

**McBride Middle School
Student Handbook
2021-2022**



McBride Middle School
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TABLE OF CONTENTS

VAN BUREN PUBLIC SCHOOL'S STATEMENTS	4	
SCHOOL ORGANIZATION		5
DIRECTORY NOTIFICATION OF RIGHTS POLICY		6
SEXUAL HARASSMENT POLICY		6
ACADEMICS	7	
CURRICULUM		7
<i>VAN BUREN PUBLIC SCHOOLS GRADING POLICY</i>		7
SERVICES AND PROCEDURES		9
<i>ATTENDANCE POLICY</i>		9
<i>TRUANCY</i>		9
<i>SUSPENSION FROM SCHOOL</i>		9
<i>NOTIFICATION OF ABSENCE</i>		9
<i>TARDINESS</i>		9
<i>VACATIONS DURING THE SCHOOL YEAR</i>		9
<i>MAKE-UP OF TESTS AND OTHER SCHOOL WORK</i>		9
<i>IDENTIFICATION CARDS</i>		9
<i>PASSES</i>		10
ACTIVITIES, OPPORTUNITIES, PROGRAMS	11	
EXTRA-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES		11
<i>FIELD TRIPS</i>		11
<i>FUNDRAISING</i>		11
GENERAL POLICIES		12
<i>ASSEMBLIES</i>		12
<i>BEFORE AND AFTER SCHOOL POLICY</i>		12
<i>BUSES – BUS RULES</i>		12
<i>CAFETERIA / LUNCH CARDS</i>		12
<i>CAFETERIA REGULATIONS</i>		12
<i>ELECTRONIC DEVICES</i>		12
<i>CHANGE OF ADDRESS/EMERGENCY CARD</i>		12
<i>COMPUTER USE POLICY</i>		13
<i>CURRICULUM REVIEW</i>		13
<i>DRESS CODE</i>		13
<i>DRUG-FREE SCHOOLS</i>		13
<i>EMERGENCY DRILLS</i>		14
<i>HEALTH SERVICES – ILLNESS</i>		14
<i>IDEA / SECTION 504 / AND A.D.A. COMPLIANCE</i>		14
<i>LOCKERS</i>		14
<i>LOST AND FOUND</i>		14
<i>SCHOOL CLOSING</i>		14
<i>SEARCH AND SEIZURE</i>		14
<i>School Property</i>		15
<i>Personal Property</i>		15
<i>Definitions</i>		15
<i>TESTING SERVICES</i>		15
<i>TEXTBOOKS</i>		15
<i>VISITORS</i>		15
STUDENT BEHAVIOR	16	
SCHOOL/STUDENT RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES		16
<i>OBJECTIVE OF STUDENT DISCIPLINE</i>		16
<i>GENERAL</i>		16
<i>DUE PROCESS</i>		16
<i>OFFICE PROCEDURES</i>		16
BEHAVIORAL CONSEQUENCES		16
<i>COMMUNITY SERVICE</i>		16
<i>AFTER-SCHOOL DETENTION</i>		16
<i>IN-SCHOOL SUSPENSION (ISS)</i>		16
<i>SUSPENSION AND EXPULSION</i>		17
<i>Types of Suspensions and Expulsions</i>		17
<i>SUSPENSION PROCEDURES</i>		17
<i>EXPULSION PROCEDURES</i>		17
<i>SCHOOL SPONSORED EVENTS POLICY</i>		17
<i>OFF-CAMPUS CONDUCT POLICY</i>		17
DISCIPLINE AND STUDENT CONDUCT		18

ANTI-BULLYING POLICY		20
SCHOOL RULES AND REGULATIONS	23	
VAN BUREN PUBLIC SCHOOLS DISCIPLINE POLICY		23
ACCEPTABLE USE POLICY AND PROCEDURES	28	

Van Buren Public School's Statements

Mission

To provide a high-quality, dynamic education that empowers every student to reach their full potential.

Vision

To empower curious, collaborative, and creative leaders able to adapt to a rapidly changing global society.

We believe

- Every student is capable of learning in varied ways.
- Students and staff learn best in a positive, safe, and respectful learning environment.
- A well-rounded education is essential to personal success and includes a blend of academics, arts, technology, and student choice.
- Learning is a lifelong process for all.
- High expectations for students and staff lead to greater achievement.
- Continuous development of partnerships among families, students, staff, and the community is vital for our success.
- When staff learns and grows, so do our students.
- Education and leadership are enriched by diversity.
- Students can be leaders in many different ways.

SCHOOL ORGANIZATION

School Board

Amy Pearce
President
Susan Featheringill
Vice President
Darlene Gerick
Secretary
Simone Pinter
Treasurer
Calvin Hawkins
Trustee
Kelly Owen
Trustee
Dionne Falconer
Trustee

NON-DISCRIMINATION STATEMENT

In compliance with the Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, Section 504 of Rehabilitation Act of 1973, the Age Discrimination Act of 1975, Title II of the Americans with Disability Act of 1990, and Elliott-Larsen Civil Rights Act of 1977, it is the policy of the Van Buren Public Schools District that no person shall, on the basis of race, color, religion, national origin or ancestry, gender, age, disability, height, weight, or marital status be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to, discrimination during any program, activity, service or in employment. Should you need to contact someone about discrimination of any kind in the school district, contact the Personnel Department at 555 West Columbia Avenue, Belleville, MI 48111 or (734)697-9123, ext. 1010.

Questions or concerns that relate to sex discrimination should be directed to:

Superintendent	Personnel Department
Coordinator of Title IX	Van Buren Public Schools
Coordinator of Title VI	555 West Columbia Avenue
Van Buren Public Schools	Belleville, Michigan 48111
555 West Columbia Avenue	Phone (734) 697-9123
Belleville, Michigan 48111	
Phone (734) 697-9123	

Inquiries regarding discrimination on the basis of handicaps should be directed to:

Supervisor of Special Services
Coordinator of Section 504
Van Buren Public Schools
555 W. Columbia Avenue
Belleville, Michigan 48111
Phone (734) 697-9123

DIRECTORY NOTIFICATION OF RIGHTS POLICY

The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) affords parents and students over 18 years of age ("eligible students") certain rights with respect to the student's education records. These rights include the following:

1. The right to inspect and review the student's education records within 45 days of the day the District receives a request for access.
 - A. Parents or eligible students should submit a written request to the school principal indicating as precisely as possible the record(s) they wish to inspect. The principal will make arrangements for access and notify the parent or eligible student of the time and place where the records may be inspected.
 - B. If a record contains information about students other than a parent's child or the eligible student, the parent or eligible student may not inspect and review the portion of the record which pertains to other students.
 - C. If the student's record involves answers to a standardized test, the District will not provide a parent a copy of standardized test questions.
 - D. The District will not provide a parent or eligible student a copy of the student's education record unless failure to do so would effectively prevent the parent or eligible student from having the right to inspect and review the records. The fee for copies will be 10 cents per page.
 - E. Students have no expectation of privacy in public and open areas, such as the hallway, which are openly monitored by a video cameras. Please note that video camera systems may be located inside McBride Middle School and on VBPS Busses. To the extent that video images are used in student discipline, videos may be viewed by school personnel and by the parents of students who are subject to discipline as a result of the same; however, copies of the videos will not be released to parents/guardians.
2. The right to request the amendment of the student's education records that the parent or eligible student believes is inaccurate or misleading.
 - A. Parents or eligible students may ask Van Buren Public Schools to amend a record that they believe is inaccurate or misleading. This request should be made in writing and given to the principal. The request should clearly identify the part of the record they want to be changed, and specify why it is inaccurate or misleading. The District may or may not comply with the request.
 - B. If the District determines that the challenged information is not inaccurate or misleading and declines to amend the record as requested by the parent or eligible student, the District will notify the parent or eligible student of the decision and advise them of their right to a hearing regarding the request for amendment. Additional information regarding the hearing procedures will be provided to the parent or eligible student when notified of the right to a hearing.
3. The right to consent to disclosures of personally identifiable information contained in the student's records, except to the extent that FERPA authorizes disclosure without consent.
 - A. FERPA permits disclosure of school records without consent to school officials with legitimate educational interests. A school official is a person employed by the District as an administrator, supervisor, instructor, or support staff member (including health person or medical staff and law enforcement unit personnel); a person serving on the School Board; a person or company with whom the District has contracted to perform a special task (such as an attorney, auditor, medical consultant, or therapist); or a parent or a student serving on an official committee, such as a disciplinary or grievance committee, or assisting another school official in performing his or her tasks.
 - B. A school official has a legitimate educational interest if the official needs to review an education record in order to fulfill his or her professional responsibility.
 - C. Upon request, Van Buren Public Schools will disclose education records without consent to officials of another school district in which a student seeks or intends to enroll.
 - D. Van Buren Public Schools will disclose education records to the armed services of the United States.
 - E. Additionally, Van Buren Public Schools will disclose education records as required by state and/or federal law.
 - F. *PLEASE NOTE:* Van Buren Public Schools may make available certain student "directory information" without consent. "Directory information" includes the following: the student's name, address, photograph, participation in and eligibility for officially recognized activities and sports, weight and height of members of athletic teams, grade placement, degrees, and awards received. This information will be disclosed without consent unless the building principal is notified in writing to the contrary by the end of the third week of classes.
4. Parents have the right to file a complaint with the U.S. Department of Education concerning alleged failures by the District to comply with the requirements of FERPA. The name and address of the office that administers FERPA are:

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

SEXUAL HARASSMENT POLICY

It is the policy of the Van Buren Public School District to maintain a workplace that is free from sexual harassment and discrimination. Sexual harassment is a violation of Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and the Michigan Elliott-Larsen Civil Rights Act and will not be tolerated by any person or in any form. This policy shall apply to all students, employees, Board members, or any person associated with Van Buren Public School District in their conduct and communication with students, parents, and citizens when these individuals are on or off school premises while they are participating in school-sponsored functions. Sexual harassment is defined as (but not limited to) unwelcome sexual advances, requests or pressure (subtle or overt) for sexual favors, engaging in improper physical conduct or making improper sexual comments (including sexually-oriented humor), creating an intimidating, hostile, or offensive work environment. A complaint of conduct perceived to be sexual harassment should immediately be reported to the building principal or an assistant principal. Alternatively, a complaint may be made to the superintendent or personnel department. Retaliation against any person for complaining about sexual harassment, or participating in a sexual harassment investigation, is prohibited and will not be tolerated.

Complaints regarding discrimination or harassment may also be filed within 180 days of the alleged violation with the Equal Employment Opportunities Commission in Washington, D.C., or with the Michigan Department of Civil Rights.

ACADEMICS

CURRICULUM

Our school offers a variety of courses in general and specific areas to meet the needs of our students. Our curriculum is aligned with the Common Core State Standards. For further information, please contact the school office.

