



WESTLAKE CITY SCHOOLS

2018-2019

STUDENT-PARENT HANDBOOK

LEE BURNESON MIDDLE SCHOOL

2260 Dover Center Road
Westlake, OH 44145

(440) 835-6340

FAX: (440) 808-8964

www.wlake.org

ATTENDANCE

440-835-6337 (24 hours a day)

Dr. Scott Goggin, Superintendent
Mrs. Amanda Musselman, Principal
Mr. Kevin Barre, Assistant Principal
Mr. Dennis Sullivan, Athletic Director
Officer Keenan Cook, School Resource Officer (WPD)



CALENDAR OF EVENTS 2018-2019

(Some dates subject to change)

Aug 22	Wed	First Day of School
Sep 3	Mon	Labor Day - NO SCHOOL
Oct 12	Fri	NEOEA Day - NO SCHOOL
Oct 25	Thurs	End of First Quarter
Oct 26	Fri	Staff Work Day - NO SCHOOL
Nov 15	Thurs	Evening K-8 Conferences
Nov 19	Mon	Evening K-8 Conferences
Nov 20	Tues	Day Conferences - NO SCHOOL (for K-8 Students)
Nov 21 -23	Wed-Fri	Thanksgiving Break – NO SCHOOL
Nov 30	Fri	Geography Bee (Tentative)
Dec 5	Wed	8th Grade Choir/ Band/ Orchestra Concert
Dec 12	Wed	7th Grade Choir/ Band/ Orchestra Concert
Dec. 24-Jan 4	Mon-Fri	Winter Break – NO SCHOOL
Jan 7	Mon	School Resume
Jan 17	Thurs	End of 2nd Quarter/1st Semester
Jan 18	Fri	Staff Work Day - NO SCHOOL
Jan 21	Mon	Martin Luther King, Jr. Day-NO SCHOOL
Feb 18	Mon	Presidents' Day – NO SCHOOL
Mar 28	Thurs	End of 3rd Quarter
Mar 29	Fri	Staff Work Day - NO SCHOOL
Apr 19-Apr 26	Fri-Fri	Spring Break – NO SCHOOL
Apr 29	Mon	School Resumes
May 27	Mon	Memorial Day – NO SCHOOL
May 29-May 31	Wed-Fri	8th Grade Washington, D.C. Trip
June 5	Wed	8th Grade Recognition (Red 9:30, White 11:30, Blue 1:30)
June 5	Wed	Last Day of School
Jun 6	Thurs	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: <http://www.neola.com/westlakecity-oh/>



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.

LEE BURNESON 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

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 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.

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.

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 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.

For Standard Grades 7-8 Courses

1. A student must pass three of the four CORE subjects (Language Arts, Math, Science, and Social Studies) in order to be promoted.
2. If Math or English is not passed, attendance in summer school will be required.
3. Students not meeting the criteria for promotion will be identified and provided assistance by the grade level team and guidance staff.
4. When a student's academic progress jeopardizes promotion, the student and parents will be notified. This will occur generally at the end of each grading period and/or no later than midpoint of the fourth quarter.
5. The decision to promote or retain will be made by the building principal and may be affected by mitigating circumstances

Letter Grade	Percentage Grade	Point Value Regular	Point Value Honors/AP/CCP/IB
A+	97-100	4.33	5.33
A	93-96	4.00	5.00 Superior Rating
A-	90-92	3.67	4.67
B+	87-89	3.33	4.33
B	83-86	3.00	4.00 High Rating
B-	80-82	2.67	3.67
C+	77-79	2.33	2.33
C	73-76	2.00	2.00
C-	70-72	1.67	1.67
D+	67-69	1.33	1.33
D	63-66	1.00	1.00
D-	60-62	0.67	0.67
F	00-59	0.00	0.00

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



Final Grade Computations

Final grade computations are determined by an average of each quarter and the semester ending exam. Each quarter receives 40 percent weight while the exam receives 20 percent. ****Algebra I, Honors Geometry, Honors Algebra II, Honors Physical Science courses will utilize the high school grading scale and will be reflected on official high school transcript.**

Class Rank/Grade Point Average

Class rank is determined by a student's cumulative grade point average. Adding the number of points for each letter grade and then dividing by the total number of credits compute this average. All courses will be included in a student's cumulative grade point average; this includes all College Credit Plus courses. Grading Scale (Honors/Regular) Courses designated as Honors, and some CCP have weighted grades.

