



2025-2026
STUDENT HANDBOOK
6th, 7th, 8th Grades



Hilliard City School District
Sixth Grade & Middle School Student Handbook

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HILLIARD STATION SIXTH GRADE SCHOOL

5600 Scioto Darby Road, Hilliard, Ohio 43026

Mr. Matthew Trombitas, Principal
Ms. Lauren Schmidt, Assistant Principal
Ms. Drew LeBoeuf, School Counselor
Mrs. Amy Graber, School Counselor

Important Phone Numbers

Main Office Phone.....(614) 921-6800

Main Office Fax.....(614) 921-6801



Daily Schedule

- 7:45 AM Doors open—students may enter building, go to their locker and report to homeroom.
7:55 AM Tardy bell. All students should be in their assigned homeroom seats prior to the sounding of the bell.
Late arrivals must report to the office.
2:40 PM Dismissal.
- The student school day will begin at 7:45 am and conclude at 2:40 pm.
 - Office hours are 7:00 am to 3:30 pm, Monday through Friday.

Bell Schedule

7:55-8:25	WIN Period	
8:28-9:12	Math/ELA Block	SS/Sci/Elec
9:15-9:59		SS/Sci/Elec
10:02-10:46		SS/Sci/Elec
10:49-11:33	SS/Sci/Elec	L/R
11:36-12:20	L/R	SS/Sci/Elec
12:23-1:06	Math/ELA Block	SS/Sci/Elec
1:09-1:52		SS/Sci/Elec
1:55-2:40		SS/Sci/Elec

HILLIARD THARP SIXTH GRADE SCHOOL

4681 Leap Road, Hilliard, Ohio 43026

Mr. Scott Snyder, Principal
Mrs. Molly Hart, School Counselor
Mrs. Taryn Price, School Counselor

Important Phone Numbers
Main Office Phone.....(614) 921-6900
Main Office Fax.....(614) 921-6901



Daily Schedule

- 7:45 AM Doors open—students may enter building, go to their locker and report to homeroom.
7:55 AM Tardy bell. All students should be in their assigned homeroom seats prior to the sounding of the bell.
Late arrivals must report to the office.
2:40 PM Dismissal.
- The student school day will begin at 7:45 am and conclude at 2:40 pm.
 - Office hours are 7:00 am to 3:30 pm, Monday through Friday.

Bell Schedule

7:55-8:25	WIN Period	
8:28-9:12	Math/ELA Block	SS/Sci/Elec
9:15-9:59		SS/Sci/Elec
10:02-10:46		SS/Sci/Elec
10:49-11:33	SS/Sci/Elec	L/R
11:36-12:20	L/R	SS/Sci/Elec
12:23-1:06	Math/ELA Block	SS/Sci/Elec
1:09-1:52		SS/Sci/Elec
1:55-2:40		SS/Sci/Elec

HILLIARD HERITAGE MIDDLE SCHOOL

5670 Scioto Darby Road, Hilliard, Ohio 43026

Mr. Joel Assenheimer, Principal
Mr. Nicholas Gaston, Assistant Principal
Mr. Chris Ludban, Athletic Director

Mr. Michael Daubenmier, 7th Grade Counselor
Mrs. Nina Ravello, 8th Grade Counselor
Mr. Jay Smith, Assistant Athletic Coordinator

Important Phone Numbers

Main Office Phone.....	(614) 921-7500	Attendance Office.....	(614) 921-7540
Main Office Fax.....	(614) 921-7501	Attendance Fax.....	(614) 921-7541
Athletic Office.....	(614) 921-7530	School Counseling Office.....	(614) 921-7520
Athletic Fax.....	(614) 921-7531	School Counseling Fax.....	(614) 921-7521
Music Department.....	(614) 921-7532		



Hilliard Heritage Middle School Bell Schedule

- 7:45 AM Doors open—Bell for students to go to their locker.
- 7:50 AM 5 minute warning bell.
- 7:55 AM Tardy bell. All students must be in their 1st period class. Late arrivals are to report to the attendance office window.
- 2:40 PM Dismissal.

Bell Schedule		
Period	Time	Lunch/Recess
Period 1	7:55 - 8:43	
Period 2	8:46 - 9:34	
Period 3	9:37 - 10:25	
Period 4	10:28 - 11:16	10:28 - 11:16
Period 5	11:19 - 12:07	11:19 - 12:07
Period 6	12:10 - 12:58	12:10 - 12:58
Period 7	1:01 - 1:49	
Period 8	1:52 - 2:40	

HILLIARD MEMORIAL MIDDLE SCHOOL

2900 Walker Road , Hilliard, Ohio 43026

Mr. Mindy Mordarski, Principal
Mr. Jon Way, Assistant Principal
Mr. Chad Bobek, Athletic Director

Mrs. Stephanie Bobek, 8th Grade Counselor
Mrs. Carolyn DiSalvo, 7th Grade Counselor
Mr. Justin Lemmermen, Assistant Athletic Coordinator

Important Phone Numbers

Main Office Phone.....	(614) 921-7600	Attendance Office.....	(614) 921-7640
Main Office Fax.....	(614) 921-7601	Attendance Fax.....	(614) 921-7641
Athletic Office.....	(614) 921-7630	School Counseling Office.....	(614) 921-7620
Athletic Fax.....	(614) 921-7631	School Counseling Fax.....	(614) 921-7621



Hilliard Memorial Middle School Bell Schedule

- 7:45 AM Doors open—Bell for students to go to their locker.
- 7:50 AM 5 minute warning bell.
- 7:55 AM Tardy bell. All students must be in their 1st period class. Late arrivals are to report to the attendance office window.
- 2:40 PM Dismissal.

Bell Schedule		
Period	Time	Lunch/Recess
Period 1	7:55 - 8:43	
Period 2	8:46 - 9:34	
Period 3	9:37 - 10:25	
Period 4	10:28 - 11:16	10:28 - 11:16
Period 5	11:19 - 12:07	11:19 - 12:07
Period 6	12:10 - 12:58	12:10 - 12:58
Period 7	1:01 - 1:49	
Period 8	1:52 - 2:40	

HILLIARD WEAVER MIDDLE SCHOOL

4600 Avery Road, Hilliard, Ohio 43026

Ms. Katherine Hueter, Principal
Mr. Tyler Holmes, Assistant Principal
Mr. Gregory Gantt, Athletic Director

Mrs. Laurie Abele, 7th Grade Counselor
Mrs. Lori Porter, 8th Grade Counselor
Mr. Jay Cauley, Assistant Athletic Coordinator

Important Phone Numbers

Main Office Phone.....	(614) 921-7700	Attendance Office.....	(614) 921-7740
Main Office Fax.....	(614) 921-7701	Attendance Fax.....	(614) 921-7741
Athletic Office.....	(614) 921-7730	School Counseling Office.....	(614) 921-7720
Athletic Fax.....	(614) 921-7731	School Counseling Fax.....	(614) 921-7721



Hilliard Weaver Middle School Bell Schedule

- 7:45 AM Doors open—Bell for students to go to their locker.
- 7:50 AM 5 minute warning bell.
- 7:55 AM Tardy bell. All students must be in their 1st period class. Late arrivals are to report to the attendance office window.
- 2:40 PM Dismissal.

Bell Schedule		
Period	Time	Lunch/Recess
Period 1	7:55 - 8:43	
Period 2	8:46 - 9:34	
Period 3	9:37 - 10:25	
Period 4	10:28 - 11:16	10:28 - 11:16
Period 5	11:19 - 12:07	11:19 - 12:07
Period 6	12:10 - 12:58	12:10 - 12:58
Period 7	1:01 - 1:49	
Period 8	1:52 - 2:40	

INNOVATION CAMPUS

5323 Cemetery Road, Hilliard, Ohio 43026
3859 Main Street, Hilliard, Ohio 43026

Mark Tremayne, Director
Craig Vroom, Principal - ILC
Stacy Carter, Principal - HUB
Cassidy Taylor, School Counselor
Trevor Maggied, District College Counselor
Madison Buty, Social Worker—Innovation Campus

Important Phone Numbers

ILC—Office Phone..... (614) 921-4800
ILC— Office Fax..... (614) 921-4801
School Counseling Office..... (614) 921-4820
HUB—Office Phone..... (614) 921-4850
HUB— Office Fax..... (614) 921-4851



District Website: www.hilliardschools.org
Innovation Campus Website: www.hilliardschools.org/innovation/



DISTRICT MISSION STATEMENT

Hilliard City Schools will ensure that every student is Ready For Tomorrow

WELCOME

Our schools are dedicated to caring about students and providing a school climate that is safe and conducive to learning. An atmosphere of trust, consistency and respect for individual differences will enable and encourage learners to achieve their goals. Your success will depend upon the development of effective study habits, regular attendance and self-discipline.

The goal of our schools is for each student to achieve their greatest potential. To reach this goal, a cooperative effort on the part of students, teachers, administrators and parents must exist. Be prepared every day to do your very best, to make a genuine effort and to develop a positive attitude about school and success.

It is generally recognized that participation in school activities increases one's academic success. For this reason, we encourage you to become involved in the wide variety of activities available this year.

The purpose of this handbook is to help you become aware of your privileges, opportunities and responsibilities as a citizen of our school. Each student should read this handbook and be knowledgeable of its contents. Please ask your parents to read this handbook as well. If you, or your parents, have any questions or concerns about the policies and procedures outlined in this handbook, please feel free to contact a teacher, counselor or administrator for an explanation.

We hope you will find this year challenging, exciting and rewarding!

Unless otherwise specified, all contents of this handbook applies to all students in sixth, seventh and eighth grades.

Informing Students of Expectations

Each student in the Hilliard City School District shall receive annually an electronic copy of current policies, rules, regulations and procedures commonly known as a student/parent handbook. The student/parent handbook shall contain among other information, a list of those acts for which a student may be suspended, expelled, removed, or otherwise disciplined. Copies of the policies pertaining to [suspension](#) and [expulsion](#) shall be available to all students upon request and are available on the district website.

GENERAL SCHOOL OPERATIONS

STUDENT ARRIVAL/DEPARTURE

- **Bicycles**—Students may ride bicycles to school where possible and permitted. Bicycles are to be parked in the racks provided at applicable buildings. Recreational riding is not permitted at any time. Bikes should always be locked and chained to the rack. Do not chain bikes to school signs. Bike racks are provided at each building and are not supervised. Park at your own risk.
- **Skateboards**—are not permitted on school grounds during school time. Skateboards present a danger to the student and others at the busiest times of the day.
- **Cars—Sixth Grade**—Students arriving by car are to be dropped off and picked up at the designated area (contact your building principal). The roadway behind the building is the school bus loading zone and is not to be used by any other vehicles.
- **Cars—Middle School**—Students arriving by car should be dropped off at the designated entrance. After school, students should be picked up at the same location.
- **Walkers**—All students who walk to and from school are expected to observe usual safety procedures. Also, students are expected to use public walkways and not cut through or damage private property. NEVER walk between buses.
- **Motor Vehicles**—Sixth grade and middle school students are prohibited from operating motor vehicles on school grounds. This includes mopeds and motorcycles.
- **Leaving School Grounds**—Once a student arrives at school, whether by walking, bicycle, bus, or other means, they are not to leave unless authorized by school personnel. The procedure for an early dismissal is outlined under attendance procedures. Students are not to loiter in parking lots before and/or after school.

TEAMING

Students may be “teamed” by grade level in order to more thoroughly coordinate teaching and learning opportunities. Each individual team represents a blend of students with a diversity of interests, backgrounds, and experiences. Our team approach helps to make our school a special place to learn and share with each other! Meeting new friends and working together, we believe, is an important part of your sixth, seventh and eighth grade years!

ADMISSION OF INTRA-DISTRICT TRANSFER STUDENTS

The Board of Education does not wish to participate in an open enrollment program and will entirely prohibit intra-district open enrollment from any other school district (except where tuition is paid per Board [policy JECB](#)).

AUTHORITY OF SCHOOL EMPLOYEES *(Including Substitute Teachers)*

Our school is fortunate in having capable people to help us whenever regular teachers are ill or are attending conferences. A substitute teacher is an important visitor whose impressions of our school will be carried into the community. Let us be certain that these are good impressions by being polite, helpful and considerate as you would be to your regular teacher.

GENERAL SCHOOL OPERATIONS

CLASSROOM EXPECTATIONS

- **Materials:** All students are expected to bring proper materials as determined by their classroom teacher. Teachers will provide information pertaining to other required materials. In the event a textbook is issued, students are expected to maintain care and return the book in the same condition that it was issued.
- **District-Assigned iPads:** iPads are assigned to students for use in class and at home during the school year. iPads will be labeled in the manner specified by the school and can be identified by the serial number. Do not remove your iPad's identifying labels or markings. Students are encouraged to take their iPads home every day after school, regardless of whether or not they are needed. Please see [page 53](#) for additional information regarding acceptable use and cost of repairing or replacing an iPad.

DAILY SCHEDULE FOR MIDDLE SCHOOL STUDENTS

The school day is divided into 8 periods. Your schedule is printed by computer and may seem hard to understand at first. Not every subject meets daily all year long, but must be listed on your schedule period by period. It will be helpful to read the period, class meeting days, and corresponding room numbers. Your classroom teacher will gladly help you interpret your schedule. **DO NOT HESITATE TO ASK.**

The following letter and number codes will be helpful:

Letter Codes		Number Codes	
M	Monday	1	1st Grading Period
T	Tuesday	2	2nd Grading Period
W	Wednesday	3	3rd Grading Period
R	Thursday	4	4th Grading Period
F	Friday		

RELEASE OF STUDENT INFORMATION

In order to provide students with appropriate instruction and educational services, it is necessary for Hilliard City Schools to maintain extensive educational and personal information. The [Family Education Rights and Privacy Act](#) (FERPA) affords parents and students 18 years or older certain rights with respect to the student's education records. These rights are fully explained in the [Hilliard City Schools Board of Education Policy](#).

It is Hilliard City Schools' intention to limit the disclosure of information contained in a student's educational record, however FERPA does permit the release of "directory information" to third parties such as, but not limited to, the media, colleges and universities and local PTO/Booster groups. Directory information, which is defined by the Board of Education and is subject to change, may be disclosed without prior written consent, except when the request is for profit-making plan or activity or when disclosure is otherwise prohibited by law. Hilliard City Schools designates the following as a student's directory information:

- Name
- Address
- Telephone number
- Date of birth
- Dates of attendance
- Date of graduation
- Extracurricular participation
- Weight & height, if a member of an athletic team
- Achievement awards or honors earned

Hilliard City Schools wishes to be respectful of parents who do not want their student's directory information released. Parents have the right to submit a written request, preferably within the first two weeks after the student is enrolled in the school year, directing the district not to release directory information regarding their student. The written request and any questions should be directed to Hilliard City Schools Attn: Communications Department at 2140 Atlas Street, Columbus, OH 43228 or 614-921-7000.