GRADE REPORTING

Grading Policies for McBride Middle School is located in the [Standards-Based Grading Handbook](#)

POTENTIAL FAILURE – STUDENT PROGRESS NOTICES

Student progress notices may be sent at any time. **MiStar Parent Portal** and **Student Portal** are online resources available to check on an hourly or daily basis for attendance and updated progress in each class. This can be found on the district website:

[MISTAR PARENT PORTAL](#)

SERVICES AND PROCEDURES

ATTENDANCE POLICY VBPS Attendance and Truancy Protocol

It is imperative that students be in attendance each school day in order to not miss a significant portion of their education. Important lessons result from active participation in the classroom which cannot be replaced by individual study.

Attendance is important in the development of a high-quality work ethic which will be a significant factor in a student's success with future employers. One of the most important work habits that employers look for in hiring and promoting a worker is his/her dependability in coming to work every day and on time. This is a habit the school wants to help students develop as early as possible in their school careers.

TRUANCY

Any student who is absent from school for all or any part of the day without a legitimate excuse shall be considered truant. The student and his/her parents shall be subject to truancy laws of the State. If a student, under the age of eighteen (18), is truant for more than ten (10) total days during a semester, he/she may be reported to the proper authorities. This can result in:

- A. Assignment to detention, suspension, or community service with loss of participation in school activities and events
- B. A hearing before a judge in a court of law
- C. A report to local authorities concerning lack of parental responsibility in providing proper care and supervision of a child

SUSPENSION FROM SCHOOL

Absence from school due to suspension shall be considered an authorized absence, neither excused nor unexcused. Suspended students are not allowed on school property, or to attend any school-related activities either on or off school property.

A suspended student will be responsible for making up school work lost due to suspension. It is recommended that a student complete missed assignments during the suspension and turn them into the teacher upon his/her return from school. Assignments will be uploaded into Google Classroom where students can access them from their Chromebook. . Makeup of missed tests may be scheduled when the student returns to school. The student will be given credit for properly completed assignments and a grade on any makeup tests.

NOTIFICATION OF ABSENCE

If a student is going to be absent, the parents should notify the school in advance and provide an explanation. If prior notification is not possible, the parents should provide an excuse upon re-entry. When health problems or other emergencies require students to be absent from school, the school may request verification from the parents/ guardians. If the absences of a student appear questionable or excessive, the school staff will attempt to assist parents in improving their child's attendance.

An excused absence allows the student to make up work. It is the responsibility of the **student** to obtain missed assignments. It is possible that certain kinds of school work such as labs or skill-practice sessions cannot be made up and, as a result, alternative work may be given. Note: Poor attendance may negatively affect mastery of the content.

TARDINESS

It is the expectation that you are on time for class. High levels of learning can only occur when you are on time, present, and actively involved in your learning. Students who are excessively tardy could face disciplinary action.

VACATIONS DURING THE SCHOOL YEAR

Parents are encouraged not to take their children out of school for vacations. If a family vacation must be scheduled during the school year, the parents should discuss the matter with the student's teacher(s) prior to vacation to make the necessary arrangements for obtaining schoolwork. It may be possible for the student to receive certain assignments that can be completed during the trip.

MAKE-UP OF TESTS AND OTHER SCHOOL WORK

Students who are absent from school, or who have been suspended, will be given an opportunity to make up work that has been missed. The parent should contact his/her teacher(s) as soon as possible to obtain assignments. Make-up work due to suspension must be completed. The length of time for completion of makeup work shall be commensurate with the length of the absence.

If a student misses a teacher's test due to an excused absence, he/she may make arrangements with the teacher to take the test. If he/she misses a State-mandated test or other standardized tests, the parent should consult the school to arrange for taking the test, if available.

IDENTIFICATION CARDS

Students will receive identification cards at the beginning of the school year. Students may purchase an I.D. replacement card at the cost of \$5.00 in the office.

PASSES

Students are not permitted in the halls during class periods unless they are accompanied by a teacher or have a hall pass from an authorized staff member. Students are to use the pass as intended and go directly to the destination designated.

ACTIVITIES, OPPORTUNITIES, PROGRAMS

EXTRA-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

Extra-curricular opportunities are available throughout the school year. You will receive more information regarding these activities prior to the beginning of the program.

FIELD TRIPS

COVID PROTOCOL: Field trips have been suspended for 2021-22

The school staff, under the direction of the administration, will take reasonable steps to safeguard the physical and educational welfare of all students participating in field trips. The District reserves the right to place restrictions upon a student's participation in a field trip or outing when, in the District's judgment, the student's welfare or the welfare of others require it. This includes, but is not limited to, preclusion from participation in the field trip or activity and/or attendance only if accompanied by a parent or adult family member. The decision of the Superintendent is final.

FUNDRAISING

Students may not sell items that have not been specifically approved for sale as part of a fundraiser. Such action could result in disciplinary action. Fundraising activities are not to interfere with the instructional program or process.

McBride Middle School is not responsible for any lost or stolen fundraiser merchandise or money, or for any damaged fundraiser merchandise.

GENERAL POLICIES

ASSEMBLIES

Assemblies are a regularly scheduled part of the curriculum and are considered part of the normal school day. As such, they are designed to be educational as well as entertaining experiences. They provide one of the few opportunities in school to learn formal audience behavior. Regardless of the type of program, courtesy demands that the student body be respectful and appreciative. All school activities are subject to school rules and regulations governing student behavior.

BEFORE AND AFTER SCHOOL POLICY

Parents should drop off students no later than 8:10 a.m. or they may be tardy for school (School begins at 8:16 a.m. If your child is eating breakfast, drop them off no earlier than 7:55 a.m. Please do not drop off children before those times because there will not be any adult supervision. This includes dropping them off in the parking lot. Please be mindful that the school day ends at 3:04 p.m. and supervision is limited unless it is a school-sponsored activity. Half-Day dismissal is at 11:34 a.m.

BUSES – BUS RULES

COVID PROTOCOL: Any student being transported by Van Buren Public Schools will be required to wear masks.

Bus transportation is provided by the Van Buren Public Schools as a privilege for our students. Students are expected to follow all bus rules as prescribed by the driver of the bus. Students must take the bus route that is assigned to them according to their home address. Students must follow all school rules when using district transportation and any violations will result in discipline and possible loss of privileges. Bus passes are not issued at the secondary level schools.

CAFETERIA / LUNCH CARDS

There will be three lunch periods during the school day. Both hot lunches and a la carte will be available or students may bring lunches from home. Students are expected to remain in the cafeteria during the entire lunch period. Students who feel that they qualify for a free or reduced-price lunch should obtain an application form located on our website at [Free and Reduced Lunch Application](#). Ten days should be allowed for processing after the application has been completed and returned.

It is possible to prepay for meals in the cafeteria. Using cash, a check, or PaySchools, parents can deposit any amount into their child's personalized cafeteria account. These funds are automatically deducted from this account eliminating the need for bringing cash to school. Cafeteria accounts have been established for all students. Speak to lunchroom personnel to make deposits. If your child's account exceeds a \$6.00 unpaid balance, he/she will receive a cheese sandwich until the balance is paid.

CAFETERIA CONDUCT: EXPECTATIONS OF STUDENTS

COVID PROTOCOL: Students should sit at tables where indicated to promote social distancing

Follow the directions of the supervisors on duty and be courteous in language and conduct toward the cafeteria/maintenance personnel.

- Observe appropriate table manners at the table.
- Do not ask other students for food or money or share food with others.
- Use conversational voice levels.
- Respect others by your actions and wait your turn in line.
- Clear table area properly and promptly of all food and trash.
- Food must be eaten in the cafeteria unless there is express permission to do otherwise.
- Do not congregate by the doors, aisles or passageways in the cafeteria and commons. This is prohibited.
- Lunch may not be eaten outside of the cafeterias unless the student has a pass and will be under direct supervision of a teacher or administrator.
- For safety reasons, students must remain seated in the cafeteria at all times except to purchase lunch or use the restroom.
- Throwing of food and/or other disorderly conduct will result in discipline up to and including out-of-school suspension.

Consequences:

Failure to abide by the cafeteria rules may result in restricted privileges and/or disciplinary action.

It is preferred that students bring lunch from home or purchase lunch from the cafeteria. Lunches from outside sources, such as fast-food restaurants, are discouraged. Food deliveries to the office from outside vendors (i.e. Jimmy Johns, Door dash, etc.) are not permitted and will not be accepted. Parents, of course, may drop off lunches from home in the office for their children. VBPS provides a variety of nutritious breakfast and lunch options at school each day. For menu and payment information please refer to the district website: Food Services: Students who continue to maintain an unpaid balance on their food accounts may be subject to limited menu options.

Lunchtime is an important time for students to interact with each other and learn important socialization and independence skills. Accordingly, parents and/or visitors are not permitted to accompany their children in the cafeteria during lunchtime unless prior permission has been granted by the building administrator.

DISTRIBUTION OF NON-SCHOOL SPONSORED MATERIALS

McBride Middle School recognizes the right of students to express themselves. With the right of expression, however, comes the responsibility to do it appropriately and in accordance with the rights of others. Students may distribute or display, at appropriate times, non-sponsored, non-commercial written material and petitions; buttons, badges, or other insignia; clothing, insignia, and banners; and audio and video materials only in accordance with the following school guidelines:

A. Material cannot be displayed if it:

1. Is obscene to minors, libelous, indecent, and pervasively vulgar, advertises any product or service not permitted to minors by law,
 - a. Invades the rights of another person which could result in tort liability to the school,
 - b. Constitutes insulting or fighting words, the very expression of which injures or harasses other people,

- c. Presents a clear and present likelihood that, either because of its content or manner of distribution or display, it causes, or is likely to cause, material or substantial disruption of school or school activities, a violation of school regulations, or the commission of an unlawful act.

B. The distribution of written material shall be limited to a reasonable place, time, and manner. Material may not be displayed or distributed during class periods, or during passing times between classes. Permission may be granted for display or distribution during lunch periods and after school in designated locations, as long as exits are not blocked and there is proper access and egress to the building.

Anyone wishing to distribute non-school sponsored material must submit for approval a hard copy of the proposed material for approval to the principal's office, Phone (734) 697-9171, at least two (2) full business days in advance of desired distribution time, together with the following information:

- Name and phone number of the person submitting a request and, if a student, the first-hour classroom teacher,
- Date(s) and time(s) of the day of intended display or distribution, or
- Location where the material will be displayed or distributed.

Permission to distribute material does not imply approval of its contents by either the School, the administration of the School, the School Board, or the individual reviewing the material submitted.

If the person is dissatisfied with the decision of the Communications Office, the person may submit a written request for appeal to the Director of Student Services. The decision of the Director of Student Services will be final. If a person submitting a request does not receive a response within 48 hours of submission, the person shall contact the office to verify the lack of response was not due to an inability to locate the person. If the person has made this verification and there is no response to the request, the materials may be distributed in accordance with the time, place, and manner provisions included in this section. At every level of the process, the person submitting the request shall have the right to appeal and present the reasons supported by the relevant witnesses and material as to why the distribution of the material is appropriate.

