discipline shall be included in the notification.

### **Complaints**

Students and/or their parents/guardians may file reports regarding suspected harassment, intimidation, or bullying. Such reports shall be reasonably specific including person(s) involved, number of times and places of the alleged conduct, the target of suspected harassment, intimidation, and/or bullying, and the names of any potential student or staff witnesses. Such reports may be filed with any school staff member or administrator, and they shall be promptly forwarded to the principal or Superintendent Designee for review, investigation, and action.

Students, parents/guardians, and school personnel may make informal or anonymous complaints of conduct that they consider to be harassment, intimidation, and/or bullying by verbal report to a teacher, school administrator, or other school personnel. Such complaints shall be reasonably specific including person(s) involved, number of times and places of the alleged conduct, the target of suspected





harassment, intimidation, and/or bullying, and the names of any potential student or staff witnesses. A school staff member or administrator who receives an informal or anonymous complaint shall promptly document the complaint in writing, including the information provided. This written report shall be promptly forwarded by the school staff member and/or administrator to the Building Director for review, investigation, and appropriate action.

Individuals who make informal complaints as provided above may request that their name be maintained in confidence by the school staff member(s) and administrator(s) who receive the complaint. Anonymous complaints shall be reviewed and reasonable action shall be taken to address the situation, to the extent such action may be taken that (1) does not disclose the source of the complaint, and (2) is consistent with the due process rights of the student(s) alleged to have committed acts of harassment, intimidation, and/or bullying.

When an individual making an informal complaint has requested anonymity, the investigation of such complaint shall be limited as is appropriate in view of the anonymity of the complaint. Such limitation of investigation may include restricting action to a simple review of the complaint subject to receipt of further information and/or the withdrawal by the complaining student of the condition that his/her report be anonymous.

#### ***Privacy/Confidentiality***

The School District will respect the privacy of the complainant, the individual(s) against whom the complaint is filed, and the witnesses as much as possible, consistent with the Board's legal obligations to investigate, to take appropriate action, and to conform to any discovery or disclosure obligations. All records generated under this policy and its related administrative guidelines shall be maintained as confidential to the extent permitted by law.

#### ***Reporting Requirement***

At least semi-annually, the Superintendent shall provide to the President of the Board a written summary of all reported incidents and post the summary on the District website (if one exists). The list shall be limited to the number of verified acts of harassment, intimidation, and/or bullying, whether in the classroom, on school property, to and from school, or at school-sponsored events.

Allegations of criminal misconduct and suspected child abuse will be reported to the appropriate law enforcement agency and/or to Child Protective Services in accordance with statute. District personnel shall cooperate with investigations by such agencies.

#### ***Immunity***

A School District employee, student, or volunteer shall be individually immune from liability in a civil action for damages arising from reporting an incident in accordance with this policy and R.C. 3313.666 if that person reports an incident of harassment, intimidation, and/or bullying promptly, in good faith, and in compliance with the procedures specified in this policy. Such immunity from liability shall not apply to an employee, student, or volunteer determined to have made an intentionally false report about harassment, intimidation, and/or bullying.

#### ***Notification***

Notice of this policy will be annually circulated to and posted in conspicuous locations in all school buildings and departments within the District and discussed with students, as well as incorporated into the teacher, student, and parent/guardian handbooks. At least once each school year a written statement describing





the policy and consequences for violations of the policy shall be sent to each student's custodial parent or guardian.

The statement may be sent with regular student report cards or may be delivered electronically. The policy and an explanation of the seriousness of bullying by electronic means shall be made available to students in the District and to their custodial parents or guardians. State and Federal rights posters on discrimination and harassment shall also be posted at each building. All new hires will be required to review and sign off on this policy and the related complaint procedures.

### ***Education and Training***

In support of this policy, the Board promotes preventative educational measures to create greater awareness of aggressive behavior, including bullying and violence within a dating relationship. The Superintendent or designee shall provide appropriate training to all members of the School District community related to the implementation of this policy and its accompanying administrative guidelines. All training regarding the Board's policy and administrative guidelines about aggressive behavior and bullying in general, will be age and content appropriate.

Annually, the District shall provide all students enrolled in the District with age-appropriate instruction regarding the Board's policy, including a written or verbal discussion of the consequences for violations of the policy to the extent that State or Federal funds are appropriated for this purpose.

Students in grades seven (7) through twelve (12) shall receive age-appropriate instruction in dating violence prevention education, including instruction in recognizing dating violence warning signs and characteristics of healthy relationships. Parents, who submit a written request to the Building Director to examine the dating violence prevention instruction materials used in the school, will be afforded an opportunity to review the materials within a reasonable period of time.