Withdrawal Policy for High School Credit Courses

Once scheduling is complete, it is the understanding there should be no adjustments. Students may not withdraw from a class who are achieving a "C" or better academically. Students withdrawing from a course who do not meet the following guidelines may have an "F" placed on their transcripts. Students should follow this procedure prior to attempting to drop a course: (1) complete documentation showing that the student contacted the teacher for additional support; (2) complete documentation showing that the student attained the additional support for at least one grading period; (3) request their counselor contact the teacher to inquire regarding academic placement; (4) the counselor will contact the appropriate assistant principal regarding the academic placement. Exceptions to these rules may be considered by administration.

High School Credit Courses

Credit will be granted on a semester basis. Thirty-six week courses will reflect .50 credits earned each semester. The two separate final grades will not be averaged together. Eighteen week courses will reflect the .50 credits earned in the semester the course was taken. Students failing a semester of a yearlong course must repeat the semester of the course failed. It is also very important to realize that failing for a quarter jeopardizes students' chances of passing the subject for the semester respective to the marks received for the other quarter and the semester final. Students need to see their counselors immediately if this scenario occurs.

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 pattern should coincide with the system of grade levels established by this Board and the instructional objectives established for each.



Promotion:

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. 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 (Algebra I and Geometry) as a requirement for graduation. Ohio State assessments are typically given from March to May every year.

State Assessments			
Grade Level	English Language Arts	Mathematics	Science
7	x	x	Not Applicable
8	x	x	x
High School EOC Exams	Not Applicable		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.

Use of Assessments

State assessment results, NWEA MAP or other diagnostic data will be used to determine proper placement into advanced or accelerated courses.

Eligibility-Interscholastic Athletics and Extracurricular Activities

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 or 8 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 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.

College Credit Plus

Ohio's College Credit Plus (CCP) program allows Ohio high school students to earn college credit and high school graduation credit through the successful completion of college courses. The purpose of the CCP program is to promote rigorous academic pursuits and expose students to options beyond the high school classroom. Any high school student admitted to a course by an institution of higher education will be required to perform at the same level as the institution's regular students. CCP allows seventh through twelfth graders to take college courses at a college campus or, when available, onsite at their high school. More information is available on the following website: (www.ohiohighered.org/college_credit_plus). Please see the Guidance Activities section for the date/time/location of the mandatory meeting held for all those interested in participating in the CCP program.



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 Lee Burneson Middle School's counseling department's purpose is to provide each child the opportunity for growth as individuals according to their interests, needs, and potential.

Staff

- Grade 7 - Mrs. Adeena Sedlak-Horne, Counselor
- Grade 8 - Mrs. Saskia Romeo, 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.

Secondary Level

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.

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 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. The official complaint form may be obtained from either the central office or the Westlake City Schools website under the section Parental/Student Forms.



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.

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. 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 7 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 8:25 am until 3:20 pm. 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 8:00 a.m. on each day of the absence. The attendance number is (440) 835-6337 and may be called 24 hours per day.
2. If no call is received by 8:00 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.



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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 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 counseling 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 11:55 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 the administration prior to weekend participation.

Excused and Unexcused Tardiness

School starts at 8:25 a.m. Students arriving after 8:25 a.m. are to report directly to the Counseling 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 counseling 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 counseling office.



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 to prior to the student leaving; upon return to school the office will require verification from the doctor's office.
- Failure to follow the procedure will result in an unexcused absence.

Family Vacation / Planned Absence Policy

Students who are going on a family vacation should pick up the "Planned Absence Form" in the counseling 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.

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

Students who are absent on a short term basis (1-2 days) should make up missed assignments within a week after returning to school.

Students, absent for an extended period of time should make up their missed assignments, as the teacher directs.

All homework assignments issued during a planned absence shall be turned in 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 arrange assignment schedules from teachers for absences exceeding three days.
- Teachers reserve the right to set firm deadlines for long term assignments/projects.
- Assignments may also be made up during academic assist. It is the responsibility of the student to secure a pass in advance from the classroom teacher and present it to the academic assist teacher. Not following the correct procedure could result in the student being reported as "cutting" a class.

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.



SECTION IV - STUDENT DISCIPLINE

DISTRICT CODE OF CONDUCT

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.

CODE OF CONDUCT

A major component of the educational program of Lee Burneson Middle 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 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 (gr. 7-12 only)
2nd	Up to 5-day Out-of-School Suspension and/or Friday School (gr. 7-12 only)
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 appearance code in 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 ECDs

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.

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;
- 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 innuendoes, 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 Coordinator - Director of Student Services.