Consequences for Non-Compliance: Please See Range Of Disciplinary Consequences.

Definitions

The following definitions apply to the following terms as used in this policy:

Distribution means circulation or dissemination of written or photographic material by means of handing out free copies, selling or offering copies for sale, accepting donations for copies and/or electronic distribution via the internet or social media sites. It includes displaying written material in areas of the school, which are generally frequented by students.

Libelous describes a false and unprivileged statement about a specific individual that tends to harm the individual's reputation or to lower him/her in the esteem of the community.

Materials and substantial disruption of a normal school activity mean

1. Where the normal school activity is an educational program of the School District for which school attendance is compulsory, any disruption that interferes with or impedes the implementation of the program
2. Where the normal school activity is voluntary in nature (including, for example, and not for limitation, school athletic events, plays, concerts, lunch periods).
3. Student rioting, unlawful seizures of property, widespread shouting or boisterous conduct inappropriate to the event, participation in a school boycott, demonstration, sit-in, stand-in, walk-out, or other related forms of activity.

In order for expression to be considered disruptive, there must exist specific facts upon which the likelihood of disruption can be forecast, including past experience in the school, current events influencing student activities and behavior, and instances of actual or threatened disruption relating to the written material in question.

Minor means any person under the age of eighteen (18).

Non-school sponsored written material includes all written material except school newspapers, literary magazines, yearbooks, and other publications funded and/or sponsored or authorized by the school. Examples include leaflets, brochures, flyers, petitions, placards, and underground newspapers, whether written by students or others.

Obscene to minors means that:

1. The average person, applying contemporary community standards, would find that the written material, taken as a whole, appeals to the prurient interest of minors of the age to whom distribution is requested;
2. The material depicts or describes, in a manner that is patently offensive to prevailing standards in the adult community concerning how such conduct should be presented to minors of the age to whom distributing is requested, such as conduct describing intimate sexual acts.
3. The material, taken as a whole, lacks serious literary, artistic, political, or scientific value for minors.

School activities mean any activity of students sponsored by the school and include, by way of example, and not by way of limitation, classroom work, library activities, student newspapers, physical education classes, official assemblies and other similar gatherings, school athletic contests, band concerts, school plays, and in-school lunch periods.

TECHNOLOGY

School Liability Statement

Students bring their personal devices to McBride **at their own risk**. It is a student's own duty to be responsible for the upkeep and protection of the student's own personal devices.

McBride has no responsibility or liability for any of the following:

1. Personal devices that are broken or damaged while at school or during school-sponsored activities.
2. Personal devices that are lost or stolen at school or during school-sponsored activities.
3. Maintenance or upkeep of any personal device (keeping it charged, installing updates or upgrades, repair of any software or hardware issues).

CELL PHONES/ELECTRONIC DEVICES: Students may possess a cell phone or other non-district issued electronic device (ED) in school and at school-related functions provided that during school hours, the cell phone or ED is:

Powered off Concealed Not in use

- Non-district issued electronic devices including headphones or components must be kept in a backpack, locker, purse or pocket, and out of sight unless given specific permission to use them for educational purposes by the teacher..
- Cell phones may not be used in the school locker rooms or school restrooms.
- Students may not take pictures/videos of other students or of staff members or volunteers and/or post them on social media or other internet sites without their express permission.

The District is not responsible for the loss, theft, damage, or vandalism to student cell phones ED's or any other student property. Students are strongly encouraged not to leave their property unattended or unsecured.

Consequences for Observation or Use of a Cell Phone or Electronic Device:

Progressive discipline will be followed and repeat offenses may result in suspension from school. Additionally, Students in violation of the policy will have their devices confiscated and turned over to an administrator. The phone or electronic device will be returned to a parent or guardian, listed on a student's emergency card, any time during the school day, in the general office of the building in which the device was confiscated. A student's refusal to give up the device is considered "Insubordination" and may result in additional discipline.

Please be advised that recording still or video images, or posting of the same, of another individual, is prohibited absent that individuals express permission to be photographed or recorded and in accordance with the District's Internet Acceptable Use Policy.

Student Chromebooks

Van Buren Public Schools is excited to announce our Chromebook 1-to-1 take-home initiative at McBride Middle School for the 2019-2020 school year. Every middle school student will be provided with a Chromebook for use both at school and home.

Much like a textbook, these devices are being provided at no initial charge to the students. However, care must be taken, as any damage or loss will result in the assessment of a fee that must be paid promptly in order for repairs or replacement to occur. Payments can be made with cash in the MMS Media Center or via credit card online through Payschools. No checks will be accepted.

Common Issues and associated fees:

Lost kit (Chromebook, charger, work-in case) - \$205
Lost Chromebook - \$175
Lost or damaged charger - \$35
Lost work-in case - \$30
Lost charger pouch - \$10
Broken screen - \$40
Broken keyboard (including single missing key) - \$25
Broken charging port - \$20

The Chromebooks are enrolled in our vanburenschools.net management group, enabling us to provide appropriate learning tools. This will include a district Gmail account, the G-Suite of tools (Docs, Sheets, Slides, etc.) as well as content filtered internet access.

- Middle schoolers will be issued a Chromebook to use both at school and at home. The attached form must be completed and returned to room 17 with both student and parent signatures on the scheduled pickup day. No Chromebook will be issued without a completed form.
- Students will be expected to bring the Chromebook assigned to them to school charged and ready to work every school day.
- Chromebooks are to remain in the protective work-in case provided. The case can be carried separately or in a bag or backpack. The case will prevent most damage from normal use but is not designed to be tossed or handled roughly. When carried in a backpack we recommend not stuffing it in with a lot of books, as too much pressure on the device can crack the screen even closed up in the protective case.
 - **Note:** The work-in case measures approximately 10" wide x 12" tall x 3" thick

Definitions:

1. VBPS means Van Buren Public Schools. Device means the Chromebook, the charger and the work-in case provided by VBPS.
2. Student/Parent means the VBPS Student and Parent(s) to whom the Device is assigned.
3. School means any location on VBPS property or under VBPS authority, as well as any other private or public location where VBPS related work is being conducted.
4. Policy means all applicable laws, regulations, VBPS Board policies, and VBPS Administrative guidelines.

Terms and Conditions:

1. The Device is and will remain the property of VBPS.
2. The Device is intended only for use by the Student it is assigned to for school-related work.
3. Student/Parent bears full responsibility for all use of the Device and agrees to ensure that all use abides by VBPS Policy at all times and in all locations.
4. There is no expectation of privacy for any use of the Device.
 - VBPS may monitor the use of the Device but does not guarantee that any use will be monitored.
5. The Student is responsible for charging the Device overnight and bringing it each day to school ready to work.
6. Student/Parent agrees to take reasonable precautions to keep the Device safe and in working order.
 - The device is deployed in a protective work-in case. **IT MUST REMAIN IN THE CASE AT ALL TIMES.** The case can be carried separately or in a bag or backpack. The case will prevent most damage from normal use but is not designed to be tossed or handled roughly.
 - When carried in a backpack we recommend not stuffing it in with a lot of books as too much pressure on the device can crack the screen even closed up in the protective case.
 - Do not leave the Device unattended. A missing Device that was left unattended is considered lost, not stolen, and the Student/Parent is responsible for replacement fees. To be considered stolen a police report must be provided to VBPS.
 - Do not pick the Device up or carry it by the screen (finger pressure can break the display).
 - Items left on the keyboard (pencils, pens, paper clips, etc) can damage the screen if the lid is closed on them.
7. The Device assigned is either new or has been inspected by the Tech Team and the condition was noted prior to distribution to the Student.
 - If the Device or any accessory is lost, stolen, or damaged the Student/Parent is responsible for repair or replacement fees and agrees to promptly report the incident to the Tech Dept. where they will fill out an incident report form.
 - A call home will occur to notify the Parent of any fee that will be assessed prior to repair or replacement. No repairs or replacements will occur without prior notification of fees to the Parent.
 - Prompt payment of fees is expected.
8. VBPS will not assist Students in connecting the Device to non-VBPS networks.
9. Student agrees to promptly return the Device to VBPS when requested. Failure to return the Device upon request will result in a replacement fee being assessed.
 - The returned Device (Chromebook and charger) must match what is on record as deployed to the Student. Turning in the wrong Chromebook or charger will result in a replacement fee for the incorrect Device.
 - Student/Parent agrees to return the Device or pay replacement fees upon withdrawal from VBPS prior to transcripts being released.

COMPUTER USE POLICY

Please be advised that any off-campus computer use or activity that results in a material and substantial disruption of the purpose and ordinary operation of the school district may be subject to discipline in accordance with the penalties set forth in the student handbook and/or acceptable use policy.

School Guidelines:

- A. Computer crimes include unlawful copying of programs, theft of hardware or software, unauthorized access to computer files, unauthorized access to hardware.
- B. No hardware is to be unplugged, moved, tampered with, altered, or misused.
- C. The network system and software are not to be abused.
- D. Students should not use software programs that have not been designated for their use by staff, make copies of programs, install software to the system, or gain access to files other than their own.

Inappropriate use of computers and the Internet or destruction of computer equipment will result in disciplinary action and restitution.

Internet – Terms and Conditions of Use:

1. **Acceptable Use** – The purpose of the networks making up the Internet is to support research and education. Its use must be in support of education and research, as well as be consistent with the educational objectives of the Van Buren Public School District. Transmission of any material in violation of any national or state regulation is prohibited. This includes, but is not limited to: copyrighted materials, threatening or obscene material, or material protected by trade secrets. (Note, in particular, that copyrighted software may not be transferred electronically.)
2. **Network Etiquette** – Students are expected to abide by the generally accepted rules of network etiquette. These include, but are not limited to, the following:
 - A. Be polite. Do not become abusive in messages.
 - B. Use appropriate language. Do not swear, use vulgarities, or any other inappropriate language.
 - C. Do not reveal the personal address or phone number of students or yourself.
 - D. Note that electronic mail (e-mail) is not guaranteed to be private. Other people who operate the system do have access to all mail. Messages relating to or in support of illegal activities may be reported to the authorities.
 - E. Do not use the network in such a way that you would disrupt the use of the network by other users.
 - F. Use of public property for personal gain is a felony; also the use of commercial activities by for-profit organizations, product promotion, political lobbying or illegal activities is strictly prohibited and is subject to prosecution.
3. **Vandalism** – Vandalism will result in the cancellation of privileges and possible restitution, suspension, and legal action.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS/EMERGENCY CARD

Parents/Guardians must inform the Office if they have a change of address or a new telephone number and be prepared to present proper identification and documentation. All students must have an emergency card on file that includes up-to-date names, addresses, and telephone numbers. The purpose of this is so that school personnel can reach a student contact in time of medical or another emergency. Students may be excluded from attending school if the information is either inaccurate or not updated. It is the responsibility of the parents to notify the school of any changes in custody arrangements; the school will make decisions based on the most current information in the school's possession.