The District shall provide training, workshops, and/or courses on this policy for school employees and volunteers who have direct contact with students, to the extent that State or Federal funds are appropriated for these purposes. Time spent by school staff in these training programs shall apply toward mandated continuing education requirements.

In accordance with Board Policy 8462, the Superintendent shall include a review of this policy on bullying and other forms of harassment in the required training in the prevention of child abuse, violence, and substance abuse and the promotion of positive youth development.

The Superintendent shall develop guidelines to implement this policy. Guidelines shall include reporting and investigative procedures, as needed. The complaint procedure established by the Superintendent shall be followed.



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# SECTION V – STUDENT ACTIVITIES

## ***School-Sponsored Clubs and Activities***

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

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

All students are permitted to participate in the activities of their choosing, as long as they meet the eligibility requirements. Participation in these activities is a privilege and not a right, and students may be prohibited from all or part of their participation in such activities by authorized school personnel without further notice, hearing and/or appeal rights in accordance with Board Policy 5610.05.

The Board authorizes the following student groups that are sponsored by a staff member.

## ***Clubs and Organizations***

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

The Board authorizes the following student groups that are sponsored by a staff member.

- Ski Club (6th Grade Only)
- Student Council
- Math Club
- Environmental Club
- Greensleeves Strings Group
- Drama Club
- Demon Leaders

## ***Non-School-Sponsored Clubs and Activities***

Non-school-sponsored student groups may meet in the school building during non-instructional hours. The application for permission to use school facilities can be obtained from the Principal. The applicant must verify that the activity is being initiated by students, that attendance is voluntary, that no school staff person is actively involved in the event, that the event will not interfere with school activities, and that non-school persons do not play a regular role in the meeting. All school rules relating to student conduct and equal opportunity to participate apply to such activities.

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

No non-district-sponsored organization may use the name of the school or school mascot on any materials or information.

The Westlake City Schools welcomes our community to utilize school district facilities. We utilize a calendar-based system, called [WCSD Community Use System](#), for facility rental requests. Please note there is a minimum 2 weeks' notice required for any facility request. All school rules relating to student conduct and equal opportunity to participate apply to such activities. Visit the “Business Affairs” section of the district website for additional information.



## Pay to Participate Fees

Checks made payable to WESTLAKE BOARD OF EDUCATION mailed to:

Mrs. Joanna Oestringen, Secretary at DIS  
2240 Dover Center Road  
Westlake, Ohio 44145

Sport/Club or Activity	Fee
Academic Contest	\$15
Greensleeves	\$15
Student Council	\$15

## SECTION VI - TRANSPORTATION

The School provides transportation for all students, in Kindergarten through Eighth grade, who live farther than 1 mile from school. The transportation schedule and routes are available by contacting the Transportation Office.

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

The principal may approve a change in a student's regular assigned bus stop to address a special need. Parents should send a note to the principal stating the reason for the request and the duration of the requested change.

### **Bus Conduct**

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

The driver may assign seating or direct students in any reasonable manner to maintain transportation safety. Students must comply with the following basic safety rules:

#### **PRIOR TO LOADING (ON THE ROAD AND AT SCHOOL). EACH STUDENT SHALL:**

1. Be on time at the designated loading zone.
2. Stay off the road at all times while walking to and waiting for school transportation.
3. Line up single file off the roadway to enter
4. Wait until the bus is completely stopped before entering.
5. Properly board and depart the bus or school vehicle.
6. Once on board, sit in the assigned seat.

It is the parent's responsibility to inform the bus driver when their child will not be aboard school transportation. Drivers will not wait for students who are not at their designated stops on time.

#### **DURING THE TRIP – EACH STUDENT SHALL:**

1. remain seated while the school transportation is in motion;
2. keep head, hands, arms, and legs inside the school transportation at all times;



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3. not push, shove or engage in scuffling;
  4. not litter in the school vehicle or throw anything in, into, or from the vehicle;
  5. keep books, packages, coats, and all other objects out of the aisle;
  6. be courteous to the driver and to other riders;
  7. not eat or play games, cards, etc.;
  8. not use nuisance devices (e.g., laser pointers) on the bus in a way that disrupts the safe transportation of students and/or endangers students or employees;
  9. do not tamper with the school vehicle or any of its equipment (including, but not limited to emergency and/ or safety equipment).

**EXITING THE SCHOOL VEHICLE - EACH STUDENT SHALL:**

1. remain seated until the vehicle has stopped;
2. cross the road, when necessary, at least 10 feet in front of the vehicle, but only after the driver signals that it is safe;
3. be alert to a possible danger signal from the driver.

The driver will not discharge students at places other than their regular stop at home or at school unless s/he has proper authorization from school officials.

