

WCHS 23-24 Important updates

Hello to all the 2023-2024 students of Wolfe City High School and their parents/guardians. I hope that everyone has been enjoying their summer break and that you have been able to spend time with family and friends. I am sending this letter out to inform all parties of some important reminders and new updates that will be taking place at Wolfe City High School.

1. Attendance - ALL students are expected to adhere to the state's 90% compulsory attendance rule. Attendance at the high school level is recorded differently than at elementary and middle school levels. Those schools will record by day. High school attendance is different because the students earn graduation credits by class per semester. So attendance at the high school level is recorded per period. Meaning that all students MUST be present in each of their classes 90% or more of the time during the semester/year. If they do not meet this requirement they can lose the credit for the class no matter what grade they earned.
 - a. Excused absences - the following will be the acceptable excused absences
Provided proper documentation presented to the office. Each of these have set limits according to the law.
 - Medical doctors visit
 - Required to appear in court
 - Required to appear at government office for US citizenship
 - Serve as election clerk
 - Required to appear in Family protective services
 - Junior/Senior college day
 - Active duty military immediate family call for duty, leave, return
 - Student enlisting in military
 - Religious Holy day
 - School related extracurricular activities - please see "d" below
 - Funeral - one day
 - Drivers license - one day
 - b. Unexcused absences - reasons for students absences not listed above will be counted against a student who is on the verge of being out of compliance or is out of compliance with the 90% rule. Meaning the student will have to follow a plan laid out by the principal to regain credit for a class or keep from losing that credit.
 - c. Documentation - each of the mentioned types of absences will require a note from the organization turned into WCHS secretary **no later than the third class day of the student returning to school**. Documentation will not be accepted after the third day and the absence will be identified as unexcused, thus following the unexcused rules. Parent notes will no longer be accepted as a means for approved absences, this will be determined by the attendance committee.
 - d. Extracurricular activities - The District shall make no distinction between absences for UIL activities and absences for other extracurricular activities approved by the Board. A student shall be allowed in a school year a maximum

of ten extracurricular absences not related to post-district competition, a maximum of five absences for post-district competition prior to state, and a maximum of two absences for state competition.

This rule applies to a student and all the extracurricular activities the student participates in during the school year, not per activity. This includes all UIL sports, Band, color guard, ag, UIL academics, and any activities approved by the Board. Students, parents/guardians, coaches, sponsors need to be aware of all activities the students are involved in and all potential absences they will receive. When a student exceeds the allowed number of days at each level then that student will be in violation of the 90% rule. This rule will be enforced as closely as possible and at the discretion of the principal.

1. Ex: student participates in Cheer, Volleyball, Basketball, Softball - student in cheer leaves early 2 days (7th - 8th periods) for football games, 2 days (7th - 8th periods) for volleyball tournament, 1 day (7th-8th periods) for basketball tournament, 2 days (7th - 8th periods) for softball tournament
 - a. This student will have been absent 7 times for 7th-8th periods.
 - b. If these are the only extracurricular absences the student has incurred they would not be in violation of the 90% rule.
 2. Ex: student participates in football, ag mech, ag steer showing, basketball, baseball, Hunt county fair - football has a long road trip 1 game (8th period), Sam Houston ag mech show 2 full days, Steer showing Houston 3 days, basketball tournament leave early 2 days (7th-8th periods), Baseball tournament 2 days early (6th-8th period), Hunt county showing 3 days.
 - a. This student will miss 1st-5th period 11 days, 6th period 13 days, 7th-8th period 16 days
 - b. This student would be in violation of the 90% rule
 3. These are **just examples** of situations students can potentially be involved in and are not accurate numbers, as some of the days can change depending on the event. WCHS does not want to discourage students from participating, however, students need to be in class as much as possible. We want to be upfront and make everyone mindful of the policy. As you can see absences can incur rather quickly, so the attendance must be monitored. This rule will be enforced as closely as possible and at the discretion of the principal.
- e. Students in violation of 90% rule - will have a series of steps to help the student remain IN compliance with the 90% rule, truancy prevention measures will be put in place. If the prevention measures are not being followed then the school district will file truancy on the student.

2. House Bill 114 - Law passed during summer 2023 state legislative session - relating to the possession, use, or delivery of marihuana or e-cigarettes on or near public school property or at certain school events.
 - a. This new state law means that any student caught on campus, at a school related event, or within 300 feet of school property/activity and being in possession of or under the influence of a vape will result in a mandatory DAEP placement. This means that a student caught even in the possession of the paraphernalia (charger, pod, atomizer, empty box containing mentioned products, ect.) of a vape or e-cigarette will result in a DAEP placement.
 - b. This new state law also means that any student caught on campus, at a school related event, or within 300 feet of school property/activity and being in possession of or under the influence of marihuana, THC, or its paraphernalia will be an automatic DAEP placement with the possibility of the student being arrested and taken to jail. Students could serve time in juvenile detention centers.
3. Tardy process
 - a. Students need to be in class before the bell rings. If the student needs to use the restroom or for any other reason approved by the teacher the student must bring items to class, check in with the teacher, and promptly return to class.
 - b. Teachers are to have doors locked at all times. When the tardy bell rings, the teacher will close the door and not let the student in the room unless they have a tardy slip from the front office.
 - c. All tardies are marked through the front office only and will accumulate per semester.
 - i. 1st - warning
 - ii. 2nd - Break detention
 - iii. 3rd - Lunch Detention
 - iv. 4th - Lunch Detention 2 days
 - v. 5th - After school detention
 - vi. 6th - After school detention 2 days
 - vii. 7th - ISS and loss of semester exam exemptions
 - viii. 8th - ISS 2 days
 - ix. 9th - ISS 3 days
 - x. 10th and beyond - Saturday school
 - d. Ex: if a student has acquired 4th tardy and served the consequence. They come to school the next day and acquire 5th and 6th tardy, then they will need to serve 3 days after school detention.
 - e. Ex: if a student has acquired 6th and served all consequences. They come to school the next day and acquire 7th and 8th tardy during the day, then they will lose semester exam exemption status and will have to serve 3 days in ISS.
- 4.