CURRICULUM REVIEW

Parents or guardians wishing to review the curriculum, textbooks, and teaching materials used by Van Buren Public Schools and its instructional staff may request the administration to allow such review. The school administration shall make arrangements for the review of the instructional materials at a reasonable time and place and in a reasonable manner.

DRESS CODE (Revised 9/1/2021)

Our dress code is designed for all students to dress comfortably for school and limit classroom interruptions due to enforcement. Staff should be trained to equitably and consistently enforce the dress code using student-positive language.

1. Basic Principle: Certain body parts must be covered for all students at all times. Clothes must be worn in a way such that genitals, buttocks, breasts, and nipples are fully covered with fabric that you cannot see through. All items listed in the “must wear” and “may wear” categories below must meet this basic principle.

2. Students Must Wear* while following the basic principle of #1 above:

- **A Shirt** (with fabric in the front, back, and on the sides under the arms - bare midriffs are not allowed), AND
- **Pants/jeans** or the equivalent (for example, a skirt, sweatpants, leggings, a dress or shorts), AND
- **Shoes.** Courses that include attire as part of the curriculum (i.e. swimming, business management, co-op) may include assignment-specific. Activity-specific shoe requirements are permitted (i.e., athletic shoes for gym).

3. Students May Wear, as long as these items do not violate #1 above

- Religious headwear
- Hoodie sweatshirts (wearing the hood overhead is allowed, but the face must be visible to school staff).
- Hats with a short brim (i.e. beanies, bucket, baseball caps)
- Fitted pants, including opaque leggings, yoga pants, and "skinny jeans"
- Ripped jeans, as long as underwear and buttocks are not exposed.
- Tank tops, including spaghetti straps, and off-the-shoulder shirts (excluding tube tops, halter tops)
- Athletic attire

4. Students Cannot Wear

- Sunglasses
- Violent language or images.
- Images or language depicting/suggesting drugs, alcohol, vaping, or paraphernalia (or any illegal item or activity).
- Hate speech, profanity, pornography.
- Images or language that creates a hostile or intimidating environment based on any protected class or consistently marginalized groups.
- Any clothing that reveals visible undergarments or midriff (i.e. crop tops)
- Pajamas, slippers, bonnets, do-rags
- Swimsuits, or beachwear (except as required in class or athletic practice).
- Accessories that could be considered dangerous or could be used as a weapon.
- Any item that obscures the face (except as a religious observance or safety protocol).

5. Dress Code Enforcement:

- Staff should respectfully address dress code violations in a manner that preserves the dignity of students. Every effort should be made to address violations in private.
- Class time should be preserved when enforcing the dress code. Passing time should be utilized for referrals, and students should be given the opportunity to change before referral to an administrator.
- Administrators should use progressive discipline for dress code violations and give students the opportunity to change behavior before contacting parents.

6. Dress Code Violations

- Students that violate the dress code should be offered the opportunity to change clothes before referral to the office.
- Students in violation of the dress code will have the following options:
 - Change clothes
 - Call home for a parent/guardian to bring a change of clothes
 - When available, provided a change in clothes
- Repeat violations may result in assigned detention

The final interpretation of the dress code is at the discretion of the administration.

Adapted from the Oregon NOW Model School Dress Code:

http://noworegon.org/wp-content/uploads/sites/12/2018/01/or_now_model_student_dress_code_feb_2016_1.pdf

DRUG-FREE SCHOOLS

In accordance with federal and state laws, the Board of Education prohibits the use, possession, concealment, sale, or distribution of drugs by students on school grounds, in school or school-approved vehicles, or at any school-related event. Drugs include any alcoholic beverage, an anabolic steroid, any illegal substance, dangerous controlled substance as defined by state statute, or substance that could be considered a "look-alike" controlled substance. Compliance with this policy is mandatory for all students. Any student who violates this policy will be subject to disciplinary action in accordance with due process and as specified in the student handbook, up to and including expulsion from school. The district will also notify law enforcement officials.

The district is concerned about any student who is a victim of alcohol and alcohol abuse and will facilitate the process by which she/he receives help through programs and services available in the community. Students and their parents should contact the building principal, assistant principals or Counseling Office whenever such help is needed.

EMERGENCY DRILLS

Fire drills, tornado drills, and Homeland Security lock-down drills at regular intervals are required by law and are an important safety precaution. It is essential that when the first signal is given, everyone obeys orders promptly and clears the building by the prescribed route as quickly as possible. The teacher in each classroom will give the students instructions. Failure to comply with instructions or to clear the building will be grounds for suspension.

HEALTH SERVICES – ILLNESS

A school nurse is not available to provide health services. If a student is unable to attend class for any health related reason, he or she should report directly to the office. If there is a necessity to go home, the office will inform the parent and the student will be released from school.

Parents of students with special health problems should inform their administrator if the need arises for special consideration. Special health problems might include vision problems, hearing problems, diabetes, epilepsy, rheumatic fever, allergies, recent surgery, need for prescribed medication during the day or anything that might affect school performance. Students with special needs that require a pass must provide documentation from their physician.

If it is necessary for a student to receive medication during school hours, a parent or guardian must complete a medical release form. The medication must be left with the respective administrator/secretary for distribution to the student. No medication, including aspirin, is to be kept in a student's possession. Exceptions will be made on a case by case basis to allow a student to carry an inhaler or emergency self-injectable such as an Epi-Pen provided medical documentation from the student's physician is on file with the appropriate principal.

In the event of illness or accident, school personnel will give emergency care only. Parents are responsible for any additional care needed.

Any student reasonably suspected of having a communicable disease, defined as "an illness due to a specific infectious agent or its toxic products that results from transmission of that infectious agent or its products from a reservoir to a susceptible host, directly as from an infected individual or animal, or indirectly through the agency of an intermediate plant or animal host, vector, or the inanimate environment," will be contacted and may be excluded from school until the individual's physician submits a written recommendation for continuation of attendance. Section 5101 of the Public Health Code, MCL 333.5101(1)

Accurate immunization records must be up to date and on file. Failure to comply with county health regulations will result in a student's exclusion from school.

IDEA / SECTION 504 / AND A.D.A. COMPLIANCE

The school will comply with all state and federal regulations related to IDEA, Section 504 and the Americans with Disabilities Act.

LOCKERS

Lockers will be assigned prior to the first week of school. **Do not allow students unassigned to your locker to use it or leave your locker combination set (enabling theft or loss). Combinations should be kept confidential; students take sole responsibility for allowing access to their locker by friends or fellow students. This practice is discouraged.** Defective lockers should be reported to the office.

Lockers are the property of McBride Middle School and, as such, may be searched at any time in accordance with School Code Law Section 1306. Any locker may be searched without notice or cause by the building principal or his/her designees, with or without the assistance of law enforcement. In the course of a locker search, the public school principal or his/her designee shall respect the privacy rights of the pupil regarding any items discovered that are not illegal or against school rules and policies. When conducting locker searches, the principal or his/her designee may seize any illegal or unauthorized items, any items in violation of Board policy or rules, or any other items reasonably determined by the principal or his/her designee to be a potential threat to the safety or security of others. **Students assigned to a given locker will be held responsible for all contents therein and their physical condition.** Law enforcement authorities may be notified upon seizure of such items and shall be notified of the seizure of items that are required by being reported to law enforcement agencies under the Statewide School Safety Information Policy. The parent/guardian of a minor student or a student of eighteen (18) years of age or older, shall be notified by the principal or his/her designee of items removed from the locker.

LOST AND FOUND

Students who find lost articles are asked to take them to the designated lost and found area where they can be claimed by their owners. The lost and found will be cleaned out regularly and the remaining items will be donated to a charitable organization.

SCHOOL CLOSING

In the event adverse weather conditions create extremely hazardous school bus operations, it may be necessary to cancel school. If this is necessary, the school closing announcements will be broadcast through our automated alert system as well as over the local radio and television stations.

SEARCH AND SEIZURE

To maintain order and discipline in the Van Buren Public Schools and to protect the safety and welfare of students and staff, school officials have the right to conduct reasonable searches of a student and his/her personal property.

SCHOOL PROPERTY

Student desks, cubbies/lockers, and other such property are owned by the school district, which exercises exclusive control over them per School Code Law 1306. Students should not expect privacy regarding items placed on/in school property because school property is subject to search at any time.

Personal Property

Students and their personal property (backpacks, purses, etc.) are subject to search if a school official has reasonable cause to believe that a student is in the possession of illegal, unauthorized (stolen), hazardous, or contraband materials.

Definitions

"Reasonable cause" means a belief based on specific reasonable inferences that an administrator is entitled to draw from the facts in light of his/her experience. Specific reasonable inferences may be drawn from instances including, but not limited to, a tip from a student, suspicious behavior, smells, bulges in a pocket, etc.

"Contraband" includes all substances or materials, the presence of which is prohibited by school policy and/or state law, including, but not limited to, controlled substances, drugs, alcohol or alcoholic beverages, some glues or aerosol paints, guns, knives, weapons, incendiary and explosive devices.

School authorities may search a student's personal property under the circumstances outlined below and may seize any illegal materials discovered in the search. The following rules shall apply to the search of a student's personal property and the seizure of items in his/her possession.

- A. There will be reasonable cause for school authorities to believe that the possession constitutes a crime or rule violation.
- B. Search of a student's personal property should be for a specifically identified item and should be conducted in the student's presence or with his/her knowledge if possible.
- C. Illegal items (drugs, look alike drugs, weapons and look alike weapons, etc.) or other items determined to be a threat to the safety or security of others may be seized by school authorities at any time.

TESTING SERVICES

Michigan Student Test of Educational Process (M-STEP): This test is intended to measure performance in reading, writing, math, science, and social studies for specific grade levels.

Northwest Evaluation Association (NWEA): NWEA is a non-profit organization that has assessed over 4.5 million students. NWEA has a presence in 49 foreign countries, 50 states, and 3400 districts. It used to provide detailed data about where each child is on their unique learning path. It provides information teachers can use in the classroom to help every student.

Preliminary Scholastic Aptitude Test (PSAT): The PSAT 8/9 replaces the M-STEP ELA and Mathematics assessment in grade 8 and will be included in Michigan's accountability system for 2019. Grade 8 students are also expected to take the M-STEP science and social studies which has been and will continue to be included in Michigan's accountability system

TEXTBOOKS

Textbooks for courses are provided to students on a loan basis by the Van Buren Public Schools. Students will be held responsible for exercising reasonable care and consideration for these materials. At the end of the course, the books are to be returned to the appropriate teachers. If a book is lost, misused, or damaged, full replacement cost will be assessed. Fines must be paid by cash or money order; personal checks will not be accepted.

VISITORS

COVID PROTOCOL: Visitors will not be allowed to enter the building 2021-22

Parents or guardians wishing to visit a class in session must adhere to the following procedures:

- A. Notify the principal's office of the intent to visit in advance.
- B. Upon arrival at the school, visitors must utilize the front door security system (buzzed in) and show proper identification.
- C. Report to the principal's office and receive a visitors' pass.
- D. Former students or students from outside of the district will not be allowed to visit until after normal school hours. All visitors must sign in and follow proper procedures through the office.