The Complaint Coordinator (contact Director of Student Services at 440.871.7300) 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.

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 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 students 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 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 interscholastic 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.

<u>OFFENSE</u>	<u>CONSEQUENCE</u>
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 like health organization approved by the Board of Education. Student 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 court referral and/or recommendation for expulsion.
2nd	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 purpose, 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>
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	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 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	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 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	10-day Out-of-School Suspension and/or court referral and/or recommendation for expulsion.

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>
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 LBMS

Students who are assigned detentions must report to the designated area and will serve from either **7:50-8:20 a.m. (morning detentions) or 3:30- 5:30 p.m. (two-hour after school detentions)** Morning detentions will be assigned as needed for minor infractions by teachers or office, and two-hour detentions will be assigned for larger infractions by administration. Transportation is the student's responsibility.

Friday Evening Detention (located at WHS)

Friday Evening detentions will be assigned as needed. Transportation is the student's responsibility.

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.

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 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 three (3) school days 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 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) 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 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 College Credit Plus 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 a crime on the property of any Ohio school. 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:

1. is obscene to minors, libelous, or pervasively indecent or vulgar;
2. advertises any product or service not permitted to minors by law;
3. intends to be insulting or harassing;
4. intends to incite fighting; or
5. 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 the Westlake Schools. Lee Burneson Middle 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 disruption of the educational process will not be permitted.
2. Tank tops, spaghetti straps, or cap sleeves are not permitted.
3. Pants, shorts, or skirts with excessive or distracting rips or holes are not permitted.
4. Pants that are excessively baggy and do not stay above the student's waist are not permitted
5. Short shorts or skirts must follow the fingertip length requirement.
6. If leggings or tights are worn, shirt must reach fingertip length.
7. Students may not wear clothing that exhibits obscene statements, pictures, gestures.
8. Students are not permitted to wear hats or any type of headgear, such as bandanas, in school.
9. Appropriate footwear must be worn at all times.
10. Shirts that expose midriff or are deemed to be inappropriate by administration are not permitted.
11. 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 or special situations for the purposes of safety.

Any student representing Lee Burneson Middle 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.

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

Care of Property

Students are responsible for the care of their own personal property. The School 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 enroute 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:

- 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 assistance (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 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 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 Superintendent's 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 web site (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. R.C. 3313.666, 3313.667 State Board of Education Model Policy (2007)



SECTION VI - 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

Lee Burneson Middle 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.

- Newspaper Staff
- Builders Club
- Math Club
- Ski Club
- Academic Challenge
- Student Council
- Burneson +
- Yearbook
- Band
- Orchestra
- Choir
- Jazz Ensemble
- Brigade

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.

- Cheer
- Boys and Girls Cross Country
- Football
- Volleyball
- Wrestling
- Boys and Girls Basketball
- Softball
- Boys and Girls Track

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.

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 proscribed 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.

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 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 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;
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;



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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.



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 reside. 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 parent 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.

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:

- 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
- Accumulation of 105 consecutive hours of unexcused absences without documented rationale for those absences despite district staff members' efforts to contact the parent/guardian/student to remedy attendance.
- 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.

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 Associate Superintendent of Instruction. Please contact her 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.

FIRE, TORNADO, AND SAFETY 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 Lee Burneson Middle 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. Lee Burneson Middle 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 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

Lee Burneson Middle School is a closed campus and has a “No visitor” policy. Under very special circumstances, prior permission may be granted by the administration. The Lee Burneson Middle School student must present a signed written request from his/her parent or guardian to the assistant principal. Upon the evaluation of this request and the intended purpose of the visit, the assistant 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 assistant principal; and (3) the assistant 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)

The SRO’s office is located in the Main Office. S/he may be contacted at 440-250-1330. The SRO is here in an effort to assist with the education of our students in regard to law related issues. 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. The Westlake 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 extracurricular 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, determine with the counsel of their child's prescriber 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.
 - a. 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.
 - b. The parents shall have sole responsibility to instruct their child to take the medication at the scheduled time.
4. 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.

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 Blood-Borne 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.

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 school nurse or building principal.

FACILITIES

Cafeteria Rules

The use of the cafeteria is a privilege; all students are expected to adhere to the following:

- All students must display a valid LBMS Student I.D. Card or Student ID number.
- All students using the cafeteria are encouraged to use a tray.
- Students will enter the cafeteria and sit before being released to the lunch lines
- Keep the cafeteria clean and free of litter.
- Return and empty the trays promptly when finished eating.
- Be considerate of others and clean/bus your table and surrounding area.
- During a student's lunch period, food and beverage items are to be consumed in the cafeteria only.
- Possession of any food or beverage item is prohibited in the classroom, unless given permission by the classroom teacher.
- Ordering food to be delivered to the school is not permitted.
- No glass containers are permitted.
- One table is designated as a nut-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.