GENERAL SCHOOL OPERATIONS

EMERGENCY DRILLS

Fire, safety (lockdown) and tornado drills are held at scheduled times throughout the school year. Students will be informed as to what signal constitutes a fire, safety and tornado alarm. When the signal is given, all students are to leave the building or move to the designated shelter area assigned for the room. Your teacher will direct you to the proper exit or shelter area. Students are to observe the following during emergency evacuation:

- Use the directed exit. Exit the building or move to the designated shelter area according to the drill instructions posted throughout the building.
- Walk fast, but do not run.
- Keep your hands to your sides.
- Stay in single file.
- Be quiet so that you can hear all directions that may be given.
- Do not stop in front of doors or on the steps. When the building is evacuated, staff and students are to be at least 60 feet away from the building.

EMERGENCY SITUATIONS—NOTIFICATION PROTOCOL

[ORC 5502.262](#) Parent Notification Provision: “School districts, community schools, STEM Schools, and chartered nonpublic schools are required to inform, prior to opening day each school year, each enrolled student and the student’s parent of the parental notification procedures in the school’s protocol for responding to threats and emergency events, which are established under existing law.”

There may be times when it is necessary because of some emergency to dismiss school early. Parents are urged to make arrangements with a neighbor or friend so that the child will have a place to go if the parents are not home.

The District uses ParentSquare to notify parents and guardians of weather delays, cancellations or emergency situations. It’s imperative that your phone number is correct in Home Access. The calls will go to PRIMARY numbers only, so be sure you have the number you want emergency calls to go to listed as your primary number. Parents and guardians not listed as the Primary Contact may also sign up for our messages by clicking on this link: <https://www.hilliardschools.org/enews/>.

Parents and guardians may also sign up for our Text Messaging Service. We utilize ParentSquare to deliver text messages, straight to your mobile phone with information about events, school closings, safety alerts and more.

Emergency School Closing—If it becomes necessary to close, dismiss early or delay the opening of schools due to unexpected emergencies or inclement weather, announcements will be made through ParentSquare, local radio and television stations, Facebook, and will be posted on the district website.

FIELD TRIPS

Students must have the Field Trip Permission form signed off on in Home Access Center before being allowed to go on any field trip.

GENERAL SCHOOL OPERATIONS

FOOD SERVICES

Students are not permitted to leave the premises for lunch. All students will eat in the cafeteria.

- **Breakfast**—Hilliard City Schools provides a breakfast program to all students in all schools in accordance with federal regulations. For pricing and menu information, please check with your child’s school, or see the Parents section of the district’s website at www.hilliardschools.org.
- **School Lunch Program**—In conjunction with Aramark, Hilliard City Schools offers a hot lunch service daily featuring a variety of items. Menus and pricing information is available on the district’s website under the Parents tab, but can be found directly at www.hilliardschools.org/schools/menus/. Lunches may be purchased with cash at the cashier or by an automated prepaid account.
- **Prepaid Lunches**—We encourage parents to prepay for lunches in order to limit the exchange of money during the time-limited lunch period. Each student is assigned a meal account with a Personal Identification Number (PIN), and the total dollar amount of the food selected each day is deducted from the account upon entering the PIN at the cashier’s stand. Aramark will notify families when an account has a negative balance.
 - **There are two types of accounts:**
 1. Meal Accounts are for meals only
 2. General Accounts are for meals and/or snack items
 - **Prepaying can be done in one of two ways:**
 1. Cash or Check—Please send a sealed and labeled envelope to the school office with the following information on the front of the envelope:
 - Student’s name
 - Student’s PIN
 - Total amount of money included
 - Type of account (Meal or General) in which the money should be placed
 2. MyPaymentsPlus (www.mypaymentsplus.com)—Once registered with MyPaymentsPlus, you can access the system 24/7 via the internet or by phone (where available), pay with check, VISA or MasterCard. Please check website for current transaction rates. To create an account online:
 - Go to www.mypaymentsplus.com
 - Click on “Register” and complete the registration process
 - Select state (OH) and school district (Hilliard)
 - Enter your child’s Hilliard City Schools Student ID number
 - Finish the transaction using the directions received in the email confirmation.
- **Free and Reduced Pricing**—[Forms](#) to determine qualification for the Free and Reduced-price Lunch Program are available on our website and in all school offices. If your child receives free or reduced lunch, the computerized cashier’s station protects confidentiality.
- **Lunch Charging Policy**—We permit students to charge only reimbursable meals and sometimes milk for packers who forgot a beverage.
 - Elementary students are permitted to charge up to 5 lunches (\$12.50). Once a student reaches the charge limit, the cashier calls the Food Service office then contacts the parent to notify them that they need to put money in their student’s account or the student will receive the limited lunch selection.
 - Sixth grade and middle school students have a charge limit of \$10.00 (slightly more than 3 lunches). Once a student reaches the charge limit, they are offered the limited lunch selection.
 - High school students are not permitted to charge. If a student does not have money for lunch, they are offered the limited lunch selection.

GENERAL SCHOOL OPERATIONS

FUNDRAISING SALES

The school does not permit the selling of any items at school regardless of whether it is for personal profit or to be donated to a non-profit organization. The school district will designate approved fundraisers each year in compliance with Board policy.

SCHOOL COUNSELING SERVICES

Sixth Grade Students

Counseling service is available to all students. The counselor's purpose is to help students, teachers and parents in understanding the student's ability and achievement levels. Both students and parents should feel free to consult with the counselor about classroom concerns, plans, decisions and/or personal problems. The counselor will also assist parents in arranging conferences with teachers.

Students may be referred to the counselor by themselves, parents, teachers, other students or administrators. The counselor may also request conferences with students about matters of general interest. Students are encouraged to become acquainted with the counselor. The counselor is trained to listen and assist with your concerns.

Middle School Students

Counselors are available during the day to assist students in solving problems or in making decisions. All individuals have the need from time to time to plan courses of study, get information about occupations, study alternatives for senior high education, solve problems of a social nature, or other personal problems. These are the types of services which are called school counseling.

If scheduling permits, students may also be invited to participate in small group discussions and counseling activities.

The school counselor directs the testing program which includes ability achievement tests. The counselor will discuss the test results with the student either in a classroom situation or privately in the school counseling office.

Parents or students may meet with the counselor to discuss any problem which relates to the student or the school situation. Appointments should be made by the student in the morning before going to first period. Such appointments can be made through the school counseling secretary.



LOCKERS

Lockers are made available for student use in storing school supplies and personal items necessary for use at school. The lockers are not to be used to store items which cause, or can reasonably cause, or can reasonably be foreseen to cause an interference with school purposes or any educational function or which are forbidden by state law or school rules.

These lockers are as secure as your efforts to keep your combination known only to yourself. Each year possessions are lost or stolen because of carelessness with lockers. Make certain your lock is locked when you leave your locker and be sure to report any problem to the office. Only school related items should be brought to school.

GENERAL SCHOOL OPERATIONS

Lockers will be assigned by the office only. Students who experience difficulty with a locker and need repairs should report the information to the main office. Do **NOT** store money or valuable items in the locker. You will find that your locker will operate best and keep your belongings safe if you follow these precautions:

- Do not release your combination to anyone.
- Do not “set” your lock so that it can be opened by dialing only the last number.
- Do not share your locker with other students.
- Always be sure that nothing obstructs the door or the latches in such a way that you must force the door closed.
- Avoid leaning or hanging on the door once it is open.
- Close the door gently and turn the lock dial a couple turns upon closing the locker. Do not slam the door.
- Promptly report any problem you have with your locker to the office.

IMPORTANT: Students found guilty of abusing their assigned lockers, causing damage or need for repair may forfeit their locker privilege for a determined period of time. In addition, a repair charge will be assessed.

Station students (with a removable lock) may be charged for a replacement lock if theirs is lost, damaged or needs replaced due to sharing the combination.

Students are encouraged to go to their lockers **before school, at lunchtime, and after school.**

Athletic/PE Lockers for Middle School Students

Each year theft occurs in our locker rooms. Please lock up all materials when utilizing this space.

- School lockers are the property of the Board of Education. The student’s use of the locker does not diminish the school district’s ownership or control of the locker.
- Lockers and the contents of all lockers are subject to random search at any time without regard to whether there is a reasonable suspicion that any locker or its contents contains evidence of a violation of a criminal statute or a school rule.
- A copy of this policy must be posted in a conspicuous place in each school building that has lockers. Disciplinary action will result for rule violations.

LOST AND FOUND

Students who find lost articles are asked to take them to the school office. Students are expected to check frequently in the office for lost items. Don’t wait for long periods of time before checking for lost articles.

LUNCH PERIOD

Our schools have a closed lunch period. **Students are not to leave the building at lunchtime** unless accompanied by a parent and with an early dismissal note approved by the principal or assistant principal.

Options and prices pertaining to the food service program will be reviewed at the beginning of the year. Students may bring packed lunches. Packed lunches should always be labeled with the student’s name.

GENERAL SCHOOL OPERATIONS

Information Specific to Middle School Students

Each student is assigned a lunch period. PLEASE clean off your eating area so that others may have a clean place to eat. Students may use designated restrooms before or after eating under the direction of lunch supervisors. Use of restrooms in other parts of the building by lunch students will result in a penalty. Students are NOT permitted to be in the locker area or in any “classroom areas” of the building during lunch period without written permission from the cafeteria supervisors.

Every student must report to the cafeteria within 3 minutes after being dismissed for lunch. Every student must report to the cafeteria during their lunch period whether the student plans to eat or not.

Failing to leave the eating area clean, failing to report to the lunchroom on time or other lunchtime misconduct, may result in lunchroom restriction. Lunchroom restriction means that a student is assigned to a specific table where they are to sit during their entire lunch period.

MAIN OFFICE

The office is a place to transact school business and every student is welcome to come in for that purpose. The principal, assistant principal and secretaries are housed in the main office and each is willing to help with any problem you have during a normal school day. When reporting to the office, please remember the following:

- When in the office, be courteous and quiet.
- If you are requested to report to the office, report directly.
- You must obtain a pass from your teacher.

MEDIA CENTER FOR MIDDLE SCHOOL STUDENTS (INNOVATION AND DISCOVERY CENTER – SIXTH GRADE)

The media center is open daily. It is for the students’ use and should be used frequently. Sixth graders will be given an orientation to the school media center soon after the start of school. All students are encouraged to make full use of the media center. The procedure for using the media center will be discussed in your Language Arts classes. Books may be checked out for a week at a time and renewed for an additional week if necessary.

ADMINISTERING MEDICINES TO STUDENTS (Board Policy)

The Hilliard City Schools recommend and encourage parents to make every effort to medicate their children at times other than the regularly scheduled school day. If it is necessary for students to receive prescription medication during the school day, it will be done in accordance with the following:

- The school nurse or an appropriate person appointed by the building principal will supervise the secure and proper storage and dispensation of prescription medications. The drug must be received in the container in which it was dispensed by the prescribing physician or others licensed to prescribe medication.
- The board-approved medication authorization form must be signed by the prescribing physician and parent before any prescription medication can be administered.
- The parent or guardian must submit a new authorization form signed by the physician if any of the information originally provided changes.

GENERAL SCHOOL OPERATIONS

- No employee who is authorized by the Board to administer a prescribed drug and who has a copy of the most recent statement will be liable in civil damages for administering or failing to administer the drug, unless he acts in a manner which would constitute “gross negligence or wanton or reckless misconduct.”
- No person employed by the Board will be required to administer a drug to a student except pursuant to requirements established under this policy. The Board shall not require an employee to administer a drug to a student if the employee objects, on the basis of religious convictions, to administering the drug.
- Prescription medications needed during after school activities will be kept locked in the clinic during school hours.

Regulations Regarding Dispensation of Prescription Medication

It is the student’s responsibility to come to the office to receive their medication. New authorization forms must be submitted at the beginning of each school year.

1. Students needing medication will be encouraged to receive the medication at home, if possible.
 - A. Each person or persons designated to administer any prescription or non-prescription medication will receive a statement signed by both parent/guardian and physician which includes all of the following information:
 - (1) the name and address of the student
 - (2) the school and class in which the student is enrolled
 - (3) the name of the drug and the dosage to be administered
 - (4) the times or intervals at which each dosage of the drug is to be administered
 - (5) the date on which the administration of the drug is to begin
 - (6) the date on which the administration of the drug is to cease
 - (7) any severe adverse reactions which should be reported to the physician and one or more telephone numbers at which the person who prescribed the medication can be reached in case of an emergency, and
 - (8) special instructions for administration of the drug, including sterile conditions and storage.
 - B. The parent/guardian agrees to submit a revised statement signed by the parent/guardian and physician if any of the information originally provided to the school changes.
 - C. The medication will be received at school in the container in which it was dispensed by the prescribing physician or other licensed professional. The medication and dosage listed on the label must be identical to the authorization form. Parents are responsible for keeping record of the amount of medication at school and for sending more when needed.
 - D. Students who self-administer (carry on their person) asthma inhalers and/or epi-pens must have the medication authorization form completed by their physician and parent stating they may do this.
 - E. Students with diabetes are permitted to attend to self-care and management of their diabetes if the student’s physician completes the medication authorization form and the parent states they may do this.

GENERAL SCHOOL OPERATIONS

2. The person designated by the Board will establish a location in each school building for the storage of drugs to be administered. All such drugs shall be stored in that location in a locked storage place. Drugs which require refrigeration may be kept in a refrigerator in a place not commonly used by students.
3. No person who has been authorized by the Board to administer a drug and has a copy of the most recent statement which was given to him prior to administering the drug will be liable for administering or failing to administer the drug, unless such person acts in a manner which constitutes gross negligence or wanton or reckless misconduct.
4. Each medication that is given should be documented on the medication record form for the corresponding student.
5. The person designated to give medication should receive training by the school nurse. The school nurse will periodically monitor and provide instruction pertinent to the medication.
6. The person giving medication should review the authorization form prior to administration for special instructions and possible side effects.
7. All school personnel must be informed that the administration of any drug (prescription or over-the-counter) without the order of the physician and the permission of the parent/guardian could be interpreted as practicing medicine and is prohibited by law.
8. All medication remaining in the building after the last day of school will be discarded.

**It is the student's responsibility to come to the office and receive their medication.
New authorization forms must be submitted at the beginning of each school year.**

Regulations Regarding Dispensation of Non-Prescription Medication

1. Students in grades 7-12 may self-administer a non-prescription/over-the-counter medication at the parent's discretion. The student's parent must send a note with the student stating the name of the medication, dose, time it is to be taken, date it is to be taken and then signed by the parent. The student may only carry a one-day supply of medication on their person. No such medication shall be given to another student.
2. School personnel will not be responsible for administration or supervision of non-prescription self-administered medication.

HEALTH SCREENINGS

Health screenings are conducted by the HCSD nursing staff in accordance with Ohio Department of Health and Ohio Department of Education and Workforce guidelines.

- Seventh graders will be screened for adequate vision. Referral forms will be mailed to parents when visual acuity is tested at 20/40 or worse.
- Eighth graders will be checked for scoliosis. Referral forms will be mailed to parents when a follow up evaluation by a physician is recommended.