Pursuant to MCL 380.1137, parents are not authorized to visit on testing days. Persons failing to follow the proper procedure will not be allowed to visit a class.

STUDENT BEHAVIOR

SCHOOL/STUDENT RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES

OBJECTIVE OF STUDENT DISCIPLINE

The objective of student discipline is to produce a safe and orderly school environment in which complete attention can be directed to the teaching-learning activities. Every student and every member of the school staff has the right to expect that he/she may go about his/her business any place on the school premises in an atmosphere that is orderly, safe, free from disruption, and conducive to him/her putting forth his/her best effort.

GENERAL

1. Section 614 of the Michigan School Code authorizes local Boards of Education to establish reasonable rules and regulations relative to anything necessary for the proper establishment and management of the schools.
2. Each student has the responsibility to: a) be aware of and adhere to school rules; b) respect the rights and authority of others; c) achieve academic and social goals; d) be present and punctual; e) refrain from libel, slanderous remarks and obscenity in verbal and written expression; f) dress in a manner that meets standards of health, cleanliness, and safety.
3. In keeping with the Family Rights and Privacy Acts (FRPA), students' records and information will be protected.

DUE PROCESS

The constitutional rights of individuals assure the protection of due process of law; therefore, this system of constitutionally and legally sound procedures is developed with regard to the administration of discipline in the schools of Michigan.

1. The hallmarks of the exercise of disciplinary authority shall be reasonableness and fairness.
2. Every effort shall be made by administrators and faculty members to resolve problems through effective utilization of school district resources in cooperation with the student and his parent or guardian.
3. Students will be given an opportunity for a hearing with the appropriate school administrator if they or their parents or guardian indicate the desire for one. The hearing will provide the student and his/her parent or guardian the opportunity to contest the facts which may lead to disciplinary action, or to contest the appropriateness of the sanction imposed by a disciplinary authority.
4. A student shall not be judged guilty solely by virtue of being accused by a fellow student.

OFFICE PROCEDURES

1. Upon entering the office area or student intervention area, students will sit quietly and not disrupt office operations.
2. Not following these guidelines may be cause for an out-of-school suspension and/or a request for a parental conference.

BEHAVIORAL CONSEQUENCES

(See Restorative Practices)

COMMUNITY SERVICE

Community Service is a disciplinary alternative available to administrators in dealing with some behavioral problems. Students must fulfill community service obligations. Failure to complete assigned community service hours could result in an out-of-school suspension.

AFTER-SCHOOL DETENTION

After-school detention is a disciplinary alternative available to administrators in dealing with some less serious behavioral problems. After-school detention is one-half to an hour in length. Date and times will be assigned by the administrator or designee. Failure to complete assigned after-school detention may result in out-of-school suspension.

SUSPENSION AND EXPULSION

The Revised School Code provides each school board with the authority to establish a local discipline policy. Each local school board has the authority to make reasonable regulations relative to the proper establishment, maintenance, and management of the schools in the district. Districts shall develop and implement a code of student conduct and enforce its provisions with regard to a pupil's misconduct in a classroom, elsewhere on school premises, on a bus or other school-related vehicle, or at a school-sponsored activity or event whether or not it is held on school premises and/or off-campus activity that materially disrupts the educational environment. Pupils guilty of a gross misdemeanor or persistent disobedience may be suspended or expelled. A local or intermediate school district or a public school academy must develop and implement a code of student conduct and enforce the provisions of that code regarding misconduct [MCL 380.1309- 380.1311a].

Types of Suspensions and Expulsions

Suspensions and expulsions vary based upon the seriousness of the behavior and the length and severity of the consequence. They may range from a one-day in-school suspension to permanent expulsion.

1. Suspension Pending Parental Conference –Administration requires a parental conference before the student returns to school.
2. Short Term Suspensions - These suspensions may be 10 consecutive days or less. Suspensions that are for 10 consecutive days or less in length require minimal due process protection, including oral or written notice of accusation(s), explanation of evidence to support the charges, defined disciplinary measures, and an opportunity for the pupil to respond.
3. Long Term Suspensions or Expulsions – Imposed for more serious infractions. Additionally, the Michigan School Code provides that a local board of education may authorize or order the suspension or expulsion from school for a pupil guilty of a "gross misdemeanor" or "persistent disobedience" for a period up to 180 days.

4. Permanent Expulsions – Imposed for serious infractions or pursuant to the mandatory expulsion requirements under the Michigan School Code. Please be advised that a district, or the district's designee, is required to permanently expel a pupil from the district for weapons, arson, criminal sexual conduct, or physical assault to an employee, volunteer, or a person contracted by the school district.

SUSPENSION PROCEDURES

It is the policy of this school system to exhaust, when appropriate, all reasonable alternatives available before the exclusion of a student is used as a solution to a problem, recognizing that exclusion at times may be necessary. Where such action is taken:

1. The student shall be informed of the specific charges which could be the basis for disciplinary action to be taken against him or her.
2. The student has the right to present to the school administrator any relevant information which will support his/her defense.
3. Should the student be suspended by the school administrator, that administrator will notify the parent or guardian as soon as possible of the suspension, the reason for it, and the steps necessary to effectuate the student's return. The administrator may meet with the parent or guardian and the student to plan the satisfactory return of the student to the school setting.
4. Students are expected to complete their assignments for credit while suspended. Homework will be provided for suspensions up to and including 10 days.
5. If the parent or guardian is dissatisfied with this action, he/she may appeal to the building principal.
6. While on suspension, a student shall not enter onto district property without the permission of a building administrator.

EXPULSION PROCEDURES

Students may be expelled pursuant to the hearing procedures outlined below:

1. Written notice of charges against a student shall be supplied to the parent or guardian at his or her last known address or in-person. The Office of the Superintendent shall contact the parent or guardian to establish the time and place for a hearing, which shall be reasonable for the parties concerned.
2. The student and his/her parent or guardian shall be requested to attend the hearing.
3. The student shall be given an opportunity to give his/her version of the facts and their implications. He/she shall be allowed to offer the testimony of witnesses on his/her behalf and other evidence.
4. The student or his/her adult representative shall be allowed to observe all evidence offered against him/her.
5. The student may be represented by legal counsel at his/her expense.
6. The hearing shall be conducted by the Board of Education which shall make its determination solely upon the evidence presented at the hearing.
7. The Board of Education shall state at the next regularly scheduled meeting after the hearing its findings as to whether or not the student charged is guilty of the conduct charged and its decision as to expulsion.
8. The findings of the hearing authority shall be reduced to writing and sent to the student and his/her parent or guardian.
9. The student and his/her parent or guardian shall be made aware of his/her right to appeal the decision of the hearing authority to the appropriate authority.

SCHOOL SPONSORED EVENTS POLICY

All Rules and Regulations apply at all school-sponsored events whether they occur on or off school property. Proper conduct is expected. The school has the right to refuse any student entrance to school-sponsored events.

OFF-CAMPUS CONDUCT POLICY

Administration may discipline a student for any activity, whether or not the school is in session, if such off-campus activity may be reasonably interpreted to impede the ability of the district to maintain a safe, orderly, and disciplined educational environment or that results in a material disruption to the learning environment. At such time that an activity is brought to the attention of the administration that a student has engaged in such conduct off-campus, the administration of the school which the student attends will conduct an investigation of the activity. Upon completion of an investigation, the administration will initiate appropriate disciplinary action if the action warrants, up to and including suspension or expulsion, in the same fashion as if the action had occurred on campus.

DISCIPLINE AND STUDENT CONDUCT

LEGAL BASIS

The authority of the Board of Education to make reasonable rules and regulations regarding discipline and to authorize suspension and expulsion is granted in Sections 340.613 and 340.614 of the General School Laws of Michigan 1970 which is as follows:

"The Board may authorize or order the suspension or expulsion from school of any pupil guilty of gross misdemeanor or persistent disobedience, or one having habits or bodily conditions detrimental to the school, whenever in its judgment the interests of the school may demand it; provided, that except in a case in which the parents or legal guardian of a child refuses to have the child medically or clinically examined, no child may be expelled or suspended from school upon the basis of physical handicap unless the Board has obtained a certified statement from a physician that the child is so physically handicapped that he should not attend school, or on the basis of mental handicap unless the Board has obtained a statement from a psychiatrist or a child center or clinic or other appropriate agency approved by the Superintendent of Public Instruction that the child is incapable of benefiting from public school attendance."

"Every Board shall have authority to make reasonable rules and regulations relative to anything whatever necessary for the proper establishment, maintenance, management and carrying on of the public schools of such district, including regulations relative to the conduct of pupils concerning their safety while in attendance at school or en route to and from school."

RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE STUDENT

The primary intent of society in establishing public schools is to provide an opportunity for learning. While in the school setting, students have full rights of citizenship as delineated in the United States Constitution and its amendments. These rights must not be abridged, obstructed, or in other ways altered except in accordance with due process of law. It is further recognized that education is one of these rights.

While full recognition is given to the rights of the individual, equal recognition is given to the rights of all other students to an education in an atmosphere that will provide for the safety and general welfare regardless of race, religion, or economic status. All students are entitled to an education free from fear and disruption.

RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE SCHOOL

Administrators and teachers also have rights and duties. Individual building principals are authorized to develop and enforce additional reasonable rules of student conduct for the pupils of their specific buildings which are not inconsistent with this policy. Classroom teachers are required by law to maintain a suitable environment for learning and administrators have the responsibility for maintaining and facilitating the educational program and process. Teachers are authorized to impose reasonable rules for the conduct of students within their classrooms which are not inconsistent with this policy, subject to the review and approval of the building principal.

Further, if at any time, in the opinion of the building principal, it is necessary for the good of the student or the school to have a student removed from a given class or school building, a student may be suspended by that principal in accordance with statute. The teacher has the authority to recommend the suspension of students from a class for cause. The regulations and due process procedures are designed to protect all members of the educational community in the exercise of their rights and duties.

RESPONSIBILITY FOR DISCIPLINE

In the final analysis, parents are responsible for the behavior and attitudes of their children. Teachers, administrators, and counselors deal with such problems to the extent the student will accept their help and authority. When their efforts fail or are not accepted by the student, parents must then deal with their child to ensure proper respect for school authorities and acceptable behavior on the part of their child.

DEFINITION OF DISCIPLINE

Definition: The control of conduct by the individual himself/herself or by an external authority. Good discipline should always be considered in terms of helping the learner to grow, rather than as punishment. Respect, both for individual rights and for the rights of the group, is basic to sound discipline.

WEAPONS-FREE SCHOOL POLICY

Under Michigan law, a student who is found to possess a dangerous weapon in a Weapons-Free School Zone, or who commits arson in a school building or on school grounds, or who commits criminal sexual conduct in a school building or on school grounds shall be expelled from the school district permanently, subject to possible reinstatement.