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. These students must still dress for class but will not be allowed to participate

Dress Code

The required uniform to be worn consists of socks (any length), securely tied shoes, and a prescribed green T-shirt and green shorts purchased through Westlake Demons Athletic Boosters in the LBMS main office. In addition, sweatpants and a sweatshirt may be kept in gym lockers and worn as needed.



P.E. Behavior

Students are expected to observe the school's rules of behavior as stated in the student handbook, whenever they are in the building, the gym or on school grounds. These include but are not limited to: treating yourself and others with respect (no tussling, no disruptive behavior, and no loud, abusive or threatening language); coming prepared with uniform and on time to class; helping and encouraging fellow students; using school property and equipment as intended.

P.E. Locks and Lockers

Each student will be assigned a small gym locker and lock. During class, students may use the adjacent long lockers to hang their school clothes. After class, students should return their physical education clothes to their small locker. It is the student's responsibility to keep his/her combination private and to keep the locker being used locked at all times. Any student losing a lock will be assessed a replacement fee and will receive a new lock. The school is not responsible for clothing/apparel that is misplaced, lost or stolen. Consequences will be levied against students who steal or abuse other's property.

Club W

Club W is the school age childcare program provided by the Westlake City Schools to Westlake residents. Club W 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, in each school office or by contacting the Project Link/ Club W office at 440-835-6306.

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 roller blades 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 Lee Burneson Middle 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 e-mail 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 cancelled. Interscholastic sports events, games, and practices are postponed. Parents and students are responsible for knowing about emergency closings and delays.

Delayed Start

Should inclement weather or emergency situations result in the closing of school, or in the adjustment to school starting or dismissal times, the information will be conveyed through Channel 22/18 WHBS, local radio/television stations, and through electronic communication. Vocational runs will be adjusted according to the schedule.

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 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 near the vending machines 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 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 Burneson Field Trip, Attendance and The Student Code of Conduct policies apply to all field trips.

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 request 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 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 un-emancipated minor, his/her parents, to submit to or participate in any survey, analysis, or evaluation that reveals information concerning:

- political affiliations or beliefs of the student or the student’s parents;
- mental or psychological problems of the student or the student’s family;
- sex behavior or attitudes;
- illegal, antisocial, self-incriminating or demeaning behavior;
- critical appraisals of other individuals with whom respondents have close family relationships;
- legally recognized privileged and analogous relationships, such as those of lawyers, physicians, and ministers;
- religious practices, affiliations, or beliefs of the student or his/her parents; or
- 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 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:



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- 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

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.

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 [telephone] to inquire about evaluation procedures, programs, and services.

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 e-mail 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, Lee Burneson Middle School charges specific fees for certain activities and materials used in the course of instruction. More information about these fees can be found by visiting the building website at:
<https://www.wlake.org/our-schools/lee-burneson-middle/news-events/forms-documents>

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 - <http://www.neola.com/westlakecity-oh/>



Westlake City Schools

Athletic Code of Conduct/Handbook for LBMS and WHS Student Athletes

An Athlete's Responsibilities to Self and Others

A firm and fair policy of enforcement is necessary to uphold the regulations and standards of the athletic department. The community, school administrators and the coaching staff feel strongly that high standards of conduct and citizenship are essential in maintaining a sound program of athletics. The welfare of the student is our major consideration and transcends any other consideration.

All athletes shall abide by a code of ethics, which will earn them the honor and respect that participation and competition in the interscholastic program affords. Any conduct that results in dishonor to the athlete, the team or the school will not be condoned. Acts of unacceptable conduct by student-athletes tarnish the reputation of everyone associated with Demon Athletics and the Westlake City Schools.

As a member of an athletic team, you represent the Westlake Schools and the tradition of Demon Pride that it symbolizes. Interscholastic athletics are an integral part of the total educational program. High standards of scholarship, behavior and citizenship are important to maintain in all aspects of school. Students volunteering to participate must assume the responsibilities of these privileges and are required to meet expectations beyond those set for non-athletes. The younger students in Westlake are watching you. They will copy you in many ways. Do not do anything to let them down.