The Board of Education has installed video cameras on school buses to monitor student behavior.

If a student misbehaves on a bus and his/her actions are recorded on a videotape, the tape will be submitted to the Principal and may be used as evidence of misbehavior.

***Penalties for Infractions***

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

## SECTION VII – GENERAL INFORMATION

**ENROLLMENT AND WITHDRAWAL**

***Enrolling in the School***

In general, State law requires students to enroll in the school district in which their parent or legal guardian resides. The Board of Education shall not allow students from other school districts to enroll in programs of this District on a non-tuition basis under an open-enrollment plan.

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

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

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

Students enrolling from another school must have an official transcript from their previous school in order





to have credits transferred. School officials will assist in obtaining the transcript, if not presented at the time of enrollment.

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

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

In addition, if a new student resides in the District with a grandparent and is the subject of a: (1) power of attorney designating the grandparent as the attorney-in-fact; or (2) a caretaker authorization affidavit executed by the grandparent that provides the grandparent with authority over the care, physical custody, and control of the child, including the ability to enroll the child in school, consent in all school related matters, and discuss with the District the child's educational progress, the student's grandparent may enroll the child in school on a tuition-free basis. However, in addition to the above-referenced documents that are typically required for enrollment, the grandparent must provide the District with a duly executed and notarized copy of a power of attorney or caretaker authorization affidavit.

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

If a student has been recently discharged or released from the custody of the Department of Youth Services (DYS) and is seeking admittance or re-admittance into the District, the student will not be admitted until the following records, which are required to be released by DHS to the Superintendent, have been received:

- A. an updated copy of the student's transcript;
- B. a report of the student's behavior while in DHS custody;
- C. the student's current IEP, if one has been developed for the child; and
- D. a summary of the instructional record of the child's behavior.

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

### ***Withdrawal/ Transfer from School***

No student under the age of eighteen (18) is allowed to withdraw from school without the written consent of his/ her parents and in compliance with State law. A student who otherwise withdraws from school shall be reported to the juvenile judge of the county and to the Bureau of Motor Vehicles for suspension of their driver's license, if s/he is under the age of 18.



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Parents must notify the Principal about plans to transfer their child to another school. School records, including disciplinary records of suspension and expulsion, will be transferred to the new school within 14 days of the parents' notice or request.

### ***Withdrawal of Students***

The Westlake City School System strives to be accurate and thorough in tracking student residency, attendance and enrollment status. As such, students will be withdrawn from the school system upon meeting any of the following circumstances:

- A. political affiliations or beliefs of the student or the student's parents; Receipt of signed, written notification from the student's parent/guardian requesting a records transfer to a designated school for the purpose of enrolling in that school
- B. Receipt of a written request for records from another school district indicating the student is seeking enrollment or has enrolled in another school district
- C. Inability to substantiate continued residency within Westlake, despite District attempts to verify residency, excluding exceptions outlined in ORC 3313.64 as permitted by current BOE policy.
- D. Withdrawal of any students that are truant as per the schools attendance policy.

### ***Homeless Students***

Homeless students will be provided with a free and appropriate public education in the same manner as other students served by the District. Homeless students are eligible to receive transportation services (K-8 only), participate in education programs for students with disabilities or limited English proficiency, participate in gifted and talented programs, and receive meals under school nutrition programs. Homeless students will not be denied enrollment based on lack of proof of residency. For additional information contact the liaison for Homeless Students. Westlake City School District's Homeless Liaison is the Director of Student Services. Please contact the Director of Student Services at 440-871-7300.

### ***Children and Youth in Foster Care***

Students who meet the Federal definition of "in foster care", including those who are awaiting foster care placement, will be provided a free appropriate public education (FAPE) in the same manner as all other students of the District. For additional information see Policy 5111.03.

## **HEALTH AND SAFETY**

### ***Student Well-Being***

Student safety is the responsibility of both students and staff. Staff members are familiar with emergency procedures such as evacuation procedures, fire and tornado drills, safety drills in the event of a terrorist or other violent attack, and accident reporting procedures. If a student is aware of any dangerous situation or accident, s/he must notify a staff person immediately.

State law requires that all students have an emergency medical authorization completed and signed by a parent or guardian on file in the School office.

Students with specific health care needs should deliver written notice about such needs, along with physician documentation, to the School office.

### ***Injury and Illness***

All injuries must be reported to a teacher or the office. If the injuries are minor, the student will be treated and may return to class. If medical attention is required, the office will follow the School's emergency procedures and attempt to make contact with the student's parents. A student who becomes ill during the





school day should request permission to go to the office. An appropriate adult in the office will determine whether the student should remain in school or go home. No student will be released from school without proper parental permission.