GENERAL SCHOOL OPERATIONS

ILLNESS AT HOME/SCHOOL

A student who has any of the following symptoms should not attend school:

- a fever of 100 degrees or greater
- an undiagnosed rash
- an earache or draining ear
- diarrhea or vomiting
- severe sore throat
- persistent or severe cough
- persistent or severe headache
- known communicable disease
- pink eye

When reporting student absences, please report any of the following communicable diseases: chicken pox, conjunctivitis (pink eye), fifth disease, hepatitis, influenza, measles, mumps, meningitis, strep throat, lice, ringworm and scabies. Parents are encouraged to contact the school nurse at any time to discuss health concerns of their student.

If a student becomes ill at school

- A certified school nurse is on duty most days.
- Students must obtain a written pass from their teacher before coming to the clinic.
- All students will be assessed in the clinic if they are ill or injured. Students are not permitted to call home/parent. The nurse on duty will contact the parent.
- If it is determined that the student needs to go home, the certified nurse on duty or the principal's designee will contact the parent/guardian. It is the parent's responsibility to update all emergency contact information using the Home Access Center.
- No student may be released from school without direct contact with a person authorized on the student's Home Access account.
- **Students must sign out at the attendance office before leaving the building.**
- If your child is sent home with a fever of 100 degrees or greater, or with diarrhea or vomiting, they must be symptom free without medication for 24 hours before returning to school.

IMMUNIZATIONS OF STUDENTS

Students enrolled in grades Pre-K-12 are required to have written proof on file at their school verifying that they have been immunized against diphtheria, tetanus, pertussis, poliomyelitis, measles, mumps and rubella, hepatitis B, varicella and meningococcal (for grades 7 and 12).

Students who are not in compliance may be excluded from school attendance no later than the fifteenth day after admissions. Compliance with any current Ohio Department of Health requirement will supersede our current practice until such time as Board policy can reflect such update.

Students who have received at least one of each of the following immunizations may remain in school: diphtheria, tetanus, pertussis (DPT/DT/Td); polio vaccine (OPV or IPV); measles, mumps, rubella, hepatitis B vaccine (Hep B), and varicella. However, they must make satisfactory progress in completing all the required vaccines to maintain their "in process" status. Failure to do so is cause for exclusion from school attendance.

Exemptions include students who present a written statement that immunization is objectionable for religious reason or other reasons of "good cause". Similarly, a student is exempt if they present a physician's statement that immunization against a particular disease (or all diseases) is "medically contraindicated." A history of measles, mumps and/or varicella disease may be substituted for the measles, mumps, and/or varicella vaccinations. However, a history of rubella disease may not be substituted for rubella vaccine, except that laboratory test results, submitted by a physician, demonstrating detectable rubella antibody will be accepted in lieu of vaccination.

GENERAL SCHOOL OPERATIONS

NON-DISCRIMINATION STATEMENT

No student shall, on the basis of race, ethnicity, national origin, ancestry, citizenship status, religion, gender, sex (sexual orientation and/or gender identity), economic status, age, disability or military status, be denied the opportunity to participate in, or obtain the benefits of any educational program offered by the Hilliard City School District.

A copy of the procedure by which a student (or their parent) may formally lodge a complaint of discrimination is available in the school office and the office of the Superintendent.

To be certain that all non-discrimination policies and procedures are administered properly, the Board of Education has appointed the Executive Director of Human Resources to act as the District's compliance officer/civil rights coordinator of such policies and procedures. Concerns or questions may be directed to the Human Resources office at 2140 Atlas Street, Columbus Ohio, 43228, telephone (614) 921-7000.

504 NON-DISCRIMINATION ON THE BASIS OF DISABILITY

Hilliard City Schools regularly reviews and updates its policies and procedures. In fact, the district's 504 (Non-Discrimination on the Basis of Disability) policies and procedures have been updated and are available online at <https://www.hilliardschools.org/departments/student-support-services/what-is-a-504/>. Hard copies are available at the district's Central Office, 2140 Atlas Street and/or your child's school.

Grievances concerning any violation of this policy should be submitted in writing to Hilliard City Schools, Attn: Director of Student Well-Being, 2140 Atlas Street, Columbus Ohio, 43228 or by calling (614) 921-7000.

PHOTO PERMISSION

From time to time, Hilliard City School District staff takes pictures or video of students in their learning environments. The photographs and videos can be used in a variety of publications to document programs. The images may appear in, but not limited to, staff newsletters, community newsletters, media releases, Hilliard Education Foundation materials, and the district website. While we make every attempt to work with the media, they may also take incidental photos and/or videos of students in situations we cannot control.

The district keeps a record of students who do not have permission to be photographed. Kindergartners and new enrollees receive the photo consent form in their registration packets. Parents who wish to change their child's record should contact the office of the school their child attends.

PROCEDURE FOR CHANNELING COMPLAINTS/APPEALS

We believe it is in the best interest of the child to have complaints or concerns resolved early and among those most directly affected. Parents and teachers working together in a cooperative and supportive manner lead to the best solutions. With this belief in mind the following procedure for resolving complaints is established:

1. Request an appointment with the teacher(s) or counselor to discuss the concern or complaint. It is reasonable to expect that discussion to occur at an early, mutually agreed upon time. At the end of the discussion the teacher or counselor will provide an oral response. A written response may be requested and if so will be provided within three school days unless otherwise mutually agreed upon.
2. If the response at step one is considered unsatisfactory, the parent may refer the complaint to the building principal. Again the parent may expect a prompt appointment to discuss the issue. The principal may request that the issue be presented in writing as well as orally. After a reasonable time to investigate the issue, the principal will provide the parent an oral response and, upon request, a written response.

GENERAL SCHOOL OPERATIONS

3. Matters that remain unresolved at the building level may be referred to the Superintendent/designee, who may handle the complaint personally or refer it to the appropriate central office administrator. The concern may be discussed by phone or an appointment may be set to discuss the matter. The central office administrator will review the concern with the parent and, if necessary, with other involved parties.
4. If the parent remains dissatisfied, they may address the complaint and the relief sought, in writing, to the Board of Education. The Board, upon receipt of the complaint, at its next regular meeting, will review the complaint and render a decision as to whether to grant the relief requested, to deny relief, or to refer the matter elsewhere within the school district for further study and recommendation. The Board's decision will be shared with all parties involved. Discussion of the concern may take place in executive session.

STUDENT ACCIDENTS/INJURIES

If you are involved in an accident or injured in any way during school or at school-sponsored activities, you are to notify your teacher, coach or the office as soon as possible. An accident report form will be completed, placed on file in the office and your parent/guardian will be notified.

STUDENT INSURANCE

A school insurance program is available to all students for purchase. The insurance can be used as a secondary policy and protects your child against accidents that may occur on school property during the school day. Students who participate in extra-curricular activities must either have school insurance or (1) provide documentation that the parent/guardian carries insurance by another health carrier, or (2) a signed note stating that the parent/guardian assumes full responsibility for medical expenses.

SURVEILLANCE CAMERAS

Students are duly informed their behavior on school buses, school property and/or adjacent property may be monitored by security cameras. This can be used for disciplinary proceedings. The administration provides prior notice to staff, students and parents/guardians that electronic surveillance may occur on school property or in school vehicles. In addition, appropriate signs are posted in building entrances and at other locations deemed appropriate by the administration to inform visitors that electronic surveillance may occur on district property.

TELEPHONES

The office telephones are not generally for students' use. They may be used by students for school business with permission of the principal, assistant principal, a teacher, or secretary. Students are not to call home if ill, BUT MUST REPORT TO THE CLINIC. The nurse or secretary will call if arrangements must be made for the student to leave school. Students using cell phones without permission during the school day may be subject to disciplinary consequences.

TITLE IX INFORMATION

The District does not discriminate on the basis of sex in any education program or activity that it operates, including admission and employment. The District is required by Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 and the regulations promulgated through the U.S. Department of Education not to discriminate in such a manner. Inquiries about the application of Title IX to the District may be referred to the District's Title IX Coordinator, to the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights of the Department of Education, or both.

The Board designates Executive Director of Human Resources, 2140 Atlas Street, Columbus, Ohio 43228, (614) 921-7000, <http://www.hilliardschools.org/contact-us/>, to serve as the District's Title IX Coordinator.

GENERAL SCHOOL OPERATIONS

VISITORS

All parents and visitors are required to report directly to the school office immediately upon arrival. School-aged visitors are not usually permitted to attend school in company of a student.

The building should be entered through the front doors. Books, assignments, lunches, money, etc. should be left in the office where school personnel will deliver them to the student. At no time during the school day should these items be taken directly to a classroom. Parents who wish to visit the classroom must call the school office to arrange a visitation time and day.

The District uses School Safe ID visitor check-in system in all buildings. School Safe ID requires all visitors to present a valid state-issued ID. The system will compare the visitor's name and date of birth to the national database of registered offenders. Visitors must scan their valid state-issued ID, and once approved, the visitor will be issued a badge that identifies their name and purpose for visiting the school. The system will only record the visitor's name and date of birth. No additional data from the license will be entered into the system. Visitors will not need to use the system should they simply need to drop off something in the main office.

VOLUNTEERS

The protection and well-being of the students enrolled in Hilliard City Schools is paramount. To that end, a background check and ID badge is required for all volunteers who **may** be left alone with students.

The Hilliard City Schools Department of Human Resources has partnered with Background Investigation Bureau (BIB) to perform all background checks. Secure Volunteer is an easy to use online system created to help us manage volunteer screening. Secure Volunteer is powered by Background Investigation Bureau, a nationally recognized screening firm founded in 1995. Just go to our district website and click on the Parent Tab. Then scroll down to parent information and you will see volunteer. Click on [volunteer](#) and follow the steps to submit your volunteer background check.

The background check process is electronic and takes about five minutes to complete and is a secure portal. Results are returned to the school district within a few days. You will receive notifications via email about status and approval. Once your results are returned with no disqualifying events, you will be put into our master database and receive a Secure Volunteer ID card from BIB that will be sent to your home address. You need to bring your ID card and a government issued photo ID to all volunteer events.

Volunteers are required to renew their badges every 3 years. A letter will be sent out to each volunteer when their badge expires. At that time, a new background check will be required and a new badge will need to be issued. The cost for the renewal badges will remain the same as a new badge.

STUDENT ATTENDANCE REGULATIONS

COMPULSORY EDUCATION

Section [3321.04](#) of the Ohio Revised Code provides that every parent, guardian, or other person having charge of any child of compulsory school age must send such child to a school which conforms to the minimum standards prescribed by the State Board of Education for the full time the school attended is in session. Such attendance must begin within the first week of the school term, or within one week of the school term, or within one week of the date on which the child begins to reside in the district. **The statutes governing school attendance are very specific and leave little option for school authorities to excuse children from school.**

The following constitutes reasons for a medically excused absence from school:

1. Personal Illness. The approving authority may require the certificate of a physician if they deem it advisable. Mental Health absences are included in Personal Illness.
2. Illness in the family. The absence under this condition shall not apply to children under fourteen years of age.
3. Quarantine of the home. The absence of a child from school under this condition is limited to length of quarantine as fixed by the proper health officials.
4. Emergency or set of circumstances which in the judgment of the Superintendent/designee constitutes a good and sufficient cause for absence from school which may include but not be limited to absences due to documented medical, behavioral or dental appointments.

Reasons for which students may be nonmedically excused include, but are not limited to:

1. Needed at home to perform necessary work directly and exclusively for parents or legal guardians for a limited period of time when approved by the Superintendent (applies to students over 14 years of age only);
2. death in family (applies to absences of up to 18 school hours unless a reasonable cause may be shown for a longer absence);
3. up to three religious expression days per school year in accordance with Ohio Revised Code [3320.04](#);
4. traveling out of state to attend a Board-approved enrichment activity or extracurricular activity (applies to absences of up to 24 school hours);
5. post-secondary visitation, for which a student may be marked as “present” for such absences for up to three days per school year;
6. pre-enlistment reporting to a military enlistment processing station for which a student may be marked as “present” if the absence is used to help fulfill graduation requirements;
7. absence of a student of a military family for purposes of visiting an immediate family member who is an active duty member of the uniformed services that has been called to duty for, is on leave from, or immediately returned from deployment to a combat zone or combat support posting;
8. absences due to a student’s placement in foster care or change in foster care placement or any court proceedings related to their foster care status;
9. absences due to a student being homeless or
10. as determined by the Superintendent.

Only the administration can authorize absences from school. An explanation for an absence by the parent or guardian of a student does not constitute an authorized absence under O.R.C. guidelines.

STUDENT ATTENDANCE REGULATIONS

SCHOOL RESPONSE TO STUDENT ABSENCES

Chronic absenteeism is missing 10% (18 days or 108 hours) of school in a year for any reason - excused or unexcused.

In support of positive attendance habits, school personnel will prioritize early intervention for students who exhibit warning signs for chronic absenteeism, or have a prior history of chronic absenteeism. Possible interventions may include:

- Communication with home
- Parent/Family meeting
- Development of Student Success Plan (SSP)
- Follow-up on prior SSP to determine next steps

Warning thresholds that may trigger school intervention may include:

- Missing 2 consecutive days with a history of chronic absenteeism
- Missing 2 days in a calendar month
- Reporting 2 mental health days
- Missing 4 days in a quarter, 6 days in a trimester, or 8 days in a semester

All students who have missed 11 days and beyond will be required to have documentation from a doctor or outside counselor/therapist to excuse the absence. Documentation from medical professionals should reference specific dates of student absence to be excused. Otherwise, subsequent absences are marked as unexcused (pursuant to Board Policy JED).

EXTRA-CURRICULAR AND CO-CURRICULAR PARTICIPATION

In order to participate in a school day extra-curricular/co-curricular activity, students must be in attendance for the entirety of their scheduled day. If an activity, performance, or contest is scheduled for a non-school day, students must be in attendance the last school day before the event. However, students are permitted to participate in interscholastic or other extracurricular activities on days they are absent for approved religious expression days.

ATTENDANCE PHILOSOPHY

One factor that research continually connects to student achievement is attendance. It is the philosophy of our intermediate and middle level buildings that establishing positive attendance patterns will increase student achievement and encourage a life-long habit that will prepare students for their future. Make-up work cannot replace the learning activities that take place in our classrooms everyday. We also understand that from time to time, students do have cause to miss school. This policy strongly encourages daily attendance while allowing for a reasonable number of excused absences from school. Forming positive attendance habits is just one way we will help reinforce skills which will last a lifetime.

STUDENT ATTENDANCE ACCOUNTING

(Missing and Absent Children)

The Board of Education believes in the importance of trying to decrease the number of missing children. Therefore, effort will be made to identify possible missing children and notify the proper adults or agencies.

A pupil, at the time of their initial entry to school, shall present to the person in charge of admission a copy of their certificate of birth, proof of guardianship or custody, and copies of these records pertaining to him/her maintained by the school that they most recently attended. If the student does not present copies of the required documents within 14 days of the initial enrollment, the principal shall notify the police department having jurisdiction in the area where the student resides of this fact and of the possibility that the student may be a missing child. The primary responsibility for supervision of a student rests with their parent(s) or guardian(s). The school district staff will provide the assistance it can to parents and guardians with this responsibility.

The Board shall designate the superintendent to develop informational programs for students, parents, and community members relative to missing children issues and matters.