Eligibility Standards

In order to be eligible in grades 9-12, a student must be currently enrolled and must have been enrolled in school the immediately preceding grading period (interscholastic only). During the preceding grading period, the student must have received passing grades in a minimum of five one-credit courses or the equivalent, which count toward graduation, and earn a grade point average of 1.50 or above. Fall incoming 9th grade student's eligibility will be determined on the last grading period of the 8th grade.

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 or 8 must be currently enrolled and must have been enrolled in the school the immediately preceding grading period and received passing grades during the period in 75% of those subjects carried the preceding grading period in which the student was enrolled, and earn a grade point average of 1.50 or above.

Any student who arrives at Westlake High School after their freshman year is considered a transfer student and must see the Athletic Director immediately to determine their eligibility and complete any OHSAA required paperwork prior to competing for LBMS or WHS.

Students may participate in interscholastic athletics and extracurricular activities if they receive a failing grade for any course in the immediately preceding grading period provided they meet the eligibility requirements above.

Those student-athletes taking CCP classes should check with their counselors and with the Athletic Department to make sure they have enough credits to maintain eligibility. This is ultimately the responsibility of the student athlete with assists from the guidance office and the athletic department.

Extracurricular activities are those activities not for academic credit that meet after school for two or more times per week 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.



Requirements For Participation

Remember that as an athlete you are not eligible to participate until the following items have been completed (forms available in the athletic office/main office and online via registration gateway).

1. *Insurance Form*

The school district does not carry insurance to cover individual student athletic injuries. Parents will need to sign the insurance form stating they have purchased insurance or possess a family insurance plan.

2. *Eligibility Requirements*

3. *Code of Conduct/Student Handbook Acknowledgement Form*

4. *Physical Examination Completed and OHSAA form on file in Athletic Office*

A yearly physical examination is required. The physical form must be completed by a physician and submitted to the coach or athletic office prior to the official starting date of the sport. The form will be kept on file in the student office for one year.

5. *Emergency Medical Form*

Each athlete's parents shall complete an Emergency Medical Authorization Card giving permission for treatment by a physician or hospital when the parents are not available. A copy of the card will be kept with the coach at all times.

6. *Scholastic Eligibility*

In order to participate on a Westlake athletic team, each athlete must have satisfied all of the scholastic eligibility requirements prior to participation.

Every attempt will be made by the administration and coaches to assist student athletes in meeting the standards set by the state and school board, but ultimately the responsibility lies with the student.

Risk of Participation

All athletes and parents must realize the risk of serious injury and in extreme cases, death, which may be result of athletic participation. The Westlake School District will use the following safeguards to make every effort to eliminate injury:

- All coaches will follow OHSAA guidelines concerning coaching certifications.
- A certified athletic trainer will be available to all athletes for consultation and rehabilitation of injury.
- Maintain a continuing education program for coaches to have the opportunity to learn the most up-to-date techniques and skills to be taught in their sport.

Guidelines for Possible Cutting of Student-Athletes from Athletic Teams

Time, space, facilities, equipment, economics and other factors will place limitations on the most effective squad size for any particular sport. In accordance with our philosophy of athletics and our desire to see as many students as possible participate in the athletic programs, we encourage coaches to keep as many students as they can without compromising the integrity of the sport.

The most difficult job of any coach is when they must make decisions regarding the personnel of their team. We ask each coach to be as empathetic as possible to each student athlete who has tried out but does not make the team. Each coach should communicate with those that will not make the team in the manner deemed best by that individual coach.

Guidelines for Possible Eliminating a Level of Sport

In certain situations, the administration along with the coaching staff of the particular sport may decide that because of student safety, offering multiple levels of the same sport is not in the best interest of the student-athlete or the department. Every effort will be made to field all levels of teams. If a level is to be eliminated, an explanation email will be sent to those parents and student-athletes affected. If they choose to cease participation, fees can be refunded. Students may be asked to participate at a higher level as well.



Hazing

It is the policy of the Westlake Board of Education, the School District and the Athletic Department that hazing activities of all types are inconsistent with the educational process and shall be prohibited. Hazing is defined as doing any act or coercing another, including the victim, to do any act of initiation into any organization that uses or creates a substantial risk of causing mental or physical harm to any person or persons. Permission, consent, or assumption of risk by an individual subjected to hazing does not lessen the prohibition contained in this policy. Hazing will not be tolerated by the Westlake Athletic Department and will be dealt with swiftly and harshly. One example of hazing is “Senior Wakeups”. The Athletic Director and Principal are willing to meet with students to discuss team building exercises that do not involve hazing.