### **FIRE, SAFETY AND DRILLS**

The School complies with all fire safety laws and will conduct fire drills in accordance with State law. The School conducts tornado drills during the tornado season following procedures prescribed by the State. Teachers will provide specific instructions on how to proceed in the case of fire or tornado and will oversee the safe, prompt, and orderly evacuation of the building in such cases.

Safety drills will be conducted throughout the school year. Teachers will provide specific instruction on the appropriate procedures to follow in situations where students must be secured in their building rather than evacuated. These situations can include a terrorist threat, a person in possession of a deadly weapon on school property, or other acts of violence.

#### ***Fire Drills***

Fire drill procedures are posted in every classroom. Teachers will brief classes at the beginning of each semester regarding fire drill procedures. Students are to exit the building in a quiet, orderly manner. Upon leaving the building students are to remain with their classes and proceed to a designated area so attendance may be taken. Everyone must be at least 40 feet from the building and beyond access drives used by emergency vehicles. Students will return to the building in the same manner and route in which they left the building. Students will not return until teachers give the instructions upon hearing a re-entry signal. Pulling a fire alarm is a serious offense and will result in suspension, and possible recommendation and referral to municipal authorities for possible legal proceedings.

#### ***Tornado Drills***

Tornado drill procedures are posted in every classroom. Teachers will brief their classes at the beginning of each semester regarding tornado drill procedures, specifically during spring semester. In the event of a drill or actual severe weather, proceed to the designated area in a quiet, orderly manner. Assume the safety position as instructed by your teacher and listen attentively for additional instructions.

***Preparedness for Toxic and Asbestos Hazards*** - see Board Policy

### **SECURITY**

#### ***Student Lockers***

Lockers are school property and are under the control of Dover Intermediate School. Students accepting use of the lockers must also accept the related responsibilities, including keeping the assigned locker clean both inside and outside. The contents of the locker and the student belongings are subjected to a search at any time when there is reasonable suspicion that the contents may violate the student code of conduct or when the health, safety, or welfare of other students may be at risk. Dover Intermediate School assumes no responsibility for lost or stolen property or money kept in hallway or locker room lockers. Lockers are assigned to specific students and should not be shared with another student.

#### ***Video Surveillance***

All students, parents, and staff are advised that as a public school facility, students, parents, staff and building visitors do not have to expect privacy in connection with their actions and activities while in, on or about the campus. In an effort to increase school district security, provide greater safety for students, parents, staff, and building visitors, and to reduce vandalism and theft, many areas of the high school campus, both internally and externally, shall be subjected to video surveillance 24 hours a day/7 days a



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week. The recordings of such observations shall be available for use by the administrative staff if necessary, to enforce the student Code of Conduct, provisions by the school district, and the law.

### ***Student Visitors***

Dover Intermediate School is a closed campus and has a “No visitor” policy. Under very special circumstances, prior permission may be granted by the administration. The Dover Intermediate School student must present a signed written request from his/her parent or guardian to the Principal. Upon the evaluation of this request and the intended purpose of the visit, the Principal will make a decision and advise the student accordingly. If the request is granted, the following protocol must take place prior to the visit: (1) on the day of the student visit, the visitor must have permission in written form from his/her parent or guardian with phone numbers available; (2) on the day of the student visit, host student must present all documentation to the Principal; and (3) the Principal will be afforded the opportunity to meet with the host student and visiting student prior to issuing a visitor badge. (4) Administration and/or Guidance will notify staff of the visit. Failure to follow these procedures will result in denial of the request.

### ***Parent Visitors***

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

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

### ***Westlake Police Department – School Resource Officer (SRO)***

SROs work with students in grades K - 8. S/he may be contacted at 440-250-2935. The SRO is here to assist with the education of our students in regard to law related issues. At Dover Intermediate, the SRO teaches the DARE program to all fifth grade students. S/he is not here to discipline students for violations. The SRO may be involved in situations that require a police presence. Students may go to the SRO for a variety of different reasons. Westlake City Schools will at all times and in all circumstances cooperate to the fullest extent with the Westlake Police Department. Any request to interview a student will automatically follow the Board Policy that has been established. The Westlake Police telephone number is 440-871-3311.

### ***Student Attendance at School Events***

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

It is strongly advised that students attending evening events as nonparticipants be accompanied by a parent or adult chaperone. The Board is not responsible for supervising unaccompanied students nor will it be responsible for students who arrive without an adult chaperone.

### ***Emergency Medical Authorization***

A complete Emergency Medical Authorization Form must be on file with the School in order for a student to participate in any activity off school grounds, including field trips, spectator trips, athletic and other Extra-curricular activities, and co-curricular activities. The Emergency Medical Authorization must be submitted by the first day of school each year.