A dangerous weapon includes, but is not limited to, a firearm (i.e., handgun, rifle, pellet gun, or starter pistol), dagger, dirk, stiletto, knife with a blade over three inches in length, pocket knife opened by a mechanical device, iron bar or brass knuckles.

A student thus expelled will be referred to the criminal justice system and the appropriate County Department of Social Services or community mental health agency. Notification of the referral will be provided to the parent, legal guardian, and/or student.

ASSAULT ON ANOTHER WITH A DANGEROUS WEAPON IN A WEAPONS-FREE SCHOOL ZONE

Public Act 158 of 1994 provides that persons who assault others on school property or in school vehicles with a firearm or weapon are guilty of a felony punishable by one or more of the following: imprisonment for not more than four years, community service for not more than 150 hours, and/or a fine of not more than \$6000.

PARENTAL LIABILITY FOR MINORS WHO COMMIT WEAPONS-FREE SCHOOL ZONE VIOLATIONS

A parent of a minor who commits a weapon violation is guilty of a misdemeanor if the parent knows of the intended violation and acts to further the violation or fails to report it. The misdemeanor is punishable by a fine of not more than \$2000 and/or community service for not more than 100 hours or probation.

ASSAULT ON ANOTHER STUDENT OR STAFF MEMBER

The State of Michigan mandates under Section 380.1310 of the Revised School Code that a student who physically assaults another student or staff member on school property at any school-sponsored activity or in a school-related vehicle shall be suspended or expelled for up to 180 school days.

Anti-Bullying Policy
(See VBP Board Policy: 5517.01)

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. 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 procedure.

Parents or legal guardians of the alleged victim(s), as well as of the alleged aggressor(s), shall be promptly notified of any complaint or investigation as well as the results of the investigation to the extent consistent with student confidentiality requirements. A record of the time and form of notice or attempts at notice shall be kept in the investigation file.

To the extent appropriate and/or legally permitted, **confidentiality** will be maintained during the investigation process. However, a proper investigation will, in some circumstances require the disclosure of names and allegations. Further, the appropriate authorities may be notified, depending on the nature of the complaint and/or the results of the investigation.

Implementation

The Superintendent is responsible to implement this policy, and may develop further guidelines, not inconsistent with this policy.

This policy is not intended to and should not be interpreted to interfere with legitimate free speech rights of any individual. However, the District reserves the right and responsibility to maintain a safe environment for students, conducive to learning and other legitimate objectives of the school program.

Procedure

Any student who believes s/he has been or is the victim of bullying, hazing, or other aggressive behavior should immediately report the situation to the Principal or assistant principal. The student may also report concerns to a teacher or counselor 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.

A student may also submit a report or complaint to any of the above designated individuals through email, voicemail, regular mail, or by leaving a sealed note addressed to the individual at that person's office or desk. The student may submit a report or complaint anonymously, but this may affect the ability to fully investigate the matter, when the complaining student is not available to provide additional information during the course of the investigation.

The identity of a student who reports bullying, hazing or aggressive behavior, as well as those students who provide information during an investigation will remain confidential to the extent possible and to the extent allowable by law. Only school personnel directly involved in the investigation of the complaint or responsible for remedying any violation will be provided access to the identity of the complaining student(s) and student witnesses, and then only to the extent necessary to effectively deal with the situation.

The identity of the student who files the report or complainant will not be voluntarily shared with the alleged perpetrator(s) of the witnesses unless the student and his/her parent/guardian give written permission to do so. Any investigation report will likewise not be voluntarily produced with the names of the reporting student(s) or witnesses. However, under certain circumstances, the District may be required by law to disclose the report and/or the student(s) names. Also, under certain circumstances, the identity of the reporting student may become obvious even without disclosure by school personnel.

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 shall be made to those identified above. **While reports may be made anonymously, formal disciplinary action may not be taken solely on the basis of an anonymous report without other corroborating evidence.**

The Principal (or other administrator as designated) shall promptly investigate and document all complaints about bullying, aggressive or other behavior that may violate the policy. The investigation must be completed as promptly as the circumstances permit after a report or complaint is made.

If the investigation finds an instance of bullying or aggressive behavior has occurred, it will result in prompt and appropriate remedial action. This may include 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 or other appropriate 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.

The individual responsible for conducting the investigation shall document all reported incidents and report all verified incidents of bullying, aggressive or other prohibited behavior, as well as any remedial action taken, including disciplinary actions and referrals, to the Superintendent. The Superintendent shall submit a compiled report to the Board on an annual basis.

Formal bullying reports can be located on the McBride Website or download here: [Bullying incident report form](#)

Non-Retaliation/False Reports

Retaliation or false allegations against any person who reports, is thought to have reported, files a complaint, participates in an investigation or inquiry concerning allegation of bullying or aggressive behavior (as a witness or otherwise), or is the target of the bullying or aggressive behavior being investigated, is prohibited and will not be tolerated. Such retaliation shall be considered a serious violation of Board policy, independent of whether a complaint of bullying is substantiated. Suspected retaliation should be reported in the same manner as bullying/aggressive behavior.

Making intentionally false reports about bullying/aggressive behavior for the purpose of getting someone into trouble is similarly prohibited and will not be tolerated. Retaliation and intentionally false reports may result in disciplinary action as indicated above.

Definitions

The following definitions are provided for guidance only. If a student or other individual believes there has been bullying, hazing, harassment or other aggressive behavior, regardless of whether it fits a particular definition, s/he should report it immediately and allow the administration to determine the appropriate course of action.

“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. Such behavior includes, for example, bullying, hazing, stalking, intimidation, menacing, coercion, name-calling, taunting, making threats, and hitting/pushing/shoving.

“At School” is defined as in a classroom, elsewhere on school premises, on a school bus or other school related vehicle, or at a school-sponsored activity or event whether or not held on school premises. It also includes conduct using a telecommunications access device or telecommunications service provider that occurs off school premises if either owned by or under the control of the District.

“Bullying” is defined as any written, verbal, or physical acts, including cyber bullying (i.e. any electronic communication, including, but not limited to electronically transmitted acts, such as internet, telephone, or cell phone, personal digital assistant (PDA), or wireless handheld device) that, without regard to its subject matter or motivating animus, is intended or that a reasonable person would know is likely to harm one (1) or more students either directly or indirectly by doing any of the following:

- A. substantially interfering with educational opportunities, benefits, or programs of one (1) or more students;
- B. adversely affecting the ability of a student to participate in or benefit from the school district’s educational programs or activities by placing the student in reasonable fear of physical harm or by causing substantial emotional distress;
- C. having an actual and substantial detrimental effect on a student’s physical or mental health; and/or
- D. causing substantial disruption in, or substantial interference with, the orderly operation of the school.

Bullying can be physical, verbal, psychological, or a combination of all three. Some examples of bullying are:

- A. Physical – hitting, kicking, spitting, pushing, pulling; taking and/or damaging personal belongings or extorting money, blocking or impeding student movement, unwelcome physical contact.
- B. Verbal – taunting, malicious teasing, insulting, name calling, making threats.
- C. Psychological – spreading rumors, manipulating social relationships, coercion, or engaging in social exclusion/shunning, extortion, or intimidation. This may occur in a number of different ways, including but not limited to notes, emails, social media postings, and graffiti.

“Cyber Bullying” includes, but is not limited to, the following misuses of technology: harassing, teasing, intimidating, threatening, or terrorizing another person by sending or posting inappropriate and hurtful email messages, instant messages, text messages, digital pictures/images, or Web postings Neither the school’s network nor the broader Internet (whether accessed on campus or off campus, either during or after school hours) may be used for the purpose of bullying or hazing. Sending threatening messages through electronic means may be criminal in nature. Typically, the schools will not be involved in the resolution of cyber bullying which occurs outside of school unless it creates a reasonable threat of material and substantial disruption at school.

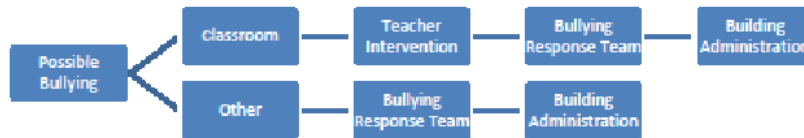
“Harassment” includes, but is not limited to, any act which subjects an individual or group to unwanted, abusive behavior of a nonverbal, verbal, written, or physical nature, often on the basis of age, race, religion, color, national origin, marital status, or disability, but may also include sexual orientation, physical characteristics (e.g. height, weight, complexion), cultural background, socioeconomic status, or geographic location (e.g. from rival school, different state, rural area, city, etc.).

“Intimidation/Menacing” includes, but is not limited to, any threat or act intended to: place a person in fear of physical injury or offensive physical contact; to substantially damage or interfere with person’s property; or to intentionally interfere with or block a person’s movement without good reason.

“Staff” includes all school employees and Board members.

“Third parties” include, but are not limited to, coaches, school volunteers, parents, school visitors, service contractors, vendors, or others engaged in District business, and others not directly subject to school control at inter-district or intra-district athletic competitions or other school events.

VBPS Bullying Response Plan



VBPS Bullying Response Procedures:

1. Reporting by staff:
 - a. When staff witness verbal or physical acts intended to harm another physically or psychologically, that staff member should immediately stop the behavior, separate the students and clarify what behaviors were inappropriate and what behaviors should replace them. Follow the ***“if it’s mean, intervene,”*** policy.
 - i. For grades K-6, in any misbehaviors that could be perceived by the students or parents as bullying, the teacher will notify the parents of the students involved before the end of the school day.
 - b. If the staff member feels this incident *could* be bullying, he or she will:
 - i. Complete a *VBPS Incident Reporting Form*
 - ii. Contact the parents of students involved *before the end of the day*.
 - iii. Submit them to a member of the school’s *Bullying Response Team* along with any evidence and documentation
2. Reporting by students, parents, and others:
 - a. Parents, students and others who have become aware of a potential bullying issue should report it to the school’s Principal Office.
 - i. Parties should fill out the *VBPS Incident Reporting Form* (available to parents and students in the office and on the schools’ websites).
 - ii. The *Bullying Response Team* will follow up on all forms submitted.
3. Bullying Response Team
 - a. *Bullying Response Team* will be comprised of the principal, assistant principal, counselor, social worker, and at least one teacher.
 - b. All referrals to the *Bullying Response Team* will be addressed.
 - c. Possible interventions include:
 - i. Counseling
 - ii. Parental Conference
 - iii. Peer Mediation
 - iv. Group Conference
 - v. Suspension
 - vi. Removal from Class
 - vii. Expulsion

SCHOOL RULES AND REGULATIONS

Van Buren Public Schools Discipline Policy

RESTORATIVE PRACTICES

A major consideration of the Code of Conduct is to identify appropriate restorative practices actions that will bring about positive student behavior. Restorative Practice focuses on the harms, needs and causes of student behavior, not just the breaking of rules and dispensing of punishment. Restorative practice attempts to provide students with an opportunity to be accountable for the harm caused as well as the opportunity to repair the harm. Students are empowered to help resolve conflict and maintain an environment where the work of the school can happen. The goal of restorative discipline is to provide students an opportunity to learn to think differently about harm, to deal with conflict in peaceful and creative ways, to address accountability and responsibility, to focus on one another's humanity and to problem-solve in terms of community and collaboration.