Drug/Alcohol/Tobacco Policy

In seeking the privilege to participate in these activities, participants choose the responsibility of living a lifestyle free of tobacco, alcohol and drugs. As such, the athletes of Westlake must refrain from the following:

1. Drinking, possessing, selling or supplying alcoholic beverages.
2. Smoking, possessing, selling or supplying tobacco products of any kind.
3. Using possessing, selling or giving away drugs.
4. The use of any illegal, performance enhancing drugs.

Drugs are defined as:

- Dangerously controlled substances as so designated and prohibited by Ohio statute.
- All chemicals that release toxic vapors.
- All alcoholic beverages.
- Anabolic steroids.
- Any prescription drug or patent drug, except for those which permission to use in the school has been granted pursuant to Board policy and that are provided by the student’s parent (i.e. over-the-counter medications).
- Any substance that is a “look-alike” to any of the above.
- Any illegal performance enhancing drugs.

CONSEQUENCES FOR VIOLATIONS OF THE DRUG/ALCOHOL/TOBACCO POLICY

Use/Possession

1st Offense of the Policy

After confirmation, the student-athlete will be denied the privilege to participate in 20 % of the regularly scheduled athletic contests that remain for that season; this punishment will be carried over into tournaments. Participation denotes competing in events against outside competition, traveling with the team, or dressing for the contest. The athlete may continue to practice with the team at the discretion of the coach. The denial of the privilege to compete shall begin with the next scheduled contest.

Example: 10 games remaining = 2 game suspension

The student-athlete and their parents/guardian must meet for a pre-assessment conference with the Chemical Abuse Prevention Coordinator. Documentation of the conference must be on file with the Athletic Director.

The student/athlete may be subject to further consequences as stated in the Westlake City School Student Code of Conduct. The student/athlete may also be subject to further penalties as deemed necessary for team unity by the Head Coach.

If the violation occurs at the end of the season it may carry over to the next season the athlete participates in until such a time the other consequences are satisfied. This will be at the discretion of the principal and the athletic director.



2nd Offense of the policy:

- When a second violation occurs during the same season
- The student-athlete's participation will be revoked for the remainder of the season.
- The student-athlete will not receive any awards in that sport.
- The student-athlete may be subject to further consequences as stated in the Westlake City School Student Code of Conduct.
- The student-athlete shall enroll in a drug/alcohol prevention program at their cost.

Selling/Supplying

1st Offense of the policy:

- Denied participation for the rest of the season.
- The student athlete will not receive any awards in that sport
- The student/athlete may be subject to further consequences as stated in the Westlake City School Student Code of Conduct.

Care of Equipment

The Westlake Athletic Department has attempted to provide adequate and safe equipment. Student athletes are responsible for the proper care and safekeeping of the uniform and/or equipment issued to them. All athletic equipment used is school property and may be used only during a particular sports season. It is the responsibility of each student athlete who is issued any type of uniform and/or equipment to return that equipment to their coach and/or the Equipment Manager at the completion of their participation of each sports season. Each student athlete will be held financially responsible for lost equipment. The replacement of lost equipment is necessary. The student athlete will be expected to reimburse the school for lost equipment according to actual replacement prices. School-purchased athletic equipment shall only be worn during practice or contests unless authorized by the coach for game day wearing. All equipment obligations must be completed before an athlete will receive equipment for the next sport season.

Athletic & Activity Participation Conflicts

Westlake students are encouraged to participate in many school activities and it is not uncommon for students to be involved in more than one extracurricular activity at a time. While such conflict is not encouraged or recommended, it does happen. It is strongly encouraged that student-athletes, their parents, coaches and advisors of other activities openly communicate with each other to maximize the student's participation in all activities.

When conflicts occur, the student should notify the coach and/or advisor of the conflicting activities as soon as possible so a solution may be derived in everyone's best interests. Whenever possible, the staff discussions should consider the following prioritization of activities:

- State level activity
- Regional level activity
- District level activity
- Conference level activity
- Building level activity (banquets or culminating activities, concerts, etc.)
- Practice/rehearsal

All athletes are expected to attend the banquet/awards ceremony of the preceding season. Coaches should respect the fact that the banquet/awards ceremony officially ends the preceding season and should excuse those multiple sport athletes in these cases from their current season practices.

Training Rules and Regulations

It is a privilege to be an athlete and all athletes must follow general training rules for that sport prescribed by the



coaching staff. In order to assure parental awareness and involvement, all coaches must conduct a preseason parent meeting to fully explain the athletic policies. Parents and/or guardians must sign all appropriate paperwork prior to the individual participation in that sport. Individual coaches may supplement Athletic Department training rules by adding their own rules and regulations.