STUDENT ATTENDANCE REGULATIONS

ATTENDANCE SUPPLEMENTAL CODES

1. **Family Vacation**—It is recognized that planned family trips often provide enrichment to regular classroom instruction. It is further recognized that employers cannot always grant vacation periods which fall within the school vacation and holiday period and for families to be together, some trips must necessarily be scheduled during the academic year.
 - Application for approval ([JED-E](#)) must be made by a parent or guardian at least two weeks in advance. If the student is not a member of the immediate family, their parent or guardian must complete the application.
 - Each student is limited to one approved trip of 5 school days or less per school year without loss of academic standing, provided proper assignment make-up work is completed, including tests and final examinations. More than one trip with a cumulative of 5 days or less may be approved by the building principal or their designee.
 - Trips of more than 5 school days shall not be approved except in extraordinary circumstances as determined by the superintendent or their designee. If a student is absent for family travel outside of the five (5) days of excused absences allowed by the District, they will be considered unexcused from school and subject to truancy regulations. The school district may be obligated to report the parent/guardian to the Franklin County Juvenile Court System and file lack of compliance with the compulsory education rules. Communication with the school and family is crucial and attempts can be made to design online or other opportunities when applicable.
2. **School Business** - Field trips, performing arts, voting booth, shadowing and anything deemed school-related are considered “School Business.” Students will be issued a school business/field trip permission form by the teacher prior to the event. These forms must be signed by a parent/guardian and all applicable teachers, and returned to the teacher organizing the event at least 24 hours prior to the absence. The teacher will supply the attendance office with an alphabetized list of students attending the event. School business does not count as an absence on the student’s record.
3. **Suspensions**
 - Out of school (OSS) - students are encouraged to stay current with schoolwork while serving OSS and will receive credit for completing missed work.
 - Alternative Learning Center (ALC) - students report to the Alternative Learning Center room and are allowed to make up work and are not counted as absent for the day, or from class.

REPORTING AN ABSENCE

1. Please report your child’s absence in advance whenever possible using one of these convenient methods:
 - ParentSquare App—Download the ParentSquare App on your device. Create your account with the email address specified in Home Access Center
 - go to www.parentsquare.com/signin —Create your account with the email address specified in Home Access Center
 - Call your student’s school attendance office, you can find a list of office numbers on [page 30](#).

STUDENT ATTENDANCE REGULATIONS

In the event a parent has been unable to report the absence through ParentSquare, we ask the parent to send in a note to the attendance office. We ask parents to send in these notes before three days have passed to avoid their student not being able to secure make-up work.

The District makes an attempt to contact the parent, guardian, or other person having care of a student who has not notified the school of the student's absence that day regarding that student's absence without legitimate excuse within 120 minutes of the start of the school day.

All notes/documents reporting an **absence** or **official absence** must be submitted to the attendance office within 3 days of student returning to school.

Phone calls made after the day of the absence will not be accepted. A note will be needed to report the absence.

Attendance Office	Phone Number	Email Address
Hilliard Station	614-921-6800	hstattendance@hboe.org
Hilliard Tharp	614-921-6900	hthattendance@hboe.org
Heritage MS	614-921-7540	hmsattendance@hboe.org
Memorial MS	614-921-7640	mmsattendance@hboe.org
Weaver MS	614-921-7740	wmsattendance@hboe.org

2. Types of Absences

- a. **Official Absence**—Doctor or dental appointment that is verified by a medical statement, required court appearance verified by a document, funeral, observance of religious holiday or family vacation are all considered to be Official Absences. These absences do count against perfect attendance. Forgery of an official absence will result in a suspension.
- b. **Absence**—Personal illness, illness in family, and family emergencies are considered absent. However, we must receive notification from a parent/guardian to upgrade from an unexcused absence. Regular attendance is mandatory. However, if illness or other absences cause a student to miss school or classes, it is the student's responsibility to make arrangements to recover any missed opportunities; learning missed during an excused absence may be made up without penalty. All make-up work should be completed within a reasonable timeframe established between the student and their respective teachers.
- c. **Unexcused Absence/Truancy**—Any student who is absent from school/class without their parent's permission/notification or is absent from an assigned area within the school is unexcused/truant.

3. Entering/Leaving the Building

- Students are not to enter or leave the building during school hours without reporting to the attendance office.
- **Failure to sign in or out of school will result in disciplinary action.**
- Phone calls or notes from a parent to excuse a student **AFTER** they have left the building will not be accepted.

4. Early Dismissal (Leaving and/or returning for the remainder of the day)

- A note may be turned into the attendance office, signed by a parent or legal guardian, with the student's name, time of early dismissal, and a phone number where the parent can be reached for confirmation.

STUDENT ATTENDANCE REGULATIONS

- After verification, an early dismissal pass will be issued to the student.
- A parent must sign their student out through the attendance office before leaving the building.
- Any amount of time missed during the school day will be documented and traced in accordance with State truancy regulations. Please review the “Truancy” section beginning on page 31 of this handbook.
- Alternate procedures may apply for days preceding major holidays, breaks or special event days.

5. Tardiness to School

- Any student arriving after the tardy bell will report directly to the attendance office.
- If a written note from a parent is presented with a valid absence reason (see types of absences), the tardy will be considered excused and the student will be allowed to make up any missed work. However, the student will still be considered tardy.
- **Oversleeping and transportation issues are not “excused” reasons.**
- Any student arriving to school during first period is considered tardy to school.
- **The attendance office records a tardy, regardless of the reason, as a tardy. All tardies, excused or unexcused, count toward disciplinary action and the State’s truancy regulations, excluding official absences.**

6. Excessive Tardiness to School

- Students having excessive tardies to school, excused or unexcused, may be assigned detention scheduled for before school, during lunch, or after school.

7. Excessive Tardies to Class

- Students having excessive tardies to school, excused or unexcused, may be assigned detention scheduled for before school, during lunch, or after school.

**Chronic tardiness will result in stronger discipline.
A student arriving more than 15 minutes late to class may be counted absent for that class.**

8. Truancy—What is House Bill 410?

- 1) [House Bill 410](#) was passed into law by the Ohio General Assembly in December 2016, and the most recent state guidelines were made in July 2017. This has changed the way school districts monitor student attendance across the state. Schools now must keep track of absences by “hours” as opposed to “days” missed.
- 2) Definitions:
 - a) Habitually Truant—any student absent without legitimate excuse
 - b) Excessively Absent—any student absent with or without legitimate excuse (includes official absences)

Threshold Table	Consecutive Hours	Hours in School Month	Hours in a School Year
Habitually Truant	30+ hours unexcused	42+ hours unexcused	72+ hours unexcused
Excessively Absent		38+ hours excused or unexcused	65+ hours excused or unexcused

STUDENT ATTENDANCE REGULATIONS

- 3) If a student has exceeded one of the attendance thresholds for Habitually Truant, a letter will be sent home with the student and phone calls will be made to contact the student's parent/guardian to set up a meeting. The purpose of this required meeting will be to set up a meeting for the parent/guardian, student (when appropriate), and building staff to be a part of an Absence Intervention Team and meet to develop an Absence Intervention Plan. A plan will need to be developed to achieve "satisfactory" improvement in attendance, or truancy charges could be filed to the juvenile court.
- 4) If a student has exceeded one of the attendance thresholds for Excessively Absent, a letter will be sent home with the student and phone calls will be made to note the requirement for any additional absences to have a doctor's note to consider them excused.

*Note—The number of hours for which a student is absent on an approved religious expression day is not considered in the calculations.

STUDENT CONDUCT

CONDUCT (Standards)

All students are expected to live up to high standards of personal conduct. Such standards are important for personal pride and achievement as well as school pride and reputation.

STUDENT DISCIPLINE (Board Policy)

The discipline procedures of the district shall be based on the premise that every student attending school is able to differentiate between right and wrong, that every student is aware that they are attending school primarily to learn and profit through the course of study, and that constituted authority and school regulations are necessary for the proper conduct of the schools.

The Board recognizes that it has a solemn obligation to protect the public property entrusted to its care and to protect the rights and privileges of those students who sincerely desire to learn and who make an honest effort to do so.

Any student who demonstrates that they are unable to differentiate between right and wrong, or who has no apparent desire to profit from the course of instruction, or who has no regard for the rights of other students, or any combination of the above is subject to severe disciplinary action including exclusion from school.

STUDENT CONDUCT—ZERO TOLERANCE (Board Policy)

This code of conduct is in effect while students are under the authority of school personnel or involved in any school activity. This includes but is not limited to school buses and property under the control of school authorities, and while at interscholastic competitions, extracurricular events, or other school activities or programs. In addition, this Code of Conduct includes:

- Misconduct by a student that occurs off school district property but is connected to activities or incidents that have occurred on school district property;
- Misconduct by a student that, regardless of where it occurs is directed at a district official or employee or the property of an official or employee.

Students are expected to conduct themselves in such a way that they respect and consider the rights of others. Students of the District must conform to school regulations and accept directions from authorized school personnel. The Board has “zero tolerance” of violent, disruptive or inappropriate behavior by its students.

A student who fails to comply with established school rules or with any reasonable request made by school personnel on school property and/or at school-related events is subject to approved student discipline regulations. The Superintendent/designee develops regulations, which establish strategies ranging from prevention to intervention to address student misbehavior.

Students and parents annually receive, at the beginning of the school year or upon entering during the year, information on rules and regulations to which they are subject while in school or participating in any school-related activity or event. The information includes the types of conduct which are subject to suspension or expulsion from school or other forms of disciplinary action. The Board directs the administration to make all students aware of the student code of conduct and the fact that any violations of the student code of conduct are punishable. The school administration has the right to talk to a student without parent/custodian knowledge and/or consent.

A student may be expelled for up to one year if they commit or threaten an act that inflicts serious physical harm to persons or property if it was committed at school, on other school property or at a school activity, event or program.

STUDENT CONDUCT

If a student violates this policy or the code of conduct, school personnel, students or parents should report the student to the appropriate principal. The administration cooperates in any prosecution pursuant to the criminal laws of the State of Ohio and Local ordinances.

Possible Consequences for Inappropriate Behavior

- **Detention**: Teachers and administrators may assign after-school detention for misconduct, irresponsibility, or attendance related matters. Advance notice is required. It becomes the parents responsibility to arrange transportation.
- **Denial of Privileges**: Students who accumulate numerous disciplinary referrals may be restricted from attending one or all of the following activities: social functions, athletic contests, field trips, assemblies, or school sponsored clubs.
- **Lunchtime Privilege Removal**: Students may have their lunchtime privileges removed for a period of time for misconduct, irresponsibility, or matters pertaining to attendance. When this occurs a student must report to an assigned room during their lunchtime and remain there the entire period. The student may bring a packed lunch or buy lunch if they desire to eat during the detention. Parents will be notified when an excessive number of lunchtime penalties occur.

After School Detention for Students Grades 6—8

After School Detention is considered an opportunity for a student to serve a penalty without loss of academic standing or loss of valuable instructional time.

A student may be assigned to attend After School Detention as a consequence of the following disciplinary infractions:

- Excessive tardiness to school or class.
- Unexcused absence from school or class.
- Excessive disciplinary referrals.
- Failure to serve teacher assigned, after school detentions. Failure to serve lunch detentions assigned by an administrator.
- Other school rule infractions or violations of policy.

Once a student is assigned to a After School Session, the following rules will apply:

- Students must report to After School Detention by the designated times.
- There will be no talking among students once the supervisor calls the session to order.
- Students will remain seated unless otherwise directed by the supervisor.
- A student wishing to ask a question will raise their hand and wait until the supervisor attends to the question.
- A restroom break of 5 minutes will be permitted to each student.
- Students are responsible for bringing sufficient schoolwork to keep them working on school material for the entire time. Sleeping, listening to radios or other electronic items, playing with toys, and eating or drinking are not permitted.

Violation of any of these rules will result in the student being dismissed and additional sessions added.

Transportation is the responsibility of the student and/or parent. For After School Detention, students will be dismissed at the designated time and rides should be arranged then.

STUDENT CONDUCT

TYPE OF MISCONDUCT RESULTING IN SUSPENSION, EXPULSION OR REMOVAL (Board Policy)

Hilliard City Schools works proactively in our classrooms to build a learning community for all students. Our goal is to develop good relationships and restore a sense of community in an increasingly disconnected world. The intention is to build community with students using high expectations and high support to maximize positive interactions and minimize negative interactions. The end result is utilizing developmentally appropriate strategies to allow for repairing relationships and helping students re-enter their school and classroom communities after an offense has occurred.

The following types of misconduct shall most ordinarily result in suspension, expulsion or removal:

1. The possession, use; arranging or attempting to purchase, offering to sell, or transmit; or being under the influence of any narcotic drug, hallucinogenic drug, intoxicant of any kind, or “look alike” drug.
2. Theft or damage or destruction of personal or school property, or possession of stolen or personal or school property, including copyrighted materials.
3. An act or threatened act of arson, initiating without cause a fire alarm, reporting of a fire, or reporting of an impending bomb or catastrophe.
4. Use, possession, and/or transmission of dangerous weapons, fireworks, or explosives.
5. Threaten act of physical violence with a dangerous weapon.
6. Gambling on school property.
7. Possession and/or transmission of pornographic materials.
8. Sexual contact, defined as any touching of an erogenous zone of another.
9. Sexual harassment, assaults, acts, or gestures directed toward students or other individuals.
10. Intimidation as defined in this handbook.
11. Disruption or interference with curricular or extracurricular activities.
12. Insubordination, including intentional interference with the teacher’s conduction of the class, failure to obey a reasonable request, or failure to identify oneself to school personnel when requested.
13. Inciting to riot or to disrupt the operation of the school.
14. Physical Intimidation/Harassment
 - a. An act or threatened act of physical violence, including fighting, whereby the perpetrator causes, attempts to cause, or seriously threatens to cause physical harm to another while in the custody and control of the school or in the course of a school-related activity.
 - b. Threat (only) of fight/intimidation/harassment.
15. Use of profane, vulgar, discriminatory or other improper language.
16. Violation of special rules of conduct for school buses.
17. Violation of the smoking policy including smokeless tobacco products, alternative nicotine products, electronic cigarettes, personal vaporizers (e.g., JUUL) and electronic delivery systems.
18. Establishment and conduct of clubs and organizations without official approval.
19. Stealing and/or cheating on tests or other school assignments.
20. General misconduct and misbehavior, disrespect and/or inappropriate social behavior.
21. Publication, display and/or distribution of unauthorized materials.
22. Tardiness to class or school. (*Loss of privileges*)
23. Truancy and other unexcused absence from class or from school. (*Loss of privileges*)
24. Fraud or forgery of school or parental documents.
25. Inappropriate or bizarre attire or violation of rules as set forth in student handbooks.
26. Failure to accept discipline or punishment.
27. Disobedience or misconduct as elsewhere defined or violation of such other regulations as may be duly adopted by the Board.
28. Misuse of Technology/Computers.
29. Laser pointers are banned from school buildings, vehicles and on school property except for educational purposes.
30. Bullying: Repeated intimidation/harassing behavior.

STUDENT CONDUCT

ALTERNATIVE LEARNING CENTER/OUT OF SCHOOL SUSPENSIONS (Board Policy)

Unless specified elsewhere in policy or regulations, a principal, or their designee may decide whether a suspension shall be in school, out of school, or be a combination of both. Such a decision shall be based on such factors as gravity of the offense, previous record, and best interests of the total school community.