Restorative practices require an individual to acknowledge that misconduct and conflict can result in harm not only to those directly involved, but also the entire educational community. It focuses on the concepts of healing, respect, accountability and engagement. Individuals who cause injury are encouraged to make things right with those whom they have harmed, thus impacting the entire educational community in a positive way.

By statute, factors considered in applying restorative practices include:

- The student's age
- The student's disciplinary history
- Whether the student has a disability
- The seriousness of the violation or behavior committed by the student
- Whether the violation or behavior committed by the student threatens the safety of any student or staff member
- Whether restorative practices will be used to address the violation or behavior committed by the student
- Whether a lesser intervention would properly address the violation or behavior committed by the student

Van Buren Public Schools is dedicated to providing an environment where learning is a priority and high levels of learning is a goal for all students. To achieve these goals, there are certain standards of behavior that each school must require to maintain the school's legal responsibility to its core mission of learning. An effective learning environment cannot be maintained without proper discipline. In an effort to be consistent throughout the district, we have set some specific policies for dealing with inappropriate behavior.

Students who consistently disrupt the educational process will be placed on a four strike policy resulting in progressive discipline of suspension up to and including expulsion. On a student's fourth office referral:

1. Administrator will require a meeting with both parent and student
2. Administrators will develop an action plan tailored to that particular student's need to prevent infraction from occurring again.
3. If behavior persists, progressive discipline will be implemented
4. Administrator will again require a meeting with the parent and student to review the action plan.

Additionally, for certain conduct, the Van Buren Public Schools believes in a zero tolerance approach and will uniformly enforce the following penalties for inappropriate conduct:

1. Fighting, Assault and/or Battery on Another Person (including punching, hitting, fighting, kicking, biting, spitting, etc.).
 - a. A student shall not cause or attempt to cause physical injury to a student, or other person.
 - b. Penalty: Conference with the parent and/or principal and possible suspension or recommendation for long term suspension or expulsion. Students may also be cited by local police authorities for disorderly conduct.
2. Drugs/Alcohol, Use of
 - a. Possession, use, or under the influence of alcohol, illegal drugs, look-alike drugs, or other substances which produce irregular or abnormal behavior.
 - b. Penalty: Conference with the parent and/or principal and possible suspension or recommendation for long term suspension or expulsion. Students may also be cited by local police authorities for disorderly conduct.
3. Distribution of Drugs/Alcohol
 - a. The sale, distribution, or transfer of illegal drugs, prescription or look-alike drugs or alcoholic beverages.
First Offense: Referral to police authorities and recommendation for expulsion.

STUDENT ACTS PROHIBITED

Student involvement or participation in the following or related activities is prohibited in school buildings, on school property, on school buses, at school-sponsored events, and on or against the property of persons of school personnel or their families. Disciplinary action will be taken by the school, (regardless of action by civil authorities), with penalties ranging from administrative intervention to expulsion. Please be advised that police and/or other state agencies may be contacted for any and all offenses that potentially are in violation of state or federal laws.

DEFINITIONS/VIOLATION NUMBERS:

1. **ALTERING SCHOOL DOCUMENTS/FALSIFICATION OF RECORDS** – the act of changing, altering or forging any school related document including but not limited to passes, re-entries, progress reports, report cards, transcripts and computer/on-line records.
***PENALTY** – Administrative intervention to expulsion.*
2. **ARSON** – The setting of fires or the use of open flames for improper purposes is prohibited.
***PENALTY** – Mandatory permanent expulsion under the Michigan School Code/Referral to police authorities.*
3. **BOMB THREAT** – The deliberate attempt through verbal or written communication to disrupt normal school operations by reporting an impending threat of explosives on school property when no such threat exists.
***PENALTY** – Administrative intervention to expulsion/Possible referral to police authorities.*
4. **BULLYING** – please refer to the VBPS Anti-Bullying Policy and Response Plan
5. **CHEATING** – Copying, test sharing, plagiarism, un-cited use of internet source materials and all other forms of cheating are strictly prohibited. Plagiarism is the action of using, without due acknowledgement, the thoughts, scholarship or intervention of another person. All word-for-word quotations, summaries and any borrowed ideas that are paraphrased or mentioned must have cited sources.
***PENALTY** – Administrative intervention to expulsion including a zero on assignments.*
6. **CRIMINAL ACTS** - The act of committing or participating in any conduct or act defined as a crime by federal or state law or local ordinance.
***PENALTY** – Administrative intervention to expulsion/Referral to police authorities.*
7. **CRIMINAL SEXUAL CONDUCT** – Violation set forth in Chapter LXXVI of the Michigan Penal Code (MCL 750.520b to 750520g).
***PENALTY** – Mandatory permanent expulsion under the Michigan School Code/Referral to police authorities.*
8. **DISCRIMINATORY HARASSMENT** – Includes, but is not limited to, any act which subjects an individual or group to unwanted, abusive behavior of a nonverbal, verbal, written, or physical nature, often on the basis of age, race, religion, color, national origin, marital status, or disability, but may also include sexual orientation, physical characteristics (e.g. height, weight, complexion), cultural background, socioeconomic status, or geographic location (e.g. from rival school, different state, rural area, city, etc.).
***PENALTY** – Administrative intervention to expulsion.*
9. **DISRUPTION OF SCHOOL** – Inciting and/or contributing to the disruption of the educational process and/or school sponsored activities.
***PENALTY** – Administrative intervention to expulsion.*
10. **DISTRIBUTION OF PRINTED MATERIAL** – The act of distributing or posting unauthorized material on school district property.
***PENALTY** – Administrative intervention to expulsion.*
11. **EXTORTION** – The act of taking or attempting to take any money or things of value from a student in school in the presence of either an implied or expressed threat.
***PENALTY** – Administrative intervention to expulsion/Referral to police authorities.*
12. **FALSE ALARM** – The intentional act of initiating or participating in the setting of a false fire alarm, or making a false fire, bomb, or catastrophe report.
***PENALTY** – Administrative intervention to expulsion.*
13. **FALSE ALLEGATIONS** – The act of libel or slander or to make false allegations against another student, district employees, Board of Education members or volunteers.
***PENALTY** – Administrative intervention to expulsion.*

14. **FAILURE TO IDENTIFY ONESELF OR GIVE A FALSE NAME** – The act of refusing to provide any staff member with proper name when requested to do so or knowingly providing a false name upon request.
- PENALTY** – *Administrative intervention to expulsion.*
15. **FIREWORKS/EXPLOSIVE MATERIALS** – The possession, transfer, distribution, or use of fireworks, explosive materials, or smoke-producing devices.
- PENALTY** – *Administrative intervention to expulsion.*
16. **FORGERY** – The act of fraudulently using, in writing, the name of another person, or falsifying times, dates, grades, addresses, or other data on school forms, documents, or stickers.
- PENALTY** – *Administrative intervention to expulsion.*
17. **GAMBLING** – The act of possessing or playing any game of chance for money or valuables, including but not limited to card and dice playing.
- PENALTY** – *Administrative intervention to expulsion.*
18. **GANG ACTIVITY/INSIGNIA** – The act of possessing any clothing, objects, or colors, (headgear, bandanas, etc.) jewelry, symbol, or committing any act, verbal or non-verbal (gestures, hand signals, handshakes, etc.), that may reasonably be perceived by a staff member as evidence of membership in or affiliation with a gang.
- PENALTY** – *Administrative intervention to expulsion/Possible referral to police and/or other authorities.*
19. **GROSS DISRESPECT** – Willful and extreme rudeness directed toward school employees or other adults, including derogatory remarks and obscene gestures.
- PENALTY** – *Administrative intervention to expulsion.*
20. **HABITUAL/PERSISTENT MISCONDUCT** – Any behavior which continues to be disruptive despite the previous action taken by school officials.
- PENALTY** – *Administrative intervention to expulsion.*
21. **HAZING** – Any activity which endangers the physical safety of a student, produces mental or physical discomfort, causes embarrassment, fright, or degrades the student.
- PENALTY** – *Administrative intervention to expulsion.*
22. **HORSEPLAY OR INAPPROPRIATE CONDUCT (PLAY FIGHTING)** – The act of wrestling or inappropriate conduct in classrooms, halls, or other school building properties
- PENALTY** – *Administrative intervention to expulsion.*
23. **HUMAN DIGNITY POLICY** – Behavior by students that insults, degrades, or stereotypes any race, gender, handicap, physical condition, sexual orientation, marital status, ethnic group, or religion; conduct detrimental to the normal functioning of school activities including but not limited to:
- A. Spoken or written racial or ethnic slurs. / Racial, ethnic, or religious intimidation.
 - B. Authorship, publication, and circulation of unauthorized material.
 - C. Possession of pornographic or obscene material.
 - D. Hazing or initiations.
 - E. Sexual harassment
- PENALTY** – *Administrative intervention to expulsion.*
24. **IMPROPER COMMUNICATION** – The act of using or making obscene, offensive, threatening, annoying, or vulgar communications, verbally, in writing or by gestures to any student or staff member.
- PENALTY** – *Administrative intervention to expulsion.*
25. **IMPROPER USE OF TECHNOLOGY** – The act of violating the “Acceptable Use Policy and Procedures” student contract for the use of computers, electronic information, resources, or other technologies (e.g., use of networks operated by the school district, etc.), or verbal or written directions of school district personnel regarding the acceptable use of computers and other technologies.
- PENALTY** – *Administrative intervention to expulsion.*