### ***Use of Medication***

Students who must take prescribed medication during the school day, must comply with the following guidelines:

Parents should, with the counsel of their child's prescriber, decide whether the medication schedule can be adjusted to avoid administering medication during school hours.

The appropriate form must be filed with the respective building principal before the student will be allowed to begin taking any medication during school hours or to use an inhaler to self-administer asthma medication. Such forms must be filed annually and as necessary for any change in the medication.

All medications must be registered with the Principal's Office and must be delivered to school in the original containers in which they were dispensed by the prescribing physician or licensed pharmacist, labeled with the date, the student's name, and the exact dosage to be administered.

1. Medication that is brought to the office will be properly secured. Except as noted below, medication must be delivered to the Principal's Office by the student's parent or guardian or by another responsible adult at the parent or guardian's request. Except as noted below, students may not bring medication to school. Students may carry emergency medications for allergies and/or reactions, or asthma inhalers during school hours provided the student has written permission from a parent or physician and has submitted the proper forms. In the case of epinephrine auto-injectors ("epi-pens"), in addition to written permission and submission of proper forms, the parent or student must provide a backup dose to the school nurse. Students are strictly prohibited from transferring emergency medication, epi-pens, or inhalers to any other student for their use or possession.
2. Medication may be conveyed to school directly by the parent or transported by transportation personnel (bus driver and/or bus aide) at parental request. This should be arranged in advance.
3. If, for supportable reasons, the Principal wishes to discontinue the privilege of a student self-administering a medication, except for the possession and use of asthma inhalers, the parent(s) shall be notified of the decision in sufficient time for an alternative means of administration to be established.
4. Any unused medication unclaimed by the parent will be destroyed by school personnel when a prescription is no longer to be administered or at the end of a school year.
5. The parents shall have sole responsibility to instruct their child to take the medication at the scheduled time.
6. The principal will maintain a log noting the personnel designated to administer medication, as well as the date and the time of day that administration is required. This log will be maintained along with the prescriber's written request and the parent's written release.

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

No staff member will dispense non prescribed, over-the-counter (OTC) medication to any student without prior parent authorization. Parents may authorize administration of a non-prescribed medication on forms that are available from the Principal's Office. Physician authorization is not required in such cases.

If a student is found using or possessing a non-prescribed medication, the student will be brought to the School office while the student's parents are contacted for authorization. The medication will be confiscated until written authorization is received.





Any student who distributes medication of any kind or who is found in possession of unauthorized medication is in violation of the School's Code of Conduct and will be disciplined in accordance with the drug-use provision of the Code.

Students shall be permitted to possess and self-administer over-the-counter topical sunscreen products, provided the student has submitted prior written approval of his/her parent/guardian to the principal, while on school property or at a school-sponsored event.

A student may possess and use a metered dose inhaler or a dry powder inhaler to alleviate asthmatic symptoms or before exercise to prevent the onset of asthmatic symptoms, at school or at any activity, event, or program sponsored by or in which the student's school is a participant if the appropriate form is completed and on file in the Principal's Office.

A student who is authorized to possess and use a metered dose or dry powder inhaler may not transfer possession of any inhaler or other medication to any other student.

### ***Control of Casual-Contact Communicable Diseases***

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

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

Any removal will be limited to the contagious period as specified in the School's administrative guidelines.

### ***Control of Non-Casual-Contact Communicable Diseases***

The School District has an obligation to protect staff and students from non-casual contact communicable diseases. When a non-casual-contact communicable disease is suspected, the student's health will be reviewed by a panel of resource people, including the County Health Department. The School will protect the privacy of the person affected and those in contact with the affected person. Students and staff will be permitted to remain in school unless there is definitive evidence to warrant exclusion.

Non-casual-contact communicable diseases include sexually transmitted diseases, AIDS, ARC-AIDS Related Complex, HIV, Hepatitis B, and other diseases that may be specified by the State Board of Health.

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

### ***Control of Bloodborne Pathogens***

The School District seeks to provide a safe educational environment for students and take appropriate measures to protect those students who may be exposed to blood-borne pathogens in the school environment and/or during their participation in school-related activities. While the risks of students being exposed to blood-borne pathogens may be low, students must assume that all body fluids are potentially infectious and must take precaution to follow universal procedures in order to reduce such risks and minimize and/or prevent the potential for accidental infection.



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Whenever a student has contact with blood or other potentially infectious material, s/he must immediately notify any staff member. The parents of a student who is exposed will be contacted immediately regarding the exposure

and encouraged to have the student's blood tested for Hepatitis B and HIV either by his/her physician or Cuyahoga County Health Department. The student's parents are encouraged to consult with the student's physician concerning any necessary post-exposure treatment.