- **Alternative Learning Center (ALC)** – When a student is assigned to the Alternative Learning Center, they will be assigned to a specific location within a school to which that student must report for the regular school day hours. Additional restrictions pertaining to rest room use and lunch facilities may occur during an Alternative Learning Center assignment. Provision shall be made for students to stay current for all class work missed. The student will receive credit for Alternative Learning Center if assignments are completed satisfactorily. Students are not permitted to participate in any school activities during the Alternative Learning Center assignment.
- **Out-of-School Suspension** – A student assigned an out-of-school suspension may not be on school grounds during the period of suspension. This precludes their participation in any school activities during the period of suspension. Provision shall be made for students to stay current for all class work missed. The student will receive credit for out-of-school suspension if assignments are completed satisfactorily.

STUDENT SUSPENSIONS/EXPULSION APPEALS (Board Policy)

A student remains suspended or expelled for the duration of the suspension or expulsion or until action is taken on any appeal. Alternative Learning Center assignments are not appealable per Board of Education policy (JGD).

Any request for an appeal of a suspension or expulsion must be made in accordance with Board of Education Policy [JGD](#) and/or [JGE](#). Any appeal hearing must be scheduled within one week of the date of the suspension/expulsion, unless the superintendent grants an extension of time at the request of the student and/or his parent or guardian.

ALTERNATIVE LEARNING CENTER (ALC)

The Alternative Learning Center (ALC) is an alternative for possible out-of-school suspension day(s) for students as assigned by school administration. When assigned to ALC, students/parents can expect:

- A highly structured environment under the guidance of school staff each period of the school day.
- A safe place where school rules and expectations are followed.
- A place where students are assigned for the full day; teachers provide work for students and assigned ALC staff supervises and assists with work.
- A place for students to reflect on reason for room assignment and to complete any reflective/restorative requirements assigned by administration.

Procedure / Expectations for ALC (Alternative Learning Center)

- Upon arrival, all students assigned to the ALC will report directly to the Main Office.
- Students are not permitted to socialize in the commons or hallway before school.
- Cell phones will be turned off and turned in to ALC staff upon entry into room.
- Electronic devices are permitted as long as students are using them for educational purposes only.
- Attendance will be taken in the ALC.
- Students will have supervised breaks, but not during general population hallway transitions.
- Students will be able to purchase lunch in the cafeteria and return to the ALC room to eat.
- Students are not permitted to remain on school grounds unsupervised after school.

Attendance

- If a student is sick and/or absent from school on an assigned ALC day, the assigned day will be rescheduled for the next school day unless determined otherwise by school administration.
- ALC is not a permanent placement. If a student is disruptive/not meeting goals in ALC, school administration will be notified and a separate, next level consequence will be assigned.

STUDENT CONDUCT

APPROPRIATE USE OF FORCE, RESTRAINT OR SECLUSION

The District does not engage in practices prohibited by State law, including:

1. prone restraint;
2. any form of physical restraint that involves the intentional, knowing or reckless use of any technique that:
 - Involves the use of pinning down a student by placing knees to the torso, head or neck of the student;
 - Uses pressure point, pain compliance or joint manipulation techniques or
 - Otherwise involves techniques that are used to unnecessarily cause pain.
3. corporal punishment;
4. child endangerment, as defined by Ohio Revised Code Section [2919.22](#);
5. deprivation of basic needs;
6. seclusion and restraint of preschool children in violation of Ohio Administrative Code Section (OAC) [3301-37-10](#);
7. chemical restraint;
8. mechanical restraint (that does not include devices used by trained school personnel, or by a student, for the specific and approved therapeutic or safety purposes for which such devices were designed and, if applicable, prescribed);
9. aversive behavioral interventions or
10. seclusion in a locked room or area.

Restraint

Physical restraint may not be used as a form of punishment or discipline, or as a substitute for other less restrictive means of assisting a student in regaining control. The use of prone restraint is prohibited. This policy does not prohibit the use of reasonable force and restraint as provided by [ORC 3319.41](#).

Restraint may be used only:

- if a student's behavior poses an immediate risk of physical harm to the student or others and no other safe or effective intervention is available;
- if the physical restraint does not interfere with the student's ability to breathe;
- if the physical restraint does not interfere with the student's ability to communicate in the student's primary language or mode of communication and
- by school personnel trained in safe restraint techniques, except in the case of rare and unavoidable emergency situations when trained personnel are not immediately available.

Seclusion

Seclusion may not be used as a form of punishment or discipline, for staff convenience or as a substitute for other less restrictive means of assisting a student in regaining control.

Seclusion may be used only:

- if a student's behavior poses an immediate risk of physical harm to the student or others and no other safe or effective intervention is available;
- as a last resort to provide an opportunity for the student to regain control of his or her actions;
- for the minimum amount of time necessary to protect the student and others from physical harm;

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- in a room or area that is not locked, does not prevent the student from exiting the area should the staff member become incapacitated or leave, and that provides adequate space, lighting, ventilation and the ability to observe the student and
- under the constant supervision of trained staff able to detect indications of physical or mental distress that require removal and/or immediate medical assistance, and who document their observations of the student.

Repeated Dangerous Behaviors

The District conducts functional behavioral assessments for students who repeatedly engage in dangerous behavior that leads to instances of restraint and/or seclusion to identify students' needs and more effective ways of addressing those needs. Behavioral intervention plans that incorporate appropriate positive behavioral interventions are created when necessary.

Data and Reporting

Each incident of restraint is immediately reported to the building administrator and the student's parent. Each incident of seclusion or restraint is documented in a written report, which is made available to the student's parent. The District maintains written reports of seclusion or restraint. These reports are educational records under the [Family Education Rights and Privacy Act](#).

The District annually reports information concerning the use of restraint and seclusion to the [Ohio Department of Education and Workforce](#) (ODEW), as requested by ODEW. If you wish to file a complaint, please contact the Director of Special Education at (614) 921-7000.

DANGEROUS WEAPONS IN THE SCHOOLS

NOTICE: Unless otherwise authorized by law, pursuant to Ohio Revised Code section 2923.122, no person shall knowingly possess, have under the person's control, convey, or attempt to convey a deadly weapon or dangerous ordnance into a school safety zone.

The Board is committed to providing the students of the District with an educational environment which is free of the dangers of firearms, knives, chemical devices and other dangerous weapons (including "look alike" weapons).

The definition of a firearm shall include any weapon (including a starter gun) which will or is designed to or may readily be converted to expel a projectile by the action of an explosive; the frame or receiver of any such weapon; any firearm muffler or firearm silencer; or any destructive device (as defined in [18 U.S.C. Section 921](#)), which includes any explosive, incendiary or poisonous gas, bomb, grenade, rocket having a propellant charge of more than four ounces, missile having an explosive or incendiary charge of more than one-quarter ounce, mine or device similar to any of the devices described above.

Students are prohibited from bringing a firearm on school property, in a school vehicle or to any school-sponsored activity. If a student brings a firearm on school property, in a school vehicle or to any school-sponsored activity, the Superintendent shall expel this student from school for a period of one calendar year and notify the appropriate criminal justice or juvenile delinquency authorities. Any such expulsion shall extend, as necessary, into the school year following the school year in which the incident occurred. The Superintendent may reduce the one-year expulsion on a case-by-case basis.

Matters which might lead to a reduction of the expulsion period include: An incident involving a disabled student and the incident is a manifestation of the disability; the age of the student and its relevance to the

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punishment; the prior disciplinary history of the student; and/or the intent of the perpetrator.

Students are also prohibited from bringing knives on school property, in a school vehicle or to any school sponsored activity. The definition of a knife includes, but is not limited to, a cutting instrument having a sharp blade. If a student brings a knife on school property, in a school vehicle or to any school sponsored activity, the Superintendent shall expel the student from school, subject to the same conditions stated above.

The Superintendent may establish a community service program which may be performed in conjunction with, but not in place of, an expulsion imposed upon a student who brings a firearm or knife onto school property. The option of imposing community service in lieu of extending the expulsion into the following school year cannot be extended to a student who is expelled for doing so.

Students who wish to enroll in the Hilliard City Schools under Ohio Revised Code [3313.64](#) or [3313.65](#) but who have been expelled from another school district under Ohio Revised Code [3313.66](#), and the expulsion has not expired, may be offered an opportunity for a hearing with the Superintendent of the Hilliard City Schools.

Admission to the Hilliard City Schools may be temporarily denied by the Superintendent until the expiration of the expulsion period.

DISRUPTION

Be aware that the principal shall be authorized to suspend from school any student who causes or participates in any disturbance or any disruption of any school class, program, or activity. The building principal concerned and other school personnel shall make every effort to protect the personal safety of students and adults and the safety of the property of the district during periods of student unrest when the orderly operation of the school is disrupted. The building principal concerned shall make every effort to return the school to an orderly operation as soon as possible after a disruption occurs.

DRESS CODE

The Board of Education and administration of the Hilliard City School district are committed to establishing and enforcing minimum dress and grooming guidelines, providing the following policies are observed. We wish to avoid dress and grooming styles that:

- (1) divert the attention of the pupils from the primary function of the school, which is education, and
- (2) create in the minds of pupils both in this and other communities a misleading image of the student body and school program.

The principal will make a final judgment on any mode of student dress that could be considered as not appropriate for school or school sponsored events. Students should avoid wearing clothes that carry slogans or logos that are offensive, racist, sexist or promote practices considered inappropriate for students, i.e., no clothing shall be permitted that advertises beer, alcohol, sex, tobacco, etc.

The policy of the school relative to the problem of dressing and grooming will be:

1. Counseling of the student
2. Communication with home
3. Opportunity to remedy the infraction and return to class
4. Disciplinary measures as appropriate for repeat offenders

Physical Education Attire for Middle School Students—During scheduled physical education classes, all students are encouraged to change from school clothes to the appropriate gym class attire and shoes.

All students and staff will be required to adhere to all local, state and federal health guidelines.

STUDENT CONDUCT

EXCLUSION FROM PARTICIPATION IN EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

Students may be removed from cocurricular or extracurricular activities when their presence poses a continuing danger to persons or property or an ongoing threat of disruption. If a student is removed from a cocurricular or extracurricular activity, such removal may include all noncurricular aspects of the activities in which the student is involved.

Prior to exclusion from participation, the student/parent will be given written notification of the intention to exclude and the reason(s) for the intended exclusion. The student will be afforded the opportunity to appear at an informal hearing to challenge the reason(s) for the intended exclusion. The informal hearing will be held with coach, advisor designee or administrator. Within 24 hours following exclusion, a letter of notification will be sent to the parent or guardian specifying the reason for the student participant's exclusion from participation, the period of time for the exclusion and options, if any. The parent or guardian shall be notified by telephone, when possible, of the exclusion from participation. Per Board Policy IGD, the student and/or their parents retain the right to appeal such action to the appeal committee in their respective school. The decision of the appeal committee will be final.

HARASSMENT

Students are responsible to treat each other with dignity and respect. Any type of disrespectful comments or actions directed toward other students, whether intentionally or unintentionally, which cause interference with the educational process and opportunities of the school will be considered harassment.

The Board does not permit discriminatory practices and views harassment as a form of discrimination. Harassment is defined as intimidation by threats of or actual physical violence; the creation, by whatever means, of a climate of hostility or intimidation; or the use of language, conduct or symbols in such a manner as to be commonly understood to convey hatred, contempt or prejudice or to have the effect of insulting or stigmatizing an individual.

The following may be considered examples of sexual harassment. Any of the following conduct could be, but not limited to these behaviors which represent a violation of the student code of conduct:

- a. Unwanted hugs, touches, grabbing or brushing against another student.
- b. Unwanted sexual advances or other sexual comments such as sexually oriented gestures, noises, remarks or comments about a person's sexuality.

Students who feel they are being harassed either sexually or otherwise are responsible for bringing this to the attention of a staff member or administrator. If the harassment continues, stronger disciplinary measures may be taken. Administrators will conduct investigations when a complaint is made.

HAZING & BULLYING POLICY

Hazing means doing any act or coercing another, including the victim, to do any act of initiation into any student or other organization that causes or creates a substantial risk of causing mental or physical harm to any person.

Throughout this policy the term bullying is used in place of harassment, intimidation and bullying.

Bullying, harassment and intimidation is an intentional written, verbal, electronic or physical act that a student has exhibited toward another particular student more than once. The intentional act also includes violence within a dating relationship. The behavior causes both mental or physical harm to the other student and is sufficiently severe, persistent or pervasive that it creates an intimidating, threatening or abusive educational

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environment for the other student. This behavior is prohibited on school property, on a school bus or at a school-sponsored activity. Students found responsible for harassment, intimidation or bullying by an electronic act may be suspended.

Physical Bullying

The **repeated** use of force toward a person's body or personal belongings. Examples include, but are not limited to, hitting, punching, shoving, kicking, tripping, spitting, elbowing, shoulder checking, pinching, flicking, throwing objects, hair pulling, restraining, inappropriate touching, and damaging physical property.

Verbal Bullying

Repeatedly using negative and/or damaging words (including both spoken and written) toward or in regard to another person. Examples include, but are not limited to, negative comments, name calling, lies, rumors, racial slurs, teasing, cussing, threats, fake compliments and sexual orientation attacks.

Cyberbullying

Repeatedly using social media, email or electronic devices in a negative manner toward or in regard to another person. Examples include, but are not limited to, posting negative comments, fake profiles, sexting, making fun of photos, tagging photos, social media fights, posting negative videos, texting photos, negative status posts, hate blogs, hate pledges, texting rumors, hacking profiles, nasty emails and sending mean forwards.

Permission, consent or assumption of risk by an individual subjected to hazing, bullying and/or dating violence does not lessen the prohibition contained in this policy.

The District includes, within the health curriculum, age-appropriate instruction in dating violence prevention education. This instruction includes recognizing warning signs of dating violence and the characteristics of healthy relationships.

Prohibited activities of any type, including those activities engaged in via computer and/or electronic communications devices, or electronic means, are inconsistent with the educational process and are prohibited at all times. The District educates minors about appropriate online behavior, including interacting with other individuals on social networking websites and in chat rooms and cyberbullying awareness and response.

No administrator, teacher or other employee of the District shall encourage, permit, condone or tolerate any hazing and/or bullying activities. No students, including leaders of student organizations, are permitted to plan, encourage or engage in any hazing and/or bullying.

Administrators, teachers and all other District employees are particularly alert to possible conditions, circumstances or events that might include hazing, bullying and/or dating violence. If any of the prohibited behaviors are planned or discovered, involved students are informed by the discovering District employee of the prohibition contained in this policy and are required to end all such activities immediately. All hazing, bullying and/or dating violence incidents are reported immediately to the principal/designee and appropriate discipline is administered.

School administrators shall notify both the parents of a student who commits acts of harassment, intimidation, bullying and/or dating violence and the parents or guardians of students against whom such acts were committed, and shall allow access to any written reports pertaining to the incident, to the extent permitted by law.

The Superintendent/designee will provide the Board President with a summary of all reported incidents and post the summary on the District's website, to the extent permitted by law. Bullying report forms are available on the [district website](#).