Training rules and team rules apply 24 hours a day, seven days a week from the first day of practice through the last contest of that activity. Examples of times the student is considered under the school's jurisdiction may include but are not limited to the following:

- school sponsored activities on weekends and holidays
- preseason, in-season practice, e.g. August practices
- clinics and camps attended by students if such clinic/group participation is to facilitate participation in, or is a prerequisite to participation in the sport
- violations of Westlake code of conduct
- any unlawful activity outside the school's jurisdiction

The Athletic Director or Administrator in charge of student activities or activity will keep records of all violations.

Dropping or Transferring Sports

On occasion, an athlete may find it necessary to drop out of a sport for necessity. If this is the case, a discussion should take place between the athlete and the coach and all issued equipment should be returned should the athlete drop off the team. Those individuals of any athletic team shall be considered members of the team through the completion of that particular sport season unless they are removed for disciplinary reasons, academic issues or mutual agreement between player and coach. They will not be able to participate in other sports pre-seasons until the previous sport season is completed. All team members who complete the season in good standing are expected to participate in the athletic award ceremonies at the end of the season. Any issues pertaining to this should be brought to the Director of Athletics.

Absences/Attendance Prior to Contest or Practice

School Day- Attendance is required from 11:55 a.m. for LBMS students until the end of the school day in order to be eligible to participate in an after school or evening practice or performance. The principal may approve special circumstances.

Day Preceding a Weekend - a student who is absent the entire day prior to a Saturday contest or performance may participate only if verification of the absence as being excused is received. If this becomes habitual, the student may be denied permission to participate. Special cases should be communicated to the Athletic Director and/or Principal who will have final say on the athlete's participation if he/she has not met this requirement.

Travel

All athletes are expected to travel to and from athletic contests as a team, when transportation is provided by the Athletic Department. Athletes will remain with their squad and under the supervision of a coach while attending away contests. If a parent/guardian wishes to take their child home after a contest due to a special circumstance, that parent/guardian must:

- Sign the waiver list at the game site.
- Make personal contact with the coach. The student will only be released to their parent or guardian.

The responsibility for the safety and accountability of each student athlete is too important for coaches and administrators to permit any deviation from the transportation policy. Violations may result in disciplinary action. No student is permitted to leave an away site with another student's parent unless cleared by the Athletic Director.



Cancellation Policy

If school is cancelled due to inclement weather, contests and practices may still be played. This will be left up to the decision of the Athletic Director in conjunction with the Principal and Superintendent. Student safety will take precedence during these times.

When games are cancelled, every effort will be made to inform student-athletes, coaches, parents and fans of the change. These efforts include the automated event message on the athletic hotline at 440-835-6354, Twitter, Facebook, the Westlake Athletics website, and group Alert messages. Each coach is also encouraged to set up a group text or use any online product that can communicate calendar changes.

College Recruitment Policy

In the event a college recruiter should contact an athlete, they have an obligation to work through their coach and the Athletic Department. Inform your coach of such a contact as soon as possible. College recruitment information is in the Guidance Office. It is the student's responsibility to meet and complete the requirements of the NCAA Eligibility Center. Please see a Guidance Counselor for more details. The Athletic Director is available to meet with students and/or parents on the college recruiting process and requirements.

NCAA eligibility requirements are subjected to change, it is imperative that student-athletes (especially seniors and/or parents) be informed about the "NCAA Initial Eligibility Center" and its eligibility requirements. An internet-based NCAA video for prospective student-athletes, parents and high school administrators is currently available on the internet. Among the topics covered are eligibility requirements to compete in college; the recruiting process, and services available for students with disabilities. For more information, call the NCAA membership services staff at 317-917-6222. Based upon this review it may be necessary to initiate schedule changes in order to satisfactorily meet or exceed the NCAA requirements for coursework, GPA and/or standardized test scores. If any questions exist, please contact your high school guidance counselor.

COACHES AND STUDENT-ATHLETES-MEDIA RELATIONS AND USE OF SOCIAL MEDIA

As a member the Westlake Athletic Department, you should be aware that in certain circumstances, attention will be paid to you by the surrounding community to you and your team's accomplishments in your sport. Part of the benefit of having success is the increased media attention that it will always seem to draw. The Westlake community and others are very interested in how the Demon teams are doing. We always want you to portray that "Demon Pride".