26. **INDECENCY** – The act of offending commonly recognized standards of good taste, including offensive displays of affection or use of ethnically or sexually offensive language, images, or writing.
- PENALTY** – *Administrative intervention to expulsion.*
27. **INSTIGATION** – The act of willfully and continually being a nuisance towards staff and or other students. This includes verbal, physical, video recorded or written actions.
- PENALTY** – *Administrative intervention to expulsion.*
28. **INSUBORDINATION/FAILURE TO COOPERATE** – The failure to respond or carry out a reasonable request by authorized school personnel. This includes the refusal by any student to give up his/her cell phone or electronic device.
- PENALTY** – *Administrative intervention to expulsion.*
29. **INTERFERENCE WITH/OR INTIMIDATION OF SCHOOL PERSONNEL** – The act of preventing or attempting to prevent school personnel from engaging in their lawful duties through actions, threats, violence, harassment, or verbal intimidation.
- PENALTY** – *Administrative intervention to expulsion/Possible referral to police authorities.*
30. **INTIMIDATION** – includes, but is not limited to, any threat or act intended to: place a person in fear of physical injury or offensive physical contact; to substantially damage or interfere with a person's property; or to intentionally interfere with or block a person's movement without good reason.
- PENALTY** – *Administrative intervention to expulsion/Possible referral to police authorities.*
31. **LEAVING CLASS WITHOUT PERMISSION** – The act of leaving a classroom or assigned location (including office, lunchroom, or in-school suspension room) without permission of supervising staff members.
- PENALTY** – *Administrative intervention to expulsion.*
32. **OFF-CAMPUS VIOLATION**– Any act that is committed that can reasonably be considered an endangerment to the wellbeing or safety to a member of the school or district.
- PENALTY** – *Administrative intervention to expulsion.*
33. **OUT OF ASSIGNED AREA** – The act of being found out of the student's assigned location within the building or grounds.
- PENALTY** – *Administrative intervention to expulsion.*
34. **PARAPHERNALIA** – Items related to or identified with the use of alcohol, tobacco, and/or drugs including but not limited to lighters, matches, pipes, rolling papers, etc.
- PENALTY** – *Administrative intervention to expulsion.*
35. **PERSONAL PROTECTION DEVICES** – The act of possessing, attempting to possess, handling, or transmitting a personal protection device (e.g., pepper gas, mace, etc.) capable of inflicting bodily injury or causing physical discomfort to another person.
- PENALTY** – *Administrative intervention to expulsion.*
36. **PETITIONS** – The act of presenting petitions which are not free from obscene or libelous statements, personal attacks, or are not within the bounds of reasonable conduct.
- PENALTY** – *Administrative intervention to expulsion.*
37. **PHYSICAL ASSAULT - STUDENT** – The willful, unprovoked striking or physically threatening to strike, or act of intentionally injuring any student.
- PENALTY** – *Suspension/expulsion up to 180 days under the Michigan School Code/Referral to police authorities.*
38. **PHYSICAL ASSAULT – STAFF MEMBER** – The act of striking or physically threatening to strike a school employee.
- PENALTY** – *Mandatory expulsion under the Michigan School Code/Referral to police authorities.*
39. **SMOKING** – The act of using cigarettes or other tobacco products by students. More specifically: smoking on school grounds at any age. This also includes holding a lit cigarette.
- PENALTY** – *Administrative intervention to expulsion.*

40. **STEALING OR KNOWING POSSESSION OF STOLEN PROPERTY** – The act of dishonesty acquiring the property of others and/or knowing and concealing the location or possession of such property.
- PENALTY** – *Administrative intervention to expulsion/Possible referral to police authorities.*
41. **TOBACCO POSSESSION** – The act of possessing cigarettes or other tobacco products.
- PENALTY** – *Administrative intervention to expulsion.*
42. **TRESPASSING/LOITERING** – The act of prowling or loitering on foot, in a motor vehicle, or in another manner in or around the school buildings or property without authorization or while serving out of school suspension. This includes the act of trespassing on other school building property (VBPS or other).
- PENALTY** – *Administrative intervention to expulsion.*
43. **TRUANCY** – The act of unauthorized and willful absence from a specific class or school for any period of time.
- PENALTY** – *Administrative intervention to expulsion.*
44. **UNAUTHORIZED PROTEST** – The act of protesting which results in a material disruption of the school without the authorization of a principal.
- PENALTY** – *Administrative intervention to expulsion.*
45. **UNAUTHORIZED USE OF SCHOOL EQUIPMENT**- The act of using school equipment (e.g., fax machines, copiers, computer equipment, laboratory equipment, athletic supplies, tools, etc.) in any unauthorized, dangerous or illegal fashion.
- PENALTY** – *Administrative intervention to expulsion.*
46. **UNLAWFUL DISRUPTION OF EDUCATIONAL PROCESS** – Any act of violence; in possession of a weapon, alcohol, or drugs, or any act that disrupts the educational process.
- PENALTY** – *Administrative intervention to expulsion/Possible referral to authorities.*
47. **VANDALISM** – The act of willful destruction of property belonging to others, or the destruction, damage, or defacement of school property.
- PENALTY** – *Administrative intervention to expulsion/Possible referral to police authorities.*
48. **VERBAL ASSAULT** – Any act, oral or written, which can reasonably be expected to induce another person to be in apprehension of danger of bodily injury or harm, or the use of offensive language directed at a person, where such language is likely to provoke a reasonable person to physical violence.
- PENALTY** – *Administrative intervention to expulsion.*
49. **WEAPONS-USE/POSSESSION** – The act of possessing, using or threatening to use any weapon not included in the definition of dangerous weapon below; this includes any reasonable facsimile or any instrument capable of inflicting bodily injury (Includes look-a-like weapons and BB guns).
- PENALTY** – *Administrative intervention to expulsion.*
50. **WEAPONS-DANGEROUS** – Possession of a firearm, dagger, dirk, stiletto, knife with a blade over three inches in length, pocket knife opened by a mechanical device, iron bar, brass knuckles or an automobile pursuant to Michigan Statute.
- PENALTY** – *Mandatory permanent expulsion under the Michigan School Code/Referral to police authorities.*

**VAN BUREN PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICT
ACCEPTABLE USE POLICY AND PROCEDURES**

INTRODUCTION

Technology resources, including access to the Internet, are now available to students and employees in the Van Buren Public School District. This service, Wayne-Net, is authorized through the Wayne County Regional Educational Service Agency (WCRESA).

The purpose of the District-provided Internet access is to facilitate communications in support of research and education. To remain eligible as a user, a student's use must be in support of and consistent with the educational objectives of the District. Access is a privilege, not a right. Access necessitates responsibility.

The Internet offers vast, diverse, and unique resources to both students and employees. Our goal in providing this service to employees and students is to promote educational excellence in schools by facilitating resource sharing, innovation, and communication.

Students and employees may have access to:

1. Electronic communication with people all over the world.
2. Public-domain software and graphics of all types for school use.
3. Access to many University Library Catalogs, the Library of Congress, and ERIC, a large collection of information relevant to educators and students.
4. Graphical access to the World Wide Web.

With access to computers and people all over the world, also comes the availability of material that may not be considered to be of educational value in the context of the school setting. The Van Buren Public School District has in place precautions, through supervision as well as other available resources, such as filtering, to restrict access to inappropriate materials. Filtering blocks access to visual depictions that are obscene, pornographic, inappropriate for students, or harmful to minors. However, on a global network it is impossible to control all materials, and an industrious user may discover controversial information. The Van Buren Public School District firmly believes that the valuable information and interaction available on this worldwide network far outweighs the possibility that users may violate this policy and procure material that is not consistent with the policies and educational goals of the District.

Internet access is coordinated through a complex association of regional and state networks with government agencies. The smooth operation of the network relies upon the proper conduct of the end users who must adhere to strict guidelines. These guidelines are provided here so that you are aware of your privileges and responsibilities. In general this requires responsible, ethical, and legal utilization of the network resources.

If a Van Buren Public School District user violates any of these provisions, his or her access will be terminated immediately, and he or she will face possible disciplinary and/or legal action. Additionally, future access may be denied.

Internet Terms and Conditions of Use

1. **Usage** – The use of the Internet is a privilege, not a right, and inappropriate or improper use will result in a cancellation of those privileges. Prior to using the internet, each student or employee who accesses the Internet must take part in a discussion with a designated Van Buren Public School District staff member as to the proper use of the network and the terms and conditions as determined by the District.

System activity on Wayne-Net will be monitored for occasions of abuse and general system maintenance.

The supervising staff member and/or the building administrator will deem what is inappropriate use and his/her decision is final.

The administration, faculty, and staff of the Van Buren Public School District may request, in writing, that the school's administrator deny, revoke, or suspend the access of a specific user at any time. Additionally, the school's principal may deny access at any time.

2. **Network Etiquette** - You are expected to abide by the generally accepted rules of network etiquette. These include, but are not limited to, the following:
 - A. Be polite. Do not become abusive in your messages.
 - B. Use appropriate language. Do not swear, use vulgarities, or any other inappropriate language.
3. **Acceptable Use** – The purpose of the networks making up the Internet is to support research and education in and among academic institutions by providing access to unique resources and the opportunity for collaborative work. Any Internet use must be in support of education and research, as well as consistent with the educational objectives of the Van Buren Public School District. Use of other organizations' networks or computing resources must comply with the rules appropriate for that network and be consistent with the terms and conditions herein. Transmission of any material in violation of any national or state regulations is prohibited. This includes, but is not limited to the following: copyrighted material, threatening or obscene material or material protected by trade secret. (Note, in particular, that copyrighted software may not be transferred electronically.)
 - A. Do not reveal personal information such as addresses, telephone numbers, or otherwise personally identifiable information of students, staff members, or yourself.
 - B. Note that electronic communication is not guaranteed to be private. Other people who operate the system do have access to all communications. Messages relating to or in support of illegal activities may be reported to the appropriate authorities.
 - C. Do not use the network in such a way that disrupts the use of the network by other users. (i.e., individual damages software or hardware, or the user introduces a virus or any other contamination into the network.)
 - D. All communications and information accessible via the network should be assumed to be private property and should be treated as such. Hacking or any attempt to otherwise compromise system security is absolutely prohibited.
 - E. Use for commercial activities by for-profit organizations, product promotion, political lobbying, or illegal activities is strictly prohibited.
 - F. Use of public property for personal gain is a felony and is subject to prosecution.
 - G. Use of the network to harm or harass others prohibited.
 - H. Use of e-mail, educational chat rooms, and other forms of direct electronic communications is subject to administrative approval and requires teacher supervision and monitoring. Non-educational chat sessions are prohibited.

Any violation of any of the above will result in loss of privileges, disciplinary action, and possible legal action.

4. **No Warranties** – Van Buren Public School District makes no warranties of any kind, whether expressed or implied, for the service it is providing.

Van Buren Public School District will not be held responsible nor held liable for any damages you may suffer as a result of your use of the internet. This includes, but is not limited to, the loss of data resulting from delays, non-deliveries, mistaken deliveries, or service interruptions caused by, but not limited to, its own negligence or your errors or omissions. Use of any information obtained via the internet is at your own risk. Van Buren Public School District specifically denies any responsibility for the accuracy or quality of information obtained through its services.
5. **Security** – Security on any computer system is high priority, especially when the system involves many users. If you believe that you can identify a security problem on the Internet, you must immediately notify the school's supervising staff member or your school's principal or another Van Buren Public Schools' administrator. Do not demonstrate the problem to other users.

Attempts to log-on to the network or Internet as a system administrator will result in cancellation of user privileges and discipline.

Any user identified as a security risk as determined by the building principal or his or her designee may be denied access to the Internet.
6. **Vandalism** – Vandalism will result in cancellation of privileges, possible restitution and legal action. Vandalism is defined as, but not limited to, any malicious attempt to harm or destroy data of another user, the network, the Internet, or any of the above listed agencies or other networks that are connected to the Internet. This includes, but is not limited to, the uploading or creation of computer viruses.