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The administration provides training on the District's hazing and bullying policy to District employees and volunteers who have direct contact with students. Additional training is provided to employees in violence and substance abuse prevention and positive youth development.

District employees, students and volunteers have qualified civil immunity for damages arising from reporting an incident of hazing and/or bullying. Administrators, teachers, other employees and students who fail to abide by this policy may be subject to disciplinary action and may be liable for civil and criminal penalties in compliance with State and Federal law.

No one is permitted to retaliate against an employee or student because they file a grievance or assists or participates in an investigation, proceeding or hearing regarding the charge of hazing and/or bullying of an individual.

INTIMIDATION

The Board of Education of the Hilliard City School District recognizes that, in order to create an environment conducive to learning and to best facilitate the learning process, all students, regardless of their race, ethnicity, national origin, ancestry, citizenship status, religion, gender, sex (sexual orientation and/or gender identity), economic status, age, disability or military status, have the right to an education in an atmosphere free of all forms of disparagement and intimidation. The Board further recognizes that certain acts against persons or groups because of a person's or group's race, ethnicity, national origin, ancestry, citizenship status, religion, gender, sex (sexual orientation and/or gender identity), economic status, age, disability or military status, for the purpose of inciting and provoking bodily injury, intimidation, or harassment, poses a threat to the order and safety of our schools and has a negative effect on the learning environment in the schools.

Intimidation is defined as the harassment or intimidation of a person or group through the use of racial or religious slurs, items of apparel, profanity, denigrating racial or religious remarks, obscene gestures, and other conduct of this type. Other forms of intimidation might be fighting, vandalism, or threats and would be punishable under one or more sections of the Code of Conduct.

This policy of the Board of Education is subject to enforcement and or disciplinary action:

1. On any property owned, leased by, or under the control of the Board of Education, including vehicles used for the transportation of students.
2. At any school-sponsored or sanctioned activity or event away from or within the district.

Disciplinary Actions

Violations of this policy will be cumulative over the course of the school year and punishment shall, most ordinarily, be administered as follows:

First Offense

- a. Parents will be notified and the student will be removed from school, by the parents, for the remainder of the day.
- b. The student will be assigned an out of school suspension.

Second Offense

- a. Parents will be notified and the student will be removed from school, by the parents, for the remainder of the day.
- b. The student will be assigned a longer period of out of school suspension.

Third Offense

- a. Parents will be notified and the student will be removed from school, by the parents, for the remainder of the day.

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- b. The student will be assigned a ten (10) day out-of-school suspension and may be recommended for expulsion.

Note: School administrator has the right to move to third offense discipline when situation dictates.

Unless otherwise noted in the individual section, the above code shall be applicable to any conduct: on school grounds, during and immediately before or after school hours; on school grounds at any other time when the school is being used by a group; off school grounds at a school sponsored activity, function or event; on a school bus or conveyance; or at any other time when the student is subject to the authority of the school.

Any action judged by school officials to involve misconduct and not specifically mentioned in other sections may be dealt with as insubordination.

MISUSE OF SCHOOL RESOURCES/FACILITIES

All resources and facilities of our schools shall be used solely for legitimate and authorized academic, instructional, research or administrative purposes. Any unauthorized or illegitimate use of the resources and/or facilities (e.g. graffiti or destructive acts) shall constitute a violation of school policy and will subject the violation to disciplinary and/or legal action.

SCHOOL BUS TRANSPORTATION

Many students are transported to and from school by school bus. All students must get off their buses at their school. They are not to get off at another school or other places between home and school.

If a bus arrives after the tardy bell has rung, the students are to report to the attendance office before going to first period. Upon dismissal, all students are expected to board their buses at the school. Students desiring to ride a bus other than one assigned should present a written request from their parents to the principal or assistant principal at the start of the day. The following rules and regulations are part of the Board of Education Policy and apply to all Hilliard City School students.

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Once a student boards a school bus, they come under the authority of school officials. The driver of a school bus carries a heavy burden of responsibility for the lives of the students—their passengers. The driver must give full attention to driving while students are in transit.

In order to do this, the following rules must be followed by students:

1. Railroad Crossing—Be quiet. Do not talk when the bus is approaching a railroad crossing or highway intersection.
2. Seats—Drivers will assign seats and have a seating chart with them. Students must remain seated in assigned seats.
3. Windows—Keep hands, heads, books, and miscellaneous objects inside the bus, never outside the windows. Windows are to be opened with approval of the driver only.
4. Eating—Eating on the bus is not permitted. Exceptions may be made only with the approval of the superintendent or their designee.
5. Quiet—Talk quietly; no yelling inside the bus or out the window.
6. Bus Stops—Wait until the bus stops and the driver gives the signal for crossing before leaving the residence side to board the bus.

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7. Crossing—Cross in front of the bus ONLY, approximately ten feet in front of the bus.
8. Time—Students shall be at designated pick-ups on time in the morning and in the evenings when school is dismissed.
9. Carry on Items—Generally, items too large to fit under a passenger seat shall not be permitted on a school bus if, in the judgment of the driver, such objects would interfere.
10. Littering—Littering a school bus shall not be permitted.
11. Unauthorized Passengers—Unauthorized passengers shall not be transported on a school bus. “Unauthorized” refers to non-school children and adults not approved by the principal or superintendent.
12. Unauthorized Entering or Leaving—Students shall not be permitted to enter or leave the bus at other than their regular stop, unless written permission is given by the parents and approved by the building principal. Students must remain on the bus from the time of boarding until the approved place of departure.
13. Students are to be at designated bus stops prior to arrival time of bus.

The following rules are considered absolutely vital to the safe operation of the school bus. Violations of these rules shall be considered a major breach of conduct and shall most ordinarily result in denial of the transportation privilege and suspension or expulsion from school.

1. Fighting: Fighting shall not be permitted.
2. Throwing Objects: Do not throw objects inside the bus or out the bus windows.
3. Profanity and Smoking: The use of profanity or smoking while on the bus is not permitted.
4. Firearms: Firearms are absolutely prohibited on a school bus.
5. Tampering with the Emergency Door: This shall not be permitted.
6. Other misconduct and behavior, as listed in policy JGD/JGE, Student Suspension/Expulsion.

The driver shall report misconduct to the principal at the earliest opportunity. Depending on the severity of the offense, these guidelines typically would apply:

- 1st Referral: Verbal warning and notification of parents
- 2nd Referral: One to three day removal from transportation
- 3rd Referral: Five to ten day removal
- 4th Referral: Removal for remainder of the year

Extreme offenses, even if just on second referral, may result in removal from transportation and/or suspension, or possible expulsion from school.

SEARCHES AND INTERROGATIONS

Interrogation of Students by Law Enforcement Officials: Whenever possible, law enforcement officials should contact and/or question students out of school. When it is absolutely necessary for an officer to make a school contact with a student, the school authorities will bring the student to a private room and the contact is made out of the sight of others as much as possible.

Search and Seizure: Search for dangerous or illegal items or evidence of a violation of the law or school rules is a proper means of protecting the interests of students, parents, and employees of the school district. Building

STUDENT CONDUCT

administrators/designees are permitted to conduct searches when there are reasonable grounds for suspecting that the search will turn up evidence that the student has violated or is violating either the law or the rules of the School District. The measures adopted for the search will be reasonably related to the objectives of the search and will not be excessively intrusive in light of the age and sex of the student and the nature of the infraction. Building administrators/designees are also permitted to search any unattended bag for safety and identification purposes. The School Resource Officer may serve as a witness for searches.

The cooperation of students in district investigations is critical to the district's efforts to maintain a safe school environment that is also free of discrimination and harassment. A student's silence or refusal to cooperate in a district investigation will be considered and may serve as a negative inference in any district investigation unless otherwise prohibited under the law.

Lockers are the property of the Board of Education. Lockers and the content of all lockers are subject to random search at any time without regard to whether there is a reasonable suspicion that any locker or its contents contains evidence of a violation of a criminal statute or a school rule.

STUDENT DRUG, TOBACCO & ALCOHOL

Definitions: For purposes of these policies and regulations, the following definitions shall apply:

Alcohol: Any liquor, wine, beer, or other beverage containing intoxicating substances.

Alternative Nicotine Products: An electronic cigarette or any other product, device, or parts and pieces thereof, that consists of or contains nicotine that can be ingested into the body by any means, including but not limited to chewing, smoking, absorbing, dissolving or inhaling.

Drugs: Any drug, including illegal drugs, narcotics, hallucinogens, cocaine, amphetamines, steroids, barbiturates, marijuana, inhalants, legal prescription and over-the-counter drugs used or possessed or distributed for unauthorized purposes, counterfeit (look-alike) substances, and clove cigarettes.

Drug Paraphernalia: Equipment, apparatus, or parts and pieces thereof, designed for or used for the purpose of measuring, packaging, distribution, or facilitating the use of drugs, including, but not limited to, pipes, roach clips, syringes, hypodermic needles, and cocaine spoons or kits.

Electronic Cigarette: Any electronic product, device, or parts and pieces thereof, that produces a vapor that delivers nicotine or any other substance to the person inhaling from the device to simulate smoking and is likely to be offered to or purchased by consumers as an electronic cigarette, electronic cigar, electronic cigarillo or electronic pipe.

Tobacco: Any product made or derived from tobacco or containing any form of nicotine, if it is intended for human consumption or is likely to be consumed, whether smoked, heated, chewed, absorbed, dissolved, inhaled or ingested by any other means including but not limited to: any lit or unlit cigarette, cigar, pipe, bidi, clove cigarette, alternative nicotine products, electronic smoking devices, or parts and pieces thereof, vapor products, any other smoking product, and spit tobacco, also known as smokeless, dip, chew, and snuff, in any form.

Under the Influence: Manifesting signs of substance abuse, such as staggering, reddened eyes, odor of alcohol or drugs, nervousness, restlessness, falling asleep or dozing, memory loss, abusive language, or any other behavior or physical appearance not normal for the particular student (determination by

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school authorities as to what constitutes “under the influence” is distinct and separate from any such determination by the courts).

Distributing: Making available to or passing on to another individual (even if not for profit) any alcohol, drug or tobacco products.

Extra-Curricular: Extra-curricular activities are those activities sponsored by, supported by, and identified by the Board and are an extension of the “normal” school day. Activities included are: all athletics, instruments and choral groups, student council, drama, cheerleading, all school clubs, school-sponsored and board-approved trips, and National Honor Society. (Because of the rules of the National Honor Society organization, the student’s membership can be retained, but their participation will cease). This list is not all-inclusive. Students must agree to adhere to any additional rules established by the advisor/coach of the activity in which the student participates.

One Calendar Year: One calendar year is defined as 365 days from the date of the infraction.

Leadership Position: Any elected or appointed office in a school recognized sport, club or activity.

STUDENT DRUG, TOBACCO & ALCOHOL

Policy Statement

It is the Board of Education’s primary concern that educational, co-curricular and extracurricular programs for all students proceed in an orderly and non-disruptive manner. Sale, use, or possession of drugs, counterfeit drugs, alcohol, or tobacco by students is an obstacle to this objective and interferes with the rights of students to receive quality academic instruction.

District is committed to working cooperatively with student and family to help provide beneficial alternatives. Information will be available about drug and alcohol counseling and rehabilitation and re-entry programs for students. Such District resources as student groups, parent groups, school psychologists, student assistance coordinator, core team and special transitional programs are to be encouraged, made available, and recommended. Students and parents will also be given information about outside agencies and encouraged to take advantage of their services and programs. Parents and students will be given a copy of the standards of conduct and the statement of disciplinary sanctions through Parent/Student Handbooks. Compliance with these standards of conduct is mandatory for students.

Hilliard students shall not possess, use, sell, give or otherwise transmit, or be under the influence of any drug or alcohol. They shall not possess or bring on school property tobacco products, matches, lighters, or other paraphernalia normally associated with tobacco use. Tobacco use by students is prohibited in school buildings, in school vehicles, and on school grounds, at all times. Any type of drug paraphernalia is prohibited in school buildings, in school vehicles, and on school grounds. The Board prohibits the use or possession of alternative nicotine products and electronic cigarettes, personal vaporizers (e.g., JUUL) and electronic nicotine delivery systems by any student in any area or vehicle under the control of the District or at any activity supervised by any school within the District. All items will be subject to confiscation.

This policy is subject to enforcement and/or disciplinary action:

1. On property owned, leased by, or under control of the Board, including vehicles for transporting students.

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2. On any public or private property during scheduled school hours including recess, lunch and class changes.
3. At any school-sponsored or sanctioned activity or event away from or within the District.

Actions set forth below will be considered normal disciplinary measures for each category and occurrence of offense and shall be administered in accordance with the policies and regulations of the Board.

Students who voluntarily request assistance or counseling/self referral in situations where no offense, as specified below, has been detected, will not be subject to disciplinary action based on information divulged.

Where an offense has been detected, violations of school policy will not be excused because the student has requested counseling.

STUDENT DRUG, TOBACCO & ALCOHOL REGULATION

Offenses and Disciplinary Action for Students not Participating in the HCSD or City of Hilliard Youth Diversion Program

Selling or Distributing Any Quantity of Drugs and/or Alcohol

1. First offense:
 - A. Parent(s) will be notified immediately.
 - B. The police shall be notified.
 - C. Consultation with the parent(s) and student emphasizing available counseling services for drug assessment will be conducted.
 - D. The student forfeits their privilege to any leadership position for one calendar year (365 days).
 - E. The student will be suspended out of school for ten (10) days and *may* be recommended for expulsion.
 - F. Parking privileges will be removed for one calendar year (365 days), where applicable, as of the date of the offense.
2. Second and subsequent offenses:
 - A. Parent(s) will be notified immediately.
 - B. The police shall be notified.
 - C. Consultation with parent(s) and the student emphasizing available counseling services for drug assessment will be conducted.
 - D. The student forfeits their privilege to any leadership positions for the remainder of their school career.
 - E. The student will be suspended out of school for ten (10) days and will be recommended for expulsion.

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- F. Parking privileges will be removed for one calendar year (365 days), where applicable, as of the date of the offense.

Possession and/or Use of Drugs and/or Alcohol

1. First offense:
 - A. Parent(s) will be notified immediately.
 - B. The police shall be notified.
 - C. Consultation with parent(s) and student emphasizing the availability of counseling services will be conducted. Following the consultation, parents and student must agree to one of the following options:
 - 1) The student shall be suspended out of school for ten (10) days—OR—
 - 2) The student will be suspended out of school for a minimum of eight (8) days if the student and parents ask for and receive an assessment in a certified drug/alcohol counseling program within 10 calendar days. A written copy from the assessment must be sent to the school officials including the findings of the evaluation and the student agrees to carry out the recommendations—OR—
 - 3) The student will be suspended out of school for five (5) days if they complete all of the assessment requirements in C.2. above and the student and parents must agree to complete, within thirty (30) calendar days, a minimum of nine (9) hours, by the student, of alcohol and drug education as agreed to by school officials. A written proof of attendance is required to be sent to the school officials. A written copy from the assessment must be sent to the school officials including the findings of the evaluation and the student agrees to carry out the recommendations.
 - D. The student forfeits their privilege to any leadership position for one calendar year (365 days).
 - E. Parking privileges will be removed for one calendar year (365 days), where applicable, as of the date of the offense.