The parents of the student who caused the exposure will also be contacted immediately and advised to have the student's blood tested for Hepatitis B and HIV virus either in cooperation with his/her physician or Cuyahoga County Health Department.

### ***Immunizations***

Students must be current with all immunizations required by law, including but not limited to poliomyelitis, measles, diphtheria, rubella, pertussis, tetanus, and mumps, or have an authorized exemption from State immunization requirements. Kindergarten students must be immunized against Hepatitis B and chickenpox. For the safety of all students, the school principal may remove a student from school or establish a deadline for meeting State requirements if a student does not have the necessary immunizations or authorized exemption. In the event of a chicken pox epidemic, the Superintendent may temporarily deny admission to a student otherwise exempted from the chicken pox immunization requirement. Any questions about immunizations or exemptions should be directed to the school nurse or building principal.

### ***Students with Disabilities***

The American's with Disabilities Act (A.D.A.) and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act (Section 504) prohibit discrimination against persons with a disability in any program receiving Federal financial assistance. This protection applies not just to students, but to all individuals who have access to the District's programs and facilities.

The laws define a person with a disability as anyone who:

- Has a mental or physical impairment that substantially limits one or more major life activities;
- Has a record of such an impairment; or
- Is regarded as having such an impairment.

The District has specific responsibilities under these two laws, which include identifying, reviewing and, if the child is determined to be eligible, affording access to appropriate educational accommodation.

Additionally, in accordance with State and Federal mandates, the District seeks out, assesses and appropriately services students with disabilities. Staff members use a comprehensive child study process to systematically screen, assess and, if appropriate, place students in special education and related services. Students are entitled to a free appropriate public education in the "least restrictive environment."

A student can access special education and related services through the proper evaluation procedures. Parent involvement in this procedure is important and required by Federal (IDEA and A.D.A. Section 504) and State law. Contact your building principal at 440-835-6340 to inquire about evaluation procedures, programs, and services.

### ***Hall Passes/Hallway Behavior***

Students must have in their possession a staff issued hallway pass while classes are in session. Hallway passes are not to be abused. Students may lose hallway privileges if this occurs. Students must respect





the rights of others during period exchange time. Running, shouting, and public displays of affection are unacceptable behaviors. After the start of the school day, food and beverages may only be consumed in the cafeteria. Any food or drink items in the hallway or classrooms may be confiscated.

During the lunch periods all students will remain in the cafeteria for the entire period. Only specified restrooms can be used during lunch periods. All other areas are restricted unless special authorization is granted by administration and/or a teacher.

### ***Physical Education Class***

All students are required to participate in the Physical Education program. Students who cannot participate for long-term medical reasons (more than 2 successive classes) must have a written excuse signed by a doctor on file in the physical education office. These students are not required to dress for class during the excused period of time and should arrange with their teacher to use class time to work on appropriate assignments. Students may return to regular physical education class with written permission from their doctor.

Students who cannot participate for short-term reasons (one or two successive classes) must have a written excuse signed by a parent/guardian, for each day they are excused.

While students are not required to change clothes for physical education, they should come to class with clothing and footwear that allows him/ her to fully participate in the physical education curriculum. This includes socks and closed-toe tennis shoes.

### ***LINK***

LINK is the school age childcare program provided by the Westlake City Schools to Westlake residents. LINK is in session each instructional day from 6:30 A.M. – the start of the school day and again from the conclusion of the school day until 6:00 P.M. Program and enrollment information is available online at [www.wlake.org/link](http://www.wlake.org/link), in each school office or by contacting the Project Link/ Club W office at 440-835-6306.

### **LATE PICKUP**

If a student remains at Project Link over ½ hour past closing, and all reasonable attempts have been made to contact the parent(s)/guardian(s) and all other emergency contacts provided by the parent(s)/guardian(s), and the parent(s)/guardian(s) have made no discernible attempt to contact the student's Project Link site. The child will be turned over to the Westlake Police and considered abandoned.

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

Parents who drive students to school and/or drop off must pick up their students at the designated areas. Safety is Westlake City Schools' priority. Specific areas of student drop off, traffic patterns, and parking will be communicated to parents, community members, and students by administration.

### ***Bike Riders and Walkers***

All students are expected to obey all traffic signals and rules whether walking or whether riding a bike to school. All bicycles must be properly licensed, parked in the proper rack and locked. Parking lots and traffic lanes are potential danger areas. Students are urged to use extreme caution and exercise good judgment.





### ***Skateboards/Rollerblades***

Skateboards and rollerblades may not be used on school grounds or in the building; they present a safety hazard.