You have a responsibility to your school, your coaches and your teammates to cooperate with the media whenever possible. There will be times when the Director of Athletics will want you for media appearances. It is the hope of the department that you will always be a good representation of what it means to wear the "W".

Interacting with the print and electronic media is an opportunity to develop communications skills that can be helpful to you not only as a student-athlete but in future educational and professional careers. As a coach or a student-athlete, you may be nervous about speaking with the media, but, hopefully, the more experience you acquire will allow you to become more relaxed, confident and articulate when around media members.

Dealing With The Media

Be aware that the image you create for yourself and your team affects the reputation of the whole school and district. With this in mind you are urged to exercise care when making statements to the media.

The longer you are representative of your team, the more likely it becomes that you will become more comfortable with certain members of the media that cover our teams. While this is fine to do, we want you to remember that regardless of what is said, it is the reporter's obligation to report the news. Don't say it if you



don't want to see it in print. If you are unsure as to how to answer certain questions, please see the Director of Athletics, coaching staff members or the Director of Communications for the school district to ask for guidance.

Here are some tips on interviewing:

1. Always acknowledge you are part of a team and that you have great coaches. Everyone needs support from coaches (head or assistant) and teammates. Make sure to give them credit.
2. Be human. By being honest with everyone, media members and fans will see and learn of the "you" away from the game. Tell stories to demonstrate this human side.
3. Be sure to understand the questions asked. If you don't understand ask for clarification.
4. Never talk off the record. If you can't say it during an interview, it most likely shouldn't be part of a conversation with a media member.
5. Try to answer the question. Don't use the words, "no comment". Rather "I am not familiar with that to give a fair answer." Or "I'd rather not discuss that subject." You can always refer those types of questions to your coach or the Director of Athletics.
6. Organize your thoughts. If you have a scheduled interview, it is always a good idea to jot down some notes and points that you would want to make. If at any time an interview makes you uncomfortable, you have the right to end it in a polite but firm way. Please make sure to inform the Director of Athletics why this happened.
7. Be on time. Always respect others' time.
8. Never criticize other players or other coaches. If you have concerns about them, discuss with them or the Director of Athletics.
9. Never blame officials. There will always be good and bad calls. Almost always, these are not the primary reasons a team loses or wins.
10. Be confident and courteous but don't be arrogant or cocky.
11. You are always "on." Remember when you are talking to the media, you are always "on". What you say can and will be used.

Using Social Media-Tips

As a Westlake Demon student-athlete or coach, you must always keep the "Demon Pride" in mind. We encourage you to be mindful of your team, your coaches, your family and Westlake High School and the Westlake City School District as you take part in social networking sites. While the Westlake City School District does not censor these sites, we do and will monitor should something be reported to the administration that would not follow our student code of conduct or ethical guidelines, the following suggestions are highly recommended.

It is not recommended you post personal information such as cell phone numbers, date of birth, social security numbers, address, class schedules, etc.

- Consider that once any written text or photo is posted online, it becomes available to anyone with internet access.
- Consider that many colleges, employers, internship services and scholarship committees now monitor and search these sites doing research on possible applicants.
- Only "friend" individuals that you would consider a friend.
- Don't post anything privately that you wouldn't want to be public.
- Monitor default privacy settings.
- Never post negative information about your coaches, teammates, school or opponents.

The Athletic Department can decide on appropriate punishment based on the Student Code of Conduct if poor use of social media platforms occur.



Athletic Awards:

- 7th Grade Certificate – Participation and completion of the sport season
- 8th Grade Certificate – Participation and completion of the sport season
- Freshman Certificate – Participation and completion of a freshman sport season
- Junior Varsity Certificate – Participation and completion of a reserve season
- Varsity Reserve Certificate – Varsity team participation, but not enough to letter
- Varsity Certificate – Athletes than have earned a varsity letter (one per letter)
- Service Certificate – Coach’s choice for people who have helped out
- SWC Certificate – For any SWC awards or honors won by the athlete
- Numerals – Freshman Sport (one time only)
- Letter (W) – 1st year varsity award (one time only)
- Sport Pin – 1st year varsity award (one time only per sport)
- Star – Captain of varsity teams
- Lamp – SWC Scholar Athlete
- Bar – 2nd, 3rd, 4th, year letter winners (one per year per sport)
- Medals – 2nd and 3rd year varsity letter winners
- Plaque - 4th Year Letter winner

An athlete must complete the sport season in good standing in order to be eligible for these awards. Each Head Coach determines a lettering criteria for their particular team and should publicize those criteria for the athletes.