Failure to complete the suspension reduction program in a reasonable amount of time will result in the student serving the remainder of the 10-day out of school suspension.
2. Second and subsequent offenses:
 - A. Parent(s) will be notified immediately.
 - B. The police shall be notified.
 - C. The student forfeits their privilege to any leadership positions for the remainder of their school career.
 - D. Consultation with parent(s) and student emphasizing the availability of counseling services will be conducted.

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- E. Parking privileges will be removed for one calendar year (365 days), where applicable.
- F. The student will be suspended out of school for ten (10) days and may be recommended for expulsion.

Possession of Drug Paraphernalia

When the student is found in possession of drug paraphernalia:

1. First offense:
 - A. Parent(s) will be notified immediately.
 - B. The item(s) will be confiscated.
 - C. The student will be assigned out of school suspension.
 - D. The student forfeits their privilege to any leadership position for one calendar year (365 days).
2. Second offense:
 - A. Parent(s) will be notified immediately.
 - B. The item(s) will be confiscated.
 - C. The student will be assigned an out of school suspension and/or expulsion.
 - D. The student forfeits their privilege to any leadership positions for the remainder of their school career.
3. Third and subsequent offenses:
 - A. Parent(s) will be notified immediately.
 - B. The item(s) will be confiscated.
 - C. The student will be assigned an out of school suspension and/or expulsion.
 - D. The student forfeits their privilege to any leadership positions for the remainder of their school career.

Possession, Distribution and/or Use of Tobacco, Matches, Lighters, or Other Paraphernalia

Possession/Distribution/Use of Tobacco

1. First offense:
 - A. Three (3) days out of school suspension. If student chooses to enroll in a smoking cessation program coordinated by the principal/designee, out of school suspension will be reduced to two (2) days.
 - B. The student forfeits their privilege to any leadership positions for one calendar year (365 days).

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2. Second offense:
 - A. Five (5) days out of school suspension.
 - B. The student forfeits their privilege to any leadership positions for the remainder of their school career.
3. Third offense:
 - A. Ten (10) days out of school suspension.

Possession/Distribution/Use of Matches, Lighter, Paraphernalia

1. First offense:
 - A. Three (3) days time-out room or two (2) days out of school suspension.
 - B. The student forfeits their privilege to any leadership positions for one calendar year (365 days).
2. Second offense:
 - A. Three (3) days out of school suspension.
 - B. The student forfeits their privilege to any leadership positions for the remainder of their school career.
3. Third offense:
 - A. Five (5) days out of school suspension.
 - B. The student forfeits their privilege to any leadership positions for the remainder of their school career.
4. Fourth offense:
 - A. Ten (10) days out of school suspension.
 - B. The student forfeits their privilege to any leadership positions for the remainder of their school career.

HCSD/City of Hilliard Diversion Program

Consequences may be reduced, at the discretion of the administrator, when a student has been referred to and accepted into the HCSD or City of Hilliard Youth Diversion Program for the same conduct that is the subject of discipline and the parents/guardians and student have agreed that the student will participate in the Diversion Program.

Offenses and Disciplinary Action for Students Participating in the HCSD or City of Hilliard Youth Diversion Program

Possession and/or Use of Drugs and/or Alcohol

1. First Offense
 - A. Diversion program assigned
 - B. Emergency removal
 - C. Three (3) days out of school suspension—hold one day in abeyance with completion of HCSD diversion program
 - D. Four (4) consecutive 45-minute sessions with school mental health specialist
2. Second Offense
 - A. Emergency removal

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- B. Three (3) days out of school suspension
 - C. Potential charges with the city and diversion program
3. Third Offense
- A. Emergency removal
 - B. Ten (10) days out of school suspension with recommendation for expulsion

Possession/Distribution/Use of Tobacco

1. First Offense
- A. Diversion program assigned
 - B. Emergency removal and one (1) day in-school suspension
2. Second Offense
- A. Emergency removal and three (3) days out of school suspension
 - B. Potential charges with the city and diversion program
3. Third Offense
- A. Emergency removal and progressive discipline as outlined in student handbook

Follow-Up Services

Upon return from residential or outpatient treatment, the following support services will be provided.

1. Student, parent(s), student assistance coordinator, counselor and administrator (when available) may have a readmission conference to develop educational plans.
2. It will be recommended to parents that they attend parent support group meeting(s) and/or counseling,
3. Student may be required to attend eight (8) weekly support group meetings in school unless a treatment facility and/or student assistance coordinator recommends otherwise. The student may remain in the student support group after this requirement is satisfied. Where a student support group does not exist, the student will have contact with the school counselor or student assistance coordinator for a minimum of eight weeks.

Due Process Procedures

A participant suspected of violating any of the above-mentioned regulations will be afforded the rights of students being considered for suspension or expulsion from school under the District's Code of Student Conduct if removal from a curricular activity for 24 hours or more is contemplated.

Costs

All costs for any rehabilitation program or counseling for a tobacco, alcohol or drug problem under these regulations shall be the responsibility of the student.

Relationship of These Policies and Regulations to the District's Code of Student Conduct

These policies and regulations supplement the District's Code of Student Conduct and are administered independently of that code. A violation of these regulations may also independently violate the Code of Student Conduct and result in suspension or expulsion from school or removal from curricular or extracurricular activity under the provisions of that code in addition to any disciplinary penalty that may be called for under those regulations.

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MISUSE/USE OF TECHNOLOGY

Technology can greatly enhance the instructional program, as well as the efficiency of the District. The Board recognizes that careful planning is essential to ensure the successful, equitable and cost-effective implementation of technology-based materials, equipment, systems and networks. Computers and use of the District network or on-line services support learning and enhance instruction, as well as assist in the administration. Computer networks allow people to interact with many computers; the internet allows people to interact with hundreds of thousands of networks. All computers are to be used in a responsible, efficient, ethical and legal manner. Failure to adhere to this policy and the guidelines below will result in the revocation of the user's access privilege. Unacceptable uses of the computer/ network include but are not limited to:

1. violating the conditions of the Ohio Revised Code dealing with students' and employees' rights to privacy;
2. using profanity, obscenity or other language which may be offensive to another user;
3. reposting (forwarding) personal communication without the author's prior consent;
4. copying commercial software in violation of copyright law;
5. using the network for financial gain, for commercial activity or for any illegal activity;
6. accessing and/or viewing inappropriate material;
7. using software or websites intended to circumvent the district's web filtering system and
8. using the network in any way that would disrupt the operation of the network; intentionally abuse the software and/or hardware; or extensively using the Network for noncurriculum-related purposes exceeding this policy.

Because access to on-line services provides connections to other computer systems located all over the world, users (and parents of users who are under 18 years old) must understand that neither the school nor the District can control the content of the information available on these systems. Some of the information available is controversial and sometimes offensive.

The Board does not condone the use of such materials. Employees, students and parents of students must be aware that the privileges to access on-line services are withdrawn from users who do not respect the rights of others or we do not follow the rules and regulations established.

Along with monitoring the online activities of minors, the District will educate minors about appropriate online behavior, including interacting with other individuals on social networking websites and in chat rooms and cyberbullying awareness and response. The Superintendent/designee will develop a program to educate students on these issues.

Cybersecurity threats have the potential to severely impact the educational use of technology. To that end, students shall always act in good faith when using district technology accounts, devices and services. Failure to do so may result in disciplinary action.

Students engaging in any of the behaviors described above are subject to severe penalties including:

1. Denial of access to computer and network equipment and resources
2. Verbal or written reprimand
3. Detention
4. Suspension
5. Criminal charges
6. Expulsion

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Acceptable Use of District-Assigned iPad

The use of the Hilliard City School District's technology resources is a privilege, not a right. The privilege of using the technology resources provided by HCSD is not transferrable or extendible by students to other people or groups (such as siblings) and terminates when a student is no longer enrolled in the District. This Policy, in accordance with Board Policy [EDE-Computer/Online Services](#) and [EDE-R-Computer/Online Services \(Acceptable Use and Internet Safety\)](#), is provided to make all users aware of the responsibilities associated with the efficient, ethical, and lawful use of technology resources. If a person violates any of the User Terms and Conditions named in this policy, privileges may be terminated, access to the school district technology resources may be denied, and appropriate disciplinary action shall be applied. The Hilliard City School District's Student Code of Conduct shall be applied to student infractions.

Students may not jailbreak, modify, or in any other way tamper with the iPad's operating system (iOS). Removing any or all installed Profiles is strictly forbidden.

Violations may result in disciplinary action up to and including suspension and/or expulsion for students. When applicable, law enforcement agencies may be involved.

Students will be responsible for the entire cost of repairs to iPads that are damaged intentionally, stolen, or lost. An iPad that is stolen must be reported immediately to the main office. The administration, technology department, and the appropriate law enforcement agency will conduct a full investigation and report.

Protecting and Storing your iPad

Student iPads will be labeled in the manner specified by the school. iPads can be identified based on serial number. Do not remove your iPad's identifying labels or markings. Students are encouraged to take their iPads home every day after school, regardless of whether or not they are needed.

Cost to Repair or Replace your iPad

Hilliard City School District recognizes that with the implementation of the iPad initiative there is a need to protect the investment by both the District and the student/parent. Therefore, we have set the following guidelines in place.

If you experience any technical problems, take your iPad to the Student Helpdesk in the Media Center. If it cannot be fixed at that time, a loaner iPad may be issued to you (if available). All iPad policy agreements remain in effect for the loaner iPad. If your iPad is stolen or damaged by another party, please report it to the office immediately. Your claim will be investigated further by the school district and/or the appropriate law enforcement agency.

Accidental damage causing the iPad to be unusable is the responsibility of the parent/guardian unless they have paid for the Technology Protection Plan.

Protecting Your Data and Files

It is recommended that students regularly back up data to the cloud storage provided by the school. Syncing your device and/or backing up your device regularly will allow the restoration of all data. It is the student's responsibility to ensure that work is not lost due to mechanical failure or accidental deletion.

Do not expect that files stored on your iPad will be private. HCSD officials may review your files and communications at any time to ensure you are using the iPad appropriately.

Students are responsible for the appropriateness of all files, data, and internet history on their iPad and/or under their account. Do not take photos or video of other students or staff without their permission. The

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possessing, forwarding, or uploading of unauthorized photos or video to any website, network storage area, or person is strictly forbidden. Do not access another individual's materials, information, or files without permission.

ANNUAL TECHNOLOGY PRIVACY NOTICE

This message serves as the District's annual technology privacy notice consistent with Ohio Revised Code Sections 3319.325 - 3319.327.

Technology Provider Contracts

The following link on the district website will take you to a list of all technology providers that have access to students' educational records for the purpose of providing curriculum, testing, or assessment services.

www.hilliardschools.org/departments/technology

On this page, you may review a complete copy of the District's contract agreements with any of the district's technology providers. If you have questions or concerns about any of the agreements, you may contact the Chief Technology Officer through this form: www.hilliardschools.org/contact-us

General Monitoring of School-Issued Devices

Please be aware that the District, either directly or through a technology provider, is electing to generally monitor all school-issued devices (as that term is defined by R.C. 3319.325). The monitoring will include the following features: location tracking and student interactions with school-issued devices (e.g., keystrokes and web-browsing activity). The District generally monitors these features for the noncommercial education purpose of instruction, technical support, and/or exam proctoring. Additionally, these features are generally monitored as a necessary precaution for preventing and/or responding to threats to life or safety.

CELL PHONES AND PERSONAL COMMUNICATION DEVICES

We understand that cell phones and other personal communication devices are an important tool for communication and connection. However, in consideration of growing concerns regarding the impact of the use of cell phones and other personal communication devices on student mental health, academic performance, and classroom engagement, student use of cell phones and other personal communication devices is limited during the school day.

To maintain an environment conducive to learning, **sixth grade students** must keep cell phones and other personal communication devices in their backpacks during the day and will be permitted to check their device at the end of the school day prior to dismissal.

Middle school students are not permitted to use cell phones and other personal communication devices during class periods. Middle school students may use cell phones and other personal communication devices in the hallways and during lunch.

Any cell phone or other personal communication device will be subject to confiscation if it creates a disruption to the academic environment. A student using a cell phone or other personal communication device which creates a disruption or refusing to follow a reasonable request from a staff member pertaining to the cell phone or other personal communication device may be subject to disciplinary action. Staff will be the final judge of the appropriateness of their use.

Using a cell phone or any electronic device to film/record/take pictures of any student or staff member without their express permission is prohibited.

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SEXTING, TEXTING AND EMAILING

In accordance with [House Bill 1](#) and Ohio Revised Code [2907.323](#), the possessing, taking, disseminating, receiving, keeping or sharing of nude, obscene, pornographic, lewd, or otherwise illegal images of photographs, by electronic data transfers does constitute a crime under state and/or federal law. Any person involved in any of the above can be punished under the code of conduct and may be reported to the appropriate law enforcement agencies. Students and families should be aware of these guidelines as legal charges and/or convictions do constitute some long lasting penalties. For additional clarification, please refer to the state and federal laws mentioned above.

ACADEMIC INFORMATION

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

We believe the students, staff, and community are stakeholders in the climate and culture of our district. The district was founded on the belief that all students can and must learn in order to achieve success in our society. The community and staff further believe that success begins with personal and academic integrity, which are grounded in honesty, trust, fairness, respect, and responsibility.

Plagiarism and cheating are serious offenses because it halts the very experience which education tries to nurture: independent processing of ideas. Students are, therefore, expected to develop and evolve as independent writers and thinkers. Presenting someone else's work as one's own in order to obtain a grade or credit is considered to be cheating. This includes, but is not limited to, copying others' assignments, quiz or test answers, screen shots, airdrops, social media and/or other forms of technology, generative artificial intelligence (i.e. ChatGPT), and plagiarism from print or digital sources. Students who violate this policy may be subject to further behavioral consequences by an administrator or teacher. Plagiarism and cheating will result in administrative discipline and possible loss of privileges and positions of leadership.

Academic and personal integrity is expected of everyone and entail a firm adherence to a set of values essential to an academic community grounded in honesty, trust, fairness, respect, and responsibility for all.

Our faculty believes in the statement below and is encouraged to include it on all course syllabuses:

As a student of integrity, you will neither give nor receive unauthorized aid in class work, quizzes, examinations, preparation of reports or projects, or in any other work that I use to evaluate you without specific permission for collaboration or without proper citation. All work may be submitted to a variety of sources to check for plagiarism.

Hilliard City Schools' Middle School Student Honor Statement:

As a student of integrity in the Hilliard City Schools, I have neither given nor received unauthorized aid on this assignment.

Collaboration is a valuable tool for 21st century learners. However, when collaboration is not explicitly required/requested by the instructor, students are expected to complete and turn in their own work to the best of their ability.

ACADEMIC RECOGNITION

Following each grading period, students are recognized for academic excellence. Grades are calculated on a four point rating scale. Computations are figured by adding the total points and dividing by student's total credits:

	B+ 3.25	C+ 2.25	D+ 1.25	Cum Laude:	3.50—3.74
A 4.00	B 3.00	C 2.00	D 1.00	Magna Cum Laude:	3.75—3.99
A- 3.75	B- 2.75	C- 1.75	D- 0.75	Summa Cum Laude:	4.0 & higher

Additional awards may be given to students on each team for demonstrating good citizenship, leadership and character skills.