### ***Use of the Library/ Media Center***

The use of the library/media center is a privilege for students at Dover Intermediate School. Students are encouraged to utilize the resources and services available there. Refer to the Library Information packet for more details. In order to avoid late fees, all materials checked out of the library must be returned by the designated date.

### ***Use of Office Telephones***

Office telephones may not be used for personal calls. Except in an emergency, students will not be called to the office to receive a telephone call.

Telephones are available in the School for students to use when they are not in class. Students are not to use telephones to call parents to receive permission to leave school. Office personnel will initiate all calls on behalf of a student seeking permission to leave school.

### ***Use of School Equipment and Facilities***

Students must receive teacher permission before using any equipment or materials in the classroom. Students must seek permission from the Principal prior to using any other school equipment or facility. Students are responsible for the proper use and protection of any equipment or facility they are permitted to use.

### ***Use of Computer Technology and Networks***

The District provides Internet services to its students. The District's Internet system has a limited educational purpose and has not been established as a public access service or a public forum. Student use of the District's computers, network and Internet services/connection ("Network") are governed by the following principles and guidelines, and the Student Code of Conduct. Users have a limited privacy expectation in the content of their personal files and records of their online activity while on the Network.

Parents and students are advised that the Board may not be able to technologically limit access through the Board's Internet connection to only those services that have been authorized for the purpose of instruction, study and research related to the curriculum. Because it serves as a gateway to any publicly available file server in the world, the Internet opens classrooms and students to electronic information resources that have not been screened by educators for use by students of various ages. The District utilizes a Technology Protection Measure, which is a specific technology that will protect against (e.g., filter or block) access to visual displays/depictions that are obscene, pornographic, and materials that are harmful to minors, as defined by the Children's Internet Protection Act. At the discretion of the Board or the Superintendent, the Technology Protection Measure may be configured to protect against access to other material considered inappropriate for students to access.

The District further utilizes software and/or hardware to monitor online activity of students to restrict access to child pornography and other material that is obscene, objectionable, inappropriate and/or harmful to minors. Nevertheless, parents/guardians are advised that a determined user may be able to





gain access to services on the Internet that are not authorized for educational purposes. In fact, it is impossible to guarantee students will not gain access through the Internet to information and communications that they and/or their parents/ guardians may find inappropriate, offensive, objectionable or controversial. Parents/Guardians assume risks by consenting to allow their child to participate in the use of the Internet. Parents/Guardians of minors are responsible for setting and conveying the standards that their children should follow when using the Internet. The District supports and respects each family's right to decide whether to apply for independent student access to the Internet.

Students are encouraged to use the "Network" for educational purposes. Use of the Network is a privilege, not a right. When using the Network, students must conduct themselves in a responsible, efficient, ethical, and legal manner. Students are responsible for good behavior on the District's computers/network and the Internet just as they are in classrooms, school hallways, and other school premises and school sponsored events. Communications on the Internet are often public in nature. General school rules for behavior and communication apply. Unauthorized or inappropriate use of the Network, including any violation of these rules, may result in cancellation of the privilege, disciplinary action consistent with the Student Code of Conduct, and/ or civil or criminal liability. Prior to accessing the Network, students must sign the Student Network and Internet Acceptable Use and Safety Agreement. Parent permission is required for minors. Parents are encouraged to discuss their values with their children so that students can make decisions regarding their use of the Network that is in accord with their personal and family values, in addition to the Board's standards.

Students must complete a mandatory training session/program regarding the appropriate use of technology and online safety and security as specified in Policy 7540.03 – Student Network and Internet Acceptable Use and Safety before being permitted to access the Network and/or being assigned an email address.

Smooth operation of the Network relies upon users adhering to the following guidelines. The guidelines outlined below are not exhaustive but are provided so that users are aware of their general responsibilities.

Students are responsible for their behavior and communication on the Network. For more information see Board Policies.

## **SCHOOL CLOSURES**

### ***Cancellations Due to Weather***

When early morning weather and road conditions are deemed hazardous, especially for school transportation, the district will announce closure of schools on local radio/television stations and through electronic communication. All activities scheduled in district facilities are canceled. Interscholastic sports events, games, and practices are postponed. Parents and students are responsible for knowing about emergency closings and delays.

## **GENERAL SCHOOL INFORMATION**

### ***Backpacks***

Backpacks, gym bags, briefcases, etc. are not to be used during the school day. They may, however, be used to transport books, lunches, and other appropriate items to and from school. Once at school, these conveyances must remain in a student's locker.

### ***Student Valuables***

Students should not bring items of value to school. Items such as jewelry, expensive clothing, electronic



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equipment, and the like, are tempting targets for theft and extortion. The School is not liable for any loss or damage to personal valuables.