CAREER ADVISING

The Board views career advising as helping students understand themselves relative to their abilities, aptitudes, interests, attitudes, strengths and limitations. This process is meant to assist students in the

ACADEMIC INFORMATION

development of their potential and their decisions relating to educational and career matters.

The District will:

1. Provide students with grade-level examples linking schoolwork to one or more career field(s) through use of the State Board adopted career connections.
2. Create a plan to provide career advising to students in grades six through 12.
3. Provide additional interventions and career advising for students who are identified as at risk of dropping out of school using both research- and locally-based methods developed with input from classroom teachers and school counselors.
4. Train employees on advising students on career pathways, including the use of online tools.
5. Develop multiple, clear academic pathways students can use to earn a high school diploma.
6. Identify and publicize courses in which students can earn both traditional academic and career-technical credit.
7. Document career advising provided to each student.
8. Prepare students for their transition from high school to their postsecondary destinations.
9. Include information regarding career fields that require an industry-recognized credential, certificate, associate's degree, bachelor's degree, graduate degree, or professional degree.
10. Provide students with information about ways a student may offset the costs of post-secondary education, including but not limited to the following programs:
 - A. Reserve Officer Training Corps;
 - B. College Credit Plus program;
 - C. Ohio Guaranteed Transfer Pathways initiative and
 - D. Joint academic programming or dual enrollment opportunities.

COLLEGE CREDIT PLUS

College Credit Plus is a program that gives students in grades 7–12 an opportunity to be enrolled in both high school and college course work at the same time. Students must qualify academically and the tuition will be paid by the District. College Credit Plus replaces Ohio's Post-Secondary Enrollment Options program (PSEO) and all dual enrollment programs. The Hilliard City School District has College Credit Plus agreements with several colleges and universities. These agreements allow students to earn both high school and college credit in several different departments and courses.

Students who wish to participate in College Credit Plus courses must be strongly motivated and should have demonstrated success in the subject areas they wish to pursue. Since these are "college classes" the content is demanding and readiness and willingness to work hard are essential for success.

Admission criteria into College Credit Plus courses vary depending on the college/university offering the credit. Students must meet eligibility requirements and may have to pay designated fees to participate at any private institution.

ACADEMIC INFORMATION

The College Credit Plus program requires that students submit written notice of their intent to participate to the principal by April 1st for the next school year or November 1st for the next semester. Failure to do so will make them ineligible to participate without the permission of the district superintendent. Intent forms are available through the school counseling office, the district college counselor, or at the College Credit Plus Information meeting traditionally conducted in February.

The District implements a policy for awarding grades and calculating class standing for CCP courses that is equivalent to the school's policy for other advanced standing programs or District-designated honors courses. Any grade weighting or class standing enhancements applicable to advanced standing programs or District-designated honors courses are similarly applied to CCP courses. CCP courses will only be weighted if a course in the same "subject area" is weighted in Hilliard's course offerings.

For more information about college credit opportunities, contact your school's counseling department.

CREDIT FLEXIBILITY

In compliance with OAC [3301-35-01](#), the Hilliard City School District will offer students the opportunity to earn high school credit(s) through a credit flexibility program. Course Proficiency Credit Flex or Educational Options and Approved Projects shifts the focus from evaluating student learning based on "seat time" to assessing students' demonstrated academic and skill level or performance.

With Credit Flex/Education Option, students will have options to show what they know, earn credit(s), and move on to higher-order content. Students can choose to customize aspects of their learning around their interests and needs, which might include flexible schedules and a choice of modalities (e.g., online learning and community-based projects), as well as options to pursue niche interest areas and combine subjects.

Students interested in learning more about credit flexibility options should contact their school counselor for details.

It is important to note that there are specific guidelines and timelines that have been established and must be followed in order to be considered for participation in the Hilliard City Schools' credit flexibility program.

ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY EDUCATION ACT (ESEA) NOTIFICATION

As a parent of a student in the Hilliard City School District, you have the right to know the professional qualifications of the classroom teachers who instruct your child. Specifically, you have the right to know whether your child's teacher has been licensed or certified by the Ohio Department of Education and Workforce for the grades and/or subjects he or she teaches or if the Ohio Department of Education and Workforce has decided that the teacher can teach in a classroom without being licensed or qualified under state regulations because of special circumstances. You also can request such information as the teacher's college major whether the teacher has any advanced degrees, and if so, the subject(s) of the degrees. You may also ask if any teachers' aides or similar paraprofessionals who provide services to your child have the proper qualifications. The Director of Human Resources is your contact for information.

GIFTED NOTIFICATION

The Hilliard City School District accepts referrals for potentially gifted students from parents, teachers, qualified professionals, and members of the community, as well as from students who self-refer. In addition, existing data from a wide variety of sources are examined in an effort to locate students who can be identified without further assessment, as well as those for whom additional data are needed. The data review and referral processes are created to ensure the work and behavioral characteristics of all students are reviewed and considered in a fair and equitable manner. Further information is available from the Gifted Services Department, your building principal or designee, and the Hilliard City Schools [website](#).

ACADEMIC INFORMATION

GRADE AVERAGING POLICY FOR MIDDLE SCHOOL STUDENTS

In a full-year required course, a student in grade 7 or 8 must receive at least one passing grade the second semester or receive an F for the final grade average in that course.

If the student earned below 50% for a nine weeks grading period, the grade entered will be:

- 50% for the 1st and 3rd nine weeks
- The actual percentage earned for the 2nd and 4th nine weeks

GRADE SCALE

	B+	89-88	C+	79-78	D+	69-68	F	Below 59
A	100-93	B	87-83	C	77-73	D	67-63	
A-	92-90	B-	82-80	C-	72-70	D-	62-60	

In recognition of the challenges, higher expectations and requirements of:

- College Credit Plus courses, one additional point is awarded for each letter grade; i.e., A = 5.0, B = 4.0, C = 3.0, D=2.0 in the grading scale.

GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

(Credits toward High School Graduation)

Student work completed prior to the ninth grade is applied towards graduation credit if the course is taught by a licensed teacher and is designated by the Board as meeting the curriculum requirements.

Currently, Algebra 1A/1B, Honors Geometry A/B, Advanced 2D Art, Advanced 3D Art, French 1, Spanish 1, Chinese 1, Advanced Physical Education and Advanced Art and Ecology are the only subjects that students may earn high school credit by successful completion.

Suggested and required criteria for these courses are included in the Middle School Program of Studies.

Please note, students are responsible to take all state assessments that are associated with the high school credited courses in the year in which they are enrolled in those courses. The grade earned in a high school course taken in middle school will appear on the student's final high school transcript; however, the grade will not be calculated in the high school grade point average.

ONLINE REPORT CARDS

Report cards shall be issued after each nine weeks of instruction.

Students will receive letter grades of A, B, C, D, or F with optional pluses or minuses in each subject. Explanation of letter grades is listed on the report card form. A letter grade of I indicates that some part of the 9 weeks' grade is incomplete and must be made up. All work should be made up within 2 weeks after the end of the grading period when possible. Incomplete work not made up within this time period may result in a failing mark being recorded.

Students may also receive printed teacher comments on their grade cards, upon request. Parents should pay careful attention to these comments as they represent an additional source of communication.

ACADEMIC INFORMATION

PROMOTION AND RETENTION OF STUDENTS GRADES K-12

The promotion of each student is determined individually. The decision to promote a student or to retain a student in a grade is made on the basis of the following factors. The teachers takes into consideration: reading level, mental ability, age, physical maturity, emotional and social development, social issues, home conditions and grade average.

Promotion procedures demand continuous analysis and study of the cumulative student case history records. Guidelines may include the following elements:

- A student receiving passing grades in the core courses is promoted.
- A student having failing grades in the core courses at the end of each year is evaluated by the teachers, school counselor and principal for placement.
- No conditional promotions are permitted
- A student having failing grades may be assigned to the next higher grade with discretion only with approval of the principal.
- No student having passing grades, "D" or above, throughout the year is failed.
- No student should be retained more than twice in the elementary grades.
- Documentary and anecdotal evidence should be available to justify retention.
- A student with failing grades during any academic term may be provided with intervention services.

Grades 6-8 Promotion & Retention

Students shall be promoted from one grade to the next higher grade when they have achieved the skills and/or knowledge necessary to accomplish the work in the next higher grade level.

In grades six, seven and eight, when a passing grade is attained in all subjects but one, a student shall be placed in the next higher grade.

A student in grades six, seven or eight who receives failing, incomplete or less than satisfactory marks in two or more subjects may be retained in that grade for the subsequent school year.

SCHEDULE CHANGES

Planning a comprehensive master schedule for the next school year is time-intensive and, at times, a challenging task; however, school personnel recognize that situations may occur that warrant or require changes to a student's class schedule. These changes may impact class size, teacher assignments, and overall master schedule. The student and parent/guardian are urged NOT to plan a program of courses with the mindset that it can be easily changed or accommodated.

All schedule changes require a conversation with a school counselor and parent/guardian.

Schedule changes may require approval from building administration and may not be possible based on conflicts, course availability, and/or class size. It is important to realize that the master schedule is built based on student requests submitted during the prior school year. In order to be responsive and fiscally responsible, the number of class sections within each subject area and the availability of specific courses is based on these projections. Once classes are scheduled, it may be difficult to accommodate schedule changes as some course sections will be at capacity or may be offered at select times during the school day.

Teachers, school counselors, students, parents, or administrators may initiate schedule changes. Since any schedule change is liable to disrupt a number of classes or have other hidden implications, requests for changes are considered very carefully. **Requests for schedule changes will not be accepted after the fifth day of the semester unless approved by the building principal.**

ACADEMIC INFORMATION

The following reasons or circumstances **may** constitute a need for a schedule change:

1. To change grouping if recommended by a teacher
2. To drop an elective that is too difficult
3. To improve a discipline situation

Schedule changes will not be approved for these reasons:

1. Do not like the teacher
2. Want to be with certain friends
3. Want different lunch period

In order to maintain eligibility, OHSAA requires student-athletes to be registered for and passing four (4) courses each 9 weeks.

Course Level Changes

Once a student, teacher, and/or parent recognizes that a student is inappropriately placed in a course, a course level change can be requested. **While every effort will be made to accommodate course level changes, these requests may be difficult as some course sections will be at capacity or may be offered at select times during the school day that are prohibitive given a student's schedule.** A level change down in a course is defined as moving from a specific honors course to the corresponding conventional course. A student may transfer down to the corresponding course on or before the last day of the first grading period. A level change up in a course is defined as moving from a conventional course to the corresponding honors course. A student may transfer up to the corresponding course in collaboration with the academic team.

SEMESTER AND YEARLY AVERAGES FOR HIGH SCHOOL CREDIT COURSES

Although teachers are free to choose their own method for determining nine weeks' grades, semester and yearly averages shall be determined by using the following method:

A. To determine the semester average, use the following formula:

AP/Honors Weighted Courses

$$40\% \times (\text{GE } \%) + 40\% \times (\text{GE } \%) + 20\% \times (\text{GE } \%) = \text{Semester GE } \%$$

All other courses

$$45\% \times (\text{GE } \%) + 45\% \times (\text{GE } \%) + 10\% \times (\text{GE } \%) = \text{Semester GE } \%$$

B. To determine the yearly average, use the following formula:

AP/Honors Courses

$$20\% \times (\text{GE } \%) + 20\% \times (\text{GE } \%) + 10\% \times (\text{GE } \%) + 20\% \times (\text{GE } \%) + 20\% \times (\text{GE } \%) + 10\% \times (\text{GE } \%) = \text{Yearly GE } \%$$

All other courses

$$22\% \times (\text{GE } \%) + 23\% \times (\text{GE } \%) + 5\% \times (\text{GE } \%) + 22\% \times (\text{GE } \%) + 23\% \times (\text{GE } \%) + 5\% \times (\text{GE } \%) = \text{Yearly GE } \%$$

C. If the student earned below 50% for a nine weeks grading period, the grade entered will be:

- 50% for the 1st and 3rd nine weeks
- The actual percentage earned for the 2nd and 4th nine weeks

STUDENT ACTIVITIES

STUDENT ACTIVITIES FOR MIDDLE SCHOOL STUDENTS

Activities and Service Groups

Our middle schools have a number of activities and service groups open for all students to select. Activities are listed on the individual building websites.

Students should pay careful attention to morning announcements and postings for information about activities and service groups.

Social Activities

Social activities will be scheduled periodically. Admission will be charged at most events to defray costs and to provide funds for the sponsoring organization. Students will be expected to demonstrate high standards of conduct at social activities the same as in school. Failure to do so may result in restriction from future activities. In general, social activity guidelines are as follows:

- Students will not be permitted to leave a social activity early without parent pickup.
- Inappropriate dress will result in refusal of admission. School dress code is enforced at social activities.
- Middle School social activities are open **ONLY** to Middle School students from that particular school.
- All adopted Hilliard Board of Education policies regarding student conduct and behavior will be enforced at all school social activities.
- Students who accumulate disciplinary referrals will be restricted from social activities.
- A student wishing to attend a middle school social activity **must be in attendance at school for the full day** the activity is scheduled, this includes all athletics. However, students are permitted to participate in interscholastic or other extracurricular activities on days they are absent for approved religious expression days.

ATHLETICS FOR MIDDLE SCHOOL STUDENTS

Ohio Capital Conference Member

The Ohio Capital Conference middle school members believe that interscholastic competition involving member schools should be governed by the basic principles of good middle level education and by the principles of good sportsmanship.

The basic philosophy guiding middle level competitive athletics is the same as that guiding the middle level educational program. Middle grade students are in the process of undergoing tremendous physical, emotional and social changes. They are young people moving toward young adulthood, and just as the regular educational program must respect the special needs and vulnerabilities of this age group, so too must the interscholastic athletic program.

All rules pertaining to athletics will be provided to student athletes in the Hilliard City School District Athletic Manual for Parents, Athletes and Coaches.

STUDENT ACTIVITIES

The following interscholastic athletic teams are available for middle school students to participate on:

Fall Sports

Cross Country (boys & girls)
Football (7th & 8th)
Football Cheerleaders (7th & 8th)
Girls Volleyball (7th & 8th)
Golf
Gymnastics
Soccer (boys & girls)
Tennis (girls)

Winter Sports

Boys Basketball (7th)
Boys Basketball (8th)
Basketball Cheerleaders (7th)
Basketball Cheerleaders (8th)
Girls Basketball (7th)
Girls Basketball (8th)
Wrestling (boys & girls)

Spring Sports

Baseball (7th & 8th)
Boys Volleyball
Lacrosse (boys & girls)
Softball (7th & 8th)
Tennis (boys)
Track (boys & girls)

NOTE: **Student Must Attend School All Day** the day of an extracurricular activity or sport in order to participate. If the activity or sport takes place on the weekend, the student must be in attendance the last school day before the event. However, students are permitted to participate in interscholastic or other extracurricular activities on days they are absent for approved religious expression days.