### ***Lost and Found***

The lost and found area is in the main office or also in the cafeteria. Students who have lost items should check there and may retrieve their items if they give a proper description. Unclaimed items will be given to charity at the close of the school year.

### ***Meal Service***

The School participates in the National School Lunch Program and makes lunches available to students for a fee. Ala carte items are available. Students may also bring their own lunch to school to be eaten in the School's cafeteria.

Applications for the School's Free and Reduced-Priced Meal program are distributed to all students. If a student does not receive an application form and believes s/he is eligible, contact the building secretary.

### ***Field Trips***

Field trips are academic activities that are held off school grounds. There are also other trips that are part of the School's co-curricular and extracurricular program. No minor student may participate in any school-sponsored trip without parental consent and a current emergency medical form on file in the office. Medications normally administered at school will be administered while on field trips. The Dover Intermediate Field Trip, Attendance and The Student Code of Conduct policies apply to all field trips. While the district encourages students to participate in field trips, alternative assignments will be provided for any student whose parent does not give permission for the student to attend.

### ***Protection and Privacy of Student Records***

The Westlake School District Board of Education is required to follow Ohio and federal law as to the maintenance and release of student records. The School District maintains many student records including both directory information and confidential information.

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

Other than directory information, access to all other student records is protected by FERPA and Ohio law. Except in limited circumstances as specifically defined in State and Federal law, the School District is prohibited from releasing confidential education records to any outside individual or organization without the prior written consent of the parents, or the adult student, as well as those individuals who have matriculated and entered a postsecondary educational institution at any age. The Board will provide access or release directory information to armed forces recruiters unless the parent or student requests that prior written consent be obtained.

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

Students and parents have the right to review and receive copies of all educational records. Costs for





copies of records may be charged to the parent. To review student records please provide a written notice identifying requested student records to the building principal. You will be given an appointment with the appropriate person to answer any questions and to review the requested student records.

Parents and adult students have the right to amend a student record when they believe that any of the information contained in the record is inaccurate, misleading or violates the student's privacy. A parent or adult student must request the amendment of a student record in writing and if the request is denied, the parent or adult student will be informed of his/her right to a hearing on the matter.

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

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

Consistent with the PPRA and Board policy, parents may inspect any materials used in conjunction with any such survey, analysis, or evaluation. Please contact the Superintendent or designee to inspect such materials.

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

The Superintendent will notify parents of students in the District, at least annually at the beginning of the school year, of the specific or approximate dates during the school year when the following activities are scheduled or expected to be scheduled:

- activities involving the collection, disclosure, or use of personal information collected from students for the purpose of marketing or for selling that information or otherwise providing that information to others for that purpose); and
- the administration of any survey by a third party that contains one or more of the items described in A through H above.

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

Family Policy Compliance Office





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

Informal inquiries may be sent to the Family Policy Compliance Office via the following email addresses: FERPA@ED.Gov; and PPRA@ED.Gov.

### ***Student Fundraising***

Students participating in school-sponsored groups and activities may solicit funds from other students, staff members, and members of the community in accordance with school guidelines. The following general rules apply to all fundraisers:

Student fund-raising by approved school organizations off school grounds may be permitted under guidelines of the Superintendent.

Students may not sell any item or service in school without the prior approval of the Principal. Violation of this policy may lead to disciplinary action.

### ***Transmission of Records and Other Communications***

Parents who elect to communicate with a staff member via e-mail are required to keep the District informed of any changes to their email address.

PUBLIC SCHOOL CHOICE OPTIONS - see Board Policy

## **FEES**

### ***Student Fees and Fines***

Students will be provided necessary textbooks for courses of instruction without cost. In accordance with State law, Dover Intermediate School charges specific fees for certain activities and materials used in the course of instruction that are reviewed and Board approved on a yearly basis.

Charges may also be imposed for loss, damage or destruction of school apparatus, equipment, musical instruments, library materials, textbooks and for damage to school buildings or property. Students using school property and equipment can be fined for excessive wear and abuse of the property and equipment.

Fees may be waived in situations where there is financial hardship. A fee waiver form must be completed and returned to the building principal. Students can avoid late fines by promptly returning borrowed materials.

Failure to pay fines, fees, or charges may result in the withholding of grades and credits.

Westlake City School District Board of Education Policies -  
<https://go.boarddocs.com/oh/westlake/Board.nsf/Public>

## ***PTA***

Parent Teacher Associations maintain active involvement at DIS and this strong partnership benefits our student body in many ways. Participation in our PTA is encouraged. Please reach out to the front office for more information about joining this vital organization.

